

Aboriginal stone procurement sites

IN GUNGAHLIN

The Aboriginal people of this area used stone of various types to make implements to use in finding food, preparing meat and vegetables for cooking and to help make tools, weapons, clothing and utensils from wood, bark and natural fibres.

Stone sources of 'chert' and 'tuff' run under Gungahlin, coming to the surface at several places where evidence of Aboriginal people chipping off pieces to work into implements can be found.

You are standing near one of these Aboriginal 'quarries' in Girrawah Park (another one is at Mulligans Flat).

As these materials are so hard, it would not have been easy to remove bits to work with. Aboriginal people across Australia knew how to heat the rocks by building fires close to them and then



**Locally found
Aboriginal artefacts
on a coolamon.**

PHOTO: TERRITORY AND
MUNICIPAL SERVICES

cooling them quickly by pouring on water, making smaller pieces crack off.

As well as quarrying the stone here, the Aboriginal people of this land camped nearby, cooking and eating, making new implements and repairing old ones. They shared their very rich culture of laws and information about travel and resources, and enjoyed entertainment through dance and song.

Their descendants continue to live nearby, enjoying the richness of their culture. They worked together to design and decorate this park (*Girrawah* means goanna in the local language). If you would like to find out more, please visit the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre at Yarramundi Reach.



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Heritage Places