

Cooyong Old Well CMT 1 [36-4-0119]

There are two trees within 60 m of each other at this location. This tree is fairly healthy, although the trunk holding the scar is dead.

Figure 38 Cooyong Old Well CMT 1, setting [upper left], Melissa Gilpin, Tim Hampton, Peter Garretty, Jane Austin, landowner Ian Potter, and Wayne Carr; close up of scar [upper right]; detail of upper scar [lower left]; detail of lower scar [lower right].



Cooyong Old Well CMT 2 [36-4-0120]

There are two trees within 60 m of each other at this location. This tree is fairly healthy, although the trunk holding the scar is dead. There are axe marks indicating that the tree had been ring-barked. It is likely that this post-dates the scar.

Figure 39 Cooyong Old Well CMT 2, setting [upper left], Melissa Gilpin; close-up of scar [upper right]; detail of upper scar [lower left]; detail of lower scar [lower right].



Sunnyside CMT1 [36-4-0122]

GAC placed high importance on this scarred tree. The tree is situated on open rolling plains. The heartwood is in poor condition, although the tree appears healthy. The outline of the scar is well formed. The proposed alignment comes close to the tree, but the inspected corridor is wide enough to move the alignment a small distance to ensure that construction will not impact on the tree.

Figure 40 Sunnyside CMT 1, setting [upper left], Lee Thurlow, Peter Garretty, Darren Martin; close-up of scar [upper right]; detail of upper scar [lower left]; detail of lower scar [lower right].



Red Hill CMT1 [36-4-0125]

There are two scars on separate trunks of this dead tree [white or yellow box]. The tree is lying on the ground. Both scars are elevated and the inner wood is burnt.

The locality is a valley floor that would have had minor drainage leading to a wetter area, perhaps an ephemeral swamp. There is no other material evidence in the vicinity. While the scars are not conclusively of human origin, they are well formed and are likely to have been made by Aboriginal people.

The shape of scar 1 indicates possible natural origin or uneven regrowth. No axe marks were observable. Scar 2 has a more classic coolamon shape, but no axe marks are observable. Given the two scars on the single tree, with reasonable position, size and shape, the weight of evidence indicates these as being of Aboriginal origin.

Figure 41 Red Hill CMT 1, setting [upper left], Tim Hampton; close-up of scar 1 [upper right]; close-up of scar 2 [lower left]; detail of scar 2 [lower right], Tim Hampton measures scar.



GAC is interested in removing one of the scars for conservation and education purposes.

Eurimbula CMT 1 [36-4-0126]

The tree is situated on open plains, which were probably lightly wooded before clearing. The tree is dead and was probably a spotted gum. The scar is well formed, typical of a coolamon or shield scar.

Figure 42 Eurimbula CMT 1, setting [upper left], Melissa Gilpin, Lee Thurlow, Neville Brown, Tim Hampton; close-up of scar [upper right] Melissa Gilpin, Lee Thurlow; detail of upper part of scar [lower left]; detail of lower part of scar [lower right].



Isolated objects

Several Isolated Objects were seen during the course of survey. Most of these were pieces of debitage, or the by-products of manufacturing stone tools. These were not recorded unless part of a larger site defined by a stone artefact concentration. Larger objects showing evidence of use, elbow grease, or more information for education or research purposes, were described and locations plotted.

A core manufactured from black/dark grey siliceous volcanic stone was identified at Dellawong Station (figure 43.)

Figure 43 Isolated object – a large flake from a river cobble has been used to produce smaller flakes.



9.3.2 Significance assessment in the Wellington region

Gallangabang Aboriginal Corporation has set out their position with respect to the significance and conservation of cultural heritage in their region (Thurlow 2010):

The GAC pursues a policy of protecting and preserving Aboriginal culture and heritage in all of its forms and all sites are considered as being highly culturally significant to members of the GAC (and the Wellington Valley Wiradjuri claimants).

The sites are valued as evidence of continuous Aboriginal occupation in the region and provide a direct cultural link between the past and current GAC members and Wellington Valley Wiradjuri claimants. Many Aboriginal sites in the Wellington Valley area are also valued as educational resources by GAC members and Wellington Valley Wiradjuri claimants who utilize those sites to pass on cultural knowledge to their children.

Aboriginal Site Assessment

The appropriate management of cultural heritage items is usually determined on the basis of their assessed significance as well as the likely impacts of any proposed developments. Scientific, cultural and public significance are currently identified as baseline elements of this assessment, and it is through the combination of these elements that the overall cultural heritage values of a site, place or area are resolved.

Cultural significance

These areas of assessment concern the importance of a site or feature to the relevant cultural group, in this case the Wiradjuri community. Aspects of cultural significance include assessment of sites, items, and landscapes that are traditionally significant or that have contemporary importance to the Wiradjuri community. This importance involves both traditional links with specific areas as

well as an overall concern by Wiradjuri people for their sites generally and the continued protection of these sites. This type of significance may not be in accord with interpretations made by the archaeologist - a site may have low scientific significance but high Wiradjuri significance (or vice versa).

All sites were identified as being of high significance to participants.