

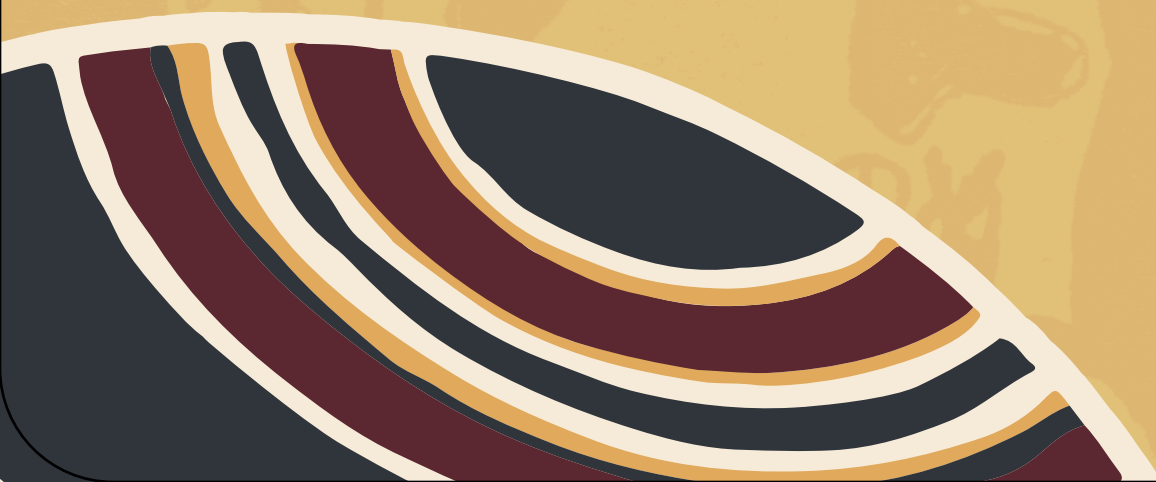
The cycle of life

The rock art site before you was regularly used by the Buluwandji people. New paintings were created on top of older ones, which are now only a blur of pigment.

The main figure in the gallery ahead of you is Kunindooran. Buluwai traditional stories explain how, after being badly burnt by two women, he came here to die.

After accidentally killing him, Buluwai women decided to come here to give life. Notice the images of women giving birth surrounding Kunindooran's image.

The mother and child to the bottom left of the gallery have been painted in orange and yellow pigment, while Kunindooran has been painted in red ochre, with a body decoration of yellow dots.



A lifetime of recordings

In 1916 Buluwandji people were forcibly removed from this area, but their connection was never lost. Elders continued to share stories and, when possible, would bring younger generations to view an historic birthing and hunting place.

In 1980, W.C (Willie) Brim, a proud Buluwandji man, was told by his Elders his ancestors came from Bunda Bibandji and Davies Creek area.

It is not known when non-indigenous Australians first saw these art sites, but the earliest official documentation was during the late 1940s when local cattle owners passed knowledge to others. The first detailed record was made in the 1950s by D. Seaton. They were recorded again in 1967 by J. Clegg.

The sketch to the right will help you to distinguish paintings which have faded and are difficult to make out.



White kangaroo

Much of the art found in this gallery incorporates figures of wallabies and wallaroos, suggesting use by hunters.

The older images are painted in red ochre, while the most recent illustrations are larger and painted with a white pipe clay. The large white wallaby to the left of the gallery is most unusual; notice it is portrayed with a gaping, almost beak-like jaw. This painting style is

found nowhere else in Australia. Generally macropods are depicted with their mouths closed.

The paintings of human figures with bent arms and legs are similar to the indigenous art at Quinkin Art Reserve, Laura, north-west of Cooktown.

If you look closely you will see painted surfaces that are deteriorating. This has occurred due to water running over the granite surface and encouraging algal growth. The algae are slowly carving away the rock surface.

*Thank you
for taking the time
to learn about Bukwai
culture. We trust you have
taken a small piece of this
culture away with
you today.*



*Guban guban galing
Travel safely*