

Derrawa Dhaura. Photo: Callum Lawrence.

INDIGENOUS WALK ON GOLLION



FURTHER INFORMATION

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WEBSITES

<http://ginninderralandcare.org.au>

<https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/sutton-landcare/>

Cover: Matilda House showing some red ochre.
Photo: Stuart Cohen.





Dave Johnston at the quarry site. Photo: Stuart Cohen.

ABORIGINAL INTERPRETIVE WALK

Join us for an Aboriginal interpretive walk to see an ancient Ochre Quarry, scar trees and stone artefacts and learn more about cultural values in the Sutton area from Aboriginal Elders. The walks will be led by Aboriginal custodians of the area, the Ngunawal and Ngambri-Ngunnawal people.



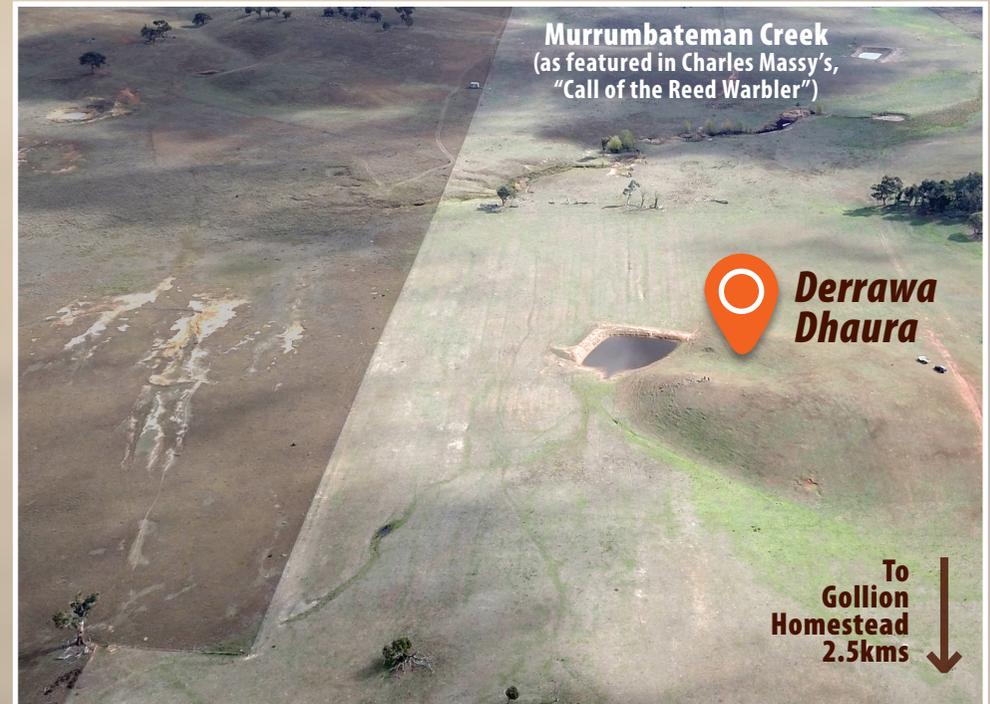
Thumbnail scraper used for collecting ochre. Photo: Stuart Cohen.

WALK HIGHLIGHT

The highlight of the walk is *Derrawa Dhaura* ("yellow ground" in the Ngunawal language), a historic quarry gazetted as an Aboriginal Place with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

There are more than 65,000 Aboriginal heritage sites – from middens to missions – registered in New South Wales, but officially there are only 11 Aboriginal Places on private property. These receive legal recognition and protection from the state minister for planning as they are declared to have or have had "special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture".

The aim of these walks is to both share the Aboriginal history of Gollion, and to dispel the fear of listing an Aboriginal Place on private property. The Vincent family retains the property title, access to *Derrawa Dhaura*, and the right to graze. And the community gains a better understanding of their farm and a connection with people who care deeply about this country.



West end of Gollion Farm. Photo: Callum Lawrence.

RECONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

For the Traditional Owners, the listing of *Derrawa Dhaura* as an Aboriginal Place is recognition that their people were the first inhabitants of this area. The Vincent family has agreed to allow access to the Ngambri, Ngunnawal and Ngunawal communities whenever they want it. In the words of Ngunawal elder Wally Bell, "the use of the ochre is allowing us to make that reconnection to country"; for Matilda House Ngambri-Ngunnawal elder, "this brings an understanding of what reconciliation means".

Lyle Gillespie, in the 1970s and '80s studied the Indigenous history of Reidsdale on Mulligans Flat Road. He said his great grandmother, Mary Reid (whose family did own part of Gollion) told her offspring stories about the Aboriginal corroborees she saw near her family homestead at Tallagandra. (*Canberra Times* February 25, 1979).