

The Creators of the Mural



Clockwise from top left: Teacher Rick O'Brien and student Jayika preparing the background; Jayika painting the vivid yellow that is the base colour for the mural; Rick finishing off the background; Students Ella, Tomysa, Izayah and their teacher Rick in front of the finished artwork.



Australian Government

Ansto

www.ansto.gov.au

Enquiries and more information

Phone **+61 2 9717 3111**
 Email **enquiries@ansto.gov.au**

ANSTO acknowledges the people of the Dharawal nation, traditional owners of the land upon which the Lucas Heights NSW campus is located; the Kulin nation, traditional owners of the land upon which the Australian Synchrotron is Clayton Vic is located and the Eora nation, traditional owners of the land upon which the National Research Cyclotron is located in Camperdown NSW.



Ansto

The Dharawal Mural



The ANSTO Indigenous Mural

In May 2017, Indigenous students from Endeavour Sports High School, under the supervision of their art teacher Rick O'Brien, created a mural that celebrates the Indigenous heritage of Bardens Creek valley, literally across the road from the ANSTO precinct. Each figure in the mural represents actual art and artefacts that exist in the valley. Given the likely great antiquity of the art, including rock engravings and shelter art, all are heavily weathered, and very difficult to see unless pointed out by someone who knows exactly where they are. In the case of charcoal and red ochre art, modern digital photographic enhancement allows the shapes to be seen more clearly. With the exception of one site from nearby Mill Creek, all sites represented in the mural lie within 1.5km of the ANSTO entrance on New Illawarra Rd.



The ANSTO Indigenous Mural.

Kangaroo - figure 1

This represents an engraving of a kangaroo, situated on the northern side of Bardens Creek, unusual for its great size, 2.5m in height, despite it missing its lower margin.

Wallaby - figure 2

This depicts a charcoal drawing of a wallaby, 50cm in length, found above Mill Creek. The actual drawing has been heavily weathered and only a fraction of the original charcoal remains.

Human figure - figure 3

This depicts a red ochre drawing of a human figure, 55cm in height, in a low shelter on the north side of Bardens Creek.

Two men - figures 4a and 4b

These two figures represent engravings of two men, each life sized, and side by side on the north side of Bardens Creek. The engravings are particularly shallow, and would be invisible to most observers. Such engravings of human figures are not uncommon in the Sutherland Shire, sometimes in groups of as many as six individual life sized engravings.

Grinding grooves - figure 5

Figure 5 represents a cluster of grinding grooves on the unnamed side-creek that has its source immediately across the road from the ANSTO entrance. The other three groups of oval-shaped figures in the mural represent actual clusters of grinding grooves in Bardens Creek valley.



Kangaroo depicted in the mural

The engraving lies in a seepage channel, which has no doubt accelerated its weathering. The groove is very shallow and usually covered with a thin layer of fine sand carried down with the seepage. The shape of the



engraving, particularly the ears, together with its size at 2.5m in height, help identify the figure as a large kangaroo, probably an eastern grey (*Macropus giganteus*). (Photoshop has been used to trace the shape of the engraving in the 2nd image).



Wallaby depicted in the mural

This charcoal drawing exists in a shelter above Mill Creek, 2.5 km north of the ANSTO entrance. The charcoal has been weathered away for most of the outline, but with



the help of high resolution digital photography there is sufficient left to be able to make out the entire outline. Unfortunately the deterioration seen in this figure is typical of the art found across the entire region.



Human figure depicted in the mural

Although charcoal drawings dominate the shelter art in the region, red drawings are not uncommon and often feature



human figures, almost always male and drawn facing the viewer with legs and arms spread out. In the second image software has been used to enhance the red coloration.



Two men depicted in the mural

These two engravings are very shallow and only visible in the first image because the sun was very low in the sky



when the photo was taken. Photoshop has been used to trace the shapes of the two engravings in the 2nd image.



Grinding grooves depicted in the mural

The cluster of grinding grooves represented by figure 5 can be seen to be directly beside a water filled pot hole. Water was an important requirement for grinding stone tools, in this case stone axes, and grinding grooves are always found in or beside a water source. Note that one of the grinding grooves is very deep compared to the others, indicating that it was used over a longer period of time.