

Case Study: Muru Mittigar

Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural and Education Centre

Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural and Education Centre, opened in 1998, is an initiative of the Aboriginal Community of Western Sydney. It is located at the base of the Blue Mountains 1.5 hour's drive from central Sydney.

The centre offers a range of activities for the Sydney day-tripper, including a native plant walk, boomerang throwing, painting workshops, dance performances, bush tucker tastings and a retail outlet offering authentic Aboriginal souvenirs and products for purchase.



Since its inception Muru Mittigar has had a close association with the Australian Museum which has an extensive collection of Aboriginal artefacts, some of which are on loan to Muru Mittigar.

Muru Mittigar offers its visitors a variety of Aboriginal cultural experiences. Visitors get the chance to experience boomerang throwing in a safe outdoor area. Expert staff offer advice on throwing and catching the boomerang, as well as explaining its history and cultural importance.

Dance is a significant part of Aboriginal culture and is used to convey a story or religious event. Muru Mittigar offers a wide range of traditional and contemporary dance performances.

Aboriginal art is explored during interactive workshops in which participants learn and paint their own souvenir artwork. The images used within various Aboriginal art styles symbolise particular messages that can be interpreted by other Aboriginal people from within the artist's community.

Muru Mittigar provides opportunities for visitors to explore a variety of different 'bush tucker'. These include kangaroo, emu, crocodile, native fruits, berries and nuts. These foods can be incorporated into a barbecue lunch or dinner, or can just be sampled.

Muru Mittigar provides local and regional artists with an opportunity to display and sell their art. The aim of the Gallery is to provide an income and employment for members of the local community. Items on sale include paintings, didgeridoos, boomerangs, ceramics, clothing and jewellery.

Lonely Planet under the Budyari Ngalaya program, supported Muru Mittigar (Cranebrook), by providing it with an opportunity to promote and advertise in the Lonely Planet booklet and website. Both the Lonely Planet booklet and website are used by travellers world-wide. Following this support, Qantas is now recommending Muru Mittigar as a preferred place to visit for people seeking an Aboriginal tourism experience in Sydney.

For more information contact:

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