

## 1. Weaving Workshop

*Basket weaving is symbolic as it represents the thread of life, sometimes we may break and fray but together we stay strong like the threads that hold the basket together.*



Various types of weaving from different areas will be explored. Styles used by different groups will be utilised. We will explore and discuss the importance of the diverse designs in relation to different family groups/clans/tribes.

Natural and manmade materials will be used in this workshop. Items such as reeds, bushes, grasses, leaves, rattan, feathers, wool, cotton, beads, seeds and wood. The process of dyeing some of the natural grasses by using red and yellow ochre and various plants will also be included.



End products may include baskets, table runners and mats. Bags and nets may be another area to be explored.

## 2. Clay and Pottery Workshop

*Clay was and is still very sacred to Aboriginal people. They could walk hundreds of miles to get different types of clays especially the white clay.*

*The white clay had a multitude of uses - it was used to line the bottom of the canoes to making the base of fires and was used as white body paint. The clay was tinted with*



*berries or ochre to produce brightly coloured paint for ceremonies and corrobories also for dishes, plates, jewellery and vessels for keeping and holding food and water. Another use was for medicinal and nutritional supplement uses.*



This workshop aims to produce clay items such as bowls, plates and figurines which can be used as ornament or as tableware. It will also explore techniques of adding weaving or macramé with the pottery - using clay for making jewellery and wind chimes.



## 3. Didgeridoos and Coolamons Workshop

*Aboriginal people used the whole of the tree or plants including the wood, the sap, the resin, the leaves, the fruit and flowers. Timber from certain shrubs and trees was valued for making a wide range of tools, utensils and musical instruments.*

In this workshop the participants will be taken on a field trip into the bush to gather the raw materials necessary for their project.



We will then prepare the materials such as feathers, nuts, shells, ochre paint etc for our artwork. This may include pyrography (using heat or flames) to draw designs and markings. To decorate our coolamons, didgeridoos and utensils as well as paints etc. The importance and uses of each produced tool and utensil will be discussed in a historic and modern context. Another section of this workshop will include learning to play the instruments for various types of entertainment, ceremonies and for healing for example sound and vibration therapy.



## 4. Traditional Dance and Costume Workshop

*Traditional dress helped the people connect their physical body to the spiritual world by wearing significant sacred objects, presenting themselves as a totem figure or enabling their bodies to carry significant markings. Each different language group had their own types of ceremonial dress.*

Dance is an important and proud part of the Indigenous culture. This workshop intends to produce costumes that are culturally appropriate. This means that raw bush materials will be used as much as possible. If improvised materials are needed, it will be as close as we can get to the original.

