

The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Ancient Quarry Site → A Quarry Site

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:04

This here is a quarry site, and it's where the Aboriginal men have come and worked the rock to make their stone tools.

00:00:10

So their aim was to take away a core piece, which is roughly about the size of your palm, and it's from that core piece that they'd make all their other stone tools that they would use for skinning and sharpening spears, and all them types of things.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Ancient Quarry Site → Core Piece

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

Yeah.

00:00:01

So this is a core piece.

00:00:02

So, like I said, they're roughly the size of your palm to begin with, so easy to carry.

00:00:06

And then over time working it down and it gets to a smaller size, To the point where you can't work it anymore, and then they'd just discard it.

00:00:13

But, yeah, so you can see it's a good example.

00:00:15

See all these scalloped edges on it from where they've worked it and chipped away other stone tool pieces, little flake pieces.

00:00:20

But every piece was used.

00:00:22

Nothing was wasted.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Ancient Quarry Site → Rock Type

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

When the men would come to a quarry site.

00:00:03

It would obviously look like this on the surface and they'd look for that solid grain of rock.

00:00:05

And from that solid grain, they would know it was the type of rock they needed to use, because that solid grain wouldn't chip or break easily.

00:00:12

They'd then hit it with a hammerstone.

00:00:14

Chip away, and get that core piece, but if that didn't work they'd light a fire at the base, heat it up, which would make the rock internally crack.

00:00:20

And then when they'd come back after it'd cooled down, they'd hit it and be able to take that core piece.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Ancient Quarry Site → Flake Piece

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

So a flake piece can vary in size, like thumbnail to pinkie nail size.

00:00:05

So when they first come off, they got a real nice sharp edge.

00:00:08

So you use them to cut the skin and all them sorts of things.

00:00:09

After time, they will get blunt and just get discarded.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Ancient Quarry Site → Reworking a Tool

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

So a cutter would be that...

00:00:01

the sharper straight edge.

00:00:04

So you use that to cut open the skin, and the scraper would be used to scrape the meat away from the skin.

00:00:08

So once that sharp edge has died down and you've got a larger stone tool, you rework it.

00:00:14

So you knap away at it to create a more serrated edge.

00:00:14

And it's with that serrated edge that you'd use to scrape the meat away from the skin so it wouldn't cut the skin.

00:00:21

An example of a scraper, originally was a cutter.

00:00:25

Because it would've been a straight edge when it first come off.

00:00:28

But all these little knaps around the very edges of it is where it's been reworked.

00:00:32

So, then, from being able to cut open the skin nice and smooth, to be able to be used to scrape the meat away from the skin.

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Still today a lot of hunters use stone knives instead of metal ones, because the stone knife won't make that accidental cut.

00:00:47

Here's a flake piece.

00:00:47

This one wouldn't have been really used to cut anything with.

00:00:51

It's just essentially a flake piece that's come off the quarry site, or off a core piece that someone's taken away from it.

00:00:56

So, you can see it's got a slight little scalloped edge on it.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Ancient Quarry Site → Indicators

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

Now, with this stone tool here, you can see a straight edge across the top.

00:00:04

That's a striking platform.

00:00:04

So that's when the Aboriginal man had hit it with his hammerstone.

00:00:09

So that initial strike made the flat surface at the top.

00:00:12

And from the force of the strike, and when the rock chipped away from the core piece or quarry face, it created the bulb of percussion.

00:00:19

Now, if you look at this on an angle, you can see the bulb that forms up underneath it here.

00:00:24

The strike platform and the bulb can only be made by human interaction.

00:00:27

So by the act of someone actually hitting it with that hammerstone.

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So those are clear indications of a stone tool.

00:00:33

This is what you look for when you're looking for a stone tool.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Ancient Quarry Site → Connection

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

A lot of knowledge and stuff can be passed down through family, and a lot of it was.

00:00:05

My uncle, he taught me a fair bit about stone tools as well.

00:00:08

But working with Sharni at Palawa has taught me a lot more about stone tools.

00:00:12

This stone tool in particular.

00:00:12

The one I'm holding in my hand.

00:00:15

I found this stone tool in Strahan when I was 6.

00:00:15

I think I was six years old when I found this.

00:00:21

And I was always told that with stone tools, when you pick up a stone tool you're connecting with the person who made it.

00:00:26

Okay, so...

00:00:28

So on that day, I was 6, and obviously I didn't know much about stone tools.

00:00:32

So I was skimming rocks all day.

00:00:33

And then for some reason, I picked up this one rock.

00:00:36

And if you look at it, it looks like a pretty good skimming rock.

00:00:38

And then for some reason something stopped me from skimming this rock.

00:00:41

And I carried it from one end of the beach all the way to the other.

00:00:44

And I guess what I'm trying to say is that connection is real.

00:00:48

Something stopped me that day from skimming this rock.



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Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:01

It's really a good indication of poor management, and when I say poor management.

00:00:05

I'm talking about the management authority, Parks and Wildlife.

00:00:07

In the past, in the way they've tried to manage Aboriginal heritage sites.

00:00:11

And this sign was put up in the 80's.

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And it actually gave people a good understanding of what the Aboriginal quarry site was.

00:00:22

And how it was used.

00:00:24

Showed how the hammerstone would be used to create the core stone.

00:00:29

And then to knap further away that core stone to get your stone tool.

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But what it actually did was create damage to the site.

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Because people came here, read it, and then had a go at it.

00:00:41

So physically struck without any technique or any skill onto the quarry site, and damaged it.

00:00:47

I can guarantee not many would've made a formal tool or even got close to a flake.

00:00:51

Because it's not an easy process.

00:00:53

It's a learned the skill.

00:00:54

And it took a while for the community to convince Parks that that's poor management, and for the sign to actually be taken down.

00:01:02

And the sign was written and interpreted in a very poor manner in a way that kind of showcased that Aboriginal people weren't here anymore.

00:01:12

So it even kind of gave a false story, if you like, about the community today, and the fact that we're still here, and that our culture continues, and that we still look after these sites and respect them and value them.

00:01:25

And it wasn't until the obvious damage occurred that Parks started to come on board and say perhaps that kind of interpretation's wrong.



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Video Transcript

Caleb Pedder

00:00:02

This area, you've probably got about 50 artefacts.

00:00:05

You've got one there, one there, one there, another one there.

00:00:10

Two more there, and then there's one in there, there's another two, another one there; flakes.

00:00:18

That's a nice big flake piece.

00:00:21

So this is a flake scraper.

00:00:25

You see this little bulb?

00:00:27

That's called a bulb of percussion.

00:00:29

It's basically where it's been on the parent rock, and someone's got another rock and hit it there, and that's the point that's hit.

00:00:36

So every time you've got a bulb, strike bulb.

00:00:39

You've got a little platform where you know that's where the rock that's hit it has hit.

00:00:44

The little flat area, you always get a little flat area on top.

00:00:47

And the rock's hit just there.

00:00:50

So if you've got that.

00:00:50

You're almost guaranteed to have an artefact.

00:00:55

Something made by someone.

00:01:03

You'll find an artefact just about anywhere you want.

00:01:05

They've been doing roadworks in Hobart.

00:01:07 And I'm finding artefacts in that occasionally, in the middle of Hobart.

00:01:10 Up on the sides of mountains.

00:01:12 It's amazing, where you walk you'll find artefacts pretty much anywhere in Tasmania.

00:01:17 They're incredibly interesting, and they're very important to Aboriginal people.

00:01:20 Because every time you find one.

00:01:22 You know that one of your ancestors made it.

00:01:25 And if you know what you're looking for, you'll pick them out reasonably easy.

00:01:29 Sometimes you'll miss them, because they do hide.

00:01:32 But if you got your eye in, they do stand out.

00:01:35 You're looking for colour, if you look through here, you see the background rock, and then you'll see the greys of the artefacts, and the tans and stuff.

00:01:43 And even if they're the same colour as the background rock, you look for shape.

00:01:47 So if you can find the shape of them, then you'll pick them up.

00:01:50 One problem with that is you pick up a lot of leaves.

00:01:53 Leaves tend to have the same type of shape.

00:01:59 It's really interesting, and exceptionally useful to have that skill to find it, because that gives you a direct link to your ancestry.

00:02:05 And it's amazing what you find.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Direct Link to the Past → Direct Link

Video Transcript

Caleb Pedder

00:00:01

You don't get this without human interaction.

00:00:06

This doesn't exist without someone sitting here making it.

00:00:10

So an individual's made this.

00:00:12

That's a direct link to someone who we're likely to be related to.

00:00:16

You get frost shatter and you get those effects, and you get other stuff.

00:00:20

But these things are made by people.

00:00:24

Someone actually sat here.

00:00:26

However long ago.

00:00:26

Had the tools for it.

00:00:27

Collected the tools.

00:00:28

Collected the rock.

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Brought it here and actually made it.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Direct Link to the Past → yingina

Video Transcript

Caleb Pedder

00:00:02

The extensive number of artefacts indicates a lot of use.

00:00:06

And given *yingina*, as it's called, was a major water body, during droughts it would still have had water in them.

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So it would've been a major spot to come and sit.

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Currently, I mean you see there's no trees around it, but the tree line would've been all the way down to the water's edge.

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So it would've been reasonably sheltered.

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There would've been a lot of vegetation to burn.

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There's bits of seed and stuff you can get during certain times of year that you could eat as well.

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The lake would've been absolutely covered in swans, and birds and ducks, and up here there's lots of wallabies, and they would've been nice and fat, and covered in furs.

00:00:47

It would've been a rich resourced area.

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You wouldn't have starved up here.

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And it's likely that these areas here were probably major gathering points.

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So you would've had lots of people here talking and exchanging things, and making arrangements, and marriages, and trading, and doing all that stuff as well.

00:01:06

Because it's a very obvious place.

00:01:08

It's a big place, a lot of people on the plateau would've come here to spend time.

00:01:12

And while they're here, they'd be making artefacts for everyday use.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Direct Link to the Past → Making Tools

Video Transcript

Caleb Pedder

00:00:03

That's what we call a steep-edged scraper.

00:00:05

Basically for cutting.

00:00:06

There's a little bit of edging through there.

00:00:08

Retouching, but you can see the fine detail that's on it.

00:00:12

That's a formed tool.

00:00:13

That's come off a parent rock.

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A big rock like that, and someone's hit it very hard there.

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And it's popped off in the manner that they want, and then they've worked it.

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They've taken chunks out there, and out there, and you can see they've taken pieces off that.

00:00:26

All the way round through there.

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They've just worked it, and made the artefacts, and they've taken bits off there to retouch it.

00:00:33

Fits comfortably in your hand with your thumb and stuff.

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And there's a lot of thought in relation to how you use it and how it's constructed.

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But that there where your thumb fits, that's been taken off.

00:00:44

Someone had deliberately done that so their thumb would fit.

00:00:46

So you think about it.

00:00:48 You'd have to have a visual idea of how to make it, and then the skill to make it.

00:00:53 And you got to know your rock.

00:00:53 You got to know how it's fracturing.

00:00:56 You got to know what you actually want from it.

00:00:58 You often get people saying, oh, it's just a piece of rock.

00:01:00 You just bash it around and away you go.

00:01:03 But a lot of thought's got to go into it to actually achieve what you want from it.

00:01:07 It's just not...

00:01:07 It's not a simple process.

00:01:10 Anybody who's tried will find out quite fast.

00:01:13 It's not a simple process.

00:01:15 And some of the artefacts that you find are beautifully crafted.

00:01:20 And they'll fit in your hand perfectly.

00:01:22 And some of them are left-handed and some of them are right-handed.

00:01:24 And some of them were multi-use.

00:01:26 They had a blade on them for cutting, and they'll have notches for scraping wood and stuff like that.

00:01:33 It's very highly skilled process.



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Video Transcript

Caleb Pedder

00:00:01

We're lucky in Tasmania we've got quite a variety of usable stone.

00:00:05

So you've got your quartz, quartzite, silcrete, chert, hornfel, fossilized wood was used.

00:00:12

We found a scallop shell once.

00:00:12

Fossilized scallop shell.

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Big as the palm of your hand, that had been worked.

00:00:17

It came from one of the islands up in the Bass Strait.

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You'll get outcrops like spongolite.

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That covers 35 square kilometres.

00:00:23

There's another quarry just south of Oatlands, chert, which covers two square kilometres that we know off.

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Sometimes you'll just get a rock on the edge of a river that had been worked.

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And other times you'll get cobbles out of the river.

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So quartz and quartzite cobbles, and sometimes off the beaches.

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And a huge variety of different colours.

00:00:40

The people, they jus, the Aboriginal people just, they liked the colour.

00:00:43

They liked the variety of the fossilized stuff.

00:00:46

And some of them are just pretty.

00:00:48

And a lot of them are utilitarian.



The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Direct Link to the Past → Trade

Video Transcript

unnamed

00:00:01

Caleb Pedder

00:00:01

00:00:06

00:00:08

00:00:12

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You could have people who have a particular stone source that's theirs.

And they might bring them in.

And they might work them on site, and then trade the worked tools to other people.

And then you have other people with their own sources of stone, from somewhere coming in, and they're swapping around.

There was an extensive trading network in Tasmania for stone, right across the landscape.

Like spongolite, there's one known source of it.

But all the way down the West Coast you find it, and the only way you can get it down in Port Davey is if it's handed on from one person to another.

It's unlikely that people would be carrying it all the way through.

They'd be trading it.

They'd meet at a certain point, and then they'd trade it on to the next people.

And they've moved down the coast and they traded on.

And by the time you get down to the south it's quite small, and...

Whereas up near the quarry site on the coast you'll get big chunks of it.

That'd get reduced, and then moved down coast.

00:00:51

And people from the southern part might be trading stuff up the coast.

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You know, a particular fossilized rock or something like that.

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Or they might be very good at making shell necklaces.

00:01:00

Trading was a, it's a human condition, It's a standard process, and people do that all the time.

00:01:06

So these stones are part of that process.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Place of Learning & Practice → The Site

Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:01

We're sitting on the edge of one of several knapping grounds associated with this part of the island.

00:00:08

And the knapping ground is basically an area where tribal men came to make the tools, and they spent a lot of time here, and there's a lot of material here.

00:00:18

And there's thousands of core pieces, flake pieces and stone tools.

00:00:24

Everything from – like this is a nice core piece where you can actually see where there's been a number of different strikes on it and material taken from it, to nice big boulders.

00:00:33

See the massive bolder over here where you can see all the scalloped edging where pieces have been taken from it, and there's a number of those big drop boulders within and amongst the whole knapping ground.

00:00:45

And behind us up the back here we've actually got the stone source, the core stone itself that's been worked as well where bigger pieces have been taken off.



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Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:01

A knapping ground is more about the volume of material.

00:00:04

So, yeah, you're likely to always be near a quarry source.

00:00:08

Because otherwise you've got to carry everything, you know, and you don't want to be car – you're not going to carry boulders like that.

00:00:14

You're only going to carry pieces that are not so large and not so heavy.

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A nice core piece to take with you is probably only going to fit in the palm of your hand.

00:00:22

Because it's not excess weight that way.

00:00:22

Particularly, I guess, if you're learning.

00:00:26

It's not an easy thing to make stone tool.

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It's a skill you acquire over time, and with practise.

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So to bring young men here to actually be able to practise for a number of hours at a time and hone their skills, that's what knapping grounds kinda offer up.



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Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:01

You're probably not going to live right out here, it's a bit exposed.

00:00:03

But certainly just up and over in the backs of the dunes here, and in the open plain areas.

00:00:10

And, yeah, awesome kind of country to be settling down in, and getting shelter and carrying out your daily responsibilities.

00:00:16

And close to the stone source that you need that supports all of those - activities that you got to go do.

00:00:21

Because women can't really collect reeds and grasses to make baskets if they haven't got a stone tool to cut them with.

00:00:27

Young men can't sharpen their spears to go hunting to get kangaroo, if they haven't got something to sharpen the spears with.

00:00:33

So having access or having the ability to closely collect the material you need, is part of just your general living and making sure you've got all that available to you.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Place of Learning & Practice → Community

Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:00

You wouldn't just be sitting here just concentrating on the one thing.

00:00:04

There'd be stories being told, and the culture being passed on, skills being shared, and all of those aspects of community and tribal life would've been part of why you were here.

00:00:15

You wouldn't just come here and make a tool and then go again.

00:00:17

There'd be a whole activity coming down, and a learning experience.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Place of Learning & Practice → Ancestors

Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:02

There are men in the community today that still have the skill to make tools.

00:00:05

It's not common, it's not every day they're going out making tools and stuff, but they certainly have the skill.

00:00:10

And they have the desire to pass that on, but there's always that, I guess, cultural conscience where we can come here and we can make tools, but we may very well be damaging part of our heritage and part of that story that's been left by our ancestors.

00:00:26

So there's that reluctance as well.

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So I think it's about balance, and about ensuring that what we do to help continue the culture and maintain those kind of skills isn't having an adverse effect.

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But certainly there's that desire to ensure that that skill and that cultural activity is maintained and that knowledge is passed on.



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Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:01

The tea tree is still used to make spears.

00:00:04

You know, and when there's opportunity, and the right people are gathered together, then, yeah, they're going to bring out those tools and go, 'see if it still works'.

00:00:12

Personally, I'd like to see more of it, and perhaps as time goes on, and our community builds confidence and a greater understanding of where these knapping grounds are and the source is, then the volume of people in the community doing that will increase as well.

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But at the moment, yeah, it's just taking into consideration the people's concerns for damaging heritage.

00:00:31

You know, and balancing that out with the continuation of the culture.



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Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

I've been to this site a few times now.

00:00:03

Done tours and stuff here as well.

00:00:05

But I just like coming back here.

00:00:06

Because there's such a large amount of stone tools, so if you bring a class or something.

00:00:10

After you show them how to identify, and say go for it, have a look, and they just from there, they just go and they find.

00:00:16

You know what I mean?

00:00:16

And they bring it back to you, and you say to them.

00:00:19

Well, where's the bulb and where's the striking platform?

00:00:20

How do you know this is a stone tool?

00:00:22

And just being able to do that, that you know that they're learning.

00:00:25

Then further on, if they're kids they can tell their parents, so if they're ever out walking and they come across something, they know what it is, and they know that they can pick it up, have a look at it, but put it back.

00:00:34

I enjoy passing that knowledge on.

00:00:36

It's a key thing.

00:00:37

Because if we want to protect our culture and our land, then the only way we're going to do that is to teach the future generation.

00:00:43

And by them knowing, then they'll pass it on, and pass it on, and eventually, hopefully, everyone respects it just as much as I do.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Place of Learning & Practice → Pride

Video Transcript

Dayne Langdon

00:00:01

I think the main thing that I think about when I'm here is I try and engross myself in it so I can look at a stone tool, look at a quarry site, and try and picture ancestors sitting here and doing it, and how they'd do it.

00:00:11

I don't know if I'm putting it right, but engross myself with how things would've been done traditionally.

00:00:16

And when you sit here and you look at all their stone tools, you could imagine how many years or how many people were here actually doing it to make such a massive site.

00:00:24

Just to actually be able to come to a spot and experience the things that were done traditionally.

00:00:29

It's overwhelming, you know.

00:00:31

It's a proud thing.

00:00:33

It's a good thing.



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Video Transcript

Sharnie Everett

00:00:00

Our heritage is written into the landscape.

00:00:05

This knapping ground and what it can tell us is an important part of our journey and our ability to pass on our culture.

00:00:13

So if everyone came here, experienced it and understood it, and then decided it was pretty awesome.

00:00:19

And they might want to take one of the tools that they find here.

00:00:22

in no time at all there's going to be nothing here for us to bring our youngens.

00:00:26

The next generation, and teach them about stone tools.

00:00:30

So it's a really important aspect for people to understand that Aboriginal heritage needs to remain in its place, for it to be a complete story.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Returning the Knowledge → Hammer Stones

Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:04

The men, at the moment, are going through the cobbles and boulders here, looking for stones that will be hard enough and tough enough, and not too brittle to use as hammerstones.

00:00:17

What we're looking for are stones that are tough, are hard, and are heavy.

00:00:17

And they're being tested, initially, by hitting against the bedrock here, just to see that they don't have little cracks or faults inside them, and will break when you're actually trying to work a stone implement.

00:00:44

Then we'll take them up to the nodules, a different area to work and the men will successfully attack the boulders that we need to break up, and remove flakes, and then make various sorts of scrapers and knives that we find in Tasmania.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Returning the Knowledge → Technique

Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:03

What we're going to try and do here is look at some of the things we need to consider when making stone tools.

00:00:11

We've gone out and got some good nodules.

00:00:13

We've also got some tabular pieces of chert.

00:00:15

We've been down in the river here to look at getting hammerstones and testing those.

00:00:21

So now we'll try and put them into action.

00:00:27

Like that.

00:00:29

Now, that looks pretty good material.

00:00:33

But to try to break it open, in to one, seeing the quality of the rock, and two, then reducing it into manageable portions.

00:00:43

Which one would either take away if it's good material or perhaps, if you needed a tool while you're at the quarry, you'd turn it into a tool then.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Returning the Knowledge → Re-learning a Skill

Video Transcript

Rex Burges

00:00:01

I've more or less picked it up a bit easier today because I've done this bit of work with Kim before.

00:00:06

Starting off was a little bit hard, like, getting your hammer to break the rocks, and try and get them in a clean break.

00:00:15

So you've got to learn how to hit the rock properly, and hit it on the right grains.

00:00:20

And more or less today, I've learned a great deal about that.

Craig Everett

00:00:27

This is the first time I've ever done stone tool making and everything.

00:00:30

I've had a little bit of a crack at hitting rocks and trying to shape them and form them, but had no idea on how to actually...

00:00:36

Which way to hit them and how to tell the faults in the stones and that.

00:00:39

So I've learned a lot, a lot of knowledge today.

00:00:42

They probably don't even understand exactly how much I've learned today.

00:00:45

So that's real important for me and for my community as well, to be able to carry that on.

Luke Mabb

00:00:53

I've been fortunate enough to be able to learn this also with my daughter.

00:00:58

So it's pretty special to be able to pass this knowledge on to her, and spend this time with her.

00:01:03

Also working with the men, all us men together, empowering ourselves, learning this knowledge.

00:01:07

We're actually revitalising and saying this is how it is done, you know, and we're bringing this back to community.

00:01:13

So it's been very valuable, yeah.

Todd Sculthorpe

00:01:16

To see the guys actually getting in there and having a go, it all makes it worthwhile.

00:01:22

As a community – and this is, again, my personal opinion, but we need to be open to sharing our experiences, because we have a very rich, diverse history and culture.

00:01:31

And there are plenty of people out there that want to learn from us just as much As effectively we need to learn from them.

Rex Burges

00:01:39

This is great, man.

00:01:39

I mean, I wish we can do this more often It's probably the first time I've been out doing this in a big group like this.

00:01:47

We probably need more of our people out here learning this.

00:01:50

And I've really enjoyed myself.



The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Returning the Knowledge → First Attempts

Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:01

Everybody here has been banging and bleeding, which is good, and that's what it involves.

Craig Everett

00:00:08

This is the first arrowhead I've ever made, and it's sort of come up a lot better than what I thought.

00:00:13

This one here is actually a skinning knife, and that's actually sharp - enough to skin a roo or wallaby or a possum or anything.

00:00:21

This one is a scraper to scrape the bark and that off spears, waddies and clapsticks.

00:00:25

This one here is actually a hand knife.

00:00:28

So it'd be for cutting bigger game up, I'd use that for cutting legs and that off a kangaroo and things like that.

00:00:35

Really keen to come back tomorrow and try to perfect a few more things and try to actually understand a bit more on where to hit it and how to hit it and that.

00:00:44

It's been a great experience, even with a little bit of blood loss, but I'm very, very pleased to have come along and been part of this, and be able to share this with my boys, and that is going to be awesome.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Returning the Knowledge → Reflection

Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:01

There you go.

00:00:01

Beautiful!

Todd Sculthorpe

00:00:04

Today was about teaming up with the Karadi Men's Group and other guys from the community, and, with Kim, to extend our knowledge around stone tools, and to tap into Kim's knowledge.

00:00:15

And try and get some guys in the community to, I suppose, explore and to build their cultural knowledge around a skill that, unfortunately, seems to be lacking within the community, and to really, I suppose, look at trying to gain some momentum, and to bring it back into a workable skill.

00:00:39

And to have someone who has spent a lot of time with Aboriginal people, has been entrusted with this knowledge.

00:00:47

For him to totally share that back and to give that back, and to hear him talk about the passion he feels about making sure that this knowledge is passed on from him back into the community.

00:00:57

It's all a step in the right direction.

00:01:00

Everyone's come at it with open minds, open hearts.

00:01:03

The fact that this, again, techniques and knowledge that...

00:01:07

from Kim's traditional experiences, and his actual professional experience, I think we're in good hands.

00:01:14

And it's then up to the lads to take what they learned, to build on it, and, again, to share that with their families and their community.

00:01:24

Has Craig cut himself again?

00:01:24

Okay.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Returning the Knowledge → Opportunity

Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:04

Day two, we've got two big nodules still here, and we'll give the guys a chance to each knock off a flake, which they'll then work on during the day.

00:00:20

Basically to have continual practise at striking flakes off, trimming them properly, and letting their bodies, the bodies of the men, gradually absorb the sorts of senses and feelings that you need to move the pieces of stone, to judge the force of the blow, to appreciate the angles that are required to remove flakes successfully, or even small retouch flakes.

00:00:50

And so, it's a repetitive process, and that's what I hope today we'll be doing.



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Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:02

I mean the workshop sort of is almost like a circle in my life.

00:00:06

Where, as a young person, as a young child, really, I wasn't even a teenager, old people, the old Aboriginal people on the stock camps, people who had the skills of their forefathers and foremothers, were prepared to teach me a lot of skills that weren't being necessarily passed on within the community.

00:00:29

Because there was actually no reason for it to be passed on, it was more identity, and also the old people were relating their own histories.

00:00:38

And now, of course, 60 years on, there is a growing awareness of Aboriginal culture, and has been for a long time.

00:00:44

And also a revisiting of the past by people that people of Aboriginal descent wanting to know more about the skills and technologies of their old people; how they see the archaeology that's on the ground around.

00:01:02

It is really the job of people like myself to transmit, interpret and transmit those as best as we can.

00:01:06

Because I was fortunate to have a lot of direct experience, and not in terms of studying people, but actually living the situations, watching people while they butchered kangaroos with stone tools, or killed them with spears, or hunted fish with boomerangs, it was part of my life.

00:01:29

Now, the circle's closing, and it's time to make sure it goes out in what I do now to the people who will benefit from it.

00:01:47

And initially, of course, that'll have to be members of the Aboriginal communities across wherever, who wish to engage.

00:01:58

Where I can assist, that's where I'm now focusing.



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Video Transcript

Todd Sculthorpe

00:00:09

Benje's a young bloke I met through university, who identified but struggled to make some cultural connections.

00:00:16

So having him here today, and meeting up with people like Rex, and Luke and Craig has just been an absolutely goldmine for him culturally.

Benje Allen

00:00:27

It's not easy to learn this, or to have access to learn these kind of things.

00:00:31

I might go, okay, well, I knew that this was really important in the culture, but the information that I might go and seek out myself might not be what was specific to here.

00:00:41

So I could be doing something in the complete wrong way, that's not actually responding to this particular environment and this particular place.

00:00:52

At the moment, I'm just trying to learn how to work with what I've got with the rock, rather than just finding a piece and going, oh, you know, I'm going to try and make this, or I'm going to try and make that.

00:01:01

I'd try and get the rock and say, oh, I think that looks good.

00:01:04

It's more considered, you're more working with nature rather than trying to dictate or force this or that on it.

00:01:12

So, I mean at the moment I'm not making anything specifically at all, I'm kind of just trying to learn slowly, messing up a lot.

00:01:19

Messing up heaps.

00:01:20

So, yeah.

00:01:20

I think it's...

00:01:20 Yeah, it feels really important now to do these kinds of things where I can just stop and take a moment and just relax, and just work on something small and intricate.

00:01:32 Because it grounds me a little bit more, I think.

00:01:36 I just have to practise now.

00:01:38 A lot of practise.

00:01:39 And I will, because it's really enjoyable.

00:01:41 It's very enjoyable, so, yeah.



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Video Transcript

Craig Everett

00:00:01

When I first started learning how to dance, I just couldn't get enough of it, and now I have the same feeling and same desire for the stone tool making now.

00:00:10

Like I'll go away and every night for the next few months I'll be just doing some kind of stone tool making, whether it's by myself or whether it's with a cousin, or me boys.

00:00:20

I'll really, really try to perfect the art and technique of it, and go actually put these on spears, and me and my boys will either go get a wallaby, or maybe a trout, or something like that.

00:00:33

And once we make the knives as well.

00:00:36

And that's what I really pride myself on.

00:00:38

It's not just about learning and knowing how to do it, it's about using what you learn and what you know, so that way you know you've done right.

00:00:42

If it works and it gets that animal, then you've made that tool right.

00:00:50

But if you throw it and it don't work, well, then you might need to use a bit more like gum to be able to stick it, you might need a bit more sinew from the kangaroo to tie it on properly, or you might need to shape the rock a lot better.

00:01:00

And without doing that, you don't have that sort of knowledge or information, and I think that's where it comes down to perfecting it.

00:01:10

And it's another tool for an Aboriginal person to have for that identity and that strength of knowing who you are, and how to use the land, and to know that everything is there for us to be able to use and survive.

00:01:19

And to be able to go out now and make me own tools, as well as already know how to hunt and that, is just another level of making me feel stronger as an Aboriginal man, and that strengthening myself.



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Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:03

Why not use a chainsaw?

00:00:03

Why use an adze?

00:00:06

Why use a brace and bit instead of an electric drill?

00:00:10

Because you want to get the feeling and understanding, a connection with that past And if that connection is part of your own specific cultural history – like it's not mine in terms of my ancestors, except till the Metal Age.

00:00:30

So if somebody says I shouldn't make stone tools, I say, well, my ancestors did.

00:00:36

They're just a lot further back.

00:00:38

Here, in workshops like this, people can have a connection with ancestors who are not as remote.

00:00:46

And I think that's important.

00:00:46

I mean I say I'm privileged here, I think, because of being invited by people who, perhaps, earlier, after the actions of some archaeologists and the way their old people have been described and treated or considered in the literature, right back to first contact, I think, have a right to be wary of non-aboriginal people.

00:01:13

And so, being asked to be involved and to contribute, I think, is a great privilege.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Stone Tools → Returning the Knowledge → Repertoire

Video Transcript

Kim Akerman

00:00:00

While I'm not teaching skills I've learnt from Tasmanians, I think, I hope, I'm transmitting skills that are relevant to Tasmanian men.

00:00:13

This sort of opportunity gives the men an added technology to incorporate into their repertoire of skills, and one that, I hope, that these men will not only learn to make and use competently, but then they themselves become the transmitters for the next generation, and so it is continued and not lost.



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Video Transcript

Craig Everett

00:00:01

I think I felt that I was always missing the connection as a little kid.

00:00:05

Because I was always ...

00:00:05

I was never in the right place, and I was never happy about things when I was a little kid.

00:00:09

But then I was shown me very first dance by Leroy Hart.

00:00:15

From that moment, when they taught me that dance, and just the whole idea of putting our ochre on and being connected and everything, it just...

00:00:19

It gave me something I've never, ever had in me life, before, and I knew it was me.

00:00:27

And, yeah, it's sort of hard and it's emotional as well, but it's something - I'll never forget, but it's also something that I will always try to give someone else the opportunity as well.

00:00:40

Because I think it's very important that everyone has that first start.

00:00:45

Just like Kim has done for us with the stone tool making.

00:00:45

And like I said, that's...

00:00:50

I haven't had this fire in me for a long time now that I feel like this.

00:00:54

I actually feel like that first time again.

00:00:57

It's like I say, I'll be cutting myself and scratching myself and banging me fingers.

00:01:02

I'd just like to say, Kim, a huge thanks, and especially on...

00:01:02

not only just me, but on behalf of me community and all us here, thanks very, very much for sharing this knowledge, that like especially...

00:01:12

Like it's really important to not only, like I said, us but our culture.

00:01:18

And this sort of thing, if this doesn't happen, that's just another thing - that we've lost.

00:01:20

So thanks heaps bro.

Kim Akerman

No, well, thank you, Craig, and...

00:01:23

unamed

Appreciate it.

00:01:24

Kim Akerman

I really appreciate being involved with you all.

00:01:26

00:01:26

A privilege.

00:01:26

Thanks.

00:01:26

Thank you.

00:01:26

Yeah.

Luke Mabb

Thank you, Kim, for sharing, so thank you very much.

00:01:36

Kim Akerman

My pleasure.

00:01:39



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