

CURATING A LITHIC COLLECTION FOR MARLINYU GHOORLIE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

INTRODUCTION

Over the past year, Marlinyu Ghoorlie Aboriginal Corporation (MGAC) has amassed a collection of artefacts through heritage surveys conducted on Kalamaia, Karlaku and Kapurn Traditional Country. These artefacts were isolated finds that were recorded and brought back to the MGAC office. Terra Rosa and MGAC recognized how this could be useful for reference and training. This poster showcases the steps that were taken to curate and present the collection with the help of a Marlinyu Ghoorlie representative and Terra Rosa consultants.



STEP 1

After the collection of the artefacts, the team started by systematically analysing and cataloguing the artefacts housed at the office. Each artefact was cleaned and entered into a master spreadsheet where the location, lithology and artefact type were recorded.

Traditional Owner Victor Smith identifying an artefact on Country



STEP 2

Next, the team decided the most effective way to present the collection. It was decided that categorizing by lithology with subcategories of artefact type would be the most useful presentation of these artefacts.

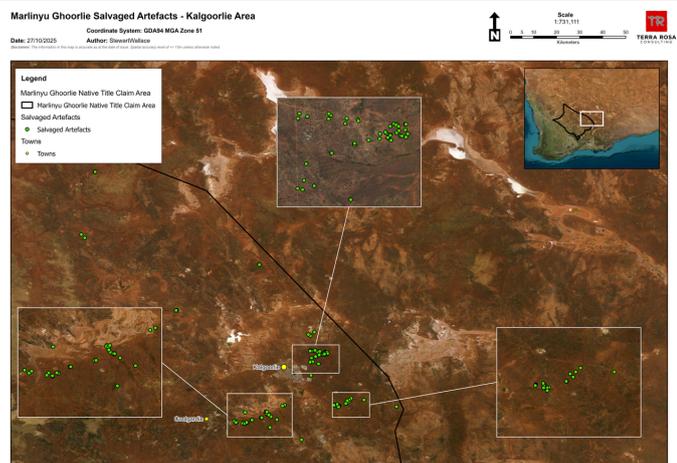
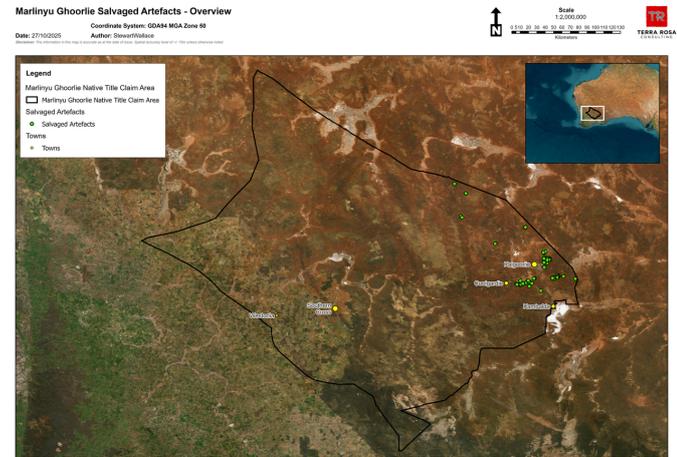
Examples of isolated artefacts salvaged during heritage surveys



STEP 3

The last step was to label and display the artefacts. Each artefact was labelled using an alphabetic coding system. The codes correspond to the attribute catalogue located above the assemblage. This presentation was designed with the general public in mind and the goal for the information to be accessible to everyone.

Terra Rosa consultant Luc Wehlisch labelling artefacts



These figures show the location and distribution of the salvaged artefacts. It is important to note that this is not an accurate representation of isolated artefacts on Kalamaia, Karlaku and Kapurn Country, as heritage surveys are limited to specific areas and not all isolated artefacts are collected.

THE LONGTERM

The long-term goal of this collection is for it to be used as a training resource for future heritage survey teams to develop an understanding of the types of artefacts likely to be encountered. For now, the display is being used exclusively for heritage surveys, but the objective for the future is to conduct formal training sessions with heritage consultants and Traditional Owners.

This project is an ongoing process, as isolated artefacts are still being collected from Kalamaia, Karlaku and Kapurn Country. The curation and appropriate storage of the artefacts are part of a continuing collaboration between Marlinyu Ghoorlie and Terra Rosa.

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