

MUTTHI MUTTHI ELDER MARY PAPPIN SENIOR

Mutthi Mutthi is an Aboriginal group of people whose traditional lands are between the Murray River and the Balranald area extending north to the Lachlan River. 'Mutthi' means 'no'.

Mary says:

'This is all my Country. From Willandra Creek to the Murray, to the Murrumbidgee and Balranald, to the Lachlan and all through Mungo.'

'Willandra region tells of the environmental changes... that my people survived through. I'm very interested in the scientific work, but there's a lot of other things written in that sand. Scientists write about the history. But it's our story that's been left there from our people from thousands of years ago.'

*'I know I can get a good feed out of that Country and get medicines. Our **totem** is the kangaroo, it comes from our grandfather, so we can't eat kangaroo. But we eat perch from the rivers and emu.'*

Emus continue to be a **»»**
traditional food for Mutthi
Mutthi people today.



Aboriginal Sites Tell a Long History

The history of Aboriginal life in the Willandra Lakes region can be found in the landscape. There are hundreds of Aboriginal sites that show evidence of people living there tens of thousands of years ago. Archaeologists and elders continue to find and study many different sites, which include human burials and footprints, fireplaces and shell middens. There is still much more to be discovered about the rich history of Aboriginal people in the Willandra Lakes region.

Fireplaces

Aboriginal people made and used fireplaces to cook food and provide warmth and light. Hundreds of fireplaces have been found throughout the Willandra Lakes region. Many still contain pieces of burnt bones from freshwater fish that were caught, cooked and eaten there.

❖ These are the remains of a fireplace made of clay. The clay was collected from the shore of a lake.

