

The Kamay 2020 Sculptures

Kamay Botany Bay National Park,
Kurnell

29 April 1770

Commemorating 250 years since the encounter between Aboriginal Australians and the crew of *HMB Endeavour*, three bronze sculptures have been installed along the foreshore of Kamay Botany Bay National Park in Kurnell.

On 29th April 1770, His Majesty's Bark (HMB) Endeavour, on a voyage of discovery, sailed into Kamay Botany Bay. The encounter between Lieutenant James Cook, some of his crew and the local Aboriginal people – custodians of the world's oldest continuing living culture – is a significant moment in the history of Australia. It is important to reflect on the impact of this event from all perspectives, learn about connection to Country, and understand the natural and cultural values of this place.

Three bronze sculptures have been installed to help in presenting these different perspectives. This is the first step in delivering a broader improved visitor experience in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park over the coming years.

We invite you to explore the many stories of this special place.





The Eyes of the Land and the Sea

Aboriginal Artist **Alison Page** and **Nik Lachajczak** designed 'The Eyes of the Land and the Sea'. The sculpture is an 'abstraction of the ribs of the *HMB Endeavour* and the ribs of a whale – a significant spiritual being in local Aboriginal culture.



The artists worked closely with researchers at the Gujaga Foundation and Gweagal artist, Shane Youngberry to develop cultural and historical content which has been etched into each rib. This also describes those encounters at Kamay in 1770, inviting viewers to deeply engage with these diverse stories. The sculpture is sited in the tidal zone, spaced over approximately 25 meters to give an appreciation of the scale of the *HMB Endeavour*.



Alison explained, 'The Eyes of the Land and the Sea' is a story about discovery. Not the discovery of land by England, but of all Australians discovering our true history as we move together towards a reconciled Nation.



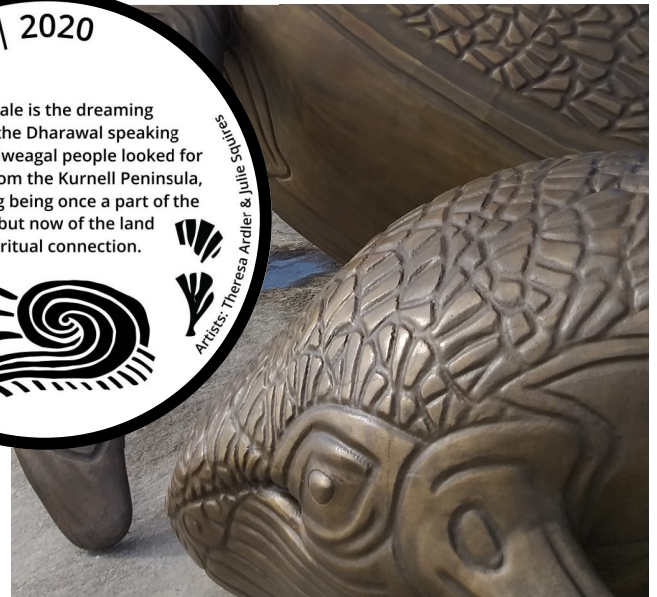
The Whales

Aboriginal artist **Theresa Ardler** and **Julie Squires** designed, sculpted and led 'The Whales' and 'Nuwi/Canoes' sculptures.



The whale mother and calf were formed with intricate engravings. Theresa Ardler explained that these are based on her painting on her Budbili, a possum skin cloak. 'The story behind my Budbili is connected to the Sydney rock engravings of the mother humpback whale and her baby, out at La Perouse on the shores of Botany Bay. This engraving is a prominent landmark from my ancestors who carved the rock and continues to hold cultural and spiritual connection to our sea and Country.'

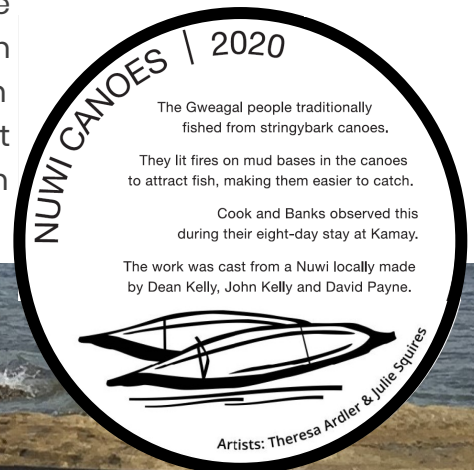
A Rock Weave was completed and installed near the whales. The bronze woven fishing net was cast from a hand made net by Aboriginal Master Weaver **Phyllis Stewart**.



Nuwi/Canoes

In explaining the story behind the canoes, Theresa said, 'the Gweagal Clan traditionally fished from stringy bark canoes. They lit fires in their canoes on a base of white clay for use when fishing at night. During their 1770 observations, both Lt. James Cook and naturalist Joseph Banks recorded this practice.' The sculptures have been cast from a *Nuwi* locally made by **Dean Kelly, John Kelly and David Payne**.

Detailed in the *Nuwi* sculptures, you will see local fish like mullet and flathead. You will also see hooks and lines, traditionally made from local shell. A collection of shell hooks found in Kamay during an archaeological dig ahead of the 200th anniversary in 1970 are held at the Australian Museum.



Where are the sculptures?

You can find the sculptures along the Kurnell foreshore in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park. There are two ways to visit these sculptures (park use fees apply):

Arrive and park at Commemoration Flat and walk towards the foreshore.

Arrive at the western entrance near Silver Beach and walk east following Monument Track / Burrawang Walk along the foreshore.

1. **The Eyes of the Land and the Sea**
2. **Nuwi/Canoes**
3. **The Whales**

Please take care around the sculptures. These have been installed along the natural foreshore and surrounding surfaces may be slippery and are uneven.

Locations depicted below are approximate.

Note: infrastructure upgrades are underway from October 2024 – 2026 and some areas will be closed. Check [NPWS alerts](#) to plan your visit.



This project is proudly funded by the Australian Government and New South Wales Government.

For more information visit
nationalparks.nsw.gov.au
or call 1300 072 757 (13000 PARKS)

About the Kamay 2020 Project

The Kamay 2020 Project is a joint Australian and New South Wales Governments project that commemorated the 250th anniversary of the encounter between Aboriginal Australians and the crew of the *HMB Endeavour*. The aim is to deliver improved amenities and access, provide new experiences for visitors and acknowledge the diversity of stories associated with this place.

These sculptures were selected by the Project Board and community feedback following a competitive process which called for designs from Aboriginal artists with connection to Country. A smoking ceremony was undertaken by the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council for each element.

environment.nsw.gov.au/kamay-2020



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