



Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter (Emu Cave) Archaeological Site, New South Wales

A fascinating early landmark site in Aboriginal Australian archaeology



Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter: Selection of
Stone Artefacts B
Photographer: Kathryn Wren © Australian
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The Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter played an important role in the development of Archaeology in Australia. The excavation of this shelter, by a group of pioneers in 1935 and 1936, revealed cultural changes through time. The evidence, in the form of different stone artefacts, allowed the identification of at least two, and possibly three, periods. During this time, the Aboriginal ancestors continued camping at the shelter, using a clearly different set of tools. This showed some chronological depth of the Aboriginal past in Australia, opening the window into what is the essential bedrock of pre-history - a time before the present. Obvious to us now, such ideas were not quite as clear some hundred years ago, and they needed to be constructed from evidence rather than assumed.

The pioneer investigators of the Lapstone Creek Shelter, Messrs. Bunyan, Hornshaw, Preston, Towle and McCarthy, shared a passionate interest in Aboriginal culture. They developed expertise, as well as building collections of wooden tools and weapons, rock art and stone artefacts. Individually and, sometimes together, they embarked on numerous collecting trips: mostly in New South Wales - assembling their impressive collections of stone artefacts from various localities across the state.

- Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter (Emu Cave) and the Eastern Regional Sequence in Australian Archaeology
- Botany Bay BB4 Archaeological Site, New South Wales: NP1059
- Cuddie Springs Archaeological Site, New South Wales
- Foundation of Anthropology Collections
- Ethnographic and archaeological collections by F.D. McCarthy held in the Australian Museum
- Artefacts from Botany Bay, site BB4

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Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter: Stone Artefacts A

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Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter: Stone Axe A

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Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter: Stone Artefact A

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Lapstone Creek Rock Shelter: Smoking Pipe A

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