

# Early Contact Map

## Why the Whale Spouts, the Starfish is Ragged, and the Native Bear has Strong Arms

Many years ago all the animals now living in Australia were people. At that time, they lived in a distant land across the ocean, and, having heard of the wonderful hunting grounds in Australia, they decided to leave their country and sail to this sunny land in a canoe. They knew that the voyage would be long and dangerous and that they would need to have a very strong canoe.

Wondangar, the whale, who was the biggest of all the people and the best canoe maker, had a great strong canoe that could weather the wildest storm. But he was a very selfish fellow and would not allow anybody to use it. His companions realised that only his canoe would fit the task and they looked out for an opportunity to steal it. But Wondangar was cunning and kept strict watch over the canoe.

Some time later Goon na ghun, the Star Fish, paid Wondangar a friendly visit and said, "I have noticed that you have a lot of lice in your hair. Would you like me to kill them for you?"

It was true that Wondangar was badly infested with lice and readily agreed to the offer from his friend. Wondangar moored his canoe in deep water and sat on a rock. Goon na ghun placed his friend's head in his lap and proceeded to hunt diligently for the lice with a special stick which was sharpened on one end. Goon na ghun then gave a signal to the other people who were waiting. They quietly got into the canoe and paddled off fast towards the new country.

He continued to entertain Wondangar with funny stories and at the same time, he scratched very hard around his ears in order to muffle the sound of the other men leaving with the canoe. After some time, Wondangar grew tired of his friend's attention and story-telling, and decided to have a look at the canoe himself. He rubbed his eyes and looked away in the distance. He could see the vanishing shape of his canoe and it dawned upon him that he had been tricked.

Wondangar was very angry and beat Goon na ghun unmercifully, throwing him upon the rocks. When they started fighting, Goon na ghun still had the stick in his hand

and he stabbed Wondangar in the back of the neck in the hope of getting away. Ghun na ghun got into the boat with Kurrilwa, the koala, and the others and they paddled and paddled with the injured Wondangar coming behind them. Wondangar recovered a bit and chased hard. Kurrilwa, the koala paddled hard. The men in the canoe believed that he was gaining on them, "When he catches us, we shall all be drowned." But Kurrilwa said, "Don't be afraid. My arms are strong enough to paddle fast and keep us ahead of Wondangar."

Just as they saw land, Wollongong as it happened to be, Gooradawaak, the broлга, made a hole in the bottom of the canoe, which he pushed a short distance from the shore where it settled and became Gun-man-gang or Windang Island.

Wondangar had made such great ragged cuts in Goon na ghun that even to this day starfish have a very ragged and torn appearance and hide themselves in the sand to avoid discovery by Wondangar.

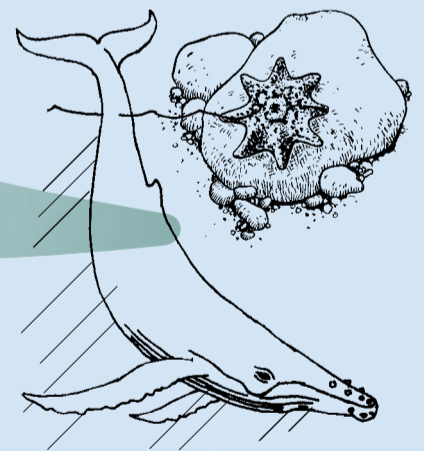
## The story of Wangewarra



Wangewarra is the place where a great whale came ashore and now refers to the Bulli Woonona locality. He states that according to the Blackfellows' legends an enormous whale came ashore at Bulli, in the olden time, and was cut up and used in different ways by the Aboriginal people who gathered from far and wide to see the great sea monster. Billy Saddler said that there were more Aborigines at Bulli to see that whale than there were whitefellows in 1894. (Bill Saddler, Illawarra Mercury 20 Nov 1894)

## The story of Woolungah

'This is what Billy Saddler says is the correct Blackfellow name for Wollongong. He says the name "Woolungah" means a place where a marriage took place between the son of one great King and the daughter of another great King in the olden days, long before Captain Cook found this country. He explains that the word also means that there was a great feast of fish and other good things at the wedding, which was such a remarkable event that the place was named on account of it afterwards.' (Bill Saddler, Illawarra Mercury 20 Nov 1894)



- Battle ground
- Ceremonial ground
- Traditional Camp
- Post-European camp
- Mens Site
- Womens Site
- Traditional Travel routes
- Escarpment/Ridges
- Swamps, Rivers / Creeks
- Aboriginal place names
- Current place names
- Aboriginal names for mountains
- Aboriginal Waterways
- Current Beach Names