

Visit to Wollombi Camp and the Sacred Sites of Mt Yengo National Park. 21st May, 2011

DUSC - Disciples Under the Sothern Cross, an initiative of TWECC, organised a special day for a group of 20 to visit the Wollombi Camp for an immersion into the culture of the Indigenous people of this area.



The camp is set in a peaceful bushland riverfront retreat along the Paynes Crossing Road. The facility has been constructed by the local Indigenous people for the education and formation of their own young people as well as a place to welcome interested visitors.



“Uncle Paul” welcomed us onto the land and ensured our happy visit with a cleansing smoking ceremony.

We were treated to a warming cuppa before

participating in the instruction in the classroom. The deep wisdom and heartfelt pride in his people that flowed from “Uncle Paul” struck deeply into the attentive audience.





The skills and artistic presentation of this ancient culture was really appreciated. Of special interest was this kangaroo skin map drawn with charcoal into the soft leather skin.

After a picnic lunch, we motored up the steep ridges of the Yengo National Park to the special sacred sites that was a gathering place for the tribes from the eastern parts of NSW. The clear skies and brilliant sunshine made for a most enjoyable trip and the view across the blue ridges to the sacred Mt Yengo, made by the footsteps of 'Biami' in the Dreamtime was an awesome sight. Having the ancient



carvings explained by the expert teacher, gave us a privileged insight into the reality of how significant this site truly is. To see the wanton defacement of some of the carvings made by people who did not understand their significance was very sad.

It would be so beneficial for many more people to hear the wisdom that came to us this day. Our thanks go to the Wollombi People for a great experience.

