



Proud Worimi aboriginal sculptures at Murrook Culture Centre



Statues celebrate Worimi people/culture

Natureworks is extremely proud to have created traditional aboriginal statues for Murrook Culture Centre in Williamtown NSW.

The centre, managed by Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, is a gathering place for the local indigenous community and provides a hub for cultural education. In particular, the centre promotes Worimi culture, which represents the traditional owners of the land in this area.

To emphasise this cultural heritage, the pair of sculptures we created now stand proudly at the entrance to the culture centre. The impressive 3-metre-high aboriginal statues portray a traditional Worimi couple and their child.

Affectionately nicknamed “Ned” by centre staff and visitors, the male statue is a warrior figure holding a weapon. His female partner holds an infant in a cradle. Both figures stand on a raised rock platform, all sculpted in fibreglass and meticulously finished. The sheer size of the statues, together with their position in the boldly designed centre facade, creates a strong impact.



The 3m high sculptures at Murrook Culture Centre



The couple's baby sleeps peacefully in its cradle

“Our purpose is to gather, sustain, protect and teach Aboriginal Culture to all people, with an emphasis on Worimi culture being the land and people of this area.”

Murrook Culture Centre



Supporting cultural education

At the Murrook Culture Centre, aboriginal staff teach many facets of Worimi culture to school children, community groups, businesses and international visitors. With a beautiful lakeside location, the centre offers camping, events, workshops and authentic cultural packages.

Cultural education ranges from learning about weapons and tools to didgeridoo music, art, dance, bush food, medicine, cooking, craft and artefacts. Supporting these efforts, the prominent aboriginal sculptures act as a bold visual reminder of Worimi cultural heritage.

Creating accurate, culturally appropriate work

Natureworks' artists always research a subject thoroughly before creating custom sculptures. To get the details right for these aboriginal sculptures, we consulted with our client and sought reliable source images and information about the Worimi people.

As a result, the male figure has culturally appropriate scarring on his chest, showing his warrior status. The female figure is clad in a traditional possum skin cloak, and her partner has a possum skin loincloth. The woman holds her infant in a cradle made of palm fronds. Although the statues are manufactured in fibreglass, our artisans simulate materials such as animal furs through creative textural sculpting and meticulous painting.



Sculpting the male figure's hair



Head of the female figure, with mould



Male figure in production



Painting the female sculpture



Source photograph



Rough sketch of male figure



Traditional scarring on male chest



Steel substructure/stand



Summary of features and scope

- Sculpture of Male Worimi aboriginal warrior
- Sculpture of Female Worimi woman holding child
- Two pack paint and clear UV finish for both sculptures
- Crating and delivery to Williamtown, NSW.



Warrior with scars



Facebook photo opportunity!



Back view of the two figures



Natureworks' David Joffe, with the completed statues

"Just a note to say how stunning the work is that you've done. Deepest thanks to you and all your team. I'm so so pleased with the result."

Nicole Chaffey, Museum Gallery Director, Murrook Culture Centre

Cultural education and awareness

Natureworks has always been keen to support educational projects, museums, cultural centres and community groups that promote awareness of cultural and natural heritage. By attracting, informing and entertaining visitors, our work helps to support broader objectives such as cultural understanding and environmental conservation. Contact Natureworks to discuss ideas!