

A Story about Stories

In current times you can engage with stories in many different ways, for example in film, video, DVD, text, and of course by listening to a story being told.

Throughout human history all cultural groups have told stories. Before language developed, ancient people told stories through images, rock and wood carvings, symbols, signs and sounds.

Stories are told today through various art forms including:

- Drawings
- Paintings
- Etchings
- Rock Art
- Song
- Dance.

All cultural groups have developed stories about the creation of the world (i.e. Cosmology). In this way they are making sense of their place in the world.

Science tells us that ancient Aboriginal groups lived in Australia for more than 45,000 years, i.e. during times when mega fauna like the Diprotodon, which is similar to a giant wombat, lived in Adnyamathanha country.

Aboriginal people lived in the Flinders Ranges long before written language was devised, so Adnyamathanha stories would have been handed down orally for thousands of generations. Some traditional stories contain truths that the Adnyamathanha people needed to learn and may have been difficult to explain to other generations.

The traditional ways of learning for the Adnyamathanha focused on story, song, dance and art. In this way the Adnyamathanha people's entire history was recorded orally, handed down from generation to generation.

When histories and stories are handed down by the spoken word and song they are described as oral traditions (i.e. Orate cultures).

When Europeans took over possession of Adnyamathanha Country, the culture was damaged and the cycle of oral traditions broken. From being dispossessed of their Land, Adnyamathanha people slowly lost some of their oral traditions.

The Adnyamathanha language students show us how important it is for them to learn from the personal stories of the Elders, from the physical features in the Land, as well as learning from stories that are related to The Dreaming.