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# Yarning About The Pass Midden

(Stage 4 –Stage 6)

Cape Byron State Conservation Area

## About this program:

Uncover the past and yarn about the present by joining traditional custodians, Arakwal Aboriginal guides in an investigation of The Pass midden, a 1000 year old significant Aboriginal site. Get involved in a walking storybook within the Cape Byron State Conservation Area and learn about the archaeological study, cultural traditions, bush tucker, the kinds, of weapons and tools used and the size of local communities and their use of the midden over time. The Pass midden is the only known large, substantially undisturbed foredune pipi midden remaining out of 82 middens recorded along the 75km coastline between Ballina and NSW-QLD border.

## Location:

The Arakwal people of Byron Bay or 'Bumberbin' clan of the Bundjalung Nation are custodians of land and waters situated around what is now called Byron Bay. Many significant sites exist within the area including The Pass midden, located at the eastern end of Clarkes Beach in the Cape Byron State Conservation Area. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Arakwal traditional custodians co-manage the reserve. The Cape Byron State Conservation Area is a special place. Surrounded by lush littoral rainforest only metres from one of Byron Bay's best surf beaches, The Pass is a popular spot for rest and relaxation and is a great starting point to the 1.7km Cape Byron Lighthouse coastal walk. Hidden amongst the cabbage palms is a short wheelchair friendly Pam Valley walk.

## Objectives:

- Understand the importance of middens to Aboriginal people
- Analyse scientific data from a midden study
- Explore how the environment is important to Aboriginal people
- Explore natural resources, bush tucker and bush medicine on a guided walk
- Listen to a local story
- Understand Aboriginal perspective on caring for Country
- Learn local Bundjalung customs and language
- Discover traditional and contemporary culture with Aboriginal Discovery Rangers

**Program outline:**

Start: The Pass picnic shelters	
Introduction and safety talk	10min
Focus 1 – Changes over time (physical and historical change)	30min
Focus 2 – Midden site study	20min
Focus 3 – Analysis of pipis	15min
Focus 4 – Plants of The Pass and surrounds	15min
Focus 5 – Animals used as tucker	15min
Focus 6 – Tools and other cultural material	15min
Debrief	5min
Finish: The Pass Picnic Shelters	
Total time	2 hours

**Park facilities:** The Pass Cafe offer (fantastic) coffee, snacks and light meals. We don't encourage students to purchase meals during our activities as waiting times can vary. Toilets, picnic tables and water bubblers are found at The Pass.

**Supervision:** Discovery guides will guide and encourage students to participate in activities. The supervision of the students is the responsibility of the teachers and the school must ensure that an adequate number of supervisors are present.

**Equipment provided:** All equipment provided.

**What to bring:** Hat, sunscreen, adequate food and drinking water. Fresh water bubblers exist at The Pass.

**Transport:** This activity is undertaken at The Pass. Buses transporting students on approved programs are free. Private vehicle passes are also available if buses are not used. All other vehicles are required to pay appropriate fees. Parking is limited at excursion venues. A \$4.00/hr parking fee applies to The Pass, Captain Cook and Tallow Beach car park. Those with NPWS Park passes are exempt. There are no parking bays at The Pass however bus can drop off and pickup from this location. The Pass (Palm Valley) is part of the Cape Byron SCA. To get there drive through the centre of Byron Bay along Lighthouse Road and turn left into Brooke Drive where the boardwalk ends.

**Safety information:**

Pre activity briefing: Participants will be briefed on expected conditions, potential hazards, appropriate behaviour, recommended clothing and emergency procedures at the start of the activity/day.

**Safety equipment:** Discovery staff carry radios and first aid kits, hold current first aid certificates and are aware of emergency procedures. **Staff accreditation:** Discovery staff have current Senior First Aid accreditation. They are competent in the activity they are leading, experienced in working with groups of students in the natural environment and have excellent knowledge of the specific areas they are visiting including being aware of the potential hazards of the location. OEHL is committed to a Child Safe and Friendly Environment. Discovery staff have been screened for child-related employment and have completed a Working with Children Check. **Emergencies:** Discovery staff are trained to deal with emergencies and emergency procedures are in place. Discovery staff have been instructed to call an ambulance whenever there is any doubt as to the continued well-being of a student or other visitor. Ongoing supervision of a student following first aid treatment will be the responsibility of the visiting school.

**Meeting place:** The picnic tables near The Pass toilets, alongside The Pass carpark.

**Cost:** \$8.00 + GST per person. Minimum fee of \$160.00 +GST. Teachers and other staff are free.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Description:** The activity includes a short staggered walk around The Pass and where conditions permit onto the The Pass Beach. Total length of walk is approximately 1km in total.

**Wheelchair access level:** Hard.

**Access:** Wheelchair facilities are available, please let us know in advance if you are bringing someone with special needs so that we can plan accordingly

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Curriculum:**

*History Stage 4*

This program meets the F-10 Australian cross curricula priorities Sustainability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, specifically History Stage 4, Depth Study 1 Investigating the Ancient Past and Depth Study 6 Aboriginal and Indigenous peoples, Colonisation and Contact History

*History Stage 5*

This program meets the F-10 Australian cross curricula priorities Sustainability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, specifically History Stage 5 Depth Study 2 Australia and Asia Making a Nation and Core Study Depth Study 4 Rights and Freedoms 1945 – present

*Aboriginal Studies Stage 6*

This program meets the NSW Stage 6 Aboriginal Studies Syllabus outcomes (i.e. Aboriginal Community Study) as well as the following:

P1.2 explains the consequences of invasion and colonisation for Aboriginal and other Indigenous peoples on social justice and human rights

P2.2 explains the importance of interrelationship between country, culture, economic life and social systems for Aboriginal and other indigenous peoples

P3.2 explains the impact of key government policies, legislation and legal decisions in relation to land and water rights and heritage and identity

P3.3 explains the responses and initiative of Aboriginal other indigenous peoples to key government policies, legislation and legal decisions.

**Contact:**

If you would like to organise a NPWS school excursion in the Byron area, please contact the Byron Coast Area office.

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