

# Register of Historic Places and Objects

SHI Number  
4671007

The PHA NSW Heritage Register

Item Name: **Menangle Eel Farm**

Location: **Menangle**

Address:

Corner:

Suburb / Nearest Town: Menangle 2568

State: NSW

Local Govt Area: Local Government Area:  
Campbelltown

DUAP Region:  
Illawarra & Macarthur

Historic region:  
Sydney

Property Identifier:

Boundary:

Item Type: Landscape

Group: Aboriginal

Category: Fish/eel trap

Owner: Sport & Recreation

Owner Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Zoned for equestrian uses

Former Uses: Pastoral

Assessed Significance:

Endorsed Significance:

**Statement of Significance:** The Menangle eel farm is significant because it is a rare example of sustainable farming practised by Aboriginal people, as opposed to hunting and gathering activities. The eel farm provided an essential food supply for the cyclical population which took up extended residence in the area over 3 to 4 year cycles and is thus associated with the traditional way of life of the Aboriginal population and their occupation of the area. While the activity of eel farming is no longer practised, the site is important to descendants of the Dharawal because of its association with their ancestors and as evidence of their way of life and occupation of the land .

**Historical Notes or Provenance:** The eel farm at Menangle was used to grow eels to feed the large numbers of Aboriginal people who took up extended residence in the area on a 3-4 year cycle as part of the law-making function of the Yandel'ora area.

National Themes:

State Themes: Aboriginal pre-contact

Pastoralism

Aboriginal post-contact

Study Themes:

Designer:

Maker / Builder:

Year Started:

Year Completed:

Circa: No

**Physical Description:** 5 acres of systematic pondage on Lyre Bird Creek, a minor tributary of the Nepean, used for eel farming.

**Physical Condition:** Has archaeological potential.

Professional Historians Association (NSW) Inc

Date: 18/08/2001

Full Report

Page 1

# Register of Historic Places and Objects

SHI Number  
4671007

The PHA NSW Heritage Register

Item Name: **Menangle Eel Farm**

Location: **Menangle**

**Modification Dates:**

**Recommended  
Management:**

**Further Comments:**

**Historical Significance:** (b) The Menangle eel farm is significant as it represents an Aboriginal farming activity no longer practised. The farm is associated with the Dharawal people and was an important site for primary food production, providing protein to sustain the large number of cyclical visitors to the area. It is also associated with the traditional way of life of the Aboriginal population, who gathered in the area for meetings, law-making, ceremonial activities and in times of drought, some taking up extended residence over 3 to 4 year cycles.

**Aesthetic Significance:**

**Social Significance:** The eel farm site is of social significance for its association with the Dharawal people. Their descendants value the place because of its association with the large number of peoples who gathered in the area from all over the east coast of Australia as the eel farm was an essential provider of food to those people. The site is also associated with their traditional way of life and connection to the land.

**Technical / Research:** The site has archaeological potential to reveal information about Aboriginal farming methods.

**Representativeness:**

**Rare Assessment:** The site is a rare example of sustainable farming carried on by Aboriginal people as opposed to hunting and gathering activities represented by sites such as the Brewarrina Fish Traps.

**Integrity / Intactness:**

References:	Author:	Title:	Year:
	Andrews, Gavin & Bodkin, Frances	Personal Communication to Sue Rosen	2000

**Studies:**

**Listings:**

**Custom Field One:**

**Custom Field Two:** Rosemary Kerr of Sue Rosen & Associates, Heritage Assessment And History

**Custom Field Three:** 8/09/2000

**Custom Field Four:**

**Custom Field Five:**

**Custom Field Six:**

**Data Entry:**      **Date First Entered:** 04/07/2001      **Date Updated:** 04/07/2001      **Status:** Completed