



## Lake Pinaroo Ramsar Information Sheet (2012): additional reports and documents under Section 6.1.2

### Other values of Lake Pinaroo Ramsar site

Sturt National Park has high cultural values, with an exceptionally high density and variety of Aboriginal sites including hearths, middens, ceremonial sites, quarries and abundant stone artefacts. This suggests that a large Aboriginal population once occupied the area. According to the anthropologist Norman Tindale, the traditional territory of the Wadikali included Lake Pinaroo, as well as the area west of Milparinka and Tibooburra; and the area around Cooper Creek was part of Wangkumarra territory. An Aboriginal open camp site has been identified but not registered, on the south-east shore of Lake Pinaroo, including surface scatter of flaked quartz and silcrete artefacts, grindstones and remnants of hearths (AMBS, 2012).

Sturt National Park was also the setting for significant events in the history of early exploration of inland Australia. In 1844 Captain Charles Sturt, set out to find 'the great inland sea'. At Lake Pinaroo he built a stockade and named it Fort Grey. This served as a base camp while he pushed on with a small party further into the desert. After about four months the main party left at Lake Pinaroo was forced to return south because of bad water. Sturt's Tree was blazed where a message was buried for Sturt's return. The tree (with its blaze now unreadable) is still standing on the shore of Lake Pinaroo. The location of the stockade has been identified.

Pastoral infrastructure was inherited from stations that were purchased to create the national park. A crutching shed, hut remains, steam engine relics, bore relics and remains of a stone homestead are present in the bed and surrounding margins of Lake Pinaroo. Nine historic places have been identified in the Fort Grey area including Sturt's tree, the Fort Grey homestead ruin, stockade, lake well, homestead and shearing complexes, bores and ground tanks, station fencing and yards. The homestead ruin, shearing complex and lake well are subject to flooding and are damaged.