

# Make a Model CANOE (guuyang)



Canoe from Gathang Country

Yii guuyang wuba gurambak banya, wuba Gathang-guba barray. Nyiirun wuba yii guuyang; nyiirunba Gathang girrang birriwal.

This is canoe made from the bark of the blackbutt tree, made on Gathang Country. We have made this canoe; our culture is alive and strong.

## Creating the Canoe

The selection of a tree to create a guuyang is very important: the tree must be straight, large and free from knot holes, cracks or disease; and the bark needs to come away from the tree with no marks or cracks. The bark is heated and folded at the ends to form the canoe shape while securing the ends with stakes and vine using traditional local methods. Clay is used to plug the ends and to create a fire mound in the canoe.

## For thousands of years

the people of the Gathang speaking nation made and used canoes from Stringy-bark and Blackbutt trees to explore the waters around Forster and the Wallis Lake system, the Manning, Hastings and Wilson River Systems. Examples of canoe scar trees can be found in these coastal areas.

## In this activity

we will use a specially designed template to make a model of a traditional canoe.

# Make a Model Canoe

For instructional video go to: [midcoastlibraries.com.au](http://midcoastlibraries.com.au)  
or [manningregionalartgallery.com.au](http://manningregionalartgallery.com.au)

## What is in your pack

- © canoe instruction sheet
- © canoe templates
- © rubber bands
- © raffia.

## What you need to find from home

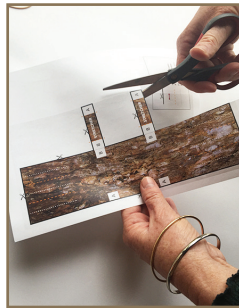
- © stapler
- © scissors
- © a clear space to work on.



Your canoe (guuyang) ready for launch.

## How do I make it?

1. Cut out your canoe along the black line indicated. Be sure to keep the tabs attached. Turn your sheet to show the stretchers.



2. Fold the ends of the canoe along the dotted lines as though you are folding a fan. Start by folding up towards you.



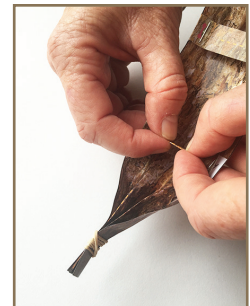
3. Draw the ends together and fasten with a rubber band. Repeat on the other end of the canoe.



4. Fold stretchers along the yellow and black dotted lines and staple (A to A, B to B) to both sides of the canoe where indicated.



5. Pinch and fold stretchers along the centre dotted line to finish the canoe.



6. Watch the instructional video to learn how to make rope from raffia to be used instead of the rubber bands.



## Did you know that a bark canoe was made on Worimi Country?

On 20 May 2012 at Bungwahl, for the first time in over 150 years, the guuyang builders led by Steve Brereton, a Warrimay (Worimi) man with strong connections to country and culture, took a canoe from Gathang Country. After years of research, it was an exciting day for community to create a canoe from Country.

The canoe was officially launched on Sydney Harbour in May 2012 at the Australian National Maritime Museum's NAWI Indigenous Watercraft Conference.