

Made in the Manning Valley

The collection is rich in items made in the Manning Valley, reflecting the skills, thrift and ingenuity of its people. Of particular interest are the post contact items made by Aboriginal people including the cabbage palm furniture made by Barney Simon and his sons, and the walking sticks carved by Charlie Morris.

Among locally made farming items is an improvised timber 'bracken bruiser' and an ingenious homemade arrowroot grinder, made by Robert Broomfield at Bow Hill (below). The fine ground arrowroot was used instead of cornflour in custards, cakes and biscuits.



Other items of significance include two homemade cornhusk mats (above), which are possibly unique to the Manning Valley. They were made locally using readily available materials 'as a revival of an old handicraft' that has more in common with Native Americans than it does with other regional communities in Australia.