**The Cortney Flo Fitzpatrick Commemorative Trail**

**“SISSY”**

***This trail is named in memory of Cortney Flo Fitzpatrick affectionately known as Sissy, who died tragically in 2002, aged just 8. Sissy embodied the future of community, and was a bright, cheerful, friendly child. Sissy was truly a free spirit, who now watches over this land, which she so loved. Sissy is remembered and missed by her family and those she knew.***

**The dreaming– Wiradjuri Nation**

Historians believe recorded Nari Nari Nation was an amalgamation of peoples from neighbouring nations.

Many nations shared a common language pattern, using local sub-languages, and it is thought that the Nari Nari were skilled in many dialects.

Thought to be a peaceful nation, the Nari Nari were nevertheless imposing people. Research on burial patterns reveals tall, strong figurine, attributes that assisted in their survival in what could be a harsh area.

Aboriginal culture, on a whole, is one of the oldest in the world, with a history which stretches back over 50,000 years.

**The Past- Squatter Leases**

The Hay area has a rich pastoral history, and is home to some of the most important and well-known rural holdings in the region. Large leases were necessary to ensure a profitable return, and Lang’s Crossing was formed at the junction of four major properties: Illiliwa, John Tooths Station, Eli-Elwah and Mungadingadal (now Mungadal). Toogimbie was a village and housed many workers and stockman. Transport was centred on the Murrumbidgee River, which was a major paddle-steamer route. Wool was shipped from station to station, with goods required by the station shipped in.

**The Present- Nari Nari Tribal Council**

Nari Nari Tribal Council was formed in 2000, and is a community group consisting of those with a cultural attachment to this area. Toogimbie and Glenhope were purchased in the same year by Indigenous Land Corporation and back to the community. Toogimbie was declared an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in 2004 and therefore enjoys status under the National Reserve System which forms part of the Federal Governments Natural Heritage Trust. Toogimbie is significant many Aboriginal people for various reasons, including the protection of Aboriginal burial and occupation of camp sites.

**The trail commences at Toogimbie Kitchen and concludes at the pump site. Walkers must return to the starting point via the road. Please stay to the marked trail.**