THE COROID AND KNAPPED STONE IMPLEMENTS OF
THE BATHURST DISTRICT.

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(Figures 1–48.)

In 1941 the late Mr. A. E. Ivatt presented to the Australian Museum a collection
of one thousand eight hundred stone implements from New South Wales sites, including
a splendid series that he had gathered in the Bathurst district during a long occupation
of Glanmire Station, which is about five miles from the town. In this paper, the fourth
of a series analysing New South Wales industries, the trimmed uniface pebble, coroid,
and knapped implements are described.

Bathurst is situated on the southern tableland, an area of undulating pastoral and
farming country. The implements were collected on the grassed and ploughed fields,
and beside the numerous creeks that flow through Glanmire and neighbouring properties.
They are from a large number of localities, too numerous to mention here, scattered
throughout the district.

Materials.

The predominant materials are a quartzose rock, fine to coarse grained, and chert,
both varying in colour from light to dark grey. Occasional pieces of flint and other
materials have also been found.

Technique.

The plain and faceted butt techniques of knapping are both represented, and the
latter appears to have been employed mainly for the production of blades. On the
cores the striking-platforms were prepared by the usual methods, comprising the
knapping of one or more flakes, the use of a natural crust surface, or a cleavage face
on a block; sometimes flake-scars served as additional platforms. The knapping face
is at an angle varying from 70° to 90°, is sometimes as low as 65°, and commonly in
the vicinity of 80° to the striking-platform. Prismatic cores displaying convergent
flaking predominate, and a minority of cores bear irregular parallel knapping.

During an examination of the cores, Mr. H. V. V. Noone selected a number of specimens
upon which he has supplied the following note: "Among pieces of nuclear form from
the Bathurst district are fifteen blocks and flakes which are worthy of special attention
as they may have served for the production of small blades, in fact, as a kind of
secondary nuclei. On these pieces (Fig. 3) is found a striking-platform (some specimens
show one at each end) by means of which small blades have been detached from one
or both margins. Most of these blades would be of triangular section, similar to primary
burin spalls, so that in their production it is possible that advantage was taken of the
more or less long straight edges of the side margins of the blocks or flakes, and they
were utilized as fracture guides. Such a method would obviate the preparing of a
suitable knapping face on an ordinary nucleus, or the formation thereon by trimming
of a guiding ridge such as was sometimes employed in producing the bandi point, and
would therefore be an ingenious labour-saving device in the obtaining of the required
narrow bladelet. Something of this kind has been noticed in the Bandarawelian culture
of Ceylon, whilst flakes and blocks have been found in the Woakwine industry of South
Australia which likewise appear to have been used for the production of small blades.
Some of these particular pieces resemble the nucleiform (prismatic or polyhedral) form
of burinate tool, whilst others like the double-scaled burinate could be used as a kind
of groover."