NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE STUDY

NSW WESTERN REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

FINAL SEPTEMBER 2002

Brigalow Belt South

Stage 2

Resource and Conservation Assessment Council

NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE STUDY

NSW WESTERN REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

BRIGALOW BELT SOUTH BIOREGION (STAGE 2)

Pauline Curby

Andrea Humphreys

A project undertaken for the
Resource and Conservation Assessment Council

NSW Western Regional Assessments

Project number WRA 32

For more information and for information on access to data contact the:

Resource and Conservation Division, Planning NSW

GPO Box 3927
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9762 8052
Fax: (02) 9762 8712

www.racac.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 1 74029 188 3

This project has been funded and managed by the Resource and Conservation Division, Planning NSW

PROJECT SUMMARY 1

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 9

1.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVE/S 9
1.1 METHODS 9
1.2 KEY RESULTS AND PRODUCTS 10
1.3 AUTHORSHIP & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 10
1.4 CONSTRAINTS 11

2. STUDY SITE OVERVIEW 15

2.0 INTRODUCTION 15
2.1 VEGETATION 16
2.2 EVIDENCE OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES 16

3.CONTEXTUAL HISTORY & MAJOR HISTORICAL THEMES 19

3.0 LAND MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY 19
FIRST TIMBER RESERVES 20
THE SCRUB SPREADS 20
CLOSER SETTLEMENT 21
ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY, 1907-1908 22
CYPRESS PINE 22
THE FORESTRY COMMISSION 23
NATURE CONSERVATION 24
A HIGHLY MECHANISED INDUSTRY 25
FIRE 26
POST-WAR YEARS 26
BENEFITS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 27
3.1 LIVING AND WORKING IN THE FORESTS 28
THE ALOES 28
SMALL GRAVES 29
INDEPENDENT WOMEN 30
BATTLERS 31
SELF-MADE FAMILIES 32
The McGlashan Family 32
The Frost Family 34
OUR HOME, OUR WORK AND OUR LIVES 36
Wooleybah 36
A Forest Foreman - Tom Nangle 39
A Forest Foreman's Daughter - Elaine Cox 40
A Forest Foreman - Buster Davies 42
Ceelnoy Mill 43
3.2 CHARCOAL BURNING 44
ORIGINS AND USES 44
CHARCOAL BURNING IN GREAT BRITAIN & AUSTRALIA 44
Early Forest Kilns 44

The development of charcoal burning in NSW 44
CHARCOAL BURNING DURING WORLD WAR II IN THE REGION'S FORESTS 46
3.3 BEEKEEPING - A BATTLERS' OPPORTUNITY 47
BACKGROUND 47
A LUCRATIVE VENTURE 48
GOONOO STATE FOREST 48
3.4 SLEEPER CUTTING 49
3.5 SWAGMEN 51
THE JOLLY SWAGMAN - LEGEND OR FACT 51
SWAGMEN'S HUTS 52
THE SWAGMAN'S REST 53
THE SWAGMAN'S REST 54
3.6 THE USE OF INTERNEES FOR FOREST LABOUR 55
INTERNMENT POLICY DURING WORLD WAR II 55
ITALIAN INTERNEES 56
3.7 ABORIGINAL MISSIONS 57
TERRY HIE HIE 57
3.8 CASE STUDY - TOWARRI NATIONAL PARK (SCONE SHIRE) 59
3.9 CASE STUDY – WARRUNBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK 61
EARLY HISTORY 61
'THE CENTRE OF THE MOUNTAINS' 62
WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL MONUMENT 64
WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK 65

4. FORESTS OF THE BBSB – HISTORICAL & PHYSICAL ANALYSIS 67

4.0 MERRIWA FORESTS 67
TURILL SF 67
DURRIDGERE SF 67
COOLAH TOPS NP 68
WARUNG SF 68
ACCESS & SIGNAGE 69
4.1 GUNNEDAH FORESTS 70
OVERVIEW 70
TRINKEY SF 72
GORAN SF 72
LEARD & VICKERY SF - COAL MINE FORESTS 72
ACCESS & SIGNAGE 73
4.2 NARRABRI/BARRABA FORESTS 74
OVERVIEW 74
ACCESS & SIGNAGE 76
4.3 YALLAROI FORESTS 77
OVERVIEW 77
COURALLIE SF (MOREE PLAINS SHIRE) 79
Mission SF (Moree Plains Shire) 80
Warialda SF (Yallaroi Shire) 80
Gunyerwarildi SF (Yallaroi Shire) 80
ACCESS & SIGNAGE 81
Yetman & Bebo SF (Yallaroi Shire) 81
ACCESS & SIGNAGE 82
4.4 DUBBO FORESTS 82
OVERVIEW 82
GOONOO SF 82

BIDDON SF 83
BENI SF 84
Access & Signage 85
4.5 GULGONG FORESTS 85
Access & Signage 85
4.6 UKERBARLEY – PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNED BY MILTON AND JANE JUDD 86
Access & Signage 87
4.7 WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK 87
OVERVIEW 87
Access & Signage 87
4.8 PILLIGA FORESTS 87
OVERVIEW 87
Access & Signage 88

5. FORESTS OMITTED FROM THIS REPORT 89

5.0 FORESTS NOT INSPECTED DUE TO ACCESS PROBLEMS 89
5.1 STUDY FORESTS CONTAINING NO KNOWN HERITAGE ITEMS 90
5.2 STUDY FORESTS NOT VISITED DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS 91

6. HERITAGE ITEMS 94

6.0 MERRIWA FORESTS 94
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 94
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 94
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 96
6.1 GUNNEDAH FORESTS 96
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 96
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 97
Doona SF 97
Spring Ridge SF 97
Trinkey SF 98
Goran SF 98
Black Jack SF 98
Somerton SF 98
Kelvin SF 98
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 99
6.2 NARRABRI/BARRABA FORESTS 99
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 99
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 100
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 101
6.3 YALLAROI FORESTS 101
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 101
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 102
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 102
6.4 DUBBO FORESTS 103
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 103
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 103
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 104
6.5 WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK 104
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 104
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 105

ITEMS INSPECTED THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE NPWS 106
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 106
6.6 PILLIGA FORESTS 106
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 106
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 107
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 108
6.7 MISC. SOUTH-WEST FORESTS 108
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OTHER AGENCIES 108
ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THIS STUDY 109
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 109
6.8 UKERBARLEY (PRIVATE PROPERTY NEAR PILLIGA NATURE RESERVE) 109
CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS 110

7. RECOMMENDATIONS 112

7.0 UMBRELLA RECOMMENDATIONS 112
7.1 MERRIWA FORESTS 113
HERITAGE 113
FURTHER STUDY 114
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS - MERRIWA FORESTS 114
7.2 GUNNEDAH FORESTS 115
HERITAGE 115
TRINKEY SF 115
Goran SF 115
Leard SF 116
FURTHER STUDY 116
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS - GUNNEDAH FORESTS 116
7.3 NARRABRI/BARRABA FORESTS 117
HERITAGE 117
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS – NARRABRI/BARRABA FORESTS 118
7.4 YALLAROI FORESTS 118
HERITAGE 118
FURTHER STUDY 119
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS - YALLAROI FORESTS 119
7.5 DUBBO FORESTS 119
HERITAGE 119
FURTHER STUDY 120
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS - DUBBO FORESTS 120
7.6 WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK 121
HERITAGE 121
FURTHER STUDY 121
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS - WARRUMBUNGLE NP 121
7.7 PILLIGA FORESTS 122
HERITAGE 122
FURTHER STUDY 122
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS - PILLIGA FORESTS FORESTS 122
7.8 MISC. SOUTH-WEST FORESTS & UKERBARLEY 123
HERITAGE 123
FURTHER STUDY 124
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS - MISC. FORESTS & UKERBARLEY 124

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes a project undertaken for the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council as part of the regional assessments of western New South Wales. The Resource and Conservation Assessment Council advises the State Government on broad-based land use planning and allocation issues. An essential process for the western regional assessments is to identify gaps in data information and the best ways in which to proceed with data gathering and evaluation.

1.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVE/S

The primary objective of this study is to provide an overview of the non-indigenous cultural heritage items in forested areas of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion (BBSB). The study area covers approximately 54 500 square kilometres, encompassing several geographic regions between Dubbo and the Queensland border. A large proportion of this are is devoted to agricultural/pastoral activity. Despite clearing associated with pastoral settlement and later agricultural industry, the BBSB still contains significant tracts of forest. The role these forests have played in the historical development of NSW is poorly understood and this study aims to clarify this and provide a historical framework for the identification of significant places and/or items. It is important to note that this study provides an overview of the BBSB only; further detailed studies are required to build a complete picture of non-indigenous cultural heritage in forested areas.

1.1 METHODS

The methods comprise two major components – historical research/documentation and field surveys. Historical research was carried out at a variety of archives and institutions, including the Mitchell Library (NSW), State Records Office (NSW), Department of Land and Water Conservation (NSW), Land Titles Office of NSW and the NSW State Forests Archives at West Pennant Hills, National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) Archives at Hurstville and the Department of Mineral Resources Archives at St Leonards. Additional research was carried out with the assistance of many district historical societies throughout the study area and oral history interviews were conducted during the field survey phase. Information on previously identified heritage items was obtained from local governments in the study area. The BBSB contains 9 local government areas and a further 15 along the buffer zone, all of who were contacted for information early in the project. These agencies provided an invaluable service in terms of locating and identifying existing heritage items, providing background information and maps and contacting local historians, retired foresters and district historical societies on the study team's behalf.

The project manager undertook a reconnaissance of the whole study area in February. Field surveys of the nominated forests in the study area were conducted in April and May 2002. Wherever possible, guidance from local experts was sought and resources were concentrated on

those areas where historical research and/or local knowledge supported the likelihood of heritage items being found. In a number of instances, forests were surveyed without local input or assistance and in most cases still yielded items of heritage significance.

1.2 KEY RESULTS AND PRODUCTS

The most important outcome of this study has been the 'discovery' of numerous items of heritage significance and their contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the region's history. The study has highlighted the importance of forestry industries to the development of our rural, regional and state economies and the role these industries played in the settlement of the central north-west of NSW. The study has also highlighted the urgent need for systematic studies of smaller forest groups, supported by thematic historical research. Another important outcome is the realisation that this type of study is more complex than a shire-based heritage study, which tends to focus on village and town settlements. This type of study requires more extensive planning and resources and considerably more generous time frames due to the exacting nature of the fieldwork.

Although this study has produced a sizeable quantity of heritage items to be added to statutory registers, we consider the primary product to be the enhanced knowledge and understanding of the history and development of forest management practices in NSW and how this overlaps with and coexists with other activities such as pastoralism and beekeeping. This knowledge, when it is made available at a local level, will help communities to appreciate and effectively utilise their environment through better forest management practices and heritage-based tourism.

A SHI (State Heritage Inventory) data base has been developed which lists 188 sites. This will eventually form part of the New South Wales State Heritage Inventory that can be accessed through the New South Wales Heritage Office website: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.

1.3 AUTHORSHIP & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Pauline Curby (Professional Historian) and Andrea Humphreys (Historian & Heritage Consultant). Field surveys were conducted by Pauline Curby and Andrea Humphreys. Historical research was conducted by and contributory sections written by Anna Wong and Leslie Jenkins, with the assistance of Nicole Secomb, Andrew Curby and Thomas Given-Wilson. This study could not have been completed without the assistance of many people in the various communities we visited. Their knowledge, enthusiasm and love for the landscape was both inspiring and heartening. The assistance of the following people is gratefully acknowledged:

Roy Cameron, Local Historian (Coolah)

Peter Miller, Local Historian (Narrabri)

Gunnedah District Historical Society

Audrey Entwhistle, Scone & District Historical Society

Allan Henderson, Willowdene Station (Scone)

Brian Kennedy, former forester (Gunnedah)

Denis Gojak, PlanningNSW

Jon Stone, Gunnedah Shire Council

Patrick O'Carrigan, Merriwa Council

Barbara Hickson, Dubbo City Council

Stuart Rope, former forester (Yetman)

Dr Stuart Sharp, State Rail Heritage Unit

Don Nicholson, SFNSW (Dubbo)

Patrick Tap SFNSW (Dubbo)

Joe Daniels SFNSW (Baradine)

Buster Davies (Baradine)

David Johnston (Baradine)

Judith Hadfield (Baradine)

Bell Birks (Baradine)

Tom Hatton (Cuttabri)

Tom & Bernadette Underwood (Wooleybah)

Ian Lummis (Gilgandra)

Ross & Jenny Smith (Terry Hie Hie)

Merv & Laurel Edwards (Baradine)

Tom & Dorrie Nangle (Gilgandra)

Graham & Robin Frost (Gilgandra)

Doug Voysey (Gilgandra)

Boyd Blackman (Gilgandra)

Elaine Cox (Dubbo)

Roger Row NPWS, (Coonabarabran)

Bob & Isabel McGlashan *Wittenbri*

Milton & Jane Judd *Ukerbarley*

Ian Abbott SFNSW (Pennant Hills)

Nev Rubic SFNSW (Pennant Hills)

Neil Saunders SFNSW (Pennant Hills)

Emma Mason RACD (Planning NSW)

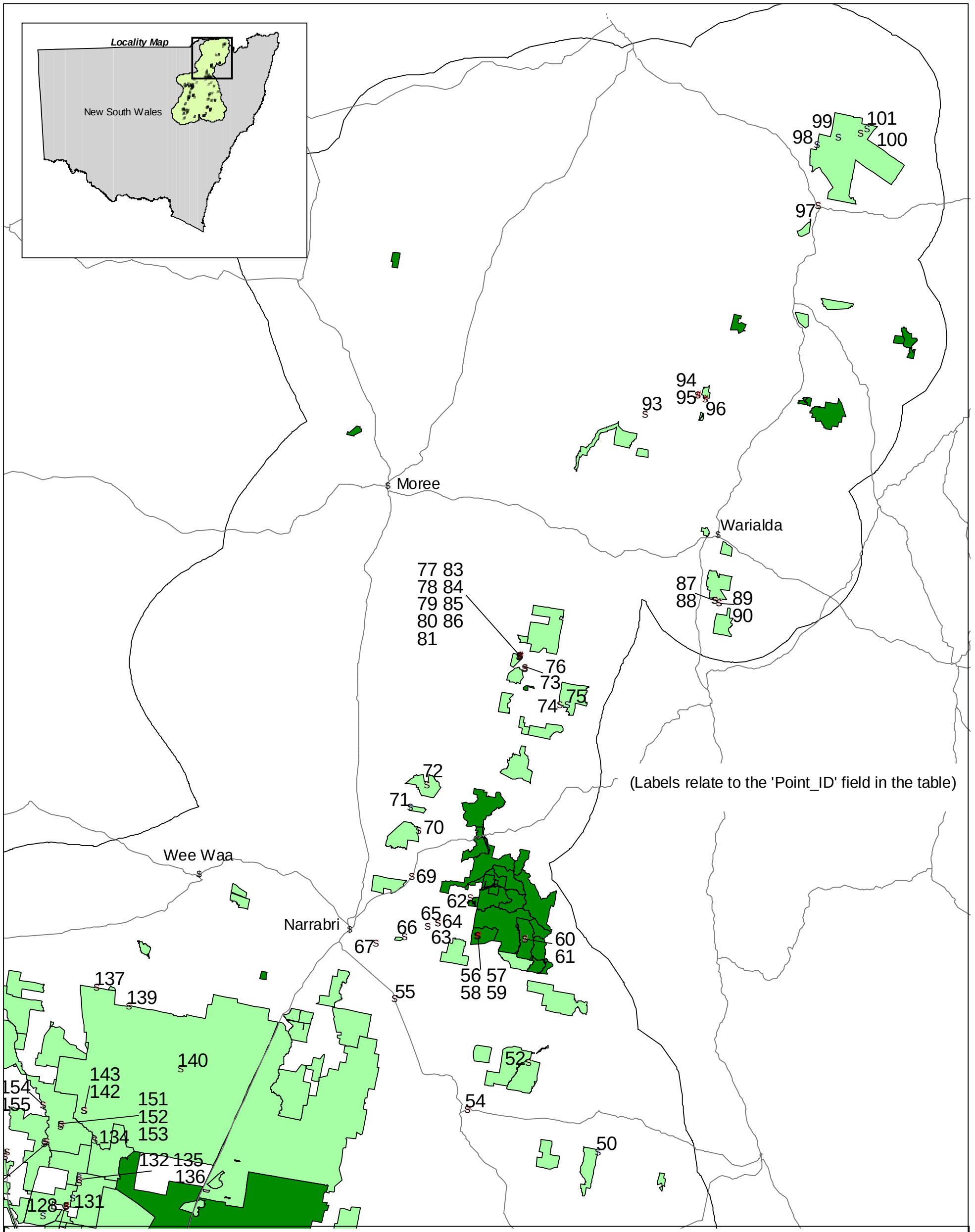
Stan Williams *Shallimar*

1.4 CONSTRAINTS

This study was subject to budget and time constraints, of which the latter had a greater impact on field survey work. With 120 designated forests (including state forests, national parks and nature reserves), and limited time allowed for field work, difficult decisions had to be made in order to yield the best result. It was not possible to survey, in detail, every forest in the study area, particularly as the brief also asked that forested areas on private property and vacant crown land (such as road side reserves) be included. Those forests not surveyed were given a lower priority based on local knowledge and historical research; these decisions were not undertaken lightly.

The assistance of many people and organizations, but particularly State Forests NSW, for the loan of GPS units and the provision of a list of contacts and guides is gratefully acknowledged.

Nonetheless, local knowledge was not available for all forests and poor information concerning vehicular access in many forests resulted in some sites not being surveyed simply because it was not possible to gain access to that particular forest. This wasted valuable time in an already constrained study component forcing the study team to abandon the survey of some forests and reduce the detail with which other sites were surveyed. Despite this, a good overview of the entire study area was gained.


Locality Map
New South Wales
Moree
Warialda
Wee Waa
Narrabri
(Labels relate to the 'Point_ID' field in the table)
Towns (pop. > 1000)
Cultural Heritage Significance
Contributory
Local
Regional
State
National
Main Roads
NPWS Estate
SF Estate
Brigalow Belt South Bioregion
Non Indigenous Cultural Heritage
MAP 1
Crown Copyright, July 2002.
Resource and Conservation Assessment Council
New South Wales Government
This map is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. Therefore the state of NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information on the map and any consequences of such acts or omissions.
N
1:750000
20 0 20 40 Km

Wee Waa
Narrabri
Coonabarabran
Gunnedah
Werris Creek
Quirindi
Gilgandra
Dubbo

Locality Map
New South Wales

(Labels relate to the 'Point_ID' field in the table)

$ Towns (pop. > 1000)

Cultural Heritage Significance
Contributory
Local
Regional
State
National

Main Roads
NPWS Estate
SF Estate

Brigalow Belt South Bioregion
Non Indigenous Cultural Heritage

MAP 2

N

1:750000
20 0 20 40 Km

POINT_ID	SITE_DESCRIPTION	NEAREST_SITE	BUILT_PROCESSING SITE	INTRODUCED/MODIFIED VEG	SIGNIFICANCE
1	1860s weatherboard cottage, Curryall Creek	Curryall SF	y	n	L
2	woolshed (galvanised iron), Curryall Creek	Curryall SF	y	n	L
3	post & wire fence c.1920s	Curryall SF	y	n	L
4	Turrill Village Church (weatherboard)	Turrill SF	y	n	S
5	Turrill Community Centre c.1930s	Turrill SF	y	n	S
6	galvanised iron shed with pole skillion c.1910	Turrill SF	y	n	S
7	Turrill village Church (strip batten) c.1910	Turrill SF	y	n	S
8	pole construction stables c.1910	Turrill SF	y	n	S
10	ironbark sleeper dump c.1910	Durridgere SF	y	n	C
11	sleeper cutting and logging site c.1910-present	Durridgere SF	y	n	C
13	Stock enclosure c.1900	Turrill SF	y	n	L
14	Stockmen's waterhole & campsite c.1900	Turrill SF	y	n	L
15	logging loading bay c.1900-present	Turrill SF	y	n	L
16	Cox's Creek sawmill ruins c.1930	Coolah Tops NP	y	n	R
17	Sleeper cutter's campsite c.1930	Coolah Tops NP	y	n	C
18	Bracken's Cottage 1937	Coolah Tops NP	y	n	R
19	Bracken's Hut c.1920s	Coolah Tops NP	y	n	R
20	fence remnants c.1920s	Coolah Tops NP	y	n	L
21	Snow's Hut c.1950	Coolah Tops NP	y	n	L
22	log dump/sawmill site c.1950	Coolah Tops NP	n	y	C
23	bus & galley ruins c.1950	Coolah Tops NP	y	n	L
24	Gemini Road logging site c.1950	Coolah Tops NP	n	y	C
25	Shelter ruins, Jemmy's Creek firetrail	Warung SF	y	n	L
26	gate and fence ruins, Jemmy's Creek firetrail	Warung SF	y	n	L
27	gates to Edenvale, Jemmy's Creek firetrail	Warung SF	y	n	L
28	Farm ruins, c.1910, Jemmy's Creek firetrail	Warung SF	y	n	L
29	Water tower	Spring Ridge SF	y	n	L
30	Ringbarking	Spring Ridge SF	n	y	L
31	Cypress pine thinnings, c.1900	Doona SF	n	y	C
32	hut ruins, c.1920	Doona SF	y	n	L
34	post & rail fence remnants c.1900	Doona SF	y	n	L
36	sleeper cutter's camp	Trinkey SF	y	n	C
37	apiary platforms	Trinkey SF	y	n	L
38	Swagmen's hut c.1930	Goran SF	y	n	S
39	temporary stock yard	Wondoba SF	y	n	L
42	Farmhouse c.1920	Wondoba SF	y	n	L
43	stock race c.1920	Wondoba SF	y	n	L
44	water tank	Black Jack SF	y	n	L
46	Windmill and dam	Somerton SF	y	n	L
50	log dump	Kelvin SF	n	y	C
52	water tank	Leard SF	y	n	L
54	Gins Leap Cemetery, near Boggabri	Leard SF	y	n	R
55	Turravilla Homestead, south of Narrabri	Leard SF	y	n	L
56	Ningadoo Woolshed c.1920	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	S
57	Ningadoo feedshed c.1920	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	S
58	Ningadoo homestead site	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	S
59	Ningadoo former shed site	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	S
60	Scutt's Hut, complex, c.1930	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	R
61	Scutt's trail	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	R
62	Hut, c.1900, Upper Bullawa Creek Rd	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	L
63	Hut & hayshed, Upper Bullawa Creek Rd	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	L
64	stockyard c.1900, Upper bullawa Creek Rd	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	L
65	House, c.1915, Bullawa Creek Rd	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	L
66	Stockmen's huts, c.1910, Bullawa Creek Rd	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	L

67	Shed ruins, Bullawa Creek Rd	Mt Kaputar NP	y	n	L
69	Beaubari Homestead, c.1930	Kilearney SF	y	n	L
70	John Steel Lowe & "Barky" lone graves	Bobbiwaa SF	y	n	L
71	logging site	Couradda SF	n	y	C
72	Moema Dam	Moema SF	y	n	L
73	Stockyards & hayshed	Irrigappa SF	y	n	L
74	Stock enclosure c.1900	Courallie SF	y	n	L
75	logging camp	Courallie SF	n	y	C
76	Ryce/McDougal private graveyard, 1850	Mission SF	y	n	R
77	water tower, c.1950	Mission SF	y	n	L
78	Aboriginal Graveyard	Mission SF	y	n	N
79	Aboriginal Graveyard	Mission SF	y	n	N
80	log/sleeper dump	Mission SF	n	y	C
81	log/sleeper dump #2	Mission SF	n	y	C
83	Cypress pine thinnings, c. 1950	Mission SF	n	y	C
84	Mission Chapel, c.1950	Mission SF	y	n	N
85	water trough, c.1950	Mission SF	y	n	N
86	block & tackle frame, c.1950	Mission SF	y	n	N
87	Shed	Warialda SF	y	n	L
88	House	Warialda SF	y	n	L
89	Woolshed	Warialda SF	y	n	L
90	Stables	Warialda SF	y	n	L
93	"Clonard" woolshed, Star Road	Bullalla SF	y	n	L
94	"Gunyerwarildi" woolshed c.1915	Gunyerwarildi SF	y	n	S
95	"Gunyerwarildi" Shepherd's Hut, c.1915	Gunyerwarildi SF	y	n	S
96	"Gunyerwarildi" dam	Gunyerwarildi SF	y	n	S
97	Rope Sawmill ruins, Yetman	Yetman SF	y	n	R
98	sleeper dump #1	Bebo SF	n	y	C
99	sleeper dump #2	Bebo SF	n	y	C
100	Forester's Hut, c.1950	Bebo SF	y	n	L
101	sleeper dump #3	Bebo SF	n	y	C
102	Remains of well and fence posts	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
103	Figtree	Warrumbungles NP	n	y	L
104	Site of cattle yards	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
105	Belougerie homestead site	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
106	Greenslopes homestead site	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
107	Saw bench	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
108	Old engine	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	R
109	Pincham homestead site - old 'Strathmore'	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
110	Pincham's woolshed	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
111	Remains of post and rail fence	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
112	Gunneemooroo homestead complex	Warrumbungles NP	y	n	L
113	Wooleybah village	Pilliga West SF	y	n	S
114	Grave	Pilliga West SF	y	n	L
115	Ceelnoy mill site	Pilliga West SF	y	n	L
116	Dam	Pilliga West SF	y	n	L
117	Stumps cut with chainsaw	Pilliga West SF	n	y	C
118	Stumps cut with an axe	Pilliga West SF	n	y	C
119	Sleeper dump	Pilliga West SF	n	y	C
120	Stumps and ringbarked trees	Pilliga West SF	n	y	C
121	Wangan Bore and log dump	Pilliga West SF	n	y	C
122	Charcoal pits, 1940s	Ukerbarley - PP	y	n	R
123	Tree of Heaven' - exotic vegetation	Ukerbarley - PP	n	y	L
124	Sleeper dump	Ukerbarley - PP	n	y	C
125	Rubbish tip	Ukerbarley - PP	y	n	L
126	Percy Martin's camp site	Ukerbarley - PP	y	n	L

127	Woolshed	Ukerbarley - PP	y	n	L
128	Stumps	Baradine SF	n	y	C
129	Ruins of Mag Morrissey's house	PP - Baradine SF	y	n	L
130	Chimney - house ruins and cattle yards	Baradine SF	y	n	S
131	Sleeper dump	Orr SF	n	y	C
132	Sleeper dump	Orr SF	n	y	C
133	Foundations of old fire tower	Denobollie SF	y	n	L
134	Graves	Denobollie SF	y	n	L
135	Cattle yards	Orr SF	y	n	L
136	Fence line	Orr SF	y	n	L
137	Dog-proof fence	Pilliga East SF	y	n	R
139	Site of Coghill Station cattleyards, 19th century	PP- Pilliga East SF	y	n	L
140	Ruins of fire tower	Pilliga East SF	n	n	L
142	Hut ruins and rubbish dump, Robinson family	Pilliga East SF	y	n	L
143	Dam dug by hand	Pilliga East SF	y	n	L
145	Underwood's mill, Kenebri	near Merriwindi SF	y	n	L
146	Kenebri village	near Merriwindi SF	y	n	L
147	Stumps cut with an axe	Cumbil SF	n	y	C
148	The Aloes picnic site, 'tidied up' 19th century pastoral station headquarters	Cumbil SF	y	n	L
149	Riverina bridge' over Etoo Creek, 1950s	Cumbil SF	y	n	L
150	Graves	Cumbil SF	y	n	L
151	Rocky Creek mill site	Euligal SF	y	n	L
152	House site	Euligal SF	y	n	L
153	Grave	Euligal SF	y	n	L
154	Hut ruins	Euligal SF	y	n	L
155	Sawmill site	Euligal SF	y	n	L
156	Forest foreman's house and outbuildings site at Riley's Dam	Goonoo SF	y	n	L
157	Charcoal burning site, 1940s	Goonoo SF	y	n	R
158	Internees' camp site, 1940s	Goonoo SF	y	n	L
159	Shafts	Goonoo SF	y	n	L
160	Fire tower, ruins	Goonoo SF	y	n	L
161	Forest foreman's house and outbuildings site at No. 2 Bore55	Goonoo SF	y	n	L
162	Frost family camp site, 1930s	Goonoo SF	y	n	L
163	Mill site c. 1900	Goonoo SF	y	n	R
166	Old fence line, c. 1860s	Goonoo SF	y	n	L
167	Surveyor's tree, 1920s?	Goonoo SF	y	y	R
168	Experimental plot	Eura SF	y	n	L
169	Charcoal burning site, 1940s	Lincoln SF	y	n	R
170	Forest headquarters - buildings, dam and site of sleeper cutters' camp	Lincoln SF	y	n	L
171	Fire tower - tree, ruins	Lincoln SF	y	n	L
172	Dam, c. 1920s	Lincoln SF	y	n	L
173	Forest workers' camp site and dam	Biddon SF	y	n	R
174	Forest foreman's house and outbuildings site	Biddon SF	y	n	R
175	Charcoal burning and internees' living site, 1940s	Biddon SF	y	n	R
176	Yarrigan bore	Yarrigan SF	y	n	L
177	McGlashan house and outbuildings site, 1930s-1940s	Yarrigan SF	y	n	L
178	Cleared site with log dump and stumps	Tuckland SF	n	y	C
179	Dam	Tuckland SF	y	n	L
180	Old fence line	PP - Tuckland SF	y	n	L
181	Old fence line	Tuckland SF	y	n	L
184	Dam	Cope SF	y	n	L
185	Stumps, 1890s?	Cope SF	n	y	C
186	Dam	Beni SF	y	n	L
187	Fence line, experimental plot??	Beni SF	y	n	L
188	Log fence	Beni SF	y	n	L

2. STUDY SITE OVERVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Located in the central north of NSW, the Brigalow Belt South Bio-Region (BBSBR) includes the centres of Dubbo, Merriwa, Coonabarabran, Gunnedah, Narrabri, Moree and Warialda. The BBSBR covers approximately 52 400 square kilometres (or 6.2% of the state). Around 85% of the bio-region is either freehold land or Crown leasehold, used primarily for agriculture. The geology of the BBSBR includes parts of two major fold belt systems : the Lachlan Fold Belt and the New England Fold Belt, containing numerous mineral deposit types (such as gold and coal). The Gunnedah Basin extends from Gunnedah to Narrabri and contains vast coal resources. The area south-west of Narrabri overlies extensive natural gas resources. The study area is further defined by the Nandewar Ranges (central), Liverpool Ranges (east) and the Warrumbungles (west) and includes several secondary river systems, most notably the Nandewar, Gwydir and Macintyre Rivers (eastern study area) and the Castlereagh and Macquarie Rivers (west and south-west).[1]

A major difference between the forests in the eastern part of study area and State Forests closer to Sydney is their use by the public. Forests within a roughly 300km radius of Sydney are as much 'tourism forests' as they are active logging sites. In recent years, NSW State Forests have encouraged the public to visit and make use of these forests for passive recreation, including picnicking, camping, trail-bike riding and four-wheel driving. Areas of the forest that are under active logging programs (both plantation and native forest) are closed to the public. Public use does not seem to occur as frequently in the forests in the northern part of the study area (beyond the Upper Hunter and Gilgandra).

Use of the Pilliga and Goonoo forests by members of local communities continues as it has for many years. Indeed the attachment of many members of local communities to the Pilliga and Goonoo forests derives from their casual recreational use of the forests. Many people in Dubbo, Coonabarabran, Gilgandra and Baradine, for example, visit the forests and know them well. Conversely, throughout the survey work it was apparent that, with the exception of forestry workers, local knowledge of State Forests in the north-eastern part of the study area is minimal and few would perceive the State Forests as places of leisure or fun. Camping, hiking and other wilderness type activities are confined almost entirely to National Parks in this part of the study area. There is no obvious reason for this and, given that many of the smaller State Forests are very infrequently logged, it would appear that this type of passive recreational use presents an ideal opportunity to revitalise forests and promote appreciation of forest resources and history in the study area.

[1] *Brigalow Belt South Bioregion Study*, NSW Department of Mineral Resources, 2002, www.minerals.nsw.gov.au.

2.1 VEGETATION

Vegetation throughout the study area is remarkably consistent, considering the varying topographies and climates from south to north and east to west. Generally, the eastern brigalow forests consist of cypress (black and white) and mixed Australian hardwoods, with a high density of ironbark, stringybark, box and red gums. There is considerable regrowth of native hardwoods, particularly in the southern forests, and very little remaining old growth native forest. This is consistent with a history of active logging over a long period of time, and earlier clearing for agricultural/pastoral purposes. The most common species is the white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla),* which is present in all of the forests under discussion, to varying degrees. Black cypress (*Callitris endlicheri*) also occurs prolifically on ridgetops and poorer forest sites over much of the area. Generally cypress pine is intermingled with hardwoods and occurs in defined stands throughout the forests. Cypress pine self-seeds easily and there is considerable new growth of this species along forest margins and in forested areas.

Notable exceptions to this general vegetation pattern were observed at Coolah Tops National Park (Coolah Shire). Due to its elevated position and comparatively high rainfall, Coolah Tops NP supports a number of native tree species not found at lower elevations including snow and mountain gums.

Forests in the western portion of the study area, whilst containing a superficially similar mix of species, are generally drier than their eastern counterparts. They contain a higher density of black cypress pine as well as bulloak, belah, broom and mallees (which are absent from the eastern study forests). Native orchids also occur in the western forests along with River Red Gum and Yellow/White Box (which is highly prized by beekeepers).

2.2 EVIDENCE OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

The study forests, as a group, represent several different types and levels of human activity, over a long period. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation and usage can be found at shelter sites (rock overhangs and caves), tool manufacture sites (such as grinding grooves in rocks near rivers) and artefact manufacture sites (such as scarred trees). Although this study focuses on non-indigenous cultural heritage, it is important to note the existence of Aboriginal heritage items, particularly in the northern portion of the study site, which has not been extensively surveyed for indigenous cultural heritage sites.

Figure 1: Ironbark post – remains of Coghilll Station cattle yard, c.1860-1880, adjoining Pilliga East State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

Almost all forests in the study area contain evidence of former and present pastoral activity. This usually takes the form of remnant stock enclosures, dams, cattle and sheep races and occasionally built structures such as huts, homesteads and woolsheds. These items are an important component of the cultural landscape within forested areas and generally relate to the earliest period of occupation and use in NSW forests by Europeans. As many state forests (but not national parks) still permit pastoral leasing/occupancy within their borders, this type of human activity is ongoing.

It should be noted that much forest activity is, by its nature ephemeral and leaves little physical evidence or leaves evidence that will soon disappear. For

example, beekeeping, an itinerant and relatively low impact activity, is and has been a common activity that leaves less evidence than, activities associated with grazing. In the early 20th century forest mills were often mobile, although none have been recorded in this survey; presumably none have remained where they operated.

By far the most obvious and common evidence of human activity is the management, harvesting and non-commercial thinning of cypress pine.[2] Most of the study forests show some evidence of this. Non-commercial thinning of cypress pine was a common activity undertaken by forestry industries from the 1930s (the depression) to the present and most thinning remnants relate to this period of activity. Nonetheless, there is evidence in some forests (particularly in the southern study forests) of earlier thinning activities. In these instances, thinnings are usually located close to ringbarked hardwoods or stumps of trees that have been removed to make way for cypress pine.

Since the 1920s cypress pine has been a major product of forestry industries in NSW as it is the principal framing material for new domestic construction. The close relationship between cypress pine and the domestic building industry is an important historical theme in the study forests. It reflects the building boom of the post-War years and the recent boom in urban development, resulting in an ever-increasing need for timber products.

Another major feature of the study forests is the evidence of former sleeper cutting activities. Most of this evidence relates to the 1890-1990 period. and much of it falls into the period prior to 1930, the peak period of railway expansion in NSW. As the regional rail network expanded, so the demand for timber sleepers grew, and settlement patterns throughout the study area (during this period) are largely defined by rail routes. Numerous villages in the study area were established to house and support sleeper cutters, such as Turill Village, near Turill and Durridgere State Forests (Merriwa Shire); Mogriguy and Mendooran near Goonoo State Forest (Dubbo Shire); Balladoran just west of Eura SF (Gilgandra Shire); Biddon near the state forest of the same name (Gilgandra Shire); and the villages of Kenebri (Coonabarabran Shire) and Gwabegar and Pilliga (Narrabri Shire). Former and existing mill villages, inside the forests, such as Ceelnoy, Wombo and Wooleybah in Pilliga West State Forest, and Rocky Creek in the central Pilliga, exemplify a period when processing of timber was undertaken close to the timber source and mill operators had a monopoly over large areas of forest.

The introduction of concrete sleepers in the late 1980s had a significant impact on the sleeper cutting industry and heralded a change in forest management practices that has resulted in the emergence of a new crop of young ironbark timber. Sleeper cutting, as an industry, continued in much reduced form until the mid-1990s.[3]

Further evidence of human activity relates to 'cottage' industries, such as beekeeping. The practice of collecting honey from wild native bees was well known to indigenous people, and European settlers introduced the European honey bee in the early 19th century. Small scale commercial honey production in NSW forests coincided with the rise of the sleeper cutting industry, which opened up access to the forests and provided materials for covering inground bee watering pits (through timber scraps). It is understood from oral history interviews that sleeper cutters (and later cypress pine loggers) worked side-by-side with apiarists.[4] The presence of apiarists in the forests is continuing, although wild bees are no longer captured and hives are only temporarily placed in the forest during flowering periods. Some beekeepers now operate on such a large scale that the term 'cottage industry' no longer applies to them.[5]

---

[2] Throughout this study, cypress pine should be taken to mean "white cypress pine" unless otherwise specified.

[3] Pers. Comm., Dr Stuart Sharp, State Rail Heritage Unit, April 2002 and Stuart Rope, Yetman, April 2002.

[4] Pers. Comm., Brian Kennedy, Gunnedah, April 2002.

[5] Graham Frost, interview with Pauline Curby, May 2002.

Two important transient uses of the forests have also emerged from this study. The first of these is the movement of livestock during seasonal musters. Temporary stockyards erected near waterholes and the occasional drover's hut are the sole evidence of this activity. Mustering through national parks and state forests is no longer permitted, although animals are still pastured on state forest leases/occupation permits. However, modern grazing takes place in confined areas with well-defined boundaries and is semi-permanent.

No less significant is the movement of swagmen through the forests in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The erection of swagmen's huts by pastoralists on grazing leases (away from the main homestead) was a common practice from the 1870s onwards. Nonetheless, there are few surviving swagmen's huts in NSW, particularly structures that can be clearly identified as swagmen's huts (rather than drover's or stockmen's huts that may, or may not have been used by swagmen). The identification of a swagmen's hut in Goran State Forest (Gunnedah Shire) is arguably one of the most significant finds of this study.

Another frequently occurring site type are those that reflect the history of farming and grazing on marginal land. As well as illustrating patterns of male economic activity these sites are sometimes poignant reminders of the lives of women and children in the forests. While most of the sites are of 20th century origin there are some from the 19th century and the later examples are no less significant, as they reflect times of enormous social change in the state, such as the 1930s depression and the two world wars. While some sites reflect activities that are on going others are associated with particular times. Charcoal burning sites from the early 1940s in Biddon, Goonoo and Lincoln State Forests are a good example of this. This also applies to camp sites of internees and/or prisoners of war found in these forest that also date from World War II.

There are numerous site types that are of low significance individually but together suggest important patterns of infrastructure. Fire control, roading and bridge building are State Forest activities that have been continuous since the 1920s. Because of their constant upgrading there is little evidence of original structures. The main road between Dubbo and Mendooran, for example traverses Goonoo State Forest. This was constructed in 1937 with unemployment relief labour and hailed as a 'national undertaking', however, no evidence of the original structure remains.[6]

The lack of permanent water in these forests is one of the factors that militated against their early alienation from the public estate. Therefore water needed to be supplied in order for any work or living activity to be conducted there. There are ten recorded sites associated with water supply, but these are only a sample of a large scatter of similar items throughout the forests. Control of feral animals was/is a very time-consuming and arduous task that is part of rural life all over Australia. This is reflected in only one site (a dog-proof fence) although control of rabbits in particular has left no easily discernible physical evidence.

Sites that are purported to be associated with Australia's 19th century Chinese community are rare and are often marked by exotic cultural plantings rather than any structures. A notable exception to this is the Chinese Wire Lattice Fence at Mount Kaputar National Park (Narrabri Shire). However, securely provenanced items of cultural heritage relating to Chinese communities are extremely rare in the study area. Further research is required to ascertain whether local folklore concerning these sites is supported by documentary and/or archaeological evidence.

[6] *North Western Watchman*, 26 August 1937.

3.CONTEXTUAL HISTORY & MAJOR HISTORICAL THEMES

3.0 LAND MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY

In urban and regional Australia a near-continuous drama revolving around the issue of land management has been played out for the best part of a century. From the 1860s to the 1960s there was conflict surrounding the best use of Australia's fragile land, with the competing demands of pastoralism, farming, timber production and forest conservation discussed and contested. Should pastoralists control broad acres whereon their sheep and cattle grazed? Was it preferable to have industrious farmers producing commercial crops or running dairy cows on small-holdings? Should forests and woodlands be cleared to make way for farms or were these areas better suited to timber production? Should they simply be enjoyed for their natural attributes? These were the kinds of questions that were debated over a long period of time.

Over the years, depending on the political agenda, weather patterns and economic climate, this debate has lurched to and fro. At times the need for timber production has prevailed. This study has located numerous sites associated with a variety of timber getting practices in the forests of the region. At other times, particularly in the early years of the 20th century and again after World War I, the farming lobby has been in the ascendancy. This has resulted in forested areas that were clearly unsuited to agriculture being made available to farmers. Signs of the results of this policy also remain in the forests.

Since the 1970s attention has shifted from the farming/timber production debate, to argument, and overt conflict about whether timber production should continue at all. While a small minority has, since the 1880s, taken a conservationist stance with regard to Australia's unique natural attributes, their voices were muted until the mid-1970s. Since then a much larger sector of the population has argued that Australia's much depleted forests should be preserved and no longer harvested. Issues such as land clearing, soil erosion and the use of chemicals has impacted on the management of private property in New South Wales, but the most divisive disagreements have been concerned with the future of the state's public land – crown land, state forests and national parks. Over the last 15 years what has been described as 'two opposing systems of cultural values: environmentalism and economic rationalism'[7] have sought community support. It is apparent that generally environmentalism has been in the ascendancy.

[7] N. Barr & J. Cary, *Greening a Brown Land, the Australian Search for Sustainable Land Use*, MacMillan Education Australian Pty. Ltd., South Melbourne, 1992, p. 281.

Between 1994 and 2002, to cite one indicator, the amount of land that the NPWS controls in New South Wales has increased considerably, while State Forests NSW's estate has declined.[8]

First Timber Reserves

In 1871 the first timber reserves in Australia, on the Murray and the Clarence Rivers, were created.[9] The earliest forest reserves in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion (BBSB) also date from the 1870s. Writing in 1900, government statistician T. A. Coghlan commented that this initiative aimed to prevent 'the ruthless destruction of the best species of brush and hardwood'.[10] This 'destruction' had reached massive proportions as selectors who had taken up small holdings as the result of legislation passed in all colonies in the 1860s (1861 in New South Wales) sought to fulfil 'improvement' conditions under which they held their selections.[11] In addition to building and fence construction, 'improvements' also included activities such as clearing and ringbarking. Further primary research is needed to ascertain how much this legislation impacted on the BBSB.

Timber reserves were designed not to preserve timber but to ensure that logging was systematically managed. The creation of the position of forest ranger in 1875 was an attempt to ensure that the state collected some revenue from the exploitation of this resource. The subdivision, a few years later, of the colony into a number of forest districts over which rangers had jurisdiction was part of this plan. The rangers' role was to collect royalties, control the timber getters and report on ringbarking and the destruction of 'useless timber' by those who held grazing leases over forest reserves.[12]

The Scrub Spreads

'Useless timber', as it was called, was becoming a problem. Just before Christmas 1879 a group of over thirty Lachlan and Murrumbidgee District pastoralists[13] petitioned the Minister for Mines E. A. Baker, to allow them to clear pine scrub from the lands they held. They stated that in their districts there was a 'large extent of country rendered almost entirely useless' through the spread of this scrub. The area where the pine was encroaching was 'extending yearly at an alarming rate'. This was, they claimed, threatening to 'destroy the grazing capability' of their runs. The pastoralists were prepared to undertake the 'expensive task of exterminating this powerful enemy of the State' if they were 'afforded reasonable encouragement and protection by the Legislature.'[14] In other words they wished to be assured of security of tenure before they undertook the costly task of clearing the scrub. They were unwilling to do this while there was a chance that the land they held might be selected. This would prevent them from gaining any advantage from their work. The map accompanying this petition shows a great swathe of central New South Wales (including the BBSB) that had this perceived problem.

A number of government officials responded to the petition. Although there was general agreement that the phenomenal pine growth was caused by a change in burning regime, a number of different solutions were suggested. Charles Lockley, the Darling District commissioner for Crown Lands, who believed that runs were now 'of but little value as pastoral

[8] In 1994 NPWS controlled just under 4 million hectares and by 2002 this had increased to over 5 million hectares. In the same period SFNSW had 3.7 million hectares in 1994 and 2.8 million hectares in 2002.

[9] L.T. Carron, *A History of Forestry in Australia*, ANU Press, Canberra, 1985, p.5

[10] T.A. Coghlan, *The Timber Resources of New South Wales*, Sydney, 1900, p.1

[11] See John Hirst's handy summary of this complex issue in G. Davsion, J. Hirst & S. Macintryre (eds.) *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1998, p. 579.

[12] Carron, op. Cit, p. 2.

[13] They were referred to as Crown Tenants.

[14] 'Clearing Pine and Scrub from Leases Lands', in New South Wales LA, V&P, 1881, Vol. 3, p.254, (ML: MDQ 328.9106/4)

properties', recommended that the lessees should not be allowed to destroy the scrub, but rather (anticipating later practice) to thin it. 'I have observed that where by some accident the scrub has been thinned, those spared rush up into fine trees which in twenty years would be most valuable'.[15] Small, very weathered cypress pine stumps located during fieldwork in Cope State Forest could be an example of early thinning undertaken by pastoral leaseholders. The spread of 'pine scrub' in the Pilliga in these years has been detailed in Eric Rolls' work *A Million Wild Acres*.

Closer Settlement

Although numerous attempts were made at land reform there was deep frustration with the operation of New South Wales land laws in the late 19th century. The *Crown Lands Act 1884* was designed to strike a balance by giving pastoralists some security of tenure and encouraging orderly selection. In the wake of this legislation pastoral holdings were assessed and runs were divided into leasehold areas, to be leased for a fixed term, and resumed areas, to be held under annual license[16] The resumed area was the less desirable part of the run and could be selected at any time, although few were. In New South Wales much of this former leasehold land remains in public ownership as state forests or national parks.

In the wake of the 1890s depression there was widespread despondency with Australia's general economic position, so new legislation that sought to encourage 'closer settlement' was introduced to extend and improve the earlier selection acts. 'Closer settlement' has been described as a 'scheme for concentrated rural settlement through government repurchase, subdivision and reallocation of large estates'.[17]

In New South Wales the first piece of closer settlement legislation was the Homestead Selection Act of 1895. This introduced tenure that was a lease in perpetuity, subject to the payment of a perpetual rent and five years residence. The notion of a 'living area' or 'home maintenance' area also originated at this time. This meant that a man was entitled to a farm big enough for a family to make a 'decent' living. The act aimed to rectify the shortcomings of the previous legislation that had failed, except in a few areas, such as the northern rivers of New South Wales, to settle small farmers on the land.

The Closer Settlement Act of 1904, following the devastating drought of 1895-1903, gave the government the power of 'compulsory resumption' of private estates for redistribution as small farms that were ultimately to become freehold. A further act, the Crown Lands (Amendment) Act, was passed in 1905 to facilitate the opening up of 'scrub' lands and allow settlers time to clear their land for agriculture. This legislation would have a significant impact on the BBSB.

When the first Labor Government was elected in New South Wales in 1910 it came to power with a mandate for change. Despite closer settlement legislation the big pastoral holdings had not been broken up. These pastoral leaseholders, especially when their leases were part of their traditional pastoral holding, had a proprietary attitude that often obscured the fact that they were using public land. The Labor Government's introduction of crown lease tenure in 1912 sought to prevent the alienation of public land as well as giving working class people access to grazing. It was under this legislation, or amendments to it, that considerable forest areas were placed under more tightly controlled leaseholds. Improvements, such as fencing and ringbarking, had to be done and the leases were regularly inspected. If the conditions were not met then the leasehold was forfeited.

---

[15] ibid.

[16] J King, *An Outline of Closer Settlement in New South Wales, Part 1 The Sequence of the Land Laws*, Reprint from 'Review of Marketing and Agricultural Economics', September-December, 1957, Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics, NSW, Australia, p. 99.

[17] G. Davsion, J. Hirst & S. Macintryre, op. cit., p. 133.

Royal Commission into the Timber Industry, 1907-1908

Early attempts at regulation of the timber industry did little to control sawmillers and timber getters who E. H. F. Swain, New South Wales Commissioner for Forests from 1935 to 1948, described as 'natural log thieves'.[18] Indeed by the early years of the 20th century there was considerable dissatisfaction with the management of this industry. 'Injudicious clearing' was under way in the western part of New South Wales where the supply of timber was becoming scarce. There seemed to be 'no idea amongst the settlers' of preserving timber for anything.[19] Indeed foresters had been thwarted for many years by a system that had seen a promising and independent government department downgraded in 1893, at the time of depression, when staff cuts were introduced.

The Royal Commission into the timber industry, conducted in 1907-8, was of critical importance in the history of forestry in New South Wales. Its final report discussed, among other things, the significance of cypress pine to the building industry and stressed the importance of ensuring its survival. As far back as 1895 the Forestry Branch had complained that imported pine did not have the quality of white ant resistance that cypress pine had.[20] As a result of this inquiry the Forestry Act of 1909 was passed and the Forestry Commission was created in 1916.

Cypress Pine

Despite its toughness cypress pine was a vulnerable species and it was recognised by the early 20th century that rainfall patterns were important for its survival. It was said that in the Western Division 'whole forests of this pine have been known to die in times of drought'. It was most at risk, however, from human interference. The suitability of land where it grew for wheat crops and the danger of the few remaining pine reserves being opened up for this purpose was emphasised at the Royal Commission. 'The selectors', the report noted 'as a rule, have killed all the young saplings and seedlings and most of the trees of larger growth'. This destruction had led to a shortage of cypress pine in some districts. In many other instances the pastoralists, the report claimed:

> *have ruinously, in a forestry sense, destroyed the young pine growth and many of the mature pine trees. A general condition in these leases, including leases of forest reserves, in which this wholesale destruction of pine has obtained, has been to kill every tree, sapling, and seedling within certain distances ranging in at least one forest reserve to 60 feet apart*.[21]

The report's conclusion concerning the management of cypress pine is probably what modern foresters would concur with: firstly that the species reafforests readily if sheep are kept away from it in the early stages, and secondly that the young growth should be 'carefully' thinned out.

Against the background of a widespread belief in the intrinsic virtues of closer settlement and general dissatisfaction with the timber industry, the Royal Commission was conducted. Many people now realised that a resource, once considered inexhaustible, was finite. It is clear from commission hearings that if land were considered suitable for agriculture it was made available for closer settlement. Revocations of timber reserves were not unusual. This procedure reflected the lowly status of the Department of Forestry, a poor relation that had been shunted around under a variety of government departments since the 1870s. The Royal Commission also highlighted the lack of control that the government exercised over the timber industry.

---

[18] EHFS, Selection of Swain's papers, ed. N.Foote, 1971, p.

[19] Annual report, Forest Conservancy Branch, 1898, p. 5.

[20] Annual report, Forest Conservancy Branch, 1895, p. 50.

[21] *Royal Commission of Inquiry on Forestry*; Final Report, Pt. 1, Govt. Printer, 1909, p. xvii.

The final report of the Royal Commission into forestry recommended that a Forestry Department, independent of the Department of Lands, be established. This gave considerable impetus to the political processes that resulted in the passing of the Forestry Act of 1909. Forestry was placed under the authority of the Department of Agriculture by this Act. Therefore the expectations of those who wanted to see a completely independent Forestry Commission were not met. The Act made provision, however, for the dedication of state forests. This meant that a dedicated forest could not be revoked, except by an Act of Parliament, whereas a reserve could be revoked by a notice in the Government Gazette. Independence from the tutelage of other government departments was not achieved until 1916 when the second Forestry Act was passed, and the Forestry Commission was established[22]

The Forestry Commission

In the 1920s the Forestry Commission took a proactive approach to the organisation of the forest estate. Forests were divided into administrative units called compartments for the first time, and resident foremen lived in the forests in newly erected cottages so that logging and silviculture could be closely supervised. 'Silviculture' – a quaint Latinate term (*silvus* is the Latin word for forest) - is the methodical treatment of forests to maximise their potential.

Life was busy for a resident overseer. He was expected to 'carry out experiments in growing exotics and plantation work, silvicultural work, felling for mills, maintaining firebreaks and ... he will also be required to look after stock'.[23] Elaine Cox's memories of the duties that her father Bill Green performed in his role as forest foreman in Goonoo State Forest fulfil this prescription. Foremen were usually big men who seemed to be appointed for their ability to quell disturbances among work gangs as much as anything else. As well as dealing with unruly workmen, they had to answer to the forester and, above him, the district forester who, in the early days, arrived occasionally on horseback or by buggy. Sometimes positions were 'inherited' and passed on from father to son. At Terry Hie Hie, for example, Ross Smith and before him his father both had long careers as Forestry Commission foremen.

By the 1960s, with improved transport and communications, foremen lived in town and the old cottages were either sold off or demolished. This was the fate of the complex of buildings that had been home to the Green family in Goonoo State Forest. In Biddon State Forest, however, structures were only partially demolished. There were also little bush schools that had served the needs of forest workers' children that closed at this time.

Figure 2: Goonoo State Forest Foreman Bill Green and his forestry vehicle, c.1940s. Source: Elaine Cox.

A number of surveys and assessments of forested land were carried out by the Forestry Commission in the first two decades of its existence. These were designed firstly to determine what land was suitable for dedication as state forests. The second objective was to establish what merchantable timber was on Forestry Commission land and, in some cases, on crown land. Therefore preliminary surveys were often concerned with the question of whether the land should be used for farming or timber getting.

---

[22] T. C. Grant, *History of Forestry in NSW - 1788-1988*, the author, Sydney, 1989, p. 60.

[23] SFNSW file 19010, PH.

Working plans were devised for the forests based on information from these assessments, which were plans for the business-like management and exploitation of the forest. This marked a change in forest administration in New South Wales. Until the 1920s forest management had been fairly haphazard with logging generally allowed until there were no more merchantable trees to take out. The forest would then be closed for a number of years to allow it - hopefully - to recover.

In the early 1920s, the Forestry Commission attempted for the first time to estimate timber yield and allowable cut. It seems these prescriptions were seldom followed. Writing in 1947, assessing forester Doug Lindsay maintained that the 'actual cut was much lower than either the presumed increment or the recommended cut'.[24] There was nevertheless intensive logging in the state's forests from the 1920s to the 1940s.

Lindsay later condemned the silvicultural system for cypress pine, devised at this time, as 'a primitive selection system with a 10" DBH minimum cutting size and a cutting cycle of seven years'.[25] A serious fault he noticed with this system was that it led to the clear felling of groups of variable size. When the openings that resulted from this failed to regenerate, the area of productive forest was reduced. Later although seed trees were retained significant damage had been done[26]

Forest assessments of the late 1920s served to identify forest land of potential interest to the Forestry Commission and to effect some reorganisation of the timber supply. The Forestry Commission Annual Report for 1928-29 noted that although 'considerable progress has been made in the allocation of cutting spheres for sawmills', further reorganisation was necessary.[27] This report explained why, in the late 1920s, a new system was preferred:

> *There is no doubt that the long-established system of allowing operations by numerous licensees over extensive areas is wholly incompatible with forest management, and, moreover, has made the cost of supervision and district administration unduly high.*[28]

The Forestry Commission aimed to streamline administration and only deal with the mill owners who would then use contractors.

Forest historian Les Carron asserts that the establishment of the Forestry Commission meant that for the first time control could be exercised over 'the use of the forest which clashed with traditional industry attitudes'.[29] The old laissez-faire days of almost unrestricted cutting were over, he argues, and now trees for felling had to be marked by foresters and their manner of felling needed approval. Oral accounts, however, indicate that in some areas changes in the administration of the timber industry were very gradual and that unrestricted cutting did not disappear overnight.

Nature Conservation

The Forestry Commission's charter, until 1935, was lucid and uncomplicated. According to the Minister for Forests:

---

[24] Ibid.

[25] Cypress Pine Survey, Summary of Assessment Reports, 1948, Cypress Pine Survey Narrandera Sub-District, Narrandera SFNSW report 99, p. 45.

[26] Ibid.

[27] FC AR, 1927-1928

[28] ibid.

[29] Carron, op.cit., p.11

> *…state forests are created for the purpose of utilising as well as growing timber. Timber-getting operations will be allowed so long as they do not conflict with forestry requirements*[30]

In that year the Forestry Act was amended to allow for multiple-use forests. In addition what were termed 'national forests' were created. In the BBSB the Pilliga National Forest that incorporated 17 forests in the 'Pilliga scrub' was gazetted in 1937. Carron maintains that the legislation was designed to forestall the closer settlement lobby by the creation of these more secure 'national forests' and that clauses that catered for public recreation and wildlife preservation were a compromise made in order to retain forests primarily for wood production. An amendment to the Act provided for the setting aside of flora reserves, which were to be for passive recreation as well as native flora and fauna preservation.[31]

Foresters were fearful that the forest estate under the control of the NSW Forestry Commission would be diminished if some concessions were not made to the increasingly vocal group of people who placed importance on forest attributes other than timber production. It was feared that forests would be 'lost' by the creation of national parks. One of the most influential 'nature conservation' lobby groups at this time was the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council, established in Sydney in 1932. This group believed that 'dedicated Primitive Areas' were necessary for the 'ultimate preservation of fauna and flora and the Australian bushland environment generally'. In a statement in March 1938 its policy with regard to the dedication of 'National Monuments' was set out. These were to be arranged 'more or less following the well-known American plan' into five groups: 'prehistoric and anthropologic, historic, geologic, biologic and aesthetic'. The Council stressed that 'controlled use' of proposed reserves was important and made a distinction between reserves such as this and those designed primarily for the 'long and short range production of timber'.[32]

A Highly Mechanised Industry.

Indeed at this time 'the long and short range production of timber' intensified significantly. The introduction of new price structures into the timber industry during the time that E.H.F. Swain was commissioner (1935 to 1948) meant that a greater diversity of timber could be logged. It also meant that areas further from centres of population could be exploited. These developments, combined with technological changes, were slowly transforming timber getting from dependence on human and animal power to a highly mechanised industry.

With the need to increase timber supplies during World War II, Commissioner Swain was determined that it should be worthwhile for sawmillers to extend their operations further afield. He campaigned vigorously for an increase in the selling price of timber. Under the stumpage appraisal system there was a limit to how far from the market sawmillers could operate if they were to make a profit. Swain argued, using the slogan 'price to get supply', that it must be made worth their while to go further out in order to ensure timber supplies for wartime requirements.[33] This policy meant that unlogged areas and new species were now within the ambit of the sawmillers. They were assisted in this extension of their operations by an extensive road building program undertaken by the Forestry Commission in order to ensure timber supplies.

---

[30] SF New South Wales file, 30/3892

[31] Carron, op.cit., p.55

[32] Statement, 25 March 1938 in ibid.

[33] Carron, op. cit., p.18

Fire

In the inter-war years the Forestry Commission devised a fire fighting strategy that included the construction of wooden fire towers in elevated positions. This was facilitated after 1934 when unemployment relief funds were made available by the state government.[34] The ruin of the old fire tower in Goonoo State Forest is probably typical of those constructed in the larger state forests at this time. This tower is said to have been constructed under the supervision of foreman, Bill Green, in the late 1930s or early 1940s.

Figure 3: Fire tower ruins built c.1940, Goonoo State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

In his comprehensive account of this topic Grant describes the construction of fire towers, the use of firebreaks, fire roads and trails and comments on the increasing use of technology since the 1930s to fight bushfires. He also provides an informative account of the hazard reduction burning methods used by State Forests New South Wales.[35] Although his explanation is useful it includes no reference to the burning off regimes employed by those holding grazing leases over State Forests. This is probably one of the most controversial problems with which foresters must deal. State Forests New South Wales has kept records of wildfire and hazard reduction burning since the early 1950s and the NPWS have similar records from the 1970s. Recent State Forest records are more specific and are said to be more reliable than the earlier records.

Post-War Years

While the housing boom of the 1950s was a boon to the timber industry, at the same time it brought rising costs and increased royalties. The hoppus system of measurement was abandoned in 1954 when the Forestry Commission restructured the royalty system by, in Carron's words, relating ‘royalties much more directly to log quality’.[36] ‘Gross hoppus’, as the new regime was called, allowed lower-grade and smaller girth logs to be used.

Assessment of all public lands in New South Wales was undertaken at this time in order to estimate the State's timber resources for the future. It was found that the supply of timber from private lands would last for twenty years at most. Therefore at the current rate of cut, timber from state forests would not meet future demands.[37] Classification surveys were conducted which aimed to categorise land according to its timber potential rather than its actual usage and locate areas of interest to the Forestry Commission. By 1957 it emerged that so great was the volume of land recommended for dedication as state forests, that an interim measure needed to be taken. As a compromise it was decided that the complexity of the process of dedication be reserved only for areas that were considered urgent or where the Forestry Commission wished

[34] Grant, op. cit. p. 200.

[35] Grant, op.cit. pp.193-20

[36] Carron, op.cit., p.22

[37] ibid., p.23

to log immediately. Timber reserves were placed over the non-urgent cases.[38] This was the case with some of the smaller forests of the BBSB that have only been dedicated as state forests in recent years.

In 1962 when another inventory of the native forest resource was undertaken, it was revealed that New South Wales was depleting its forests faster than they were being replaced.[39] Areas considered suitable for dedication by local foresters were not always given approval by head office unless they were judged to have exceptional timber potential. By this time the push for closer settlement from politicians and the Department of Lands was in the past, and the intense wrangling over whether land was to remain forest or become national park was in the future.

Although legislation to combat soil erosion had been in place since 1938, its implementation lacked force when land outside State Forests was logged. This is why some foresters argued that vulnerable land should be given the added protection of State Forest dedication. This would enable them to have a closer supervisory role over the logging process. Another point of view within the Forestry Commission judged that this was unnecessary and that State Forest dedication should be reserved for land with rich timber resources. This explains why there were thousands of hectares in less accessible areas that remained as crown land until the early 1970s. At this time the newly formed NPWS began a program of land acquisition. The Forestry Commission in turn dedicated some of these less sought after areas rather than allow them to become national parks.

The post-war system of forest supervision was a quantum leap from the way in which timber getting had been conducted in the years before the establishment of the Forestry Commission. The employment of trained foremen in the forests, under whose watchful eyes the timber harvest was assessed, provided employment opportunities for men who liked bush work. It also ensured that from the healthy profits generated by the exploitation of a public asset, some revenue was returned to the public purse. Increasing numbers of young graduates entered the employ of the Forestry Commission at this time. Gilgandra forest foreman Tom Nangle taught them the ropes when they were appointed to the district. He recalls: 'They were lovely boys. They were boys from Sydney trying to learn the game. Dorrie [Tom's wife] looked after them.'[40]

The concept of the efficient management of the forest resource was extended into all areas of forestry. Management of the forests for 'sustained yield' was the task set for the new forestry graduates.[41] Silviculture' took many forms, the most common being TSI (timber stand improvement).[42] Tom Nangle maintains that he was the first local foreman to organise TSI, and that at one stage he had about 15 men thinning out in the forests.

Benefits for the Environment

The Forestry Commission (now State Forests NSW), as its charter made clear, has always been primarily driven by economic imperatives. There have been scattered instances in its history, however, of decisions that have had benefits for the environment[43] and 'nature conservation'.[44] The establishment of flora reserves and wildlife protection, initiated by the Forestry Commission in 1935, for example, were promising initiatives. By the 1970s, the Forestry

[38] SF New South Wales file, 37560

[39] Carron, op.cit., p.23

[40] Tom Nangle, interview with Pauline Curby, 26 May 2002.

[41] Carron op.cit., p.24

[42] ibid, p.25

[43] The present stringent SF regulations against erosion, for example, had their beginning in the 1935 amendments to the Forestry Act. These aimed to prevent erosion and siltation of rivers and predated the Soil Conservation Act of 1938.

[44] This term was used in the 1960s, see Sim Committee Report

Commission was, however, becoming increasingly out of step with changing community perceptions of the environment and the initiative in this sphere had passed to the NPWS, established in 1967.

3.1 LIVING AND WORKING IN THE FORESTS

When undertaking fieldwork in the Dubbo and Pilliga forests, historian Pauline Curby met and spoke with a range of people who had stories to tell about their, or their families' experiences of the forests of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion.

The Aloes

There are sites throughout the forests of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion that resonate with the stories of the people who lived, played, worked and died there. One of these is the Aloes picnic area in Cumbil State Forest, where the Cormie family of Cumbil Station had their headquarters. A descendant of the Cormies, Mary Johnston (nee Underwood), used to recall the story that was told of how her grandfather, Bill 'Pup' Cormie, 'arrived at the Aloes on the pummel of his mother's saddle in the year of his birth – 1866'.[45] Two brothers David (Bill's father) and Alexander (Sandy) Cormie worked the area together and ran several thousand head of sheep. They lived with their families on the banks of Etoo Creek near a large waterhole where, apparently, fish of legendary size were regularly caught.[46]

By the time Bill Cormie was nineteen, the family had made their mark on the open forestland around them. On the holding there was 'a 6-room dwelling, milking yard, hay shed, garden, wool shed [?] and yards'. The country did not sound promising, however, and the 16 000-acre holding which ran one sheep to every 10 acres was described as having 'no permanent water, all scrub north and south division, 3000 acres, useless country, 2 miles of dog leg fencing'.[47] This became Cumbil Pastoral Holding in 1885. Alexander Cormie held the lease because, according to the family story, after his brother David's death he had forced the fatherless family to leave. It is said that Alexander later went broke, so rough justice was done.[48]

Figure 4: Deamer children's Grave, Old Terry Hie Hie Cemetery, 1887. Source: Pauline Curby.

There were few services in such an isolated area, and even if a doctor had been called he would probably have been unable to help three-month old Samuel Jervis Cormie when he caught whopping cough in September 1878. The incidence of child and infant mortality was high at this time and did not significantly improve until the early years of the 20th century. Diseases such as diphtheria and whooping cough regularly killed numbers of children. Little Samuel was buried on the other side of the creek from the Aloes picnic area

[45] David Johnston, Mary Johnston's widower, personal communication, May 2002.

[46] Ibid.

[47] Cumbil Pastoral Holding file, No. ? , DLWC.

[48] Johnston, op. cit.

and his grave was surrounded by cypress pine railings. His death certificate stated that he was the son of David Cormie, 'settler', and Charlotte Ellen Jervis Cusson. The couple were not married.

Another larger grave, also surrounded by pine railings, lies adjacent to little Samuel's. This is said to be that of a shepherd, a 'lifer' convict, who worked for the Cormie family in the 19th century when they held Cumbil Run. It is unlikely that this story will ever be verified. But that is often the case with good yarns told about people and places.

Small Graves

There are other graves in the forests of the region – some have been identified, others have not, but all are poignant reminders of the realities of life and death in Australia in the 19th century. This was a time when epidemics, as well as endemic disease, were common. The old Terry Hie Hie cemetery with its handful of lopsided tombstones, half obscured by long grass, is a good example of the tragedy of epidemic disease. One tombstone marks the grave of the four Deamer children - 7-year old Ada, 4-year old Elizabeth, 2-year old John and 13-year old Jane - who all died of diphtheria between 13 February and 31 March 1887. Kate Lake who used to work as a 'house to house' teacher travelling from Deamers' place to Terry Hie Hie Station and then to Mitchell's Station found that after the children's death she no longer had enough pupils to teach.[49]

Two of the Dingwell children also died of diphtheria in the late 19th century and were buried in Euligal State Forest. No record has been found of their death. This is also the case with Willie Launt who is buried in Denobollie State Forest. His grave has been tended in recent years and a crucifix has been placed in front of the wooden white painted cross in the grave enclosure. An inscription in black paint says, 'In loving memory of William 'Willie' Launt killed by a horse in 1892? RIP'. The Launt family, Joe Launt, in particular, is mentioned in Eric Rolls' *A Million Wild Acres* as living in the Pilliga in the 1860s. Another small grave nearby is surrounded by a modern steel garden-type fence and small plastic toys have been placed there. In black paint on the wooden cross is written: 'In loving memory of Hughie John King died in 1894, aged 2 yrs. RIP'. There is a record of the death of a Hugh King who died in Wellington in August 1894 at the age of 2.5 months but he was buried, according to the death certificate, at the Wellington cemetery. This child died of congenital syphilis and was the son of John King, labourer, and Margaret Dorkins.

Another site associated locally with the death of children is the old chimney that stands like a lonely sentinel in Baradine State Forest. The Boyle family is said to have lived there and four of their children were drowned in the nearby creek. The creek is dry now but the story lives on of how the youngsters were splashing about while their mother, attended by an Aboriginal woman was in labour.[50] Preliminary investigation has ascertained that Anne, Sarah, Mary and Catherine Boyle, aged respectively 4, 5 and 10 years of age, the children of John Boyle, grazier and Mary Field, drowned on 2 December 1864. The place of death was recorded as 'Giblean, [Gibbican?] District of Coonabarabran' and the place of burial was 'Nandi'.[51] Eric Rolls does not refer to this incident but does record the mass drowning in this locality of children from the Carter family. He also makes several references – none too complimentary - to the Boyle family.[52] Further

[49] Terry Hie Hie School file, Bundle A, 5/17821.1, SRNSW.

[50] Don Nicholson, personal communication, February 2002.

[51] The children are buried in the Coonabarabran cemetery. Nicholson, op cit.

[52] E. Rolls, *A Million Wild Acres*, Penguin Books Ringwood Victoria, 1981, p. ?

research is needed to find out more about the old chimney – an interesting landmark in the forest. It remains to be seen whether it is associated with the Boyle family or not.[53]

Independent Women

Men may have ventured into the forests first to work, but women and children were soon there beside them. There have also been women who earned a living in the man's domain of the working forest. Baradine resident Bell Birks (b. 1909) was one of these. Married at 16 but widowed at 22 with two young children to support, Bell needed to work. Although the Lang Labor government had introduced widows' pensions in 1928, these were the depression years and it was not enough to keep herself and her children. She was young, energetic and healthy and she and the children wanted to have the occasional holiday. Bell was/is a good cook, so she found work cooking for a series of sawmillers who operated in the forests of the district. One site she remembered well is just east of Bugaldie on a lease adjoining Yearinan State Forest. We drove out to see the site but the roads were different to when Bell had worked there. As evening was closing in, we returned to Baradine before we found the site. It did not really matter because as we drove Bell told me her story.

Many good stories are told about Mag Morrissey, another independent woman who worked in the Pilliga forests in the middle years of the 20th century. 'Mag' is well remembered in Baradine as making a living mostly from selling eggs. John 'Buster' Davies' first experience of one of the 'characters' of the Pilliga when he came to Baradine as a teenager in 1947 was Mag selling eggs to his father to use in the hotel that he ran.

Figure 5: Bell Birks, former sawmill cook and independent woman, Yearinan State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

Margaret Ellen Morrissey was not indigent, however. She was a property owner, having acquired a 615-acre property in 1932 as a crown lease. Charles Gladstone McIntyre held a mortgage over the property and in 1951 it was converted to an Additional Conditional Purchase. This land had been part of a homestead farm area from 1914 and had probably been revoked from a forest reserve. After World War I it was offered to returned soldiers as a homestead farm but this tenure was revoked in 1932. This is a good example of a piece of marginal land, taken from the forest estate that, it was anticipated, would attract, and provide a living for small landholders.

It did not provide Mag with much of a living. Buster Davies recalls how 'Mag had a few cattle and horses and sold eggs and milk'. A sleeper cutter named Joe Curran lived with her spasmodically and, according to Eric Rolls, Mag sometimes cut sleepers too. Rolls relates how Mag 'lived in a small rough house with a short wide iron chimney at one end of the main room'.[54]

The ruins of the house where she lived are still there on the southern bank of Mag's Crossing, adjoining Baradine State Forest. On Government Gully Road, a kilometre and a half further north lived another woman, Mrs Wilson, who

[53] The drownings are referred to in M. Campbell and J. Pickette, *Coonabarabran As It Was In The Beginning*, the authors, Dubbo, 1983.

[54] ibid, p. 291.

sometimes worked for Buster Davies' father. Mrs Wilson 'had stock and a few old cows and horses'.[55]

Battlers

When Buster Davies came from the north coast to live in Baradine in the post-war years he noticed that the people of the Pilliga 'were very poor people'. He made this observation even though he came from a district where dairy farmers, in particular, were far from affluent. It seems that although most Pilliga people were not afraid of hard work, they often worked hard but achieved very little. People settled on unsuitable land – perhaps with limited experience - almost certainly with little capital. Most importantly it was land that was good for growing trees, not for farming. The truth of this hard lesson was something that some settlers of the Pilliga learnt quickly - others took longer to appreciate it.

Local historian Judith Hadfield has recorded one particularly gruelling story about Gordon and Kathleen Harrison, English migrants who came to Australia after World War I after unsuccessfully trying their luck in South America a few years earlier. They arrived in the district in the 1920s when they heard that there were abandoned soldier settler blocks available in the Pilliga. Judith Hadfield writes that the 'available blocks were of the heartbreak variety – the only thing they grew well was pine trees'.

Gordon harvested the pine and sold it while he tried to make a go of farming. Many in similar situations did the same. He earned some money sleeper cutting, as was also common practice for those who settled on uncleared land at this time. The Harrison daughters, Doris and Violet told Judith the story of how as children they helped on the farm and attended a small subsidised school near Cumbil with the children from Wangmann's mill.

When World War II began Gordon enlisted as a 'retread' in Sydney while his wife and youngest daughter ran the 'farm'. All the stock died or was sold. Eventually they walked off the property as it had never been a successful venture and the land has now 'reverted to scrub'.[56] The ruins of their home are still visible and can be accessed by four-wheel drive vehicle, but were not inspected for this survey.

Figure 6: Cattle yards, Orr State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

A site, also associated with an unsuccessful farming venture that was inspected during the fieldwork is located in Orr SF Extension No 1. The Forestry Commission purchased this part of the forest in 1941 from J. C. Darling. Darling offered to sell the 1703-acre property (Homestead Farm 23.36) to the

[55] John 'Buster Davies, interview with Pauline Curby, 12 February 2002.

[56] Judith Hadfield, 'Memories of Fairbank'.

Commission in 1936 and amongst the list of 'improvements' that he listed were a '3-roomed cottage, outer sheds 80' x 80' horse yard, six rails, cow yard, fowl run etc'. There was also a considerable amount of fencing, and wells and dams had been constructed. As the property was almost completely surrounded by forest the Forestry Commission decided to buy it to lessen the risk of fire.

In her study of the Pilliga, Elaine van Kempen cites a 1929 local newspaper account that tells of Darling and his farm in the forest. This account described him as an 'industrious and practical settler' but noted that he considered he needed double the amount of land to be really successful. Apparently after selling his property Darling went sleeper cutting.[57] This is another example of marginal forest land unsuccessfully used for farming.

An interesting feature of Darling's former property is that some of his fence posts have no holes for wire. This may have happened because Darling ran out of money or decided to sell the property before he had finished the job. On the other hand it was noted at the time that putting up posts and not completing fencing was common practice amongst those who took up land with the intention of exploiting timber rather than farming. Darling does not seem to have been in the latter category because the ruins of his yards, in particular, indicate that he was involved in a genuine attempt at running a rural property.

The Robinsons were another family who made a living in the Pilliga scrub in the 1930s and 1940s. Dick and Jack Robinson were brothers and, with Dick's wife, lived in Pilliga East State Forest where they were sleeper cutters. They had two shacks and nearby had dug out a dam by hand. They ran some chooks and had a thriving vegetable garden. An interesting aspect of this site is the nearby rubbish tip with its masses of tins and bottles and surprising number of wireless batteries. It is not difficult to visualise the Robinsons sitting in the quiet of the scrub listening to the ABC news and *Dad and Dave* on their wireless.

Dick and his wife are remembered for the way they referred to each other as 'he' and 'she' – never by their first names. Baradine residents Merv and Laurel Edwards remember them well and estimate that they may have lived in the forest for 20 or 30 years. The Robinsons originally came from Victoria where they had property, but seem to have come to the Pilliga with nothing. They were friends of Merv's parents Ned and Caroline Edwards and came to lunch once a month when they visited town to shop. Apparently Jack did not accompany them on these jaunts. 'He' and 'she' drove into town in a beautifully maintained Chrysler Chev on pay day, had a few beers at the pub and then arrived at Edwards' place for lunch. Newly married and living with her parents-in-law in the late 1940s, Laurel Edwards recalls what a production it was to cook and clean in anticipation of this visit. The Robinsons were no derelicts and a suitable level of formality was required. 'She' always wore black, old-fashioned clothes and her husband, a 'real old gentleman', was also well dressed when they arrived. They were still out in the forest at the time of the big bushfire in 1950 but eventually returned to Victoria.[58]

Self-Made Families

The McGlashan Family

Bob McGlashan grew up in Yarrigan State Forest where his father cut sleepers. Like many families in the district they spent long years doing back-breaking work in the forests making a modest living from the timber industry. Bert McGlashan, Bob's father, came to Baradine in 1927 as it was booming. The railway had come through, the timber industry was flourishing and would-be farmers were taking up blocks of land in the scrub.

[57] Elaine van Kempen, *A History of the Pilliga Cypress Pine Forests*, SFNSW, 1997, Sydney, pp. 67-68.

[58] Merv and Laurel Edwards, personal communication, May 2002.

Sleeper cutters camped near logging sites in those days and so Bert, his wife Muriel and their two young sons went out to Yarrigan State Forest, south of Baradine, where Bert was the only sleeper cutter in the forest. This is where Bob was born in a tent in 1932, the worst year of the depression. An elderly midwife from Baradine, Mary Ann Holt, came out and delivered him, as she had his elder brother before him. Bob reckons his mother was a tough bush woman. Later Bert built a house from cypress pine and when Bob was three or four years of age the family moved in.

Water is always a problem in these forests. McGlashans used bore water for human consumption and Bert dug a dam near the house to provide water for the stock. Muriel had a vegetable garden and water from the dam was transported by horse and slide to the house for this. Possums often ate the fruit and vegetables, however, before the family could get to them. Not far from the house a paddock of wheat was planted. This has now regenerated and cypress pine trees have grown up in the last 45 years. The McGlashans had dairy cows to provide them with milk. Bob remembers one particular cow named 'Eggcup' because it was said she yielded only an eggcup of milk each day.

i

Figure 7: McGlashan children in Yarrigan State Forest, c.1930s. Source: Bob McGlashan.

As children Bob and his two elder brothers rode pushbikes, along roads and tracks and the open, flat forest land. Bob hunted foxes and rabbits, which he also trapped in fallen logs. He made his first serious money from selling rabbt skins. There were no wild pigs in the area; these were introduced in the 1960s. At age 11 or 12 years of age he was routinely using firearms to hunt.

His education - typical of the time and place - was firstly at a subsidised school, named Hillview school, then when the school 'fizzled out' he did correspondence and finally attended the school at Bugaldie.[59]

The site where the family lived in Yarrigan State Forest was inspected. A kurrajong tree that Muriel planted still grows on the site of the house, where there are remains of a cement slab, probably for a laundry/bathroom and some brick foundations [a fireplace?]. The McGlashans stripped off the useful parts of the house when they were leaving to use in the construction of their next home. The ruins of a shed where the car was housed can be seen and ten metres from the house site is the old chook yard. Remains of the fence, that once surrounded the house, stand in some places.

The dam is still there but the Forestry Commission enlarged it, as it did with most of the dams in the forest, some years ago.

[59] Bob McGlashan, , interview with Pauline Curby, 15 February 2002.

In 1952 the family left the forest to try their luck on a farm. They worked hard as always and are now the owners of substantial areas of farm and grazing land. This family has been described as one of the few 'self-made' families in the Pilliga.[60]

The Frost Family

This is how the Frost family of Gilgandra could also be described. In the early 20th century when news reached George Henry Frost in Cootamundra that Goonoo Forest was opening up for sleeper cutting, he decided to 'give it a go'. He had heard about this extensive forest area and knew from old timers that girders for bridge construction had been cut from there as early as the 1850s. Frost had owned a property but had been forced out of farming by the 1890s depression, so the family had nothing to lose. Therefore his eldest son Earle William Locksley 'Bill' Frost (1891-1968) was sent, at the age of about 14, to Goonoo with family friend, Arthur Wilson, to investigate.

They travelled in a horse and dray to Balladoran and found that they were only two among a crowd of more than 2000 sleeper cutters mustered ready to make an assault on the forest. Bill and Arthur made enquiries, obtained licences, acquired a set of tools and began cutting sleepers. When George Frost and the rest of the family arrived a few months later, Bill was on his way to becoming a seasoned sleeper cutter.

Figure 8: Grace Frost's oven on the site of the Frost family camp, Goonoo State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

As the timber was cut out the sleeper cutters moved, first to Ranter's Creek and then ever onwards, shifting eastward through the forest. This process continued until 1914 and then, Graham Frost (b. 1927) explains, 'Dad decided that he would go and have a piece of the Germans'. He was soon on a boat to Egypt and landed in Gallipoli on 26 April 1915. When he returned he worked in Sydney doing post-army training as a motor mechanic. He had contracted malaria in Palestine and this flared up in the humidity of Sydney so he returned to the dryer climate of the bush.

Bill Frost went back to the game he knew best - cutting sleepers - first at Balladoran and Mendooran and later in the 'virgin scrub' of Binnaway. He met his future wife, Grace, there and they married in 1925. Later they tried farming at Orange, but after deciding during the depression that he could not take any more 'starvation on the land' he went back to sleeper cutting where he would at least have a fixed income. Eventually the family set up camp in Goonoo State Forest in 1939 to cut sleepers. They remained there from 1939 till 1945.

[60] David Johnston, personal communication, May 2002.

The family and all their possessions were moved on a horse wagon to a campsite near No. 2 Bore where there was a plentiful supply of water. His horse team was put on agistment on a nearby property as Bill Frost still hoped he would eventually return to farming. A 'comfortable dwelling' consisting of tents and a kitchen was set up at the campsite. Although there was no power or flushing toilet, this was not considered strange, as most rural families in those days had no better facilities. Bill made things as snug as he could for his wife. There were comfortable chairs and tables and the floor covering was a substance called 'malthoid' - a black bituminised felt product – 'it was black and it was cheap'. This was put straight on the levelled ground and the tent was pitched over it. The Frost family did not have an occupation permit for their camp in the forest because it was understood that forest workers - whether they were beekeeping or sleeper cutting - had the right to camp near their work.

After a little prompting from his mother, Graham decided to establish a vegetable garden near the bore with its plentiful supply of water. First he 'scrounged' wire netting because

> *there were rabbits two feet thick over the country. You had to kick them out the way as you were walking around. It was as bare as a board.*

He then

> *scrounged up a few shillings, bought packets of seeds and in no time at all we had more vegetables than we could eat. It was absolutely fantastic to be able to go to the garden and pick ripe vegies. The melons were particularly nice in the summer time on the hot days.*

As there was no power and kerosene fridges were unreliable they kept their watermelons in a bush shed in wet bags and, Graham recalls, 'on a hot day they were delicious'. Planting this garden was something 'personal' that gave him a sense of achievement, and he considers that this experience was 'education for future life'. Young Elaine Green travelling round the forest with her foreman father, Bill, used to notice this garden and wonder if anyone lived permanently in the vicinity.

Graham Frost missed a lot of his early schooling because of his family moving. When the family lived in the forest he did correspondence under his father's supervision. The two of them would go out together to wherever Bill was cutting sleepers each morning. Graham did his schoolwork while his father worked and every so often Bill would call out to him to come and help him 'back a tree down'. Then he might get him to put the billy on and they would sit, a companionable pair, eating their lunch together. At about 4 pm he would pack his school work into a box, stash the food away, put the horse in the cart and, 'I'd drive over in the forest and pick him up ready to go home'.

When Graham finished school in 1941 at the age of fourteen the Manpower Department, in charge of the workforce during the war, directed him to become a sleeper cutter. He was issued with a licence, a ration book and an identity card that had to be carried during the war years. He then opened an account at McMahon's General Store at Mendooran and

> *selected a broad axe, a cross cut saw, an American axe, a sledgehammer and wedges. That was the kit. Then I started cutting sleepers in father's footsteps.*

The account was paid off when he got his first cheque for £34. As his muscles built up and his strength and skill increased so did his earnings. His next cheque was for £70. At fourteen he was a big lad and could pick up a hundredweight of chaff and put it on his shoulder or carry a 180 pound sewn bag of wheat. Nevertheless he found sleeper cutting laborious work: 'If you didn't work you didn't eat.'[61]

---

[61] Graham Frost, interview with Pauline Curby, 26 May 2002.

Very little is left to indicate where the family lived during these years - just a few depressions where rubbish was deposited and Grace Frost's old oven and a couple of her bread tins still lie in the grass. Although Bill Frost never did return to farming, his son Graham, after a number of successful years in the beekeeping industry, bought a property in the 1970s that is still in the family.

Our home, our work and our lives

Wooleybah

Wooleybah sawmill village, the site of the Underwood family's cypress pine mill, is a unique complex in Pilliga West State Forest. The Underwood family have a 5-hectare occupation permit in the forest where the village is. The mill complex, surrounded by workers' cottage and with a lonely grave over the creek, is silent now. There are two larger houses in the settlement. One belongs to the Underwoods and the other was at one time the teacher's residence, and prior to that it was the forestry foreman's residence where, Walter Cornwell, the first forest foreman resided. It is not the standard Forestry Commission foreman's house, however. This suggests that it may have already been on the site before the Forestry Commission was established. Before her marriage Mary Underwood and her mother used to travel through Wooleybah on their way to Coonamble, and she recalled a house there.

Figure 9: Former teacher's/forest foreman's residence, Wooleybah Village (Pilliga West State Forest). Source: Pauline Curby.

Mills were built in the bush in the days before transport was fast and efficient because it was easier to move milled timber than logs. This became usual as the timber near towns such as Baradine was cut out and timbergetters had o move further out in order to get supplies. Then as transport improved in the post-war years, the little mill villages in the forest became a thing of the past and mills tended to be located in towns again. This mill and the former Ceelnoy mill located in the same forest are exceptions in that they both operated until the 1980s and the 1990s respectively.

Jack and Tom Underwood senior ran sawmills in a number of locations before they established one in the 1920s at Rocky Creek in Euligal State Forest. Tom Underwood relates how his father moved from Rocky Creek in the 1920s, then to a mill at Euligal, the site of which was located during fieldwork. In the 1930s the family moved to Wooleybah and this is where they were when Tom was born in 1936. In January 1935 the Forestry Commission issued a 5-hectare

occupation permit for Wooleybah mill site west of Deadman's Creek.[62] Tom's father died in 1941, and his mother then managed the mill in partnership with her brother-in-law, operating under the name 'Underwood Brothers'. Tom recalls that although his uncle was involved and there were always foremen employed, his mother did all the books, managed the men, and did a 'damn good job of it'. She retained her active role till 1953 when Tom left school. He then worked at the mill, as was expected. Uncle Jack Underwood lived at Rocky Creek but after the mill there burnt down in 1953 it was proposed that the family run a combined operation at Kenebri. Tom and his mother resisted this, and in 1955 Tom's family took Wooleybah, Jack took Kenebri and the partnership was dissolved. Tom Underwood junior and his mother Mary Underwood now ran the mill.

Technology came slowly to the Pilliga and it was not unusual up to the 1960s, for sawmills in the district to use steam – Gwabegar and Baradine mils were the exceptions. When Tom Underwood junior started working at Wooleybah they had only small 5-ton trucks and they loaded with horses until the 1960s. Tom comments that 'we had two fellows cutting with an axe until they retired'. This was despite the fact that Tom bought them power saws. One old bloke, Norman Wartley (an Aboriginal man), would not use it. 'He was a beautiful axeman', Tom recalls, 'but he was a funny man when he was drunk.' At other times he was a 'quiet gentleman'. Another 'character' in the forest in those days was Arthur Cooper from Kenebri who used to camp in his A-model Ford car. He too cut with a saw, but he later changed to a power saw. Logs for the mill were snigged using draught horses that were kept in the bush. Victor Cook owned them and supplied them on a contract basis. He would snig the logs and then load these by rolling them up two skids with a rope and a chain.

Tom Underwood's early schooling was at Wooleybah. It was very handy, as he just had to walk across the road to the little school. Even if he were hurt he still had to go, 'they would pick me up and put me in a billycart and wheel me over'. There were usually about nine to twelve kids at the school and it was a battle to keep the numbers up so the school could stay open. Once it closed and he did correspondence for 12 months. Most of the children at the school were mill workers' children, although some came from nearby properties. They always had single teachers until 'we built that little house – the teacher's residence - and then there were married teachers until the mill closed.'

Prior to the erection of this school there had been another little school near the Forestry foreman's house. Wooleybah had been a subsidised school, which means that because there were insufficient pupils to warrant the establishment of a state school the parents were entirely responsible for its operation. In 1937 as the number of pupils, children of workers at the mill, had increased to 20, an application for a provisional school was made. The NSW Department of Education gave approval for this to be established at the end of the year. By becoming a provisional school Wooleybah was now eligible for a school building provided by the Department of Education. In September 1941 a building that was no longer needed was transferred from Talama to Wooleybah. This building remains on the site and another has been added in later years.[63]

Tom remembers how the forest was quite open when he was a child. 'You could shoot all day and never run out of rabbits'. Round Wooleybah there were a lot of warrens and paddocks were virtually moving [with rabbits]. 'The scrub never had them as thickly'. The term 'Pilliga scrub' was always used, not 'forest'. Tom remembers the impact of myxomatosis and what agony this was for the rabbits.

[62] SFNSW file, ?

[63] Wooleybah School file, SRNSW.

As kids, Tom recalls, 'We rode for miles. Everybody had a pushbike. We rode around all day and all night – if it was a moonlight night'. They would sometimes ride to Kenebri or Gwabegar. 'We would all go together. It was a good environment really'.

Church services were sometimes held at Wooleybah in the early days, but mostly they attended church in Kenebri, which was a 'good little settlement in those days'. The hall there served as a church and it had a range of shops, including an illegal bottle shop. A truck was sent in every Friday from Wooleybah for supplies and the timber from the mill was loaded at Kenebri at the railway siding. There were a lot of sawmills in this part of the Pilliga.

There were short-term workers at the mill but also a nucleus of permanent employees, one of whom - Victor Cook - stayed for 50 years. Several generations of some families worked there. All the workers drank, Tom recalls. 'We've had some funny times out there'. Some workers 'challenged the whole place all night'. Their wives would come to Tom's mother on these occasions and Mary would put them to bed and tell them to 'forget him and let him roar and rant all night'. Tom reiterates, however that 'mostly they [the workers] were very good. They were funny. They never blew that much. They're hard workers. They're goers'.

The mill was never a unionised workplace. Tom says that if there is a problem they can come and abuse him. Tom has worked all his life with some workers and some are the sons of former workers. 'They don't work *for* me; we work together'.

Twice - in 1960 and 1962 - the mill was destroyed by fire. On each occasion it was rebuilt and remained working until it ceased operation in the mid-1990s. Tom remembers the first fire in 1960 that started when some coals dropped out of the steam engine, and how they stood silently and watched it burn in the moonlight. It took two years to rebuild, and they worked for quite awhile without a roof. Finally it was finished – including an elevator [conveyor belt] for the scantling. Tom heard the news of the second fire when he was in Sydney in 1962. A builder called 'Chips' Walsh rebuilt Wooleybah sawmill after this fire.[64] There is nothing in the existing mill left from the 1930s structure, although the old steam engines are still standing there. After the 1960 fire they changed to a little diesel plant and then after the 1962 fire electricity was installed. Steam power was used until 1960; then diesel power and finally electric power was connected in 1963.

In 1965 Underwoods bought the mill at Gwabegar and later Wilbur Wangman's mill at Kenebri (in about 1968) and transferred the licence from Kenebri to Gwabegar.

'Things were very brisk' when they bought the mill at Gwabegar, but within six months one mill was closed. Wooleybah shut down temporarily at this time but did not close permanently until the 1990s.

Underwoods were 'in the cypress game' and never milled ironbark. In the 1950s 90% of the flooring market in Sydney was cypress pine. 'We did nothing but flooring – basically'. They used to cut four different sizes of flooring and sometimes six were cut out of big logs – weatherboards. Tom tells stories of fellows coming up with 'port loads of money wanting to take it [timber] off your hands'. This was a 'particularly buoyant time'. This good market fell off in the mid-1970s with the introduction of concrete slabs; then particleboard flooring was introduced. Now, however, the cypress market has revived and it is stronger than he has ever seen it. He considers they do a better job as the timber used to be milled green, but now they dry the timber and dress it differently. It is packed and marketed – the industry even has a 'strategic plan'.

The Wooleybah mill closed following the retirement of Tom's uncle, Dan Casey, who was managing it while Tom was at Gwabegar. When he left they did not have a suitable foreman so they decided to mechanise Gwabegar and close Wooleybah. Colin Head, from Ceelnoy, leased

[64] Tom Underwood, interview with Pauline Curby, 31 May 2002.

Wooleybah for a few years before it finally closed a couple of years ago. Some of the mill workers still live at Wooleybah and with Tom they travel to his mill at Gwabegar together each day.

Timber has been a 'great industry to work in', Tom considers, and he has mostly had 'good people working with us. We have improved the scrub. It's a great place to work'. Wooleybah was a 'real community – a wonderful place … there was a million acres of forest around us'.[65]

A Forest Foreman - Tom Nangle

Throughout his working life Tom Nangle never 'went out of the timber game. That was my life and I made it my life', he says. Tom and his wife Dorrie live in a retirement village in Gilgandra and we drove out to Breelong, Eura and Lincoln State Forests on a fine late May afternoon so he and Dorrie could show me Tom's 'country'.

Tom Nangle, born in Queensland in 1914, came to the Pilliga in 1923 as a child. At this time, he recalls, the 'Pilliga scrub was opening up'. Tom was at school in Baradine when the first train came through to Gwabegar in 1923, and he remembers people coming out of the scrub that day to witness the event. Baradine in 1923 'would have surprised anyone', Tom recalls. He remembers six sawmills in the district and a 'good big school'. Apparently 'great football was played'. In fact all the little places nearby had their own schools and football teams. Tom's father was busy six days a week – in Baradine and Biddon - carting timber by horse wagon from the mills to the train station. He also carted timber out to houses under construction on properties and in the mountains.

Tom's father had 'big baldy Queensland horses. You couldn't beat a Queensland horse', Tom recalls. The family also had a riding horse, and in 1926 when they decided to leave Baradine and move south to Biddon this was left behind to join the brumbies out in the Pilliga scrub.

Tom's father worked hard till he had a serious accident. Then Tom, at the age of thirteen, became the family breadwinner. There were eleven children to support, and in those days, Tom recalls, when you 'stopped work you stopped eating'. The family were by this time living at Biddon renting an old house in the village. Here there were a number of big sawmills, as there were in most of the little hamlets in the district. Biddon was a lively place with five tennis courts, two cricket grounds, a refreshment shop and a dance hall. 'An old bloke started a plonk shop', Tom recalls.

When Tom was 20 in 1934 he began sleeper cutting, and worked with timber getter, Bill Voysey who passed his skills on to Tom. Then eventually, 'I married his daughter [Dorrie] and he never minded.' Tom eventually cut timber for all the bridges between Biddon and Tooraweenah. Biddon State Forest was at its peak at this time and he knew every acre of it.

Tom maintains he had no trouble surviving during the depression but admits that it was a 'tight turnout. You had to be careful'. Dorrie comments that a lot of people grew their own vegetables and aimed to be as self-supporting as possible.

In 1936, at the invitation of 'Mr Brennan' from Dubbo, Tom joined the Forestry Commission. He was in charge of a gang of men in Breelong State Forest and they put in all the roads and 'made them like they are today', Tom notes proudly. At this time the Forestry Commission supervised timber cutting on extensive areas of timber reserves as well as in state forests. Up till that time foresters had used horses but Tom was one of a new generation and drove a Forestry vehicle.

Sleeper cutters had to be supervised and told where to cut. 'I got on pretty good with them – being an ex-sleeper cutter', Tom recalls. He also maintained cordial relations with sawmill owners. During his time of employment Tom was always consulted when workers were

[65] Tom Underwood, interview with Pauline Curby, 31 May 2002.

recruited locally for the Forestry Commission but he maintains, he did not give jobs to his relations – they weren't interested. When World War II began Tom tried to enlist but like many men in essential industries was not allowed to.

In the post-war years he supervised the planting of experimental plots and was involved in cypress pine surveys as far afield as Walgett. Fire fighting and prevention were also part of Tom's duties. He remembers vividly how in the 1940s he drove stakes into the tall tree at the Lincoln forest headquarters that served as a fire lookout tower for many years.[66] He organised the platform that was built on top so that whoever kept watch could do this with some degree of comfort. He took his turning scaling to the top even though he did not like heights. The old tree was chopped down after he retired in 1974 and, Tom maintains, this would never have happened if he had been there. He had a 'la France' tanker and sometimes fought fires in the Pilliga scrub, and on one occasion in 1950, he was out there 'day and night'. Dorrie will never forget how he came home with eyes like 'pools of blood'.

Tom has fond memories of the forest headquarters in Breelong [Lincoln] SF. He was often there all week and would return home at the weekend. Sometimes Dorrie would come out to stay. She didn't mind it as long as she had Tom with her, but she found camping in a tent an ordeal. Tom on the other hand didn't mind camping out, 'but I'd sooner be home though'. He was completely at ease in the forest and could find his way through the maze of tracks and breaks without ever referring to a map. Even as a youngster Tom was undeterred by loneliness, and when driving his father's horse team he often camped out in the forest. If a storm were brewing Dorrie Nangle recalls how her father used to say, 'Poor little Tommy is out there by himself'.

Tom did not mind being by himself in the 'forest', as he says, 'I enjoyed my years in Forestry because I liked the game and I liked the forest.'[67]

Figure 10: Fig tree, part of former orchard at forest foreman's house site, Goonoo State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

A Forest Foreman's Daughter - Elaine Cox

Elaine Cox (b.1931) lived in Goonoo State Forest as a child, and loved the life there. She cannot recall exactly when her family moved to the Forestry camp to live, but it was when she was aged about 10, early in World War II. Her father, William Henry Green, (but 'everyone called him Bill') was forest foreman and they resided in a forest cottage at what is now called Riley's Dam, (No. 1 Bore) four kilometres from Mogriguy. Their address was 'Forest Cottage, Mogriguy'. It was never lonely living in the forest as there were usually four to six men working under Bill Green's direction. The workers lived in tents and, Elaine recalls, 'fraternised with us children. They were nice old gentlemen.'

Prior to moving in Goonoo Bill Green had worked at Wongarbon cutting sleepers, and fellow sleeper cutter Graham Frost comments how adept Green was with a broad axe. Tim Gleeson had held the position before Green at Goonoo. Elaine Cox recalls, 'Now he was an old man,

[66] Tom refers to this as the 'Breelong forest headquarters'.

[67] Tom Nangle, interview with Pauline Curby, 1 June 2002.

and there was nothing done. Absolutely nothing done in the forest in his time.'[68] State Forest records show that he was in fact loosing his eyesight in 1938 and that the appointment of a younger man as forest foreman was needed.[69]

When Bill Green began working in Goonoo there was only a tin hut with a skillion at No. 1 Bore. Soon a complex consisting of a 3-bedroom weatherboard cottage and outbuildings surrounded by timber fencing was constructed. An ex-army building was later also erected. It was used for storage and served as Bill's office. Elaine's 18th birthday party was held there in 1949. Another shed housed a blacksmith's shop and was used to store equipment.

Under Bill Green's regime No. 1 Bore almost took on the appearance of a small farm. A paddock of oats was planted and a house cow kept the family in milk. Bill also had poddy calves and ran six to eight head of cattle. He leased a paddock at Mogriguy and used to 'spell' the cattle there, but they mostly grazed on the forest – when there was sufficient grass for them to feed on. The family also kept pigs which Elaine helped her father slaughter. Black pudding was made from the dried blood. Fig, plum, apricot and peach trees grew round the house and there was also a flower garden. 'Daddy and my Mother were great vegie gardeners', Elaine recalls.

Figure 11: Members of Green family moving into forest foreman's house, Goonoo State Forest, c.1940. Source: Elaine Cox.

Bores, operated manually and requiring a winch to draw the water were already in the forest when the Greens came to live there. These probably dated from the early 1920s when the Forestry Commission began establishing a strategic network of infrastructure in their larger forests. Some may have dated from earlier times and been put in by leaseholders. Rainwater, collected in galvanised iron tanks, was used for clothes washing but bore water was good enough for the more utilitarian tasks such as watering the garden.

The forest camp was a busy place at this time. A tennis court was constructed and they had tennis parties. 'We had a lovely life. It is hard to believe how much things have changed.' Elaine and her sister used to ride their pushbikes four kilometres to the village of Mogriguy to attend school where Elaine completed her Intermediate Certificate by correspondence. Children at this school were mostly farmers' children.

Under Bill Green's direction 'progress was made' and, Elaine considers that 'things really boomed.' Forest workers carried out track maintenance, clearing and felling of timber and then, using a mechanical grader, created what were known as 'breaks'. Another important part of their work in this low rainfall area was creek maintenance.

Fire prevention was an important part of Bill Green's duties and, Elaine Cox recalls, that he was a 'firm believer' in 'back burning'. When there was a bushfire a mechanical 'La France' tanker was filled with water from the Government dam at Mogriguy or any dam close to the fire, and rakes and hoes were used to make firebreaks. 'It was hard work.' At the junction of the

[68] Elaine Cox, interview with Pauline Curby, 11 February 2002.

[69] SFNSW file 00124, held at Pennant Hills.

Mendooran and Mogriguy Roads Bill Green built a wooden fire tower that was useful in times of bushfire. It is still standing and Elaine and I had a picnic lunch there in May 2002. She thinks it was constructed in the early 1940s but State Forest records suggest that it may have been a little earlier than this.[70]

A single-line telephone line was built from Number One Bore to Number Two Bore where a hut was located. Men camped there but the presence of a garden near the bore suggested to Elaine that someone might have lived there permanently.

Bill Green's most important task was the supervision of sleeper cutters. Anyone wanting to purchase timber for railway sleepers would obtain a permit [sleeper pass] from the local Forestry Office and would then be told what to cut. Bill Green, as did all forestry foremen, marked sleepers with his initialled hammer to indicate that these had been legally cut. Nevertheless timber theft was common and Green sometimes took photos of vehicle tracks to be used as evidence.

Bill Green continued working in Goonoo State Forest until he handed in his marking hammer, as required, upon his retirement in the 1960s. 'He was a very busy and dedicated man', his daughter recalls.

A Forest Foreman - Buster Davies

John 'Buster' Davies grew up in Kyogle on the New South Wales north coast, and came to Baradine in 1947, as a teenager when his father acquired a local hotel licence. For a time Buster worked for Pincham's sawmill in Baradine and then in 1954 after his marriage, he went out logging in the forest with his wife. 'For two and a half years I cut logs, working seven days a week, until I had enough money to build a house', he recalls. He was contracted to cut ironbark for bridge timber and then built bridges that are still in use. He notes, as do most local people, how open the forest was in the 1950s compared to the present. Rabbits nipped cypress seedlings before they could grow effectively, thus preventing this timber from regenerating. Despite the fact that myxomatosis had begun to have an impact on rabbit numbers, they were still a problem.

Later Buster became a Forestry Commission employee and did TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) work. This involved thinning cypress pine, which would otherwise grow too thick, with an axe. Ironbark was also thinned. 'We'd cut the smaller ones down, and we'd ringbark the bigger fellas. It was hard yakka that.' The Forestry Commission, Buster explained, was trying to remove ironbark from forests that were predominantly cypress pine, and attempting to eliminate cypress pine from forests that were designated as mainly ironbark. This was despite the fact the two species grew 'hand in hand'. This policy of encouraging a monoculture of even-aged stands of trees has since been abandoned. Buster also recalls experimental plots in Yarrigan and Cumbil State Forests that aimed to ascertain the optimum spacing needed to allow cypress pine trees to grow better. In 1959-60 he became involved in marketing cypress pine and ironbark.

Supervising sleeper cutters was one of Buster's responsibilities. They had to be watched carefully so they would not take more than their quota of timber. These were, Buster maintains, 'the highest paid men in the district for the amount of hours they worked.' They toiled in the mornings only, he maintains, then slept, drank or played cards in the afternoon.

Buster recalls hearing stories of the 1930s from old timers about how this was the busiest time in the district for sleeper cutters. Nevertheless, as he points out, due to advancements in technology, 30 sleeper cutters in the 1960s could do the same volume of work that about 100 could manage in the 1930s. He considers that the 1960s was when most timber was felled in the

[70] SFNSW file, Goonoo SF cover sheet, held at Pennant Hills.

Pilliga forests. The first chainsaw Buster ever saw in late 1949 had to be operated with two hands and was quite dangerous.

A number of migrants, or 'new Australians' as they were then called, worked in the Pilliga forests in the early 1950s. Many of these migrants were told, when they arrived in Sydney, that there was work in the forests out west. So they immediately caught a train and arrived in the Pilliga to begin work as soon as possible. They were good workers, but found the heat difficult to bear. People were tolerant and accepting of these migrants, especially the Poles and Yugoslavs. Buster, however, found the 'Ukrainians were hard to get along with.'[71]

Buster tells stories about catching rabbits and pig hunting, and tales about the 'characters' who lived out in the forest. One man , for example, drank methylated spirits; Ted Williams, an unlicensed kangaroo shooter, who made his own bullets and Ollie Ogle who made fishing rods and drove a T-model Ford. One of the most colourful characters is Buster Davies himself, a former Forestry Commission employee in Baradine who, even before he retired, had become a living legend.[72]

Ceelnoy Mill

Ceelnoy Mill site is located in Pilliga West State Forest. Until the early 1980s this was a working mill village. The mill was surrounded by housing for the workers and mill owners. A license for this mill, located on a 10-acre site, was issued in 1937 to Thomas Kennedy. In 1946 the Head family bought the mill from Kennedy Brothers, and members of this family operated it until the early 1980s. Family members as well as workers lived on the site and in the early 1980s the Forestry Commission reported that there were six cottages/houses, some still occupied, on the site in addition to a couple of dwellings that were in a state of disrepair. By 1984 the Forestry Commission, wanting to 'clean up' the site, were anxious for the inhabitants to leave, for buildings to be demolished and for old car bodies and other items to be removed.[73]

Figure 12: Ruins of Ceelnoy Mill, Pilliga West State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

The Head family wished to restart mill operations, however. One of them wrote and pleaded that they be allowed to do this and remain at the site where some of the family had lived for 40 years. The letter stated: 'We were brought up at Ceelnoy Mill, it's our home, our work and our lives'.[74] The mill did not resume operations but this statement sums up how many people who

[71] Davies, op. cit.

[72] Joe Daniels, personal communication, May 2002.

[73] SFNSW file ?, held at Pennant Hills.

[74] Ibid.

have lived, worked and played in the forests of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion feel about these places - their forests.

3.2 CHARCOAL BURNING

Origins and Uses

Charcoal is a black porous substance with a high carbon content, made by heating wood or other organic materials, without the contact of air. Charcoal production is one of the oldest human crafts and the correct name of the process - the destructive distillation of wood - is arguably the first true chemical process.[75] During World War II, mainly because of wartime petrol rationing, this process was carried out in a number of forests of the region. Signs of this activity were inspected at a number of sites in Goonoo, Lincoln and Biddon State Forests.

Charcoal Burning in Great Britain & Australia

Early Forest Kilns

The most widespread charcoal burning technique in Great Britain was the traditional earth-covered forest kiln. This technology was introduced in Australia in the 1810s and remained in use (in a limited way) until the 1950s. The comparatively recent abandonment of this technique highlights not only its effectiveness, but also its suitability to the Australian climate and conditions, particularly in an era when transport was poor and forest workers lived in the forest in camps. Kiln sites in both countries were generally reused, as the ground beneath them became conditioned and each subsequent burn was easier to control and produced more reliable results. Kilns were generally sited in areas with natural windbreaks or where a simple break could be easily erected from latticed wood.[76] The cessation of this technology has resulted in few surviving forest kiln sites in NSW forests, although archaeological evidence of them exists (generally covered by forest regrowth).

The development of charcoal burning in NSW

All charcoal was originally produced in the forest (usually in a primitive forest kiln) and carried from there to the place of use. This was due to early charcoal burning methods where the product (charcoal) represented about 15% of the weight of wood required to produce it. It was therefore more economical to carry charcoal than wood.[77] The early forest kilns were replaced by pit kilns in the mid 18th century and although this type of kiln is no longer used in developed countries, it still exists in South Africa. The pit kiln was not used extensively in NSW and a more common method by far was the earth covered heap or *meiler*, which was widely used in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The *meiler* method was the most efficient yet, allowing more control over the burn, faster processing time and produced better quality charcoal than the earlier methods. Furthermore, by-products of the burn (including tars and liquors) were easier to collect.[78]

The *meiler* was used extensively in NSW forests in the early 19th century primarily because they could be easily built from materials at hand. The *meiler* could be easily dismantled at the end of the burning season, or left simply to weather and eventually return to the earth from whence it came. Variations on the *meiler* method were still in use in NSW as late as the 1970s,

---

[75] Kelly, D.W., *Charcoal and Charcoal Burning*, Shire Album 159, Dyfed (Great Britain), 1986, p.3.

[76] Ibid., p. 5.

[77] Ibid., p. 9.

[78] Ibid., p. 9.

for the production of small amounts of charcoal from logging debris. The first brick kilns appeared in Great Britain in the mid-19th century and, although brick kilns were used in NSW at fixed sites, their use was not widespread and they were quickly replaced by wrought iron cylindrical retorts.[79]

The cylindrical retort was developed in France in 1810 and was designed for a fixed burning site only. The quality of both the primary and by-products of burning were dramatically improved by the new method and a portable retort was developed soon after in Germany. This was an ingenious method in which wood was loaded into a metal cylinder, which was then sealed and lowered into a brick chamber incorporating a firebox. After the completion of distillation the cylinder was withdrawn by a travelling hoist system and replaced by a fresh cylinder. The brick chamber remained hot and could therefore be reused immediately for further burns. This type of portable retort remained in use in Great Britain and NSW until the 1960s.[80]

Until the end of the 19th century virtually all charcoal burning in NSW took place in horizontal or vertical cylindrical retorts (at fixed burning sites) or in *meilers* (at temporary sites). If a *meiler* was being used, the charcoal burner's life revolved around the kiln; it required constant maintenance and adjustment until the burn was completed and the charcoal burners camped near the kilns for the duration of the burning season. This often meant several months living in a rough bush camp, each day filled with constant labour of building and maintaining the kilns.

There was very little change in retort designs during this period (apart from the replacement of wrought iron by steel) with the scientific community focussing instead, on the treatment and refining of by-products. In the final years of the 19th century several new designs for tunnel kilns came into use at fixed sites, all of which improved the quality of the products and hastened the burning process thereby increasing output. This was the advent of the batch production plant, with semi-continuous burning throughout the year (rather than the seasonal burning regime associated with earth and forest kilns). Efficiency was improved by burning part of the produced gases under the retorts and researchers turned their attention to the injection of burning gases directly into the wood charge. Batch production charcoal plants were the norm until the 1930s with forest-based charcoal burning becoming increasingly rare.[81]

Figure 13: Charcoal burning site, Goonoo State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

The charcoal burning industry was dramatically transformed in 1937 with the development of the much sought after continuous retort system. From World War II continuous retort systems gradually replaced all the old batch production plants, although forest-based burning by more primitive methods continued to be used in isolated forests. Developments since the 1970s have concentrated on automation, with the process remaining essentially the same. A process that

[79] Ibid., p. 16.

[80] Ibid, pp. 16-19.*

[81] Ibid., pp. 22-25.

once required 24-hour monitoring in a forest camp and was regarded as a skilled craft, can now be controlled remotely and involves very little manual labour.[82]

Charcoal Burning During World War II in the Region's Forests

Ironbark, the predominant species in the Dubbo forests, was burnt to produce charcoal in a number of forests of the district during World War II. It was used as a substitute for petrol, which was rationed during this time and in the immediate post-war years. Goonoo forest foreman Bill Green had a charcoal burner attached to his forestry truck, as did many others at this time.

Forest foreman Tom Nangle knew 'all the blokes' involved in charcoal burning but he had no involvement with this himself. There was one kiln in Biddon, one in Lincoln and three in Goonoo State Forest. The one in Lincoln, near the forest headquarters, continued operating after the others had ceased production. These kilns used what Tom describes as the 'useless' timber - old hardwood logs or box, but not cypress pine which was not a suitable timber for this process. The sawmillers, he believes, would not allow this to be used for charcoal.

Max Priddis and Doug Voysey cleared an area of land in Biddon State Forest in 1940/1943, which became the site for the charcoal burning kilns. Italian and German internees were brought to the forest to attend the kilns and a camp was erected for them there so they could be close to their work. There is ample evidence at this site of charcoal burning but nothing to indicate that a significant number of people once lived here. In addition to the piles of screenings (left over ash from the charcoal burning) that are usually seen at sites such as this, there are also piles of kiln chimneys nearby.

Elaine Cox remembers the Italian 'prisoners of war' (or internees?), in Goonoo State Forest where she lived as a child during the war years. She describes them as 'amiable people' who helped fuel the charcoal fires. Their camp, which consisted of a number of buildings for cooking and accommodation, was also located in the forest. All that is now left are a few concrete slabs almost covered with vegetation and some broken concrete. Gravel that was used to made paths round the camp is still visible at this site and there is scattered rubbish (old tins etc) nearby.

We also located the site of a Forestry Commission kiln not far from Riley's Dam where Elaine and her family lived during these years. She was delighted to find a concrete slab with a deep steel cylinder in the centre. Someone had written in the wet concrete – with a nail perhaps. On one side 'Charcoal Industries Ltd.' was written and on the other 'V. Comber'. Elaine remembered a Forestry Commission employee Vince Comber who worked at this site during the war. She thinks that the cylinder may have housed the tall crane that she remembers on the site. This was probably used to lift the charcoal from the kiln, indicating that this was a fairly large operation.

She also recalls a group of Chinese workers, living in a separate community, who also used to burn charcoal. Together we searched for their campsite, but were unable to find it. The Chinese workers lived in tents, 'not as elaborate as [the living conditions] of the POWs', Elaine recalls. Doug Voysey also clearly remembers a gang of Chinese charcoal burners in the forest at this time. His brother, Bill, a sleeper cutter, was made the foreman after the Chinese workers had threatened to kill their previous 'boss'. Tom Nangle also recalls Chinese workers making charcoal in Goonoo.

Tom notes that Italian internees were located in camps in Breelong, Goonoo and Eumungerie SF and at Wongarbon. They were 'great people' and the Germans were 'pretty good people' too. They loved to buy things in the shop and they liked to have a drink at the hotel. 'None of

[82] Ibid., pp. 25-26.

them grizzled much'. Most of the charcoal kilns have gone because farmers bought them to use as bins for grain.[83]

3.3 BEEKEEPING - A BATTLERS' OPPORTUNITY

Background

The honey bee *(Apis mellifera)* was first successfully introduced to Australia in 1822. Settlers were provided with a source of food and a sweetener - much sought after in the absence of many other foods and few preservatives. Honey bees were also used to pollinate crops, most of which were introduced. It was soon found that Australian flora produced good quantities of nectar, and consequently by the mid 19th century honey bees quickly naturalised throughout Australian native forest systems. As settlers opened up the interior of the continent, they were able to draw stocks of honey bees from the feral population or obtain hives from beekeepers to establish small apiaries, and the Australian honey industry became established[84]

Beekeeping depends on floral resources - nectar and pollen - about 80% of which are produced from native flora. The apiary industry is heavily dependent on public land - state forests, national parks, other conserved forests and stock routes - because it contains the majority of remaining native forest that provides most of the floral resource. It also provides much of the network of apiary sites, which the industry needs to access to harvest the honey flows, which occur irregularly and for short periods in respective districts. Native forests on public lands also provide a protected area for the maintenance of the strength and health of hives.

Figure 14: Abandoned modern apiculture site, Goonoo State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

In order to be successful, beekeepers need to follow the seasons and honeyflows, sometime over large distances. The basic resources - nectar and pollen - are rarely owned by the beekeeper. Beekeeping 'land' takes the form of small apiary sites, which are leased from private landholders or public authorities. Even large commercial beekeepers require and own only small rural allotments of one to five hectares bordering substantial rural towns or cities. One of the skills in beekeeping is to know several months ahead the yield potential of favourable floral resources of nectar and pollen. This kind of knowledge is acquired largely by experience and is often passed from generation to generation. While this is true to a certain extent with regard to the Frost family of Gilgandra, it is also apparent that their use of innovative beekeeping

[83] Tom Nangle, interview with Pauline Curby, 26 May 2002.

[84] http://www.honeybee.com.au/Library/gibsmuir.html

strategies was partly a matter of trial and error and partly derived from their own research. This family after starting in a small way in the mid-1940s eventually became leading honey producers in New South Wales.

A Lucrative Venture

In the 1890s Cootamundra farmer George Henry Frost had a few beehives, and his grandson Graham Frost (b. 1927) recalls how, as children, each year after the timber had blossomed he and his brothers would find a bee's nest and 'fall' it for honey. When they moved and camped near Mendooran where Graham's father was sleeper cutting they continued this practice. No one worried, least of all the kids: 'Bush children in those days did not know what danger was,' Graham comments[85]

In about 1943- the family decided to venture into commercial bee keeping and, Graham says, 'We learnt as we went along.' He read a lot about the subject and found publications such as *Australasian Queen Bees* useful. Soon beekeeping was an important supplement to their main income derived from sleeper cutting in Goonoo State Forest. Although there was a timber shortage at this time, especially softwood needed for hives, they gradually bought equipment and built up their numbers of bees.

Others were joining the industry, and in 1946 Graham helped a beekeeper from Bathurst, Bert Turlie, move his bees to Bathurst on a truck. This was his first experience of migration with the bees. It was a demanding regime: 'Loading bees at sundown, driving all night, unloading the bees, having a brief rest, drive back and get another load.' They moved 13 loads of bees in as many days from Mendooran to Bathurst. The bees produced 'a nice crop of honey' and for Graham and Bert Turlie it was quite a lucrative venture. Prior to this beekeeping had been 'more localised', although some of the 'dairying bee farmers' moved their bees by rail to different locations and some used a horse and buggy. Generally though, Graham notes: 'Bees and horses don't mix'.

The Frost family worked together in the industry. They gradually acquired better trucks and Graham maintains they were at the 'leading edge of finding new country'. West of Cobar and 'down along the Broken Hill line' the Mallee country was pioneered. There are about 15 types of mallee that flower at different times of year in that part of New South Wales:

> *On a good season you can move your bees out there in April and be on continual honey until the following February or March. If everything clicks.*[86]

New areas of the 'Pilliga scrub' were opened up where there had never been hives before. By 1950 they were 'running over 800 hives and producing quite a lot of honey', much of which was packed for export to Germany. 'We were proud of the article we produced', Graham comments[87]

Goonoo State Forest

Apiarists particularly value Goonoo State Forest because of its large size and the haven it provides when agricultural insecticides are used in the area. The industry in this forest has developed over the last 60 years. Graham Frost does not remember beekeeping when he lived there as a child near Number Two Bore. From 1983 and 1996, 103 apiary usage permits were

[85] Graham Frost, interview with Pauline Curby, 26 May 2002.

[86] Ibid.

[87] ibid.

made available in Goonoo State Forest and six beekeepers indicated that they had been using the State forests for 20 to 50 years.[88]

Honey is usually derived from the nectar of numerous plant species. Different flowers produce different quantities, qualities, colours, consistencies and flavours of nectar, in fact, it is this variation in nectar that is responsible for the many different types of honey available. Bees collect nectar from flowers and take it back to their hives, where they convert it into honey by drying it to reduce the moisture content down to 17%, and by adding an enzyme from their saliva that converts the sucrose in nectar into its constituent sugars; glucose and fructose. The bee seals the honeycomb cells containing the honey with wax for storage.

Flowers that depend on bees to pollinate them must be able to attract bees through various methods such as by producing large, brightly coloured flower heads, sweet perfumes, or by exuding sugary nectar from the base of the flower. The secretion of nectar varies considerably throughout the year due to changes in temperature and rainfall. In general, it is the weather conditions during the previous year that influences the quantity of the bloom and the quality of the nectar produced by the flowers.

The plants favoured by beekeepers in the Dubbo forests include:

- Narrow leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*)
- Corky ironbark (*Eucalyptus beyeri*)
- Mugga ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon)*
- Broad leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*)[89]

All the local forests have about 13 or 14 varieties of timber that produce honey of different flavours. In the early days honey was blended indiscriminately and, Graham Frost maintains, the English market was ruined by this practice: 'Any blending should be done by the masters – the bees'.[90]

Graham Frost considers that beekeeping was 'a battlers' opportunity' to acquire assets slowly by building up a gradual income from honey production. This is something that, he considers, someone on wages can do until they 'gradually build it up into a prosperous business'. When he was cutting sleepers Graham made money, but considers that it would have been almost impossible to buy a property, as he and his wife Robin did, with sleeper cutting as his only source of income.

3.4 SLEEPER CUTTING

The start of the railway system in New South Wales in 1855 created an immediate demand for timber. More than 11 000 kilometres of rail lines were constructed between 1870 and 1890 in NSW; by the end of the 19th century, there was over 16 000 kilometres of railway.[91]

In New South Wales, sleepers are laid beneath a double row of steel rail lines and for tramways in Sydney and Newcastle. While the principal demand for sleepers was/is domestic, supplies were also provided to overseas countries including New Zealand, China, India, South Africa and the Phillipines.[92]

---

[88] Doug Sommerville, *Beekeeping in the Dubbo State Forest*, NSW Agriculture, 1997, pp. 2 & 19.

[89] Ibid.

[90] Frost, op. cit.

[91] John Dargavel, *Fashioning Australia's Forest* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1995), 29.

[92] T.C. Grant, History of Forestry in New South Wales 1788 to 1988 (Erskinville, 1989), 228.

The introduction of the swing saw in 1956 allowed a more efficient method of squaring the sleepers in the forest.[93] Prior to the introduction of this technology, most sleepers were hand hewn by sleeper cutters with squaring axes. After tree felling, the process of sleeper cutting is dependant upon the size of the tree. Larger trees require splitting into billets before squaring into sleepers. For smaller trees, the swing saw is able to complete the squaring without the need to split the tree.

Until 1974, the railway sleeper size standard in New South Wales was 8 feet long, 9 inches wide and 4½ inches deep. Larger sleepers, used on main lines, were 9 feet long, 10 inches wide and 5 inches deep. Following the change to the metric system in 1974, sleeper sizes became 2.44 metres long, 230 millimetres wide and 130 millimetres deep.[94]

Figure 15 Sleeper dump, Coolah Tops National Park. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

Sleeper cutting was undertaken throughout New South Wales, including the Hunter River region, Eden and the central-west. Depending on the region, timbers felled for sleepers included woolybutt, blackbutt, ironbark and grey box. At the start of the 20th century, there were over 300 men working between Narrabri and Pilliga cutting sleepers on Crown Land south of the main road from Cuttabri to Pilliga.[95] The main delivery point for the ironbark sleepers was Wee Waa Station.

J. Lawrence, Secretary of the Western Sleeper-Getters and Carters Association in Gilgandra reported that in 1907 about 250 to 300 men in the local area supplied 100 000 ironbark sleepers and 4000 girders for the Railway Commission. In the Dubbo region, timber for sleepers mainly came from the forest reserves of Balladoran, Goonoo and Eumungery. Approximately 160 000 ironbark sleepers were produced annually.

Gilgandra identity Doug Voysey (b. 1925) began sleeper cutting when he left school at 14 to help his father, also a sleeper cutter. He worked under his father's brand for some time before obtaining his own license. He held this for 52 years and was eventually the longest serving licensed sleeper cutter in New South Wales. It was demanding work but Doug boxed and ran to keep fit.[96]

---

[93] Ibid., 228-229.

[94] Ibid., 228.

[95] *Royal Commission of Inquiry on Forestry*, 1907, in Grant ibid., 230-231.

[96] Doug Voysey, personal communication, May 2002.

3.5 SWAGMEN

The Jolly Swagman - legend or fact

Note: the following section is based on the recent work of Richard Waterhouse. Prof. Waterhouse's contribution is gratefully acknowledged. All photographs are courtesy of the Waltzing Matilda Society of NSW.

The Australian swagman is as much a part of the Australian cultural identity as bushrangers and drovers. Yet the swagman is an elusive figure, best represented in story and song by our most beloved bush poets and largely absent from the official historical record. Passing references by 19th and early 20th century pastoralists to swagmen and sundowners give little detail on the men themselves (and they were exclusively men). Until recently, they have remained a largely faceless, nameless band of wanderers, linked more to bush mythology than historical fact, as typified in Banjo Paterson's famous poem, *The Swagman's Rest*. However, a recent study of 19th century pastoralism by Richard Waterhouse reveals the complex social background to the emergence of the swagman in rural NSW.

Waterhouse suggests that:

> *The itinerant nature of much of the rural workforce in the second half of the nineteenth century was also reflected in the lives of the sundowners and swagmen, lives that demonstrated, in the words of the Englishman E. C. Buley, 'the uncertainty, and precarious nature of pastoral employment in Australia...*[97]

Figure 16: Sundowners on the road, c.1920. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

The sundowners travelled from station to station ostensibly looking for work, but usually contrived to arrive at sunset, too late for work but still in time to demand rations of flour and meat. This suggests a certain deliberation on the part of the sundowners, at odds with the commonly accepted characterisation of the industrious, independent swagman. On large stations dozens of sundowners congregated every night and managers spent hundreds of pounds annually on provisions to feed them.[98]

Swagmen, who travelled the roads and tracks from station to station in search of casual employment, represent a very different band of men. They were described as '...industrious and versatile...' and 'the mainstay of the Australian labour employer', men who could be paid on a casual and seasonal basis to undertake a range of manual jobs including shearing, harvesting and drafting.[99] What differentiated swagmen from other itinerant labourers, was their permanent status as travellers, regardless of the season or work opportunities. Many station owners and managers provided food and lodgings in specially built huts to sundowners and swagmen for two reasons. In the first instance, they offered hospitality as a defensive measure, for sundowners and sometimes swagmen who were refused accommodation and rations were notorious for burning down fences and woolsheds, slaughtering sheep and leaving open the property gates. In other words, the open-handedness of the pastoralists was less a reflection of paternalism, than a defence

---

[97]. E. C. Buley, *Australian Life in Town and Country*, George Newnes, London, 1905, p. 51

[98]. Hyles, *Australasian Pastoralists' Review*, 15 May 1891, p. 55; Percy Clarke, *The 'New Chum' in Australia or The Scenery, Life and Manners of Australians in Town and Country*, J. S. Virtue and Co., London, p. 198

[99]. E. C. Buley, *Australian Life in Town and Country*, p. 51; *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 28 June 1879

Figure 17: A swagman near Narrabri, c.1915. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

against terrorism.[100] Secondly, the squatters offered accommodation and rations as a means of securing a labour supply because if they didn't the swagmen simply didn't call in to see if work was available.[101]

However, in the 1880s and 1890s this labour system began to break down. The ranks of the sundowners and swagmen were swollen by thousands of jobless men from the city, desperately in search of employment. For small scale farmers they remained a useful source of labour, but they were viewed with a suspicion that had been absent from the earlier swagman/pastoralist relations. The financial strain on the pastoralists, faced with feeding and accommodating large numbers of swagmen every night, were enormous. At the same time, the 'migrants' from urban areas lacked the skills of the bush labourers and so there was little advantage, in any case, in providing them with hospitality.[102] Moreover, as relations between employers and workers soured in the aftermath of the bitter shearers' strikes of the 1890s the pastoralists, rather than waiting for swagmen to turn up, began to obtain labour though registry offices in the capital cities. This effectively made relations between wage earners and their bosses even more impersonal, which was cogently illustrated in the actions of pastoralists in pulling down the swagmen's huts, and providing either a minimum of rations, or more often, none at all.[103]

Swagmen continued to travel the roads of NSW well into the 20th century, although their numbers dwindled with every passing decade. By the 1940s they had virtually disappeared from the Australian rural landscape and their lifestyle was increasingly romanticised by poets and the popular press. Because of their itinerant lifestyle, swagmen left little behind to mark their passing. With the demolition of virtually all the swagmen's huts at the end of the 19th century, their physical presence in the landscape had been erased.

Swagmen's Huts

As noted above, the vast majority of 19th and early 20th century swagmen's huts were demolished after the depression. Few records survive to tell us about this once common structure, but a general impression can be gained through anecdotal evidence and surviving photographs/drawings. In the 19th century, timber slab or sometimes bark huts were the norm, usually comprising a single room with a cooking hearth at one end. Although the accommodations were spartan, the huts provided a place to shelter from the weather, warm ones body and a respite from the rigours of life on the road. Waterhouse may well be right in his analysis of the reasons behind the proliferation of such huts, but they are also an indicator of a more courteous era.

With the turn of the 19th century, timber had become a scarce and valued commodity in some areas, felled for a loftier purpose than a mere swagmen's hut. Throughout the first decades of the 20th century the bulk of such huts were simple timber framed dwellings, still following the one-room plan, but clad in corrugated iron rather than more valuable timber. Corrugated iron was cheap, durable, readily available and easily transportable. Most farmers had stores of

[100]. Buley, p. 51; Trollope, *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 13 January 1894, pp. 69-70

[101]. Greenup, *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 22 August 1906, p. 186

[102]. Greenup, *Australasian Pastoralists' Review*, 15 September 1894; *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 27 February 1886, 16 April 1887, p. 186

[103]. *Australasian Pastoralists' Review*, 15 September 1894; *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 22 August 1906; Hyles, p. 55

galvanised iron on their properties, for the repair of farm buildings, and it was an obvious choice for all rudimentary structures. The swagmen, however, suffered as a consequence as galvanised iron has very poor insulating properties when compared with timber. Unbearably hot in summer and insufferably cold in winter the swagmen's hut was no longer a place to linger; many fell into disrepair through lack of use and pastoralists ceased erecting new ones. Waterhouse is unsure how many swagmen's huts survive today but he is certain that the total, state-wide, would be less than 20 with virtually none of these recorded. In this context the discovery of a swagmen's hut at Goran State Forest (Gunnedah Shire) is one of the most significant discoveries of this study.

The passing of the swagmen ended an important and poignant chapter in the social history of NSW. They have joined the bushrangers in the cultural iconography of Australia, affectionately portrayed by poets and bush balladeers. Poets like A.B. Paterson provide the best (and only) window the life of the swagmen and their place in society.

Figure 18: Swagmen's hut c.1930, Goran State Forest. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

The Swagman's Rest
by A. B. "Banjo" Paterson, 20th October, 1895.

We buried old Bob where the bloodwoods wave
At the foot of the Eaglehawk;
We fashioned a cross on the old man's grave
For fear that his ghost might walk;
We carved his name on a bloodwood tree
With the date of his sad decease
And in place of "Died from effects of spree"
We wrote "May he rest in peace".

For Bob was known on the Overland,
A regular old bush wag,
Tramping along in the dust and sand,
Humping his well-worn swag.
He would camp for days in the river-bed,
And loiter and "fish for whales".
"I'm into the swagman's yard," he said.
"And I never shall find the rails."

But he found the rails on that summer night
For a better place - or worse,
As we watched by turns in the flickering light
With an old black gin for nurse.
The breeze came in with the scent of pine,
The river sounded clear,
When a change came on, and we saw the sign
That told us the end was near.

He spoke in a cultured voice and low --
"I fancy they've 'sent the route';
I once was an army man, you know,
Though now I'm a drunken brute;
But bury me out where the bloodwoods wave,
And, if ever you're fairly stuck,
Just take and shovel me out of the grave
And, maybe, I'll bring you luck.

"For I've always heard …" here his voice grew weak,
His strength was wellnigh sped,
He gasped and struggled and tried to speak,
Then fell in a moment - dead.
Thus ended a wasted life and hard,
Of energies misapplied -
Old Bob was out of the "swagman's yard"
And over the Great Divide.

The drought came down on the field and flock,
And never a raindrop fell,
Though the tortured moans of the starving stock
Might soften a fiend from hell.
And we thought of the hint that the swagman gave

When he went to the Great Unseen -
We shovelled the skeleton out of the grave
To see what his hint might mean.

We dug where the cross and the grave posts were,
We shovelled away the mould,
When sudden a vein of quartz lay bare
All gleaming with yellow gold.
'Twas a reef with never a fault nor baulk
That ran from the range's crest,
And the richest mine on the Eaglehawk
Is known as "The Swagman's Rest".

3.6 THE USE OF INTERNEES FOR FOREST LABOUR

Internment Policy during World War II

Based on a similar concept to the one developed in the United Kingdom, the Department of Defence in Australia included an internment policy in the War Book. This manual served as a guide for the period leading up to and immediately following the outbreak of WWII.[104] Regarding internment during war-time, it stated:

> *It is not intended to intern all civilian enemy aliens immediately on the outbreak of hostilities. Internment should be restricted to the narrowest limits consistent with public safety and public sentiment . . .*
>
> *As a general rule, women of whatever nationality will not be interned. When the interests of public safety so demand, they will be kept in custody.*[105]

Following the outbreak of war against Germany, the National Security (Aliens Control) Act was passed on 9 September 1939. The legislation provided almost unlimited powers to the Commonwealth in the interest of public safety. Under the Act, civilians classified as 'aliens' and over the age of sixteen were to be registered, with restrictions placed on their movements and travel. Internment was the most severe level of restriction:

> *If the Minister or any person authorized by the Minister to act under this regulation is of opinion that it is necessary or expedient in the interests of the public safety, the defense of the Commonwealth or the efficient prosecution of the present war to detain any enemy alien, he may, by warrant under his hand, order the enemy alien to be detained in such place, under such conditions and for such period as the Minister or person authorized determines.*[106]

During the early stages of WWII, internments were carefully considered. Only Germans and Austrians with proven associations with Nazi and Fascist organisations were interned. As the War progressed, internment became more indiscriminate and widespread. The definition of 'aliens' extended to include Italians, when Italy entered the war in 1940, and the Japanese in

---

[104] Yuriko Nagata, *Unwanted Aliens: Japanese Internment in Australia* (Queensland: Queensland University Press, 1996), 41.

[105] MP 729/6, 65/401/135 (*Internment Policy*), 17 February 1941, in Nagata, *ibid*., 41.

[106] *Commonwealth of Australia, National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations*, 1939, No.88, in Nagata, *ibid*., 42.

1941. Shifting away from the initial internment policy, all Japanese residents (except those who were Australian-born) were interned, including women.

A total of 7103 resident 'aliens' were interned during WWII.[107] Over sixteen nationalities were identified, ranging from Javanese and Chinese, to Portuguese and Norwegians. Most of the internees were Italian, German or Japanese.

In New South Wales, internees were initially held at local police cells before being transferred to Darlinghurst Gaol and Long Bay Gaol in Sydney or Bathurst Civil Gaol. Internees were soon removed from the prison system with the establishment of camps at Orange Showground and Anzac Rifle Range, Liverpool. These two camps mainly served transient internees, and later prisoners-of-war.[108] Other internment camps were located at Hay and Peat's Island (Hawkesbury River). The latter camp housed female internees and was a temporary establishment, operating from October 1939 to February 1940. The Orange internment camp accommodated 300 to 400 people, mostly Germans and Italians. Local Italians were generally transferred to Hay or Tatura (Victoria) from this camp.

Italian Internees

After migrants from the British Isles, the Italian community formed the next largest migrant group in Australia, numbering 27 500 in 1940.[109] In preparation for possible internment of suspects, all Italian males were identified according to prescribed categories. Category A included people suspected of espionage, former members of the Italian armed forces and those with Fascist, Communist and Mafia political associations. Category B included people with knowledge of the transport and communication systems, as their connections provided opportunities for sabotage or espionage. Category C included leaders and people of influence within the Italian community. Category D included all males of military age and all other Italian civilians were placed in Category O.[110]

Figure 19: Italian internee's camp c.1940, Goonoo State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

Relative to the high level of migration, Italians represented the largest group of internees during WWII. Contrary to official policy, internment extended beyond those associated with enemy political organisations. The exception to this trend was in Victoria where of its 11 530 interned male aliens, only 343 were Italian.[111] In New South Wales, Italian internees were initially sent to Long Bay and the Orange Showgrounds. In 1941, nearly 1000 locally interned Italians were moved from Hay to Loveday to clear the camps for incoming prisoners

[107] Different sources provide different numbers. The numbers range from 6,982 to 7,780. These numbers do not include internees who were sent to Australia during the war.

Margaret Bevege, *Behind Barbed Wire: Internment in Australia during World War II* (Queensland: Queensland University Press, 1993), 238; P. Collas, *The Postal History of Internees and Prisoners of War in Australia during World War II* (Melbourne: The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, 1982), 1.

[108] Collas, *op.cit*., 29.

[109] Nagata, *op.cit*., 3.

[110] Nagata, op.cit., 44; Bevege, op.cit., 19-20.

[111] Bevege, ibid., 62.

of war. Western Australia had the highest number of Italian internees in the nation.

By October 1943, moves were made to release many Italian internees from camps. The main group agitating for this change was the 'Italia Libra', consisting of Italian anti-Fascists and their Australian supporters.[112] Internees were interviewed by a tribunal and assessed according to their risk to Australia's security. Most men arrested as a precautionary measure were released. At the end of November 1943, 708 Italian internees were released.[113]

Camp internees were given the option to work in the Civil Alien Corps. This involved intense labouring tasks, including wood cutting and charcoal burning, fruit picking, railway fettling and aerodrome maintenance.[114] Work camps were usually in isolated areas and it was through this program that Italian and Chinese internees found themselves working in forestry industries in the central north-west of NSW.

3.7 ABORIGINAL MISSIONS

The establishment of Aboriginal missions (as opposed to reserves) is a contentious one. At a time when land reserves were being created at the request of Aboriginal people (in the late 19th century), the newly created Aborigines Protection Board (APB) was also creating mission stations as a means of controlling and containing Aboriginal populations in rural centres. In the 1890s, 45% of reserves created for Aboriginal use were done so not at the request of Aboriginal people. The notification of areas as reserves marked the end of European/Aboriginal dual land occupation and the beginning of a severe constriction in land readily accessible by Aboriginal landowners.[115]

Rural town authorities and employers of Aboriginal labour began to realise that reserves could serve as segregation areas to contain Aboriginal town camps out of sight, but not out of reach. The 1890s depression and 1894 Land Act forced many Aboriginal people off land they had previously laid claim to, and also put them out of paid work. Most of the 45 new reserves created in the central north-west of NSW in the following decade were based on land reservations where Aboriginal people were already living in pastoral camps. These reservations, whilst they recognised the existence of Aboriginal populations, also trapped them by preventing the kind of free access to the land previously enjoyed. Aboriginal missions in the study area that relate to this period of land reservations were established at Pilliga, Terry Hie Hie, Burra Bee Dee and Walhallow. The reserve at Terry Hie Hie was home to the surviving Murri population of the Myall Creek slaughter whilst Burra Bee Dee and Walhallow were reserved for Ngiyampaa and northern Wiradjuri people. The creation of reserves for specific Aboriginal communities further isolated them by segregating Aboriginal people not only from Europeans, but from other Aboriginal communities as well; they became a fragmented population, disconnected from the newly developing social culture of the area and their own traditional culture.[116]

Terry Hie Hie

Following the creation of Aboriginal reserves in the first decade of the 19th century, the APB attempted to increase its control over a few reserves that were in demand by Europeans as settlement areas, particularly the Pilliga and central north-west of the state. The APB installed

---

[112] Bevege, ibid., 212.

[113] Bevege, ibid., 212.

[114] Bevege, ibid., 214.

[115] Goodall, H., *Invasion to Embassy: land in Aboriginal Politics in NSW 1770-1972*, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, 1996, pp.92-93.

[116] Ibid., pp.93-95.

a resident manager on these reserves to ensure that Aboriginal movements in and out of the forests were tightly controlled. Aboriginal populations seeking to avoid this level of control moved to unsupervised campsites and reserves around the smaller towns, such as Terry Hie Hie.[117]

The Kamilaraay Murris who lived there were strongly opposed to the Board's manager and tensions were so high that a great many residents were driven away; expulsion orders removed the remaining Aboriginal population clearing the way for Europeans to seize control of the land. The Board withdrew its manager in 1924 and leased the reserve land to European farmers. Many of the Terry Hie Hie Murris moved into Moree, 24 miles to the north-west, where many had relatives already living in a long-established camp from which they worked in town and sent their children to public schools. Eventually, the authorities would attempt to close the Moree camp as well, but embittered from the earlier loss of the Terry Hie Hie camp, the Murris were unwilling to be moved yet again, despite eviction notices and the demolition of their huts. Attempts to move them back to Terry Hie Hie were equally unsuccessful.[118]

A provisional school had been established at Terry Hie Hie as early as 1887 and catered for both European and Aboriginal children. Originally established on the pastoral run 'Terry Hie Hie', by 1893 attendance at the school was so poor that the station manager was no longer prepared to keep the school open. The Tamworth School Inspector recommended the school be moved to a new site near the sawmill camp, on Wee Waa Creek.[119] The same inspector also neglected to recommend a teacher for the school, believing it was unsuitable for an unmarried teacher due to the high proportion of 'blacks' there and its isolated position. Some time between 1898 and 1901 a Mr Patrick Kelaher was appointed as teacher at Terry Hie Hie. Unfortunately, Mr Kelaher's skills as teacher were found wanting, particularly his ability to ensure the attendance of both his pupils and himself. A flurry of correspondence between the Inspector General of Schools and Mr Kelaher ensued over the next seven years culminating in Kelaher's dismissal at the end of 1908.[120] These difficulties set a pattern for future teachers; securing and keeping teaching staff long term at Terry Hie Hie became a permanent problem.

The teachers that followed Kelaher were variously accused of 'inappropriate relations' with Aboriginal girls[121], stealing from the local hotel and most scandalously, living 'inside the fence' of the Aboriginal Mission itself in a tent. This last accusation related to an unmarried female teacher, who nonetheless was engaged to a timber-cutter who lived in a tent camp inside Mission SF. The teacher, Ms Ruby Purcell, was observed hiking into the bush to spend several days in camp with him in his tent.[122] The Terry Hie Hie school was moved inside the Mission compound c.1915 and from that time until the Mission's closure, it was attended only by Aboriginal children.[123]

Women and children on the Mission were housed in a single large shed, or barracks, which was also used for machinery storage. Murri men working in the forest were housed in tent camps either around the Mission complex, or in the forest itself. Conditions at the compound were primitive with only a single outdoor privy and tank water (but no bathroom facilities). A mission chapel was also established, whose chief aim was to evangelise the Murri population.

---

[117] Ibid., p.134.

[118] Ibid., pp.174-175.

[119] *Memorandum from Tamworth Inspector to Chief Inspector*, 5th January 1893, State Records File No. 5/17821.1.

[120] *Correspondence between Mr Kelaher & Dept. of Public Instruction 1901-1908*, State Records File No. 5/178211.

[121] *Correspondence between Provisional School at Terry Hie Hie and Dept. of Public Instuction, September 1910*, State Records File No. 5/178211.

[122] *Correspondence between Provision School at Terry Hie Hie and Dept. of Public Instruction, January-March 1912*, State Records File No. 5/17821.2.

[123] Ibid.

Interestingly, the Murris continued to use the forest for traditional spiritual and cultural practices, even while attending the Mission church services.[124]

The Mission complex buildings were removed/demolished many years ago and the only surviving physical evidence of this important part of Terry Hie Hie's history are two enclosures marking the location of Aboriginal cemeteries. In one of these there is a grave (Godfrey Dillon, 1898-1919) marked by a headstone, but in the other all that remains are mounds, surface artefact scatter and random posts and pine railings A more detailed historical and physical investigation, including oral history interviews with the Murri people, is recommended.

3.8 CASE STUDY - TOWARRI NATIONAL PARK (SCONE SHIRE)

Towarri NP is located in the Upper Hunter on the southern slopes of the Liverpool Range; the nearest major town is Scone, a short drive away. The Park was officially created in 1998 following the purchase of four pastoral properties, but negotiations between property owners and the NPWS had been ongoing for many years. The creation of Towarri NP demonstrates the unique relationship between pastoralism and forestry in the Brigalow Belt (and indeed throughout NSW).

Much of the land in and around Towarri NP was taken up during the peak period of land selection in the second half of the 19th century. Acreages along creek lines were the first to be occupied and many of these selections formed the modern day properties of Glen Murray, Willowdene, Braeside and The Basin. Willowdene, which began life as a 40-acre block in 1866, eventually grew to 400 acres, coming into the ownership of the Henderson family in 1950; the Henderson family would prove instrumental in the dedication of Towarri NP, at the expense of their own lands.[125]

Initially established as a grazing run, Willowdene faced all the challenges affecting other properties in the Upper Hunter during the 1870s - vagaries of climate, including drought and flood, fluctuating stock values, adjusting cultivation techniques to suit the local stiff, clay soils and grasshopper plagues. By the mid-1870s running stock was no longer sufficient to support a family and timber provided an additional income stream. Native hardwoods and red cedar were the main timbers sold for commercial purposes at this time, mostly to local furniture manufacturers. Paul Murray, whose family owned the Glen Murray property, remembers his great-great-grandfather (the original selector) telling him about two small sawmills on the property at this time, a common sight on other properties in the district also. Logs were hauled by bullock team to the nearest town for sale, and the houses of pastoralists in the Upper Hunter were filled with cedar furnishings and joinery.[126]

During the 1870s and 1880s large swathes of the Upper Hunter were cleared by pastoralists. Seen to compete with pasture for important water and sunlight resources, trees were either felled by axe or saw, or ringbarked. Clearing was considered by the authorities to be an improvement, validating the selector's tenure and turning marginal grazing land into viable grazing land. Nonetheless, a large portion of the district's native forests were cleared during this period, resulting in the characteristic bare, hilly appearance backed by the rugged outcroppings of the Liverpool Range. Forests that remained at the end of the 19th century became increasingly valuable as timber reserves.

---

[124] Ibid., 1912-1916.

[125] Veale, S., *Remember Country: a history of Towarri*, NPWS 2001, pp.16-18. Also, interview between Alan Henderson and Andrea Humphreys, May 2002.

[126] Ibid., p.19.

Throughout the first three decades of the 20th century, farmers in the Upper Hunter concentrated on improving pasture for sheep grazing and better techniques for wheat growing. The wool price remained steady throughout the 1930s depression and continued at 16 pence per pound between 1942 and 1946, fuelled by the need for uniforms and blankets by servicemen. However, the loss of most able-bodied men in the district to the war effort had an impact on rural labour. Women assumed a greater management role on the large pastoral properties whilst children took on a greater labouring role, at the expense of their education. Wool prices continued to increase, reaching an all time high during 1950-1955 at 144.2 pence per pound.[127]

The new-found prosperity did not last long; wool prices crashed in 1969 to 45 pence per pound and many sheep graziers simply sold up. The government provided financial assistance for struggling producers, but subsidies proved overly expensive and most properties were no longer viable. Allan Henderson recalls being taken out of school to assist with running the family property (Willowdene), where the number of staff had been reduced from nine to one. Allan, his father and his uncle provided the necessary labour through the busy times.[128]

Economic conditions improved during the 1970s and 1980s and declining sheep numbers helped keep wool prices steady. The Henderson family kept Willowdene operational during this period, looking forward to easier times ahead when the wool price plunged again in the 1990s. Combined with the collapse of the wool reserve price in 1991 the surviving properties found themselves in an untenable position. Allan Henderson, who by now had taken over running Willowdene from his father, was philosophical about this latest disaster:

> *If we want to be successful in the wool industry, we should be somewhere else. The country is just too difficult. We made the decision to sell - that's the way it is. We're not going to cry about it; we'll just go on to the next project.*[129]

It was Allan's philosophical attitude and deep love for the countryside of his family home that prompted his decision (along with 20 other landholders) to approach the NPWS as a possible purchaser for Willowdene. Although the NPWS had been interested in proclaiming a national park in the Upper Hunter, they were mostly concentrating on areas of subtropical rainforest; the dry, hilly and rocky country around Middle Brook was not initially of interest to them. The Henderson's were in a hurry to sell at least a portion of their land holdings in order to raise much needed capital. With the NPWS refusing to commit one way or the other (despite many public statements to the contrary) Allan Henderson made a difficult (but crucial) decision to sell the most useless (in pastoral terms) portion of Willowdene to a local quarrying concern. The appearance of a quarry in what was now regarded, somewhat romantically, as a pristine wilderness, caused an enormous uproar in the local press, placing pressure on the NPWS to explain the continued delays in its own negotiations.[130]

In 1996 an agreement was finally reached between NPWS and the Hendersons, with the sale of Portion 127 containing the headwaters of Middle Brook, Kelly's Creek and Dry Creek at the market price. Towarri National Park was declared in 1998 with the former Willowdene holdings forming the kernel of the park. The Hendersons elected to stay on what remained of Willowdene based largely on affection for the place and its landscape. They continue to farm, but have switched from sheep to beef cattle, and although it's a hard life, Allan assured us he '… wouldn't swap it for the world.'[131]

---

[127] Ibid., pp.28-38.

[128] Interview with Allan Henderson and Andrea Humphreys, May 2002.

[129] Interview with Allan Henderson and Andrea Humphreys, May 2002.

[130] Interview with Allan Henderson and Andrea Humphreys, May 2002.

[131] Interview with Allan Henderson and Andrea Humphreys, May 2002.

The arrangement between the Hendersons and the NPWS contained a unique clause that had important ramifications for cultural heritage, particularly in relation to this study. The sale of Portion 127 did not include any of the built structures on the land, including woolsheds, haysheds, shearers' cottages and a number of other late 19th and early 20th century structures. The Hendersons considered these to be personal property, as they had been built and maintained by the family for their use. NPWS agreed to let the Henderson family retain ownership and gave permission for the removal of any or all of these structures when required. As a result, Allan Henderson has relocated virtually all of these structures in recent years to those portions of Willowdene that are still in family ownership. A woolshed and sundry outbuildings are all that remain on Portion 127 and these are slated for removal over the coming year. Although some of the relocated buildings have been reused as part of the property's current operations, most are being restored and have been relocated to a complex that Allan operates as a rural industries museum. This venture, which was Allan's idea and has been carried out at his expense, has been extremely successful in terms of developing heritage-based tourism in the district. Despite the isolated location of Willowdene, tourists have not been deterred and Allan regularly picks up tourists from Scone in his 4WD to take them touring at Willowdene.[132]

(It should be noted that the story of Towarri NP has been told largely from the perspective of Alan Henderson (and other property holders in the district). Requests to interview NPWS officers involved in the process were refused and the consultants were directed to the book *Remebering Towarri*, by the NPWS historian Sharon Veale).

3.9 CASE STUDY – WARRUNBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK

Early History

Located 33 kilometres west of Coonabarabran along Jack Renshaw Drive, Warrumbungle National Park is a striking scenic area that covers the western part of the Warrumbungle Range. This 21 534-hectare national park attracts thousands of visitors annually. Walking, rock climbing, camping or simply appreciating the peaks and mountain ranges are some of the reasons that visitors have come to the area since at least the 1930s. In spring the park has been described as a 'riot of colour' as the Western golden wattle (*Acacia decora*), the Sydney Boronia (*Boronia ledifolia*) and a variety of 'bush' orchids flower.[133]

Warrumbungle National Park, like much of the Coonabarabran district, is rich in Aboriginal sites, ranging from open artefact scatters to ochre processing sites. For thousands of years before the advent of European settlement the Kamilaroi people used its caves for shelter and camped by its creeks and springs.

Surveyor General John Oxley's journey of discovery through central western New South Wales in 1818 is the first recorded European penetration of the area, and in the following 60 years there was an invasion of sheep, cattle and men associated with the pastoral industry. The timing and intensity of this has not been precisely established, however.[134] Eventually the area covered by the park became part of a number of pastoral holdings, none of which were freehold title.

The process of dividing the runs into resumed areas and leasehold areas, in the wake of the *Crown Lands Act 1884*, necessitated assessing grazing capacity, the value of timber and types of grasses on a holding. Therefore records created as a result of this assessment (the pastoral

[132] Interview with Allan Henderson and Andrea Humphreys, May 2002.

[133] Peter Fox, *Warrumbungle National Park, Parks of the Wester Region,* The Beaten Track Press in association with NPWS, 1996, pp. 6, 25-7.

[134] Ibid. pp. 48-61.

holding files and the pastoral occupation licence files) often provide general information about vegetation types and building structures in what are now state forests or national parks.

A large part of the present Warrumbungle National Park was covered by two runs - the 61 500-acre Caleriwi (24 888 hectares) and the 15 000-acre Narranan (6070 hectares) run. These combined to form the Gumin Gumin Pastoral Holding which was in 1885 registered in the name of the City Bank. In the western section of Gumin Gumin there were buildings, dams, tanks and other infrastructure necessary for running a pastoral property. Vegetation had been cleared, trees ringbarked ('rung' was the term used) and a kangaroo-proof fence had been constructed. There were few 'improvements' in the area covered by the present park, however. The Department of Lands inspector stated bluntly in 1885: 'The whole of the country outside the kangaroo proof fence is scrubby and useless and can only be made of any value by ringbarking and clearing.'[135] In the next 50 years strenuous efforts were made to 'enhance' the value of this land by effecting 'improvements'.

Therefore lessees and prospective purchasers undertook the clearing and ringbarking of extensive areas as a condition for holding the land under a variety of tenures. These included Scrub Leases, introduced as a result of the *Crown Land Act 1889*, and 28-year Improvement Leases of 'scrub or inferior' land introduced as a result of the *Crown Lands Act 1895*.[136] More secure tenures such as Crown Leases (replacing the earlier Settlement Leases), for grazing land, and Homestead Farms, for mixed farming, both initiated by the first Labor government in New South Wales in 1912, were also held over this area. After 1917 these two tenures, both of which had residential requirements, could be converted to Conditional Purchases.[137]

'Improvements', it seems, were carried out in accordance with the Department of Lands requirements. Boyd Blackman recalls that the 'flat' between the elevated land where his family's Belougerie homestead was located and Wambelong Creek (near the present Camp Blackman) had been 'improved' prior to the 1920s when his father, Keith Blackman, took it up. Keith apparently did not have to do a lot of clearing as much of the country had already been 'rung'. 'Sucker bashing' - that is hitting shoots as they struggled to grow from ringbarked trees - was done, however. On the 'improved' flat there was only about 60 acres of 'scrub' left and on another part of the property one paddock of 500 acres for stud sheep was left as a timbered paddock. Boyd recalled that there were considerable quantities of dead timber left standing because although parts of the country had been 'rung' follow up clearing had never been done.[138] The lessees it seems fulfilled the government requirement in order to hold the land despite the fact that their production regime did not necessitate such extensive ring barking.

'The Centre of the Mountains'

In the 1920s Sidney Blackman, who owned a property near Coonabarabran heard, according to his grandson Boyd Blackman (b. 1930), that the 'country in the mountains' had become available for purchase/lease. He subsequently acquired 9000 acres of land in what is now Warrumbungle National Park. This property, which he called Belougerie, and another near Coonabarabran on the Gilgandra Road were to provide a living for his sons, Keith and Doug. Belougerie, previously a Crown Lease held by Austin George Knight, was taken up as a Homestead Farm for Keith, Boyd's father.

In 1942 when Boyd Blackman returned to Belougerie after completing his education, the property consisted of three blocks: a 1000-acre homestead block; a mountain block of about

[135] Pastoral Holding file, Gumin Gumin, No 49, DLWC.

[136] Guide to Records Relating to the Occupation of Crown Lands, No.18, AONSW, Sydney, 1977, p.13.

[137] King, op. cit. p. 247.

[138] Keith Blackman, interview with Pauline Curby, 26 May 2002.

4000 acres (known as Geoff's Mountain); and the block where Siding Spring Observatory is located - part of what was known as Greenslopes. Boyd describes two properties – Belougerie in the north and Strathmore in the south east - covering a large part of what is now Warrumbungle National Park as 'the centre of the mountains'. Alf Pincham, a sawmiller from Baradine, had taken up the 13 000-acre Strathmore in 1923.

Boyd told me details of his and his father's life at Belougourie after 1928 – just as the depression began to make rural life increasingly precarious. During this time although Keith Blackman ran sheep and cattle he made a living from potatoes and pigs. About 10-15 acres were ploughed on the 'crik flats' and potatoes were grown there. Boyd recalls:

> *Anything would grow up there - you could throw watermelon seeds down rabbit burrows and if you could beat the wild pigs to them you'd get watermelons.*[139]

In the orchard between the creek and the house, apples, peaches and pears grew until fruit fly got in. Market garden produce was also grown for sale and a trial crop of tobacco was planted. Boyd maintains that anything would grow on the creek country. The area of crop per acre, usually oats grown for stock feed, was 'terrific' – 16-20 bags per acre: 'The header could not take the grain that was coming off.' Lack of water was a problem in the mountains, however. Only two waterholes did not dry up in the 1946 drought: one at the back of the house and the other where the Observatory is now located.

Figure 20: Belougerie homestead site, Warrumbungles National Park. Source: Boyd Blackman.

Pigs were profitable and about 500 foraged daily in the orchard. Boyd recalls pigsties, a killing house and a bacon house. Keith killed ten to twelve bacon pigs at a time and then cured hams and bacons in his own smoke house. Boyd says that as a child he 'cut a lot of chips up for that bacon house'. When the time was right Keith would load up his 'little old 1927 Chev truck' with hams, bacon and potatoes and chug over to Mudgee to sell them.

This 'was not fat lamb country' and so the property was lightly stocked with the animals fed every winter on hay and oats cut on the property. In collaboration with their neighbours, the Pinchams and Waterfords, stock was taken on agistment to Coonamble in winter for about six weeks. Boyd recalls a set of cattle yards, built by a previous lessee that held 500 head of cattle. This complex covered an area of about 5 acres. Only old posts remain on the site as a reminder of the buzz of activity that once took place there.

In the war years Blackmans had about 2000 sheep, about 40 head of cattle and about 25-30 pigs. But the wild pigs that came into the mountains in the 1950s 'buggered up the breeding of his pigs', so Keith went out of this side of production. Boyd recalls another introduced pest – the rabbit – and he witnessed the introduction of myxomatosis in the 1950s. He skinned rabbits by the thousand and then, as they could not be eaten because of myxomatosis, burnt the

[139] Ibid.

carcasses. He pegged the skins out, and when dry packed them in wool packs to be sent to Sydney: 'That was money then', he recalls.

While Boyd was making pocket money the hard way his father, during the wool boom of the 1950s, was finally receiving reasonable remuneration from primary production. In earlier days Boyd remembers his father 'jumping over the moon' when he got, on average, 14 pence a pound for his wool at a time when a 'top line' brought 18 pence. In contrast in the 1950s he got 156 pence a pound. Although his sheep grew very fine wool they were not heavy woolgrowers.

The Blackman family lived a fairly isolated lifestyle, and it was often said in the district that getting into Belougerie involved navigating 'ten miles, ten gates and ten creeks'. Sometimes in the wet years of the 1950s three months would pass without a vehicle leaving the property. Although they could get out on horseback, Boyd recalls that he once spent 11 months at home without going into town.

Warrumbungle National Monument

In the 1930s while families such as the Blackmans, Pinchams, Waterfords, Harris and Gales utilised this area for grazing and agriculture pursuits, interest was mounting in its recreational potential. Rock climbers in particular were beginning to appreciate the challenge of the sheer rock faces and groups travelled regularly to the ranges to test their skill. Probably one of the best remembered is Dot Butler, the 'barefoot bushwalker' who 'felt at one with the rocks' which she 'caressed' as she climbed.[140] The natural beauty of the ranges was appreciated and such phrases as 'remarkable scenery' and 'wonderful skyline' are found in correspondence at this time.[141]

Bushwalkers, rock climbers and sightseers who were members of the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council increasingly visited the Warrumbungles at this time and became convinced that such a unique and beautiful area should not be left in private ownership. In the 1930s and 1940s pioneer environmentalist Myles Dunphy, secretary of the council, wrote a series of letters outlining the Council's proposals for the Warrumbungle Ranges.[142] In 1936 he suggested to the Undersecretary for Lands that 'the most spectacular peaks, spires and other rock formations' of the Warrumbungle Ranges should be reserved as 'the Warrumbungle National Monument'. It was also suggested that two camping grounds – one for walkers and the other for motorists - should be set aside. Dunphy, maintained there was considerable local interest in encouraging tourism and that local graziers would be able to make money out of providing services for visitors.[143]

As leaseholders continued to fulfil their requirements by ring barking and clearing, reports that 'a deal of clearing is going on' in the Warrumbungles reached Sydney in 1938. This led the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council to announce that economic and aesthetic attributes were not of overriding importance in its proposal for a 'national monument'. On the contrary it was asserted that 'geological interest, protection of springs and sources of streams, conservation of indigenous ground cover and protection of wild life' should be given principal consideration.[144]

Matters were placed on hold during most of World War II, but in 1944 when moves were made to include the Warrumbungles in the Pilliga National Forest (dedicated in 1937),the Council was alarmed. Commissioner of Forests E. H. F. Swain who promoted the concept of multi-

[140] Quoted in Fox, op. cit. pp. 68-69.

[141] See correspondence in NPWS file 1992/P/2729.

[142] ibid

[143] Letters, 23 September 1936 (8925) & 1 July 1937(1382) in ibid.

[144] Statement, 25 March 1938 in ibid.

purpose forests, strongly believed that recreational use of forests was becoming increasingly important. Campfire gatherings were, for example, held in the Pilliga National Forest and, he maintained, Yarrigan Lookout attracted thousands of visitors. Dunphy argued, on the other hand, that the Forestry Commission estate should be administered on a 'strictly commercial basis and no fooling with aesthetics'. Swain proposed that if the Warrumbungles were added to the Pilliga National Forest, separate areas should be demarcated into 'timber industrial areas; protective areas and primitive and picturesque [areas] for forest tourism'. Swain rejected Dunphy's 'bias towards the American form'. His suggestions, on the contrary, would follow 'British forms and actual successful Queensland practice'.[145]

Warrumbungle National Park

When the Warrumbungle National Park was created in 1953 the British multi-purpose forest concept was rejected and the American 'primitive area' model was followed. This mode of operation became firmly laid down with the establishment of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1967. There were to be no 'timber industrial areas', as Swain had hoped, in New South Wales' national parks.

National parks in New South Wales are often former state forests or vacant crown land. This was not the case with the Warrumbungle National Park. It was created from land that had been alienated, and although these properties were not freehold title, the graziers and farmers who held them had secure tenure. In the 1950s and 1960s it was expected that these would, if there were a run of good seasons, be eventually converted to freehold. Therefore it is quite remarkable that the park was established at all, and even more extraordinary when one considers that Alfred Pincham donated part of his land to the park. The first part of 3360 hectares was taken from Pincham's property and that of his neighbour Leo Gale.[146] Eventually Belougerie was surrounded by national park, and so when Keith Blackman was offered a price he decided to sell.

Boyd Blackman comments that the family was not really sad to leave. As Keith had retired, the timing was right. Nevertheless Boyd sensed that his father was reluctant to 'let go of his prestige'. Keith had produced good stud rams and was well known as a woolgrower. He liked being 'Mr Blackman of the Mountains'. Boyd, on the other hand never felt that Belougerie gave him much status. He had 'knocked around' from when he was fourteen and found that jobs such as shearing 'knocked the stuffiness out of you'.[147]

---

[145] See correspondence especially 2 October 1944 (5246) & 23 February 1945 in ibid.

[146] Fox, op. cit. pp. 63, 66-7.

[147] ibid.

4. FORESTS OF THE BBSB – HISTORICAL & PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

4.0 MERRIWA FORESTS

Located on the edge of the Upper Hunter region, Merriwa Shire contains three significant forested areas:

1. Curryall State Forest (gazetted 1958)
2. Turill State Forest (gazetted 1928, extended 1968)
3. Durridgere State Forest (gazetted 1948)
4. Coolah Tops National Park
5. Warung State Forest (gazetted 1978)

All three state forests are characterised by mixed hardwoods (predominantly ironbark) and a small percentage of white cypress pine. The once extensive ironbark forests of the district formed the basis of the area's economy in the 19th century, through the sleeper cutting industry. Several occupation permits are located within the forest borders, with a significant portion of Curryall SF given over entirely to grazing permits. Like many western state forests, the Merriwa forests were created from former pastoral holdings in the district.

Turill SF

Turill SF is located north-east of Curryall SF, at the junction of the Golden Highway and Uarbry Road. Turill Village is situated on the north-western perimeter of the forest, at the Turill Creek crossing. The village is an excellent example of a settlement that developed to house forestry workers in the 19th century. The village is characterised by timber buildings, erected by the villagers from local hardwoods and includes an unusual ironbark cottage (still occupied). Once a thriving township of sleeper cutters, Turill Village is now a sleepy hollow with no economic focus and few work opportunities. The forest was logged extensively for ironbark sleepers but is no longer actively logged and access to the forest is extremely difficult.

Durridgere SF

Durridgere SF is located due east of Curryall SF, on the opposite side of the Curryall Creek crossing and north of the village of Ulan. Durridgere SF contains mixed Australian native hardwood, with ironbark being the dominant species. The forest was extensively logged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to feed the growing demand for ironbark railway sleepers. Most of the potential and contributory heritage items identified in Durridgere SF relate to this phase of usage and sleeper dumps are common throughout the forest. The forest is still actively logged for other native hardwood species, mostly stringybark. Durridgere SF was gazetted in

1948 on land resumed from a number of private properties on the banks of the Murrumbline, Pipeclay and Blyfield Creeks. No evidence of former pastoral activities was found during surveys, and forestry records indicate that occupation permits in the forest were for grazing purposes and beekeeping activities only, both of which are low impact activities in terms of permanent structures required.[148]

Coolah Tops NP

Coolah Tops NP is located 30km east of the township of Coolah and covers an area of 10,644ha. The Park is located on a narrow plateau at an elevation of between 1000-1200m, resulting in a unique ecological environment. Forest vegetation is comprised primarily of mixed native hardwoods, including ironbark, stringybark and ribbon gum, as well as high elevation native species including snow and mountain gum. It is one of the few forests in the study area where cypress pine does not grow.

Figure 21: Snow's Hut, built c.1950, Coolah Tops National Park. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

The area was first surveyed by John Oxley in 1818 who described the '… lofty, bounding chains of hills' that characterise the Coolah district.[149] By the 1860s the district was occupied by numerous graziers and grazing remained the principle activity in forested areas until 1886, when 9,840 acres at Coolah Tops was set aside as a timber reservation by the NSW Forestry Branch.[150] The Bundella and Warung State Forests were created from this reservation and by 1925 had become the principle supplier of ironbark railway sleepers in the western district. The sleeper cutting industry became a major employer of Coolah men and did much to establish a sound economic base for the town. It should be noted that grazing permits in the forests continued throughout this period. Sleeper cutting ceased in 1955 and general timber haulage ceased in 1995 and was followed by the formation of the national park from Bundella SF and part of Warung SF. Due to the comparatively long usage of the site by forestry industries, Coolah Tops NP contains a number of heritage items relating to recent as well as earlier forestry activities. Conversely, the extensive logging of the site has obliterated most evidence of earlier pastoral activities.

Warung SF

Warung SF abuts Coolah Tops NP on its south-eastern most border, following the eastern descent of the Great Dividing Range. The forest is bounded along its southern border by

---

148 *Durridgere State Forest No.,882*, cover sheet kept at West Pennant Hills.

149 Cameron, R., *State Forests of the Coolah Tops: a local history of the Bundella and Warung State Forests*, self-published, no date, p. 3.

150 Ibid., p. 10.

Jemmy's Creek, and following the steep descent from the Coolah Tops NP ridge, the forest extends in a narrow finger through the fertile river basin (along Jemmy's Creek Rd). The history of Warung SF is the same as that for Coolah Tops NP, with the forest being formally dedicated by State Forests NSW in 1978 (although logging had been taking place for more than a century prior to that). The state forest was once considerably larger than its current configuration; a little over 8,000ha was revoked from Warung SF in 1996 for the creation of Coolah Tops NP. This forest contains a high percentage of well-established cattle and sheep farms, mostly dating from the late 19th and early 20th century. Forestry records show a series of Crown Land leases 'in perpetuity' along the Jemmy's Creek frontage from this period, explaining their long occupancy. In 1898 Forester Coombes reported:

> *... access difficult; contains splendid timber consisting of stringybark and redgum in all stages of growth; ... very little cut, good supply of matured trees - land generally steep and hilly with deep scrubby gullies: very marshy in places; water courses appear to be permanent; all surrounding country is apparently leased; as this reserve is of great prospective value the area should not be curtailed...*[151]

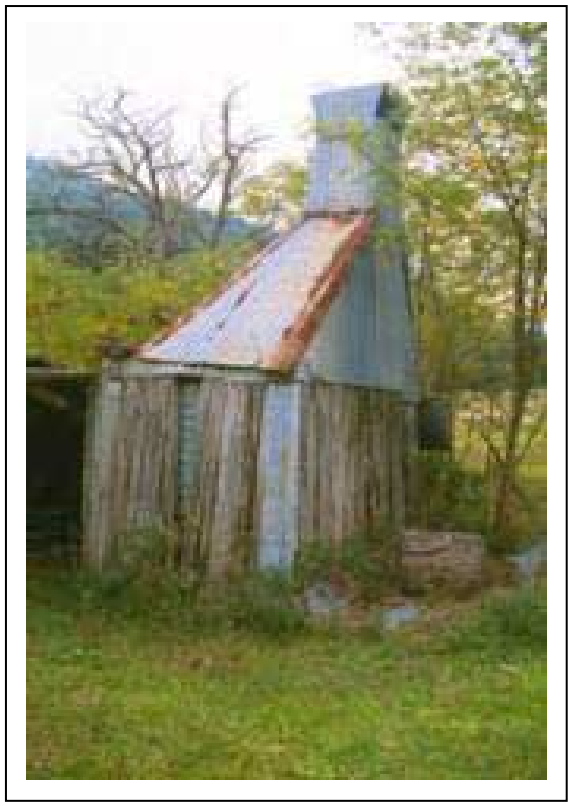


Figure 22: Farm ruins, Jemmy's Creek, Warung State Forest. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

Very little has changed in the intervening century and in many ways time has stood still for Warung SF. Access is still difficult and the timber is still 'splendid'; life for the farmers on the creek frontage is still a challenge with very little mechanisation due to the difficulties associated with transporting machinery to the area. The timber mix varies from that in the adjoining national park, due to the lower humidity and elevation; snow and mountain gums are absent and the presence of acacias, grevilleas and other native shrubs present a very different aspect to the largely open understorey of the national park.

Access & Signage

Access and signage to Curryall SF, and within the forest, are poor. Extensive forest regrowth has obscured the only sign indicating the presence of a state forest and access roads are not immediately visible. Firetrails within the forest are in fair condition, with loose graded surfaces for the most part, although some trails are considerably degraded.

Turill SF is easy to locate, as it is located on a major road junction, however it is very difficult to access internally. Access is by unmarked fire trails only and trails within the forest are not marked, meander considerably and deteriorate markedly as they progress. Sections of the trail leading to the identified items have been completely eradicated through erosion and previous floods. Signage on the forest margins is also poor and use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) is required to confidently locate the

[151] *Warung State Forest No.457*, cover sheet held at West Pennant Hills.

place. Because of the poor internal access, a complete survey of the forest could not be undertaken and it is likely that further heritage items exist within this forest.

External signage of Durridgere SF is non-existent and use of a GPS is required to confidently locate the forest. However, external and internal access is good, with well-maintained fire trails and logging roads.

Both access and signage, within and without Coolah Tops NP, are excellent. The Park is a major tourist attraction for visitors to the Coolah district and signage policies reflect this. As previously noted, vehicular access to many heritage items is by 4WD only, and in some cases on foot; this policy was implemented by NPWS to limit public access to these sites in order to minimise the potential for vandalism, wear & tear etc.

Access to Warung SF is available through Coolah Tops NP but is restricted to 4WD only on a dry weather track; the road is closed during rainy periods and most of the winter months. The road is difficult to negotiate, with steep grades and tight bends, exacerbated by an extremely loose surface; sections of the road are almost totally eroded and after rain would require winching to navigate safely. Once the valley floor is reached, Jemmy's Creek Rd widens and is significantly easier to negotiate, although rainy periods would still cut access to this area. Road access (via dirt road) is also possible from Merriwa, on Hampshire & Mount Erin Roads although the Jemmy's Creek Rd turning is not signposted. A GPS unit is recommended for anyone attempting to access the forest from this direction.

Warung SF is signposted from the national park side of the entry, but not the state forest side nor from the eastern entry point. Signage from Merriwa is non-existent and local knowledge of access to the forest is poor (although most can point the way to Coolah Tops NP).

4.1 GUNNEDAH FORESTS

Overview

The Gunnedah forests are synonymous with the Gunnedah Forest Management Area (GFMA), which also encompasses portions of Quirindi and Parry Shires. The area includes some of the most interesting and unusual forests in the study area (discussed in detail below). Study forests in this area are as follows:

- Pine Ridge SF (dedicated 1936)
- Spring Ridge SF (dedicated 1917)
- Doona SF (dedicated 1917)
- Trinkey SF (dedicated 1915)
- Breeza SF (dedicated 1914)
- Goran SF (dedicated 1920)
- Wondoba SF (dedicated 1915)
- Black Jack SF (dedicated 1924)
- Somerton SF (dedicated 1917)
- Dowe SF (portion, dedicated 1917))
- Kelvin SF (dedicated 1917)
- Vickery SF (dedicated 1917)
- Leard SF (dedicated 1917)

- Tinkrameanah SF
- Dinawirindi SF
- Garrawilla SF
- Weetalibah Nature Reserve
- Binnawey Nature Reserve

This is the largest group of centrally managed forests in the eastern study area and, despite a broad geographic spread, they are remarkably consistent in terms of vegetation and human activity. The forests are uniformly situated on poor soils with sloping topography. Historically, there was little competition from settlers for these areas due to the abundance of better grazing and flatter cultivation land of higher fertility.[152]

Records indicate the first reservation of land for timber production occurred in what is now Doona SF in 1874, Black Jack SF in 1875 and Kerringle & Leard SF in 1878. These areas were eventually consolidated, together with what are now the main forest areas, by dedication as Forest Reserves between 1893 and 1904. Dedication of State Forests commenced in 1914 with Breeza SF. The bulk of remaining forested areas were dedicated between 1914 and 1920; four additional small forests have been dedicated since 1945.[153]

Since the dedication of the Gunnedah State Forests there has been periodic pressure from graziers and farmers for revocation of forested lands, although very little land was in fact alienated. Three small forests - Willala, Wean and Benalbri - were revoked but were also not of high forestry potential. Small excisions have been made from a number of forests but additional areas have been added so that the present area of forests has not varied significantly from the original reservations.[154]

Early reports by foresters (1910-1915) described the forest with a predominance of native hardwood and young pine (the mature pine having been felled). The young pine described at this time was the result of a regenerated stand dating from the 1880-1890 period and constituted the mature pine crop of the 1980s (since felled). The pine is now in its third regeneration phase, with very little mature pine available at present.

Very little is known about the history of sawmilling in the Gunnedah district, but a description of the town in 1888 stated:

> *In portions of the district there is considerable timber of excellent quality, which is being cut, and forms one of the industries of the place.*[155]

The next known reference to sawmilling occurred in 1910, with issuing of 12 sawmilling licenses in the district. By 1917/18 there were 9 current licenses and by 1921/22 the number had grown to 15. The number of licenses suggests a fairly active local industry but the record of cuts from State Forests indicates these millers were mostly involved in cutting logs from private property. From 1920, when reliable forestry records are first available, cuts of cypress pine logs averaged less than 200m^3 per annum from the Gunnedah State Forests. In the 11 years between 1932 and 1943 a considerable upsurge in logging of State Forest timber took place and in that period cuts averaged almost 1,100m^3 per annum. Not surprisingly, the cut dropped dramatically during WWII. Despite the increase in activity in state forests preceding World War II, operations on private property remained extensive. In 1937/38, for example,

---

152 *Management Plan for Gunnedah Area, 1985,* Forestry Commission of NSW, p. 34.

153 Ibid., p. 34.

154 Ibid., p. 34.

155 Quoted in ibid., p. 35.

there were 20 mills cutting cypress pine in the district; their cut for the 12 months period was 17,600m^3.[156]

In 1948, LG Eather's mill, which subsequently became the Gunnedah Sawmilling Co. (and eventually Gunnedah Timbers Pty Ltd) began operations in Gunnedah, with the entire Gunnedah State Forest area being allocated exclusively to it. Operations in the Gunnedah forests have been continuous ever since and they have progressively become the main source of logs for the building industry.[157]

Today, the Gunnedah Forests are very much as they were a century ago. The timber mix is predominantly native hardwoods - narrow leaf ironbark, silver leaf ironbark, forest oak and white box - mixed with regenerated white cypress pine. Logging is active but dependent on the growth and maturation of the pine, supplemented by controlled logging of hardwoods. The two nature reserves in this area were designated as such due to their retention of old growth native forest. They do not contain any items of cultural heritage, but should be considered items of environmental heritage.

Trinkey SF

Trinkey SF is located due west of Spring Ridge SF and due north of the township of Quirindi. Although one of the group of Gunnedah forests, Trinkey SF differs from others in the Gunnedah (and broader) group in that it is considerably larger than other state forests in the group. Forestry records show that Trinkey SF in its current form, although still a large forest, was at least 5 times this size in the early 19th century. In its original form, Trinkey covered a vast distance of the Gunnedah plain and contained a much wider variety of timber species. Pressure from the closer settlement lobby in the early decades of the 20th century forced the revocation of the majority of the Trinkey forest, resulting in the current remnant.[158]

Goran SF

Goran SF is located north-east of Trinkey SF and south-west of the township of Curlewis. Unlike most of the other Gunnedah forests, Goran SF has continued to allow grazing permits within its boundaries, and is not actively logged at present. The relationship between this forest and the property "Wondoba", is a particularly close one, as there has been a Wondoba lease inside the forest since at least the 1930s. Goran SF is also the only forest in the Gunnedah district where charcoal burning took place on site, until as recently as the 1980s.

Leard & Vickery SF - coal mine forests

Leard SF is located due north of the township of Boggabri, on a tributary of the Namoi River. Although located in Narrabri Shire, Leard SF is part of the Gunnedah Forest Management Area and shares many similarities with the other Gunnedah forests. In addition to the usual occupation and grazing permits, permits were made to three separate mining companies for coal mining purposes in the mid-1980s. A proposed open cut coal mine in Leard SF did not proceed, on environmental grounds, although several bore holes were sunk to explore the site's potential and a trial pit was excavated.[159] The only other forest in the Gunnedah FMA group to be earmarked for coal mining was nearby Vickery SF (for underground mining), which also did not proceed. Leard SF is characterised by mixed native hardwoods (including several varieties of ironbark) and large stands of semi-mature regenerated cypress pine.

---

156 Ibid., p. 35.

157 Ibid., p. 35.

158 *Trinkey State Forest No.177*, cover sheet held at West Pennant Hills and *Map of the County of Pottinger NSW 1907*, Mitchell Library Maps.

159 Forestry Commission et al, 1985, p. 37.

Access & Signage

Doona SF is well signposted on the Tungenbone Rd, but access is somewhat awkward via an unmarked dirt road north of the township of Caroona. Internal access roads and fire trails are in generally good condition, mostly due to their continued use by forestry vehicles. Public access for passive recreation purposes is not generally encouraged, due to logging activity and attendant public liability issues.

Spring Ridge SF is well signposted and access is immediately off a secondary road (Tungenbone Rd). Internal roads and fire trails are clearly marked and well maintained (for the most part) with graded gravel surfaces.

Signage on main roads to Breeza SF is non-existent, although signage on the forest perimeter does exist. Access is via unmarked dirt roads from either Coolanbilla Mountain, Tungenbone Road (northern side of Werris Creek railway line) or west of Breeza township. The use of a GPS unit is required to locate all of these roads and local knowledge (with the exception of foresters) of the site's location is poor. Internal access and firetrails vary considerably in condition. The forest is bisected by a well maintained dirt road (access from Courts Road) that eventually joins Mungindi Rd in the north. A northern perimeter road (from Coolanbilla Mountain) is also well maintained, but allows only perimeter views of the northern portion of forest. Firetrails branching from both these roads are poorly maintained and many have clearly been disused for some time. Virtually all require a 4WD and many parts of Breeza SF cannot be penetrated by vehicle. However, the land is generally level with very little topographic variation and access by trail bike or on horseback would be possible.

Signage from the main road to Trinkey SF is good and access is via marked dirt roads branching from the Tungenbone Rd at both the eastern and western margins of the forest. Internal access and fire trails are generally good, although many fire trails are accessible only by 4WD.

Goran SF is well sign-posted from the main road (Wondoba Rd) as well as at the forest entrance. Access is from Wondoba Rd directly and an alternate route by dirt roads from Curlewis also exists. Internal access and fire trails vary in condition; trails close to the western perimeter of the forest (including the Wondoba lease) are generally good, but somewhat overgrown. Trails in the centre and eastern portion of the forest are generally more degraded; a 4WD vehicle is recommended throughout the forest.

Signage for Wondoba SF is good, and the forest is easy to locate. Access is via Wondoba Rd (from Gunnedah) or an unmarked dirt road from Goran SF. Internal access and fire trails are variable; Wondoba Rd is in excellent condition and follows the eastern perimeter of the forest. A smaller dirt road branching from Wondoba Rd (the main entrance) bisects the forest completely and exits from the south-western corner of the site. Fire trails are generally overgrown and difficult to traverse, even with a 4WD vehicle; some sections of the forest cannot be penetrated with a vehicle. Fire trails are not marked and more than 50% appear to ‘dead end’ in thick bush.

Black Jack SF is easily accessed via Black Jack Forest Road, a branch of the Wondoba Rd, on the outskirts of Gunnedah. The site is clearly signposted and highly visible from the road. Internal access and firetrails vary in condition from very good to extremely poor. In general, it is possible to gain an overview of the forest from the main access roads through the forest. However, smaller firetrails are overgrown and poorly maintained, and have been completely covered by forest regrowth in some cases. Any further survey work will require the use of a 4WD vehicle and other, more manoeuvrable transport such as a trail bike.

Figure 23: Ring-barked tree, Spring Ridge State Forest. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

There is no signage for Somerton SF from any recognisable road, although a small sign at the forest entrance does exist. Access is extremely difficult and via a private property off the Oxley Highway. Permission and directions are required from the property owner; access is then gained by traversing a series of paddocks until the forest edge is reached. It should be noted that no roads exist through these paddocks and the terrain is very rough. Furthermore, the property in question is devoted to sheep and cattle grazing and care must be taken to avoid livestock and ensure that all gates are securely closed.

Internal access and fire trails in Somerton SF are in extremely poor condition. The main 'road' bisecting the forest is completely overgrown in parts and blocked by large, fallen trees. A perimeter road round the entire forest has been virtually obliterated by forest regrowth but can be traversed in some parts. All fire trails have been completely obliterated by forest regrowth and there is therefore no vehicular access into most parts of the forest. The terrain is rugged and hilly, with steep outcroppings of basalt and narrow ridge lines, further exacerbating access problems. What remains of the road surface is loose and soft and should be considered a '4WD dry weather track only.' A locked gate at the southern end of the forest (near Babbinoon Mountain) prevents access from the south and all ingress/egress is via the northern entrance described above.

Kelvin SF is well sign-posted from the main Gunnedah-Kelvin Rd and easily accessed by a well maintained unsealed branch road. Internal access and fire trails are generally well maintained and clear.

Leard SF is not signposted on the main Boggabri to Manilla Rd, but is signposted at the main forest entrance. Access to the site is via an unsealed branch road from Boggabri. Internal access and fire trails vary in condition from very good to poor, but most trails a generally navigable by 4WD.

4.2 NARRABRI/BARRABA FORESTS

Overview

The Narrabri/Barraba group of forests represent a distinct grouping within the study area, differentiated largely by topography and resultant fauna. The Nandewar Range is the remnant of a volcano that was active 17-20 million years ago, which rises abruptly from the surrounding western plains to a height of 1510 metres at Mount Kaputar. The lava shield is up to 700 metres thick but has in places been deeply eroded, exposing the underlying rocks. The degree of dissection in the landscape varies considerably. In some areas, broad amphitheatre valleys with alluvial floors extend well back into the range; elsewhere streams flow down canyons. At

Kurrawong Falls, Horsearm Creek plunges 70 metres in two waterfalls; smaller cascades and plunge pools are well developed at Waa Gorge and Devils Holes. Gently sloping upland areas like the summit of Grattai Mountain are the slightly eroded remnants of the original surface of the volcanic shield. In the upperstory of the landscape, lavas form extensive cliff-lines which often display columnar jointing, such as at Sawn Rocks. Erosion of these cliffs over time has left isolated buttes such as Nungadhun and The Governor. Another example is Yullundunida, a spectacular curved dyke, which rises up to 150 metres above the surrounding country.[160]

The combination of fertile volcanic soils, high rainfall and substantial variations in relief has resulted in great diversity of vegetation. The vegetation of the area is predominantly dry sclerophyll forest. Small patches of stunted sub-alpine woodland consisting of White Gum and Snow Gum growing amongst snow grass are found on the high plateau areas. Heath and low scrub occur on the wind swept peaks and rocky outcrops, while open forest with trees reaching 20-30 metres occurs on hill-sides subject to snow and severe frosts.[161]

Wet sclerophyll forest has developed in lower altitude sheltered valleys east of Mount Kaputar and small patches of rainforest occur in the deeper valleys in this part of the park. These rainforest remnants are very limited in extent and many species are at their western limit of distribution. Protection of these communities is considered of high importance.[162]

Study forests encompassed by the Narrabri/Barraba volcanic region are:

- Mount Kaputar National Park (dedicated as SF 1913 & NP 1959)
- Killarney SF (dedicated 1917)
- Bobbiwaa SF (dedicated 1917)
- Couradda SF (dedicated 1914)
- Moema SF (dedicated 1917)
- Rusden SF (dedicated 1917)
- Deriah SF (dedicated 1944)
- Plagyan SF (dedicated 1917, extended 1986)

Traditional owners of the region were the Kamliaroi people, whose range extended throughout the central north-west of NSW. Their occupation of the district is still not well understood, despite archaeological evidence suggesting the area was of some importance to them. The existence of Aboriginal campsites and axe grooves in valleys on the western side of the range together with a likely ceremonial ring near the summit of Mount Dowe, supports this supposition.[163]

John Oxley is generally considered to be the first European to sight the Nandewar Ranges from the summit of the Warrumbungle Ranges in 1818. The first Europeans with first-hand knowledge of the district were escaped convicts and explorers, including Allan Cunningham, who traversed the plains to the east of the Nandewar Ranges. Thomas Mitchell also explored the area, seeking a route through the ranges to the west in 1836, without success. More detailed surveys took place in 1852 by surveyor P.H. Henderson.[164]

---

160 *Mount Kaputar National Park - Draft Plan of Management*, NSW NPWS, Narrabri, 2002, np.

161 Ibid.

162 Ibid.

163 Gojak, D., *Archaeological Assessment of the "Chinese Fence", Mount Kaputar National Park*, NPWS Cultural Heritage Division, Sydney, 2000, p. 6.

164 Ibid., p. 6.

From the 1840s to the 1860s the Nandewar district was settled by graziers and the ranges formed a natural boundary for pastoral grazing runs. Grazing on the high ranges was limited by the difficulties of access and the loneliness of life as a shepherd. Following the Robertson Land Acts (1861) settlement intensified but the rugged terrain of the Nandewars deterred settlers from taking up land beyond the foothills. To the east of Mount Kaputar, the watershed separating the catchments of the Namoi and Gwydir Rivers was used as the dividing line between the counties of Murchison (to the north) and Nandewar (to the south). The present-day Barraba Track closely follows this line.[165]

Mount Kaputar State Forest was gazetted in December 1913 and Couradda State Forest was dedicated early the following year. The remaining Narrabri/Barraba forests were gazetted in 1917 and the Mount Kaputar SF was extended in 1924. In an early example of environmental consciousness, the Nandewar Mountain League formed in 1926 with a view to promoting the natural values and recreational opportunities of the ranges. The work of the League prompted the construction of a road from Barraba to the western wide of Mount Kaputar at Dawson's Springs.[166]

Despite the early success of the league, there was no formal access to the summit of Mount Kaputar from the east until the 1930s. Lobbying from communities on both sides of the ranges for a national park to be created from the reserves already in existence on the summit, resulted in the proclamation of Mount Kaputar National Park in 1959.[167]

The remaining forests in the group remained in State Forest ownership and efforts to increase the yield of cypress pine intensified as a result of the national park's declaration. In 1960, under increasing pressure from environmentalists, a further 3,000ha was added to Mount Kaputar NP, at the expense of Rusden, and Plagyan State Forests. In 1982 the Grattai, Nandewar and Rusden Wilderness Areas were proclaimed and in 1988 the national park was increased to 36 816 hectares, absorbing most of Rusden SF in the process. A small portion of Rusden SF has remained in State Forest ownership, but is no longer used for commercial forestry purposes.[168]

Access & Signage

Mt Kaputar NP is a major tourist attraction in the Narrabri district and signage policies reflect this. The site is located north-east of Narrabri, off the Narrabri-Bingara Rd via Bullawa Creek Rd. From the Bullawa Creek Rd turn-off, all access roads are unsealed and the main access road follows a steep ascent for several kilometres. Internal access is excellent, again reflecting the Park's status, although several access roads to heritage items have been blocked for conservation reasons. Access to most items is on foot only, and many of the access tracks are on rugged terrain and require a reasonable level of fitness to access. For example, the Scutt's Hut Trail (to Scutt's Hut), from the nearest vehicle drop-off point, requires a full day of vigorous walking on a narrow track across the ridge-line with a sheer drop on one side. This type of walking trail is a feature of the site.

Killearney SF is well sign-posted and easily accessed from the Narrabri-Bingara Rd. Internal access and fire trials are generally in good repair.

Bobbiwaa, Couradda and Moema SF can only be accessed via Long Tom Mountain Rd, an unsealed branch road north of Killearney SF off the Narrabri-Bingara Rd. This road is not marked or sign posted, nor is the turning and a GPS unit is required to locate the turning. Both

[165] Ibid., pp. 6-7.

[166] Ibid., p. 7.

[167] Ibid., p. 7.

[168] Pers. Comm., Neville Burkett, NPWS, Sydney, March 2002.

forests have good, unsealed perimeter roads but internal access and fire trails are in poor condition.

4.3 YALLAROI FORESTS

Overview

Geographically, this area is known as the Darling Plains is separated from the New England region by the Warrumbungle and Nandewar ranges in the east. The south east is well watered by the Namoi, Macquarie and Bogan Rivers whilst the western boundary is considerably drier. The entire district is unified by the rivers draining to the Upper Darling River and the large expanse of alluvial soils created by these rivers. These soils range from open black alluvial soils on Liverpool Plains to sandy and gravelly ridges, deposited by the Bogan, Castlereagh, Macquarie, Barwon, Namoi and Gwydir Rivers. There area contains a number of distinctive regions such as the Macquarie Marshes and Pilliga Scrub and the major river systems have numerous tributaries and billabongs.[169]

Vegetation is consistent throughout the study forests and consists of mixed white cypress pine and eucalypt forest, with the former species dominating in about 60% of the study group. Bull oak is an important component of the forest mix, occurring as a common associate species on solodized solonetz soils. Other common species include black cypress pine (generally removed as part of forestry management practices), belah, angophora, several types of acacia and broombrush. Mallees occur in the south-western sections of the district, particularly the Pilliga, but do not occur in the forests under discussion here. It is worth noting that several species of native orchid also occur in the north-eastern forests, due to the higher humidity producing and almost sub-tropical climate.[170]

The region was discovered by John Oxley, who finding his way blocked by the Macquarie Marshes then in flood, made his way eastward to the Liverpool Plains, naming the Castlereagh and Peel Rivers on his way, before ascending into the New England region. When Sturt entered the area in 1827-9 he found squatters already in place on the western side of the Liverpool Range. Mitchell, travelling through the area in 1831 discovered the Namoi River (near the present site of Boggabri) and went on to discover the Gwydir and Macintyre Rivers, reporting good pastoral land along the way.[171]

Figure 24: Rope Sawmill (closed), Yetman. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

Pastoralists entered the district from the south through the Hunter Valley and by rounding the Liverpool Range on west, moving north from Mudgee and Dubbo. By 1837 extensive pastoral runs were established as far north as Moree and Wee Waa and by 1848 the entire district, from Dubbo to the Queensland border, had been divided into large runs. Cattle runs dominated over sheep runs in this district, one of the areas in NSW to follow this pattern.

[169] *Regional Histories of NSW*, Department of Planning and NSW Heritage Office, Sydney, 1996.

[170] *Management Plan for Pilliga Management Area*, NSW Forestry Commission, 1986, p.7.

[171] *Regional Histories of NSW et al*, p.80.

The rough grazing on the plains and prevalence of dingoes made the country more suited to cattle than sheep. Cattlemen (rather than sheep graziers) appeared to bear more animosity towards Aboriginal people resulting in a fierce struggle for land ownership characterised by events such as the Myall Creek Massacre.[172]

Many of the early northern runs were owned by absentees living in the Hunter Valley, with its kinder climate and proximity to the comforts of life. This goes some way towards explaining the absence of large and impressive homesteads in the region in the first half of the 19th century. Instead, ex-convicts and convict stock-keepers took up residence in small huts and tent camps which left little lasting impression on the countryside. Holdings were huge, often up to 200 000 acres, promoting the spread of cattle, which required fewer men to care for them, and creating the need for drovers.[173] Several items identified by this study are associated with droving activities, which remained an essential component of cattle operations in the central north-west until the mid-20th century.

A Forest Ranger was first appointed to the district in 1877 in an attempt to prevent unrestricted exploitation of the timber resource. In 1878 a cutting diameter limit of 60cm was introduced for cypress pine ensuring that only mature trees were harvested; this was later reduced to 30cm. Following the passing of the *Forestry Act 1909*, the Northwest Regional Office was established at Narrabri in 1911 as a response to the increased commercial interest in the milling of white cypress pine. E.H.F. Swain was appointed the first Regional Forester, directing the work of forest guards based at Baradine, Narrabri, Wee Waa, Moree and Warialda. A forest management program developed from this point, consisting of five historical phases:

1. assessment survey and dedication of lands as State Forests (1917 onwards)
2. volume assessments and management subdivision surveys (1926-1934)
3. road construction (with unemployment relief labour), manual (axe) thinning of cypress pine, controlled logging and construction of basic fire fighting facilities such as fire towers and dams (1930-1945)
4. Lindsay's Pilliga Management Survey (1945) resulting in a yield scheduling plan (1945-1951)
5. forest inventories and development of area specific management plans (1960s-present)

As with the other study forests, the major forestry activities have been sleeper cutting followed by cypress pine production.[174] The Yallaroi forests are the most northern of the study forests and in the past, have been regarded as an extension of the Pilliga Forest group. There are certainly commonalities between the Yallaroi group and their more southerly counterparts; however, there are also differences. Study forests in this group are as follows:

- Berrygill SF
- Campbell SF
- Irrigappa SF
- Montrose SF

[172] Ibid., p.81.

[173] Ibid., p.81.

[174] *Pilliga Forest Management Plan etal*, pp.17-18.

- Courallie SF
- Mission SF
- Terry Hie Hie SF
- Warialda SF
- Stonehenge SF
- Bullala SF
- Strathmore SF
- Stuart SF
- Gunyerwarildi SF
- Parkhurst SF
- Bunal SF
- Yetman SF
- Bebo SF
- Gamilaroi NR
- Arakoola NR
- Kwimbal NR
- Planchonella NR

Many of these forests are in isolated location with poor or non-existent access. Therefore, only a limited group of forest in this group were surveyed (discussed below).

Courallie SF (Moree Plains Shire)

Courallie SF was first surveyed for its timber potential in 1914. Forest Assessor Julius reported that:

> *Apple and red gum are found along the Five Mile and lower Wiseman's Creek frontages, but except for the pine, the quality of the timber does not merit reservation.*[175]

The forest at this time contained a broad mix of tree species and native shrubs, of much greater diversity than the southern brigalow forests. The area that Courallie SF now occupies was taken up entirely by F.W. Katon's pastoral lease, comprising 5066 acres on the Wiseman Creek frontage. Notwithstanding Assessor Julius' opinion, in 1917 Katon's lease was revoked and Courallie SF declared.[176]

Only one item of potential heritage significance was located in Courallie SF - a stock enclosure which was probably associated with the Katon lease. Forestry records indicate that an Aboriginal mission was established adjacent to (or in) the forest, but this could not be located on any map. A more detailed investigation is required to confirm this.

---

[175] *Courallie State Forest No.414*, cover sheet located at West Pennant Hills.

[176] Ibid and *Parish Map of the County of Couallie, Parish of Duckhole 1911*, Mitchell Library Maps.

Mission SF (Moree Plains Shire)

The establishment of Aboriginal missions in the early part of the 20th century and the Mission at Terry Hie Hie (associated with this forest) have already been discussed in detail in this report. Mission SF is located just outside the village of Terry Hie Hie and is accessed through the former Mission compound. Mission SF was dedicated in 1917 and the Aboriginal mission was certainly established by 1920, when permission was given to the Aborigines Protection Board for the removal of timber from the adjacent forest to repair and build huts. In the 1920s several more buildings were erected in the forest, or relocated there from Terry Hie Hie SF and the nearby township. The forest overseer's cottage was erected during this period but this was burnt down in the 1970s. In addition to the Mission compound, a cemetery for Aboriginal use was established within the forest perimeter and a church was erected in the 1930s.[177]

Warialda SF (Yallaroi Shire)

Warialda SF is located due north of the township of Bingara and due south of Warialda. The area was first declared as a timber reserve in 1884 and then dedicated as a state forest in 1917. The initial forest reserve was created from six pastoral leases established between 1840 and 1878; artefacts associated with these holdings were not observed during survey work, but their existence should not be discounted. Despite the early recognition of a valuable timber reserve, Warialda SF continued to enjoy a close relationship with pastoralists from the late 19th century onwards. Extensive grazing permits, limited cultivation permits and building permits have all shaped the forest landscape over the course of a century. Due to the intensity of these activities, Warialda SF contains a high percentage of structures/artefacts associated with pastoralism in the late 19th and early to mid-20th century.[178]

Gunyerwarildi SF (Yallaroi Shire)

Gunyerwarilidi SF is located north of Warialda, off Boggabilla Rd in a bend of the Sugarloaf Creek. The forest was created from a pastoral property of the same name that was established by the Mackay family at the turn of the 19th century. The Gunyerwarildi property was extensive - easily one of the largest in the district at nearly 200 000 acres - and was devoted to cattle grazing. An 800-acre portion (FR27473) was revoked as a timber reserve in 1898, and Forester McPherson reported that:

> *... the timber consists of miniature white pine and broad leafed ironbark; reserve should be permanently dedicated on account of the scarcity of timber in the district; ... might be supervised by the police at Warialda.*[179]

The Mackay family were unhappy about the revocation and brought pressure on the Forestry Commission through the closer settlement lobby to return what they saw as 'our land.'[180] Although they did not regain ownership of the portion, their persistence was rewarded with an occupation over the entire 800 acres in 1919. The Mackay family continue to operate Gunyerwarildi (swapping cattle for sheep in the 1930s) and continue to graze their animals on the forest reserve. The forest is, and always has been, accessed through their property and the family continue to regard the land as being in their ownership.[181]

---

[177] *Mission State Forest No.412,* cover sheet located at West Pennant Hills.

[178] *Warialda State Forest No.417,* cover sheet located at West Pennant Hills.

[179] *Gunyerwarildi State Forest No.705,* cover sheet located at West Pennant Hills.

[180] Interview with J.D. Mackay, Bob Newell and Andrea Humphreys, Gunyerwarildi, April 2002.

[181] Ibid, and Gunyerwarildi forest cover sheet, op. cit.

Access & Signage

Access to Courallie SF is via an unmarked dirt road branching from Bingara Rd just south of Caroda village. There is no signage to show the way but there is a standard State Forest sign at the forest entrance. Internal access is variable with the main transecting roads well maintained, but fire trails are generally poorly maintained with limited access to most of the forest interior. A GPS unit is advised to located the access road accurately.

Access to Mission SF is excellent. Internal forest access is generally good, although some areas of the forest can only be penetrated on foot. Signage for the forest is good and highly visible from the main road. Access to Warialda SF is good from both Bingara and Warialda and the forest is well signposted. Internal access is variable, with the perimeter road in excellent condition but internal tracks in considerably poorer condition.

Access to Gunyerwarildi SF is problematic, as the site can only be accessed through the property of the same name. Neither site is sign-posted and the property is accessed via an unmarked dirt road branching from Boggabilla Rd. Permission of the owners is required to access the forest, along with keys as the access gates are kept locked. Several signs on the property indicate that strangers are not welcome and the relationship between NSW Forests and the Mackay family remain tense, even after a century of coexistence.

Yetman & Bebo SF (Yallaroi Shire)

Yetman SF is located outside the township of Yetman in the State's far north and Bebo SF is located east of Yetman, close to the township of Texas (on the Queensland border). These are the most northern forests in the study group and both are isolated and difficult to access. The township of Yetman developed as a service centre to the sleeper cutters and foresters, as is typical of many small towns and villages in the study area. Yetman SF was dedicated in 1926 following the revocation of a pastoral improvement lease to G.W. Dight of 10,315 acres.[182]

Bebo SF was dedicated in 1917 from a pastoral improvement lease to John A. Wilson of 4,2065 acres.[183] The area had been surveyed by the district surveyor (C.W. Laing) as early as 1902, when he noted that it was:

> *... timbered with gum, pine, ironbark and bloodwood with a thick undergrowth; the best timber has been cut but there is still a good supply of pine and ironbark and protection of young timber would ensure a supply for future use. It is also recommended that in order to keep this area clear of noxious animals, it might, if possible, be occupied under improvement lease subject to the supervision of the Forest Branch.*[184]

This recommendation was duly followed and the Forestry Commission (or the Department of Lands?) issued a series of improvement leases from the 1910s until the 1930s. The forest was extended in 1937 and occupation and improvement leases continued to be an important component of the forest landscape; this type of usage is continuing. Logging of cypress pine did not restart in Bebo SF until the 1950s, when the young pine noted in 1902 was sufficiently mature to harvesting. However, cypress pine thinning was undertaken intensively in the years leading up to the 1950s in order to ensure a good crop. The township of Yetman boomed when the pine matured and most of the activity in Yetman associated with forestry (including the

---

[182] *Parish of Trigamon, County of Arrawatta 1919*, Mitchell Library Parish Maps and *Yetman State Forest No.802*, cover sheet held at West Pennant Hills.

[183] *Parish of Bebo, County of Arrawatta 1903*, Mitchell Library Parish Mzps and *Bebo State Forest No.418*, cover sheet held at West Pennant Hills.

[184] Ibid.

establishment of the Rope sawmill and most of the town's building stock) dates from this period.[185]

Access & Signage

Yetman SF is accessed via an unmarked dirt road branching from Route 44, outside the township of Yetman. The forest is accessed through a series of private pastoral properties, many of which do not encourage visitors. Even with the use of a GPS unit, Yetman SF was very difficult to locate. There is no signage to the forest and a standard Forestry sign at the forest entrance. Bebo SF is equally difficult to locate and is also accessed via an unmarked dirt road from Route 44. Internal access in both forests is generally good due to recent forestry activities, including a road upgrading program.

4.4 DUBBO FORESTS

Overview

The Dubbo forests and nature reserves are located immediately to the north and east of the City of Dubbo. Goonoo State Forest is the largest forested area in this part of the study area. It is widely regarded as the most significant forest in the district for a variety of reasons, but primarily for its valuable timber resource (particularly ironbark), its size and its continuous usage by people for cultural, spiritual, recreational and commercial reasons. Eura, Lincoln and Breelong State Forests, immediately north west of Goonoo SF, are regarded as part of the same forested area. Most of these latter forests are small but the recently gazetted Cobbora is a medium sized forest. Study forests in this group are as follows:

- Goonoo State Forest (dedicated 1917)
- Eura State Forest (dedicated 1917)
- Lincoln State Forest (dedicated 1917)
- Breelong State Forest (dedicated 1917)
- Biddon State Forest (dedicated 1917)
- Beni State Forest (dedicated 1917)

These forests are characterised by mixed native hardwoods (predominantly ironbark) and white cypress pine, with some black cypress pine and River Red Gum (which is not present in the other study forests).

Goonoo SF

Goonoo SF is a 62 467-hectare ironbark and cypress pine forest located north-east of Dubbo. The forest contains a network of roads and tracks, and the main road between Dubbo and Mendooran traverses the forest. This road is significant as it was constructed in 1937 with unemployment relief labour. The Dubbo to Coonamble railway line runs parallel to the forests western boundary. The forest was dedicated in 1917, a year after the establishment of the NSW Forestry Commission, and is therefore one of the state's oldest state forests. Like many other State Forests, parts of it had been reserved as a timber reserve since 1902 and 1907. A

[185] Ibid.

number of extensions and revocations have occurred over the years, resulting in a somewhat larger forest than the original dedication.

The Goonoo State Forest has been logged for ironbark since the c.1850s and for cypress pine throughout the 20th century; sleeper cutting was continuous from the 1890s to the 1990s.[186] It has seen grazing activity throughout its history and beekeeping has been a significant industry during the last 60 years. While sites located in this forest are mainly from the 20th century, a fence line c.1860s provides evidence of 19th century pastoral activity. Sites such as the fire tower ruins reflect the management regime of the NSW Forestry Commission. Exploitation of the timber resource of the forest is demonstrated in sites such as the old mill site, c.1900 and the Frost family camp of the 1940s. Charcoal burning sites and internees' campsites specifically relate to short-term uses of the forest during a time of national emergency and date from World War II.

Other sites here, and in Lincoln and Biddon State Forests, relate to Forestry Commission and timber workers' living sites. These workers continually moved around the forest depending on where their work was, living in tents during the week and going home at the weekend.[187] In 1948 as the Australian economy began to boom it was found that poor living conditions made it hard to 'hold' workers in places such as Goonoo, and so the district forester requested that a suitable permanent camp be built. Five years later this was constructed.[188]

Eura, Lincoln and Breelong SF

Eura, Lincoln and Breelong SF, located north west of Goonoo SF, were all dedicated in 1917 and like Goonoo they had been part of earlier timber/forest reserves (these terms are sometimes used interchangeably). In 1904 the district forester commented that in FR 34217 (gazetted in 1902 and now Eura SF), there had been 'continuous operations' for a number of years that had 'depleted to a great extent the most valuable of the timber'. The timber in the forest at that time was described as 'ironbark, oak, box, pine and gum'.[189]

Breelong SF, where the dominant timber species in the early 20th century was ironbark, was gazetted as FR 41296 in 1907. Lincoln SF, gazetted as FR 34217 in 1902 grew predominantly 'ironbark, box and pine'. These forests have had a similar history with grazing as an ongoing activity, harvesting of sleepers, fencing and poles and intensive Forestry Commission management since 1920. Prickly pear was a problem in all these forests from as early as 1910. Several sites in Breelong SF reflect these varied uses and practices (see Heritage Items).

Biddon SF

Biddon SF is located north east of Gilgandra along the Newell Highway. The hamlet of the same name is now very quiet but when timber getting was at its height in the earlier years of the 20th century this little village hummed.

This forest and neighbouring Yalgogrin SF are remnants of a much larger forested area that was reserved in 1884 to protect 'a large tract of ironbark and pine country from alienation'. In 1913, with the closer settlement lobby in its ascendancy, the bulk of this reserve was alienated.[190] An inspection report from that year for Biddon SF commented that most of the mature trees had already been cut out and the remaining timber consisted mostly of 'young pine in various stages

[186] Goonoo SF, SFNSW file 00124, located at Pennant Hills.

[187] Cox, op. cit.

[188] SFNSW file 51350, held at Pennant Hills.

[189] Eura SF cover sheet located at Pennant Hills.

[190] Yalgogrin SF annual report, file 86498 located at Pennant Hills.

of growth'. There was also 'ironbark, mugga, box, oak, black pine wattle – thick in places and some mallee'. Biddon and Yalgogrin SFs were dedicated in 1917.[191]

Figure 25: Tank stand, forest foreman's cottage site, Biddon State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

'Improvement' work, usually installing firebreaks, commenced towards the end of 1916. A 3000 cubic foot tank was located on Compartment 4 in 1919 but whether this was constructed by the Forestry Commission or a lessee is not known. Sites located in this forest are similar to those in Goonoo SF, and reflect World War II activities and Forestry Commission management. They are well preserved and the forest foreman's camp is particularly interesting because no serious attempt has been made to 'clean it up' (as has happened in Goonoo SF). One possible reasons for this, is that Biddon was not regarded as such an important forest as Goonoo SF by the Forestry Commission.

Beni SF

Beni SF, located due east of Dubbo, was dedicated in 1917. Its dominant timber was pine and ironbark forest. This was part of a larger area, gazetted as a forest reserve in 1887 that was reduced by almost a third in the 1890s. The parts of the forest that were revoked were in the north and south-western corners and on the eastern boundary. There has been a history of grazing and beekeeping in this forest. In 1899 part of the forest was under leasehold that required the lessee to undertake ringbarking, the conditions for which are listed in surviving records.[192]

This forest was considered to have 'not much real value' when it was assessed in 1927. Despite the expenditure of considerable sums of money on silvicultural treatment it was regarded as 'low grade' and its only potential was for the supply of firewood to Dubbo. The wood that was being cut at this time was described as 'old and dry'; the foreman was described in similar terms.[193] A handwritten note on the 1927 assessment commented that the small experimental area established 'years ago' was inspected. It was noted that 'a few halepensis are still living and three silky oak but all the insignis are dead or dying.' The area was said to be 'overlain by a shallow hard pan, not uncommon in cypress forests. This is sufficient to account for the death of insignis after living a few years.'[194]

Despite these unpromising signs in the 1920s, the forest was extensively logged during the post-war years, and an overnight accommodation hut was constructed. Toolsheds and

[191] Biddon SF cover sheet located at Pennant Hills.

[192] Beni SF cover sheet located at Pennant Hills.

[193] Ibid.

[194] Beni SF annual report, file 86542 located at Pennant Hills.

phonelines were installed in the 1950s and the hut was repaired in the 1960s.[195] Sites located in this forest do not reflect intensive Forestry Commission management or 20th century activity, as do the other Dubbo forests inspected.

Access & Signage

Access to and signage for the Dubbo forests is generally good, with the exception of Yarindury SF, to which there was no access.

4.5 GULGONG FORESTS

No forestry management plan was available for this forest group. Study forests in this group are as follows:

- Goodiman State Forest (dedicated in 1917)
- Tuckland State Forest (dedicated in 1962)
- Cope State Forest (dedicated in 1986)

Goodiman State Forest is located 20 kms north west of Gulgong and was dedicated in 1917. It was originally gazetted as FR 32779 in 1901. At this time it was a forest of 'ironbark, gum, stringybark and a little pine and apple'. Although it was described as 'very broken and rocky' and 'only adapted for grazing purposes', it was considered at this time to be a potentially valuable asset when the young timber had matured.[196] Sleepers and fence posts were cut out of the forest in the 1950s and early 1970s.[197]

Tuckland State Forest, an area of 1390 acres (ha) was dedicated in 1962 but had been gazetted as FR 57246 in 1926. It is located north of the northern section of Goodiman SF. Like Goodiman SF, it is divided into two sections and is located on hilly terrain. It was possibly formerly a crown lease and sleepers and fence posts have been harvested from this forest.

Cope SF, previously crown land, was dedicated in 1986. The site located was in Extension No. 3 which was formerly held as a Crown Lease with a history of grazing and some beekeeping. This forest shows evidence of cypress pine thinning in the 1890s. Late 19th century thinnings were generally done at a much higher level as can be seen in photograph?, and are easily identified. It is possible that these were thinned by a different means, possibly by a gang of Chinese workers, hired by a leaseholder after he had attained relatively secure tenure following the Crown Land Act 1884. Further historical research would be required to verify this.

Other forests included in this overview survey are Yarrobil SF (no sites located) and Dapper Nature Reserve.

Access & Signage

Access to the Gulgong forests is generally fair. Survey by 4WD drive vehicle is recommended for future surveys, as access inside forest boundaries is variable and many tracks are accessible only by 4WD; signage for all these forests is poor.

[195] Beni SF annual report, file 86542 located at Pennant Hills.

[196] Goodiman SF cover sheet located at Pennant Hills.

[197] Goodiman SF annual report, file 86501 located at Pennant Hills.

4.6 UKERBARLEY – PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNED BY MILTON AND JANE JUDD

Located on the Baradine road 6 km. north of Coonabarabran, Ukerbarley is a 1472 ha freehold property located on the southern end of the Pilliga forest area. The property consists of high sandstone hills dissected by three main fertile valleys. A little over 10% of the property has

Figure 26: Woolshed, Ukerbarley. Source: Pauline Curby.

been farmed in the past, but not in the last 10 years, and about one third has been grazed. The property has a rich history with both Aboriginal and non-indigenous sites located there. Pastoralist occupation of this land is reputed to date from the 1830s. Despite such early intrusion by Europeans, some of the local Aboriginal people remained associated with this land for many years. Further research is needed to clarify these details.

This property (part of a larger area of land) appears on the second edition (1902) of the Parish of Ukerbarley, County of Baradine map as part of portion 8, held by Andrew Brown. Brown was a considerable property owner in the district in the 19th century and details of his career are included in Eric Rolls' work *A Million Wild Acres*. By 1929 portion 8 had been subdivided and was an Additional Conditional Purchase held by J. H. Keeping.[198]

The short history of the property written by the owners refers to the freeholding of the land in the 19th century and its reversion to the status of crown land. This and other details of its tenure need to be confirmed.[199] From the 1940s to the 1970s the Keeping brothers, Roy and Jack operated the property. They ran sheep and cattle, grew wheat and oats and also had a market garden to supplement their income. Family friends Milton and Jane Judd purchased the property after its further subdivision in 1975. They operated a mixed farm for some years and then gradually concentrated their energies on sheep and cattle grazing. This has now been significantly wound back and a low-key environmental tourism operation has been established. In addition to sites of cultural heritage the property has a rich diversity of bird life, flora and fauna.

[198] *Parish of Ukerbarley, County of Baradine, Parish Map 1929*, Mitchell Library Parish Maps.

[199] This is not stated with any desire to underestimate the owners' research capabilities, but it was not within the scope of this study to view all relevant documents or ascertain further details of the oral history that they have collected from previous owners.

Access & Signage

Access is fair but permission should be sought from the owners. There is no signage to the property.

4.7 WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK

Overview

Located 33km west of Coonabarabran on Jack Renshaw Drive, Warrumbungle National Park is a striking scenic area that covers the western part of the Warrumbungle Range. This 21 534-hectare national park attracts thousands of visitors annually. Walking, rock climbing, camping or simply appreciating the peaks and mountain ranges are some of the reasons that visitors have come to the area since at least the 1930s. In spring the park has been described as a 'riot of colour' as the Western golden wattle (*Acacia decora*), the Sydney Boronia (*Boronia ledifolia*) and a variety of 'bush' orchids flower.[200]

Warrumbungle National Park, like much of the Coonabarabran district, is rich in Aboriginal sites, ranging from open artefact scatters to ochre processing sites. For thousands of years before the advent of European settlement the Kamilaroi people used its caves for shelter and camped by its creeks and springs.

Access & Signage

Access is excellent if entering the park from the east coming from Coonabarabran. Sites visited in the northern part of the park, under the informative guidance of NPWS ranger Roger Row, were easy to access and only two required a 4WD vehicle. Many less accessible sites were not visited because of time constraints. Sites inspected in the southern part of the park also had good access from Tooraweenah. Signage to the Park and throughout is excellent.

4.8 PILLIGA FORESTS

Overview

The Pilliga forests, known commonly until recent years as the 'Pilliga Scrub', is the famous *A Million Wild Acres* of Eric Rolls' seminal work that celebrated the people, the place, the birds and animals and the forest itself. The following summary is based on this work and Rolls' contribution is duly acknowledged.

According to Rolls, the Pilliga area was first occupied by Europeans in the late 1830s, when a 'careful Scotsman' called Andrew Brown set up a pastoral outstation on the banks of Baradine Creek.[201] There was a long water hole there, near the present town of Baradine. Rolls details the pastoralists who squatted illegally in the district, their ever-changing fortunes and the station names some of which are now remembered by the names of state forests. He claims that the first big wire fenced paddocks in Australia were put in at Burburgate in 1856.[202] As the land laws changed so that working people could select land over which the squatters held very insecure tenure, water reserves were placed over strategic parts of the runs to prevent their selection. There were not many selections in this dry and less than hospitable country.

---

[200] Peter Fox, *Warrumbungle National Park, Parks of the Western Region*, The Beaten Track Press in association with NPWS, 1996, pp. 6, 25-7.

[201] Rolls, E., *A Million Wild* Acres, Penguin Books, Ringwood Victoria, 1981, p. 117.

[202] Ibid., p. 166.

The village of Baradine developed in the 1860s and by the second half of the 1870s a thriving timber industry was developing and the first timber reserves were gazetted in the district.[203] Rolls also tells of the 'wet years' that created the conditions for the 'marvellous' growth of cypress pine that he considers was the foundation of the present forests. Bores were first put in during the 1880s at which time roads and bridges were constructed throughout the north-west of the Colony. The railway came to Narrabri in 1882 and Rolls also details how selectors arrived in the area in these years and into the early years of the century and how a government report in 1905 praised the potential of the area around Baradine for wheat growing.[204]

Forest assessment was undertaken in 1915[205] but as in many other places, the foresters were often fighting a rearguard action against closer settlement. Sleeper cutting reached a peak in 1917 and sleepers were taken by bullock wagon to the rail head at Narrabri. As accessible areas were cut out, production declined until the railway line to Gwabegar opened in 1923. Sleeper cutting reached another peak in 1930 and those areas that did remain in the forest estate were intensively managed.[206]

Study forests, all previously part of the Pilliga National Forest created in 1937, surveyed in this study in the Pilliga forest area are as follows:

- Pilliga West State Forest (dedicated in 1917)
- Pilliga East State Forest (dedicated in 1917?)
- Baradine State Forest (dedicated in 1918)
- Orr State Forest (dedicated in 1932)
- Denobollie State Forest (dedicated in 1935)
- Merriwindi State Forest (dedicated in 1984, previously part of Pilliga National Forest)
- Cumbil State Forest (dedicated in 1927)
- Euligal State Forest (dedicated in 1927)
- Yarrigan State Forest (dedicated in 1917?)

It is important to emphasise that while forest growth may be thicker (and smaller) than it was 150 years ago, the forests of the region cover a far smaller area than they once did. Detailed research is needed to confirm this, but two examples from the area are the land between Wee Waa and Narrabri directly south of the railway line and north of Jack's Creek State Forest and Pilliga East SF, and, further south, the land surrounding Biddon and Yalgogrin SF. The latter was broken up for closer settlement around 1913 while the former was part of the Pilliga Scrub land offered for conditional purchase in 1907.[207]

Access & Signage - Access to and signage for the Pilliga forests is generally good.

---

[203] Ibid., pp. 179-181, 183.

[204] Ibid., p. 111, 187, 197-205.

[205] Ibid. p. 273.

[206] van Kempen, op. cit. p. 97.

[207] King p. 209.

5. FORESTS OMITTED FROM THIS REPORT

5.0 FORESTS NOT INSPECTED DUE TO ACCESS PROBLEMS

A number of forests could not be surveyed, even in a cursory way, due to access difficulties. Access problems included difficulty locating the forest due to unmapped roads and sites, non-existent internal access and total leasing of some forests to private graziers. The following study forests were not inspected due to private leasing arrangements:

1. Campbell SF (Yallaroi Group)
2. Bullala SF (Yallaroi Group)
3. Strathmore SF (Yallaroi Group)
4. Bunal SF (Yallaroi Group)

All of these forests are located in the northern portion of the study area, suggesting that this region is no longer a primary producer of timber products.

The following study forests were not inspected due to external and/or internal access problems:

1. Pine Ridge SF (Merriwa Group)
2. Dowe SF (Gunnedah Group)
3. Vickery SF (Gunnedah Group)
4. Plagyan SF (Gunnedah Group)
5. Rusden SF (Narrabri/Barraba Group)
6. Deriah SF (Narrabri/Barraba Group)
7. Bullawa Creek SF (Narrabri/Barraba Group)
8. Berrygill SF (Yallaroi Group)
9. Irrigappa SF (Yallaroi Group)
10. Montrose SF (Yallaroi Group)
11. Terry Hie Hie SF (Yallaroi Group)
12. Yarindurie SF (Dubbo Group)

Arrangements with the controlling authority (in all cases, NSW State Forests) will need to be made before future surveys are planned. However, based on data collected from those forests that were inspected, it can reasonably be assumed that similar types of heritage items will be located in the forests noted above. It *cannot* be assumed that no items exist, or that possible items will be identical to those already identified or that no highly significant items exist in

these areas. For this reason, surveys of all these forests are recommended in the near future (see Section ??? Recommendations).

5.1 STUDY FORESTS CONTAINING NO KNOWN HERITAGE ITEMS

A number of study forests were found to contain no known heritage items. These forests are, with two exceptions, exclusively nature reserves (NR) in the control of the NPWS. These forests are:

1. Manobalai NR (Scone Shire)
2. Towarri NP (Scone Shire)
3. Wingen Maid NR (Scone Shire)
4. Cameron's Gorge NR (Scone Shire)
5. Burning Mountain NR (Scone Shire)
6. Cedar Brush NR (Scone Shire)
7. Gamilaroi NR (Yallaroi Shire)
8. Stuart SF (Yallaroi Shire)
9. Arakoola NR (Yallaroi Shire)
10. Planchonella NR (Yallaroi Shire)
11. Binnawey NR (Coonabarabran Shire)
12. Coolbaggie NR (Dubbo Shire)
13. Wongarbon NR (Dubbo Shire)
14. Waubebunga SF (Dubbo Shire)
15. Dilly SF (Gilgandra Shire)
16. Curban SF (Gilgandra Shire)
17. Yalgogrin SF (Gilgandra Shire)
18. Boyben SF (Gilgandra Shire)
19. Mogriguy SF (Dubbo Shire)
20. Minnon SF (Narrabri Shire)
21. Etoo SF (Narrabri Shire)
22. Quegobla SF (Narrabri Shire)
23. Cubbo SF (Narrabri Shire)
24. Yamimba SF (Coonabarabran Shire)
25. Janewindi SF (Narrabri Shire)
26. Weetalibah NR (Coolah Shire)
27. Vickery SF (Narraabri Shire)
28. Campbell SF (Moree Plains Shire)
29. Stuart SF (Narrabri Shire)

Items 1-6 are the only remaining forested areas in Scone Shire and all items are listed as items of environmental heritage in the Scone Shire LEP. Towarri NP is one of the most unusual

forests in the study group, in terms of its historical development; it is discussed in more detail earlier in this report.

5.2 STUDY FORESTS NOT VISITED DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS

The following study forests may contain items of heritage significance, but local knowledge and documentary evidence suggests that these items are likely to be of marginal value and probably of a contributory nature. These sites were not visited due to time constraints (a higher priority was given to forests where local knowledge and documentary evidence clearly supported the existence of heritage items).

1. Coolbaggie NR (Dubbo Shire
2. Eumungerie SF (Dubbo Shire)
3. Midkin NR (Moree Plains Shire)
4. Tinkramenah SF (Coonabarabran Shire)
5. Garawilla SF (Coonabarabran Shire)
6. Brigalow Park NR (Narrabri Shire)
7. Pilliga NR (Coonabarabran Shire)
8. Culgoora SF (Narrabri Shire)
9. Cobbora SF (Coolah Shire)
10. Wittenbra SF (Coonabarabran Shire)
11. Rutley SF (Narrabri Shire)
12. Jack's Creek SF (Narrabri Shire)

All of these forests will require surveys in the near future to ascertain the existence of heritage items. Further historical investigation should also be undertaken as part of this.

6. HERITAGE ITEMS

6.0 MERRIWA FORESTS

A number of potential heritage items were identified in the Merriwa forests; these items are detailed below:

Items identified by other agencies

No heritage items have been identified by other agencies within or close to the Merriwa state forests. A number of heritage items have been identified in the Murrurundi Shire LEP (the adjoining shire), but none are close to forested areas or relate to forestry activities.

A total of eight heritage items, all relating to forestry activities have been identified by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) Western Directorate, in Coolah Tops NP. These items have been documented in the NPWS S.170 Register and inventory forms for these sites are held by NPWS. These items are as follows:

1. Cox's Creek Sawmill Ruins
2. Sleeper cutter's campsite
3. Brackens Cottage (1937)
4. Brackens Hut (no date)
5. Snow's Hut (1955)
6. Former sawmill site (1950s)
7. Bus & Galley ruins (1950s)
8. Gemini Road logging site (1950s - 1990s)

These items are signposted within the National Park and are marked on tourist maps for the area, although most are accessible only by 4WD.

Items identified by this study

A number of heritage items were identified during the course of survey, both inside forest boundaries and outside (but relating to) forests:

1. c.1920s post & wire fence (within forest boundary, Curryall SF))
2. 1860s weatherboard cottage & outbuildings (Curryall Creek, forest fringes, Curryall SF)
3. Galvanised iron woolshed (Curryall Creek, forest fringes, Curryall SF)
4. Turill Village Church (weatherboard, Turill Village)
5. Turill Community Centre (Turill Village)
6. Galvanised iron shed with pole construction skillion (Turill Village)
7. Turill Village Church (strip batten, Turill Village)

8. Pole construction stables (Turill Village)
9. Ironbark cottage (Turill Village)
10. Temporary stock enclosure c.1890 (Turill SF)
11. Stockmen's waterhole/campsite c.1890 (Turill SF)
12. Ironbark loading bay c.1890 (Turill SF)[208]
13. Dam (Durridgere SF)
14. Fence remnants relating for former grazing run (Coolah Tops NP)
15. Pole construction shelter ruins (Warung SF)
16. Gate & fence ruins (Warung SF)
17. Gates to 'Edenvale' (Warung SF)
18. Farm complex ruins (Warung SF)

Figure 27: Cox's Creek Sawmill engine, Coolah Tops National Park. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

Items 4-9 are located in Turill Village and it could be argued that the entire village constitutes an item of heritage significance, based on its close relationship to Turill SF. It is one of the finest examples of an intact 19th century sleeper cutter's village in the study area. Items 10 & 11 relate to mustering/droving activities that have taken place in the forest during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is rare to find such clear evidence of a transitory activity, particularly given the ephemeral nature of temporary stock enclosures. That this item is extant is due largely to the difficulty of access and minimal human use of the forest in recent decades. Item 12 relates to the ironbark sleeper cutting industry that was the economic mainstay of Turill Village in the late 19th century. The loading bay is still used but as a loading bay for sand and gravel quarrying. Items 10-12 are of high significance within a local context, although Turill Village (in its entirety) is considered to be of potential State significance based on its rarity and high degree of intactness.

The dam identified in Durridgere SF (item 13) should be treated as a *potential* heritage item only; further investigation is required to determine its provenance and possible significance. Likewise, further investigation of the fence remnants (Coolah Tops NP, item 14) will be required.

The items identified in Warung SF are good examples of the close relationship between pastoral activities and the study forests. The construction methods and materials used make it difficult to date these items with any confidence, but they are consistent with construction from the 1870-1930 period. Although only the gates to "Edenvale" have been noted in this study, based on an overview survey taken from Jemmy's Creek Rd, the "Edenvale" property is likely

[208] Items identified with the assistance of Turill Village shopkeeper, who declined to be identified. April 2002.

to be of heritage significance. The property was not inspected due to numerous threatening signs warning visitors to keep out and any future inspection of the property will require prior contact and permission from the owners.

Figure 28:

Turrill Village church. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

Contributory Items

Contributory heritage items are defined as those items that provide evidence of past human activity and contribute to the overall heritage significance of the place, but are not of high individual significance or suitable for listing due to management/conservation issues. Sleeper dumps are an excellent example of this type of item, as they cannot be conserved long term, but constitute important evidence of past activities.

No contributory heritage items were identified in (or close to) Curryall, Turill and Warung State Forests. A number of contributory heritage items have been identified in Durridgere SF including ironbark sleeper dumps and an ironbark cutting site. One similar item (log dump/timber production site) was identified in Coolah Tops NP, near a former sawmill site already identified by the NPWS. This area is unlikely to be disturbed in the near future and the short-term conservation of artefacts appears assured. Nonetheless, some archival recording of the site is recommended.

6.1 GUNNEDAH FORESTS

Items Identified by Other Agencies

No heritage items have been identified by other agencies in Doona, Spring Ridge, Breeza, Trinkey, Goran, Wondoba or Somerton SF.

Parry Shire Council has identified two items of heritage significance with a close relationship to Somerton SF (and other forested areas in Parry Shire):

1. Stands of brigalow, reserve no. 200016, Gunnedah Rd, Tamworth
2. Nature reserves and Aboriginal reserve area (exact location to be confirmed)

Both these items relate to a landscape that existed before European colonisation and allow comparison between this former landscape and the current landscape, which exists as a result of human modification since the early 19th century.

There are no items of heritage significance identified by other agencies in Leard SF. However, a number of heritage items have been identified in the Narrabri Shire LEP, outside of designated state forests or national parks, but within or close to forested areas. These items will be discussed in more detail under Section ???: Items Outside State Forests & National Parks.

Items Identified by This Study

Numerous heritage items were identified during the course of survey work:

1. Forester's hut ruins (Doona SF)
2. Dam c.1910 (Doona SF)
3. Remnant post & rail fence c.1890s (Doona SF)
4. Forestry water tower (Spring Ridge SF)
5. Ring-barked tree (Spring Ridge SF)
6. Former sleeper cutter's camp (Trinkey SF)
7. Apiary platforms (Trinkey SF)
10. 'Wondoba' Swagmen's Hut (Goran SF)
11. Former Charcoal Burning Site (Goran SF)
12. Temporary stock enclosure (Wondoba SF)
13. Farmhouse (Wondoba SF)
14. Stock race (Wondoba SF)
15. Water tank (Black Jack SF)
16. Car wreck c.1940s (Black Jack SF)
17. Windmill & dam (Somerton SF)
18. Gold Fossicking Area (Leard SF)
19. Trial coal excavation pit (Leard SF)

Doona SF

The construction methods and materials used for built structures makes them difficult to date accurately. However, based on careful observation of artefact scatter at the hut site (item 1), the ruins are most likely to date from the 1920-1930 period. The post and rail technique for fencing and stock enclosures was widespread in the 19th and 20th centuries, with little change during more than a century; the technique continues to be used, albeit infrequently, today. The suggested date for this item is based on the extensive weathering of the timbers used, in this case ironbark, which weathers very slowly. The dam cannot be dated, but appears on a 1917 map of Doona SF, indicating that it relates to a former pastoral holding (not named).

Spring Ridge SF

Ring-barking of selected species was widely employed from the 1930s onwards to facilitate the growth of cypress pine. Although the practice was widespread, surprisingly little evidence of ring-barking has survived in the eastern study forests, possibly due to the eventual felling and removal of such trees. The gravel quarry (item 7) is included in this study as a provisional item only and should not be included on any heritage register until further studies have been completed.

Trinkey SF

Both of the items in Trinkey SF were identified with the assistance of local foresters, although they were unable to provide dates.

Goran SF

The 'Wondoba' Swagmen's Hut was erected in the mid-1930s by the owners of the 'Wondoba' cattle property (located on the western side of Wondoba Road, directly opposite Goran SF).[209] The hut was erected to provide temporary shelter to swagmen, away from the main homestead. It is clear from Waterhouse's work on this subject, that this is an unusually late erection of such a structure and that it is one of a mere handful of similar surviving structures in NSW. Its rarity is further enhanced by the numerous name and date inscriptions made on the chimney breast by all the swagmen that have used the hut since its erection. This item is considered to be of State significance and will require careful conservation measures.

The former charcoal burning site (which could not be located due to access difficulties, but whose existence was confirmed by a former forester)[210] is also extremely unusual. Evidence of charcoal burning practices in the brigalow forests are rare, as forests kilns are not preserved and most burning since the 1930s has taken place in specially built retorts or kilns off-site. This item is considered to be of Regional significance and will also require careful conservation measures.

Black Jack SF

Abandoned and/or burnt out cars are a common sight in many of the study forests (State Forests only) but few are as early as that identified in Black Jack SF. However, it is not possible to know whether the car relates to a former pastoral holding (e.g. the abandoned 'Hillview' property) and has been *in situ* for several decades, or whether it was 'dumped' there at a later date, by vandals. Whichever the case, the wreck is clearly a favourite place for recreation amongst young children (playing fantasy games) and teenagers/youths (using the site to take drugs and as a 'make-out' venue).[211]

This raises an interesting conundrum, namely if the item has no heritage significance relating to its historical provenance, does it still have social significance through its more recent usage? Ultimately, the length of time for which the item has been *in situ* and in use for social/recreational purposes, will need to be established before an assessment of significance can be made. It is most likely, that this can only be established through extensive oral history work, which may not be justified in light of the item's condition and doubtful provenance.

Somerton SF

The dam and windmill clearly relate to former pastoral holdings, most likely the Babbinboon holding of the early 20th century, which has always been the entry point to the forest.

Kelvin SF

It is most likely that item 22 (Dam,) relates to a former (and possibly current) pastoral lease in the forest, probably the Ingliston occupation permit (discussed above).

[209] Pers. Comm., Brian Kennedy, Gunnedah, April 2002.

[210] Pers. Comm., Brian Kennedy, Gunnedah, April 2002.

[211] Pers. Comm., John McMullen, Gunnedah teenager, April 2002.

Figure 29: Babbinboon windmill and dam, Somerton State Forest. Source: Andrea Humphreys.

Contributory Items

There are no individual contributory items of note in Doona, Spring Ridge, Breeza, Trinkey, Wondoba, Black Jack, Somerton, Leard or SF, however, the constant presence of cypress pine thinnings make a major contribution to the forest landscape. The age of thinnings vary from the 1890s (rare) to the 1940-1960 period (common). In general, earlier thinnings occur in smaller groups, are cut at a slightly higher point than later thinnings and are considerably more weathered in appearance. Good examples of both types of thinnings should be archivally recorded, as they will eventually be obliterated by forest regrowth and continued logging.

In addition to thinnings, the Wondoba lease within Goran SF is also a contributory item of high value. The boundary lines, fences and other structures associated with this lease should be conserved and recorded, even if the lease changes hands or is altered in area/configuration.

One contributory item - Log dump - was identified in Kelvin SF. Based on the weathering of logs, this item is likely to date from the c.1950s, the period of most intensive logging activity in Kelvin SF.

6.2 NARRABRI/BARRABA FORESTS

Items Identified by Other Agencies

No heritage items were identified by other agencies in Killarney, Bobbiwaa, Couradda, Moema, Plagyan, Rusden, Deria or Bullawa Creek State Forests.

A number of items have been identified by the NPWS in Mount Kaputar NP:

1. Fay Green's Humpy
2. Bundaleer Homestead Site
3. Ningadoo Homestead Site
4. Scutt's Hut and grounds
5. Ningadoo Hay shed
6. Scutt's Trail
7. Chinese Fence
8. Mt Grattai Geodetic Station
9. Mt Kaputar Geodetic Station

10. Mt Ningadhus Geodetic Station
11. Mt Yullundunida Geodetic Station
12. Mt Borawal (The Governor) Geodetic Station
13. Camel's Hump Geodetic Station
14. Euglah Springs Surveyor's Tree
15. Stone Gully Troughs
16. Foggy Dell Woolshed
17. Hartley's Creek Mineshaft
18. Mt Waa Geodetic Station
19. Canyon Camp

All of these sites are listed in the NPWS S.170 Register and on the SHI; inventory sheets for the sites (with the exception of the geodetic stations) are available through the NPWS.

A number of heritage items have been identified in the Narrabri Shire LEP either in, or close to forested areas:

1. Aloes Well Graves, Pilliga Forest Way, near Kenebri
2. "Fairfield" Lone Grave, outside Boggabri
3. Gin's Leap Cemetery, Baan Baa Rd, outside Boggabri
4. Yung Graves, Bullawa Creek Rd, near Mt Kaputar NP
5. Davis Lone Grave, Eulah Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek
6. Orman Lone Grave, Bullawa Creek Rd, near Mt Kaputar NP
7. Bullawa Creek Aboriginal Art Sites, Gubanoo
8. Bullawa Creek Settlement Area

All of these items have been documented by Narrabri Shire Council and inventory sheets are available through that authority.

Items Identified by This Study

1. Turravilla Homestead, south of Narrabri
2. Hut, Upper Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)
3. Hut & hayshed, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)
4. Stockyard, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)
5. House, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)
6. Stockmen's Huts, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)
7. Shed ruins, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)
8. Dam (Killearney SF)
9. "Beaulai" (edge of Killearney SF)
10. John Steel Lone Grave (Bobbiwaa SF)
11. Moema Dam (Moema SF)

Items 1-7 clearly relate to pastoral settlement in the foothills of the Nandewar Ranges and represent several different phases of settlement, from the 1860s to the 1930s. Whilst the majority of items relate to defined pastoral holdings, item 6 (stockmen's huts) relates to the period of shepherding/grazing on the ranges themselves). They are a rare surviving example of

Figure 30: Stockmen's huts, Bullawa Creek (near Mount Kaputar National Park). Source: Andrea Humphreys.

the type of rudimentary accommodation provided for stockmen during the winter months, when animals were either confined to paddocks close by or turned out to forage on the ranges.[212]

Item 8 should be treated as a *potential* item only and should not be included on any statutory heritage register until further investigations are completed.

Item 10 is an interesting example of a well established tradition continuing in modern times. The grave itself is not old, but the tradition of lone graves in forested areas has been ongoing since pastoral occupation of the study forests began in the mid-19th century. This tradition was thought to have died out, but the John Steel Lone Grave provides evidence to the contrary. The item is included here because of its social significance and continuation of this important tradition.

Contributory Items

In addition to cypress pine thinnings, one contributory heritage item was identified:

1. Logging site (Couradda SF)

6.3 YALLAROI FORESTS

Items Identified by Other Agencies

No items of potential heritage significance have been identified by other agencies in Courallie, Mission, Warialda, Gunyerwarildi, Yetman or Bebo State Forests. One item relating to forestry activities has been identified in the Coolah Shire LEP:

---

[212] Pers. Comm., Ian Livingstone, Bullawa Creek, april 2002.

1. Weetalibah Nature Reserve (outside Weetalibah)

This item has been documented by Coolah Shire Council and an inventory sheet is available through that authority.

One item of heritage significance relating to this study has been identified in the Bingara Shire LEP:

1. Site of Myall Creek Massacre (near Windsor)

This item is closely related to Mission and Terry Hie Hie State Forests and has been documented by Bingara Shire Council; an inventory sheet is available through that authority.

Four items of heritage significance with a close relationship to the study forests have been identified in the Inverell Shire LEP:

1. Arakoola Nature Reserve (2km south-east of Coolatai)
2. Arakoola Chinese Wire Fence (2km south-east of Coolatai)
3. Arakoola Shearing Shed and Homestead Site (2km south-east of Coolatai)
4. Yetman Station (outside Yetman)

These sites have been documented by Inverell Shire Council and inventory sheets are available through that authority. Items 1-3 have also been documented by the NPWS and inventory sheets are also available through the NPWS Narrabri District office.

Items Identified by This Study

1. Ryce/McDougal Family Private Graveyard c.1850 (near Mission SF)
2. Aboriginal Mission cemeteries (Mission SF)
3. Shed (Warialda SF)
4. House (Warialda SF)
5. Woolshed (Warialda SF)
6. Stables (Warialda SF)
7. Clonard Woolshed (near Bulalla SF)
8. Gunyerwarildi Station (Gunyerwarildi SF)
9. Rope Sawmill (Yetman)
10. Sleeper Dump (Yetman SF)
11. Forest Foreman's Hut, 1950 (Yetman SF)

Items 1 and 4-9 clearly relate to earlier pastoral occupation of the forest sites whilst items 3 and 10-12 relate to forestry activities in the second half of the 20th century. Item 2 has already been discussed in detail in this report. It should be noted that Yetman SF contains many undocumented items of Aboriginal cultural heritage including rock paintings, scarred trees, artefact manufacture sites and cave camp-sites.

Contributory Items

In addition to cypress pine thinnings, three contributory items were identifed in the Yallaroi forests:

1. Logging Camp (Courallie SF)
2. Log and Sleeper Dump (Mission SF)

3. Sleeper Dumps (Yetman SF)

6.4 DUBBO FORESTS

Items Identified by Other Agencies

No items of heritage significance were identified by other agencies in Biddon, Eura, Lincoln, Breelong or Beni SF. A number of items closely associated with the study forests were identified in the Dubbo Shire LEP:

1. Wongarbon Nature Reserve
2. Fire Tower (Goonoo SF)
3. Ballimore Village
4. Mogriguy Village
5. Beni Crossing (Beni)
6. Old Harbour Lagoon Settler's Hut & Charcoal Burners (Eumungerie)
7. Maiala Station Charcoal Burners (Eumungerie)
8. Roadside reserve of cypress and whitebox (Toongi)
9. Haystack Pinnacle and Ironbark Woodland (Eumungerie)
10. Eumungerie Village

These sites have been documented by Dubbo City Council and inventory sheets are available through that authority.

Three items have also been identified by NPWS in Dapper Nature Reserve:

1. Fence Line
2. Possible logging areas
3. Rubbish dump

These sites have been documented by NPWS and inventory sheets are available through the NPWS Central West Region office in Dubbo.

Items Identified by This Study

1. Forest Foreman's House & Outbuildings, Riley's Dam Site (Goonoo SF)
2. Charcoal Burning Site c.1940 (Goonoo SF)
3. Internee's Camp Site c.1940 (Goonoo SF)
4. Mine Shafts (Goonoo SF)
5. Forest Foreman's House & Outbuildings, No.2 Bore Site (Goonoo SF)
6. Frost Family Camp Site, c.1930 (Goonoo SF)
7. Sawmill Site c.1900 (Goonoo SF)
8. Fence Line c.1860 (Goonoo SF)
9. Surveyor's Tree c.1920 (Goonoo SF)
10. Experimental Plot (Eura SF)
11. Charcoal Burning Site c.1940 (Lincoln SF)

12. Forest Headquarters and Sleeper Production Site (Lincoln SF)
13. Fire Tower Ruins (Lincoln SF)
14. Dam c.1920 (Lincoln SF)

Figure 31: Log fence, Beni State Forest. Source: PaulineCurby.

15. Forest Worker's Camp Site and Dam (Biddon SF)
16. Forest Foreman's House and Outbuildings (Biddon SF)
17. Charcoal Burning & Internee's Living Site c.1940 (Biddon SF)
18. Fence Line for Experimental Plot (Beni SF)
19. Log Fence (Beni SF)

Item 4 relates to possible mining activity in the area, Item 8 to a former pastoral holding, Item 9 to surveying (probably for closer settlement) and the remaining items relate to forestry activities in the region in the first half of the 20th century. The high density of forestry-related sites in this region indicates the importance of forestry industries to the local economy and the extensive and extensive timber resources that existed during that period.

Contributory Items

No individual contributory items were identified in these forests, although the presence of sleeper dumps, cypress pine thinnings, fencelines and dams were noted, as for the other study forests.

6.5 WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK

Items Identified by Other Agencies

Several items have been identified by NPWS in the Warrumbungle NP:

1. Greenslopes Homestead Site
2. Gunneemooroo Homestead Site
3. Strathmore Homestead Complex
4. Belougerie Homestead Site
5. Canyon Camp Recreation Area
6. Warrumbungle Trust Huts

7. Tara Homestead Site
8. Pincham's Woolshed
9. Woolshed Steel Fence
10. Belougerie Shed Site
11. Wambelong Creek Gold Mine
12. Wattle Spring Creek
13. Cainby Cliffs Chalk Mine
14. Timor Rock Mine Shaft
15. Tenandra Gap Stock Route
16. Dowes High Tops Dingo Fence
17. Buckley's Creek Sawmill
18. Tibuc Mountain Spring
19. Mopra Creek Spring
20. Wambelong Hill Dam
21. Wambelong Homestead
22. Helicopter Crash Site
23. Tonderburine Creek Tributary Dam
24. Mount Naman Ruin
25. Naman Creek Spring
26. Gales Bore
27. Saddle Mountain Spring
28. Wattle Creek Bullock Yoke
29. Gulargambone Creek Logging Trails
30. Gulargambone Creek Dam
31. Utha Bore

A number of these items/sites have been removed and/or cleared since 1985, but the sites remain registered on the NPWS S.170 Register. Although these sites have been investigated by NPWS, inventory sheets are not available for all sites. Some inventory sheets are available through the NPWS Central West Region Office in Dubbo. Sites that are particularly significant have been investigated as part of this study and an inventory sheet has been compiled as part of that.

Items Identified by This Study

1. Remains of well and fence posts (Coonamble Shire)
2. Figtree Chinese Cultural Planting (Coonamble Shire)
3. Cattle yards (Coonamble Shire)
4. Saw Bench (Gilgandra Shire)
5. Petrol/Kerosene Overhead Valve Sawmill Engine (Gilgandra Shire)
6. Remains of Post and Rail Fence (Gilgandra Shire)

7. Pincham homestead site – old 'Strathmore'

Figure 32: Saw bench, Warrumbungle National Park. Source: Pauline Curby.

Items 1, 3, 6 and 7 relate to former pastoral/farm holdings and to homestead sites already identified. Item 2 relates to the possible presence of Chinese workers in the area in the 19th century. Items 4 & 5 relate to a former sawmill in the forested part of the Warrumbungle Range and possibly date from the inter-war years the 20th century.

Items Inspected that have been Identified by the NPWS

8. Greenslopes Homestead Site
9. Gunneemooroo Homestead Site
10. Belougerie Homestead Site
11. Pincham's Woolshed

These sites all relate to former pastoral holdings and except for Pincham's Woolshed are all located on sites that have been 'cleaned up' and where buildings have been demolished. The woolshed has been substantially modified but its exterior retains integrity.

Contributory Items

No important contributory items were identified in the Warrumbungle NP.

6.6 PILLIGA FORESTS

Items Identified by Other Agencies

No items of heritage significance were identified by other agencies in Pilliga East, Pilliga West, Merriwindi, Cumbil, Euligal, Baradine, Denobollie, Orr or Yarrigan SF. Five items closely related to the study forests were identified in the Coonabarabran Shire LEP:

1. Burra Bee Dee Aboriginal Mission Cemetery (14km north-east of Coonabarabran)
2. Burra Bee Dee Reserve

3. Chalk Mountain Area
4. Mow Rock and Environs
5. Scabby Rock and Environs

These items have been documented by Coonabarabran Shire Council and inventory sheets are available through that authority.

Items Identified by This Study

1. Wooleybah Village (Pilliga West SF)
2. Grave - Margaret Bacon d.1914 (Pilliga West SF)
3. Ceelnoy Sawmill Site (Pilliga West SF)

Figure 33: Buster Davies at Boyle's Chimney, Barradine State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

4. Dam (Pilliga West SF)
5. Wangan Bore and Log Dump (Pilliga West SF)
6. Ruins of Mag Morrissey's House (Baradine SF)
7. Boyle's Chimney Ruins and Cattle Yards (Baradine SF)
8. Fire Tower Foundations (Denobollie SF)
9. Graves - Hughie John King d.1894 & Willie Launt d.1892 (Denobollie SF)
10. Cattle Yards (Orr SF)

11. Fence line (Orr SF)
12. Dog Proof Fence (Pilliga East SF)
13. Coghill Station Site (Pilliga East SF)
14. Fire Tower Ruins (Pilliga East SF)
15. House, shed and boat building platform ruins (Pilliga East SF)
16. Robinson Hut Ruins and Rubbish Dump (Pilliga East SF)
17. Dam Dug by Hand (Pilliga East SF)
18. Underwood's Mill, Kenebri (Merriwindi SF)
19. Kenebri Village (Merriwindi SF)
20. The Aloes Picnic Site and pastoral station (Cumbil SF)
21. Graves - Samuel Cormie d.1872 and unknown (referred to in Narrabri LEP as 'Aloes Well Graves, Pilliga Forest Way, near Kenebri'
22. (Cumbil SF)
23. Rocky Creek Mill Site (Euligal SF)
24. House Site (Euligal SF)
25. Grave – Dingwell children (Euligal SF)
26. Hut Ruins (Euligal SF)
27. Sawmill Site (Euligal SF)

Items 9, 12-13, 20-21 and 24 relate to former pastoral holdings in the district. Items 2, 6, 10-11 and 15 relate to marginal 20th century farming/grazing in the forested areas. The remaining items relate to forestry activities and highlight the importance of forestry industries to the local economy and the extensive forest tracts that facilitated this. Wooleybah Village is of particular interest as an intact example of a forest sawmill village.

Contributory Items

In addition to cypress pine thinnings, the following contributory items were identified:

1. Tree stumps cut with chainsaw (Pilliga West SF)
2. Tree stumps cut with axe (Pilliga West SF)
3. Sleeper dump (Pilliga West SF)
4. Tree stumps and ringbarked trees (Pilliga West SF)
5. Tree stumps (Baradine SF)
6. Sleeper dump x 2 (Orr SF)
7. Tree stumps cut with axe (Cumbil SF)
8. Riverina crossing over Etoo Creek (Cumbil SF)

6.7 MISC. SOUTH-WEST FORESTS

Items Identified by Other Agencies

No items of heritage significance were identified by other agencies in Tuckland, Cope or Goodiman SF.

Items Identified by This Study

No items of potential heritage significance were identified by this study in Tuckland, Cope or Goodiman SF.

Figure 34: Late 19th century cypress pine thinnings, Cope State Forest. Source: Pauline Curby.

Contributory Items

In addition to cypress pine thinnings, a number of contributory heritage items were identified:

1. Cleared site with log dump and stumps (Tuckland SF)
2. Dam (Tuckland SF)
3. Fence Line (Tuckland SF bordering private property)
4. Old Fence Line (Tuckland SF)
5. Dam (Cope SF)
6. Tree Stumps c.1890 (Cope SF)

6.8 UKERBARLEY (PRIVATE PROPERTY NEAR PILLIGA NATURE RESERVE)

Although most of the study's fieldwork was done on public land some inspection of private property was undertaken. The Ukerbarley property was inspected due to its close relationship with the Pilliga Nature Reserve and forestry activities in the area. The following items of heritage significance were noted:

1. Charcoal pits c.1940
2. Tree of Heaven Chinese Cultural Planting
3. Percy Martin's Camp Site
4. Woolshed

Item 1 is of particular interest as it is a significant contrast to charcoal burning sites found in state forests. These used kilns, whereas at Ukerbarley the low technology pit method was used. Item 2 needs further investigation to ascertain if it does relate to 19th century Chinese worker activity in the area, as does the woolshed which is a typical, but modified, mid-20th century rural structure.

Contributory Items

These 20th century contributory items were also located

1. Sleeper dump
2. Rubbish dump

Figure 35: 'Tree of Heaven', exotic plantings, Ukerbarley. Source: Pauline Curby.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.0 UMBRELLA RECOMMENDATIONS

Although there are site specific issues affecting each of the study forests and sites within them, there are a number of commonalities between them. Perhaps the most important of these a need for better documentation and understanding of cultural heritage, indigenous and European, within a forest context. This study has highlighted the pressing need for NSW State Forests to prepare and maintain a detailed S.170 Register of heritage places in its ownership. The compilation of such a register is required under the NSW Heritage Act (1977) and non-compliance with this regulation is now taken very seriously by the NSW Heritage Office.

In addition to the legal obligation, there is a moral and ethical obligation to compile and maintain these registers. This study has made clear the importance of forestry industries to the economic, social and cultural development of rural and regional NSW during the 19th and 20th centuries. The vast majority of sites relating to this are located inside state forest boundaries, away from the public view. State Forests NSW has custodianship of a vast cultural heritage resource that can contribute greatly to our understanding and appreciation of our environmental and cultural heritage, as well as benefiting heritage tourism in areas that are in dire need of a boost to the local economy.

The preparation of a S.170 Register should not just produce a 'list' of items; it should promote knowledge, understanding, appreciation and ultimately conservation of these items. It is vital that such a study is undertaken in a thoughtful, unhurried and well-considered manner with sufficient resources to undertake adequate historical and physical investigation.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has been engaged in the compilation of its S.170 Register for some years. This study highlighted deficiencies within this process. In particular, the site-specific documentation of identified heritage sites has been generally poor, particularly the further one gets from Sydney and its immediate environs. This may be remedied with the new NPWS *Historic Heritage Information Management System* which contains more, and better linked, information on NPWS heritage assets.

This study has also drawn attention to the lack of appropriate liaison between different State government departments with similar interests and holdings, and liaison between State and Local government. Many local governments have prepared, or are in the process of preparing, detailed regionally based heritage studies. These studies are attempting to widen the focus of heritage from rural and regional centres, to all areas of NSW including pastoral properties, wilderness areas and regional industrial sites. For the first time local heritage studies are taking into account the importance of our rural history and of archaeological sites. These studies provide an enormous and useful information base that can do much to 'short-cut' the study process in the future, but only if State and Local government departments show a willingness to co-operate and share information.

Another critical outcome of this study is the clear need for further, detailed studies of the BBSB as well as all forested areas in NSW. Before further field studies are undertaken, it is imperative that a detailed, thematic history of forestry and related industries be prepared. It is virtually impossible to make well considered and accurate decisions about heritage management if the

items identified cannot be placed into an appropriate historical context. A thematic history provides the framework into which all other aspects of heritage investigation fit. Without it, the system simply does not function. This study has attempted (within the confines of the study brief) to provide sufficient historic background to make reasonable judgements about significance and future management. Nonetheless, there are gaps and the significance of many sites (unidentified as well as identified) cannot be verified without better information.

Further field studies, which are clearly needed, should also learn from this study. Fieldwork in rugged, isolated and densely wooded areas is problematic under the best of circumstances. When such studies are inadequately funded, poorly resourced, lacking in vital information (such as access conditions) and hurried, the results are far from ideal and consultants may even be placed at risk. Again, many of these problems could be avoided through better consultation between local and state government and free availability of information and equipment to study teams.

Finally, a coordinated approach to these studies within the commissioning body will produce a better result for heritage, as well as being more cost effective for the client. During the course of fieldwork a number of studies were taking place in the BBSB concurrently, each one focussing on a different aspect of the region e.g. indigenous cultural heritage, non-indigenous cultural heritage, floristic surveys, fauna studies etc. Had the non-indigenous cultural heritage study been timed to coordinate with the other studies, a great deal of useful information would have been made available. Even more importantly, it would have been possible to develop a holistic picture of the forest landscape. This type of approach produces more tightly defined management guidelines that take into account the needs of different forest components. It is hoped that this study will promote a better understanding of the study process and how to achieve the best possible outcome for cultural heritage.

7.1 MERRIWA FORESTS

(Note: unless otherwise specified, all further recommended work is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant).

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Merriwa Shire LEP, Upper Hunter REP, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

It is recommended that all the items identified by this study, both within and without Turill SF, are listed as items of high local significance on the relevant registers, as noted above. Specific investigation of Turill Village is required to establish whether it should be listed as an item of State heritage significance on the State Heritage Register (SHR). Some low key conservation measures are required to ensure the continuing preservation of the temporary stock enclosure.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until thse investigations are complete.

Further Study

Further investigation of the history of Curryall SF is required, particularly its role in local forestry industries. Further investigation is required to identify potential heritage items and establish the provenance of those items already identified.

Further detailed investigation of Turill Village is required to establish its historical provenance and level of significance. Further investigation of items identified within the forest boundaries is required for similar reasons. More detailed survey work will also need to be undertaken, to identify further potential heritage items. This work will require liaison with private land holders, assistance from NSW State Forests, local community consultation and use of a reliable 4WD vehicle (although much of the survey work will need to be done on foot, on a grid-map basis).

Further study and/or survey of Durridgere SF is considered a low priority and not required unless a major change of use is proposed for the place. If the dam identified in this study is found to be of heritage significance, it should be listed on the relevant heritage registers as noted above.

As noted previously, further study of Coolah Tops NP is not required.

Further detailed study of Warung SF is recommended in the short term (within 12 months). Further studies should investigate the historical development not only of Warung SF but also the Jemmy's Creek settlement area and the pastoral holdings located on the creek line. Site specific investigations are required for the identified items, again in the short term. More detailed surveys of Warung SF are also recommended; any such surveys will need to be conducted on a grid basis, most likely on foot as there do not appear to be any internal fire trails or access roads. The future use and management of the forest should be made a matter of priority by the NSW State Forests.

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations - Merriwa Forests

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. 1.c.1920s post & wire fence (within forest boundary, Curryall SF)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
2. 1860s weatherboard cottage & outbuildings (Curryall Creek, forest fringes, Curryall SF)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
3. Galvanised iron woolshed (Curryall Creek, forest fringes, Curryall SF)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
4. Turill Village Church (weatherboard, Turill Village)	Local	No	N/A	N/A
5. Turill Community Centre (Turill Village)	Local	No	N/A	N/A
6. Galvanised iron shed with pole construction skillion (Turill Village)	Local	No	N/A	N/A
7. Turill Village Church (strip batten, Turill Village)	Local	No	N/A	N/A
8. Pole construction stables (Turill Village)	Local	No	N/A	N/A
9. Ironbark cottage (Turill Village)	Local	No	N/A	N/A
10. Turill Village	State	Yes	N/A	Moderate
11. Temporary stock enclosure c.1890 (Turill SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Moderate
12. Stockmen's waterhole/campsite c.1890 (Turill SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Moderate

13. Ironbark loading bay c.1890 (Turill SF)	Local	No	Yes	Moderate
14. Dam (Durridgere SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Low
15. Fence remnants relating to former grazing run (Coolah Tops NP)	Local	Yes	No	Low
16. Pole construction shelter ruins (Warung SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	High
17. Gate & fence ruins (Warung SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	High
18. Gates to "Edenvale" (Warung SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	High
19. Farm complex ruins (Warung SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	High
20. Sleeper/log dumps - all forests	Contributory	AR	N/A	Moderate
21. Cypress pine thinnings - all forests	Contributory	AR	N/A	Moderate

Key AR = archival recording Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.

7.2 GUNNEDAH FORESTS

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Gunnedah Shire LEP, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until these investigations are complete.

Full archival recording and conservation measures should be undertaken for the hut ruins (Goran SF) as a matter of some urgency (within 6 months).

Trinkey SF

Conservation works to conserve identified heritage items should be undertaken as a matter of priority (within 6 months).

Goran SF

The identified heritage items should be listed as items of State and Regional significance (hut and burning site respectively) on the relevant heritage registers, as noted above. An application should be made to the NSW Heritage Council to list the swagmen's hut on the NSW SHR; further historical and physical investigation should be undertaken as part of this. This work should take place in the short term (within 6 months) and the owning authority should take steps to ensure the building's conservation in the interim. Urgent conservation measures are required to prevent the building's collapse including assessment by a heritage structural engineer. This work should be treated as a matter of priority. In the longer term, the building

will require a conservation plan to guide its long term maintenance and management. This work can be undertaken in the medium term (within 2 years) provided conservation measures (including structural repair) and heritage listing have taken place.

The charcoal burning site will also require conservation, *in situ*, in addition to archival recording. This work will need to be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced historical archaeologist in conjunction with a heritage consultant. This work should take place in the short term (within 6 months).

Leard SF

The test coal extraction site should be listed as an item of regional significance on the relevant statutory heritage register, including the Narrabri Shire LEP, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the SHI. The water tank should not be listed on any statutory register until further studies are completed.

Further Study

Further study of Doona SF is not required at this time. Further study of individual heritage items in Doona SF should be undertaken in the medium term (within 2 years). Further historical analysis of the forest should take place as part of any future survey work.

Further study of Breeza , Trinkey & Goran SF are required in the short term (within 1 year) to ascertain the existence of additional heritage items. This survey should be done on a grid basis and will required the use of a 4WD vehicle, as well as alternative transport suitable to penetrate those areas of the forest that are not accessible by car e.g. trail bike, horseback or on foot.

Further surveys of Wondoba, Spring Ridge, Black Jack, Somerton & Leard SF, are required to identify additional heritage items, particularly in overgrown areas of the forest. This work should be done on a grid basis and will require the use of a 4WD vehicle and other transport able to penetrate more difficult areas, such as a trail bike or on horseback. Some areas can only be surveyed on foot and the use of a GPS unit is recommended. This work should be done in the medium term (within 2 years).

Further study (other than site specific study noted above) of Kelvin SF is not required at this time.

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations - Gunnedah Forests

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. Forester's hut ruins (Doona SF)	Regional	Yes	No	Low
2. Dam c.1910 (Doona SF)	Local	Yes	No	Low
3. Remnant post & rail fence c.1890s (Doona SF)	Local	Yes	No	Low
4. Forestries water tower (Spring Ridge SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
5. Ring-barked tree (Spring Ridge SF)	Regional	AR & protection	Yes	High for AR; low for survey
6. Abandoned gravel quarry (Breeza SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
7. Former sleeper cutter's camp (Trinkey SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate

8. Apiary platforms (Trinkey SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
9. "Wondoba" Swagmen's Hut (Goran SF)	State	Yes	Yes	Moderate
10. Former Charcoal Burning Site (Goran SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Moderate
11. Temporary stock enclosure (Wondoba SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Low
12. Dam (Wondoba SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
13. Tractor (Wondoba SF)	Contributory	No	Yes	Low
14. Farmhouse (Wondoba SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
15. Stock race (Wondoba SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Low
16. Abandoned gravel quarry (Wondoba SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
17. Water tank (Black Jack SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Low
18. Car wreck c.1940s (Black Jack SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Low
19. Windmill & dam (Somerton SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Low
20. Dam #2 (Somerton SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Low
21. Dam (Kelvin SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Low
22. Water tank (Leard SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	High
23. Trial coal excavation pit (Leard SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	High
24. Cypress pine thinngings - all forests	Contributory	AR	N/a	Moderate
25. Sleeper/log dumps - all forests	Contributory	AR	N/a	moderate

Key AR = archival recording

Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.

7.3 NARRABRI/BARRABA FORESTS

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Narrabri & Barraba Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until thse investigations are complete.

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations – Narrabri/Barraba Forests

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. Turravilla Homestead, south of Narrabri	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
2. Hut, Upper Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
3. Hut & hayshed, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
4. Stockyard, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP) 5.	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
6. House, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
7. Stockmen's Huts, Bullawa Creek Rd, Bullawa Creek (near Mt Kaputar NP)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
8. Dam (Killearney SF)	Potential	Yes	Yes	Moderate
9. "Beaulai" (edge of Killearney SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
10. John Steel Lone Grave (Bobbiwaa SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
11. Moema Dam (Moema SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate

Key AR = archival recording

Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.

7.4 YALLAROI FORESTS

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Yallaroi, Moree Plains, Bingara & Inverell Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The Gunyerwarildi Pastoral Property should be listed as an item of regional significance in the Yallaroi Shire LEP, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory. Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until thse investigations are complete.

Further Study

Further study of Mission and Yetman SF is required in the short term (within 1 year) to ascertain the existence of additional heritage items. This survey should be done on a grid basis and will required the use of a 4WD vehicle, as well as alternative transport suitable to penetrate those areas of the forest that are not accessible by car e.g. trail bike, horseback or on foot.

Further surveys of Irrigappa, Courallie, Warialda, Gunyerwarildi, Yetman, Terry Hie Hie, Bullalla, Strathmore and Bebo SF are required to identify additional heritage items, particularly in overgrown areas of the forest. This work should be done on a grid basis and will require the use of a 4WD vehicle and other transport able to penetrate more difficult areas, such as a trail bike or on horseback. Some areas can only be surveyed on foot and the use of a GPS unit is recommended. This work should be done in the medium term (within 2 years).

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations - Yallaroi Forests

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. Ryce/McDougal Family Graveyard (near Mission SF)	Local	Yes	N/A	Moderate
2. AboriginalMission Cemeteries (Mission SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
3. Shed (Warialda SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
4. House (Warialda SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
5. Woolshed (Warialda SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
6. Stables (Warialda SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
7. "Clonard" Woolshed (near Bullalla SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
8. Gunyerwarildi Pastoral Lease (Gunyerwarildi SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Low
9. Rope Sawmill (Yetman)	Local	Yes	Yes	High
10. Forest Foreman's Hut (Yetman SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
11. Sleeper Dump - 1 exemplar (Yetman SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate

Key AR = archival recording

Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.

7.5 DUBBO FORESTS

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Dubbo, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran and Narrabri Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

All items identified as being of regional significance should be listed as such in the Dubbo, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran and Narrabri Shire LEP's, NSW State Forests S.170

Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory. Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until thse investigations are complete.

Further Study

Further study and surveys of all the forests in this group are required to identify additional heritage items, particularly in overgrown areas of the forest. This work should be done on a grid basis and will require the use of a 4WD vehicle and other transport able to penetrate more difficult areas, such as a trail bike or on horseback. Some areas can only be surveyed on foot and the use of a GPS unit is recommended. This work should be done in the medium term (within 2 years) and detailed historical and archaeolgoical investigation should form a part of this.

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations - Dubbo Forests

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. Forest foreman's house & outbuildings, Riley's Dam (Goonoo SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
2. Charcoal Burning Site (Goonoo SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Moderate
3. Internee's Camp Site (Goonoo SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
4. Mine Shafts (Goonoo SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
5. Forest Foreman's House & Outbuildings, Bore No.2 (Goonoo SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
6. Frost Family Camp Site (Goonoo SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
7. Sawmill Site (Goonoo SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
8. Fence Line c.1860 (Goonoo SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
9. Surveyor's Tree (Goonoo SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Low
10. Experimental Plot (Eura SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
11. Charcoal Burning Site (Lincoln SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
12. Forest Headquarters (Lincoln SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
13. Fire Tower Ruins (Lincoln SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
14. Dam c.1920 (Lincoln SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
15. Forest worker's camp site & dam (Biddon SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
16. Forest Foreman's House & Outbuildings (Biddon SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
17. Charcoal burning & internees' living site (Biddon SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low

18. Fence line for experimental plot	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
19. Log fence (Beni SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate

Key AR = archival recording

Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.

7.6 WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Coonamble and Gilgandra Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

All items identified as being of regional significance should be listed as such in the Coonamble and Gilgandra Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory. Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The sawmill engine and saw bench should be removed to a place of safety and assessed for conservation/repairs by a qualified conservator; this should take place in the short term.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until these investigations are complete.

Further Study

This is a heavily visited and widely popular national park for a diverse range of people including tourists, school groups, serious bushwalkers and rock climbers. It is renowned nationally not only for its biodiversity, scenic beauty, and important geological formations but also because Siding Spring Observatory and the Anglo-Australian Telescope are located in the centre of the park. Despite the high standard of management and visitor amenity the park is rather 'light' on history. Peter Fox's very attractive guidebook goes some of the way to rectifying this situation but its focus is on the park as a whole and is not specifically devoted to its history. A comprehensive history needs to be written that includes discussion of the Kamilaroi people's life there prior to European settlement. There is ample scope for interpretative signs and more signage, especially targeted towards the many school groups that visit the park should be incorporated into the park's management strategy.

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations - Warrumbungle NP

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. Remains of well and fence posts	Local	Yes	No	Low

2. Figtree	Local	Yes	No	Low
3. Cattle yards	Local	Yes	No	Low
4. Saw bench	Local	Yes	No	Low
5. Petrol/kerosene overhead valve sawmill engine	Regional	Yes	No	Low
6. Remains of post & rail fence	Local	Yes	No	Low

Key AR = archival recording

Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.

7.7 PILLIGA FORESTS

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Gilgandra, Coonabarabran and Narrabri Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

All items identified as being of regional significance should be listed as such in the Gilgandra, Coonabarabran and Narrabri Shire LEP's, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory. Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until these investigations are complete.

Further Study

Further study and surveys of the Pilliga forests in this group are required to identify additional heritage items, particularly in overgrown areas of the forest and to inspect known items that were not surveyed during fieldwork for this study. This work should be done on a grid basis and will require the use of a 4WD vehicle and other transport able to penetrate more difficult areas, such as a trail bike or on horseback. Some areas can only be surveyed on foot and the use of a GPS unit is recommended. This work should be done in the medium term (within 2 years) and detailed historical and archaeological investigation should form a part of this.

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations - Pilliga Forests Forests

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. Wooleybah Village (Pilliga West SF)	State	Yes	Yes	High
2. Grave - Margaret Bacon (Pilliga West	Local	Yes	No	Low

SF)				
3. Ceelnoy sawmill site (Pilliga West SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Medium
4. Dam (Pilliga West SF)	Local	Yes	No	Low
5. Ruins of Mag Morrissey's House (Baradine SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
6. Boyle's Chimney & cattle yards (Baradine SF)	Regional	Yes	Yes	Moderate
7. Fire Tower foundations (Denobollie SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
8. Graves - King & Launt (Denobollie SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
9. Cattle yards (Orr SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
10. Fence line (Orr SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
11. Dog proof fence (Pilliga East SF)	Regional	Yes	No	Moderate
12. Coghill Station Site (Pilliga East SF)	Local	Yes	No	Low
13. Fire tower ruins (Pilliga East SF)	Local	Yes	No	Low
14. Robinson family hut ruins	Local	Yes	No	Moderate
15. Dam dug by hand (Pilliga East SF)	Local	Yes	No	Low
16. Underwood's sawmill, Kenebri (near Merriwindi SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
17. Kenebri Village (near Merriwindi SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate
18. The Aloes Homestead Site (Cumbil SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
19. Graves – Cormie and unknown (Cumbil SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
20. Rocky Creek Sawmill Site (Euligal SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
21. House Site (Euligal SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
22. Grave – Dingwell children (Euligal SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
23. Hut ruins (Euligal SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Low
24. Sawmill site (Euligal SF)	Local	Yes	Yes	Moderate

Key AR = archival recording

Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.

7.8 MISC. SOUTH-WEST FORESTS & UKERBARLEY

Heritage

All items identified by this study, unless otherwise specified, should be listed as items of local significance in the Gilgandra & Coonabarabran Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register

and the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

All items identified as being of regional significance should be listed as such in the Gilgandra & Coonabarabran Shire LEPs, NSW State Forests S.170 Register and the NSW State Heritage Inventory. Further site specific investigations, including historical research, should be undertaken as part of this.

The contributory heritage items identified by this study should be so-noted in all relevant heritage registers, as noted above. All contributory items should be archivally recorded and interpreted and the products of that process be made publicly available at a local level (i.e. through local government).

Items that have been identified as *potential* heritage items will require further investigation to establish provenance and heritage significance. These items should *not* be listed in any statutory heritage register until thse investigations are complete.

Further Study

Further study and surveys of all the forests in this group, with the exception of the Ukerbarley property, are required to identify additional heritage items, particularly in overgrown areas of the forest. This work should be done on a grid basis and will require the use of a 4WD vehicle and other transport able to penetrate more difficult areas, such as a trail bike or on horseback. Some areas can only be surveyed on foot and the use of a GPS unit is recommended. This work should be done in the medium term (within 2 years) and detailed historical and archaeolgoical investigation should form a part of this.

Summary of Heritage Items & Recommendations - Misc. Forests & Ukerbarley

Item & Forest	Significance	Item Specific Research	Further Surveys	Priority
1. Charcoal pits (Ukerbarley)	Regional	Yes	No	Moderate
2. Tree of Heaven (Ukerbarley)	Local	Yes	No	Low
3. Percy Martin's camp site (Ukerbarley)	Local	Yes	No	Low
4. Woolshed (Ukerbarley)	Local	Yes	No	Moderate

Key AR = archival recording

Priority
High = within 6 months
Moderate = within 1 year
Low = within 2 years

Note: priority applies to further survey and site specific investigation only. Listing of items on statutory registers should take place within 6 months.