



COASTAL CUSTODIANS

Volume 2, Issue 7

February 2005

***From the Editor:** It took three visits to Aunty Vic's and Lorraine's home in Ulladulla to put together this story. The hospitality and warmth of these meetings are among my fondest memories and to my complete joy, I found out that we are related through my Grandmother (Ursula Rose Connell). Aunty Vic has an incredible memory for detail, a strong sense of right from wrong, a cheekiness about her and a more dignified lady I am yet to meet.*



Introducing Aunty Vic Carriage

Grandmother Page named me, Ruth Victoria Queen Brown. She wanted to call me Queen Victoria but the minister said it wasn't allowed. I was born in Milton on the 6th of April 1920.

My father was Frances Joseph Brown, known to all as Frank. He was born on the Clyde River, at Currawan Creek Reserve. This Reserve (AR 17546/7) was gazetted on the 15th April, 1893. It belonged to the Brown family and was revoked on the 9th of May 1956.

Dads' brothers were; Patrick who married Elizabeth Marshall. Thomas, who married Mary

Holmes. Richard, Charles and John as far as I know, never married. His sisters were Myrtle; she died at eight years old and Margaret who married John Dixon.

My mother was Ethel Mary Jane Page. Mums' mother was Julia Usher Moore and her father was Charles Page. Mums' brother Charley married Marion McKinnon. William married Elizabeth Cooley, and David married Mable Rielly from Milton. Mums' sister Florence married Harry Malifant, Constance married Herb McBeth and Thelma married Tom Garret.

Mums' grandparents, the Moores, were English. They were really rich and lived somewhere in England. Grandfather George Moore was left a fortune. If anything were to happen to him his cousin George got the inheritance. They were able to retrace George Moore's steps to Dublin but that's as far as he got in a hansom (a horse drawn taxi). They never found him; he just disappeared. George, the cousin, got the money. George Moore's sister took his three kids Julia, George Jnr and Ann and raised them. Their mother remarried and moved to America.

George Jnr moved to Australia and worked the goldfields. When he had enough gold he sent a fare back to England for Ann. When he went to send the fare for Julia he was robbed of all his gold and had to go back to the fields and work up enough gold again for her to come out.

Before Julia moved to Australia she was told that the Aborigines would eat them. Their family lived next door to the Govenors and Jimmy Governor hung around a lot. So to protect the family, Julia made my mother, marry Jimmy Govenor. From that union there were two children; Violet who married George Parsons and Sydney who was adopted out and went under the name of Duncan.

Continued page 9.

Editors Comments

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community.

While handing out the 'Biamanga and Gulaga Report', I caught up with some of the local women including Mary McLeod, Rhonda and Wendy Brown. I remembered that I hadn't been to Wreck Bay since the early nineties when I was an ATSIC Councillor and was surprised at the changes. Back then the Community Council Office was an old building and a prominent feature as you drove into the village. I spent a fair bit of time at Wreck Bay as a teenager visiting older people who have since passed on.

On this particular visit I was very fortunate to be escorted on a tour of the community by an old and dear friend Dawn Whaddy. She told me of the success of the organisation that maintains Booderee National Park and the improvement in work opportunities for the Aboriginal community. Change has been slow but noticeable. I got the impression that the problems with youth in this community appear to be mild when compared to those in town environments.

The community is graced with several new facilities such as a community centre, a pre-school and the Community Council Office. We also looked at the new houses, almost near completion. I then sat with Dawn on her verandah, which overlooks a bay. We watched women and children down on the beach and heard their laughter echo up the hill. A fishing boat was the only disturbance to the tranquil opal blue of the bay; Dawn's own little slice of heaven on earth. Thanks Dawn. Hope to catch up with you again soon.

Patricia Ellis

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DISCLAIMER

Information provided in the Coastal Custodian is not necessarily the views of the Department of Environment & Conservation (NPWS). NPWS takes no responsibility for errors or omissions of fact based on information provided by third parties.

Register of Aboriginal Owners

Launch of the Biamanga and Gulaga Publication

A publication detailing the history and cultural association of Aboriginal people with the Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks was launched by Stephen Wright, Registrar of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* on Thursday 17 February 2005 at the Umbarra Cultural Centre.

Stephen Wright & Vivienne Mason



Biamanga and Gulaga. Aboriginal cultural association with Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks was produced by the Office of the Registrar and written by well known researchers Nicolas Peterson, Brian Egloff and Sue Wesson.

The publication is a revised version of an original report completed by the authors at the end of 2001 after

a year of research and community consultation. The original report was to assist in identifying Aboriginal owners, as part of the process that will lead to the joint management of the Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks.



Researchers: Nicolas Peterson, Brian Egloff & Sue Wesson (with Keith Stewart in the background).

Copies of the original report were provided to Aboriginal people along the south coast to gain their comments and feedback. The new publication incorporates feedback received over the last three years.

A highlight of the publication is the historical photos of Aboriginal people from the collections of the National Library of Australia, the South Australian Museum and the Wollongong Library.

The launch was well attended by members of the Biamanga and



Book Launch attendees minus the photographer Adam McLean

Gulaga Aboriginal Negotiating Panel, representatives from Merrimans, Bega and Wagonga Land Councils, and staff from the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Biamanga and Gulaga is the second publication produced by the Office of the Registrar on Aboriginal cultural association with land subject to joint management in New South Wales.

Last year the Office published *Yapapunakirri* ("Let's track back"). *The Aboriginal World around Mount Grenfell* which told of the history and language of the Ngiyampaa Wangaaypuwan people with the Mount Grenfell Historic Site near Cobar in western New South Wales.

In July 2004, Mount Grenfell Historic Site joined Mutawintji National Park as only the second area of National Park land in NSW

to be cared for under a formal joint management arrangement.

The Registrar is required by the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) to keep a Register of Aboriginal Owners and registering land claims made by Aboriginal land councils and providing advice to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal Land Councils on the workings of the Act.

Free copies of the report are available by contacting the Office of the Registrar on the numbers below. From the end of March 2005 copies will also be available in PDF format on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website at www.daa.nsw.gov.au

For more information please contact Rachel Lenehan, Kylie McLeod or Adam Black at the Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* on 02 9219 0770 or **free call on 1800 019 998**.

Biamanga and Gulaga Handback - Independent Facilitator's view



BACKGROUND

As the Independent Facilitator for the Biamanga and Gulaga Aboriginal ownership and leaseback negotiations, I have been asked by the Negotiating Parties to let people know how the negotiations are going.

The Negotiating Parties are made up of the Aboriginal Negotiating Panel representing Aboriginal custodians (Owners), Local Aboriginal Land Councils (Bega, Merrimans and Wagonga) with whom the special freehold title to the Parks will be vested on behalf of Aboriginal custodians, and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

I'm doing this regularly by reporting on the Parties' progress and achievements through Trisha Ellis's wonderful quarterly journal – Coastal Custodians. As the pace of negotiations quickens, I'll have the opportunity to report via a special newsletter published more regularly than Coastal Custodians to update everyone on the outcomes of each negotiation meeting.



Pictured: Sue Donaldson, Preston Cope, Lenore Fraser, David Dixon & Dave Tout

These Coastal Custodians articles would not be possible without the great record keeping that Moruya-based anthropologist Susan Donaldson is providing for the negotiation process. Susan

has been engaged by NPWS to keep an impartial and independent record of our negotiation journey. She is doing a terrific job.

Since the last Coastal Custodians in November 2004 (Volume 2, Issue 6), in which I reported on our meeting in November 2004 at Batemans Bay, we have had one meeting of the Parties along with a meeting just between the Negotiating Panel, LALC representatives and the Panel's independent legal adviser Adam McLean – a barrister from Melbourne. The Parties' meeting, our ninth, was held at Umbarra Cultural Centre. The long gap between our November 2004 and February 2005 meetings reflected the Parties wish to have a well-earned break over Christmas and New Year to be with family and friends.



Pictured: John Mumbler, Mary Duroux, Shirley Foster, Ann Harrison of DAA, Lionel Mongta & Tim Shepherd

We were unable to have our February 2005 meeting of the Negotiating Parties 'on country' at Biamanga National Park, as originally planned. We needed to change the date to allow many involved in the negotiation process to participate in important Land Council business. Unfortunately, this late change meant that the Director General of NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Ms Jody Broun, was unable to attend. Jody is keen to come to a future meeting, as is Tony Fleming, the boss of National Parks and Wildlife Service, but officially called the Deputy Director General, Parks & Wildlife Division of Department of Environment and Conservation. We look forward to letting them

know of the Parties' outstanding achievements to date.

Our next meeting is planned to be 'on country' at Mumbulla Falls Biamanga National Park in mid April 2005.



Pictured: Lionel Mongta, Keith Stewart, Vivienne Mason, Glenis Kelly & Karen Lee

HOW WE START EACH OF OUR MEETINGS

We start our meetings by paying our respects to each other, to the land, to the Aboriginal custodians of Biamanga and Gulaga and to the tireless efforts of Aboriginal people who have worked so hard to get us to this point where we are sitting down together to negotiate the handback of Biamanga and Gulaga to their rightful owners.



Pictured: Adam McLean, Mike Williams, Sue Donaldson, Preston Cope, Lenore Fraser & Tim Shepherd

NINTH MEETING ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2005 AT UMBARRA CULTURAL CENTRE

We were delighted to welcome Keith Stewart as a member of the Aboriginal Negotiating Panel who, along with Vivienne Mason, represents the Aboriginal community and custodians from the Narooma district.

Major achievements of our ninth meeting were:

- An understanding of the current number and distribution of NPWS Aboriginal designated positions, as a basis to have a more robust negotiation about Aboriginal employment for inclusion in the agreed lease;
- The Panel agreed on the selection of their independent valuer to prepare a valuation of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks, as a basis to negotiate the rent to be paid by NPWS, for the Board's management of the two parks. It was agreed that the independent valuer would need to speak directly with members of the Negotiating Panel and LALCs, as part of the valuation process to ensure an understanding of the cultural and spiritual values of the two parks;
- An agreement for Department of Aboriginal Affairs to pursue meetings in Batemans Bay, so that another member of the Negotiating Panel can be nominated to represent the interests of Batemans Bay Aboriginal community and custodians in the negotiation process;
- An understanding that the Office of the Registrar's process in relation to all those people who have applied to become registered Aboriginal Owners, will be completed before the lease is signed. This is really important as only registered Aboriginal Owners can be selected by other Aboriginal Owners to be appointed to the Board of Management;
- Further discussions on the merits of having one or two Boards of Management - one for each of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks - or having one Board for the two parks. The possibility of joint sittings of two Boards which would allow for maximum number of Aboriginal custodians (owners) to be on the Boards of Management, as well as, to ensure that the vitally important cultural connection between the two mountains was maintained, was discussed at length;
- An understanding of some of the legal implications for the future Boards of Management in relation to fire management, weed management and search and rescue, as well as,

Regional Managers Report

mechanisms to ensure that culturally significant areas can be protected by way of a Fire Management Plan, that will need to be prepared by the Boards of Management;

- The need for cultural awareness training for all non Yuin/non Koori people who work for part of their time on the two parks; and
- Further discussion on the most appropriate way to approach the traditional hunting and gathering clauses in the draft lease.

LAUNCH OF THE BIAMANGA & GULAGA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL ASSOCIATION WITH BIAMANGA & GULAGA NATIONAL PARKS RESEARCH REPORT

During lunch we had a wonderful launch of the Biamanga & Gulaga Aboriginal cultural association with Biamanga & Gulaga National Parks Research Report prepared by Brian Egloff, Nicolas Peterson and Sue Wesson and published by the Office of the Registrar (see article in this issue by the Office of the Registrar).

THE DRAFT LEASE IS TAKING SHAPE

At our meeting in November 2004 we agreed to the “nuts and bolts” sections of the draft lease. This represents agreement of approximately 80% of the draft lease. At this February 2005 meeting we are laying the groundwork for the negotiation of the more significant aspects of the draft lease – cultural heritage management, employment, training, and rent. We are hoping to have a final draft lease within three to four more two-day meetings. The good will and trust between the Parties, gives every indication this negotiation timetable can be achieved.

Mike Williams

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We’re all back from the Christmas break after a summer in which the weather was really kind to us. We’ve had our quietest fire year in a long time and we’re now just beginning our autumn hazard reduction program, which may go for the next couple of months.

The Gulaga Biamanga negotiations are looking good. We had a really positive meeting at Umbarra a few weeks ago and worked through a number of issues. I think we’ve all got to the point of saying “lets just get it done”.

In a couple of days time, Preston Cope, Lenore Fraser and myself will be meeting with the panel’s Lawyer Adam McLean to work through the employment and training parts of the lease and a whole lot of loose ends throughout the lease document.

If all goes well, Adam will then be able to give a complete lease to the panel to have a careful look at.

This will leave the rent as the only part of the lease, which needs to be finalised. This is the money that the Minister pays every year because the two parks continue to be managed as National Parks. The Board of Management must spend the money on the parks, but the Board decides how it is going to be spent.

Working out how much rent that the government will pay can be a bit complicated. The way that we’ll do it is that National Parks and the panel will each get a valuer to tell us what they think it should be. We’ll then compare the two valuations and if they are close, then it will be easy to come to an agreed amount. If they’re not we’ll all have to work a bit harder to get an agreed amount.

In other news, the South East Forests National Park Plan of Management is on public

exhibition, The Plan says how we are going to manage the big National Park which extends from north of Bemboka along the escarpment to the Victorian Border.

The plan talks about Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and stresses the need to develop ways of consulting with Aboriginal people about their heritage. If you want to talk about this some more, please give myself or Rob McKinnon a call on 0264955001. Submissions to the plan close on April 22.

Tim Shepherd
Regional Manager

Southern Aboriginal Heritage Section Update

Hi all, it's that time again. It seems to come around so quickly. Well, we have been busy since the last newsletter.

Rod Wellington, at Nowra is pulling things together for the repatriation of Aboriginal remains from the Australian Museum. The remains come from a number of locations and he will be working very closely with the Nowra, Jerrinja and Ulladulla community to ensure that they are reburied, as close as possible to their original resting places. Rod also is preparing a presentation to the Jerrinja community, on the results of the recent ground penetration radar investigation of the Roseby Park Cemetery.

Dannielle Towers at Narooma is undertaking final discussions with the Djuwin Women's Lore Council and Bodalla Aboriginal Land Council on the Aboriginal Place nomination for Brou Lake. The consultant is due to hand down the draft report, which will be considered by the Lore & Land Councils and then forwarded to the Cultural Heritage Division for recommendation to the Minister for the Environment. Also, planning is coming along for the cleaning of the Broulee Scarred Tree and interpretation. This should be a positive outcome with wider

education about its importance in relation to Aboriginal connection to the local area around Broulee.

Graham Moore, at Merimbula has recently been involved in undertaking Aboriginal cultural awareness training for National Parks staff at Coonabarabran. This program has been very rewarding for participants, but equally taxing on Graham. Graham has also been heavily involved in the organisation for this years Aboriginal Staff Network Meeting at Yamba on the Far North Coast of NSW. The meeting allows for all Aboriginal staff across the new Department to come together to discuss issues of common interest. It also acts as a support mechanism to Aboriginal staff. The meeting will be occurring on the 14-17 March.

Vanessa Mason, up at Jindabyne has been working on the Lambie Gorge Aboriginal Place nomination. The consultant Kate Waters has been to the Aboriginal community at Wallaga Lake and Bega recording oral histories about the gorge. This is coming along very well at present, with letters of support from the Department of Lands and the Cooma-Monaro Shire Council to be provided. It is expected that a final draft report is due at the end of April 05. Similarly to the Brou Lake nomination, this report will also be put forward to the Minister for the Environment.

Dean Freeman, over at Tumut is working on developing the Aboriginal Heritage Women's Booklet for the Wagga area. He has interviewed 3 Aboriginal ladies at this stage and will complete this project by interviewing 7 more. Once the oral histories have been transcribed, they will be turned into stories and a booklet will be produced. This will be the 7th booklet produced in this series, which has included Nambucca, Nowra, Bungle/Tumut, Wollongong, Port Stephens and most recently there was the launch of the Bourke Aboriginal Women's Booklet. These have become very popular. Those that would like to view these booklets you can go to the Departments Internet website on www.dec.nsw.gov.au which you can also download and print a number of publications that have been produced by the Cultural Heritage Division. Any Aboriginal group can undertake a

similar project, by also viewing on the website a new booklet called 'Talk to Print', which explains to communities how to go about recording your own oral histories. It also provides guidance on how to obtain funding to do your own booklet.

As for me, I have been involved in the two coastal shire council Aboriginal Heritage Studies. Firstly, the Bega Valley study is warming up to an interesting stage, where we will be assessing the current planning processes that the Council uses to assess Aboriginal heritage during the development approvals. All three Aboriginal communities including Eden, Bega and Merrimans will have direct input into designing the proper assessment processes and establishing appropriate cultural protocols, as part of the process.

Secondly, the Eurobodalla study is progressing well. The consultant is due to produce the Stage 1 draft of the archival background research document and Stage 2 which is being undertaken by Chris Griffiths, is recording oral histories and mapping cultural values across the Shire. In addition to these, the Department is about to fund the commencement of Stage 1 study for the Shoalhaven Council area. It is hoped that we will receive the same level of support from the shire council and the various Aboriginal community groups in relation to this one as well. These projects can only be successful, if all that are involved take some shared responsibility for the project and the outcomes.

Well I have gone on a fair bit in this article, but it is important to let everyone know where things are up to. Again if you need to know any specific information about the above projects, please call me on (02) 62989736. See you all in the next edition.

Gary Currey
Manager
Southern Aboriginal
Heritage Section
Cultural Heritage Division, DEC

Aunty Vic Carriage continued.....

Violet and George Parsons had Cyril, Ethel, Robert and Ruth. George then got with Jessie and they had Dinny, Georgina, Ernie and Stanley.

Mum married my father Frank in Wollongong in November of 1901. Their children are:

1. Robert Joseph Golden Brown married Vera Stewart. Their children are Lyal, Isabelle, Ethel, Elvie, Ambrose and Robert.
2. Julia Alma Jane Brown married Cyd Hopkins and they adopted David.
3. Doris Muriel Florence Brown married John Neal. Children prior to this marriage were Athol Goodsell Brown and Rubin Ernest Brown. Athol married Bertha Stewart. Their children are Kenny and Athol Jnr. When Bertha left, Athol was adopted by his aunty Daphne (Brown) Fenton. Kenny was raised by his Grandmother Dot Neal.
4. Mable Martha Marie Brown married James Walsh. Their children; Betty married a Hancock, Merle married Kenny Rooke and Jimmy who died at age ten.
5. Charles William Thomas Brown disappeared from Brush Island near Murrumbidgee at age twenty-one.
6. Eunice Coral Agnes married Theo (Tom) Neil. She later lived with Harry Carriage at Tuross.
7. Daphne Hilda May married Neville Fenton. They adopted Athol Goodsell.
8. Then there is me. I married Frederick Thomas Carriage.
9. Francis Zeacle Patrick Brown disappeared from Brush Island with his older brother Charles at age nine.

My family moved from Milton to Pebbly Beach then to Kiola then back to Ulladulla. By this time I was three years old. When the family moved to Erina out near Gosford we got part the way there by cargo boat. It was called the Bermagui or the Bergalia I'm not sure which one. I remember getting on the boat but not getting off. Mum said I was sick the whole time. I started school at Erina. Mum worked with the Doctors wives and Dad did tree felling. When I was six, our house

Aunty Vic Carriage continued.....

got burnt down to the ground in the middle of the night. Dad believed it was done intentionally. Mum lost everything, photos, sewing machine, and family heirlooms. We moved to Annandale and then to Manly. When I was seven I had double pneumonia and was in hospital for over two months. When I came out of hospital the family had moved to Brookvale. I wasn't allowed to go to school for a good while but when I did I couldn't go to assembly or play sport. Dad stayed in Sydney with my sister when the rest of the family moved back to Erina for a while. We were surrounded by fires and weren't allowed to go to school for a week. We moved back to Manlyvale. Dad was a very sick man by then. He had an enlarged heart. We moved to Brookvale where I went to school, then to Termeil. I was at the school in Termeil for five years, the longest I'd spent at any school. This is where I met Fred at age thirteen. His family were living at East Lynne. I turned fifteen just after we moved back to Redfern. My first job was with a shirt factory in Campbell Street, Sydney (near Oxford) for the big sum of eighty cents per week, five and a half days a week. I was a Finisher, so I wasn't allowed to sit down. I was sacked because I wanted to sit down. Next factory I worked in made straws and toilet paper. I liked it there but there was no fresh air. I got thirteen shillings per week. Then I worked at Brevilles Radio Factory, I liked that work. I dipped the coils in wax to go into the back of the wireless. They closed down, so we were out of work. Alma worked at a clothes factory, so Daphne and I went to work there. It was straight opposite the railway. We quit and did Piece work at home because the forewomen was very rude. Daphne did a course with Stotts and got a certificate in radio assemblage. She worked at the laboratory for eighteen months.

I moved back to Bomaderry and stayed with Eunice then with Bob and Vera. I met up with Fred Carriage again. He was working in the sawmill. We went together for about nine months then married at the Methodist Church in Nowra on the twelfth of March 1938. I was nearly eighteen. Our children are:

1. Fredrick Thomas, he married Elsie Lorraine Ann Jessop. Their children are

- Denise, Shane Douglas and Paul Anthony.
2. Catherina Fay, she passed away at two years and eight months, she was blind and an invalid.
3. Lorraine, who married and divorced Ron Andriske. She then had a son to James Morrison and called him, Shann Justice Joseph Raymond Morrison Carriage.
4. Barry John married Colleen Harvey, their children are Kenneth Thomas, Lee John, Shawn Barry and Michelle Ann who married Constable Daniel Schmid who is stationed at the Bateman's Bay Police Station.
5. Aundre Janet
6. Ann Jeanette, she married and divorced Peter Allen. Their children are Linden and Kirsty.
7. Graeme Leo, he married and divorced Melinda Hughes.

In my eighty-five years the hardest thing to deal with was the disappearance of my two brothers when I was thirteen. I used to set their place at the table expecting them to come home. It must have been very upsetting for Mum, she would just quietly pack the settings away again.

The best of my eighty-five years is that I am so proud of my children, they have achieved so much respect in the District. We are a well-respected family. I have no regrets.

I don't go out much these days but some of the things I have been involved in include:

- Welcomed the Endeavour Replica in November 2000.
- Accepting the Pioneer Heritage Award at the Milton Settlers Fair 2000, as a descendent of the Murrumurrang Family.
- Opening the Reclaim the Night march in October 2002.
- The Blessing of the Fleet Opening and welcoming of dignitaries and local people.
- Introduced Reconciliation and the Gathering of Cultures Celebration last year because there are so many different cultures and I wanted to involve children.

Vic Carriage

More Creeks of the Far South Coast

Find-a-word

K	W	E	S	S	M	D	O	O	G	A	C	O	N	G	O	A	Y	T
I	U	S	H	P	C	O	P	P	I	N	S	P	A	R	B	E	R	Y
O	E	O	O	R	U	C	P	O	T	A	T	O	U	O	R	N	A	L
L	T	U	R	I	T	T	R	P	I	T	M	A	N	S	A	L	R	E
O	E	C	T	N	T	O	M	A	N	G	A	N	S	S	S	O	U	R
A	R	O	B	G	A	R	D	R	C	E	M	C	L	E	O	D	S	S
H	M	U	E	S	G	S	E	A	D	W	Y	E	R	S	A	N	D	Y
A	E	R	A	B	E	U	L	D	I	G	N	A	M	S	T	N	E	K
N	R	I	C	N	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	O	T	T	B	M	E	I
S	R	A	H	O	J	O	R	S	W	A	M	P	R	O	R	E	P	N
C	I	B	M	G	E	B	I	E	Y	W	G	I	L	M	O	R	E	S
O	W	A	O	G	R	S	L	D	U	N	N	S	W	T	C	I	E	W
M	I	O	G	A	E	F	L	T	O	M	A	H	A	W	K	N	M	O
B	N	L	O	R	M	J	A	M	E	S	U	L	T	U	E	G	A	O
E	G	S	Q	U	A	R	T	P	O	T	S	E	E	F	L	O	T	D
S	A	O	R	L	D	O	G	O	W	I	N	G	R	M	O	T	H	H
M	U	N	D	A	R	L	O	W	I	L	D	H	O	R	S	E	E	O
S	E	S	T	B	A	D	G	E	R	Y	S	C	O	I	L	A	W	H
A	T	F	O	M	A	K	I	N	S	L	L	J	O	E	S	O	S	W

* Find the hidden message

More Creeks

Badgerys
 Brockelos
 Coila
 Congo
 Coppins
 Couria
 Cuttagee
 Deep
 Dellrill
 Dignams
 Doctors
 Dooga
 Dunns
 Dwyers
 Gilmores
 Gowing
 Grosses

Hanscombes
 James
 Jeremadra
 Joes
 Kinswood
 Kioloa
 Makins
 Mangans
 Mathews
 Mcleods
 Meringo
 Merriwinga
 Mogo
 Mundarlow
 Nelligen
 Noggarula
 Olsons

Quartpot
 Paradise
 Parbery
 Pitmans
 Potato
 Sandy
 Shortbeach
 Spring
 Swamp
 Tomahawk
 Tylers
 Water
 Wild Horse

Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area

NPWS is assessing the cultural significance to Aboriginal people of the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area (SCA) on the escarpment west of Wollongong and its suburbs.

The assessment is related to a Schedule 14 nomination affecting the SCA and its proposed additions. It could eventually lead to the reserve's hand-back to the traditional owners to be managed as a national park – as has already happened with the Mutawintji reserves near Wilcannia and Mount Grenfell Historic Site near Cobar, and as is being negotiated now with Biamanga and Gulaga national parks.

However, Aboriginal ownership of the reserve is not guaranteed and can only happen after many political and legal processes. The first is the cultural significance assessment, which has already begun.

This assessment is using information already obtained through the Illawarra Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study, a two-stage research project which looked at spatial recording, management of Aboriginal heritage, Aboriginal histories and migrations, and Aboriginal resource use. This work was funded by NPWS and led by Michael Adams and Sue Wesson.



Pictured: Aunty Beryl Cruse and Frances Bodkin sharing a moment.

It led to the production of three books (*Aboriginal Women's Heritage: Illawarra*; *A History of the Aborigines of the Illawarra 1770-1970*; and *Aboriginal Resource Use*), a database (Aboriginal uses of plants and animals) and maps of resource use and Aboriginal Illawarra.

Sue Wesson is now coordinating the Illawarra Escarpment SCA assessment. She's conducting archival research at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Studies at Canberra, the State Library of NSW at Sydney, Wollongong Library and the State Archives at Kingswood in western Sydney, as part of the assessment.



Pictured at the meeting Vida Brown and Clive Freeman.

Perhaps the most important part of the work is the interviews, which have already taken place with members of the Illawarra Aboriginal community to gather information about the significance of the Illawarra Escarpment. This includes information from stories, songs, histories, resource and site use, ceremonial importance and the valuing of sites and landscape features

NPWS held meetings with local Aboriginal communities in early February to discuss the project, hear people's views and find out who was interested in being interviewed. In all, 82 community members attended the meetings and more than 30 people requested to be interviewed.

They were asked how they and their families valued the Illawarra Escarpment, what was

important about it and how they had used the area. They were also asked about any special sites, family stories and particular local Aboriginal cultural practices associated with the area.

Sue will summarise this information and prepare a statement on the reserve's cultural significance to Aboriginal people. She'll also prepare a report for the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). The DEC Director-General will then report on these issues to the Minister for the Environment.

Sue expects to make a presentation of her draft report at a community meeting in late March 2005. She'll be hoping for comments from the Aboriginal community by 28 March, with the aim of presenting her final report to the Director-General in April.

If you'd like to know more about the process please contact Greg Dodd on 9585 6935.

John Ross
Public Affairs
Department of Environment & Conservation

In Schools.....

Carroll College

On Friday, 26th November, 2004, Carroll College held its annual Cultural Day. Trish Ellis and Dave Tout organised a craft workshop for the year 8 students. Trish taught the girls how to make bracelets and necklaces, while Dave taught the boys how to make fishing spears and hooks. All items were made from natural materials that we see around everyday. The students described the day as "enjoyable and informative".

All students in Trish's group walked away with a bracelet or necklace made from thin strips of bark. The girls enjoyed making these. They found twisting the bark quite challenging, but they weren't prepared to give up easily.



Pictured: Loise Minahan, Rachel Beaumont, Kaitlyn Gillespie, Millie Pratt & Kristy Williamson.

Trish also showed them how to make placemats from water grass.

In Dave's class room, a group of boys were very busy carving sticks so they would resemble a fishing spear, while another group of boys were working hard making fishing hooks from abalone shells. The year 8 boys were fascinated by the indigenous culture.

All the students enjoyed the culture awareness that was given to them by Trish and Dave.

On behalf of Carroll College, I would like to thank Trish and Dave for their professional manner in which they conducted the workshops.

Kylie Smith

Moruya High School

Food and Medicine Trail. Year 11 Food Technology Students Friday 4 March 2005

Tour Guides: Trisha Ellis, Aboriginal Project Officer and Dannielle Towers, Culture and Heritage Officer for the Far South Coast Region.

Once again, under the superb guidance and patience of Trisha and Dannielle, the Senior Food Technology students learnt about the traditional food supply and medicines available in our own backyard.



Students twisting for Pippies

We gathered pippies in the traditional fashion. As we carried them back to the campsite. The track became the classroom to learn about the

native flora and fauna used in Aboriginal culture. For example, the uses of the banksia cone to carry fire and light the bush on the way. This in turn made the small lizards run out to be caught; they in turn brought the attention of the birds. Spear and/or net were also used to catch these birds. The 'kiwi fruit' flavour of the Pig-face fruit and the vegetable taste of the Mat Rush, were new experiences to the students and how the Mat Rush leaves were divided and woven into mats, baskets and bowl shapes, as containers for various uses.



Snake skin found by a MHS student while on excursion.

Trisha demonstrated how to 'whistle for a snake' and the use of the Pig-face sap to use as a natural anaesthetic.

Dannielle showed the students how to cook the fish in paperbark and the damper. She also explained the significance of the fireplace being evidence of past tribes and what their diet included.



Snapper cooked in paperbark in coals

She spoke on how the wallabies and kangaroos were captured and how to test for correct temperature of the coals and create an oven in the sand. The students had the opportunity to

cook their own pippies and tried the smoked Snapper and damper. The only remains of the fish were the skeletons. The flavour was smoky and the texture, very tender and moist.



Pippies cooking in the coals

We would like to extend a sincere thankyou to both Trisha and Dannielle for their time, patience, and sharing their knowledge and expertise of the bush to the students. A very interesting excursion, where students learnt to look at our native bush and sea in a way that provides us with food, medicine, tools and shelter.

Janine Holden

Broulee Primary School

Biodiversity Workshop

On Thursday 9th of December 2004, Trisha Ellis and Dannielle Towers from NPWS came to Broulee School to do a biodiversity workshop with the students in Stage 2.

The school has won several Director General Awards over previous years for Environment Programs and this biodiversity workshop was just another part of such programs.

During the workshop the students watched a 10-minute video that was based on biodiversity and Montague Island Nature Reserve.

After watching the video the students answered questions about what biodiversity is, how to protect the Island, which birds and wildlife inhabit the Island, why biodiversity is important to Aboriginal people, what the web of life is and what kind of foods, building materials and clothes biodiversity provides.

Everybody enjoyed the workshop. The teachers and NPWS Officers were very impressed with the student's knowledge of and interest in the subject.

This visit from the NPWS Officers is leading the students toward excursions and more research and learning experiences. A big thank you to Trisha and Dannielle for your time. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and we got a lot out of it.

Kerry Boyenga

Vincentia High School

Dhurga/Dharawal Language Program

Since 2000 Vincentia High School, its Aboriginal Student Support & Parent Awareness Program (ASSPA) committee and the local community have progressed on a journey to revive the Dhurga/Dharawal language and develop a language course at our school. Along the journey our group has grown with many others providing information and resources. Sadly, also some of our most keen supporters have passed away and will not see the fruits of their effort. Their passing has emphasised how quickly people with knowledge can be gone but it has also strengthened the resolve to revive the language.

After ATSIC failed to support a language submission in 2000 a core group consisting of Helen Pussell the Aboriginal Education Assistant (AEA), Gary Worthy a Head Teacher at Vincentia High School and Marion Worthy a Trainee Teacher, visited the Board of Studies. They spoke to Jackie Troy and Kevin Lowe in the Aboriginal Education Unit and Michael Walsh from Sydney University. These people

advised us to research several areas that had revived or renewed their language.

The journey continued into 2002 to Bowraville and Nambucca Heads. With the support of Vincentia High School Principal Mr Jim Connolly and funding from the school, Gary Worthy, Rachel Ford, Helen Pussell and local community representatives set off to the North Coast. The purpose of this trip was to look at the Gumbaynggir Language program at Bowraville Central School, where Indigenous community members who had completed a TAFE course on their language, taught the Indigenous students at that school. Mr Ken Walker a community elder was involved with the revival and teaching of the local Indigenous language.

At this point we approached Wendy Brown from the Wreck Bay Community to join us as a community representative.

Meanwhile the bush telegraph had been working overtime about our project and at Christmas time 2003 we gained a lot of resource on the language from Moruya. These resources were from Trish Ellis and Mary Duroux. Trish's sister Kerry Boyenga and brother Waine Donovan, Indigenous teachers at Broulee Public School and with the support of Mr Jeff Ward their Principal joined our growing group and we made a submission to the Aboriginal Programs Unit to develop the Language Course. Unfortunately like several of our submissions for assistance this was unsuccessful.



Pictured: Kerry Boyenga and Wendy Brown

Nevertheless both schools support our research with Gary Worthy, Helen Pussell and Wendy Brown flying out to South Australia to research and observe how the Kaurna language had been literally resurrected from nothing. On the 25/11/03 we visited the Kaurna Plains School in South Australia



Pictured: Dannielle Towers, Jackie Troy and baby

On the 26/11/03 Gary Worthy, Rachel Ford, Helen Pussell, Wendy Brown (Vincentia High School), Waine Donovan, Kerry Boyenga and Ursula Brown (Broulee Public School) Mary Duroux (Moruya), Dannielle Towers (NPWS) visited the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), where Dianne Prosser, Head of Technical Service welcomed and workshopped us on the basic principles and requirements of oral histories and recording.

Jackie Troy and Dr Pat McConvell the institutes Linguist, joined us at this stage.

The Audio staff gave us 16 CD's of recordings of Oral histories of the Dhurga/Dharawal Language along with many detailed transcripts as a final gesture to round off a great day.

On the second day of the workshop Jackie Troy took us to Luise Anna Hercus' property. She is a Linguist, who in the early 1960's record Dhurga elders many of whom are deceased and have descendants in our group.

Late in 2003 the group made yet another submission, this time to be part of a trial Indigenous Language Program for the Office of

the Board of Studies. We were successful and with assistance of community members both Vincentia High School and Broulee Public ran a trial 4-week unit with assistance of the Board representatives.

This is where Jutta Besold a Melbourne linguist came on board. Jutta has been very helpful and has now moved to Canberra where she is concentrating full time on Indigenous Languages of the South East of NSW. A big thank you must also be given to Aunty Pauline Delauney and Aunty Eileen Hampton who became the Indigenous teachers of the trial unit for Vincentia High School.

In 2005 with the continuing assistance of everyone involved we would like to develop and trial a 10 week unit.



Pictured: Luise Hercus

Our group to date has consisted of

- Mary Duroux Moruya Community Elder and Respected Language person.
- Wendy Brown Wreck Bay Community
- Kerry Boyenga Broulee Public School Indigenous Teacher and Chairperson of the Lower South Coast Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG)
- Waine Donovan Broulee Public School Indigenous Teacher and NSW Teacher Federation Executive Member

- Helen Pussell Aboriginal Education Assistant VHS
- Jennifer Munroe NSW OBOS
- Patricia Ellis Aboriginal Project Officer with National Parks and Wildlife Service and Chairperson of the Cobowra Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Dannielle Towers Culture and Heritage Officer with National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Gary Worthy Head TEacher Technological and Applied Studies VHS

We also have the support of:

- Jackie Troy NSW Indigenous Language Develop Officer
- Luise Hercus Linguist who studied the Dhurga/Dharawal Language in 1960's
- Anne Nuggent Researched and developed a Unit of Wreck Bay Indigenous Language in 1970's and 1980's

This is an ongoing program, Progress will be reported on in the next issue of Coastal Custodian. Any comments or information should be directed to the:

Dhurga Language Group Co-Ordinator.

Gary Worthy
c/o Vincentia High School
The Wool Road
Vincentia 2540

Dear Yuin Community Members,

Please find following a draft of a tourism fact sheet, which Tourism New South Wales has put together with the help of Brian Egloff and NPWS. The purpose of the fact sheet is to raise the awareness of the cultural significance of each region and of the diversity of Aboriginal New South Wales to consumers, local government and industry bodies. This project will cover the whole of NSW, but we have started with the South Coast

and over the next couple of months will start on Snowies, and Capital country. The fact sheets are not aimed at promoting product, however a reference to the Visitor Information Centres (VICs) will be included at the bottom if the reader wishes to seek a product experience, after reading the fact sheet.

The fact sheets will then be designed and printed. They will not include a huge amount of images, other than a map and whatever else we have available to us in our library or through NPWS, due to copyright issues.

The distribution strategy will include various industry, VICs and local government bodies. After the initial print run the sheets will then be available for download on the website.

Community members have the opportunity to comment and/or provide any feedback on the content of text before the fact sheets are finalised directly to me, any formal changes to the text will need to be sent to me in writing by the 8th April. My contact details are as follows phone: 02 99311 435 email: michelle.serone@tourism.nsw.gov.au. If no response has been received by the 8th April, Tourism New South Wales with sign-off from DAA and NPWS will publish the fact sheets.

Kind regards

Michelle Serone
Destination Development
Specialist

Aboriginal, Cultural and
Heritage Tourism

Tourism New South Wales

Discovering Aboriginal New South Wales

Yuin People of the South Coast

Yuin people live in the area between Cape Howe Island, north to the Shoalhaven River and inland to the Great Dividing Range. Traditionally, Yuin people supported themselves through hunting, fishing and gathering shellfish and plants.

Today, Yuin people work in forestry, dairy and fishing and are active in competitive sport. Members of local communities are prominent in land management, education, local government, serve on advisory boards and work for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Pre-History

Aboriginal people have been living on the South Coast for at least 30,000 years. At Burrill Lake, a rock shelter was excavated and large flaked stone scrapers dating back 22,000 years ago to the Pleistocene were discovered on its lower levels.

Small stone blades and the bones of forest animals have been found in the upper layers which date to 5,000 years ago. Rock shelters excavated at Jervis Bay have bone tools, shell fishhooks and small stone blades that were used in more recent prehistoric periods. Remains of campsites littered with stone tools and remains of shellfish meals can be seen in the sand dunes above the seashore along the coastline and including Murramarang, Bingi and Tuross.

Food, medicine, hunting, gathering

Yuin people have accumulated a wealth of knowledge about local plants and animals. Thousands of plants, trees and animals are used for medicinal purposes and as a food resource. Umbarra, the black duck, is the totem of the Yuin people and is never eaten by Yuin people. Other birds such as bush pigeons, parrots and bush turkeys were hunted for food. The Yuin have many methods of fishing including using wooden prong spears and nets made of reed grass. Yuin also enjoy local shellfish including lobsters, blue swimmer and mud crabs, oysters, pippies and

mussels. Yuin people also hunted echidna, possum, kangaroos, wallabies, snakes, as well as, eating bogong moths, witchetty grubs and the honey of native bees.

Caption:

Geebungs are one of the many Aboriginal food plants that can be found on the coast and in the mountains. They are green, egg-shaped fruit that grow on trees and look like small apples. When squeezed, the flesh is soft, stringy and sweet, and has a nutty flavour in taste.

Place names

Many places on the South Coast have retained their Aboriginal names such as Broulie - Broulee, Mumbeller - Mumbulla Mountain, and Parnbuller - Pambula. The Aboriginal name for Mount Dromedary is Gulaga, Pigeon House is known as Didthol or Bulgan, Montague Island is Baranguba and Mount Imlay is Boolone.

Sacred places

Gulaga - Mount Dromedary - is deeply sacred to the Yuin nation particularly the women. Legend has it that many years ago a tribe lived on top of Gulaga. A lovely young girl was pregnant and her husband went hunting to get her a beautiful white fur. While he was away, a young man came to the camp and killed her. When her husband returned he found her dead and wrapped her in the fur. To punish the young man, the elders of the tribe banished him. Then a great earthquake divided the mountain. It created the little mountain, named Najanooga, after the young man, and Baranguba (Montague Island), which rose out of the sea. To this day, when you look at Gulaga, you can see a pregnant woman lying down. When the mountain is shrouded in cloud, the Yuin say to one another, "Today she is wearing her white fur."

Photos

Visit to Jervis Bay
Drawing of Yuin man
Photo of geebungs
Photo of xanthorrhoea
Midden at Wreck Bay
Axe grinding grooves at Booderee National Park

More Creeks of the Far South Coast

Find-a-word Answers

	Legend		Legend	Key to Legend
Badgerys	5→18↓➤	Mangans	8→5↓➤	
Brockelos	16→9↓▼	Mathews	18→13↓▼	Word starts
Coila	13→18↓➤	Mcleods	12→6↓➤	→ Across
Congo	12→1↓➤	Meringo	17→9↓▼	↓ Down
Coppins	6→2↓➤	Merriwinga	2→7↓▼	➤ Word Direction
Couria	3→5↓▼	Mogo	4→11↓▼	▼ Word Direction
Cuttagee	6→2↓▼	Mundarlow	1→17↓➤	
Deep	18→7↓▼	Nelligen	5→9↓➤	
Dellrill	8→6↓▼	Noggarula	5→9↓▼	
Dignams	9→8↓➤	Olsons	3→13↓▼	
Doctors	7→1↓➤	Quartpot	4→15↓➤	
Dooga	7→1↓➤	Paradise	9→4↓▼	
Dunns	9→12↓➤	Parbery	13→2↓➤	
Dwyers	10→7↓➤	Pitmans	9→4↓➤	
Gilmores	12→11↓➤	Potato	8→3↓➤	
Gowing	8→16↓➤	Sandy	15→7↓➤	
Grosses	15→1↓▼	Shortbeach	4→1↓▼	
Hanscombes	1→7↓▼	Spring	5→1↓▼	
James	7→14↓➤	Swamp	9→10↓➤	
Jeremadra	6→10↓▼	Tomahawk	9→13↓➤	
Joes	13→19↓➤	Tylers	19→1↓▼	
Kinswood	19→8↓▼	Water	14→12↓▼	
Kioloa	1→1↓▼	Wild Horse	9→17↓➤	
Makins	5→19↓➤			

Resources: Land & Property Information Topographic & Orthophoto Maps (Bega, Murrah, Bermagui, Central Tilba, Narooma, Bodalla, Moruya, Mogo & Nelligen).



Adam Black, Rachel Lenehan and Kylie McLeod from The Office of the Registrar enjoying the Book launch.

Calendar of Events

March

Tuesday 1 st	St David's Day
Thursday 17 th	St Patrick's Day
Sunday 20 th	Palm Sunday
Friday 25 th	Good Friday
Sunday 27 th	Easter Sunday
Monday 28 th	Easter Monday

April

Saturday 9 th to Monday 25 th	School Holidays (Eastern NSW)
Saturday 23 rd	St George's Day
Sunday 24 th	Jewish Passover
Monday 25 th	ANZAC Day

May

Sunday 1 st	Orthodox Easter Sunday
Thursday 5 th	Ascension Day
Sunday 15 th	Whit Sunday/Pentecost
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity Sunday
Tuesday 26 th	Corpus Christi



Subscription details

Please fill in the following details to receive your copy of future quarterly newsletters and forward them to:

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Department of Environment &
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trisha.ellis@npws.nsw.gov.au

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ **State:** _____

Telephone: _____

Facsimile: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Note: Photocopies of back issues available on request