



COASTAL CUSTODIANS

Volume 1, Issue 12

May 2003

Introducing: Trisha Ellis Aboriginal Project Officer

I belong to the Walbanga and Brinja people, two of the 13 tribes of the Djuwin Nation. My family have kinship ties as far south as Eden and to the north to Nambucca Heads. I started school in Turlinja then attended Moruya Public and Moruya High Schools to year 11.

I started out my working career in the paddocks picking peas and beans and pulling corn. I developed an interest in catering and worked as a cook in the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital and the Nowra Community Hospitals for several years. My interest then changed to community welfare, working in and supporting the management of the women's refuge in Moruya. I have been an active member and at times an employee of my local Aboriginal land council, this being my 12th year as the chairperson. I have worked as an Aboriginal consultant for 16 local schools and remote communities throughout NSW.

I worked two years out of Moruya TAFE coordinating the Aboriginal Unit before securing my current position with NPWS in July 2000.

My academic qualifications include an Advanced Diploma in Community Management from Macquarie University, receiving distinctions for the 18 subjects studied over the three years. At the same time I completed a Certificate IV in Workplace Assessor at the Moruya TAFE. I am currently part way through a Masters in Commercial Law and on completion plan to undertake a doctorate in Anthropology.

As Aboriginal Project Officer my main focus is the handback of Gulaga and Biamanga National Parks. I produce this quarterly newsletter to keep people informed of the process and current status. Readers are invited to make comment and/or feature articles about their communities where space allows.

For leisure I love to line-dance, paint my interpretations of traditional Dreamtime stories and keep a vegetable garden. I also like fishing, reading and educating others about the various aspects of my culture including bushfood, medicine,

stories and spiritual beliefs. I love to spend time with my family and truly believe my brothers and sisters to be the seven wonders of my world. I have a beautiful 19 year old daughter and a wonderfully, supportive partner.



I love my job, I have a great boss and I enjoy the working environment where I have made some lasting friendships. I especially enjoy the interaction with the Aboriginal community throughout the Southern region.

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Our Readers Comments

Hi Trisha

I have read with interest your publication Coastal Custodians. Congratulations on a very informative magazine. Would it be possible to have 6 copies of each issue sent to me for distribution in our shire libraries.

Thank You

Gwen Lisson Moruya Library 31/03/03

Dear Trisha

Thank you for the copy of the C.C. that was in my mail box today.

I was particularly interested to read about the Year 12 Graduation ceremony. And what a long list of graduands! It is great that so many young people now realise the value of those last school years, and how their studies will help them achieve a rewarding and better life later on.

I'm sure you will know that the article reminded me of your dear Mother and the sort of help she was always ready to give students. Long may her memory help spur students on to greater effort.

Best love

Shirley Horey Bingie. 26/03/03

Hello Trish

I received my last copy of Coastal Custodians just as I was about to head out west for a field trip - I took it with me to read on the way.

I always really enjoy it. I love the way I always see familiar faces and find out what's been going on "behind-the-scenes". It is a great way to keep in touch when I don't get down to the coast all that often.

The people I went to see were pretty impressed with it too - keep up the good work. fond regards,

Cath Rennick 10/04/03

Dear Trisha

COASTAL CUSTODIANS is a great way to inform local people of what is going on in their

community. I am impressed with the quality of the articles professionalism of the layout, it is worthy of being fully supported by your readers.

As the former Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Affairs in NSW I have enjoyed reading COASTAL CUSTODIANS and look forward to receiving future copies.

The hand back of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks to the Aboriginal people who have cultural association is a true step in the right direction in recognising the first people of this land and the importance land is to culture. Trisha keep up the great work that you do and keep National Parks on their toes. All the best to you and your staff for the future.

Colin Markham 21/05/03

Editors Comments

This the 12th edition of Coastal Custodian marks almost three years of focus on the Aboriginal ownership of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks.

At this time three years ago not one Aboriginal person had been entered onto the register for Biamanga and/or Gulaga National Parks. Today there are ever increasing numbers. The task made simpler by the use of the report as prepared by Brian Egloff, Nick Peterson and Sue Wesson for the Office of the Registrar.

We now have a Negotiation Panel made up of 13 representatives of the Aboriginal communities from Bateman's Bay to Eden. The primary role of this panel is to negotiate lease conditions toward handback. To this end a coordinator will be employed and a facilitator contracted to aid in the process. Watch the local papers for job advertisements, the position will soon be available for recruitment. Parties to the negotiations will be the NPWS, the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Councils and the Negotiation panel.

Trisha Ellis



Update on the Register of Aboriginal Owners

We have moved!

The Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) along with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs have moved from Clarence Street in the CBD to Elizabeth Street near Central Train Station. Our new contact details are above.

Publications

Please contact us if you would like a copy of either publication.

The Guide to the Aboriginal Ownership and Joint Management of Lands in NSW

A guide to the legislation that establishes the Register of Aboriginal Owners, and the joint management of lands in New South Wales, written by Warwick Baird for the Office of the Registrar.

Yapapunakirri (Let's track back). The Aboriginal world around Mount Grenfell

This is a version of the report compiled to assist with the process of registering Aboriginal owners for the Mount Grenfell Historic Site (near Cobar). To ensure that research done by the Office is made available we have published this report. We are currently distributing it all over western New South Wales. Yapapunakirri is about

the history and cultural association of the Ngiyampaa people with the Mount Grenfell Historic Site and their land, written by Jeremy Beckett and Tamsin Donaldson with Brad Steadman and Steve Meredith.

Launch of Yapapunakirri

Rachel and Adam from the Office of the Registrar travelled to Cobar for the launch of Yapapunakirri on Friday 11 May. The launch held in the Cobar Shire Council Chambers was well attended by Ngiyampaa people from all over western New South Wales and locals from the district. Ms Elaine Ohlsen, Ngiyampaa Elder and Aboriginal owner of Mount Grenfell introduced the publication, making special mention of the design on the front cover which was drawn by her daughter Sharron Ohlsen. Mr Colin Markham, former Member for Wollongong, Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Affairs and for the Illawarra, and long supporter of joint management in New South Wales, officially launched Yapapunakirri, and the Guide to Aboriginal Ownership and Joint Management of Lands in NSW. The launch ended with the authors of the publication, who spoke in Ngiyampaa and English about the information contained in the report.

Joint Management of Mount Grenfell Historic Site

The Aboriginal Negotiating Panel has been meeting regularly since last year to work out the terms of lease for the Mount Grenfell Historic Site. The negotiations should be finished in the next few months. Once this has

happened Aboriginal owners will meet to nominate who among them will be nominated to be appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to the Board of Management. The Board of Management replaces the Director General of National Parks and Wildlife Service in the care, control and management of the lands. Aboriginal owners are a majority on the Board and the chairperson must be one of the Aboriginal owner board members. When Mount Grenfell comes under joint management later this year it will join Mutawintji National Park (near Broken Hill) as only the second area of land in New South Wales Aboriginal owned and jointly managed by Aboriginal owners and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

More Names of the Register of Aboriginal Owners

In the next edition of Coastal Custodians a full list of people whose names are entered in the Register of Aboriginal Owners will be provided.

What is the Register of Aboriginal Owners?

The Register lists the names of Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with land, the nature of the cultural association the person has with the land and the location of the land. For your name to be entered in the register you must be an Aboriginal person who:

- is directly descended from the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the cultural area in which the land you have a cultural association with is located.
- has a cultural association with the land that derives from the traditions, customs, observances, beliefs and history of the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the land.
- consented to your name being entered in the register.

Why does the Office have to keep a Register of Aboriginal Owners?

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* says that the Registrar must keep a Register of Aboriginal Owners.

What is the Relationship of the Register with the Joint Management of Lands in NSW?

People listed in the Register may be appointed by the Minister for the Environment to Boards of Management to lands recognised as being of cultural significance to Aboriginal people. These lands are listed on Schedule 14 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Lands claimed by Local Aboriginal Land Councils and refused on the basis of nature conservation, known as 36A lands may also become part of this process.

The title to these lands may be transferred to an Aboriginal Land Council and leased back to the Minister for the Environment. The land is then jointly managed with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Aboriginal owners.



Managing the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks

Monga National Park·Deua National Park·Wadbilliga National Park·Gourock National Park
Badja Swamps Nature Reserve

Contribute your ideas

The NSW NPWS is about to commence preparation of a Management Plan for the National Parks and Nature Reserve bounded by the Kings Highway (Batemans Bay) to the north and the Snowy Mountains Highway (Bega) to the south. Chris Griffiths, NPWS Narooma, will be undertaking consultations about the plan with the Aboriginal Community during September 2003. Your contributions will be critical for an effective and successful plan that appropriately recognises and protects Aboriginal Cultural Heritage!

THE PARKS

Monga National Park (25,141ha) located 15km northwest of Batemans Bay, conserves a high diversity of rainforest, old growth forest and a range of threatened species. **Deua National Park** (117,557ha) contains spectacular escarpment country, large areas of hinterland and escarpment forest communities that support a wide range of threatened species habitat, as well as a network of caves. **Wadbilliga National Park** (97,761ha) protects an area of wild mountains cradling one of the state's largest undisturbed river catchments, surrounding the Wadbilliga, Tuross and Brogo Rivers. **Gourock National Park** (7,878ha) contains large areas of old-growth Tableland Forest communities with spotted quoll and other hollow-dependent fauna habitat. **Badja Swamps Nature Reserve** (542ha) protects an upland swamp and escarpment eucalypt communities of high conservation value.

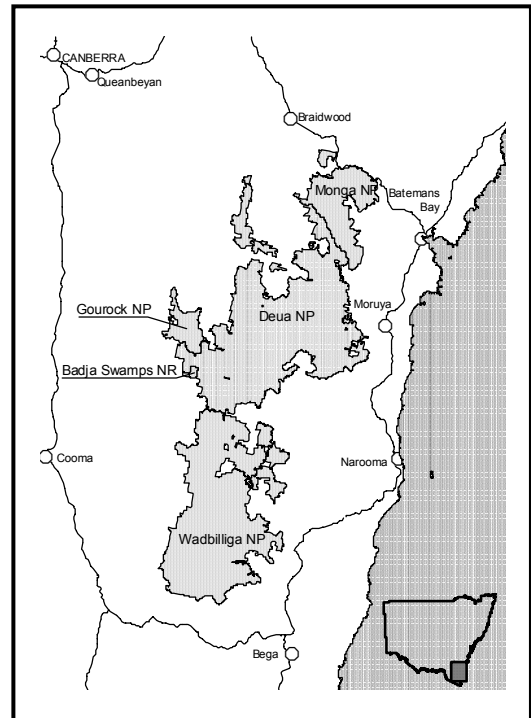
There is also rich evidence and a legacy of stories, memories and experiences from associations that people have had with the area over many years. This plan will explore how we can celebrate and protect important Aboriginal and Historic Heritage values.

"THE PLAN"

This plan will cover the five parks (an area of approximately 244,000ha) given that they are contiguous and have similar management issues. A Plan of Management (POM) is a legal document

outlining how a National Park, Nature Reserve or Historic Site will be managed in the future (usually a 10 to 15 year timeframe). A plan outlines objectives for management and details the types of operations and uses within a park considered consistent with such objectives. For example, a plan may detail how caves will be protected and suitable access arrangements to the caves.

THE FAR SOUTH COAST ESCARPMENT PARKS



PLAN PREPARATION

There are 5 phases to plan preparation, which are indicated as follows:

1. draft POM Prepared	2. Public Exhibition + receive submissions	3. NPWS Advisory Council review draft plan + submissions
4. Draft Plan (revised) to Minister for adoption	5. Draft Plan adopted or back to Director General and Council	

We are seeking your input into the first Phase – preparing the draft plan. We expect to complete Phase 1 by mid 2004.

The 'Negotiables' and 'Non-Negotiables'

All of the Escarpment Parks have been subject to management and legal decisions over the years (for example Wilderness declarations) which means that when planning for the park we are not starting with a 'blank slate'. These 'non-negotiables' will be outlined clearly at our public 'openhouse' meetings. An example of a 'non-negotiable' would be actions required to meet the objectives of the *National Parks and Wildlife Service Act 1974* or decisions previously made under the *Wilderness Act 1987*.

However there will still be many decisions or 'negotiables' that need to be made through the POM process. These decisions will include for example, the types and locations of recreation encouraged in the park, and the facilities that they require. We are especially seeking any ideas that you have in relation to these decisions.

SIGN UP!

If you are on our mailing list, we will send notices of any meetings and updates on progress for the preparation of

the draft to you. You can let us know if you would like to be on the mailing list by calling 02 4476 2888 or email: fsc_plans@npws.nsw.gov.au

Please note, that for the purposes of the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, your personal details will be a matter of public record and will be stored in NPWS's records system. Your details will be retained on the 'Escarpment Parks POM' mailing list only if you have confirmed that this is acceptable.

COME TO AN 'OPEN HOUSE'

In the second week of August, there will be a series of community 'open houses'. The objectives of these meetings are to find out what the general community values about the Escarpment Parks, outline the planning 'negotiables' for discussion and seek your suggestions/thoughts on these. NPWS staff will also be available to answer questions that you may have on other matters related to park management.

The 'Open House' meetings are tentatively planned for the second week of August 2003 between 4pm and 7pm at Braidwood, Moruya, Bega and Cooma. We will confirm dates during July. You can call in at any time (between 4 and 7pm) and stay for as long as you wish.

CONSULTATIONS WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

In addition to the Open House Meetings, Chris Griffiths, NPWS Narooma, will be undertaking consultations about the plan with the Aboriginal Community during September 2003. Your contributions will be critical for an effective and successful plan that appropriately recognises and protects Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. During September, we hope to spend some time in the Park with key representatives of the Aboriginal Community. More information on this will be in the August issue of Coastal Custodians.

In the meantime, please contact Carla Rogers (Regional Planner NPWS) on 02 4476 2888 if you would like more information.

More information is available by
Telephone: 02 4476 2888
Email: fsc_plans@npws.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

PLEASE CONTACT US ALSO IS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE MAILING LIST

Regional Managers Report

After the long fire season things are pretty much back to normal for the Region. Despite many staff taking leave our programs are now catching up. Hopefully, next year will be a quiet one – two bad ones in a row is enough.

The Bega Valley Aboriginal Heritage study is underway, with Chris Griffiths now working full time on the project to make sure that Aboriginal Communities are fully involved.

We're also beginning the work on what we call the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks Plan of Management. The Plan will say what we can and can not do for the big inland parks from Bega to Braidwood and Batemans Bay. In all the plan will cover about 244,000ha of park. The parks in the Plan are Deua, Wadbilliga, Monga, Gourock and Badja Swamps. Carla Rogers will be the project manager for the plan work. Chris Griffiths will be heavily involved in consultations with Aboriginal Communities.

There's more about the plan in another article in this edition of Coastal Custodians.

Elsewhere, we've just reached an agreement with the Eden Land Council to finish of the construction of the Culture Camp at Haycock Point. We hope that it will get a lot of use by Aboriginal People along the coast.

There hasn't been a huge amount of progress on Gulaga and Biamanga handback over the last month or two. However this is about to change. Were just about ready to advertise for the facilitator for the negotiations and also for a person who will work for the Aboriginal Negotiating Panel to help out with organising and coordinating the work of the panel. As soon as these people are appointed we should be able to start negotiating.

We've also just finalised an application to the Commonwealth Government for funding to help with the negotiating process.

Hope to see many of you soon as we start the hand back negotiations

Reptiles of the South East Coast of NSW

Find-a-word

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

* Find the hidden message

Turtles

Eastern Long-Necked Turtle

Dragons

Jacky Lizard

Eastern Water

Eastern Bearded

Monitors

Lace Monitor

Skinks

Red-throated

Copper-tailed

Cunninghams

Bar-sided Forest

Delicate Garden Sun

Weasel

Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard

Geckos

Wood

Lesueurs Velvet

Legless Lizards

Burtons *Legless*

Common Scaly Foot

Snakes

Common Eastern Blind

Carpet Python

Green Tree

Common Death Adder

Yellow-faced Whip

White-lipped

Eastern Tiger

Red-bellied Black

Eastern Brown

Bandy-bandy

Yellow-bellied Sea

Statewide get together of NPWS staff and Aboriginal people involved in co-management of national parks

(Lenore Fraser Aboriginal Co-Management Program Coordinator Major Programs Group, NPWS)

On 12 and 13 May 2003, Aboriginal people and NPWS staff from around the State involved in co-management of national parks got together in Sydney. The get together gave people from around the State a chance to meet each other, to share their experiences and to discuss issues in common.

Thirty Aboriginal community representatives and thirty six NPWS staff attended the meeting over the two days.

Tim Shepherd (Regional Manager), Trisha Ellis (Aboriginal Project Officer), Mary Duroux (Biamanga and Gulaga Negotiating Panel member) and Dave Tout (Biamanga and Gulaga Negotiating Panel member) came from the Far South Coast. I'd like to thank the Far South Coast mob for coming up and sharing their experiences with everyone. I'd also like to thank Trisha for taking lots of photos!

Over the two days, people gave talks on co-management in their area. It was great to hear how things are going in different parts of the State, both the good and the bad.

I learnt a lot. I hope others found it useful too and can pass on the things they found out to their communities. The talks over the two days included:



Mary Duroux and Isobel Bennett



Dave Tout and William Bates

Mr William Bates, Chair of the Mutawintji Board of Management, talked about the joint management of Mutawintji National Park, Nature Reserve and Historic Site and the negotiations that led to their return to Aboriginal ownership and lease back to NPWS. Mr Bates also talked about the Aboriginal ownership legislation and how it came about.

Mr Steve Millington, Regional Manager, Far West, NPWS talked about the range of co-management arrangements in the Far West, including for Sturt National Park, Kinchega National Park, Mungo National Park and Mutawintji National Park.

Mrs Mary Pappin (Chair), Lottie Williams and Joan Slade from the Mungo National Park Joint Management Advisory Committee and Garry Pappin (the Executive Officer) talked

about the management of Mungo National Park and the development of the Mungo National Park Joint Management Agreement, how the park came to be joint managed, how things are going and the important issues for the community.

Mrs Yvonne Stewart, Chair of the Arakwal National Park Management Committee talked about the Arakwal Indigenous Land Use Agreement and the co-management arrangements for Arakwal National Park.

Mr Robin Bryant, from the South Beach Negotiating Panel talked about South Beach and the preparations for the lease negotiations that are currently taking place.

Mr Phil Sullivan, Ms Sharron Ohlsen and Mr Peter Harris from the Mt Grenfell Negotiating Panel talked about Mt Grenfell Historic Site and the lease negotiations that are currently taking place and the process to get to this point.



Maureen O'Donnell and Lottie Williams

Mr Les Ridgeway, Chair of the Worimi Traditional Elders Group talked about Stockton Bight and the lead up to the lease negotiations there.

Ms Trisha Ellis (Aboriginal Project Officer, NPWS), and Mrs Mary Duroux and Mr Dave Tout, from the Biamanga and Gulaga Negotiating Panel talked about Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks and the preparations for the lease negotiations for those parks (and about this newsletter!!)

Mr John Roberts talked about Mt Warning (Wollumbin) National Park and discussions with NPWS about co-management.

A lot of issues were raised and discussed over the two days. Some of the main issues were:

Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

- Recognising traditional law, custom and practices
- Recognising traditional knowledge
- Access to sites and control over access to sites
- Hunting and gathering on parks
- Employment and training for Aboriginal people
- Economic benefits for Aboriginal communities
- Negotiating co-management arrangements
- NPWS and Aboriginal people's role in co-managed parks
- Funding



Rachel Lenehan and Les Ridgeway

Groups that were represented at the meeting were the Arakwal National Park Management Committee, the Mungo National Park Joint Management Advisory Committee, the Mutawintji Board of Management, the Menindee Aboriginal Elders Council, the Mt Warning National Park Advisory Committee, the Mt Grenfell Historic Site Negotiating Panel, the South Beach Negotiating Panel, the Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks Negotiating Panel, the Bandjalang native title claimants, the Peak Hill Bogan River Traditional Owners Group, the Worimi Traditional Elders Group, the Shoalhaven Elders Group, the Githabul people, the Sydney South Regional Advisory Committee and NPWS staff.

We are currently writing up our notes from the meeting.

The discussions showed a lot has been achieved in the last ten years, but there is a lot of work still to be done. It was clear that while co-management of parks can take a long time to develop and can be hard for the community and for NPWS, eventually positive outcomes can be achieved.

Phil Sullivan summed it up in his presentation when he said "it is important for the community and NPWS to continue working together and moving forward". He also said that Aboriginal communities need to consider where they have come from and where they want to be in the future. Co-management of national parks gives the NPWS and Aboriginal communities an opportunity to work together to develop a shared vision for the future and work together to achieve it, at least for the management of national parks.



Evelyn Bates, Mary Pappin,, Joan Slade and Dulcie O'Donnell

If you want to find out more about co-management of national parks in NSW you can contact me on 02 9585 6632. You can also go to the NPWS web site

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Aboriginal+co-management+of+parks>.

Copies of the Mutawintji lease, the Mungo National Park Joint Management Agreement and the Kinchega National Park Memorandum of Understanding can be downloaded from the web page.

SOUTHERN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE UNIT UPDATE

In this addition, I will provide a very quick update on current Aboriginal heritage projects that are occurring across Southern Directorate, and highlight some of the future projects that are being considered. Any feedback on these would be greatly appreciated.

The Kosciuszko National Park and Bega Local Government area Aboriginal heritage studies continue to roll on. A number of meetings have occurred between various Aboriginal interest groups in regards to Kosciuszko and the development of the Plan of Management. Information is being written from those meetings to ensure that the Plan has a strong Aboriginal cultural heritage focus.

The Bega study is going strongly. Goulding Consultancy has been engaged to undertake an archival research project to gather Aboriginal heritage information for the area. This involves consultation with Aboriginal groups from Eden, Bega and Wallaga Lake. Chris Griffith is also consulting with various Aboriginal people about the value of areas/sites within this area to ensure that important places are recorded. Cultural mapping and archaeological fieldwork will be conducted in the new financial year, which will lead to a cultural sensitivity map across the shire. This will assist and guide developments and planning decisions.

Dannielle Towers and Vanessa Mason have had great success with their respective women's projects. Cultural camps focusing on cultural knowledge and learning has provided an opportunity to share amongst various Aboriginal women both young and elders.

Next financial year we hope to continue to provide attention to Aboriginal cultural heritage regional studies. One new project being considered, is an Aboriginal values study of the Southern Catchment area. This will primarily target the upper Shoalhaven river area under the Southern Catchment Blueprint. In addition, an Aboriginal cultural heritage study will be conducted for Lake Hume near Albury. This will lead to the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Plan of Management for the Lake. All of these studies will directly involve Aboriginal communities representatives in the research, survey, recording and development of management recommendations.

Other projects being considered include: women's oral history recording for the Tumut/Brungle community; South Coast language recording and CD ROM development; and Training for Aboriginal communities in Aboriginal heritage identification and assessment.

Gary Currey
Manager
Southern Aboriginal Heritage Unit

New Aboriginal Coordinator for State Forests’ South Coast Region

State Forests has appointed Mr Paul Carriage to the newly created role of Aboriginal Affairs Co-ordinator based at Bateman’s Bay regional office.

State Forests South Coast regional manager, Mr Steve Dodds, said Aboriginal coordinators played an important role ensuring close communication with local Aboriginal communities and the integration of cultural heritage values within a broad spectrum of forest activities.

“In his job Paul will focus on providing specialist advice on Aboriginal issues throughout the south coast region,” he said. “The job also involves liaising between State Forests and other government agencies, private enterprise and local Aboriginal communities on Aboriginal issues.” Mr Carriage said he saw his role as an exciting challenge. “It is an opportunity to develop a better working relationship between the Koori’s in the region and State Forests both from an economic and cultural point of view,” he said.

“I am a Murramarang person from Ulladulla where I was born and have lived for most of my life. “My father Fred (a Murramarang Elder) and mother Lorraine met and married when dad was working in the timber mill at Nerrigundah before they returned to live permanently in Ulladulla.

“Most non-Koori people do not realise how many cultural sites there are within our region, and of those, many are related to State Forests’ land. “My job is to help promote and protect these sites while educating the public as to why it is so important that they be maintained.”

Mr Carriage said his job also entailed developing and coordinating employment opportunities and other projects such as co-management of culturally significant sites in a manner that complemented State Forests’ business. “I will be working with local Koori Elder groups, local Aboriginal Lands Councils and other Koori stakeholders on land management, cultural and conservation issues with a focus on employment and education, especially for our young people.

“I will also be coordinating the contracting of cultural heritage site investigation work between the local Koori communities and State Forests within the region.

“It is a new and I expect a very rewarding career change for me,” he said. In the past, Mr Carriage has worked in a variety of local industries. “Having participated in the building and planning of the Coomee Nulunga Cultural Tracks at Warden Head in Ulladulla and doing guided tours and school visits as a part of that process, it will be great to get back into the learning and teaching of all things Koori and working for and with my Koori family and friends that live in the region.

“I am married to Gaynor and have four beautiful children and I hope that my achievements in my new job will be a source of pride for my family and my people,” he said.

For further information contact Paul Carriage on (02) 4472 6211.

Djuwin Women's Lore Council Camp

The Djuwin Women's Lore Council held their recent camp at the Beachcombers Holiday Park near Bodalla from the 23rd to the 25th May. Kath Schilling, the Women's heritage Coordinator was one of the guest speakers and spoke to some of the women about the oral history project that is about to be launched in the Nambucca community. The



women at the camp were interested in the project and are keen to do a similar project locally. Pictured above left around the fire, from left to right are: Colleen Dixon, Leah Wilson, Linda Cruse, Kath Schilling, Dannielle Towers, Mary Duroux and Shirley Aldridge.



Iris White Chairperson of ATSIC Regional Council spoke with the women on several issues which included recent changes to the structure of ATSIC and her pending move to a new office in Moruya.

Pictured to the right around the fire from left to right are: Shirley Aldridge, Dannielle Towers, Iris White, Colleen Dixon, Maria Johnson and Nolene Leha.

Dannielle Towers, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Aboriginal Sites Officer also spoke to the group on

Cultural Mapping and Aboriginal Place Declarations. Women attended the camp from Eden, Bega, Wallaga Lake, Moruya, Broulee, Nowra and Sydney. During the course of the meeting, places of extreme significance to Aboriginal women were identified and a process undertaken toward their ultimate protection. The camp was visited by large numbers of kangaroos, wallabies, emus, a bandicoot and a chorus of water birds including swans, water hens, heron and cranes. All who attended enjoyed the camp in spite of the strong winds, continuous rain and poor road conditions. It is always a joy to be around so many wonderful women.

Trisha Ellis

Connecting with the Koala Spirit Ancestor

On the Far South Coast there are two sacred mountains, Gulaga and Biamanga. After a long struggle by Indigenous Australians, these mountains and surrounding forest areas became the Gulaga and Biamanga National Parks.

Between these two sacred mountains, is the most important koala population known to be surviving on the Far South Coast. This population, although small in number, extends across private land, state forest and national parks. Because of a range of impacts in recent decades koala numbers have declined. Recovery initiatives are needed to reduce the chances of this population going extinct.

The Gulaga and Biamanga National Parks are being handed back to Indigenous Australians who also have strong spiritual and cultural links with Kooraban National Park. Mainly because of this Koori's have a key role to play in recovery of koalas in this region.

Since the December 2001 meeting between Aboriginal women, landholders and NPWS staff that was held in December 2001 to discuss the Koala Recovery Program on the Far South Coast Koori people have assisted koala recovery work in a number of ways. In particular they have:

- Assisted with koala surveys both in the Bermagui, Tolwong and Nerriga areas,
- Collected a large amount of seed from large old forest redgum trees growing in the Bega Valley area. This is a primary koala feed tree species.
- Planted koala feed trees in fertile soils adjoining an area used by koalas in the Cuttagee area. Feed trees growing in fertile soils usually produce more nutritious browse.
- Cleared an area of blackberry bushes, undertook repairs to a gully area and planted koala browse species in a sanctuary on the edge of koala country that is managed by the Wildlife Information Rescue Service.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all those Kooris who, in all the above ways and more, have helped with koala recovery work on the South Coast.

In addition the cultural relationships between koalas and Kooris in South East NSW is being researched. Sue Wesson has located several Koori stories about koalas that indicate that the Koala Spirit Ancestor was an important part of Aboriginal culture. Indeed there is one that describes this Ancestor as a philosopher that guided the first people to this country. Sue has met with and discussed this research with the Djuwin Women's Lore Council who have been sharing with her appropriate and surviving knowledge about Aboriginal people's cultural relationships with the koala.



Djuwin Women's Lore Council May Camp at Beachcombers Holiday Park

Gaining a further understanding about this and supporting Aboriginal people to care for koala country in the way that they know best is a crucial part of our efforts to help koalas return to their rightful place in the forests and woodlands of this country.

Chris Allen
South Coast Koala Recovery Program



One of the many beautiful wild areas along the Genoa River was recently visited by a small group of intrepid bushwalkers. One of which was Area Manger Preston Cope seen below with Paul Mcpherson navigating the boulders. Preston said he camped in a large overhang one night in the cliffs above the river. “There was no physical evidence in the cave that indicated it might have been used by Aboriginal people in the past, but I am sure they did, because it proved to be a great camp site for us”. (photo John Blay)

Reptiles of the South East Coast of NSW

Find-a-word Answers

	Legend		Legend	Key to Legend
Long-Necked Turtle	12→2↓▽	Burtons	5→3↓▷	
Jacky Lizard	10→5↓▽	Scaly Foot	5→1↓▷	Word starts
Water	6→4↓▷	Eastern Blind	18→7↓▽	→ Across
Bearded	5→2↓▷	Carpet Python	1→18↓▷	↓ Down
Lace Monitor	6→5↓▽	Green Tree	9→7↓▽	▷ Word Direction
Red-throated	7→5↓▽	Death Adder	11→7↓▽	▽ Word Direction
Copper-tailed	2→4↓▽	Yellow-faced Whip	14→3↓▽	
Cunninghams	8→5↓▽	White-lipped	3→6↓▽	
Bar-sided Forest	5→3↓▽	Tiger	5→16↓▷	
Delicate Garden Sun	1→1↓▽	Red-bellied Black	13→4↓▽	
Weasel	18→1↓▽	Brown	3→1↓▽	
Blue-tongued Lizard	16→1↓▽	Bandy-bandy	2→17↓▷	
Wood	14→18↓▷	Yellow-bellied Sea	17→2↓▽	
Lesueurs Velvet	15→3↓▽			

Resource: Australian Reptiles and Amphibians. Leonard Cronin

Calendar of Events

July

National Aborigines & Torres Strait Islander Celebrations throughout the region.

School Holidays July 7 to July 20

August

Next Issue

- Our Readers Comments
- Biamanga/Gulaga National Parks
- NPWS Aboriginal Employee Profile
- Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights
- Find-a-word
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Southern Aboriginal Heritage Unit
- Regional Managers Report
- Managing the Far South Coast Escarpment Parks



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