



COASTAL CUSTODIANS

Volume 2, Issue 8

May 2005

From the Editor:

He likes a good yarn but is often modest about his own achievements and although I consider him among my closest friends, it has taken the good part of two weeks to tie him down to this interview. I hope you enjoy a leaf from the pages of his life as much as I have. I have the pleasure to introduce you to **Dave Tout**.

I was born on March 22, 1946 at Coolangatta NSW and named Cecil Robert Starr.

My mother was an Aboriginal woman who died in childbirth because she was refused access to a hospital. Her name was Esmay Curran and according to my birth certificate and her death certificate she was a domestic and considered a half-caste.

My father was William Macquarie Tout. He used his mother's youngest brother's name "Percy Starr" when he was caught out with my mother, as most people expected the real Percy to be in trouble all the time.

I was transferred from Coolangatta to North Sydney Hospital and then raised by my Grandparents on my father's side on their farm at Kempsey. My Grandmother wouldn't allow my father to have anything to do with me because it would ruin his future in the police force, having had an Aboriginal child.

When he got married in 1952 he came and got me to live with him and his wife Joan. As a policeman he was now using his real name "Tout". That arrangement lasted for six months, his wife was now pregnant with their first daughter and I was sent back to the Grandparents in Kempsey.

Aunty Verley was the closest that I had ever had to a mother, I think she was a domestic for my Grandparents. She worked out who I was and

taught me about my country, my language and all the stories. She was a tricky old Aunty. I was seven years old when I first met Aunty Ada Curran, who I was told to call Nan by Aunty Verley.



Dave Tout

At eight years old my Grandparents were going to send me back to my father so I ran away to find Aunty Ada and Aunty Verley and was picked up in the process. I ended up in the boy's home at Kinchela Creek, Kempsey cause I wouldn't tell them who I was.

Here I became a life long friend with Brian Marshall. We were around the same age and the same lighter shade of pale so we were picked on by some of the darker kids. I also met some Mumbler, Buttons, Smiths and Ridgeways. My father found me and I've still got the scars. By this time they also had a son Paul he was really nice. I went to a catholic school in Tamworth where my father was now stationed.

Paul died when I was ten and I got sent back to the Grandparents in Kempsey. They now had a trucking business. They sent me to my Grandfather's brother's farm at Sherwood he only had daughters. Frank and Rose Tout treated me a whole lot better than the

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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.

Interview with Dave Tout Continued.....

Grandparents had. I met a whole heap of Koori people out there including one of the young Chapman's, who worked on the farm. I remember him being a really good horseman.

I was kicked out of school at age twelve. They said I wouldn't amount to much cause my blood was tainted. I went to work in the Forest as a contractor, where I met a whole heap of Aboriginal people working the mills, who became life long friends and family. I went from cutting fence posts to cutting sleepers and other itinerant work, tuna fishing, picking beans and whatever was paying all up and down the coast.

I went into the army and found out what it was like to be treated as a human. I did my national service for two years including time in Vietnam but I didn't shoot myself in the foot (a popular trick to be sent home).

I spent a great deal of time with the old people when I came back from Vietnam, I wasn't a very nice person, so I needed some time out. I spent a spell in jail where I met my best mate Ray Stewart (Midnight) and Kevin Gilbert. When we got out we hooked up with Kevin and other elders and became political. We had to keep our noses clean because the police were looking for any excuse to lock us up again.

I bought a truck and some land at Mullumbimby where I ran a small transport business.

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Letters to the Editor

Hi Trisha

I just wanted to let you know I thought this edition (February 2005) of CC is your best yet. It truly is a great resource that I am sure will increase in value as time goes on. Cheers

Rachel Lenehan 31/03/05

Register of Aboriginal Owners

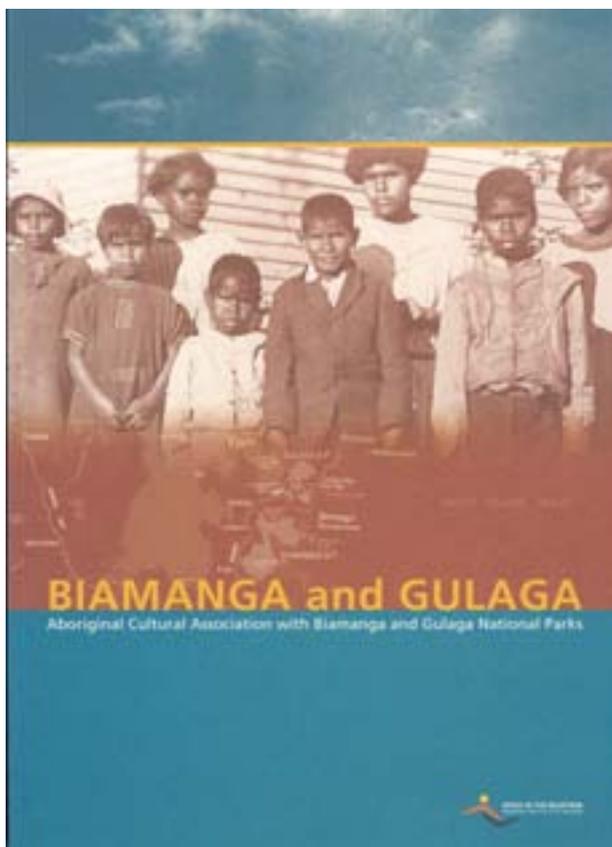


In February this year the report, *Biamanga and Gulaga. Aboriginal cultural association with Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks* was launched at the Umbarra Cultural Centre. The report was published by the Office of the Registrar and written by well-known researchers Nicolas Peterson, Brian Egloff and 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.

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 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.

One thousand copies of the report were printed and since the launch over 600 copies have been provided to individuals, groups and organisations along the south coast and throughout New South Wales. There is a copy in the State Library of New South Wales and the National Library in Canberra.

The Registrar has been receiving calls and letters about the report. Most of the comments about the report are positive, but there have also been comments that some information in the report is wrong. In most cases the Registrar has been asking Brian Egloff to talk with people about this, so that when the report is printed again, corrections may be made.

The Registrar was very aware that this report would have an impact on Aboriginal people on the south coast. That is why over 180 copies of the original report was distributed to people from Nowra to Eden, and why we waited over 2 years before publishing the report, to allow people to give the Registrar and the authors feedback.

It is important to remember that this report is **not** a Native Title report. It was produced as part of the process that leads to the joint management of

national parks in New South Wales. The law that provides for joint management of national parks is the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW).

Free copies of the report are available by contacting the Office of the Registrar on the numbers below. A PDF of the report is available on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website at www.daa.nsw.gov.au, under Publications, DAA Reports.

For more information please contact Rachel Lenehan, Olive Cook or Adam Black at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on 02 9219 0770.

Biamanga and Gulaga Handback - Independent Facilitator's view



Biamanga and Gulaga handback

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.

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.



Noelene Leha & Mary Duroux

Since the last Coastal Custodians in February 2005 (Volume 2, Issue 7), in which I reported on our meeting held in February 2005 at Umbarra Cultural Centre, we have had two meetings – one at Merimbula in April and one at Murramarang in May. Both of these meetings were just between the Negotiating Panel, LALC representatives and the Panel's independent legal advisor Adam McLean – a barrister from Melbourne. Unfortunately our April 2005 meeting at Merimbula did not have enough Negotiating Panel members nor LALC representatives to reach a quorum but we had a really useful day discussing a range of topics.

The Negotiating Panel and LALCs are meeting without NPWS being present to finalise a draft lease so that this can be presented to the NPWS for their response. The draft lease has really advanced with most of the clauses broadly agreed between the Parties. However two big issues remain to be negotiated – first the rental monies to be paid to the two Boards to manage the two Parks and secondly the employment and training provisions.

Our next meeting is planned to be at Bermagui in mid June 2005. Bob Debus, Minister for the Environment is planning to meet with the Parties at this meeting to hear

first hand our achievements since we met with him in April 2004.

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.



NEGOTIATING PANEL AND LALC MEETING ON 19TH APRIL 2005 AT MERIMBULA

Pictured: Lional Mongta

With only a few Negotiating Panel and Merrimans LALC attending, we did not have quorum. We had some terrific discussions but no decisions were made.

Major discussions of our Merimbula meeting centred around:

- The need to ensure that Biamanga and Gulaga are managed as one connected landscape and to help achieve this the possibility of having some Aboriginal Owners sit on both the Biamanga Board of Management and the Gulaga Board of Management. Having just the one Plan of Management covering both Parks was also thought to be useful ways to help keep both mountains connected;
- That now was a good time for the LALC's to be seeking their own legal advice on the current version (version 17) of the draft lease;
- The legal ability and possibility of using rental income to purchase lands of cultural significance so that these additional lands can be added to either of the National Parks – which would then allow the Aboriginal Custodians (Owners) majority Board of Management to manage these additional lands as part of the Parks;

- The legal ability to spend rental money on managing say culturally significant land outside the Parks. Adam McLean the Negotiating Panel's lawyer did not think that this was legally possible under the National Parks and Wildlife Act;
- The need to ensure that the existing NPWS operational budget is maintained once NPWS starts paying rent to the Board of Management. The National Parks and Wildlife Act stipulates that the Boards are only allowed to spend rental income from NPWS on the management of the two Parks;
- Progress of the Negotiating Panel and LALC's independent valuation of the annual rent to be paid by NPWS;
- The need for information to be provided to the community about the progress of the draft lease; and
- Planning for the replacement Aboriginal Negotiating Panel Representative from Batemans Bay.

NEGOTIATING PANEL AND LALC MEETING ON 17TH -18TH MAY 2005 AT MURRAMURANG

Pictured: Pam Flanders



Major discussions of our Murramarang meeting centred around:

- Reinforcing the need to ensure that Biamanga and Gulaga are managed as one connected landscape and how best to achieve this;
- Progressing of the Negotiating Panel and LALC's independent valuation of the annual rent to be paid by NPWS. A preliminary draft valuation was provided in confidence to the Negotiating Panel and LALC. The LALC's and Negotiating Panel provided really useful comment to Adam McLean to provide to the valuer so he can submit his formal draft valuation report for agreement at the next meeting; and
- Finalising the Negotiating Panel and LALC's position on employment;
- How the rent money can be spent and ensuring that rent money can be spent on

improving the capacity of Yuin people to participate in the management of the lands; and

- Asking Susan Donaldson to pull together all the terrific ideas provided by the Negotiating Panel and LALC's so that a draft Preface to the lease can be provided and agreed at the next meeting.



Keith Stewart & John Mumbler

THE DRAFT LEASE

At our meetings in April and May 2005 we have made significant progress on the finer points of the draft lease. Our next meeting in June will provide an opportunity for the Negotiating Panel and LALCs' to agree to their valuation report which will allow the Parties to swap their valuation reports soon after, so that substantive negotiation can take place on rent. Once rent and employment are agreed we will be on the home straight.



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Regional Managers Report



Welcome to the 5th anniversary edition of Coastal Custodians. This is the 20th edition of the Coastal Custodians - Trisha Ellis prepared the first one in August 2000, a month after she started working for National Parks. Congratulations Trisha, people up and down the coast always enjoy Coastal Custodians and hope to do so for many years to come.

As we change with the times, Coastal Custodians will now be on the Internet. From edition 21, you'll be able to get your copy at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

The main reason National parks put Trisha on was to work on the handback of Gulaga and Biamanga. She has done a lot more, of course, over the years, but its worth remembering how long and complicated the handback journey has been.

We're close now, we've agreed on most things with really only the rent to go. This is the amount of money that the Government will pay to use the two mountains as National Parks. The money must be spent on the mountains, but can be used to give Aboriginal People jobs and training.

National Parks and the Aboriginal Negotiating Panel have each put on valuers to work how much rent should be paid. At our next meeting, which will take place before Coastal Custodians comes out, I hope that we will be compare valuations. If the amounts are much the same, we should be able to agree on an amount pretty quickly.

On other handback matters, I'd like to welcome Les Simon the new Batemans Bay

representative on the negotiating panel. He'll go to his first meeting this week.

The Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus will visit the meeting to see how we are going. The Minister came to an early meeting and has kept a keen interest in the process.

Early in the week people up Narooma way would have seen an amazing site – your enterpid editor Trisha and other parks staff including Aboriginal Field officer Cain Colburn, hanging underneath a helicopter on a very thin steel cable! It's the annual helicopter training day as we prepare for the fire season and National Parks was checking that Trisha was ready, willing and able to be winched in and out of fires.

As we all know, it's been a really dry Autumn and if we don't get good rain, it could be a long summer.

Up and down the coast, we're getting ready to do our bit for NAIDOC week. As always, we will be involved in a number of activities and I'll expect the details to be out soon. Hope to see you there.

Tim Shepherd
Regional Manager
Far South Coast

Southern Aboriginal Heritage Section Update

I will start off this update by introducing a few new staff who are with the Section temporarily. First of all there is there is Elizabeth Dargin who is an Aboriginal female ranger at Alstonville. Liz is acting Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer in the Queanbeyan Office until about the end of December 05. Liz is working on looking at the Catchment Management Authority Catchment Action Plans to identify key Aboriginal heritage matters that our Section

will be involved in over the next 2-3 years. The main objective here is to ensure that our Section and Department is working closely with the 4 CMA's in our area (Southern Rivers, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray), to ensure that we are delivering improved outcomes in Natural/Cultural Resource Management for Aboriginal communities.

Another new face is in our Jindabyne Office. Many of you may know that Vanessa Mason is undertaking a temporary position with the Southern Rivers CMA based at Batemans Bay. While Vanessa is away for 12 months, Vikki Parsley is acting the Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer in the Snowies. Vikki is an Aboriginal discovery ranger at Nowra and we have given her an opportunity to gain some skills and insight into what we do. Vikki will be with us until about the end of October 05. We are looking at advertising the position for 6 months and will be encouraging an Aboriginal community person who has cultural ties to the snowies to apply for the positions during this time. More on this will be provided in the next couple of months.

We also have a temporary person in our Queanbeyan Office. His name is Michael Duncan. Michael was previously an Aboriginal policy officer with the Cultural Heritage Division, but due to the restructure he is now displaced and working with us for the next 12 months. Michael is currently looking at Plans of Management for National Parks/Nature Reserves across South Eastern NSW, to ensure that they adequately deal with Aboriginal heritage issues and give appropriate acknowledgment to traditional owners. Michael is also working on developing guidelines and procedures in relation to bushfires and fire management and how this relates to minimising impacts to Aboriginal sites. This will look at considering the identification and management of Aboriginal sites prior to, during and after bushfire events. Much of this will be guided by a recent study that was carried out after the Kosciusko Bushfires in January 03.

On the project side. All of our projects are winding up and the Aboriginal heritage staff are considering projects for this coming financial year. One of the requirements will be to engage with Aboriginal communities to identify projects relating to Aboriginal site protection, oral history gathering, rock art management, repatriation (return) of Aboriginal remains and cultural items. If you have something that falls into this area, please contact your local Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer at your nearest National Parks & Wildlife Office. These being: Rod Wellington (Nowra); Dannielle Towers (Narooma); Graham Moore (Merimbula); Vikki Parsley (Jindabyne); and Dean Freeman (Tumut). Alternatively please contact myself and I can get the relevant staff member to contact you.

The Cultural Heritage Division has been working on writing a book on Ray Kelly from Kempsey. Some of you may know that Ray was the first Aboriginal person employed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service back in 1970. Ray was part of a small team of people who were undertaking the recording of Aboriginal sacred sites across NSW, under a grant from the Aboriginal Institute. Ray's book will detail his involvement in the recording work, his dealings with key people at this time in regard to Aboriginal heritage matters across NSW, and also provide views from Ray's family in terms of the way they understood their father. This should be interesting reading and I will give you all an update on the book in the next edition.

Well that's it for me at the moment. Hope to see you all in the next newsletter. If you have any concerns/issues in relation to this article, please contact me on (02) 62989736.

Gary Currey
Manager
Southern Aboriginal Heritage Section
Cultural Heritage Division

Interview with Dave Tout Continued.....

By this time I had already been married and divorced twice but not to Aboriginal women. My third wife Terri (Doe) who I thought had an English background turned out to have been one of the stolen generation and is a descendant of Smiths. She didn't find that out until her own mother's funeral.

My father was proud to know of the birth of our first son Kelly Manning Tout. My father died a week after Kelly was born.

We have two other lovely children Casey Marree Tout and Keirryn Macquarie Tout who currently live at Sanctuary Point, waiting to move home to Moruya.

I have been involved in the Aboriginal movement for a long time. I didn't agree with, but I supported the tent embassy in Canberra and many other organisational demonstrations of the time including Wilcannia, Lake Elizabeth and Lake Kowal.

When I lived around Moruya and Bodalla, I spent a lot of time with Uncle Budda Mongta, and Aunty Bub Solomon. Then I hooked up with brother John Mumbler and Mervyn Penrith. We started working with the young men and boys to try to keep them out of the prison system by teaching them their cultural values and to be proud of who they are. We run culture camps and cross-cultural awareness camps whenever we can and health allows.

I was also involved in the Regional Forest Agreements that related to Gulaga and up as far as Monga National Park and through to Tumut and Wagga.

I am currently on the Negotiation Panel for the lease negotiations for the handback of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks and I look forward to the culmination of that process to the benefit of all Aboriginal people as opposed to a select few. I want to put my feet up and spend some quality time with my family and friends.

Dave Tout

Aboriginal Place Names of the South East Coast and their Meanings

Find-a-word

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

Resource: Royal Anthropological Society of Australasia. Manuscripts dated late 1890's to 1910's (tif, pdf)
(Find the hidden message)

Araluen "Place of water lillies" (ref: 010075)

Bega once called Miminine meaning "Clear Country" (ref: 010073) or "A big camping ground" (ref: 010079)

Bermagui once called Bungabidgee "it's shape representing a canoe with paddles" (ref: 010073)

Bingie "The belly" (ref: 010311)

Bodalla once called Bodally meaning "You run hard" or "A haven for boats" (ref: 010075) or "To toss a child up and down in the arms" (ref: 010106)

Bombala "Go away" (ref: 010302)

Bouderee "Large fishing place" (010217)

Bulli once called Bulla meaning "Two mountains" (ref: 010010)

Cambewarra "Fire Hill" (ref: 010217) or "A mountain of fire" (ref: 010304)

Cobargo "Grandfather" (010075)

Cobowra (now called Moruya) "Where the river is closable by foot" (ref: 010075)

Cooma "Tea trees" (ref: 010278)

Coolangatta "The highest land" "A good lookout or view" (ref: 160/456)

Delegate "Big hill" (ref: 010078)

Dignams Creek once called Wullunthar meaning "Very crooked" (ref: 010073)

Geringong "Fearful" (ref: 010217)

Illawarra once called Elowera meaning "Peaceful place" (ref: 010010) or "High place near the sea" (ref: 010304) or "Lake of calm water" (ref: 010342)

Iluka "Near the sea" (ref: 010223)

Jindabyne "A valley or gorge" (ref: 010076)

Kameruka "Wait here until I come back" (ref: 010079)

Kiah "Beautiful place" (ref: 010077)

Kiama once called Kiare mia meaning "Fish may be caught from the rocks" (ref: 010010) or "Plenty" (ref: 010217)

Kianga "Spear fish with a light" (ref: 010073)

Manaro once called Maneroo meaning "Womens breast" (ref: 010078) or "The navel" (ref: 010158)

Merimbula once called Murrumboola meaning "Small area of sea" (ref: 010057) or "Big snake" (ref: 010079)

Minna Murra “Plenty of fish” (ref: 010010)
Mogo “Pipe clay creek” (ref: 010048)
Mongarlowe “Winding river” (ref: 125/456)
Montague Island once called Bunahbar meaning, “shape of a ship” (ref: 010073)
Narooma “Burrawang growing in water” (ref: 010073)
Nowra “You and me” (ref: 010217)
Numeralla “Valley of plenty” (ref: 010076)
Pambula “A very small lake” (ref: 010057)
Punkally “You greedy” (ref: 010073)
Tathra “Wild cat” (ref: 010079)
Terara “A scrubby place” (ref: 010309)
Tilba Tilba once called Pinnowier “On account of a peculiar weed” (ref: 010073)
Turlinjah “My elbow” (ref: 010073)
Ulladulla “Safe harbour” (ref: 010230)
Wagonga “Stinging nettle grows” (ref: 010073)
Wandandian once called Wondi-wondian meaning “the home of the lost lovers”
Wandella once called Wandellow meaning “Bark stripped from a tree (a coolamon) to carry water in (ref: 010106)
Wollongong once called Woolyungah meaning “Five Islands” (ref: 010010) or Woolyarrigungh meaning “See the monster carried” (in reference to the sighting of a ship in full sail) (ref: 010304)
Wombeyan “Caves” (ref: 010301)
YattaYatta “Double waterfall” (ref: 010230)

Please note that more than one interpretation indicates more than one language or dialect. The informant (in most cases a policeman) did not identify the name of the language only the general location where the information was collected.

KOALAS IN KOORABAN

The first day-long survey, on 25 May, found two sites with fresh koala scats in the eastern section of the park. Surveys into other parts of the park are continuing.

The survey work is quite detailed, with careful mapping, timing and recording. It requires people to spread out across a grid pattern and search around the base of every sizeable tree.

The scats provide the main evidence of the presence of koalas and claw-marks up the trees may also indicate koala presence.



Pictured: The survey team on 25 May. L-R (back row) NPWS Threatened Species Recovery Officer Chris Allen, Geoff Robin of Dignams Creek, Vlad Mastera of Wallaga Lake, and Ranger Greg Watts, (front row) Lynne Thomas of Wallaga Lake, Jude Walker, Sally Moore and Merryn Carey of Dignams Creek and Harold Harrison of Wallaga Lake.

Residents of Wallaga Lake Koori community and Dignams Creek have formed a great team in surveying for koalas in Kooraban National Park.

Pictured: A close-up of the koala scats in Sally Moore’s hand.



We have yet to see a koala in this round of surveys, but the good news is that they are still there, even if in very low numbers. One day we will be lucky enough to catch a glimpse.

Kooraban National Park, an outcome of the Regional Forest Agreement, was declared primarily to protect this remnant population of koalas. The older people remember when there were many koalas around Dignams Creek and the name “Kooraban” roughly translated means “place for koala”. The communities are hoping that now the koalas’ habitat is legally protected they will thrive in the haven of Kooraban National Park.

Den Robin

Dual Naming of Pigeon House Mountain

The NPWS South Coast Region is working with Aboriginal groups to find the most appropriate Aboriginal name for Pigeon House Mountain. Pigeon House Mountain is a well known landmark at the southern end of Morton National Park, west of Ulladulla.

Visitors have climbed Pigeon House Mountain for many years but most do not realise its social and spiritual significance to local Aboriginal communities and that the mountain is linked to other prominent landscape features up and down the coast through Dreaming/creation stories.

The purpose of dual names is to recognise Aboriginal cultural heritage by registering original place names given by Aboriginal people so that they sit side by side with European names. A dual name can be assigned where there is strong evidence in the form of written or oral tradition, of a pre-existing indigenous place name. Once a dual name is assigned, signposts, maps and directories relating to the area will feature both names.

An application for dual naming must be submitted to the Geographical Names Board and be supported by the local Government Council, the local Aboriginal land council and tribal elders groups for the area. The NPWS has written to relevant Aboriginal organisations but is also interested in the views of individuals, particularly traditional custodian families.

The most commonly recognised name for Pigeon House Mountain is Didthul. This is used by the Dharawal-Dhurga language group of the Yuin people and would seem to

be the most appropriate name to use. The name Balgan is used by Aboriginal communities from the far South Coast, however, and there may also be other traditional names.

If you would like to tell us your views on the most appropriate Aboriginal name for Pigeon House Mountain or how a name should be spelt, please call Rod Wellington on 4422 2340 or write to me at PO Box 707, Nowra 2541. Your thoughts will need to be received by 29 July so that all views can be considered.

This is a really important initiative and with your help we want to get it right.

Diane Garrood
Regional Manager, South Coast

For more information please contact:
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Project Officer - Special Projects & Planning
South Coast Region
Parks and Wildlife Division
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Ph (02) 4422 2341 Fax (02) 4423 3122

Eurobodalla Shire Council

Media Release

Monday 6 June 2005

Stage 1 of Eurobodalla Aboriginal Heritage Study complete

The first stage of a three-year study to explore and assess the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Eurobodalla is complete. The "Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study" was compiled in close consultation with Aboriginal community members and organisations in the Eurobodalla region, and presents a comprehensive survey of the written and visual records of the region's Aboriginal people.

The study is being conducted by Eurobodalla Shire Council, the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation under the auspices (or with support and funding from) of the Natural Heritage Trust.



Pictured: Gerry Moore, Cherie Buchert, Norman Parsons & Rob McKinnon.

Steering Committee member, Council's Debby Lenson, said that the project was developed to explore a holistic approach to the assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

"Information relating to Aboriginal history in the Eurobodalla Shire exists in a variety of published and unpublished materials, however, this information has never before been compiled in a user-friendly and accessible format.



Pictured: Cheval Simon, Athol Callaghan, Brett Miners, Gary Currey & Lyn Marlow

The first stage of the Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study was designed to contribute to this body of knowledge through a comprehensive survey of the written and visual historical records that refer to Aboriginal people in the study area," Ms Lenson said.



Pictured: Laurel McKenzie, Ron Nye & Gerry Moore

The "Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study" contains wide-ranging information including:

- Production of a historical narrative of the Eurobodalla region that serves as a background for better understanding the history of local Aboriginal people over the past 200 and more years
- Identification of over 100 places and landscape associations that reflect Aboriginal people's occupation and attachment to the Eurobodalla landscape during this time.
- Compilation of historical and text-based references to Aboriginal occupation and experience in the Eurobodalla Shire, along with an annotated bibliography that can assist with future research
- Identified gaps in current knowledge and approaches to Aboriginal cultural heritage management that can be addressed with further research and actions.



Pictured: Dannielle Towers, Mary Duroux, Michael Darcy & Iris White.

The Aboriginal Heritage Study Steering Committee has endorsed the publication and distribution of the "Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study". The publication is also available for viewing on Council's website at

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/AboriginalHeritageStudy/aboriginalHeritage.html>



For more information please contact:

Debby Lenson,
Steering Committee Member
and ESC Environment Team
Leader. Phone: 02 4474 1216

In Schools.....

Carroll College

Living off the Bush

Trisha Ellis, Aboriginal Project Officer, and Dannielle Towers, Conservation and Heritage Officer, from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service visited Carroll College on the 15th March 2005. Trisha and Dannielle conducted two classes with year 7 students to assist with the science unit called Pirate Island. The idea of the unit is that the students learn about the essentials of life and how to survive, including information on the ecosystem and food chains. The session provided students with an appreciation of how Aboriginal people think about and survive off the land.

They began the session with a Dreamtime story about creation, including a quiet time of connecting to the land, by closing their eyes and listening to the sounds of the bush.



Students learnt about how to use dianella as a snake whistle to mimic the noise of an injured fairy wren. They also examined bush food, including

matt rush, wombat berry, pig face, native spinach, raspberries and black wattle. Medicinal plants were also found and examined, including pig face, bracken fern, ink weed and native plantain. Collecting nectar from banksias, bottlebrush and the top of the black boy bush, was also discussed.

Conservation issues were also discussed, including giving time to things to rejuvenate and the use of totems in Aboriginal culture to protect animals. They also talked about not leaving rubbish behind and only taking what you need.

Student's comments included:

"Two Aboriginal ladies (Trisha and Dannielle) came to our school and told us about the outback. We learnt about mat rush, native

spinach, berries, bracken fern, snake whistles, pig face and many other things. My favourite part was when I found the snake skin." Edward Hatton



"I learnt that there is always a source of food in the bush to survive on. Another fact that Dannielle told us is if there are animals around there is a source of food too. She taught us what sort of foods to eat while surviving; such as berries, leaves and grass. Trisha told us stories about their life in her younger years, and told us how to get shelter and food wherever you go. Trisha and Dannielle were actually born around here and were taught wisely in the bush. Now Trisha and Dannielle teach their skills to others, and are more sure everyone can survive. The Aboriginal people and their habitat is actually really nice." Cassandra Staples

"On Tuesday Trisha and Dannielle showed us different things in the bush. They showed us food like berries (yummy), matt rush (a bit like a



vegetable), sap (nice) and native spinach (tastes like garlic). They talked about looking after the land. By eating big animals and leaving the little ones to go and they don't eat the same things so they won't become extinct." Lizzy Paull

I enjoyed Trisha's and Dannielle's visit to our school and learnt a lot about the bush. I learnt that whenever your stung or bitten there is always a cure next to it or not too far. There are many different plants and fruits to eat or use as medicine. Some plants tasted nice and some tasted bad. We found snakeskin and saw lots of crickets. We also learnt that Aboriginals have

totems and cannot kill that animal.” Madison Griffin

On our excursion with Dannielle and Trisha we learnt that in the bush there is always food to find. We tasted matt rush. The first bit you pull out tastes like peas, the second tastes like corn and the third like beans. We saw Dannielle make a snake whistle with the leaves of a plant called dianella. We learnt that pigface heals bluebottle stings and sandfly bites. In the bush you use rolled up bracken fern leaves. We ate red berries, sap (disgusting) and native spinach leaves which tastes like garlic (delicious). We learnt how to shoot the flowers of a weed. Trisha took us to a huge log and told us about Aboriginal first aid. Then she told us about how the different tribes have different totems, which they have to protect from getting eaten. They also have to conserve the animals that they eat. For example, if one Aboriginal tribe goes to the beach and finds a heap of abalones then they eat the big animals but leave the smaller shells (animals) to grow so other people can eat them later.” Hannah Connell

Broulee Public School

Eurobodalla Light Horse troopers



Vicky Robertson

Eurobodalla Light Horse troopers were at Broulee Public School to commemorate Anzac Day on Friday April 29, when school had resumed after the Anzac break.

The troopers gave a demonstration of tent-pegging and spoke to the children about historical aspects of the Light Horse and its strong connection to the far south coast.

Troopers also carry the Aboriginal and Australian flags when on troop duties to educate people about the involvement of Aboriginal soldiers in the Light Horse.

Australia's Light Horse contingent were all volunteers and it is believed that as many as 400 full blood Aboriginal soldiers served with the Light Horse in World War 1.



Kerry Boyenga, Waine Donovan, Andrew Nader, Jo Rugg, Adrian Fierer and Vicki Robertson

On their return to Australia it is alleged that the army was instructed to quietly dismiss its Aboriginal soldiers as technically they were not supposed to have "served" their King and Country.

The Light Horse troopers got wind of the "unfair dismissal" attempt and banded about their Aboriginal troopers and said the entire Light Horse would have to be dismissed if their brothers in arms were to be treated so rudely.

On the far south coast before World War 1 there were three Light Horse Troops at Bega, one at Tilba, one at Araluen and two at Braidwood.

Broulee Public & Vincentia High Schools

Dhurga/Dhurawal Aboriginal Language Program.

On the 10th & 11th of May the Dhurga/Dhurawal Aboriginal Language Group from Broulee Primary & Vincentia High Schools ran workshops for planning and writing of units of work to teach the language in the schools.

The workshops were coordinated by Jennifer Munro a Linguist and Senior Project Officer for the Office of the Board of Studies.

Jutta Bessold a Linguist currently studying with Canberra University provided the Orthography (spelling system) and Sound System of the Dhurga language, including the Dhurga alphabet.

The workshop was aimed at providing an understanding of the sounds and letters of Dhurga, beginning a unit of work, inclusion of cultural content and an introduction to language teaching methodology.



Jennifer Munro

Key sessions included:

- Constructing an Aboriginal language teaching program
- Dhurga Orthography (spelling system) and Sound System
- Introducing grammar
- Cultural content
- Communicative language teaching
- Resource development
- Scope and sequence of units and
- An excursion to a local Aboriginal site.

Vincentia High School staff included: Gary Worthy (Co-ordinator/Teacher), Gladys Worthy (SASS), Helen Pussell (AEA) and Karen Lane (Language Teacher).



Pictured: Eileen Hampton, Jutta Bessold, Helen Pussell & Gary Worthy.

Eileen Hampton, Pauline De Launey and Wendy Brown represented the local communities as Community Language Teachers and Jeff Williams and Mitchell Martin attended as Aboriginal Support Teachers.

Broulee Primary School staff included: Jeff Ward (Principal), Kerry Boyenga (Teacher), Waine Donovan (Teacher) and Ursula Brown (Community Language Teacher).

Special guest speaker Patricia Ellis (Aboriginal Project Officer) NPWS contributed to the workshop by helping to develop ideas for including cultural content and excursions to “country” in the language program.

Broulee Primary School are planning to start teaching the language in the school next term from kindergarten to year 6 and including the staff in the lessons.



Pictured: Wendy Brown, Karen Lane, Pauline De Launey, Waine Donovan, Kerry Boyenga & Ursula Brown

Broulee have been successful in gaining funding for resource development such as CD Roms, dictionaries and children’s booklets. The funding will also provide for teacher relief of the two Aboriginal Teachers Kerry Boyenga and Waine Donovan who will teach the language program.

This program is strongly supported by both schools and the Aboriginal community, as the first of it’s kind on the South Coast. It is hoped that the Dhurga language will be taught more broadly in local schools as the program progresses.



Pictured: Jeff Ward Principal Broulee Primary School

It is anticipated that there will be a follow-up meeting in Dubbo for three days in mid August to meet up with other language groups across NSW and share ideas.

All involved are really excited about this program.

Kerry Boyenga
Teacher
Broulee Primary School

What's on for NAIDOC Week 2005

Here's a list of activities organised for this years NAIDOC Week.

Martin Whihon is the contact point for any activities, (to book a table at the ball etc). He can be contacted on 02 44721996 or pick up more information at the organisations listed at the bottom of the page and where you see the official NAIDOC poster.

Day	Activity	Details
Saturday 9 th July	NAIDOC Ball Batemans Bay Bowling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickets \$30.00 • Awards • Band on the night - The Donovan's • Contact martin to register
Sunday 10 th July	Church Service Anglican Church B.Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Tom Slockee
Monday 11 th July	Bridge Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea and coffee • Flag raising • Lunchtime BBQ
Tuesday 12 th July	Art Display Old CWA Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artists - display or sell your work • Families are invited to display photos, newspaper articles etc
Wednesday 13 th July	No activities this day	
Thursday 14 th July	Bare foot Bowls B.Bay Bowling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunchtime BBQ • Awards • Contact Martin to register
Friday 15 th July	Sports Day Fishing Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and open ages round robin • Open ages need to register a team • \$ per person, limited numbers, book your spot with Martin
Saturday 16 th July	Yachting Youth Disco B.Bay Bowling Club	Register your interest for yachting with Martin
Sunday 17 th July	Cobowra LALC NAIDOC Day. Cobowra LALC	Music, animals, camel rides, face painting Flier on next page.

More information available at:

Batemans Bay LALC, SEARMS, Cobowra LALC, Boomerang Meeting Place, Mogo LALC, Ulladulla LALC, Wagonga LALC, Katungal, Centrelink Batemans Bay

Welcome To All

Cobowra Local Aboriginal Land Council
Cordially Invites You to Attend Our

NAIDOC Open Day

Sunday 17th July 2005

10.00am - 3.00pm

AT

Cobowra LALC's office

193 Vulcan Street, Moruya 2537

(Behind the high school near Eurobodalla Radio)

Drug & Alcohol free Day

Events include:

Sack Races, Reggie's Ice-cream Van, Sausage Sizzle, The Nashberries (Band), Stalls, Camel rides, Show bags, Koori Dancers, Face painting, Jumping Castles, Light Horse Brigade, Kids Clown, NSW Town Fire Brigade, Kids Animal Farm and more!

Aboriginal Place Names of the South East Coast and their meanings

Find-a-word Answers

	Legend		Legend	Key to Legend
Araluen	15→8↓▽	Manaro	16→9↓▽	
Bega	6→9↓▷	Merimbula	10→9↓▽	Word starts
Bermagui	17→11↓▽	Minna Murra	6→10↓▽	→ Across
Bingie	3→1↓▷	Mogo	2→16↓▷	↓ Down
Bodalla	9→1↓▷	Mongarlowe	17→1↓▽	▷ Word Direction
Bombala	8→13↓▷	Montague Island	2→2↓▽	▽ Word Direction
Bouderee	9→18↓▷	Narooma	1→13↓▽	
Bulli	3→1↓▽	Nowra	3→17↓▷	
Cambewarra	8→10↓▽	Numeralla	9→15↓▷	
Cobargo	4→2↓▷	Pambula	16→1↓▽	
Cobowra	12→19↓▷	Punkally	18→1↓▽	
Cooma	4→6↓▷	Tathra	11→16↓▷	
Coolangatta	18→9↓▽	Terara	6→7↓▷	
Delegate	13→5↓▽	Tilba Tilba	2→5↓▷	
Dignams Creek	1→10↓▷	Turlinjah	5→4↓▷	
Geringong	3→10↓▽	Ulladulla	5→7↓▽	
Illawarra	9→4↓▽	Wagonga	15→2↓▽	
Iluka	7→13↓▽	Wandandian	1→4↓▽	
Jindabyne	14→2↓▽	Wandella	4→8↓▽	
Kameruka	9→17↓▷	Wollongong	1→3↓▷	
Kiah	3→6↓▽	Wombeyan	9→8↓▷	
Kiama	14→11↓▽	Yatta Yatta	2→19↓▷	
Kianga	12→2↓▽			

Resource: Royal Anthropological Society of Australasia. Manuscripts dated late 1890's to 1910's (tif, pdf)



South East Coast Gadu Aboriginal Elders Corporation.

Pictured: From left to right: Patricia Ellis, Mary Duroux, Billy Davis, Beryl Brierley, Maureen Davis, Lionel Mongta, Carol Larritt, Georgina Parsons, Albert Solomon, Maria Harrison, Jimmy Scott, Ossie Cruse, Dot Hill, Les Simon, Kevin Parsons and Kenny Campbell.

Story next issue of Coastal Custodian.

Calendar of Events

June

Monday 13th Queen's Birthday

July

Monday 4th to Friday 16th School Holidays

NAIDOC Week 2005

Saturday 9th NAIDOC Ball
Bateman's Bay

Sunday 10th Anglican Church
Service B.Bay

Monday 11th Bridge Walk
B.Bay

Tuesday 12th Art Display

Thursday 14th Barefoot Bowls
B.Bay Bowling Club

Friday 15th Sports Day &
Charter Fishing

Saturday 16th Yachting Youth Disco
B.B Bowling Club

Sunday 17th Cobowra LALC
NAIDOC
Family Fun Day
Moruya

Please see page 16 & 17 of this issue for more details.

Subscription details

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

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Address: _____

Postcode: _____ **State:** _____

Telephone: _____

Facsimile: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Note: Photocopies of back issues available on request

