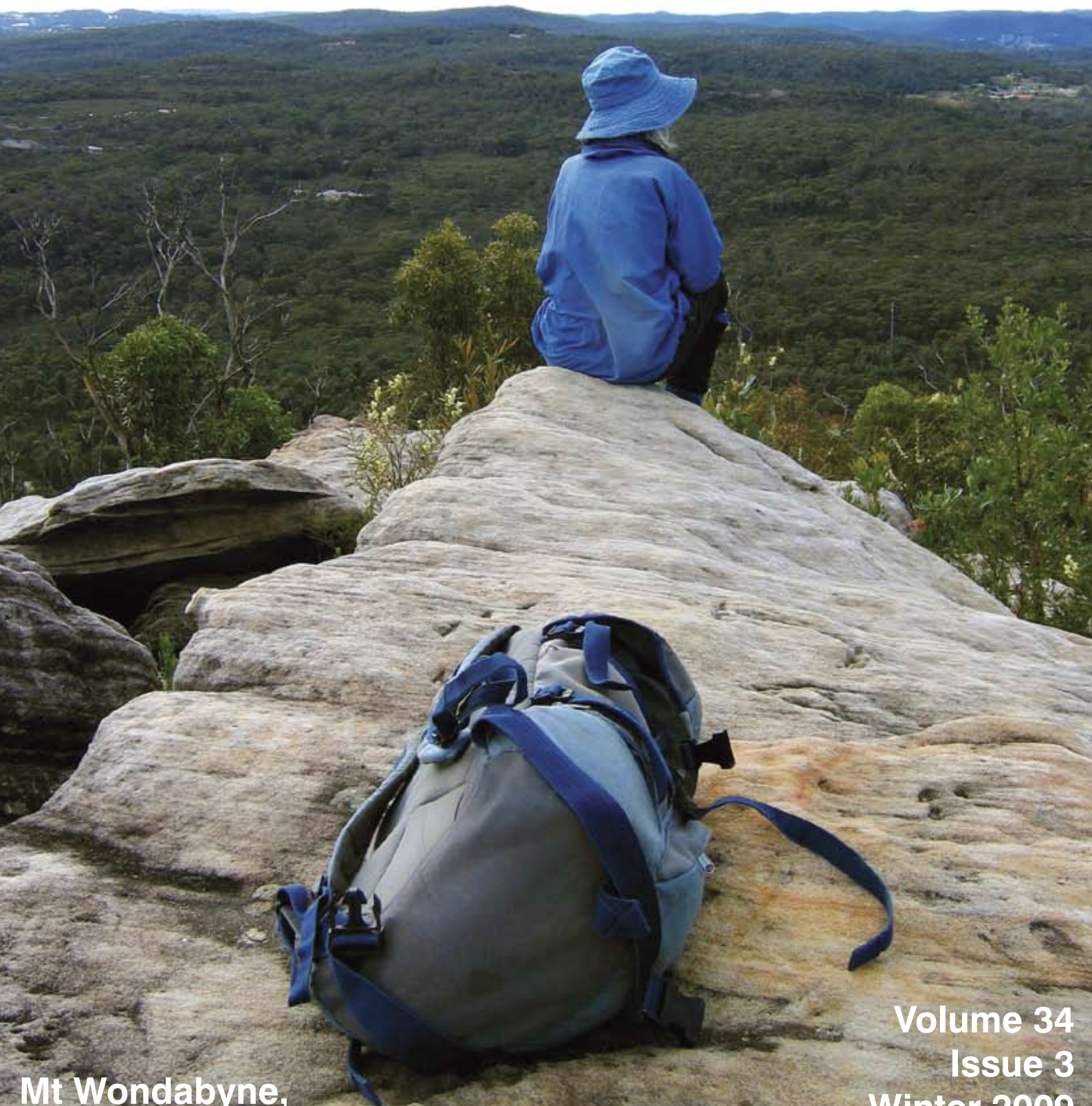


The **Bushwalker**

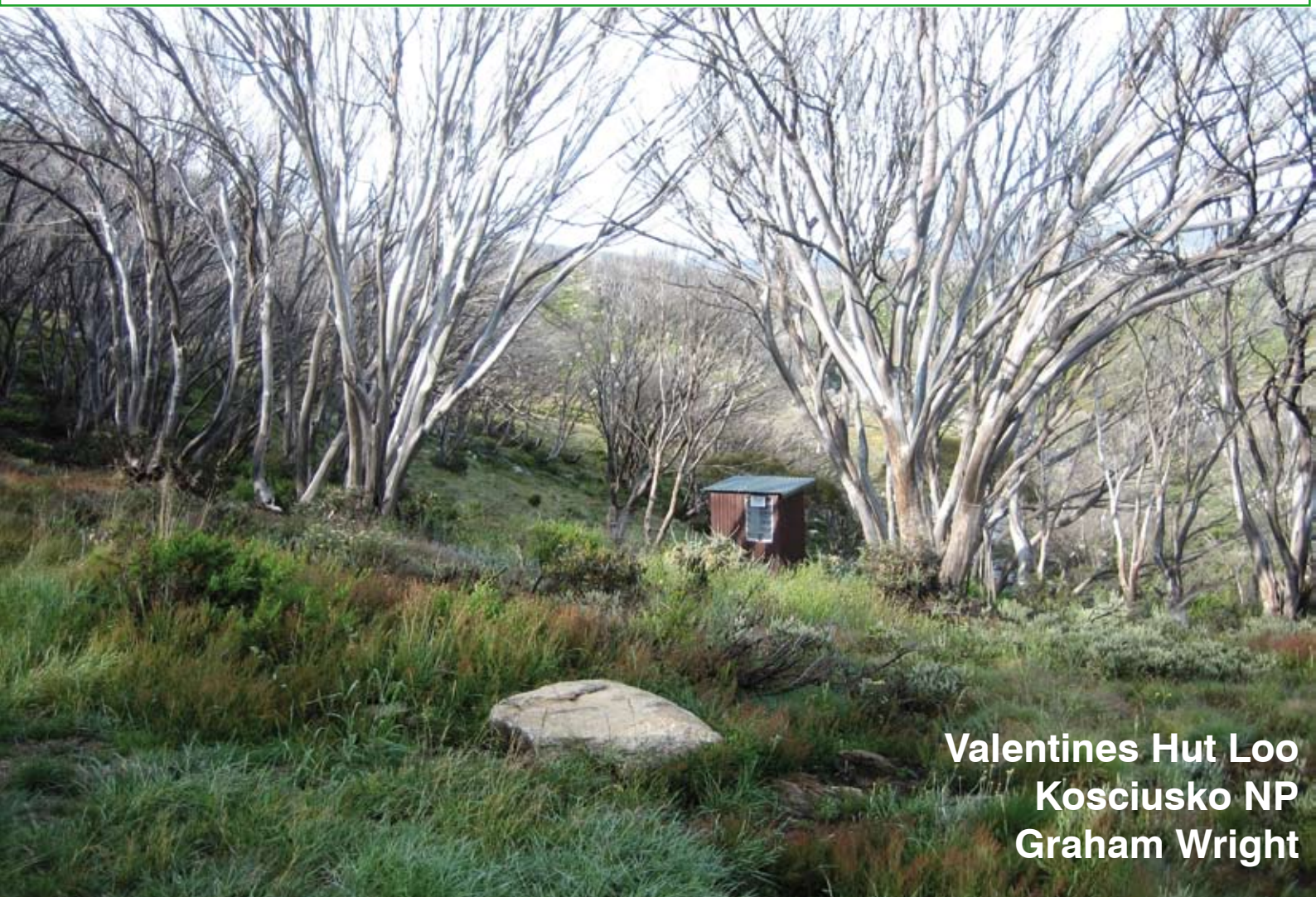


Mt Wondabyne,
Brisbane Waters NP

Volume 34
Issue 3
Winter 2009



**Contributions of interesting and especially spectacular bushwalking scenes are sought.
After all, you don't want just the Editors photos here, do you?**



**Valentines Hut Loo
Kosciusko NP
Graham Wright**

^T_h_e **Bushwalker**

The Official Publication of the
Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW
Vol 34 Issue 3, Winter 2009
ISSN 0313 2684

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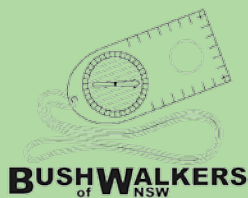
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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 66 Clubs with a total membership of about 8,700 bushwalkers.

Formed in 1932, the Confederation provides a united voice on behalf of all bushwalkers on conservation, access and other issues.

It runs training courses for members, provides a free wilderness search and rescue organisation, and helps runs bush navigation competitions.

People interested in joining a bushwalking club may write to the Confederation Administration (below) for a list of Clubs, or to go to the Confederation website at www.bushwalking.org.au for a list of Member Clubs.



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Please indicate which issue you would like your subscription to start with: we don't want to duplicate issues.

From the Editor's Desk . . .

This issue nearly didn't happen, because YOU, Club Members, are not contributing enough articles. We need your contributions if you want this magazine to continue to exist! Get with it!

The fact that it has happened is due to a few people who resounded at the last minute to my desperate plea for help. Unfortunately, it seems to always be the same few people who pitch in and help. You folks, consider yourselves thanked.

I have to apologise for the slightly lower quality of this issue. Our highly esteemed graphics artist Barry Hanlon is away overseas. I have had to lay out this issue myself, and there is no way I am as good at this as Barry. And I nearly ran out of time as well, as when you read this I will probably be off on another trip. Ah well: we have to go walking sometimes.

The Adventure Activity Standards saga continues. Your Confederation has taken notice of the enormous threat it represents - not just to Clubs but to much of the outdoors industry. It threatens to kill bushwalking clubs, which would reduce the amount of bushwalking done, which would impact on outdoors shops and so on down the chain. This is one maverick out-of-control bad idea!

So, to repeat a familiar plea: we are still asking for good articles to print. Clubs and members are encouraged to submit relevant articles, with a very strong preference for those with good pictures. We will also accept articles from outside bodies where the articles seem relevant to members. Articles may be edited for length and content to help fit into our page limit. Pictures should be sent at maximum available resolution: at least 300 dpi, very preferably in their original unedited form. JPG, PDF or TIFF formats are preferred, but not RAW. The text should be sent as a plain text file (*.txt). Do not send it as a Word file (*.doc): we do not use that format at all. Please send the pictures separate from the text file. And, of course, the Editor is always interested in receiving bushwalking books and maps for review. All enquiries should be sent to editor@bushwalking.org.au .

Please note that opinions expressed by authors may not represent the official opinions of the Confederation or any Club. The Editor's opinions are his own, if he can find them.

Roger Caffin, Editor



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ACT-NSW Border Markers

John Evans

Canberra Bushwalking Club

I can't remember when I first became interested in the ACT-NSW border. Perhaps it was when reading signage at the Mt Franklin Chalet, built by the Canberra Alpine Club early in 1938 and the oldest club-built ski lodge in the Australian Alps National Parks. It was destroyed in the January 2003 firestorms. New signage indicates that sewerage was delivered over the nearby border into NSW.

tory began in 1910 and was completed by 1915. The western border, which interests me most because of its rugged path along the Brindabella and Scabby Ranges, was surveyed by Harry Mouat. Mt Gingera was originally named after him. The original survey markers were stout 8" posts, often protected by rock cairns or earth mounds. In other places, where the country was poor, 1" x 15" galvanised iron pipes were



3 inch pipe filled with concrete and bolt. Cairned border marker P57

More by luck than good management, occasional border makers were seen as I began day-walking with the combined bushwalking clubs of the ACT and with the Canberra Bushwalking Club. The ACT Heritage Register has an entry for the markers on the western boundary of the ACT, stretching for 97 km from Mt Coree in the north to the Boboyan/Shannons Flat Roads in the south. This fuelled my interest.

I am an inveterate list ticker, so after bagging the thirty-eight named hills in the ACT over 1400 m, visiting the known waterfalls and following the Cotter River from source to end, here was a new challenge.

Detailed information came to hand in early 2009, with a sleuthing friend telling me that the ACT Planning and Land Authority had made available via the internet the extant original ACT/NSW border survey notebooks. I already had a contact in that organisation and he kindly provided me with UTM locations of the majority of the markers (down to one thousandth of a metre!) and other useful facts for converting locations from the original datum and coordinate system.

The survey of the Federal Capital Terri-

tory began in 1910 and was completed by 1915. The western border, which interests me most because of its rugged path along the Brindabella and Scabby Ranges, was surveyed by Harry Mouat. Mt Gingera was originally named after him. The original survey markers were stout 8" posts, often protected by rock cairns or earth mounds. In other places, where the country was poor, 1" x 15" galvanised iron pipes were driven flush to the ground and marked by a cairn. And where a pipe could not be driven in, a 3" pipe would be filled with concrete, a marker bolt imbedded in the top and the pipe set in a small cairn. Where the border changed direction on a granite slab, I've seen a small concrete cylinder under a marker cairn. [Inches were

used in those days. - RNC]

There have obviously been numerous re-surveys of the border. I've seen some 1944 maps indicating this. I've not found an original wooden post to date, as graders cutting a fire brake in the 1950s destroyed many and fire took the rest. There has been recent work on the Mt Coree to Mt Gingera

section, with 3" pegs placed at ten links from the original markers. However, border marker cairns have been enhanced to become lockspits - stones packed in a line radiating away from the corner mark for about 1 - 1.5 metres, pointing to the next corner in the boundary. I've also not seen a survey mark on a nearby tree (meticulously recorded in the original survey notebooks) as, again, fire has ravaged the area.

Corin Dam provides an excellent start point for border marker hunting. Accessible from Canberra on black-top in under an hour, a footpad and old vehicle track takes one quickly to Pryors Hut. The only trouble is that it's a heart-stopping 750 m climb over 5 km (and then a bit more on the flat). Pryors Hut is a delightful objective itself and there is a nearby arboretum. From the hut one can continue north or south along the border, after first inspecting the nearby border marker Q57 (an angled lockspit) and 21 Mile marker (cairn surrounding a concrete-filled 3" downpipe).

Border walking in this area is on mountain grasses through fire damaged, but well recovering, snow gums. It's quite a contrast to the nearby and paralleling Mt Franklin Road and even if you don't spy another marker, you'll be well satisfied. A robust day-walk will get you north from Pryors Hut over Little Ginini Mountain, down to Stockyard Gap and up the south spur of Mt Ginini. Return via the Mt Franklin Road and Stockyard Spur. Alternatively, heading south would take in Mt Gingera.

Mt Gingera, the second highest hill in the ACT at 1857 m, is an interesting anomaly. Until recently, I'd always been taken to the guyed marker pole at UTM 661316-6061482 (MGA94). From here there is a magnificent view south-east to the heart of



Pryors Hut

the Namadgi National Park – Mts Namadgi, Burbidge and Kelly – along with numerous other hills calling out to be enjoyed. But, facing north-west, it is obvious that there are higher tors about 100m along the top. A copy of a 1:16000 map segment of the border recently coming into my possession perhaps reveals all. The higher tors at UTM 661255-6061566 correspond exactly with border marker W57 'Mount Gingera (MOUAT) Trig Point - 1" Gaspipe driven into cleft of Boulder', whilst the location of the guyed pole is exactly that of border marker X57 '1" Pipe and Cairn' (descriptions from original survey notebooks). I haven't found the pipe driven into the cleft of the boulder yet but I have found a replacement marker peg at X57. The map shows Mt Gingera (Mouat) coincidental with W57, whilst there is a hand drawn trig marker and 'NATMAP' coincidental with border marker X57. Perhaps the state and national mapping authorities have a different view of the whereabouts of Mt Gingera.

Border marker hunting is serious business – for some. First, gather a keen party (if not keen, at least supportive). Load your GPS with as many border marker waypoints as you think you can reach in a day. Start very early, before the sun is up, and endure the climb up Stockyard Spur to Pryors Hut. Toss a coin to decide turning north or

south. Set the GPS GOTO to the next border marker and enjoy the walk towards it.

After the first dedicated hunting day, we soon realised that the GPS needed time to 'catch up' as we approached our quarry. So at around 30 m out we slowed down, then usually found ourselves circling around as we searched. These are not gigantic border markers, but often toe-height and covered with vegetation. A supportive (if not keen) party is essential to cover the immediate area. Sooner or later, someone calls out the find and it's photographed with GPS showing the location, photographed again with the GPS showing the border marker identification and finally photographed in its unadorned glory. A party member with an archaeological bent will sometimes expose the centre of the lockspit to reveal the '1" GIP driven flush' or 'concrete cylinder', but then the site is meticulously restored. Set

the next GOTO and onto the next.

A fetish, perhaps, but it's always interesting to consider the journey as a series of objectives, as well as the main destination for a walk.

If you are interested in the ACT-NSW border marker history, or can't wait to view tens of different border markers, use your internet search engine to find "Johnny Boy's Walkabout Blog" and follow the link to 'ACT-NSW Border Markers'. Better still, pop down to Canberra and join me on a walk!

'It's just the sort of place Ian would like.'



An angled lockspit border marker R57 on the Gingera ridge

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

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George Mallory, 1922

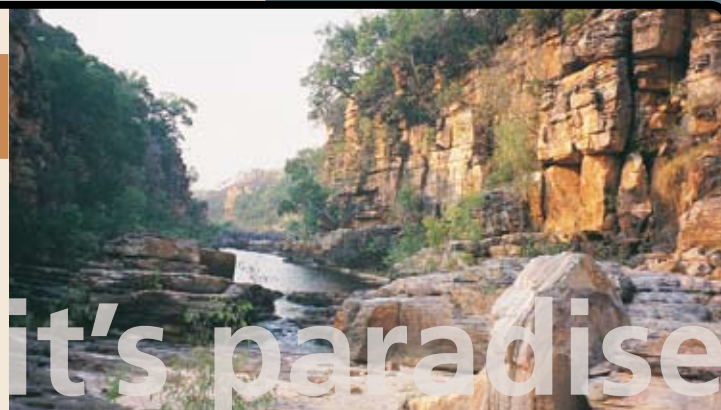
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The Drip

Ian Smith

Thus came the recommendation. Fortunately I was listening, though the location of The Drip, in between Mudgee and Merriwa, was problematical for me but I made plans to go anyway.

It turns out the site is slowly becoming one of the main drawcards for the two towns, although the facilities (which consist of one toilet and some rubbish bins) will hopefully be updated at some time in the future. The parking area is limited and, if you have a caravan, it doesn't pay to venture too far in on the short road. Small motorhomes and less will be fine though.

As bush walks go this place rates highly and, if you're into photography, you should allow an extra half hour at the minimum. What you get is a varied range of Sydney Basin sedimentary strata in the form of sandstones, shales and associated coal measures, the latter no surprise as the massive Ulan coal mine is just down the road.



More of The Drip

The Goulburn River (I use the term 'river' rather loosely here for this trickle) runs adjacent to here and has cut the gorge that has now become a tourist attraction. The sandstones, conglomerates and ironstones have been weathered into fascinating artistic shapes such as honeycombs and pagodas that constantly challenge the eye.



The Drip

The narrow-leaved ironbarks, the river oaks and the rough-barked apples reflect the at-times harsh environment with twisted shapes and knotted trunks, and there are also some beautiful examples of the scribbly gum dotted throughout. Reeds are in abundance in the pools that are joined by the slow flow of the stream, though the evidence of floods can certainly be found at higher levels where bunches of dead flora mark the peak.

Naturally, with water and trees in combination there's bound to be plenty of wildlife and twitchers will get their fill, in particular when seeking the rare rock warbler with its rufous chest, here at the extremity of its range. Big birds like emus, glossy black cockatoos and lyre birds may be glimpsed, with raptors like the wedge-tailed eagle and peregrine falcon on high.

Reptiles such as goannas, bearded dragons and the timid red-bellied black snake are in the area and, if you tarry at the deeper pools, you might see a long-necked tortoise or some shrimp, catfish or guppies.

The Drip itself is unmistake-

able due to its size and profusion of hues on show on the face of the wall from which water seeps. It is where such seepage occurs that plant life has found a niche, mainly in the form of weeping ferns. The leached colours of the minerals have added to the display, as have blackberries, mosses and lichens, so The Drip has the appearance of a vast artist's canvas, undercut so

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Murramarang and Meroo National Parks

Margaret Covi

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you have to bend back to see the top. It is spectacular; it is unforgettable.

Here and there shallow pools of water reflect various aspects of the main wall and blend it in with the sky. Fallen rocks of significant size lie at odd angles and the gurgle of the flowing water adds to the allure.

There's still more of interest beyond The Drip as the canyon continues another half a kilometre further on, though it is fair to say that it's an anti-climax after the main event. Though the sandstone wall is just as high, it is often partly obscured behind trees, but the pools are more readily accessible and keen observers might note the scarlet and wandering percher dragonflies.

Once you've seen all the walls you might keep an eye out on the return journey: on the far side of the creek there are some white paintings in the aboriginal mode done by none other than Brett Whiteley. They're not far from the carpark and done on some black background but you'll have to keep your eyes peeled. The easiest way to spot the place is where the reeds have had a path trampled through them.



Brett Whiteley paintings

At 2.8 km return this easy walk is not testing in a physical sense but the scenery makes it nonetheless interesting. Should you wish to view some real aboriginal art there's a site 2.3 km past the drip heading towards Merriwa where there are ochre blown hands on display about 400 metres in.

Our leader Bob had got the idea from an article in a 2004 Wild magazine, and it was a good one. We were to do a south coast walk, not far south of Ulladulla, through the Murramarang and Meroo National Parks.

An early start from home allowed us to start from Durras North at about 11 am for our 10 km walk for the day. We turned down onto the beach passing the mouth of Durras Lake and going north towards Point Upright (yes, it had a sharp upright face at the front) with Grasshopper Island not far off shore. The water was a beautiful bright tropical blue.

We passed cliffs just above the beach and found a cave in one. As we neared the end of this beach we saw the first of the many beautiful rock shelves on the trip. We put down our packs and walked around the shelf for some way. As it was high tide we would have been unable to get right around it.

Back at our packs, we ate lunch and walked up the Burrawang Track over the headland. This was a beautiful area of huge burrawangs and spotted gums, and I've never seen so many of either of these growing together.

We found similar vegetation along much of the walk. We came out at Depot Beach, again with beautiful bright blue water and yellow sand. Our first glimpse was caught between a row of more spotted gums.



Over another headland at the end of this we came to Pebbly Beach. Here we found rosellas and kangaroos – the latter totally unafraid and not interested in moving away from us, resulting in lots of close up photos, particularly of a mother feeding a joey nearly as big as herself.

We filled our water bottles here from the National Park campsite's water supply, and headed on to our campsite on the next headland at Clear Pt. This was a great grassy site (kept in order by kangaroo lawn mowers) with room for a dozen clubs to camp but we had it to ourselves. It was windy so

we picked sheltered sites for protection.

Next morning after a false start which saw us heading up Durras Mountain by mistake, we took the track to Snake Bay and stopped there for morning tea on the rocky beach.

From here we went on to Pretty Beach, Merry Beach, Kialoa





Beach and Racecourse Beach and over headlands between them. From one headland we had the pleasure of watching a pod of dolphins frolicking in the ocean below us. Occasionally we passed small settlements but most of the places we had to ourselves. Over Racecourse Beach we saw billowing smoke from a bushfire not far inland.

We came to Murramarang Aboriginal Area and passed the now grassed mounds of middens where aboriginals feasted for centuries on the abundant local seafood. We continued past Murramarang Beach to Bawley Point where we replenished our water supplies from a tap in a park and continued on to Meroo Lake, where we found a lovely spot to camp after our 20 km day. We had beautiful views of sunset over the calm lake and its black swan inhabitants.

Next morning we walked over the sandbar which closes the lake off from the sea, and over Meroo Head to the sandbar separating Termeil Lake from the sea, and then along to Tabourie Lake



Snake Bay

again closed off from the sea by a sandbar, and with Crampton Island just off shore.

We then had a 5 km beach walk along Wairo Beach and found a path up over the headland at the end. As we came off the other side of this we found a nice spot overlooking a small rocky beach for lunch, and quarter of an hour after that we arrived at Dolphin Pt on Burrill Lake for an early finish to our walk after a 13 km day. Luck has stayed with us for the weekend with fine and warm weather.



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The Last Warrigal

Brian Fox

At the present time there more than 66 bushwalking clubs in NSW that, after allowing for multiple memberships represent about 8,700 walkers. Some clubs have stood the test of time, such The Sydney Bushwalkers (1933), The Coast and Mountain Walkers (1934) and The Bush Club (1939). Some bushwalking clubs have come and gone and hardly left a ripple in their passing.

One club, even though it lasted a very short time and had a small membership, left an indelible legacy on our geographical landscape. The club was The Warrigal Club of NSW, affectionately referred to as 'The Warrigals'.

How the club came into existence

Bushwalkers Harry Whaite and Frank Craft had been to some of the Mountain Trails Club meetings in 1935. At the time this club comprised a slightly older group of members who had formed a close-knit bond.

Harry related to me that he and Frank felt they were not actively encouraged to join, so they initiated a new bushwalking club. Even though Frank was six years older than Harry, the majority of the early members were Harry's age. Many like Harry had attended Sydney Boys High School and later Sydney University.

The inaugural meeting was held on the 23rd September 1936. A committee consisting of Frank Craft, Harry Whaite, Jack Gibson, Charles Kilpatrick, Arthur Lench and Albert Pelham prepared a draft constitution that was adopted at the first Annual Meeting, 20th October 1936. Also at this meeting the name, The Warrigal Club of NSW, was approved. The name Warrigal referred to the Aboriginal word for a wild dog.

The aims of The Warrigal Club, (apart from organizing bushwalks similar to other bushwalking clubs at the time), also encouraged men (the membership was restricted to males over 16) to combine the pleasures of bushwalking with the pleasure of pursuing some hobby or other activity connected with the countryside and natural world, be it botany, photography, geology, geography or history etc. On the club letterhead was the statement 'For Comradeship, Bush land Exploration and Preservation and Outdoor Research'.

Less than five years later the club was defunct due to many of the members enlisting and serving in WWII. The last official meeting of the Club was held in June 1940. Even though Roy Smee tried to revive the club just after the war it never regained its former glory. His Annual Report of 1948 recorded, 'We will hardly be able to continue as a walking club... I lament the days that used to be'.

The highest attendance at any meeting was 26 and most meetings averaged 10 members. Most walks attracted 4-6 members.



Harry Whaite, 97 years old but still active, 22-Nov-2007

Approved geographical features, named after Warrigal members

Else-Mitchell Park, Springwood: after Rae Else-Mitchell (1914-2006).

Mount Whaite, within Kings Tableland / Blue Labyrinth: after Harry Maitland Whaite (b. 1912)

Mount Gibson, within Kings Tableland / Blue Labyrinth: after Jack Gibson (1913-1997)

Lowndes Ridge, within Kings Tableland / Blue Labyrinth: after Arthur George Lowndes (1911-1994).

Crafts Walls & Crafts Ridge, at Kanangra: after Frank Alfred Craft (1906-1973).

Mount Pelham & Pelham Creek, within Blue Labyrinth: after Albert Henry (Bert) Pelham (1906-1995).

Kilpatrick Creek & Kilpatrick Causeway, Shoalhaven & Kanangra Tops: after Charles Gordon Kilpatrick (1904-1982).

Lench Point, Shoalhaven: after Arthur Lench (b1913- d).

Bushwalking achievements

Harry Whaite and his mates had been actively walking before the Warrigal Club

was formed. Harry and his brother Tom, plus Willy Walker, Fletcher Dickson and Vern Perkins were the first bushwalking group to descend Carlon Head at Narrow Neck in December 1932. A group from The Warrigals was the first to climb Glenraphael Head on the southern end of Narrow Neck in 1938.

The old wire and timber rung bush ladder at the end of Narrow Neck, constructed by Walter Tarr, was burnt and destroyed in the 1939 bushfires. It was replaced with iron spikes by members of the Warrigal Club in

1940. These spikes, known as Tarros Ladder, are still the main access point for bushwalkers on and off the southern end of Narrow Neck.

The location of Mount Twiss at Linden was correctly identified by Warrigal members, Craft, Else-Mitchell and Whaite in 1940. Mount Twiss was the furthestmost point reached by William Dawes and his party in December 1789 when they tried to

reach Round Hill (Mount Hay). The Warrigals named the creek on the eastern side of Mount Twiss as Dawes Creek.

Influential members

Members of the Warrigals led varied lives and some obtained very high positions in their chosen occupations.

Rae Else-Mitchell held an extraordinary number of public, historical, community and educational positions that included being appointed as a judge of the NSW Supreme Court.

Arthur Lowndes C. B. E. was the Deputy Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and had played a part in securing the Blue Mountains Primitive Area now part of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Albert (Bert) Pelham became NSW inspector of schools and Roy Smee was the Director of the Department of Labour & National Service. Roy, along with Rae Else-Mitchell, Ward Havard, Colin Barnard, Frank Craft and Harry Whaite contributed articles to The Bushwalker.

Rae Else-Mitchell, Ward Havard and Jim Jervis also held significant positions within the Royal Australian Historical Society.



Mt Whaite

Probably the most influential members of the Warrigals (in terms of club activities) were Harry Whaite and his close friends Jack Gibson and Ewan Martin. A major project undertaken, mainly by Harry and Jack in 1939, was the mapping of a section of the Kings Tableland and the Blue Labyrinth. As such they were responsible for the present day names of; Camp Cave Hill, Double Hill, Warrigal Hill, Warrigal Gully, Centre Mount, Mount Gibson, Mount Whaite, Lowndes Ridge, Hayrick Hill and Scorpion Hill.

Wilf Hilder, then an employee with the NSW Lands Department was on the Places Names Committee (the forerunner of the Geographical Names Board) and submitted the above names for approval. These names first appeared on the Lands Department Map, Map of the Blue Labyrinth, which was produced in 1963. All of these names are shown on the current Jamison 1:25,000 Topographical Map.

Harry related to me that all they had at the time was a temporary emergency army topographical map of the area. With a prismatic compass and using reference features such as Carrington Hotel Chimney, Katoomba, Wentworth Falls 2KA tower, Kings Tableland and Mount Harris Trig Stations they took hundreds of bearings. Distance was established by counting their walking steps. They kept to the ridges where possible and built cairns on the high points.

Both Harry and Jack had a keen interest in mathematics' (Jack went on to be a math's teacher) and hence the use of triangulation to establish exact position of geographical features.

Harry still has the notebooks showing the hundreds of calculations he made but unfortunately no map remains of their mapping work.

Harry mentioned that apart from the dirt road along Kings Tableland (now the Kings

Tableland Road) no other roads existed and the road from Glenbrook Causeway to The Oaks was just a timber getters track. Harry was also instrumental in having 100 acres (22ha) comprising St Helena Crater near Glenbrook set aside for permissive occupancy to protect the geological and botanical flora. This area is now part of Blue Mountains National Park.

Warrigal Club Members

Total membership (some men being members for less than 12 months) was 62.

* represents foundation member.

Abrams, Reginald K (Reg) (b1914) *

Anderson, R

Armstrong, Jack

Baker, Gordon

Barnard, Colin

Bell, A

Bennett, Harry

Bryant, Lindsay (c1914) *

Clarke, A

Close, Frank (1914-1982) *

Cohen, Max Charles (1913-1995)

Colton, Herrmann Angel (Norm) (1902-1978) *

Conway, Robert (Dick) (b1916) *

Craft, Frank Alfred (1906-1973) *

Crago, Edward (Ted) (b1911)

Curnow, Claude Ernest (Jock) (b1913) *

Dahl, Edward (Ted) (b1911)

Dixon, Fletcher Clendon (1915-1991) *

Dorling, Ronald

Else-Mitchell, Rae (1914-2006)

Flynn, John

Freeguard, Frank
Harold (1901-1977)

Gibson, Jack
(1913-1997) *

Gifford, Alfred
Owens (1899-1990)

Gilroy, Arthur

Hall, Alison Machin
(Mach) (1894-1980)

Hammond, Arthur Vic-
tor (Vic) (1918-2001) *

Harper, Alan

Havard, Ward Llewellyn (1897-1964) *

Hay, Jim (b1912) *

Humphries, Frankie Reginald (b1915)

Jack, Leonard Ernest (1909-1993)

Jervis, Jim (1883-1963)

Kilpatrick, Charles Gordon (1904-1982) *

Krok, Trevor

Lench, Arthur (b1913) *

Lober, William Leslie (Bill) (b1918)

Lowndes, Arthur George (1911-1994)

Lumsdaine, J

Marjason, William Leonard (Len) (1913-1997) *

Martin, Ewan Cameron UNSW, (1913-2001) *

Menzie, Lipson (c1914)

McGregor, Hector Edwin (d1970) *

McNiven, William (Bill) *

Mendelsohn, Ronald S (Ron) (b1914)

Moore, Ted *

Pelham, Albert Henry (Bert) (1906-1995)
*

Pelham, Francis Clinton Raymond
(Frank) (1892-1963)

Perkins, Vernon Ralph (Vern) (1915-1985)

Proctor, C

Savage, Robert C R (Bob) *

Smee, Roy Albert (b1916)

Smith, Benjamin Somerset (1914-1975) *

Taylor, R

Thornett, Norman John (1909-2000)

Warner, Harry (d1981)

Warry, Jack

Whaite, Harry Maitland (b1912) *

Yager, John Charles (b1916) *

Yates, William (Bill) *

The only foundation Warrigal member still alive is Harry Whaite (aged 97) and a later member Roy Smee.



Near Battleship Top



Wheel cairn

Recollections

Jack Gibson's sister, Shirley Allen, in a phone call, (3rd December 2007) recalled that Jack's time with the Warrigals was mainly during his school and university days. After Jack finished his teaching degree at Sydney University he went on to teach maths at Yanco Agricultural College, Katoomba, Homebush, Enmore and Woollooware High Schools.

Shirley also mentioned that Harry was very scientific in his approach to his bushwalks, making sure everything was calculated and weighed. Both were very conscious of the environment and used the then-accepted Army principle of 'burn bash and bury'. Shirley recalls that once on a walk with them she picked some wildflowers and they had a go at her for picking them.

She recalls that they were 'commissioned by the government' to map the Blue Labyrinth because there were no detailed maps of the area. I questioned her and said, 'Are you sure the government asked them?' She replied, 'Well, maybe they are not quite the right words, but it was implied they were actively encouraged.'

In a phone call to Roy Smee, 2nd December 2007 I asked him, 'What were your best memories of the Warrigal Club?' He

replied, 'It was a small select group, I liked the history, the geology, I just liked walking.'

Roy attended Sydney Boys High School, one of his English teachers was Machin Hall, The Hall brothers (Lincoln, Mach and Duncan) were very keen bushwalkers and had explored large tracts of the Blue Labyrinth and various geographical

features in this area are named after them such as Lincoln Creek and Dadder Cave. Roy had served in New Guinea during the Second World War. His last employment position was with the Commonwealth Public Service as Director of the Department of Labour & National Service.

At the outbreak of WWII Harry had finished his degree in Chemical Engineering at Sydney University and was working for the Department of Public Health checking for coal dust conditions within coalmines. It was his boss who had arranged war exemption for Harry as the work was regarded as essential war service. Later, during the war he was training graduates in agriculture. It was during this assignment he met his wife to be, Olive. At the time Harry recalled that he was virtually the only one of the Warrigals left in Sydney and hence the club closed.

The closure of the Warrigals was not the end of Harry's bushwalking days. His bushwalking notes record visiting Lions Head, Kings Tableland 28-30 July 1944, The Grose Valley May 1947, Splendour Rock, Easter 1948 and the Horse Track into the Grose, February 1951.

Access to start of bushwalks

Bushwalkers today take the car for granted and can park close to the start or finish of our walks. But what was common for The Warrigal Club members and other clubs of their day was to use the train.

Walks in the Erskine Creek, Blue Labyrinth area, involved the train to Glenbrook (usually after work), walking to the Attic Cave, situated near the top of the cliff line above Erskine Creek and sleeping overnight so that an early start could be made the next morning.

To access the Wild Dogs in the Cocks River area it was a train trip to Katoomba, first night at Glen Raphael or in a cave near the headwaters of Corral Creek on Narrow Neck. (Note the fire trail along Narrow Neck Plateau was not constructed until 1961).

To access Mount Hay and beyond, it was



Attic cave (The story is that brick was only found hidden in the pack after the wearer reached Attic Cave!)

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the train to Leura, first night in a cave near Rocky Points.

For visits to the Upper Grose, it was a train journey to Blackheath.

At the end of their walks the access process was reversed with that long slog back to the same train station or one further down the track and back to Sydney, usually the last train of the night.

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Royal Australian Historical Society

The Dam and Pumphouse on Bungleboori Creek

Text by Michael Keats. photos by Tom Brennan. The Bush Club

Did you know there was a time when all three levels of Government in Australia, and NSW in particular all co-operated, and further more, acted in the best interests of the citizens at large?

In 1942, such a rare event happened, at Lithgow. Several major events aligned to make such co-operation essential. Eastern Australia was in the grip of severe drought; Australia was involved in WWII; Lithgow was a crucial industrial hub manufacturing weapons and munitions for the allied forces and the Federal Treasurer of the day was one J B Chifley, Lithgow born and bred. The issue was water supply.

Even more staggering to us today is that Ministers and senior public servants at all levels were not afraid to make decisions and to actually do something. The undertakings given and executed in this story are breathtaking as the Lithgow Municipal Council Minutes testify. There was no pussyfooting around waiting for interminable reports, no complex tendering process and no political point scoring. It was a halcyon time when elected representatives served the people.

How did this discovery emerge from the dusty archives? It arose from a Bush Club

walk led by John Cooper in March 2009. The walk was a circuit that included a visit to the so-called 'Shay Dam' on the Bungleboori Creek in the Newnes State Forest. The folklore was that this dam was a water source for the Shay locomotives plying the Clarence – Newnes line.

I became determined to resolve the inconsistency between observed facts and folklore regarding this 'Shay Dam', pump house and associated infrastructure on and above the Bungleboori Creek. I believe that the following is at least 90% complete.

Australian Railways Historical Society (NSW Division)

Inquiries were made of Ian Dixon and David Wynter, Resources Section of the ARHS, NSW Division, regarding any known connection between the Clarence – Newnes Railway and the dam. Copies of papers referred to me by Mark Langdon and others were studied. None of these established a relationship between the dam and the Clarence – Newnes Railway.

New South Wales Government: Dams Safety Committee

The Dams Safety Committee is a NSW government statutory authority created under the Dams Safety Act. Its role (among other things) is to 'formulate measures to ensure the safety of dams' and to 'maintain a surveillance of prescribed dams' (Dam Safety Act 1978). A 'prescribed dam' is one listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. In other words, the Committee has a general responsibility to ensure the safety of all dams, and a special responsibility regarding prescribed dams. Patrick James, Sydney Bushwalkers referred me to this useful source.

Norm Himsley, Executive Engineer of the Committee, advised no dam on the Bungleboori Creek was ever registered – even though it exists!

Henry Deane, Project Engineer, Clarence – Newnes Railway¹ on water supply for the Shay locomotives

'Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining a water supply at or near this part of the line, as the latter follows the top of the spur. A fair supply was eventually obtained at about a mile from Deane Station,



The Shay Dam wall (photo Tom Brennan)

where a swamp exists. The gully here has been dammed, and an excavation added to hold a good supply of water. The reservoir thus formed is 200 feet below the level of the engine tank at Deane, and the water has to be pumped up. The plant erected for this purpose is as follows: At the station (Deanes) there is an 8 horse power Cundell Oil Engine, driving by means of a belt a Siemens Dynamo, which produces current at 500 volts. At the dam there is a three-throw pump, direct driven by an electric motor. Between the engine house and pump current is conveyed by copper cables, and there is another pair of wires by means of which, with the aid of a starting switch in the engine house, the pump can be set in motion. In this way the pump can be started without the necessity of any man visiting the pump. Labour is thus saved, and the water in the tanks can be replenished without delay.

At both station and dam the machinery is housed in a small building. A line of 3 inch pipes conveys the water from the pump to the engine tank.

In connection with the water supply, an elevated stage has been erected carrying six 400 gallon tanks as at the Junction, and there is also a coal stage to carry 50 tons of coal.

Engine sheds have been provided at the Junction and near the bottom of the steep incline. At the first of these water is obtained by pumping; at the second by gravity. Triangles for turning the engines are provided at both places.'

The physical evidence at the Bungleboori Creek site, and indeed the site location itself are inconsistent with Henry Deane's paper.

Deanes Siding site visit

A site visit was organised to the former 'Deanes Siding' on 22nd April 2009. The most obvious items were examined first – at GR 426 136, three of the original 6 x 400 gallon tanks. These cube shaped, riveted steel tanks are now located on the western side of the road. There is no remaining evidence of the 'elevated stage' they once stood on. The tanks have been severely damaged, probably when moved by heavy equipment but are still identifiable with some of the flange fittings undamaged. A brass buss bar with copper wires attached was also discovered.

We recrossed the Glow Worm Tunnel Road and commenced a thorough search of the area, still shown as a faint outline on the current Lithgow 1:25,000 topographic sheet. From a detailed plan of this area (Portion

ML5) from the archives of the NSW Department of Mines, approved 7th December 1907, we knew that in the northwest corner of the approved area there might be evidence of the former motor house and tanks, and near the centre some evidence might still exist of two buildings designated as stores.

Our searching resulted in somewhat meagre finds, the most useful being parts of a heavy-duty white porcelain insulator that were probably used to support the electric cables from the motor house to the pump house. These were photographed. Other useful finds included footings for the stores buildings and several kiln-fired bricks.

Setting a bearing to correspond with the approved alignment of the pipeline (per the survey plan) we commenced walking NNE downhill towards the former pump house site. Three of us spread out over a range of about 30 m, criss-crossing back and forth as we progressed. Our hope was to find some remains of footings or other supporting structures that carried the pipe and even a flange or other object that would confirm the previous existence of the former pipeline.

The activity was totally unsuccessful. Not one item was found. We can only conclude that when the line was dismantled every valuable item was removed. We did have one success right at the very end of the alignment, just before the tank (excavated dam) and site of the former pump house. A gleaming white object attracted my attention. I went over to it and discovered an almost complete white porcelain insulator about 6 in high, and next to it a very early design small white glass jar, GR 433 146.

Following this find we moved into the area for a much closer look at what else may be around. Nothing. At least we had confirmation that we were on the alignment and that this was near where the power line and pipeline were built. Another 20 m on so and we intersected with the old access road.

Immediately opposite the tank a cleared and levelled area was inspected. There was evidence of building footings, a doorstep



and bricks, GR 434 147. Was this the site of the former pump house? Hard to be certain. An examination was undertaken of the creek, and as described it had been excavated to create a deep pool about 10 m x 20 m in size. On the eastern bank a crude stonewall probably supported the suction spear point for the pipeline pump. This is the site described by Deane.

Further Inquiry

Brian Fox, Senior Cartographer, Land and Property Information at Bathurst provided the following information about the dam on the Bungleboori Creek.

* On the Lithgow 1:25,000 topographic map it has the text 'old dam wall' on Bungleboori Creek.

* The parish map which covers this area is the Parish of Clwydd, County of Cook.

* The parish map has reference notes as to any additions to this map. The dam wall refers to Lithgow Water Supply. Gazetted 8th November 1946. 4.114 ha

* From the dam running in a SSW direction to the Old Bells Line of Road is an easement for water supply pipeline. Gazetted 6th February 1948.

* In the same line as above an easement was gazetted 6th February 1948 for a Transmission Line. Halfway up this spur gazetted 8th November 1946 Booster Station, 910.5 m2.

* From the top of the spur the easement meets ML4. The notes for Mining Surveys indicate 'ML4, for railway and pipeline'.

Lithgow Local Studies Library

Kay Shirt, Local Studies Librarian of Lithgow Library was of immeasurable assistance in furthering the inquiry. Two main sources were accessed – an historic 16mm film (circa 1942) of the dam and infrastructure (now on DVD) and extracts from the Lithgow Municipal Council Minutes.

Fellow bushwalker and graphic artist Steve Murray accompanied me to the library and sketched selected still shots from the film. Application has been made (and now granted) to the film archive to copy several interesting frames.

The Lithgow Council minutes tell the full story:

1 Minutes 12th January 1942 – Water and Sewerage Committee

‘To again consider and report upon the question of instituting emergency measures in the event of a total failure of the Lithgow Water Supply, and to specifically consider alternate sources of supply, such as the water available in the old workings of the disused collieries, Paddys Creek², Newnes Junction and Farmers Creek.’

The committee reported that on Sunday 4th January 1942, accompanied by the Mayor and a number of Aldermen and Officers of the Council, an inspection of Paddys Creek was made. The committee was impressed with the volume of clear, spring water available in this creek.

A report from the engineer disclosed that at the present time approximately 300,000 gallons of water per day is available from this site; that it would be necessary to erect a small weir and to pump the water from Paddys Creek into the top dam at Farmers Creek, a lift of approximately 600 feet. Two schemes were submitted, one providing for pumping 300,000 gallons per day through a 6' rising main. Estimated cost £8,000. The second providing for pumping of up to 750,000 gallons per day through a 9' rising main, at an estimated cost of £12,000.

It was estimated that either scheme could

be completed within 6 weeks...

The Mayor reported that in company with the Town Clerk and Engineer, he had visited Sydney on Friday 9th January 1942, and he had met the Minister for Public Works and placed the full details of the Bungleboori Creek (Paddys Creek) water scheme before him, and had emphasised the critical condition of the water storage position at Lithgow. The Minister for Public Works adopted a sympathetic attitude towards the scheme, and immediately arranged for a visit of one of his officers to Lithgow on Monday and the Officer had visited Lithgow on this day as promised.

Officers of the Department of the Interior had also been contacted in regard to the supply of materials, and with their assistance the deputation was assured of the supply of all necessary materials, which would enable the immediate commencement of the work.

Contact was also made with the Department of Railways, and their officers had given assurance that they would undertake the construction of the electricity power transmission line on behalf of Council, and supply all materials and fittings incidental thereto. Officers of the Department had on this day, Monday, carried out a survey of the route, and they had since informed him, the Mayor, that they could complete the work within approximately four weeks from the date of commencement.

On Sunday, 10th January 1942, he (the Mayor) had contacted the Federal Treasurer, Mr. J B Chifley, with regard to the Federal Government contributing towards the cost of the work and the authority of the Federal Government to provide the necessary finance... (In conjunction with the State Government, funding was approved the following Wednesday³).

The deal was done on a motion of Alderman Roberts who moved ‘that the reports from the Water and Sewerage Committee and the Mayor and the recommendations contained therein, be received and adopted by the Council; that the Council approve of an immediate commencement of the work, and that the matter of arranging details in regard to financing the scheme be left in the hands of the Mayor and Town Clerk to finalise. Alderman Tougher seconded.



Motion CARRIED.’

2 Council meeting on 10th August 1942.

Received a report from the Water and Sewerage Committee on the height of the wall to be erected at Bungleboori Augmentation Water Supply Scheme and also upon the position of water supply generally.

Significant elements of the resolution adopted at the meeting are recorded as follows

‘A the storage capacity when full will be 2 ½ million gallons of water which will be sufficient to allow the pumps to operate for four days or more without attention

B the extra cost of lifting the wall another 10 feet estimated to cost approximately £1,000. The extra cost is not considered justifiable as this is considered only as an augmentation supply and it is hoped that shortly after the cessation of hostilities the Fish River Scheme will be commenced

C it is also considered the Bungleboori supply is a pumping scheme not a storage scheme

D the whole of the work has been completed except for odd jobs that require attention and the bringing away of plant... there has also been installed three pumps, two of 600 foot nominal head in parallel and one booster pump of nominal 100 foot head. These are capable of pumping 750,000 gallons per day and the pumps are well housed.’

The decommissioning date of the Bungleboori installation has not been ascertained but probably coincided with the commissioning of the Fish River Dam and pipeline.

1 Extracted from a paper by Henry Deane to the Sydney University Engineering Society on 21st September 1910 about water supply for the railway.

2 Paddys Creek is a former local name for Bungleboori Creek

3 Authors paraphrase of several paragraphs





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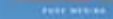
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