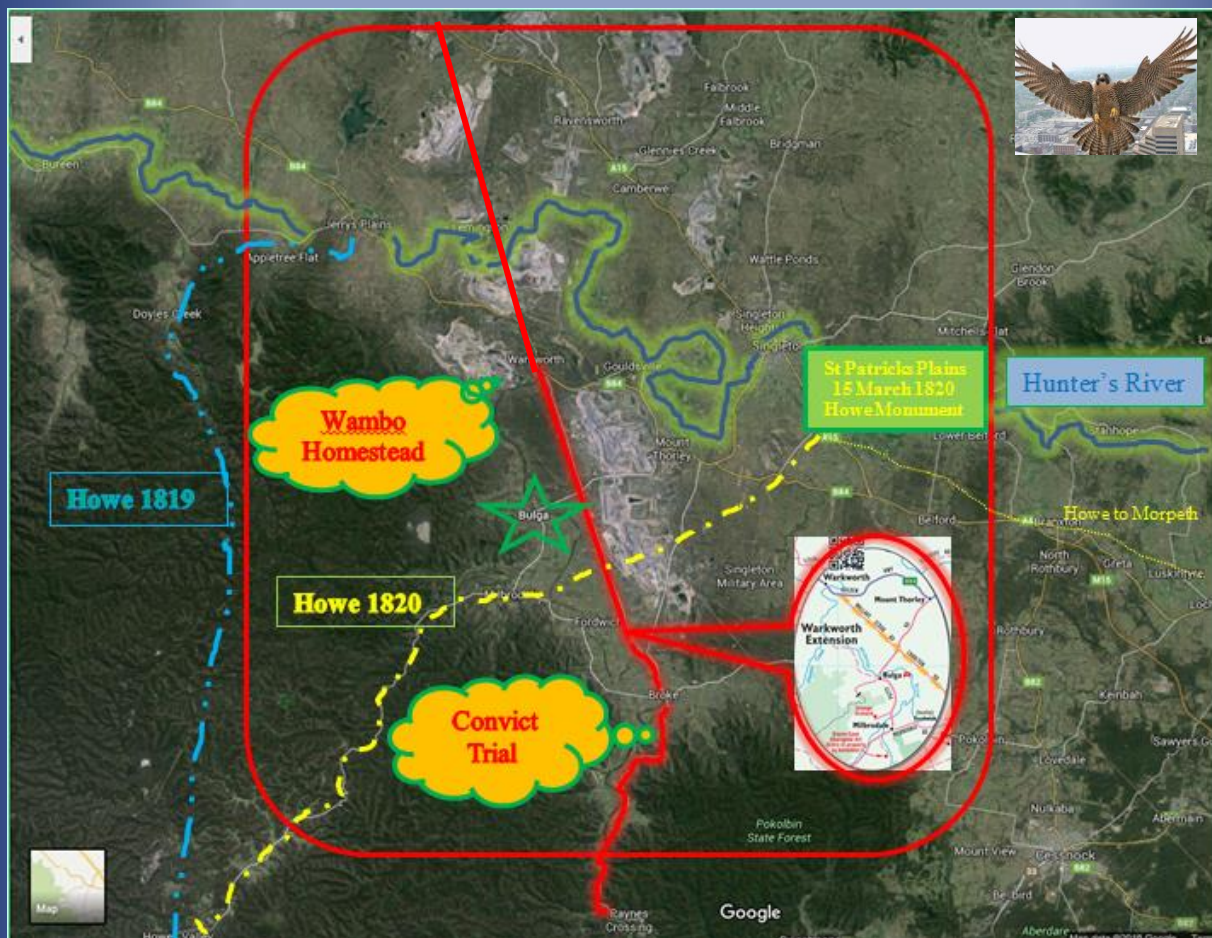


BULGA CULTURE CENTRE

Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Colonial Settlement 1820 - 1860

Patricks Plains Culture 1820's

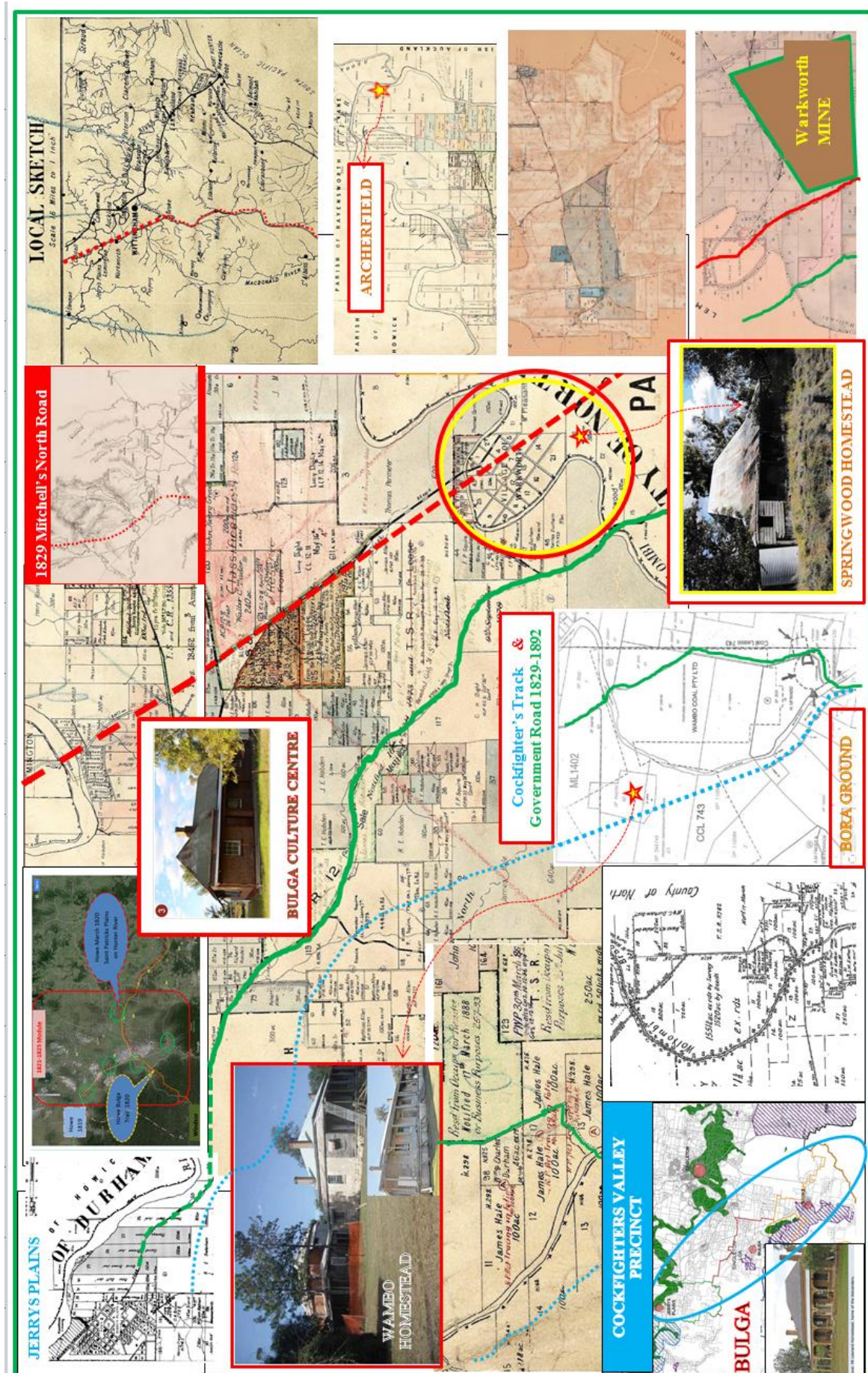
Colonial Heritage Conservation Tourism Visualisation Module

Establishing the first stages of the Holistic Vision of Bulga Ancestral Heritage with Cultural Centre located preferable at Heritage Bulga School 1879 on Putty Road showcasing as Interactive Colonial Displays of existing Historical and Genealogy Documents, featuring Bulga Pioneer Legends.

Document prepared also to identify the Short, Medium and Long Term features that would provide the Showcase at the Cockfighters Valley Colonial Cultural Heritage Centre.

"Ancestral Heritage focuses upon the capture of the contributions made by successive Human Generations – Our Ancestors to the Environ Domain, showcased as Interactive Tourism Modules"

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Synopsis – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Many Cultures have merged into one Nation “Australia” after two Hundred Years.

Beginning as the Penal settlement at Sydney Cove on 26th January 1788, twenty years later by 1808 the Colonials were hemmed in on the East Coast of “New Holland” by “The Blue Mountains to the South, West and North”.

A “Convict Penal Settlement” at “Coal River” was established in 1795 along the coast to the North, again as a secured enclave.

By 1810, “Colonial Self Sufficiency” in this land of “Floods and Droughts” emerged to embrace an understanding of the ways of the “Native Aboriginals of these lands”, which contrasted the Colonial Visions of Grassy Lands and fresh flowing Water for crops and Cattle as food.

The Pioneer Ancestral Heritage Culture focus here is to detail and Visualise the Reconciled Culture that emerged during the first ten Years 1820 to 1830 of the Colonial Pioneers Settlers and Baime Aboriginal Inhabitants coexistence in what was been identified here as “The Cockfighters Valley Precinct” Environs. Subsequently 200 Years later, today's Community Culture is still influenced by these intervening Cultural Heritage traits.

By 1819 Explorer John Howe recognised and adapted local knowledge in his quest in the “Blue Mountains” as it was known at the time in the search for a safe route to “Grassy Plains” to the West. In March 1820, Howes Party entered the Grassy Lands beside the Baime Cave, across the Brook, and onto the “River Hunter”, where he named these lands as “Saint Patricks Plains”.

Within a year by 1822 Henry Dangar had surveyed Parish Allotments, all with River frontages, Reserves for Towns, Churches and Schools, but without Roads or tracks; and in that year Pioneer Settlers Families inhabited the “*Patricks Plains Land Grants*” they received.

Cockfighters Creek became the “*Gateway to the Hunter Valley*” and Liverpool Plains, as Bulga and the Bulga Track developed as the “Stock Route” which serviced Food for Sydney.

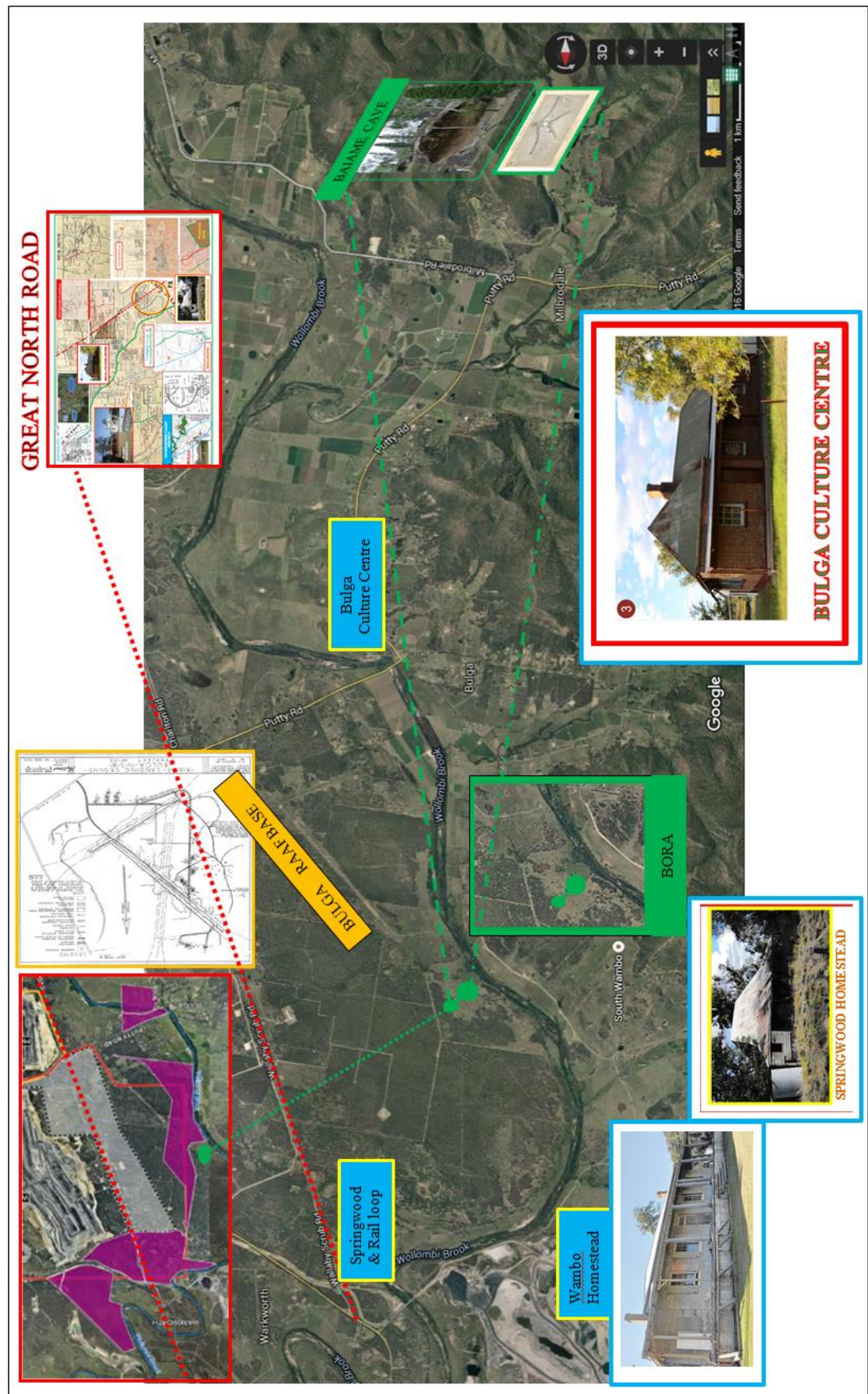
During 1820 to 1830 Colonial Settlers Tracks were established to suit their purpose with sure footed water crossings, while Colonial Governors planned the Roads and Towns.

Ten Years on by 1829 Major Mitchells South, West and North Roads and Towns plans focused upon at Bulga as “The Great North Road” via the Wollombi Valley, Broke , Warkworth, Muswellbrook, etc with the Hunter Valley being seen almost as Sub Colony at the time.

“*The Bulga Culture Centre Implementation Plan*” is set to detail the scope in the initial period of two to five years for the Short, Medium and Long Term Ancestral Heritage Periods. The first two years 2017 & 2018 specifically will establish the Heritage Bulga School as the Bulga Culture Centre complete with Visualisation Screens and Bulga Cultural Displays, as well as providing the resource facilities, to prepare and collate the various Visual Detailing Displays of the Cockfighters Valley Precinct for the Period 1810 to 1830 as Display Composites.

“*The Wonnarua and Hunter Valley Conservation Heritage Park (WHVCHP)*” proposed in Community Submissions first in 2010 sought recognition of the combined Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage Conservation. Specifically, the significance of Mitchell’s Great North Road connectivity between Broke Vere to Warkworth Village and Wambo Homestead involvement in this road was featured in the WHVCHP along with the WWII RAAF Base State Significant Heritage. Two Clarke Ancestral Homes; “Girale and Ohio” were located in this same area while “Willow Farm” is nearby.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



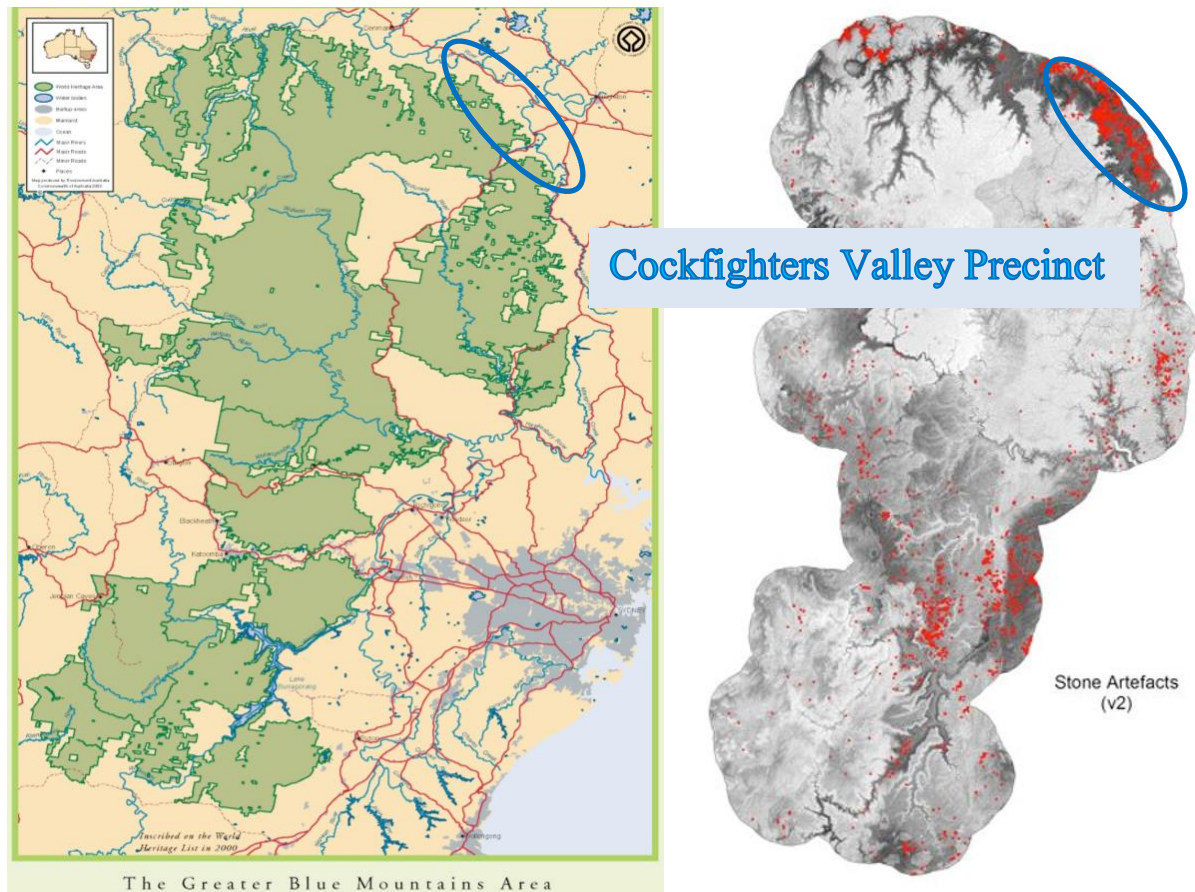
Phase 2 – Cockfighters Valley Precinct

The Cockfighters Valley Precinct here is considered an adjunct of the [UNESCO World Heritage](#)–listed [Greater Blue Mountains Area](#) National Park that forms part of the [Great Dividing Range](#) being the Gateway to the ‘Sub Colony of Sydney Cove’ at Saint Patricks Plains, in March 1820.

This Valley hosts the remnants of the Gondwanaland movement and Ice Age weathering yielding Yengo and Wollomi Forest formations, Wollombi Brook and with Creeks, settling now as Sand Sheets (Warkworth Sands) and with “Liken Carpets” across areas of Bulga WWII RAAF Base.

To understand the Heritage Significance of this Valley and Grassy Plains is to understand the Baiame connectivity of the Yengo and Wollomi Aboriginal Legends, Artefacts, the Baiame Cave and Bora Ground and “Baiame Aboriginal Custodians of all these Brook and River Lands”

By 1820, the Baiame Aboriginal Inhabitants “welcomed” the Pioneer Colonial Settlers and their Convicts and unusual animals to these grassy Plains, Cockfighter’s Creek and the River Hunter.



Our younger generations comment that only the Forests and Mountain areas are National Parks and that the connectivity of the Grassy Plains, Rocky sandy Creeks and River formations are just as significant. Clearly above; Mining is better recording Aboriginal Artefacts in these Grassy Plain areas.

Community Historic Heritage Conservation Zone expectations focuses on retaining all surface Mine land west of and including Mitchell’s Great North Road from Broke to Warkworth and beyond, Bulga WWII RAAF Base with its Likien area, Warkworth Sand Sheets, and all Bora Ground designated areas, and bounded by 100 metres West of Wollombi Brook Semicircular arc, and including all Biodiversity Lands to be incorporated. Heritage restoration is also expected.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Hunter/Wollombi junction 1979 looking north – Benjamin Singleton occupation in 1821



As might be expected, the art sites of Yengo Country are, in the main, very fragile. The sandstone deposits in which they occur are porous and soft, have a tendency to powder and crumble (especially when the lichen-covered outer layer is disturbed in any significant way), are often folded or tessellated and are generally subject to cracking and flake-weathering. Since the majority of the sites are actually open to the elements, we therefore find that rain and seepage, strong winds, bushfires, prolonged droughts, cold winters, falling trees, moving topsoil, encroaching surface vegetation and even nesting birds and insect infestations all contribute to their ongoing deterioration. All this, quite apart from man-made damage though negligent interference, thoughtlessness and deliberate acts of vandalism.

Phase 3 – European Composite Cultures

The various competing influences that emerged as the Pioneer Settlers with no formal roads and somewhat temporary dwellings soon progressed as Government Roads, Post Offices, Mounted Police and Bullock Teams for supplies to and fro and Shipping developed. As crops flourished Colonial Estates some with the finest of English Building styles began to appear along the Hunter River Valley.

Having established the Ancestral Culture periods through to present time, each of these periods by their nature would be characterised by the changing influences that the Colonial Settlements encountered, often as a result of having to face and overcome Flood, Drought, Fires and the unknown perils of a strange land.

The cumulative assembly of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and developing Social interaction manifests as the Culture that defines each Period as distinct from any other Period..

Chronologically, in terms of habitat there are the early Pioneer Huts that give way to Expanding Estates, Colonial Homesteads, Public Inns, Villages, law and order, Farming Enterprises, Manpower needs, Farm and transport Animals, Road building, Food, Wine and water sources, Towns, developing Agricultural Industries such as Dairy, Wheat, Corn, Cattle, Salt production, Food Canning, Blacksmiths and Carpenters, Wheelwrights, Motoring, Machinery, Coal Industry, Schools, Commerce and the Arts.

The Phase 3 primary focus is planned to trace Colonial Settlement developments as Visualisation Modules Composite Images, locality based and envisaged to focus on gathering representative images and videos to capture the distinctive features of the Ancestral Cultural Periods they are associated with.

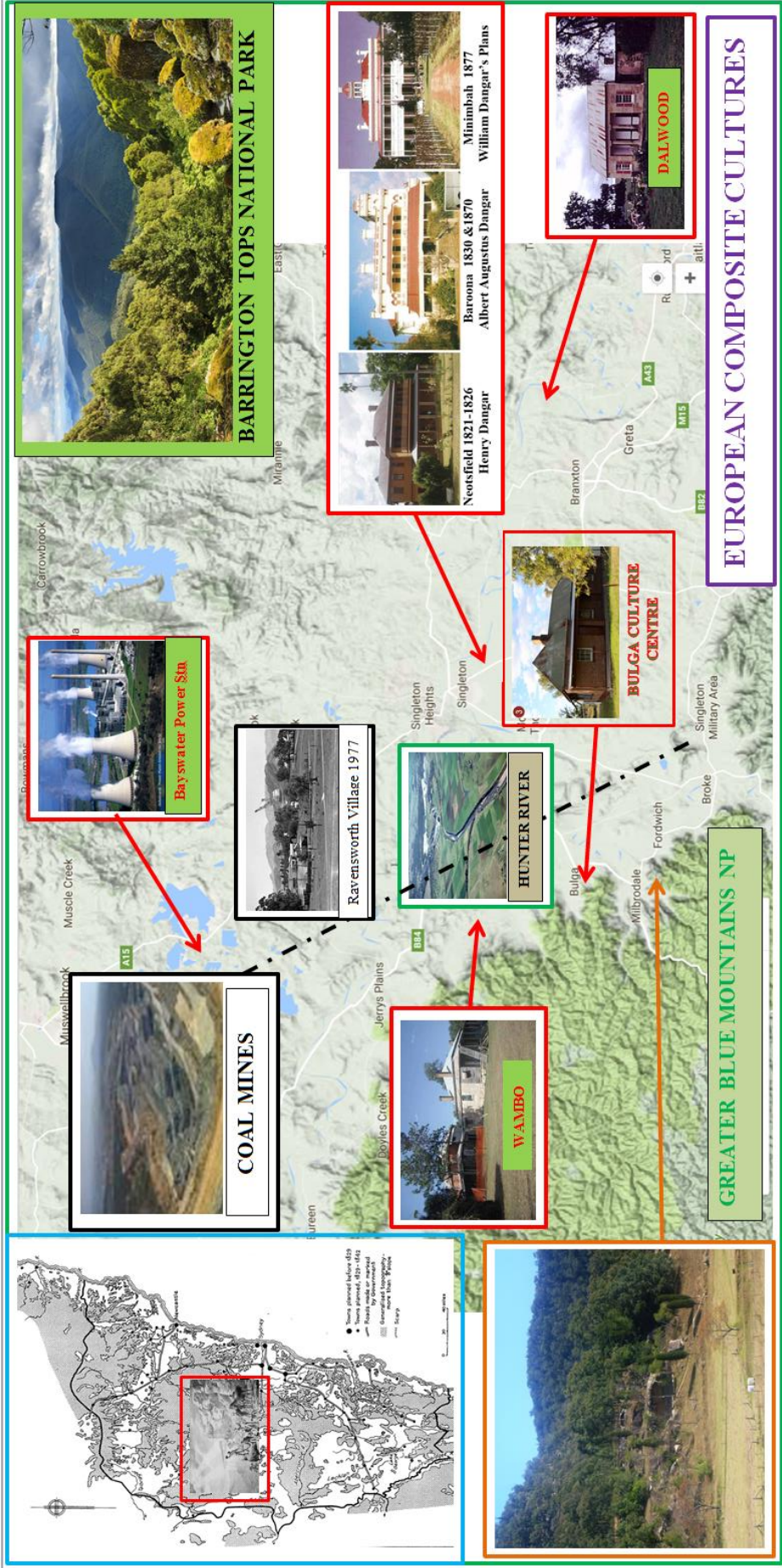
Across the Hunter Valley today, they are; those Buildings that remain, some Heritage listed; those that are in ruins and are complete enough to be restored, and often subject of Local Museum curiosity; Ruins of significance where Archaeological studies are contemplated; locality only sites; those destroyed to make way for etc. Restoration and salvage outcomes are expected to result.

It is the intention to focus upon three distinct considerations of preliminary information gathering and trial presentations; firstly, Buildings and Estates; secondly Prominent Persons and Family Dynasties; and thirdly Estates that shaped Localities, Towns and Village Communities. RAAF Base Airstrips to prevent further deterioration as earmarked for future Community use.

By way of illustration the Phase 3 Map “European Composite Cultures” identifies the 2020 Vision of the here and now in the Hunter Valley, where much of the information is locked away from view in storage related to Aboriginal Heritage and Artefacts distribution, Pioneer Colonial History and Heritage in local and State Museums and libraries, Colonial Homesteads open for Public viewing on appropriate occasions, Tourism ventures and Community Festivals.

The Vision of a Community Heritage Visitors Centre with guided tours of Aboriginal sites, Bulga Mountain Rock Art, Bulga Pioneer Trail, Colonial Homesteads, Mining exhibitions, and RAAF field days would be a worthwhile Tourism venture moving with the development of the area.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

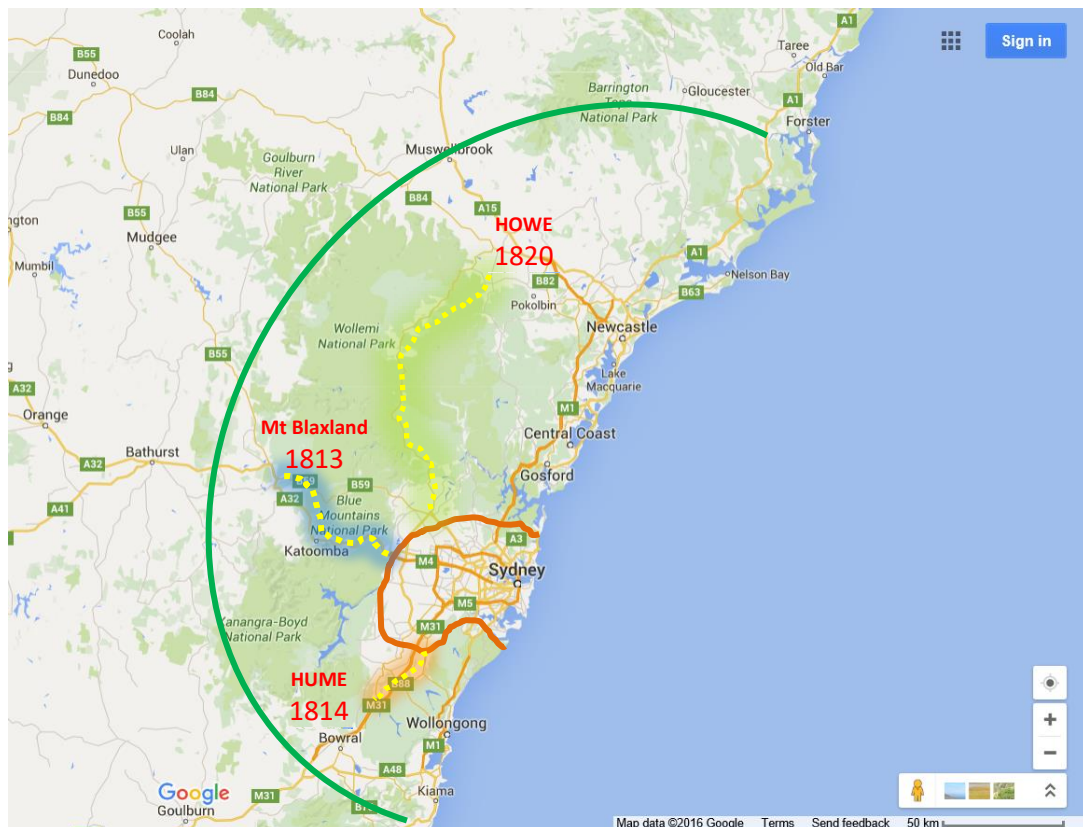


Bulga Culture Centre Implementation Plan

Three Phases are envisaged for the progressive development of the Bulga Culture Centre over the initial five years, and ongoing for 20 years to coincide with the expected cessation of Open cut Mining in the area.

There will be an initial period of two to five years to establish the Short, Medium and Long Term Ancestral Culture Plans, where the focus will be upon consolidation of land areas that are strategically to remain in Perpetuity for the Public Benefit, progressively as Coal Mining operations are coming to a close in this Cockfighter Valley Environs.

The establishment of “The Cockfighter’s Valley Precinct” is seen very much an Adjunct to the Blue Mountains series of National and State Parks, and is seen as an integral Heritage Entity; being a natural extension focusing upon Ancestral Culture of Aboriginal, Convict, Explorers, Pioneer Settlers, and the Colonial Settlement over the 100 Years from 1800 when the survival of the Colony was under threat particularly from Drought and reliance upon Shipping for Supplies.



The connectivity between The Colony, Cow Pastures, Windsor, Cockfighter’s Creek, Saint Patricks Plains, Wallis Plains, King’s Town as Explored by John Howe’s Party in March 1820 established for the Early Colony Grassy Plains with flowing Rivers and Streams that released the Colony from the stranglehold of the Mountains Ranges, Gorges, and seeming endless Forests that trapped Sydney on the Eastern Seaboard.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Breaking free of these Mountains and their Exploration during the 1800's, soon saw the prominence of Surveyors of Roads and "Free Settler Land Grants" and Allotments in the newly found Grassy Plains. While Bathurst Lands were opened in 1813-1815, Saint Patricks Plains by 1820 on the "River Hunter" was just north of the Colony and West up the River from Wallis Plains and King's Town (Newcastle) on the East Coast. Soon the focus was on Roads.

Not only could Saint Patricks Plains be reached overland from Windsor and Wallis Plains, the "River Hunter" provided boat access at least some 90 miles of River Plains on the Williams, Paterson and Hunter River and to beyond Scone by 1821. Subsequent Settler Grant Allotments Surveyed by Henry Dangar in 1821-1825 were planned for River access frontages, without Roads, but including Church and School Estates. All other lands were "Crown Lands".

The initial Phase of the Ancestral Heritage in the Hunter Valley focuses upon the changing nature of the Colony's Culture as the mixture of the Privileged, Incarcerated, Free Settlers, rich and poor in a strange land; and Aboriginal Culture adapted in these same lands interacting.

The Colonial Culture that developed in the somewhat protected Colony Environs of the first 30 years of close living 1788 -1818, is contrasted with Colonial Settler's Culture in the next 30 years 1818 -1848 as the "Foothold of the Colony became an Established Settlement".

The Lion's share of these changes that imprinted what was to emerge as "The Australian Spirit" was forged initially in 1820's at Patricks Plains, "The Birthplace of the Hunter Valley".

The Character Traits of the early Explorers, the Pioneers, Early Settlers, Colonial Settlements exhibited in these "Strange and Harsh Lands" imprinted upon their lives, coalesced as a distinctive Settler Culture in a similar way the Environs had shaped and moulded the original Habitants of the land, the Aboriginal Tribes with their distinctive language, artefacts and belief systems.

The Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre is distinctive from the traditional Heritage Museum with the focus on the lifecycle changes from one Culture Generation to the next.

Cultural Generations being defined here as the Culture Shifts that develop; Environs, Environment, Habitat, Social Harmony etc, and being the Hallmarks of the Social Fabric of that particular Community at the time.

The Ancestral Culture as for Culture in general is defined in Wikipedia as ".....

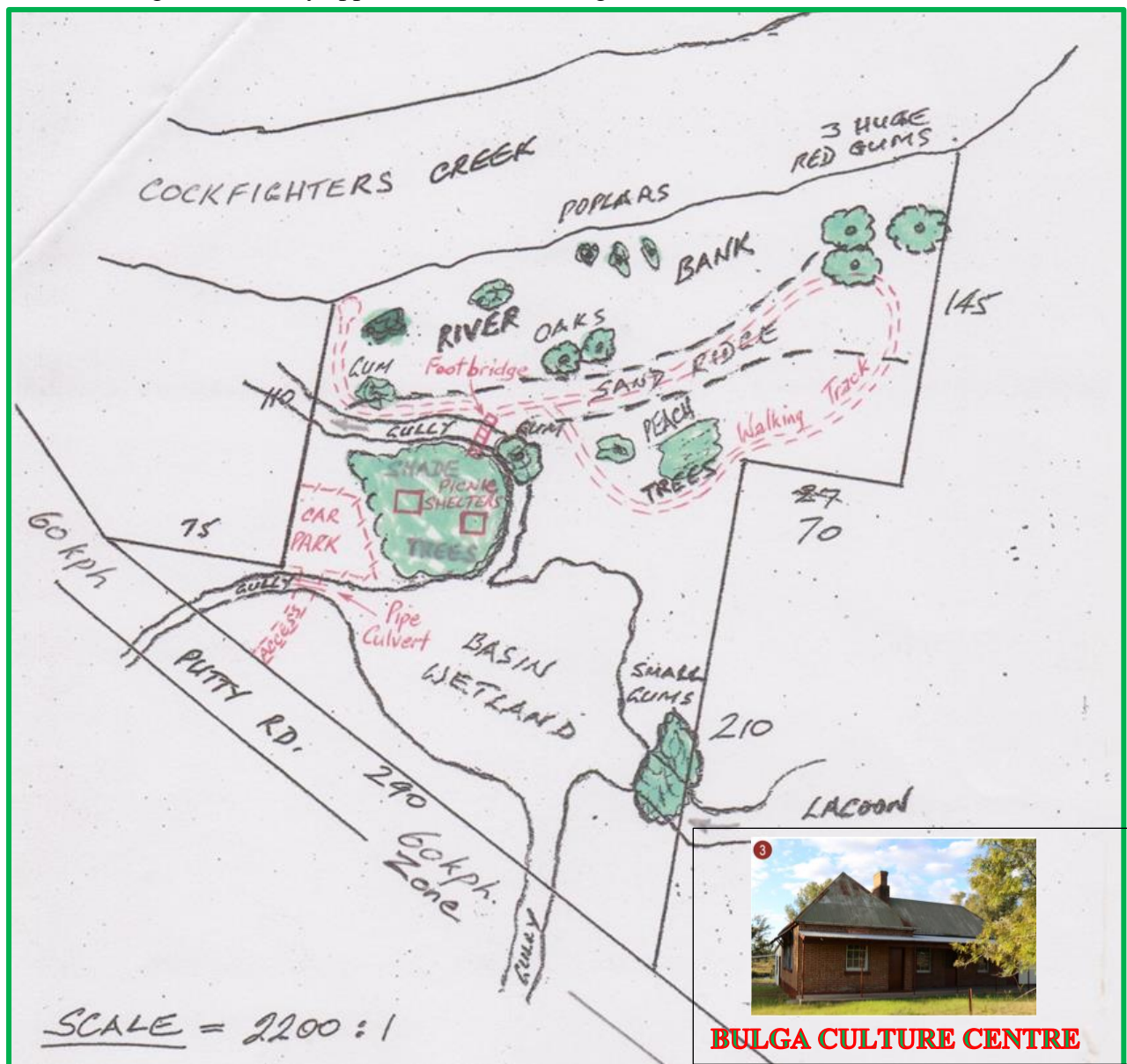
As a defining aspect of what it means to be [human](#), culture is a central concept in [anthropology](#), encompassing the range of phenomena that are transmitted through social [learning](#) in human [societies](#). The word is used in a general sense as the evolved ability to categorize and represent experiences with [symbols](#) and to act imaginatively and creatively. This ability arose with the evolution of [behavioral modernity](#) in humans around 50,000 years ago.^[*citation needed*] This capacity is often thought to be unique to humans, although some other species have demonstrated similar, though much less complex abilities for social learning. It is also used to denote the complex networks of practices and accumulated knowledge and ideas that is transmitted through social [interaction](#) and exist in specific human groups, or cultures, using the plural form. Some aspects of human behavior, such as [language](#), social practices such as [kinship](#), [gender](#) and [marriage](#), expressive forms such as [art](#), [music](#), [dance](#), [ritual](#), [religion](#), and [technologies](#) such as [cooking](#), [shelter](#), [clothing](#) are said to be [cultural universals](#), found in all human societies. The concept [material culture](#) covers the physical expressions of culture, such as technology, architecture and art, whereas the immaterial aspects of culture such as principles of [social organization](#) (including practices of [political organization](#) and social [institutions](#)), [mythology](#), [philosophy](#), [literature](#) (both [written](#) and [oral](#)), and [science](#) make up the [intangible cultural heritage](#) of a society.^[6]

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

There will be a number of Community Anniversary Celebration Opportunities that are approaching in the Bulga Community, with amongst the most significant for the Hunter Valley is the Howe Exploration of the Land North of the then Colony frontier at Windsor in November 1819 and March 1820.

The Pioneer Families of the “County of Northumberland, Parish of Warkworth, Lemington, Wittingham soon on the Early Settlers Granted land in 1821 by their presence influenced a Culture shift towards Colonial Settlement that is the initial Phase to be documented and Visualised for Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre.

The Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre at this stage is seen to dovetail with the “Our Villages Our Vision 2012” Bulga Stock Reserve by incorporating the Heritage significant Bulga School fronting the Putty road as this would be ideally suited for the Culture Centre outlined. This is also in line with Bulga Community approaches made to Singleton Council in 2011.



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

The Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre Implementation Plan has its initial focus on Colonial Cultural Heritage as past down to Descendants of the Early Colonial Settler Families, some who retain a family lineage to this Cockfighter Valley area.

This is envisaged to be visually collated as Talking Heritage Modules to capture the Oral Heritage recollections of long standing Bulga Community Residents, Siblings, etc, past and present. These Modules to be prepared for direct Tourism Interactive Visualisation (TIV) use.

The Need for Professionals Historians to establish Primary Archival Heritage facts and Visualised Extracts is fundamental to Authenticate the information, such as: that is supported by writings and Diaries of Explorers, Accounts of events recorded at the time, Photos, Paintings, searches back through Documents based on previous publications with rewritten History, etc .

Tracing the “Migration paths of Early Colonial Settlements”, collate and prepare TIV’s related by periods of Pioneer Exploits, Farming Family Enterprises, Characters, Homesteads, Lifestyle Cultures, Social interactions, Community Impacts, and the like, etc.

Bulga Culture Centre Implementation Plan Vision

Anniversary Tourism Vision (2 Years 2016-2018)

Aboriginal occupancy.

NSW Colony exploration 1788 – 1820

Colonial Exploration Saint Patricks Plains - early Settlement 1810 -1825

Short Term Tourism Vision (5 Years Target 1825 - 1852)

Colonial Settlement 1825-1852 & Bora period.

Convict’s role in Settlements

Medium Term Tourism Vision (10 Years Target 1860- 1945)

Colonisation of Hunter Valley 1860 – 1900.

Hunter Valley Food Bowl 1900 – 1945.

Long Term Tourism Vision (15 Years Target 1942 - 2050)

Post WW2 Industrialisation 1950 - 2000

New Millennium Challenges 2000 – 2020.

Coexistence, Health, Environment and developing Tourism. 2020 – 2050

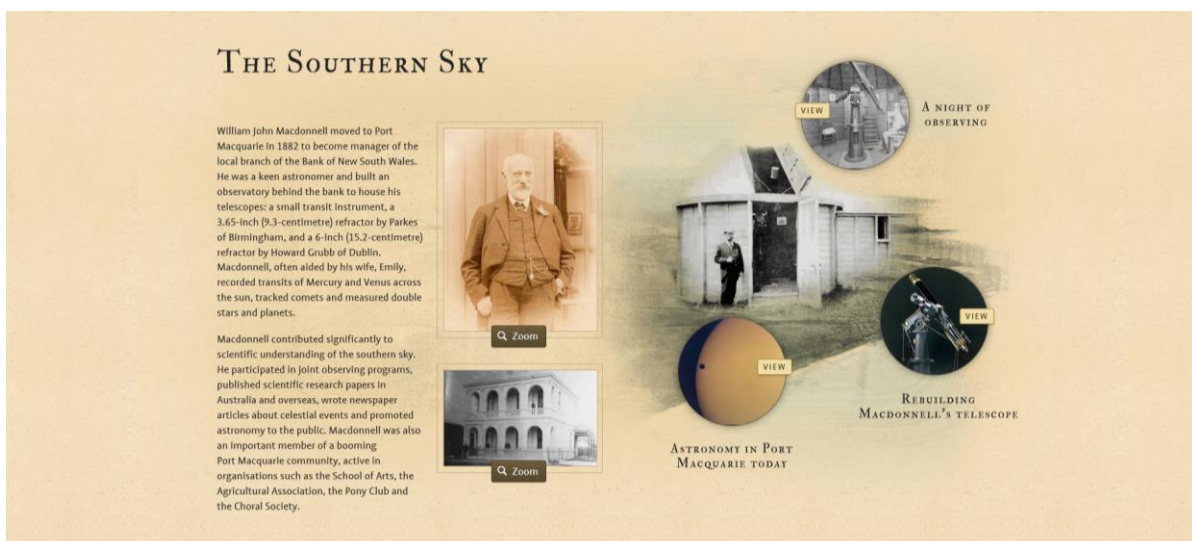
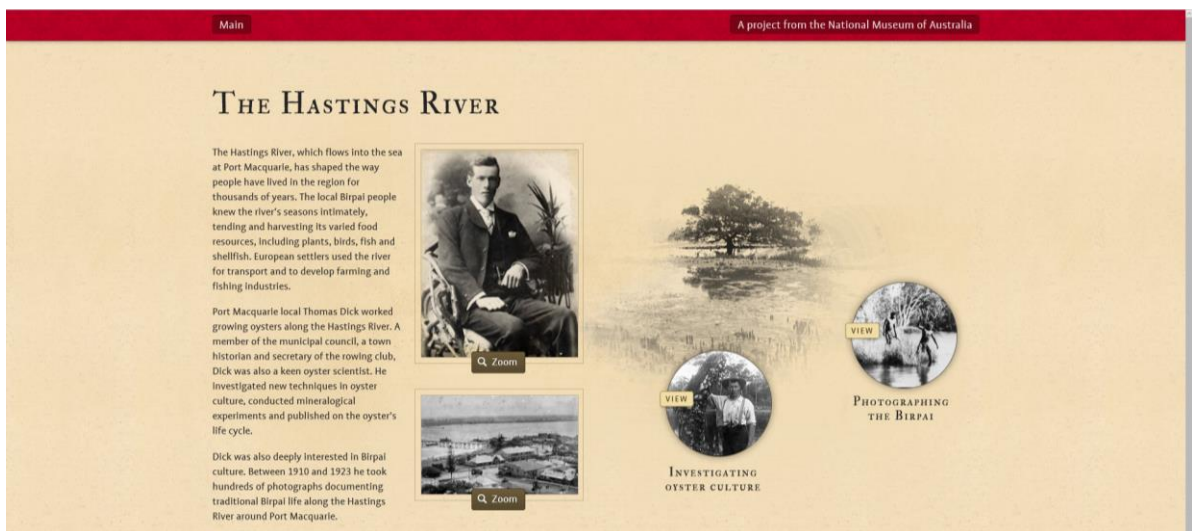
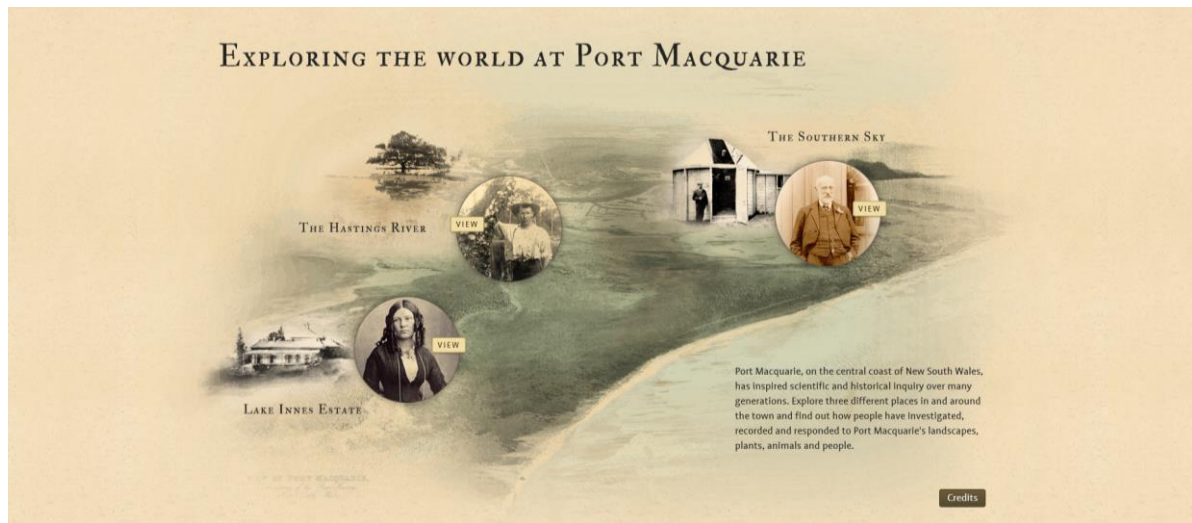
Futuristic Tourism Vision (15 Years Target 2050 – 2100).

Future Rehabilitated Land & Water Environs, Solar Farms, Mountain Wind Farms.

Hunter River Transportation with Locks

Cities on Mine Moonscape land, Recreation and Water Storage Dams.

Examples “Tourism Interactive Visualisation” (National Museum of Australian Canberra)



SSHEG Heritage Conservation 2014

SSHEG HOLISTIC CONSERVATION 2014

Australian heritage in the Hunter Valley has four major historical periods that need to be considered with respect to Heritage Conservation.

- (1) Aboriginal Heritage
- (2) Colonial Heritage 1788 to 1900
- (3) European Heritage 1900 to 1950
- (4) Post World War 2 Multiculturalism and Industrialisation

In considering the impact of these two Mining Proposals and the Mining History and legacy of these Mines, some consideration is warranted to conserve for future generations appropriate Post War Industrial Heritage artefacts by way of objects, records, keepsakes, stories and the like.

It is only in the recent past that a more formal process has been put in place to formally recognise the various Heritage periods as they relate to Hunter Valley lands that is now the subject of Mining Leases. In the 2010 MTW Mining Proposal a detailed Mine proposal for the establishment of a Conservation Zone focusing on Aboriginal Heritage was responsible at least in part for the proposal **Attachment 5** to extend this concept to include the RAAF Airstrip with recognition of the interplay that existed also with Colonial settlements in this same area.

Subsequently 2010 ES Volume 1 section 17.4.2 now also identifies that *“the former RAAF Base is considered to have some national heritage significance”* and as such the two runways are in reasonable condition (one to be impacted) and with similar effort by community groups could achieve results similar to that seen at Evans Head Airstrip. We do not support the demolition of the Kitchen Building or the extensive bitumen Hides and concrete Building foundations etc.

European History for its part has been gathered, collated and assembled with a focus at the Singleton Historical Society and Council Library.

The competing Heritage interest Groups are such, that the proposal identified in MTW 2014 EIS Volume 1 Section ES5.9 Para 4 as “The Mount Thorley Warkworth Historic Heritage Conservation Fund” by its name would relate to many of the long term Heritage Visions and Mine Lease Conservation Area extension as outlined in **2010 Attachment 5**. Such a Heritage Conservation Fund would initially require a Group of like-minded Residents willing to contribute to fleshing out the Vision as a proposal document for consideration.

The Vision of a Community Heritage Visitors Centre with guided tours of Aboriginal sites, Bulga Mountain Rock Art, Bulga Pioneer Trail, Colonial Homesteads, Mining exhibitions, and RAAF field days would be a worthwhile Tourism venture moving with the development of the area.

SSHEG Heritage Conservation 2002 – 2010

The interplay between Aboriginal Culture and Colonial influences is a fundamental facet that has so far slipped through the gaps in the overall Heritage documented of the Colonial and Convict significance of the 1820's Patrick Plains'

This was recognised in 2010 when the previous 2002 compromises between Aboriginal Heritage, Flora and Fauna Protection, Colonial Heritage, Community Health impacts from Mining of Ridges to the East of the Wollombi Brook over to the Hunter River.

The Community review in 2010 detailed that an inadequate level of scrutiny had been focused by Authorities upon both the Colonial and Aboriginal Heritage of what was known as in 1820's as "The Birthplace of the Hunter Valley".

Colonial Fate perhaps sees this same land area from the then described "Blue Mountains" to the West, descending to the Eastern Plains on Tribal inhabited Lands all the way over the Brook to the Hunter River; with an apparent connectivity between the Baiame Cave imagery overlooking the Bora Ground and a land subsistence area sufficient for around 600 Aboriginals in 1852 to assemble for a somewhat lengthy period.

It is these Cultures and the influences of the early Pioneer Settlers upon this ancient Culture and the Culture imparted to these Settlers and their families in this locality that is sought. The Ancestral Culture progression to modern times lives on today in this Cockfighter's Creek area as descends of these First Pioneer Settlers and Aboriginals remain today protecting their legacy, stories and legends.

However it is now recognised that there is little imagery, such as actual photos, film, aerial film or video of the Aboriginal significant land surfaces destroyed by Surface Mining; and in their absence the task of synthesizing a Visual connectivity between Photos and Stored Artefacts while warranted is achievable with modern Visual Technologies.

Extracts of the Community 2010 review below highlight the extent of the investigations sought, with the two questions posed; "Unique Aboriginal Site or Not?" and "Colonial Heritage established at Wollombi Brook at Saint Patricks Plains".

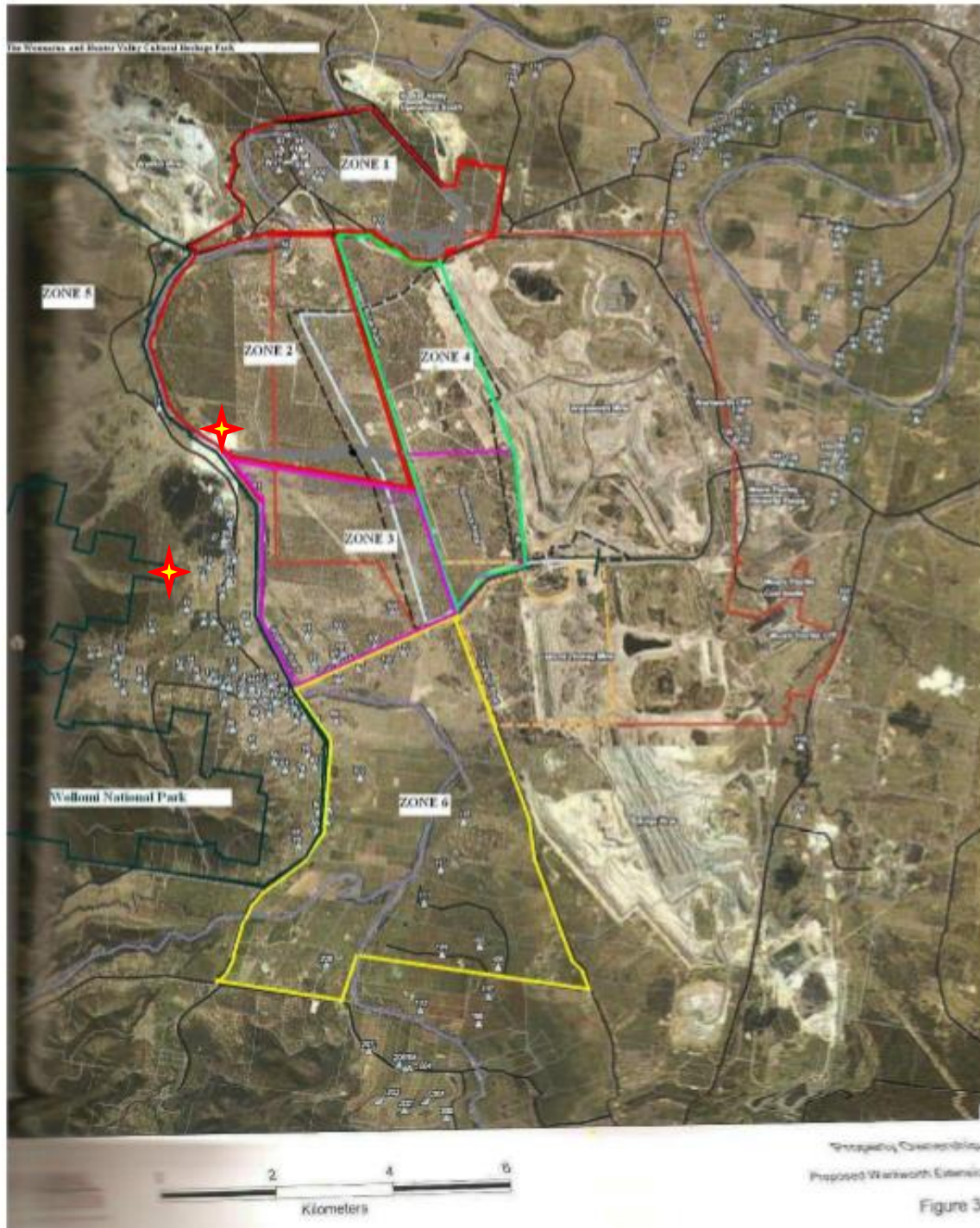
In addition the land shape, contours, watering features and rock formations, some of which were naturally occurring, and some arranged for Cultural and Spiritual significance, also suggests that land contours and shapes over the entire area from the Mountain Ridges across the Brook and up to and over the Ridges hold a special Significance that needs further historical research including Colonial recordings relating to these matters so as to better understand what impact their current and proposed destruction will have on the overall sites Heritage value.

Aboriginal Cultural Value Assessments identify "The land and Water running through it are the lifeblood of their Culture. The Hills and Plains, the Forest and Mountains provided people in past generations with the resources needed to survive". Does this not describe this Unique area at Wollombi Brook.

Further Myths and Legends surrounding this land would be better understood today when the genealogy and ancestry of the various tribes and family groups that occupied this land in the 1800's and particularly around 1819 to 1840's when Colonial settlers first appeared in and

The **Proposed Aboriginal, Colonial and Flora and Fauna Conservation Heritage Protection Zones** are a better Offset Solution to balance the impact of Open Cut Mining on this land located between the Wollombi Brook and the Hunter River. The Concept Plan for **six Heritage Listed Conservation Land Zones** are detailed in Attachment 2 and shown in Plan1 below.

PLAN 1 The Wonnarua and Hunter Valley Conservation Heritage Park



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

The Wonnarua and Hunter Valley Conservation Heritage Park (Plan 1) would involve six Zones of Heritage Listed Land Parcels stretching from the Wollomi National Park across the Wollombi Brook and East of the Wallaby Scrub Road to the Saddleback Ridges, and including part of the Bulga Underground Mine land through to Charlton Road in the South and including to the Northern side of Wollombi Brook in the Wambo Underground Mine Area.

Each Zone would preserve Hunter Valley Heritage and contribute to the diversification of the Tourism industry into the future when Mining has ceased in the area.

Zone 1 Northern Wambo Underground Mine area and adjoining the Wollomi National Park and 150 metres on the northern side of Wollombi Brook and along past Warkworth Village to the tip of the HMA3 area on Figure 1.3 of Annex F.

Zone 2 From South to the North along the East side of Wollombi Brook and bounded by the Northern and Southern Warkworth Lease boundary lines and bounded to the East by Wallaby Scrub Road, but excluding the NDA1 non disturbed area and Saddleback Ridges. This includes the Habitat Management Area of the Warkworth 2002 Approvals.

Zone 3 RAAF Airfield Site at the corner on Putty Road, including NDA1 zone, and to act as the Shop Front to the Heritage Park , Museum and Light Plane Airfield. Also access to the Zone 2 Bora Grounds and Saddleback Ridge would be restricted access controlled by the Wonnarua Traditional Owners via their Zone 3 facilities. This could also include Mining Heritage Museums and Tourist facilities based on designs available in the National Archives, particularly if funded by the Mining companies in the Hunter Valley.

Zone 4 Portion East of Wallaby Scrub Road including the retained Saddleback Ridges across the width of the Mining Lease, and could include the contrasting rehabilitated land further to the East.(Attachment 1)

Zone 5 Portion along the Mountain Ranges West from the Wollombi Brook and adjoining the

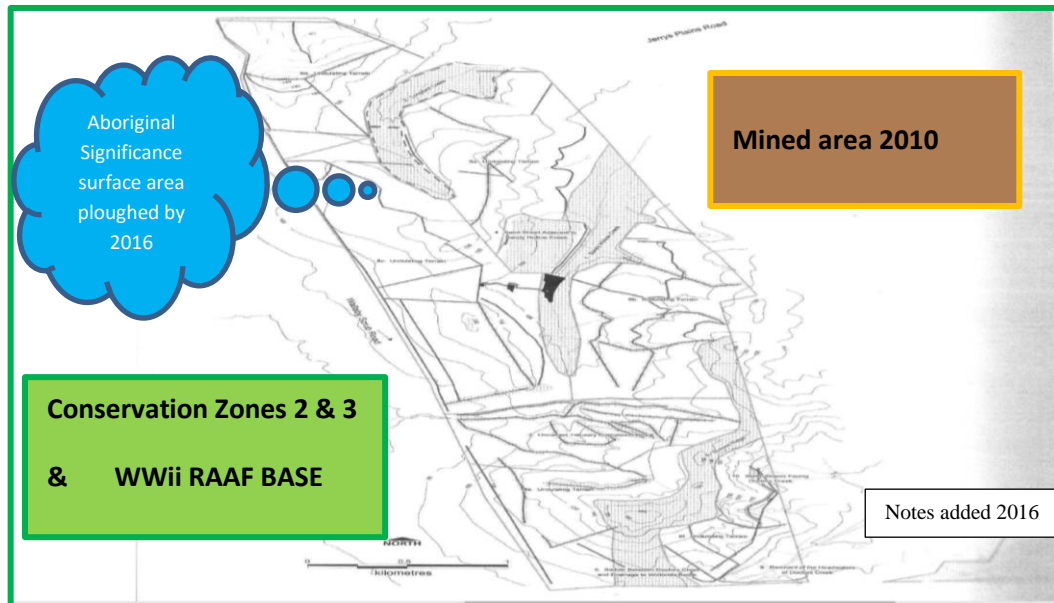
Wollimi National Park including the Bulga Village Environs and small business area to the south, and bounded by Zone 1 to the north. The Bulga Pass Colonial overland route to the Hunter Valley is a feature of this zone.

Zone 6 Portion to the East of the Putty Road to include part of the Bulga Underground Mine Lease and bearing East to Charlton Road back to the Putty Road.

This pending modified 2002 application for the destruction of the Ridges and sandy creek areas has been dealt a blow by a combination of the Land Shapes, contours and Habitat Aboriginal Cultural Significance not fully understood or adequately catered for, together with the growing large number of Aboriginal artefacts recorded so far. This places the Warkworth Lease area now in Doubt for Open Cut Mining; namely, that portion East of Wallaby Scrub Road which is characterised by Sand Ridge country of Sandy Hollow Creek, Longford Creek, Doctors creek and the Saddleback Ridge area as outlined in the 2002 Proposal Figure 5.

Besides the Unique Aboriginal Significance of all this remaining unmined Warkworth Lease Land, this same area also has Significant Colonial Heritage relating to Colonial Settlements including at the confluence of the Wollombi Brook and the Hunter River, Warkworth, Maison Dieu, and areas on the Hunter River to the East at Mt Thorley. In the past these aspects have apparently gained little or no recognition in the decision making process regarding Open Cut Mining in this area; rather decisions are made in "*a broader context relating to the socio-cultural wellbeing of their community*". (Volume 3 Annex F Section

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Mc Cardle 2008b,67 appears to agree with the proposition that there is clear evidence of distinct areas of occupation and travel along Longford, Sandy Hollow and Doctors Creeks, located on the Saddleback Ridges all of which are situated between the Hunter River and the Wollombi Brook. This establishes that all of the Warkworth Lease from the Wollombi Brook in the West, and East to the Saddleback Ridges of around 4 Kilometres, and a further 5 Kilometres to the East on the Hunter River, while the Wollombi Brook skirts around the Lease to the North where it flows into the Hunter River encircling this land area and providing a Brook and River path from West to East of the Warkworth Lease Land. These distances are all within a days activities.

The other Proposition is the variation of the use of this land during the cold winters and the hot summers. Water, open grasslands, and mixed Habitat, saddleback ridges enjoying the North Easterly afternoon sea breezes is an idyllic setting, with animals coming down to the waters edge in the late afternoon from the Mountain Forests within a kilometre to the West of Wollombi Brook. The Winter story is likely to be different with the Proposition that Aboriginals would be looking for shelter from the Cold Westerly and South Easterly winds on one hand, and North and East facing areas that are wind protected and catch the early morning Sun for warmth. Such a sheltered valley protected by rocky mountain forest peaks lies directly west of the Bora Grounds. The Eastern Side of the Saddleback Ridges and the Wollombi National Park Mountain Facing Peaks just West of the Wollombi Brook and North of the Bulga Village would be idyllic for winter protection and also provide a clear view of the Brook and Plains and Ridges to the East in the distance.

Matthews in 1895 recorded a study of rock art sites at Bulga Creek verifying the significance of the Mountain Rocky Peaks. The search for Occupational presence in these Peaks has not had the significantly greater study intensity that has been concentrated on Mining Leases nearby. For a balanced understanding this Research of the Rocky Peaks crevices in Zone 5 on Plan 1 needs to be undertaken.

One puzzling omission is the usual Aboriginal camping site fires or "Middens" characterised by burnt artefacts and mounds resulting from years of continued occupation, with only references to open camp sites (characterised archaeologically by stone artefact scatters and isolated stone artefacts) and occasional scarred trees. The answer could be that rather than a centralised camping site that there was a somewhat uniform distribution across a larger area, virtually the entire Warkworth Lease site.

All things being considered, the extent of Aboriginal occupation is expected to embrace virtually the entire Warkworth Mining Lease from the Wollombi Brook around to the Hunter River, and include the Rocky Mountain Ridges adjoining to the Wollombi National Park to the West. The Aboriginal numbers over the period of "Residence on these Traditional Lands over the Centuries" is expected to be reflected by what was discarded or lost in the heat of the battle or hunt, and remains today after disturbances by Colonial Settlement Agricultural activities and Floods over this land.

Bulga Ancestral Culture Implementation Plan

The **Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre Implementation Plan** has its initial focus on Colonial Cultural Heritage as past down to Descendants of the Early Colonial Settler Families, some who retain a family lineage to this Cockfighter Valley area.

Three Implementation Phases are outlined here; the first to coincide with the 200 Year anniversary of the John Howe's Exploration party entering via the Bulga Track and reaching the "River Hunter" in March 1820, where today the Howe Monument is located on the Whittingham Plains on New England Highway opposite Racecourse Lane.

Phase 1 Pioneer Culture 1800 to 1850

2 Years

Plan involves the establishment of the Bulga Culture Centre at the Heritage Bulga School (now miss-named as Mt Leonards School)

Open within one year in conjunction with Cockfighter Tavern to cater for Snacks and Light Meals for the 200 Year Bulga Heritage Festival.

Establish List and References of Colonial Homesteads, Dynasties, Photos, Maps, Private and Government Collections pertaining to Hunter Valley.

Phase 2 Establish Cockfighter's Valley Precinct

2 -5 Years

Plan for and establish the Bulga Culture Precinct as an adjunct to the Yengo and Wollomi National and State Forested areas to connect the Cockfighter Valley Precinct; encompassing Broke, Vere, Fordwich, Milbrodale, Bulga, Wambo, Warkworth through to Jerry's Plains.

Establish and Plan the Cockfighter Valley Precinct which encompasses the Warkworth Conservation Area including the Bulga RAAF Base extended cross site and retention of Great north Road in the final configuration at Mine Surface Closure.

Identify and prepare Composite Land Maps that identify the land areas as Biodiversity offsets of preserved lease areas to be handed back as Public Land .

Plan the Successive Culture Generations from Pioneer to Colonial Settlements onwards to 1900.

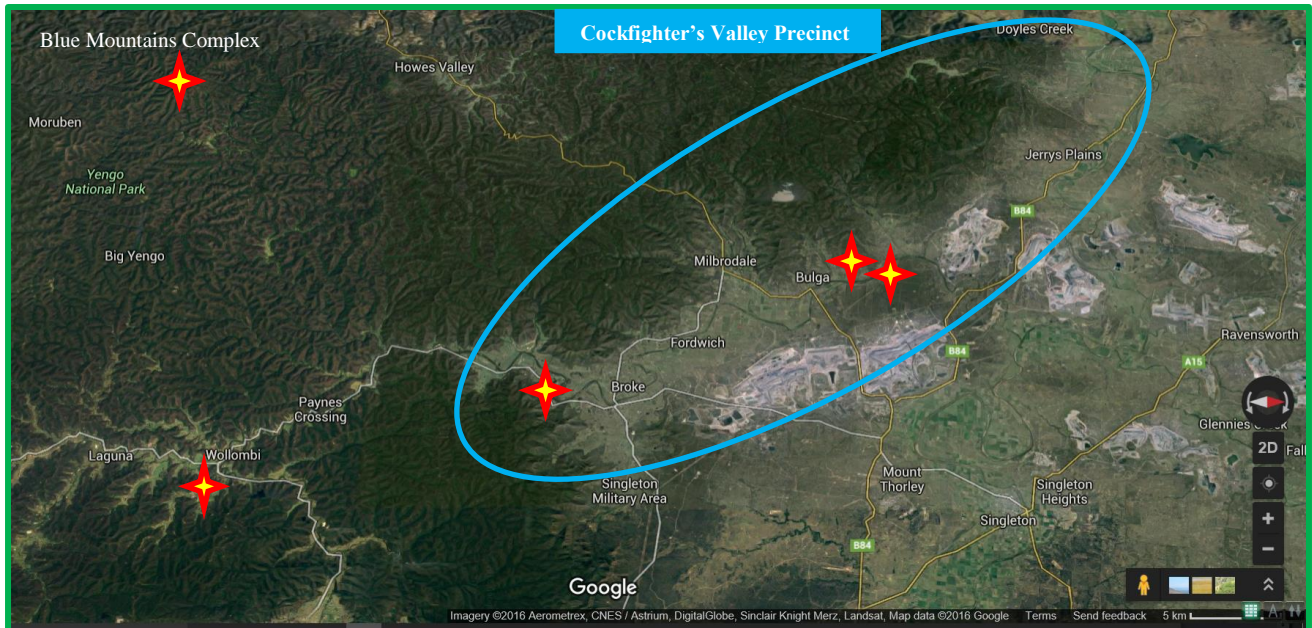
Phase 3 Culture Generations

5 -20 Years

Plan the transfer of All Mining Conservation and Biodiversity Areas into the Cockfighters Valley Princinct for Community Functions etc.

Cockfighter's Valley Precinct

The establishment of “The Cockfighter’s Valley Precinct” is seen very much an Adjunct to the Blue Mountains series of National and State Parks, and is seen as an integral Heritage Entity; being a natural extension focusing upon Ancestral Culture of Aboriginal, Convict, Explorers, Pioneer Settlers, and the Colonial Settlement over the 100 Years from 1800 when the survival of the Colony was under threat particularly from Drought and reliance upon overseas Shipping for Supplies.



Topographically the “Blue Mountains” as they were referred to in the 1820’s to the North West of the Colony at Sydney Cove seemed an impenetrable barrier at the time until “Aboriginal Guides” exposed that paths were known to the local Tribes of these areas.

Clearly the separation of distance alone establishes that the Aboriginals who Inhabited the Baiame Cave and Bora Ceremonial Areas on the Wollombi Brook were at least Custodians of these Lands, and somehow descendants of Wollombi Valley Aboriginals upstream of the Wollombi Brook.

In any case the Mountains, protected North facing Valleys, Rocky cliffs Shelters and Caves, and descending onto the Glassy Plains and beyond the Wollombi Brook leading to the Hunter River establishes the Aboriginal Significance of these lands; as Artefacts, Grinding Groves, Scar Trees, now testify all across these areas. ✨

“The Cockfighter’s Valley Precinct” area illustrated integrates the Aboriginal Significance with the Colonial Pioneer, Early Settlers and Convict significance across this area. The connectivity to both the Wollombi Valley and the Howes Valley later on by 1829 serves as the conduit to the Liverpool Plains Settlements and beyond.

Separately, and with little recordings of Aboriginal Habitation, “Saint Patricks Plains further North on the Hunter River” at Whittingham saw Colonial Settlement turn mainly to Agricultural Pursuits on larger Allotments Estates, and as Settlers ventured further North up the Valley the Hunter River Crossing at Singleton by 1828 was the more direct Track from Wallis Plains and Shipping on the Coast to the South East.

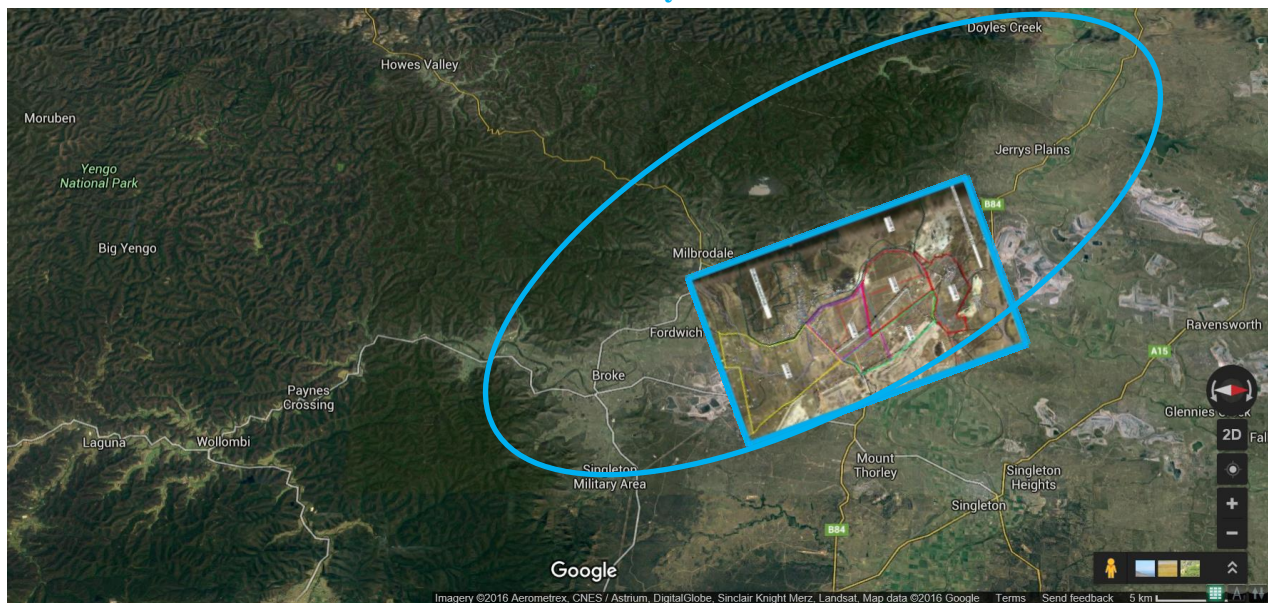
Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

The connectivity between The Colony, Cow Pastures, Windsor, Cockfighter's Creek, Saint Patricks Plains, Wallis Plains, King's Town as Explored by John Howe's Party in March 1820 established for the Early Colony Grassy Plains with flowing Rivers and Streams that released the Colony from the stranglehold of the Mountains Ranges, Gorges, and seemingly endless Forests that trapped Sydney on the Eastern Seaboard. This is illustrated below to highlight the importance of the developing Culture in the "Cockfighter's Valley Precinct" in the early days of the Colonial Settlement; where Aboriginal Culture and Colonial Settlers Cultures shared these lands.

Few reports suggest anything other than mutual acceptance at Cockfighter's Creek.

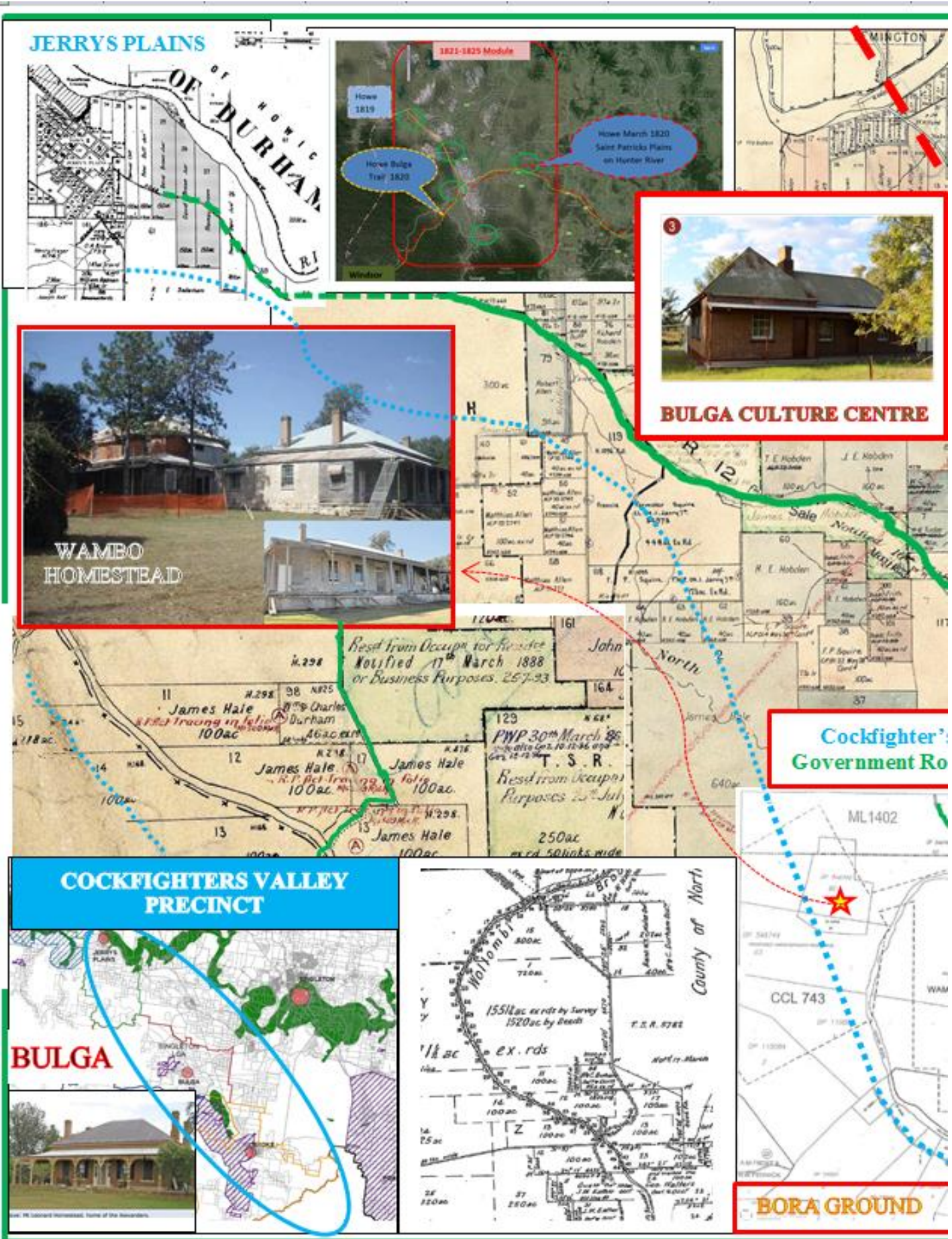


Comparison of Satellite Google Image 2016 with inlay image of 2010 Wonnarua and Hunter Valley Conservation Park Plan 1

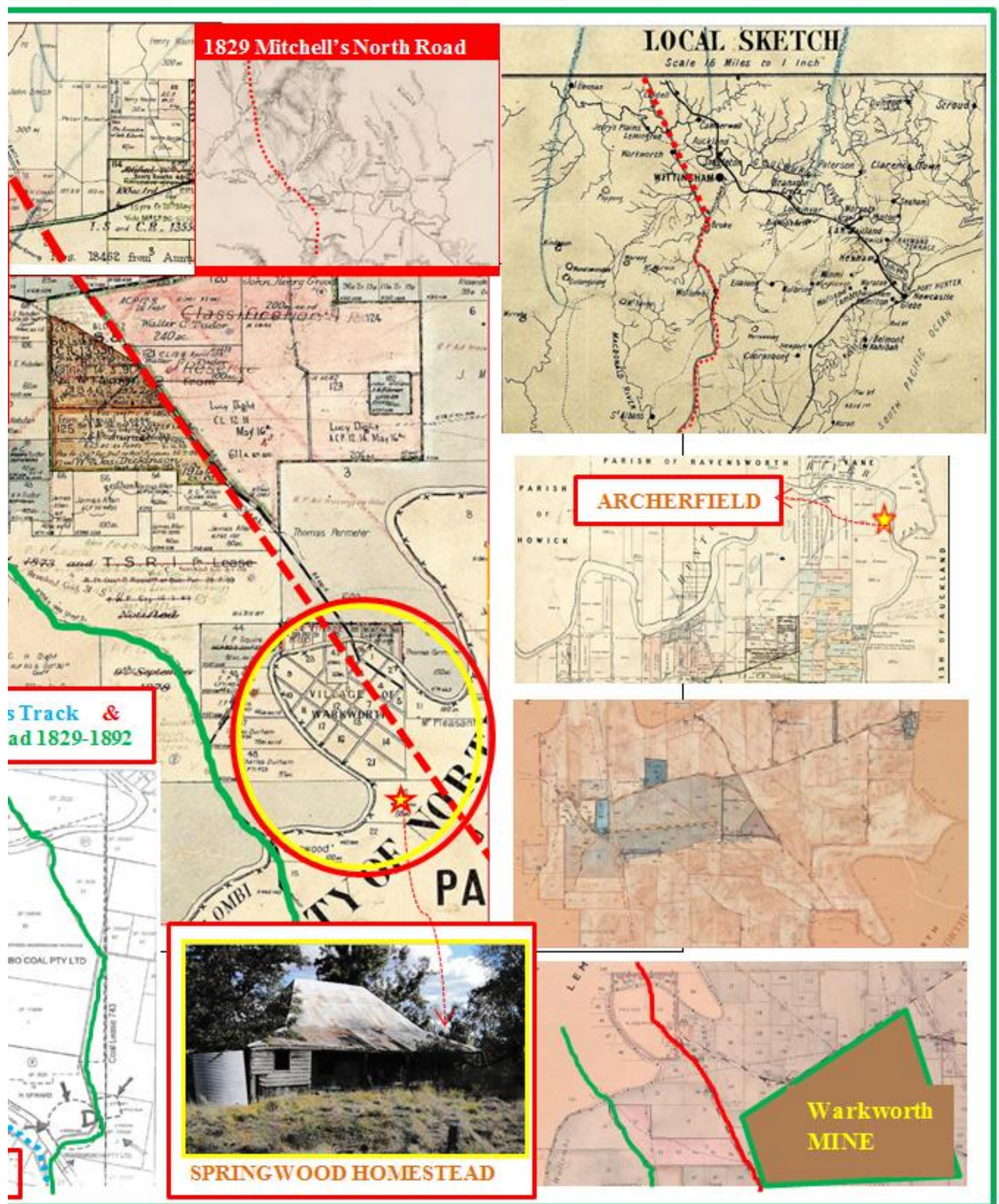


Connectivity to "Blue Mountains, Linkage to Wollombi Valley and Howes Valley

"The Cockfighter's Valley Precinct" outlined entails the Conservation Park Plan 1 as the centrepiece with Bulga, Wambo and Hunter Valley Operations Mines Conservation Areas to be added.



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

In those days of Horse or Bullock travel times, the remoteness of Patricks Plains from both Sydney and Wallis Plains meant the Colonial Settlement Culture took on a somewhat isolated and independent characteristic, apparently influenced to some extent by the Aboriginal inhabitants of the land the Settlers resided upon, as well as the ongoing influence of Convicts allocated throughout the region as the King's Town, Coal River Penal Settlement was opened up to farming in 1822.

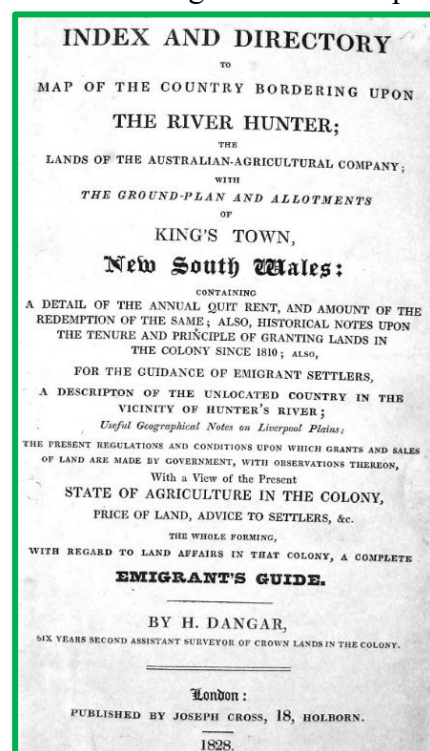
From 1810, convicts were seen as a source of labour to advance and develop the British colony. Convict labour was used to develop the public facilities of the colonies – roads, causeways, bridges, courthouses and hospitals. Convicts also worked for free settlers and small land holders. The discipline of rural labour was seen to be the best chance of reform. This view was adopted by Commissioner Bigge in a series of reports for the British Government published in 1822-23.

Convicts formed the majority of the colony's population for the first few decades from 1788, and by 1821 there was a growing number of freed convicts who were appointed to positions of trust and responsibility as well as being granted land.

The assignment of convicts to private employers was expanded in the 1820s and 1830s, the period when most Convicts were sent to the colonies, and this became the major form of employment. The Convict legacy no double remains imbedded in the Ancestral Culture of Saint Patricks Plains.

Breaking free of these Mountains and their Exploration during the 1800's, soon saw the prominence of Surveyors of Roads and "Free Settler Land Grants" and Allotments in the newly found Grassy Plains. While Bathurst Lands were opened in 1813-1815, Saint Patricks Plains by 1820 on the "River Hunter" was just north of the Colony and West up the River from Wallis Plains and Coal River (Newcastle) on the East Coast. Soon the focus changed from Paths to Tracks to Roads.

Not only could Saint Patricks Plains be reached overland from Windsor and Wallis Plains, the "River Hunter" provided boat access at least some 90 miles of River Plains on the Williams, Paterson and Hunter River and to beyond Scone by 1821. Subsequent Settler Grant Allotments Surveyed by Henry Dangar 1821-1825 were planned for River access frontages, without Roads, but including Church and School Estates. All other lands were "Crown Lands". "Unallocated Land was listed under "The Lands of the Australian Agricultural Company".



Paths, Tracks, Rivers, Roads, & Settlements

1788-1810 Paths

Colonial success in breaking free of the Blue Mountains that encircled the Sydney Cove Colony into the grassy Plains and Rivers beyond owed much to the realisation that “The Aboriginal Inhabitants of these lands” moved freely on **Paths** known to them alone.

Recently the extent of Aboriginal movement and Cultural significance surfaced in 2003 as the Wollomai National Park Eagle’s Reach Cave art revealed “a staggering 1200 images, representing at least 25 species of animals, and even some composite beings; half animal, half human. There were several different styles of art, which in itself was unusual, but It tells us that people were visiting that place again and again, and leaving their marks of identity behind... here people were undertaking physically demanding journeys to go back and to leave more art behind..... There was also up to 11 layers of art, one on top of the other which is almost unheard of. The Wollemi is a very special place.... It's the sort of place that I refer to as a junction, a meeting place where different groups came together and at the same time or at different times left their marks of identity, their special symbols behind”. (Catalyst TV 10/10/2003)

Since then, dozens of unrecorded rock art sites, animals, multiple figures, have been since found, suggesting that a **Traditional Aboriginal Travel Route** (possibly a Dreaming track) ran east-west across Wollemi National Park. Relatively high density of sites comprising cave art and rock engravings of at least 40 figures, a rock platform 100 metres by 50 metres covered in engravings, including many spiritual beings in multiple remote locations in the Wollemi.

Not surprising then that reports amongst Convicts by James Wilson around Convict Rebellion time 1803 who lived for a time with local Aboriginals was of grassy Plains to the West beyond these Blue Mountains. The **Rivers** and creeks and Gullies were traced inland from the Coast without success until in “1813, [Gregory Blaxland](#), [William Lawson](#) and [William Wentworth](#) succeeded in crossing the formidable barrier of forested gulleys and sheer cliffs presented by the [Blue Mountains](#), west of Sydney, by following the ridges instead of looking for a route through the valleys. At [Mount Blaxland](#) they looked out over “enough grass to support the stock of the colony for thirty years”, and expansion of the British settlement into the interior could begin”.^[22]

1810-1825 Tracks

Descending to these Bathurst Plains was a formidable challenge, and it was during the search for a better way that John Howe in 1820 established the **Bulgar Track** as the Gateway to the Hunter Valley. On his return to Windsor John Howe marked the Bulgar Track.

Two other tracks were identified between Wallis Plains, one from Colo to Lake Macquarie (Persons Track), and the second from Wisemans ferry the **Simpson Track** and later being known as Parsons Road.

Late in 1821 the Rev. G. A. Middleton travelled overland to the Hunter settlement from the Hawkesbury, with 173 head of cattle. ‘Mr John Blaxland, marked the trees’ that they had come, a roundabout route which became known as Parsons Road. Following this event (18 December 1821) Major Morisset, Commandant at Newcastle,²⁷¹ reported a long list of runaways, and expressed the hope that “His Excellency would not permit any more cattle to be brought by that road.” He complained that “Twelve of them went off in a body for the Parson's Road, as it is now called.” To follow the trail blazed by Blaxland.²⁷²

Henry Dangar who had surveyed Land Allotments with **River** frontages and no roads describe in 1828 below that Tracks by frequent use established the Colonial Tracks which in time prevailed as the early Roads.

With respect to that part of the colony immediately under my consideration, General Darling appears to have viewed the necessity and policy of employing convict labour in the making of roads, in the same light as his predecessors ; and has recently directed the labour of upwards of 100 men, under able managers, to the opening of a direct carriage tract, (also crossing the Blue Mountain range,) from Sydney into the Hunter's river country, which is already considerably advanced ; and which there is every probability of being made complete in the next eighteen months.* The neces-

sity, however, for making roads in those parts of the colony under settlement, is not urgent, the country generally being so open, and presenting so few difficulties, that it seldom happens but that a loaded carriage can be taken to any required point. The method adopted in first pursuing a route into any distant country is this :—The first settler, or party of settlers, proceeding with their men, teams, and baggage into any new and distant country, having, as is usual, before made a journey to such, and having obtained every information the Crown surveyors of the district can give, he or they, on entering upon the journey, keep two or three men following the carts, and with axes mark the trees, by fractures in the bark, denoting the route the carriages pursue. This done, the settler's men can proceed back with the teams, and get up their second loadings without any apprehension of losing the road ; and thus, in a short period, the tract is so beaten, (some improvements to the right and left being occasionally made,) as to be designated the road ; and is frequently used as such, without any repair, for a

* Since leaving the Colony, I understand this road, (as a horse and cattle road,) is proceeding with great activity.

“A horseman who travelled from Sydney to [Patrick's Plains](#) in 1827 along the line of road in progress took three days for the journey – the first day to Wiseman's Ferry - 49 miles (79 km). The second day to 'the head of the Wollombi' (about 12 mi (19 km) south of the future Wollombi village reserve) - 40 mi (64 km), and the third day to Patrick's Plains - 36 mi (58 km), made a total of 125 mi (201 km).”^[6]

“By the early 1840s, the inns operating at intervals along the Great North Road and its branch toward Maitland were (Solomon) Wiseman's at the Ferry, (Richard) Wiseman's Inn at the head of the Wollombi Valley (from 1827), Traveller's Test at Laguna (1835), [Governor Gipps](#) at Wollombi (1840), Rising Sun at Millfield (1840s) and the Cock Inn on Cockfighter Creek (c1840s).”^[6]

1820-1840 Tracks become Colonial Roads

In the intervening period 1813 to 1822 Exploration to the west of the Blue Mountains identified the extent and “Occupancy of these Regions” and the Grassy Plains and Rivers to the South, West and North West of Sydney Cove.

Allan Cunningham, botanist and explorer, approached the Goulburn River and Pages River, starting from Bathurst (1822-1823).

In 1824 Henry Dangar then residing at Neotsfield in the Wittingham Parish at Patricks Plains explored to the north, locating the **Doughboy Hollow Track** over Great Dividing Range, and crossing onto the Liverpool Plains.

Alan Cunningham, the Government Botanist, recorded a journey to Hunter's River from March 29th 1825 to May 31st 1825. In a series of explorations between 1823 and 1827 he discovered **Pandora's Pass** and the Darling Downs, explored the Liverpool Plains and made many other valuable discoveries.

The two key passes into the Liverpool Plains from Patricks Plains were **Pandoras Pass** near Coolah and **Doughboy Hollow** immediately north of Murrurundi, further inspiring Major Mitchell Great North Road to open the Continent for Colonial Settlements to the North.

Explorer Ludwig Leichhardt in 1843 was resident with Robert and Helenus Scott at “Glendon” on the Hunter River at Patrick Plains studying Flora and Fauna in the area before moving north to explore the uncharted regions of the Top end of “Victoria Settlement, Port Essington on the Cobourg Peninsular”. **Add Parish property for Glendon**

Leichhardt sailed from London in October 1841 in the *Sir Edward Paget* and arrived in Sydney on 14 February 1842. His expressed intention was to explore the inland of Australia. For six months he studied the Sydney district; he gave some lectures on its geology and botany. He hoped that **Governor Gipps** would establish a museum as a national institution and appoint him curator, or would appoint him director of the Botanical Garden, but he was not given any official position.

Australia's first museum: In 1827, Governor Darling on the recommendation of Macleay, allocated £200 to the establishment and running of a museum, the *Colonial Museum*, which was subsequently renamed the Australian Museum in June 1836.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

In September 1842 Leichhardt went to the Hunter River valley where he studied the geology, flora and fauna, and observed methods of farming and viticulture. Overland journeys undertaken alone between Newcastle and the Moreton Bay District occupied 1843 and early 1844. From May to July 1844 Leichhardt was in Sydney arranging his collections of plant and rock specimens and working upon the notes of his observations of the geology of the areas he had visited. He had hoped to accompany an overland expedition from Sydney to Port Essington which the Legislative Council had recommended and the surveyor-general, **Sir Thomas Mitchell**, was willing to lead. Governor Gipps, however, refused to sanction 'an expedition of so hazardous and expensive a nature, without the knowledge and consent' of the Colonial Office. Leichhardt, irked by the delay and the uncertainty that an expedition financed by the government would be approved, decided himself, with the aid of private subscription, to lead an expedition of volunteers. Six including Leichhardt sailed from Sydney on 13 August 1844. In the Moreton Bay District four more joined the expedition, which left Jimbour, the farthest outpost of settlement on the Darling Downs, on 1 October. Two of the party turned back and on 28 June 1845 **John Gilbert** was killed in an attack on Leichhardt's camp by Aborigines. The remaining seven reached Port Essington on 17 December 1845, completing an overland journey of nearly 3000 miles (4828 km).

Believing himself again 'alone in the field' and confident that he could solve many problems about central Australia if he could skirt the northern limit of the desert he set out from the Condamine River in March 1848. By 3 April he reached McPherson's station, Cogoon, on the Darling Downs. After moving inland from Cogoon the expedition disappeared and no evidence showing conclusively what happened to it has been found.

Before Leichhardt's disappearance his contemporaries valued his work highly: in April 1847 the Geographical Society, Paris, divided the annual prize for the most important geographic discovery between Leichhardt and Rochet d'Héricourt, and on 24 May the Royal Geographical Society, London, awarded him its Patron's medal as recognition of 'the increased knowledge of the great continent of Australia' gained by his Moreton Bay-Port Essington journey. Prussia recognized this achievement by the king's pardon for having failed to return to Prussia when due to serve a period of compulsory military training. Geologists and botanists valued Leichhardt's collections of specimens and the records of his observations which, in an age accustomed to extravagant travellers' tales, were remarkable for their restraint and accuracy; he believed that as long as the traveller was truthful the scientist at home would be thankful to him. Leichhardt was a most dedicated servant of science and from this very dedication sprang a singleness of purpose which shaped his life, and made him somewhat ruthlessly regardless of all but his research.

Leichhardt left records of his observations in Australia from 1842 to 1848 in manuscript diaries, letters, notebooks, sketch-books, maps, and in his published works. (**Trace the Hunter Valley info**)

These Tracks North of Sydney Cove opened the way for the Colonial Settlements to North West and all the way to Timor Sea then envisaged by Governor at Darwin Settlement. Interestingly, Ludwig who was known to reside at Patrick Plains "Glendon ... Homestead in 1825 downstream from Neotsfield reported to arrive at

Major Mitchell was appointed in 18xx to formalise the lands and plan colony following years of bbbbbb Surveyor general 18xx -1814r Since 1788 the New South Wales Colony was hemmed in on the Eastern Seaboard surrounded by dense forested Mountains, Gorges, Rocky Cliffs and Valleys. Drought and the reliance upon Supplies by Ships from overseas in Governor Macquarie's, period of the Penal Settlement.

Roads in 1845

Patrick's Plains in a drought from 1840 to 1845 the Bulga area properties fronted Cockfighters Creek with large waterholes. "At that time no bridge existed at Bulga and people wishing to proceed to Singleton had to journey north to the Village of Warkworth and thence to Singleton via Maison Dieu and Singleton Fords"

Bulga's first permanent Colonial Settlers were Thomas and Sarah Eather who came across the rugged mountain track from Windsor in 1826. Sarah and her infant son Thomas Jnr rode on the back of a bullock throughout the hundred mile trip.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

In 1846 the Clarke family settled at "Kingswalden", at Halstead's farm on the western bank of Cockfighters Creek between Adam Holmes's "Kirk's Farm" and William Durham's "Wambo Estate" as part of James Hale 1825 land Grant. Thomas Eather, William G Mc Alpin and William Clarke lived across the creek on Kegney's Hill. At this time there was a **narrow bush track** from Loders Farm to Singleton used by Mt Wagstaffe who conducted 1846-1858 the school built on Eaton's property close to the creek.

The arrival of James Clark's family arrival in Bulga in 1846 gives an insight of the Cockfighters Creek Culture at that time.

August 10th 1846 is a cold winters day. A lazy westerly wind drifts down the valley, chilled by late Coricudgy snow.

Two men stand at the edge of the Bulga road, hats pulled down, collars turned up to repel the biting wind. "Reminds me of the weather back home in Sterling", says one. "Better than the scorching heat of summer", says the other. "How has the dry weather affected your crops?", asks one. "I guess we'll get by until springtime", comes the reply, "providing we get water in the creek again, soon".

Suddenly a sound drifts over a crest of the road from the direction of Singleton. The creak of timber and the jingle of chains mixes with the clip-clop of hooves upon the gravelled track. A swaying wagon drawn by a team of eight lumbering bullocks with another eight tied behind, comes into view.

Seated on the wagon, holding a long bull whip is a gentleman in a well worn suit, a cabbage tree hat sitting firmly on his head. Beside him is a young woman dressed in dark frock and cape, a wide-brimmed white hat perches upon her head. Her clothing is covered in a fine layer of grey dust and she holds a baby in her arms. Three older children sit in the back of the wagon amongst tea boxes and large sea chests.

"Whoa there", commands the driver, and the wagon comes to a shuddering halt. "Good day, Sir", says one man at the roadside. "Good day to you", says the man on the wagon, "My name is James Clark, I'm taking lease of Halstead's block, down the road".

"Pleased to meet you", says the larger of the two bystanders, extending his hand in greeting, "I'm McAlpin and this is my neighbour, Thomas Eather". "Stock feed is more plentiful here than at Black Creek", says Clark, "I expect to make a good go of it here".

They yarn for a while, then, "Must keep moving along, gentlemen, so that we can unpack before nightfall". The wagon team lurches forward in a swirl of dust and disappears along the rutted track.

"They look like a hard working family", says McAlpin.

"They might well be", says Eather, "but in these harsh conditions I'll wager they'll not be around here come Christmas".

"We shall see", says McAlpin.

The Clarks of Bulga 150 Years on Cockfighter's Creek by Stewart Mitchell

All the Hotels and Stores along the newly opened **Roads** received their supplies by bullock teams transporting goods up over the Liverpool Plains, and cart wool and lard back to the boats, with goods always loaded and unloaded at Newcastle or Green Hills (Morpeth) by Convict Labour. The arrival of James Clark's family arrival in Bulga in 1846 gives an insight of the Cockfighters Creek Culture at that time.

Necessity sometimes meant Father and seven year old son walking two hundred miles to Bulga in the heat of the late spring 1847, not unusual for the Aborigines. The Aboriginal Colonial Culture was emerging in more ways than one.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

James Clarks Snr and Eliza in a cross-writing letter by James Swales gives an insight into the Bulga Culture existing during 1850;

*“Your questions with regard to our mode of travelling, when you speak of highways and toll bars you must banish all these things from your mind when set foot on Australia... ..i will take you out from Maitland, the **Surveyed Government Line of Road** from Maitland towards the interior of the Country is fallen and cleared for about 40 miles, after which the road for the distance of 500 miles out is still in the same state as it was when the first teams groaped their way through the forest from one station to a farther one out and another one coming on their tracks push out past him and form another station and so on and so on that in time the main throughfare becomes a **Beaten Track** over Rivers, Gullies, Creeks, Ridges, and Mountains and if a man does not fancy the track that is already made he can make one for himself but you will say, how do you di in the wet weather, why simply this, either put on plenty of bullocks and pull through it or else turn out your bullocks and lat too,I have had to go out and kill Wallaby, a species of Kangaroo and stew them when we have run out of both flour, tea and sugar but I always carry guns and manage to live very well in the Bush,.....directions ...main track to such water then bear left or right hand, foot of mountain on left and look out for the **Marked Tree Line**”..*

“We live quite near the Bulga Mountains, we have also had visit of a Tribe of blacks. King Terry and his Tribe, in all about 20 they are very quiet, good natured people down here they talk broken English, they are very amusing indeed. They camp close beside us, and I have plenty of their company – King getting me wood and watter. All they want for their labour in return is something tp eat. They are fond of rambling about in the bush they live chiefly upon the opossum which they roast and eat without bread or salt or anything. They sometimes get Kangaroo but not often they are only to be found in the mountains and the opossum is everywhere to be found where there is trees and water they climb up the trees and cut them out of thhe holes in the limbs. They can tell the trees they are in by the feet marks on the bark”. (A Culture shift occurred by 1860 investigate?)

“I am glad to hear of poor old Grandfather thank God he is still alive and with Mother who is not able to comfort him. Gods help is sure to feist on the deeds to them who do their duty to their parents and my dear James behaved very kind to my old mother while she was alone and God will reward him for it. It is a great comfort when we have the means to make them happy in their old age and hopeit is not too much to wish that if God should spare us to become old that our children may nurse and comfort us in our old age”.

“James Swales was an intense lover of nature and knew a good deal about natural history and the Flora and Forna of the country. He would give native animals – wombats, flying squirrel, kangaroo, wallaby, gullawine (native cats) , platypus, possum, goanna and various species of snakes, birds and parrots; then skin, treat and stuff them for his very fine collection. He would case some specimens and send them off to a friend in England who in turn would pass them on to one of the British Museums for preservation. (investigate their whereabouts and contribution significance; also Elizabeth Collins handwritten Life in Bulga 1914)

Aboriginal stone tools and weapons have been found in large quantities in the Bulga area; many were collected from an old campsite on the ridge to the west of the junction of Hayes Creek and Cockfighters Creek, others have been ploughed up along the fertile river flats. Some of the tools were made of stone not common to this locality and were either traded or left behind by tribes from other regions. Many of these items were boxed and sent to the Australian Museum in Sydney in 1920's.

Photos around 1920 of circle of trees at Boro Ground also with Australian Museum ?

Significance of Mitchell's "Great North Road"

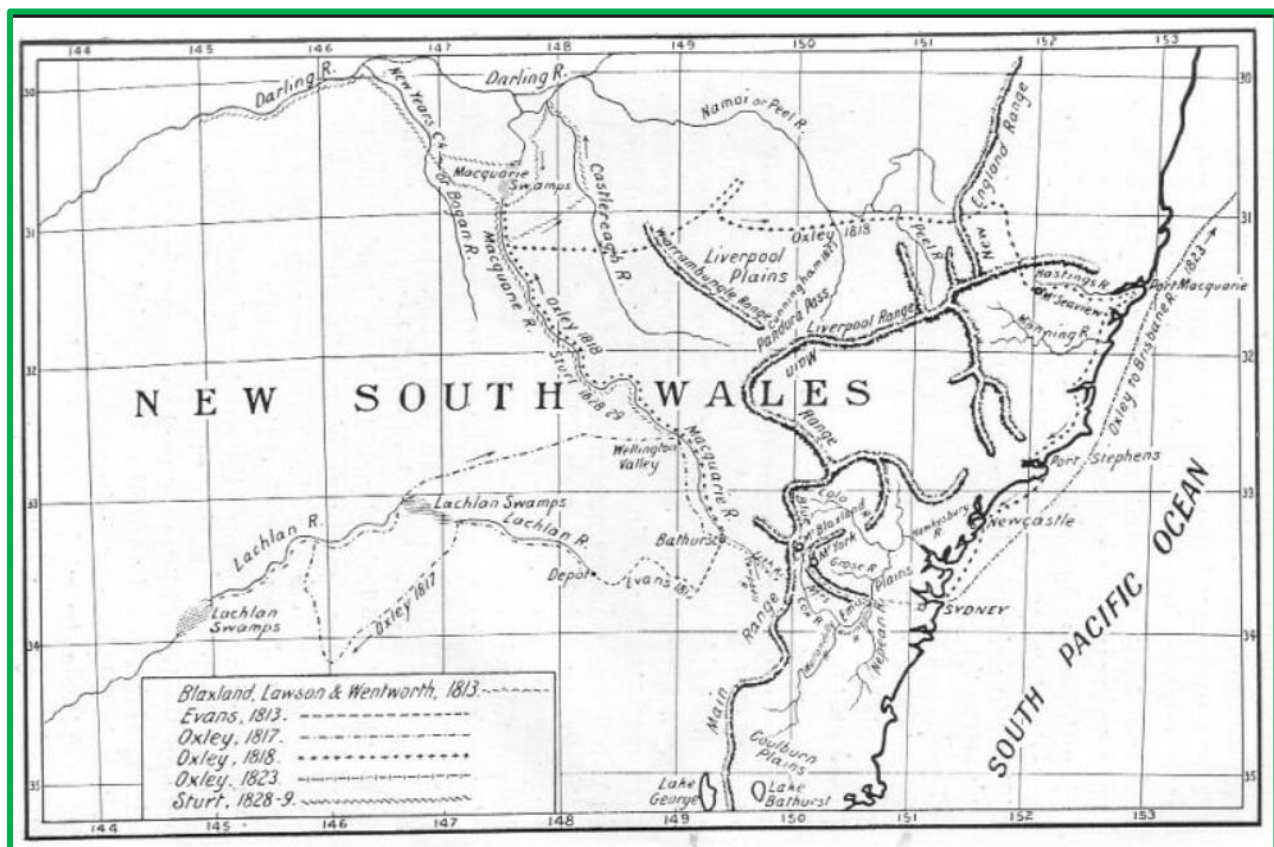
Since 1788 the New South Wales Colony was hemmed in on the Eastern Seaboard surrounded by dense forested Mountains, Gorges, Rocky Cliffs and Valleys. Drought and the reliance upon Supplies by Ships from overseas in Governor Macquarie's , period of Penal Settlement, changed in 1812 when Governors Brisbane favoured Convicts as equal to "Free Settlers" and Land Grants..

Establishing the Penal Settlement at Port Macquarie in 1812 was timely to handle the "Convict Rebellion" that occurred at Parramatta in 1803 when word past amongst them by James Wilson who was reporting he had ventured on Paths to the West onto open grassy plains while living with the Aborigines he had befriended.

In 1813, [Gregory Blaxland](#), [William Lawson](#) and [William Wentworth](#) succeeded in crossing the formidable barrier of forested gulleys and sheer cliffs presented by the [Blue Mountains](#), west of Sydney, by following the ridges instead of looking for a route through the valleys. At [Mount Blaxland](#) they looked out over "enough grass to support the stock of the colony for thirty years", and expansion of the British settlement into the interior could begin.^[22]

The official plan of the town of Bathurst, however, was not drawn up until 19 January 1833, when it was signed by Major T.L.Mitchell. At the river, a site for the Flagstaff is marked on the plan, presumably where the original flag was hoisted in May 1815 by Governor Macquarie.

The next phase of exploration focused upon the grassy plains, rivers and streams beyond the Blue Mountains, and by 1822 Major Mitchell entered the search for a Road Plan for the Colonial expansion. John Howe's Explorations and others in 1817 -1820 searched these "Blue Mountains" for an easy road asses to the Bathurst Plains and beyond.

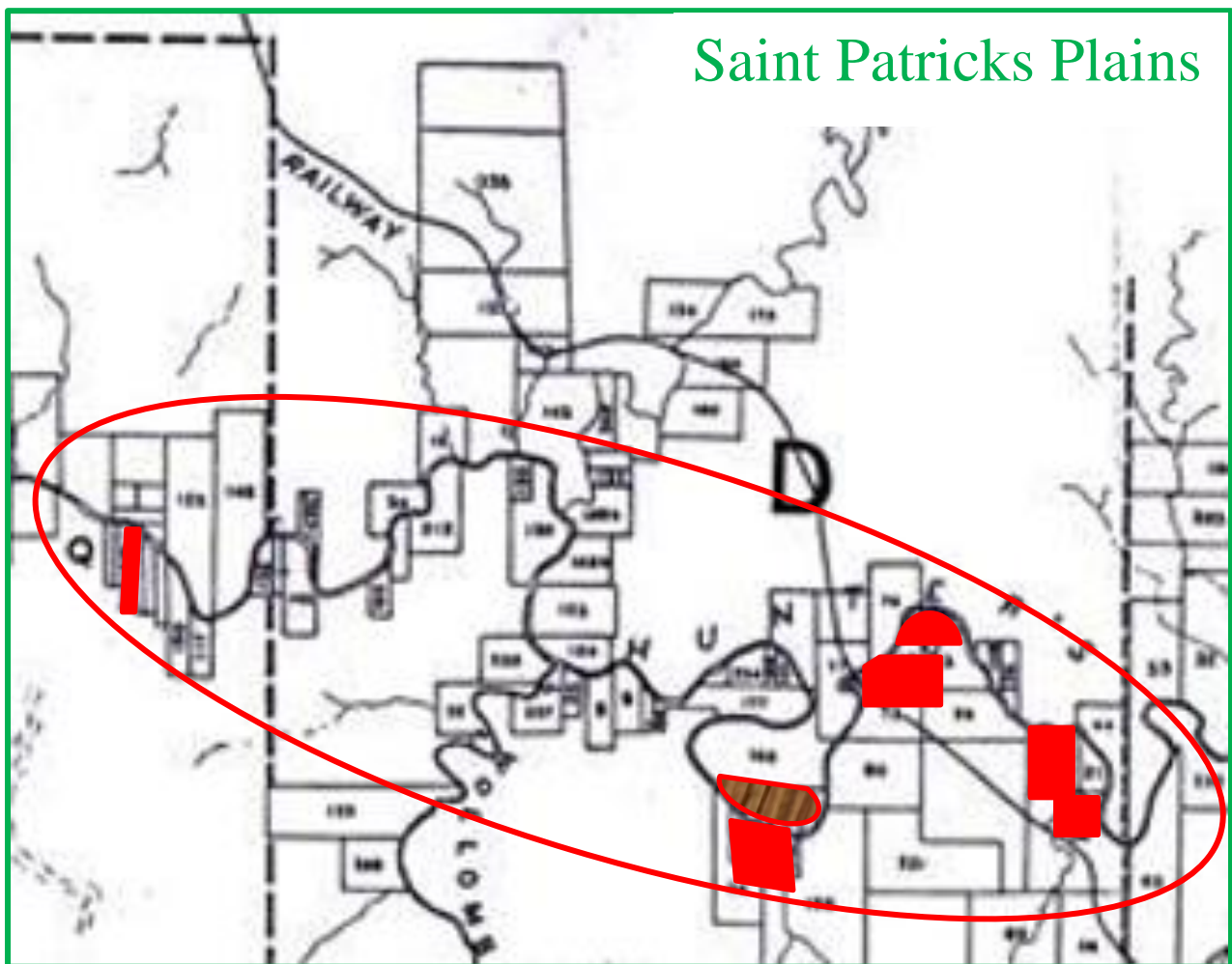


Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Governor Brisbane responds to Howe's Discovery of Saint Patricks Plains March 1820 and the River connection to Wallis Plains by dispatching Surveyor Henry Dangar in 1821 to Kings Town, Newcastle to Survey Settlement Allotments along and upstream of the Williams, Paterson and Hunter River; completing this in one year.

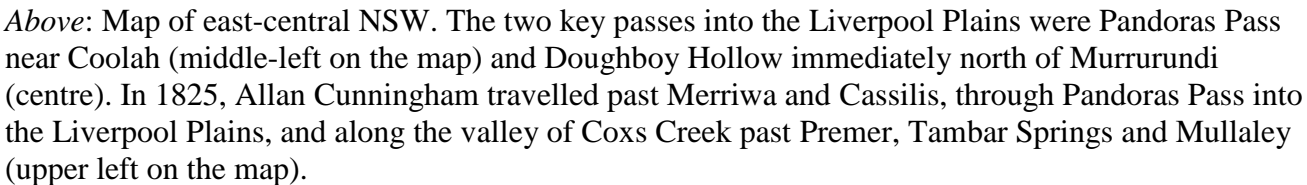
Late in 1821 the Rev. G. A. Middleton travelled overland to the Hunter settlement from the Hawkesbury, with 173 head of cattle. 'Mr John Blaxland, marked the trees' that they had come, a roundabout route which became known as Parsons Road. Following this event (18 December 1821) Major Morisset, Commandant at Newcastle,²⁷¹ reported a long list of runaways, and expressed the hope that "His Excellency would not permit any more cattle to be brought by that road." He complained that "Twelve of them went off in a body for the Parson's Road, as it is now called." To follow the trail blazed by Blaxland.²⁷²

The year 1822 dawned with Setters on foot roaming across the Wallis Plains with its suitability as a sea Port at "Green Hills" and with the close proximity to Sydney as a logical place for a "Sub Colony" as identified by Major Mitchell the Surveyor General. However the lure at the more isolated Saint Patricks Plains with its Bulgar Track from Windsor descending onto the Grassy Plains and with River Hunter passage to Wallis Plains for trade attracted Colonial Settlers to these Land Grants. Saint Patricks Plains emerged as "The Birthplace of the Hunter River" as illustrated 1821.



1821 "The Birthplace of the Hunter Valley"

Surveyor General Sir [Thomas Mitchell](#) conducted a series of expeditions from the 1830s to 'fill in the gaps' left by these previous expeditions. He was meticulous in seeking to record the original Aboriginal place names around the colony, for which reason the majority of place names to this day retain their Aboriginal titles.^[25]



individual Parish Church and School Estates of 1200 to 2500 acres; *however without Roads.*

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

[Major Thomas Mitchell](#) - Surveyor-General - formulated the idea of an inland route to open up transport to regions in northern NSW. [Heneage Finch](#), who later settled in Laguna, surveyed the route for the Great Northern Road via [Castle Hill](#), [Wisemans Ferry](#), [St Albans](#), Laguna and Wollombi.

At Wollombi, the road diverged toward Singleton and [Muswellbrook](#) to the north, and Cessnock and [Maitland](#) to the north east.

Hundreds of [convicts](#) began building the road from Castle Hill to Wollombi. One group was headquartered at Castle Hill where over 380 men were organised in seven road parties. They began work on the section of road south of the Hawkesbury. A second group, of 119 men, worked from Newcastle in two road parties, one between Newcastle and Wallis Plains (Maitland) and the other between Wallis Plains and Wollombi.^[6]

Road construction commenced in 1826 and was completed in 1831. Remnants such as stone culverts, bridges and retaining walls remain, particularly in the area between Wisemans Ferry and Wollombi, and are catalogued and cared for by the [The Convict Trail Project](#).

During the years before the GNR was commenced, only a few large land grants (1,000–2,000 acres (405–809 ha)) were allocated along Cockfighter's Creek or the lower Wollombi Brook, to [John Blaxland](#) and - Rodd at [Fordwich](#), Heneage Finch at Laguna and Thomas Crawford at [Congewai](#). Richard Wiseman received 640 acres (259 ha) near Wollombi. After 1830 the holdings in the Wollombi Valley were about 100 acres (40 ha).^[6]

Surveyor GB White surveyed the village reserve at Wollombi into sections and allotments in 1833.^[6]

A horseman who travelled from Sydney to [Patrick's Plains](#) in 1827 along the line of road in progress took three days for the journey – the first day to Wiseman's Ferry - 49 miles (79 km). The second day to 'the head of the Wollombi' (about 12 mi (19 km) south of the future Wollombi village reserve) - 40 mi (64 km), and the third day to Patrick's Plains - 36 mi (58 km), made a total of 125 mi (201 km).^[6]

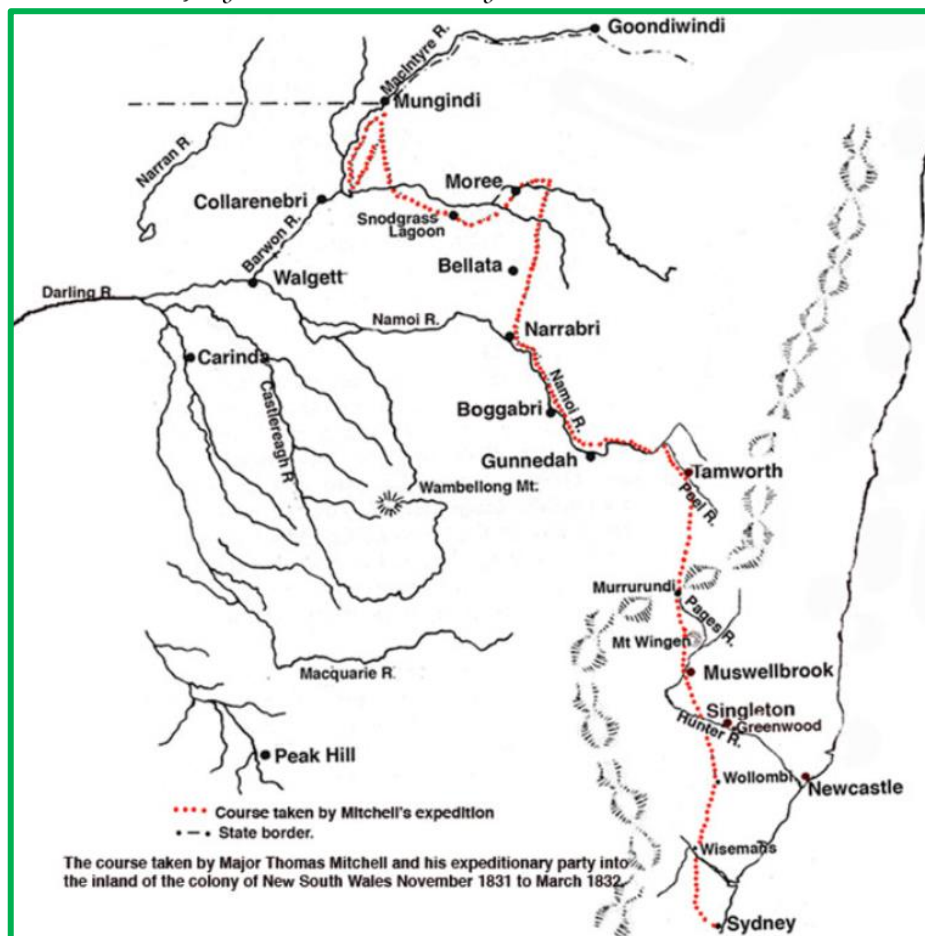
The settlement developed as a centre for the farming community and for travellers on the Great North Road. Then, on 12 June 1831, the steamship 'Sophie Jane' sailed from Sydney to the port of [Morpeth](#) on the [Hunter River](#) in eleven and a half hours. With the speed and carrying capacity of the ship far surpassing that of road transport to the Hunter region, the commercial significance of the Great Northern Road immediately diminished.

By the early 1840s, the inns operating at intervals along the Great North Road and its branch toward Maitland were (Solomon) Wiseman's at the Ferry, (Richard) Wiseman's Inn at the head of the Wollombi Valley (from 1827), Traveller's Test at Laguna (1835), [Governor Gipps](#) at Wollombi (1840), Rising Sun at Millfield (1840s) and the Cock Inn on Cockfighter Creek (c1840s).^[6]

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



General Plan of Progress of Roads showing proposed route between Broke and Warkworth, Sir Thomas Mitchell, July 1829 (State Library NSW a1480022)



Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell's Great North Road and Exploration 1831

Significance of Mitchell's "Great North Road"

Major Mitchell's redirection of the Surveyor Evans Road descent of the Blue Mountains in 1815 perhaps was instrumental in the formulation of the Plan for South, West and North roads Plan that established the significance of "Great North Road for the Cockfighters Valley Precinct.

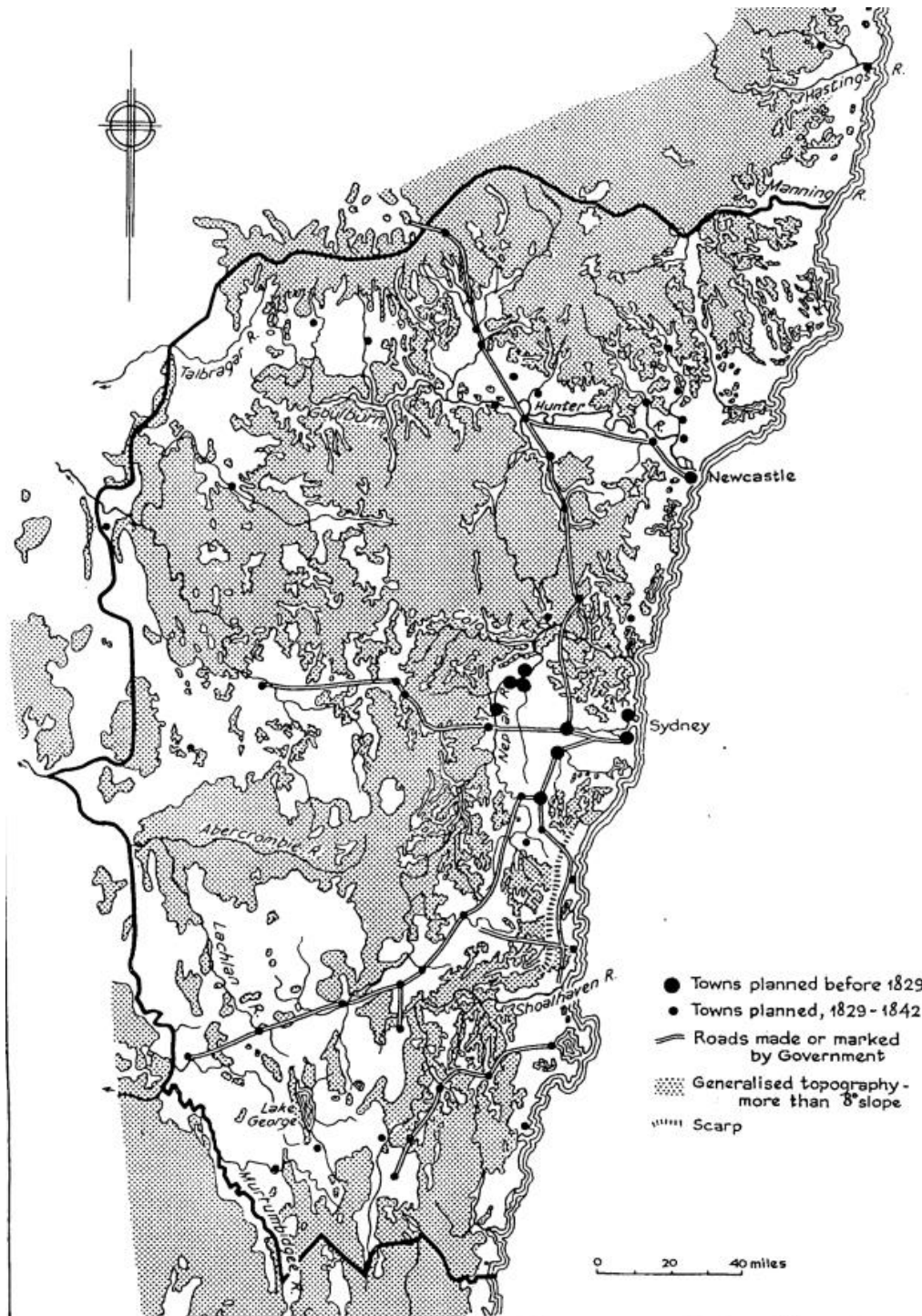


Fig.7.5

Location of towns planned by Government within the 'Limits of Location' up to 1842. From Denis Jeans, 'Town Planning in New South Wales 1829-1842', Australian Planning Institute Journal, vol 3 no 6, October 1965, p.188.

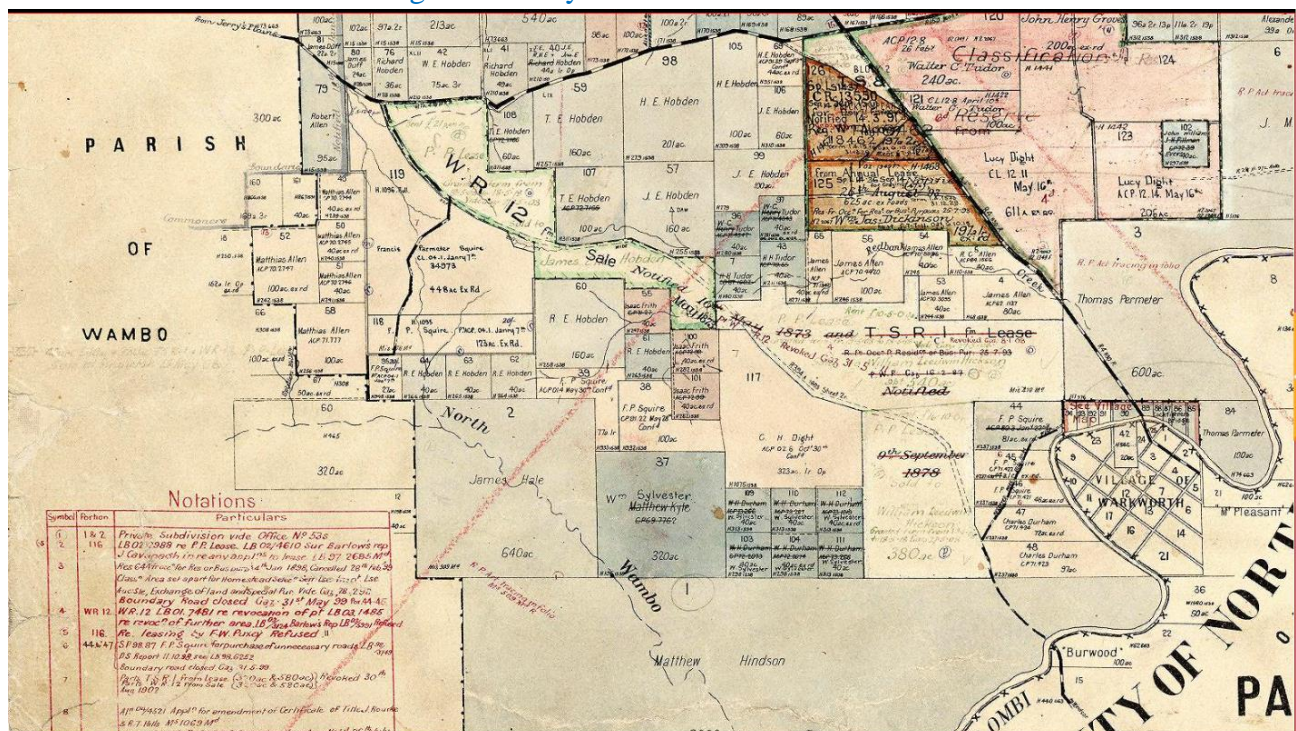
Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

As early as 1829 Major Mitchell's Plan for Towns along the Government Roads were well advanced with Plans of Towns at Maitland 1829, Port Macquarie 1831, Bathurst, Goulburn and Bungonia 1833, and Wollongong and Appin in 1834 (already Hume living at Appin Explored to the South West in 1814).

Likewise at Patricks Plains Tracks that provided direct access from the Bulgar Track on the West side of Cockfighter's Creek along to Jerrys Plains avoided crossing the creek as all Land Grants were River Frontages and not limiting land access in 1820 -1822.

By 1822 Cockfighter's Creek crossings for Settlers and their Cattle passing through to the Hunter River nearby and at Wittingham soon identified convenient solid crossings.

Understanding the Social interactions and Culture in this valley, Tracks, Roads and Paths are a significant contribution. In time some Tracks were surveyed as Government Roads; such as illustrated below for the Cockfighters Valley Precinct area



1892 map shows Path horses, Government Road which avoids Bora Ground (Surveys and Aerial Study required), Great North Road Mitchell's. Study of how these three influenced the Culture that developed Ancestral Culture. Major Mitchell's redirection of the Surveyor Evans Road descent of the Blue Mountains in 1815.

On 10 April 1826 the Free inhabitants of Hunter River, especially Patricks Plains petitioned Governor Darling for a new Road to Hunter Valley from Gregory Blaxland, John Blaxland JP, J Bowman, Helenus Scott, Arch. Bell Snr Powditch, Glennie, and list of persons who possessed land on Hunter River, including the following John Howe, Benjamin Singleton, George Loder, Phillip Thorley, David Maziere and William Bell. The response was on 17 April 1826 as "Refer to the Inspector of Roads and inform the Gentlemen of the Hunter River that the subject s of their Memorial will be immediately attended to". By 18

Cockfighters Valley Precinct Tracks and Roads

Roads

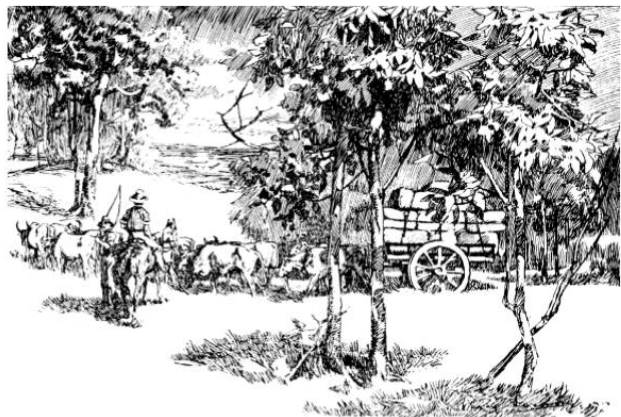
In contrast to the lower portions of the Hunter Region, the upper reaches of the region and most particularly the inland areas, relied solely on land transport.⁴² Essential links were those that provided access to the sea, to Sydney (via the Hawkesbury), and to the western and north-western districts of NSW (for pastoral expansion). The large estates tended to be the driving forces behind the development of the roadways as landowners sought more lands or connections between existing pastoral runs, as well as direct links to transport nodes (Newcastle) and markets.

The Bulga Road (now the Putty Road) and the road from Wiseman's Ferry to Wollombi were the earliest roads in the region. However, it was not until the late 1820s and more particularly the 1830s and 40s that roadways began to be surveyed and constructed (in many cases using convict labour) into the northern reaches of the region.

In 1826, the road between Newcastle and Wallis Plains was opened for travellers on horseback and in 1831, a somewhat shorter route from Parramatta through Castle Hill to Wiseman's Ferry and Wollombi created the Great North Road.⁴³ In 1833 an extension to the road leading from Wallis Plains northwards to Patrick's Plains was surveyed together with lines of road leading from Morpeth to Maitland, from Maitland to Patrick's Plains, from Patrick's Plains to Broke and a line from the Great North Road from Broke up the Wollombi Rivulet.⁴⁴

Aside from official roadways there also existed a number of tracks throughout the region, formed by the landholders to facilitate travel. For example, a rough track travelled through the estate lands between West Maitland to Patrick Plains and a fenced track through Bolwarra became the route from Maitland to the Paterson Plains, leading to Port Stephens, the Manning Valley and eventually Port Macquarie.⁴⁵

The opening of Bulga/Putty track, the beginnings of Great North Road, and the shipping services from Sydney to the Hunter, the late 20's and early 1830's had a flow-on effect. The 'wheels and hooves of emerging rural commerce,' slowly begin 'to wend their way through Jerry's Plains at a rate of 20 kilometres per day.' The traffic was on its way to the Goulburn River (which flowed into the Hunter near Merton [now Denman]) and beyond to the west and north-west. At Jerry's Plains men camped overnight on convenient private land in the vicinity of the junction of this track and the one that forded the river some four miles upstream and then veered north into the upper valley.' From there settlements spread west and northwest. In the circumstances, Jerry's Plains was a logical place to have an inn. By now David junior was as much a citizen of Jerry's Plains as Cattai and Pitt Town. David and his neighbours would have understood what was drawing people and that the flow had every prospect of not only continuing, but also increasing.



In response to the situation David, and later, Richard Alcorn, his soon to be neighbour, each built a public house there. David's inn became known as the 'Green Gate'.

'wheels and hooves of emerging rural commerce,' slowly begin 'to wend their way through Jerry's Plains at a rate of 20 kilometres per day.'

Henry Dangar's report of Hunter Valley Tracks in 1825



Fig. 1.4: Surveyors at work in 1865, using "metric" chain unit of 66 feet divided into 100 "links". Photo: Dept. of Main Roads, NSW.

ROADS.

In this part of the colony, which has only had the benefit of colonization and improvement since the latter part of the year 1822, the roads are in as forward a state as the public can reasonably expect.

The Governors, Generals Macquarie, Brisbane, and Darling, have each pursued a very liberal and praiseworthy policy, in causing a great body of convicts to be constantly employed in the opening and making of roads, in every part of the colony. Two routes across a tract of country, (the Blue Mountains,) which, for many years, was considered a boundary to the inhabitable lands, and which was a barrier to the colonist's industry, (the one south-west, near 200 miles from Sydney, and that westerly to the Bathurst country,) were made accessible to carriages, under the direction of the venerated Governor Macquarie. Governor General Sir Tho-

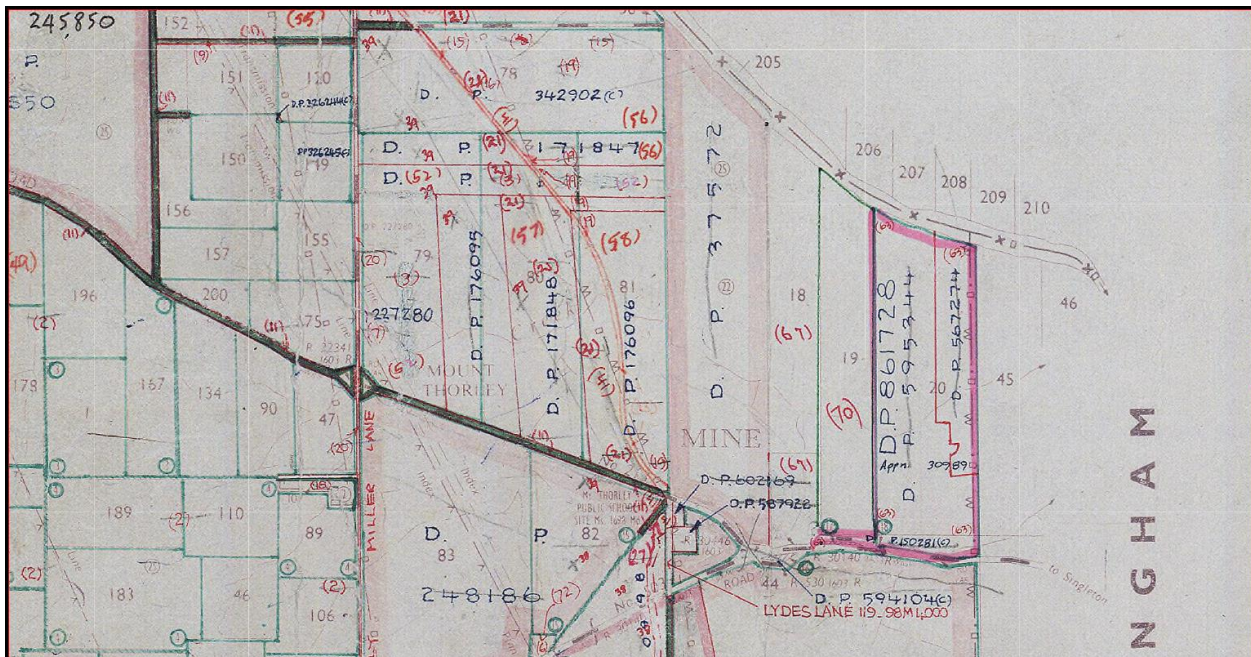
59

mas Brisbane caused a nearer route to be opened to the Bathurst country; and also used a considerable force in the improvement of the roads on the M'Adam system, which had before been but imperfectly made.

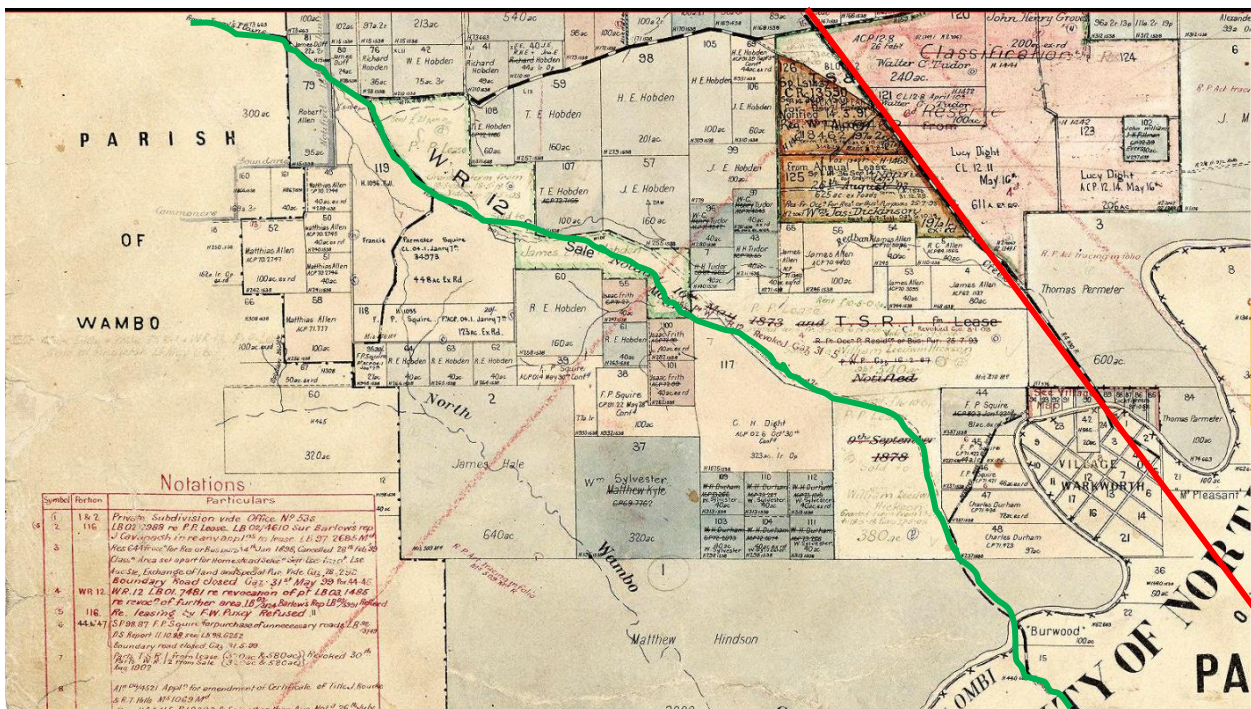
With respect to that part of the colony immediately under my consideration, General Darling appears to have viewed the necessity and policy of employing convict labour in the making of roads, in the same light as his predecessors; and has recently directed the labour of upwards of 100 men, under able managers, to the opening of a direct carriage tract, (also crossing the Blue Mountain range,) from Sydney into the Hunter's river country, which is already considerably advanced; and which there is every probability of being made complete in the next eighteen months.* The necessity, however, for making roads in those parts of the colony under settlement, is not urgent, the country generally being so open, and presenting so few difficulties, that it seldom happens but that a loaded carriage can be taken to any required point. The method adopted in first pursuing a route into any distant country is this:—The first settler, or party of settlers, proceeding with their men, teams, and baggage into any new and distant country, having, as is usual, before made a journey to such, and having obtained every information the Crown surveyors of the district can give, he or they, on entering upon the journey, keep two or three men following the carts, and with axes mark the trees, by fractures in the bark, denoting the route the carriages pursue. This done, the settler's men can proceed back with the teams, and get up their second loadings without any apprehension of losing the road; and thus, in a short period, the tract is so beaten, (some improvements to the right and left being occasionally made,) as to be designated the road; and is frequently used as such, without any repair, for a

* Since leaving the Colony, I understand this road, (as a horse and cattle road,) is proceeding with great activity.

Grant 19 Parish of Warkworth Philip Thorley

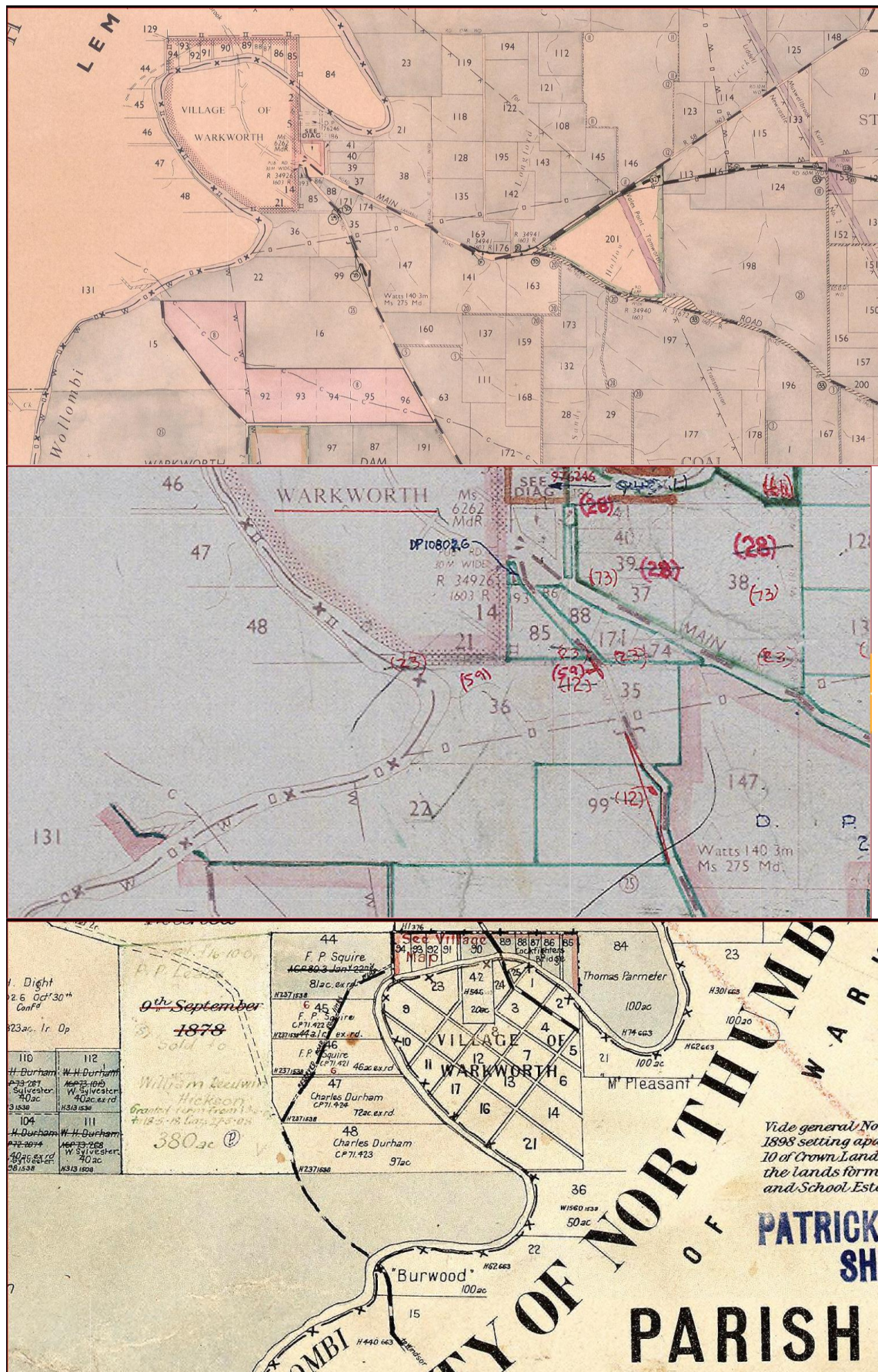


1829 Government Road between Bulgar Track and Jerrys Plains

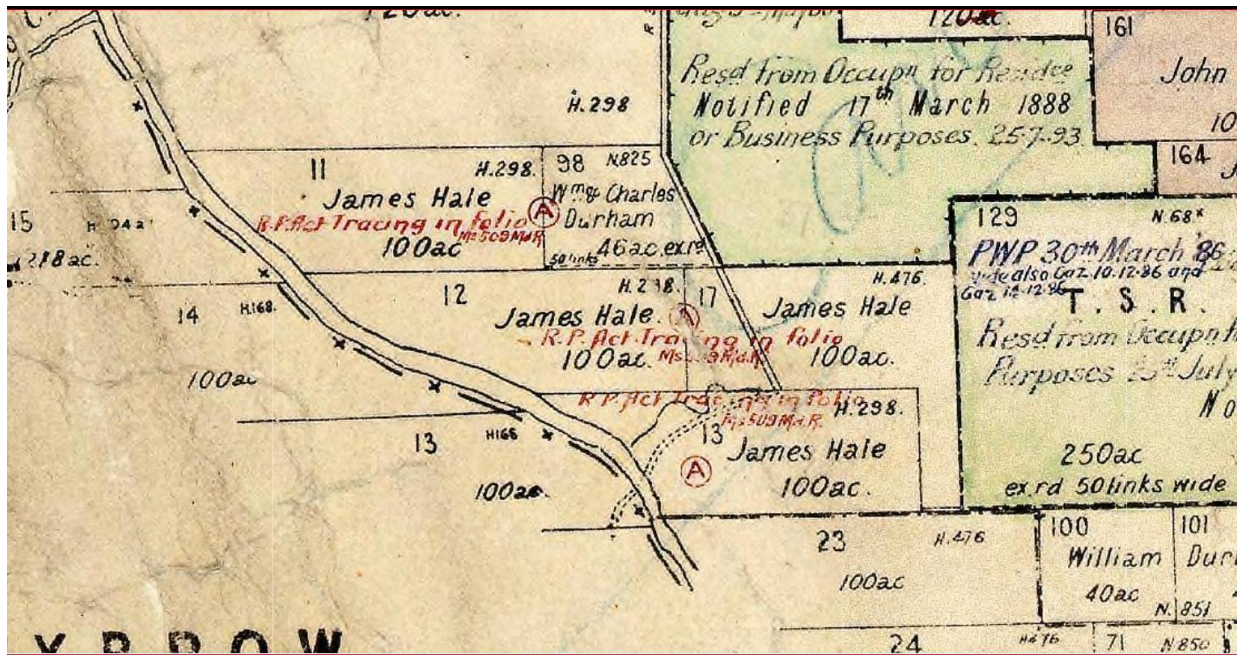


1831 Great North Road passes through site of Warkworth Village

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

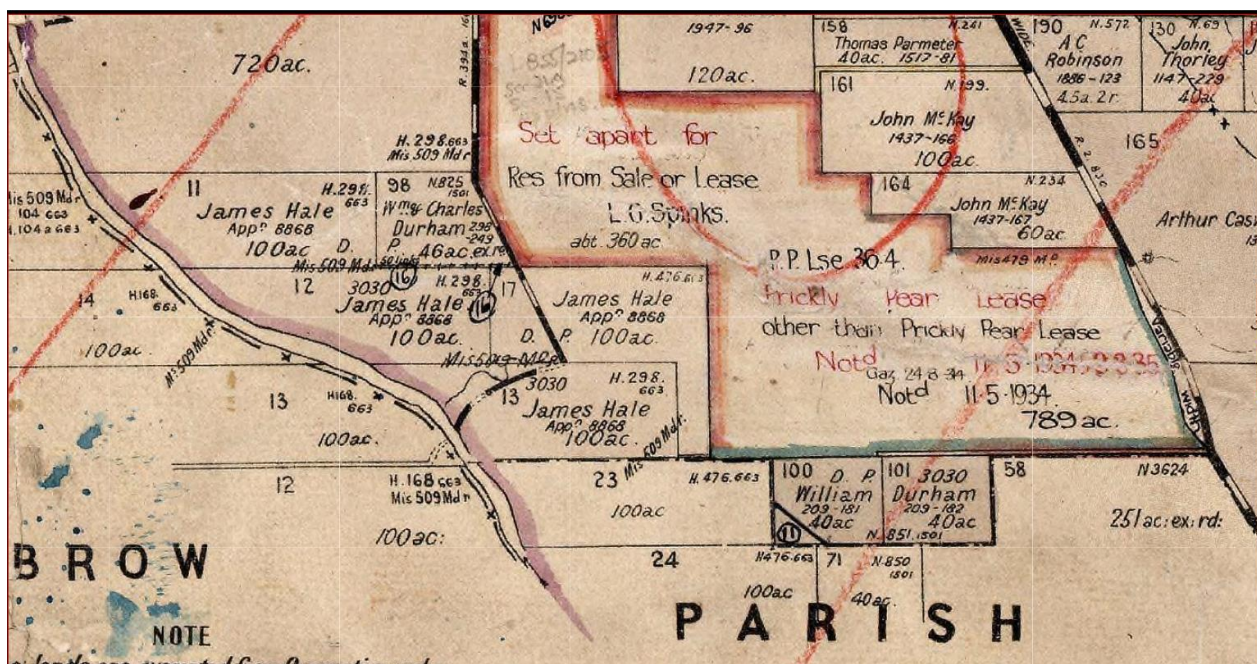


Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Bora Ground Avoided by Settlers Government Road ?

ROLS CLONUD VAOIDGO DA 26MIGL2 COAGLUWGUH KOSQ :



Note In Map3 below the location of “Wittingham Town” near “Minnimbah Ridge”

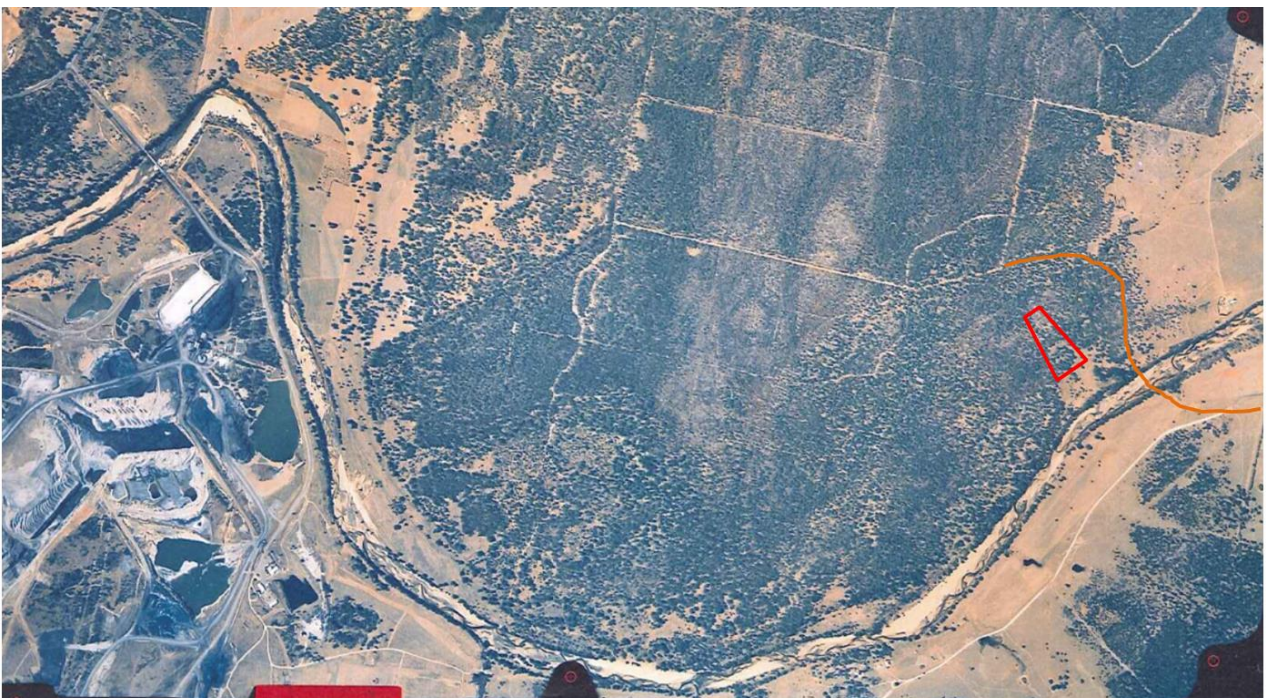
Also “Glendon”. “Neotsfield”, Castle Forbes”, “Singleton”, and “Allotment 19 Philip Thorley’s”,

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Note Longworth's Coal Mine



Map 3 1860 origin dated by reference to Longworth's Coal mine



1994 Aerial Photograph for Stereo viewer- Note circle indication and clearing within 400 metres, and with sand sheet to the Brook

Visualisation of Ancestral Heritage

Chapter 9/NE



A Rock Overhang above Bulga Creek
close to the first Bulga Road stock route from Richmond (Chpt 3)
where it came out near Bulga village on Wollombi Brook.



The insert showing some of the rock art is modified from 1896 published scale drawing by R.H. Mathews. The figure was 9ft (2.75m) high. The white patch on the stomach is visible in exact centre of photograph. Although a *Darkinjung* site, this deity-like figure is now claimed by other Aboriginal people from the NE to the NW.*

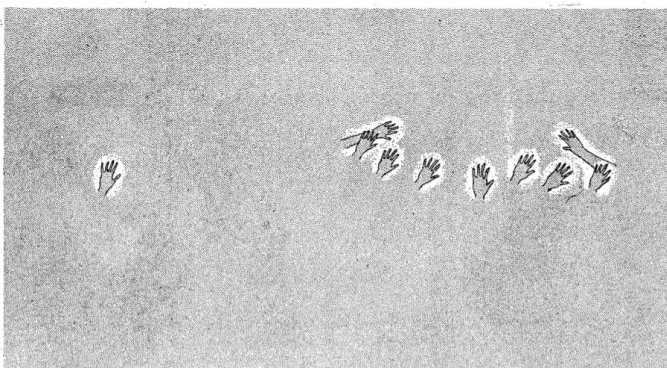
Photograph by Geoff Ford Sunday 17 September 2006

ROCK PAINTINGS BY THE ABORIGINES.

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I was informed by Mr. W. G. McAlpin, who is now eighty-four years of age, and has resided in the neighbourhood for the last fifty years, that the figures in this cave were there when he first came to the district; and even at that time the drawings were beyond the knowledge of the local blacks. Mr. McAlpin further states that the figures on the rock are now in about the same state of preservation as when he first saw them upwards of fifty

Drawings by Aborigines in Cave No 2.
Scale:— 3feet to an Inch.



R.H. Mathews. 1896

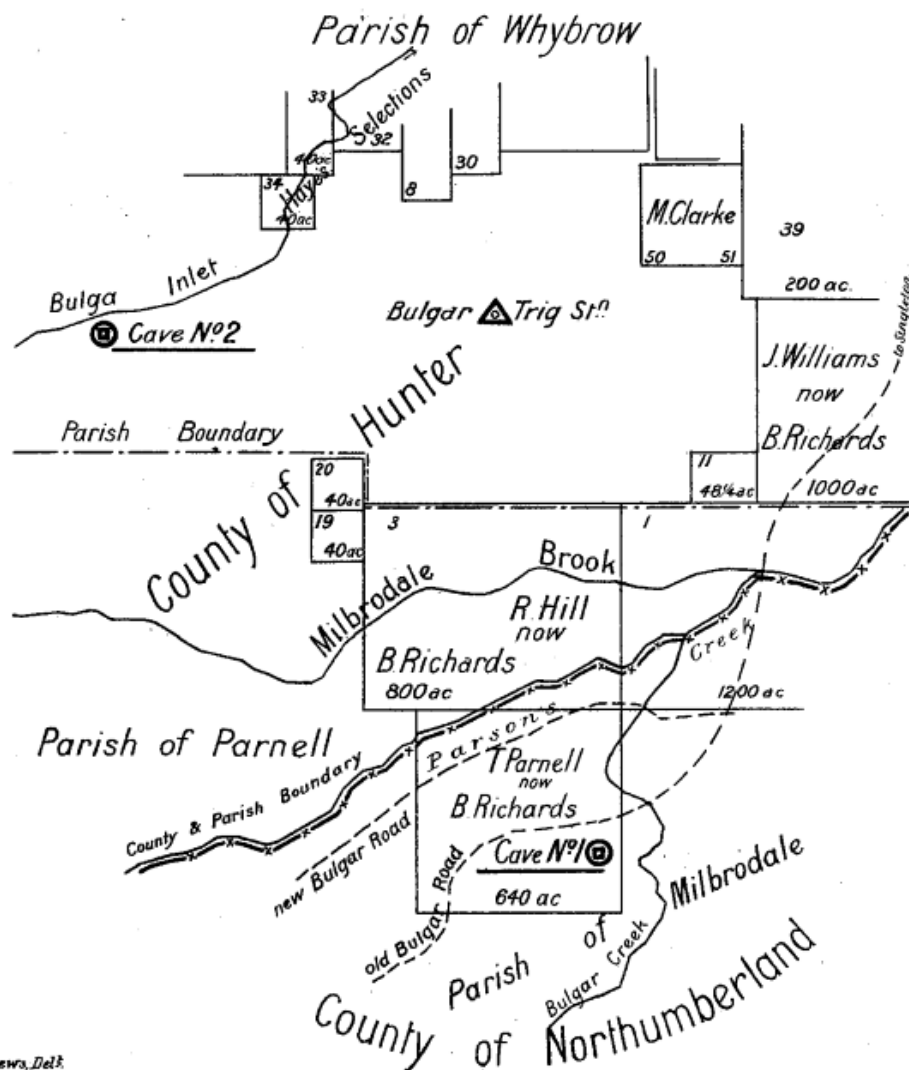
years ago, having suffered very little in that time. It may be mentioned that the Hawkesbury Sandstone is not very durable, even under the most favourable circumstances, and when located in damp situations, and subjected to much moisture, it crumbles away rapidly. It is owing to the very favourable situation of this cave, pointed out in the early part of this paper, that its walls are now apparently in very nearly the same state as when the drawings were made upon them.

The whole of Australia is a sacred site but Wollombi is a really special place. There were seven main tribes that used to meet at Wollombi. Has anyone [in the audience] been to the Creator Cave up there? The Creator Cave, it's named for Baiame...the Creator Spirit. There are seven feathers [painted under Baiame's outstretched arms], three feathers and four feathers on the other side and that's the different tribes who used to meet there.

(Joel Wenitong, speaking at the opening of the *Ceremony* exhibition of art by senior Aboriginal men at Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 31 March 2012.)

— PLAN — showing Position of Caves Parishes of Whybrow & Milbrodale near Singleton.

Scale—80 Chains to an Inch



Mr. W. G. McAlpin who resides on the Wollombi Brook about three miles from these caves, told me that he used to know of another cave with aboriginal drawings on its walls, similar to those which I have been describing, some miles further to the westward, but of late years the rock in which the cave was situated, has fallen over on its face covering the entrance to the recess in which the drawings appeared.



THE BORA GROUND.

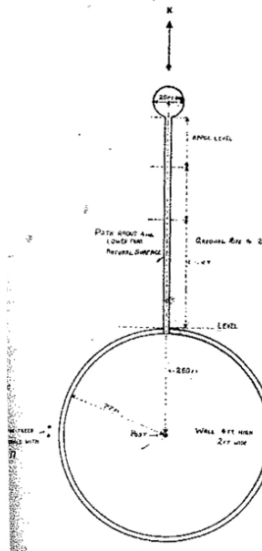


Figure 2: Casino Bora Ground, Richmond Valley, NSV
Image from Sandra Bowdler (2000). A heritage study
of Indigenous ceremonial (Bora) sites. University of
Western Australia, Perth.

Dr G.E. (Geoff) Ford, 2010, Darkinung Recognition
Research Thesis, University of Sydney

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Chapter 3



Eric Taggart
grandson of Aborigine 'Harry' Taggart
from Putty / Boorohwall
in the midst of the Hawkesbury-Hunter Ranges

Notes:

The Aboriginal people of 'The Branch' natives from the Hawkesbury River catchment merged - as the same *Darkinung* people in the midst of the ranges - with the 'Wollombi tribe' from the Hunter River catchment. These were Eric's grandfather's people who were helping (or hindering) the white explorers trying to cross the ranges. The late Eric Taggart was a well known figure around Broke on Wollombi Brook, where he could be relied upon by locals to tell a good yarn to strangers. The journalist Percy Haslam used to visit to collect Eric's stories, and this photograph is an extract from one apparently by Haslam's newspaper driver and photographer, George Steele. The published picture is online from Newcastle University archives.

Chapter 4



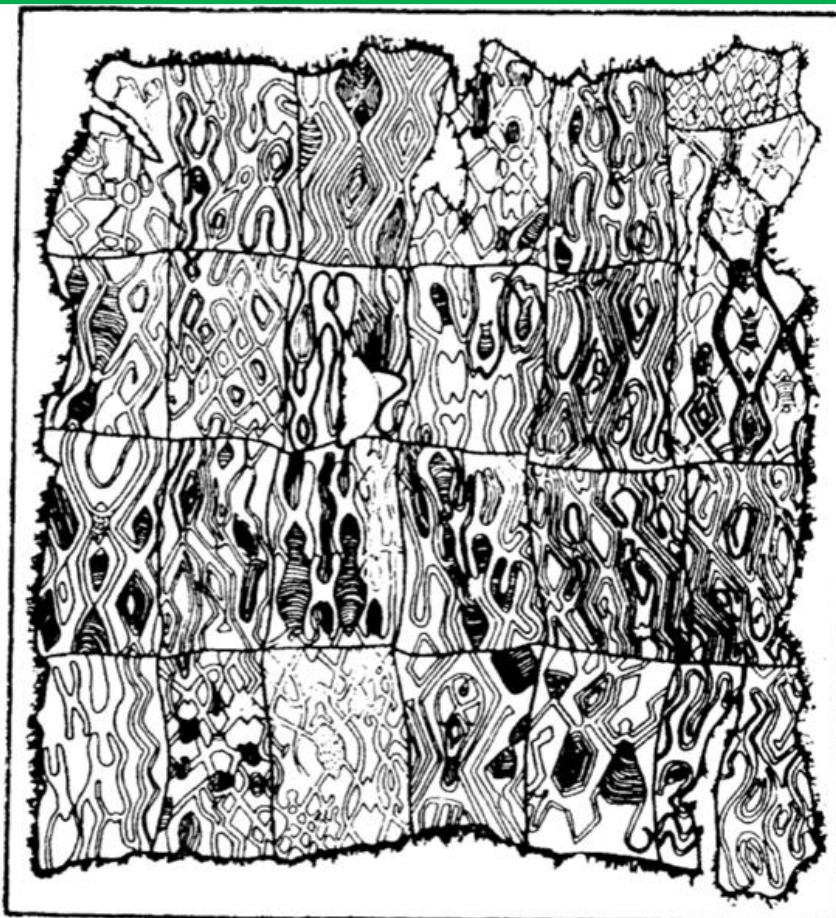
'Bill Onus', William Onus 2nd
at his Beecroft home near Hornsby (Sydney) in 1930s
when he was throwing boomerangs at the old 'Koala Park' paddocks, Pennant Hills
Insert: Bill's grandmother Madha
(Mrs Everingham at the time of the photograph)

The late 'Bill' Onus was elder son of William Onus 1st, a *Darkinung* Aborigine born as William Hibbs at Laguna (Wollombi). William's mother, Madha, later married Ephraim Everingham at Sackville. The putative father of William 1st was William Hibbs (b.1833) when living at Watagan Creek, Laguna, an Everingham descendant through the convict Woodbury line (which is my ancestry) - hence the mother was called '[Mrs] Hibbs'. It appears that Aborigine son William became an independent adult droving cattle for Joseph Onus, along the Bulga road through the Hawkesbury-Hunter Ranges. Thus, as was the custom, he took Joseph to be his 'social' father with the name Onus for his adult name. Although he married in Victoria, William's children's early years were spent at *Cummeragunja* in NSW. After a childhood based at Echuca in Victoria where his Aboriginal Everingham uncles and aunts from the Hawkesbury used to visit, son 'Bill' returned to the Sydney area when separated from his first wife. During some of this period he lived in a house at Beecroft where he set up a boomerang workshop at the time the photograph was taken. Their two little daughters were then cared for at Beecroft by Gracie James, his young niece from the Hawkesbury, who shared with me the history at his home there where Bill taught Gracie's fiancé (Reg

When Mathews eventually produced his endeavours on the *Darkiñung* Language, submitted to arguably the most important Anthropological Journal of the English-speaking world, he included it in a paper with three tribal dialects of the *Kamilaroi* Language plus The 'Yauan' - the mystic male initiation language of *Kamilaroi* people.⁶⁵ Published in 1903, it contained Mathews's final published words on the distribution of the Hawkesbury-Hunter Ranges people:

The Darkiñung speaking people adjoined the Kamilaroi on the south-east [of the Kamilaroi] and occupied a considerable range of country in the counties of Hunter, Northumberland and Cook, extending from Wilberforce and Wisemans Ferry on the Hawkesbury river, to Jerrys Plains and Singleton on the Hunter, and including the basins of the Colo and Macdonald rivers Wollombi Brook and other streams. On the south they were met by the Gundungurra and Dharruk tribes - -.⁶⁶

Bora designated site on the Warkworth Mine Lease was the focal point for Aboriginal gatherings of various tribes at least as understood by recollections of the 1852 Gathering. Conjecture exists as to the permanent inhabitants of these lands at the time of Colonial appearance by Howe Explorers in 1819 and 1820.



Pl 9: Skin rug from the Hunter River. Smithsonian Institution
Washington D.C. (Mountford 1963).

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

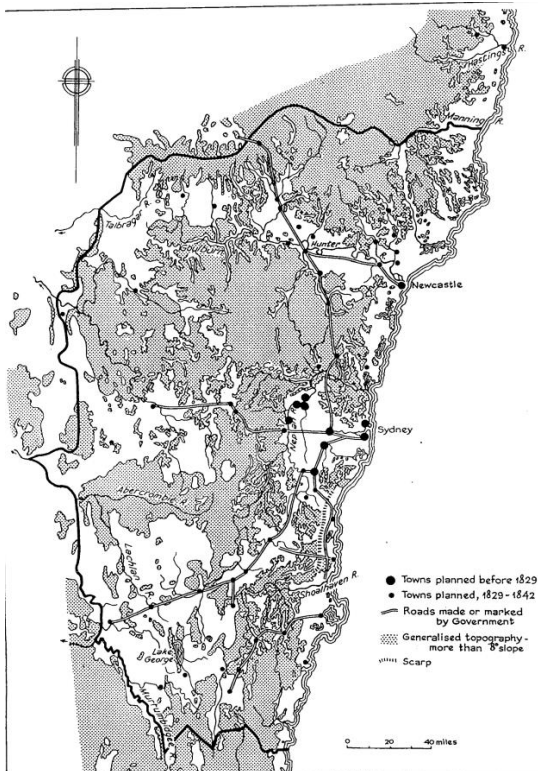


Fig.7.5 Location of towns planned by Government within the 'Limits of Location' up to 1842.

From Denis Jeans,
'Town Planning in New South Wales 1829-1842',
Australian Planning Institute Journal, vol 3 no 6,
October 1965, p.188

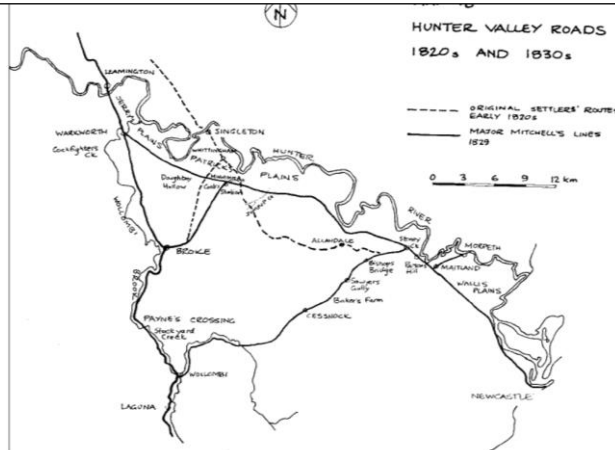


Figure 6: Plan showing Mitchell's lines of road with established settler's routes.
Grace Karskens, *The Grandest Improvement in the Country*, 1985.



"The Hunter Valley also has a unique position in the history of political ideas in Australia. It was the earliest site of the phenomenon which Don Aitkin has called "country-mindedness" and which John Hirst makes a component of the "pioneer legend". Broadly, this is the view that rural pursuits are ennobling and fundamental to existence, while city life is sordid and parasitical, and (the pioneer legend) civilisation in Australia has depended on those who established properties in the bush. This understanding emerged in the Hunter Valley in the 1830s. It led directly to the ideology which in the twentieth century shaped the Country and National parties." (NSW Gov OEH 2013 Hunter Estates Page 14 Comparative Heritage Study)



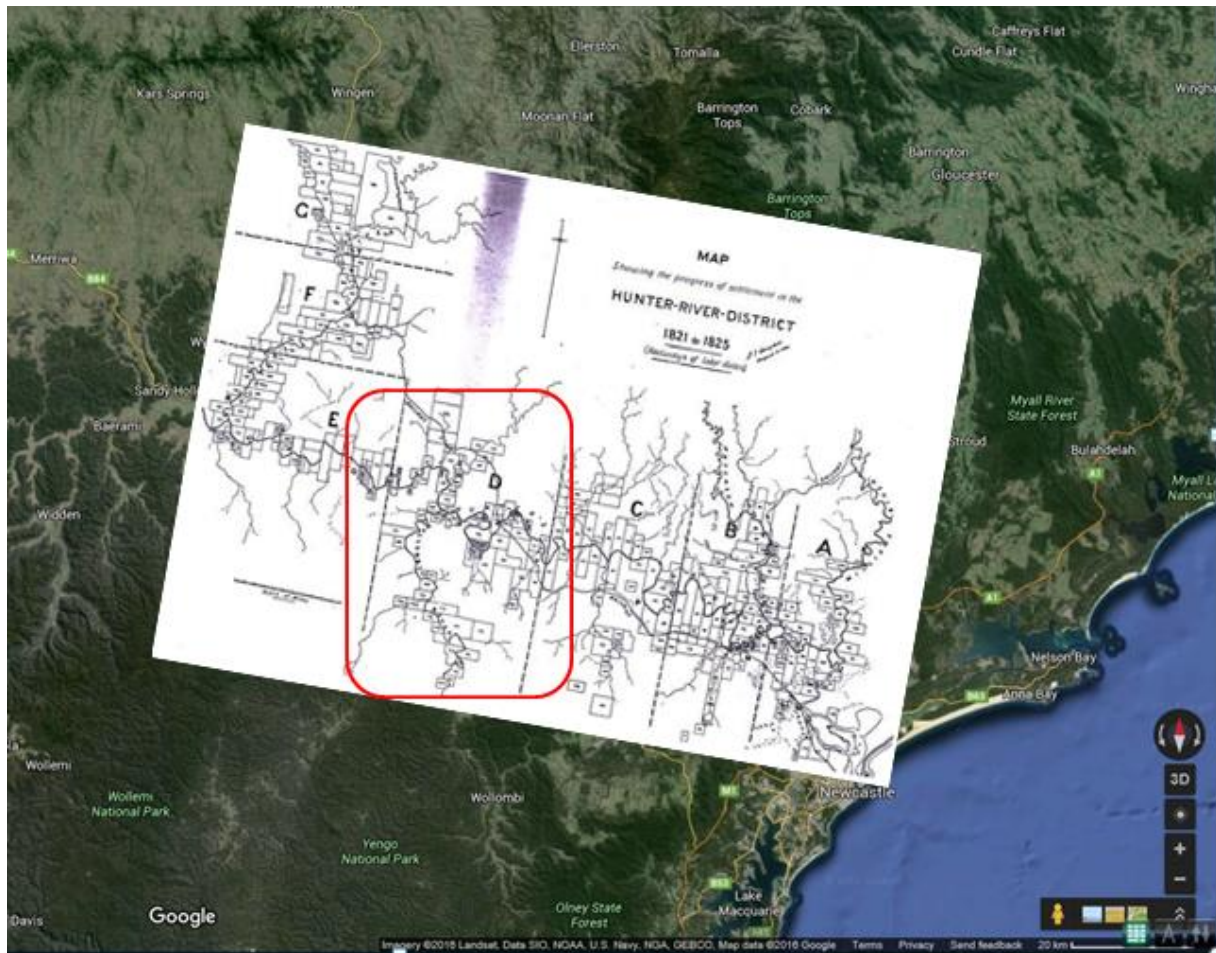
Figure 21: Wambo main house and adjoining kitchen wing at rear

Bulga *the Gateway to the Hunter Valley*
Bulga is known as the Gateway to the Hunter Valley

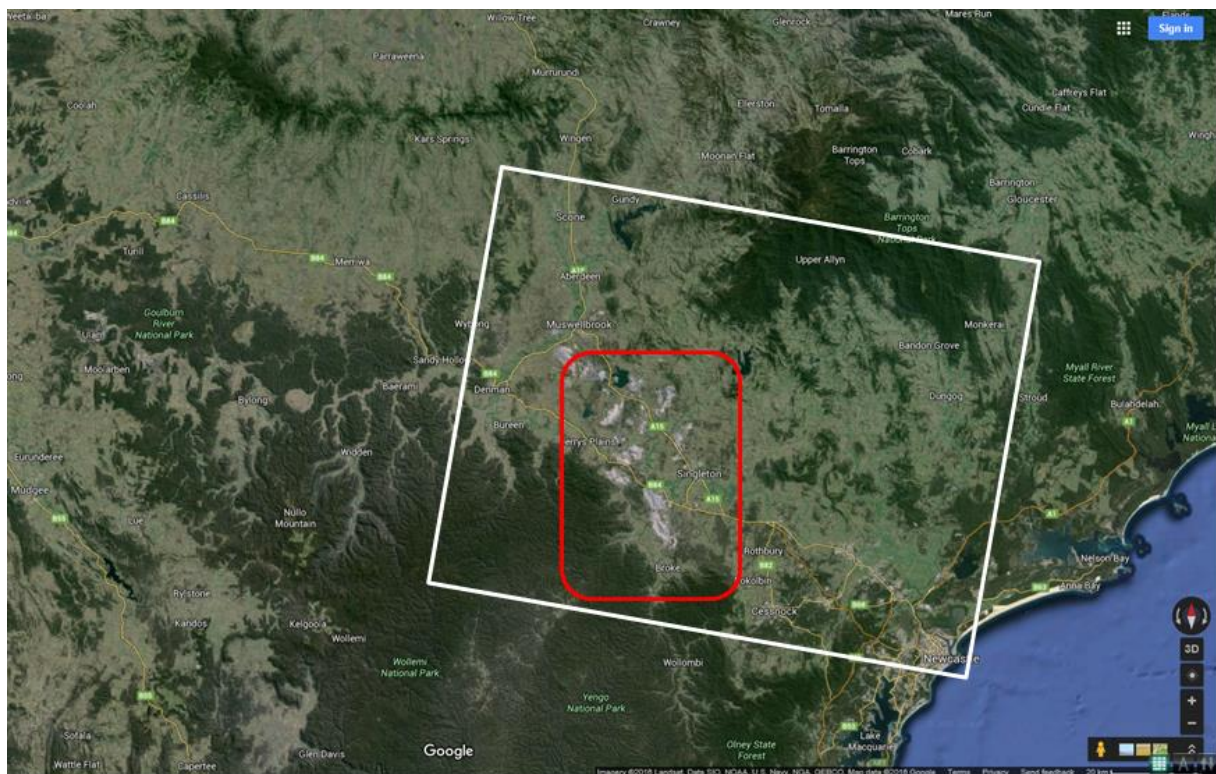


Above: Mt Leonard Homestead, home of the Alexanders.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Neotsfield *the Birthplace of the Hunter Valley*
TAGO12UIGD IWS BILINDING6 OF IUG HOU6EL A SIUGA



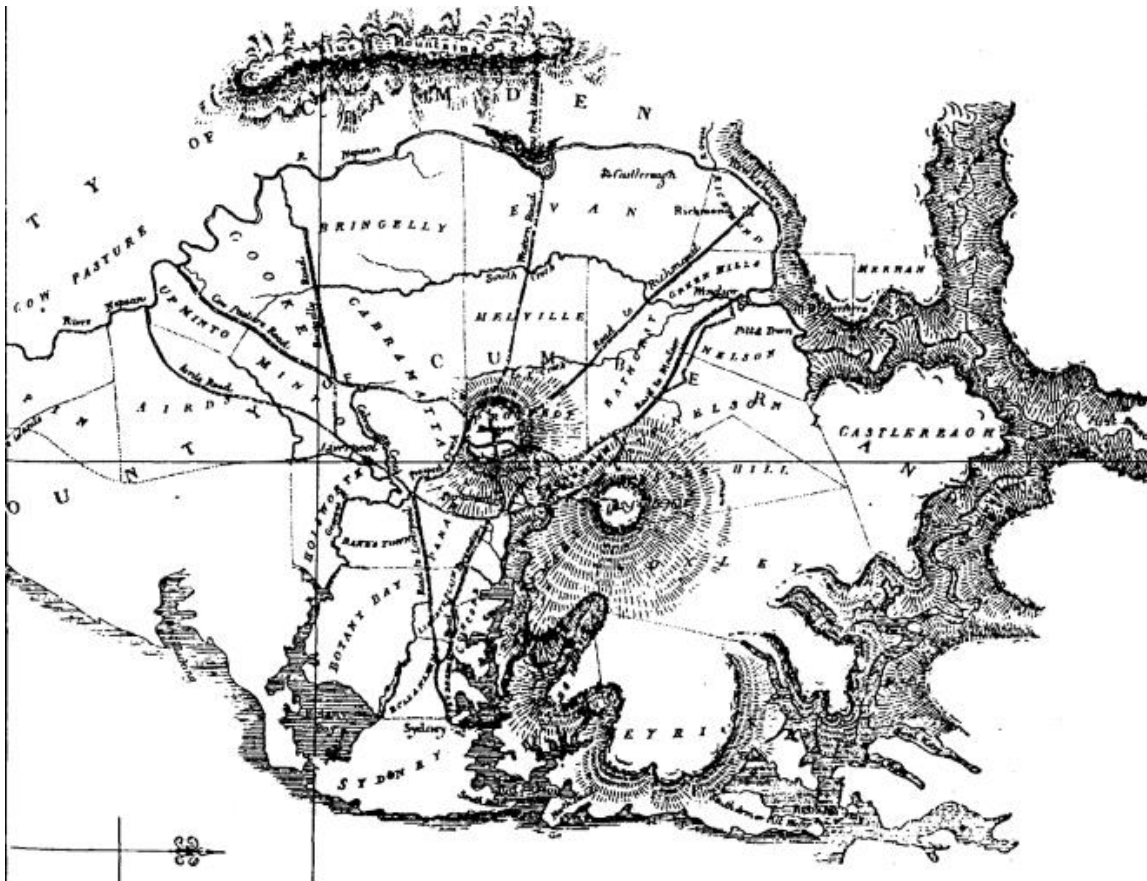


Fig.5.9 Part of 'An Outline Map of the Settlements in New South Wales, 1817,' published by Jas Wyld, London, Archives Office of NSW, Map No.1123. The five Macquarie Towns are shown clustered at the Hawkesbury River; also Liverpool, Castle Hill, Parramatta and Toongabbee. Can be compared with the Map published in 1802 by Cadell and Davies, Strand, London, and included in David Collins, An Account of the English Settlement in New South Wales, second edition, London, 1804.



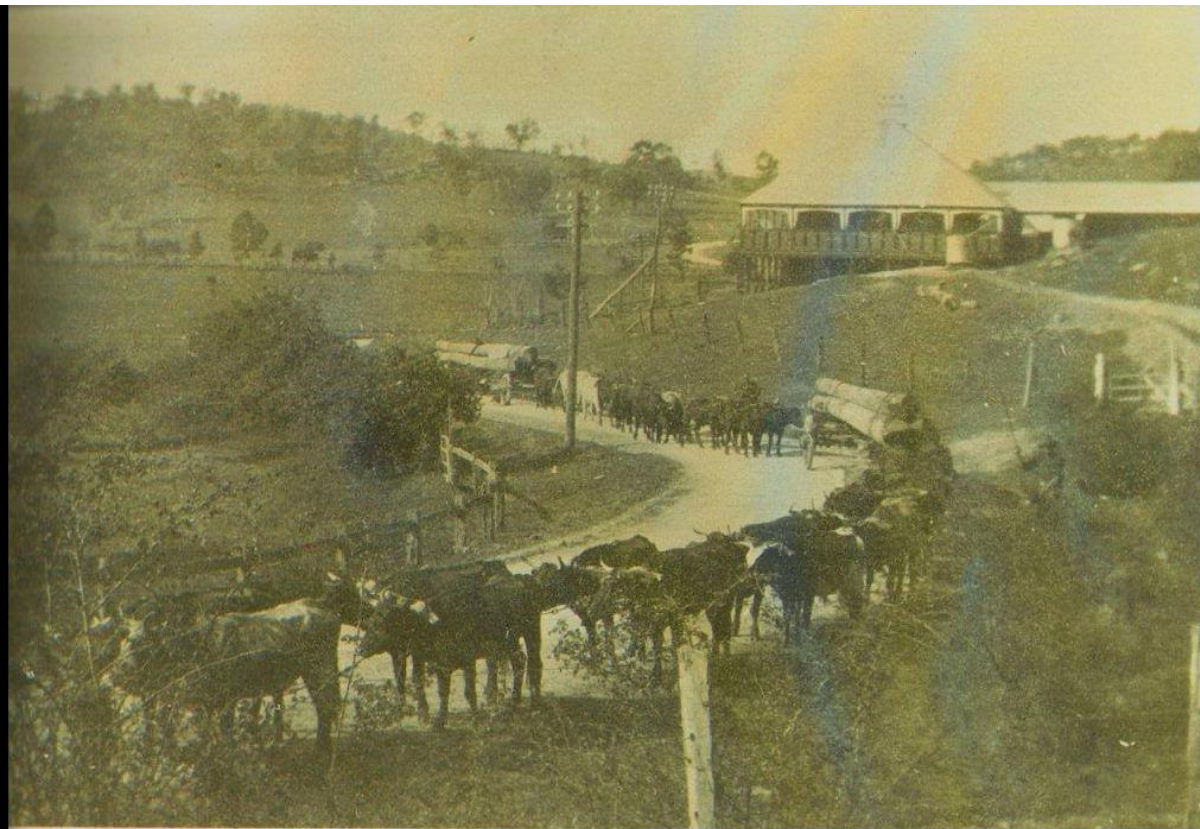
Article from
WordPress.com

[Read it](#)

Wattle and daub home with bark roof and parget wooden chimney. 1890 1: Introduction: 2: First European settlers at Sydney Cove in 1788 3: Extract from the Journals of Watkin Tench 1788. 4: A w...



Wollombi Homestead on Great North Road to Patricks Plains
WOLLOMBI HOMESTEAD ON GREAT NORTH ROAD TO PATRICKS PLAINS



Our Villages *Our Vision* 2012

A Future Vision for
Broke, Bulga & Milbrodale

Supported by Xstrata Coal Undertaken by Coakes Consulting



ii | Our Villages Our Vision 2012 – A Future Vision for Broke, Bulga & Milbrodale



Farming
"It's important because it makes us money."
"We don't want to be touched by non-rural industry."

Singleton Military Base
"Source of local employment opportunities."

Mining
"Close to mine for work."
"Employment of locals in the mines is important – to keep living in the area economically viable."
"Mines are a good source of local employment opportunities."

Local business
Broke Village Store
"A good service point and meeting place."
Bulga Roadhouse Café
"Vital to the community and for tourists and visitors passing through."
Cockfighter Creek Tavern
"Provides a great place for locals and visitors to eat, drink and socialise."

Viticulture
"We wish to be able to maintain the area as a highly prized wine destination in its own right, rather than the outer suburbs of Pokolbin."
"We appreciate that Pokolbin has done a lot to publicise 'The Hunter Valley' as a premium wine destination, but their mentality is generally to keep all the business within a couple of kilometres."
"Generally speaking, the Broke area cellar doors would welcome more midweek and weekend visitors of self-drive independent visitors."
"The vineyards bring sustainable income and jobs, as well as long term investment from tourism and visitors."
"The vineyards offer a great tourist attraction and host some great events."
"Vineyards bring in money and more people to the area."

Tourism
"We need to protect and expand the area as a gateway to the National Parks."
"(McNamara Park) park is well utilised by tourists."
"(McNamara Park) brings visitors to the area for low key holidays – no crowds."
"(Community events) are great to attract tourists and day trippers."



Sense of Identity (Broke)
Spirit
"This is the tranquil side of the valley. The village atmosphere provides the delineation between villages of Broke and Pokolbin."
"A lot of people move to the area for the community values and village atmosphere."
"When you need to come together and raise funds for any projects they seem to do it."
Rural Amenity
"I love its beauty and how quiet it is – hopefully it stays this way."
"Broke has a unique landscape, scale and ambience."
"Country lifestyle is great – the peace and quiet, to enjoy family and friends."
Place
"It's a great place to live – close to work, the mines, and close to decent restaurants."

Sense of Identity (Milbrodale)
Spirit
"A fairly close knit community which likes to be well informed."
"The unity of the community is a strength in itself"
Rural Amenity
"The community values the ambience."
Place
"It's our home. For family, friends, farming and work, and driving, walking, biking"

Places of Historic Significance
Historical Sites – Convict Trail
"Much of the history of the area starts with the convict trail. It was also a cattle route."
Historical Sites – Mount Leonard
Historical Sites – Buildings
"Many [buildings] date back to settlement days."
Wollombi Brook (Cockfighter Creek)
"Cockfighters Creek (Wollombi Brook was named after this horse) has been with us since 1820 when this area was discovered."
Broke Bridge
"It's an iconic bridge. It makes Broke stand out as people can identify the bridge with Broke."
Bulga Bridge
"It has great community and historical value. It is 100 years old."
Charlton Road
"Important thoroughfare. Historically significant."
Wallaby Scrub Road
"The road is heritage listed. It is vital to the local community, workers and tourists."
"If it closed, it would lessen the appeal of the area due to difficulty of access."

Indigenous Culture and Heritage
Yengo National Park
"Aboriginal significant sites are found throughout the area."
Baiaame Cave
"Very significant site of the dreamtime."

*Quotes from primary school children (Photovoice Project).

16 | Our Villages Our Vision 2012 – A Future Vision for Broke, Bulga & Milbrodale

Singleton Our Place: A Blue Print for 2022

Singleton – business and industry

The healthy local economy of Singleton is supported by its diverse industrial base, young skilled labour force and industry access to vital infrastructure. There has been a steady growth in all types of business in the Singleton LGA.

Key industries

Coal industry

Operating in Singleton LGA are eighteen coal mines operating, which produce approximately 57 million tonnes of coal. The mining industry directly employs 3800 workers, of which approximately 2100 reside in Singleton, demonstrating the importance of this industry to the local economy.

Retail, accommodation and food services

Retail trade is vital to the Singleton economy, with approximately 144 businesses employing 1013 workers, second only to mining employment. Following closely is Accommodation and Food Services employing 662 workers across 89 businesses. Both industries are important in providing local employment and attracting visitors to the region, as well as enhancing the lifestyle of Singleton residents.

Australian Army School of Infantry

The Australian Army School of Infantry, located on 14000 hectares on the outskirts of the Singleton CBD, is an important contributor to the local economy with a population of approximately 1000 personnel. Significantly, 60% of the military staff are living locally with their families and 6% own a local home.

Tourism

Located in the middle of the Hunter Valley, one of Australia's premier wine producing regions; Singleton LGA is home to over forty vineyards, wineries and cellar doors. Viticulture plays an important role in the local economy adding to the diversity of employment opportunities in the area.

The healthy local economy of Singleton is supported by its diverse industrial base, young skilled labour force and industry access to vital infrastructure.

Linking our plan to other plans

This plan is a reflection of the priorities, ambition and directions that our people have for our great community.

There are a number of synergies between this plan and other plans for the region and state. Importantly, the plan contributes to and considers a number of priorities identified in the NSW state plan NSW 2021, specifically (see table, right):

The NSW State plan is available at www.2021.nsw.gov.au.

Other relevant plans for the Singleton Local Government Area:

- *NSW Sustainability Policy* (2008), NSW Government
- *NSW Bike Plan* (2010), NSW Government
- *NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy* (2007), NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- *Lower Hunter Regional Strategy* (2006) NSW Department of Planning
- *Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Plan* (2007) Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
- *Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Strategy* (2011) NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Trade and Investment.

This plan will also be made available to relevant state agencies as they develop regional action plans to align with NSW 2021.

In addition, it is important that this plan integrates with existing and future plans for

Theme	Goal
Rebuild the economy	3. Drive economic growth in regional NSW.
	6. Strengthen the NSW skills base.
Return quality services	9. Improve customer experience with transport services.
	10. Improve road safety.
	11. Keep people healthy and out of hospital.
Renovate infrastructure	16. Prevent and reduce the level of crime.
	19. Drive economic growth in regional NSW.
Strengthen our local environment and communities	20. Build liveable cities.
	22. Protect our natural environment.
	24. Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities.
	27. Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreational opportunities.
Restore accountability to government	30. Restore trust in state and local government as a service provider.
	32. Involve the community in decision-making on government policies, services and projects.

Singleton Council. As such, consideration has been given to the following plans currently in place:

- *Singleton Development Control Plan* (2009)
- *Singleton Local Environment Plan* (1996)
- *Singleton Land Use Strategy* (2008)
- *Singleton 2030 Strategic Plan* (2005)
- *Your Business Our Future Strategy* (2011)
- *Plans of Management for Park and Recreational areas*
- *Singleton Social Plan* (2010).

These documents are available on the Council website at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au.

Our Place
A BLUEPRINT
2022
Singleton Council

Our Community

Safe | Healthy | Smart | United

- More events
- Promotion of villages and village lifestyle
- Supporting our community halls
- Creating a sense of place
- Community spaces
- Services for people of all ages and backgrounds
- Health services to support our changing demographics
- Strong educational options
- Support for cultural and performing arts
- Promoting our diversity
- Ensuring Singleton is a safe place to live

Our outcomes	Our strategies
Our community: • feels supported and cared for through the provision of services and facilities • comes together to celebrate • has a strong sense of identity and place • learns and grows together • is encouraged to live a healthy and active lifestyle	• Provide a range of activities and events to encourage community participation • Offer a range of cultural, sport and recreational facilities to meet the needs of our diverse community • Provide and promote services and facilities that meet the needs of our community through various stages of life • Revitalise community spaces and places • Support and enable Singleton as a learning community

Our Places

Sustainable | Accessible | Affordable | Adaptable

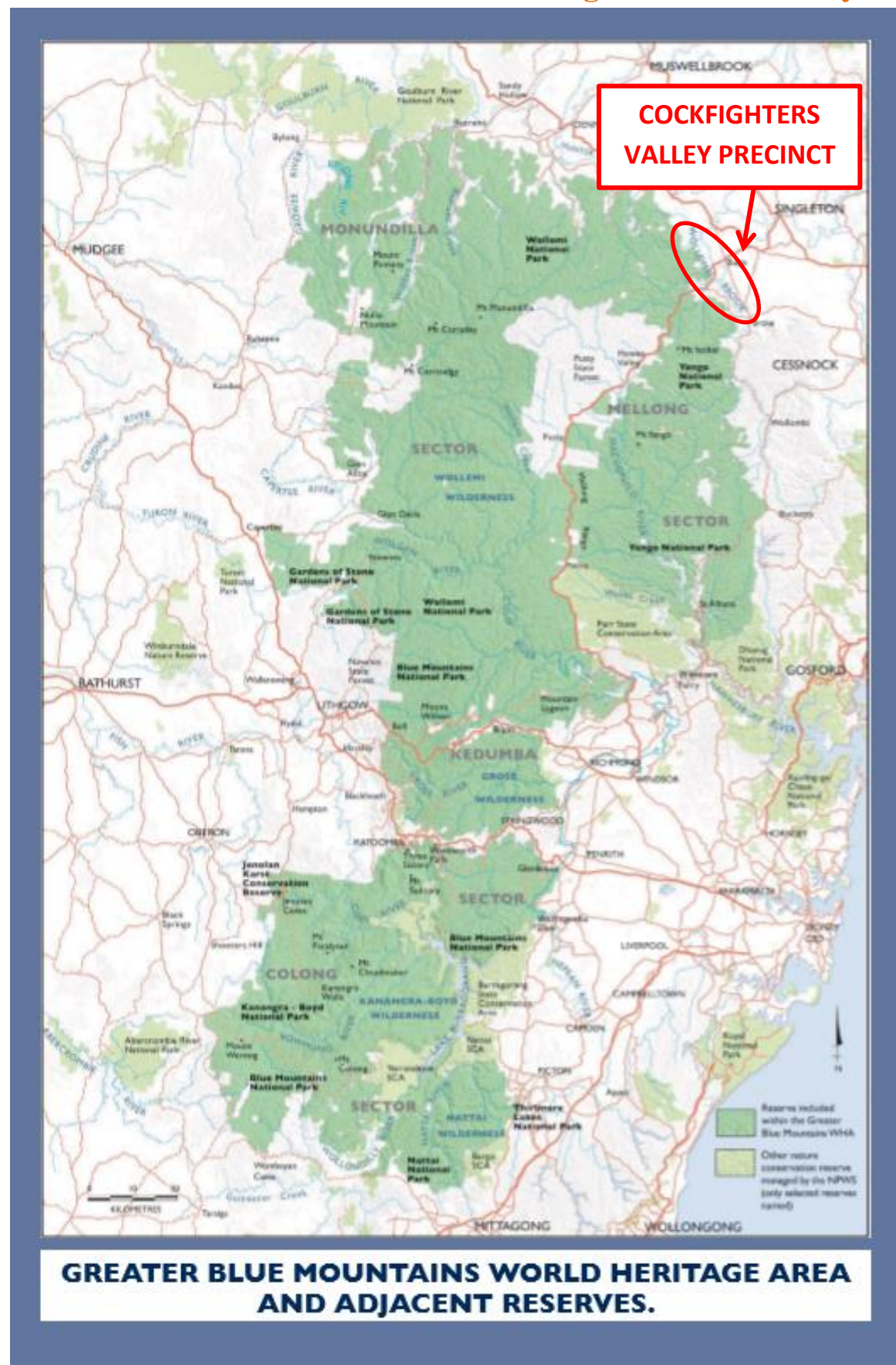
- Roads and transport are safe
- Reduced congestion and traffic
- Heritage value is part of decision making
- Community spaces bring people together
- Transport is accessible and practical
- Land is available to enable growth – both residential and commercial
- CBD redevelopment is needed
- Café precincts
- Affordable places to live
- Infrastructure is sustainable
- Diversification of the economy
- Promotion of agricultural heritage
- Feeling safe at home and in the community

Our outcomes	Our strategies
Our community: • is safe • has sustainable assets • is well planned – sustainable, accessible, affordable • values its heritage • has vibrant spaces and places • is well connected • is attractive for locals and visitors	• Offer a range of cultural, sport and recreational facilities to meet the needs of our diverse community • Plan for a sustainable and safe community • Partner to improve our road and infrastructure systems • Improve transport options within the community and region to ensure safety, reliability, affordability • Revitalise community spaces and places • Enable and encourage economic diversification • Plan considering the past, present and a sustainable future • Promote village living and lifestyle



Our Place
A BLUEPRINT
2022
Singleton Council

2020 Holistic Vision for Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage

The Holistic Vision for the Hunter Valley Heritage Conservation Tourism Centre at Bulga traces the ongoing Cultural ages from the earliest documented times all the way through to current 21st Century and beyond; broadly identified Ancestral Heritage Periods are as follows:-

1. Aboriginal occupancy.
2. NSW Colony exploration 1788 – 1820
3. Colonial Exploration Saint Patricks Plains - early Settlement 1810 -1825
4. Colonial Settlement 1825-1852, Convicts & Bora period.
5. Colonisation of Hunter Valley 1860 – 1900.
6. Hunter Valley Food Bowl 1900 – 1945.
7. Post WW2 Industrialisation 1950 - 2000
8. New Millennium Challenges 2000 – 2020.
9. Coexistence, Health, Environment and developing Tourism. 2020 - 2050
10. Future Rehabilitated Land & Water Environs, Solar Farms, Mountain Wind Farms.

The Concept is to establish a Tourism Centre located in and about the Bulga Village Environs as it had grown to be to provide an ongoing Daily Community Service Activity which captures and puts on as Visualisation Talking Displays of the Cultural Heritage of these Bulga Environs, and especially incorporating the Artefacts, Museum Archives, Talking History of bygone times - “Bulga Pioneer Descents”, and the changing landscape sacrificed along the way.

By 1950 before the Industrialisation of the Hunter Valley, Bulga Village Environs had grown to be in and about the Wollombi Brook, providing the Community Hub for the Agricultural endeavours in the region along the Putty Road transport to and from the Upper Hunter Valley and beyond.

The presence of Coal Deposits from the Wollombi Brook all the way to the East to the Hunter River resulted in Coal Mine Leases by 1979 beginning to eat into the Land that progressively hemmed in the Cockfighter’s Valley Residents from Broke, Vere, Milbrodale, Bulga, Warkworth to Jerrys Plains Villages (and Hunter River Residents nearby) as five consecutive Mines: - Bulga, Mt Thorley, Warkworth 1976, Wambo and Hunter Valley Operations, also developed from Underground to Open Cut Operations.

Although much Mine compensation has been paid to the Hunter Valley Communities, over the last 35 years, (except those that sold to Mines) the most affected Residents at Bulga have little to show for their sacrifices in the face of Mine Blasting damaging Homes, Cracked Community Buildings, Cemeteries; Choking Mine Dust and Fumes, Noise Night and Day, Bright Glaring Lights, and the Disease Impact especially on School Children at Bulga, Milbrodale and Broke Schools over the years, and Homes vacated when classified as unfit “mine affected landholdings” due to Government assessed Disease Risk from nearby Mining Operation.

This Bulga Culture Centre Vision aims to balance the Mine Compensation debt overdue for Cockfighter’s Valley Residents and is planned to be developed over the next 30 Years.

“Ancestral Heritage focuses upon the capture of the contributions made by successive Human Generations – Our Ancestors to the Environ Domain, showcased as Interactive Tourism Modules”

Governor Macquarie Convict Farms 1812-1818

The Hunter River Valley was the largest of the lowland plains on the New South Wales coast. It was the first area outside the Cumberland Plains to be permanently occupied by white settlers, however these first settlers were small farmers, allowed the indulgence by Governor Macquarie. After the Governor's first visit to Newcastle in January 1812, well behaved convicts **John Reynolds**, **Benjamin Davis**, **George Pell** and **Richard Binder** and son of convict storekeeper John Tucker (John junior) were permitted to take up land on Patterson's Plains.

In 1817 and 1818 more settlers were allowed farms as well, including **John Tucker** senior who had retired from his government position at Newcastle; **John Powell**, **John Swan**, **William Evans**, **Robert Whitmore**, **Thomas Addison**, **John Reynolds**, **Anthony Dwyer** and **John Reeves**. The conditions under which the farms were held were mentioned in an order published in March 1818 warning the farmers that: they were not to regard the land so given them their own property, the right being exclusively vested in the Governor and that they were only allowed to cultivate and to reside on their Farms so granted during their good conduct and the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor.

Governor Macquarie described the country in his Journal on 30th July 1818 :-

'Thursday 30th. July. Got up at Day-break and Breakfasted immediately so as to prosecute our Journey up the River. At 10 a.m. we arrived in the Gig at Point Reception, and at the confluence of the 2d. & 3d. Branches of the River. -- We proceeded up this Branch to the Farms some time since permitted by me to be occupied by 6 well behaved Convicts and two Free men. Arrived at the first Farm (young Tucker's) at 1/2 past 11 o'clock, distant about 9 miles from Point Reception, where we landed and walked about for some little time examining the improvements and nature of the Soil, which last is most excellent. We then proceeded to view the rest of the Farms on both sides of this beautiful River -- finding the soil of all of them very good -- and much more ground cleared & cultivated than I had any idea of. -- After we had explored most of the Farms, we quitted the Boat entirely and walked across the Country to the 3d. Branch -- leaving orders with the Gig to meet us next day at Reception Point on our way back. -- The Country between the two Rivers thro' which we travelled was principally fine open Forest Land, very fit for grazing but not for cultivation but we also passed through some very close thick Brush Country and indifferent land.'

In the early 1820's there were other trusted ex - prisoners who were allowed to settle near Maitland also - **George Mitchell**, **Molly Morgan**, **Richard Martin**, **Patrick Riley**, **John Allen**, **John Smith**, **Thomas Boardman**, **Patrick Maloney** and **John Cahill** and William Jones. **William Eckford** and **William O'Donnell** were also early small settlers.

NSW Colonial Exploration 1788 – 1820

Colony of NSW search for self sufficiency to South in 1810 by Hume 1814, to West in 1812 by Blaxland, Wentworth & Lawson, and to the North in 1820 by Howe.

Sydney colony hemmed in by Mountains inland from the East coast Pacific Ocean.

Discovered by sea with the large protected Botany Bay and Sydney Cove was welcoming, but to venture inland from the sea was limited to venturing upstream of the rivers and creeks.

Little open plains and grasslands for cattle brought by ship from England after 1788, so much so cattle were let loose to fend for themselves and were assumed lost, until in 1814 they were saved from drought by the Hume exploration on the fringe of the Colony at “Cow Pasture” to the south west.

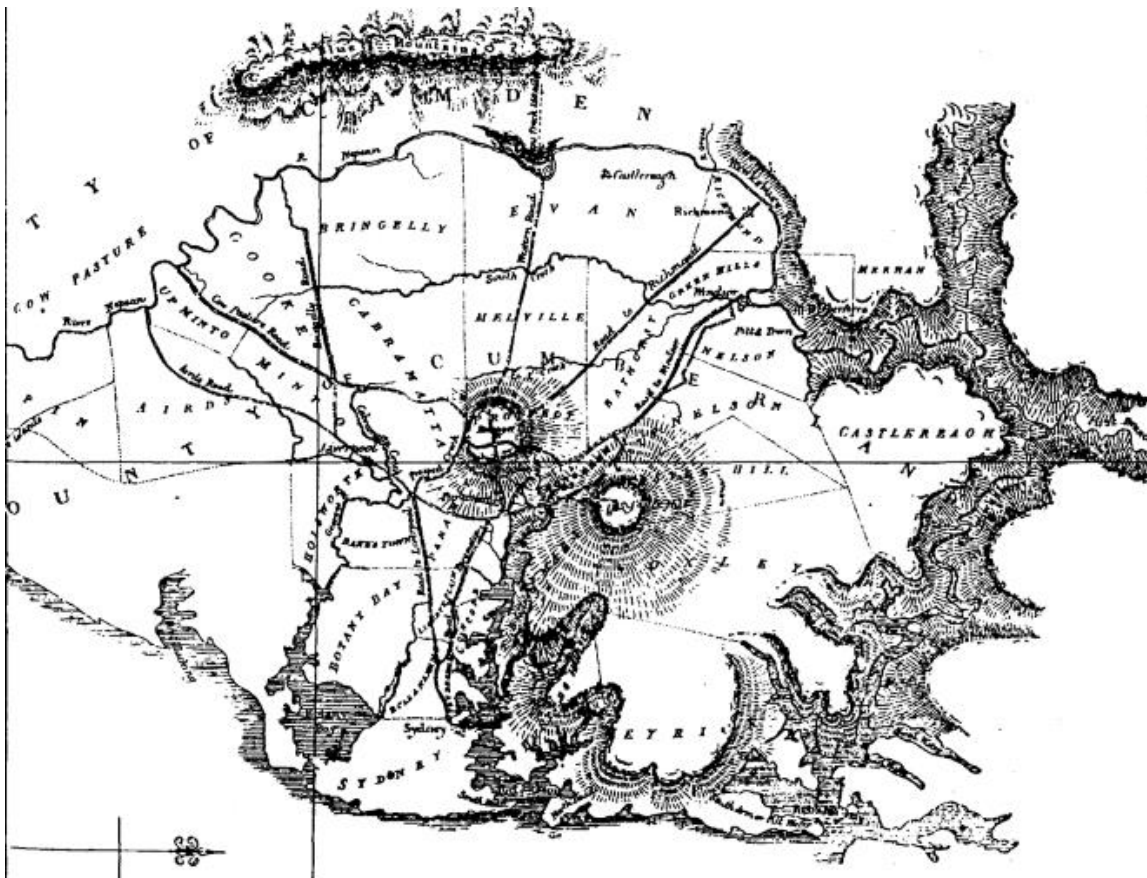
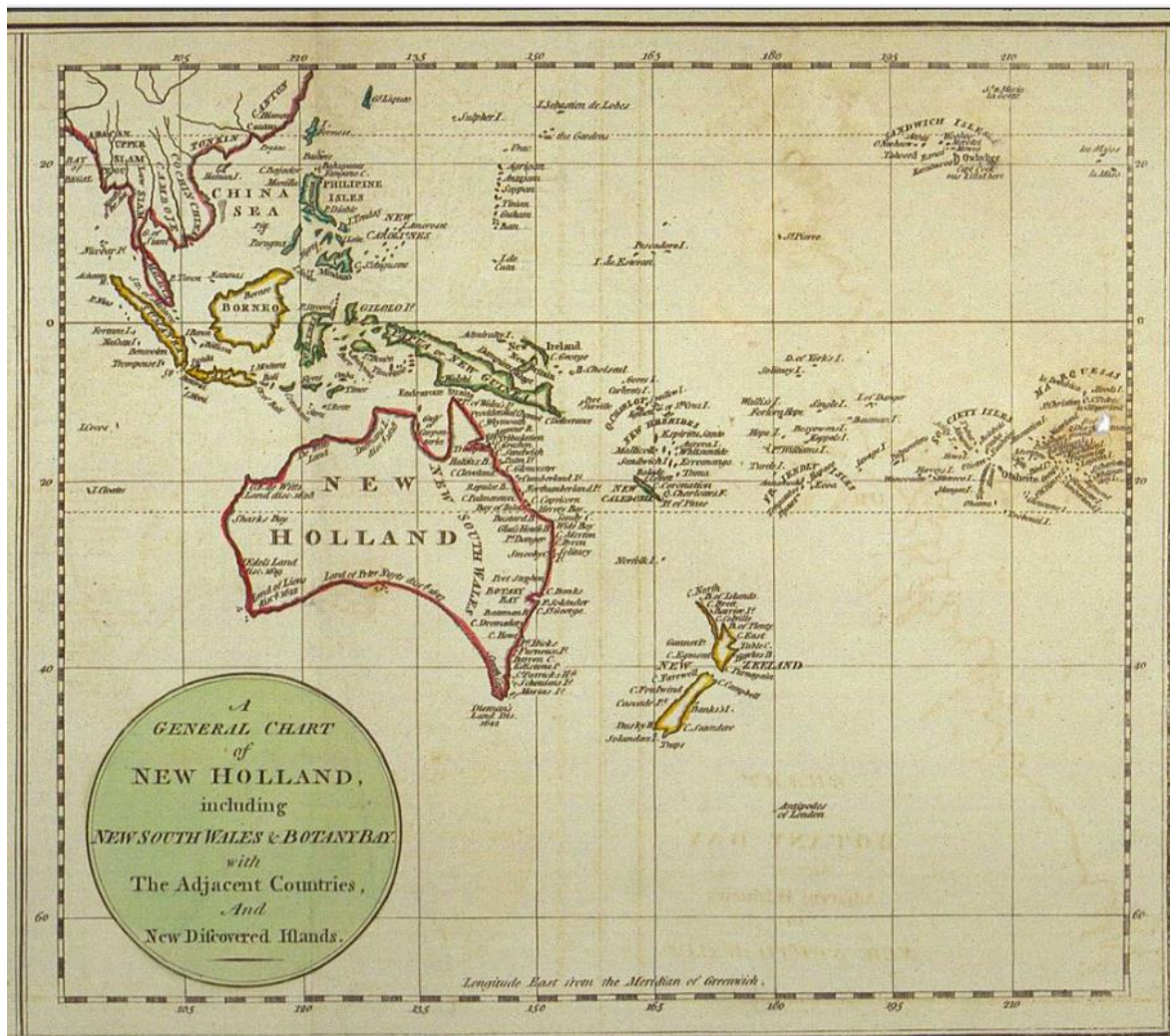


Fig.5.9 Part of 'An Outline Map of the Settlements in New South Wales, 1817,' published by Jas Wyld, London, Archives Office of NSW, Map No.1123. The five Macquarie Towns are shown clustered at the Hawkesbury River; also Liverpool, Castle Hill, Parramatta and Toongabbee. Can be compared with the Map published in 1802 by Cadell and Davies, Strand, London, and included in David Collins, An Account of the English Settlement in New South Wales, second edition, London, 1804.

Hume reports of Plains to South West

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



A General Chart of New Holland including New South Wales & Botany Bay with The Adjacent Countries and New Discovered Lands, published in An Historical Narrative of the Discovery of New Holland and New South Wales, London, Fielding and Stockdale, November 1786.

[J. Stockdale] - A General Chart of New Holland including New South Wales & Botany Bay with The Adjacent Countries and New Discovered Lands, published in

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/blue-mountains/index

UNESCO World Heritage

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917>

Contacts

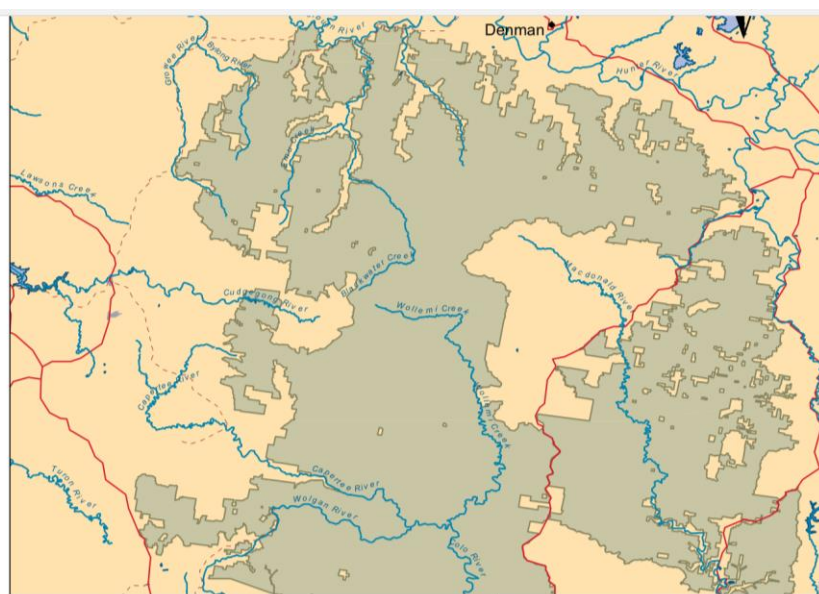
New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service

Blue Mountains Heritage Centre
PO Box 43
Blackheath NSW 2785

Web: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Email: bluemountains.heritagecentre@environment.nsw.gov.au

Tel: 02 4787 8877



Governor's Explorations 1796 – 1812

Development of the colony [edit]

Exploration [edit]

In October 1795 [George Bass](#) and [Matthew Flinders](#), accompanied by [William Martin](#) sailed the boat *Tom Thumb* out of [Port Jackson](#) to [Botany Bay](#) and explored the [Georges River](#) further upstream than had been done previously by the colonists. Their reports on their return led to the settlement of [Banks' Town](#).^[19] In March 1796 the same party embarked on a second voyage in a similar small boat, which they also called the *Tom Thumb*.^[20] During this trip they travelled as far down the coast as [Lake Illawarra](#), which they called Tom Thumb Lagoon. They discovered and explored [Port Hacking](#). In 1798-99, Bass and Flinders set out in a sloop and circumnavigated [Tasmania](#), thus proving it to be an island.^[21]

Aboriginal guides and assistance in the European exploration of the colony were common and often vital to the success of missions. In 1801-02 Matthew Flinders in *The Investigator* lead the first circumnavigation of Australia. Aboard ship was the Aboriginal explorer [Bungaree](#), of the Sydney district, who became the first person born on the Australian continent to circumnavigate the Australian continent.^[21] Previously, the famous [Bennelong](#) and a companion had become the first people born in the area of New South Wales to sail for Europe, when, in 1792 they accompanied Governor Phillip to England and were presented to [King George III](#).^[21]

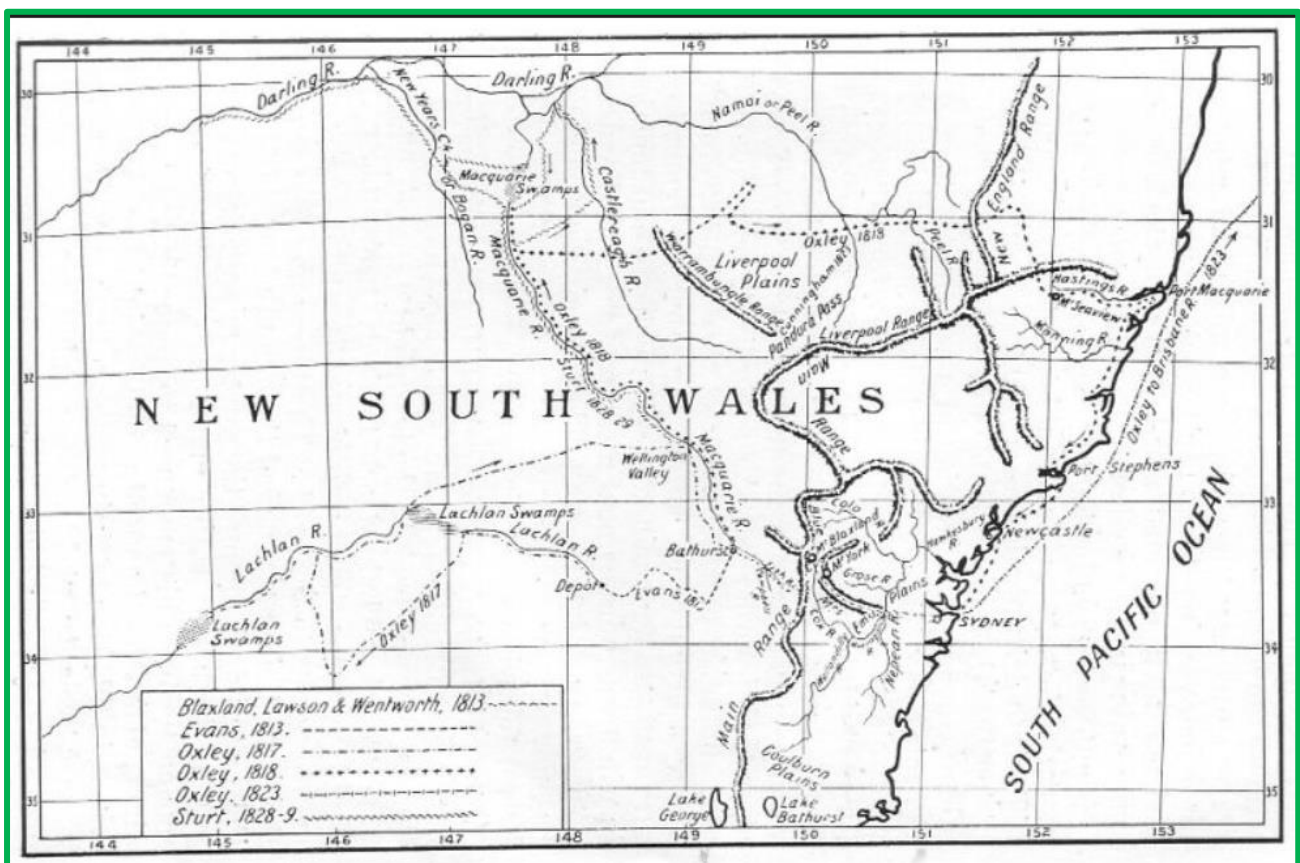
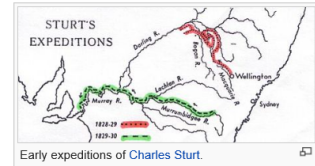
In 1813, [Gregory Blaxland](#), [William Lawson](#) and [William Wentworth](#) succeeded in crossing the formidable barrier of forested gulleys and sheer cliffs presented by the [Blue Mountains](#), west of Sydney, by following the ridges instead of looking for a route through the valleys. At [Mount Blaxland](#) they looked out over "enough grass to support the stock of the colony for thirty years", and expansion of the British settlement into the interior could begin.^[22]

In 1824 the Governor, [Sir Thomas Brisbane](#), commissioned [Hamilton Hume](#) and former Royal Navy Captain [William Hovell](#) to lead an expedition to find new grazing land in the south of the colony, and also to find an answer to the mystery of where New South Wales's western rivers flowed. Over 16 weeks in 1824-25, [Hume](#) and [Hovell](#) journeyed to Port Phillip and back. They made many important discoveries including the [Murray River](#) (which they named the Hume), many of its tributaries, and good agricultural and grazing lands between [Gunning](#), [New South Wales](#) and [Corio Bay](#), [Victoria](#).^[23]

[Charles Sturt](#) led an expedition along the [Macquarie River](#) in 1828 and discovered the [Darling River](#). A theory had developed that the inland rivers of New South Wales were draining into an inland sea. Leading a second expedition in 1829, Sturt followed the [Murrumbidgee River](#) into a 'broad and noble river', the Murray River, which he named after Sir George Murray, secretary of state for the colonies. His party then followed this river to its junction with the [Darling River](#), facing two threatening encounters with local Aboriginal people along the way. Sturt continued down river on to [Lake Alexandrina](#), where the Murray meets the sea in [South Australia](#). Suffering greatly, the party had to then row back upstream hundreds of kilometers for the return journey.^[24]

Surveyor General Sir [Thomas Mitchell](#) conducted a series of expeditions from the 1830s to 'fill in the gaps' left by these previous expeditions. He was meticulous in seeking to record the original Aboriginal place names around the colony, for which reason the majority of place names to this day retain their Aboriginal titles.^[25]

The Polish scientist/explorer Count [Paul Edmund Strzelecki](#) conducted surveying work in the [Australian Alps](#) in 1839 and became the first European to ascend Australia's highest peak, which he named [Mount Kosciuszko](#) in honour of the Polish patriot [Tadeusz Kościuszko](#).^[26]



Colony of NSW search for self sufficiency to South by Hume 1814, to West in 1813 by Blaxland, Wentworth & Lawson, to North in 1818 by Howe.

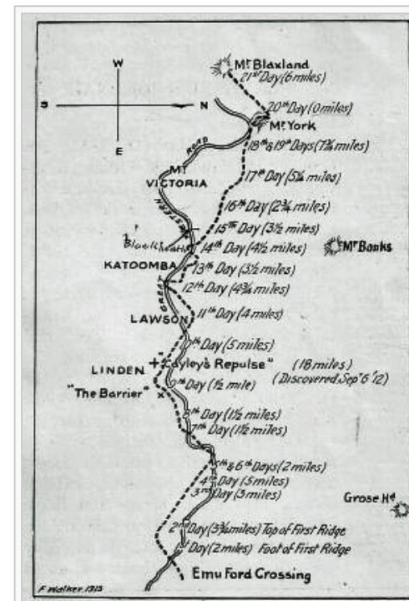
Bathurst Plains Sighted from Mount Blaxland. 1813

Blaxland, Wentworth & Lawson take the ridges to the Western Plains at Bathurst.

Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson led an expedition party, which included four servants, four pack horses and five dogs.^[5] Two of the four men who assisted the party have been identified as James Burne (or Burnes), a guide and kangaroo hunter, and Samuel Fairs, a convict who arrived in Australia in 1810. The two others, also thought to be convicts, remain unidentified.^[13]

The party left from Blaxland's [South Creek](#) farm^[14] near the modern suburb of [St Marys](#) in western Sydney, on 11 May 1813 and crossed the [Nepean River](#) later that day.^[15] They made their way over the mountains, following the [ridges](#), and completed the crossing in 21 days.^[15] The explorers' success has been attributed to their methodical approach^[6] and decision to travel on the ridges instead of through the valleys.^[12] The three explorers and two of their servants would set out each day, leaving the other two men at their campsite, and mark out a trail, before turning back later in the day to cut a path for the horses and allow

st of the party to progress^[6]



A sketch of their route, prepared by Frank Walker in 1913. The Great

The party first saw the plains beyond the mountains from [Mount York](#).^[12] They continued on to [Mount Blaxland](#) 25 km south of the site of [Lithgow](#), on the western side of the mountains.^[6] From this point Blaxland declared there was enough forest or grassland "to support the stock of the colony for thirty years",^[10] while Lawson called it "the best watered Country of any I have seen in the Colony".^[11] The party then turned back, making the return journey in six days.^[6]



Image shows the group of explorers standing at the edge of a cliff, looking out over plains.

Hume reports of Grassy Plains to South West in 1814

Colony of NSW search for self sufficiency to South in 1810 by Hume 1814, to West in 1813 by Blaxland, Wentworth & Lawson, to North in 1818 by Howe. As a youth of 17 years with his brother of years and with small axes cutting a track'

Cattle starving at "Cow Pastures" and Governor Macquarie Searching for grassy plains

Hume, Hamilton (1797–1873)

by **Stuart H. Hume**

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 1, (MUP), 1966

Hamilton Hume (1797–1873), explorer, was born on 19 June 1797, near Parramatta, New South Wales, the eldest son of **Andrew Hamilton Hume** and his wife Elizabeth, née Kennedy. An accomplished woman of an equable nature, Elizabeth was a perfect foil for her unpredictable husband, and gave her four children, particularly Hamilton, the rudiments of a sound education. In 1812 the family moved to a grant of 100 acres (40 ha) at Appin. Two years later Hamilton, 17, made his first journey of exploration when, with his brother John and an Aboriginal boy, he reached the Berrima-Bong Bong district. In the next two years Hamilton, leaving the youthful John at home, made two more successful journeys to the same district and penetrated as far as the Bungonia district.

At the request of Governor Macquarie, Hume in 1818 accompanied **Charles Throsby** and **James Meehan** to the 'New Country', virtually the area already referred to but taking in more of the County of Argyle. The party split up; Hume and Meehan pressed on and discovered Lake Bathurst and the Goulburn plains. Whilst at the lake Meehan discovered and traced the course of the Mulwaree River for some distance while Hume made an excursion to the Gourrock range. Rejoining for the return journey they passed close to the site of what became Goulburn. Next year Hume accompanied **John Oxley** and Meehan to Jervis Bay; Hume and Meehan, who worked well together, returned overland.

Throsby and **John Macarthur** next sought Hume's services as guide to the Bong Bong district, and in 1821 or 1822 Hume, accompanied by his brother-in-law, George Barber, and W. H. Broughton, discovered the Yass Plains: the party had gone to the Gunning district to establish a station. In 1822 Lieutenant Johnston, **Alexander Berry** and Hume reached the Clyde River; penetrating its upper reaches Berry and Hume moved inland almost to the site of Braidwood. For these services he received a grant of 300 acres (121 ha) at Appin and there built his first home. It was Berry who brought together Hume and Captain **William Hovell** for what was to be Hume's most famous and fruitful journey to Port Phillip and back in 1824–25.



Hamilton Hume (1797–1873), by unknown artist
State Library of New South Wales, GPO 1 - 18527

Life Summary [details]

Birth

19 June 1797
Parramatta, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Death

19 April 1873
Yass, New South Wales, Australia

Cultural Heritage

- Irish
- Scottish

Religious Influence

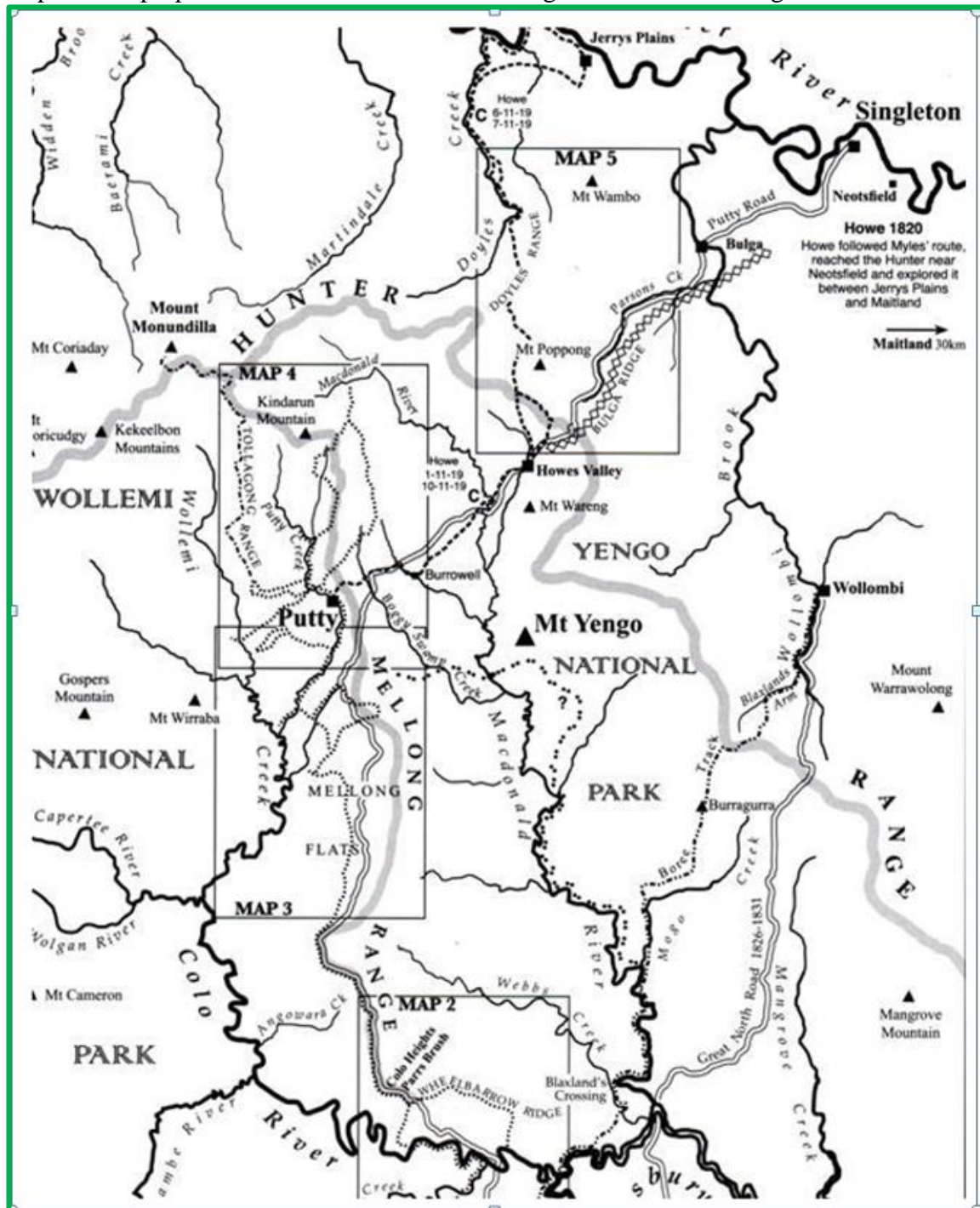
- Anglican

Occupation

JOHN HOWE'S. Exploration of Blue Mountains. 1818 - 1820

The 200th Year Anniversary of Explorers from Hawkesbury is fast approaching, with William Parr's party including Benjamin Singleton setting off on 20 October 1817, reaching beyond Colo Heights. Howe Explorations reached Jerrys Plains via Doyles Creek at 2pm on 5th November 1819, with Howe's party entering into Cockfighters Creek via the Bulga Track on **Date** March 1820 and then onto the naming of the River Valley area as Saint Patricks Plains on 15th March 1820.

These events provide an ideal opportunity to establish the Bulga Ancestral Heritage Conservation Culture Centre for the Cockfighters Valley as an initial step for the future Community development to prepare for the transition from Mining to Ancestral Heritage Tourism.



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

The First Expedition.

A private advance party set forth from the Hawkesbury on October 30, 1817 led by William Parr, a Government Mineralogist, along with Benjamin Singleton, Robert Francis and 2 other men. They failed somewhere in the rugged mountain area between Parr's Brush (Colo Heights) and the vicinity of Howe's Valley after almost making it to the Hunter. After the Mellon Aborigines fired the bush around them, fatigued and low ration supply, party members Benjamin Singleton and Robert Francis returned home on November 29.

The Second Expedition.

Another private party led by Benjamin Singleton with 3 men and a native left his watermill at Kurrajong on April 25, 1818. Singleton, on his own accord after accompanying Parr realised the hardship that lay ahead of him. But once again the party had to turn back before reaching the Hunter after mountainous hazards and further threats from the natives, returning on May 14.

The Third Expedition.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie requested John Howe as leader. John had arrived in the colony from England in June, 1802 aboard the "Coromandel". He held the position of Chief Constable at Windsor from May 16, 1812 to 1821 and also the Coroner from 1819 to 1820. Equipped with a compass and pocket watch to navigate, Howe set forth the following year on October 26, 1819, from the property of Benjamin Singleton at Little Wheeny Creek, Kurrajong. Aided with a party of 2 Hawkesbury native guides, Myles and Murphy also Benjamin Singleton, George Loder jnr., John Milward and 3 convicts, John Eggleton, Charles Berry and Nicholas Connley plus 2 pack-horses. Each man was armed and supplied with 3 weeks provision. The expedition crossed the Colo River, followed the Putee (Putty) Creek and crossed the Macdonald River and onto the discovery of Howe's Valley, Howe's Swamp, Howe's Lagoon and Howe's Mountain. Then onwards they finally succeeded on sighting the valley covered in fog which the natives referred to as "Comery Roy", at Doyle's Creek. At 2 pm on the 5th they met with Hunter's River about what is now Jerrys Plains. Due to provisions running low, being extremely footsore from the endless miles of walking, weary from fever and exposure, the party was forced to return. On the homeward journey they came across native Elders, Whirle and Bandagran, who told them of a much shorter route to the green pastures of the Hunter.

On returning to Windsor on November 14, after a duration of 21 days, covering 115 miles Howe was very dissatisfied with the route taken. Again, on the Governor's request, Howe commissioned one of his native guides, Myles to lead a party consisting off his own people, then report to him of the route told by the Elders. Myles carried out his instructions in 17 days, from December 9, until December 26, and was rewarded with a musket and breast-plate from the Governor for his effort. Without knowing it, this was to determine the fate of the young Philip Thorley.

The Fourth Expedition.

By February 5, 1820 John Howe was seeking out the arrangements for his second Expedition, which on account of his health wanted under way before the cold weather set in. On this day, he met with the Governor to discuss his requirements for a much larger party of twelve men for a six week duration. Philip volunteered and joined. The party of John Howe's second trip to the Hunter was, Benjamin Singleton, George Loder jnr. (John Howe's son-in-law) and volunteers Andrew Loder, Thomas Dargan jnr., Philip Thorley and Daniel Phillips, on ticket of leave was Jeremiah (Jerry) Butler no. 1239, convicts Nicholas Connley, Fredrick Rhodes, James House, Robert Bridle, Samuel Marshall, Charles Berry and 4 native guides, Myles, Mullaboy, Jelmoroy and Lazy Jack a total of 18 men. Leaving Windsor on March 5, they endeavoured once again to find a passable route over what had been regarded as an impassable barrier, some days only advancing a few miles.

They followed Howe's first route across the Colo, through Parr's Brush, over the Narang Melang (Mellong Flats) and the ridge above the Puttee Valley to the head-waters of the Macdonald River on reaching Howe's Valley they veered more to the north east. Cutting their path through dense terrain they followed the Bulga Creek (native name meaning "Mountainous") they finally looked down from the spur on Bulga Mountain which was later to be known as Milbrodale, onto the splendid valley plains named

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

"Camilaroy" (the Hunter Valley) which was Kamilaroi native territory. They reached the Hunter River on level ground in the vicinity of "Wittingham" (Whittingham) on Wednesday March 15, 1820. As it was so close to Saint Patrick's Day on the 17th, John Howe named the area "Saint Patrick's Plains" (now known as Neotsfield) after Ireland's Patron Saint but it appears prior to 1840 the Government no longer recognised the "Saint". Whittingham was the expectant area for the construction of the town.

On Tuesday March 21, the Expedition after short cutting the river's course downstream, reached Wallis Plains (West Maitland) where they met a group of convict sawyers, cutting and rafting cedar down stream to Newcastle. From here Howe sent a letter via Newcastle to the Governor stating the claims of his find. The party backtracked to Saint Patrick's Plains where John Howe fell ill and remained resting with some of his men, at where now is "Abbey Green", while the other part of the party proceeded up stream to Jerry's Plains, a further 40 miles, finding the good grazing and cultivation land that Howe reported the previous year. Jerry's Plains, was first called "Jerry's Pain's", on account of an accident there when assigned servant, Jeremiah Butler, was lighting the camp fire and had a finger blown from his hand while blasting a loaded pistol to obtain a fire which ignited. Some say Jeremiah died after mortification set in and was buried in a paddock opposite the Darlington Post Office, but this was not the case. On returning to Howe, finding him much improved, commenced their homeward-bound journey but while crossing the Wollombi Brook a mare named "Cockfighter" became bogged in quicksand causing its death, hence the Cockfighter Creek was named. On leaving the main body of the party to mark the trail Howe returned onto Windsor after the duration of 5 weeks.

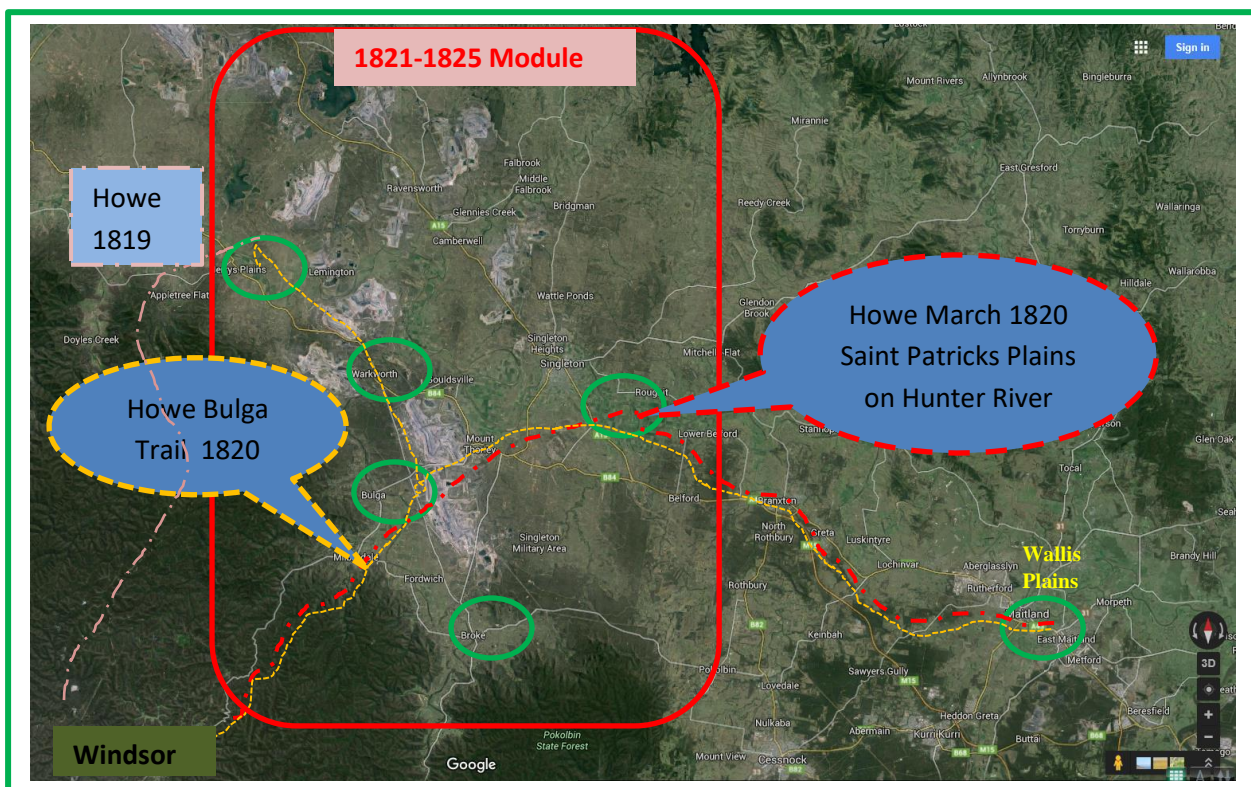
In October and November, 1819, John Howe, chief constable at Windsor, led a party from the Hawkesbury to the Hunter river, which followed in a general way the direction of the Bulga road. On the 26th of October, the expedition crossed the Colo river, a little above the junction of Wheeny creek. Six days later, after some difficult travelling, under the guidance of some natives, the party, keeping to the west of the Macdonald river, passed the neighbourhood of Yengo mountain, then crossed the upper Macdonald and encamped for the night on Wareng creek, at a spot a mile west of Wareng mountain. During this day, a party of about sixty natives were met, many of whom had never seen a white man. On the 2nd of November, the dividing ridge between the watersheds of the Hawkesbury and Hunter rivers was crossed, after finding it necessary to unload the horses to cross the hills. Two days later, a heavy fog, lying east and west, was observed from the top of some high rocks, and the presence of a river was suspected. On the following day, Friday, 5th November, the Hunter river was reached, a little above the present town of Singleton. The river was followed down for some distance, until the homeward journey was commenced on the following day. The return journey was accomplished after some difficulty in the rough country, and Windsor was reached after an absence of twenty-two days. In a letter, dated 17th November, 1819, John Howe reported the result of his journey to Governor Macquarie. On the 5th of February, 1820, a second expedition under Howe's leadership left Windsor, and spent five weeks in the examination of the valley of the upper Hunter river. As a reward for his discoveries, on the 18th of September, 1820, John Howe was granted a license by Governor Macquarie to graze his flocks and herds at "St. Patrick Plains" known as Redbourneberry.

Cockfighter's Creek "The Gateway to the Hunter Valley"

"The Bulgar Track" descending the Escapement at Cockfighter's Creek established the Valley Environs as "The Gateway to the Hunter Valley" where solid crossings were established, firstly across the Cockfighter's Creek towards Jerry's Plains where again a solid crossing of the Hunter River provided the Route onwards to the Great Dividing Range and Blue Mountains.

John Howe's party had identified the dangers by the loss of one of their horses named "Cockfighter" in the earlier sandy Brook crossings, in what turned out to be permanent water for the Early Settlers.

The Early 1822 Colonial Settlers in this area were eager for land with plentiful water and grassy plains, and the Valley along Cockfighter's Creek through to Jerry's Plains became an early focus.

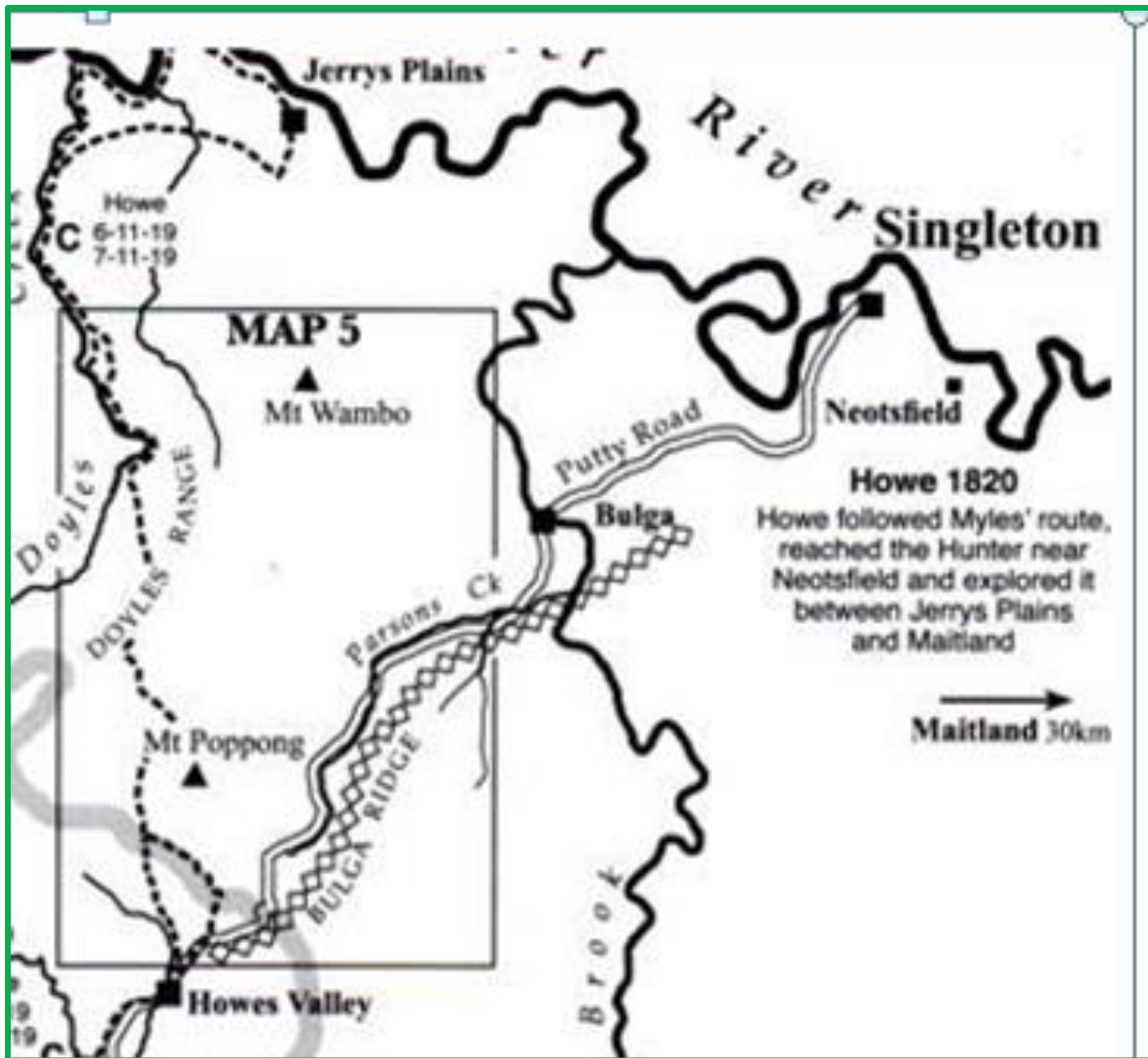


Grassy Plains along Cockfighter's Creek to Jerry's Plains on the Hunter River, and over the Valley Saddle Ridge to the East again the Hunter River Flats. Further to the East is the Rich Hunter River Flats Saint Patricks Plains.

John Howe in March 1820 had opened up the Hunter River from "The Bulgar" through to Wallis Plains and "The King's Town" Newcastle for the Colonial Settlement of the 1820's.

Research of 1820 to 1825 Colonial Archives and especially Government Surveyor's Field Notes may detail the initial primitive localities and living conditions in the Cockfighter's Creek at the time. It is recorded that Philip Thorley and family took up land on the Hunter River in 1822. Although in these early days their early "Hut locations" may have needed Government Surveys of their lands as suitable for settlement, and hence what is recorded by Henry Dangar in 1821-1825 Parish Maps is the outcome.

Primary authenticated Reference Extracts as Visualisation Images rather than extracts in reports'



1820 “Bulgar Track - The Gateway to Cockfighter”

Who followed Howe to Cockfighter and for what reason.

Did Howe revisit the Cockfighter in 1820 ?

What was Governor Macquarie Response to Howe's report March 1820 ?

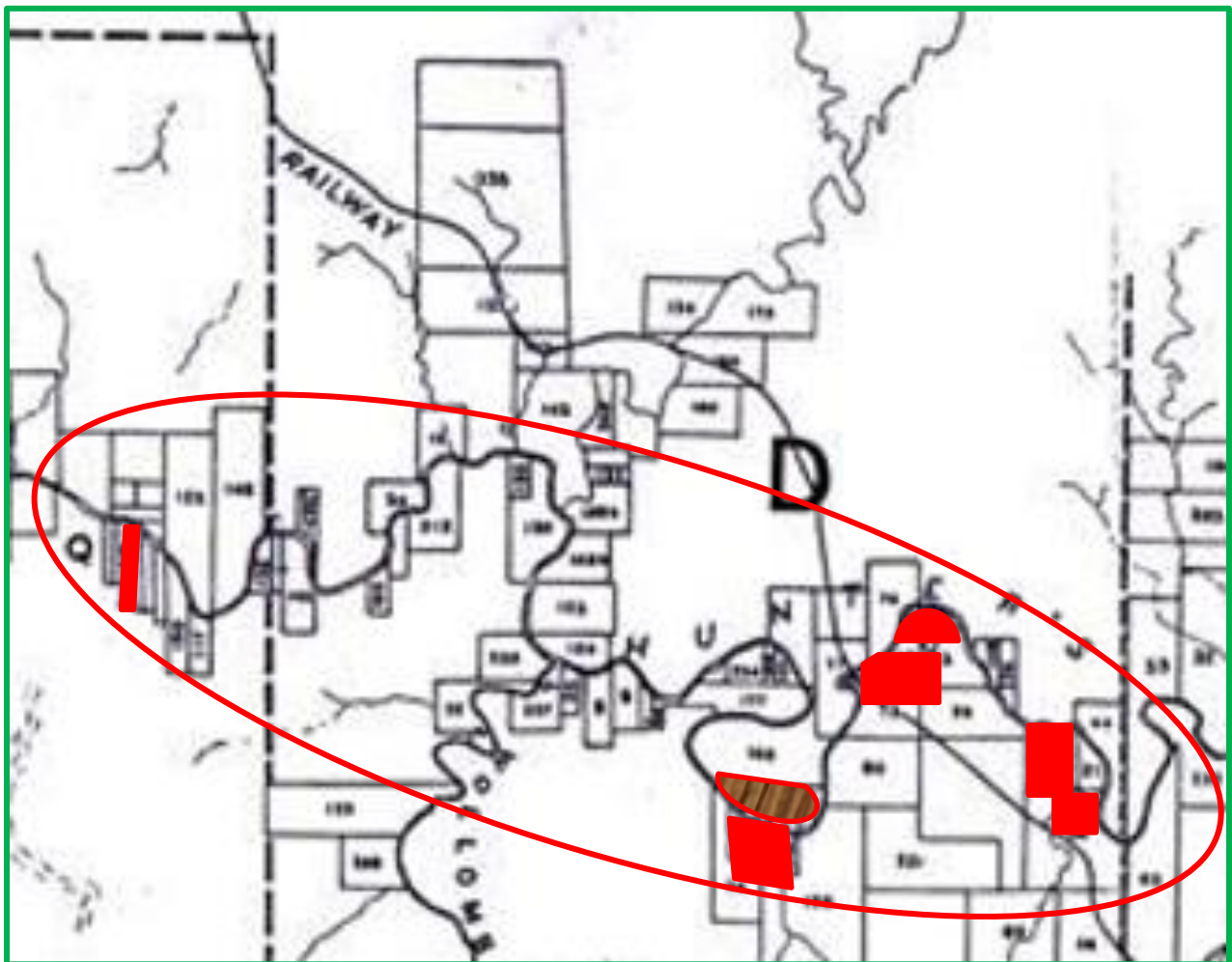
Pioneer Settlers & Grant Allotments 1821

The earliest Land Grants are in 1821 with the major in March 1821 in the Parish of Wittingham at Saint Patricks Plains on the River Hunter and at Warkworth Parish on the Hunter River, with one on Lemington Parish on the Hunter River; *thus recognising the agricultural significance of these grassy Plains and River Flats to the Colony at that time.*

All Allotment Grants of 31st March 1821 were properties on the hunter River, with a number of them taken up by Grantees and extracts from Henry Dangar's Field Notes are expected to confirm that Allocations were roughly laid out with reference to their land features, such as trees, temporary pegs etc as the task of apportioning land by area also related to the soil and Water attributes and orientation to the River.

Early farming established for reliable convicts at Wallis Plains in 1820 soon were followed by Settlers seeking out uncontested land throughout the newly reported grassy Plains. Plains, as well as the Williams and Paterson Rivers.

The "Country of Northumberland" suitable Agricultural Land Localities along the River Hunter established Parishes ranging from 18,000 to 35,000 acres, all with River or Brook frontages, and including individual Parish Church and School Estates of 1200 to 2500 acres; *however without Roads.*



1821 “The Birthplace of the Hunter Valley”

“The Birthplace of Hunter Valley” ..THE BIRTHPLACE OF HUNTER VALLEY..

The lure of the Hunter River at Saint Patricks Plains with the rich River Flats for some offered the added promise of river access to Wallis Plains, and via Newcastle Ships to the then Colony – Sydney.

Not surprisingly Henry Dangar the Government Surveyor soon after the Howe 1820 Exploration ventured up the Hunter River, and with his understanding of the Agricultural Lands selected and managed to obtain his land grant of 700 acres by September 6, 1821 “Neotsfield” less than 6 months after the Howe Explorer’s Grants were promised.

Dangar’s Field Notes are expected to confirm that the lands granted to John Howe’s Party had already been surveyed by Henry Dangar in the year leading up to Governor Macquarie promising the Grants on Saturday March 1821. Also in this time many Colonial prospective Settlers may have ventured into “these unallocated lands”. The Plan of all Allotments in this early period were with River or Brook frontage, suggesting that the Hunter River was to provide the means of transporting farm produce and supplies through Wallis Plains to Sydney. It is reported in 1830 that Boats had access from Henry Dangar’s Neotsfield to William Dangars Trurannville beyond Scone. No Roads were included in these early Surveys.

Benjamin Singleton, was granted Land No 12, soon to be allotment 16 of 200 acres beside “Neotsfield” no doubt influenced by Henry Dangar, and it on these Hunter River Flats that Benjamin Singleton Cattle roamed.

Meanwhile John Howe during 1821 had already revisited the Hunter River with cattle brought over from Windsor on the Bulgar Track via “The Puttee” and Howes Valley Track. Refer below.

Add copy of Cattle movement

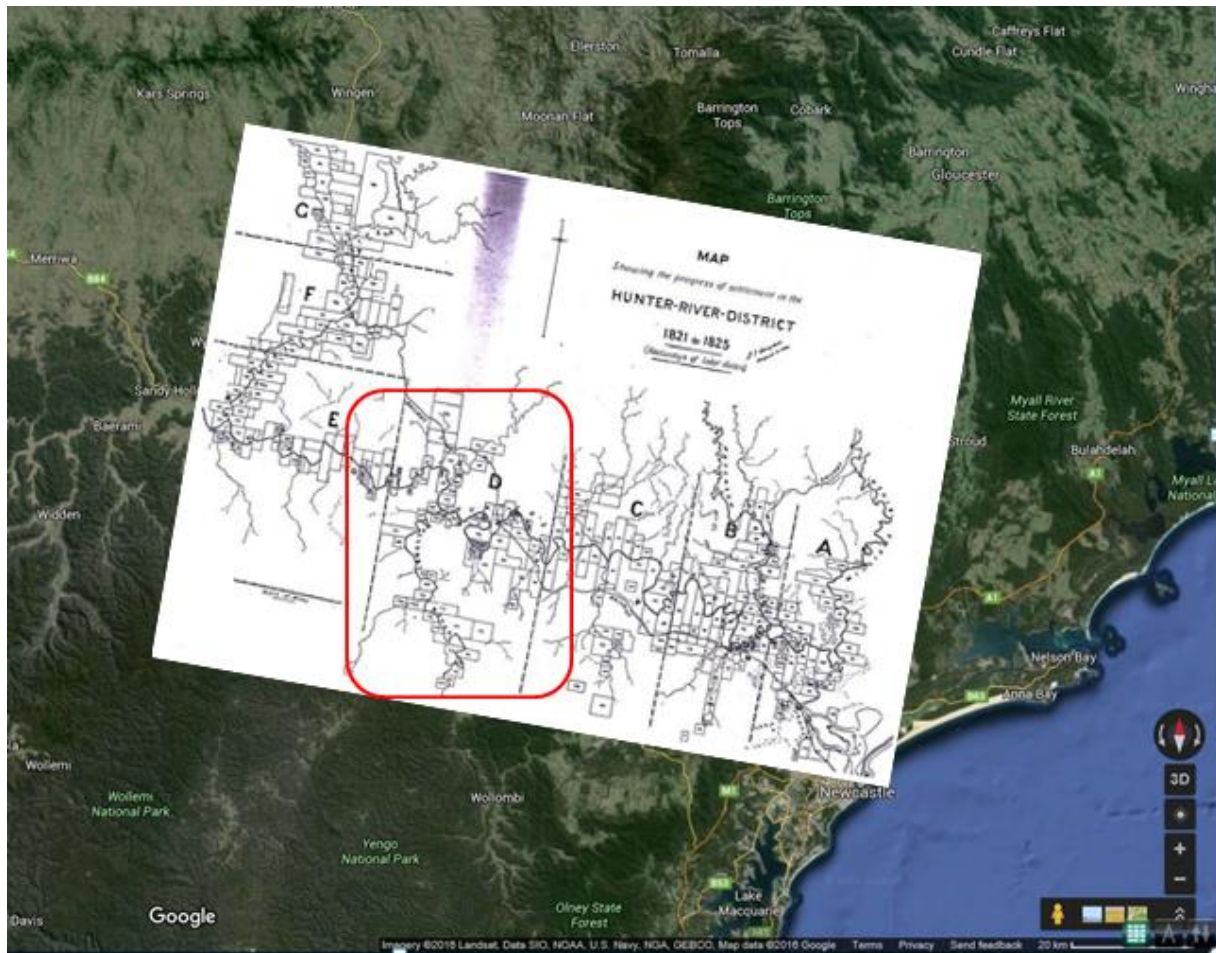
Benjamin Singleton was granted land on the site of what is presently the town of Singleton by Governor Brisbane in 1823 (Wood 1972). Singleton settled on this land and established a residence. In 1827 Singleton set up the first inn in the area, called The Barley Mow, which was followed by the establishment of a flour mill in 1829 and a post office. The railway arrived in Singleton in 1863 and assisted in the further development and economic prosperity of the town (Appleton 1963).

The town of Singleton was named after Benjamin Singleton, who had taken part in the navigation of an overland route between the Hawkesbury and Hunter Rivers. He was granted land on the site of what is presently the town of Singleton by Governor Brisbane in 1823 (Wood 1972). Singleton settled on this land and established a residence. In 1827 Singleton set up the first inn in the area, called The Barley Mow, which was followed by the establishment of a flour mill in 1829 and a post office. The railway arrived in Singleton in 1863 and assisted in the further development and economic prosperity of the town (Appleton 1963).

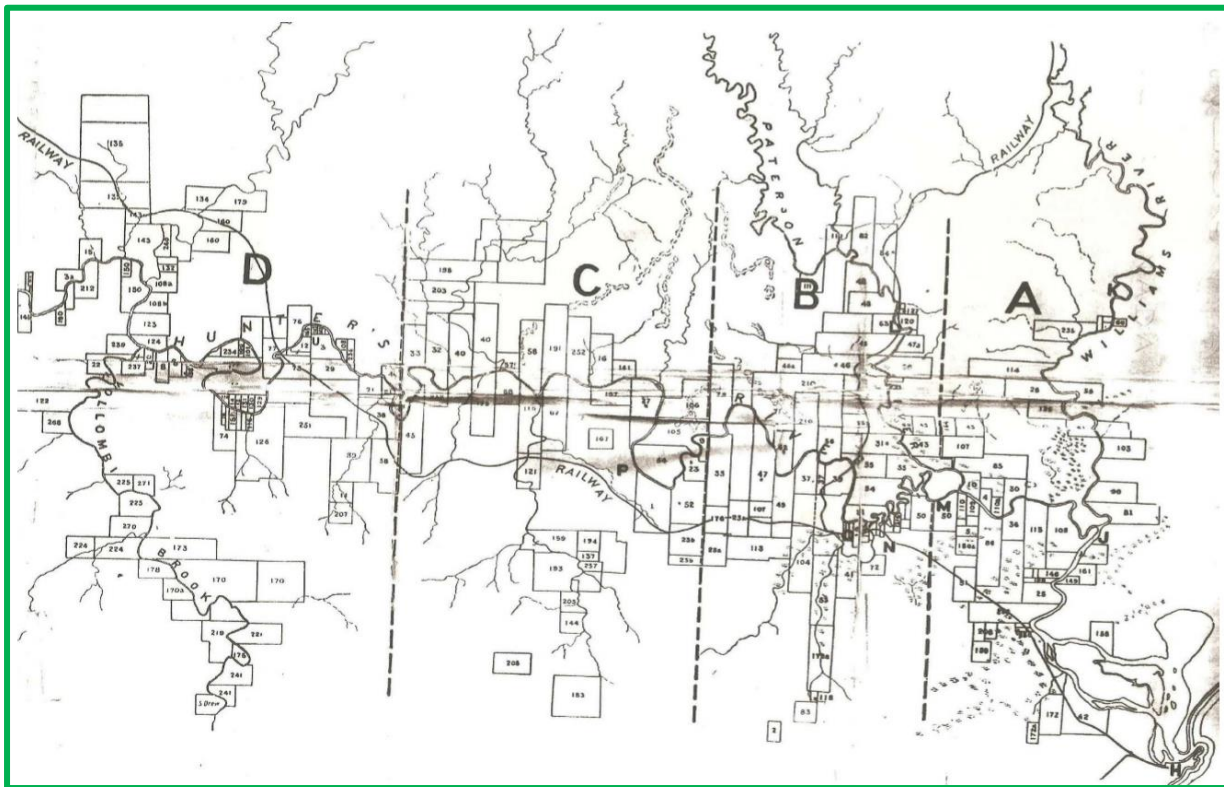
Benjamin Singleton in 1822 is recorded as on a small Grant upstream of Philip Thorley Grant on the East side of the River Hunter. Thus Benjamin Singleton Family was likely here and then the second recorded location of Stock was on the Hunter River Flats Neotsfield in the period 1822 but by 3rd August 1822 this became James Mudie’s Grant of 2150 acres.

Twelve months passed since the naming by Howe on 15th March 1820 of Saint Patrick’s Plains and Governor Macquarie passed that portions of this land be granted to John Howe and the free members of his party for the grazing of cattle and sheep within the area. To these men the compensation of a land grant was the greatest and richest reward of all.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



King's Town to Hunter Valley Land Surveyed for Colonial Settlement



Map of Surveyed Land on Hunter River 1821-1825 Henry Dangar

8

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND (continued).

Date of Order.	No. of Allotments	Grantees' Names.	Church & School Lands.	Acres by Grant.	Acres by Purchase.	Annual Quit Rent	Amount of Quit Rent Redemption.	Total Acres by Grant & Church.	Total Acres by Purchase.	Remarks on unappropriated Lands.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
1821. Mar. 31	6	John Beveridge (a)	...	600	...	0 12 0	12 0 0			and are generally rich and productive in soil; they are, however, owing to a want of good water, most worthy the attention of the proprietors already there. The Church and School Estate is thinly timbered, and is of good quality.
1823. Oct. 9	7	James Cobb	...	600	...	0 12 0	12 0 0			
1825. Nov. 19	8	John Cobb	...	2000	...	2 0 0	40 0 0			
1822. April 3	9	Ellis Martyn Scott J.P. (b)	...	2000	...	15 0 0	300 0 0			
1821. Mar. 21	10	John Rotten	...	1040	...	1 0 9½	20 15 10			
1824. July 3	11	John Howe	...	700	...	0 14 0	14 0 0			
1824. July 3	12	George Yeoman	...	60	...	0 9 0	9 0 0			
" Sept. 16	13	Robert Yeoman	...	60	...	0 9 0	9 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	14	John Yeoman	...	100	...	0 15 0	15 0 0			
"	15	John Brown (a)	...	60	...	0 1 2½	1 4 2			
1824. Aug. 26	16	Benjamin Singleton	...	200	...	0 4 0	4 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	17	Joseph Bigge	...	100	...	0 15 0	15 0 0			
1823. May 13	18	Benjamin Singleton (a)	...	40	...	0 0 9½	0 15 10			
1823. May 13	19	Andrew McDugall	...	900	...	0 18 0	18 0 0			
July 5	20	John Earle	...	1500	...	1 10 0	30 0 0			
1825. May 16	21	Alexander Warren	...	...	2370	2 7 5	47 8 4		
"	22	Church & School Estate	1280	...	...	...	..
		Warkworth Parish.*	3840	12810	5670			16650	5670	
"	1	Church and School	2520			
1825. Aug. 12	2	Festus Tong (d)	500	0 10 0	10 0 0			
Oct. 8	3	Joseph Onus (b)	...	550	...	4 2 6	82 10 0			
Nov. 12	4	William Longford (b)	...	600	...	4 10 0	90 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	5	David Brown (a)	...	200	...	0 4 0	4 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	7	John Dight, sen. (a)	...	400	...	0 8 0	8 0 0			and productive in herbage; being, however, well watered by the Wollombi brook, they are desirable as a grazing district. The Church and School Estate is of good quality, having a proportion of rich land on the river.
1823. Oct. 28	8	Michael Griffin	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1824. Dec. 28	9	Robert Huddle	...	1000(r)	...	7 10 0	150 0 0			
1825. Nov. 12	10	John Dight, jun. (b)	...	300	...	2 5 0	45 0 0			
1823. Oct. 28	11	Edward Harrington	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
"	12	John Heffron	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1823. May 13	13	John McDougall	...	900	...	0 18 0	18 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	14	Daniel Phillips (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
"	15	Phillip Thorley (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
"	16	George Loder, jun. (a)	...	200	...	0 4 0	4 0 0			
"	17	Andrew Loder (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
"	18	Thomas Dargon (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1824. Jan. 30	19	George Loder, sen.	...	150	...	1 2 6	22 10 0			
1825. May 16	20	Alexander Warren	1630	1 12 7	32 11 8			
		Lemington Parish, 23,000 Acres.	2520	5450	2130			7970	2130	
"	1	Church & School Estate	2380			
1824. April 20	2	Matthew Hindston	...	2000	...	15 0 0	300 0 0			
1821. Oct. 31	3	Thomas Parmeter (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1825. Aug. 19	4	Do. Do. (b)	...	600	...	4 10 0	90 0 0			
1825. Nov. 14	5	John Blaxland, jun. (b)	...	600	...	4 10 0	90 0 0			
1825. Aug. 3	6	George Bowman	880	0 17 7	17 11 8			
1824. Aug. 4	7	Do. Do.	...	250	...	1 17 6	37 10 0			
1825. July 14	8	Wm. Simms Bell, J.P. (b)	...	750	...	5 5 0	105 0 0			
Feb. 1	9	James Smith	...	300	...	2 5 0	45 0 0			
1824. July 7	10	Richard Hobden	...	500	...	3 15 0	75 0 0			
June 2	11	Do Do	...	120	...	0 18 0	18 0 0			
1824. Aug. 9	12	William Noble	...	300	...	2 5 0	45 0 0			
			2380	5470	880			7850	880	

LEMINGTON.

The unoccupied lands here are well watered, light soil, and desirable as a grazing tract.

The Church and School Estate is of a second rate description, but desirable.

c

Page 71

Benjamin Singleton and Philip Thorley were the first settlers to take their families, to the isolation and loneliness of the newly discovered region. In 1822 *'Benjamin Singleton took his wife and five young children over the dismaying Bulga track, which was so rugged that John Howe had been forced to unload the packhorses and the load down "into the valley called Puttee". Mrs. Singleton with Mrs. Thorley were the first white women to cross these mountains. Others followed them from the Hawkesbury and squatted on the unallocated lands, selecting a site for a hut, a wheat paddock, and a corn and pumpkin patch. Their stock grazed confined on the plains and mingled in the cattle camps in the bush.'*²⁷³ The early 1820s were notable for the particularly devastating drought that struck the colony. 1822 was especially bad, and may have provided the incentive for Singleton and company at that time to seek better pastures.

The modest grants of land received by John Howe and other members of his second party were never properly designated. They and other Hawkesbury settlers moving cattle up the Bulga track to the Hunter soon found themselves displaced by well-connected newcomers. These people came with government orders entitling them to bigger areas. They had ample capital, as well as abundant convict labour, to develop and augment their lands. *"Land was distributed to approved applicants by outright grant, in return for nominal quit-rents which were seldom if ever collected, or 'reserved for purchase' on liberal time-payment for a few shillings an acre."*²⁷⁴

Add Neotsfield, Castle Forbes, Larnach - Rosemont Baroona, Minimbah Wittingham Town Plan

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4. European Settlement of the Hunter Region

Roads

In contrast to the lower portions of the Hunter Region, the upper reaches of the region and most particularly the inland areas, relied solely on land transport.⁴² Essential links were those that provided access to the sea, to Sydney (via the Hawkesbury), and to the western and north-western districts of NSW (for pastoral expansion). The large estates tended to be the driving forces behind the development of the roadways as landowners sought more lands or connections between existing pastoral runs, as well as direct links to transport nodes (Newcastle) and markets.

The Bulga Road (now the Putty Road) and the road from Wiseman's Ferry to Wollombi were the earliest roads in the region. However, it was not until the late 1820s and more particularly the 1830s and 40s that roadways began to be surveyed and constructed (in many cases using convict labour) into the northern reaches of the region.

In 1826, the road between Newcastle and Wallis Plains was opened for travellers on horseback and in 1831, a somewhat shorter route from Parramatta through Castle Hill to Wiseman's Ferry and Wollombi created the Great North Road.⁴³ In 1833 an extension to the road leading from Wallis Plains northwards to Patrick's Plains was surveyed together with lines of road leading from Morpeth to Maitland, from Maitland to Patrick's Plains, from Patrick's Plains to Broke and a line from the Great North Road from Broke up the Wollombi Rivulet.⁴⁴

Aside from official roadways there also existed a number of tracks throughout the region, formed by the landholders to facilitate travel. For example, a rough track travelled through the estate lands between West Maitland to Patrick Plains and a fenced track through Bolwarra became the route from Maitland to the Paterson Plains, leading to Port Stephens, the Manning Valley and eventually Port Macquarie.⁴⁵

Governor Macquarie Land Grants March 1821

Twelve months passed since the naming by Howe on 15th March 1820 of Saint Patrick's Plains and Governor Macquarie passed that portions of this land be granted to John Howe and the free members of his party for the grazing of cattle and sheep within the area. To these men the compensation of a land grant was the greatest and richest reward of all.

On Saturday March 31, 1821 the following grants were promised in the Wollombi Brook area.

PHILIP THORLEY. Promised 100 acres to become grant no. 17, allotment 15 portion no. 19 which he names "Mount Thorley".

DANIEL PHILLIPS. Promised 100 acres to become grant no. 18, allotment 14 on the eastern side of Philip's which he named "Grenfield".

JOHN DIGHT Snr. **850** 400 acres, allotment 7

It was not until January 30, 1824 a further 3 years later that the remainder of the men received their grants.

GEORGE LODER JNR. Promised grant no. 181 of 200 acres which was allotment 16, portion no. 20 to the west of Philip and Dargan's grants, named "Mount Loder".

ANDREW LODER. Promised grant no. 182 of 100 acres, allotment 17, portion no. 45 which he gave the name of "Mount Pleasant", now "Old Farm".

THOMAS DARGAN JNR. Promised 100 acres, allotment 18, portion no. 46 beside Philip's grant on the southern side.

DAVID BROWN Promised grant no **xx**, allotment 5, portion no **yy**

THOMAS PARMENTER Promised grant no. **xx**, allocation 3 31st October 1821 **on Hunter River at Jerry's Plains**

On Saturday March 31, 1821 the following grants were promised on the Hunter River at Saint Patricks Plains

JOHN HOWE. 700 acres in the Parish of Wittingham to become grant no. 3, allotment 11 which he named "Redbournberry", in regards to his English birth place.

BENJAMIN SINGLETON. 200 acres in the Parish of Wittingham became grant no. 12, allotment 16 and to be claimed 2 years later 3rd August 1822 as 2150 acres by James Mudies as Allotment 3 (adjoining Henry Dangar's Neotsfield)

Also on 31st March 1831 Promised 40 acres, allotment 18, grant no **xx**, and this Grant is where the Town of Singleton now stands.

JOHN BEVERIDGE 600 acres as grant no **xx**, allotment 6.

JAMES COBB. 600 acres as grant no **xx**, allocation 8.

JOHN BROWN. 60 acres as grant no **xx**, allotment 14.

HENRY DANGAR the surveyor, on September 6, 1821 received 700 acres, grant no **xx**, allotment 4 named "Neotsfield".

Colonial Parish & Grant Allotments 1821-1825

Governorxyz extended the trusted convicts into Farms on Wallis Plains in 181x and then by Date 1820 declared Newcastle as a free settlement having move the convicts to Port Macquarie and

Henry Dangar in 1820 prepared "The Grand Plan and Allotments of King's Town New South Wales" (Newcastle) and with the Howe Exploration news of March 1820 of the grassy Saint Patricks Plains, this Survey soon saw the need for Settlement Land all along "Country in the Vicinity of the Hunter's River".

Early farming established for reliable convicts at Wallis Plains in 1820 soon were followed by Settlers seeking out uncontested land throughout the newly reported grassy Plains.

Henry Dangar's Surveying of "The Colony Land Grants" soon extended over "The County of Northumberland" from King's Town on "The River Hunter" upstream all the way to Saint Patricks and Jerry's Plains, as well as the Williams and Paterson Rivers.

The "Country of Northumberland" suitable Agricultural Land Localities along the River Hunter established Parishes ranging from 18,000 to 35,000 acres, all with River or Brook frontages, and including individual Parish Church and School Estates of 1200 to 2500 acres; *however without Roads*.

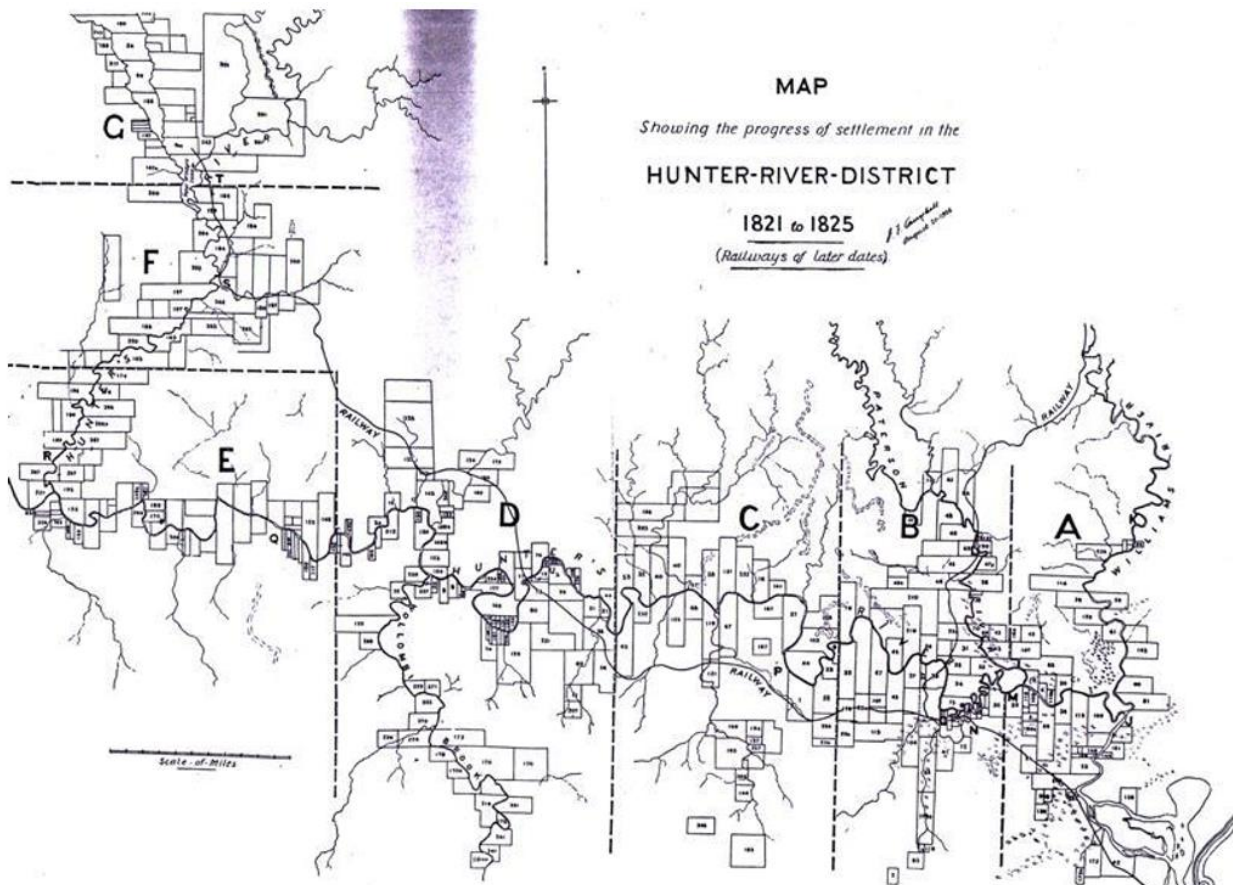


Figure 2. The distribution of land allotments in the Hunter region, 1821 to 1825, drawn by J.F. Campbell, "The Genesis of Rural Settlement on the Hunter", *Journal of Royal Australian Historical Society*, 12, 1926, after p.86. The divisions A to G are artificial finding aids used in Campbell's index to these grants, pp.79-87.

Allotments of Lands Grants held by Individuals

1825. Nov. 14	1	John Christie Phelps (b)	...	500	...	3 15 0	75 0 0			WHITFIELD. The unappropriated lands of this Parish are of a light and sandy character, excepting about twentyfour sections of the eastern side, over which is a productive loam soil, though not well watered. They are, however, worthy the attention of the extensive grazier, as permanently good water on the Wollombi Brook is yet attainable. The Church and School Estate is of good quality, and well watered.
"	2	Do. Do. (b)	...	500	...	3 15 0	75 0 0			
"		Whitfield Parish.*	...	1000	...			1000		
"	1	Church & School Estate	2560	...	...	...	...
"	2	Do. Do. about	1750	...	...	...	...
1825. July 8	3	John Blaxland	4200	4 4 0	84 0 0			WITTINGHAM. The remaining lands here are free from burthensome timber,
1824. Nov. 4	4	A. M. Ritchie	...	2000Rr	...	...	...
1825. Aug. 27	5	Thos. Walker J.P. (b)	...	1200	...	9 0 0	180 0 0			
"		Wittingham Parish.	4310	3200	4200			7510	4200	
"		33,430 Acres.								
"	1	Church & School Estate	2560			WITTINGHAM. The remaining lands here are free from burthensome timber,
1825. May 23	2	James Mudie	...	...	2000	2 0 0	40 0 0		
1822. Aug. 3	3	Do. Do.	...	2150	...	2 2 6	42 10 0			
1821. Sept. 6	4	Henry Dangar (a)	...	700	...	0 14 0	14 0 0			
1825. May 16	5	Do. Do.	...	...	300	0 6 0	6 0 0		

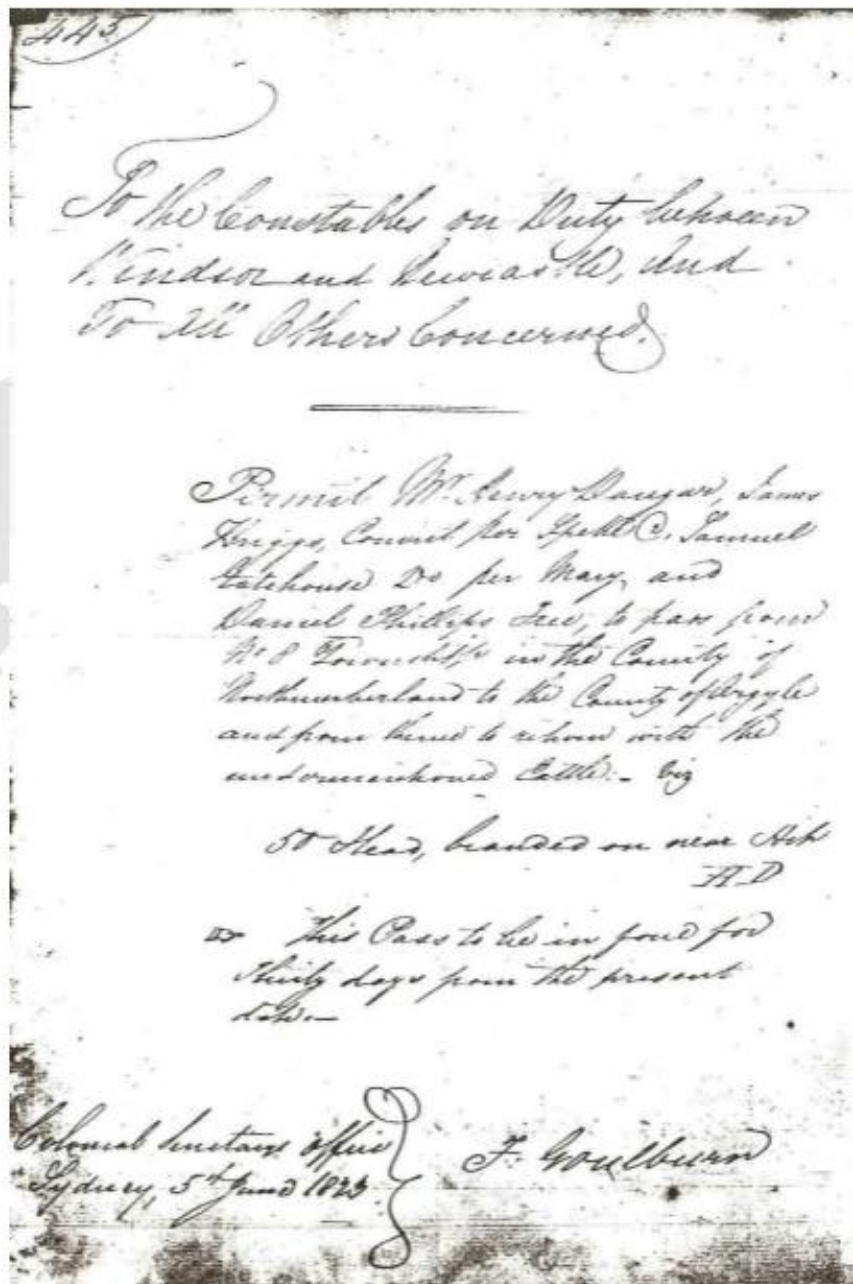
8 COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND (continued).										
Date of Order.	No. of Allotments	Grantees' Names.	Church & School Lands.	Acres by Grant.	Acres by Purchase.	Annual Quit Rent	Amount of Quit Rent.	Total Acres by Grant & Church.	Total Acres by Purchase.	Remarks on unappropriated Lands.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
1821. Mar. 31	6	John Beveridge (a)	...	600	...	0 12 0	12 0 0			and are generally rich and productive in soil; they are, however, owing to a want of good water, most worthy the attention of the proprietors already there. The Church and School Estate is thinly timbered, and is of good quality.
1823. Oct. 9	7	James Cobb	...	600	...	0 12 0	12 0 0			
1825. Nov. 19	8	John Cobb	...	2000	...	2 0 0	40 0 0			
1822. April 3	9	Ellis Martyn Scott J.P. (b)	...	2000	...	15 0 0	300 0 0			
1821. Mar. 21	10	John Rotten	...	1040	...	1 0 9½	20 15 10			
1824. July 3	11	John Howe	...	700	...	0 14 0	14 0 0			The Church and School Estate is of good quality.
"	12	George Yeoman	...	60	...	0 9 0	9 0 0			
"	13	Robert Yeoman	...	60	...	0 9 0	9 0 0			
Sept. 16	14	John Yeoman	...	100	...	0 15 0	15 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	15	John Brown (a)	...	60	...	0 1 2½	1 4 2			
"	16	Benjamin Singleton	...	200	...	0 4 0	4 0 0			and productive in herbage; being, however, well watered by the Wollombi brook, they are desirable as a grazing district. The Church and School Estate is of good quality, having a proportion of rich land on the river.
1824. Aug. 26	17	Joseph Bigge	...	100	...	0 15 0	15 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	18	Benjamin Singleton (a)	...	40	...	0 0 9½	0 15 10			
1823. May 13	19	Andrew McDougall	...	900	...	0 18 0	18 0 0			
July 5	20	John Earle	...	1500	...	1 10 0	30 0 0			
1825. May 16	21	Alexander Warren	2370	2 7 5	47 8 4			WARKWORTH. The residue lands are all in character: a light loam and
"	22	Church & School Estate	1280	...	...	...	...
"		Warkworth Parish.*	3840	12810	5670			16650	5670	
"	1	Church and School	2520	...	...	...	...
1825. Aug. 12	2	Festus Tong (d)	...	...	500	0 10 0	10 0 0		
Oct. 8	3	Joseph Onus (b)	...	550	...	4 2 6	82 10 0			LEMINGTON. The unoccupied lands here are well watered, light soil, and desirable as a grazing tract. The Church and School Estate is of a second rate description, but desirable.
Nov. 12	4	William Longford (b)	...	600	...	4 10 0	90 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	5	David Brown (a)	...	200	...	0 4 0	4 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	7	John Dight, sen. (a)	...	400	...	0 8 0	8 0 0			
1823. Oct. 28	8	Michael Griffin	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1824. Dec. 28	9	Robert Hoddle	...	1000(r)	...	7 10 0	150 0 0			The Church and School Estate is of good quality, having a proportion of rich land on the river.
1825. Nov. 12	10	John Dight, jun. (b)	...	300	...	2 5 0	45 0 0			
1823. Oct. 28	11	Edward Harrington	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
"	12	John Heffron	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1823. May 13	13	John McDougall	...	900	...	0 18 0	18 0 0			
1821. Mar. 31	14	Daniel Phillips (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			The Church and School Estate is of a second rate description, but desirable.
"	15	Phillip Thorley (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
"	16	George Loder, jun. (a)	...	200	...	0 4 0	4 0 0			
"	17	Andrew Loder (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
"	18	Thomas Dargon (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1824. Jan 30	19	George Loder, sen.	...	150	...	1 2 6	22 10 0			LEMINGTON. The unoccupied lands here are well watered, light soil, and desirable as a grazing tract. The Church and School Estate is of a second rate description, but desirable.
1825. May 16	20	Alexander Warren	...	...	1630	1 12 7	32 11 8		
"		Lemington Parish,	2520	5450	2130			7970	2130	
"		23,000 Acres.								
"	1	Church & School Estate	2380	...	...	...	...
1824. April 20	2	Matthew Hindston	...	2000	...	15 0 0	300 0 0			The Church and School Estate is of a second rate description, but desirable.
1821. Oct. 31	3	Thomas Parmeter (a)	...	100	...	0 2 0	2 0 0			
1825. Aug. 19	4	Do. Do. (b)	...	600	...	4 10 0	90 0 0			
1825. Nov. 14	5	John Blaxland, jun. (b)	...	600	...	4 10 0	90 0 0			
1825. Aug. 3	6	George Bowman	...	...	880	0 17 7	17 11 8		
1824. Aug. 4	7	Do. Do.	...	250	...	1 17 6	37 10 0			LEMINGTON. The unoccupied lands here are well watered, light soil, and desirable as a grazing tract. The Church and School Estate is of a second rate description, but desirable.
1825. July 14	8	Wm. Simms Bell, J.P. (b)	...	700	...	5 5 0	105 0 0			
Feb. 1	9	James Smith	...	300	...	2 5 0	45 0 0			
1824. July 7	10	Richard Hobden	...	500	...	3 15 0	75 0 0			
June 2	11	Do Do	...	120	...	0 18 0	18 0 0			
1824. Aug. 9	12	William Noble	...	300	...	2 5 0	45 0 0			
"			2380	5470	880			7850	880	

Henry Dangar Index to Map of Hunter River allotments 1821-1825

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Twelve months passed since the naming by Howe on 15th March 1820 of Saint Patrick's Plains and Governor Macquarie passed that portions of this land be granted to John Howe and the free members of his party for the grazing of cattle and sheep within the area. To these men the compensation of a land grant was the greatest and richest reward of all.

Henry Dangar was apparently amongst the first to graze cattle in this new fertile Hunter river land possible in late 1821 since by June 1823 50 head of cattle branded on the near hip *HP* were moved by permit by Mr Henry Dangar, James Higgs, two convicts for Spell, Samuel Gatehouse, and Daniel Phillips, being free to pass from No 8 Township to the County of Argyle in the Windsor area.



June 1823 Henry Dangar's Permit to move 50 Head of Cattle

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Cattle on agistment from the Hawkesbury were soon grazing 'at Singleton's' and in February 1823

Cattle on agistment from the Hawkesbury were soon grazing 'at Singleton's' and in February 1823 **N/F Book** Major **James Morisset** appointed him district constable, on the recommendation of **Edward Close** who thought Singleton 'a very trustworthy man'. In the same year he fell foul of **James Mudie**, who refused to accept his instructions concerning the employment of convicts on Sundays and their attendance at musters. Singleton appealed successfully to Close, the nearest magistrate, to uphold his authority 'or else the District will be no better than bushrangers'. In 1825 his application for additional land, granted in 1828, was supported by the four major landholders of the district.

Neotsfield, hitherto managed by Henry Dangar's brother William, was a flourishing and highly-developed farm, its stock and produce receiving much favourable comment. Dangar quickly extended his interests, purchasing additional grazing properties and leasing extensive runs which by 1850 amounted to more than 300,000 acres (121,407 ha). Along the Great North Road to Liverpool Plains he acquired town allotments and established inns and stores. At Newcastle he had boiling-down works and meat-preserving and tinning works, and in New Zealand he established a steam flour-mill near the wheat farms around Official Bay. As a magistrate and member of the district council his experience and judgment were in frequent demand, and he gave time and energy to the agricultural and political advancement of the Hunter valley.

The first person to receive a permit to travel along the Bulga Road was Lieutenant Charles Close who had property in the Hunter Valley. He took his family, servants and animals along the road over a two-week period from 8 May 1823.

Some examples of recent reports.

Land referred to by Henry Dangar as P225 as "there is only a marginal strip (at intervals) of tenantable lands between the Brook and the Base of the Blue Mountains".

Add Site Grants with Land identified by trees & old Post Marked and before actual Surveys made. Old sand mine near Confluence of Brook, from both sides Old system title Sand Royalties up to the boundary?

Add 1821 – 1825 Map portion in Module area

John Howe's name and that of his first wife, Frances Ward, are inscribed on a tablet, commemorating its founders, in the Presbyterian Church at Ebenezer. Howe's Park in Singleton, once part of the Redbourneberry estate, and Howe's Swamp, Howe's Mountain and Howe's Valley, along the Bulga Road, perpetuate the memory of this worthy man.

During 1824, George Bowman from Richmond, aged 29 received a grant of 1310 acres of land on the Hunter, near Jerry's Plains that he called 'Archerfield'.300

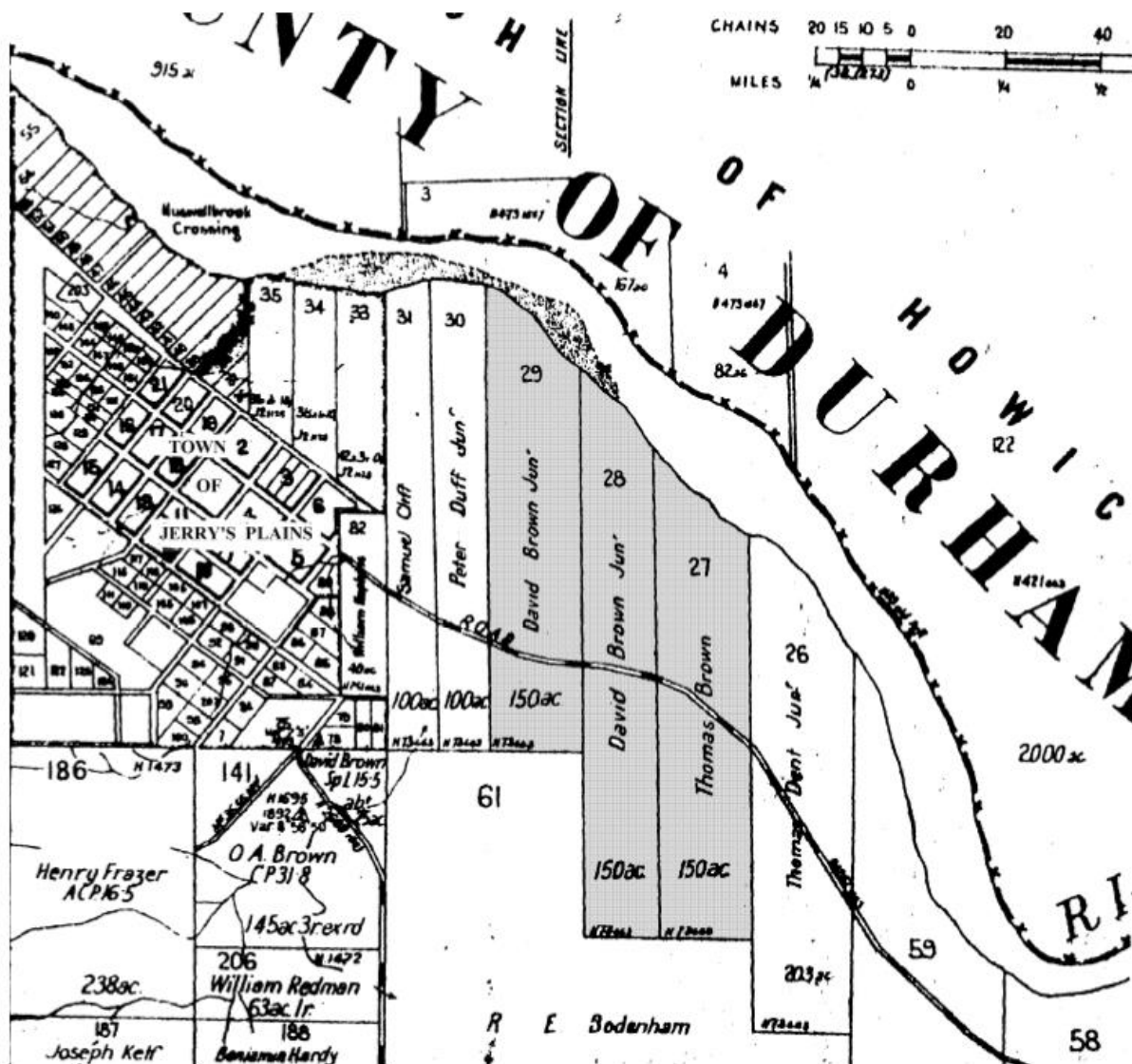
Insert Map of Grants on Hunter River at Wittingham

Howe, Singleton, Dangar, Dight Snr, Browne. Cobb

Include Whittingham Village and Church land

Jerry's Plains or Cockfighter's Creek

John and James Duff arrived in Jerry's Plains in 1825 to settle on land granted to their father, Peter Duff. It was Portion 30, which was alongside the land granted to David Brown snr. The Duffs had come via what was described as 'the very rough and still difficult Bulga Road' with their cattle, packhorses, and various family members, including women, and children.³⁰⁹ Portion 31 had been taken up a year or so before by their brother-in-law Ann and Samuel Clift (b1791). Clift, a convict transported to Sydney 1818 on CT Neptune, had married Peter Duff's oldest daughter on 8 March 1823. Thanks to Peter Duff's influence Clift was granted Ticket-of Leave which entitled him to own land. Co-incidentally Duff was given Portion 31 that same year as a retirement grant. Samuel and Ann Clift took up residence to effect improvements and attend to the livestock that had been transferred from Windsor.³¹⁰

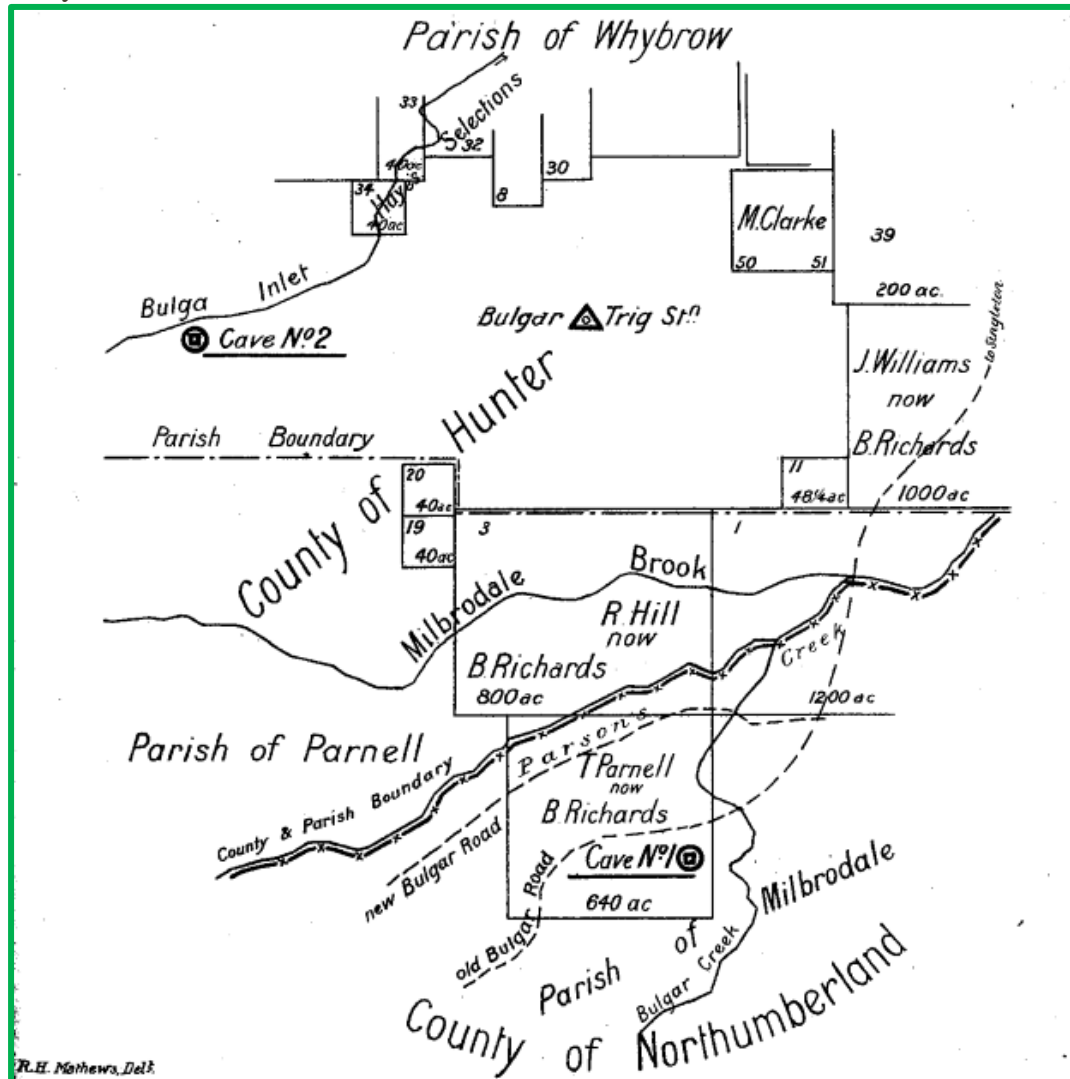


This late 19th century map shows the three Portions of land granted on 22 June 1824 to the Browns (cross hatched) in relation to present site of the Town of Jerry's Plains. The original town site centred on Thomas' Portion 27. The Brown's inn was located on Portion 29 on the south side of the highway. Note – Portion 29 was originally allocated to David Brown Senior.

Constable J. Needham became the first Police Officer in Jerrys Plains in 1827. By 1831 government officials had decided to establish a mounted police station in the town due to the increased number of burglaries in the district and to assist in the dealings between Europeans and Aboriginal Peoples. Barracks and officers quarters were constructed in the official village reserve in 1832. In March 1833, the headquarters of the Hunter River division of the Mounted Police was transferred to Jerrys Plains from Maitland.

Cockfighters Valley Colonial Tracks

Naturally travelling along the North Easterly orientation of the Wollombi Valley emerges just south of Broke (Blaxlands) into the Cockfighters Valley which runs through to Jerrys Plains, passing the Old Bulgar Road (Howe's Track at Milbrodale) descending from the Bulga Ridge into the middle of the Valley; as illustrated.



The first Colonial Settlers in 1823 and their Cattle ventured from Windsor following the Howe Blazes track onto grazing land initially towards the Northern end of Cockfighters Creek along to Jerrys Plains which provided a plentiful supply of water and rich agricultural land.

Howe had established the locality of Doyles Creek Plains in 1819, then in March 1820 established the locality of Cockfighters Creek and Saint Patricks Plains, and their connectivity to Wallis Plains and Coal River.

With the establishment of the “free Settler” being announced in 1820 by Governor xxx Henry Dangar surveying the Coal Town and Wallis Plains for allotments during 1820 at the time proceeded upstream along the Hunter River, with Land Grant and Purchase Allotments 1821 – 1825 at Saint Patricks Plains and Jerrys Plains, 1821 to 1825 established by land survey Allotments soon to be known as Broke, Vere, Fordwich, Milbrodale, Bulga, Warkworth and Jerrys Plains

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

The Hunter River Valley was the largest of the lowland plains on the New South Wales coast. It was the first area outside the Cumberland Plains to be permanently occupied by white settlers, however these first settlers were small farmers, allowed the indulgence by Governor Macquarie. After the Governor's first visit to Newcastle in January 1812, well behaved convicts **John Reynolds**, **Benjamin Davis**, **George Pell** and **Richard Binder** and son of convict storekeeper John Tucker (John junior) were permitted to take up land on Patterson's Plains.

In 1817 and 1818 more settlers were allowed farms as well, including **John Tucker** senior who had retired from his government position at Newcastle; **John Powell**, **John Swan**, **William Evans**, **Robert Whitmore**, **Thomas Addison**, **John Reynolds**, **Anthony Dwyer** and **John Reeves**. The conditions under which the farms were held were mentioned in an order published in March 1818 warning the farmers that: they were not to regard the land so given them their own property, the right being exclusively vested in the Governor and that they were only allowed to cultivate and to reside on their Farms so granted during their good conduct and the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor.

Governor Macquarie described the country in his Journal on 30th July 1818 :-

'Thursday 30th. July. Got up at Day-break and Breakfasted immediately so as to prosecute our Journey up the River. At 10 a.m. we arrived in the Gig at Point Reception, and at the confluence of the 2d. & 3d. Branches of the River. -- We proceeded up this Branch to the Farms some time since permitted by me to be occupied by 6 well behaved Convicts and two Free men. Arrived at the first Farm (young Tucker's) at 1/2 past 11 o'clock, distant about 9 miles from Point Reception, where we landed and walked about for some little time examining the improvements and nature of the Soil, which last is most excellent. We then proceeded to view the rest of the Farms on both sides of this beautiful River -- finding the soil of all of them very good -- and much more ground cleared & cultivated than I had any idea of. -- After we had explored most of the Farms, we quitted the Boat entirely and walked across the Country to the 3d. Branch -- leaving orders with the Gig to meet us next day at Reception Point on our way back. -- The Country between the two Rivers thro' which we travelled was principally fine open Forest Land, very fit for grazing but not for cultivation but we also passed through some very close thick Brush Country and indifferent land.'

In the early 1820's there were other trusted ex - prisoners who were allowed to settle near Maitland also - **George Mitchell**, **Molly Morgan**, **Richard Martin**, **Patrick Riley**, **John Allen**, **John Smith**, **Thomas Boardman**, **Patrick Maloney** and **John Cahill** and William Jones. **William Eckford** and **William O'Donnell** were also early small settlers.

Major Mitchell's Great North Road

Within five years by 1830, these early Pioneers had established a Cultural foothold from which the Hunter Valley Colonial Community Culture expanded into the Liverpool Plains and flourished beyond. The Bulga Track terrain limited it suitable as the early cattle route to Windsor.

Proposal to transform an Aboriginal walkway into the Great North Road. After Irish convict John Macdonald, is assigned to Robert Crawford at Ellalong (east of Wollombi) in 1820, he becomes friendly with local Aboriginal people and learns from them a way to reach the Hawkesbury River from the **Wallis Creek** Hunter Valley. This becomes known as "MacDonald's Line" and ran north-east from the Hawkesbury across Mangrove Creek, through the Watagan Mountains and beside Lake Macquarie, before turning north into **Wallis Creek** the Hunter Valley over Brunkerville Gap (near Ellalong). Some influential settlers wanted this to be the route of the Great North Road. In 1828, Captain Dumaresq, Surveyor of Roads and Bridges, arranges to have the line surveyed and sends assistant surveyor Jonathan Warner out with MacDonald to report back. (Convict Trail Project – Great North Road: John Macdonald)

Percy Simpson assigns Assistant Surveyor of Roads and Bridges to Great North Road

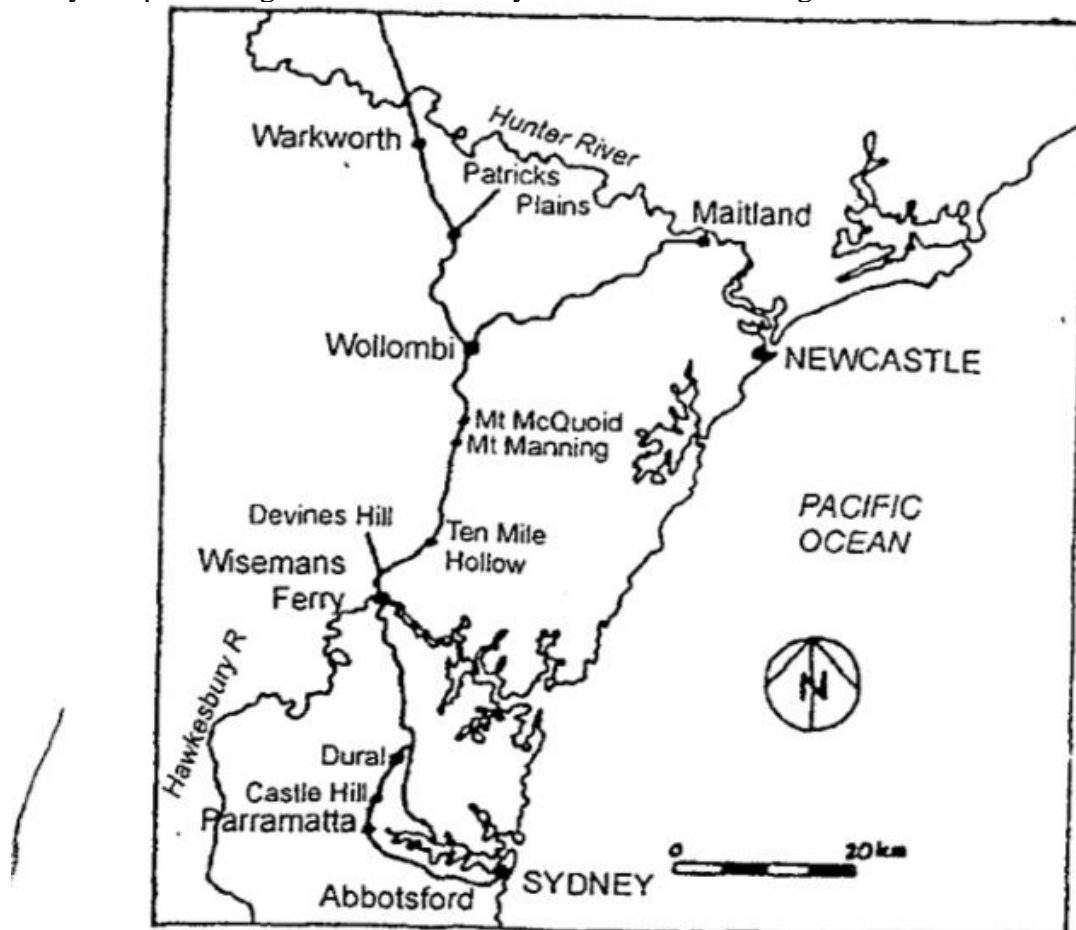


Fig 1: Original location of the Great North Road, New South Wales

The Petition to Governor Darling by prominent Free Settlers in the Hunter Valley and beyond in April 1826 focused attention on the Great North Road from Broke to the new Major Mitchell's Road and Town Planning through Warkworth and beyond to Muscle Brook and the Liverpool Plains and beyond. The various Maps and Composite Maps illustrate the undeniable significance of not only the Great North Road from Broke to Warkworth but also the significance of the Bridges as Cockfighters Creek crossings and their location on solid rock footings during the period 1820 to 1890.

Chapter 5. *Cockfighter Crossings.*

There have been a number of crossings of the Wollombi Brook at Warkworth. Each attracted the name "Cockfighter Crossing" in memory of the horse that perished there in 1819. In their turn, the bridges were washed away in those massive floods that are a feature of the Wollombi Brook catchment area, principally 1857, 1893, 1913, 1930, 1949, 1952, 1955, 1971 and 1977.

The catchment area of 1,738 square kilometers drains the floodwaters of the valley and is the southern tributary of the Hunter River. A few kilometers upstream from the junction with the Hunter River, there is a narrowing of the flood plain. Here at Warkworth the stream is bounded to the south by the sand dunes of the Wallaby Scrub and to the north by the ironstone gravel hill variously known as Eli's Hill or Griffith's Hill. That the flood plain was at its narrowest at this point encouraged road-builders to select Warkworth as the place to ford the stream. By definition, this would also be where the floodwaters would be most tightly constrained and most likely to destroy structures erected in the path of the raging torrents.

The First Crossing.

In her comprehensive study of the construction of The Great North Road, Grace Karskens (1985) makes brief mention of the first Cockfighter Crossing. She records it was, in fact, the simplest part of Major Mitchell's ambitious project and the final step in what had been a long and difficult undertaking. Karskens notes (p 54) that the surveyors of the Roads and Bridges Department responsible for the Wollombi, Broke and Warkworth sections were Heneage Finch, L.V. Dulhunty and P.G. Ogilvie. These officers would have confronted fewer obstacles to road construction than those of their colleagues designing the Castle Hill, Wiseman's Ferry and Wollombi sections. Consequently, with fewer physical challenges in this more gentle terrain, Karskens records there remained in 1985 "no apparent original structures" of archeological significance.

What has survived is the 'bee-line' of road from Broke to Warkworth along the route still in use as the Charlton Rd. and Wallaby Scrub Road. At last Mitchell was able to build a road where he wanted it to go, not where the topography dictated paths of least resistance. As Banks (1998) later quoted Mitchell, it would go in the "straightest line possible rather than the tracks of natives or early settlers."

Some of this section had been the responsibility of Road Party No. 42 since 1830 (see Chapter 4). During the time that Dulhunty was superintendent, the task of clearing the 13 miles and 8 chains of road between Broke and Warkworth was completed by private contractors while the road construction itself was done by convict labour (Road

Gang No. 42). By 1836, under the supervision of Ogilvie, there remained only the completion of the bridge at Warkworth ('Cockfighter Crossing'). The Bridge Party, (under the control of Edward Hawkins) was amalgamated with Road Gang 42B in 1830 and continued at Warkworth and Jerry's Plains until 1833.

Karskens (1985) concludes (p 570):

" The Reserve of Broke was located near the property of John Marquis Blaxland, while Warkworth was the official title given to Cockfighter's Creek. A large bridge was built over the Wollombi Brook there (Cockfighter's Bridge) but this has been replaced and no trace of it was located. The road was to continue further north and to be the beginning of Mitchell's great trade route with Asia via Port Essington. "

(Footnote: Port Essington was a British settlement established on the Cobourg Peninsula (north-east of Darwin) in the early 1800's for the purpose of facilitating trade with Asia. Also known as ' Victoria', it was surveyed by Charles Tyers in 1838 and was visited by Leichhardt in his 1844-1845 expedition. Although badly damaged by a cyclone in 1839, it was nevertheless the hope of the New South Wales government that an overland route might be constructed diagonally across the continent to open up trade with Asia, India and the Pacific. Construction of the Great North Road from Sydney to Warkworth was to be the first step of that project.)

On 13th February, 1836, Major Mitchell informed the Colonial Secretary " that the bridge over that part of Wollombi Brook which is called Cockfighter's Creek.... is now completed." (Anon. 19..)

Major Mitchell's 1833 Plan (see next page) does not show the precise location of the first " Cockfighter's Bridge". Was the bridge where the old " *Gold Digger's Arms*" inn was built on the south bank; or where the "*Crooked Billet*" inn was later established on the north bank ?

The Second Crossing.

The convict-built bridge was probably washed away in the flood of 1857 and a low-level crossing was built in 1859 to replace it. It is reported that:

" In October, 1859, Captain B.Martindale, Commissioner for Internal Communications stated in his third report on the internal communications of New South Wales, that a bridge having five 30-ft spans and costing £ 400 had been constructed by his Department over Cockfighter's Creek.

This bridge also probably suffered a similar fate to that of its predecessor but nothing certain is known except that in 1877 it was replaced by a high level structure erected by the Public Works Department at a cost of £ 3,000. This was of timber construction and comprised three truss spans and two approach spans with a total length of 320 feet. "

The Third Crossing.

The third crossing was an impressive bridge of the type known as ' timber truss', of which several similar were built in NSW. It was opened in 1877.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Appendix to Chapter 4. Roll-call of Convicts Involved in the Establishment of Warkworth, Wambo and Precincts.

(a) Emancipated convicts proceeding to own land at Warkworth.

**Dr Thomas Parmeter.
William Watts.
Walter Rotton.**

**Jane Meredith (Mrs Rotton).
Ann O'Brien (Mrs Watts).**

(b) Convicts assigned to Road Gang # 42 working to complete the northern extremity of The Great North Road and the construction of the first bridge at Cockfighter Crossing.

**John Brazil
William Crooks
Dominic Harkins
John Byrne
Thomas Jones
James Matthews
John Moore
Thomas Nash
George Sculthorpe
John Taylor.**

**Samuel Bruin
James Dogherty
John Harvey
Charles Johnston
William Jones
James McDermot
James Moreland
Peter O'Neill
Thomas Stuckfield**

**Peter Cotton
Patrick Gordon
Edward Hawkins
Thomas Johnson
Joseph Knight
James Milson
Gilbert Muir
Thomas Price
Charles Wilson**

(d) Convicts assigned to Dr Thomas Parmeter for the development of "DeQuirosville" farm on the Parmeter grants of 1821 and 1826.

**Sam Hughes
Robert Taylor
William Harris (revoked 1832).**

**William McLean
William Thompson**

(e) Convicts assigned to J.Bell Squire (1832).

George Brown

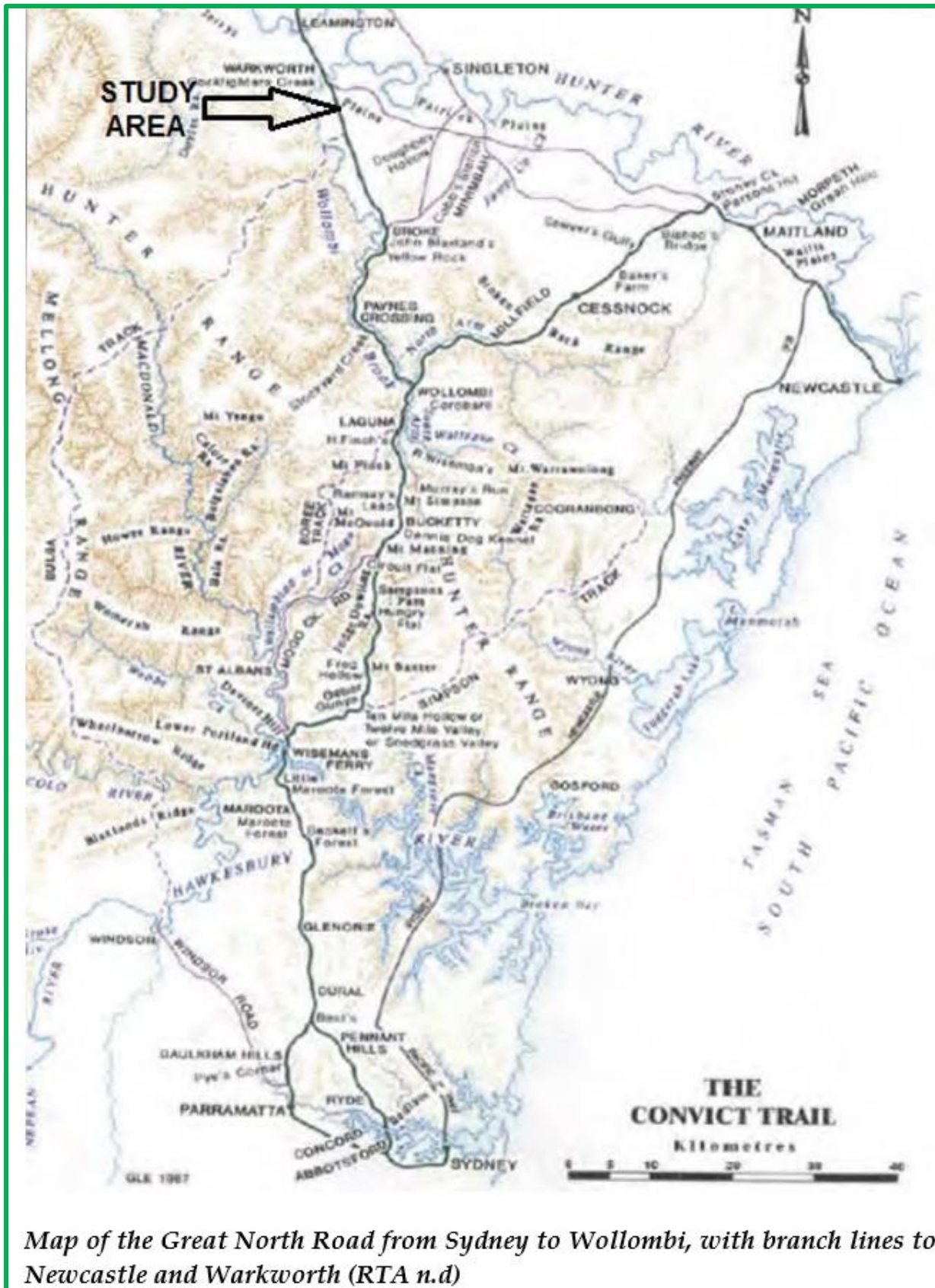
Charles Powell.

(f) Convicts assigned to James Hale for development of "Wambo", grant made to James Hale approximately 1824.

**Patrick Cockland
John Hazel**

**John Davies
John Nunn.**

In the construction of The Great North Road, the convict Road Gang #42 relocated from "Stony Creek" to "Cockfighter's Creek" in February 1830. They remained there until completion of the bridge in 1836, but continued to identify their camp as "Cockfighter Creek". The first landowner was Dr Thomas Parmenter.



Map of the Great North Road from Sydney to Wollombi, with branch lines to Newcastle and Warkworth (RTA n.d)

Note Simpson Track East from Wisemans Ferry to Cooranbong
 14016 2111122011 115261 1126111111 1111111111 1111111111 1111111111

Great North Road Broke-Vere to Warkworth Village and Beyond

GNR-005 - BLAZED TREE

New South Wales Land and Property Information indicates that there are six State survey markers along this stretch of road. Five of these are located along the western side of Wallaby Scrub Road, and one on the south eastern corner of the Putty and Charlton Road intersection, indicating the original road alignment in this location.

One survey tree was identified on the eastern side of Wallaby Scrub Road. The tree is located approximately five metres east of the current road with the scar facing north (see *Figure 4.10*). The species of tree is unknown. The scar is located 900 mm from the base of the tree and measures 550 x 200 mm. There is evidence that it was previously painted white, and also indicates an axe mark and galvanised nail in the centre of the scar (see *Figure 4.11*). There are no arrows or numbers discernible.



Figure 4.10 Showing location of tree in relation to the road *Figure 4.11 Detail of blaze*

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



NAME	OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD
Source	National Heritage List Citation, SEWPaC 2008
Location:	This Old Great North Road is a 48 km portion within Dharug National Park named by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to distinguish this section from remaining modernised sections of the road.
Heritage Status	World Heritage List as part of the Australian Convict Sites (106209), and National Heritage List (#105961)
History	The Great North Road was built using convict layout between 1826 and 1836. In July 2010 the Great North Road and ten other Australian sites with a significant association with convict transportation were inscribed as a group on the World Heritage List as the Australian Convict Sites. These sites present “the best surviving examples of large-scale convict transportation and the colonial expansion of European powers through the presence and labour of convicts.
Description	The most substantially intact part of the Old Great North Road comprises a 43 km section of the road between Wiseman’s Ferry and Mount Manning. It incorporates substantially intact sections including Devine’s Hill and Finch’s Line.
Condition and Integrity	The alignment of the road has been retained and there are preserved areas containing original stonework, buttresses, culverts, bridges and retaining walls. The condition and integrity of the Old Great North Road is high.
Significance	The Old Great North Road has tangible physical evidence of the use of convict labour in empire buildings. It was part of an ambitious road works program to expand settlement to the north, south and west of Sydney using several thousand convict labourers. The road system comprised a total of 500 kilometres of road and took 14 years to complete. Two surviving sections of the Old Great North Road are an exceptional testimony to the important role of convict labour in the development of infrastructure and the expansion of the colony of NSW.
Photograph: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;">   </div>	

Table 5.5 *Assessment against State Heritage Register Criteria*

SHR Criteria	ERM Assessment	Threshold Justification
(a) Historical significance	<p>The Great North Road was the first of the 'Great Roads' to be established in Australia and was important in connecting Sydney and the Hunter Valley. The road was modelled on the 'Great Roads' of England and is significant in demonstrating an early convict road that resulted in opening up the Hunter Valley to trade and settlement. While not retaining as much physical evidence as other sections of the GNR, this section retains much of the original alignment and is historically significant at State level.</p> <p>This criterion is met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows evidence of a significant human activity • is associated with a significant activity or historical phase • maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity
(b) Historical associational significance	<p>The road has a special association with Governor Darling who was responsible for the 'Great Roads' concept in Australia and assistant surveyor, Heneage Finch and Sir Thomas Mitchell who were responsible for surveying this section of road. While not much original fabric is thought to survive, much of the original road alignment has been retained in the modern Wallaby Scrub Road, therefore meeting threshold requirements for this criterion.</p> <p>This criterion is met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons
(c) Aesthetic significance	<p>The Wallaby Scrub Road portion of the Great North Road does not demonstrate highly visible or aesthetic features found on southern sections of the road. It is not considered a landmark and is not considered to be aesthetically distinctive.</p> <p>This criterion is not met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is not a major work by an important designer or artist • its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded
(d) Social significance	<p>The Great North Road has a special association with the Convict Trail Group. The Convict Trail Project is an initiative begun by people living close to the road, who value it as a crucial part of the history of their district. The initiative has been nationally recognised as one of the most successful community-based heritage organisations (CMP 2005:3-6). While the Convict Trail Group has been involved in undertaking research and publishing papers and undertaking conservation works on the road for many years, very little has been done on this section of the road, and therefore the extent of association is not considered to meet the threshold requirements.</p> <p>This criterion is not met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative

The Old Great North Road

The Great North Road, surveyed in 1825 and completed in 1836, was constructed using convict labour. Up to 720 convicts - some in chains - worked on the road, which spanned 264 km, connecting Sydney to the settlements of the Hunter Valley. It features spectacular and beautifully preserved examples of stonework, including buttresses, culverts, bridges and twelve metre high retaining walls.

Unfortunately the road was not popular. It was isolated, had no permanent watercourses, and bypassed existing settlements. By 1836, as the few remaining convict gangs were completing the last northern sections of the road, it had been almost entirely abandoned as a route to the Hunter Valley. Coastal steamers became the preferred mode of travel and transportation.

Only 43 km of the road remains undeveloped and relatively intact. Running through and alongside Dharug National Park and Yengo National Park, this section has been named the Old Great North Road. It goes from Wisemans Ferry in the south to Mount Manning (near Bucketty) in the north, and includes the oldest surviving stone bridges in mainland Australia. The road is closed to motor vehicles, but makes a great walk over two or three days - or an exhilarating day's cycle.

World Heritage Listing - Australian convict sites including the Old Great North Road

Eleven of Australia's convict sites were awarded world heritage listing in July 2010. These sites present the best surviving examples of large-scale transportation and the colonial expansion of European powers through the presence and labour of convicts. The Devines Hill and Finchs Line sections of the Old Great North Road in Dharug National Park form one of four sites in New South Wales included in the listing.

World Heritage Listing - Australian convict sites including the Old Great North Road

World Heritage Listing

The Devine's Hill and Finch's Line sections of the Old Great North Road were World Heritage Listed in July 2010. The Old Great North Road is one of 11 historic sites that together form the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property. These sites present the story of the forced migration of convicts and the ideas and practices of punishment and reform of criminals during this time.

The other sites that make up the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property are

- Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area, Norfolk Island (1788-1814 and 1824-1855)
- Old Government House and Domain, NSW (1788-1856)
- Hyde Park Barracks, NSW (1819-1848)
- Brickendon-Woolmers Estates, Tasmania (1820-1850s)
- Darlington Probation Station, Tasmania (1825-1832 and 1842-1850)
- Cascades Female Factory, Tasmania (1828-1856)
- Port Arthur Historic Site, Tasmania (1830-1877)
- Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasmania (1833-1848)
- Cockatoo Island Convict Site, NSW (1839-1869)
- Fremantle Prison, WA (1852-1886).

Collectively they are representative of the global phenomenon of the forced migration of convicts. Each site represents key elements of the story of forced migration of convicts and is associated with global ideas and practices relating to punishment and reform of criminal elements of society during the modern era.

All of the eleven sites included in this World Heritage inscription are also listed on the Australian National Heritage List and are protected by Commonwealth, state and territory legislation and site management plans.

DRAFT
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
THE OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD
WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Submitted by the New South Wales Government
July 2017

About this publication

- Date published: July 2007
- Subject: National Parks and Reserves
- ID: DECC20070101
- File name: OGNRWHAMgmtplanDraft.pdf
- File size: 93 KB
- Pages: 29

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Convict sites along the way

Finchs Line and Devines Hill

The original line of the Old Great North Road was surveyed in 1825 by Heneage Finch, the colony's Assistant Surveyor. It probably followed an Aboriginal travelling route, and local Aboriginal people may have purposefully diverted the European road surveyors away from their sacred sites.

Finchs Line was the original ascent up the steep escarpment from Wisemans Ferry. Construction began in March 1828, carried out by the No 25 Road Party and part of the No 3 Iron Gang under the supervision of Lieutenant Jonathon Warner. The gangs worked from either end of the line.

Governor Darling inspected the route later in 1828, and found it too steep and winding. He demanded that a new route be surveyed. Work was abandoned in January 1829 in favour of this new route, which travelled up Devines Hill.

The middle section of Finchs Line was never completed. However, enough work had been done for the route to be used by travellers while the Devines Hill road was being constructed.

The Devines Hill route, with its steep two-kilometre ascent, was selected by surveyor general Sir Thomas Mitchell. Over 500 convicts, many in irons, constructed the road. It features impressive 12-metre-high buttressed retaining walls and an elaborate drainage system.

Clares Bridge

Clares Bridge is the second oldest bridge in mainland Australia (the oldest is on Wisemans Ferry Road, near the start of Devines Hill). It was built between January and September 1830, and is named after overseer Arnold Clare, supervisor of the convicts who built the bridge.

The bridge's sandstone blocks were quarried from an outcrop above it. Jumper marks, split rock faces, shaped stone and unsplit wedge pits can be seen here.

If you look closely underneath the bridge, you can also see large cobblestones. They prevent the bridge's foundations from being undermined during heavy water flows.

The Convict Trail Project completed conservation works on Clare's Bridge in 2004. This included removal of the steel decking and reconstruction of the western side of the southern abutment.

Ten Mile Hollow

This area was used as a stockade site (where the convicts camped), while the road was being built. Solomon Wiseman (who gave Wisemans Ferry its name) was given 100 acres here to set up an inn. It is not known whether the inn was ever built, but some sandstone foundation blocks can be seen amongst the bracken ferns.

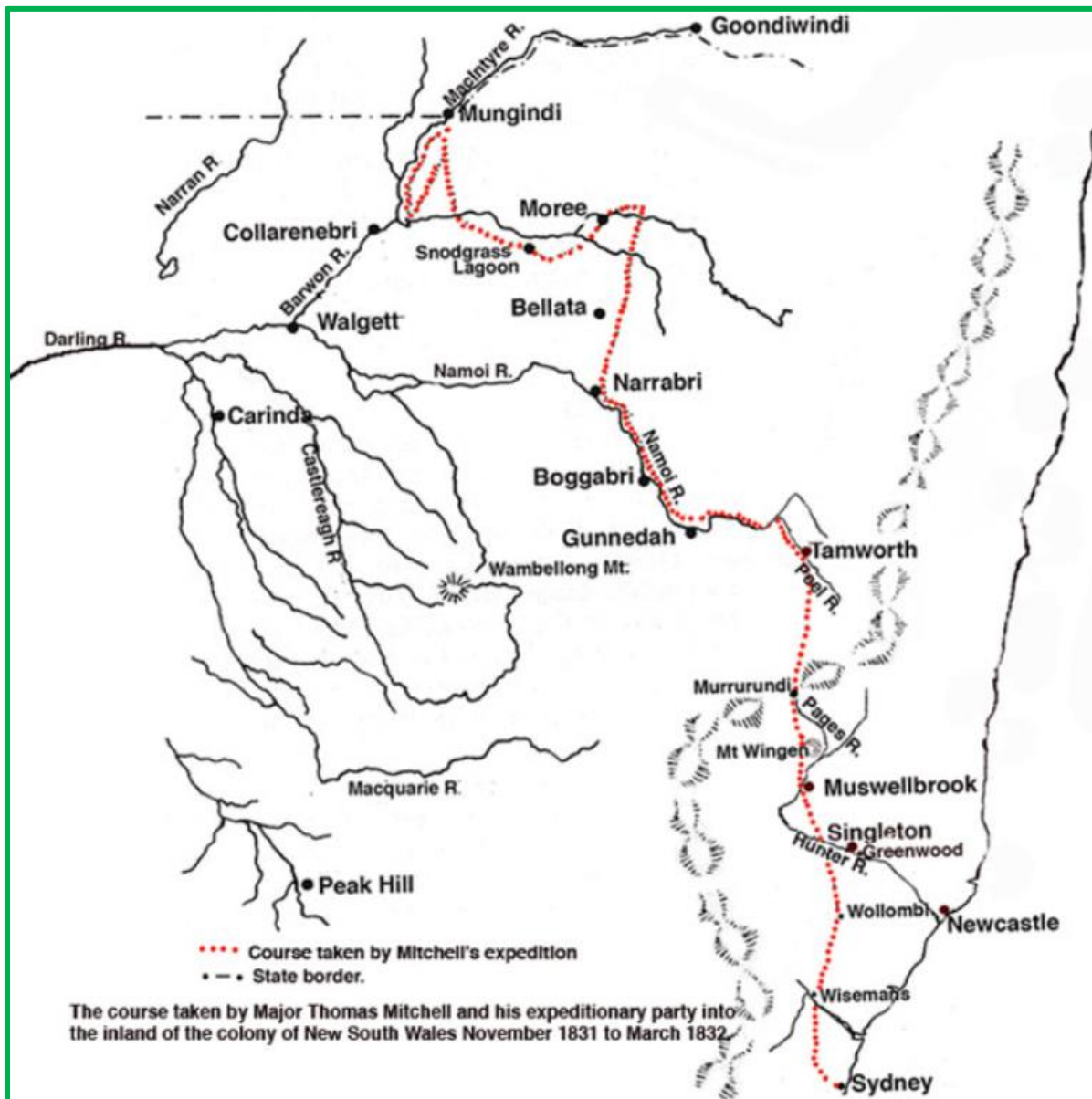
A township called Snodgrass Valley was planned for Ten Mile Hollow, as a stopping point for weary travellers. Snodgrass Valley never came into being, but its proposed street names were Solomon Street, Eagle Street, and Bulga Street.

Circuit Flat Bridge

The same bridge-building party responsible for Clares Bridge probably constructed this bridge in 1831. It has lost its original decking, but is still substantially intact and an impressive example of colonial engineering.

Conservation and erosion control works were carried out in 1998-9 by the NPWS, the **Convict Trail Project** and Gosford City Council. Several sandstone blocks, which had been removed by vandals, were replaced with newly quarried and picked blocks.

Major Mitchell's 1831 to 1832 Exploration and Recordings



Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell's Great North Road and Exploration

"I met Mr. White (George Boyle White) at the junction of the Ellalong, and we proceeded together, down the valley of the Wollombi. The sandstone terminates in cliffs on the right bank of this stream near the projected village of Broke, (named by me in honour of that meritorious officer, Sir Charles Broke Vere, Bart.) but the left bank is overlooked by other rocky extremities falling from the ranges on the west, until it reaches the main stream. The most conspicuous of these headlands, as they appear from that of "Mattawee" behind the village of Broke, is called "Wambo." This consists of a dark mottled trap with crystals of felspar. But the most remarkable feature in this extensive valley, is the termination thereupon of the sandstone formation which renders barren so large a proportion of the surface of New South Wales. This, in many parts, resembles what was formerly called the iron-sand of England, where it occurs both as a fresh and salt water formation. The mountains northward of this valley of the Hunter consist chiefly of trap-rock, the lower country being open, and lightly wooded.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

November 28 1831. The river, although occasionally stagnant, contains a permanent supply of water, and consequently the whole of the land on its banks, is favourable for the location of settlers, and accordingly has been all taken up. The country, and especially the hills beyond the left bank, affords excellent pasturage for sheep, as many large and thriving establishments testify. At one of this description, belonging to Mr. Blaxland, and which is situated on the bank of the Lower Wollombi, Mr. White and I arrived towards evening, and passed the night.

Coal appears in the bed and banks of the Wollombi, near Mr. Blaxland's station, and at no great distance from his farm is a salt spring, also in the bed of this brook. The waters in the lesser tributaries, on the north bank of the river Hunter, become brackish when the current ceases. In that part of the bed of this river, which is nearest to the Wollombi (or to "Wambo" rather), I found an augitic rock, consisting of a mixture of felspar and augite. Silicified fossil wood of a coniferous tree, is found abundantly in the plains, and in rounded pebbles in the banks and bed of the river, also chalcedony and compact brown haematite. A hill of some height on the right bank, situate twenty-six miles from the sea shore, is composed chiefly of a volcanic grit of greenish grey colour, consisting principally of felspar, and being in some parts slightly, in other parts highly calcareous when the rock assumes a compact aspect. This deposit contains numerous fossil shells, consisting chiefly of four distinct species of a new genus, nearest to hippopodium; also a new species of trochus; *atrypa glabra*, and *spirifer*, a shell occurring also in older limestones of England.



General Plan of Progress of Roads showing proposed route between Broke and Warkworth, Sir Thomas Mitchell, July 1829 (State Library NSW a1480022)

Major Mitchell's reporting 1830's Coexistence Culture

Regardless of his robust and firm demeanour, Thomas Mitchell was a man possessed of vast compassion not only for all of the convicts who took part in his arduous expeditions, but also for the aborigines and the misfortunate of society. He invoked loyalty, but spurned insubordination. To a man, bar one (on one of the expeditions for one day !), he strongly recommended that all of those convicts who took part in his expeditions receive the favourable considerations of the Governor. Of the aborigines he said that during the employment of them on surveys and explorations as guides and interpreters he had learnt to admire their "courage and resolution", "their intelligence and judgment", but most of all their "loyalty." Referring to both groups he "praised the faithfulness, courage and endurance of the convicts and aborigines who served under him on his own expeditions."

It is along these humanitarian lines that Mitchell engaged the services of a most skilled engraver named John Carmichael, bearing in mind that he was deaf and dumb at a time when equal opportunity of employment was not even a notion. Due to the shortage of such gifted artisans, compounded by the lack of funds in his Surveyor-General's Department, Mitchell not only gave Carmichael accommodation in his own home at Darlinghurst, "Craigend", he also paid him 200 pounds per year to do the engraving of the copper plates. The final cost would be 900 pounds from Mitchell's own purse and he received permission from the Secretary of State in December 1834 to publish this map

Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell works on a coherent map of the lower Hunter region. (Hoipo, Wollombi Historical Society). He creates a new Counties map. Mitchell insists on detailed plotting of streams to form his own territorial boundaries, that of Land Parishes (Ford 394) He also instructs his surveyors to use Aboriginal place-names: "I will not suffer any surveyor to give to any river or place any other than the proper native names" and "the true natives' (names) of all these mountains being of importance".

Aboriginal trackers work with the Wollombi police through to the 1930s. One "alert and sagacious" Aboriginal tracker together with Magistrate of Wollombi David Dunlop, pursue the Tunnel Gang for several hours through ravines and over precipices on foot where horses can not go until about eight miles off the northern road all tracks fail. (The Australian, 3 September 1840) The local tracker and his family live in a house near the Wollombi Court until the 1930s (Carl Hoipo, Wollombi Historical Society)

1831

December. Cambo at Segenhoe. Cambo reluctantly poses to be sketched during a visit by Sir Thomas Mitchell to the Page River region (Brayshaw, On revisiting Gundy, 233-34).

The township of Wollombi is surveyed, with allotments offered for sale in 1833 By the early 1830s, most of Wollombi

Wollombi

the area. (Turner & Blyton, *The Aborigines of Lake Macquarie*, 1995, 36-37)

"Punitive expedition" in Wyong. 20 Aborigines are outlawed, 8 captured and some go to Cockatoo Island. (Bennett in Blair, 2000, 12).

Five years earlier (1828), a fighting force of forty members of "The Branch" natives from Richmond crossed the mountains north of the Colo River crossing to fight the "Kumnaroy blacks". (Rev Ralph Mansfield in Ford p449).

Blanket list: Emery alias "Lawyer" recorded as member of the Richmond "tribe" at Richmond (36yo), 1834 (37yo), 1837 (40yo), 1838 (41yo), 1839 (41yo). (Kohen in Ford p97). Returns of Aboriginal Tribes in the Hunter Valley during 1834 records 142 Aboriginal people: 70 of the "Merton Tribe" residing at Merton, 15 of the "Bungary Hill Tribe" at Falbrook, 31 of the "Patrick Plains Tribe", and 26 of the "Glendon Tribe" at Merton. (Summary of Blanket List returns, in Lucas 47-48)

Black trackers (unnamed) guide a mounted party led by Magistrate Robert Scott of Glendon to capture convict escapees from Castle Forbes in the Singleton area. They help catch the "bushrangers" at Lambs Valley on 13 November 1833. One bushranger is mortally wounded, the other six are taken to Maitland Gaol awaiting transported to Sydney. (Hartley, *Men of their Time*, 76)

Aboriginal labour in fledgling wine industry. Aboriginal people are working as "pullers of maize" for winegrower, George Wyndham at Dalwood in the Hunter Valley. At this early stage, there are only 10 settlers on the Hunter River growing vines. George Wyndham was one of the first. James King of Irrawang on the Williams River was another. It is highly probable that once convict transportation ceased and cheap labour was less accessible, Aboriginal people would have worked more widely in the fledgling wine industry: clearing, hoeing, ploughing, staking and pruning the vines. As Irrawang was also involved in pottery manufacture from 1832, Aboriginal people quite possibly worked to produce glazed earthenware.

We do not know if the "Tom, ploughman" that George Wyndham paid for his labour during 1833 was Aboriginal or not. But we do know that whatever labour Wyndham did hire, was quite cheap. For one week's hard labour, Wyndham paid Tom in tobacco, tea, sugar, flour, beef and five shillings. (Wyndham Diary notes, 21 June 1833 and 1 April 1833, SLNSW. Quoted in Driscoll, *The Beginnings of the Wine Industry*, 1969, 27-29).

"Our mob helped build Wyndham Estate, the winery, and my middle name is Wyndham". (Gavi Duncan, descendent of William Bird ("Little Breeches"), see video galleries)

1834

Repulsing the Kamilaroi. Blaxland observes graves near present day Broke in the Hunter Valley from "an affray" between the "Comleroy" (Kamilaroi) and "Wollombi" tribes where "four men and two women" of the former were "slain". That same year, "not less than sixty" Aborigines are seen along the Great North Road painting their bodies "in a most fantastic manner with a substance that resembles pipe clay" preparing "to wage war". One of the "Wollombi tribe" criticises a former naval officer, William Breton man for his inability to throw a spear which he had traded to him for tobacco". (Ford 448).

Returns of Aboriginal Tribes in the Hawkesbury/Lower Hunter districts during 1834 record 58 Aboriginal people: 37 of the "Lower Branch Tribe" [Macdonald River] 2 of the "North Richmond Tribe" 7 of the "Mangrove Creek Tribe" 12 of the "Wollombi Tribe" (Summary of Blanket List returns, Jillian Barnes courtesy of Jim Kohen)

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

December 5.—This morning we ascended Liverpool range, which divides the colony from the unexplored country. Having heard much of this difficult pass, we proceeded cautiously, by attaching thirteen bullocks to each cart, and ascending with one at a time. The pass is a low neck, named by the natives Hecknadiiey, but we left the beaten track (which was so very steep that it was usual to unload carts in order to pass) and took a new route, which afforded an easier ascent. All had got up safely, and were proceeding along a level portion, on the opposite side of the range, when the axle of one of the carts broke, and it became necessary to leave it, and place the load on the spare pack-horses, and such of the bullocks, taken out of the shafts, as had been broken in to carry pack-saddles.

We reached at length, a water-course called Currungai, and encamped upon its bank, beside the natives from Dart Brook, who had crossed the range before us, apparently to join some of their tribe, who lay at this place extremely ill, being affected with a virulent kind of small-pox. We found the helpless creatures, stretched on their backs, beside the water, under the shade of the wattle or mimosa trees, to avoid the intense heat of the sun. We gave them from our stock some medicine; and the wretched sufferers seemed to place the utmost confidence in its efficacy. I had often indeed occasion to observe, that however obtuse in some things, the aborigines seemed to entertain a sort of superstitious belief, in the virtues of all kinds of physic. I found that this distressed tribe were also strangers in the land, to which they had resorted. Their meekness, as aliens, and their utter ignorance of the country they were in, were very unusual in natives, and excited our sympathy, especially when their demeanour was contrasted with the prouder bearing and intelligence of the native of the plains, who had undertaken to be my guide. Here I at length drank the water of a stream, which flowed into the unexplored interior; and from a hill near our route I beheld, this day, for the first time, a distant blue horizon, exactly resembling that of the ocean.

The expedition then proceeded in the direction of the Peel River and afterwards explored to the Namoi and followed it down as far as Narrabri. They then cut across the plains to the Gwydir near Moree.

I was very anxious to obtain the assistance of an aboriginal guide, but the natives had almost all disappeared from the valley of the Hunter; and those who still linger near their ancient haunts, are sometimes met with, about such large establishments as Segenhoe, where, it may be presumed, they meet with kind treatment. Their reckless gaiety of manner; intelligence respecting the country, expressed in a laughable inversion of slang words; their dexterity, and skill in the use of their weapons; and above all, their few wants, generally ensure them that look of welcome, without which these rovers of the wild will seldom visit a farm or cattle station. Among those, who have become sufficiently acquainted with us, to be sensible of that happy state of security, enjoyed by all men under the protection of our laws, the conduct is strikingly different from that of the natives who remain in a savage state. The latter are named "myalls," by their half civilized brethren—who, indeed, hold them so much in dread, that it is seldom possible to prevail on any one to accompany a traveller far into the unexplored parts of the country. At Segenhoe, on a former occasion, I met with a native but recently arrived from the wilds. His terror and suspicion, when required to stand steadily before me, while I drew his portrait, were such, that, notwithstanding the power of disguising fear, so remarkable in the savage race, the stout heart of Cambo was overcome, and beat visibly;—the perspiration streamed from his breast, and he was about to sink to the ground, when he at length suddenly darted from my presence; but he speedily returned, bearing in one hand his club, and in the other his bommereng, with which he seemed to acquire just fortitude enough, to be able to stand on his legs, until I finished the sketch. They understand our looks better than our speech.



Yuranigh's grave

Yuranigh was a Wiradjuri man and a member of the expedition team of Sir Thomas Mitchell in 1846 to the tropical interior of Australia.

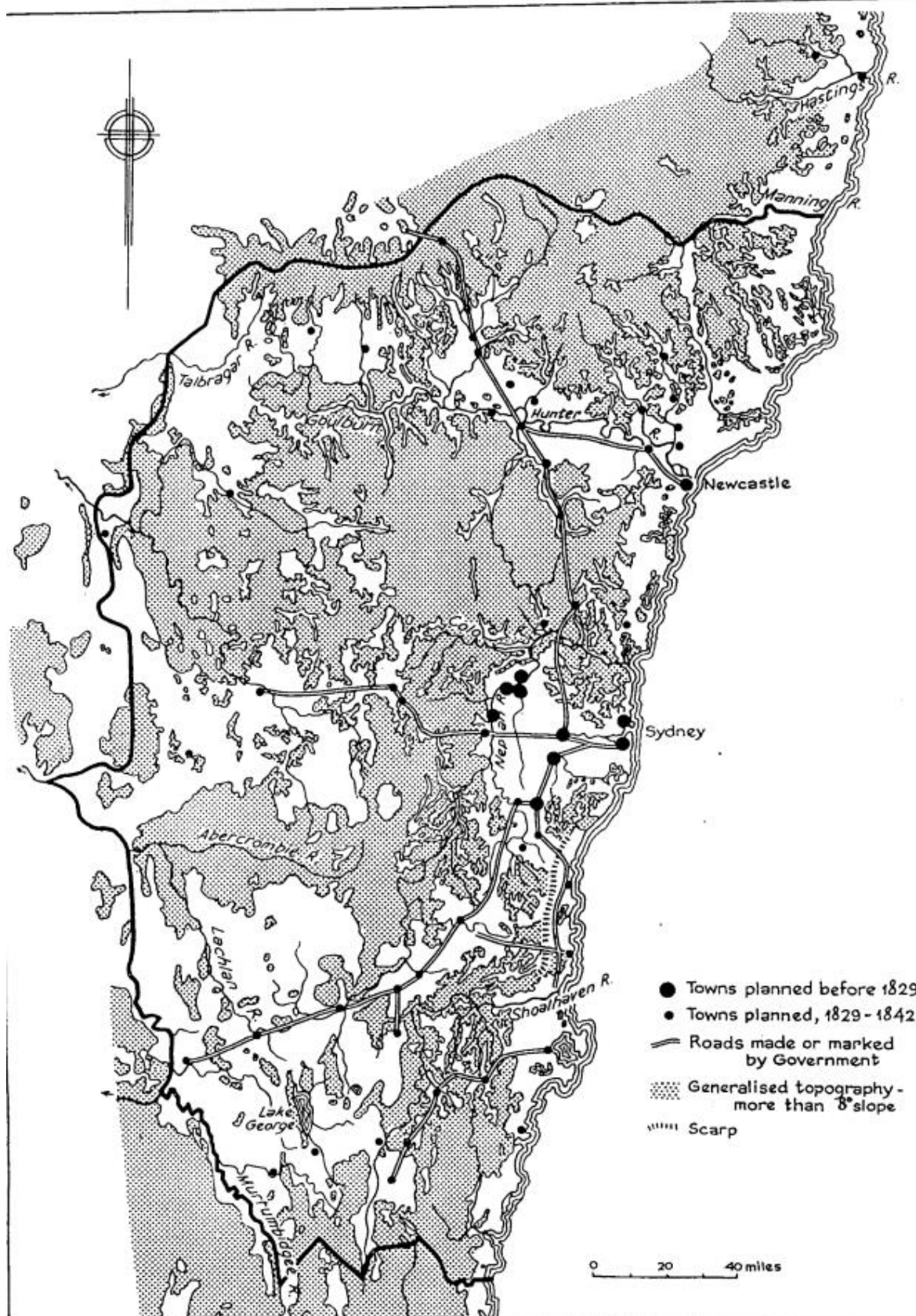
Yuranigh died in 1850 and was given a traditional burial within a circle of carved trees. Four of these trees can still be seen in Molong today.

AMATEUR ANTHROPOLOGIST EDMUND MILNE AND A PARTY OF FRIENDS VISITED YURANIGH'S GRAVE SITE IN 1912. MILNE WAS AN AVID COLLECTOR OF ABORIGINAL ARTEFACTS AND, ALTHOUGH HE WIELDS AN AXE IN THESE PHOTOS, NONE OF THE TREES WERE CHOPPED INTO OR REMOVED.
SPF/1149 (ABOVE), SPF/1150 (LEFT)

Carved Trees Aboriginal Cultures of Western NSW

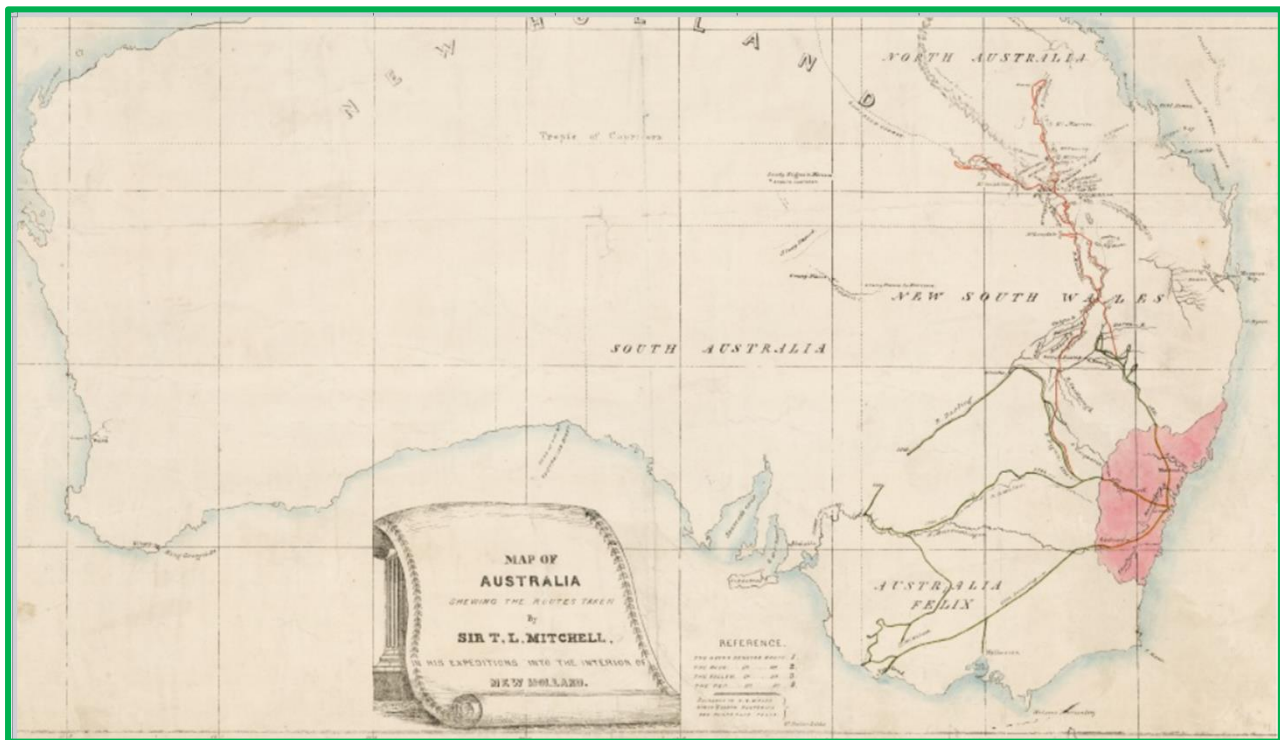
Mitchell's Roads 1829 - 1842

TAIICUGIL 2 KOSQ2 1852 - 1847



Colonial Settlements to South, West and North beyond 1810's

Although seals were hunted before 1820 along the coast, and especially in the rich waters of Bass Strait, it was wool which connected Australian society with the metropolitan economy. Gregory Blaxland and William Charles Wentworth opened up the route through the Blue Mountains, about 80 to 120 km (50 to 75 mi) west of Sydney, in 1813, initiating the westward settlement of New South Wales. Together with the southerly treks of Andrew Hamilton Hume and William Hovell in 1824, and Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836, Blaxland and Wentworth's explorations spurred the transfer of flocks and herds to inland pastures. By 1829 an arc of about 241 to 322 km (150-200 mi) around Sydney had been settled, and designated the Nineteen Counties.



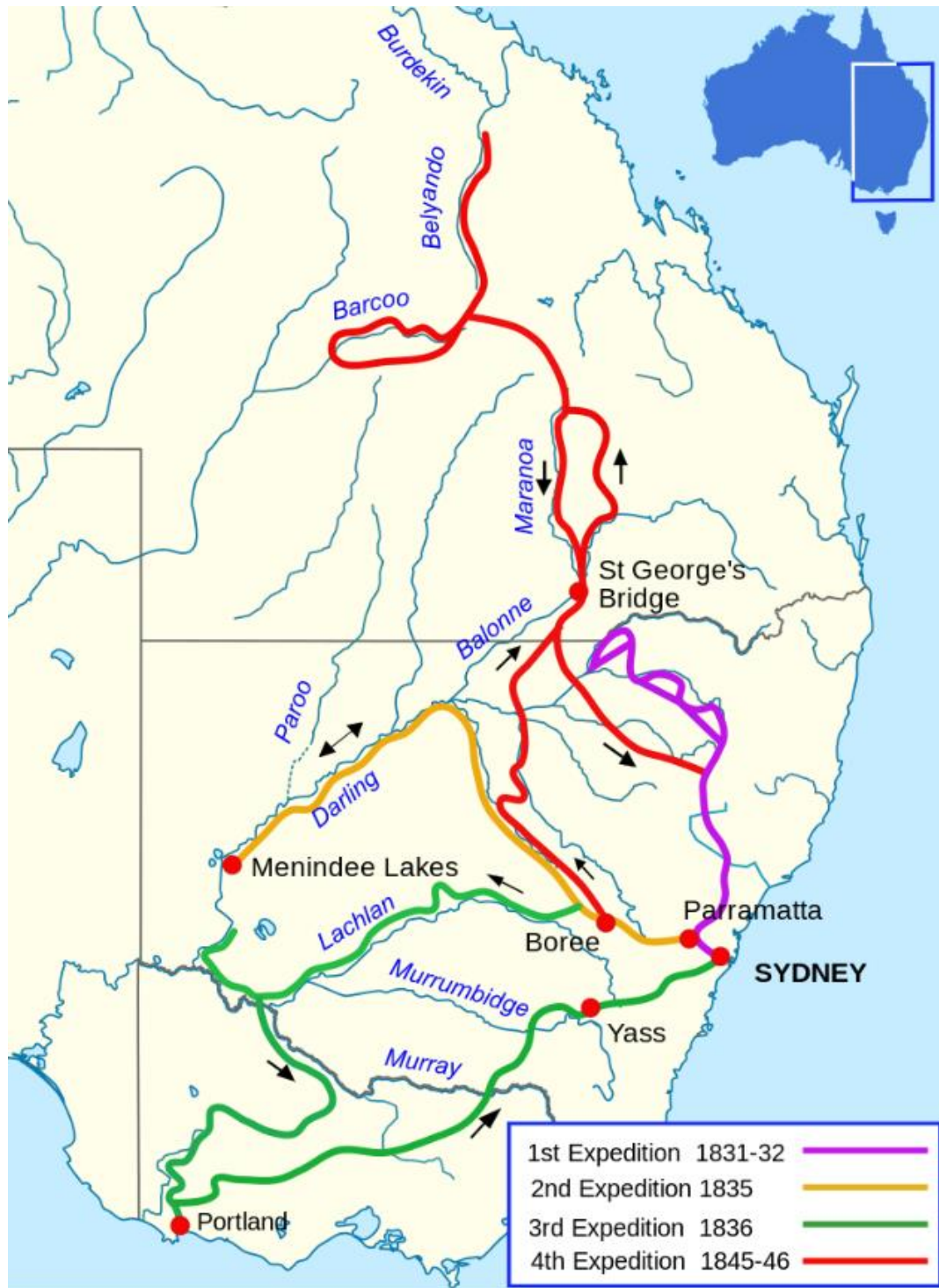
1847 map of Victoria and New South Wales showing towns, major rivers and the limits of the Colony at the time. The map shows in red the routes taken by Mitchell's expedition and camps.

[Sir Thomas Mitchell, 1792-1855; NSW Surveyor-General](#) - [National Library of Australia](#)

The south eastern portion of Australia showing the routes of the three expeditions and the surveyed territory. Mitchell's map of Victoria and New South Wales showing towns, major rivers and the limits of the Colony at the time. The map shows in red the routes taken by Mitchell's expedition and camps. Major Thomas L. Mitchell's expedition of 1836 was an exploratory one, the aim of which was to develop and expand the Colony of New South Wales and to seek potential grazing and farming land, as well as sites for new settlements. A landmark in Australian history, Mitchell exceeded his orders and discovered and explored a rich pastoral area which he called Australia Felix (Happy Australia) - now central and western Victoria. This map which he compiled is the first properly surveyed map of this part of southeast Australia and it remained in use for many years.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell (1792-1855), surveyor-general, was born on 15 June 1792 at Grangemouth, Scotland, the son of John Mitchell and his wife Janet, née Wilson. Though poor he was sufficiently educated to read widely in several languages and be proficient in several sciences. In 1811 he was gazetted a second lieutenant in the 95th Regiment and in the Peninsular war served at the battles of Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz and Salamanca. However, he was chiefly engaged with the staff obtaining topographical intelligence and came under the notice of **Sir George Murray**, the quartermaster-general, who selected him in 1814 to produce plans of the major Peninsular battlefields, a task which continued after the war.



Recognition of Aboriginal Lands

Two Hundred Years have passed since the Aboriginal tribes who called this Baiaume Valley “Their Country” being the protected Valley lands with the Mountain Ridges and Forests providing protection from the West and South, a flowing Brook along the length of the Valley; and to the East over the Saddle Ridges, and Spring fed Creeks, following the Brook to the confluence with Hunter River Flood Plains.

Aboriginal Legends in these Environs, encompasses the Forested Mountains, Ridges, Rocky Plateau and outcrops, Ridges, Gorges, Caves, Cliffs, Valleys, Streams, Grassy Plains, Undulating Hills, Rivers and Flood Plains. The interrelationship significance of Mountains, Plains, Rivers, Habitat is illustrated.

Thursday, 3 July 2003

ABC Licensed

Hundreds of Aboriginal cave drawings, some as old as the Egyptian pyramids, have been discovered in rugged woodland near Sydney in what Australian scientists are calling a major find.

The cave containing 203 rock paintings up to 4,000 years old were kept secret for eight years after a hiker stumbled upon it in rugged parkland in 1995, scientists told reporters. The inaccessibility of the area in the Wollemi National Park, about 150 km north of Sydney, kept researchers from conducting a full-scale investigation of the find until May this year.

"It's like an ancient world that time forgot," said Dr Paul Taçon, an anthropologist at the Australian Museum in Sydney, who led the expedition. The cave holds 203 paintings, stencils and prints in "pristine condition", depicting humans and god-like human-animal composites, birds, lizards and marsupials, he said.

There are life-size, delicately drawn eagles, kangaroos and an extremely rare depiction of a wombat, Taçon said, describing how the images were painted in 11 layers during a period from around 2000 BC to the early 19th century. There are also stencils of human hands, boomerangs and other tools.

"We've never seen anything quite like this combination of rare representations in so many layers," Taçon said. The exact location of the site - described as a rock shelter about 12 m long, 6 m deep and 1 to 2 m high - was being kept secret to prevent damage by vandals or sightseers.

The parkland is so rugged that it was not until 1994 that scientists were amazed to discover trees that had been thought extinct for 150 million years. Now known as Wollemi pines, there were only 43 of the trees found in a gully, of a species that covered the planet when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

The Premier of New South Wales state, Bob Carr, told reporters it was remarkable discovery which confirmed the richness of Aboriginal culture and spiritual life at a time when civilisation was blossoming around the world.

"This reminds us [that] 4,000 years ago, when you had civilisation flourishing in Mesopotamia, when you had the power of Egypt, before China was united, while Stonehenge was being built, we had Aboriginal people in these lands, on the outskirts of the Sydney basin," he said. "This is eerie, because it's contact with a very old Australia and it's why we've got to honour our Aboriginal people."

"We know so much about the history of other cultures across the world ... but we know very little about our own," said Samantha Mattila, a spokeswoman for the Australian Museum. "This is at the backdoor of Sydney and it's untouched, it's pristine."



One of the 203 cave paintings found in rugged terrain near Sydney [Australian Museum]



Gorge, Wollemi National Park. Photo I Brown

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Recent examples surfaced in 2003 in Wollomai National Park. When they got to Eagle's Reach they found a staggering 1200 images, representing at least 25 species of animals, and even some composite beings; half animal, half human. There were several different styles of art, which in itself was unusual, but it tells us that people were visiting that place again and again, and leaving their marks of identity behind... here people were undertaking physically demanding journeys to go back and to leave more art behind. There was also up to 11 layers of art, one on top of the other which is almost unheard of.

The Wollemi is a very special place. It's the sort of place that I refer to as a junction, a meeting place where different groups came together and at the same time or at different times left their marks of identity, their special symbols behind. The extent of these discoveries is only just being realised by Authorities.

2003

- **May:** Bushwalker and historian Andy McQueen visits the site, scouting for a safer access route on behalf of the Australian Museum. Then, a team from the Australian Museum including Professor Paul Tacon, Wayne Brennan, Dr Matthew Kelleher, Jill Ford, Evan Gallard (Yanna Murr), Andy McQueen and Wyn Jones visit the site.
- **September:** Tacon and Brennan report that Eagles Reach is just one of many sites on this remote plateau. Additional trips to the plateau have increased the number of known sites to 30. Of these about 22 are rock shelters containing art. Also a firestick was found in a cave by bushwalker Micheal Jackson on an Australian Museum trip to the Eagles Reach plateau. (SMH 27/9/03)
- **October:** The Catalyst show on ABC TV has a segment on the new rock art finds in Wollemi.

2005

- **March:** Bushwalkers Peter Lloyd, Richard Searle, Tim Stewart, and Mark Taylor (unrelated to the Australian Museum team) discover several exciting new cave art sites in the area. One cave contains [animal drawings](#) including a possible depiction of a Tasmanian tiger. Another cave contains drawings of [women](#), including one who is giving birth. (SMH 14/10/06 and pers. comm., photos: Tim Stewart)
- **December:** Paul Tacon says dozens of previously unrecorded rock art sites have been found in the area, suggesting that a traditional Aboriginal travel route (possibly a Dreaming track) ran east-west across Wollemi National Park. (ABC Science Online, 2/12/05).

2006

- **April:** The same group of bushwalkers as above (Mar 2005) find previously unreported area containing relatively high density of sites comprising cave art and rock engravings. Finds are reported to Australian Museum team (Matthew Kelleher) who express desire to explore this area (pers. comm.)
- **October:** The Sydney Morning Herald reports that Sydney bushwalker Peter Butler has found a stone age axe, complete with handle, in a rock shelter in Wollemi. This was found on a trip lead by Matthew Kelleher (following up on reports received by the four independent bushwalkers mentioned above). A rock platform ("Gallery Rock") containing engravings of at least 40 figures has also been found. (SMH 14/10/06)

The central lowlands of the Hunter Valley, NSW: Why so few early sites have been found in this archaeologically-rich landscape

Australian Archaeology Issue 79 (Dec 2014)

Hughes, Philip¹; Spooner, Nigel²; Questiaux, Daniele³

Abstract: The central lowlands of the Hunter Valley are rich in Holocene-aged open stone artefact concentrations but, to date, very few verified traces of Pleistocene occupation have been found there. The central lowlands would have been a reasonably attractive place to live, so logic suggests that there should be Pleistocene sites. Given the geomorphic and soil formation processes that have operated over the potentially long period of Aboriginal occupation of the central lowlands, however, it is likely that most archaeological materials older than ca 10,000 years have been either completely removed or widely dispersed across the landscape and are no longer recognisable as discrete Pleistocene-aged assemblages. Sand bodies have the greatest potential to contain older sites, but in most, if not all, cases their stratigraphic integrity has been compromised, principally by bioturbation. Understanding the landscape history over the last 90,000 years is the key to understanding why finding Pleistocene sites in the Hunter Valley has proven to be so difficult. Geoarchaeological evidence which illustrates this difficulty is presented from sites in three deposits of probable Pleistocene to early Holocene age - two in sand bodies and one in colluvium. On one sand body (the Warkworth sand sheet) there is contestable evidence for traces of pre-LGM occupation beginning more than 23,000, possibly 50,000, years ago, but on the other (the Cheshunt dune) there is no evidence of occupation beyond the mid-Holocene.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

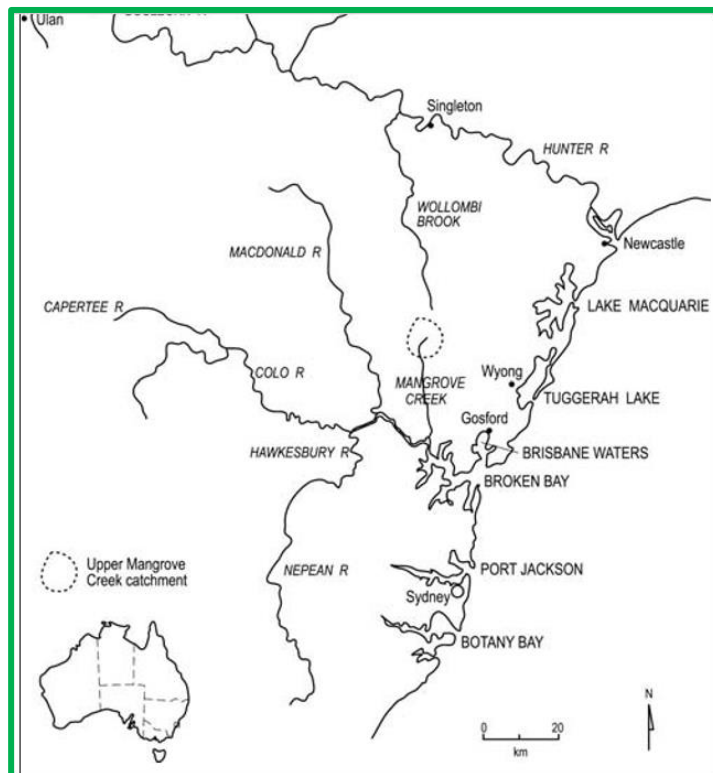
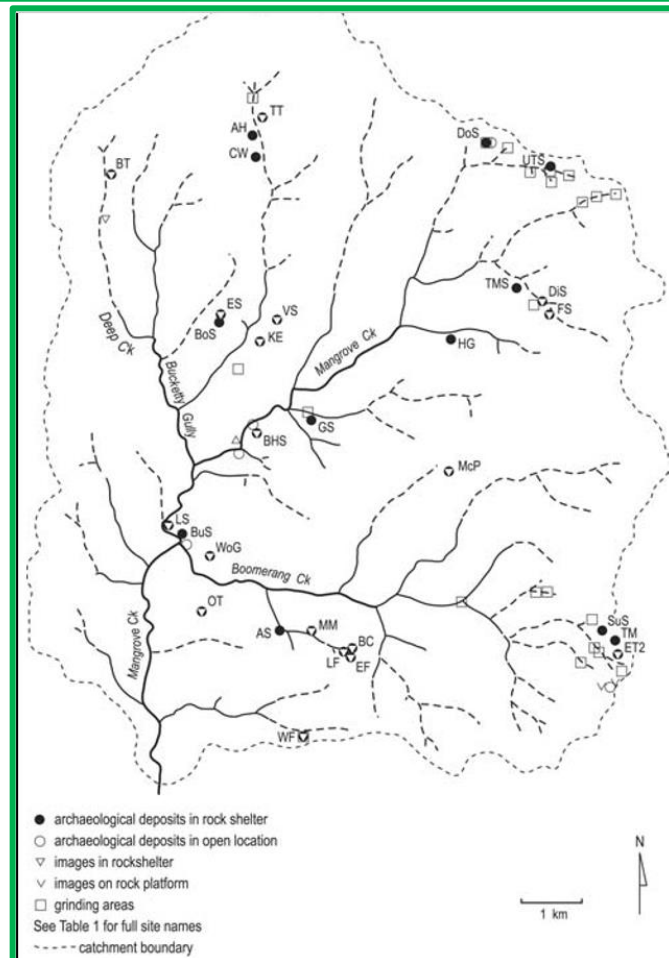


Figure 1 Location of Upper Mangrove Creek catchment, NSW central coast.

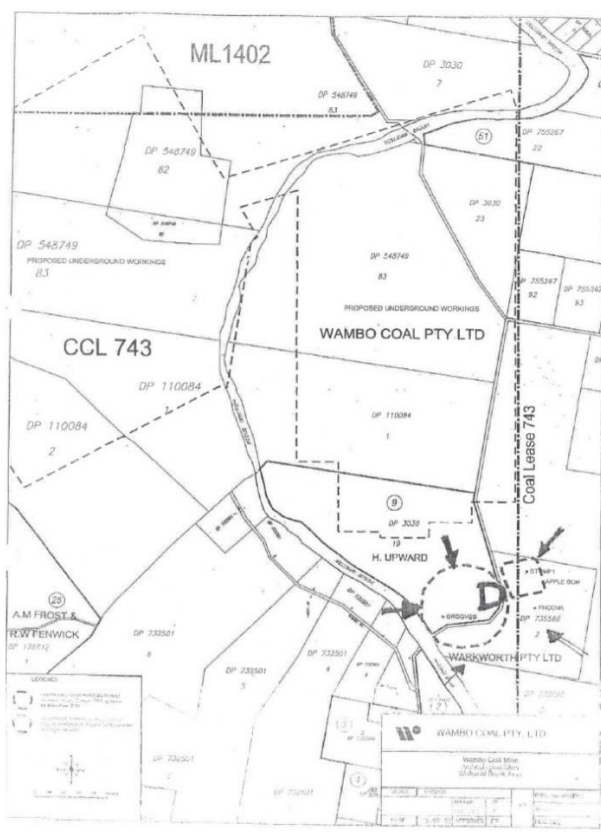


Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

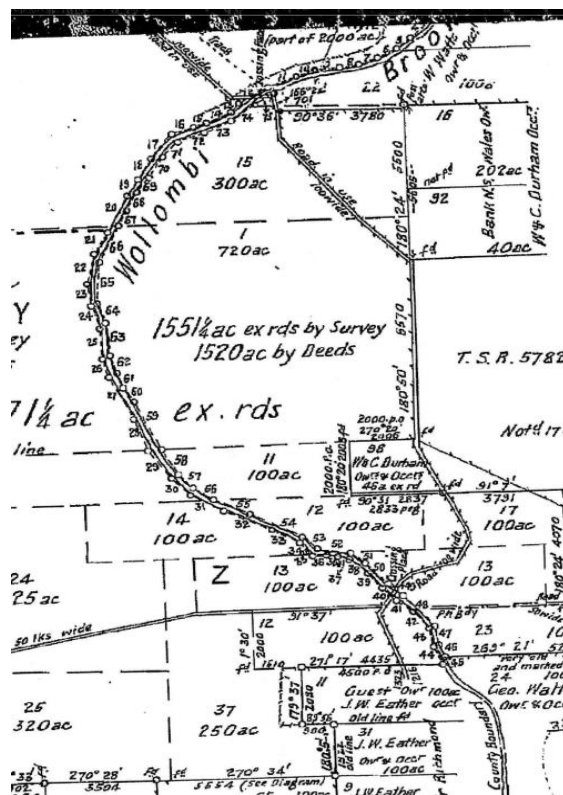
The traditional custodians of the locality are believed to be the [Darkinjung people](#), though the [Awabakal](#) and [Wanaruah](#) nations are also mentioned.

The town's name is an [Aboriginal](#) term said to mean 'meeting place of the waters' or simply 'meeting place' (*"Derived from Awabakal Aboriginal term for 'meeting of waters', but this cannot be linguistically verified. (Appleton; 1992). Also: meeting of the waters. (McCarthy; 1963)."*^[3]). It was apparently pronounced 'Wu-lum-bee', though today it is pronounced Wo (as in wok) - lum (as in thumb) - bi (as in buy).

There are a vast number of historic Aboriginal sites in the surrounding countryside which is thought to have been used as a ceremonial meeting place as people from hundreds of kilometres visited the area and made their way to [Mount Yengo](#) - a place of great significance throughout the ancient nations of eastern Australia.



Wambo Mine Image 2002

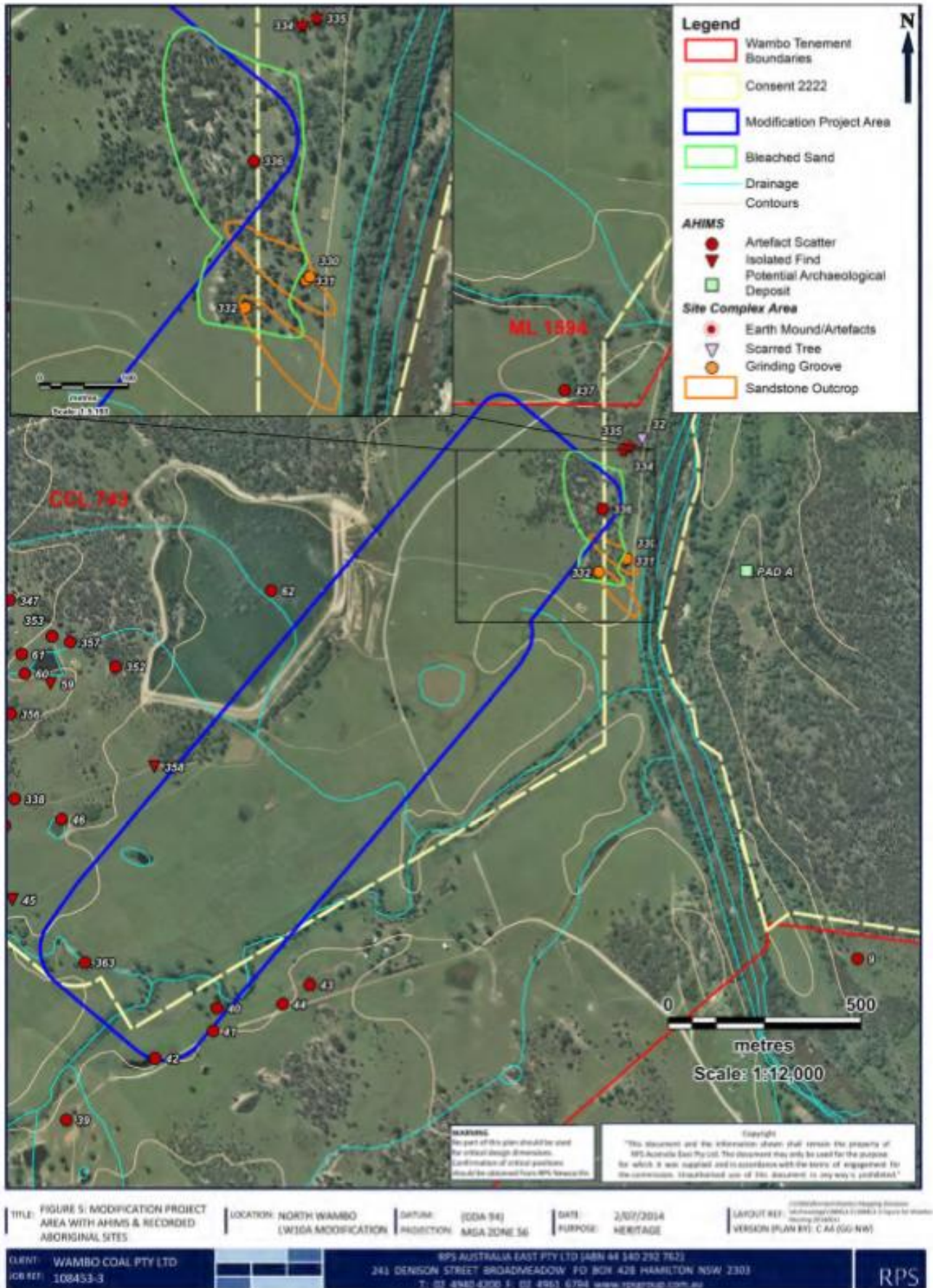


Survey R.H. Mathews 20th August 1882

The Wambo Mine images 2002 above also identifies the significance of the Government Road crossing to South of elusive Bora Ground area, as well as a further area across that road on the Warkworth Mine Lease area. However as the Bora Ground "Circles are only 440 metres apart this suggests it is located solely in the Wambo Mine Land, and this suggests the Colonial Settlers deliberately avoided this area as a result. Illustrated below are further Rock Grinding Grooves and artifacts site further downstream from this Brook crossing.

It is perhaps significant that the Singleton based Surveyor R.H. Mathews 1882 detailed Plan of this area did not indicate or comment on the Bora Site, as he detailed the Baiame Cave in 1893.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Few Europeans from the early contact period recorded encounters with, or sightings of, Aboriginal people, as the majority of accounts relate to the lower Hunter Valley. Accounts of early contact from the upper Hunter Valley include the following (from Brayshaw 1986:47):

- in November 1819, John Howe recorded seeing five Aboriginal people near Jerry's Plains;
- in October 1824, Henry Dangar recorded a visit to his camp on Dart Brook by 15 Aboriginal people, and then observing eight or ten camp fires in the distance. A second entry that month also describes an attack by an Aboriginal party of approximately 150 on his party just beyond the Liverpool Range;
- in 1824, a settler at Patricks Plains near Singleton counted 300 able bodied men in the neighbourhood;
- in 1825, Allan Cunningham recorded evidence of Aboriginal people (their recent marks on trees and fired country), but did not actually observe people in the Upper Hunter and Goulburn valleys;
- in 1826, the official report on an attack on Merton near the junction of the Hunter and Goulburn Rivers, stated that over 200 Aboriginal people were believed to have participated;
- in 1830, Felton Mathew observed a group of 60 Aboriginal people (men, women and children) camped on Wollombi Brook; and
- in December 1831, Sir Thomas Mitchell described meeting a small group of Aboriginal people from Puen Buen on Dart Brook, while on the upper Page River.



Photograph of a Bora ceremony, taken in 1898 by
[Charles Kerry](#).

Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD. June 2016 ssheg@hotmail.com Page 106

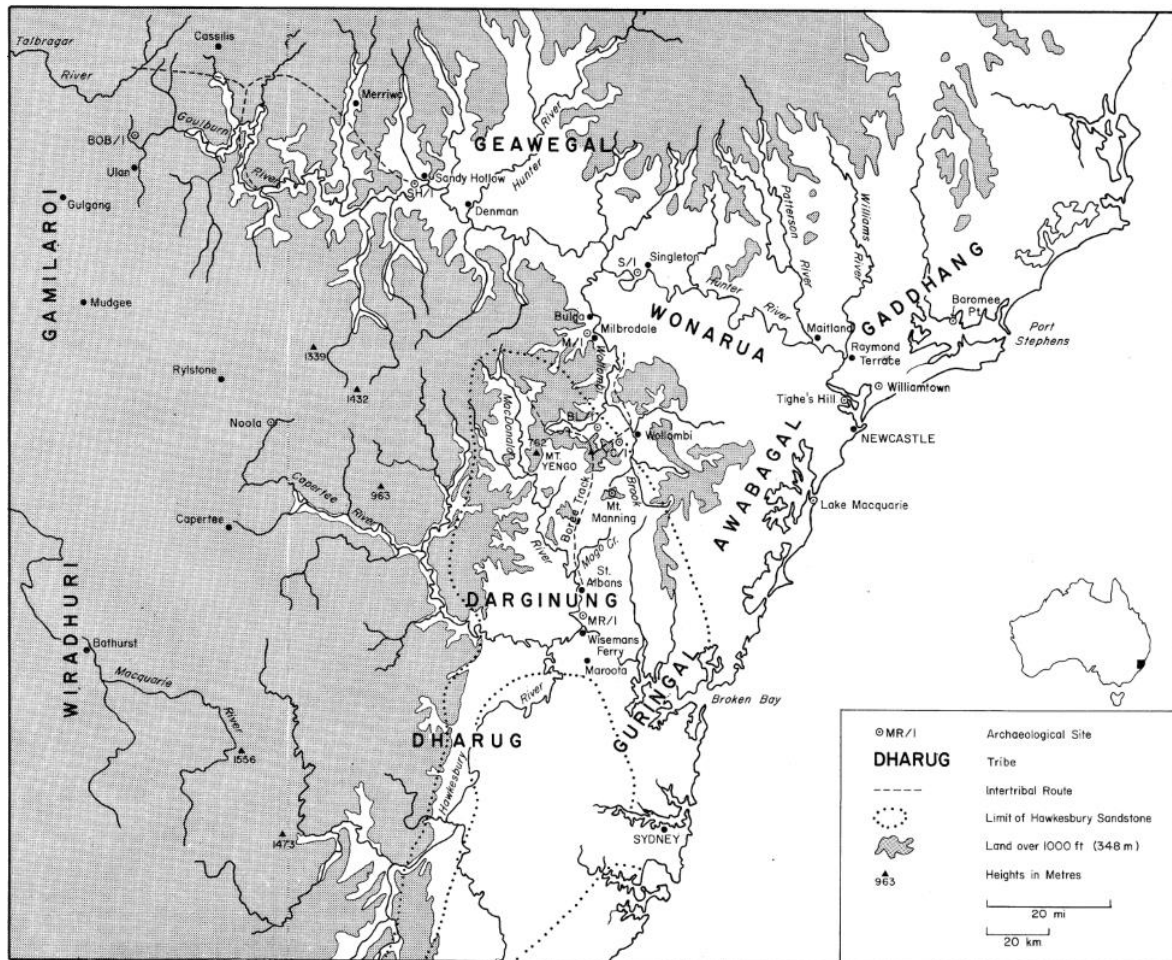


Fig. 1. Archaeological Map: Hunter and Hawkesbury River Systems

Based on the information collated from previous regional studies (refer to MCH 2004b) it is apparent that the most common artefact types are flakes, flake fragments and flaked pieces. Cores, edge ground axes, millstones, grindstones, hammerstones and backed artefacts including backed blades, bondi points, geometric microliths and eloueras also occur though in lower frequencies.

The bulk of archaeological evidence appears to date to no earlier than the mid to late Holocene, approximately 6000-1000 years before the present (BP). Based on current understandings of what was previously known as the Small Tool Tradition, stone artefacts from the area have been relatively dated to 6000-1000BP. Almost without exception, sites within the region may thus be relatively dated to the mid-late Holocene period.

However, evidence of earlier occupation of the region was identified at Glennies Creek, north of Singleton. Radiocarbon dated charcoal and geomorphological evidence from this site suggests that artefacts found in the B-horizon were deposited between 10,000 and 13,000 BP (Koettig 1986a). An analysis of recorded sites according to the number of artefacts present, the distance from water and the landform type of each site allows for the identification of a number of trends.

Table 13. Comparison of Carbon Dates and Estimated Dates

Depth (inches)		Sandy Hollow SH/1	Milbrodale M/1	Bobadeen BOB/1
4-6		A.D. 1420 (ANU-125)	A.D. 1320 (ANU-121)	A.D. 1220 (ANU-123)
12		A.D. 1150	A.D. 540 (ANU-122)	530 B.C.
18		A.D. 900	240 B.C.	2280 B.C.
24		A.D. 650 (ANU-12)		4030 B.C.
30		A.D. 400		5800 B.C. (ANU-124)
36		A.D. 150		7550 B.C.
38		A.D. 70		

Note: Carbon-14 dates are in bold type.

Sand Sheet studies at Warkworth - Add

* THE POETRY OR LANGUAGE OF WOLLOMBI.

Gibber-gunyah : cave-of-the-rock.
 Berramboo : the waddy or war-club, similar to those of New Zealand.
 Boomerang : striking-weapon—from *boomallee*, to strike.
 Lubra : female or daughter—young females of a tribe.
 Battwan : spring water.
 Wascerra : fish.
 Gerrool, and Cooperra : the mullet and eel.
 Wanga-wanga : a wild pigeon of the largest kind, of most exquisite plumage.
 Wallaby : a small species of the kangaroo, which is also called *barwan*, and *biloo*—they are yet found in thin herds in the mountainous ranges of the Wollombi.
 The coole-man is a bowl, hollowed with great ingenuity by the aborigines, from an excrescent substance of a semi-circular form, found growing on the iron-bark, apple, and other gumiferous trees ; the inner wood is rather more porous and fibrous than that on which it grows ; but the bark (which is the cooleman) is hard and smooth, one or two inches in thickness, and containing from a pint to two gallons. On a first examination I was inclined to the opinion of an author (Professor Rennie,) on "Insect Architecture," who believes that "such growths may be caused by the juncture of the *lynips*," but admitting, with that authority, that these excrescences are "pseudo-galls," I rather infer them to be like wens on animals, "produced by too much nourishment."
 Contiyon : honey.
 Conindin : the small native honey-bee easily tracked through the air by a white down adhering to it ; which is strewed by the natives on the sweet yams, on which the insect loves to feed.
 Kurrijong : a tree, from the inner rind of which nets are woven.

Holistic Tourism

HOUSING TOURISM

By its nature Holistic Tourism focuses on progressively establishing a World Class Tourism Centre to cater for International and local Tourists, Cruise Ship visitors from Newcastle and Sydney who visit and stay in the Hunter Valley Towns and Villages, by Showcasing both Ancestral and Heritage Talking Visualisation Attractions and the human stories, Artefacts and keepsakes that is associated with the Cockfighters Creek Valley (Wollombi Brook).

In this instance Bulga is synonymous with the Colonial Gateway (Bulga Trail) to Saint Patricks Plains as the Birthplace of the Hunter Valley in March 1820, while the Heritage significance of Warkworth Extension of Convict Trail – Great North Road, Warkworth Village and beyond, Wambo Homestead Complex, and Bulga RAAF Base, Mining Cottages relocation to be incorporated into the Mine proposed Warkworth Cultural Heritage Conservation Area into a single land entity perhaps along the lines outlined in 2010 and 2014 Community Submissions in Attachment 1.

The Cockfighters Valley is a somewhat isolated Valley located with Army Military Range and Open Cut Coal Mines forming the Eastern ridge edge, the Yengo and Wollombi National Parks Mountains Ranges and Bulga Mountain to the Western, the Major Mitchell's Great North Road connecting the Laguna and Wollombi Aborigines and Convict Periods passing straight alongside the Cockfighters Creek, generally from South to North through Broke, Fordwich, past Bulga and on to Warkworth Village and beyond.

Holistic Tourism Cultural Elements in broad terms translate to the following:-

1. Aboriginal Culture of the area
2. Colonial Settlement Culture
3. Australian Developing Culture
4. Hunter Valley Industrialisation Culture
5. Coexistence Imposed Mining Culture
6. Human Ecology developing Culture

There exists many Historical and Heritage documents that have been written, transcribed, rewritten for various purposes, however the focus of this Holistic Tourism Concept is for Professional Historians to search out and assemble actual original manuscripts to be showcased as Tourist Interactive Displays, assembled as Individual Tourism Modules.

The initial focus relates to a series of Tourism Modules for the Colonial Settlement Culture, displaying the Field Diaries of Howe's 1819 Exploration to Jerry Plains, and the 1820 Exploration via Broke Trail to Saint Patricks Plains, Wallis Creek and the return to Windsor via Bulga Trail.

Further Tourism Modules follow the success of Howe's Expedition resulted in Land Grants to the members of Howe's Exploration Party, the first settlers farming the Saint Patricks Plains, the Surveying of Farms lots and Villages along the Hunter's River in the period 1821 – 1825; with the Cockfighters Creek Valley and Hunter River Environs the Locality of the Early Colonial Pioneers.

Era when walking Paths became Tracks Rivers sufficed until Roads Planned

Development of the colony [edit]

Exploration [edit]

In October 1795 [George Bass](#) and [Matthew Flinders](#), accompanied by [William Martin](#) sailed the boat *Tom Thumb* out of [Port Jackson](#) to [Botany Bay](#) and explored the [Georges River](#) further upstream than had been done previously by the colonists. Their reports on their return led to the settlement of [Banks' Town](#).^[19] In March 1796 the same party embarked on a second voyage in a similar small boat, which they also called the *Tom Thumb*.^[20] During this trip they travelled as far down the coast as [Lake Illawarra](#), which they called *Tom Thumb Lagoon*. They discovered and explored [Port Hacking](#). In 1798-99, Bass and Flinders set out in a sloop and circumnavigated [Tasmania](#), thus proving it to be an island.^[21]

Aboriginal guides and assistance in the European exploration of the colony were common and often vital to the success of missions. In 1801-02 Matthew Flinders in *The Investigator* lead the first circumnavigation of Australia. Aboard ship was the Aboriginal explorer [Bungaree](#), of the Sydney district, who became the first person born on the Australian continent to circumnavigate the Australian continent.^[21] Previously, the famous [Bennelong](#) and a companion had become the first people born in the area of New South Wales to sail for Europe, when, in 1792 they accompanied Governor Phillip to England and were presented to [King George III](#).^[21]

In 1813, [Gregory Blaxland](#), [William Lawson](#) and [William Wentworth](#) succeeded in crossing the formidable barrier of forested gulleys and sheer cliffs presented by the [Blue Mountains](#), west of Sydney, by following the ridges instead of looking for a route through the valleys. At [Mount Blaxland](#) they looked out over "enough grass to support the stock of the colony for thirty years", and expansion of the British settlement into the interior could begin.^[22]

In 1824 the Governor, [Sir Thomas Brisbane](#), commissioned [Hamilton Hume](#) and former Royal Navy Captain [William Hovell](#) to lead an expedition to find new grazing land in the south of the colony, and also to find an answer to the mystery of where New South Wales's western rivers flowed. Over 16 weeks in 1824-25, [Hume and Hovell](#) journeyed to Port Phillip and back. They made many important discoveries including the [Murray River](#) (which they named the Hume), many of its tributaries, and good agricultural and grazing lands between [Gunning, New South Wales](#) and [Corio Bay, Victoria](#).^[23]

[Charles Sturt](#) led an expedition along the [Macquarie River](#) in 1828 and discovered the [Darling River](#). A theory had developed that the inland rivers of New South Wales were draining into an inland sea. Leading a second expedition in 1829, Sturt followed the [Murrumbidgee River](#) into a 'broad and noble river', the Murray River, which he named after Sir George Murray, secretary of state for the colonies. His party then followed this river to its junction with the [Darling River](#), facing two threatening encounters with local Aboriginal people along the way. Sturt continued down river on to [Lake Alexandrina](#), where the Murray meets the sea in [South Australia](#). Suffering greatly, the party had to then row back upstream hundreds of kilometers for the return journey.^[24]

Surveyor General Sir [Thomas Mitchell](#) conducted a series of expeditions from the 1830s to 'fill in the gaps' left by these previous expeditions. He was meticulous in seeking to record the original Aboriginal place names around the colony, for which reason the majority of place names to this day retain their Aboriginal titles.^[25]

The Polish scientist/explorer Count [Paul Edmund Strzelecki](#) conducted surveying work in the [Australian Alps](#) in 1839 and became the first European to ascend Australia's highest peak, which he named [Mount Kosciuszko](#) in honour of the Polish patriot [Tadeusz Kościuszko](#).^[26]

Establishing the Penal Settlement at Port Macquarie in 1812 was timely to handle the "Convict Rebellion" that occurred at Parramatta in ??? when word past amongst them by James Wilson who was reporting he had ventured on Paths to the West onto open grassy plains while living with the Aborigines he had befriended.

1813

It was George Evans who marked out the rest of the route to Bathurst in 1815.) It is less well known that Lawson was a leader in opening, or 'invading', the country north from Bathurst, past Mudgee, allowing cattlemen to reach the edge of Gamilaraay country east of the Warrumbungles. In this region he is less well known as an explorer than Allan Cunningham, who came after him to discover the famous Pandoras Pass.

1814

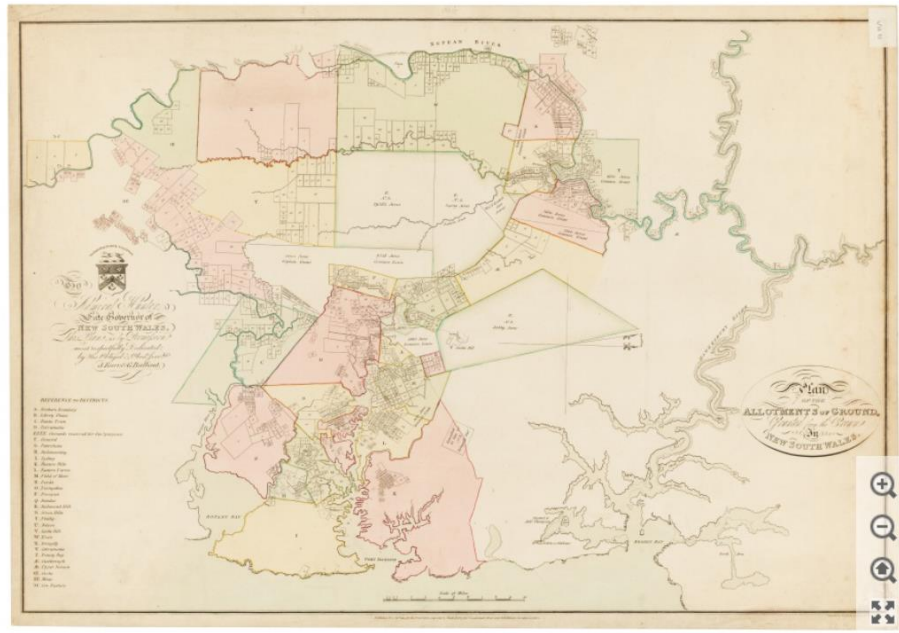
Plan of the allotments of ground, granted from the Crown in New South Wales, J. Burr & G. Ballisat, London, 1814

Z/CB 81/1

This map is dedicated to 'Admiral Hunter, late Governor of New South Wales' who had completed his term in September 1800.

From 1791 to 1831, the Governors of New South Wales issued free grants of land on behalf of the Crown to individuals to encourage and advance the settlement of the Colony. Evidence of ownership of these land grants was provided by a document known as a Crown grant.

This map shows grant lot numbers and acreages and was intended to accompany the booklet, *An Accurate list of the names of the land-holders in the colony of New South Wales pointing out the number of acres in each district as granted from the Crown, corrected*



1818

The first European record of the Aboriginal people of the district comes from the journals of John Oxley who passed through in August 1818. Oxley, apparently depressed by the difficulty of his passage through 'these desolate wilds'²³, refers a number of times to 'the fires of the natives' who 'attend on our motions pretty closely'²⁴ and 'the natives who continue in our vicinity unheeded and unheeding'.²⁵

Oxley's Liverpool Plains

The first white men to reach the Liverpool Plains were the 16-man exploring party led by the colony's surveyor-general John Oxley in 1818. Nearly all walked; while they had eight horses, most of them were pack horses.

1

Travelling NNW from Bathurst, they followed the Macquarie River past Dubbo and Warren until it disappeared into "an ocean of reeds" (the Macquarie marshes). Blocked in that direction, Oxley's party turned north-east on 6 July to discover the Castlereagh River. There they turned due east, that being the shortest route to the coast.

Having passed north of the Warrumbungle Ranges, Oxley had his first glimpse, probably from the top of a tree, of the great expanse of the Liverpool Plains (the name he chose) on 24 August.

This was just to the west of the present-day Oxley Highway north-east of Coonabarabran. His "lofty chain of forest hills" included today's Mt Talbareeya and Mt Nombi. The party camped on 25

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

August near today's Garrawilla Spring, south-west of Mullaley. The view from a nearby hill the next day revealed "hills, dales and *plains of the richest description* ... bounded to the east by fine hills, beyond which were seen elevated mountains" [the latter probably Melville Range on the other side of the Liverpool Plains, near Tamworth]. They were still on the western side of Coxs Creek north of Mt Nombi. As we know from other sources, they had reached the western edge of a great stretch of naturally *treeless* country that extends on both side of Coxs Creek south of Mullaley:

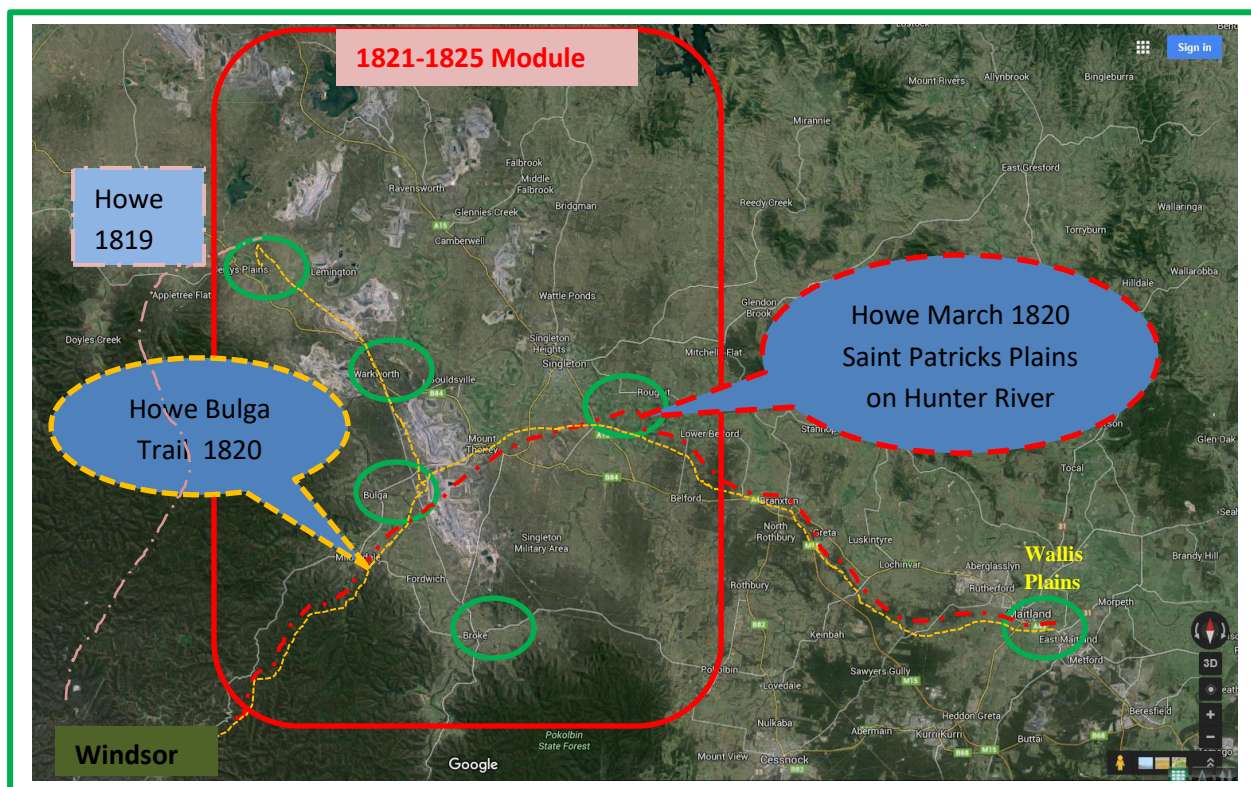
In this great valley [Garrawilla Creek] were numerous low hills and plains, *thinly studded with timber*, and watered by the stream down the banks of which we had travelled. From its eastern side these low hills gradually rise to a loftier elevation but were still *thinly* timbered and *covered with grass*. To the ESE and south-east [meaning the view towards Goran Lake], clear plains extended to the foot of very lofty hills at a medium distance of from 25 to 40 miles [around 50km]. ... from their vast extent, they may as a whole be properly denominated plains, yet their surfaces were slightly broken into gentle eminences with *occasional* clumps and lines of timber" (26 August).

There were signs of a recent small flood or fresh in one of the lesser creeks that ran into Garrawilla Creek, and there was much wildlife: "These valleys and hills abound with kangaroos, and on the plains numbers of emus were seen. We seemed to be once more on the land of plenty". This region was a "beautiful and fertile country" compared to the scrubby country ("miserable harassing deserts") that lay behind them and through which they had struggled for six weeks.

Beginning with Oxley himself, it has puzzled everyone that the Aboriginal population of so fertile a region should appear so sparse. Setting aside the three smokes seen west of Garrawilla, *not a single Aborigine was met or seen, and there was no smoke from any camp fires, in the eight days that his party took to cross the 90+ kilometres of the Liverpool Plains from near Mullaley to Tamworth.*

1819-1820 John Howe's Crossing of Blue Mountains to Hunter

The Early 1822 Colonial Settlers in this area were eager for land with plentiful water and grassy plains, and the Valley along Cockfighter's Creek through to Jerry's Plains became an early focus.



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Grassy Plains along Cockfighter;s Creek to Jerry's Plains on the Hunter River, and over the Valley Saddle Ridge to the East again the Hunter River Flats. Further to the East is the Rich Hunter River Flats Saint Patricks Plains.

John Howe in March 1820 had opened up the Hunter River from "The Bulgar" through to Wallis Plains and "The King's Town" Newcastle for the Colonial Settlement of the 1820's.

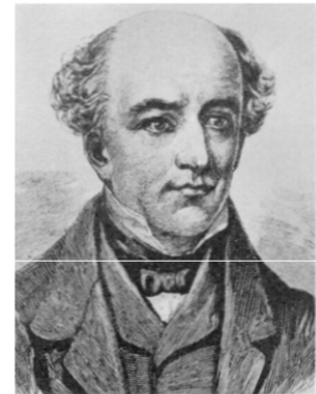
John Howe explorations

Connectivity to "Blue Mountains, Linkage to Wollombi Valley and Howes Valley

Again the colony was trapped in Saint Patricks Plains surrounded by Mountains.

The next phase of exploration of the Hunter Region did not begin until 1821-23 when Surveyor Henry Dangar was instructed to survey the Hunter River and Allan Cunningham, botanist and explorer, approached the Goulburn River and Pages River, starting from Bathurst (1822-1823).

However, commuting to and from Jerry's Plains was not a simple process. As testified by Dr Allan Cunningham who set out to explore the Upper Hunter. He was following up on an expedition to the Upper Hunter of May 1823. Cunningham left Riclimond Hill on 29 March 1825, with the purpose of making the Hunter River at its nearest bend. He found Howe's route of 1820 very difficult. *'The narrow defiles and abrupt precipices were dangerous to men and heavily laden packhorses, and impassable by cart. The men were forced to unload the pack horses and carry the loads themselves through a gap, and again down an abrupt mountainside to descend lower Wollombi, or Cockfighter.'* *'The party had traveled 100 miles from 500 feet to the valley of the Richmond in 13 days when on 11 April they reached the extensive sheep farm of John Marquet Blaxland on the Wollombi.'*³⁰⁷



Allan Cunningham³⁰⁸

In April 1825, Cunningham's party observed evidence of a very high flooding at Jerry's Plains. They were especially astonished to see 'the wrack and stubble of a flood 50 to 60 feet above the river level as they saw it.' Unfortunately, Cunningham's reporting of flood levels of the past was ignored by settlers and

1821

The first colonist to enter the country above Bathurst was James Blackman, the young superintendent of convicts and district constable at Bathurst since 1819. He blazed a line to the Cudgegong River in 1821. With three companions, Blackman (aged about 29) explored a route from Bathurst to the Cudgegong River. He went through Aaron's Pass, named after his Aboriginal servant and guide, followed the Cudgegong for about 40 km, and came to the Burrundulla Swamps, but did not reach the major Aboriginal camp-site at Mudgee.

William Lawson, now aged 47, was the recently appointed Government Commandant at Bathurst. With Blackman he followed Blackman's route further out to *Muggie* [Mudgee] later the same year. Lawson made further exploratory trips north of Mudgee in 1822, accompanied once again by Blackman and guided as before by local Aborigines. In January 1822 he explored the Talbragar River which runs WSW from near Cassilis to Dubbo. He found the Goulburn River, which runs east

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

to the Hunter, on 30 November 1822. (Pursuing their different botanies—pastoralist vs. scientist—he and Allan Cunningham literally crossed paths on one occasion.) In 1823 Lawson even crossed

Late in 1821 the Rev. G. A. Middleton travelled overland to the Hunter settlement from the Hawkesbury, with 173 head of cattle. 'Mr John Blaxland, marked the trees' that they had come, a roundabout route which became known as Parsons Road. Following this event (18 December 1821) Major Morisset, Commandant at Newcastle,²⁷¹ reported a long list of runaways, and expressed the hope that "His Excellency would not permit any more cattle to be brought by that road." He complained that "Twelve of them went off in a body for the Parson's Road, as it is now called." To follow the trail blazed by Blaxland.²⁷²

John Marquett Blaxland was the eldest son of John Blaxland and Harriet de Marquett, and nephew of Gregory Blaxland. In 1825 he discovered a route to the Hunter River. His Journal describes a trip to Wallis Plains, describes places in the vicinity, and the weather in the region, and daily activities. Daily activities include collecting shells, attending church, attending a corroboree, hunting for birds and kangaroos, hunting with Aborigines.

Correspondence mentioning twelve runaways from Newcastle who used the road used by Rev. Middleton to bring cattle overland and which was marked by John Blaxland on the same journey. The road became known as the Parson's road



1822

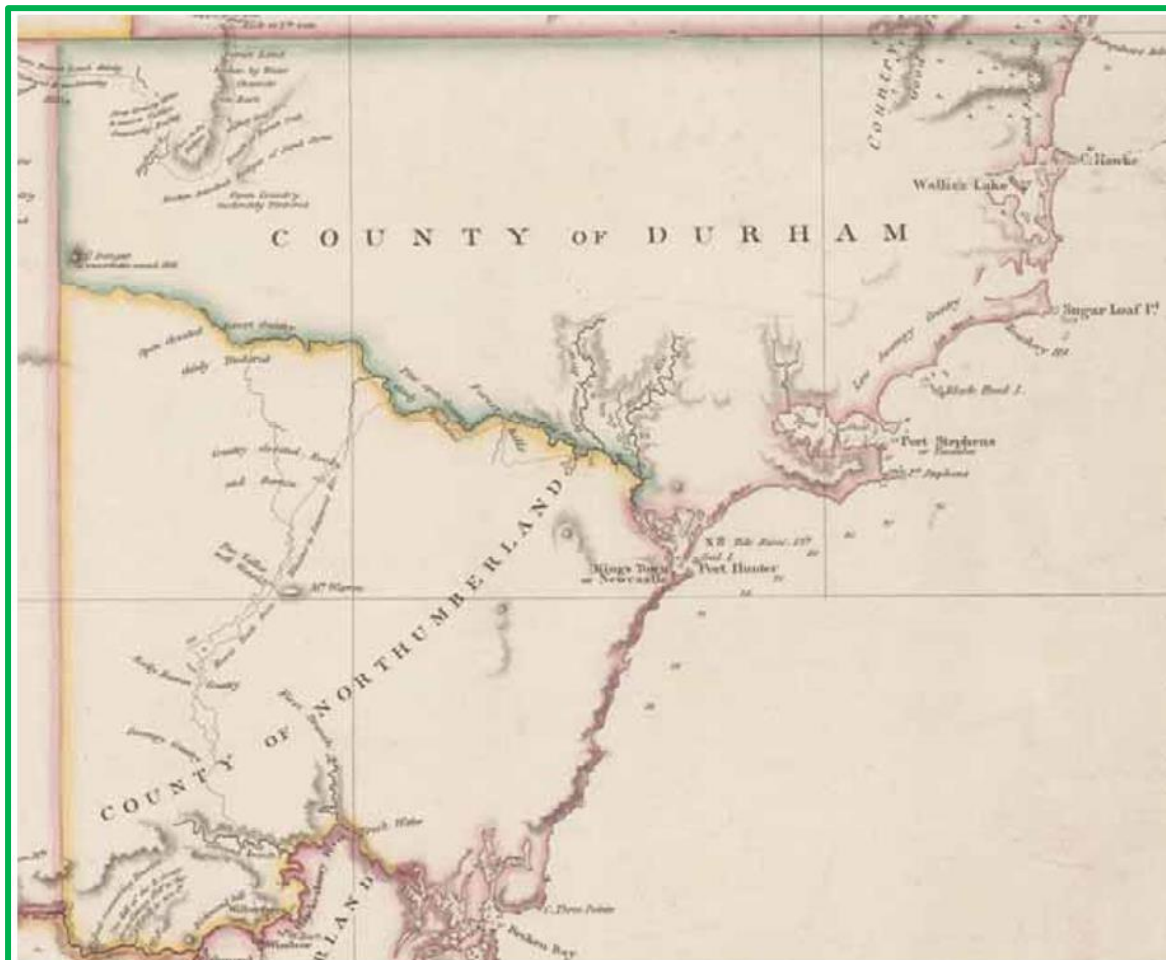


Figure 6: Extract from John Oxley's 1822 map *A Chart of part of the interior of New South Wales* showing the early explorers routes through the Hunter region (Source: National Library of Australia MAP T 940)

1823

Officially, the Bulga Road, sometimes known as the Parson's Road, was opened in 1823 as the route from Windsor to the place called Bulga. It was long, hard and rough, with many steep rocky sections. Descent into the valley at Putty was so rough that people had to unload their packhorses and carry their loads down. It is not surprising that it was described as 'a rugged bridle path quite unfit to take even an empty cart by'. It was a long time before it was suitable for carts and carriages to use.

When it opened in 1823, people wishing to travel on the route had to get a permit to travel on it. Its main use was for droving cattle northwards. By 1827, it was famous as a route for cattle rustling from the Hunter Valley to the Sydney region. Later, it became known for the many bushrangers who plagued travellers along it. Permits showed who was included in a group, what animals and goods they were taking and how long they expected to be on the road. The first person to receive a permit to travel along the Bulga Road was Lieutenant Charles Close who had property in the Hunter Valley. He took his family, servants and animals along the road over a two-week period from 8 May 1823.

1824

In the case of the south-west section of the Plains, around Premer and Tambar Springs, Allan Cunningham imagined that all or part of the reason for a sparse population was the Bathurst-Mudgee pogroms of 1824-25. He supposed that the posses of soldiers and settlers scouring the region would have gone north over (through) the Liverpool Range. But there is no direct evidence for this hypothesis. Indeed, such evidence as we do have counts against it. The “sweeps” around Mudgee in 1824 were carried by four distinct parties of armed white men accompanied by Aboriginal guides.

The party that went north in the direction of the Liverpool Plains on 17 September 1824 was led by Major James Morisset. It consisted of an army officer (Morisset), two or three mounted civilians, one or two Aboriginal guides and (*marching on foot* :) about 10 infantrymen (“RedCoats”) from the 40th Regiment. (Morisset himself rode of course.) They travelled for ten days, i.e. five days out and five days back. Now trained foot-soldiers can march for about around 20 km a day. Thus if they travelled in a straight line, without any ‘sideways’ sweeps, they could have gone for some 100 km.

That would have taken them barely as far as Pandora’s Pass. The only reasonable conclusion is that they scoured only on the Mudgee side and did not go into the Liverpool Plains. None of the four parties killed any Aborigines and indeed only one party even saw an Aborigine. (It was the perceived uselessness of infantry that led the colonial authorities to give the soldiers horses: this was the origin of the Mounted Police of NSW.)

The following month, October 1824, Henry Dangar, Government Surveyor, set off with a small party to explore the upper reaches of the Hunter and amongst other things look for a pass through the mountains to the Liverpool Plains. Dangar was accompanied by Assistant Surveyor, John Richards; and two other white men named Williamson and Allen; and an Aboriginal boy. They left the farm of Philip Thorley, on the Patrick Plains on 7 October 1824 and in the afternoon reached the Richard Hobden’s farm at Jerrys Plains.

On 12 October 1824, Henry Dangar, crossed over the high Southward jutting spur of the Liverpool Range and camped by what is now known as Wybong Creek. On the morning of 14 October 1824, Dangar’s expedition began to climb the range. ‘On the crest of the Liverpool Range they were attacked by a large party of natives, possibly a hundred and fifty in number. One of the party was stuck in the head by a spear before they knew the blacks were near. The natives took possession of the horse carrying the provisions, clothes and cooking utensils. After the attack the white men “rallied and made front for about three hours”. The natives content with their booty, allowed them to proceed without further molestation. The explorers had their blankets on their saddles and carried about 25 lbs of flour in their saddle-bags.’

‘They camped for the night about four miles from the crest of the range and commenced their return on the following day. Minus the pack horse and its load and with one man bearing a spear wound in his head, Dangar’s party eventually reached Dr Bowman’s farm, which is the highest on Hunter River.’ ‘The challenging route of the explorers’ return over the mountains became known by the deceptive name of ‘Dangar’s Pass’ and was so described on early maps.” Word of Henry Dangar’s adventures and discovery soon spread.

The news that Henry Dangar broke free of the Hunter River Valley and crossed the Great Dividing Range west of Murrurundi to the North onto the Liverpool Plains, this soon saw Settlers venturing throughout the upper reaches of the Hunter and Goulbourn Rivers.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

In July 1824 [Dangar] named Fal and Foy Brooks, in August explored the present sites of Muswellbrook, Aberdeen and Scone, crossed the Hunter and discovered and named Kingdon Ponds and Dartbrook. Soon afterwards he arranged an expedition to ascertain “the nature and point of junction of the stream from the westward” which he had observed on his earlier journey up the Hunter. Accompanied by John Richards and two servants, Williamson and Allen, Dangar discovered in October 1824 the confluence [near present-day Denman] of the Goulburn and Hunter Rivers, explored Dartbrook to its head where Allan Cunningham had crossed it in 1823, named Lamorran Brook (Wybong) and briefly crossed the Liverpool Range to the plains beyond.⁶

On their way up from Dart Brook, well to the west of Murrurundi, Dangar’s party was ambushed near the top of the Range by as many as “150” Aborigines, all “warriors” according to Roger Milliss. One of Dangar’s men was wounded, not fatally, by a spear in the head. “Some shots” were fired in response, but “without effect”. For three hours the *whitefellows* halted and kept guard. Eventually they abandoned their pack-horse (wounded or dead) with most of their provisions and all of their cooking utensils, and pressed on over the range by a very steep pass and down to the plains via the northward-flowing Macdonalds Creek.⁷

Although this was Kamilaroi country, Dangar supposed (probably correctly) that they were ‘*Bathurst natives*’, i.e. Wiradjuri-speakers from the Bathurst-Mudgee region. Local people would have been living in small groups. One would guess—one can only guess—that they were refugees from the Mudgee region who had taken shelter in the ranges during the Bathurst-Mudgee “war” of 1824. We noted earlier that posses of soldiers and settlers had ‘scoured’ the area around Mudgee as recently as September 1824. One would also guess the “150” included women and children as well as men.

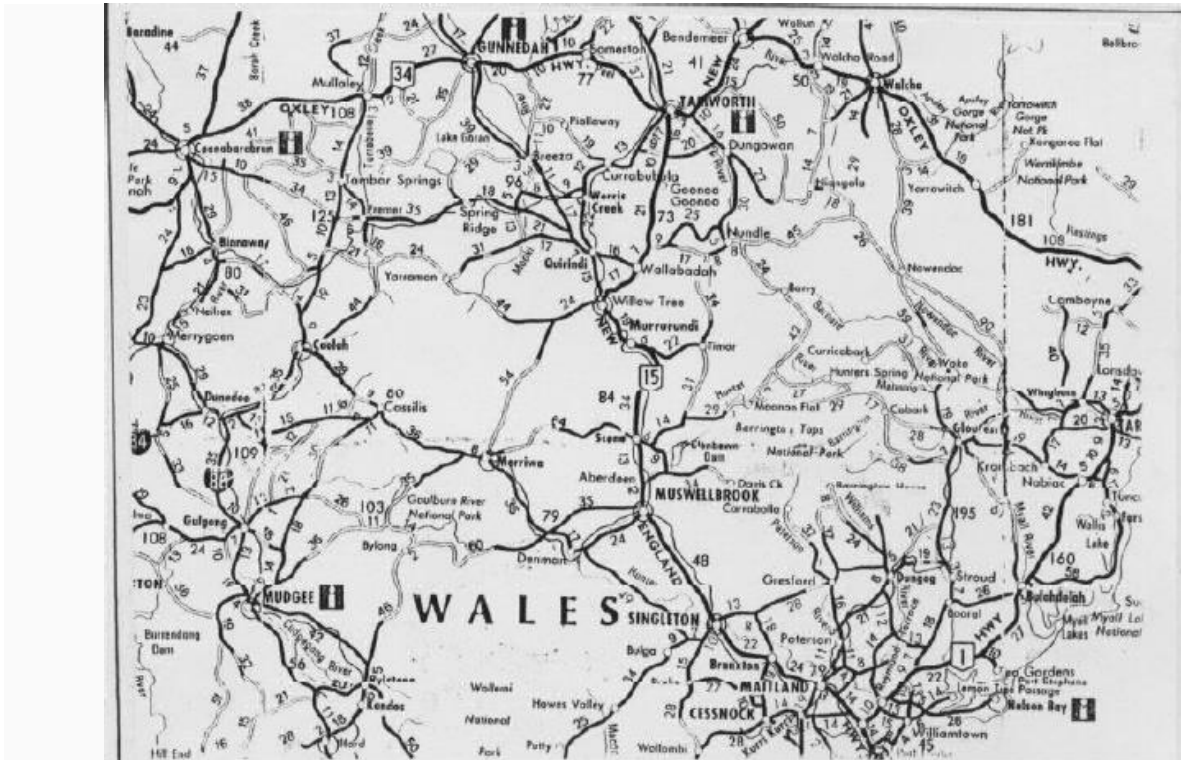
The highest farm in the valley in October 1824 when Dangar came back from his expedition to the Liverpool Plains was Dr James Bowman's property 'Ravensworth', south-east of our Liddell Power Station. A little later, at its peak, the holding would cover 12,000 acres (4,856 ha: 7 x 7 km).⁸

The Village of Warkworth, seven miles north of Bulga, was originally named “Eduardsville” and was mostly inhabited by ex-convicts, except for the Church of England Minister and the Postmaster and post Office on the northern side of Cockfighters Creek near the road to Wambo Estate.

Adds, then Warkworth, then jerry plains mounted police

Add Broke and Milbrodale properties, dates, Bulga tracks

1825



Above: Map of east-central NSW. The two key passes into the Liverpool Plains were Pandoras Pass near Coolah (middle-left on the map) and Doughboy Hollow immediately north of Murrumbidgee (centre). In 1825, Allan Cunningham travelled past Merriwa and Cassilis, through Pandoras Pass into the Liverpool Plains, and along the valley of Cocks Creek past Premier, Tambar Springs and Mullaley (upper left on the map).

Alan Cunningham, the Government Botanist, recorded a journey to Hunter's River from March 29th 1825 to May 31st 1825. [arrived in the Colony of New South Wales in 1817;] entitled *Cunningham's Journal September 1822 to February 1831*. This account breaks off after April 10th 1825 [folio 128] with the note that it is continued in "Book No.3 to May 31st". In a series of explorations between 1823 and 1827 he discovered Pandora's Pass and the Darling Downs, explored the Liverpool Plains and made many other valuable discoveries.

The ex-naval lieutenant William Ogilvie, for example: chose 'Merton', opposite modern Denman, on a walking trip (!) with the ex-naval surgeon Peter Cunningham in April 1825. (Cunningham was aged 36.) Ogilvie occupied his grant some time later that year leaving his family in Newcastle until his assigned convicts had finished building a family house. Captain Francis Allman too, the Government Commandant at Newcastle, in March 1825 received a grant opposite present-day Muswellbrook which he called 'Overton'. Other colonists staked out claims beyond 'Muscle Brook' [Muswellbrook] up to present-day Aberdeen. Peter McIntyre 'apportioned' 'Segenhoe' on Pages River, north-east of latter-day Aberdeen, for his employer T P Macqueen in May 1825, occupying it later that year; and a further 2,000 acres for himself which became 'Blairmore', on Dartbrook Creek opposite modern Aberdeen. 'Segenhoe' and 'Blairmore' were not established, however, as going concerns until 1826-27.

1826 Governor Darling

During 1826 Benjamin Singleton was the first to take cattle into the Liverpool Plains via the treacherous Dangar's Pass discovered by Henry Dangar in 1824.³¹⁶

Samuel Eather and family at Richmond drove their stock up the Bulga Road in 1826 in response to an advertisement by Benjamin Singleton at Patrick Plains, offering agistment. The Eathers, having settled in the area subsequently applied to the Government for a grant of land, which led them to settle at Jerry's Plains.

Construction of 'the Great North Road', which for many years served as the main road north from Sydney to the Hunter valley, began in 1826. Convict gangs were to take some ten years to build the road through rugged bushland - Some 700 convicts worked on the road at any one time. They cleared timber; grubbed out stumps; made level surfaces; dug ditches; blasted and shaped stone, and shifted it into position (some of the blocks weighed up to 600 kg). Their hard labour cleared a path of about 20 metres wide, constructed various retaining walls, culverts, and 33 bridges.³¹⁷

1827

Solomon Wiseman's ferry service on the Hawkesbury at 'Lower Portland Head' (later known as Wiseman's Ferry), began in 1827 as part of the Great North Road.³¹⁸ It was the first crossing facility installed on the Hawkesbury.³¹⁹

A one-man police presence was established in Jerry's Plains during 1827 to serve that district – He was Constable J. Needham.

f 1 in this book for **dangar maps 1827**

[Clear search](#)

reported to the Colonial Secretary Lord Bathurst in London about Henry Dangar's alleged unlawful activities.

This report arose from a complaint by Mr Peter McIntyre. McIntyre contended that Henry Dangar had, "unduly and unwarrantably appropriated to himself and his brother [William] land on the Hunter River lying between Dart Brook and Kingdon Ponds so as to prevent him, Mr [Peter] McIntyre, from having that priority of selection to which he considered he was entitled as agent for Mr Potter Macqueen, as well as for his brother [John] and himself. Subsequently, an official Land Board inquiry in the colony recommended that Henry Dangar be deprived of the land that he had "improperly appropriated". Further, Governor Darling recommended that Henry Dangar be suspended from his official position of Assistant Surveyor.

The new vice-regal recommendations were not entirely fair to the hard-working surveyor. Henry Dangar was certainly a strong-willed, self-sufficient

Aboriginal Population in 1827 recorded about 300 living at Patricks Plains.

1828

Rev. J. D. Lang visited the Hunter region in 1828 and observed that ‘in the company of other settlers, those at Patrick Plains had suffered in drought, that ‘no settler had sufficient wheat for his own needs’.³²⁷

By 1828, with the publication of Henry Dangar’s ‘Index and Directory’, each parish within the counties of Northumberland and Durham was given a brief description based on the suitability of the unappropriated lands for settlement. For example, the unappropriated lands of the parish of Newcastle were described as “generally very barren, and wholly undeserving the emigrant’s notice”, while the parish of Lemington was described as “well watered, light soil, and desirable as a grazing tract”.³⁰

Corporate Momentum on the Hunter In September 1828, the ‘Australian Agricultural Company’ (AACo) was granted exclusive rights by the Colonial Office to mine coal in the Port Stephens area for 31 years, at the mouth of the Hunter. They also got a 2000 acres land grant with the right to mine coal.³²⁹ Until this time coal mining was under the control of the Government with convicts providing the labour. The Australian Agricultural Company relied for many years on convict labour to develop its coal mines settlement at Newcastle. AAcCo’s advent was a significant factor in the development of the Hunter, and the colony in general.

1829 Governor Bourke/ Governor Darling

Work on the ‘official’ road north of the Hawkesbury, began opposite Dural in 1829.

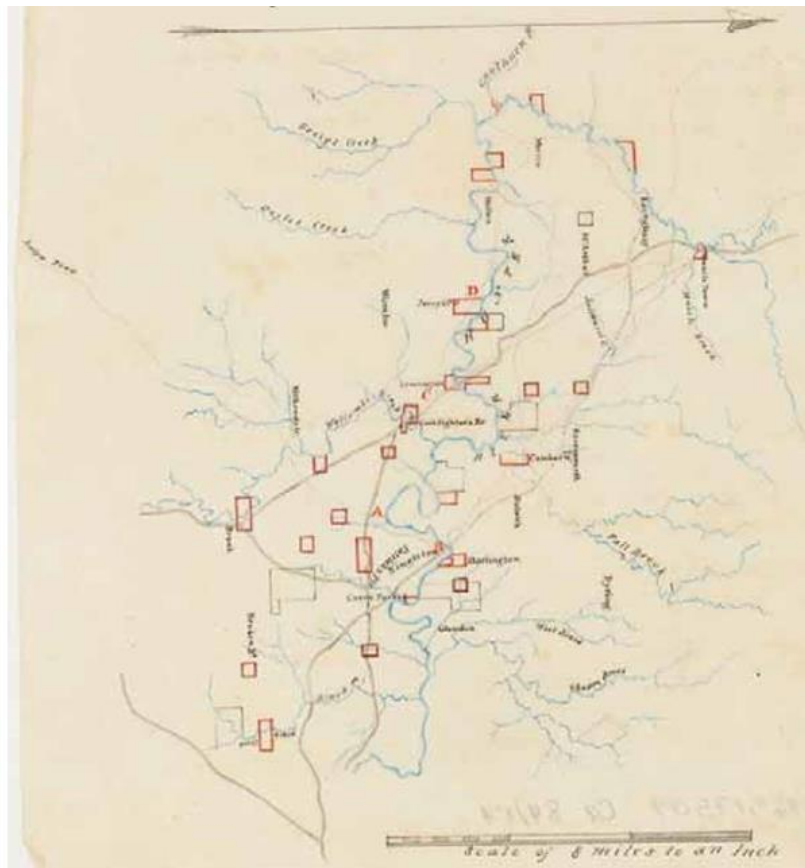


Figure 9: Undated sketch showing the roads around Singleton and Jerry's Plains.
(Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW_Call No. Ca 84/17)

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Map around 1829 showing many of the Settlement Estates such as Castle Forbes, Singleton, Blaxland and Cockfigher's Brook, Camberwell, Lemington, Jerry's Plains, RQSTS (Royal Queens Troops Stockade), and Muscle Brook.

Major Mitchell Plan of Town of Maitland 1829 No 3634

1830

The 1830 depression from failure of crops after three years of Drought 1827 -1830, then followed by Smallpox Epidemic during 1830 – 1832.

Governor Darling attempted to implement a "19 Counties Plan", largely for administrative convenience, to restrict settlement to a radius 240 kilometres from Sydney.

Owing to heavy rains, there was minor flooding of the Hawkesbury region during the years 1830 and 1831 following three years of drought. The drought 'had been so severe that the settlers had been obliged to dig up couch grass roots, wash them and feed them to their stock.' 334 The floods in their turn caused property to be damaged, crops and stock lost, and field labour was suspended for a time. Roads were noted to be in a bad state.335 These difficult conditions caused settlers like the Browns and their neighbours to travel far a field to seek out new pastures. Hawkesbury settlers were driven to head north to the Hunter following the way explored by John Howe. Conditions on the Hunter, due to the heavy rains, had much to offer. In the Patrick Plains region, good crops of wheat were in production.336

The great smallpox pandemic of 1830-32 can be cited to explain the paucity of meetings with Aborigines after about 1830

'This strategically place could have been even more successful than it proved to be if the highway and railway routes had not eventually bypassed Jerry's Plains'341

On 15 October 1831, Richard Alcorn was issued a license to keep the 'Greyhound Inn' at Fal Brook, 18 km North-West of Singleton.

David Brown and his employees, and sons, commuted overland back and forth between the Cattai, and Jerry's Plains properties to the north, by horseback and moving cattle on the 'Bulga track' pioneered in 1819 by John Howe. Later on the Browns may have very occasionally taken advantage of the better 'Great North Road' route, and the comparatively fast steamship service (once established) for travelling to Sydney with women and young children of the family or the transport of goods, especially where they needed to travel via Newcastle or Maitland. Generally, settlers on the lower Hunter tended to use the 'Great North Road, when rugged terrain was not a concern, and driving cattle to southern markets. Settlers on the Upper Hunter, such as David, tended to use the 'Bulga track'.

1831

In that same year of 1831, government officials decided to establish a mounted police station at Jerry's Plains to help control the increasing bands of marauders roaming the district and to help deal with any trouble between the whites and the Aborigines. Barracks and officers quarters were built on the

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

surveyed official village reserve in 1832 to house this branch consisting of one subaltern, one sergeant and 11 rank

These Explorations opened the way for Major Mitchell's 1831 Exploration following the Great North Road path he planned in 1829.

Eathers and Family with 1 year old baby came by Bullocks from Hawksbury in 1826 and were managers of Joseph Onus Grant of 550 acres on east side of Wollombi Brook.

Major Mitchell Plan of Port Macquarie April 1831 No 3679

1833 Governor Bourke

Major Mitchell Plan of Town of Bungonia 22 February 1833, and Plan of Town of Goulburn 9 June 1833

1834 Governor Bourke

Major Mitchell Plan of Town of Appin 22 February 1834 No 1170, and Plan of Town of Wollongong 1834 No 5963

Add Photo of Mrs Eather and baby riding on Bullock.

1837

As squatters began to move into the country from the 1830s (refer to Section 3.12 Pastoralism), starting a struggle for resources, tensions began to be recorded. Connor recounts a series of incidents in 1837 that led to a punitive expedition by the NSW Mounted Police.

Kamilaroi (Gamilaraay) women were being abducted by stockmen and this probably led Kamilaroi men to kill Frederick Harrington in June at Charles Purcell's station in the Warrumbungles. On 21 September Lieutenant George Cobban of the 50th Regiment, commanding the Hunter River division of the Mounted Police, was ordered to look for Harrington's killers.²⁶

A Post Office was established in 1837 and an ex-convict, Robert Thomas Capp, was the first Postmaster. By this time, Jerry's Plains had become an important junction between Maitland and Cassilis on the Gammon Plains near Merton, and further to Bathurst. In 1844, the first school was established in the town by the Church of England. The residents of the town petitioned the government for a public school in 1847, however, it was not established until 1881.

1838

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Major James Nunn of the Mounted Police led an expedition to the Peel, Gwydir and Namoi Rivers. This party surrounded a Gamilaraay camp on Waterloo Creek, southwest of the present day Moree around 26 January 1838. In a brief battle possibly 50 Aboriginal people were killed. This event caused alarm in government circles but response to it was overwhelmed by the Myall Creek massacre later in the same year and an escalation of conflict around the Port Phillip District.

1846

Elizabeth Collins in 1914, the daughter of James Clarke who settled in Bulga 1846 wrote that her brother had seen as many as 200 -300 Aboriginal people camping on the hill in Mr Eather's paddock at Bulga.

1850

"We live quite near the Bulga Mountains, we have also had visit of a Tribe of blacks. King Terry and his Tribe, in all about 20 they are very quiet, good natured people down here they talk broken English, they are very amusing indeed. They camp close beside us, and I have plenty of their company – King getting me wood and watter. All they want for their labour in return is something to eat. They are fond of rambling about in the bush they live chiefly upon the opossum which they roast and eat without bread or salt or anything. They sometimes get Kangaroo but not often they are only to be found in the mountains and the opossum is everywhere to be found where there is trees and water they climb up the trees and cut them out of the holes in the limbs. They can tell the trees they are in by the feet marks on the bark"

1852

The last great Bora Ceremonies at Bulga was in 1852 where 600 Aboriginals from many tribes as far as Mudgee.

We need not doubt that there were bands living and hunting on the Liverpool Plains. This is certain from contemporary and later references. For example, in 1825, Cunningham found a hamlet-like group of huts, and he surprised a small band, on the lower part of Coxs Creek. And Aborigines are mentioned in the reminiscences of the first settlers to occupy the Warrah, Quipolly and Quirindi districts in 1826-29. William Nowland was "given no peace" by the Aborigines for there first three years he was in the Warrah district (1826/27-28/29). In 1829 MacDonald and Single's men occupied a run on the eastern side of the Mooki River calling it where there are many fish], and John 'Jock' Allen went soon thereafter to occupy a run later called 'Conadilly' on the left or western bank of the Mooki near Caroonna (Walhallow), immediately west of Quirindi.

The Kamilaroi were regarded as still "troublesome", as Allan Wood remarks, so MacDonald and Single's men and Allen built their huts "close together" and Lieutenant Steele of the mounted piece mentioned 'the Mocai on Liverpool

The British pegged out nearly the whole of the Upper Hunter River in the space of *one brief year*. In the words of the local historian Allan Wood, "within a year of Henry Dangar's first venture into this valley [1824-25], except for one disputed tract, all river frontage lands as far as 'Segenhoe' [near Aberdeen] and all the lower bottoms of branching vales to the same distance, had either been granted, sold, reserved for sale or [offered in] conditional free grant to individuals or reserved for the Corporation or Management of [future] Churches and Schools. ... There was a scramble for all the

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

river lands from present Muswellbrook to the confluence of Hunter's and Page's Rivers [south of Murrurundi], and claims in the area above Aberdeen were not sorted out until July 1825."

Pogroms The Russian word **pogrom** (погром, pronounced [pe'grom]) is a noun derived from the verb gromit' (громить, pronounced [gre'miti]) meaning "to destroy, to wreak havoc, to demolish violently".

pogrom. The organized destruction of an ethnic group is called a **pogrom**. The word comes to English via the similar Yiddish and Russian words; **pogrom** literally

A small selection of names of note who settled in the Hunter Region include:

- Richard Jones (Bolwarra, 1822 and Collaroy, 1829)
- Charles and William Boydell (Camyr Allyn, 1826 and Caergwrle, 1836)
- George Bowman (Archerfield, 1825, Arrowfield, 1824 and Strowan, 1820s)
- John and James Busby (Kirkton, 1835)
- Charles Windeyer (Kinross, 1839)
- George Forbes and Sir Francis Forbes (Edinglassie, 1825; Rous Lench, 1839 and Skellator, 1826)
- Lt. Edward Close (Closebourne, Morpeth House and Illaluang, 1820s)
- James Brindley Bettington Snr. (Brindley Park, c.1825)
- Henry Dangar (Neotsfield, 1821)
- William Dangar (Turanville, 1825)
- Edward Gostwyck Cory (Mowbray, 1825 and Gostwyck, 1823)
- Thomas Potter Macqueen (Segenhoe, 1827)
- William Cox (Negoa, 1825)
- Joseph Docker (Thornthwaite, 1834)

The large estates (1000 acres and over) accounted for about half the total number of 191 land grants held by resident settlers in the Region and covered about 91% of the area with all but eight owned by free immigrants of whom two thirds had arrived in the colony since the beginning of 1821. Of the remaining eight large estates, six were held by men born in the colony and two by ex-convicts.

Some of the wealthier settlers arrived in Australia with resources such as tools, labourers and stock. The most outstanding example of this approach to settlement was Thomas Potter Macqueen who arranged for the importation of a carefully chosen party of mechanics, farmers and shepherds, farm machinery, stores, sheep, horses and stud cattle in two chartered ships arriving in Sydney in 1825. All were transported to his lands in the County of Brisbane, establishing his estate Segenhoe.

Much of the high quality construction was carried out under the supervision of Assistant Surveyor **Percy Simpson**, based at Wisemans Ferry between 1828 and 1832, and **Heneage Finch**, who was in charge of construction around Bucketty and Laguna in 1830-31.

Simpson was an engineer who had a sound knowledge of the latest road construction techniques being developed in Europe. He had the most difficult sections to build, like the steep descents from the ridgeline to the Hawkesbury River at Wisemans Ferry. Much of the high quality work

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

done under his command remains intact today - a tribute to his ability to lead an unskilled and unwilling labour force to produce such an engineering masterpiece.

John Howe - Redbournberry Map - 5



Officially, the Bulga Road, sometimes known as the Parson's Road, was opened in 1823 as the route from Windsor to the place called Bulga. It was long, hard and rough, with many steep rocky sections. Descent into the valley at Putty was so rough that people had to unload their packhorses and carry their loads down. It is not surprising that it was described as 'a rugged bridle path quite unfit to take even an empty cart by'. It was a long time before it was suitable for carts and carriages to use.

When it opened in 1823, people wishing to travel on the route had to get a permit to travel on it. Its main use was for driving cattle northwards. By 1827, it was famous as a route for cattle rustling from the Hunter Valley to the Sydney region. Later, it became known for the many bushrangers who plagued travellers along it. Permits showed who was included in a group, what animals and goods they were taking and how long they expected to be on the road. The first person to receive a permit to travel along the Bulga Road was Lieutenant Charles Close who had property in the Hunter Valley. He took his family, servants and animals along the road over a two-week period from 8 May 1823.

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Valley for the Crown (Davidson and Lovell-Jones, 1993:8). This effectively restricted the free settlement of the Hunter Valley until the early 1820s, when the increased demand for land to the north of Sydney coincided with the movement of the penal settlement to Port Macquarie and the discovery of an overland route to the Hunter by John Howe, Benjamin Singleton and others in late 1819 (officially opened in 1823 and is now known as Putty Road).

In 1821, Henry Dangar was commissioned to undertake a survey of the Hunter Valley to assess its suitability for settlement and farming, with the survey of the lower Hunter Valley completed in 1822 and the upper Hunter Valley completed in 1826 (Brayshaw 1986:9). European settlement expanded quickly in the Hunter Valley during this period with a total of 372,141 acres allotted to European settlers, which was increased to over 500,000 acres by 1867 (Brayshaw 1986:10). During this expansion, further means of access and transport leading north through the Hunter Valley were developed; including, the Great North Road (construction of the road commencing in 1826) and the Great Northern Railway which had reached as far as Muswellbrook by 1869 (Umwelt 2009c).

During the nineteenth century, pastoral grazing was the dominant land use of the Hunter Valley, with more than 25,000 cattle and 80,000 sheep introduced to the area by 1867. Agriculture was also important to the growing economy of the region, with a variety of crops cultivated; including, maize, potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, rye, natural grasses and tobacco. However, the late nineteenth century saw the decline of agriculture along river flats as they were converted to dairying on pastures improved by pump irrigation (Dean-Jones and Mitchell 1993: 2). Many of the remaining agricultural ventures began to grow lucerne which became the more viable crop option due to the growing dairy industry.

Land was first taken up at Ravensworth by James Bowman in October 1824. and for one

Umwelt Ravensworth 2010 Archeology

Era when walking Paths became Tracks, Rivers and Brooks surfaced until Roads.

Add details of who were the first to venture further was it Dangar with Australian Agricultural Company or first by Explorers.

[New South Wales sketch of the settlements 20th August 1796], [by Governor Hunter], Sydney, 1796

[Z/CB 79/7](#)

Signed by John Hunter, who had become Governor in September 1795, this map depicts the boundaries of the settlements in the Sydney region. The note at the top of the map explains, 'the red lines shew the country which lately has been walked over ... The places which are coloured green are where our principal cultivation and farms are.'

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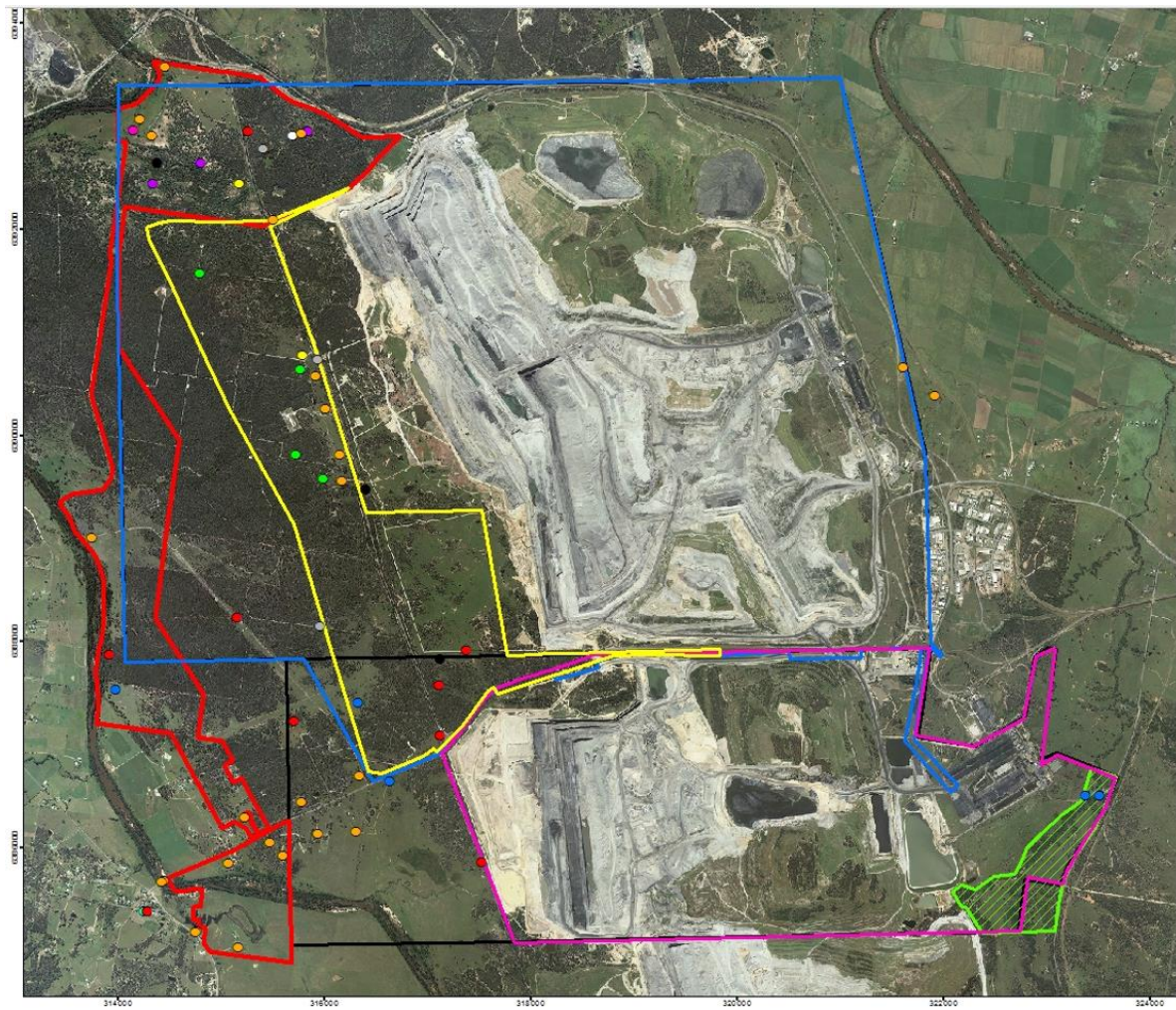
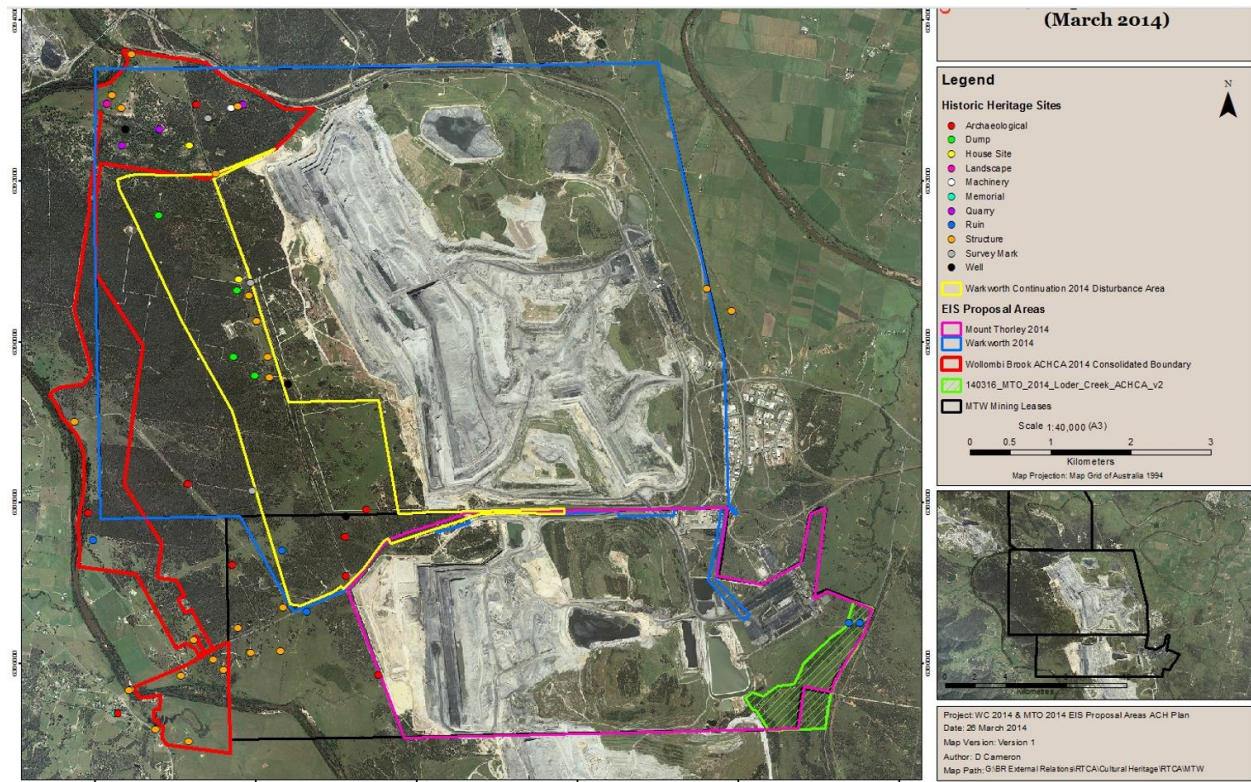
Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

At the same time (the late 1820s), besides mapping the large half-circle (known as the “limits of location”), the Surveyor-General, Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, proposed three main traffic arteries leading to the main provincial centres: a Great South Road to Goulburn, a Great Western Road to Bathurst, and a Great North Road to Maitland. He also took some trouble designing these three minor capitals. The Hunter Valley being so promising – almost a sub-colony in terms of wealth and importance - the Surveyor-General’s plan for Maitland was particularly ambitious.¹³

Two problems interfered with Mitchell’s hopes for symmetry in the north, both characteristic of the place of the Hunter Valley within colonial New South Wales. The Great North Road crossed extremely challenging country. The building of a good thoroughfare came to a halt in the early 1830s and was not resumed for many years. Travel by sea was increasingly efficient, thanks to steam ships, and with the spread of settlement inland it could be just as convenient to reach the Valley from the western side of the Blue Mountains. Thus the envisaged road to Maitland did not evolve as planned.

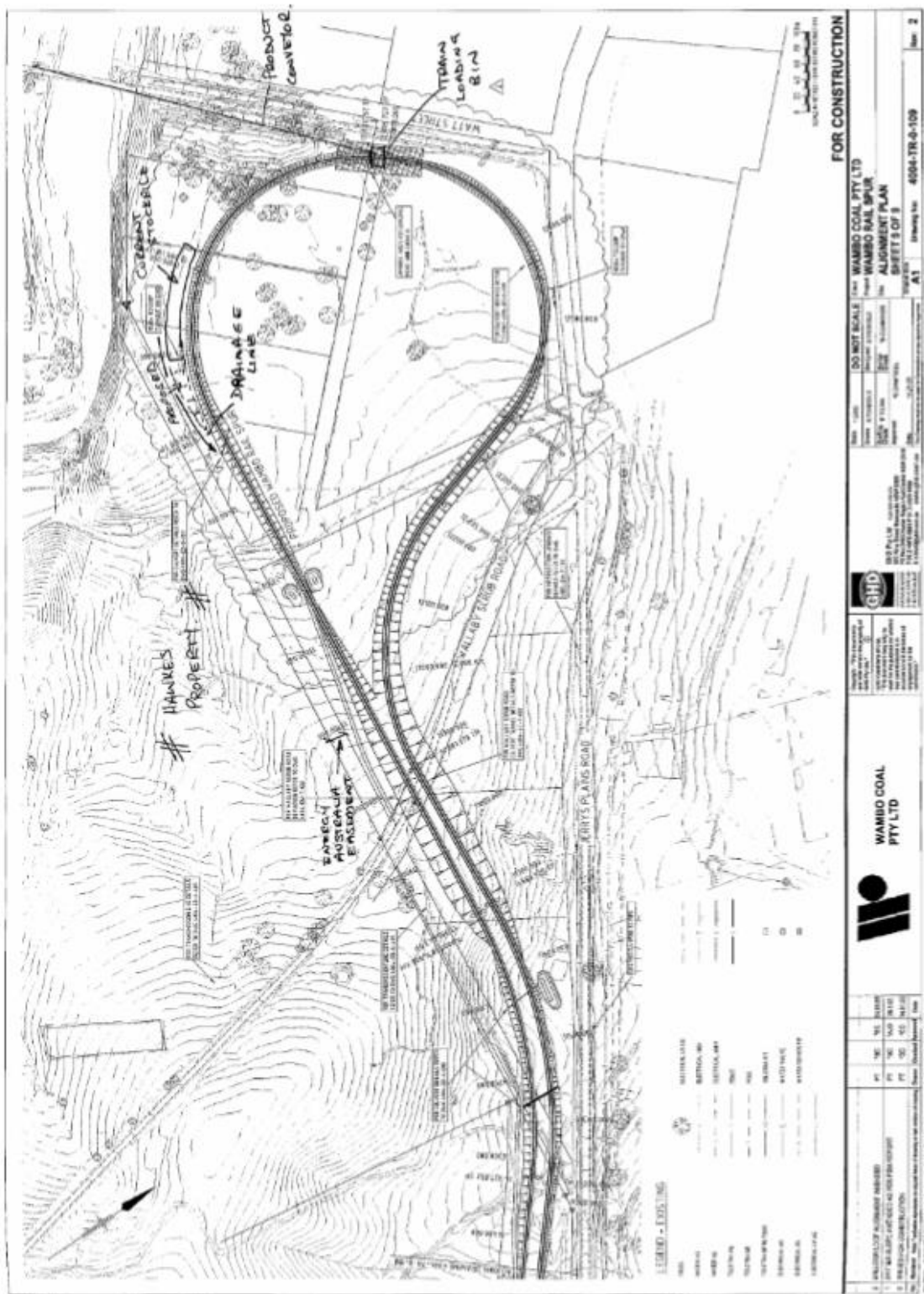
These developments revived the fortunes of Newcastle as a port town, while movement up the Valley, to Singleton and beyond, similarly undermined the vision for Maitland. A straggle of shops on the main road inland, a few miles away on the other side of Wallis Creek, was at first called West Maitland. But it drew all the life from the official town site. In due course West Maitland became Maitland, the largest town beyond Cumberland, and the government town, one of Mitchell’s best visions, barely survived as East Maitland. Only the outline of streets remained, as evidence of late Georgian town-planning in Australian terms second only to Adelaide.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

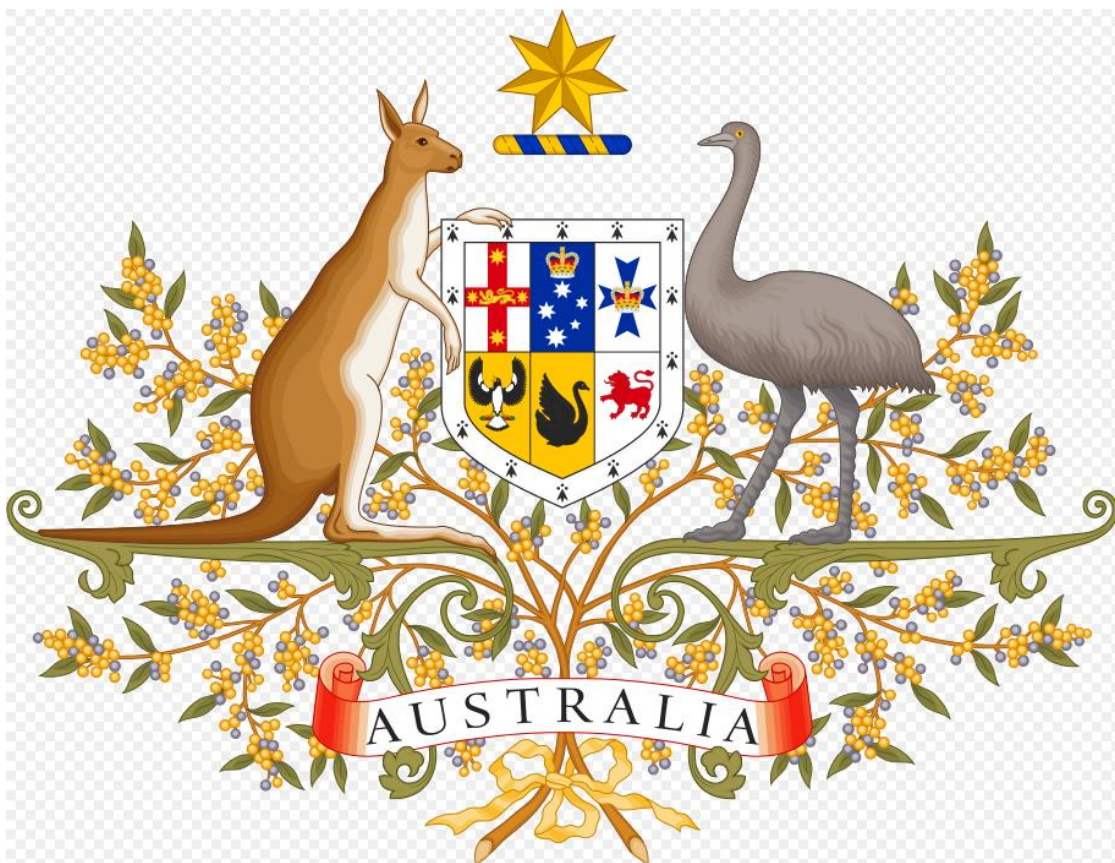
Review of Landscape Amelioration Treatments for the Hawkes Property
Wambo Development Project – Rail and Train Loading Infrastructure



Future Tourism Train use for Community Functions at Springwood Homestead and Warkworth Village Festivals as Mining ceases in the area.



Governor [Arthur Phillip](#) hoists the British flag over the new colony at Sydney in 1788.



Major Culture References

Life in Cockfighters Valley Precinct 1848 – 1952

Thomas Eather 1824-1909

Journal by  Janilye

Thomas EATHER born on the 27 September 1824 the son of [Thomas EATHER 1800-1886](#) and Sarah, nee MCALPIN 1805-1884 married Eliza CROWLEY 1822-1897 on the 25 July 1843 at St. Peter's Church of England, Richmond, New South Wales.

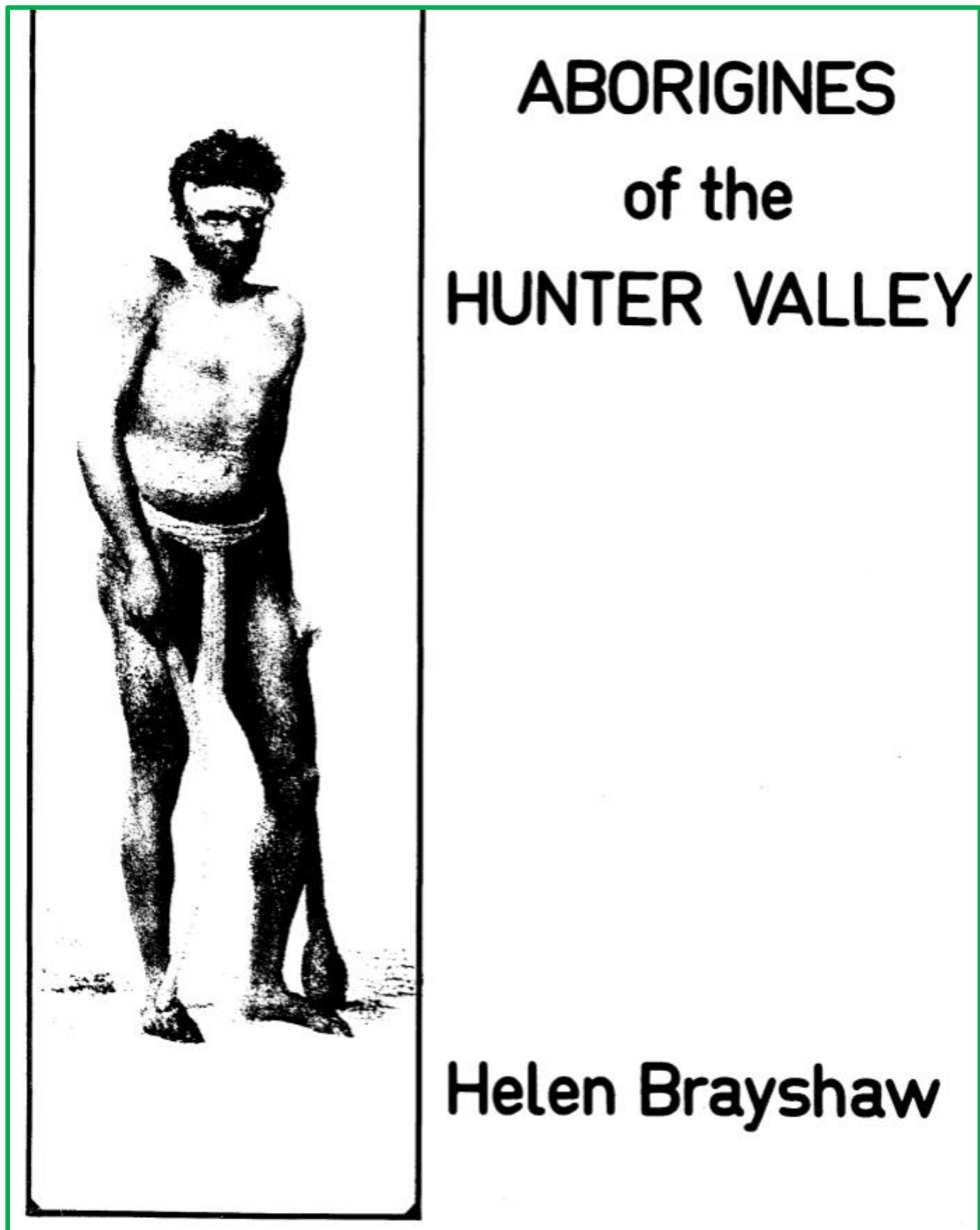
Following their wedding, Thomas and Eliza took up residence in the house in West Market Street, Richmond next door to the "Union Inn" where Thomas's parents were residing. There they conducted business as a butcher and baker. Their first child, a son whom they named John William, was born at Richmond on 8 March 1845, but by the time their second child was born in June 1847, they had left the Hawkesbury district and had taken up residence on the farm over the range at Bulga where Thomas had lived when a small boy. He had been given the farm by his father and took over the management from the overseer who had been in charge there.

When his parents had come to Bulga in 1826, the flats along the creek had been open forest country with large eucalypts and very little undergrowth, and therefore attractive grazing land. The stream had been known as Cockfighter Creek then, but that name had given way to the aboriginal name - the Wollombi. The district had become known as Bulga, the aboriginal name for a mountain ridge just to the west. The Wollombi Valley had been and still was the territory of the Geawe-gal clan of aborigines. Their territory extended to the junction of the Wollombi Brook and the Hunter River, where it adjoined the most southerly of the Kamilaroi clans. Not much is known of how the Geawe-gal had reacted to the intrusion of the white men into their territory in the 1820's. It had been quite a populous clan then, and though depleted somewhat during the following twenty years, was still able to hold large bora ceremonies from time to time.

In 1848, not long after Thomas and Eliza had settled on their farm at Bulga, a family named CLARK arrived in the district and settled on the farm opposite them across the creek. It was part of the 1,500 acres that [Joseph ONUS](#) had purchased in 1825 and lay on the opposite side of the creek from the rest of his purchase. It had been inherited by Joseph ONUS Jnr and he had agreed to lease it to the CLARK's. Mrs CLARK promptly named it "Willow Farm", a name which it retained indefinitely. [James Swales CLARK](#) had been born in Yorkshire and his wife Elizabeth, nee McDONALD at Dalkeith in Scotland. They had married at Largs in Scotland in 1835 and had arrived in Sydney as immigrants in January 1843 with three young children. They had spent a while at "Glendon" on the Hunter River, getting experience in farming in New South Wales, and had then started farming at a place called Black Creek. It had been while James CLARK had been out looking for grass for his cattle during drought times, that he had first seen Bulga and found more grass there than anywhere else. By then two more children had been born to them. Over the years that followed Thomas and Eliza became very close friends with James and Elizabeth CLARK and their children grew up as fellow schoolmates at the local school. The farm of 100 acres on the western bank of Wollombi Brook remained the residence of Thomas and Eliza for the remainder of their lives. It was given the aboriginal name "Meerea", said to mean "Beautiful Mountain". The name has been retained down the years and was in use as recently as 1995. The Bulga community had increased in number over the years as more farms had been settled.

Most of the folk living there were assigned convicts or ticket-of-leave men employed on the farms. Some of them had wives. The town of Singleton had sprung into being not many miles away. An increasing number of the local residents were cousins of Thomas. Important amongst them were Mary Ann and John EATON, who had been there since 1831, and Thomas's aunt and uncle, Susannah and William Glas McALPIN. Life was not as remote as it had been when Thomas's parents had lived there fifteen years before. Singleton offered services which had not been available a decade before. There was even a resident doctor there. Another five children were born to Eliza and Thomas during their first fifteen years on the farm, and all were born at Bulga. Unfortunately, three of them died in infancy. At "Meerea" Thomas grazed cattle and grew various vegetable and grain crops, and as was the custom on most of the farms, he developed an orchard. When the children became of school age they were able to receive formal education at a small school that John Eaton had established on his farm for Mr WAGSTAFF whom he employed to teach his and his neighbours' children. Eventually, when the little Church of England Church had been built, it was used as the school house. Mr WAGSTAFF was quite an identity in the district. He had been a London Bank Manager until drink had become his downfall. He had come to Australia to be away from his temptations if he could and was at home in the farming district. He used to board in turn about amongst the farmers in the neighbourhood, and those with children attending his school paid him what they could and did not charge him for his lodgings. Therefore he changed his lodgings every week or so. He was a true type of old English gentleman of the day, and always wore a black silk top-hat and a fine black cloth swallow-tail suit. He was kind and gentle to all and lived a reserved and quiet life. He owned a few good horses and loved hunting, probably because it reminded him of his younger days when he had ridden with the hounds. He taught little more than the three 'rs', but what he taught he taught thoroughly and many of his pupils became fine readers and writers. In 1850 Thomas and Eliza lost the EATON's as neighbours, when they left the district permanently and moved to the "Roseberry" cattle station which John had established on the Richmond River. William Glas McALPIN (known generally as Billy Mack) leased the EATON farm and the little school continued to operate. Mr WAGSTAFF often boarded with them. Gradually William McALPIN increased his landholdings by buying adjoining land from Thomas ONUS. It was not an unusual sight to see parties of aborigines moving along the creek during their daily hunting and gathering. Sometimes they fished in the waterholes and sometimes they camped temporarily nearby. In the district was one of their large bora rings where ceremonies were held from time to time. The year 1852 saw a great influx of visitors to the Bulga district. Over 500 aborigines from tribes far and near gathered at the local bora ring on the McALPIN farm for an initiation ceremony. Aboriginal bora ceremonies transcended tribal boundaries. When they were held every few years, tribes from over a wide area were invited to attend and kippas from all of them were initiated at each ceremony. The tribes took turn at holding the ceremonies, so it was only occasionally that any one bora ring was the site of the gathering. Tribes from as far away as Mudgee attended the ceremony at Bulga that year and it was well remembered by the white folk as it was the last great initiation held there. Needless to say, the white people and the aboriginal womenfolk were not allowed to witness all the rites that were involved in the ceremony. Nevertheless the local farmers were interested in seeing so many visitors gathered together and the event remained a vivid memory in the years that followed.

Colonial Records Study Helen Brayshaw 1986



FOREWORD

This particular book has its origin in research for an area study of the Hunter Valley, the study itself part of the planning process for protection of the Valley's Aboriginal cultural resources at a time when industrial development put these at risk. Conflicts over land use and between the differing values various groups within society may perceive in natural and cultural landscapes are not new to the Valley: this is clear in Dr Brayshaw's introduction. Over a century ago government use of Newcastle as a penal settlement and its reservation of the area for exploitation of coal and timber resources excluded settlers eager for land on which to pasture sheep and cattle. When their demands could be met, in the 1820s, the pressures of development had much in common with those of the 1980s. The dispossessed in this scramble for land were its Aboriginal inhabitants. Dr Brayshaw quotes from Henry Dangar's 1828 **Index and directory to a map of the country bordering upon the River Hunter** :

In this division of country, occupying upwards of one hundred and fifty miles along the river, which in 1822 possessed little more than its aboriginal inhabitants, in 1826-27, more than half a million acres were appropriated and in a forward state of improvement.

The richness of the "luxuriant plains" of the river's middle reaches that drew the colonial farmers and pastoralists had for millennia sustained substantial Aboriginal societies with a hunter-gatherer economy. What do we know of this lifestyle before it was shattered by dispossession? Archaeologists may reconstruct aspects of past lifeways from the material remains (artefacts and food refuse) that survive on old camp sites along the creeks and under the sheltering overhangs of the sandstone country. They can build up a record linking the distant to the recent past, with a time framework provided by radio-carbon dating. The evidence from archaeology on the Aboriginal past of the Hunter is discussed by Dr Brayshaw. But archaeology is not our only source of information on the life and past of the dispossessed "aboriginal inhabitants". Their descendants still retain many traditions about earlier times, and are now working to collect and preserve these.

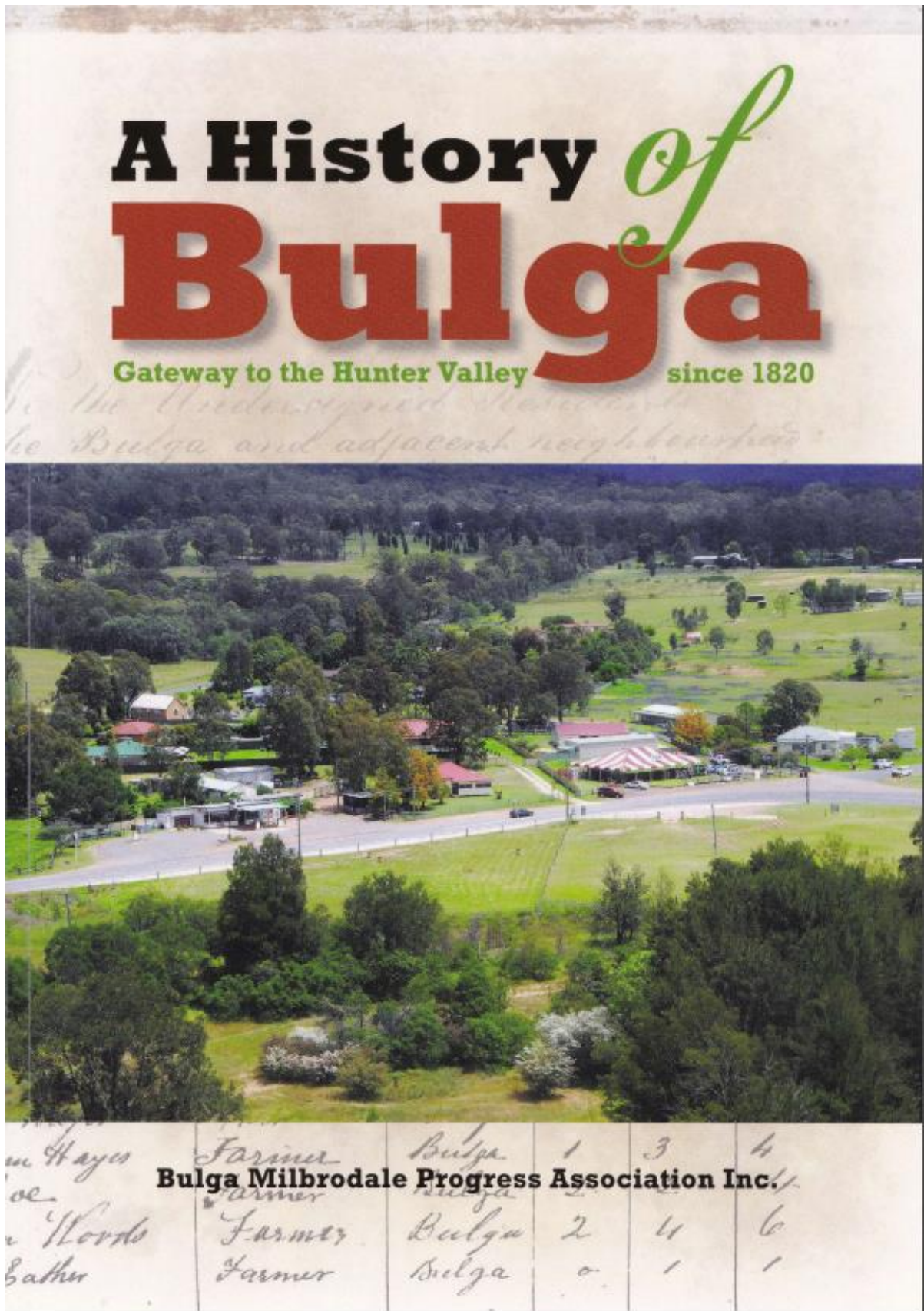
Other vital sources of information are the historical records of the colonial period, both official reports of exploration or administration, and the unofficial records in the diaries, station journals and reminiscences of those who took up land in the Hunter Valley. These records contain descriptions of Aboriginal life at the time of contact. Thus, though not primarily intended as anthropological texts, they encapsulate ethnographic evidence of rare value, much of it otherwise unavailable. It is a daunting task to bring together all this fragmentary historical material, and organise it as the basis for an historical ethnography. But it is also one of great significance and lasting value. Dr Brayshaw is to be congratulated on having met this challenge, and for providing us with a source book of historical evidence relating to the life of the Aboriginal societies of the Hunter during the period of their contact with the colonial settlers. We must

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A History of Bulga “Gateway to the Hunter Valley 1820



Chapter



The Pioneer Settlers and Their Descendants

The first white settlers at Bulga, almost without exception, came from the Windsor and Richmond area of the Hawkesbury Valley. Howe, Singleton and their party came from that locality and it was logical that their friends and neighbours would soon learn of the exciting new lands to the north that beckoned pioneers.

Bulga Pioneers – circa 1890
Standing – Ann Holmes, Peter McAlpin, William G McAlpin & William Partridge
Sitting – Thomas & Mary Ann Hayes, Thomas & Elizabeth Eather, Elizabeth Partridge, James & Sarah Coe, Mrs Eliza Clark (at front)



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Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this region and pay respect to the Elders both past, present and future of the Wonnarua and Worimi People and recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people in this land.

Financial Assistance

**BULGA
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Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association



Project Assistance

Committee 1 Jenny Scholes, Noelene Smith, Helen Upward, Betty & Harold Harris, Marie & Stewart Mitchell, Diane Lamb, Annette Bartholomew.

Committee 2 Leslie Krey, Judith Leslie, Marie & Stewart Mitchell, Pauline Rayner

Contributors Special thanks to historians Jenny Scholes and Stewart and Marie Mitchell for research carried out over many years. Also Pauline Rayner who has spent hundreds of hours typing and preparing the manuscript.

We also wish to thank the many people that helped to contribute to this book over the years.

Helen Barry, Sylvia Bates, Gwen Brosi, Bulga Bush Fire Brigade, Phil Carrol, Marcia Clark, Ian Eather, Bill George, Selma Grainger, Ivan Harris, Harold & Betty Harris, Edna Hayes, Jan Hedley, Diana Heuston, Cylvia Hill, Kim Jessop, John & Leslie Krey, Alan & Judith Leslie, Trevor Martin, Pauline McLoughlin, Milbrodale School, Joyce Partridge, Nina Pike, Phil Reid, Bruce & Shirley Roser, Dawn Russell, Noelene Smith, Sylvia Smith, Hughie & Helen Upward, Robyn Wylie.



Below: Bulga Bora Ground

