



SURC members at Post Office,
Yerranderie Ghost town

RECORDS OF SURC

(Sydney University Rover-Scout Crew)
[formed 1930s]

a student club of Sydney University Union
(SUU)

Genesis of the Gundungura Project †

undertaken by a team of **16 SURC members**
under leadership of Geoff Ford
from 1960
[Geoff was at uni 1956-1961]

with reference to

☞ **Gundungura Map of Kowmung Country**
printed end of 1961 for 1962 walking season

☞ **The Uni Rover Trail (to Colong Caves
- thence Yerranderie,
from Kanangra)**

developed at the time of field surveys for map

☞ **and Gundungura Guide information booklet**
prepared by new SURC members
under leadership of Athol Abrahams
to 1965

map and booklet re-prepared by a new team (under Greg Middleton)
printed 1970



Athol Abrahams 1965
(looking over Yerranderie)



Geoff Ford 1961
(left for Tasmania)

† Story told by Geoff Ford:
Recollections of the 'Sixties in 'NinetySix . . .

. . . as encouraged by
Rick Jamieson
key player in field work
with Geoff and with Athol



[a version of this story written 1996 for SUBW book "Press On Regardless"
has been placed online, search title of article as published]

Notes about SURC Gundungura Project records, prepared by G.E. (Geoff) Ford, 2017
 - with professional expertise in Biological Science Research studies and later in
 History Research. Born 1939, I had been a Sydney undergraduate 1956- 61.



AUSTRALIAN SPELEO ABSTRACTS
 THESE PAPERS & MAPS
 SHOULD GO BACK
 TO THE SYD UNIV
 ROVER CREW IF
 THERE STILL IS
 ONE.

I WILL TRY TO
 CONTACT THEM TO
 SEE IF THEY
 WANT THEM &
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 TALK WITH
 YOU.

Greg

Commentary -

after search for SURC records (looking for log books as at end of 1996 article),
 and studying materials which had been retained by G.J. (Greg) Middleton, returned to SURC, and passed on to P.G. (Phil) Harrison.

In 1933 The SURC began at a Sydney University Boy Scouts Association (SUBSA), formed 1931 by British expatriate staff separate to the NSW Assoc. They evolved into running Boy Scout Assoc Sections off campus, leaving the Crew as a university identity. The Crew had a pre-war history of Service projects, especially during the presence of W.H. (Harold) Maze MBE - who started in 1930s as a student Rover-Scout member when studying under the first SURC [adult] Rover Leader Prof J. M. Holmes [who had been a Kings Scout in Britain]. After the War Mr Maze [as he was known to GEF] remained an influence in the success of the SURC until he retired in 1973 as university administrator [title Deputy Principal];-

It was under his administration that SURC had a den in the hut between uni ovals.



There was lack of continuity with SURC run as a club of SUU (Sydney University Union) members - teenage undergraduate students with a short-term turnover. Students often had joint membership with other SUU student outdoor clubs, such as Bushwalkers, Rockclimbers and Speleos. It is apparent that after Greg's time, SURC came under influence of another Rover-Scout, Bruce Rowe a mortuary technician at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) who 'transferred' from Leichhardt. Many student members of SURC maintained affiliation with their home Scout Groups, but - on information given to Geoff by Bruce [2017], his home Scout Group at Ryde had closed. Bruce born 1949 said that he was member of SURC 1970/71, staying until 1981/82 when he left RPA. He described the principal project of his time as running Frat Night dances between Rover Scouts and Ranger Guides in old Refectory at the Uni Quadrangle (under Nicholson Museum). [Principal Refectory is at student Union.]

Bruce would browse the records in the SURC store at the den. When asked if he knew what had happened to the SURC records, Bruce first said that the hut next to ovals had been bulldozed. But the hut is still there: having become the uni chaplains' centre. Temporarily it had been occupied by SUPRA (postgraduate research students association).



Following Bruce's stewardship the SURC collapsed. Afterwards he was brought back by NSW Scout Assoc to act as [adult] Rover Adviser in 1988 when SURC was resurrected at instigation of Association Area, restarted as a SUU club by 2nd year student Phil Harrison. Bruce passed on to Phil records

from Greg [along with some other items he had retained from the store at the den]. In 1990, SURC collapsed again.

* * * * *

The records from Greg concerning the SURC Gundungura Project not seen before by Geoff [who left Sydney at end of 1961], show that SURC members who followed had made assumptions which a Research Historian should verify. For example, in 1960/61 the Uni Rover Trail was to provide access for Colong Caves - not because the Water Board may have blocked the Oberon Stock Route at Mt Werong. Batshit Camp was never Bats Camp. It was located where the Gardner/Lang rough track down the stock route reached the gate into Tomat Creek Station. Although dominant from the ground and aerial photos - like the Little Rick, The Grandstand was removed from map [Dunphy had not plotted it]. Inaccurate misrepresentations by M.J. (Myles) Dunphy to discredit the efforts of earlier SURC members were taken up by others, affecting Greg and members in latter 1960s. After their return to Sydney, Rick Jamieson encouraged Geoff to do the 1996 article about Genesis of the Gundungura Project, published in SUBW book "Press On Regardless".

SURC (Sydney University Rover-Scout Crew)
Foundation Meeting 25 September 1933
inaugural [adult] Rover Leader Professor J.M Holmes
- formed as part of SUBSA (Sydney University Boy Scouts Association), founded 19 May 1931
by British expatriate staff, Chairman Professor T.G.B. Osborn

EARLY SERVICE PROJECTS FOR SURC

First Service task for new Sydney University Rover Crew (SURC), 1933:

1) SURC builds biological 'Experiment Station' hut at *Coolong*, Upper Burragarang (location beyond Yerranderie)

Scouting in NSW, 1 Nov 1933 p.11 - camp planned for Tue 12 to Fri 22 Dec 1933

[Was this a seed for the 1960s *Gundungura* Project!]

Following SURC events, summary for 1934,5:

2) SURC builds biological 'Field Study Centre' hut, Elanora Heights Estate (near Narrabeen tram terminus) Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 21 Jul 1934 p.11

3) SURC 1st scientific survey at Mungo Brush, The Broadwater, Myall Lakes [access via Bullahdelah, in by launch, out by walking]

SURC Rover Mate H.J. Willings

Expedition Leader Prof T.G.B. Osborn (Botany), from Syd Uni Boy Scouts Assoc (SUBSA)

2 I/C Prof H. Priestley (Biochemistry), from SUBSA

Section leaders:- collections: K.W. Salter (curator Macleay Museum)

Marine Biology: Alan Colefax

Botany: R.N. Robertson

Geology: S.W. Carey

Geography: W.H. ('P.') Maze

Entomology: A.R. Woodhill

Ornithology: un named

Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 21 Jul 1934 p.12 - preparation

Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 18 Aug 1934 p.20 - arrive Mon 20 Aug 1934

Newcastle Morning Herald, Thu 30 Aug 1934 p.6 - return Wed 29 Aug 1934

Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 30 Aug 1934 p.13- progress results

Sydney Mail, Wed 5 Sep 1934 p.41 - Report by R. Pilcher (plus pictures)

4) SURC schoolboys' camp, Glenrock

Newcastle Morning Herald, Tue 4 Dec 1834 p.6 - notification, arrive Thu 13 Dec, depart Fri 21 Dec 1934

5) SURC examiners for Scout district competition camp, Albion Park

Illawarra Mercury, Fri 12 April 1935 p.10 - notification, Sat 20 to Mon 22 Apr 1935

6) SURC continuation of Myall Lakes scientific survey from 1934

Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 5 Jun 1935 p.14 - in camp at Booloombayt

Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 22 Jun 1935 p.20 - Report (with history) by Les Philpott

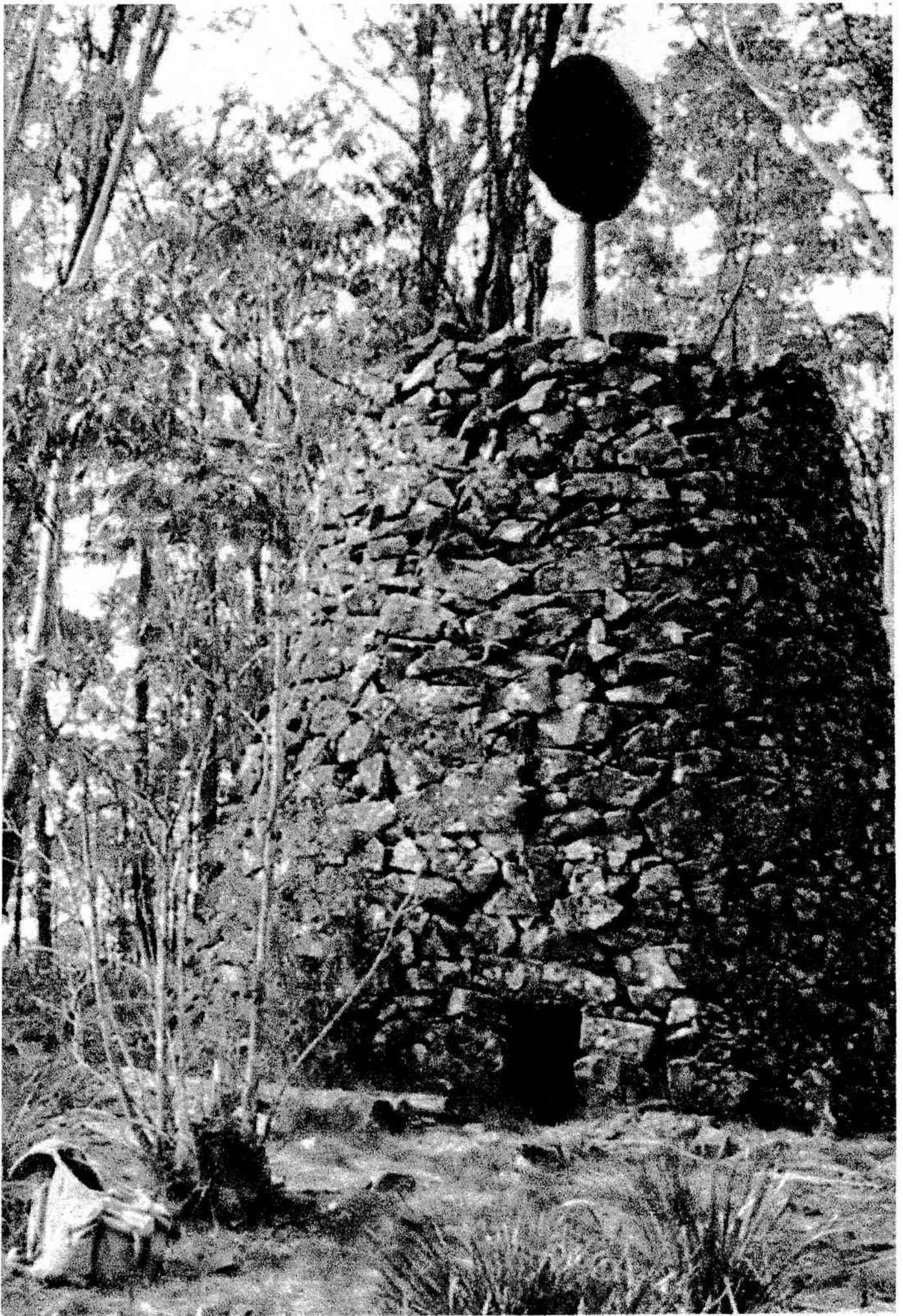
7) SURC schoolboys' camp, Rocky Basin, Dapto

South Coast Times, Fri 22 Nov 1935 p.5 - anticipation

South Coast Times, Fri 13 Dec 1935 p.16 -arrive Fri 13 Dec, depart Mon 23 Dec 1935

South Coast Times, Fri 20 Dec 1935 p.14, p.21 - reports about camp

from SURC newsletter "The Uni Rover" vol3 no1 (Term 1 1936), Prof T.G. Room (Mathematics) from SUBSA attended



... a little peak itself.

The Whys Of The Kowmung Country And Gundungura

A Tale of Maps by G.E. (Geoff) Ford

Prelude

Since returning to Sydney, I've been parrying requests to explain the Gundungura map of the Kowmung Country which I produced while at Sydney Uni. An article for the 50th Anniversary of the Sydney University Bush Walkers (SUBW) is as good or better way as any other to do so. I won't cover route notes which are dealt with in the Gundungura booklet.

Some of my recollections are reinforced by seeing transcripts of our journal entries. While Walks Secretary of SUBW in the late 1950s, I set up a log book system similar to that of the Scouts in the Sydney Uni Rover Crew (SURC). (But that's another story!) Thanks to Wyn Jones for showing me a transcript of the walk in the original SUBW handwritten log book which he is holding. Wyn drew attention to a log entry, just 30 pages later, that Geoff Ford was "nearly strung up for the midnight Easter walk" referred to in this article. Make up your own mind.

The whys of, or explanations for, the Gundungura Map lie in the characters of two great figures who shaped bushwalking history, Myles Dunphy and Frank ("Paddy") Pallin. Read on.

Background

Why should Sydney Uni students occupy time with map making when they could be studying (or touring; or bushwalking; or climbing; or canyoneering; or canoeing; or caving; or just camping – and cooking magnificent goulash)? Take your pick of these answers....

- 1) Myles Dunphy as a cartographer was a great source of inspiration – I spent endless time living in the folds of his 1953 Gangerang bushwalking sketch map.
- 2) Paddy Pallin as a counsellor was a great source of encouragement – I was among the scores of eager people who came to him in the 1950s for information.
- 3) The only map available covering the rugged country of the Greater Blue Mountains in the 1950s was the 1930s Blue Mountains and Burratorang Valley Tourist Map. It was Dunphy who spent a year draughting particulars on the black and white version of this map so it could be used by walkers. Topographical, ordnance maps of the area did not exist.
- 4) Myles Dunphy, an architect and consummate recorder, declined to complete for distribution a map which detailed what I came to refer to as the Kowmung Country.
- 5) Paddy Pallin offered to publish a sketch map if someone produced it.

While all the preceding answers are true, the real reason is that I, and some mates from SUBW and SURC, had to walk 5 days to complete a 4 day trip on that epic walk, Easter of 15–18 April 1960. We had referred to Dunphy's 1939 sketch map for the Kanangra Tourist Resort, and his map for the Bindook Primitive Area published in 1937 when he was 45 y.o. Read on.

Introduction

Outdoor enthusiasts at Uni were a very strong group considering the constraints of the late 1950s. We were familiar with the Blue Mountains: the vicinities around Kanangra Walls, the Three Peaks, and so on. Who would believe a generation later that our traditional travel then was by public transport or hitchhiking – even on our first trip to climb Tasmania's inaccessible Federation Peak? (But that's another story!) Can you imagine now riding in the sooty Fox coal trucks through the Burratorang Valley?

With the discovery that we could hire passenger vans to go climbing, those travel constraints had an affordable cash solution. We hired two VW Kombis for the Warrumbungles. (But that's another story!)

In 1960 I was in 4th year Vet. Science. Since by then I had become leader of the Uni Rovers and walks leader of the Uni bushwalkers, I put on the biggest trip of which we'd thought. We had venturesome leaders to do this. People like Col Oloman, Warwick Beddoes, Peter Hinton, Don Westerway, Bob Masterman, and more.

We'd not long started canyoneering by abseiling with rucksacks (classic style, in shorts of course) down Arethusa Canyon, in order to go camping and swimming at the Grose River in Blue Gum Forest after the end of year exams. (But that's another story!) So, some thought Easter also called for an easy trip, lazing on the banks of a river.

Yet some others wanted a tough trip to explore for more canyons. I'd become fascinated by Myles Dunphy's sketch of Bindook Chasm. A couple thought of taking advantage of the darkness of caves. Why not Colong Caves? But the road in to Colong and Bindook was closed as the Burratorang Valley went under the waters of Warragamba, while the government stripped the trees from the hillsides before the rising flood of Sydney's greatest water supply. There were tales of armed patrols hunting bushwalkers from the catchment. A challenge not to be missed. (But that's another story!)

For now, a base camp on the Kowmung River was clearly needed, providing lazy camping as well as access both to Bindook and to Colong from Kanangra.

The Plan; The Start

Several students, from the Uni walkers and Rovers combined, would register with a hire firm to share the driving of a Kombi. We'd take the legal number of people (then eight), and do several shuttles between Kanangra and where the rest would assemble, arriving by our traditional travel means. But only Don and I turned up... so one of us had to drive at all times. We were not surprised – on a recent Uni trip the Kombi driver had tried to cross a deep creek by steering alongside a bridge rather than over it. (But that's another story!)

On arriving at Katoomba, Don and I extracted out of the cafe as many more waiting people as we could fit in with their packs. Can you imagine how little room there is left, even in a Kombi, when there are twelve rucksacks packed for a 4 day trip? Then add the twelve people!

The background chatter level was overwhelming. So was the stunned silence on the steep Victoria Pass when the laden Kombi hurtled off the road up the safety ramp! I got the respect the driver deserved after that.

This first lot was dropped off at Whalan's hut Thursday night, while I went back for the other nine. The hut was full. More cramped up in the Kombi, as the weather turned unpleasant. Nicely, Liz Scott had pitched my tent for me to stretch out, choosing the greenest spot. Great! By dawn I was floating down a grassy rivulet.

Into The Kowmung Country

Christy's Creeks

We planned the first day to split up and reassemble at the junction of Christy's Creek and the Kowmung River which was to be our base camp. The easy walkers, planning on lesser exertion, set off along the obvious route, down Colboyd Ridge. The intrepid walkers tried what was thought to be tougher, around Myles's Chasm, crossing Middle Christy's. Then down Wallarra Ridge, to follow the creek from its junction with West Christy's. But by bed time Friday we were not all at the base camp. Remember, this was before the availability of walking notes or maps.

As we had breakfast on day two, Peter came into camp to report the easy party was up the creek, scratched. They'd done it hard, descending into what turned out to be the difficult Middle Christy's to extract themselves from some thick scrub after Mt Colboyd. At least they'd got out of the wind.

No wonder route notes in the SURC Gundungura booklet became so popular. We didn't feel so bad: It was difficult even in 1914 when Dunphy went through the Kowmung Country on his 23rd birthday - when there were more prospectors' and cocky settlers' tracks with cattle and horse trails. He had started his vacation exploration of mountain trails two years before with only surveyors' parish maps. We at least had his information on the tourist map.

Big Rick

Day two, eight of us leaving our base camp, up to the Big Rick (Mt Colong), straightforward enough following a ridge on the tourist map (Armour Range). The trig pile was the most gigantic cairn we could imagine, a little peak itself. We were now on Dunphy's Bindook sketch map. He had lots of features named Coolong, which then was confusing: There is only one word, officially spelt Colong, which is pronounced "Coolong". Its origin is intriguing. (But that's another story!) Dunphy's thoughts on it in 1966 were sent to the SURC.

Following the Bindook map became interesting. We had planned to use it to reach Bindook Chasm that day. But someone had rearranged the topography so that it didn't fit the map. The creek flowing south did not come off Kooragang Mountain. The well marked Barrallier's Track up Red Coats' Valley was not there. The head of Bindook Creek was the head of Lannigan's Creek.

Bindook Swamps

Day three was time to return to base camp, via the remains of Yerranderie settlement, abandoned when cut off by the Warragamba flood. Col took off with half of us to do just that, seeking the company of the goulash, (or was it the girls?) lazing

on the sandy banks of the river.

The remaining four of us had less sense. Strange, none of the survivors wanted to come roping with me down Davies Canyon for a long weekend two months later. But now, they still agreed to eyeball Bindook Gorge. So we dropped our bundles, and headed off by compass after we recognised the attractive Painted Gums identified by Dunphy. A prominent cliffy knob projecting like a grand stand above the land was a blank on the map. We learnt a lot of the Bindook Highlands and its swamps before getting to gaze into the Chasm itself. We'd made it.

By the time we got back to our packs we were 8 hours behind the others. You could agree that the chances were low of catching them and getting to base camp on day three.

Colong Maze

By the time we'd confirmed there was no track in Barrallier's Pass where the map had shown it, and we'd eventually reached the deserted Colong homestead, the sunlight was going. By the time we were finding a way around the Little Rick (Square Rock), it was too dark to see. By the time we'd crossed the Coal Seam (Colong Gap) and reached the ghost town of Yerranderie it was eerie. By the time we reached the Tonalli River crossing the moonlight was coming. We had a midnight pause. It was a magic interlude. It led to my claim that the whole thing was worth while. By the time we were heading out along Scotts Main Range we knew we had the trip in the bag. We'd done four full days' walk already. So we watched for the dawn at the Bulga Range junction. After all, the others could not leave us behind, because the only Kombi drivers had both gone to Bindook!!

Kowmung Camp

We had great expectations of dropping off the Bulga Range into the base camp and being welcomed by the cheering crowd. And a goulash for breakfast. But the advanced four, arriving the previous night had convinced them we probably wouldn't be coming that way. They'd all had their own adventures and were ready to go.

Overall, we'd had 4 parties of four exploring, and a 5th of five who lazed. The caving party had had trouble with the route to Colong Caves too. The track had become overgrown since the Warragamba flood had removed the visitors by cutting off the access through Yerranderie. Instead of the seclusion of the cave, Peter and Liz spent the night among stinging nettles of Green Gully!

The main mob had left the base camp an hour ago to follow the river downstream for 8 or 9 loops to the track up Roots Ridge shown on the current Gangerang map. This accessed the Gingra Range track to return to Kanangra Tops where the Kombi had been parked. The fastest, fittest, rested walkers had waited for us just in case, but even they had gone. Col's note showed we had only just missed them. Making the decision whether to keep going to catch up was easy.

We Bindook mob stopped for a hot cooked brunch with a swim and a couple of hours rejuvenation.

The Bluff

With our experience of Dunphy's Bindook map, we looked at his Kanangra map with a new perspective. Bullhead Ridge towering above us was labelled "Very rough" and "No way off". I chose to test it. Success would save several hours. But if Dunphy was right, we'd be eating our emergency rations. Don chose to agree with Dunphy and therefore continue downstream, thus expecting to miss the Kombi return to Katoomba if I got

through first. No problem: Don could walk to Katoomba in only 2 days. And he did.

That left a single driver with the Kombi key. Me. We had to get up above the magnificent cliffs of Sunrise Bluff and cut off the tail of the main mob coming around the long way. And we did.

A load of people were feasting at the end of the road when we got to the Kombi. They had taken a short cut route up Brumby Ridge. It was past dusk. Not long after, the last group, who had come along Gingra Range more slowly, returned.

We had had intercourse with the Kowmung Country and we had been inspired.

Conception

The Consequences

Uni bushwalkers were known for bushwalking. However Uni Rovers were known for service (don't ask). Even intrepid walkers who'd been to Bindook could benefit from maps. I absolutely revered the image of Myles Dunphy. I was 20 y.o., he was 68 y.o. I contacted him:

His drawings were superb. Did he propose to produce a Kowmung River map like his Cox River (Gangerang) map? --- No. Not at present.

All we wanted was a map to use.

Did he plan to revise his Bindook map? We'd be willing to help if needed. --- No.

Did he mind, then, if we put out some sort of sketch map? --- Rubbish. It had taken him years. Mere Boy Scouts who were only young students from Sydney Uni would never be able to do such a map.

And so our Gundungura project was born.

The Mapping

The project thrived, with encouragement from Paddy Pallin, who was then a young 60 y.o. Myles had been the midwife, Paddy became the nursemaid. I had known Paddy since I was a little boy, going around to his garage with dad to get dried carrots from army ration packs. (But that's another story!)

Paddy also got me to do a sketch map connecting Dunphy's Gangerang map to Katoomba. The missing link of the Narrow Neck which Myles had avoided doing for distribution. I called this 1961 map Nelly's Glen. It was done about the time the government had been bulldozing fire roads in the bush. There are vivid memories of Rick Jamieson's brakeless car topping a ridge in the black of a Friday night with no visible track ahead. (But that's another story!)

Kanangra was anglicised spelling for the name of the Aboriginal tribal group of the area. I was also working with Fred McCarthy, then Museum Curator of Anthropology. I discovered the spelling Gundungura now presented the sound of the name better. We decided to make it the Gundungura project, to recognise the previous inhabitants. This had another advantage, of distinguishing our map of 200 sq miles (500 sq kms) from Dunphy's

Kanangra map.

I started with the parish survey map showing Yerranderie Gold Fields. We learnt about minerals and fossickers, we learnt about cedar and timber getters, we learnt about the Camden stock route and drovers, we learnt about peacocking and selectors, we learnt the rugged country had been occupied by rugged men.

I spent days and days at the Lands Department where I was granted research access to aerial photographs. It was a precedent. In those days they were not readily available. They had them to prepare their own maps of the area, which were published in 1965. Now, anyone can walk in off the street and buy aerial photographs over the counter!

As well as continuing an active program elsewhere, many of us spent vacation time, and weekend after weekend through 1960 and 1961, walking around Kanangra and around Yerranderie. And that's lots of other stories! We swam through the deep gullies and gorges. We explored the caves with the speleos using carbide acetylene lamps. We challenged the cliffs and peaks with the rockclimbers. We placed a SURC visitors' book at the fabulous view on Yerranderie Peak. We used for our main base, Batsch Camp.

There was not a German called Batsch as some tales tell. There was no bat camping at the site. Simply, the camp was that where the bags of bat shit were carried up the ridge from the caves. And then carted out along the track for fertiliser. Can you imagine men of the Great Depression calling something Guano Camp? But in the 1950s and 1960s the printed letters i and t after s and h were not sociably acceptable for a publication. Notice



A small section of the Gundungura Map (reduced in scale)
(revised edition)

what even happened to the sh we put on the 1st edition. "They" took off the h as well as the it!

We became friends with Neville Lang of Bindook and Colong Stations. He made the project live with local and historical knowledge, and drove us around the dingo traps. At that time the stock route from Oberon was just a rough track. It was put in by the locals after access through Yerranderie was cut off by the rise of the dammed waters in Burragorang Valley. (But that's another story!)

Big Rick Jamieson was the mainstay in the bush, keeping me going and contributing to the field work. He provided constant unreliable transport. Engineering students' cars, especially 1931 A-model Fords, always need attention. (But that's several other stories!) A law student, Don Taylor, was the mainstay at Roseville, keeping me going and contributing to the draughting work. You can see their names on the 1st edition. The 16 Uni students who assisted in some way with the project in 1960-61 are recognised with their initials along the bottom of the 1st edition classic.

The Booklet

The Gundungura booklet was to come, over 10 years. SURC members carrying on did a mighty job producing such a useful publication. (But that's another story!) It has provided background for other articles. I had planned it to be a comprehensive pocket book to be carried in the field. It was to include a glossary explaining every place name. And information about animals and plants as well as archaeology and minerals. We collected together lots of historical and scientific information in the Uni Rover den. Its concept was modelled on "Snowy Mountain Studies", edited by Charles Warner. That was an outcome of a committee on which I was an activities adviser, convened by Paddy Pallin for a Senior Scout Venture near Mt Kosciuszko. (But that's another story too!)

(There are now more publications on the Gundungura area. Books following Athol Abrahams' SURC compilation, by people like Jim Barrett and Jim Smith, are a good read. And there's lots of original and retrospective stuff in the collection by Patrick Thompson.)

The Trail

Another outcome of the Easter 1960 trip was to do something to make Colong Caves accessible to speleos and bushwalkers again now the access from Burragorang was cut off. So, at the same time, where the mountain trails of Dunphy's era had become overgrown, we identified the best route. (But that's another story!) Dunphy's response to this Scouting service was to call the aluminium markers tin tags. He who had blazed trees, followed bridle trails, carried a rifle to shoot game, put out a comment on our trail "Bushwalkers do not want routes marked all over the country."

Subsequently, the Geographic Names Board and the Central Mapping Authority (Lands Department) recognised our route as The Uni Rover Trail.

I was disappointed that Myles Dunphy relocated ~~the name of~~ his Lost Rock to my Revelation Rock. In 1914 when lost at the top of his Misery Ridge, he had climbed a rock for a view. It took all morning to find the cattle trail he followed down the Boyd Range. In two well manned mapping expeditions in the early 1930s he had not plotted the Lost Rock at the Revelation Rock. The real rock where Dunphy was lost and found has considerable historical significance: It could be considered the foundation place of bushwalking, and bushwalking sketch maps.

Revelation Rock had particular significance as the place of

revelation, because it had become very difficult in the 1950s to find the start of the Boyd Range. The rock was the place from which the way off the Boyd Plateau onto the Boyd Range was revealed when surveying for the map. It was the key to the new route to Colong Caves, so we placed a SURC visitors' book there. The original Uni Rover Trail went across this lookout to give walkers that perspective.

Dunphy published his statement (inter alia): "This ... country ... will terrify the incompetent. Hikers and Boy Scouts should not attempt ..." And to think we had imagined we were on his side. Myles led the push to separate the true mountain trailers from all the rest. It was when he had got home from that 1914 expedition that he formed the Mountain Trails Club with two friends - hiking, which then included bush walking [two words], was for the less accomplished.

While Dunphy made the mountains frightening, Paddy Pallin made them friendly.

The Words

With Paddy as our mentor, the map progressed. Bits of sketches and other data appeared in the Uni Rovers' den and around my parents' dining room table at Roseville. And the 1st edition looked like it!! We wanted to use place names for bushwalkers to identify features, rather than "go up the third spur past the bend in the creek where the tall tree is" sort of stuff. I approached Myles Dunphy again:

His names were inspiring. Could we use the ones on his maps? --- Students would never be able to do such a map.

Well, already we'd located and plotted his features around Kanangra and Bindook. We didn't want new names, we thought his were superb. OK? --- He'd consider it.

Now, even Myles the Magnificent, my progenitor, was starting to take notice. I'd got the sketch done covering what I was to call the Kowmung Country. Did he have names for features there too? Could we use them and attribute them to him? Could I show him the map? The response tarnished the image of my idol. He was human after all. There was no more availability on attempts to contact.

Dunphy was skilled in using descriptive names that captured the imagination. And he used names like Misery Ridge for a one off description of the weather on his own trip in 1914. But also he used names of people in his club, friends and their relatives. So we adopted place names most compatible, either with Neville Lang's stories and historical use, or with the description from our exploration and the topography. The glossary was kept with the Uni Rover records.

Readers will be aware that even modern official government Central Mapping Authority maps carry the message that place names on the map are not necessarily approved names under the Geographical Names Act 1966. They do not have to be.

Within a year of Paddy publishing the SURC 1962 Gundungura Map of the Kowmung Country, Myles had produced some partial revision of the Bindook and Kanangra maps, sharing our research. And he completed a Kowmung map for distribution after all. From that stage he became Myles the Munificent.

All we had wanted was a map to use.

Endnote

The SURC is no more. (And that's another story!) The search is now on to recover the Uni Rover records so that they can be properly stored in a public archive. It is hoped that the records of the SUBW will be archived in the same place. The Mitchell Library seems the preferred situation, in comparison to say the Fisher Library.

Guouogang!

by Geoff Ford

Walks report from SUBW Logbook 2.
Friday 21 (night) -- Sun 23 April, 1961

"A MANIACAL ATTEMPT ON THE BLUIES' MOST IMPRESSIVE PEAK" (Quote from Walks Programme)

(To save me a certain amount of brain fag, and as I consider it worth repeating, I quote liberally from the account, in the Uni. Rover Crew Log, by Rick Higgins.) I quote Rick's first paragraph without comment...

Perhaps the best way to account for this foolish deed in the first place would be to pass the buck onto the obviously depraved mind of the leader of this scramble. And who would that be? ... why, of course, etc.

The aim of the walk was to leave Katoomba on the Friday night and camp at the Dogs Terrace. Leaving packs at Warrigal Gap (above Mobb's Soak) on Saturday, to stroll down Yellow Dog to the Cox's, up Queahgong, then Guouogang, back to the Cox's, up Yellow Pup and back to the packs and Mob's Soak for tea that night -- and then to try something tough on the Sunday. Rick suggested joining the other party (Peter Scott's party were visiting Galong Ck) at the foot of Galong Ck. before breakfast!

The selected participants were Karl Robertson, Don Westaway, Rick Jamieson (Big Rick), Rick Higgins (Middle Rick), Dave Dash and Geoff Ford.

They had ... a reasonable idea of what they had been talked into, so as soon as Big Rick suggested that he take his spacious limosine (1931 A model Ford) along the fire roads to Medlow gap, he was No. 2 pin up immediately. The long and short of this being that we spent several enjoyable hours on Friday night sliding sideways through soaks, making new tracks through the bush (the shortest way back to the road if one runs off) etc. Finally, in the very early hours of Saturday, we bedded down, at Medlow Gap Helicopter Landing Clearing, proposing to get up about 4.45 am.

4.45 am. The birds were singing and six Uni. bods lay peacefully sleeping.

6.45 am. Don stirred, and rolled over

Soon after, in a scattered and bedraggled manner six half awake bods strolled at a mere 5 m.p.h. around under Mouin to stop at the Dogs' Terrace for a 10 min breakfast which lasted 1/2 an hour.

(Here I must virtually leave Rick, for "I'm" taking up too much space.)

We pushed along Wombat Parade, to Warrigal Gap where our packs were left as scheduled. Carrying only two frameless packs with lunch, water bottles, and sweaters, we moved across Merrimerrigal, around Dingo, and across the saddles to Yellow Dog Knob. We left our programme in the tin at the cairn there.

Then away down Yellow Dog at a fast pace until the

fall into the Cox's, opposite Guouogang Brook.

(I must include this eye-witness account of Rick's as a warning. I myself was not in a position to witness the effects!)

As our position necessitated a crossing, we stripped, crossed over, had a swim, and sunbaked till dry. At this stage an interesting experiment (!) took place. We had left all drinking vessels behind, but as we wanted a seltzer we had to think of something. Geoff filled up his mouth with water, lay flat on his back, opened his mouth, and I shook the saline powder into the depths. The result was not quite as expected, for, as everyone crowded around, the fiz powder effervesced rather rapidly, surged up Geoff's nose, and he coughed, sneezed, and generally sprayed water and saline all over us. Consequently we had to have another swim. We were, of course, in quite a hurry.

With most shirts off we started up East Queahgong Buttress towards Mt. Thomas Jones. The ridge rises very steeply, and falls away sharply on both sides.

Frequent 2 minute stops were had, but the slave-driver did not have his watch, and these usually lasted 10 minutes or more!

We had only just passed "Mt." Thomas Jones when we stopped for lunch. One member was feeling chunderous, and threatening to desert in the interests of the party. But an all or none attitude was adopted, and with the undertaking that we would not go past Kanangaroo that night (on the Cox), he agreed to continue. But an hour after being dosed with salt, he was out in front setting the pace!

Near the top of the ridge, extensive views, from Kanangra to Katoomba are obtained. And when we topped the Krungle-Bungle Range at Mt. Queahgong we could see Mt. Jenolan around to Mt. Guouogang (on which is Jenolan Trig.). Observing Mumbedah Deep we considered the climb Dick Donaghy intended to make in a months time and decided that he was welcome!

We descended along the narrow rocky ridge, across Hawkfell, to the bottom of the final spur. (N.B. the heights on Dunphy's 1953 Gangerang Map are not correct.)

With the driving factor of "fiz" powder .. we staggered up onto the top of the Blue Mountains (4,300 ft), where we variously collapsed on the Trig. station, or sucked dregs of refreshing water from rusty old tins in the vicinity.

About 4.30 pm. Halfway.

When we turned around half an hour later, the mist had come out of the valley and obscured the beginning of the ridge (East Guouogang Buttress) over the edge of the mountain. It took some finding as it runs from the SE corner, and not E of the trig as on the 1953 map.

As we finished the steep slide off the mountain, and came on North Bullagower on the ridge, the mist rose above us, but darkness rapidly began closing in. The next 4 hours were spent stumbling onward, resting flat on our

Continued bottom of next page

on way, at Mt Queahgong
(from decaying transparency)



- another SUBW & SURC combined trip: to "top of Blue Mountains" (Mt Guouogang)

Dave (behind camera)

Middle Rick - still stripped off

Geoff - dosed with *fiz powder*

Big Rick - standing, on NO STANDING sign

Don - still stripped off

Karl - dosed with salt

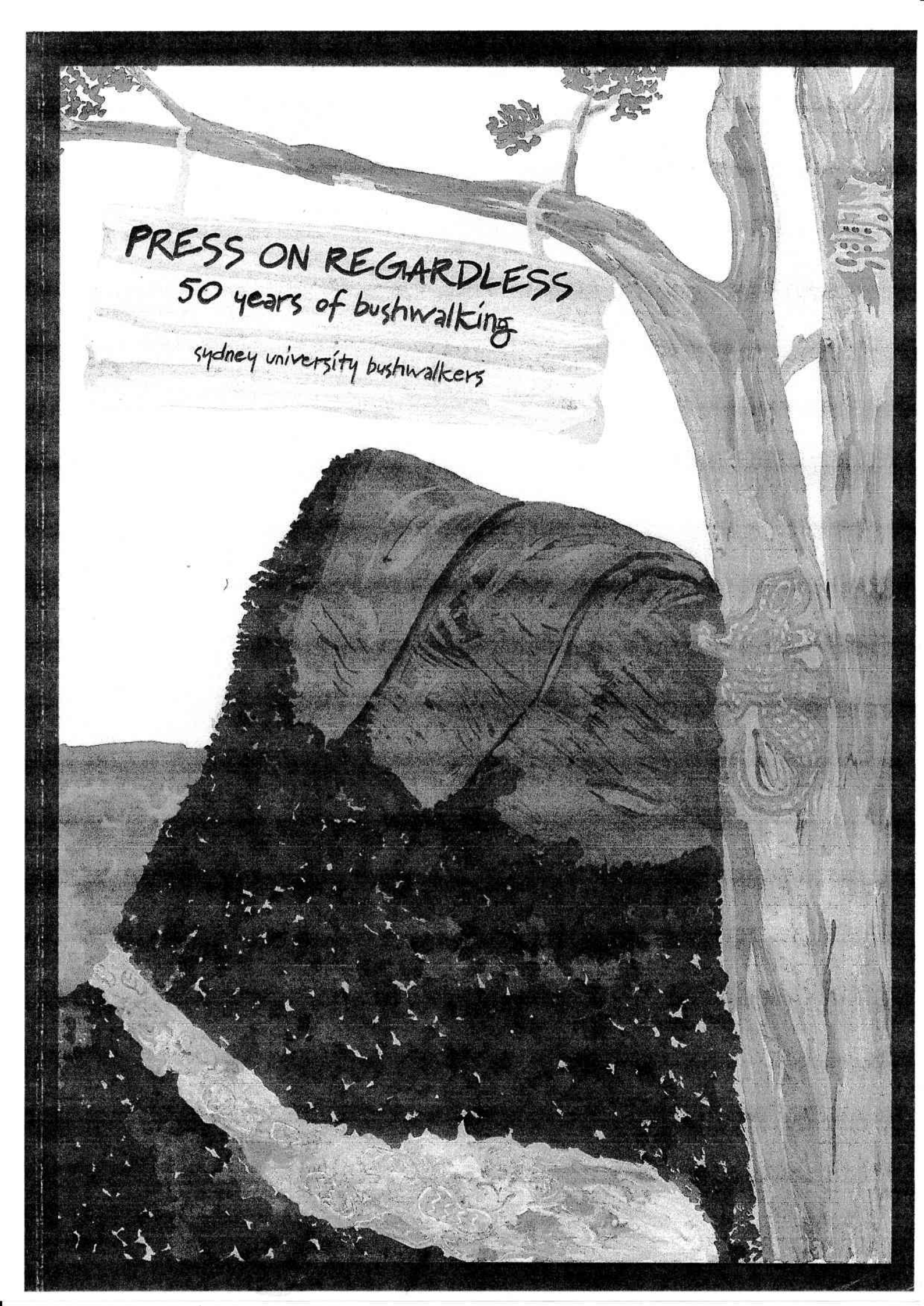
Guouogang! (continued from page 34)

backs, stumbling, resting,

Actually, this ridge is an excellent, fairly gradual, route.

We reached Kanangaroo (clearing) about 10 pm, and after filling up in the Kanangra R. retired to Bert Carlon's hut for supper. We borrowed vast quantities of rice, porridge, and ... fruit saline, from him, (for which we later left 10/- with Duncan). Pressure lantern, stretchers, mattress, dirty old curtains and other coverings were made full use of that night!

For Sunday suffice to say that we slept well, left late, climbed Yellow Pup sedately, spent much time at Splendour Rock, including the rock climb, stopped at Glen Alan for an extensive meal, and got home late.



PRESS ON REGARDLESS
50 years of bushwalking

sydney university bushwalkers

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Forward

Sydney University Bush Walkers began in 1946 after the turmoil of World War Two. University students, keen to explore the bush and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded individuals started the club when avenues for other forms of recreation were limited by the economic aftermath of the War. This publication represents an attempt to document some of the activities of these individuals and the places they visited.

We begin with an important contribution by Allan Maccoll on the active bushwalking that was based largely in the Science Faculty in the 30's and 40's before the club formally started. The list of walkers provided by Allan includes many names that have become well known since their bushwalking days such as Nobel Laureate Sir John Cornforth and Whitlam minister and high court judge the late Lionel Murphy. This is followed by a reprint of the article Ian Ross wrote for the Club's 40th anniversary publication about the foundation of the club. Ian was the first president of the Club. This time, Ian's contribution is not alone. He is joined by reminiscences by many of the key members of the club in its beginning. Vern Gilbert and Bill Taylor were the one's responsible for thinking up the idea of starting a bushwalking club on the campus. Fred Douch was the Club's first Walks Secretary - and an inspection of the inaugural walks program near the end of the magazine will reveal that Fred also organised and led many of the club trips. Fred together with his wife Dorothy have provided a major contribution. To add to this Denis Robinson has also written an interesting alternative viewpoint of the early days. Other club characters from that time - Frank Peters, Bill Woof, Quentin Burke and Diana Temple have also contributed. I urge you to read all these articles.

The picture the early walkers give, despite many years apart, is not too different from how I found the club when I joined in the mid seventies. The characters may be different but the sense of going out into the bush for adventure and for the appreciation of the beauty and solitude provided by the bush seem to be a continual theme all through the years.

Throughout the years, the Greater Blue Mountains have been a favorite walking area of the Club. The wild beauty of the Kanangra and the Kowmung country have a universal appeal to bushwalkers. The wildness provided by the Northern Blue Mountains is perhaps best regarded as more of an acquired taste. Like many things as you become more familiar with this area - you realise that it is special in many ways. For a Sydney based club, it provides opportunities for exploratory walking second to none. As an example of this we have reprinted from the "Bushwalker Magazine" an early article by Fred Douch about the first traverse by bushwalkers of the Hunter Range.

The late fifties and early sixties were also an important time for exploration of the Blue Mountains. Geoff Ford tells how the Gundungura map and guidebook project started. SUBW members together with the then Sydney University Rover Crew explored large sections of the

Southern Blue Mountains. Information about this period of the Club's history has been documented in some wonderful logbooks. These large volumes contain hand written notes of walks, often accompanied by photos, sketches and maps. Logbook 1 was unearthed by Dick Donaghey. Flora Turton had the second and third logbooks stored in her garage. These contain a wealth of material of great interest and many articles from the early and mid sixties have been reproduced here. Unfortunately, logbook 4, which covers the late sixties seems to have disappeared somewhere, perhaps in the vaults of Fisher Library, since the 40th Anniversary. The Club plans to scan the logbooks we have into computer and make copies available on CD ROM.

The early sixties, in particular, seems an exiting time in the Club's history. Col Oloman was president of the club and he was very keen on exploring the bush. He led the first trips down Thunder Canyon - the first of the Carmarthen Canyons to be visited. Other trips he pioneered were Kalang Falls and Wollangambe Canyon - all are now well known staples of the canyoning repertoire. Several other epic trips of his are described here as well. Many writers in the club logbooks of the period fondly describe calling in at the Oloman family home at Lithgow and the enjoyable friendly evenings spent in front of the fire. Col's enthusiasm for bushwalking was infectious. When he went to Canada in 1963 he left behind a large group of keen and competent walkers that carried on the tradition. One of these was Carol Mills. According to the logbook records, she was present on many hard trips, often those involving abseiling and swimming down canyons with full packs. It is not one of these she has chosen to write about, but rather, one of her (and the Club's) favorite areas - the Royal National Park. Her contribution gives a valuable insight to another side of the club. Carol in the sixties wrote about an epic Tuross River trip led by Col Oloman for the Bushwalker Magazine. We have reproduced here, the original logbook account by Carol. It tells the same story of a classic walk - and whilst less polished I think it provides more insight into the nature of the walk and the actual party members.

The area of the Blue Mountains north of Mt Wilson known as the Wollangambe Wilderness was also explored by SUBW at this time. Parties ventured into Yarramun and Dumbano Canyons. Bungleboori Creek was explored on a Bell to Putty Road trip in 1963 (naturally it was led by Col Oloman). Bell to Putty Trips became popular in the club in the 70's and 80's without any knowledge of the pioneering trip earlier. John Paynter, Gerry O'Byrne and others explored new canyons near Newnes and Glen Davis. Hard trips to South West Tasmania became popular during the summer holidays. Ben Sandilands who contributed to the 40th Anniversary magazine in a major way has again contributed an interesting article.

One of the key walkers in the club during the mid sixties was Athol Abrahams. I remember years ago coming across his name in logbook 4 when somebody described a

Club trip to Newnes. Instead of getting in the car to go back to Sydney at the end of the weekend, Athol accompanied by Dave Dash decided to run back along the old railway formation all the way to Newnes Junction and get picked up there when the car went past. We are fortunate that Athol documented many of his trips in the Club logbooks. As well as being a keen canyon explorer he was also very fit and with Dave Dash completed a series of classic hard walks - several of which are reproduced from the logbook accounts. Another strong walker of the time was Rick Higgins. He was originally a SUBW member but then transferred to UNSW. I am grateful that Rick managed to write an excellent contribution to this magazine.

Much loved in the club during the mid sixties was Wendy Butler. Being a daughter of Dot Butler - she would have had to be a great bushwalker. Tragically she drowned in the Kowmung River on a club trip. We have reproduced an article she wrote for logbook 3 about a climbing trip with Athol Abrahams to the Budawangs in 1966.

When I joined the Club in the mid seventies, I learned much about canyons and canyoning from Chris Cosgrove. Chris in turn had gained his knowledge from Carol Periera (now Isaacs). I knew Carol from my days in Springwood Bushwalking Club (her family came from the mountains too) - both Carol and her husband Phil had the reputation for being very strong walkers. Carol and Denise Black have written about their Three Peaks Trip - the first time this was achieved by an all girl party.

Chris Cosgrove, who led many epic walks, mostly deep into the Colo and Wollangambe wilderness areas, has here described one of his SW Tasmania trips. As well as learning about canyoning from Chris, I learned a lot about how to walk in thick Tassie scrub. A contemporary of Chris's was Joe Mack. I can remember vividly a Newnes - Colo River walking and lilo trip we did shortly before Joe left to go to the States for a postdoc. Joe here writes about his time in America since then. His story is tinged with his homesickness for the Australian bush.

Over the years Club traditions have developed. In the late 40's the Club had the motto "Press On Regardless" but

there was also "Stone The Crows and Starve the Lizards" - the "starving" being a reference to the poor food available for bushwalkers in those days. The Club badge from that era featured the lizard design on the front page. In the early 60's the club symbol evolved into the "horseshoe" shaped design (it is not a horseshoe of course but rather the back metal plate from a hobnail boot). In the seventies two club traditions started - one was the President's Bludge Trip (PBT) to the Kowmung River held each October long weekend and the other is the December Xmas trip to the Cocks River. Steve Williamson and Ian Hickson have written about how the PBT started.

It was during the mid seventies that many Club trips seemed to go to the Blue Breaks section of the Southern Blue Mountains. In a period of 3 or so years, all the tablelands and creeks in this spectacular region were explored. It was also in this period that a systematic approach was adopted to fully exploring the Northern Blue Mountains. This was a continuation of the tradition started earlier by Fred Douch. Many canyons were found in the Wollangambe, Wolgan, and Gaspers areas right through until the 90's. Difficult ridge systems like the Yodellers Range in the Widden Valley were traversed. Bell to Putty trips became common. The large gorges in the Gaspers/Coorongooaba area were visited as well. Trips into the Colo Gorge also became common.

Towards the end of the 70's and in the 80's the character of the club changed somewhat. Graduates tended to stay around and walk with the club long after they had left university. This kept a pool of experienced walkers available to lead the hardest trips. Ski touring became much more popular. Each summer there would be a regular exodus of members to go walking in Tasmania, NZ or further afield. During the 80's a yearly club magazine started up. Named after three icons of the club, "Volleys, Scunge and Mac" has provided a valuable source of material reprinted here.

Dave Noble, Editor.

Acknowledgments

Thanks for all writers of new material - namely - Allan Maccoll, (and David Craig in assisting Allan), Sir John Cornforth for allowing me to quote from his email reply. To the Canberra brigade - Denis Robinson, Fred and Dorothy Douch, Ian Ross and Frank Peters - many thanks indeed for so much. Diana Temple (especially for the patience she showed in allowing me to borrow her marvellous photos for longer than she would have anticipated), Bill Woof and Doug Webber. To Vern Gilbert and Quentin Burke, who came from North America to be at the anniversary dinner. Vern's speech at the dinner is reproduced here. Quentin presented the club with a marvellous poster photo of the party on the first club walk as well as writing for the magazine. To Geoff Ford, the Gundungura mapmaker, for telling his interesting tale. Col Oloman and Rick Higgins now both residents of Canada - thanks for your marvellous stories. Gerry O'Byrne and Dick Donaghey (the Kanangra Kid) - thanks for photos and articles, David and Barbara Darmanin, and Peter and Liz Hinton - helped locate many past members, Carol Mills helped in many ways (and offered to help in more), Ben Sandilands, Athol Abrahams (for writing so much in the journals), to Dot Butler for being happy for

us to publish her late daughter's logbook article and for Peter Tressider in assisting with this, Denise Black and Carol Isaacs, Peter Hatherley, Chris Cosgrove, Joe Mack, Ian Hickson, Tom Williams - for allowing us to reproduce his articles originally published in the Kameruka magazine (as was Dave Noble's "Northern Three Peaks"), Michael Donovan, Ross Bradstock and Vanessa Haverd for original contributions, the Hobart Walking Club for allowing us to reprint Roger Lembit's article from The Tasmanian Tramp, Ian Gibson and Paddy Pallins for allowing us to reproduce some graphics from an old catalog. Other articles have been reprinted from "Volleys, Scunge and Mac" - thanks to the authors of all of these. For helping with production and proof reading - Rob Hynes, Ian Wilson and Airdrie Long, Flora Turton for many wonderful photos and taking good care of the logbooks, Wyn Jones for transcribing and scanning material from logbook 1, John Atkinson, Doug Bock, Arwen Sutton, Nick Murray, Penny Dorsch - for the front cover design and comments on layout. Finally thanks to Mark Sheldon for his great cartoons reproduced from "Volleys, Scunge and Mac" and his companionship on many walks, we all miss you. D.N

JOORILAND

GUNDUNGURA MAP

(Name of aboriginal tribe which occupied area)

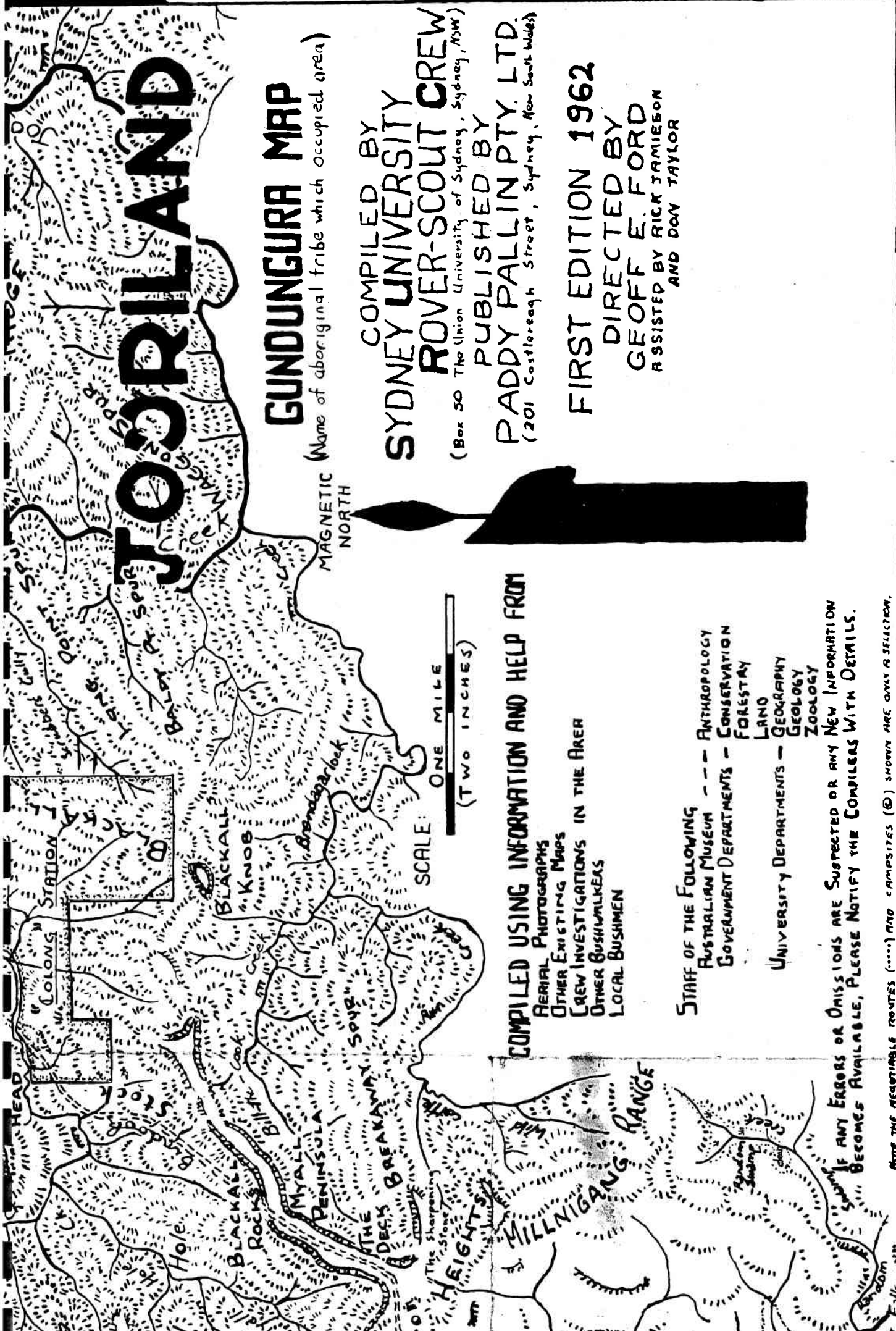
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(Box 50 The Union University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW)

PUBLISHED BY
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 (201 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, New South Wales)

FIRST EDITION 1962

DIRECTED BY
GEOFF E. FORD
 ASSISTED BY RICK JAMIESON
 AND DON TAYLOR



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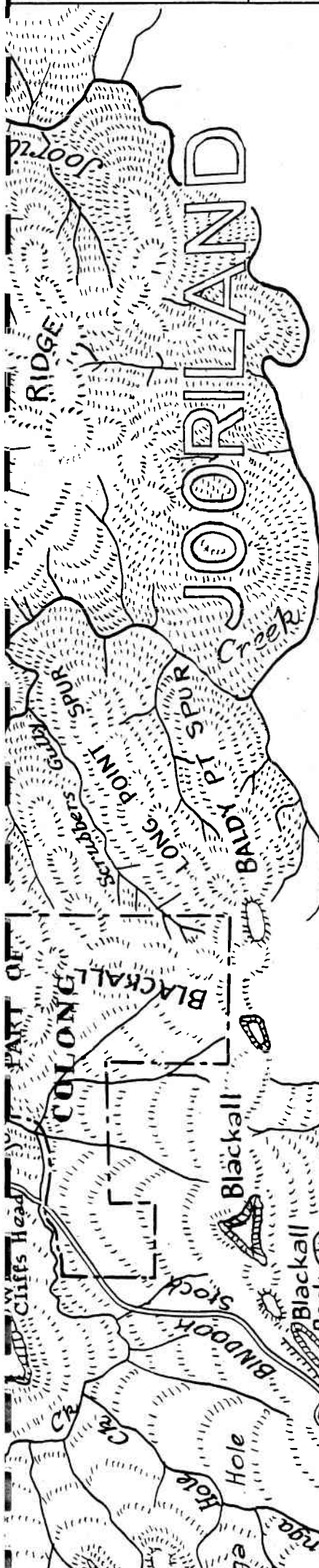
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- OTHER EXISTING MAPS
- CREW INVESTIGATIONS IN THE AREA
- OTHER BUSHWALKERS
- LOCAL BUSHMEN

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GUNDUNGURA MAP

(NAME OF ABORIGINAL TRIBE WHICH OCCUPIED AREA)

Magnetic North



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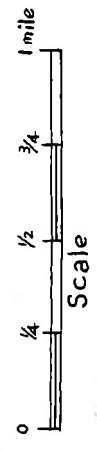
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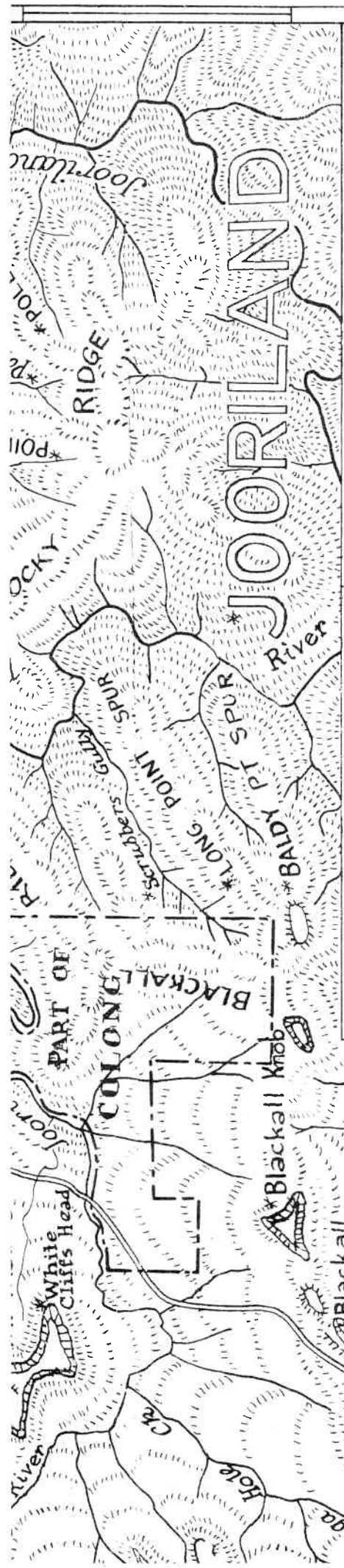
Directed by Geoff E. Ford
Assisted by Rick Jamieson
& Don Taylor

Second Edition 1966

LEGEND

- Negotiable Routes.....
- Campsites ©
- Cliff with Relative height 30rft





GUNDUNGURA MAP

(NAME OF ABORIGINAL TRIBE WHICH OCCUPIED AREA)

COMPILED BY SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ROVER CREW

BOX 50 THE UNION, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

PUBLISHED BY PADDY PALLIN PTY. LTD.

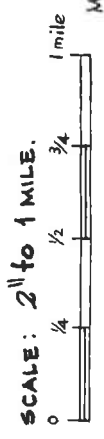
109 A BATHURST ST., SYDNEY.

FIRST EDITION 1962. - Undertaken by G.E.Ford, R.Jamieson & D.Taylor.
 SECOND EDITION 1966.
 THIRD EDITION 1970. (Names Revised).

THE AREA COVERED BY THIS MAP IS ENTIRELY WITHIN THE WARRAGAMBA WILDLIFE REFUGE & THE CARRIAGE OF FIREARMS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
 *NAMES BEARING AN ASTERISK ARE NOT GEOGRAPHIC NAMES UNDER THE GEOGRAPHIC NAMES ACT, 1966.

AN AREA OF 950 ACRES, INCLUDING MT. ARMOUR & CHURCH CREEK GAVES, HAS BEEN LEASED TO A CEMENT COMPANY TO MINE LIMESTONE. IMPLEMENTATION WOULD MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE IRREPLACEABLE WILDERNESS QUALITY OF GUNDUNGURA. YOU ARE URGED TO JOIN THE 'SAVE COLONG' CAMPAIGN & HELP TO CONSERVE THIS UNIQUE AREA.

LEGEND.
 KANANGRA-BOYD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY. ————
 NEGOTIABLE ROUTES
 CAMPSITES. ©
 CLIFF WITH RELATIVE HEIGHT. 307H
 CATCHMENT AREA BOUNDARY. -C-C-
 PERMITS REQ? FOR ENTRY TO CATCHMENT AREA - OBTAINABLE FROM M.V.S.#D.B., BATHURST ST. SYDNEY.



GUNDUNGURA.

The Sydney University Rover Crew, has for some time now, devoted a great deal of its time to the exploration of the region commonly known as Gundungura- ie. that area between Kanangra Wal and Yerranderie.

Within this area is included a number of well known features e.g. Colong Caves and that controversial mining lease, the magnificent Kowmung River and historic Yerranderie.

Crew interest in this area started in the early 60's with the marking of the Kanangra-Colong (Sth Boyd Range) trail and the publication of the first Gundungura map.

This map is in its third edition at present and still highly popular with bushwalkers, despite strong competition from the Lands Department Maps.

It was decided that a book should be written about this area and by 1965 this task was almost complete.

The ensuing five years consisted of vigorous rewriting and evaluating in order to get the book down to an economic size

In 1970 the last major problem was solved "MONEY", Paddy Pallin generously agreed to finance our project after reading the postscript.

The book is now available from Paddy Pallin and other outlets e.g. Scout Shops, (but not from us) at a cost of one dollar.

Called GUNDUNGURA it contains a wealth of information on bushwalking trails, canyons, history (natural and otherwise) of the region.

It is well worth reading, being both well illustrated and presented in a professional manner.

Tim Herborn.

Sydney University Rover Crew

GUNDUNGURA

A GUIDE TO THE GREATER SOUTHERN BLUE MOUNTAINS AND THE MAJOR PART OF
THE KANANGRA BOYD NATIONAL PARK, N.S.W.

A description of walking routes, canyons, caves and rock climbs,
with notes on History, Geology, Flora, Fauna and Anthropology - to be
used in conjunction with the Gundungura Bushwalking (Sketch) Map of the
Greater Southern Blue Mountains.

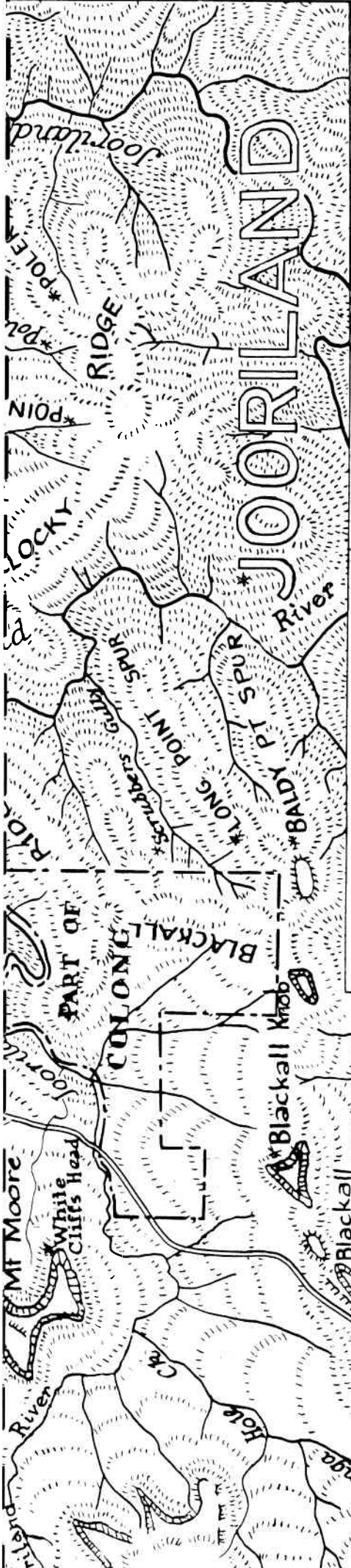
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GUNDUNGURA map

(FORMER ABORIGINAL TRIBE OF THE AREA)

COMPILED BY SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ROVER CREW
 box 50 the union, university of sydney. nsw 2006

PUBLISHED BY PADDY PALLIN PTY. LTD.
 69 liverpool st., sydney. nsw 2000 tel. 26-2685

FOURTH EDITION 1973 - metric scale

Previous editions: 1970, 1966, 1962. Undertaken originally by G.E. Ford, D. Taylor & R. Jamieson.

The WARRAGAMBA WILDLIFE REFUGE encloses the area of this map entirely & the carriage of firearms is strictly prohibited in this region. Dispose of rubbish properly!

• Denotes a name not officially recognised by the NSW Geog. Names Board. (1966 Act)
 The crew's book «Gundungura» describes this area in detail - including history, geology, caves, canyons and walking routes. It is available from Paddy Pallin's. (\$1)

Scale: 3cm to 1km OR 1:33333 0km 0.5 1km 1.5 2km

Legend: o - CAMPSITE

--- KANANGRA-BOYD NATIONAL PK. BOUNDARY

--- CLIFF & REL. HEIGHT

C-C--- CATCHMENT AREA BOUNDARY (obtain permission to enter from M.W.S.&D.B., Bathurst St, Sydney)

n.b. ALL HEIGHTS IN METRES - 10m ± 33 ft

DISTANCES IN KILOMETRES - 8km ± 5 miles

..... NEGOTIABLE ROUTE

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE!!!

(obtain permission to enter from M.W.S.&D.B., Bathurst St, Sydney)

magnetic north

Gundungura Project

SURC 1960- 1970

contested names for features on map



Geoff Ford 1961

commentary by G.E. (Geoff) Ford, 2017,
with note about the specific 'Rock' on Boyd Plateau
where Myles Dunphy with Bert Gallop were Lost, 1914
plus relevant sections of Kowmung Country maps:
- SURC Gundungura Map 1961 (on sale 1962)
- M.J.Dunphy Kowmung Map 1963

with those of alternative names
listed for Gundungura Guide booklet
which were accepted (as submitted by Dunphy ¶)
by Geographic Names Board



Myles Dunphy 1962

¶ Although there was agreement that names on maps were necessary, in 1960/61 and again 1964/65, Dunphy had declined permission for SURC to use "his" names - subsequently to criticise them for not doing so. He used, for example: Greek mythology to identify features in "Christy's Creek country", as explained 1951 for a bushwalking club magazine (reproduced in Thompson 1986 book pp.70-73).

ALTERNATIVE NAMES FOR SOME FEATURES REFERRED TO IN THE
GUNDUNGURA GUIDE

GUNDUNGURA MAP

OTHER COMPILERS

Lanigans Knob
Le Tonsure
Lost Rock

K97 Knoll
Stonehag
(Myles Dunphy uses this name for a feature on the eastern side of the Uni. Rover Trail near Wooglemai Swamp.)

Myles Dunphy (b.1891)



Mount Execution

Le Tonsure** (Named by Myles Dunphy)

Myanga Heights
No Rounder (than any other round Mountain) Mountain

Myanga Mountain**
Mount Yaburra**

Peacock Spur
Revelation Rock *
South Boyd Range
The Bomb Spur

Church Hill**
Lost Rock
Boyd Range**
Frank Rileys Spur

Mountain Trailer, 1915

*Gundungura I only

** Used on Dept. of Lands maps

SCAN PGH.097

Note on the 'Rock' where Dunphy was Lost on Boyd Plateau (G.E. Ford, 2017)

Refer to Genesis of Gundungura Project, reading my 1996 article from SUBW "Press On Regardless" now at URL: .subw.org.au/archives/press-on-regardless/the-whys-of-the-kowmung-country-and-gundungura/

First Edition of Gundungura Map completed 1961 ("Gundungura I" above), identified as Dunphy's "Lost Rock" the feature as he had described it - after days spent by SURC members searching for it [as a tor] on the Boyd Plateau. Within 1961 correspondence from SURC to Dunphy I wrote *I think I can place your Lost Rock, so would be interested if you could remember a brief description of it. Is there a view from it, or not?* Dunphy was unresponsive.

In the 1996 article I wrote:

I was disappointed that Myles Dunphy relocated the name of his Lost Rock to my Revelation Rock. In 1914 when lost at the top of his Misery Ridge, he had climbed a rock for a view. It took all morning to find the cattle trail he followed down the Boyd Range. In two well manned mapping expeditions in the early 1930s he had not plotted the Lost Rock at the Revelation Rock. The real rock where Dunphy was lost and found has considerable historical significance: It could be considered the foundation place of bushwalking, and bushwalking sketch maps.

Many years later, when his records were rewritten by Dunphy (thank you, Col Gibson), it became newly apparent that His "Lost Rock" could have been the lookout near the edge of the plateau where the Boyd Range is revealed. But his navigation was so awful that he had not appreciated this and he had been walking in circles! Thus it can be accepted that the Revelation Rock and his Lost Rock could be the same place!! ***I stand by my 1996 proposal that it should be a place of commemoration.***

It was a mistake when the Uni Rover Trail was later re-routed to miss it.

Of course, anyone considering historical records needs to take into account the finding by researcher / author Peter Meredith given on p.60 of his 1999 book biographing Myles Dunphy:

all else. But, as with most of what Myles wrote, it is almost impossible to differentiate between views expressed at the time and those of the older man imposed retrospectively to rectify the record, since he wrote or rewrote nearly all of his records between 1963 and 1974.

In his 1986 book (p.162), Patrick Thompson was to record that from 1934 Dunphy curtailed his trips into the mountains after a medical scare. (The story as retold 1974 is given pp.142-157.)

In 1963 Dunphy was 72 years old. Could Dunphy have rewritten his journal to change the 1914 contemporary record after the Gundungura map had been published (sold from 1962) exposing his error? He was obsessed with being neat and 'correct'. A rewriting would be characteristic. (In 1974 he re-wrote his trips as correspondence to Byron Rigby.)

In the 1930s when mapping, Myles did not always win with acceptance of his names by the then Surveyor General. Later he was to argue with the Geographical Names Board (established 1966) to have his names accepted. He confirmed he did not use original names, acknowledging Caley's name of Shell Brook for Christy's Ck (Thompson p.141). Names from the above list (checked 2017) have not all been accepted. For No Rounder Mountain named 1961 by the SURC, Mount Yuburra was not an accepted name until 1968. Dunphy's "Lost Rock" from his 1914 expedition was not accepted until 1969.

Mt Boyd (trig) to Mt Misery section, M.J.Dunphy Kowmung Map 1963

Dunphy re-reported his activities as correspondence to Byron Rigby in 1974 when he was 84yo (reproduced in Thompson 1986 book). Discussing mapping, he wrote (cited p.63):

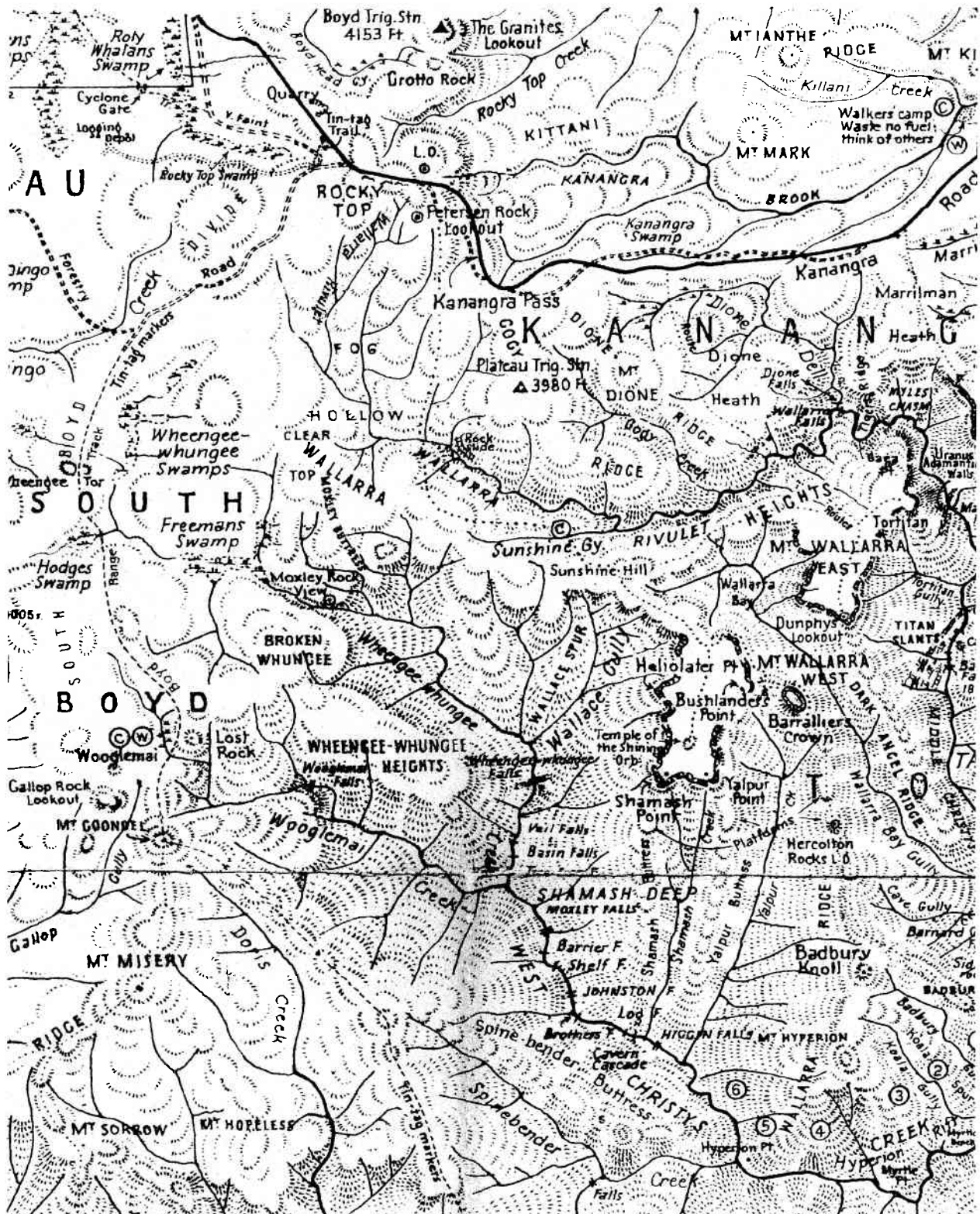
<< -- Lost Rock, which Gallop and I had mounted in 1914 --- to try to find the beginning of Boyd Range. >>

For his 1914 trip (with Bert Gallop), he wrote about looking for the Boyd Range south from Boyd Plateau (cited p.123): << -- when (we) succeeded in identifying the start of the upper end of Boyd Range and started down it ---, we came to the hogs-back where we halted to look down into the Upper Kowmung on our right, and down into Christy's Creek on our left. --- This was our first view of Christy's country --- >>

About the mountain trail they were trying to follow, he wrote (going down Boyd Range):

<< There was no real pad only the merest trail >> and they went down a side branch in error (Bull Ridge).

Compare with SURC Gundungura Guide, under THE UNIVERSITY ROVER TRAIL



Geoff Ford and other uni members continued to revere Dunphy's sketch maps, despite being misled by mapping errors on joint SUBW / SURC walks, eg: 17April1960 (1937 Bindook map, 1939 Kanangra map); 22April1961 (1953 Gangerang map).