



Eurobodalla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study South Coast New South Wales

goulding heritage consulting pty ltd

Megan Goulding & Kate Waters

March 2005

A Report Prepared for the Eurobodalla Shire Council
Department of Environment & Conservation
Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council
Bodalla Local Aboriginal Land Council
Cobowra Local Aboriginal Land Council
Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council
Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council &
Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Council

© Goulding Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd & Eurobodalla Shire Council & NSW Department of Environment & Conservation

Department of Environment & Conservation
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
Cultural Heritage Division
PO Box 1967
Hurstville NSW 2220
Ph: 1300 361 967 or (02) 9585-6333
Fax: (02) 9585 6555
www.npws.nsw.gov.au

Eurobodalla Shire Council
PO Box 99
Moruya NSW 2537
Phone: (02) 4474 1000
Fax: (02) 4474 1234
www.esc.nsw.gov.au

Prepared by:
Goulding Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd
PO Box 509
North Carlton Vic 3054
Phone/Fax: (03) 9380 6159
Mobile: 0409 145 489
Email: m.goulding@bigpond.com

Front cover image: William Corkhill, [Aboriginal children] © Reproduction rights owned by the National Library of Australia. Library Record Number: NLA 2511554.

Contents

Project Background.....	9
Introduction.....	11
Scope of this Investigation.....	13
Study Area.....	13
Consultation Program	16
Methodology	17
Defining Aboriginal Heritage Places for Investigation	17
<i>Intangible (Non-Physical) Dimension</i>	17
<i>Tangible (Physical) Dimension</i>	17
Collection of Information	18
Literature Research	18
Annotated Bibliography.....	19
Historical Context.....	19
Identification of Places in the Literature	19
Project Results	21
Aboriginal History in the Eurobodalla Region	23
Yuin Country.....	23
First European Intrusions.....	23
Early European Settlement.....	31
<i>Conflict in the First Decades</i>	33
<i>Introduced Diseases</i>	35
<i>Helping Hands: the Wreck of the “Rover”</i>	37
<i>Early Involvement in European Economic Activity</i>	39
<i>Population Figures in the early 1800s</i>	42
Records of Ceremonial Life and Stories	45
Emergence of Small Scale Settlement: ‘Locking Out’	48
Impact of Gold on Growth of European Settlement.....	48
Expansion of European Settlement: Dairying and Timber.....	49
Formation of Aboriginal Reserves.....	52
Creation of the Aborigines Protection Board.....	66
<i>Population Figures in the late 1800s</i>	67
Wallaga Lake.....	69
<i>Involvement in European Economic Activity</i>	78
Aboriginal Places Documented from Historical Sources.....	83
Discussion of Themes	83
<i>Contact and Conflict</i>	86
<i>Living Places</i>	86

<i>Employment</i>	87
<i>Ceremonial/Spiritual</i>	87
Recommendations	89
Discussion	91
Recommendations for Future Research	91
Concluding Comment	94
Bibliography	95

Figures

Figure 1: Diagram showing the stages of the Eurobodalla Aboriginal Heritage Study.....	12
Figure 2: Chart showing project outcomes	14
Figure 3: Map of Study Area	15
Figure 4: Collecting information on a broad range of places	18
Figure 5: Map of Moruya (Campbell) Reserve	54
Figure 6: Map of Terouga Lake (Merriman) Reserve	55
Figure 7: Map of Lake Tuross, Turlinjah (Benson Wynoo) Reserve.....	57
Figure 8: Map of requested reserve for William Benson Wynoo	59
Figure 9: Map of Tomago River (Tomakin) Reserve.....	60
Figure 10: Map of Currowan Reserve	61
Figure 11: Map of Bateman's Bay Reserve.....	62
Figure 12: Map of area previously Bateman's Bay Reserve	64
Figure 13: Map of Snake Island Reserve	65
Figure 14: Map of Merriman Island.....	65
Figure 15: Map of Wallaga Lake Reserve	73
Figure 16: Map showing locations of Aboriginal places.....between 83 & 84	
Figure 17: Graph showing the occurrence of themes per place	85

Tables

Table 1: List of Reserves	52
Table 2: List of Themes	84
Table 3: Number of Places per Theme	85

Appendices

Appendix 1: Project Brief.....	105
Appendix 2: Project Flier	113
Appendix 3: Annotated Bibliography	117
Appendix 4: Not attached – contact Eurobodalla Shire Council for a hard copy if required. 'Return of Aboriginal Natives taken at Broulee', 6 May 1842	
Appendix 5: Not attached – contact Eurobodalla Shire Council for a hard copy if required. 'List of Natives in Broulee district who received blankets.... Broulee 1843'	
Appendix 6: Table of Places Recorded in the Study Area.....	157

Plates

Plate 1: Listing of Blanket Distribution Batemans Bay 1834	44
Plate 2: Aboriginal Family outside their house, c. 1900.....	51
Plate 3: Aboriginal family including Mr. Jimmy Friday.....	69
Plate 4: Umbarra, also known as King Merriman, c. 1900	70
Plate 5: The Wallaga Lake Aboriginal cricket team with Mr Hockey c. 1900.....	75
Plate 6: Mr Walker with his famous bullock team, c. 1900	81

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people for their assistance with this project:

Deb Lenson (Environment Team Leader/Project Manager, Eurobodalla Shire Council)
Ron Nye (Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Eurobodalla Shire Council)
Allen Grimwood (Strategic Planner, Eurobodalla Shire Council)
Marcus Sandford (Regional Operations Coordinator, DEC, Merimbula)
Rob McKinnon (A/Regional Operations Coordinator, DEC, Merimbula)
Gary Currey (Manager, Southern Aboriginal Heritage Unit, DEC)
Chris “Snappy” Griffiths (Aboriginal Sites Officer, DEC, Narooma)
Trish Ellis (Aboriginal Project Officer, DEC, Narooma/ Chairperson, Cobowra LALC)

The guidance and assistance provided by the following Local Aboriginal Land Councils and community members was much appreciated:

Athol Callaghan - Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council,
Vivienne Mason, Ron Mason - Bodalla Local Aboriginal Land Council,
Norm Parsons, Trish Ellis - Cobowra Local Aboriginal Land Council,
Noelene Leha and Michael Darcy - Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council,
Laurel Mackenzie - Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council
Janelle Rotumah - Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Council
Mary Duroux

Thanks also to the State Library of New South Wales, Mitchell and Dixon Libraries, State Records of New South Wales, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, National Library of Australia, Fisher Library, University of Sydney, Eurobodalla regional libraries, Picture Australia, Moruya & District Historical Society, Clyde River & Batemans Bay Historical Society, Narooma Historical Society, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Royal Australian Historical Society for their assistance with accessing historical material.

Thanks also to Mary Menis and Melinda Albrecht for assistance with report production.