

BADANGA



DREAMING
BY
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BADANGA DREAMING

THIS BOOK IS A COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING ABORIGINAL ROCK ART FROM MOST OF THE ABORIGINAL SITES IN THE AREA BETWEEN PATONGA AND PEARL BEACH.

To protect the security of the sites no exact positions are shown to prevent damage by vandalising or graffiti to the fragile environment.

The age of the artwork is unknown but it is probably between 200 and possibly over a thousand years old. The ridgetops between Patonga and Pearl Beach were once the site of a Bora ring, an Aboriginal initiation and ceremonial site, but unfortunately most of the stonework marking the site was removed by people collecting bushrock for sale thereby destroying the sites.

The Patonga/Pearl Beach area had a rich Aboriginal history before the arrival of the English in 1788. Governor Phillip made a visit in March 1788 in search of a better region for farming as the country around Sydney Cove was not fertile enough for intensive farming; the first night they anchored in a long boat off Pearl Beach where they reported many Aboriginals and fires on the beach and also women fishing in canoes and after landing in the cutter many natives came down to greet them, men, women and children.

Although it was only six weeks after the landing in Sydney Cove it was noted that some of these people had trinkets which had been handed out at Sydney Cove and Governor Phillip thought he recognised some of them; therefore frequent travel must have been participated in between Pearl Beach/Patonga and across the Hawkesbury River to Port Jackson by these people.

The natives from the Pearl Beach/Patonga area left many examples of rock art in the surrounding bushland which included rock engravings, cave art, hand stencils and grinding grooves. This book is a pictorial record of most of the art work in this area. The name Patonga is an Aboriginal word which was pronounced Badanga and meant Oyster in the local language. It probably referred to the Sydney Rock Oyster which abounds in the area which at one stage was a large industry at Patonga. It is probably not known whether this was the Aboriginal name given to the place or a name given by European settlers at a later time.

The Aboriginal clan in this region was the Garrigal or Garrugal clan which resided on both sides of the Hawkesbury River which they knew as Ben Rubben or Ven Rubben, further up the river it was called DeeRubben by the Darginong people. DeeRubben was thought to be the name for the yams which were cultivated by the Aboriginal people along the river. The later cultivation of these yam growing places by the white settlers for the growing of corn was one of the main reasons for tensions between the two races as the white settlers punished the Aboriginals for stealing the corn after their yams were no longer available.

It is unfortunate that much of the history of the Aboriginal residents of the Central Coast region was not recorded as the majority of the indigenous people died from diseases introduced by the first fleet in the first few years of white settlement.

The judge advocate David Collins remarked on a journey to Broken Bay in 1789 “In many places our path was covered in skeletons and the same spectacles were to be met with in the hollows of most of the rocks in that harbour” *

- Collins David. An account of the English Colony of New South Wales.

THE BADANGA BROTHERS.

A legend about how the oysters became attached to the rocks.

The Badanga (Oyster) brothers who were fairly lazy young men sat on the beach one day watching Guruwin (shark) swimming up and down in the shallow waters hunting Daringyan (Stingrays) they had nothing to do but sit on the beach and watch the shark swimming up and down chasing the stingrays. Then he caught a big one and carried it up to the beach where he left it and went back to continue hunting.

The Oyster brothers remarked that the stingray would be good to eat when they became hungry and would taste better because someone else had caught it so they stole the shark's stingray and carried it up to their camp just beyond the sandy beach and covered it up with dry grass and some branches.

After a while the shark got tired of hunting as he was not catching any more stingrays so he waded out of the water and went to collect his stingray but it wasn't there where he left it. He looked around and saw the Oyster brothers sitting in their camp so he marched up to them. "Where is my stingray?" he shouted. "What stingray?" said the older Oyster brother. "You know what stingray, I put it on the beach when I caught it and you two were the only ones on the beach then!"

"We have been here all the time and haven't seen any stingray, it must have got back in the water and got away" said the Oyster brother.

Shark turned angrily and walked away "You better watch out because if you took it you will be sorry if I get hold of you!"

After a good while they looked up the beach to check if the shark was out of sight. "I reckon it is time to have a good feed of stingray" said the younger Oyster brother. "Wouldn't it be good if we happened to find a nice tasty one" joked his brother as he uncovered the stolen stingray.

They stoked up the fire and put the stingray in the hot coals to cook. Later on after they had finished eating the stolen stingray they were feeling satisfied and settled down around the fire to sleep. "It's a pity the shark couldn't have been here to share it with us but there probably wouldn't have been enough for us all" joked the older brother sarcastically.

Next morning they were wakened suddenly by the Shark who hit them with his waddy. "You have been eating stingray, look at all the bones! I knew you two had stolen my stingray; NOW YOU ARE GOING TO COP IT!" Roared the Shark.

"How do you know it was your stingray, they all look the same and we are quite capable of hunting and catching stingrays as you are" wailed the younger brother. "Don't give me that rubbish you two are too lazy to get out of your own road let alone hunt stingrays, I know that you stole mine!" He whacked the young Oyster brother with his waddy. The other brother tried to protect him but the shark knocked him down and then the young brother jumped onto the shark's back and the all fell into the ashes of the dead fire where they rolled around wrestling, the shark struggled to his feet and and grabbed handfuls of ashes which he covered up the bodies of the two Oyster brothers till they were all white from the ashes. One of the brothers jumped up and threw handfuls of beach sand in the shark's eyes until the shark struggled away half blinded with the sand, but the shark soon retaliated bringing down his waddy on the two brothers until they were flattened out in the sand. The young brother delirious with pain chased the Shark down to the water, the shark began to swim away but the Oyster brother threw his boomerang which struck the shark in the back where it stuck out of the shark above the water as it swam away.

To this day sharks have small eyes because of the sand which was thrown in them by the Oyster brothers and their boomerang is still stuck in its back and sticks out above the water.

The Oyster brothers were white from the ashes and flattened out from the beating the shark had given them so they slunk away out into the water where they sank down and attached themselves to the rocks where they are found to this day.

THE SITES IN THIS BOOK ARE ARRANGED
IN THE ORDER FOUND WHEN TRAVELLING FROM PATONGA
TO PEARL BEACH. NO ACTUAL LOCATION OF THE SITES IS
GIVEN TO PROTECT THE SITES FROM VISITATION AND
VANDALISM.

A MIDDEN ON THE EDGE OF PATONGA CREEK



Part of a large midden extending for about 70m located at the end of
a road. A continuation of the road and a gate has been built across
the midden by the NPWS.



Part of a large turban shell from the midden about 50m from the gate.



A stone arrangement on the mountain top above Patonga.

A LARGE ENGRAVING SITE IN VERY THICK BUSH.

This important site appears to have been a ritualistic site and contains some very interesting engravings spread over several hundred meters of rock surface in very thick scrub.



A very old faded engraving of a small man with a head dress.



A small boomerang on a different rock surface.



A small turtle.



The turtle enlarged.



A fish near the turtle.



A man and a woman. Viewed to east.



A photo from about 1950 of these engravings
From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.



The engravings viewed to north.



The woman showing the breasts depicted under the arm pits. This is the way women are usually depicted in this region.



A fish, about 2.0 m in length on the same rock surface. This is a view to west.



A very unusual engraving of an anthropomorph with a bulbous head dress. It is about 3.0 m. in length. One of the feet can be seen at bottom left in this photo. Viewed to north west.



The head dress on the engraving.



The head dress and part of the body.



A photo from 1950 of the head dress.
From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.



The head dress enlarged seen from a different angle.

This engraving is one of only four similar engravings in the Sydney Basin with the bulbous head dress. The other three are located at Somersby, Muogamarra and Audley.

No information can be found about any possible meaning for these engravings. Rock paintings from the NorthWest of Australia known as Gwion Gwion or Bradshaw art have figures with a similar type of head dress.



An engraving of a snake like creature about 4 m. in length. This is a very old engraving and it is about 4 m. north of the bulbous man.



The northern end of the engraving.



A very old engraving of a fish five meters north of the large snake.



A stone arrangement about 100 m. north of the bulbous headed man.



A large engraving possibly of a dog next to the stone arrangement.
Viewed to north.



The animal viewed to west. It measures about 4 m. x 2 m.



A photo from 1950 of this engraving. A Bunyip?
From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.



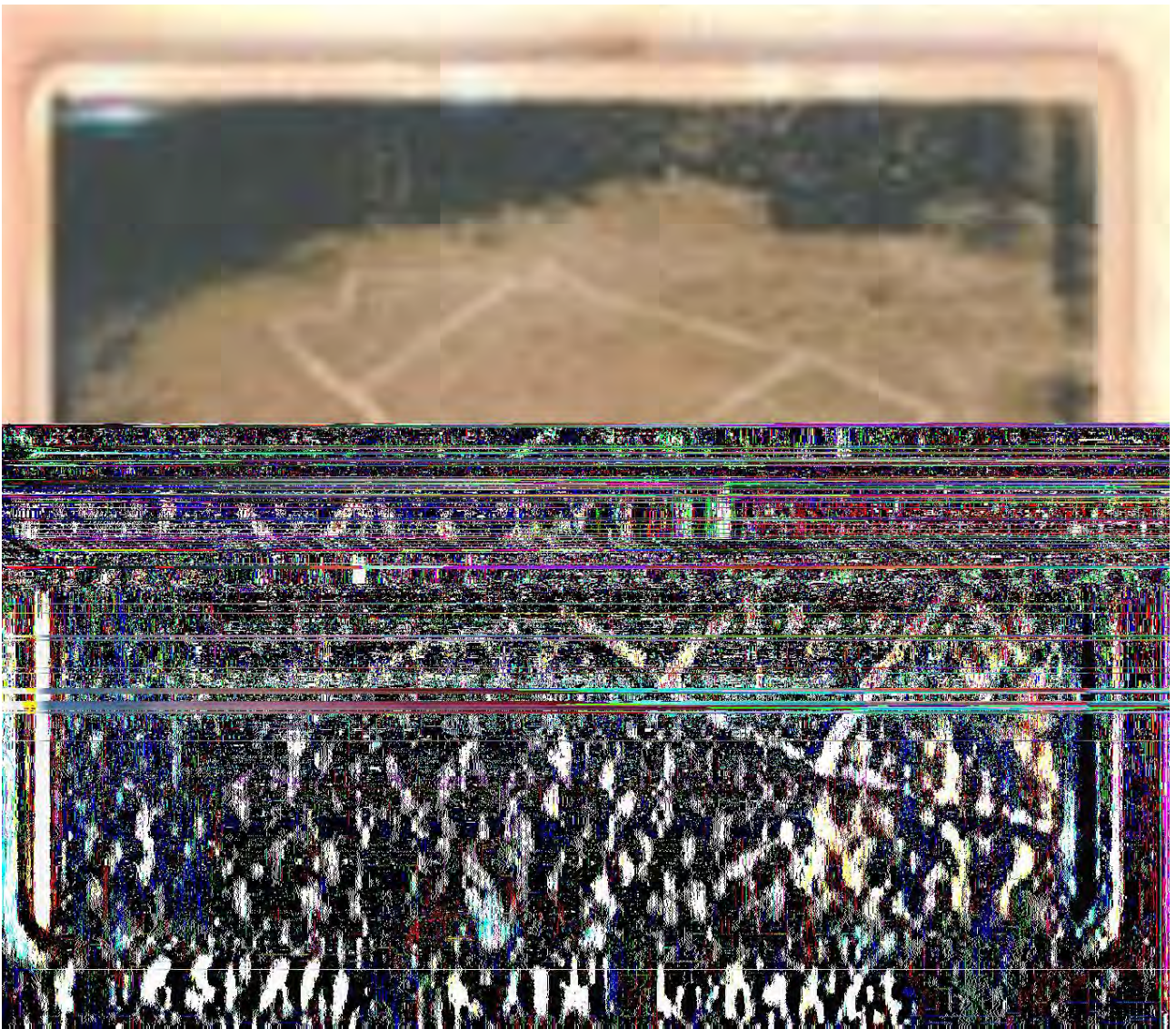
The head of the animal showing the dog like open mouth.
All four legs are the same length and it has a very short tail.



A large fish about 2.5 m x 1.0 m. with bands across the body.



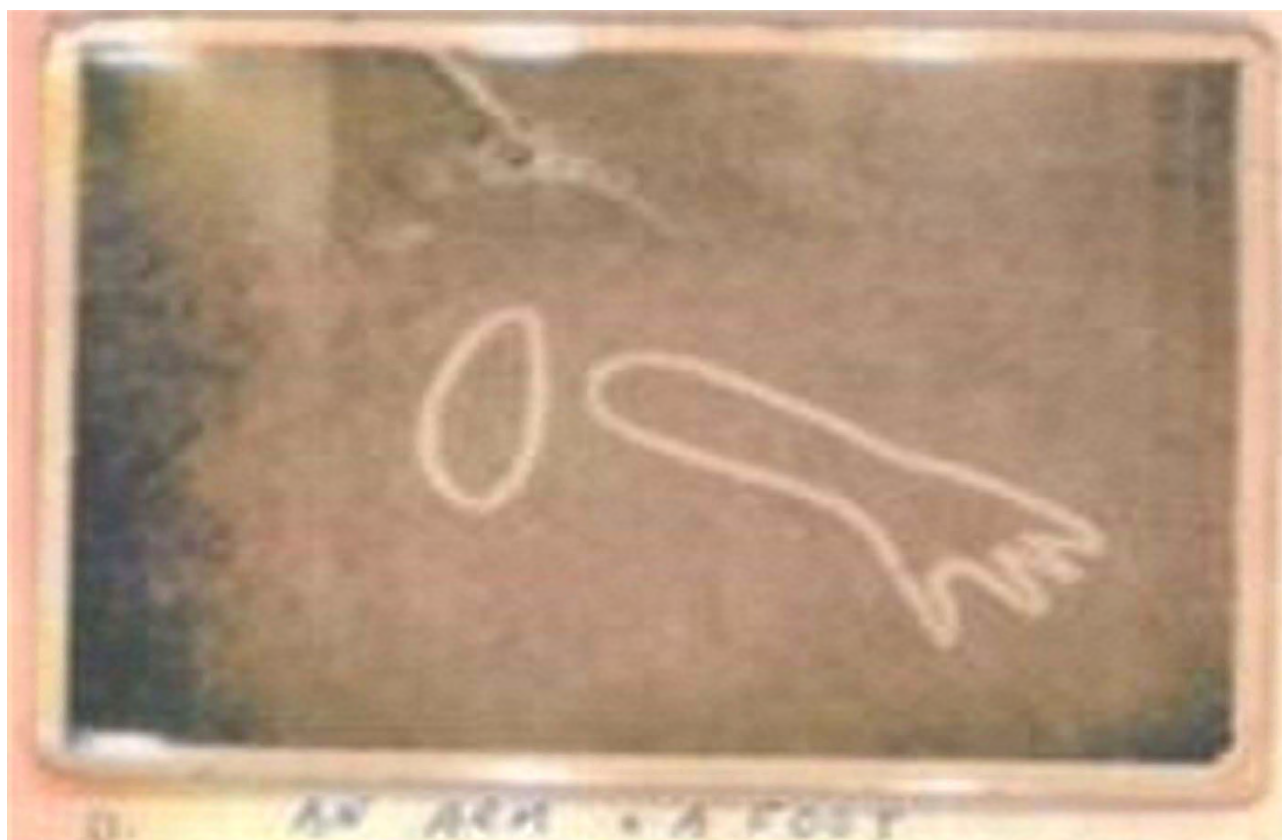
A photograph of the fish highlighted with water.
Viewed to North West.



A photo from 1950 of this engraving.
From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.



An arm and hand with an oval engraving above it. Viewed to north west. This engraving is about 35 m. north of the large fish.



A photo from 1950 of these engravings.
From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.



A very faint child hand stencil in a shelter on the west side of a creek.



An enlargement of the very faint hand stencil.
Hand stencils are often done by blowing a mixture of clay from the mouth around a hand, foot or implement. This stencil has been done by rubbing the hand in wet yellow clay.

ROCK SHELTER WITH ART.
This rock shelter is west of the Patonga Road.



The shelter viewed to north.



The shelter viewed to south.



Charcoal infilled drawings of two birds on the wall of the small shelter.



A close up photo of the two birds



A close up of the main bird drawing.



A close up of the right hand panel of artwork.



A small piece of chert flake, beside the piece of sandstone, on the floor of the shelter indicating that the shelter has been used for tool making.

The charcoal artwork is typical of the figurative artwork found throughout the Sydney Basin.

Pieces of chert and other material are often found on the floor or in the driplines of rock shelters indicating that knapping of stone was being carried out in the shelters to construct stone axes (which were called MOGO) or scrapers and other tools. These pieces of stone were often traded with other clans from outside the region.

Aboriginal people had trade routes which covered the entire continent. Some of the items traded from Pearl Beach/Patonga would have been sandstone, shells, timber etc. Sandstone sheets were used to grind seeds and sharpen tools etc. Sandstone sheets from the Central Coast which were carried and often left in trees for further use have been found in South Australia which indicates the extent of the trade routes. Shells were used in the manufacture of fish hooks. Timber for boomerang and spear making was also extensively traded.

A GROUP WEST OF PATONGA ROAD IN VERY THICK SCRUB.



The very thick scrub covering the site.



A large eel about 2 m. x 40 cm. At the western end of the site.



A waterhole in the creek bed with engraved lines around it.



Two small shields in the creek bed.



A close up of one of the shields.



Two shields together in the creek bed.



A close up of the two shields. The designs on the shields on this site are all different which might mean that they are from different clans who met here.



Two more shields with different designs.



The close up of the shield with multiple lines on it.



A close up of the shield with a single line on it.



A series of small engravings which resemble birds in flight.

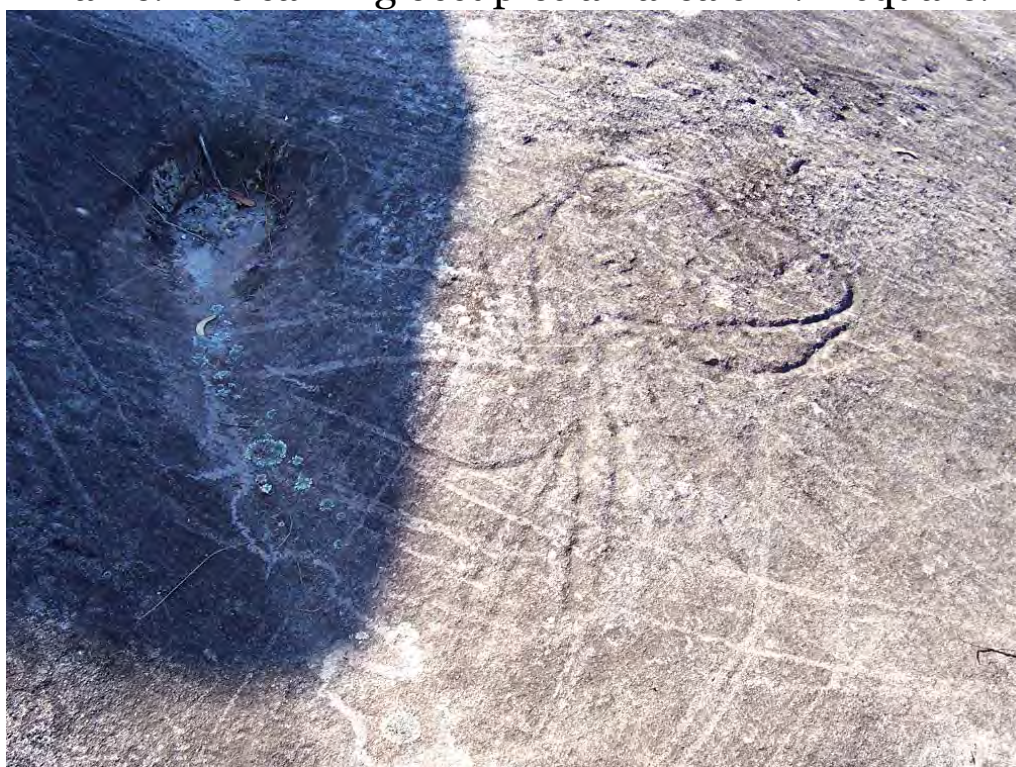
A set of large grooved carvings located on the eastern side of Patonga Road on a large expanse of rock with a prominent feature known as Elephant Rock.



A large uncompleted carving almost on the crest of the rock formation, it resembles part of a large head with eyes. There is much graffiti dating back many years around this carving.



A close up of the carving with much of the graffiti taken out of the frame. The carving occupies an area of 1.m square.





Previous page and this one show a large carving about 1.5 m. in length. The carving resembles a large octopus or an insect of some type. It is of a unique type.

The lines are deep and wide as is the lines on the other carving on this rock.

The many lines on the surface of the rocks are caused by skateboarders using the vast rock surface as a natural skate park.



A single grinding groove on a rock platform 400m south east of Elephant Rock.



A set of grinding grooves located north of the Warrah trig road.

A SMALL FISH AND MAN SITE WEST OF PATONGA ROAD.

LOCATION; Beside the Ettalong/ Patonga Road, on the western side, on a large section of flat and tessellated rocks. The carvings are located at the extreme southern end of the rock shelf.



A view to South showing a small man with a line drawn from his left foot to an object above his head and to his right side. Also at his left foot is a small fish and above his left arm is a curved boomerang like object. These items are not visible in this photo without some form of highlighting.



The carving of the man is aligned to magnetic north.



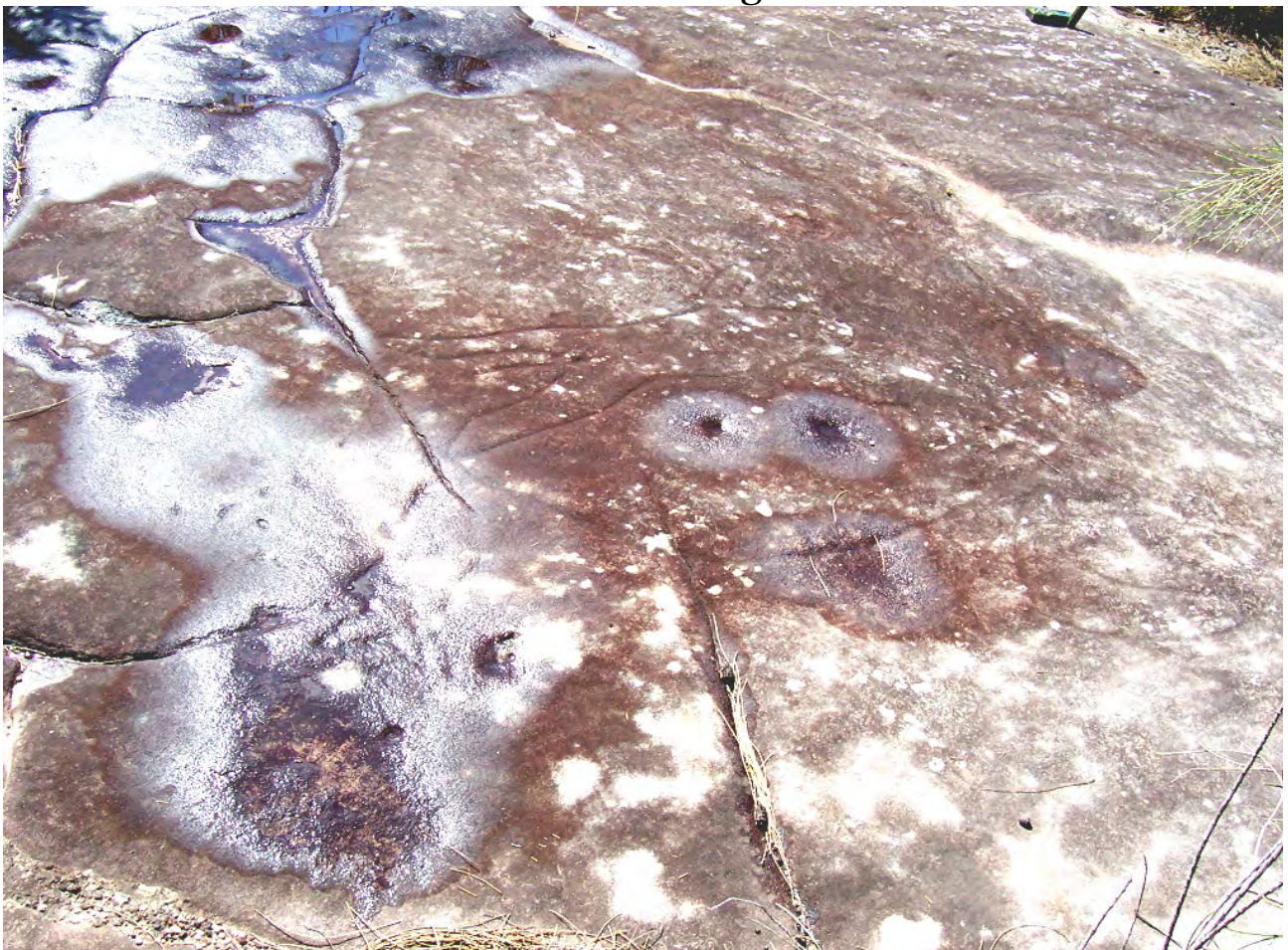
A 1950 photo of this group.
From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.



The group highlighted with water.
The man measures 82 cm. x 60 cm. The boomerang measures
50 cm. x 40 cm.



The man viewed to south west, he has prominent eyes, a large penis as well as a hole in the genital area.



The group viewed to North West showing the fish near the man's left foot it measures 40 cm.x 20cm.



The group viewed to west on a different day



A close up photograph of the fish it is a bit hard to see now but has been well carved and proportioned before it eroded.



An unknown and very faint carving.

The faint carving on the previous page is located two metres North of the man.

It is very difficult to view Aboriginal rock art during daylight hours except very early in the morning or late afternoon as the sun during the day is too much overhead to bring out the outline of the engravings, particularly if they are faded or very light. Viewing at night with bright lights is probably the most successful way to see the engravings. I use fresh water in a spray bottle to highlight the grooves as this does not damage the surface in any way. Drawing over the lines with chalk or a sharp stone is damaging to the engravings and is also illegal under the National Park Acts and will incur heavy penalties if convicted.



A second unknown carving which may have been the head of a large kangaroo, there appears to be an object in the mouth. It may represent a fish or ray of some kind. It is also very hard to find, it is located two metres west of the man.

CLIFF TOP ENGRAVINGS



A panoramic photo of the Hawkesbury River from the cliff top.



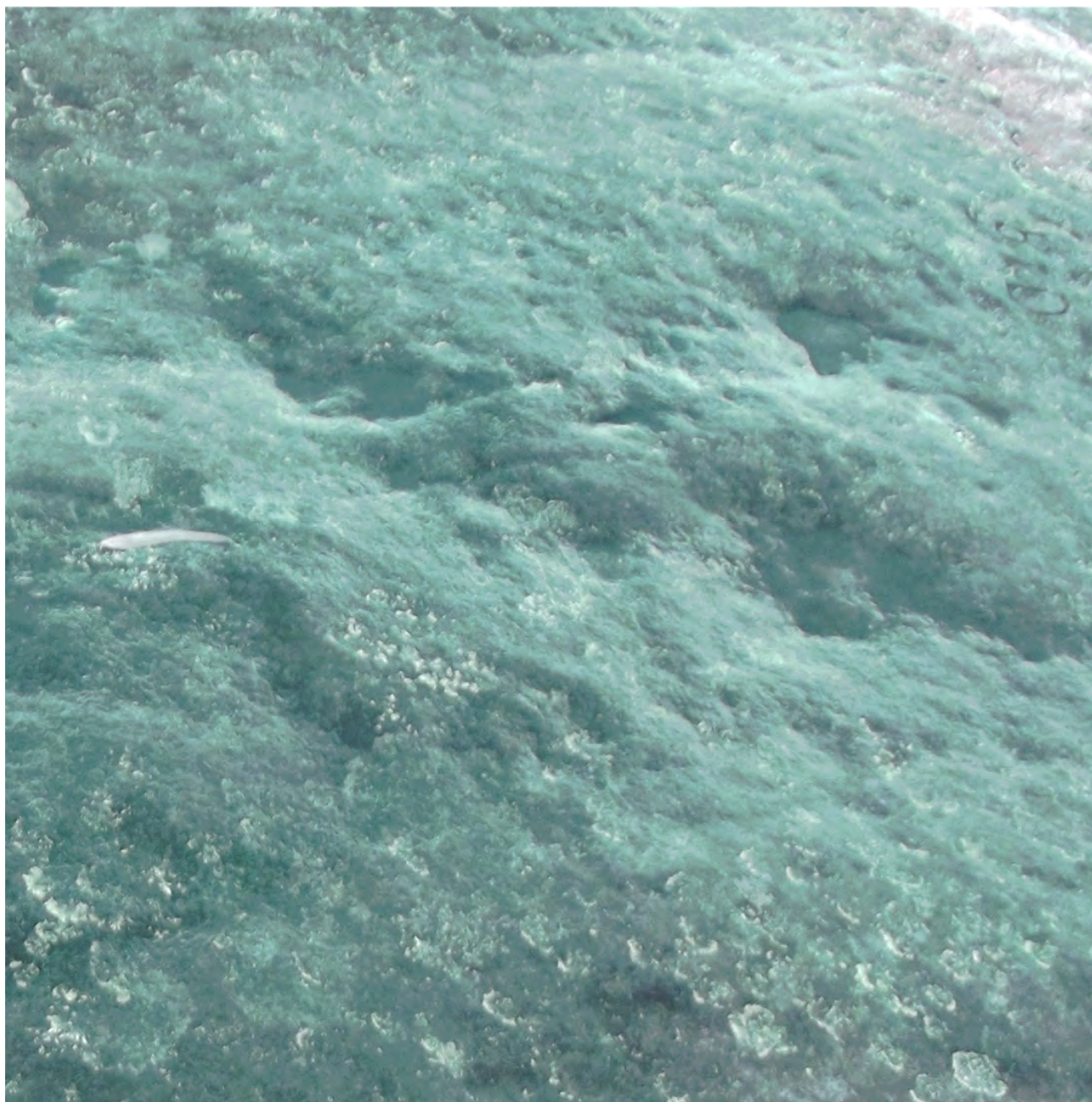
This very faded engraving of two small men is located almost at the edge of a cliff, the cliff runs east/west and the engravings are aligned to north/south.



A clearer photograph of the engravings, the second man is very faded and most of it has disappeared.



An enlargement of the largest man. It is about 1.0 m. in length.



The smaller man which has almost disappeared.

THE NEXT GROUP IS 80M EAST OF THE SMALL MEN.



A Goanna heading east about 1.0 m. in length,



Graffiti near the goanna it reads
1884
SPORTWYNNUM



A fish heading south, 45 cm.x 25 cm.
It is located about 3.0 m. north east of the Goanna.



A small decorated shield 60 cm in length. Located 3.0 m. south east
of the small fish.



A large shield shaped item of graffiti with many initials dated 1929.
The small shield can be seen at left in this picture.



A large animal which may be a Quoll or native cat, it is located 15 m. east of the Goanna. It is about 1.0 m. in length.



The animal viewed to west.



The animal and part of an anthropomorph, between the anthropomorph and the animal is an unknown object.



An anthropomorph about 1.5 m. in height at the eastern end of the rock surface.



The anthropomorph and the animal, viewed to North West.



An unknown engraving east of the anthropomorph.



A man, he has a small boomerang in his right hand and a large protrusion on his left elbow.



A man below the anthropomorph. It has a very faint outline and is about 2.0m. in height.



The lower part of the man showing the feet.



A close up of the protuberance on the elbow of the man.

An Aboriginal legend tells of an evil man named Yandingga who had a stone axe built into his elbow which he would use to kill unsuspecting warriors he came across in his travels. This could be a representation of Yandingga.



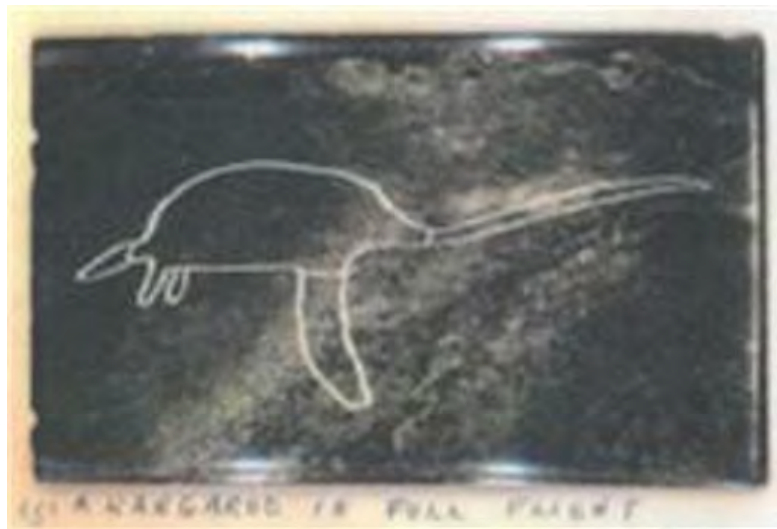
An engraving of a fish 60 cm. in length. This is located on a rock surface 40 m. east of the man and anthropomorph.



A small wallaby with an unusual curved back.



A close up of the small wallaby it is about 1.2 m. in length and is heading west.



A photo from 1950 of the wallaby.
From the Henry Kendall Coattage collection.



An unknown engraving about 4.0 m west of the fish and wallaby.



A very faint outline of an old engraving of an eel about 1.0 m in length. It is below the wallaby engraving.



A small group located 5 m. from the wallaby.



A snake. A small striped engraving is next to it.



The striped article which has been described as a belt or bag.



A mudoe or animal footprint next to the snake.



The small group.



A large fish divided in sections it measures about 2.5m. In length.



A photo from closer in of the engraving, unfortunately there is graffiti and initials on the rock. This is a view to south west.



A photo from 1950 of the engraving.
 From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.
 The photographer has labelled the photo 'shark with sucker fish
 attached'

Note also the fresh graffiti near the engraving.
 This engraving is 4 m. east of the snake.



A fish, measuring 110 cm. x 55 cm. and heading west.
This photograph is taken to show the view over the tail of the fish.
The fish is located at the North West end of a large area of flat rocks
extending along the ridge from Warrah Trig .



The fish viewed to North.



A photo from 1950 of the fish.
From the Henry Kendall Cottage collection.



The fish viewed to west.



A set of grinding grooves near a large rock pool at the extreme end of the rockshelf.



A second groove at the rock pool.

Grinding grooves were made by the Aborigines to sharpen tools and implements on the soft sandstone rock surfaces. They are usually found around waterholes and in running water across the rock surface. Some grooves are wide, probably where stone axes have been edged and some are long and narrow indicating the sharpening of a spear or digging sticks.



A large and very faint fish at the northern edge of the rock platform.
The fish measures 2.0 m. x 70 cm.



The fish photographed to north. The entire faded outline can be seen in this photo.



An outline of a fish which may be a natural rock feature enhanced to make the fish outline.

This is found about 40 m. east of the main rock platform. This rock has been damaged by bushfire.



A rock shelter at the edge of the gully about 120m east of the main rock platform.



The rear wall of the shelter showing some red and black ochre.



The red ochre in close up.



The black charcoal section which may contain a faint hand stencil.



An engraving above the rock shelter on the large sloping rock surface.



The engraving appears to be a man with stripes along the body.
It measures 2.2m. x 70 cm.

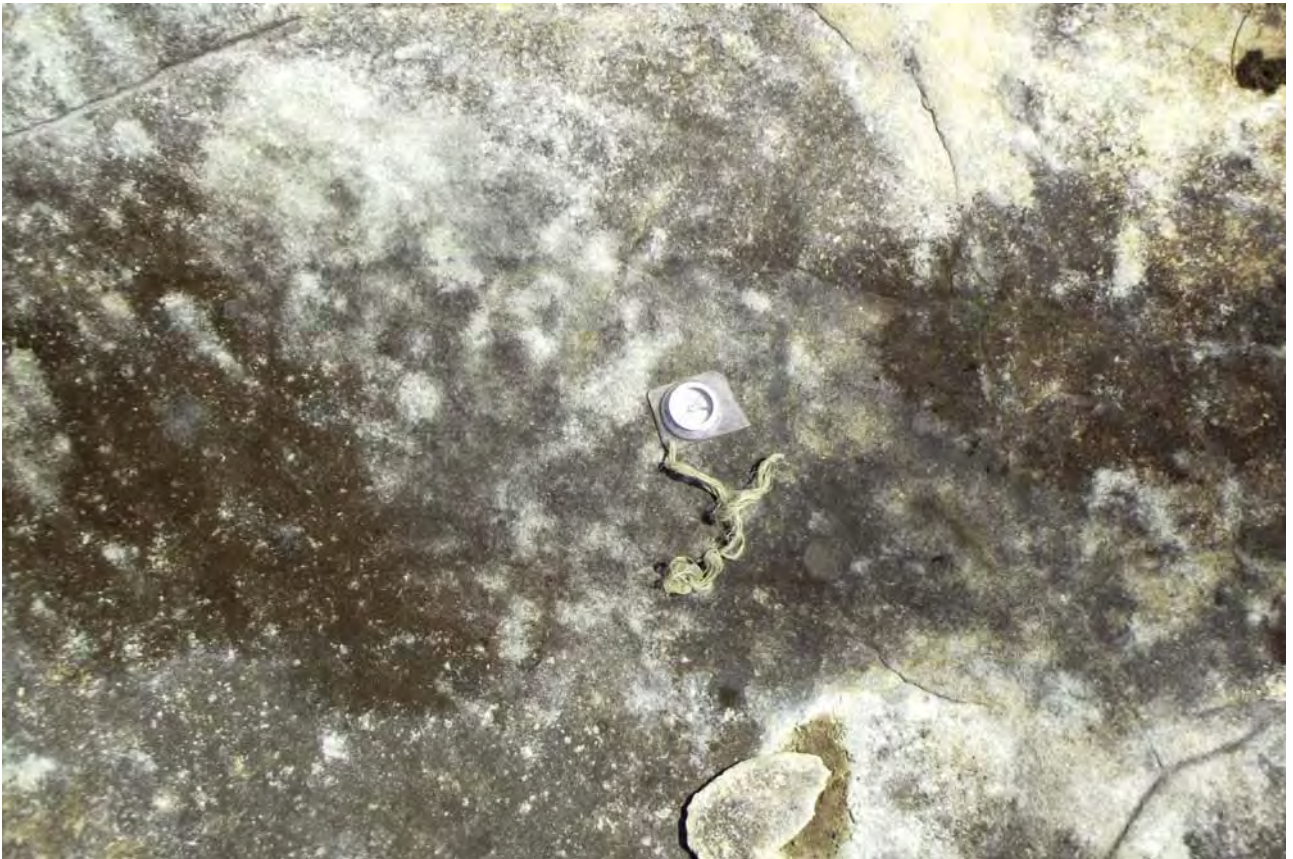
The engravings on the following pages are to be found on a rock surface about 160 m. south east of the large rock surface with the shelter cave across dried up hanging swamps.



A faint engraving of an eel with stripes across the body, it is extremely hard to see without highlighting.



A photo from closer in of the eel; it measures 1.5 m x 40 cm. and is heading south.



A compass placed on the engraving shows exactly south.



A photo of the compass showing south.



An engraving about 2 m. east of the eel. It may represent a hand.



A close up photo of the hand.



A pecked out outline which appears to be an unfinished fish. It is about 7 m. from the eel at the eastern end of this rock surface.



A photo of the unfinished fish from closer in, the tail can be seen but there is only half of the outline to be seen. The engraving was partly buried and I have cleared away the ground coverage to reveal that the engraving has never been completed. I replaced the coverage after photography.



Some old grinding grooves on a rock surface 75 m. south east of the rock with the eel and fish on it.



A deeper grinding groove on the same rock surface. These grooves were at one time in a waterflow but these flows have long since dried up on these rocks.



Another old groove on this rock surface.



Grinding grooves on a small rock surface level with the eel site but 20 m. from the road. This is another rock surface where the water flow has totally dried up.



A small animal about 80 cm x 40 cm.
This carving is at the northern edge of the Pearl Beach to Patonga
fire trail near Tony Doyle track.



An enlargement of the animal. Viewed to North West

THE HEAD AND SHOULDERS OF A MAN



A head and shoulder carving of a man located 75 meters from the south side of the Patonga road at the head of a gully. The figure has prominent fingers on both hands. The head is aligned to 350 deg.mag, and the arms are aligned N.E. - S.W.



The right hand showing the fingers.



The fingers on the left hand.

WHALE GROUP



A view to west showing a large whale, the tail can be seen in the foreground. Several fish are drawn inside the outline of the whale, they can be seen at the right hand side of this picture about two thirds of the way up the picture



The tail and part of the outline.



This series of circles is drawn around the head of the whale.



This well detailed fin is about a third of the way along the body on the left side. A smaller fin is on the right side of the body.



The fish drawn inside the whale.



The fish highlighted with water showing a larger fish heading across the direction of the two smaller fish. The outline of this fish appears much older and fainter than the other two.

The top fish measures 64 cm.x 40 cm. The second fish 60 cm. x 40 cm. and the large fish is 140 cm. x 64 cm. The large fish is heading 120 deg.mag.

The smaller fish are heading south.

The large whale measures 6.80 m x 3.70 m. and is heading west.

The whale group is located east of the Patonga Road.



A triangular carving is also inside the body of the whale it measures 50 cm. x 20 cm. and points north.



This is located 20 m north east of the whale it may be a natural pattern in the rock surface.

The following carvings are located on a rock surface north of the Patonga road.



An eel 130 cm. x 40 cm.



This picture shows an unknown carving.



The carving of an unknown creature is located in the centre of the rock area. It appears to be older than the other carvings at the site



A close up of the head and neck area of the carving.



A carving of a Wobbegong shark on the eastern edge of the rock.
This view is to east.



The Wobbegong measures 105 cm. x 40 cm.



This carving of a boomerang and a single human hand an arm is located at the western end of the rock surface. The boomerang has been filled in with pecking and the arm has fingers but no body is apparent.

The boomerang measures 75 cm. x 25 cm.

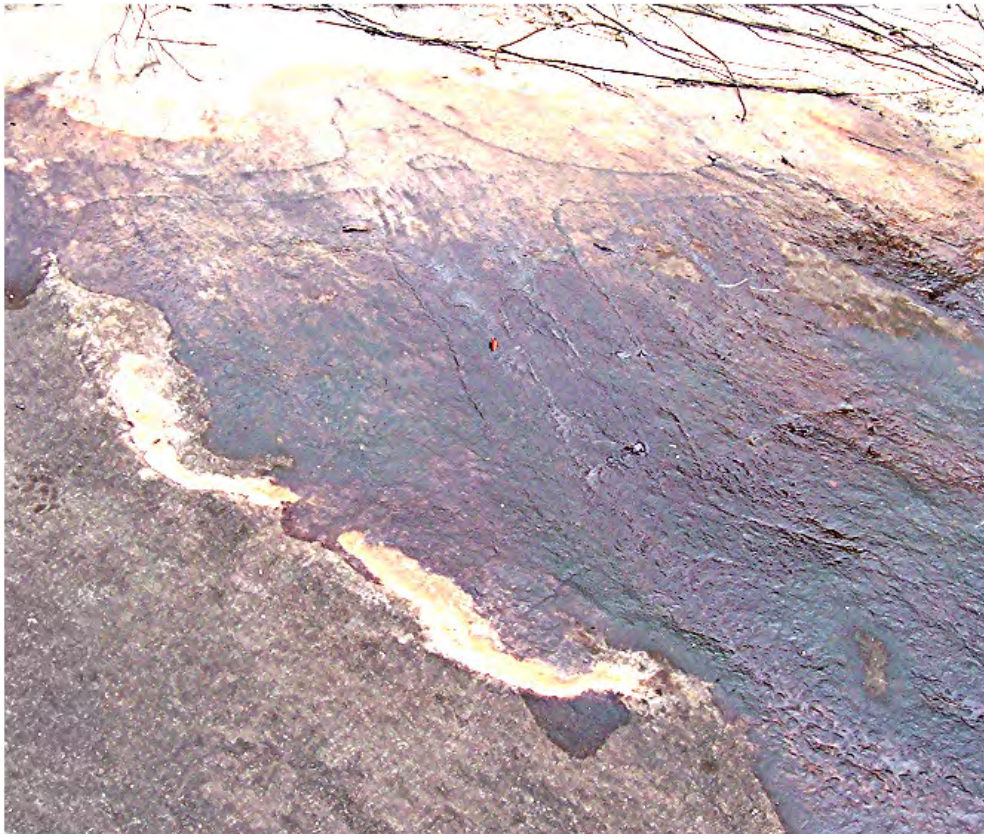


A view to west along the rock surface from the position of the eel.

An engraving of a man with a 'sad' mouth is located on the west side of Patonga Road almost opposite the site of the large whale engravings.



On this area of flat rock the carving of a man is found. The carving is situated where the wet patch is on the centre of the rocks.



The carving of the man.



The man viewed to North West.



The man viewed to north.



The head, showing the unusual “sad” mouth of the carving.
Most carvings of people do not include the mouth, it is mostly found
on representations of Baiame.



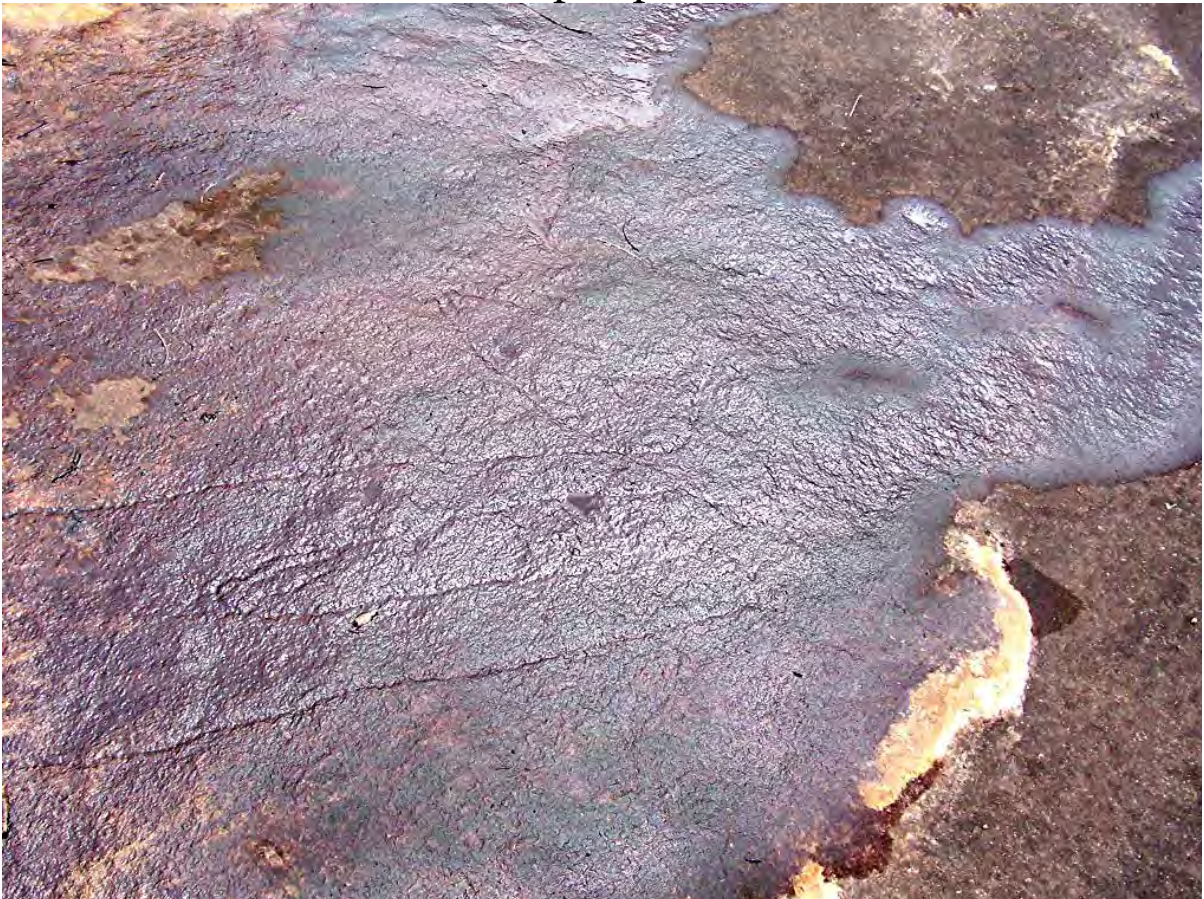
This footprint is located one meter right of the man's head.



The footprint showing the relationship with the man also the finger on the right hand can be seen.



The unusual shaped penis of the man.



The feet of the man showing also a footprint or a fish near his left foot.



The footprint or fish.

Engravings of footprints are known as 'Mundoes' which was an Aboriginal word meaning foot. Mundoes can have several meanings such as marking a route to travel, marking the path culture heroes travelled across the land. Sometimes, depending on the culture hero, mundoes change into the tracks of an emu or kangaroo.

A SMALL ROCK SHELTER OVERLOOKING PEARL BEACH
VILLAGE.

This rock shelter with several hand stencils is located at the end of a rocky outcrop and overlooks the village of Pearl Beach.



The rock shelter viewed to east.



A view inside the rock shelter. The shelter has a steeply sloping floor.



Two hand stencils on the shelter wall.



Two stencils on the roof at the rear of the shelter.



A faint stencil on the roof in the middle section of the shelter.



The stencils on the wall and also another stencil higher up near the roof section.



Faint stencils on the roof section.



A large stencil on the roof which appears to have six fingers.



A close up of the six fingered stencil.



A partial stencil on the roof and possibly a second one in white.



A small pecked out engraving in the entrance of the shelter.
It appears to be a small eel or snake.



A close up of the engraving it is about 60 cm in length.



White clay marks above the entrance which may be art but could be graffiti.



A view into the shelter.



A view from further away.



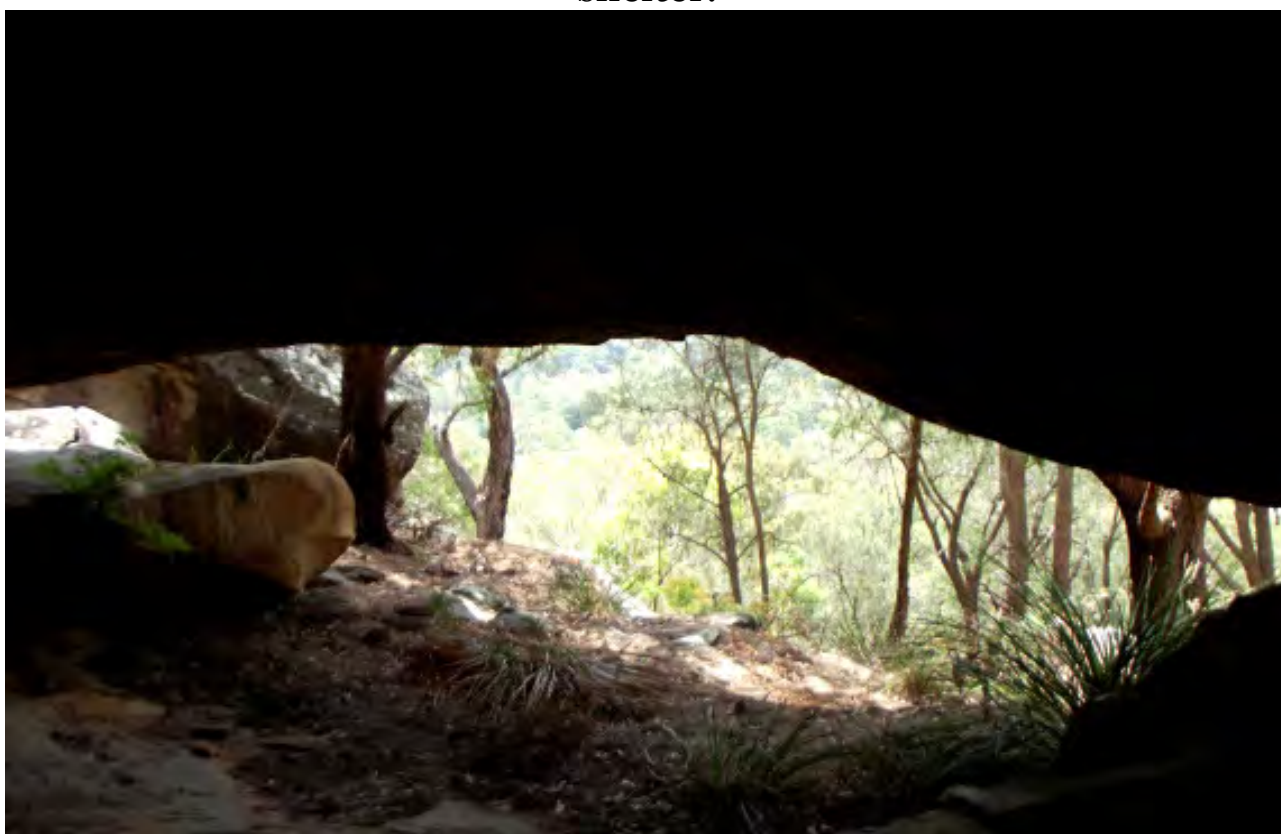
A view of the Pacific Ocean from the top of the shelter.
An observer watching from this position on 2nd May 1770 would
have observed the HMS. Endeavour under the command of Lieut.
James Cook sailing past northwards on his voyage of discovery.



A view to south from the top of the shelter. Lion Island is in the foreground. An observer watching from this point on 2nd. March 1788 would have observed the long boat containing Governor Phillip and his party as they approached their position on the other side of this point where they anchored and made first contact with the Aboriginal people from the Broken Bay region.



A small cave about 10 m. in front of the shelter contains several very old shells though there seems to be no midden associated with the shelter.



A view from inside the shelter looking out over the village of Pearl Beach.