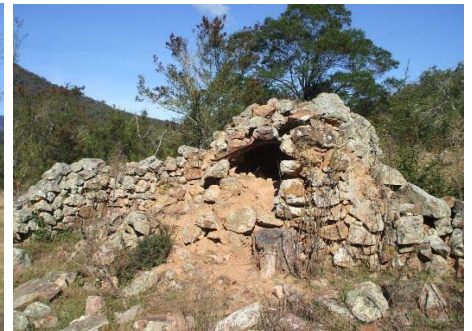


BENDEThERA

DEUA NATIONAL PARK

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN



ngh heritage

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Executive Summary

The Bendethera homestead precinct is an iconic example of a former pastoral homestead station with associated stock yards, gravesites and other remnants. The place is important culturally in terms of specific sites and as a cultural landscape of remote, cleared river flats.

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) provides a conservation analysis and assessment of the pastoral history of Bendethera, including the physical evidence and associated social values, to assist in the management of the historic heritage assets within Deua National Park. Specifically, the Plan provides a cultural assessment of the Bendethera homestead precinct and the adjacent cleared flat areas.

Only the old bread oven, water race, yards (partially reconstructed) adjacent stand of exotic mature trees, cleared river flats with regrowth occurring and a George family member's grave remain as evidence of the former Bendethera farm site. There are a number of additional features in the valley area including bridle tracks, caves, mining shafts, Aboriginal sites and old cuttings in the area. Although discussed in this CMP, they do not form part a central part of the Plan's assessment.

The CMP identifies and provides management guidance and policies for achieving a sustainable long-term conservation of the historic heritage of the Bendethera homestead precinct and landscape. The CMP also identifies cultural tourism and interpretation opportunities and any issues and constraints arising from these opportunities.

The CMP finds that the Bendethera homestead and landscape is historically significant as one of the earliest inland farming properties of the south coast on the Deua River. The history of the place demonstrates the major processes of early European settlement of an isolated pastoral station. Bendethera has strong associations with early pastoral families who were significant in the early settlement and development of the area, particularly Joseph George.

The historic landscape of Bendethera that includes the cleared grassed paddocks surrounding the homestead area and the valley, ringed by forested mountain ranges is significant because it has changed little since it was the site of the first settlement.

As the Bendethera homestead precinct contains no extant sizeable structures, recommended policy actions do not require detailed interventions that involve works to buildings. It is, however, recommended that the conservation policies contained in this CMP be used to guide future works at the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is required by the NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC) for the Bendethera homestead precinct, a former pastoral settlement that is now part of Deua National Park. The CMP for Bendethera provides an analysis of the historic and physical evidence of the place to assess its heritage significance within the context of Deua National Park.

The Escarpment Parks Draft Plan of Management (2006) includes Deua National Park and identifies the need for the development and implementation of a conservation management plan for Bendethera that protects its cultural heritage values, maintains the essential open character of Bendethera, and ensures that recreational and camping activities have minimal impact on the environment. The Far South Coast Region Cultural Heritage Management Strategy (2003) identifies the Bendethera homestead precinct as a 'high priority historic heritage place/landscape to be actively managed' and identifies the preparation of a CMP as a high priority action.

The Bendethera Valley is described as being of particular significance as it conserves both the evidence and the physical setting of grazing, mining and tourist activities in a location which is remote from both the coast and tablelands (NPWS 1990).

1.2 PLAN OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this CMP is to undertake a conservation analysis of the pastoral history of Bendethera, including the physical evidence and associated social values to assist in the management of the historic heritage assets within Deua National Park. To meet this objective, the following briefed objectives have been addressed in this CMP:

- to ensure balanced and compatible management of cultural and natural values;
- to consider the cultural significance of Bendethera and its landscape as an individual place as well as being part of a broader suite of places managed by DECC PWG; and
- to develop forward-looking strategic management policies within the context of legislative requirements, the DECC PWG management framework and stakeholder issues.

The key outcomes of the CMP as per the brief are:

- the long term conservation of the Bendethera homestead precinct within the context of the valley and wider Deua National Park;
- provision of a long term management focus for the Bendethera homestead precinct; and
- ensuring best practice management of integrated heritage values in, and adjacent to the site.

1.3 METHODOLOGY & REPORT STRUCTURE

The methodology adopted is in accordance with the guidelines of the Burra Charter (ICOMOS Australia) and NSW Heritage Branch guidelines as outlined in the NSW Heritage Manual. The CMP is also prepared in line with the principles set out by J.S. Kerr in 'The Conservation Plan' (2000).

The Plan includes the following sections:

- Section 1 provides introductory sections to the CMP;
- Section 2 of the CMP provides an historical overview of the place;
- Section 3 includes an overview of the physical evidence of the place;
- Section 4 provides information relevant to the management framework for the site. This includes legislation and other non-statutory items such as the Draft Plan of Management;
- Section 5 provides an assessment of the place's significance. The place is assessed against the NSW Heritage Office Assessment Criteria [as set out in the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*]. This section also includes a comparative analysis of two similar sites, and concludes with a Summary Statement of Significance;
- Section 6 states the head policy for management and more detailed site specific policies guiding management of the place; and
- Section 7 details the implementation of any works including more immediate action in the first year of the plan, along with other actions for years 2 to 5 of the CMP.

1.4 LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

The Deua National Park lies inland from the coastal towns of Moruya and Narooma on the South Coast of New South Wales, about 100km south east of Canberra. The Deua River rises high in the mountains south-east of Bendethera and then meanders north through a deep valley on its long journey to the coast where it flows into the sea at Moruya Heads as the Moruya River.

The study area is centred within the Bendethera homestead precinct, located in the Bendethera Valley adjacent to the Deua River in Deua National Park (refer Fig 1.1) and includes the river flats from the first river crossing to the end of the valley near the start of the bridle track that heads in a northerly direction.

Figure 1.2 shows an aerial photograph image of the cleared section of the Bendethera Valley with prominent features indicated. The location of the main water race (lighter blue lines) was difficult to follow in parts and its route is based on a number of coordinates taken on-site.

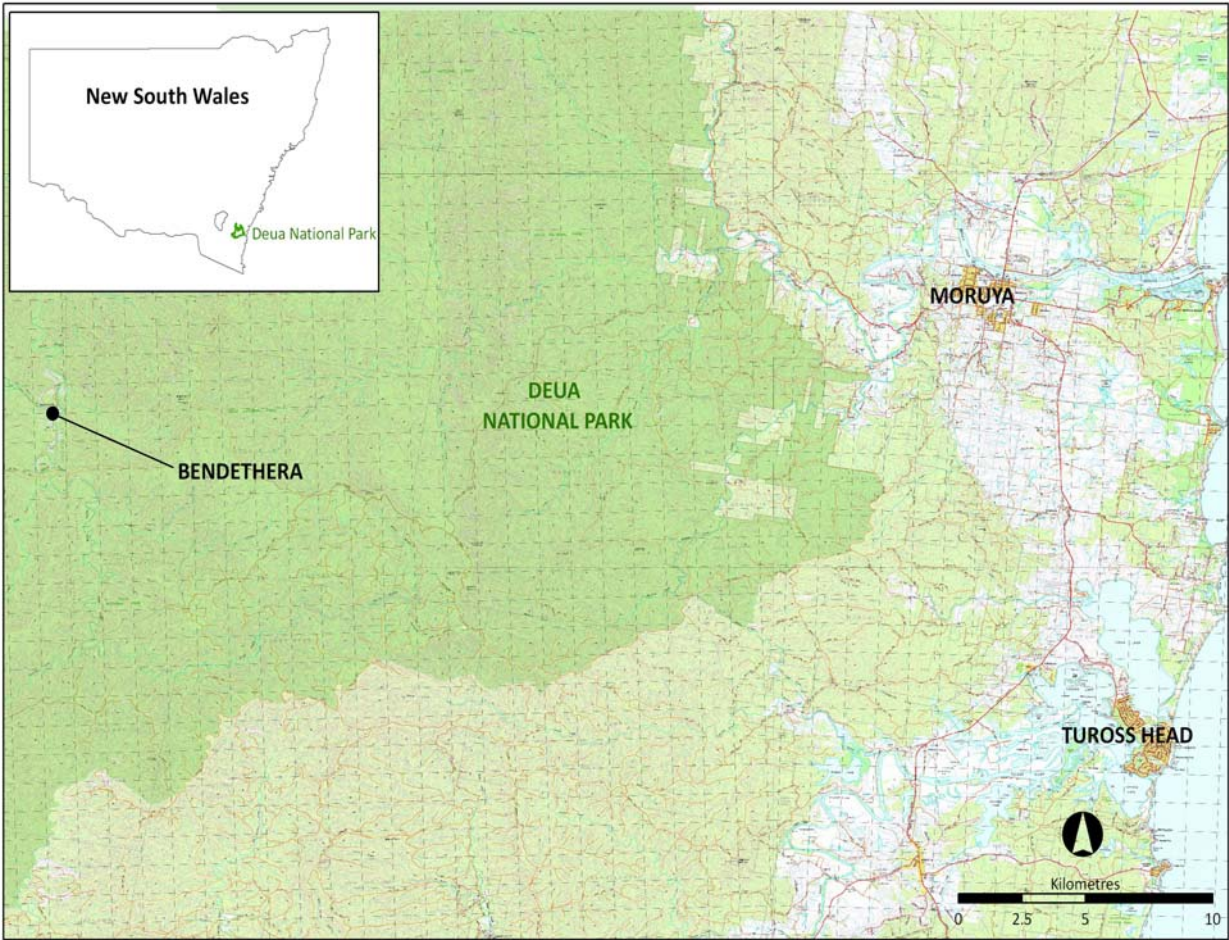


Figure 1.1. Regional location of Bendethera within Deua National Park, located inland from Moruya on the NSW South Coast

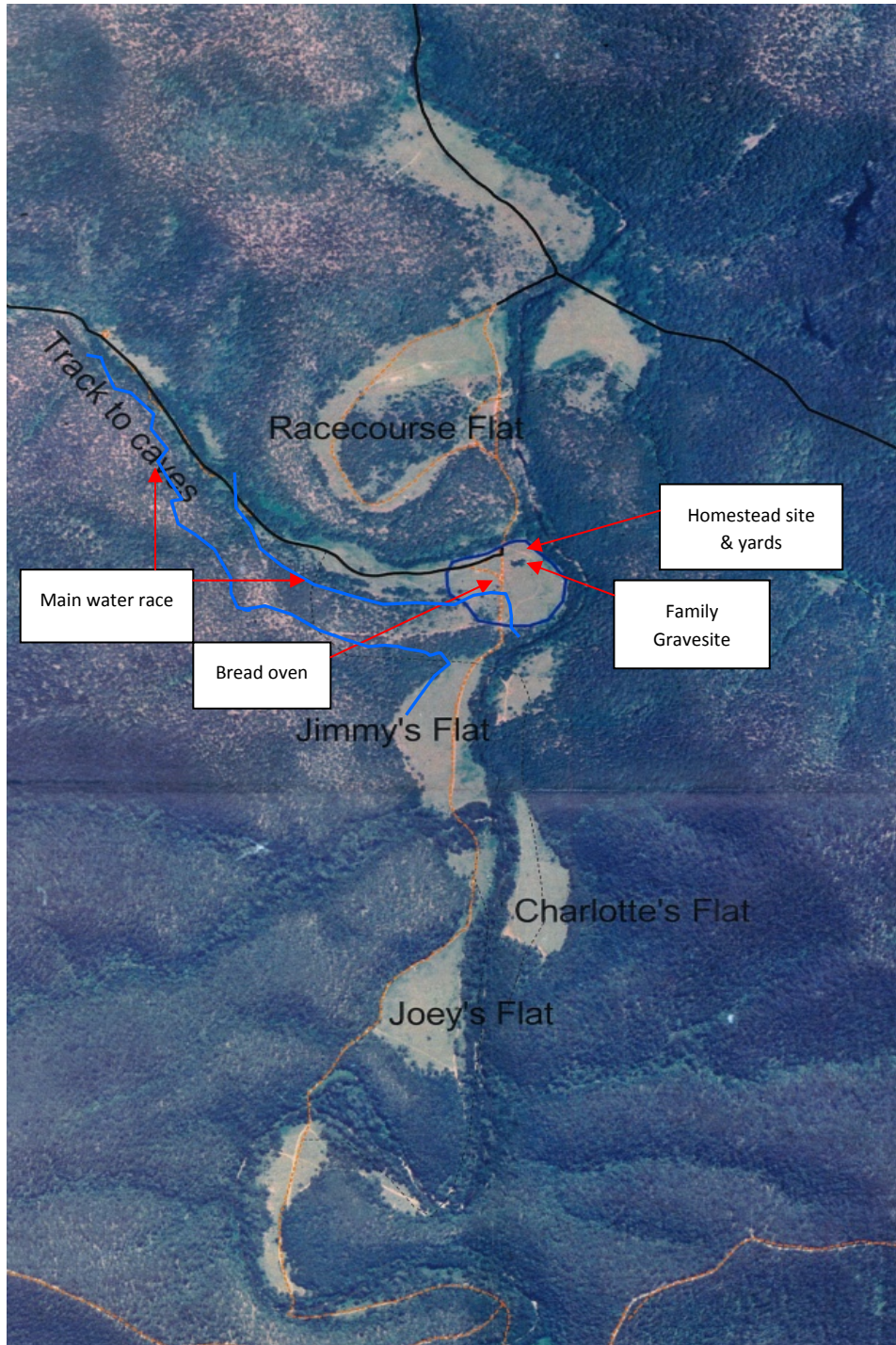


Figure 1.2. Aerial photograph highlighting the main cleared areas (flats) within the Bendethera Valley (dark blue circle indicates the central location of the 'homestead precinct').

(Source: DECC)

1.5 EXISTING HERITAGE RECOGNITION

Bendethera is included as a heritage item in the following heritage registers:

- the DECC Heritage and Conservation Register, under s.170 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*; and
- the entire area of Deua National Park (DNP) is listed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE). The RNE does not, however, place any legal constraints or controls on the actions of state or local governments.

Other individual elements of the Bendethera Valley are listed on the Eurobodalla Local Environment Plan (LEP) as heritage items (see Appendix A for details). These are listed as:

- Bendethera area bridle track network;
- George family grave;
- Bendethera farm water race; and
- Bendethera bakery oven (referred to as bread oven in this CMP).

The Bendethera area (or any part of the DNP) is not listed or nominated to the National Heritage List (NHL) or Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

1.6 ACRONYMS

DECC - Department of Environment & Climate Change

PWG – Parks & Wildlife Group (former NPWS)

NPWS – National Parks & Wildlife Service (now part of DECC PWG)

CHD – Cultural & Heritage Division (DECC)

DNP – Deua National Park

DoP – Department of Planning

CMP – Conservation Management Plan

FSCCHMS – Far South Coast Region Cultural Heritage Management Strategy

PoM – Plan of Management

1.7 PLACE NAMES

The following details on place names in the region have been sourced from the Geographical Names Board (GNB).

Alpine & Canoolie

Both of these properties were located close to Bendethera and were also accessible by bridle tracks. One of the bridle tracks from Bendethera went to Araleun via the Deua River and was

primarily a mail route, but was also used for other purposes. It was the shortest and most accessible route from Bendethera to "Canoolie" and "Alpine" farms and on to Araluen.

Araluen

A village on Araluen Creek about 10km south-east of the village of Majors Creek. The origins are Aboriginal (native pronunciation Arr-ol-yin) signifying a place where water lilies abound - *Nymphaea alba* - the seeds of which were a favourite food of Aboriginal people.

Bendethera

The area (or pastoral station) known as Bendethera has also been known in the past as, 'Bendethra' (of Welsh origin), 'Bendithera' and at least in one instance 'Bendithey'.

Bendethera Caves

The system of caves at Bendethera are located about 4km WNW of Bendethera in the eastern slopes of Minuma Range overlooking Con Creek. The Bendethera Main Cave is by far the most visited cave in the system, mainly due to it being easily accessible to visitors to the area.

Con Creek

Con Creek flows into the Deua River at the Bendethera homestead precinct. The creek is described as a partly perennial stream, rising on the eastern slopes of the Minuma Range about 6km north-west of Bendethera. It flows south-east for its duration into the Deua River.

Deua River

The Deua River that flows throughout the Bendethera Valley area is described as a perennial stream rising about 5km south east of Bendethera Mountain. It flows generally south, west, north, north east, south southeast and east, making almost a complete circuit, for about 80 km to become the Moruya River at about Kiora, the Moruya River being the tidal estuary of this stream.

Krawarree

Locality at the junction of Shoalhaven River and Krawarree Creek. Boundaries now within the Palerang Shire Council area.

Little Con Creek

Little Con Creek is a partly perennial stream rising on the eastern slopes of Minuma Range about 2km north-east of Dampier Trig Station (GNB 2008). It flows generally north-east for about 6km into Con Creek.

Majors Creek

Previously known as 'Erlington', Majors Creek is a village about 9.5km north-west of Araluen. The creek is named after Major Edward Parke, the earliest squatter in the area.

Moruya

A town on the Moruya River about 7km from its mouth and 322km south Sydney. Presumably Aboriginal in origin, however 'where black swans meet' and 'place down south' aren't probable meanings and are not verified.

Nerrigundah

A village on Gulph Creek about 13km west of Bodalla. Aboriginal meaning: camp where edible berries grow.

1.8 CMP LIMITATIONS

This CMP is limited to assessing the significance of the pastoral history of the Bendethera homestead precinct, including its curtilage and landscape setting. This includes the cleared valley 'flats' (paddocks) within the area. The CMP is primarily concerned with historic (in this case, European) cultural heritage significance.

The importance of the bridle track network is discussed in this CMP, and the importance of these tracks should not be underestimated. Although discussed within the context of the place, it is not within the scope of this CMP to fully assess the significance of the surrounding bridle tracks near Bendethera. Furthermore, the bridle tracks would require separate assessment and planning due to the cross-tenure management issues.

A detailed pre-history and history of mining was also beyond the scope of the CMP and thus has not been investigated in detail. The history provided deals primarily with post-contact European events relating to the families that settled at Bendethera from the 1860s up to 1979.

The lack of documents typically associated with the Bendethera buildings and other site elements has inhibited research to a degree. However, this has been balanced by the wealth of material gained from secondary sources and through personal histories with people who have had an association with the place.

1.9 AUTHORSHIP

This document has been prepared by **ngh**heritage and has been reviewed by Peter Freeman Pty. Ltd. Conservation Architects and Planners.

1.10 PREVIOUS STUDIES

No previous CMP has been prepared for Bendethera. The historical account '*Bendethera: Deua National Park*' by research historian Barbara Le Maistre (1992) has been a major source for historical background for this CMP, along with several other secondary resources, as documented in Section 8.

1.11 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people and organisations have assisted in the preparation of this Plan by providing additional information and comments. Their time and assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

They include:

Cath Lawler, Bodalla
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Moruya District Historical Society
Katrina Stankowski, Cultural & Heritage Division, DECC

Lucy Gibson, Ranger, Far South Coast Region (Narooma), DECC
Chris Griffiths, Ranger, Far South Coast Region (Narooma), DECC

All people with an association and special attachment to Bendethera who provided valuable feedback and attended the on-site day on 23rd August 2008 organised by DECC Narooma (refer to Appendix C for photos). The day was organised to assist in the preparations for this CMP and as a day to gather people who share a common interest and appreciation of this special place. Your input was very much appreciated.

2 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

2.1 PRE-CONTACT

Aboriginal cultures along the Far South Coast are diverse and arguably represented by many tribal groups making up the Yuin Nation. Evidence suggests that Aboriginal people have had a long and continuous association with the region for many thousands of years resulting in many rich and varied cultures whose impacts, influence and traditional knowledge have extended to every part of the land and surrounding sea (DECC 2003).

Aboriginal people travelled up and down the south coast escarpment along well-worn pathways between the coast and the Monaro Tablelands to attend ceremonies, conduct trade and gather seasonal food (DECC 2006). Although the first contacts with Aboriginal people were made by coastal explorers at the end of the 18th century, it wasn't until the 1830s and 40s that the first squatters established a permanent European presence in the region. Throughout the region there were complex patterns of Aboriginal group movements and intermarriage. The mapping of the smaller groups within Yuin country is problematic for a range of reasons. As Goulding & Waters (2005) point out, two of the major factors are the contradictory nature of the documentary sources, and the fact that the documentation occurred many decades after European intrusion and the consequent disruption of group boundaries.

The pattern of known occupational sites in the area is of larger sites along the rivers and their deep valleys and small, short-stay camps on the high ridges and saddles. It is suggested that Aboriginal people may have set out from these river-side camps, climbing along the tops of ridges to hunt wallabies and possums and venturing into the shady, forested gullies for berries and fern hearts (Byrne, 1984). The areas now within DNP, including Bendethera, may have been visited as part of seasonal movements, with large gatherings on the coast in spring and summer and smaller groups hunting, fishing and collecting plant foods in the forested hinterland in autumn and winter. Intertribal gatherings with groups from further afield to perform ceremonies and trade goods may have taken place at certain times of the year, as ridgelines in the area are likely to have provided routes between the coast and the tablelands.

Within the broader context of the south coast it is clear that the Aboriginal people of the region travelled throughout the coastal zone and west into the Monaro Tablelands for a variety of reasons. These journeys were necessitated by resource sharing (e.g. whale meat, fish flushes, bogong moths) and ceremonial purposes, including initiation and warfare. Patterns of movement along the coast and between the coast and the Monaro hinterlands existed long before European arrival in the area. Such patterns of movement have persisted to the present day although the form and ostensible reasons for the movement have altered over time. Although this history of Bendethera is confined to the area of the Eurobodalla Shire it should be remembered that such boundaries are the product of European structures and cannot relate to the patterns of pre-contact Aboriginal life. Aboriginal people and communities within the Eurobodalla area continue to operate today, as they did in the past, as part of a broad network of community and kinship extending south and north along the coast and inland to the tablelands (Goulding & Waters 2005).

Aboriginal sites have been recorded mostly in places which provide easy access to a wide range of food resources and have level, well drained ground suitable for camping. Such sites commonly consist of scatters of stone artefacts manufactured from river bed pebbles and cobbles. Quartz, quartzite, jasper, mudstone and silcrete are common rock types used in the manufacture of artefacts found on river flats and their surrounds, while quartz from reef outcrops was commonly used to make artefacts which occur as small scatters along ridgelines and in saddles on the ranges. Artefacts and burials are known from the Wyanbene Karst area, indicating that karst areas and associated cave systems (such as Bendethera) were also used (NPWS 1990). The types of stone tools present suggest that most of the evidence of occupation dates to the last few thousand years. The area may have been visited sporadically before then. The caves at Bendethera have both ceremonial and spiritual significance to Aboriginal people. Waterways and caves near Bendethera were believed to cure many ailments and had ceremonial importance for newly-married couples (DECC 2006).

In 1886 a *Moruya Examiner* correspondent reported that he had been shown two mounds of stone supposed to be the resting place of two aboriginals in the Bendethera area. One of the tribe was known to have always placed an additional stone on the mounds (Moruya and District Historical Society, *Then and Now*, 1988). One of the mountains behind Bendethera, Gin Mountain, and at least one of the caves have Aboriginal spiritual significance.

The first documentary record of the Aboriginal people of the Eurobodalla coast was the sighting of a number of individuals on the beach in 1770. In this year Lieutenant James Cook and his crew sailed up the south coast on board the *Endeavour*; they did not land but did record seeing five Aboriginal people standing on the shore in the general vicinity of Bateman's Bay on the 22nd of April of that year (Goulding & Waters 2005). In 1822, the ship *Snapper* returned to the Bay to record further information on the possibilities for European settlement in the area. It was further reported that in 1822 a young man by the name of William Kearns travelled, at the instigation of the explorer Charles Throsby, from Lake George to a hill around nine miles south of Bateman's Bay. He is stated to have not gone any further south, "... because of the reputed hostility of the natives in this area" (Goulding & Waters 2005).

As discussed, there was no permanent European settlement impacting directly on the lives of the Aboriginal people of the Eurobodalla area until the late 1820s. However, there was a considerable amount of interaction with Europeans travelling along the coast, for a variety of reasons, in the preceding decades (Goulding & Waters 2005). For example, the arrival of pastoralists and timber getters on the NSW far south coast in the period from 1800 to the mid-1840s resulted in the introduction of new diseases and conflict between the settlers and the Yuin people. During this period, there was a marked decline in the Yuin population. Many Aboriginal people succumbed to disease and there is also anecdotal evidence that massacres occurred in the area (DECC 2006).

Despite the significant changes resulting from European colonisation, the Yuin have survived, and have retained their tribal identity. The transfer of traditional knowledge continues amongst contemporary Aboriginal people, and there is considerable interest in retaining links with country and culture. It is recognised that Aboriginal people have a strong attachment through spiritual

and cultural links with the whole landscape, and to specific locations within the Bendethera valley.

2.2 EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

2.2.1 General

In 1829 the settled area of the colony of New South Wales was divided into nineteen counties. Settlement, including pastoral occupation, was officially forbidden in the area outside the nineteen counties. The boundary of these counties was known as the 'Limits of Location', the southern boundary being the Moruya River (Goulding & Waters 2005). The passing of the Robertson Land Acts in 1861 resulted in changing land use patterns, closer settlement and restricted access by Yuin people to many places in their country.

Throughout the 1830s the extent of European settlement steadily grew. Much of the movement of people and stock into the area came down from the tablelands via Braidwood and Araluen while others came by sea. Throughout the nineteenth, and well into the twentieth century, the sea was the focus of south coast settlement with settlers relying on it for the majority of their transport needs (Goulding & Waters 2005). It was the discovery of gold in the Deua River at Araluen in 1851 which led to the opening up of the wider region for farming. Farmers were able to make a living by supplying goods to the Araluen miners and later to the miners at Nerrigundah, when gold was discovered there in 1861.

The isolation of Bendethera throughout history has put social constraints on its early European settlers, however this isolation has also engendered a great love for the place. There have never been any immediate adjoining neighbours to the valley. Bendethera was not located far from settlements that existed earlier, however the difficult terrain unsuited for European use isolated the valley and made it, and other Deua Valley holdings, remote pockets in otherwise forested, mountainous country.

It is known that the more accessible inland areas reached via Araluen and coastal areas behind Moruya were taken up earlier than the more remote areas like Bendethera (Le Maistre 1992). The Araluen area, around 25kms from Bendethera, was occupied earlier by squatters and after the gold rushes and under the 1861 land legislation, became even more densely settled. The 1861 Acts had an impact on the South Coast with the movement of small scale settlers into the region in the 1860s as the large pastoral leases began to be broken up into small allotments. In the period from 1860 to 1900 a shift occurred over much of the area under consideration from pastoralism to agriculture, intensive grazing and associated activities (ie. cropping and pig raising) as the primary form of European land use.

The historic bridle tracks in the region were first established to provide access to farming properties, such as Bendethera, from the mid-1880s (NPWS 2000). When settled in the 1860s, Bendethera had limited access via a bridle track from Moruya, the only way to transport produce to markets. The bridle track from the Deua River to Araluen was used to supply the goldfields area with food grown locally at Bendethera. Other nearby historic properties to the north such as 'Alpine' and 'Canoolie' were also accessible by bridle tracks during this period.

The Bendethera bridle tracks played a large role in opening up the goldfields and Monaro Tablelands to settlement, trade and economic growth in the 1850s and 1860s. These tracks were integral to the development of the Shire and provided an opportunity for the transportation of goods and stock from the tablelands to the coast (ESC 1997). As the Deua River Valley lies between Moruya and Krawarree, it was also necessary to build access bridle tracks to link Bendethera with Krawarree and Moruya (Le Maistre 1992). It is still possible to identify the bridle path from Bendethera to Moruya, along which animals were driven up the steep mountain side, eventually to be shipped to Sydney, however the track that we see today is not necessarily the same one that was first used, as the track that is visible was put in by a bulldozer in the late 1960s.

The other main bridle track routes went along the Deua River south to Belowra and then on to Cobargo using the stock routes. This route provided access to land used for cattle grazing on the Deua at Georges Creek junction and to the miners at Nerrigundah. The tracks were regularly used for the transportation of supplies and stock through the area between the coast and tablelands. They continue to be traversed on horse-back and provide a great opportunity to see the scenic South Coast hinterland (ESC 1997).

The distance from Moruya and Araluen did not completely isolate the families who lived at Bendethera from the towns. The George and Rankin families, who lived at Bendethera, were active members of the Catholic Church at Moruya. When the George and Rankin families lived at Bendethera the priest from Moruya visited quarterly. Although the railway from Sydney to Nowra was completed in 1893, it was many years before road transportation to Moruya was to become a popular means of travel. At that time, overland communication to districts south of Nowra was still by means of the series of bridle tracks from the tablelands.

2.2.2 Joseph George

Joseph George was born in 1833 to parents John and Mary at Liverpool in Sydney. His father, John, was from Wiltshire in southern England and was sentenced at Oxford in 1818 for robbery and sent to Australia aboard the General Stuart (refer to Appendix B).

Joseph moved with his family to Majors Creek and at the age of 15 he met his wife to be, Mary Hart (b.1838). They were married at Majors Creek on 16 September 1855 (refer to Appendix B). Their first child, John J, was born in 1856, followed by Thomas (1858) and Joseph Francis (1860).

Joseph George was a butcher by trade, and he and Mary opened a butcher shop at Merricumbene, located between Moruya and Araluen. Local traditions have it that Joseph George tracked a horse stolen from him by an Aboriginal at Merricumbene up the Deua River to the river flats at Bendethera, and it was then he realised the unoccupied site's potential value. His financial ability to establish a station probably came from earlier trading in foodstuffs on the Araluen goldfields, and subsequently his fortunes depended upon the large numbers of miners at fields in the Araluen and Moruya Districts creating a large market for meat and other food products (Reid 1992; Le Maistre 1992).

The journal of Joseph George suggests that he went to Bendethera in March and April 1863 and set up his holding. He reported employing a John McTavish as a carpenter to build a house for £2

a week in 1863 (Le Maistre 1992). He is most likely to have taken up land under the Crown Lands Occupation Act, 1861, soon after it was enacted and around the same time as land was selected on the Krawarree Run. Although the George family was the first to officially settle at Bendethera, it is known from John Lambie's itineraries in the squatting district of Maneroo that as far back as 1839 a David Drummond was living here with reportedly just 2 head of cattle. The place was then recorded as 'Bendithey'. We also know that Stewart Ryrrie, a sketcher, surveyor and pastoralist, who visited and mapped the area in 1840 as part of his travels of stations in the south east of the state.

Joseph and Mary took up their land and also leased a total of 840 acres in the area. During this time they had more children with James Richard George born in December 1861, however young James seems to not be included in later records (Reid 1992). There is a baby's grave south east of the home site (Figure 2.1), which is believed to be that of James. Another James George was born later in 1882 to Joseph and Mary.

Other children of Joseph and Mary included Mary Ann (1863), Daranda (1866), Charlotte (1867), Benjamin (1869), Randolph (1871), Charles William (1874), Hannah (1876), Maria Louise (1878), James Sydney (1882), and Ernest (1884) (refer to Appendix B for full George family history chart). The children were able to work on the property and each had a paddock to cultivate and look after (Reid 1992).



*Figure 2.1. Gravesite of James Richard George
(c.1988 – source unknown)*

The George family was known to have operated a very efficient, productive farm. Joseph George and other farmers downstream along the Deua were responsible for the establishment and upkeep of the bridle tracks, many of which are still in existence today. The bridle tracks out of Bendethera comprised of four main transport routes from the valley. Some of these are noted on the parish plans including George's Pack Track. One of the bridle tracks went to Cooma and the tablelands via Con Creek, the Bendethera Caves and Minuma Range Fire Trail. Another track went to Araleun via the Deua River and was primarily a mail route, but was also used for other

purposes. It was the shortest and most accessible route from Bendethera to "Canoolie" and "Alpine" farms and on to Araleun (ESC 1997).

During 1863 Joseph employed several workers to help construct his first home on the flat ground near Con Creek (Le Maistre 1992). This has been previously reported to be located near the old bread oven upslope from the flats near the existing yards. However, nothing is known of this first home and it is more likely that there was just the one homestead built, near the existing yards (Fig 2.2). This is based on historic photographs, plans and discussions with people who have a historic association of the place. One historical account of Bendethera (Le Maistre 1992) says that at the end of the 1960s the homestead was lost in a bushfire, probably being the original house. This, however, is likely to be referring to the house built near the existing yards, as it is widely known to have been destroyed in a fire in 1969. There are accounts this was deliberate, however this cannot be confirmed.

When Joseph George first went to Bendethera, there were about 1600 Europeans and 1000 Chinese at Araluen (Le Maistre 1992). Whilst the move from Merricumbene to Bendethera took him a greater distance away from the Araluen market, the George's were now well located for Moruya and Nerrigundah (formerly known as 'The Gulph') which had also developed from 1861. Overall, Bendethera was an excellent location for a meat producer trading to more than one gold field. Joseph's journal suggests that he kept 40 or so pack horses at Bendethera and that he also purchased large parcels of fish at Moruya in the cool months of July and August and carted them to Araluen for sale to miners, thereby broadening his range of food for sale.



Figure 2.2. The Bendethera homestead located near the yards

(c.1962 – Source: Bill Crowley)

This carting and trading business with local gold fields explains Joseph's crop production at Bendethera. While Bendethera was too remote to be a successful wheat farm, Joseph George had 17 acres under wheat by 1886 (Le Maistre 1992). He needed the wheat for chaff to feed his large number of pack horses on their long trips to and from gold fields. When the horses were not carting they could also have been used for improvements at Bendethera.

The George family also bred horses, sold produce to Araluen, Nerrigundah and Moruya, including bacon, corn, wattle bark, chaff, wheat, kept pigs, bullocks, cows and calves. They had the benefit of irrigation from Con Creek and the Deua River. They grew wheat to take to Goulburn for flour production, a lot of corn and oats to feed pigs, chooks, turkeys and many other vegetables including potato and pumpkin. They also made their own cheese and cured their own ham to make bacon. There were also orchards on the property (pers.comm. Cath Lawler).

The digging of the shallow gravity flow water races carried water for at least a mile from Little Con Creek (Figure 2.3). This watering system is so substantial that it has left the strongest marks of any activity at Bendethera. This system involved a holding dam, a race running about a mile from Little Con Creek, and a contour race high up on the ploughed and cleared paddocks, well above the river slopes. Wide flow paths, still visible today, controlled by raised earth running down in parallel bands about fifty feet apart to the edge of the river banks may also have been fed from the system.

The water race is believed to have been constructed by miners out of work who gained temporary employment for a period at Bendethera. The race carried water from the creek and irrigated the paddocks, particularly during drought conditions (Reid 1992).



Figure 2.3. Small section of the original water race at Bendethera near the old bread oven

(G Shaw 2008)

The uniformity of depth of ditches and shape of banks suggest that it was done with a ridging plough drawn by a team of bullocks. Joseph George could have done the digging himself using his own bullocks or packhorses when they were not required for carting and a small amount of labouring help (Le Maistre 1992). The work could have been done with a ridging plough, also known as a lister, ditcher, middlebreaker, and double mould board or drill plough. Ridging ploughs could be used for running out water channels as well as preparing for root crops (Figure 2.4).

As the George children grew older they were told they each had a paddock to cultivate and look after. It is also known that the Connell's and the Clarke bushranging brothers helped out at Bendethera. In the George's family diary there is reference to these men working for Joseph (Reid 1992).



Figure 2.4. Channels or flow paths for cultivation still present on the old homestead flats

(G Shaw 2008)

Each flat (paddock) also had its own name. One was called Racecourse Flat, as people came from miles around for social gatherings including horse races in the 1880's, and most of the others were named after the children (Figure 2.5). Cath Lawler, a descendant of the Rankin family who took over Bendethera following the George occupancy recalls the big hill over the Racecourse flat was known as the grandstand, and races were held throughout the area at other properties.

In 1889 Joseph George moved to secure as much land as he could under the 1884 Crown Lands Act when his existing lease terminated. Part of the original lease was resumed for mineral leases and public recreation after early 1889 newspaper reports of the wonders of the caves and the potential for silver mining. In the typical traditions of 19th century land selecting, improvements were often made with family labour.

When local markets on the gold fields collapsed by the end of the 1880s the George family began promoting silver mining and cave tourism at Bendethera (Figure 2.6). Joseph was committed to his Bendethera holding and tried to move his production and income bases to new industries to compensate for market losses rather than relocate using his industrial knowledge (Le Maistre 1992).

From 1889 Joseph George entertained journalists who wrote about cave tourism and mining ventures. For a short while income from these activities supplemented cattle grazing and subsistence cropping. Firstly, mining was unsuccessful, then Benjamin George's caretakership of the caves for the Department of Mines was terminated in the early 20th century because the relatively small numbers of visitors did not warrant government expenditure on a caretaker's wage.

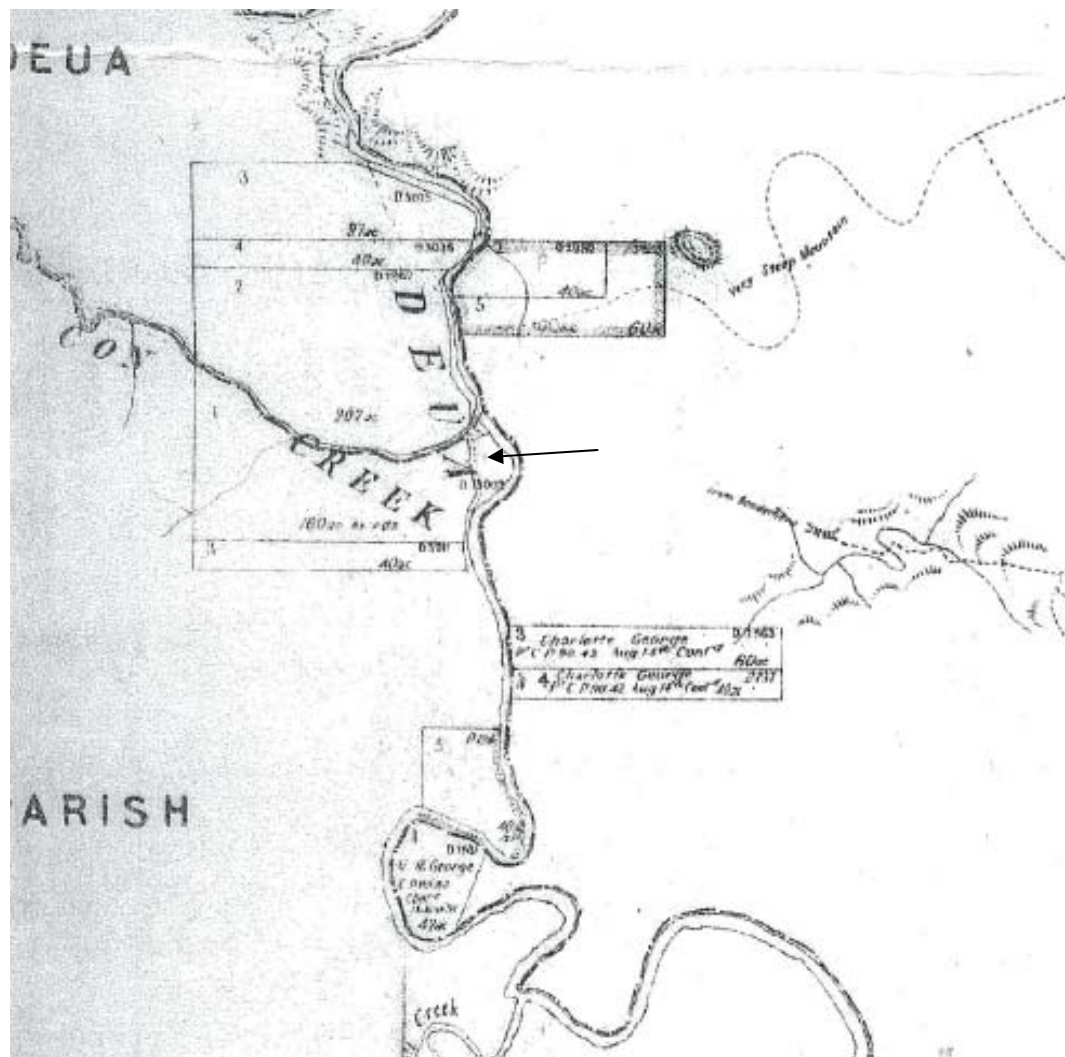


Figure 2.5. Part of the Parish Plan of 1913 showing some of the paddocks (flats) in the Bendethera Valley, centred on the homestead precinct (marked by black arrow)

(Source: Dept of Lands)



Figure 2.6. Early cave party at Bendethera c.1890s (Source: DECC Narooma)

Joseph George remains the most dominant figure in the story of Bendethera. He died on 27 April 1909 at Gunday, aged 76 years. Mary George died in 1908, aged 70 years. Both are buried at Moruya. Their son Randolph George later bought Bendethera back at auction. He left it to his brother Charles' two sons, who then sold it to Allan Rankin in 1939 for £500.

2.2.3 The Rankin Occupancy

Along with the George family, the Rankin family has also been of great significance in the history of Bendethera and other land in the Deua Valley. At least one of the holdings near Bendethera was in the hands of the Rankin family before they acquired title to Bendethera (Canoolie). The Rankin's are also credited with being in the area from 1876 (Le Maistre 1992), however as with the George occupancy, this is likely to have been earlier to coincide with the implications of the Lands Acts of 1861.

When the Rankin family first selected land in the Deua River Valley north of Bendethera along the river flats, they did not own any part of Bendethera at that time. Cath Lawler, of Bodalla, whose mother was a Rankin, recalls that they not only had their own land, but held many leases throughout the area.

John and Elizabeth Rankin lived in the Bendethera homestead until 1938 while the place was still owned by the George family and leased to John's brother, Allan Rankin. There is no information about when the Rankin's moved to Bendethera. It was not considered a highly productive property at this time. In fact in 1938 Allan Rankin (senior) owed Randolph George £100; his promissory note was outstanding when Randolph died. A copy of James George's letter to the executor included in George Randolph George's deceased estate papers details the close financial relationships between the two families:

Dear Sir,

I hear you are executor to the estate of the late G.R. George and I am putting in a claim for £3 wages due for ten days work. The late Randolph George arranged for me to go and work for Allan Rankin Jnr while Rankin mustered his (Randolph's) bullocks and took them up to Braidwood for sale. He said he would

pay me when he came out to Bendithera after the sale, but he got too sick and did not come out. Allan Rankin knows the arrangements made. (signed) James Sydney George [Deceased Estate Papers, G.R. George, NSW Archives Authority]

Allan and Catherine Rankin (nee Ryan) and children continued to live on the family property north of Bendethera. Their children included Allen, Bill, Lily, Vera, Kathleen, Sylvia and Iree. There were also two babies that passed away during this time. They were all born at Favourite Flat, Araluen except for the two babies that died who were born and buried at home. Catherine Rankin would usually ride down to Araluen, about 22 miles distant, shortly before the babies were due and stay with her mother to be close to medical help for the births. After a short convalescence the child would then be brought back up the river on horseback to the family home. Iree Rankin, for instance was born on the 4th of December 1902 and she and her mother had made the trip back up the river to be home for Christmas (pers.com Cath Lawler). In fact as recently as the 1990s, the trip involved 22 crossings of the river (pers.comm. Phyllis Reid).

The Rankin's main property, like Bendethera, was isolated, with the nearest neighbours downriver being the Blanchards (Alpine) 3 miles away and up river about 7 miles were the George family at Bendethera. It was about a 12 mile ride up the mountain to Krawaree, accessible only on horseback and packhorse. Araluen was about a day's ride away and sometimes a dray would be taken down this way. The dray was useful for bringing back bigger items and things that would not pack well on the horses. It was fairly difficult however, as the river had to be crossed often and the track would wash out necessitating repairs before the trip.

Vera Rankin visited the neighbours often and some of the George family girls used to make rag dolls for her when she was a young child. Vera used to speak of the George family with respect and affection and after Joseph George and the family of 14 had moved to Moruya, one of the boys, Randolph took over the running of Bendethera. He rode up from Moruya to check on the property occasionally, but relied on Vera to keep an eye on the place. With improvements in standards of living and in job opportunities in the 20th century, Bendethera's isolation and aging house was not highly attractive. One of Vera Rankin's jobs was to make sure the water race from Con Creek was running so the bullocks had water (source: Cath Lawler).

On one occasion, Vera found Randolph George at Bendethera with a broken shoulder having had a horse fall with him. Vera rode back down and got her parents to come back up and bandage him up so he was then able to ride out. Randolph used to tell Vera that because she was such a good help to him he would make sure she got a good headstone on her grave. This amused them both as Randolph was many years older than Vera and not likely to be able to make good the promise. As with the work on her own family property Vera did this job willingly and did not expect any reward (source: Cath Lawler).

In 1949 the Rankin's bought out Bendethera from the second generation of the Lismore-based branch of the George family following Randolph George's death. Bendethera remained in the Rankin family until 1965, but no Rankin or George lived in the homestead after John and Elizabeth Rankin left the homestead in 1939. Better access made possible by four wheel drive vehicles gradually diminished the isolation of Bendethera and made it more easily accessible for its last private owners, and provided supplementary tourist-generated income from four wheel drive enthusiasts.

Iree Rankin described how her parents made their last trip out of Bendethera to settle in town at Moruya in 1939. This was an astounding feat, as they were then aged 88 and 79 with their mode of transport being the pack horse. They also packed everything from blankets, beds, their pet cockatoo, even an anvil (Le Maistre 1992). Their 70 year old cockatoo sat on the Mother's shoulder as they made their last trip out (MDHS).

By the mid 1960s Bendethera ceased to be even used as an agistment property, and it became just a recreational holding. According to a 1968 letter from J.G. Mosley, of the Australian Conservation Foundation (16/8/1968 NPWS File No P7577):

...the Bendethera homestead block was sold at auction at Braidwood on 19/11/1964 for £2,250 to the owner of Watts Selections (near Krawarree). The block was used for agistment but no one was in residence. No title transfer to Watts Selections took place, but on 5th August 1965, however a later transfer was registered to William Ross McKinnon, a farmer from Bulli (in the north of Wollongong). During his ownership he visited rarely and the land was no longer used for agistment. His management of the land was said to be limited to control of the blackberries by means of firing the flats. (J.G. Mosley's letter, 16/8/ 1968).

2.2.4 The Robinson Occupancy

In 1969 Bendethera was purchased by Eric Bruce Robinson and his wife Alma Maria of Oak Flats, near Wollongong, who registered the transfer as tenants in common with equal shares on 17/3/1969 (Transfer No L3550 19) (refer Le Maistre 1992). In the same year Bendethera lost its homestead in a bushfire. After the fire Eric and Alma Robinson re-fenced the home paddocks and it is believed they built a cabin to house two adult sons who shared the farm with them, however nothing is known of this cabin, which is described as having three rooms with a verandah, all roofed with galvanised iron. These three main rooms of the hut had timber floors and were partially lined. The Robinson's also built a concrete floored, galvanised iron kitchen, and a similarly built laundry was attached. (NPWS File P5777).

The Robinson's transported a large amount of modern equipment to Bendethera. They had a tractor, potato digger, ploughs, post hole digger, blades and scoops, irrigation plant and four wheel drive vehicles (Alma Robinson's letter of 15 February 1976). By working on construction sites the men could generate outside income for investing in specialised equipment for the property. The cultivated area had not been extended by the Robinson's beyond that cultivated by Joseph George and family. The Robinson's only replaced what had been lost since his day. The valuation report commented that the property had hardly changed since it had been bought by the Robinson's for \$7000. It referred to the extent of land clearances because the house had been replaced with the cabin and cultivation had been re-established after forty or fifty years of cattle grazing only (Le Maistre 1992).

Some of the profits from Bendethera were invested in two other properties closer to Moruya to create assets amounting to a little over £2000 by 1938. From the end of the 1960s active farming was pursued again. Favourable social and economic conditions, including improved transportation rather than high earning capacity, attracted farmers again (Le Maistre 1992).

When Bendethera passed to public ownership under the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1979, all farming ceased and the area was reserved for conservation and public recreation.

2.3 DEUA NATIONAL PARK

In the early 1960s the NSW National Parks Association (NPA) submitted a proposal for a Deua-Tuross National Park to the NSW Government. This proposal led to the creation of both Deua and Wadbilliga National Parks in 1979. When the Deua National Park was formally gazetted on 22nd August, 1980, it incorporated the Bendethera Valley area which at this time was reputedly being more actively farmed than at any other time in its history according to its owners. However, just 10 years prior to this in 1969, the Pasture Protection Board had estimated it could run only 16 cattle. When the park was gazetted, there was also believed to be about 45 saddle horses at the property, and there were 8 fenced paddocks for stock and crops (Le Maistre 1992).

Miles Dunphy was also an important figure in the protection of the Deua. In 1914 he formed the first bushwalking club in NSW, the Sydney Bushwalkers, to explore trackless wild places in Australia. It was through bushwalking that his vision of wilderness protection grew. The idea for a national park for the Deua River was probably first discussed in 1920 when Miles Dunphy and Roy Davies walked through the region in 1920 on their way to the Victorian high country (Dunphy Journal) . But it was not until the 1960s that a coherent proposal was put together: the National Parks Association's 'Deua-Tuross National Park Proposal'.

Miles, talking about the area noted in his journal of the 1920 trip noted that 'Randolph George (owner of Bendethera c.1920) also owned the property located one mile south of the junction of Deua River and Burra Creek (west side of the river). Randolph George gave Miles and friend Davies free run of the homestead at Bendethera during their treks' (Dunphy Journal). The Rankin family who lived nearby also proved to be very hospitable and Dunphy and Davies who stayed with them during inclement weather (they were flooded in for 6 to 7 days). Dunphy described this section of their extensive trip as the 'hardest, riskiest and most educational.' Miles Dunphy heard about the sale of Bendethera during Allan Rankin's occupation and offered to purchase it on behalf of the Sydney Bushwalkers but Rankin had promised it to another local landholder.

The momentum for a national park developed during the 1970s, culminating in its dedication in 1979. By this time fire trails had scarred many of the hillsides and many 4WD vehicles had used these trails.

Since the gazettal of the park a series of proposals for, and assessments of, wilderness areas have been made. In this period a total of six wilderness areas (Figure 2.7) have been declared within the Escarpment Parks (including DNP) covering a total area of over 128,000 ha (DEC 2006). During the late 1990s the Federal and NSW Governments negotiated the Southern Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA). An important aim of the negotiations was a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system protecting the environmental and heritage values of forests through the creation of national parks and other reserves. People in the community and those with conservation, scientific and recreation interests made wide-ranging contributions to the assessments and decisions made at this time.

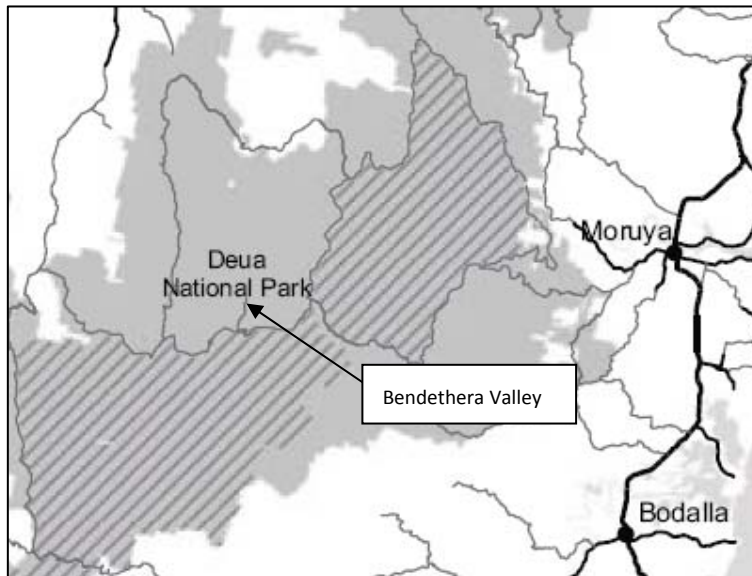


Figure 2.7. Declared wilderness area within Deua National Park (hatched area), which does not include the Bendethera Valley area (Source: DECC).

In 2001, following the Southern RFA process, both Monga National Park and Gourock National Park were gazetted and an extensive addition was made to Deua National Park. Parts of Deua National Park were assessed, identified and declared wilderness in 1994 (DECC 2006). The most recent wilderness declarations were made in 2002 and followed a comprehensive and extensive assessment. From this assessment, an additional 33,949 ha were declared as wilderness within the Parks (Figure 2.7).

There are no declared wilderness areas within the area of Bendethera, although the area has been assessed and identified as wilderness.

2.4 MINING

There are two sets of material remains at Bendethera that are popularly believed to have been associated with mining. The first are mine shafts located up a spur way above the homestead site, which are not within the boundary of the former Bendethera property. There was a belief that the water race which ran from Little Con Creek to the river flats constituted a second site. The races may have played a part in early promotion of mining, however they are south of Little Con Creek and all the mining leases are north of it and up the mountain. It is therefore most unlikely that the water races were used in conjunction with mining and there are no records of commercial ores taken from Bendethera. Moreover, the races were already in use for at least four years for farm irrigation at Bendethera before mining began.

There was a high level of local interest in mining throughout the second half of the nineteenth century and well into the 20th century. Successful gold mining at Araluen, Braidwood, Moruya, and other fields resulted in some ex-miners settling locally. The area around Moruya was the earliest silver producing area in NSW, which partly explains the high level of local interest in Bendethera's potential for silver mining. Four mining leases were taken out in 1890 to exploit

limestone boulders which it was hoped would yield silver, lead and zinc. Only one mining lease was in the George's name. Three other leases were located near Bendethera. Two of these were also marked out but no activity at them was reported. Another was close to the Bendethera Cave (Le Maistre 1992).

The limited scale of shaft excavation at Bendethera indicates why it never reached economic levels of ore production. As mentioned above, it is unlikely that investors put money or time into improving the existing irrigation water races to use them for mining. The costs associated with mining in the area were relatively high because the mountainous and remote locations made it expensive to import capital equipment and take out ores. The ores were not highly productive and occurred in small outcrops which did not warrant high levels of investment. At the same time cheaper and more abundant ores were being exploited at the new Broken Hill fields. Prevailing low silver prices and relatively high production costs at Bendethera thus made it unattractive to investors. There was no possibility in the twentieth century that silver mining at Bendethera could capture local speculators' interests again (Le Maistre 1992).

The mining shafts at Bendethera are a testimony to local interests and optimism, and the entrepreneurial spirit of local identities, particularly two generations of the George family. At the very least the promise of mineral exploitation brought more visitors to the remote property for a year or two.

2.5 RECREATION & TOURISM

2.5.1 Early Cave Tourism

The discovery of the system of caves at Bendethera was attributed to Benjamin George (b.1869), one of Joseph George's sons, in 1889. The caves then came quickly to public notice, especially in the Moruya area (W.S. Leigh, Superintendent of Caves, Report, 1890, p.311.). The caves at Bendethera are on the same line of limestone as Wyanbene Caves near Krawaree, which had only been known for a year and a half when the Bendethera Caves were first reported. The caves at Bendethera were amongst the remotest of the NSW caves which attracted popular attention at the end of the 19th century, when caves were appreciated as one of the great natural tourist wonders. By 1890 when caves were actively promoted in NSW as tourist destinations, some official supervision of safety conditions operated through the Geological Branch of the Mines Department.

Not least due to the caves, Bendethera became a destination for early tourists to the south east, and in 1896, part of the property was reserved for public recreation. The main Bendethera Cave displays signatures dating from the 1890s including many early family names of the district. Three caves were first reported, and were named Bendethera, Figtree and Gin Caves, with one of them being known as George's Cave back in 1895. A total of 1,180 acres around the caves were reserved from sale and dedicated for public recreation on 22nd February, 1889. This reserve was later notified on 22nd May, 1897.

The first visitors inspected the caves with difficulty using only candle light, although permission from the Mines Department was obtained within the first year to use magnesium tapes. By the

3rd April 1889, the Moruya Examiner's correspondent was able to take advantage of their improved lighting. By then, Benjamin George had also placed wooden ladders in the caves, making inspection easier. These ladders were replaced in 1897 when standards with wire rope were also installed where necessary. But such improvements compared poorly with Yarrangobilly and Jenolan Caves which had accommodation houses and, eventually, telegraphic communication and electric illumination. Only Bendethera Cave with its high roof of about 90 feet and its large but not particularly fine formations could be inspected. Early reports indicated water in Gin Cave thus making it difficult to explore.

While the caves were still a novelty in 1891, a small number of people (81 visitors) went to Bendethera. Numbers fell to only 50 in 1892 and improvements were proposed to make the caves more attractive. Numbers fluctuated after that from 70 and 100 and reached a maximum of 107 in 1894. However, the remoteness, relatively poorer facilities, and less attractive features in the caves, meant Bendethera attracted fewer visitors than other caves open to the public (Le Maistre 1992). Even in their heyday Bendethera Caves did not attract many visitors and were not a popular tourist destination, compared to other cave destinations. Unfortunately this did not protect them from vandalism. By the time of Leigh's 1899 visit the large 20 foot stalactite that formed a screen in the main cave had already been scratched with names. By the 1960s numerous smaller formations had been broken and the larger ones dirtied and walked across. Many names had been recorded on the walls and formations by carbide lamp or candle.

Although the George and Rankin families took an active role in promoting visits to them, and provided hospitality for adventurous caves visitors at the end of the 19th century, they were never owned by either family during their promotion for caves tourism.

2.5.2 Recent Times

Until 1964 access into the Deua area was available only by horse or foot. Recreational activities within the area were consequently confined to bushwalking, caving and similar pursuits. The construction during the 1970's of a network of fire trails within, and on the boundaries of Deua NP has provided considerable four wheel drive access within the park area. The increased availability of four wheel drive vehicles has resulted in Deua being a popular destination for four wheel driving groups and individuals from the Monaro Tablelands to the South Coast (NPWS 1990). As a result, from the 1970s, Bendethera has become a favoured destination of four wheel drive tourists and with no protection some damage did occur. Even today, park management has had to contend with a minority of visitors to the park who damage parts of the landscape because of their inappropriate actions.

A visitors' book recording large numbers, including bushwalkers, speleologists and local residents is said to have been kept by the Robinsons and desecration in the main cave also records considerable numbers of tourists and visitors. The Robinsons charged four wheel drive vehicles that arrived on their fire trail and four wheel drive track for access to the caves across their property. Eric Robinson reported that about 1000 people had paid the \$2 entry fee during the first six months of 1979 (although this number is debatable). The Robinsons kept a bulldozer at Bendethera to keep the tracks to and through their property in drivable condition.

The Bendethera Valley, even today, is still a fairly remote place with campsites accessible by four-wheel drive only. Bendethera offers a different recreational experience and setting to other camping areas, being located in the relatively open valley along the Deua River, with river crossings and grassy flats. Bendethera remains a popular area for recreational horse riding. Local recreation groups have taken an active interest in the history of the bridle tracks and their management, with many horse riders expressing a strong historic connection to the region as a result of horse riding activity (DECC 2006). Kerry and Phyliss Reid of Moruya have had a long association with Bendethera, which has involved a stewardship of the place over a long period in the latter part of the 20th century.

3 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

3.1 BENEDEHERA: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

3.1.1 *Homestead and River Flats*

The Bendethera Valley is a typical example of a former pastoral homestead station with associated cattle yards, gravesites and other remnants. The Deua River rises high in the mountains south-east of Bendethera and then meanders north through a deep valley on its one hundred and fifty kilometre journey to the coast where it flows into the sea at Moruya Heads. The Bendethera homestead precinct in particular, is important culturally in terms of specific sites and as a cultural landscape of remote, cleared river flats. These cleared flats neat the river were given names including those named after George family children (Jimmy, Joey, Charlotte), Homestead Flat and Racecourse Flat. The flats were cleared of native vegetation for cultivation as well as agricultural and social/sporting activities.

The remnant sites surrounding and within Bendethera constitutes a 'cultural landscape'. The Australian Heritage Commission (2001) defines a cultural landscape as:

...Cultural landscape is applied to areas of landscape including landscapes where natural features have special meanings to people (such as traditional Aboriginal landscapes) to highly developed or modified landscapes. That land may have continuing use or may be a collection of extant remains...

The land that surrounds the Bendethera site is a rare example of this type of cultural landscape in the south east of NSW. One of the main management issues associated with the setting at Bendethera is the possible loss of cultural landscape values over time as a result of natural regeneration within the valley. Walker (2001) recommends that planning should always consider cultural landscapes and should seek to retain the cultural landscape values. Furthermore, management strategies should consider the relationship between the heritage items within the wider landscape that contribute to its significance outside of the identified curtilage of the place. Planning should be done in consultation with heritage specialists and the local community, who understand the landscape.

3.2 BENEDEHERA: LANDSCAPE SETTING

3.2.1 *Cultural Landscape Values*

Bendethera became a prosperous farm providing produce such as vegetables, bacon and grain to landholders from near and far and for miners working in the gold fields of Araluen and Nerrigundah. The surrounding area has a variety of artefacts, structures and features that relate to gold and tourism. The river flats within the homestead area are still marked by signs of

irrigation, cropping, grazing and human habitation. The main water race and other old dry ditches run from Little Con Creek and across once ploughed river slopes.

Grassland occurs along the Deua River at Bendethera and also on leasehold and freehold land further downstream, on Woolla Creek and south on the lower part of Woila Creek. These are areas which have been cleared for agricultural purposes and were probably formerly occupied by woodland or open forest.

A 1988 description of the homestead area (MDHS) noted:

'Black stem wattle creeping in on all sides. The homestead is completely gone, its site now marked by tall white acacias and oaks. Nearby, four stumpy corner posts mark the grave of one of the George children. An old stone oven is backed into the hillside, and there are a few straggling fruit trees. The irrigation trenches can still be identified'.

The homestead built by the George family no longer stands at the site (Figure 3.1). As discussed previously, it has been recorded that there were two homesteads at different times on the property.



Figure 3.1 Bendethera homestead c.1910 located next to the yards with adjacent kitchen (right)

(Source: DECC)

Even less remains today to indicate the improvements made by the last permanent residents, the Robinson's, who were believed to have built a galvanised iron shelter (or cabin) after the fire in 1969 (Le Maistre 1992). Six inch stumps, some carrying strands of barbed wire remnants, which were identified in the early 1990s beside the river bank boundary, with the cleared, irrigated paddocks show the Robinsons rebuilt split post and barbed wire fences after the fire as well. The

and undisturbed nature of the area also allow for evolution and shifts in species ranges in response to environmental changes. The DNP is also potentially a source of plants and animals for colonising surrounding disturbed areas. It also sets a reference area against which changes in native plant and animal communities in the region can be monitored (NPWS 1990).

Wet shrub forests are commonly found on sheltered slopes with a southern and eastern aspect and cover an area of 60,074 ha representing 25% of the total Park area. Examples of wet shrub forest are found on high gentle slopes, such as those around Bendethera and at higher elevations in Monga. They are typical of steeper but sheltered slopes and gullies of low fertility; nine types were described for the parks during the Southern RFA. Characteristic eucalypt species include yellow stringybark (*Eucalyptus muellerana*), mountain grey gum (*E.cypellocarpa*), brown barrel (*E. fastigata*), messmate (*E. obliqua*) and river peppermint (*E. elata*) with occasional occurrences of rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*). Typically they have a continuous shrubby understorey with occasional dense thickets of tall scrubs. A tangle of climbers ties the shrubs together. The groundcover consists of ferns, sedges, grasses and herbs under the shrubs but with few patches free from the covering of shrubs (DECC 2006).

The acacia scrubs are a low to medium scrubland characterised by Bodalla silver wattle (*Acacia sylvestris*), along with wallaby bush (*Beyeria lasiocarpa*). Acacia scrub occurs on steep slopes and often on the lower slopes adjoining dry creeks. There is an example of acacia scrub on the limestone soils in Bendethera valley. This is the only known location where Bendethera wattle (*A. covenyi*) occurs naturally (DECC 2006). It is known locally as 'blue bush' and can be easily recognised because of its distinctive blue-grey foliage. It is very obvious in spring when it is covered in bright yellow flowers.

The whole DNP area is significant because it provides habitat for a representative sample of the animals of the rugged land between tablelands and coast of south-eastern continental Australia and, additionally, supports a substantial number of endangered animals species. It also has the potential to provide in perpetuity a comparatively rich and stable resource base in a region where changes in land use are increasingly having an adverse impact upon most native animal communities (NPWS 1990). Greater detail of the natural heritage values of the Bendethera and wider DNP can be found in documents such as the Escarpment Parks Plan of Management.

3.3 IDENTIFICATION OF EXISTING FABRIC

Only the old bread oven, water race, yards (partially reconstructed) adjacent stand of exotic mature trees and a George family member's grave remain as evidence of the former Bendethera farm site. Archaeological investigation of the homestead site may provide further information about extent, form and artefacts surrounding the former Bendethera homestead site.

3.3.1 Homestead Site

It is most likely that only one homestead site existed at Bendethera, adjacent to the existing yards on the river flats (Figures 3.3 & 3.4). An earlier homestead was reputedly located closer to the remains of the old bread oven above the site of the known homestead. The existence of this

structure is unknown, and nobody with a close association with the history of Bendethera can confirm the existence of an earlier homestead.

Evidence from historical photographs suggest that the known homestead structure consisted of a single-storied hip-roofed building with a front verandah and iron and timber chimney at the rear of the building, located adjacent to the existing yards. A separate 'kitchen' was also located adjacent to the house and yards. Other outbuildings known to be adjacent to the homestead included the usual assortment of small sheds and stables for the horses.



Figure 3.3. Horse party at the old homestead c.1928

(Source: DECC)



Figure 3.4. Near the former location of the old homestead next to the yards at Bendethera

(G Shaw 2008)

3.3.2 Bread Oven

The oven had no fire or flue and is approximately one metre in height. As the oven was also used for the purpose of scalding meat from pigs, this also makes it highly unlikely the oven was located next to any earlier homestead that may have existed.

It is believed the use of the oven for pigs became the main purpose of the oven and not for bread-making (pers.comm. Kerry Reid). The oven (refer figure's 3.5 & 3.6) consists of a front section used for baking bread and cooking meat and a large rear compartment for scalding pig meat for sale at markets. The length of the back wall (inside) is approximately 1.8m, and the depth inside is 1.9m. The oven is constructed with a random stone exterior and has a dressed stone interior smoothly mud sealed with its roof supported by an iron sheet on six iron bands. There is an earth filled stone edged hearth in front of it. The oven is currently in poor condition.

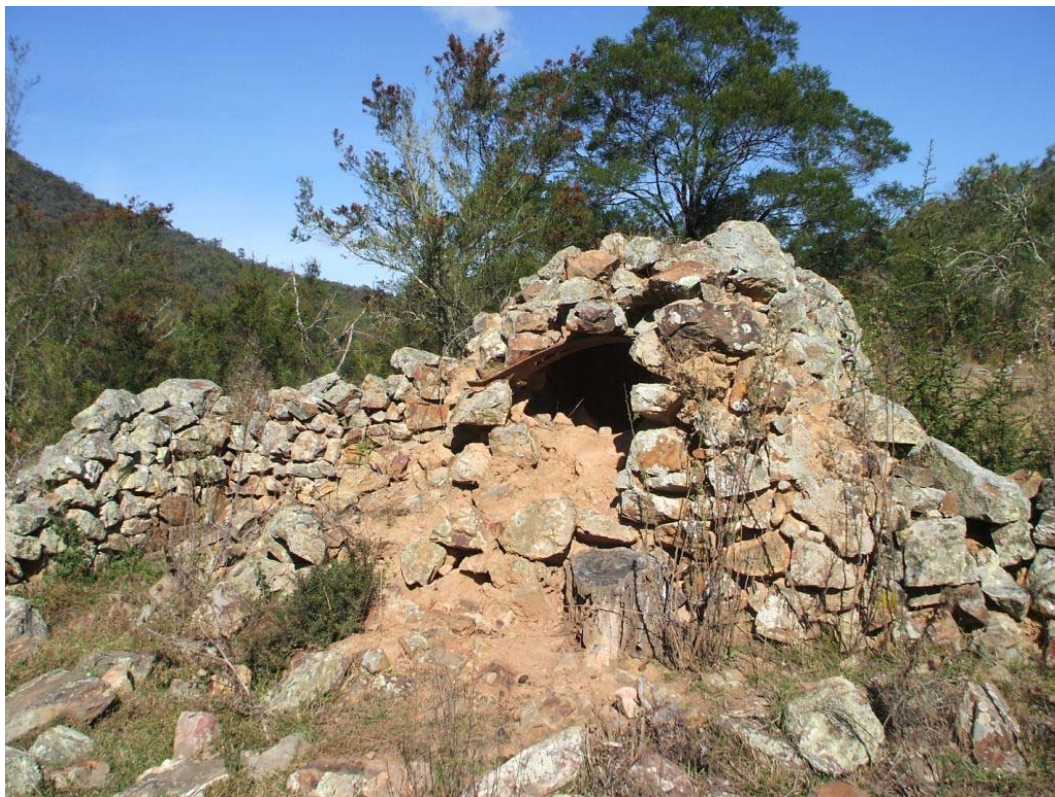


Figure 3.5. The Bendethera 'bread oven'

(G Shaw 2008)

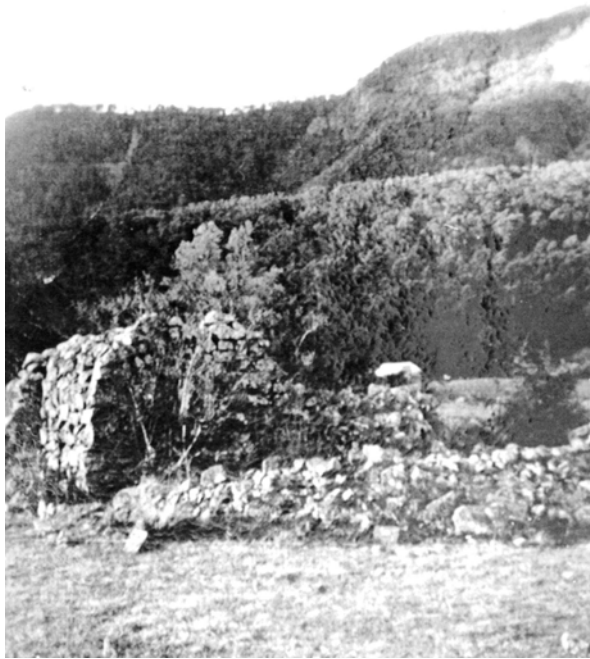


Figure 3.6. A rear view of the 'bread oven' c.1957. Note the roof of the homestead visible to the right of centre down slope from the oven (Source: DECC)

3.3.3 Water Race

The main water race at Bendethera was constructed by the George family and their employees between 1880 and 1889. The main water race is approximately 800m in width and approximately 500mm in depth, although this varies throughout the length of the race. The George family had the benefit of irrigation from the adjacent Con Creek, which flows into the Deua River at Bendethera.

Although similar in principle to other water races used for mining processes in Nerrigundah and similar locations at the same time, the race at Bendethera (Figure's 3.7 & 3.8) was constructed to relieve water problems during drought conditions in the valley area. As such, the water race is significant for its role in an activity which was essential to the success and prosperity of this remote mid 19th century farm.

The ditch irrigation during dry times permitted cultivation of a range of forage crops and market garden products. Corn, potatoes, millet, pumpkins, marrow, squash, cucumber, melon, strawberries and fruit trees were being cultivated. The water race has a unique potential to contribute to an understanding about the scale and methods of irrigation on rural properties in the mid to late 1800s.



Figure 3.7 (left) & 3.8 (right). Sections of the water race as it nears the end of its route to the homestead flat (left) and close to the commencement of the main water race near Con Creek (right)

(G Shaw 2008)

3.3.4 Grave Site

The grave site of James Richard George (born 1862), who died as a young child is located on the river flat not far from the yards. It shows no evidence of it being a grave site, with the exception of the hardwood fence, constructed by NPWS to protect the site and to mark the location of the gravesite (Figure 3.9).

The fence was reconstructed to look similar to the original fence at the site. There is no visible sign of a cross that was erected at the site, although there is currently a small square-shaped piece of stone within the fence perimeter that is likely to be part of the cross.

The addition of a treated pine fence was constructed, and then at a later date, a hardwood fence was constructed inside the treated pine fence to replicate the original fence around the grave (refer to Figure 2.1 in Section 2).



*Figure 3.9. Gravesite in the homestead paddock belonging to James Richard George
(G Shaw 2008)*

3.3.5 Yards

The current yards are located at the same site as the original yards that were constructed by the George family that were adjacent to the homestead at Bendethera.

The yards currently consist of partial traditional post and rail construction, with the remainder being reconstructed recently using timber posts, star pickets and plain wire (reconstructed by a local recreational horse-riding group) (Figure 3.10).

Historic photographs show the original yards were constructed totally of the traditional post/rail timber construction technique (Figure 3.11). There are also large exotic mature trees at the yard site. These can be seen in both the earlier and more recent photos of the site.



Figure 3.10. Current condition of the yards consisting of partial traditional and more recent construction (G Shaw 2008)



Figure 3.11. The old homestead c.1941 with some of the yards that still consisted of the original construction type (Source: NLA)

3.4 OTHER SITES IN THE BENDETHERA VALLEY

3.4.1 Bridle Tracks

Although not included as part of the assessment in this CMP, the Bendethera bridle tracks are of great importance in the history of the area. As discussed above in Section 2, the bridle tracks have historic significance for their role in opening up the South Coast hinterland to settlement, trade and economic growth in the 1850s and 1860s.

Without the development of the tracks it would not have been possible to transport goods in and out of places such as Bendethera. These tracks were integral to the development of the shire and provided an opportunity for the transportation of goods and stock from the tablelands to the coast. One of the tracks is known as 'George's Pack Track' that winds out of the valley north of the Con Creek crossing (Figure 3.12).

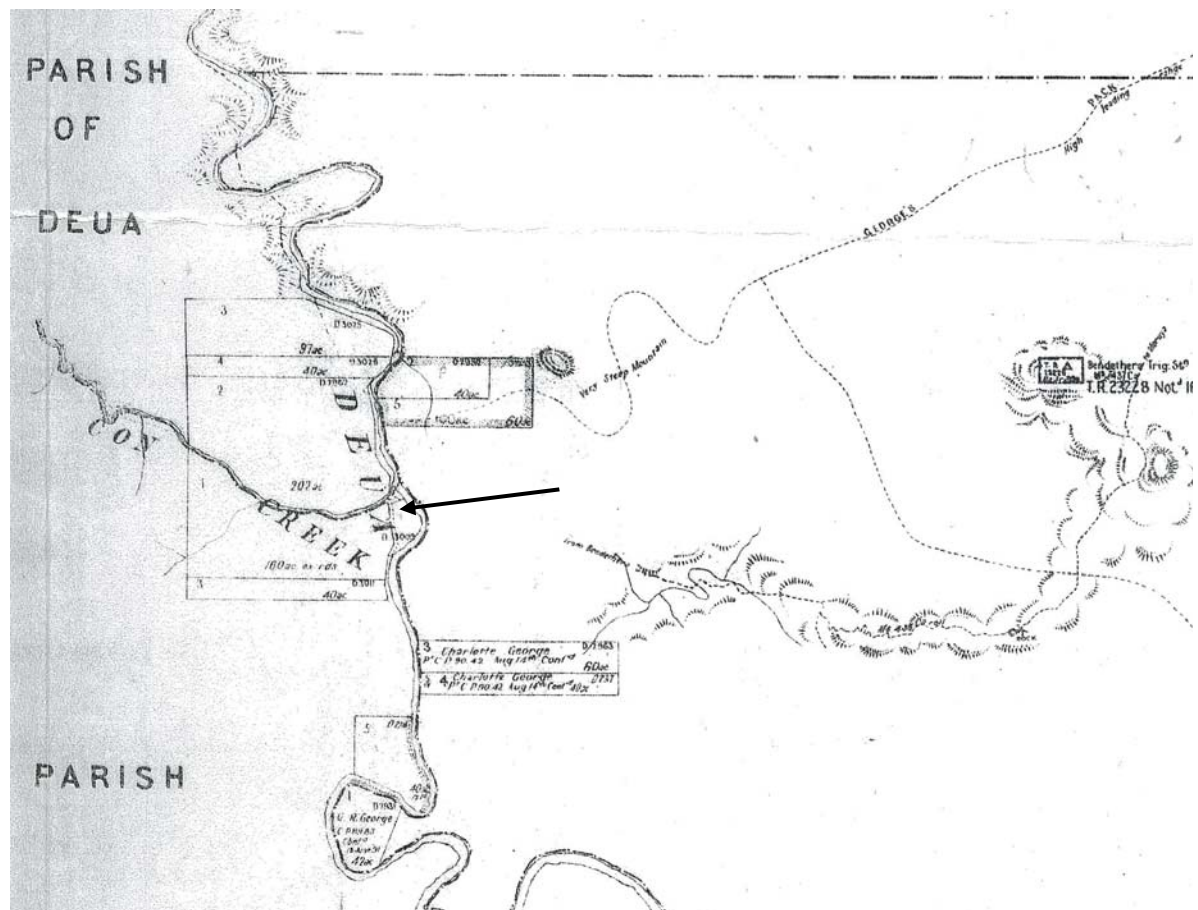


Figure 3.12. Parish Plan of 1913 showing the route of 'George's Pack Track', one of the main bridle tracks to and from Bendethera. Note the arrow marks the location of the former homestead site

(Source: Dept. of Lands)

There were four main bridle track routes from the valley. One of these went to Cooma and the tablelands via Con Creek. Another went to Araluen via the Deua River, primarily as a mail route, but also used for other purposes. This was the most accessible route to access the Canoolie and Alpine properties. Another track leaves the Bendethera Valley towards Bendethera Mountain and then continues on to Coondella Creek to the Coondella Fire Trail. These tracks were the main roads to Moruya. The other main transport route went along the Deua River to Belowra and then on to Cobargo and the stock routes used by Charles Byrnes, SW Bates and WG Tarlington. This route provided access to land used for cattle grazing on the Deua at Georges Creek junction and to the miners at Nerrigundah.

The bridle tracks were regularly used for the transportation of supplies and stock through the area between the coast and tablelands. They continue to be traversed on horse-back and provide an opportunity to discover the scenic South Coast hinterland.

3.4.2 The Caves

The caves at Bendethera, like the bridle tracks, are not included within this CMP, as they are located outside the Bendethera homestead precinct. The management of the caves is included in the Escarpment Parks Plan of Management and in the Deua Karst Area Management Plan. As with the bridle tracks in the area, the caves are significant to the area's European heritage, particularly in the context of early tourism in the south east, and are discussed here in the context of the homestead and the area in its vicinity.

The Bendethera Limestone occurs as finely crystalline with some recrystallisation; bedding is absent but the trend appears to be approximately north-south. The deposit is interbedded with other sediments and is unconformably underlain by Ordovician slates, chert and quartzite to the east. The Late Silivrian limestone is overlain by conglomerates and sandstone of the Minuma Beds.

This karst area at Bendethera is the largest in Deua National Park, being approximately 4km long and up to 0.5km wide. 40 caves have been explored with 41 entrances tagged. The karst is divided into three sections. The Gin limestone on an isolated wedge is slightly separated from the main range. The area was burnt in 1968 after which most of the exploration took place. Silver-lead-zinc mineralisation occurs near the margins of the limestone and have been worked spasmodically for little return in the past. Silver mining to place just off the limestone near the Snake cave.

Most of the caves are rarely visited because of rugged terrain and thick scrub which makes them hard to find. About 90% of use is in the Bendethera main cave, the water cave, and Efflux (Deua Karst Management Plan).

4 STATUTORY AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

4.1 GENERAL

Places of heritage value can be subject to different levels of recognition and protection. This includes local, state and commonwealth heritage registers and all include specific measures for the protection of heritage items. The following summary of the legislative framework that is relevant to the Bendethera Valley within its wider setting as part of the Deua National Park provides an understanding of the current statutory and management framework.

No items within, or in the vicinity of the study area (or any part of DNP) are listed on the National or Commonwealth Heritage Lists which are identified under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*. Therefore, no further assessment is required under the EPBC Act.

As discussed previously in Section 1, the entire area of Deua National Park (DNP) is listed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE). The RNE was first introduced by the Australian Heritage Commission (now Australian Heritage Council), however, the RNE listing does not place any legal constraints or controls on the actions of state or local governments.

4.2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

4.2.1 *Heritage Act 1977*

State agencies in New South Wales (NSW) are required to keep a register of heritage places under their management under Section 170 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act). As a Statutory body of the NSW Government DECC has a legal obligation under both State and Federal legislation to effectively manage heritage items it owns or affects. DECC maintains a Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register.

Bendethera, as listed on the DECC PWG S170 Register, includes all the valley area, and is therefore protected under the Heritage Act. DECC Parks and Wildlife Group (PWG) management of places on the s.170 Register must recognise the identified significance and importance of the place. The Heritage Branch, Department of Planning (DoP), NSW oversees the implementation of the DECC PWG Heritage and Conservation Register (Section 170).

The Heritage Act is the main statutory tool designed to conserve the cultural heritage of NSW and used to regulate development impacts on the state's heritage assets. In addition to buildings and items listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), archaeological features and deposits are afforded automatic statutory protection by the relic's provisions of the Heritage Act. When items are listed in the SHR applications to carry out works on those items need to be made to the Heritage Branch (DoP), under Section 60 of the Heritage Act.

Administered by the Heritage Branch, DoP, the Heritage Act details the statutory requirements for protecting historic buildings and places, historical archaeology including *any place, building, work, relic, movable object, which may be of historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, natural or aesthetic value.*

4.2.2 National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974

The DECC PWG charter for the conservation of historic heritage is derived from the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NP&W Act) and from the *National Parks and Wildlife Land Management Regulation, 1995.*

The whole of the Bendethera Valley is part of the Deua National Park. The NP&W Act directs the preparation of plans of management which must consider items of historic heritage significance within the national parks estate. Aboriginal cultural heritage, natural heritage values and the management of reserved lands are regulated through the NP&W Act. The National Parks and Wildlife Land Management Regulations also protect non-Aboriginal cultural material found on DECC PWG managed land.

The NP&W Act also requires the preparation of a Plan of Management (PoM) for reserved lands. The Draft PoM for the Escarpment Parks (2006) includes Deua National Park and is discussed further below.

4.2.3 Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) requires that consideration is given to environmental impacts as part of the land use planning process. In NSW environmental impacts are interpreted as including impacts to places of cultural heritage significance.

Three parts of the EP&A Act are most relevant to heritage. Part 3 relates to planning instruments including those at local and regional levels, Part 4 controls development assessment processes and Part 5 refers to approvals by consent authorities. Under Part 5 of the EP&A Act, the DECC PWG is required to assess the environmental impact of any proposed works or developments. The definition of environment used here is:

‘All aspects of the surroundings of humans whether affecting any human as an individual or in his or her social groupings’.

This CMP will form a basis of information for any future proposals requiring a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to be determined by DECC PWG. As set out above, endorsement of this CMP by the DECC Cultural and Heritage Division, will also mean that policy recommendations and strategies contained in this CMP have the concurrence and endorsement of the NSW Heritage Council.

4.2.4 Eurobodalla Rural Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1987

There are four items listed under the Eurobodalla Shire Council Rural LEP 1987 as heritage items. These are the bread oven, water race, George family grave and bridle track network (refer to Appendix A for details). Controls for heritage items in the LEP include the following (clause 26):

(1) When is consent required?

The following development may be carried out only with development consent:

- (a) demolishing or moving a heritage item or a building, work, relic, tree or place within a heritage conservation area,*
- (b) altering a heritage item or a building, work, relic, tree or place within a heritage conservation area by making structural or non-structural changes to its exterior, such as to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance,*
- (c) altering a heritage item by making structural changes to its interior,*
- (d) disturbing or excavating a place of Aboriginal heritage significance or an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*
- (e) moving the whole or a part of a heritage item,*
- (f) erecting a building on, or subdividing, land on which a heritage item is located or which is within a heritage conservation area.*

(2) What exceptions are there?

Development consent is **not** required by this clause if:

- (a) in the opinion of the consent authority:
 - (i) the proposed development is of a minor nature or consists of maintenance of the heritage item or of a building, work, archaeological site, tree or place within a heritage conservation area, and*
 - (ii) the proposed development would not adversely affect the significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area, and**
- (b) the proponent has notified the consent authority in writing of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development will comply with this subclause and that development consent is not otherwise required by this plan.*
- (3) Development consent is not required by this clause for the following development in a cemetery or burial ground if there will be no disturbance to human remains, to relics in the form of grave goods or to a place of Aboriginal heritage significance:
 - (a) the creation of a new grave or monument, or an excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of carrying out conservation or repair of monuments or grave markers.**

The purpose of this CMP is to protect these items. As there are no proposed works that would impact on the listed heritage items, consent is not required from ESC.

4.3 MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

4.3.1 Plan of Management

The Plan of Management for the Escarpment Parks (2006) is at the draft stage and some of the main guidelines in this plan that relate to the historic heritage values of Bendethera are:

- *Conserve the cultural values of the Parks in accordance with the Australian ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter) and its guidelines;*
- *Implement the conservation management recommendations of the Far South Coast Region Cultural Heritage Management Strategy 2003 – 2008 (see Section 4.3.2 below);*
- *Implement procedures for ensuring that natural and cultural heritage protection is considered in fire management activities likely to result in ground disturbance;*
- *Ensure that cultural heritage issues related to fire management are addressed in consultation with local communities with historic interest/links to the Parks;*
- *Develop and implement a management plan for Bendethera that protects cultural heritage values, maintains the essential open character of Bendethera and ensures that recreational and camping activities have minimal impact on the environment; and*
- *Review where horse riding is allowed or the conditions under which horse riding can be undertaken within the Escarpment Parks should there be unacceptable environmental damage. Undertake such a review in consultation with interest groups.*

4.3.2 Far South Coast Cultural Heritage Management Strategy

The Far South Coast Region Cultural Heritage Management Strategy 2003–2008 (NPWS 2003) identifies priorities, desired conservation management outcomes and strategies for conserving historic heritage places and landscapes within the region. The strategies range from active management to no action and apply to the following areas within the Bendethera Valley area:

- *Bendethera homestead complex (assessed in this Plan as ‘homestead precinct’);*
- *Regional bridle tracks (several national parks and other land tenure);*
- *Bendethera agricultural water race and clearings within the Deua River valley like Bendethera (assessed in this CMP); and*
- *Management of the current landscape setting of Bendethera which, as a result of past clearing and grazing, is open grassland. Bendethera is important culturally in terms of specific sites and as a cultural landscape of remote, cleared river flats.*

Priorities for the homestead precinct include:

- *Minimal fabric stabilisation (water race, bread oven etc.);*

- *Prepare CMP and Interpretation Plan for Aboriginal, historic and natural values of the place (this CMP covers the historic values of the Bendethera homestead precinct);*
- *Undertake any scheduled works outlined in the CMP; and*
- *Implement Interpretation Plan.*

5 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSESSMENT

Heritage significance is the term used to describe the importance of a particular item, place or landscape. Significance may be derived from the fabric of a place, association with a place or the research potential of a place. The significance of a place is not fixed for all time. What is of significance to us may change as similar items are located, more historical research is undertaken and community tastes change. Thus, what may have been seen as an eyesore and blight on the landscape may now be seen as a significant cultural site.

This section provides a comparative assessment of similar sites located within national parks in NSW, Victoria and the ACT, assesses the significance of Bendethera against the heritage assessment criteria, and provides a statement of heritage significance.

The basis for assessing significance is the ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter and associated guidelines. The application of the Burra Charter and guidelines to the preparation of conservation plans is outlined in J.S Kerr's *The Conservation Plan* (1990). The essential components of significance involve assessing the historical, aesthetic, scientific and social significance of a place.

The NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria embody the above four values but are expressed in a more explicit way. The definitions of these criteria reflect both policy decisions about some of the debates surrounding the heritage significance assessment procedure, the history of heritage management in NSW and the way in which procedures and practices developed.

DECC PWG has adopted the heritage significance assessment procedures outlined in the *NSW Heritage Manual* (1996), and therefore these procedures will be followed here.

In line with current cultural heritage planning an integrated whole of landscape approach is adopted in the following assessment. Specifically, this involves a landscape approach to an understanding of the values of the Bendethera Valley as they relate to the historical pastoral context of the place. Thus, the assessment relates to all of the elements that are referred to in this CMP.

5.2 PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS

There have been no previous CMPs prepared for the Bendethera Valley area. Assessments of significance were completed for some of the individual elements of the Bendethera site as part of the Eurobodalla Shire Heritage Study (1997).

5.3 COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT

Bendethera is a unique place within the context of the south coast region of NSW. There are, however, other similar places in other regions of the state, and across state borders in the ACT and Victoria, which have similar characteristics (i.e. cultural landscapes and early ploughlands). These places include other important pastoral runs such as Kunderang Station in the north of the state, the Old Orroral Homestead, in Namadgi National Park, near Canberra, and the historic Wonnangatta Station in the Alpine National Park, Victoria. Each of these is examined in turn below.

Orroral Homestead

The Orroral Homestead in the Namadgi National Park, south of Canberra, displays as a group of relics of a distinctive way of life of the earliest European settlers of the mountain runs. They demonstrate a land use and pastoral functions no longer practiced, and are among the oldest archaeological remains of backcountry pastoralism in the ACT.

In a similar way to Bendethera, the elements of the homestead, ploughland and dairy site demonstrate the self-reliance required in such isolated locations (Figure 5.1). The original old Orroral track demonstrates the lifeline back to civilization (ACT Heritage 2005). As with Bendethera, Orroral has strong associations with early European settlers, with some prominent people as settlers of the mountain runs and other parts of the ACT.

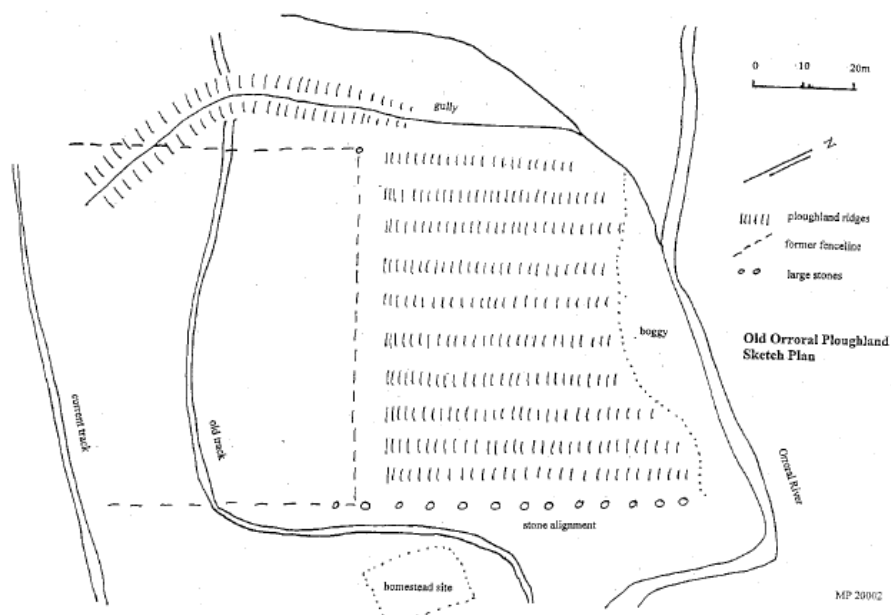


Figure 5.1 Sketch of the Old Orroral Homestead and Ploughland site in Namadgi National Park (Source: ACT Heritage 2005)

The ploughland created at Orroral with animal-drawn ploughs and bearing the pattern of broad 'lands', were the result of a distinctive farming process and a way of life (using draught horses) that ceased with the adoption of motorised tractors. The ploughing of 'lands' reflects the survival

of a tradition of Saxon and medieval British agricultural practice in nineteenth and early twentieth century, that is of exceptional interest and is threatened as a type.

The 'ploughland' at Orroral is notable because it has relatively clear ridges and furrows forming visible 'lands' over a substantial area of the paddock, and field demarcation by bank and fence. At Bendethera, the home paddocks had to be cleared and fenced to keep animals away from crops and to contain horses. The paddocks (flats) at Bendethera, like Orroral, are an historic landscape of European use from the late 19th century.

In contrast to Orroral, Bendethera used a different ploughing system similar to that used in North America. This system was also used for the preparation of listed rows in grain cultivation in semi-arid regions so that moisture could be gathered in furrows and soil not blown away. It required skill to manage a mould board plough. The ploughed paddocks on the river flats appear to have been prepared with a ridging plough with the mould board set for wide shallow ditching and banking.

Kunderang East

In the north of NSW within the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, the cultural significance of Kunderang East lies in the way its frontier environment made clear the tragic processes of early European settlement and intensified and sharpened the nature of pastoral processes and experiences.

Kunderang East Pastoral Station is located at the eastern edge of the Great Dividing Range near the headwaters of the Manning, Hasting and Macley Rivers. European settlement came from the fertile tablelands and coastal strip in the 1820s, quite a bit earlier than at Bendethera. Kunderang was established by Captain George Jobling by 1843, possibly as an outpost for Toorookoo, Jobling's first grant. During this early period a number of Aboriginal massacres occurred on the Kunderang run, while Aboriginal people were staging a resistance to the invasion of their land (Heritage Branch, DoP 2008).

The steepness and the isolation of the country earned Kunderang a reputation on the abilities of stockmen. The isolation of Kunderang meant that nineteenth century ways of doing things were carried on well into the twentieth century. It also protected the area from large scale clearing, leaving a landscape largely unchanged in 150 years. The existing Kunderang East homestead (Figures 5.2 & 5.3) began in 1890 (quite a bit later than Bendethera), though the site was settled much earlier.

The homestead was constructed as a three roomed vertical timber plank building later used as a kitchen. In 1892, a larger four roomed solid cedar vertical plank house was built and the Fitzgerald family moved in. Soon after the gap between the earlier hut and the new house were infilled to form a dining room. The Fitzgeralds lived there until 1928. The experience of living at Kunderang East was profoundly influenced by its isolation. Although the telephone was installed in 1919, a road into the property was not put through until 1967 with electricity following in 1973. Like Bendethera, this isolation, while limiting the economic viability of the place as a cattle station, created an environment which gave unique aspects to its cultural history.

From 1928 to 1967, Kunderang East was managed by Alec McDonell. In 1967, Kunderang East was sold to Kellion Estates Pty. Ltd. although McDonell remained as the manager until 1973. At

this time, the old kitchen section was demolished and a new one built in the same location. Although various leases changed, the overall size of Kunderang Station remained largely the same throughout its hundred year operation. It was acquired by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (now part of DECC) in 1989. Since then the homestead has been the subject of maintenance works and ongoing assessment of the structures and the historic features in outlying areas of the station and successfully used for visitor accommodation since 1995.



Figure 5.2 Kunderang East Pastoral Station homestead (Source: Heritage Branch, DoP)



Figure 5.3 Gravesite on Kunderang East Pastoral Station (Source: Heritage Branch, DoP)

Wonnangatta Station

In April 1988, the Victorian Government purchased the historic and remote Wonnangatta Station, now part of the Alpine National Park (Figure 5.4). The property comprised five freehold blocks, four on the Wonnangatta River and one on the Snowy Range, totalling 445 ha.



Figure 5.4 The remote Wonnangatta Station homestead c.1935 (Source: State Library Victoria)

As with Bendethera, the Wonnangatta Station area is a very popular four wheel drive destination, and is also visited by horse riders, walkers, and anglers. First settled in the early 1860s (around the same time as Bendethera), Wonnangatta is one of the most important historic sites of its kind in Victoria. There is a cemetery (Figure 5.5), ornamental trees and fruit trees that remain as relics of the days when the station was managed as a cattle grazing property.



Figure 5.5 Cemetery at Wonnangatta Station c.1935 (Source: State Library Victoria)

The management objectives for Wonnangatta Station are very similar to that of Bendethera, which are to provide continued access for a range of recreation activities, protect historic relics and interpret the history of the station, and maintain the remote character and landscape of the Wonnangatta valley.

5.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An item will be considered to be of state and/or local heritage significance if it meets one or more of the following assessment criteria.

Criterion (a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The Bendethera homestead area and landscape is historically significant as one of the earliest inland farming properties of the south coast on the Deua River. The history of the place demonstrates the major processes of early European settlement of an isolated pastoral station. The existing evidence, such as the main water race, yards, gravesite, bread oven, cleared river flats and exotic plantings provides tangible evidence of the use of available resources in the area.

The bread oven has historical significance for providing unique evidence of the living, working and cooking habits of the remote area early pioneers cooking for both large families and for market and for remaining as an only known large-scale cooking example of this era and region.

Although similar in principle to the water races used for gold mining processes in Nerrigundah and similar locations, the main water race at Bendethera was constructed to relieve water problems during drought conditions in the Bendethera Valley. As such it has high level local historic significance for its role in an activity which was essential to the success and prosperity of this remote mid-19th century farm. Bendethera is also of significance in relation to its early tourism and recreation activities.

Although not as comprehensive, or as well documented, as some remote gravesites (such as Wonnangatta in Victoria), the single gravesite at Bendethera has local historic significance for its role in providing evidence of a George family member son of a well-known local pioneer in the Bendethera Valley. Socially it has local significance to George family descendants of the Bendethera area and is of cultural significance in relation to the history of Bendethera.

Overall, the occupation and development of Bendethera as a pastoral station represents an aspect of the spread of pastoralism on the south coast of NSW. The establishment of Bendethera in the 1860s is part of the story of the rapid spread of Australian settlement based on pastoral expansion. As such, Bendethera is of historic significance on at least the local level.

Criterion (b) an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Bendethera has strong associations with early pastoral families (i.e. the George and Rankin families), who were significant in the early settlement and development of the area, particularly Joseph George and other members of the George and Rankin families. The place has (and continues to have) close associations with descendants of the families/individuals who lived and worked there, and now visit the place.

Miles Dunphy was an important figure in the protection of the Deua. It was through bushwalking in areas of Australia that his vision of wilderness protection grew. Although it was not until the 1960s that a coherent proposal was put forward, the idea for a national park for the Deua River was first discussed in 1920 when Miles Dunphy walked through the region in 1920.

Criterion (c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

The historic landscape of Bendethera that includes the cleared grassed paddocks surrounding the homestead area and the valley, ringed by forested mountain ranges is significant because it has changed little since it was the site of the first settlement in the 1860s. This comparative lack of change reflects the isolation that occurred historically in what is a rare form of landscape on the south coast within the national park estate.

Criterion (d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

There is some evidence under this criterion to suggest that Bendethera has close associations with a particular community or cultural group. Bendethera has close associations with the Moruya community, four-wheel drive, horse-riding, and caving groups, and holds a special place for some descendants of the families who lived and worked there.

Criterion (e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The main Bendethera water race, in particular, demonstrates a unique potential to contribute to an understanding about the scale and methods of irrigation on rural properties in the mid to late 1800s.

The bread oven also has significance for providing evidence of a technology unavailable elsewhere in the region and for its potential to contribute to an understanding about the lifestyle processes and habits of a pioneering pastoral family on the south coast from the mid-1800s.

It is also likely there are remains from the old homestead that have the potential to yield additional archaeological evidence

Criterion (f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Bendethera is a rare place in the context of former pastoral properties on the south coast that demonstrates the pattern of European occupation and subsequent development that characterises regions inland from the coast.

Bendethera is also a rare property in the regional context that has been almost continuously occupied from c.1863 up to the late 1970s. There are not many former pastoral station sites such

as Bendethera which are now protected in the national parks estate, either in NSW or other states.

Criterion (g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.)

The remnants of the Bendethera pastoral station still displays evidence of the principal characteristics and setting of the place as it once was when operating as a remote station. The Bendethera Valley, along with other similar sites within national parks estates (such as Kunderang in NSW, Orroral in ACT and the ruins of the Wonnangatta Station in Victoria) form not only an impressive group of places not just at the local and regional level, but also throughout Australia.

5.5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bendethera (homestead precinct & cultural landscape)

The Bendethera Valley is of particular significance because it conserves both the evidence and the physical setting of grazing, mining and recreation/tourism activities in a location which is remote from both the coast and tablelands. Descendants of many of the early settlers of this and other areas within the region still have knowledge and memories which relate to these areas and their history.

The place has high local significance for its place in the local region's history. Bendethera was the foundation of the George family's land-holding in the 1860s and later, the Rankin family. Between them the two families established its pastoral value, were responsible for modifying the landscape, and used the land for about 100 years. Bendethera is also associated with Miles Dunphy, who was an important figure in the protection of the Deua.

Bendethera has wider significance as an outstanding example of a selector's holding established under NSW Land Acts after 1861. It has some typical features such as the attempt to more fully exploit the land by combining grazing and mining, albeit with minimal mining potential. The extensive irrigation system and methods of cultivation are also unique and indicate levels of investment rarely within the capabilities of selectors.

Overall, the Bendethera homestead precinct has local heritage significance for a combination of reasons. Each would individually make it an important part of the history of the local region.

6 CONSERVATION POLICIES

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of conservation policies within a CMP is to guide the ongoing protective care of places or items of heritage significance. The policies should be sufficiently flexible to recognise the opportunities and constraints, accommodate any compatible changes and at the same time enable the character and significance of the place to be retained and conserved. In general, the relevant policy below is followed by an explanation to clarify and assist in its understanding.

There are no plans to alter any of the identified existing fabric that survives at Bendethera. There is, however, an opportunity for new, well designed and prepared interpretive planning within the homestead area and the cleared sections of the valley, without diminishing the significance of the place. Other sympathetic changes could include restoration of the yards to full post and rail construction, stabilisation of the bread oven, and partial clearing of the main water race flowing from Con Creek to the homestead paddock and sections of the named river flats.

6.2 OVERALL POLICY VISION

The Bendethera homestead precinct that includes the cleared section of the valley is a place of high local heritage significance. The remnants in the valley, along with the landscape setting should be conserved and continue to be used for its current purpose, including the preservation of the parts of the existing cultural landscape, continued use of the area for visitor recreation to reinforce the significance of the place and the conservation of the natural values of the valley.

The principal significance of the place is in the remaining fabric of the bread oven, water race, yards, grave site, other visible remnants within the homestead area and the adjacent named river flat sections of the cleared valley area.

6.3 GENERAL

Policy 1.1

The Statement of Significance detailed above in Section 5.5 should be adopted as one of the main bases for guiding the ongoing management of the Bendethera homestead precinct.

To implement this policy, this CMP (including the Statement of Significance outlined in Section 5.5) should be endorsed by the Director of the Southern Branch, Parks and Wildlife Group (PWG), DECC.

Policy 1.2

All works which would impact on the place should be undertaken in accordance with the principles of Australia ICOMOS including the Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter).

It is important that experienced conservation practitioners are involved in any proposals at Bendethera and that sound heritage conservation principles are applied to any future work (refer Burra Charter).

Policy 1.3

The Bendethera Bridle Tracks in the area should be protected in the future.

It is an objective of the Plan of Management for the escarpment parks that bridle trails are to be managed in cooperation with community and interest groups with consideration for the value of all tracks within the region, both within and outside the parks; and there are recommendations to carry out research in to the history, location and significance of the various tracks based on an assessment of significance.

Although not assessed as part of this CMP, a separate assessment of significance is recommended for the bridle tracks in the Bendethera area. This may form part of an overall heritage assessment of bridle tracks in the region and could then be included in any review of this CMP.

Policy 1.4

The policies and recommendations in this CMP should be endorsed as a guide for the future management and conservation of the place.

For the ongoing protective care of any heritage asset, including the Bendethera homestead precinct, there needs to be an accepted position which guides the future of the place. Southern Branch PWG should review and provide advice and comments on this CMP. The Regional Manager, in consultation with the Cultural and Heritage Division (CHD), DECC should endorse these policies as the principal guidelines for managing the site (in conjunction with the park Plan of Management).

Where any proposed work is in accordance with this CMP, there is unlikely to be any impact on the heritage significance of the place. Where significant fabric or an element identified as being significant (see Sections 5.4 – 5.5) is likely to be impacted by the proposal, it should be referred to the CHD for comment and advice.

Irrespective of whether a proposal complies with this CMP, any works other than maintenance, may need further assessment (such as a Review of Environmental Factors or a Heritage Impact Statement).

6.4 USE

Policy 2.1

The Bendethera homestead precinct will continue to be used for its current purpose, including camping, walking, and other recreational activities such as horse-riding, caving and four-wheel driving.

The Bendethera area has provided for recreational activities since the late 19th century when visitors came to the site to inspect the caves and participate in other activities including horse-riding and bushwalking. Since that time, visitors have stayed as guests of the George and Rankin families, and more recently since 1980, visitors have enjoyed the place as part of the Deua National Park.

The continued use of the area for visitor recreation is desirable to reinforce the significance of the place, as being a recreational/tourism destination in the long-term.

Other functions that could be utilised within the site could include educational and special interest groups visiting the site on a regular basis. This could be promoted through local community groups, including schools and historical societies.

6.5 RETENTION OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Policy 3.1

The Bendethera homestead precinct and cultural landscape should be conserved.

As a significant place within its cultural landscape setting, it is important that the place is conserved, but this should not prevent some changes for continued visitation and enjoyment of the place and its setting. Some ongoing maintenance and works will be necessary to ensure the place is kept in a suitable condition. This may include the stabilisation of the bread oven, restoration of the yards, and retention of the identified cleared river flats that form the cultural landscape setting of the valley area.

It is recommended an archaeological zoning plan (AZP) be prepared for the site of the old homestead, where it is likely there are archaeological remains. An AZP would ensure that the site's previous existence is recorded and that any future proposals at Bendethera are planned to avoid the loss of any potential archaeological resource. The basis to prepare an AZP could be the parish plan for the former homestead precinct, and should include not only the former homestead site, but also the wider area of the surrounding cleared areas of the valley, including where the water race is located and possibly other areas where agricultural activities took place.

Policy 3.2

Significant elements in the Bendethera homestead precinct must be conserved, and intrusive elements removed.

As discussed in Section 5.4, there are some remnant elements in the area that are of significance, such as the bread oven, yards, grave site, water race, and the former homestead site. These will

require some works and maintenance to be undertaken to protect them. Regular inspection and maintenance should occur to ensure that significant elements remain in good condition.

Significant elements must be retained and conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter. Minor adaptation may be considered providing significant fabric is conserved. For example, the yards, could be restored to a full post and rail construction, with the removal of the more recent steel pickets and wire.

The treated pine fence around the grave site could be removed. The bread oven could be stabilised using a traditional lime/cement mix, and the main water race cleared of vegetation over at least part of its length.

The river flats identified as the homestead precinct, Joeys Flat, Jimmys Flat and Racecourse Flat could be partially cleared of wattle regrowth and understorey vegetation to retain the cultural settlement landscape that was created during European occupation of part of the valley.

6.6 CHANGES

Policy 4.1

Changes to the Bendethera homestead precinct and setting are possible but any changes should not adversely affect the significance of the place or its setting. Any changes should preferably improve or reinforce significance.

Maintenance

The site can have maintenance repairs provided there is no significant impact to the identified heritage values.

Maintenance may result in some original material in poor condition being replaced. Poor condition in this case means rotten or decayed. Wholesale replacement to new condition is not acceptable. Essential replacement is acceptable, but when replacing original fabric new materials should match the old like-for-like. When replacing non-original fabric the options are to return the place to a known earlier state (i.e. the yards and bread oven), replacing it to match existing details or adding new material in a sympathetic way.

Additions and Alterations

As mentioned, some sympathetic alterations and additions are acceptable.

Some degree of alteration and addition is possible provided the original form of remnant elements remains discernable and any new elements are sympathetic to the original (new elements should be limited). This may include stabilisation of the bread oven with a lime/cement mix without the introduction of many new materials; the restoration of the yards using traditional post/rail construction for the whole yards; the removal of the treated pine fence around the grave site (the older hardwood fence should remain); and the removal of some vegetation along part of the route of the main water race and partial clearing of identified river flats.

6.7 RECORDING

Policy 5.1

Original details and finishes must be recorded prior to any major refurbishment or alterations to the bread oven, water race and yards. Recording should be undertaken by a heritage professional (either consultant or DECC staff) and recording data submitted to the Regional Manager, DECC PWG and CHD.

Recording of elements should be carried out using Heritage Branch, DoP guidelines by means of drawings and/or photographs before any changes. Any evidence uncovered during works should also be recorded.

6.8 MANAGEMENT

Policy 6.1

A clear management structure needs to be put in place by DECC to ensure works occur in the correct way.

A regular maintenance schedule is already in place for the site; however there is a need for a system of checks to be introduced for the management of any maintenance works affecting the significant historic elements of the Bendethera homestead precinct to ensure that certain elements are not removed. A checklist could be introduced that would list all the significant heritage elements within the homestead precinct, which could be used in conjunction with the maintenance schedule.

There may be occasions where urgent works do not initially permit this, but once the situation is stabilised, the appropriate consultation should occur. The need for consultation between field staff, rangers and managers requires that known or major maintenance works are planned in advance, so that reasonable time can be allowed for planning.

As a general principle, the significance of the place will be eroded if sound management structures are not put in place and followed.

Policy 6.2

The site should have a program implemented to appropriately conserve the fabric and landscape setting by regular inspections and maintenance.

This policy is essential if elements within the place are to be appropriately conserved. The program will ensure the ongoing protective care of the elements identified within the Bendethera homestead precinct, including the landscape setting of the valley area.

Policy 6.3

The Cultural Landscape values should be protected.

The landscape of the Bendethera Valley needs to be managed to retain the significant elements and minimise adverse impact on the setting or identified heritage items within the Bendethera homestead precinct.

The landscape management of the cleared sections of the Bendethera Valley within the former 'paddocks' or 'flats' should continue to reflect the historic evolution of the place, particularly the European habitation and settlement of the place.

The essential landscape elements within, or in the vicinity of, the homestead precinct are predominantly the cleared valley areas, with the most important being the homestead paddock that contains the water race, grave site, bread oven, yards and former homestead site. Exotic plantings located within the homestead precinct should be retained.

It is important that regrowth vegetation should be maintained so as to not encroach significantly on the cleared nature of the homestead precinct and other named river flats, including Racecourse, Jimmy's and Joey's Flats. Regrowth of vegetation should be monitored with maintenance works carried out as required to clear emerging new vegetation within these areas.

Policy 6.4

Existing heritage registers and information sheets be updated with information in this CMP by providing a copy of the CMP to Cultural Heritage Division, DECC.

It is important that information about DECC heritage assets be kept up to date and consistent. This CMP provides an opportunity to update any existing information contained in the DECC Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register and internal Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS). A copy of the CMP should be sent directly to the DECC Heritage Registrar for this purpose.

Policy 6.5

A clear procedure to be adopted for unforeseen possibilities which seeks professional advice and approval from authorities before proceeding.

If an unforeseen event or proposal occurs for the Bendethera homestead precinct then the procedure to follow should be:

- Check this CMP to see if any policy provides clear advice. If so, act accordingly.
- Seek advice from a heritage specialist if there is no clear advice within this CMP to deal with the issue.
- Forward the proposal to CHD, DECC for advice and to comply with legislative requirements.
- Amend the CMP accordingly, if required.

Should there appear to be conflicting policies that apply to any future proposal then no action should proceed without professional advice and clarification by CHD, DECC.

Policy 6.6

This CMP should be reviewed after five years from implementation.

A review of this CMP should be carried out ideally after five years from implementation. This is in accordance with Heritage Branch, DoP recommendations.

6.9 INTERPRETING THE RESOURCE

Policy 7.1

Interpretation of the Bendethera homestead precinct should be promoted by means of making information contained in this CMP, including its history and significance, widely available to visitors and the community.

Although there is some existing interpretive material, there is potential for new interpretive planning on-site within the valley area.

Article 25 of the *Burra Charter* states that:

The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

Heritage interpretation is an integral part of the conservation and management of heritage items and is relevant to other aspects of environmental and cultural heritage management and policy. Interpretation will actively promote the significance of the site to all visitors to a wider audience, and also enable a better appreciation of the significance of the historical use of the place.

The existing interpretive material included a large interpretative board near the beginning of the valley, located well before the homestead area. This was recently vandalised and being replaced. Other signage consists of small signs at the bread oven, water race and grave site. Provision of new signage at existing locations as well as additional signage at the former homestead site (near the yards) would assist in a wider appreciation of the site by a range of visitors.

Policy 7.2

Interpretative Planning Methods should appeal to a wide range of visitors and the community.

Interpretation should seek to appeal to not only those visitors who make the considerable effort to visit the place, but also to those who may never go there. This can be delivered via publications, web-presence and information/education programs. Interpretation of such a landscape can also provide a means of heightening awareness of the cultural values of NSW National Parks in general, thereby appealing to a broad range of visitors to Bendethera. Obtaining a broader range of visitors, then providing interpretation, which seeks to respect and address the needs of all visitors in an equitable fashion, is a primary objective of interpretation. Best practice interpretation should seek to communicate to and interest all visitors.

Interpretation of the place needs to start before visitors arrive, (i.e. at the local information centres and at NPWS offices, or other historic sites, sections of national parks and web sites). Published material in the form of brochures, similar to the one issued for the NSW lighthouses,

are very useful and graphic tools which can be transported to the site, as well as used by those who may never go there.

The general methods employed in interpretation of historic sites are publications, signage, guided tours and displays. These can also now be incorporated into multi-media and web-based interpretation. Bendethera is too isolated and hard to secure to allow for a comprehensive interpretation centre. However, guided tours are feasible as occasional events. The distribution of publications through DECC offices and web-sites and local tourist centres is the most effective means of getting the story and significance of Bendethera to a wide audience, some of whom will never visit the site.

Signage is the most common means of presenting the significance and history of historic sites to the public. Signage does not require an enormous financial input and it has the benefit of being permanently on-site, and within the landscape it describes.

The individual elements in the Bendethera Valley, particularly those within the homestead precinct would benefit from new signage, such as signs at the former homestead site near the yards, new signs for the bread oven, water race, grave site and a new large panel that could be located where the existing large interpretation panel is located closer to the entrance to the valley. Additional signage at other adjacent attractions such as the commencement of the Alpine Bridle Track would be beneficial to visitors to understand the connection of these significant items in relation to the pastoral history and recreation of the place. There are also interpretive signs for the Bendethera Main Cave and surrounds.

Some of the possible narratives, which could be used to convey this wider history, are:

- The broader story of European settlement at Bendethera and nearby areas.
- Unique flora and fauna to the area.
- More detailed description of how the bread oven and water race were used.
- A more detailed description for the grave site of James George.
- The importance of the bridle tracks within the high country areas.
- The connections of the place to the coast, and particularly Moruya.
- The importance of late 19th and early 20th century tourism initiatives in the NSW south east, as evidenced in support/publicity for the Bendethera Caves.
- Aboriginal occupation of the area in general.
- Deua National Park and a return to public recreation, and other park attractions in the northern part of the Region (eg. Monga National Park).

Policy 7.3

An Interpretation Plan should be prepared for the Bendethera homestead precinct.

An interpretation plan or strategy should be prepared by a consultant with skills in interpretive planning and design based on the above two policies. This should also include planning to interpret the adjacent bridle tracks and caves.

The interpretation plan will provide the policies, strategies and detailed design advice for interpreting a heritage item and/or a significant element. It is based on research and analysis and plans to communicate the significance of the item, both during a conservation project and in the ongoing life of the item. The interpretation plan should identify key themes, storylines and audiences and provides recommendations about interpretative media. It should also include practical and specific advice about how to implement the plan.

The plan should be based on the guidelines prepared by the Heritage Branch, DoP (2005) in its Interpretation Policy publication.

7 IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The Bendethera homestead precinct including its landscape setting has high local heritage significance (see Sections 5.4 and 5.5) and should be conserved as set down in the conservation policies in Section 6.

Due to the nature of the Bendethera homestead precinct, and given that there are no extant large structures, the actions below do not require detailed activities that involve works to buildings. However, it is strongly recommended that as part of any changes or proposals to the place that controls set down in the conservation policies be adopted as controls for any changes to the place.

All conservation work on the remaining heritage items and significant elements at Bendethera should be carried out by staff that are experienced and have the skills appropriate to the particular works. Where necessary works are identified, refer to the *Guide to Building Conservation Works, Cultural Heritage Division (DECC 2002)*.

7.2 MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

Works required to manage the landscape, conserve the individual heritage items and site infrastructure, and open up cultural tourism opportunities will occur as PWG, DECC funding allows. In general management will need to prioritise the potential activities to suit available resources. Some programs can be implemented quickly, while others will take some time to be implemented.

The recommendations set out in this CMP have been prioritised below as both short and medium term actions. There are no long term actions proposed, as the life of this CMP is expected to be no longer than five years and should at least be reviewed, and possibly updated at that time. This section sets out the implementation of the conservation, management and interpretation policies contained within this CMP (Section 6).

7.2.1 Short Term Actions

General actions related to this CMP which should be completed within 1-2 years include:

- Place this CMP on public exhibition for comment at the Narooma DECC office, allowing a suitable time for the public to make comments on the draft plan.
- Director, Southern Branch PWG to endorse this CMP.
- Provide a copy of the CHD, DECC and Regional office for their information and to update records.

Other more specific short term actions are those which should be completed within *1-2 years*. They include immediate maintenance, the commission of further studies, particularly in relation to the future interpretive planning of Bendethera. These include:

Bread Oven

Stabilise sections of the bread oven that are badly deteriorating. The oven should be partially reconstructed using the same bricks (or similar) and a traditional lime-cement mix. This should be done in consultation with a specialist in the use of such traditional techniques.

Grave Site

Remove the modern treated pine fence that surrounds the gravesite of James Richard George. The older hardwood fence should remain.

Water Race

Clear vegetation along a transect of the main water race running from the homestead area to Con Creek. The most suitable location would appear to be not far from the bread oven where there is less mature or threatened vegetation present.

7.2.2 Medium Term Actions

Medium term actions are those which can and need to be completed within *5 years*. They include building and site maintenance, early planning work and assessing the feasibility of adaption opportunities for the place. They recognise that some actions need to be planned and evaluated before they can be implemented, or will take a while to get started, given the available financial resources. The following details medium term actions to be implemented at Bendethera.

Interpretive Planning

Commission an Interpretation Plan for the Bendethera homestead precinct which includes include detailed design and methods for interpretation.

Implement interpretation of the significant landscape and built elements within the interpretation plan for the site.

Yards

Restore the original post and rail type construction of the yards. This should only involve the removal of sections that consist of wire and steel pickets.

General

Establish that the place can be managed in accordance with this CMP, without further reference to CHD, DECC.

Events

The PWG, DECC management should develop and hold periodic events that celebrate the history and hardy lifestyle of people at Bendethera. Possibilities include but are not limited to 'Back to Bendethera Days' with descendants of the settler families and others with a strong association

with the place. These events could coincide with reviews of the CMP or any future proposals for the site.

Tourism/Education

Following the implementation of interpretation at the place, investigate and introduce further cultural and nature-based tourism and/or educational activities to the Bendethera area, such as Discovery Tours or other group tours.

A brochure that details the history of the Bendthera area could also form part of the educational and interpretive material for visitors.

Bridle Tracks and Caves

An assessment of the extensive bridle tracks in the area was not considered for this CMP, which has purposely focused on the Bendethera homestead precinct. An assessment of significance for the bridle tracks should be considered prior to a review of this CMP and included in any updated version.

Archaeological Zoning Plan

An archaeological zoning plan (AZP) should be prepared. This should include not only the former homestead site, but also the wider area of the surrounding cleared areas of the homestead.

7.2.3 On-going Actions

The following activities will be ongoing through the life of this CMP, which include:

- Continue maintenance activities and monitoring of heritage items and significant elements within the Bendethera Valley to ensure no adverse impacts on the significant cultural landscape setting and/or remnant fabric. This should be done in conjunction with a regular inspection of the other remaining historic fabric within the valley (below).
- Monitor the condition of remnant structures in the homestead precinct.
- Retain exotic mature plantings that are present within the Bendethera homestead precinct.
- Undertake photographic archival recording of items within the Bendethera homestead precinct area prior to any proposed works to record the existing state and condition of the heritage item or significant element, and
- Monitor the impacts of recreation and visitation on the landscape heritage characteristics.

7.2.4 Review

The Heritage Branch (DoP) recommends that conservation management plans be reviewed and updated at five yearly intervals.

8 REFERENCES AND SOURCES

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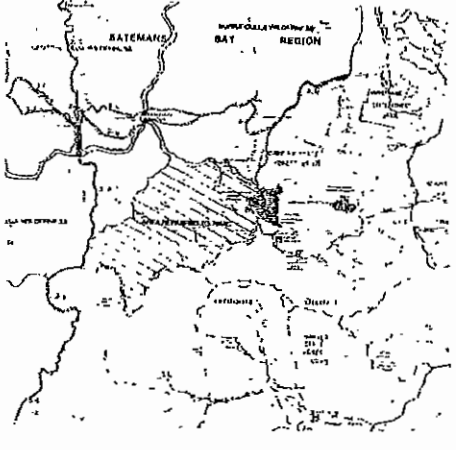


APPENDIX BENEATHERA OPEN DAY PHOTOS





EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL Heritage Inventory 1997

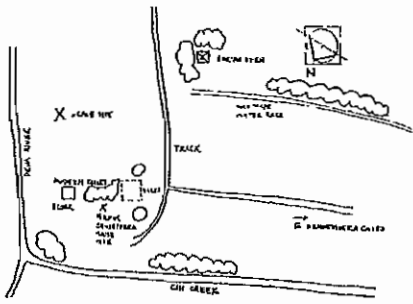


BENDEThERA AREA BRIDLE TRACK NETWORK - DEUA NATIONAL PARK

<p>PRESENT NAME <i>Bendethera Area Bridle Track Network including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bendethera Valley to Tablelands</i> • <i>Bendethera Valley to Araleun</i> • <i>Bendethera Valley to Belowra</i> • <i>Bendethera Valley to Moruya</i> 	<p>REFERENCE No <i>BEND/R002</i></p> <hr/> <p>DATE INSPECTED <i>5 February 1997</i></p>
<p>LOCATION <i>All start in what is now: Bendethera Valley Deua National Park Via Moruya NSW 2537</i></p> <p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA <i>EUROBODALLA SHIRE</i></p>	<p>SITE SKETCH PLAN</p> 
<p>PROPERTY DETAILS</p> <p>a REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION <i>Psh Uranbene Lot 1 DP 752159</i></p> <p>b SITE AREA <i>64.750 hectares</i></p> <p>c EXISTING ZONING <i>1(a) - Non-Urban</i> 8</p>	
<p>PRESENT OWNER TYPE <i>State Government</i></p> <p>NAME <i>National Parks and Wildlife Service</i></p> <p>ADDRESS <i>PO Box 282 Narooma NSW 2546</i></p>	<p>CATEGORY <i>Other Works</i> SUB CATEGORY <i>Bridle Tracks</i></p>
<p>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>c1850s-60s</i> BUILDER <i>N/A</i></p>	<p>ARCHITECT / DESIGNER <i>N/A</i></p>
<p>PHOTOGRAPH <i>Section of Bendethera to Moruya Bridle Track</i></p> 	

HERITAGE LISTING		HISTORICAL PERIOD	
BENDVR002			
<input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - INTERIM <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) <input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> COMMONWEALTH HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT (DECLARED SITE) <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL - NSW DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> NSW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HERITAGE REGISTER (S170 HERITAGE ACT) <input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NSW) REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (NSW) HERITAGE REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING HERITAGE STUDY (WRITE NAME BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	PRE 1800 1800 - 1826 1826 - 1850 1851 - 1876 1876 - 1900 1901 - 1926 1926 - 1950 1951 - 1976 POST 1976	Built <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Used <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS			
a ARCHITECTURAL STYLE N/A	b MATERIALS N/A		
c CURRENT CONDITIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INTACT <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC <input type="checkbox"/> MODIFICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> REPAIRS REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL COMMENTS <i>Bridle path clearly visible (refer to photo of section of the Bendethera to Moruya Bridle Track).</i>	
HISTORICAL NOTES			
<p>Although the railroad from Sydney to Nowra was completed in 1893, it was many years before road transportation to Moruya was to become a popular means of travel. At that time, overland communication to districts south of Nowra was by means of a series of disjointed bridle tracks from the tablelands. It was the discovery of gold in the Deua River at Araluen in 1851 which led to the opening up of the rest of the Deua area for farming. Farmers were able to make a living by supplying goods to the Araluen miners and later to the miners at Nerrigundah, when gold was discovered there in 1861. Mr Josaph George started farming the Bendethera Valley on the Deua River, in 1863. The Georges had 13 children and ran a very efficient, productive farm. Mr George and other farmers downstream were responsible for the establishment of the bridle tracks many of which are still in existence but are only used for recreational horse riding these days. The Bendethera Area Bridle Track Network consists of four main transport routes from Bendethera Valley. One went to Cooma and the Tablelands via Con Creek, the Bendethera Caves and Minuma Fire Trail for the supply of fish, cattle and to do the banking. Another went to Araluen via the Deua River and was primarily a mail route but was also used for other purposes. It was the shortest and most accessible route from Bendethera to "Canoolie" and "Alpine" farms and on to Araluen. Another track leaves the Bendethera Valley towards Bendethera Mountain and thence to Coondella Creek to the Coondella Fire Trail. One could then go south of Coondella Mountain, a steeper track used mainly as a bridle track, or to Burra, a gentler track used for packhorses. These were the main roads to Moruya. The other main transport route went along the Deua River to Belowra and then on to Cobargo and the stock routes used by Charles Bymes, S W Bates and W G Tarlington. This route provided access to land used for cattle grazing on the Deua at Georges Creek junction and to the miners at Nerrigundah. The tracks were regularly used for the transportation of supplies and stock through the area between the coast and tablelands. They continue to be traversed on horse-back and are a great opportunity to see the scenic South Coast hinterland.</p>			
HISTORICAL THEMES		INFORMATION SOURCES	
STATE THEMES Transport	LOCAL THEMES Bridle Track Networks of Eurobodalla Shire	WRITTEN ORAL GRAPHIC	Mrs Catherine Lawler, Bodalla, 1997. Mrs Genevieve Raid, Batemans Bay, 1997.
EVALUATION CRITERIA (S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL			
HISTORIC RARE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (R)	REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>		
AESTHETIC RARE <input type="checkbox"/>	REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>		
SOCIAL RARE <input type="checkbox"/>	REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>		
SCIENTIFIC RARE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (R)	REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The Bendethera Bridle Track Network has regional historic significance for its role in opening up the South Coast hinterland to settlement, trade and economic growth in the 1850s and 1860s. These tracks were integral to the development of the Shire and provided an opportunity for the transportation of goods and stock from the tablelands to the coast. Scientifically the track network has regional significance as a benchmark site in the region, for its potential to contribute to an understanding about patterns of development of the South Coast region from the mid-19th century.</p>			
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE REGIONAL			

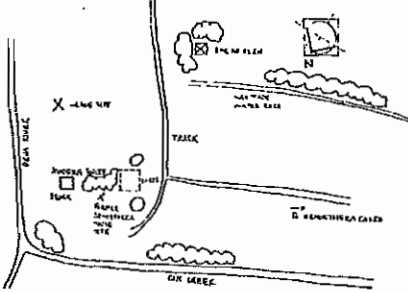

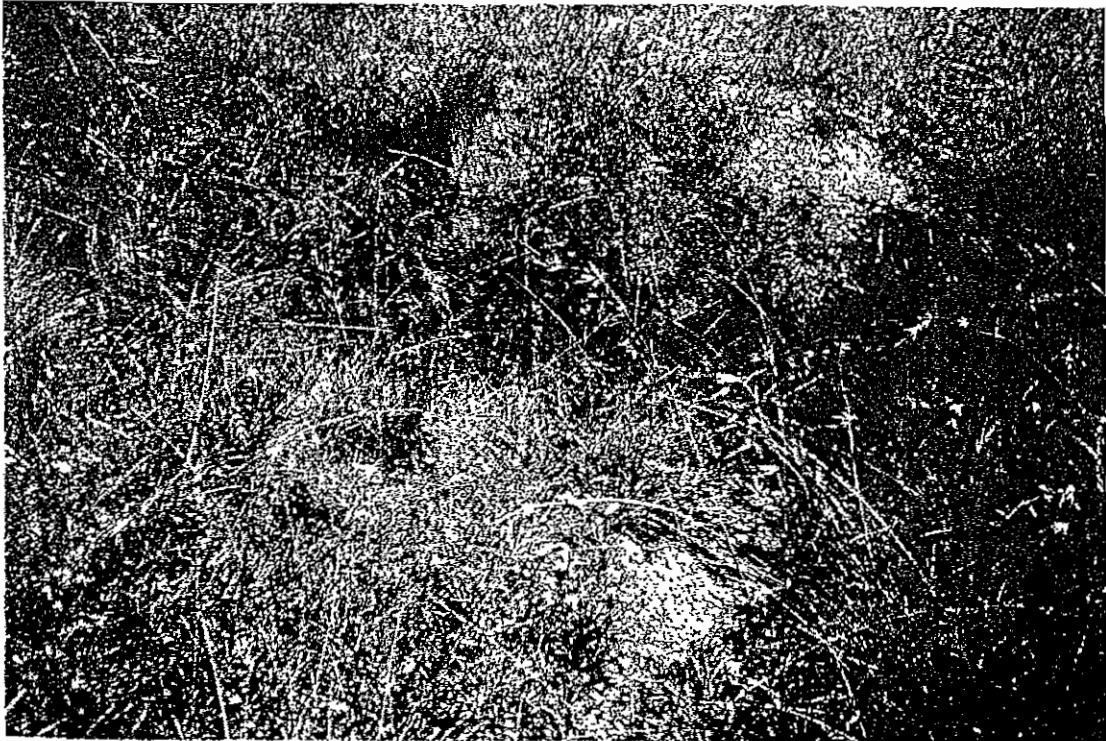
EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL Heritage Inventory 1997

GEORGE FAMILY GRAVE - BENDETHERA VALLEY

PRESENT NAME <i>Grave of James Richard George</i>		REFERENCE No <i>BEND/R001b</i>	
PREVIOUS / OTHER NAMES		DATE INSPECTED <i>5 February 1997</i>	
LOCATION <i>Bendethera Valley Deua National Park Via Moruya NSW 2537</i>		SITE SKETCH PLAN 	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA <i>EUROBODALLA SHIRE</i>			
PROPERTY DETAILS			
a REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION <i>Psh Uranbene Lot 1 DP 752159</i>			
b SITE AREA <i>64.750 hectares</i>			
c EXISTING ZONING <i>1(a) - Non-Urban</i> B			
PRESENT OWNER		TYPE <i>State Government</i>	
NAME <i>National Parks and Wildlife Service</i>			
ADDRESS <i>PO Box 282 Narooma NSW 2546</i>			
CATEGORY <i>Other Works</i>		SUB CATEGORY <i>Grave</i>	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>c1909</i>		BUILDER <i>N/A</i>	
ARCHITECT / DESIGNER <i>N/A</i>			
MAP REFERENCE <i>'56' 247760E, 6017960N AMG Snowball 8826-III-S</i>			
PHOTOGRAPH			
			

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL Heritage Inventory 1997

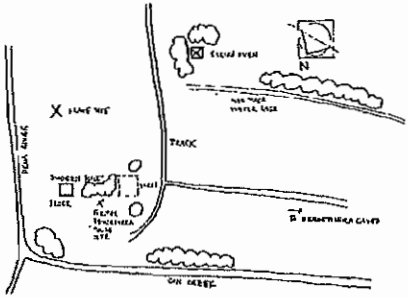


BENDEThERA FARM WATER RACE - BENDEThERA VALLEY

PRESENT NAME <i>Former Water Race</i>		REFERENCE No <i>BEND/R001c</i>	
PREVIOUS / OTHER NAMES		DATE INSPECTED <i>5 February 1997</i>	
LOCATION <i>Bendethera Valley Deua National Park Via Moruya NSW 2537</i>		SITE SKETCH PLAN 	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA <i>EUROBODALLA SHIRE</i>			
PROPERTY DETAILS			
a REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION <i>Psh Uranbene Lot 1 DP 752159</i>			
b SITE AREA <i>64.750 hectares</i>			
c EXISTING ZONING <i>(a) - Non-Urban 8</i>			
PRESENT OWNER		TYPE <i>State Government</i>	
NAME <i>National Parks and Wildlife Service</i>			
ADDRESS <i>PO Box 282 Narooma NSW 2546</i>			
CATEGORY <i>Other Works</i>		SUB CATEGORY <i>Water Race</i>	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>c1880s</i>		BUILDER <i>George Family Employees</i>	
ARCHITECT / DESIGNER <i>N/A</i>		MAP REFERENCE <i>'56' 247560E, 6017920N AMG Snowball 8826-III-S</i> 	
PHOTOGRAPH			
			

HERITAGE LISTING		HISTORICAL PERIOD	
BEND/R001c <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - INTERIM <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) <input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> COMMONWEALTH HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT (DECLARED SITE) <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL - NSW DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> NSW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HERITAGE REGISTER (S170 HERITAGE ACT) <input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NSW) REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (NSW) HERITAGE REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING HERITAGE STUDY (WRITE NAME BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		Built Used	PRE 1800 1800 - 1825 1826 - 1850 1851 - 1875 1876 - 1900 1901 - 1925 1926 - 1950 1951 - 1975 POST 1975
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS			
a ARCHITECTURAL STYLE N/A	b MATERIALS <i>The water race is approximately 0.8 metres wide and 0.6 metres deep. It runs from Con Creek - approximately 4-5 km.</i>		
c CURRENT CONDITIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTACT <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC <input type="checkbox"/> MODIFICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> REPAIRS REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL COMMENTS <i>Was re-worked in 1967.</i>		
HISTORICAL NOTES <p>Joseph George was born at Liverpool near Sydney in 1843. He moved with his family to Majors Creek in the 1850s during the gold rush. At an age of 15 he met his wife-to-be, Mary Hart. They were married at Majors Creek in 1860. Their first legitimate son was born in 1860 and was named Joseph F, after his father. Joseph was a butcher by trade, and he and Mary opened a butcher shop at Merricumbene, between Moruya and Araluen. As the story of George's discovery of the Bendethera Valley explains, an Aboriginal man stole his horse resulting in a pursuit across the mountains until he reached Bendethera. Joseph George took up land there in early 1863, buying and also leasing a total of 840 acres. It was the discovery of gold in the Deua River at Araluen in 1851 which led to the opening up of the rest of the Deua area for farming. Farmers were able to make a living by supplying goods to the Araluen miners and later to the miners at Nerrigundah, when gold was discovered there in 1861. Joseph and Mary had another son, James R in 1862 and a daughter, Mary A, in 1863. Joseph employed several workers to help construct his first home on the flat ground near Con Creek. It was situated near the bread oven. This home was later burnt down and they slept in the barn until the next house was built. More children were born including Doranda (1866), Charlotte (1867), Benjamin J (1869), Randolph George (1871), Charles W (1874), Annie H (1876), Maria (1878), James Sydney (1882) and Ernest (1884). The children were able to work on the property and each had a paddock to cultivate and look after. The Connell and Clarke brothers, bushrangers in the area, helped at Bendethera working for Joseph. At Bendethera they bred horses, sold produce to Araluen, Nerrigundah and Moruya, including bacon, corn, wattle bark, chaff, wheat, kept pigs, bullocks, cows and calves. The Georges used the old bridle trail networks to transport produce to the markets. In the 1880s many people from the surrounding districts visited Bendethera for the picnic races at Racecourse Flat. Joseph George Senior died on 27 April 1909 at Gundery, aged 66 years. Mary died in 1908, aged 70 years. Both are buried at Moruya. Joseph George constructed a highly prosperous and productive farm at Bendethera. Randolph George bought Bendethera from Auction in 1932. He left it to his brother Charles' two sons, who sold it to Allen Rankin in 1939 for £500. In later years, Rankin sold Bendethera to Ross McKinnon of Wollongong. He sold out to the Robinson family, also from Wollongong. The National Parks and Wildlife Service took over in 1979. Today only the bakery oven, water race, stand of trees and a George family member's grave remains as evidence of the former Bendethera farm site. There is no evidence of the former George family homestead, having been demolished some years ago. They had the benefit of irrigation from Con Creek and Deua River. A water race was constructed by miners out of work who were looking for tin and gold at Bendethera. The race carried water from the creek and irrigated the paddocks, particularly during drought conditions and in 1978 it was worked again.</p>			
HISTORICAL THEMES		INFORMATION SOURCES	
STATE THEMES <i>Environment</i>	LOCAL THEMES <i>Irrigation Processes in Bendethera Valley</i>	WRITTEN <i>"Bendethera Story", K & P Reid, 1992 in "Ganies Journal", Moruya and District Historical Society Inc, 1992.</i>	
EVALUATION CRITERIA (S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL			
HISTORIC	RARE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (L)	REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/>
AESTHETIC	RARE <input type="checkbox"/>	REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOCIAL	RARE <input type="checkbox"/>	REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCIENTIFIC	RARE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (L)	REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/>
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE <i>Although similar in principle to the water races used for mining processes in Nerrigundah and similar locations at the same time, this was constructed to relieve water problems during drought conditions in the Bendethera Valley. As such it has high level local historic significance for role in an activity which was essential to the success and prosperity of this remote mid-19th century farm. Scientifically it has unique local area potential to contribute to an understanding about the scale and methods of irrigation on rural properties of Bendethera Valley in the mid-1800s.</i>			
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE LOCAL			

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL Heritage Inventory 1997

BENDEThERA BAKERY OVEN - BENDEThERA VALLEY

PRESENT NAME <i>Bendethera Bakery Oven</i>	REFERENCE No <i>BEND/R001a</i>
PREVIOUS / OTHER NAMES	DATE INSPECTED <i>5 February 1997</i>
LOCATION <i>Near Junction Con Creek and Deua River Bendethera Valley Deua National Park Via Moruya NSW 2537</i>	SITE SKETCH PLAN 
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA <i>EUROBODALLA SHIRE</i>	MAP REFERENCE <i>'55' 247560E, 6017860N AMG Snowball 8826-III-S</i> 
PROPERTY DETAILS a REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION <i>Psh Uranbene Lot 1 DP 752159</i>	
b SITE AREA <i>64.750 hectares</i> c EXISTING ZONING <i>1(a) Non-Urban</i> B	
PRESENT OWNER NAME <i>National Parks and Wildlife Service</i> ADDRESS <i>PO Box 282 Narooma NSW 2546</i>	TYPE <i>State Government</i>
CATEGORY <i>Relic</i> SUB CATEGORY <i>Oven</i>	MAP REFERENCE <i>'55' 247560E, 6017860N AMG Snowball 8826-III-S</i>
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>After 1863</i>	BUILDER <i>George Family</i>
ARCHITECT / DESIGNER <i>N/A</i>	
PHOTOGRAPH	

BENCR001a		HERITAGE LISTING		HISTORICAL PERIOD																															
<input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - INTERIM <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) <input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> COMMONWEALTH HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT (DECLARED SITE) <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL - NSW DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> NSW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HERITAGE REGISTER (S170 HERITAGE ACT) <input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NSW) REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (NSW) HERITAGE REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING HERITAGE STUDY (WRITE NAME BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE				<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Built</td> <td>Used</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PRE 1800</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1800 - 1825</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1826 - 1850</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1851 - 1875</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1876 - 1900</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1901 - 1925</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1926 - 1950</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1951 - 1975</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>POST 1975</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			Built	Used	PRE 1800	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1800 - 1825	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1826 - 1850	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1851 - 1875	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1876 - 1900	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1901 - 1925	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1926 - 1950	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1951 - 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	POST 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Built	Used																																	
PRE 1800	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
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1826 - 1850	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
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1926 - 1950	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
1951 - 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
POST 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS																																			
a ARCHITECTURAL STYLE N/A		b MATERIALS Large stone/rock construction with iron rails to ceiling of the oven. No door, only a large opening. Stone held together by tramped ant bed.																																	
c CURRENT CONDITIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTACT <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC <input type="checkbox"/> MODIFICATIONS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPAIRS REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL COMMENTS <i>Becoming overgrown with blackberries and other vegetation. Wombat living in oven, at the present time.</i>																																	
HISTORICAL NOTES <i>Joseph George was born at Liverpool near Sydney in 1843. He moved with his family to Majors Creek in the 1850s during the gold rush. At an age of 15 he met his wife-to-be, Mary Hart. They were married at Majors Creek in 1860. Their first legitimate son was born in 1860 and was named Joseph F, after his father. Joseph was a butcher by trade, and he and Mary opened a butcher shop at Merricumbene, between Moruya and Araluen. As the story of George's discovery of the Bendethera Valley explains, an Aboriginal man stole his horse resulting in a pursuit across the mountains until he reached Bendethera. Joseph George took up land there in early 1863, buying and also leasing a total of 840 acres. It was the discovery of gold in the Deua River at Araluen in 1851 which led to the opening up of the rest of the Deua area for farming. Farmers were able to make a living by supplying goods to the Araluen miners and later to the miners at Nerrigundah, when gold was discovered there in 1861. Joseph and Mary had another son, James R in 1862 and a daughter, Mary A, in 1863. Joseph employed several workers to help construct his first home on the flat ground near Con Creek. It was situated near the bread oven. This home was later burnt down and they slept in the barn until the next house was built. More children were born including Doranda (1866), Charlotte (1867), Benjamin J (1869), Randolph George (1871), Charles W (1874), Annie H (1876), Maria (1878), James Sydney (1882) and Ernest (1884). The children were able to work on the property and each had a paddock to cultivate and look after. The Connell and Clarka brothers, bushrangers in the area, helped at Bendethera working for Joseph. At Bendethera they bred horses, sold produce to Araluen, Nerrigundah and Moruya, including bacon, corn, wattle bark, chaff, wheat, kept pigs, bullocks, cows and calves. They had the benefit of irrigation from Con Creek and Deua River. A water race was constructed by miners out of work who were looking for tin and gold at Bendethera. The race carried water from the creek and irrigated the paddocks, particularly during drought conditions and in 1978 it was worked again. The Georges used the old bridle trail networks to transport produce to the markets. In the 1880s many people from the surrounding districts visited Bendethera for the picnic races at Racecourse Flat. Joseph George Senior died on 27 April 1909 at Gundry, aged 66 years. Mary died in 1908, aged 70 years. Both are buried at Moruya. Joseph George constructed a highly prosperous and productive farm at Bendethera. Randolph George bought Bendethera from Auction in 1932. He left it to his brother Charles' two sons, who sold it to Allen Rankin in 1939 for £500. In later years, Rankin sold Bendethera to Ross McKinnon of Wollongong. He sold out to the Robinson family, also from Wollongong. The National Parks and Wildlife Service took over in 1979. Today only the bakery oven, water race, stand of trees and a George family member's grave remains as evidence of the former Bendethera farm site. There is no evidence of the former George family homestead, having been demolished some years ago. The bakery oven consists of a front section used for baking bread and meat and a large rear compartment for scalding pigs for sale at markets.</i>																																			
HISTORICAL THEMES			INFORMATION SOURCES																																
STATE THEMES <i>Other Persons</i>		LOCAL THEMES <i>Early Cooking Methods in Remote Bendethera Early Pioneers of the South Coast</i>		WRITTEN <i>"Bendethera Story", K & P Reid, 1992 in "Genies' Journal", Moruya and District Historical Society Inc, 1992.</i>																															
EVALUATION CRITERIA (S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL																																			
HISTORIC RARE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (R)		REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>																																	
AESTHETIC RARE <input type="checkbox"/>		REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>																																	
SOCIAL RARE <input type="checkbox"/>		REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>																																	
SCIENTIFIC RARE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (R)		REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>																																	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE <i>The oven has regional historic significance for providing unique evidence of the living and cooking habits of the remote South Coast area early pioneers cooking for both large families and for market and for remaining as an only known large-scale cooking example of this era and region. Scientifically it has regional significance for providing evidence of a technology unavailable elsewhere in the region and for its potential to contribute to an understanding about the lifestyle processes and habits of a large pioneering pastoral family in the Bendethera Valley in the mid-19th to early 20th centuries.</i>																																			
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE REGIONAL																																			

New South Wales

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995

MARRIAGES

Number	441 Vol. 101
<u>Groom:</u> Name	Joseph GEORGE
Member	Protestant Church
Abode	Majors Creek
<u>Bride:</u> Name	Mary HART
Member	Roman Catholic Church
Abode	Jerribatgulla
When married	16 September, 1855
Where married	Majors Creek
Where registered	Not Stated
Minister	Edward O'Brien, Minister of Araluen
Religion	Roman Catholic
Abode	Braidwood
Witnesses	Benjamin Lane of Majors Creek James Brady of Majors Creek



REGISTRY OF BIRTHS
DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

SYDNEY 13 Sep 2008

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a
Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia

Carey Cherry

Registrar

Husband: Joseph George

Born: January 24, 1833 in: Sussex Street, Sydney, NSW.
 Married: September 16, 1855 in: Majors Creek, Braidwood, NSW.
 Died: April 27, 1909 in: R/C, Moruya, NSW
 Father: John George
 Mother: Hannah "Ann" Stubbs
 Other Spouses:

Wife: Mary Ann Hart

Born: September 10, 1837 in: Liverpool, NSW.
 Died: August 08, 1908 in: 10313, Moruya, NSW
 Father: Michael Hart
 Mother: Mary Wilson
 Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

1	Name: John Joseph George Born: 1856 in: Braidwood, NSW. [3563] M Married: in: Died: in: (living in Queensland 1908 when mother died) Spouse:
2	Name: Thomas Richard George Born: 1858 in: 5786, Braidwood, NSW. M Married: in: Died: 1924 in: 19510 Lismore, NSW. Spouse:
3	Name: Joseph Francis George Born: March 30, 1860 in: 5814, Moruya River, NSW. (living in Qld when mother died 1908). M Married: in: Died: March 20, 1935 in: Moruya Hospital, R/C Moruya, NSW. (of Snowball, Fairfield Proprietor). Spouse:
4	Name: James Richard George Born: December 30, 1861 in: Merricumbene, NSW. 6305 M Married: in: Died: 1862 in: buried Bendethra Private Ground, Bendethra, near Moruya, NSW. Spouse:
5	Name: Mary Ann George Born: August 09, 1863 in: Glenduart, Moruya [6441] F Married: in: Died: 1941 in: 5206/Goulburn, NSW. Spouse:
6	Name: Daranda Mary George Born: June 06, 1866 in: Bendethra, Moruya, NSW [no birth reg. found / in family records] F Married: July 05, 1882 in: Moruya, Parish of Braidwood Died: March 23, 1925 in: Plot No R14/15, Alphasdale, Lismore, NSW Spouse: Solomon Thomas Payne
7	Name: Charlotte George Born: 1867 in: Braidwood, NSW. [7302]. F Married: 1902 in: 440, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Died: in: (at Kalgoorlie in 1908 when mother died) Spouse: Michael McGarr
8	Name: Benjamin James George Born: 1869 in: 7740/Braidwood, N S W. M Married: in: Died: November 05, 1917 in: 17901/Braidwood, NSW. (living in Moruya 1908 when mother died) Spouse:

Husband: Joseph George
Wife: Mary Ann Hart

Marriage Notes

Marriage (early Church records) Transcription Ref No V 101/441

Date of marriage 16/9/1855
Place of Marriage, Majors Creek, NSW.
Groom, Joseph George (Protestant).
Usual Residence, Majors Creek

Bride, Mary Hart (Catholic)
usual residence. Jerribatgulla.

Witnesses, Benjamin Lane, James Brady, both of Majors Creek.
Minister, Edward O'Brien
Religion, Roman Catholic.

9	M	Name: George "Rudolph" Randolph George Born: 1871 in: Bendethera, near Moruya. [no birth regist. found/in family records] Married: in: Died: June 24, 1938 in: Moruya, NSW. Spouse:
10	M	Name: Charles William George Born: 1874 in: 7302, Braidwood, NSW. Married: 1919 in: 6303, Lismore, NSW. Died: March 02, 1946 in: Lismore, NSW. (living in Moruya when mother died 1908) Spouse: Gertrude E Finlay
11	F	Name: Hannah "Annie" George Born: October 01, 1876 in: Bendethera, near Moruya. [9179] Married: in: Died: July 23, 1923 in: R/C, Moruya, NSW. (living in Moruya when mother died 1908) Spouse:
12	F	Name: Maria Louisa George Born: 1878 in: 9882, Braidwood, NSW. Married: in: Died: in: (living in Moruya when mother died 1908) Spouse:
13	M	Name: James Sydney George Born: September 24, 1882 in: Gilstone, Deau River. [15662] Married: in: Died: in: (living in Lismore when mother died 1908) Spouse:
14	M	Name: Ernest Edward George Born: 1884 in: 18616, Moruya, NSW. Married: 1932 in: 11324, Casino, NSW, Died: July 21, 1952 in: Palmers Island, Clarence River, NSW. (living in Lismore when mother died 1908) Spouse: Catherine Kelly
15		Name: Born: in: Married: in: Died: in: Spouse:
16		Name: Born: in: Married: in: Died: in: Spouse:
17		Name: Born: in: Married: in: Died: in: Spouse:
18		Name: Born: in: Married: in: Died: in: Spouse:
19		Name: Born: in: Married: in: Died: in: Spouse:

No. *33/420*

20 July 1833.

Prisoner's No. —
 Name, — *John George*
 Ship, — *General Stuart*
 Master, — *Granger*
 Year, — *1818*
 Native Place, — *Milborne Wilts*
 Trade or Calling, — *Saddler*
 Offence, — *Road robbery*
 Place of Trial, — *Before Magistrates*
 Date of Trial, — *4 March 1818*
 Sentence, — *Life*
 Year of Birth, — *1800*
 Height, — *5 feet 3 3/4 inches*
 Complexion, — *Tallow*
 Hair, — *Brown nearly bald*
 Eyes, — *Grey*
 General Remarks, — *Scar on top of fore head*

Allowed to remain in the District of *Sydney*

On recommendation of

John C. Bench.

Dated

*In view of W.P. 30/909, 27 Dec 1830
 relative to the sentence of George*

Moruya Examiner - Saturday 15 August 1908.

DEATHS

MRS JOSEPH GEORGE. This week we are called upon to chronicle the departure from amongst us of two of the district's oldest residents.

On Saturday afternoon last at 2.30 Mrs George, wife of Mr Joseph George died at her husband's residence, Gundary, aged 70 years.

Mrs George was in her usual health up to the day of Mrs B. Coppin's death - 28th July, the news of which so upset the old lady that she took to cold shivers which brought on pneumonia and her end as reported above.

Mrs George was a native of Liverpool near Sydney, her maiden name being Mary Hart. She married Mr George at Majors Creek about 32 years ago when she was 18 and for 40 years prior to coming to Gundary, which was about 3 years ago through failing health on the part of both herself and her husband, she lived at Bendithera where she reared a family of 13; eight sons and five daughters Viz: Messrs John and Joseph of Queensland; Thomas, James and Ernest of Lismore; Ben, Randolph and Charles of Moruya. Mesdames Payne of Lismore, McGan of Kalgoorlie and Misses Mary Ann, Annie and Maria of Moruya.

Deceased also leaves one brother, Mr Joseph Hart of Jerrabutgully, and one sister, Mrs Kingsley of Moree.

The deceased was one of the most hospitable and kind hearted women in this state, her Bendithera home of 40 years being always open with a cheery welcome to the traveller or visitor who might come along, and the hospitality of 'Joey' George's bendithera home became a household word from the tablelands to the coast.

Beside many other endearing qualities, Mrs George was a most devoted and loving wife and mother and it is with the deepest sincerity we tender to the bereaved husband, children, brother and sister our heartfelt sympathy.

The funeral, which was held on the following afternoon was largely attended. The remains were interred in the RC portion of the Moruya cemetery, the Rev Father O'Regan officiating at the grave.

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Mrs Patrick Tully was the second death mentioned in the first paragraph above.

TRANSCRIBED BY KATE BOYCE 1998.