

BARRINGTON TOPS

A vision splendid



By
DULCIE HARTLEY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I extend grateful thanks to Mrs Isobel Hopson for her help, support and encouragement over an extended period. I would also like to thank the following people, for without their assistance this book would not have been possible.

H.C. (John) Dorman of the National Parks Association of NSW Inc
R.S. (Dick) Woodgate of The Barrington Club
Doreen Hide of the Newcastle Bushwalking Club Inc
Chris Howard of National Parks & Wildlife Service
Brian Withers of Barrington-Gloucester Tops Fishing Club
J.A. Brown of Newcastle Land Rover Club
Newcastle Region Public Library - Local Studies
Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW
University of Newcastle - Auchmuty Library - Archives
Family of A.S. McDonald
Allyn Marceau
Arthur Munro
Mavis Newcombe
Harry Boyle

Many others were helpful as well, and a special thanks is extended to Rex Filson who obligingly performed the onerous task of reading my manuscript, and whose comments I found invaluable.

Fennell Bay NSW

Dulcie Hartley

© Copyright 1993 by Dulcie Hartley

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher.

September 1993

ISBN 0 646 15795 7

Printed by Knight Bros Printery Pty. Ltd. (049) 69 2016

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	7
CHAPTER ONE EUROPEAN INFILTRATION	9
CHAPTER TWO TOURISTS MECCA	17
CHAPTER THREE DEPRESSION AND SECOND WORLD WAR	33
CHAPTER FOUR TOWARDS A NATIONAL PARK	41
CHAPTER FIVE A DICHOTOMY OF VISION	51
CHAPTER SIX THE ONGOING SAGA	65
APPENDIX	71

COVER: Painting By Dulcie Hartley
 from photograph by R.J.E. Marceau



Falls on the Upper Williams River

PREFACE

In 1992 I was presented with a collection of photographs, the work of R.J.E. Marceau of 'Chesenden Park', Halton. The more I looked at them, the more I appreciated their value as a social commentary of a bygone era. They depicted the district of the Allyn and Williams Rivers, as well as Barrington Tops during the period from 1915 to 1925, when the countryside and vegetation were vastly different to the present. I experienced a vague sense of disquiet that these excellent photographs would once again be consigned to a dark box, and eventually I decided to prepare a text documenting the story behind the photographs, and share them with the community. There ensued many trips to the Mitchell Library in Sydney, and inspections of various other archival sources, as well as phone and personal interviews. The result is this book.

The photographer, Robert Joseph Edgar Marceau, was born at Araluen, NSW in 1886. He became a school teacher, and in 1912 married Daisy May Matheson of Araluen. Robert took up a teaching appointment at Eccleston School in 1918, and in 1925 moved to Halton School where he stayed until 1931.

Marceau's interest in photography commenced in the early years of the 20th century and by 1906 he had purchased a Kodak folding camera which was to stand him in good stead for nearly 30 years. He developed and printed his own excellent quality postcard size photographs, no doubt inspired by the scenic beauty of the Allyn and Williams Rivers, as well as Barrington Tops. During this period Robert became friendly with John Hopson of 'Dalkeith', Eccleston, and the two men made many trips to the Tops. Robert Marceau's photographs were eagerly sought by local residents and many of these, now highly prized, still exist. Marceau continued in the teaching profession and in 1949 retired to live in Kempsey for the remainder of his lengthy life. He died in 1981, reaching the advanced age of 95 years.

Alexander Stewart McDonald was the custodian for many years of the photographs that came into my possession. He was born in 1879 at 'Hill Park', the family property on the Manning River in NSW. The McDonald family later moved to Maitland where Alexander went into business. In his young days he was a keen sportsman, accomplished bicycle rider and a long distance walker with the Ramblers Club. In 1913 he married Catherine McKenzie of Washpool, near Stroud, and the couple resided at 'Ferrintosh', Mount Pleasant St., West Maitland.

It was in these early years of the 20th century that McDonald became enamoured with the beauty of Barrington Tops. He made many trips there with John Hopson [named by McDonald 'The Pathfinder'], and became a committee member of the Maitland Branch of the Barrington Tops League. It was A.S. McDonald who was the prime mover in arranging the visit of Mr. Wearne, the Minister for Lands and his colleagues, to the Tops in 1924. At this time a tourist book promoting Barrington Tops was planned which was to be illustrated with Robert Marceau's photographs. This scheme did not reach fruition, but McDonald retained a set of these photographs, and in 1955, when he was guest speaker at a meeting of the Development Committee of the Northern Parks and Playground Movement, offered them to the committee for any book promoting the Barrington Tops district. Once again this did not eventuate, but in 1993, some 70 years later, many of these photographs are being used for the purpose intended.

McDonald became involved in Local Government and was elected Mayor of West Maitland in 1930. As well, he was elected President of the NSW branch of Local Government Association of Australia. On his retirement from Local Government in 1956, McDonald had served for 36 years as an Alderman, and 13 terms as Mayor. He was awarded the OBE in 1954 and the CBE in 1955, in recognition of his mammoth efforts during the devastating Maitland floods.

Alexander McDonald retained his commitment to the concept of controlled tourist development at Barrington Tops throughout his lengthy life which ended in 1968, at the age 89 years.

D.T.H.
September 1993



Ladies Well – Allyn River

CHAPTER ONE

EUROPEAN INFILTRATION

Barrington Tops - The very name evokes a sense of nostalgia in those who have encountered the spiritually uplifting experience of 'Nature's Wonderland', while others yearn for the scenic beauties but are too timid to climb to the Tops or venture up the steep gravel road from Gloucester or Moonan Flat.

This undulating plateau in the Mount Royal Range, some 24km in length, commencing at Tomalla in the north and gradually rising to 1545m at Careys Peak in the south, is a popular destination for bushwalkers and 4WD enthusiasts with its spectacular views. At 1586m Brumlow Tops is the highest point, followed by Polblue Tops at 1577m and Mt. Barrington at 1556m. Immediately behind Careys Peak is a marshy plateau some 6.5km in circumference and it is this area which is traditionally known as 'The Tops'. Weather there can be quite unpredictable, with violent gales, sleet, snow storms and, even in summer, thick mists, driving rains and snow falls. A 'White Christmas' has been experienced there several times.

Vegetation on the slopes is dense and in the valleys rainforest species abound, with ferns, vines and epiphytes underneath the canopy. There is a verticle transition through distinctive forest types, including sub-tropical rainforest, Antarctic Beech (*Nothofagus moorei*) and Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*), the latter growing abundantly on the plateau, together with stands of Black Sally (*Eucalyptus stellulata*).

The plateau was once much more extensive but has been eroded by water action. Much of its scenic beauty is due to the valleys carved out of the original plain; there are over twenty of them, radiating in all directions from the hub of the plateau. Most drop sharply from great heights, resulting in waterfalls and deep gorges that can extend for over 16km before opening into the lowlands below. The bedrock of the Tops is mainly basalt which breaks down to form a rich soil in the alluvials of the river valleys. These districts owe their prosperity not only to the fertile soil, but also to the prodigious quantities of water flowing from Barrington Tops where the average rainfall exceeds 1500ml.¹ This clear, pure water flows in both dry and wet periods due to the exceptional retention system of the sphagnum moss swamps on the plateau, and to the rainforests in the upper valleys, both of which act as sponges and release the rainfall over an extended period.²

But these scenic wonders were to remain unknown to European settlers for more than 30 years after the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. As the infant Colony of New South Wales expanded during the 1820s, land hungry settlers pushed further afield into the upper reaches of the Hunter River system, seeking the fertile soils of the river valleys. Timber cutters followed, or in some cases preceded them, seeking the valuable Red Cedar (*Toona australis*), prized for joinery and furniture. After the more accessible areas were cut out and the lands cleared for agriculture and grazing, timber workers penetrated the foothills of the ranges.

The Gringai (Gringhi) Kooris of the Wanarua tribe, traditional occupiers of lands in the Allyn River districts, must have viewed the encroaching European settlers with initial wonder, soon to be followed by dismay as they saw their hunting grounds decimated. Settlers such as Charles and William Boydell purchased land during the 1820s and 1830s along the Allyn River. This forced the Kooris to hunt much further afield for their sustenance, or alternatively they could trade their services to the new landholders and timber workers in exchange for food. The Gringai people who remained in the vicinity of Gresford and Allynbrook were more fortunate than many other Wanarua people as the Boydells extended a benign paternalism towards them.³

From time immemorial, the Gringai people had made an annual summer migration to the heights of the nearby mountain range, by way of a track following the Allyn River.⁴ These tracks were no doubt discernible to early timber getters and explorers who could follow a well defined route, ever upwards, through lush rainforest.

Perhaps no such track existed for Robert Dawson when he explored a fertile valley west of a mountain range known to the Kooris as 'The Buccons' [The Buckets]. Dawson, the first Agent of the wealthy Australian Agricultural Company, accompanied by Koori guides, had left his headquarters at Carrington, Port Stephens, in 1827 to assess the agricultural potential of the Company's extensive landholdings. Impressed with the fast flowing river which watered the valley, he decided to name it 'Barrington' to honour his friend and mentor, The Right Honourable William Keppel, Viscount Barrington.⁵ From the 1830s onwards the name, 'Barrington Tops' was being used for the plateau.

Surveyors had earlier forced their way through the dense brush alongside rivers, and toiled up the steep slopes pursuing their seemingly impossible tasks. Assistant Surveyor Henry Dangar was instructed in 1825 to survey the lands NE by E from Muswellbrook, a route which would have taken him over Barrington Tops, but he erred and crossed the Great Dividing Range just west of Murrurundi. In January 1826 Dangar reached the Gloucester River near Tugrahakh, and the 'Vale of Gloucester' was followed down a river which he named the 'Manning' after William Manning, Deputy Governor of the Australian Agricultural Company.

Dangar had earlier followed the Williams River to somewhere in the vicinity of Clarence Town, and in 1827 Assistant Surveyor Thomas Florance followed this river further upstream to approximately the site of Barrington Guest House. He then travelled east to a river which he named 'Chichester', after his hometown in England. Florance then travelled to Gloucester Tops, on to Gloucester Falls and down the Gloucester River to the Kerripit which he named 'Arundel'. Continuing his work in the area, Florance descended to the 'South Branch of the Manning River', and then to the 'North Branch of the Manning', now known as the Pigna Barney River. The river we now know as the Manning was not the one so named by Dangar in 1826 but this, the South Branch found by Florance. When Florance reached Dangar's Manning River he named it the 'Barnard'.

Further exploration of Barrington Tops was carried out in 1829, when Assistant Surveyor George Boyle White followed Fal Brook upstream towards majestic Mount Royal. White followed the Williams and Allyn Rivers to their sources above Mount William. January of 1831 saw him exploring the Mount Royal Range, when he commented on the beautiful views and vast swamps. White experienced great difficulty descending the ridge between the Paterson and Allyn Rivers, and lost a packhorse when it fell.

Assistant Surveyor Ralfe traced the Barrington River upwards into the Kholwha Creek in 1834, and followed the Barrington to its junction with the Gloucester River. He then proceeded north to the Manning and during the same year traced the ridge dividing the Williams from the Karuah. And so these early surveyors, working under the most difficult conditions, with varying degrees of proficiency, performed the tasks set them by the Surveyor-General's Department.⁶

History records a visit to the Allyn River district in 1840 by famous ornithologist John Gould who was collecting material for his eight volume series, 'The Birds of Australia'. This work was beautifully illustrated by his wife Elizabeth.⁷

In 1843 German explorer F.W. Ludwig Leichhardt visited the Paterson and Allyn River district. A sawyer guided him to Mount Royal where he set up camp in the rugged terrain. For three weeks he roamed the area, examining the geology and botany, returning to base camp each evening and writing of his observations. On one occasion he was forced to camp in a hollow tree for several days due to unfavourable weather conditions. Just five years later Leichhardt was to disappear on an expedition to Northern Australia.⁸

Another geologist, the Rev. W.B. Clarke MA FRGS, and often called 'The Father of Australian Geology', found fossils of marine Crustacea, called trilobites, on a hill known by local identities as 'Borumbat', near the Allyn River whilst exploring the district in 1845.⁹

Dr. John Gill, a resident of the Murrurundi district, is reputed to have been the first to take up land at the Tops. Sometime during the 1840s he formed a stock station at Tomalla and employed stockmen to

run the property. As there was insufficient fencing on this remote station, cattle and horses ran wild. Their progeny were later to cause extensive environmental damage to sensitive areas such as the sphagnum moss swamps at Polblue. Dr. Gill is also reputed to have introduced Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) which was to later run riot over vast areas.

When James Campbell of Glenrock purchased Tomalla c1865, there was only one hut keeper living on the station property. Campbell settled there with his wife and family and his stockmen mastered the numerous 'scrubbers' [wild cattle] roaming the plateau. A favourite spot for the scrubbers to gather was at Polblue Swamp, near old stockyards erected in earlier times by cattle duffers.¹⁰

The rich alluvial lands along the Barrington River also brought many settlers to the district. By the 1870s a village had been established at Barrington, where there was a school, post office and a hotel. After the discovery of gold at Back Creek [Copeland] in 1876 business boomed, with hundreds of miners making their way to the goldfields.

The discovery of gold on the Denison Diggings at Moonan Brook also resulted in an influx of miners. A calico town sprang up, with business people soon following to sell their goods from bark humpies. The whole district was found to be rich in gold, and on 3 June 1879 the Barrington Tops plateau was proclaimed a part of The Gloucester Gold Field. Later strikes occurred at Stewarts Brook, Rawdon Vale, the Bowman and Tubrabucca. One optimist even tried to sink a shaft in Polblue Swamp, but never bottomed. The district continued to be of interest to fossickers, with discoveries of garnets and other gem stones whetting their appetites. Even as late as 1951 there was a minor gold rush on Barrington Tops.

Fred Ward, the famous bushranger known as 'Captain Thunderbolt', made good use of the rugged, mountainous country when hiding out from pursuing police. Although often relieving the cedar cutters of flour and sugar in times of need, Thunderbolt was generally well regarded in the district. His 'illustrious' career as a bushranger ended in 1870 near Uralla, when he met his fate at the hands of Constable Walker. 'Thunderbolts Trail' on the Tops commemorates his presence in the area, as does 'Thunderbolts Lookout'.¹¹

Thirty years later brothers Jimmy and Joe Governor with Jackie Underwood, all Kooris on the run from the police, were to follow the old Koori trail to the Tops, heading northwards over the range. Earlier Jimmy and Jackie, objecting to perceived racist treatment, went on a brutal rampage, killing white settlers including women and children. Later, when joined by Joe, the men took to the bush and terrorised the people of the sparsely occupied outback for over two months. Jackie was captured first and hanged on 14 January 1901. Joe was killed by a bullet fired by a pursuing grazier on 31 October 1900 and Jimmy was caught and hanged on 18 January 1901. 'Governors Lookout' on the track from Lagoon Pinch to Careys Peak commemorates these bushrangers.¹²

During the 1860s cattle duffers became a great trial to graziers on the lowlands of the Mount Royal Range. The duffers systematically raided properties and drove the cattle up over the rugged ridges to the plateau where they were herded into concealed stockyards. When the hue and cry abated the cattle were taken overland to other districts and sold, after which the whole procedure would be reversed, with stolen cattle brought down to the lowlands for sale. No doubt some unfortunate landholders wound up buying their own stock back again. After a time the angry settlers of the Allyn and Williams River districts took the law into their own hands and sent the duffers on their way. Mr W. Edwards Snr. of Salisbury participated in this rout.¹³

During the 1870s timber workers were reaping a rich harvest from the southern slopes of the Mount Royal Range. A rough track had been formed for the timber slide, and logs were drawn by bullock team to local mills, or to Paterson for shipment. Some Red Cedar trees grew to a tremendous size, with one stump measuring over 14m at the base. Another huge, inaccessible tree defied timber workers until the mid 1940s. With a girth at the base of over 11m and a height of 20m before branching, a team of men worked in shifts around the clock for eight days felling the log and preparing it for milling. It took 11 hours to haul a 7.5m length 3.2km; and this was in a mechanised age.¹⁴

By the commencement of the 20th century many holdings had been taken up for farming and grazing across the Tops. Bullock drivers such as Bruce Carter saw a potential market and, often forming their own tracks, serviced these properties, usually returning with a back load of wool or other produce.¹⁵

The wild splendour of Barrington Tops held a fascination for settlers from surrounding areas. One such was pastoralist Henry Luke White from the huge 'Belltrees' property near Scone, and sometimes called 'The Squire of Belltrees'. A naturalist and ornithologist, White's associates in these fields included many prominent scientists like Launcelot Harris, D. Le Souef [Taronga Park Zoo], J.H. Maiden, G.M. Matthews, Neville Cayley and J.A. Leach.¹⁶

Reminiscing in later years of his trips to the Tops, White said he first camped at Careys Peak in 1879. He also claimed to be the first motorist to drive a light car up to Edwards Hut. However, the real pioneer of the road to the Tops from Scone was his brother who, in 1898, drove a light 'four-in-hand' [horsedrawn] vehicle to Barrington Tops.¹⁷

The early years of the 20th century saw hardy, adventurous pioneers, riding up the timber trails and bridle tracks, climbing ever higher, and viewing the wonders of the deep gorges, waterfalls and rainforests. Many like Sam Rumbel and Albert and W.H. Edwards came from the Salisbury district. Others including Oliver Edwards, R.J. Saxby and Surveyor W. Hayne came from the Allyn and William Rivers. Access on horseback was most difficult and fraught with danger.

In 1910 a mounted group led by Charles Rumbel left Salisbury heading for the Tops, an expected five hour trip, although only some 25.7km distant. Included in the party was a correspondent from the *Dungog Chronicle* writing under the pseudonym of 'Wilga'. Following the Williams River they passed through beautiful stands of timber; Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), Sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*), Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Maidens blush (*Sloanea australis*) and Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*). Interestingly, at that time there were only stands of immature Red Cedar, so heavily had it been cut in the past.

The party climbed to 'The Lagoon Pinch', so named from the marshy land on its eastern side and Rumbel spoke of the days in the 1870s when he had drawn Red Cedar from this area. The men dismounted and led their horses along a narrow, dangerous stoney track overlooking the Allyn River. 'Bald Knob' or 'Cobberbawl', [from the Koori word 'Cobrer' meaning head¹⁸] and 'The Brothers' could be seen between the Allyn and Paterson Rivers. 'Wilga's' article mentioned that by now both men and horses were winded, and 'a close shave around the rocks, a scramble up a slippery path with Danger ever present' brought the party to 'The Jump'. In earlier times this had not been for the faint-hearted as it was necessary to take 'a long hold of the bridle while on foot and pull one's horse up a rock wall 3 ft 10 in [1.2m] at its lowest point', and 'Wilga' was most apprehensive. They reached 'The Corker' where a trail passed through a 3m wide cutting, blasted out some years previously by Messrs. Edwards and Saxby who both had grazing properties on the Tops. 'Wilga' mentioned that Edwards Hut which was built in 1905 was the best accommodation on the Tops. [It achieved great popularity in later years and was also a welcome haven for the famous and erudite]. Passing over a marshy swamp on the plateau near Saxby's hut, 'Wilga' was of the opinion that if drained, would form a fine racecourse 'so superior that it would make Flemington turn saffron with envy'. The party then made for Edwards Hut where they intended spending the next few days holidaying in the typical fashion of the times, hunting, shooting and fishing.¹⁹



Thomas & Notley Gold Mine, Copeland - c1878



Thomas' Gold Stamper - Copeland c1878



*John Hopson at Edwards' Hut –
Hopson Collection*



Cattle Grazing on the Tablelands c1921



*Early Trip to the Tops c1915 –
Hopson Collection*



*1923 Trip – Running Repairs –
John Hopson (Eccleston) mends the trousers of P. Sim (Maitland) while Police Inspector W.H. Childs
(Newcastle) rests. Note autographs on walls of Barrington Tops Accommodation House.*



The Leap – Opened by Hon. W. Bennett M.L.A. in 1921



'Dalkeith', Allyn River, Eccleston – c1921

CHAPTER TWO

TOURISTS' MECCA

The First World War was raging in 1915. Reports of the withdrawal from Gallipoli and fierce fighting on the Western Front had been soberly received, and although there had been loss of life from Hunter Valley districts, the lifestyle had not greatly changed.

In December 1915 Maitland solicitor Walter J. Enright organised a scientific expedition to the Tops, led by Professor Launcelot Harrison, assisted by C. Hedley and A. Musgrave, and guided by Messrs. Edwards and Hopson. Enright, of high repute in legal circles, was a noted geologist having graduated from Sydney University under Professor T.W. Edgeworth David [later Sir], and had accompanied David on his survey of the Maitland Coalfields. Noted anthropologist Professor A.P. Elkin had been a mentor for Enright who had also accompanied him on many field trips.¹

This large party was collecting material for the Australian Museum and the Linnean Society of NSW. There were geologists, botanists, entomologists, as well as staff from the Australian Museum, all seeking sufficient floor space at Edwards Hut to rest their heads.² Important discoveries were made at the time, with Enright and Hopson having the added good fortune of discovering a Koori stone axe on the tableland.³ A member of the group, entomologist H.J. Carter (retired Principal of Ascham, Darling Point, and Joint Editor of the Australian Encyclopaedia) opined that 'A light railway from Dungog for 20 miles [32km], and a well graded road like that at Kosciusko to the Hotel, would be of great benefit'.⁴

Alas, improvements to the road were slow to materialise. The district was renowned for its excellent orchards, especially citrus fruits, but the many river crossings created problems in moving the produce to markets. It was dairying and cattle country as well, and when the rivers were in flood produce was often spoilt. In 1921 members of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association, President John Hopson JP, were lobbying for improved access, but council funding was not forthcoming. Local men therefore embarked on a self-help program, expending barely affordable time, energy and finance to improve local roads. One result was the opening of 'The Leap' deviation by the Hon. W. Bennett MLA in 1921, thus eliminating two crossings of the Allyn River. The name was said to have its origins in the tale of a Koori maiden who leaped to her death from this precipice, rather than face punishment for breaking tribal laws.⁵

The Big Push for 'Opening up Barrington Tops' occurred in 1923. This was the year that saw waters of the Chichester Dam piped to Newcastle. The new dam brought many visitors which generated increasing community awareness to the beauties of the district. Despite the still atrocious roads, a party of Newcastle and Maitland men decided to spend Easter at the Tops in 1923. Members included Newcastle Police Superintendent W.H. Childs, [later to be promoted to Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police District], Frank Smith, J.S. Hoskins, George H. Reid, Paul Sim and Newcastle Chamber of Commerce Secretary, J.H. Nancarrow. They travelled by car to 'Dalkeith', the Eccleston property of John Hopson. 'Nature's Gentleman', genial John Hopson, often called 'The Father of the Tops', was anxious to share the delights of Barrington Tops with all who could appreciate its treasure trove. A naturalist skilled in bushcraft, his knowledge as an amateur entomologist, botanist and ornithologist was in great demand, and many species of insects and plants bear his name. Native orchid authority, Rev. H.M.R. Rupp, Rector of St. Mary's, Weston, honoured Hopson when he named a Leek Orchid, *Prasophyllum hopsonii*, first discovered on a field trip to the Tops.⁶

A true conservationist, John Hopson abhorred those who 'massacre everything they can hit', and guided many scientific expeditions over the years. Unfortunately Hopson, the 'Custodian of Nature's Cathedral', was to meet an untimely end when he died suddenly of a heart attack on 17 June 1928 at just 60 years of age, leaving many of his contemporaries to grieve with his family in their sad loss⁷. The community and science were the poorer for his passing.⁸ Shortly afterwards Hopson's collection of Entomological specimens comprising some 3,000 items in 15 store boxes and three glass cases, were donated to the Australian Museum in Sydney.⁹ On 14 November 1930 the John Hopson Memorial Hall

was officially opened at Eccleston. John's son Lindsay inherited his father's love and knowledge of the Tops and was later to escort many academics on their exploratory trips. After Lindsay's death in 1973, his son John became a fifth generation Hopson to reside at 'Dalkeith'.

But returning to the 1923 party at Eccleston, they had been joined by some local people, one of whom was schoolteacher and amateur photographer, R.J.E. Marceau of 'Chesenden Park', Halton. He had been commissioned by the Eccleston Agricultural Bureau to prepare photographs of the district for inclusion in a booklet to be supplied to Tourist Bureaus at Newcastle and Maitland. The Agricultural Bureau no doubt realised that improved roads would bring more tourists and additional revenue to the area.¹⁰

After crossing the Allyn River an incredible 15 times in 18km, the party entered the Big Brush, a virgin forest with a canopy so dense that the sun could seldom penetrate, and travelled a further 4.5km to the last river crossing. On reaching Lagoon Pinch, these 'expert engineers' all agreed that it would be relatively easy to construct a road to that point. Proceeding to Edwards Hut, the group made camp and then took in the sights, going first to Mount Barrington and then back to Careys Peak. It is said that on a clear day the view from Careys Peak extends to Broughton Island in the east, Murrurundi in the west and Mittagong in the south; in one sweep more than 30,000sqkm of country. Some 21 streams have their source at Barrington Tops, including the Hunter, Manning, Allyn, Williams, Paterson, Gloucester, Chichester, Wangat, Kerripit, Barrington, Bowman, Dilgry, Cobark and the Pigna Barney.¹¹

So impressed were the men with the scenery, abundant wildlife and invigorating climate that they all agreed the Tops would soon become 'the health resort of the Hunter Valley'. There were still unexplored areas to entice the adventurous, and these early promoters decided that the basalt soil of the Tops 'would grow anything'. [This was not the case however. The most fertile soil is said to be on the Beean Beean Plains and the rest is of indifferent quality. Cattle grazing on the plateau during summer will not fatten, but only retain their weight]. Still enthusing, some said the plain was a natural spot for a racecourse, while others saw its suitability as a golf course. Hydro-electric power schemes were discussed, as well as the future source of domestic water for the expanding Hunter district. The construction of nearby Chichester Dam had generated awareness of future water requirements.¹²

Largely as a result of this trip, a Public Meeting was convened by Maitland Chamber of commerce 'to support the movement for the opening up of Barrington Tops as a Mountain Sanatorium and Tourist Resort'. Ald. H.W. Fry, Mayor of Maitland, presided at the meeting when it was decided to form a League to open up the Tops. Prominent Maitland identities were elected to serve on the Committee of the new 'Barrington Tops League'.¹³

The Eccleston Agricultural Bureau continued agitating for better roads 'to bring many of these places within the reach of Tourists and Health Seekers'. As well, pressure was being exerted on State Government to 'Open Up The Tops'. One Bureau member considered 'there was sufficient timber....to pay for a dozen roads up these mountains'.¹⁴

As T.E. Peirce was a committee member of the new League and editor of *The Maitland Mercury*, publicity was unlimited. W.J. Enright, enraptured with the beauty of the Barrington Tops district, stated 'it [the Tops] cannot and must not remain shut up in its precipitous walls. It is a magnificent God-given asset, a kind of which we have too few in Australia. Let us use it to the full'. Catch phrases for the Tops were widely used like 'The Health Resort of the Hunter Valley', 'The Katoomba of Newcastle' and 'The Kosciusko of Sydney'.¹⁵

It was at this time that a local syndicate was formed to purchase 160ha at Careys Peak 'to save it from Sydney developers'. The plan was non profit generating, but only for resale to the government on condition that an access road was formed. This offer was not accepted by the government and the idea lapsed.

During 1923 Tourist Leagues were also formed at Dungog and Gloucester. These were vocal groups who combined with Maitland League in pressuring parliamentarians for improved access roads.

The planned route for the soon to be built 'Mountain Sanatorium' was becoming of prime importance to Dungog, Scone and Gloucester Councils. Dungog, backed by Maitland and Newcastle Councils, was pushing for a road through the Williams or Allyn River Valleys, while Scone was lobbying for the continuation of the existing so-called road via Moonan Brook to Tubrabucca, and then to Careys Peak. Gloucester Council considered a road could be constructed to the Tops from the east. Even dissension on a local level prevailed, with lobbying for the Allyn River route in preference to the Williams. Later on Singleton Council also entered the fray seeking a convenient access road. Local councils eventually persuaded C.W. King, Engineer in Charge of Public Works in Newcastle, to visit the Tops and assess the situation. He opined that it would be possible to construct a road up to the 675m level, but to proceed higher to Careys Peak and the plateau would be a most difficult task.¹⁶

A meeting held at Maitland Town Hall on 11 April 1923 resolved: 'That this meeting affirms the desirability of the speedy opening up of Barrington Tops as a mountain sanatorium and tourist resort, and is of the opinion that the enterprise could be made a self-supporting proposition, bringing the advantages of one of the finest mountain health resorts of Australia within the means of the large and rapidly growing industrial population of the Lower Hunter'.¹⁷ The Committee decided to request local councils to pursue a vigorous publicity campaign in the media to popularise the district, and also to lobby parliamentarians in an effort to secure government funding.¹⁸ This emphasis on a Health Sanatorium must be considered in the context of the era when tuberculosis was prevalent and invigorating mountain air was thought to be highly beneficial as a treatment.

The Barrington Tops League held a meeting at Maitland Technical College in March of 1923, when slides of R.J.E. Marceau's photographs of the Tops were shown. John Hopson gave a commentary, explaining the virtues of the 'Mountain Sanatorium'.¹⁹

During the winter of 1923 Hopson and Marceau decided to attempt a winter trip to the Tops, something which, to their knowledge, had never occurred previously. Although branded 'a pair of fiends', the two men could no longer resist the call of those white covered peaks. Marceau, writing later of the trip, commented:- 'For several years we had watched the line of snow around Barrington Tops every winter and wondered and talked of what the great tableland and Carey's Peak must look like buried in snow. Whenever a trip there was mentioned people said it was impossible and even madness to attempt it. "Horses could never stand it," they said, and "there was the danger of getting lost amid the snow".'²⁰

Nevertheless, the two men proceeded with their plan. Leaving Eccleston they stopped the first evening at 'Hillbrook', A. Hancock's property across the Allyn River some 13km away. Daybreak saw them on the track again and before long they were feasting their eyes on the glittering, snow capped peaks ahead. Encountering snow so deep that it was impossible to ride the horses, the men were forced to drag the reluctant animals along, at times sinking waist deep in snow. The struggle to the Tops was well worth the effort, however, for the sight that met their eyes at Careys Peak was to stay in their memories for many a year. Below was the dark, threatening valley where masses of swirling clouds and fog rushed up the cliffs below, only to be sucked back, and then rolled and tumbled for another attempt. Somewhat intimidated by the wild splendour, they nevertheless proceeded and came upon the great fairyland of the swamps, now covered with deep snow. Sadly, they came upon many cattle, huddled together for warmth and just frozen to death in situ. Farmers had traditionally used the grasslands of the plateau for summer grazing, and apparently these animals had been missed during the autumn muster. After a crossing of the Barrington River made difficult by the depth of snow, the men rested at Edwards Hut for a while before travelling back, half frozen, with eyes aching from the glare of the never ending whiteness.²¹

These men envisaged a future role for the Tops 'when the long ridges would see the ski riders racing down the slopes, and the great swamps a beautiful sheet of water covered with ice, and hundreds of skaters'.²² During the winter of 1923 this deep snow remained for three months. Hopson and Marceau had set a precedent and other adventurers soon followed. The Barrington Tops League now promoted the Tops as 'A Health and Tourist Resort and Winter Playground'.

During this same year the Chichester and Wangat Valley areas were proclaimed 'A Bird and Animal Sanctuary' and 'A Water Catchment'. The following year the south western section of the plateau was also declared a Sanctuary.

It is interesting to speculate on what motivated these early 'friends of Barrington Tops' in their now frenetic efforts to inform Australians of the wonders of this unique area, a veritable treasure trove for scientists. Local councils sought tourists and developers for increased revenue, and property owners received spin-offs as roads improved. But men such as John Hopson and Walter Enright, each of whom had achieved recognition in their respective fields, presented an enigma. Probably they were only naive visionaries, anxious to share the joys of 'Nature's Cathedral'.

Another such visionary was adventurer Lyon Cavalier. A Newcastle optometrist, he had migrated from France in 1899, after which his career as an optometrist was interspersed with mountaineering, exploring, crocodile hunting and aviation. He was also interested in the British Association for the Advancement of Science and was a member of a committee which published a handbook on the history and natural resources of the Hunter district.²³ Cavalier moved from Maitland to Newcastle in 1919 and achieved fame by leading an exploration party through Sassafras Gully. So rugged was the terrain that this Gully, one of the deepest on Mount Barrington's weathered slopes, was for many years unexplored. However, Christmas of 1923 saw Newcastle identities L. Cavalier, S. Neve and R. Hewitt, with fox terrier dog 'Triesy', finally conquer Sassafras Gully [Barrington Gorge]. They hacked their way through with knives, at times shrouded in a pea-soup fog, when they could only fix their position by the sound of the Barrington River falling on rocks.²⁴

Early in January of 1924 saw a visit by a top ranking ministerial party. Such was its size that 40 cars were required to take the group on the first leg of the journey from Dungog to Salisbury Hall. Tables groaned under the weight of delicious home cooking and local fruits, and entertainment was provided with Mr. J. Rumbel officiating. Among the party were the Deputy Leader of Government, W.S. Weame, Minister for Lands; Lt. Col. Buxner, Leader of the Progressive Party; J. Jackson, MLA, Sydney, T. Mutch MLA, Botany; W. Bennett MLA, Maitland and J. Garlick, Under Secretary for Local Government. Local men included J.W. Kelk, Clerk of Petty Sessions, Dungog; A.S. McDonald of West Maitland, R.L. Pender of West Maitland and E. Ferry of Dungog.²⁵

Leaving Salisbury they travelled a further 8km by car on a new track constructed by local property owner, Sid Cutler. Mrs Cutler officially opened this track, known as Cutlers Pass, by cutting a ribbon at a ceremony beside the Barrington River near the site of the present Barrington Guest House.²⁶

The mounted party then commenced the journey to the Tops, their horses the finest in the district, some supplied by J.K. Mackay of Cangon. Williams River families such as Edwards, Saxby, Deards, Hopson and Smith were well represented. The 76 riders, proceeding in single file, climbed the precipitous, twisting bridle trail, to the staccato echo of iron-shod hoofs on granite boulders.

At Governors Lookout they entered a one metre wide cutting made years earlier to provide an easier access around the side of a tremendous gorge. A second cutting had been made to avoid the horrific climb up and over The Corker which had been necessary at one time. The riders made their way to Careys Peak where they gazed in awe at the magnificent panorama before them.

Riding on to Edwards Hut they found a huge banner decorated with ferns and bearing the word 'Welcome'. This was the work of Mrs Edwards Snr., her daughter Mrs Simpson and Miss Cook, who had all made their way up the mountain earlier to prepare food and accommodation for the ministerial party. Three carloads of visitors came from the west, as well as Mr. Crosbie driving a buggy and pair. James Coll of Dungog and W. Baker, of the Upper Hunter Shire Council were there, as were Mrs A. Carter of Gummi and Miss Majorie Wharton of Corneisville, Tomalla. Mr. Weame addressed the gathering of over 100 people, speaking on the beauty of the Tops, and moves to improve roads for tourism. The official party spent a cold, but merry night, with the more fortunate bedding down inside Edwards Hut. In appreciation of the wonderful hospitality, Mr. Weame moved a vote of thanks to 'The pioneers of the Tops, Mr and Mrs Will Edwards'.

On 19 January 1924, after their inspection of Barrington Tops, members of the Ministerial Party enjoyed a sumptuous Afternoon Banquet at the School residence, Eccleston. Many signed the Visitors' Book, including the following:-

W. Bennett MLA – Dungog
J. Garlick – Under Secretary for Local Government
E. Loughlin – *Evening News*, Sydney
A.A. Dunicliff – *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney
C. Smith – *Sun*
F. Cobman Browne – *Sydney Morning Herald*
W. Packer – *Daily Guardian*, Sydney
John C. Dick – *Guardian*, Sydney
H. Fry, Bourke St., West Maitland
? Chalmers, Dungog
M.G. Cooke, Sydney
T.D. Mutch MLA, Sydney
H.W. Fry, Mayor, West Maitland
A.G. Laurie, Halton
W.E. Weame, Minister for Lands
W.S. Pender, West Maitland
T.E. Peirce, West Maitland
R.L. Pender, West Maitland
Sydney Smith, Salisbury
Harry J. Saxby, Salisbury
A.S. McDonald, West Maitland
John Chesworth, Gresford
D. Smith, East Gresford



Afternoon Banquet – Eccleston – 19 January 1924 –
Hopson Collection



*1923 Party on Bean Bean Plain – Barrington Tableland –
 From right:- Paul Sim, Frank Smith, George Reid, W.H. Childs, John Hopson,
 J.H. Nancarrow, J. Hoskins(?) and 2 unidentified figures –
 Marceau Collection*



*1921 Party off to the Barrington Tableland –
 Left to Right – J.C.B. Allen, John Hopson, G. Goldfinch, T.G. Sloane, A.N. Burns*



Hancock's Sawmill – Allyn River – 1923



Kosciusko of the Hunter Valley – 1923



*J.H. Nancarrow –
Secretary, Newcastle
Chamber of Commerce –
Standing on summit
of Mt. Barrington –
1556m. – 1923*

HUNTER MOUNTAIN SANATORIUM

A MEETING for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a League to work for the establishment of a Mountain Sanatorium and Tourist Resort on the Barrington Tops will be held on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, at 8 p.m., at the TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WEST MAITLAND. Representatives of Churches, Friendly Societies, Trade Unions, Miners' Lodges, Progress Associations, Sporting Clubs, etc., and all interested are cordially invited to attend. Views of the Barrington Tops will be exhibited, and the initiation of a genuine People's Movement will be advocated. Admission to space reasons limited to adults. Attendance desired. On behalf of the promoters of the movement, W. J. ENRIGHT, T. E. PEIRCE. 3117



*Frozen to death – Barrington Tops –
300 cattle lost their lives during August of 1923*



'Antarctica' – Barrington Tops – Winter 1923



*'First' Car to the Tops –
Hopson Collection*



*Young & Green Motor Service,
Watt Street, Newcastle 1924 – Opposite Newcastle Railway Station*

The Hon. Walter Bennett, waxing lyrical, suggested that the Tops should be a 'huge Wonderland Park with aeroplane landings, wireless stations, garages, toboggan slides and lakes, and forests maintained in their natural beauty', a tall order indeed.²⁷ It was at this time that the words 'National Park' began to be used in relation to the Barrington Tops district.²⁸

Several days after the ministerial visit to the Tops via Dungog, Mr. Wearne and entourage were once again on their way to the Tops, this time as guests of H.L. White Esq., 'the Squire' of 'Belltrees', and President of the Upper Hunter Shire Council, together with members of The Tops Development Association. Not to be outdone by the Dungog people, the occasion was the opening of a road to the Tops via Scone, largely funded by local money. The opening ceremony was held at the Tomalla Road turn off at Whartons Mill, 27km from Edwards Hut. Mr. White stressed that it was only a 'dry weather road' so far, and that further funding and work was required.

Once again the occasion drew a large crowd and Newcastle adventurers Messrs Cavalier, Neve, Humphries, Lamb and Maitland identity Mr. Pender, together with a reporter from the *Newcastle Sun*, had decided to attend. Their plan was to emulate Mr. White's earlier feat of driving to the Tops after the official function ended. The previous evening they had left Newcastle in a powerful Chandler car with 'The Prince of Drivers', Bert Young of the Newcastle firm Young & Green Motor Service at the wheel. The night time trip to Moonan Flat produced many hair raising experiences. Arriving at midnight, they had a few hours sleep, a brisk dip in the river, and at daylight headed for Whartons Mill some 27km away where the official opening ceremony was to be held.

Typical drizzling Barrington weather set in, and continued throughout the day, so the plan for using the new 'dry weather road' seemed thwarted. However, the party in the Chandler and a few others decided 'it was the Tops or nothing', but bided their time whilst the official speeches continued.

Mr. White said 'they did not wish to rival anyone else', of course referring to Mr. Wearne's recent excursion with the Dungog group. Wearne promised that no more land was to be alienated and said he had definitely decided to make a large reservation for the public on the plateau. Walking a thin line, he mentioned that he was aware of the rivalry between the councils, and attempting to defuse the issue, cleverly expressed a personal preference for a road right across the Tops in an east-west direction. Little did the gathering realise that another 54 years would elapse before this road, linking Gloucester and Scone, would reach fruition. Mr. Collison of The Tops Development Association, spoke of the need for three good hotels to cater for the expected tourist influx.

With the proceedings concluded, Cavalier's party in the Chandler headed towards Careys Peak, leading a procession of vehicles and horsemen. The track was horrific, and so steep in some places that many low powered cars met their Waterloo. Over ruts, fords and creeks, the Chandler pressed on in persistent rain, to finally reach Edwards Hut where the party spent the night, afterwards returning via Moonan Flat, 'Belltrees', and then on to Newcastle.²⁹

In December of 1924 and January of the new year Myles Dunphy, noted conservationist, together with other Sydney members of the Mountain Trails Club, spent some weeks backpacking on the Tops. They walked from Eccleston up to the plateau and then down to Scone via Gundy, a most memorable experience. Dunphy opined that the Tops should become a National Park, 'or better still, a primitive reserve'. He disapproved of the cattlemen burning off the vegetation on the plateau each year to promote sweet new growth, noting the detrimental effect on the sphagnum moss swamps and on regrowth of eucalypts.³⁰

Late December of 1924 saw Cavalier again leading a party to the Tops. This visit had a twofold purpose. He wanted to complete the exploration of Sassafras Gully, and Nobbys Signal Station at the entrance to Newcastle Harbour had asked his assistance to obtain a correct bearing on Careys Peak. A huge bonfire was to be lit at 8pm to assist in the exercise, but owing to a severe December snowstorm it had to be postponed. Accompanying Cavalier were Lt. C.C. Humphries and his daughter, together with Stuart Neve, Mr H.J. and Mrs B. Sivyver of Mindaribba and Messrs Hopson and Hill. While awaiting better weather, Cavalier and others decided to continue their Sassafras Gully exploration,

which proved to be rugged and exhausting. They were away four days and when they emerged from the undergrowth, scratched and weary from scrub bashing, trusty John Hopson was out searching for them with their horses.

It was not until 1 January 1925 that the huge bonfire was lit, with others in response sighted at Eccleston and Singleton. At 7.50pm the party saw two bright flashes like rockets from the direction of Newcastle, and it was afterwards learnt that the Careys Peak fire had been sighted at Nobbys Signal Station. The bearing from Nobbys was recorded as NNW half W (north 28 degrees west).³¹

Cavalier had early realised the potential of the Barrington Tops district and is reputed to have been one of the first to release trout fingerlings into the streams. Nevertheless, there were many who claimed to have been the first to accomplish this. Early records seem to indicate that Mr. J.H. Keys of 'Bengalla' had this honour when some years prior to 1877 he released 500 trout ova into a stream on 'Belltrees'. During 1877 trout were caught in the Hunter River.³²

There were many others subsequent to Mr. Keys who stocked the streams with trout. More recently formed groups such as The Scone Fishing Club and the Barrington Tops-Gloucester Fishing Club are continually releasing fry and fingerlings.³³

In 1925 the Newcastle firm of Young & Green Motor Service saw the tourism potential of the Tops. They advertised a Three Day Tour to Barrington Tops via Moonan Flat with camping at the Tops, and horses supplied. The charge was £5.10.0 (\$11.00), a little more than a tradesman's wage for one week.³⁴

Hot on the heels of the 1924-5 Cavalier party came Professor Launcelot Harrison and his wife, author Amy Mack, leading a field trip from the University of Sydney. Included in the party were Dr. G.A. Waterhouse, H.J. Carter, Dr. L.M. Mackerras, Dr. Josephine Bancroft, all entomologists, and Marcel Arousseau, noted geographer and geologist. The party of 21 camped near Rams Head Crossing on the Upper Barrington River, where they spent an enjoyable and productive three weeks studying the geology, topography, zoology and botany.³⁵

They were provided with an unaccustomed luxury for the times. The Sydney firm of Farmer & Co had supplied them with 'a powerful wireless [radio]' so they could listen to the Third Test Match. 'Nature's Gentleman', John Hopson saw to their comfort, bringing up supplies and even new boots for the ladies. The party encountered bad weather and, with food scarce, these eminent people were reduced to eating eels, yabbies, fish, red wattle birds, parrots and wombats.

While Prof. Harrison's party was camped on the Upper Barrington along came a convoy of Essex cars, all set to conquer Careys Peak. This they accomplished, although the muscle power of the scientific party had to be enlisted. The last 3.5km took over nine hours, when tow ropes and manpower were used to haul vehicles up the steep slopes.³⁶

H.J. Carter wrote some years later of this field trip. 'Never before in the history of Barrington had so large a party stayed for so long on these heights. Our camp soon became a local sensation which brought many visits from our country cousins, especially from Stewart's Brook and Moonan, and what was a very present help in trouble - generous gifts of fresh bread, milk, meat, and vegetables. On Anniversary Day a large party rode up from Dungog, including the Mayor of that ilk. All expressed interest in our collecting - with wonder that grown men could be satisfied in the pursuit of such small deer, [sic] instead of fishing or shooting'.

'On Sunday, 25 January, the whole camp attended the first Divine Service held on Barrington Tops, when the Rev. W.H.G. Cochrane, rector of Gundy...came up by Ford car to convert our heathen. Besides the Essex cars, two sets of natives entertained us; one a local trout fisher and his son who contributed a dozen fine fish to the breakfast table; the other lot were real wild cattle hunters, who had captured some half-dozen "scrubbers" in the denser timber, showing us the real thing in cattle driving

in the worst possible country, riding really fine horses....That evening four of these real "bushies" strolled in from Edwards Hut in twos - laconically squatting bush fashion - and with a minimum of speech enjoyed the humours of camp singing'.³⁷ Carter's account reveals an elitism prevalent in that era of a more class structured society.

The party found the trip down from the Tops fairly hard. 'The descent of the steep spur was made difficult by the deep mud and slime. One had to lead horses. The writer [H.J. Carter] led two, and these threatened to become destructive avalanches, but cleverly slid down, one each side of me, in bad places. We arrived at Salisbury at 3.30, hired a car to Dungog, caught the midnight train, and came in with the early milk to our respective homes'.³⁸

Due to the increasing traffic a better access road was considered imperative. The completion of the Salisbury Gap Road in late September 1926 was seen as a step in the right direction as it eliminated several crossings of the Allyn River. Fred Rumbel from Salisbury constructed approximately 1200 metres of this road for \$600, thus linking the Williams and Allyn River valleys. The road was officially opened by Mrs. Lawrie when she cut the ribbon before a large gathering.³⁹

John Hopson's services were again in demand by a party in September 1926. Naturalist Donald Barr, with Drs. Waterhouse and Jeffries Turner combed this veritable treasure house collecting specimens for museums. A new species of beetle was found and, honouring Hopson, was named *Cardiothorax hopsoni*. These early visitors to the Tops continually mentioned a sizeable brown, sluggish, venomous snake which they knew as 'the Barrington Tops fellow'. Horses could step over it, and walkers often mistook it for a large cow pat. This was probably the one identified in 1925 as the Superb Snake *Denisonia superba*, and known locally as the Copperhead or Snow Snake. (Perhaps the Alpine Copperhead). The party also noticed Black Snakes and Tiger Snakes.

Motivated by the recent scientific discoveries at the Tops, Donald Barr wrote a series of articles for the *Sydney Mail* headed 'The New Finds for Science - from Beetles to Amphibians'. There was talk at this time of establishing a Biological Station on the Tops, so successful had been the expedition. Dr. Waterhouse addressed the Royal Zoological Society on the new discoveries, mentioning that many species were definitely of the southern type previously found only on Mount Kosciusko and Cradle Mountain in Tasmania. As well, he had found species of Indo-Malayan origin. Paradoxically, it was at this time that a golf course was again proposed for the Tops.⁴⁰

The district was indeed gaining in popularity, and whilst the naturalists had been staying at Edwards Hut, the Royal Ornithologists Union had been camped on the Williams River for their 26th Annual Congress, organised by the Hon. State Secretary, Neville Cayley. The 36 present were housed in 12 tents at Cutlers Pass, with Albert Edwards of Salisbury tending their requirements and acting as their guide.⁴¹

The names of the participants housed under canvas read like the 'Who's Who' of the bird and insect world: Edwin Ashby, Pres. RAOU, Adelaide, Dr. J.A. Leach MA (Leach's Bird Book etc), Capt. S.A. White, South Aust. who had explored Central Australia and was Commissioner for Boy Scouts in South Aust., J.G.C. Toohe, entomologist, South Africa, A.M. Lea, Entomologist Adelaide Museum, H.J. Carter, World Authority on Beetles and Ex-Pres. of the Linnean Society, Chas. L. Barrett, Victoria, Editor of 'Pals,' F.E. Wilson, Victoria, Entomologist, Dr. B.A. Anderson, Tasmania, A.Musgrave, Sydney, Entomologist from the Australian Museum, J.R. Kinghorn, Chairman of NSW Branch of RAOU, B.C.J. Bettington, Merriwa, late Oxford, and Dr. E.A. D'Ombraim, Sydney, Vice-Pres. of RAOU, just to name a few. John Hopson and Mr. Edwards Snr. were guides for this party.⁴² It was reported at the time that 120 species of birds had been identified by the ornithologists.⁴³

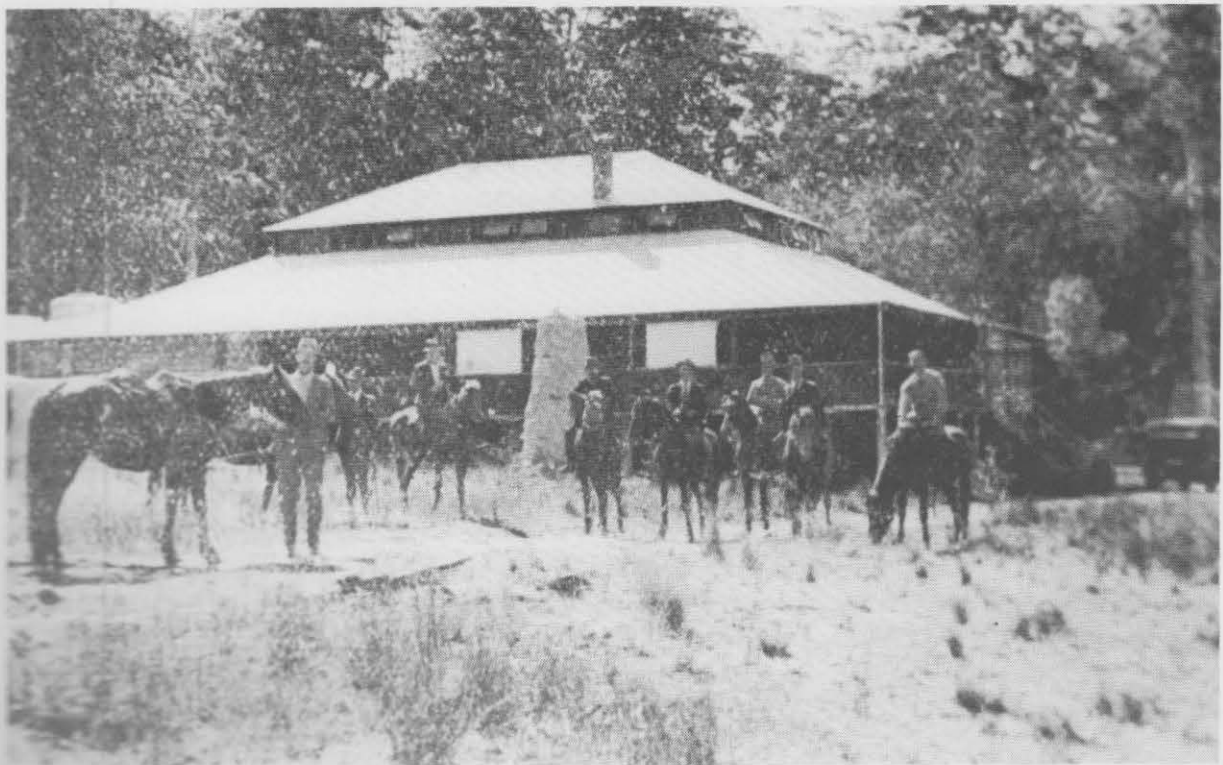
January of 1928 saw the Rev. H.M.R. Rupp camping for four days on the plateau at the Tops with his old friend John Hopson. Although the weather was unfavourable, Rupp identified 23 specimens of terrestrial orchids, with one previously unrecorded Donkey Orchid, a *Diuris* species.⁴⁴

Another summer visit occurred during 1929 when the University of Sydney Biological Society held a camp on the Tops. As the party travelled up on the bridle trail C.E. Heyner noted: 'On the edge of the brush a Dungog hotel owner is at present erecting a palatial boarding house, using timber from the bush and installing an electric plant', the latter a rarity in the bush at the time. The party marvelled at the carpet of flowers on the plateau at the Tops, with yellow everlastings, blue bells, white *Pimelia*, pink *Stylidium* and pink *Drimys* [*Tasmannia*] presenting a riot of colour.⁴⁵

Easter was another favourite time for visits to the Tops and in 1929 a convoy of 14 cars left Newcastle ready to proceed through Scone for an onslaught on the Tops. Typical Easter weather prevailed, with hazardous driving conditions and slushy roads, resulting in some anxious moments on the steep grades from Moonan Flat onwards. At last they reached Whartons Mill, the end of the 'good' road, and ventured further on a slippery grass track, winding between trees and boulders until they reached the plateau. There they stayed overnight and the following morning climbed Barrington Trig and Careys Peak. After lunch the now exhausted party started for home, very happy to have been accompanied by Mr. R. Baker, Patrol officer of the NRMA 'who had been most useful'.⁴⁶

The 'twenties' rolled along, with Tourist Bureaus at Newcastle, Maitland, Scone, Dungog and Gloucester still pressing for improved roads to 'Open up the Tops'. Despite the existing atrocious roads, these bodies had successfully promoted the beauty of the Tops and local guides were kept busy with the ever increasing number of visitors.

The 'palatial boarding house' noticed by C.E. Heyner was being erected for Norman I. McLeod of the Royal Hotel, Dungog, who recognised the tourist potential of the district. During 1925 McLeod had purchased 10ha on the Williams River, but it was not until 13 December 1930 that Dr. Sir Earle Page MHR officially opened Barrington Guest House. This was a real gala occasion, when some 200 people overflowed from the dining room onto the verandahs. Barrington Guest House still caters for guests who enjoy bushwalking and outdoor activities in the largely unspoiled surroundings.⁴⁷



Barrington Guest House – 1934



John Hopson - 1923



R.J.E. Marceau - 1923



Edwards' Hut – 1923



Snow covering the Bottomless Swamp – Barrington Tops

CHAPTER THREE

DEPRESSION AND SECOND WORLD WAR

Despite the severe financial depression, the thirties brought increasing popularity to Barrington Tops, especially with Newcastle folk. In 1933 the Northern Ski Club was operating, with members such as Messrs Gilling, Cavalier, Johnson and Croft making regular sorties to the ski runs during snowfalls. Barrington Guest House was doing well, with many guests and day visitors making the climb to Careys Peak.

In August 1933 Mr. and Mrs. Smith of Cessnock rode to the Tops with Albert [Ab] Edwards. There had been a good snowfall and Smith, a representative of the Cinesound Talking Picture Gazette, was making a newsreel on the scenic beauty of the rainforest and waterfalls for Cinesound Review.¹

The scientific expeditions continued, and in August, despite the heavy snowfall, Prof. N. Winke from the University of Sydney brought a group of his advanced botany students to stay at Careys Peak. Guided by Mr. Edwards, once again further botanical treasures were revealed.

The 'Second Big Push' occurred in 1934, yet there seemed no logical reason, with unemployment hovering between 20% and 30%, and with many 'on the dole.' Others were 'on Relief', that is, earning the basic wage on labour intensive employment schemes of limited duration funded by the federal government.

Newcastle City Council had formulated a development scheme for Barrington Tops whereby it could become 'The Mecca of Australian Tourists and the Katoomba of the North'. Council wanted to enlist the cooperation of bodies such as the Development League, Ski Club of Australia, Newcastle's Northern Ski Club, Newcastle Aero Club, NSW Government Tourist Bureau and Barrington Guest House, all with the common interest of 'Opening up the Tops'.

The Grand Plan of 1934 proposed resumption of Edwards 162ha farm on the Tops, where the erection of accommodation houses, three hotels, garages and weekend cottages were envisaged, together with a public recreation area. A concrete dam was proposed to create a 20sqkm lake to be stocked with trout. Ice skating, snow sports, golf, tennis and a racecourse, together with an aerodrome were to be added attractions. Newcastle City Council was to be the Trustee and a loan was sought from the Government Building Relief Committee.²

Unemployed miners from the Cessnock coalfields were offered Relief Work at the Tops to implement the Grand Plan. A model tent city, large enough for several hundred men was created; the tents even had wooden floors. Aldermen were disgusted when the recalcitrant miners returned home, complaining that it was too cold, and said they would sooner be on the dole in Cessnock, rather than freeze on the Tops. Eventually the project came to a halt as funds cut out.³

Several aldermen, with A. Edwards as guide, had earlier ridden from Barrington Guest House to view the site of the Grand Plan. They had travelled to the guest house by Pioneer Tourist Bus, with C.A. Gregory of the Australian Guide Book Co. Accompanying the party was a government photographer and Government Tourist Bureau representative. Previously Dr. Kenneth D. McDonald of Maitland had donated money for the erection of a direction finder at Careys Peak, with Edstein the stonemason donating the base. This was unveiled by the Hon. E.S. Spooner, a member of a ministerial party which visited the Tops in December of 1934. Newcastle City Council had made the arrangements in an effort to obtain government funding for an access road to the Tops.⁴

The newly formed Hunter River and Barrington Districts Zone Council held its first meeting in April 1936, when tourist traffic to the Tops was discussed. It was mentioned at the time that since 1920

some \$134,000 had been expended on the road to the Tops via Scone.⁵ Members of the Zone Council considered that this money should have been used to improve the road from Dungog, a continuing source of contention.

The years 1937-9 saw scientists Lilian Fraser DSc and Joyce Vickery MSc extensively study the natural history of Barrington Tops. Their valuable contributions on the species and ecology of the Upper Williams River and Barrington Tops were published by the Linnean Society of NSW.⁶

During the Second World War the welfare of Barrington Tops continued to be of major concern to the community. In 1942 Japanese forces pushed further southward, with bombs landing on Darwin and enemy submarine attacks on Sydney and Newcastle. Despite this, Newcastle City Council Works Committee was protesting vigorously to the Minister for Agriculture about the destruction of trees on the Tops. Ald. A. Fairhall [later Sir Allen MHR] speaking on the beauty of the Tops, mentioned that as the area would 'become the Katoomba of Newcastle', it would be necessary to preserve all its natural beauty.⁷

Mr. McLeod, the proprietor of Barrington Guest House, was also interested in preserving these natural beauties for his guests, and requested assistance from Newcastle City Council to prevent destruction of the Forest Reserve. The Minister had given permission for sawmillers to construct roads in the reserve for logging operations. Fairhall was opposed to this, stating 'if roads were to be cut through the Reserve, native flora would go' and it would no longer be a haven for indigenous birds and animals.⁸

Due to the war there was an increased demand for timber and sawmills worked overtime. In many instances this caused extensive erosion, especially in the Carrowbrook area resulting in concern both to Council and community. Mr. G. Buchan, Singleton Town Clerk and secretary of the Upper Hunter Regional Development Committee, expressed a need for protection of Barrington Brush, and again it was suggested that Barrington Tops should be reserved as a National Park.⁹

The scientific teams continued to visit the Tops, and in January 1944 Pearl R. Messmer and Alan Musgrave from the Australian Museum conducted a study of the flora and fauna.¹⁰ They noticed stands of *Duboisia myoporoides* which produced a valuable drug, duboisine, used in ophthalmia for dilating the pupil of the eye. In June 1944, during the Second World War, troops crossing the English channel were dosed against seasickness with hyoscine, a drug obtained from this plant. The Kooris used to crush the leaves of *Duboisia myoporoides* and throw them into streams to stun fish which would then come to the surface. Ingested leaves are reported to be poisonous to humans and animals.

A war time tragedy occurred on the night of 16 April 1945 when a RAAF Mosquito bomber on a training flight from Williamtown to Moree, Nyngan and return to Williamtown, crashed on Barrington Tops during poor weather conditions. It was not until the 17 January 1946 that Kenneth T. Collison of Stewarts Brook, [on leave from the AIF] was out mustering cattle and came upon the plane wreckage scattered over a vast area, with some pieces high up in the tree tops. The remains of the pilot, Flight Lieutenant Anthony G. Warren from Perth and navigator, Flying Officer George F. Bidstrup of Broadfoot, Victoria were recovered and interred in the War Cemetery at Sandgate. This tragedy gave its name to Aeroplane Hill, and for many years thereafter visitors souvenired pieces of the plane wreckage. There were to be several other aircraft disasters over the ensuing years in this rugged terrain.¹¹

In 1944 the National Fitness Movement became interested in acquiring land near Carrowbrook for holiday hostels, and two years later this body established camps in the district.¹²



Upper Barrington River



*Dilgry River – Barrington Tops State Forest –
Marceau Collection*



Twin Falls, Massie's (Massey's) Creek



*Not only F.W. Ludwig Leichhardt sheltered in a hollow log –
George H. Reid of Kurri Kurri near Edwards Hut – 1923 –
Marceau Collection*



Allyn River Crossing – Barrington Tops Road



Historic Cricket Match - Eccleston in Field

Cricket Match - Barrington Tops 19th April 1924 – Eccleston v Stewarts Brook

Eccleston Team:

*Cecil Archinal - George Hopson
 Perc Archinal - Ivan Archinal
 Frank Hopson - Al Hopson
 Norman Joliffe - Bert Furner
 Greig Hopson - Harry Watts
 Knox Jarrett*

*Stewarts Brook Team:
 (Authority: Brian Withers)*

*Hugh Carter - Herb Carter
 George Ninness - Aldbury Cones
 Allan Tilse - Bill Davis
 Will Tilse - Norman Price
 Jack Ninness - Ernest Cones
 Bill Smith*



*Bullock Team drawing 12 metre log – Allyn River district –
Marceau Collection*

CHAPTER FOUR

TOWARDS A NATIONAL PARK

After the Japanese surrender in August 1945, there was a gradual relaxation of the austere conditions imposed during the war, and many Hunter Valley residents were able to purchase motor vehicles. When reports of snowfalls on Barrington Tops were heard on radio, convoys of cars headed for Barrington Guest House. Sightseers would make their way to the Tops to view the snow covered peaks, emulating the Hopson and Marceau feat of some twenty years prior.

The 150th Celebration of Lt. John Shortland's discovery of the Hunter River, and the site of what became the city of Newcastle, occurred in 1947. As part of the festivities, an official group arranged a trip to Barrington Tops in Jeeps [4WD vehicles], accompanied by the Minister for Tourism and Immigration. As the source of the Hunter River, Barrington Tops was considered to be of special historical significance, and it was planned to light a huge bonfire to commemorate Lyon Cavalier's earlier effort in 1926.¹

Mid March saw the launching of 'Operation Barrington' by the 150th Committee, and government ministers with civic leaders left in convoy from Scone to travel to 'The Hunter Valley's Mount Kosciusko', while another party left from Barrington Guest House in the south. Both parties had arranged to meet at Careys Peak, but even in 1947 the final assault from the south was still made on horseback, necessitating a climb of 1219m in 17.5km, and more than three hours of hard going for the horses, despite improvements to the bridle track. Edwards Hut had been destroyed by fire during the mid 1930s, and the hut at Careys Peak, built by members of the Dungog Tourist Bureau, c1934 was not of the same standard. Those of lesser importance in the party had to camp in tents, and it was bitterly cold. Included in the group were press journalists and photographers, and others who were making a newsreel. A third party was shooting a colour movie for distribution to theatres all around Australia.²

This was thought to have been the first occasion that the relatively new 4WD Jeep vehicles had been used on the Tops, but Mr. V.J.T. Sharpe of New Lambton stole the Committee's thunder when he wrote in the *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* that Jeeps of the 1st Australian Armoured Brigade had made the climb in June of 1942 during the War. This Brigade, stationed at Singleton, was reputed to have been the first recipient of Jeeps issued to an Australian Army Unit. Under damp, winter conditions, 11 Jeeps with two troopers in each travelled from Scone to the Tops, and then down to Dungog. All the 'little wonders' had climbed Careys Peak.³

In 1947 wildlife was still abundant in the Barrington Tops district. Kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, wombats, possums, gliders, lyre birds and scrub turkeys were prevalent in the diverse vegetation, and no doubt the official party enjoyed the outdoor experience. Evergreen Lyon Cavalier, who was to survive until he reached the advanced age of 90 years, spoke eloquently on the advantages of harnessing the rivers of the Tops for hydro-electricity generation, a theory to which he made a lifelong commitment. He opined that 100,000hp was going to waste, and suggested diverting waters to the Williams River. Although hydro-electricity did not gain official approval, waters of the Williams River were later to be of prime importance for the water supply of the Lower Hunter and Lake Macquarie districts, when river water was diverted to the Grahamstown Dam near Raymond Terrace.

The Australian Museum sponsored expeditions to the Tops during January of 1946 and 1947 to obtain coloured photographs of the diverse flora and fauna. January of the following year saw a party of entomologists and botanists off to camp on Tom Meehan's property at Tubrabucca.⁴

Barrington Tops was again newsworthy in 1950 when there was extensive agitation for the whole area to become a National Park. The Mayor of Newcastle, Ald. Quinlan, advocated a Park similar to Katoomba.⁵ As well, there was increasing interest in the Tops from groups such as the Newcastle Technical College Bushwalking Club [present name Newcastle Bushwalking Club Inc]. Early in

January Hunter Valley Councils held a meeting at Newcastle City Hall with Ald. Quinlan presiding, when it was decided to form a Committee to develop Barrington Tops, such Committee to have representatives from Newcastle, Dungog, Wallarobba, Lower Hunter, Scone and Port Stephens Councils.⁶ Ald. Fairhall sounded a warning note. 'Be careful not to oversell yourselves on the idea. Haphazard development has ruined many beauty spots in Australia'.⁷

Great interest was aroused in 1950 with the discovery of a system of limestone caves in the Barrington Tops area, bounded by Limestone Creek and the Pigna Barney River. Approximately 90m above river level, these caves, interconnected by an inclined passage leading to the lowest cave, were said to be similar to Timor Caves. The Development Committee was delighted at the tourist potential of this new find.⁸

Ralph Basden, Principal of Newcastle Technical College, accompanied the cave exploratory party as geologist, and was able to confirm a deposit of white marble described by a stonemason as 'equal in quality to Italian marble'.⁹ A second expedition to the caves encountered trouble when one member, J. Richardson, Assistant Manager of BHP, Newcastle, fell some 15.5m into an underground crevice. He was indeed fortunate to be rescued unharmed.¹⁰

Community interest was being generated regarding the commercial development of the Tops as new discoveries were made. However, it was not commercialism, but a love of nature that motivated a group of men to form The Barrington Club in March 1950. The prime movers were Roderick W. Earp, Astley P. Pulver and Warwick S. Johnson. The Club's aims were:-

1. To follow mountain sports such as fishing, bush walking and skiing.
2. To make scientific studies of botany, geology etc.
3. To help preserve the area's natural flora and fauna.

Within two years there were forty club members, mostly from the Newcastle district, and regular monthly visits were made to the Tops. A ski hut had already been erected a few months previously and members had occupied themselves surveying streams, mapping, carrying out botanical identification, studying the geology and trout fishing. Further exploration of the Pigna Barney Cave system was also envisaged.¹¹

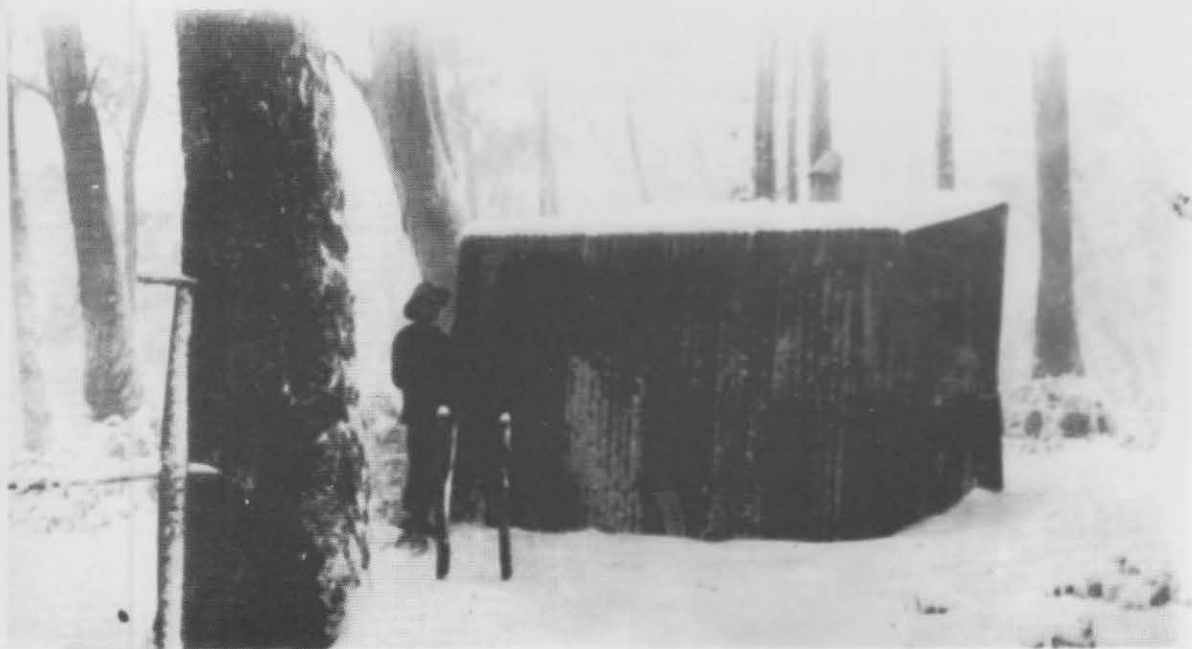
Club members were strongly opposed to tourist development at the Tops. This area of Crown Land was, at the time, an Animal and Bird Sanctuary, and members considered it should be preserved in its natural state. President M. Pitt and Secretary R. Earp protested vehemently about 'Katoomba style development' and were promoting a more sympathetic usage. R. Basden was vocal in his opposition to commercial development as well, stating that 'It would be tragic to turn Barrington Tops into a semi-metropolitan reserve like Katoomba'.¹²

In 1951 Rod Earp, soon to become a tireless worker for many years in support of his vision for the Tops, addressed a meeting of The Newcastle Tourist Advisory Committee, reminding them that a recommendation of the *Huddleston Report on Hunter River Flood Mitigation* was that Barrington Tops be preserved in perpetuity as a National Park. As well, this Report recommended prohibition of these lands for private, commercial or agricultural purposes, due to the potential for erosion problems. A further recommendation was that tourist accommodation be confined to valleys, and at the foothills of the range.¹³

The Barrington Tops Tourist Development body presented a Development Plan to the Premier's Department on 3 October 1950, but it did not gain support in Cabinet and was eventually 'pigeon-holed'. Afterwards, various Hunter Valley Councils, with the support of Newcastle City Council, formed a 'National Trust' to 'open up and develop Barrington Tops'. Four access roads were proposed: from Singleton, Scone, Dungog and Gloucester. As well, 10% of the area was to be reserved for a National Park, with development of the remainder catering for both tourists and agriculture. The Trust was expected to allocate expenditure of revenue generated from sale or lease of certain lands for roads and tourist facilities, with the whole development being self-funded.¹⁴



O'Grady's Hut – 1943 – Some years prior Miller's survey party camped there and members engraved their initials on nearby trees – Newcastle Bushwalking Club Archives



A good snowfall christens the new ski Hut on Brumlow Creek – June 1949 – The Barrington Club Collection



*Crosbie's house – Eckford Downs –
The Barrington Club Collection*



*The Meehan Property – Tubrabucca –
Tom and Eva Meehan were early members of the Barrington Club*

Nevertheless, the relatively new conservation bodies were gaining support and in March of 1952 the Institute of Town Planning, seeking preservation of 650sq km of Barrington Tops as a National Park, enlisted the aid of the Northern Parks and Playground Movement. At the time, Ralph Basden, with his expertise on geology of the Tops, pursued a dominant and vocal role in the move towards preservation of the area. As well, The Barrington Club was preparing a map of the Barrington Tops district, largely from aerial photographs, and was conducting a study of trout population in the rivers. This Club had decided to form a joint sub-committee with the Newcastle Technical College Bushwalking Club to investigate the possibility of having Barrington Tops declared a Primitive Area, or a National Park.¹⁵

In July 1952 advice was received by Newcastle City Council from the Chief Secretary's Department that 'there was no bar to creating a National Park at Barrington Tops'. The Newcastle Tourist Advisory Committee commenced exerting pressure to obtain government subsidies for roads and tourist accommodation.¹⁶

In 1952 members of The Barrington Club decided to stock tributaries of the Pigna Barney River with rainbow trout. They had previously introduced trout into the more accessible streams at the Tops, and now 10,000 trout fry from the New England Trout Acclimatisation Society at Armidale were collected from Scone Railway Station by Club members when the Armidale Express pulled in at 2am. They then drove to Tom Meehan's property at Tubrabucca where they kept an old Dodge car known as 'The Barrington Bounder', which they drove to within 3km of Careys Peak, and then walked to the ski hut carrying all their gear including the trout fry. The hut was situated on Brumlow Creek where members had cleared two ski runs which could be used when there was more than 15cm of snow. In 1951 they had erected another hut on Tom Meehan's property at Tubrabucca where access was much easier. In 1955 members subscribed \$20 each and purchased a second-hand Land Rover to replace the old Dodge. Further stocking of streams occurred in 1957, when trout fry and fingerlings from Gummi Creek were resited in Polblue stream.¹⁷

At this time there were several huts on the Tops, including the ruins of a surveyor's hut north of The Corker, called O'Gradys. This was built of rammed earth and had once been a warm and cosy structure. During the 1930s John Crosbie [Crosby] had erected a six room weatherboard bungalow on Eckford Downs, 3km from the Tops, where visitors sometimes stayed, but this house was later moved to Moonan Flat.¹⁸

The Crosbie family had migrated from England during the early years of the 20th century. For some time they lived at Hunters Springs homestead where Mrs. Crosbie operated the first phone service for the Barrington Tops district from a small switchboard.¹⁹ At one time Crosbie also owned property at Tubrabucca, but sold out to Tom Meehan who worked for the Forestry Commission. Tom's wife Eva took over the phone service from Mrs. Crosbie. As well Eva Meehan was in charge of Meteorological Station No. 5320 Rain Gauge located outside her home. For many years she provided daily rainfall figures and maximum and minimum temperatures for the Hunter Valley Research Foundation and Bureau of Meteorology. The Meehans were early members of The Barrington Club, with many meetings being held in their cosy kitchen.²⁰

In 1954 members of The Barrington Club gave support to the Northern Parks and Playground Movement, as did the Newcastle Technical College Bushwalking Club, in an effort to obtain sympathetic development of the Tops. The President of Northern Parks and Playground Movement, Ald. J. Richley of Newcastle City Council, regarded the Tops as a national asset and had a bold vision for development of the Tops. The Northern Parks and Playground Movement submitted a Report to Newcastle City Council's Tourist Advisory Board on 8 April 1955. Known as 'The Barrington and Gloucester Tops Parks Project', it made provision for tourist amenities as well as sanctuaries and primitive areas. As the Tops ranked second to the Snowy River for water catchment, the Report recommended that no lands be sold or leased.²¹

The *Newcastle Sun* ran a sympathetic editorial: 'When The Barrington Club...set out in 1950 to do something about popularising the Barrington Tops area as a resort for tourists and sportsmen, it decided to do the job thoroughly by ground investigation.

It could hardly have envisaged then that it would find the task so challenging as to impel it to go on to lay the basis of a broad-scale plan for the area in all its branches, of which tourists and sporting interests form only a part.

This group, an affiliate of the Northern Parks and Playground Movement, has embodied its conclusions in a report which, for the first time for most people, gives a complete picture of the nearby mountainous region loosely referred to as The Barrington Tops.

The Report makes it clear that only a relatively small part of the area is suitable for tourists and sporting purposes and in the main it advocates the permanent reservation of most of the region for forestry, water catchment, primitive areas for scientific study, bird and animal sanctuaries and reserves for trout propagation. The emphasis all through is on the need of conservation.

The collection and collation of data and the preparation of recommendations have taken the best part of five years. This is a long time, but it must be remembered that it is the work of a purely volunteer body without financial resources. On the spot surveys have had to be conducted when members could find the time. They deserve warm commendation for their enthusiastic devotion to a task which carries no reward beyond the knowledge that it serves the public interest.

The report acknowledges that its conclusions are more or less contrary to popular impressions of the Barrington Tops, but suggests that these popular impressions stem from a very general lack of first-hand knowledge of the region and the inclination to lump the whole area as being of the same character. "No place has been talked about more but visited less than the Barrington Tops plateau," it says.

The Barrington Club and the Parks and Gardens Movement have played their part up to this point. What is the next stage? It is obvious that the organisation, having worked so hard on preparing this report, will not be content to see it pigeon-holed, but can be depended upon to prosecute its appeal for action. In this it merits the backing of all those who realise how important it is to ensure that such great natural features are not destroyed or badly treated.²²

Committee members of Northern Parks and Playground Movement spent some frenetic months in 1955 promoting their Plan for the Tops. Ald. Richley and Rod Earp travelled extensively, addressing Council Meetings all over the Hunter Valley. Newcastle City Council supported the Report, and in May Ald. Purdue, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, called a Public Meeting at the City Hall to approve the Development Plan for Barrington and Gloucester Tops. Approval came from such groups as Newcastle Trades Hall, Newcastle Technical College Bushwalking Club and all local councils. Nevertheless, the Newcastle Tourist Advisory Committee was still rather reluctant to commit itself to the Plan and required further wooing.

The recreational potential of the Tops was not lost on the Trade Union Movement. In 1955 J. Wilson, Secretary of the Trades Hall Holiday Camp Committee, advised that the Lands Department was prepared to grant 20ha on the Barrington River for a holiday camp site. The Committee decided to seek financial aid from unions to build a chalet on the site. Evidently this scheme did not reach fruition.²³

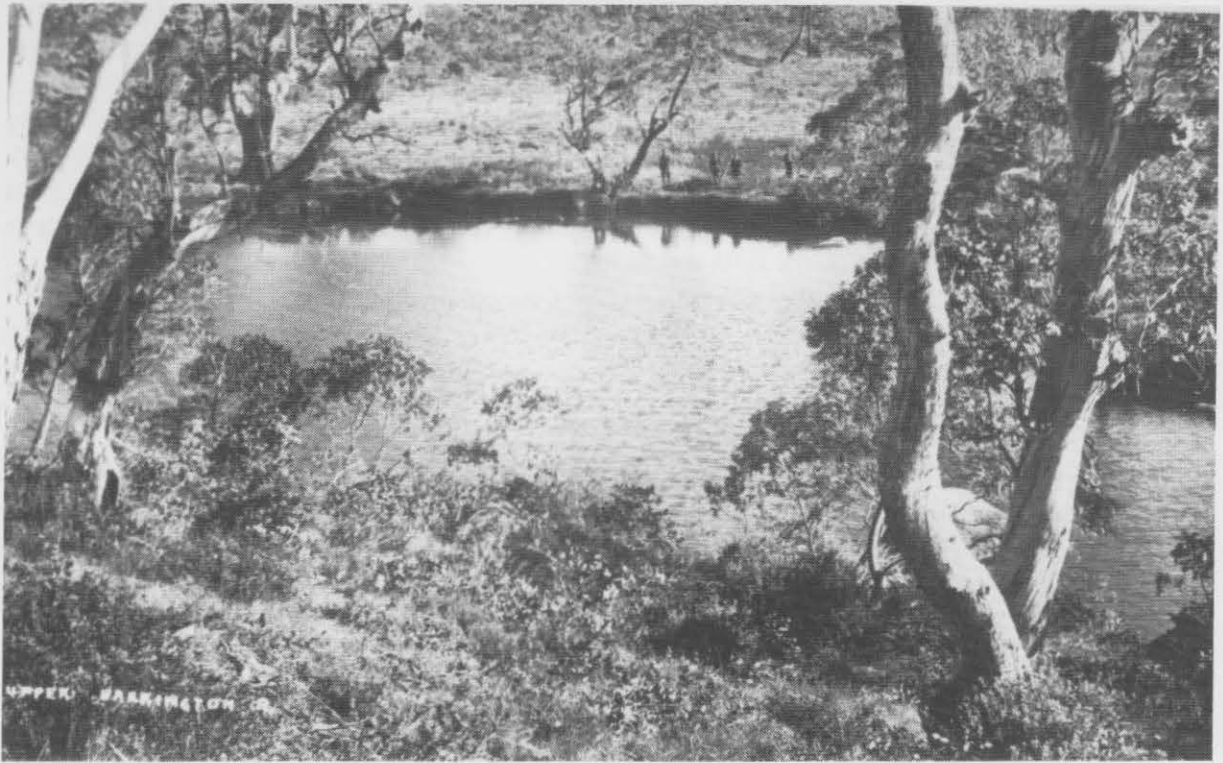
A Development Committee of the Northern Parks and Playground Movement had been formed to enable members to assist with preparation of the Park Project. Administration methods of National Parks in America and Queensland had been investigated and Ald. J. Richley advised that in Queensland an active National Parks Association was an effective link between the public and departmental administration. The Northern Parks and Playground Movement was critical of the methods used in NSW, having found them to be haphazard and hampered by lack of funds.

The previous plan for Barrington Tops submitted to the government in 1950, but never approved, was now withdrawn, to be superseded by the new one. Owing to the endeavours of The Barrington Club and the Northern Parks and Playground Movement, a degree of harmony and consensus now prevailed and 16 local councils contributed \$10.50 each towards administration costs.²⁴

The Tops continued to prove an invaluable resource for scientists. In 1954 Dr. Ashby, a botanist from the University of California in the USA, travelled to the Tops to study *Drimys purpurascens* (syn. *Tasmannia purpurascens*), endemic in the Barrington and Gloucester Tops districts. He was with a group from the University of Sydney, sponsored by the School of Botany, and accompanied by Laurie Johnson of the National Herbarium, Sydney Botanic Gardens, and Hector McDonald of the Forestry Commission.²⁵ In 1956 B.J. Marlow from the Wildlife Survey Section of the CSIRO was on the Tops conducting a Marsupial Survey.²⁶ In view of the extent of the scientific coverage of Barrington Tops, a valuable data base should exist on the flora and fauna.



*Ancient Snow Gum (Euc. Pauciflora) –
Hopson Collection*



The Big Hole – Upper Barrington River



*Kelby's Hut – 1947 – On track from Stewart's Brook to Mt. Barrington –
Newcastle Bushwalking Club Archives*



President:
W. H. CHILDS.
Hon. Secretary:
(Mrs.) THISTLE Y. STEAD,
B.Sc., M.Ed.

Address:
SCIENCE HOUSE,
GLOUCESTER STREET,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

*Support for the Barrington and Gloucester Tops Park Project came from many sources –
Letter to Rod Earp dated 8 January 1954 from Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia*

THE HUNTER - MANNING NATIONAL
PARKS ASSOCIATION
(A REGION OF THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.)

Members and Friends are cordially invited to a

QUARTERLY MEETING

on THURSDAY, 19th NOVEMBER, 1959
8.0 to 9.45 p.m.

at Victoria League Rooms, 49 Watt St., Newcastle

FEATURE SUBJECT

"THE NATIONAL PARKS OF THE UNITED STATES"
(illustrated) presented by Dr. H. W. Hosking.

ROD. W. EARP, Hon Secretary.
BOX 498 F, NEWCASTLE B 3231
15 FENTON AVE., NEWCASTLE B 3442



*Upper Allyn Sawmill – c1955 –
By Courtesy of Mrs. G. Dark*



*Carey's Hut – c1983
Original shelter built c1934 by Barrington Tops League – Hut rebuilt 1973*

CHAPTER FIVE

A DICHOTOMY OF VISION

Seemingly, no conservation issue is easily won and March of 1956 brought an objection to the proposed Barrington Tops National Park from Sawmillers Pender & Foster Pty Ltd, of the Upper Allyn River. Complaining that it would put their firm out of business, an aggrieved Mr. A.S. Foster circulated media outlets and local councils.

Writing to Rod Earp on 7 March 1956, Foster objected to the proposed Park plan, stating that his firm had not been consulted, and the boundaries would deny them access to an area of forest tentatively allocated for their Upper Allyn River sawmill. On this assumption, wrote Foster, the firm had expended some \$100,000 on attractive employees cottages with water and electricity, a village hall, a billiard room and tennis court. The village was developed by war time demands of the Commonwealth Timber Control, resulting in improved access roads and concrete causeways. After two years of agitation a school for the employees children had been established, and a telephone connected to Eccleston Post Office. There were 24 employees with 44 dependants housed in the village, and Foster expressed concern for these employees should the Park plan go ahead.

Nevertheless, Forestry Commission, unmoved by the impassioned pleas of Mr. Foster, decided to restrain him from logging in the Williams River catchment because of the proposed Park, and as some lands planned for logging were adjacent to Flora Reserve No. 62278.

Despite Mr. Foster's dire prediction in 1956 that the viability of the Upper Allyn sawmill was threatened by the new National Park, the mill continued to prosper for many years. Charlie Lister was the Mill Manager and Lister Park in the Chichester State Forest is named after him.¹ A cohesive community spirit prevailed in the sawmill village and by 1959 there were 16 families in residence, with a total population of 71.² They made full use of the tennis court, billiard table and other community facilities, and the school, with its dedicated teachers, provided a social outlet as well.

From the 1950s onward study teams from the Australian Museum were often accommodated in the village with mill workers taking them up to the Tops. The sawmill was later purchased by Earp, Woodcock and Beveridge, but eventually the machinery became rundown and the business no longer viable. The mill closed on 23 December 1970, after operating for about 28 years, and the cottages were later sold, mostly for holiday accommodation.³

Fame and fortune descended on the Upper Allyn sawmill village in 1979, where many scenes were shot for the multi-million dollar movie 'The Earthling'. The stars featured were Americans William Holden and Ricky Schroder, with Australian Jack Thompson playing a supporting role, and many villagers gained work as extras. At one time there was a crew of about 110 people working on the movie housed in and around the village. Unfortunately 'The Earthling' was not a great box office success.

But returning to 1956 and the proposed National Park, support now came from the recently formed Hunter-Manning National Parks Association, formerly the Development Committee of the Northern Parks and Playground Movement. A Public Meeting had been held on 6 November 1956, when Mr. R.E. [Tom] Farrell moved a motion requesting formation of the new Association. Ald. J. Richley was elected President, Rod Earp Hon. Secretary, with the Lord Mayor of Newcastle the Patron. Shortly afterwards the National Parks Association was formed in Sydney, and the Hunter-Manning National Parks Association became a Region of the new Association. The Development Committee had earlier been involved in presenting the Plan of Management to a Conference of Hunter Valley Councils. Eventually to be adopted, this Plan saw management of the 728ha Flora Reserve given to Forestry Commission in conjunction with Trustees. The new Plan made provisions for visitors and included good roads, walking tracks, picnic grounds, camping areas and a caravan park. An entrance was planned near Fern Tree

Creek, north-east of Barrington Guest House, in the section to be managed by the Trust. The Lands Department and Forestry Commission took three years to implement this National Park and its sister, Gloucester Tops National Park.⁴ [See map p. 53]

There was dissension from some sections of the community which favoured 'Katoomba style development'. Mr. Foster completed a 4WD road from The Corker to Careys Peak, despite opposition from Forestry Commission and the Northern Parks and Playground Movement. The *Dungog Chronicle*, applauded construction of the new road, as did many local people who had been pushing for improved access to the Tops for years. Tempers ran hot and communities were divided on the issue. Confrontation developed during the latter days of 1957, and the new year saw Forestry Commission advising Pender & Foster that the new 4WD road was 'in direct contravention of instructions.....from the Commission'.⁵ Classing the road as 'unsafe', the Commission blasted a road block just above The Corker. This did not deter the sawmillers, however, and the obstruction was removed, so once again Forestry Commission blasted the road.⁶

'Repercussion of the blasting of the jeep road to Barrington Tops are reverberating still', thundered the *Maitland Mercury* on 9 January 1958. 'East Maitland branch of the ALP will now protest to the Minister for Conservation against the action of Forestry Commission officers in blowing up the jeep road to Barrington Tops....Residents of the Allyn and Paterson River valleys are signing a petition protesting against the blocking of the road'.

Foster's action was no doubt generated by the long awaited news that government had finally approved the Barrington Tops Park Plan. The Hunter-Manning National Parks Association wisely distanced itself from the dispute, deciding that it was 'entirely an argument between Mr. Foster and the government, and apart from the Park Plan'.⁷

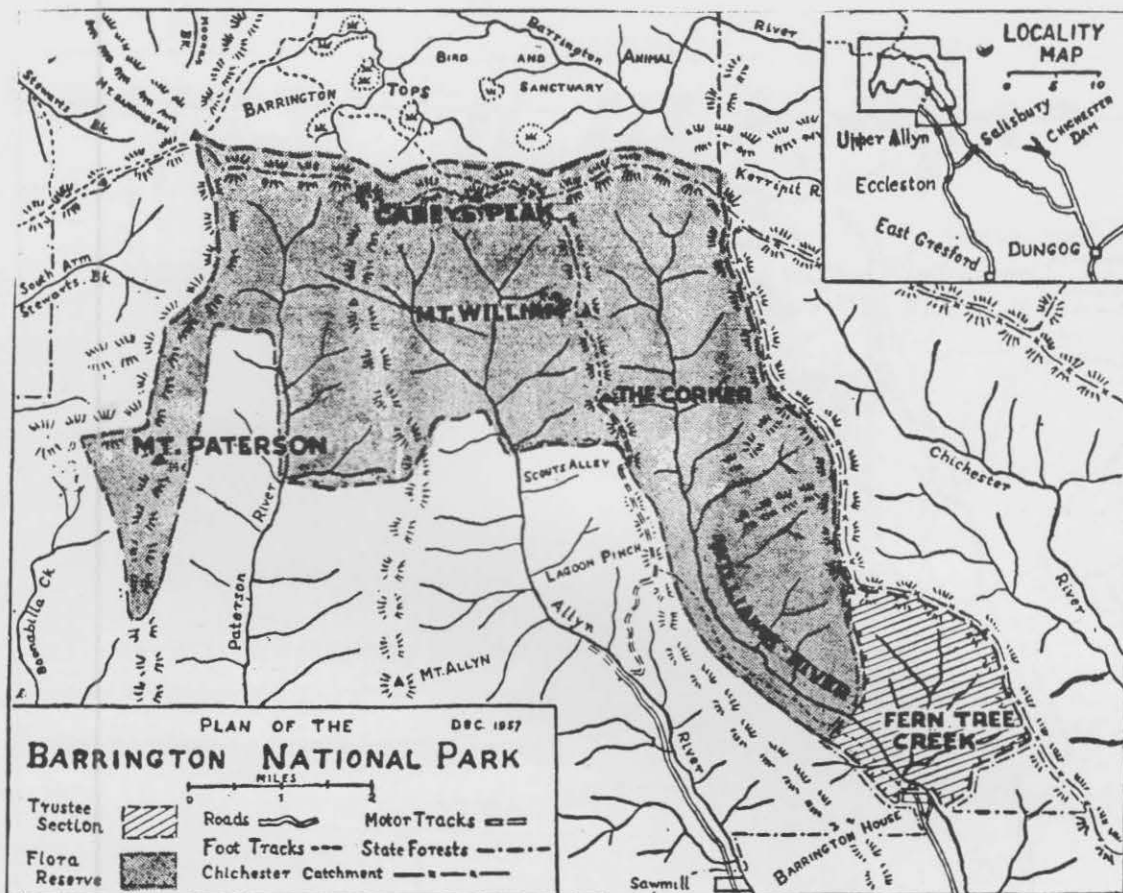
There was great jubilation from many sections of the community on 4 January 1958 when Barrington National Park was approved. The Fern Tree Creek section of 728ha was to be administered by a Trust and the remainder, of 607 ha, was in the form of a Flora Reserve. This was, however, prior to the National Parks Act, when a Park could be administered in an ad hoc manner. The Minister for Lands optimistically stated that timber would be extracted from the Tops without any detrimental effect on the Park. A Park Trust was to be established with roads part of its responsibility.⁸

An April 1958 meeting of the Hunter-Manning National Parks Association outlined its principles for the Barrington National Park:- Use with Preservation - Wise Planning - Supervision by Trained Staff. President J. Richley said many in the community thought his Association was opposed to the concept of a road over the Tops, [still at the time actively sought by Gloucester and Scone Councils] and wanted the Barrington Tops area for bushwalkers alone. This was not the case he assured the meeting, as the Association aimed to not only open up the Tops, but to keep it beautiful and unspoilt.⁹

The contentious issue of a trafficable road to the Tops from the Dungog direction surfaced again, with the founding of the 'Barrington Tops Road Protest Committee'. The Secretary, Mr. A.S. Foster, requested Forestry Commission to carry out a survey of 'the so-called trail to the Tops'. A Committee Meeting of the Road Protest group was held in Maitland with members attending from Dungog, Gresford and Maitland. Messrs. Earp and Farrell attended as representatives of the Hunter-Manning National Parks Association. The Protest Group decided to lobby for a serviceable road to the Tops.¹⁰

By July of 1958 a good road to the Tops seemed a distinct possibility. A.S. Foster advised that the Civil Aviation Department was interested in using Careys Peak for an Air to Ground Communication Station. The erection of a brick building to house electrical equipment and for accommodation was proposed, as well as an all weather road to Careys Peak. R. Earp from the Hunter-Manning National Parks Association opposed this move, together with another scheme to have an Air Beacon erected at Barrington Trig Station.¹¹

Graziers complained of the dingo population on the Tops, seen as a threat to livestock, so an aerial dropping of poisoned baits was carried out in the new National Park, resulting in wholesale destruction

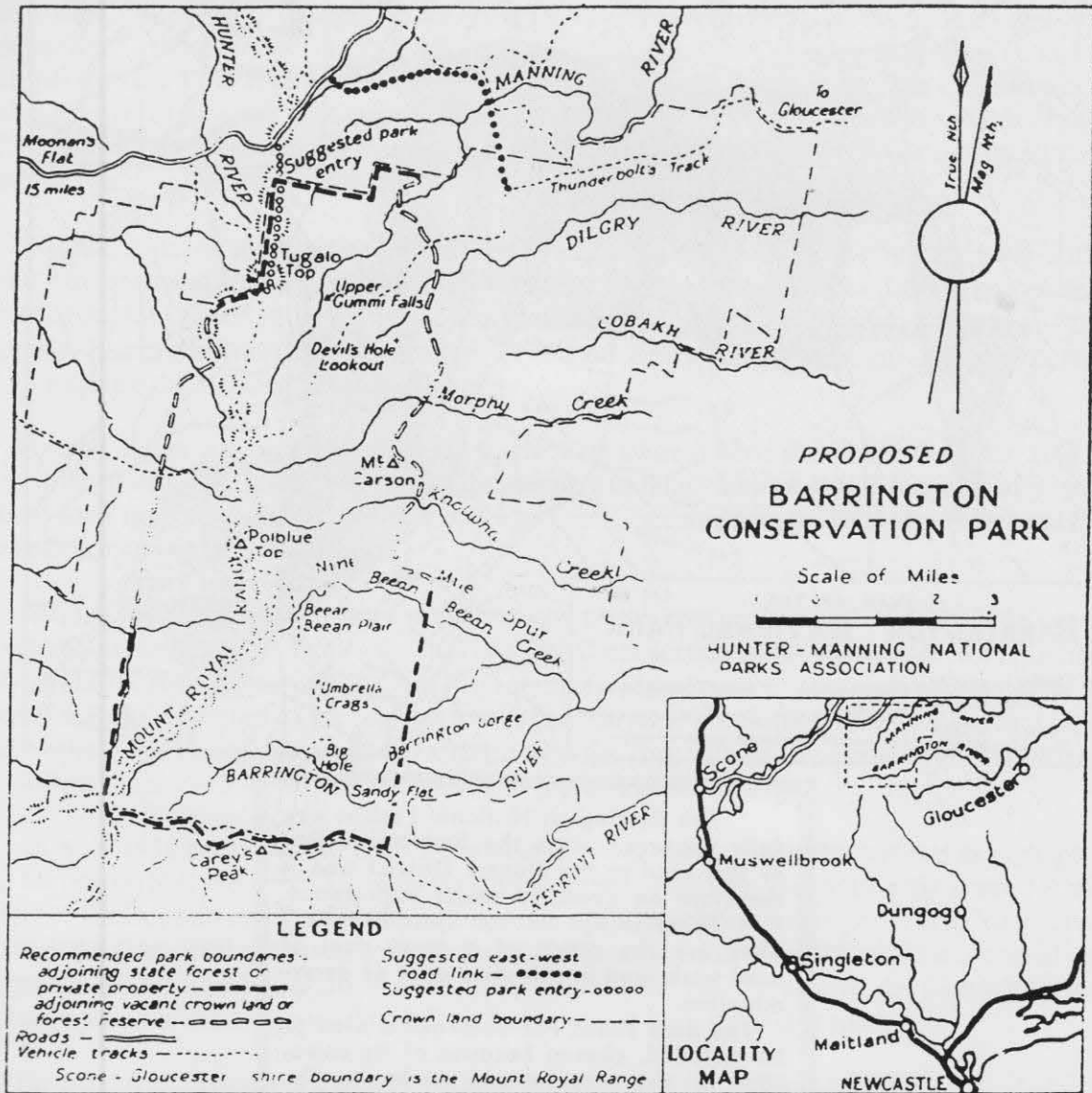


The Barrington National Park is now fully approved. It is the first reservation of this kind in the Hunter District and is therefore an event of major importance. These things do not "just happen." They are the result of a great deal of hard work, and in this case a lot of determination.

The map shows the substantial area to be included, chosen because of its suitability for the purpose, and yet having the least possible disturbance to Forestry and other interests. One portion of the area, of about 1800 acres, is to be administered by a Trust.

The other section, amounting to some 15,000 acres, will be in the form of a flora reserve.

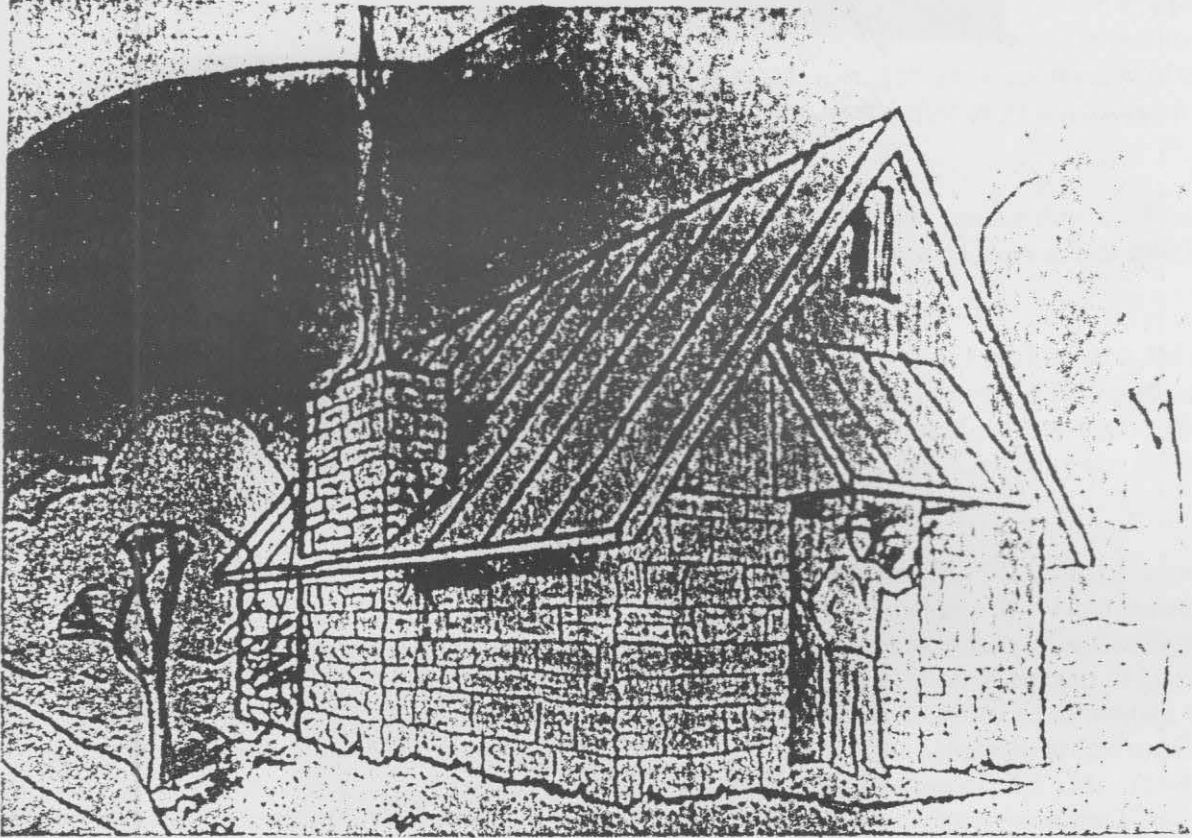
The Forestry Commission has undertaken to manage the flora reserve for the purpose of public recreation in consultation with the Trust.



PROPOSED BARRINGTON CONSERVATION PARK.
 For more details, write Rod Earp at: P.O. Box 151, Newcastle West.

*In 1961 the National Parks Association of NSW, President Rod W. Earp,
 drew up a plan for Barrington Conservation Park*

PIONEER HUT PLAN



Maitland Mercury - 10.2.1961

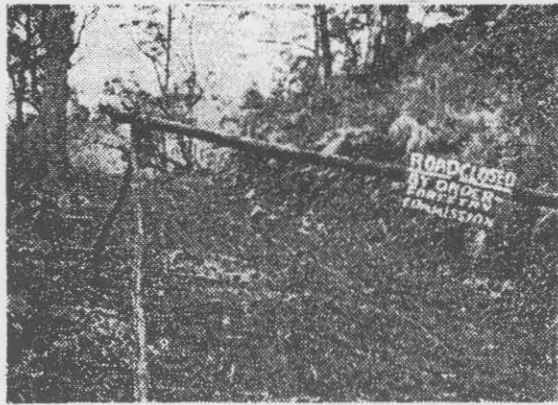
The next meeting of the Barrington Tops Development Association will consider this sketch of a proposed hut for the Tops.

The sketch was made by Mr. Ian Pender of Maitland.

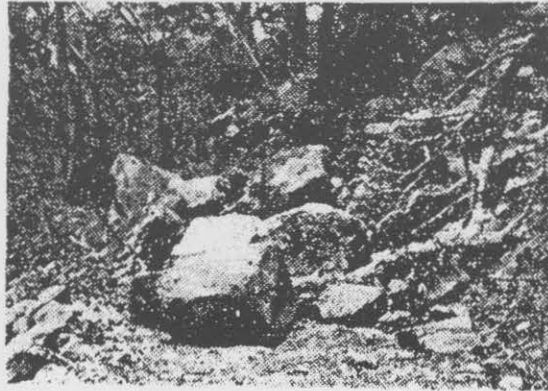
Colour slides of the area will also be shown at the meeting, to be held on February 14 at Paterson.

The Association will open an appeal soon for funds for the proposed Pioneers Hut.

Several donations have already been received.



Rocky road to Tops



*Road Closed By Order
Forestry Commission – Maitland Mercury – 9 January 1958*



Barrington River

BARRINGTON TOPS

THE
"BLUE MOUNTAINS" OF THE HUNTER VALLEY
BIRTHPLACE OF A HUNDRED STREAMS
WONDERLAND OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
WASTED TOURIST RESORT

Fifty years of agitation has failed to open this highland tourist potential described by a visitor from Canberra as having "views unsurpassed for grandeur in Australia".
Hunter Valley Instrumentalities have failed in their service to Tourism.
The Timber Trade and Forestry Commission has made a worthwhile contribution towards its development by building forestry and jeep roads to within 1-mile of the "Top".

It is a one-day trip from Newcastle-Maitland-Singamon-Dunnet.
Your support for its completion is solicited.

In the compliments of
FENDER & FOSTER PTY. LTD.
FAST MANTLED



*Tourist Brochure –
Newcastle Region Public Library – Local Studies*

of wildlife. Adding insult to injury, a large scale Army exercise with some 4,500 troops was planned for November of 1958 in the Barrington National Park, with troops using live ammunition. Naturally the Hunter-Manning National Parks Association raised objections to this unsympathetic use of the Park.¹² The result was that in November the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, 70 strong, conducted an exercise near Mount Royal in an area already proclaimed for Army training purposes.¹³

During 1958 attacks came from many quarters on the fledgling National Park. A new body was formed, 'The Barrington Tops Fire Prevention Association', which requested that the Conservation Service construct 4WD trails for access to fire danger areas. [Some consider that these early trails were responsible for the spread of Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), with seeds caught in the tyre treads]. The Fire Prevention Association decided to agitate for 4WD access trails along the Tops, and from the Allyn River to Careys Peak. A Land Rover was to be purchased and huts erected in strategic positions, the first at Beean Beean. The Hunter-Manning National Parks Association, viewing the formation of this group with some consternation, had no alternative but to cooperate in an effort to gain its support in protecting wilderness areas.¹⁴

An additional concern arose in 1958 when the Forestry Commission was considering developing the whole plateau into a pine forest. If clearing and disturbance of the soil occurred, erosion and siltation of streams seemed inevitable.

The Barrington Club, with growing membership, was granted permissive occupancy of 0.4ha on Brumlow Creek, south west of Barrington Trig, where they had erected a ski hut. [This was later demolished by order of the National Parks and Wildlife Service after gazettal of the Barrington Tops National Park under the new Act.] As well, the Newcastle Trades Hall Workers Club had been granted 2ha of leasehold land near the Big Hole for recreational purposes.

In 1959 the Hunter-Manning National Parks Association advised that The Barrington National Park and Flora Reserve had finally been approved. Despite this, confrontation still existed between conservationists and developers. In 1961 a Public Meeting was held in Paterson to form 'The Barrington Tops Development Association'. It was decided to erect a 'substantial' hut at Careys Peak to be known as 'The Pioneers Hut', commemorating the old stalwarts whose vision and persistence had brought the beauty of the Tops to the notice of the public. Other aims of this group were to agitate for access roads to facilitate development of Barrington Tops, and to assist the National Parks Association. Mr. Pender, Architect for the Association, prepared a plan for the hut at Careys Peak, with an estimated cost of \$900.¹⁵

Although members of the Development Association persisted in their endeavours to 'open up' the district, the Minister for Conservation and Irrigation refused permission for Forestry Commission to form access roads through the Allyn and Williams River areas to the Chichester side of Barrington Tops. The Commissioner for Forests decided that improvements to Lagoon Pinch Road, including a river crossing, could not be justified on economic grounds. As well, the Commissioner brusquely informed the Development Association that the expense of extending Lagoon Pinch Road to Careys Peak was out of the question.¹⁶

Despite this, by May of 1962 a rough 4WD track had been formed from the Upper Allyn to Careys Peak. Mr. Foster, Publicity Officer for the Development Association, eulogising the virtues of the Tops in tourist brochures, advised intending visitors that once on the Tops 'fire trails built by Barrington Tops Bush Fire Committee could be used' and that 'his Association now had \$500 towards the Pioneers' Hut at Carey's Peak, for use by walkers and visitors'. A ski run had been formed from Careys Peak to Saxbys Swamps and the Newcastle Ski Club was ready to accept members.¹⁷

The inclement weather of the early 1950s had motivated members of the Newcastle Technical College Bushwalking Club to erect a hut on land leased from Forestry Commission. This was to be no mean feat, and was commenced early in September of 1955 under the watchful eyes of architect and planner, Rex Filson. About 100 sheets of corrugated iron had been dumped at the Stream Gauge

Recorder on the Barrington River near the Big Hole. These were manhandled across the plateau to O'Gradys, and then to the chosen site on the Williams River at Basden Falls, some eight kilometres in all. Carrying these sheets of iron proved most difficult in the adverse weather conditions encountered. They found that the best method was to roll the sheets into logs and, using felt slings, carry them across their shoulders. Bush timber was used for the frame, with care being taken not to denude any area.¹⁸

The hut was officially opened at Easter 1956, and named in honour of Selby Alley, a staff member of [the then] Newcastle University College, and a friend and inspiration to many students. A keen conservationist, he had commenced walking in the Tops district in 1943 and retained throughout his lengthy life a continuing interest in the welfare of Barrington Tops.¹⁹ Selby Alley was awarded the Order of Australia in 1987, a fitting recognition of his services to the community.

Basden Falls, a three metre drop on the Williams River, was named in honour of Ralph Basden, who was appointed Principal of Newcastle Technical College in 1940. He was a most supportive member of the Newcastle Bushwalking Club and possessed a great knowledge of natural history. When the University College was created at Tighes Hill [the forerunner of the University of Newcastle], Ralph Basden became the first Warden. He was later granted an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Newcastle.²⁰

The Williams River gorge, with its 33m waterfall, proved a challenge to the adventurous. Great jubilation was experienced by the Newcastle Bushwalking Club when, in 1958, a party finally conquered this descent as far as Rocky Crossing. However the crossing of the Williams River just above the falls was considered to be very risky, with rocks like polished glass sloping towards the lip of the falls, some 10-15 m downstream. Members of the club decided to erect a guard rail and in December 1963 this mammoth task was performed. The holes in the rocks were drilled with a tungsten carbide drill powered by a petrol driven jackhammer. Weighing some 23kg, this contraption was perilously carried down to the falls on a harness-like packframe, the trip taking five hours.²¹

In 1962 energetic members of Newcastle Bushwalking Club decided to build another hut near Gloucester Tops. The site chosen was near permanent water with an open northerly aspect, a good view, and easy access. This was a relatively easy task compared to the Selby Alley hut. Corrugated iron was brought to the site by road and, using bush timber for framing, the hut was erected within a short time. It was called the Munro Hut to commemorate Arthur Munro's services to the Newcastle Bushwalking Club, and to bushwalking in general. Both of these huts have proved invaluable to bushwalkers over the years, and many academic teams have also availed themselves of this accommodation.

The expertise of the Newcastle Bushwalking Club was called upon in 1978 by the Central Mapping Authority when a new map of the Barrington Tops area was being prepared. A cartographer from this body, accompanied by members of the club, did a field revision, when Arthur Munro advised that, by a sight line, Brumlow Tops at 1586m was higher than Polblue at 1577m, the previously thought highest point. Other contributions made by Newcastle Bushwalking Club included Junction Pools, Basden Falls, Selby Alley Hut, Cobbys Creek, Double Falls, Double Falls Creek, Far Eastern Falls, Far Eastern Creek and Munro Hut.²²

Great activity took place on the Tops during the early 1960s, and not only from the Newcastle Bushwalking Club. In 1963 Barrington Tops Bushfire Prevention Association [note change of name] was near the end of a five year term, having expended \$88,244 on works including access roads to Barrington Tops and Mount Royal Range. A surprising 320kms of trails had been formed, as well as 14 roadside dams, two lookouts and one bridge. Three one man huts, a shed, garage, 50 gates and two ramps had also been constructed.²³

So confrontation and compromise had prevailed during these formative years of the National Park, with protagonists expending considerable time and energy in pursuit of their respective vision for Barrington Tops.



*Selby Alley Hut – March 1980 –
Centre figures – Selby Alley and daughter Leigh –
Newcastle Bushwalking Club Archives*



*Munro Hut – 1967 –
Newcastle Bushwalking Club Archives*



Snow on Antarctic Beech Forest (Nothofagus Moorei)



The Rocky Hole – Allyn River



Suspension Bridge – Allyn River – Eccleston



Strangler Fig



*A Vision Splendid – Careys Peak –
Careys Peak commemorates a bushman named Carey who became lost on the Tops –
He started a huge fire on the Peak which was noticed by settlers and led to his rescue.*



Allyn River – Eccleston



*Williams River Falls –
Newcastle Bushwalking Club Archives*

CHAPTER SIX

THE ONGOING SAGA

Work continued in the new Parks. By 1964 the Gloucester Tops Park Trust had completed two Visitors Reception Centres on the Gloucester River, and walking tracks were being formed to Gloucester Falls. The Williams River section of Barrington Tops National Park was awaiting dedication, pending the introduction of a National Parks Act. In 1966 the Minister for Conservation announced a 1173ha Flora Reserve for Barrington Tops under the Forestry Act to be known as 'Kerripit Beech Flora Reserve'. A local Advisory Committee of seven people was to be formed to assist Forestry Commission.¹ Prior to the National Parks Act these so-called National Parks and Flora Reserves were often located within State Forests, and controlled by the relevant minister.

Strong opposition to the Barrington Tops National Park continued from local councils. It was thought that the dingo population would increase dramatically and wild pigs were also viewed as an ongoing problem. As well, the construction of a dam for water conservation was again on the agenda, as was the planting of pine forests. Conservationists must have heaved a hearty sigh of relief when Mr. Freudenstein, Minister for Conservation, quashed the dam proposal as impractical.

At long last, in 1967, The National Parks and Wildlife Act was passed by the Legislative Council, and congratulations were extended by the Hunter-Manning National Parks Association to the Hon. T.L. Lewis for his efforts. However, the wheels of progress move slowly in government, and it was to be another two years before Barrington Tops National Park of 16,325ha was formally dedicated under the new Act. In 1970 the old Edwards property of 162ha, Portions 6 and 7 in the Parish of Bean Bean, County of Gloucester, was purchased by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The two galvanised iron huts on these lands were then demolished.

Barrington Tops National Park, now controlled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, was not without management problems. Farmers saw future difficulties arising from the perceived increasing population of wild horses, dingoes and pigs which could now roam unrestricted in the Park. In 1974 a professional trapper was employed to move over 50 brumbies which were causing extensive erosion and damage to the sphagnum moss swamps. Scotch Broom continued to spread despite extensive preventative measures.

Despite these problems, the new Park proved most popular with campers, bushwalkers and day visitors. In 1977 great interest and excitement was aroused by stories of a mysterious being sighted on Barrington Tops called a 'Yowie'. Said to inhabit the ancient beech forests, it was described by an eye witness as being 2.5m in height, weighing approximately 270kg, covered in long hair from head to foot and walking erect on two legs. Rex Gilroy, director of Mount York Natural History Museum at Mount Victoria was invited to organise a search party. Gilroy thought that the 'Yowie' was related to the Himalayan 'Abominable Snowman' and North American 'Big Foot'. Gilroy opined that the creature had been called a 'Yowie' by the Aborigines.² The party was unsuccessful in its search for a 'Yowie'.

The long awaited road across the Tops, linking the Upper Hunter and the Manning, was opened on 7 June 1978, at a cost of \$764,000. Over 200 people braved the chilling winds and biting rain to witness the unveiling of the commemorative plaque. The inclement weather prevented the Minister for Conservation, Hon. L. Gordon, from attending, and a very wet Mr. J. Henry, Commissioner for Forests, officiated in his stead. Now that the beauty of the Tops was so accessible, campers flocked to areas like the Big Hole and Polblue Swamp. As well, the round trip via Scone, across the Tops and down through Gloucester became a favourite scenic drive. The chance sighting of a 'Yowie' was now an added attraction.

A combined effort of the Forestry Commission of NSW and club members of the Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council saw the clearing and formation of the 'Gillwinga Walk' in 1980, a 10km trail

from Mount Allyn to the Allyn River. In 1988 4WD clubs carried out further work on the walk, but without constant maintenance the track has become overgrown, and at present it is closed.

The Newcastle Land Rover Club Ltd., formed in 1963, obtained a 1.2 ha lease between the Paterson River and Mount Cabre Bald in the Chichester State Forest. During the three years from 1973 to 1976 club members worked hard erecting camping facilities, including hot showers, toilets and barbecue facilities etc., culminating in the official opening of the Alan Howarth Reserve by Milton Morris, State Member for Maitland, before a crowd of 300 people. The reserve, located on the old Cabre Bald Trail, commemorates a foundation member who was tragically killed in a motor accident. Also commemorative is the Howarth Forest Road near the Reserve.³

In 1982 a submission by the National Parks Association to State government for extensions to Barrington Tops National Park generated heated debate and confrontational attitudes from Dungog and Gloucester communities. Timber workers protested about job losses and business people saw the end result as a loss of revenue. Despite this, the NSW Premier Neville Wran dedicated an additional 22,380ha to the Park, now totalling 39,114ha, including Mount Royal and Boonabilla Creek.⁴ However, the National Parks Association was disappointed that Polblue Swamp and the headwaters of Kholwha Creek had not been included, although promised in 1974.⁵

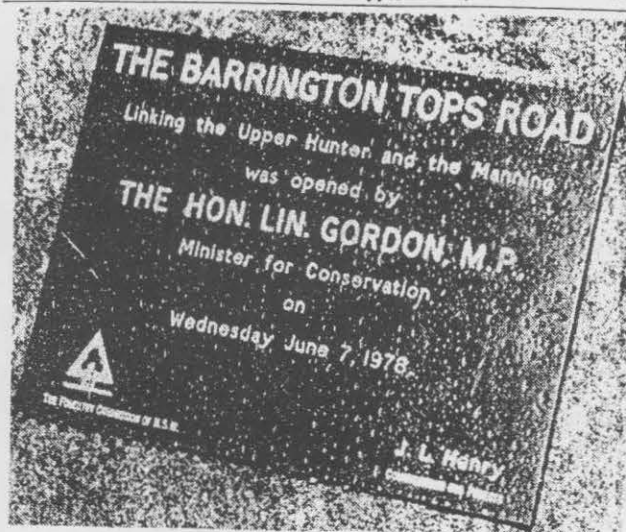
The proposal to include Barrington Tops in the State Government's Wilderness and Wild Rivers Act also generated disapproval from local communities and timber workers. Proposed restrictions on horses, vehicles and logging activities generated further local protests.⁶ Notwithstanding this, great satisfaction was experienced by conservationists when Barrington Tops National Park finally gained World Heritage Listing in 1986.⁷

Scotch Broom continued to defy all attempts at control. In 1987 a Barrington Tops Broom Council was formed to combat the spread of this noxious shrub in the National Park, State Forest and on grazing lands of the Hunter Pastoral Company.⁸ The population of brumbies and wild pigs also continued to be a problem.

In 1989 a new Draft Plan of Management was proposed by National Parks and Wildlife Service providing controlled access for 4WD vehicles, seemingly an attempt to appease all interested parties. There were attitudinal problems in park usage between bushwalkers and 4WD owners, who both used the same tracks. Some 1200 submissions to the Draft Plan were forwarded to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

And still the scientific teams come to the Tops. In December 1992 a group of officers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, together with expert naturalists under the leadership of Harry Hines, Armidale Wildlife Consultant, spent a week carrying out a fauna survey and inspection of Scotch Broom infestation.⁹ The news that a biological control for Scotch Broom was to be introduced created great community interest. Reporter Clare Morgan, writing in *The Newcastle Herald*, mentioned that 10,000ha of National Park, State Forest and private property at Barrington Tops was infested with Scotch Broom. In February 1993 4,000 specimens of a tiny, creamy coloured twig miner moth, *Leucoptera spartifoliella* were released. Although these were imported from New Zealand, the moth originated in Europe. 'This is the first biological control agent for Scotch Broom to be used in Australia', said Dr. Hosking, entomologist from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.¹⁰ This noxious shrub also occurs in other alpine regions of Australia.

The flora of Barrington Tops has been of considerable interest to botanists for many years, with frequent discoveries of rare or endangered species. It was not surprising, therefore, to read in January 1993 that Mr. Hartcher, NSW Minister for the Environment, had submitted 500ha of Barrington Tops National Park for World Heritage Listing, consisting of isolated patches of rainforest in the Wangat, Paterson and Chichester River systems. A total for NSW of about 3000ha 'found in pockets from the Hunter River to the Queensland border, could be added to 203,000ha of remnant rainforest declared World Heritage by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1986'. Sections of Barrington Tops had been included in the earlier listing.¹¹



The plaque commemorating the Barrington Tops road opening. Bad weather stopped Mr Gordon getting to the opening ceremony and the Commissioner for Forests, Mr J. Henry, stood in.



People wait in drizzle and wind for the official opening of the Barrington Tops road yesterday.

The Commissioner for Forests

has pleasure in inviting

Mr & Mrs R. Earp

to the opening of
THE BARRINGTON TOPS ROAD
linking Scone and Gloucester
at POLBLUE SWAMP

by

THE HON. LIN GORDON, M.L.A.,
Minister for Conservation
at 12.30 pm on June 7, 1978.

R.S.V.P. June 2
Forestry Office
Broadmeadow



Phone: (049) 61 5502
P.O. Box 144
Broadmeadow

P.T.O.

The wilderness experience of the Tops has drawn adventurers, scientists, bushwalkers and conservationists for over 100 years. During this time the wild, harsh country has produced its share of tragedies, with many just averted by good luck and/or good sense. Barrington Guest House has played host to many a lost or injured bushwalker. A recent tragedy occurred in February of 1993, when a Dungog man died after crossing the Williams River Falls. Although the guard rail secured there in 1963 by the Newcastle Bushwalking Club is still in good condition, the force and volume of water descending on that particular day was sufficient to sweep him over to the rock pool at the bottom of the falls. The man managed to climb out, but did not survive.

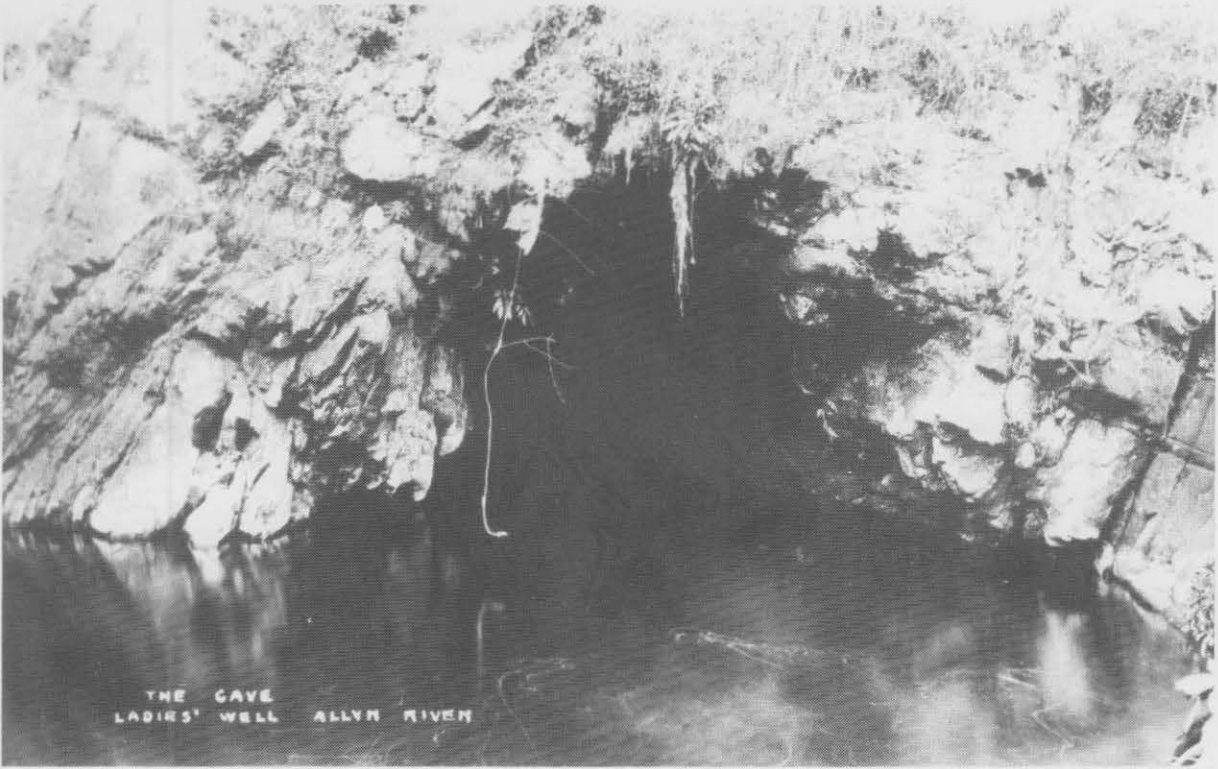
After the accident occurred, two members of the party went for help and the Newcastle Rescue helicopter arrived, carrying two NSW Ambulance officers. Visibility was poor, the terrain rugged, and unfortunately the helicopter crashed into power lines near Barrington Guest House, with five men aboard. By some miracle no one was injured, but the helicopter was completely wrecked, a great loss to the Hunter District.¹²

Another tragedy occurred in March of 1993, with the death of a camper from a Tiger Snake bite on his ankle. The man was found 6km from Gloucester Tops camping area, and had desperately tried to save his life by wrapping a T-shirt tightly around his ankle. His camp was a solitary one, so he met a lonely death.¹³

The saga of land usage at Barrington Tops continues in 1993. Local councils and the timber industry view with alarm a Wilderness Proposal for Barrington Tops National Park and parts of the surrounding State Forest. Loss of jobs in the timber industry is viewed as imminent, with resultant adverse economic and social effects on the district. After consideration of this Wilderness Nomination by the Wilderness Society, National Parks and Wildlife Service decided that 63,000ha fulfilled the criteria under the Wilderness Act. Streams including Boonabilla Creek, the Paterson, Williams, Chichester and Wangat were identified as Wilderness and recommended for dedication as wild, scenic rivers. Also sought for inclusion in the Barrington Wilderness is the plateau area of Barrington Tops National Park. Should the Wilderness Nomination be successful, all logging and 4WD recreational vehicles would be banned in the wilderness area. Logging would still continue in State Forests where 4WD vehicles have access. And so the potential for conflict continues.¹⁴

When pioneers like John Hopson and R.J.E. Marceau made their earlier sorties to the Tops, little did they realise what would prevail some 70 years later, after 'the opening up of the Tops'. For nowadays, following the same route along the Allyn River towards Lagoon Pinch there are numerous attractive camping sites in the State Forest. During weekends and school holidays these are always crowded with campers, but unfortunately some just come to this delightful area for 'a wild weekend'. Many of the former clean, safe, rocky swimming holes have to be closely inspected for broken glass and other rubbish. So unruly has this beautiful area become that Easter of 1993 saw twelve Maitland police officers involved in 'Operation Forest Lout', a comprehensive patrol of the area.¹⁵

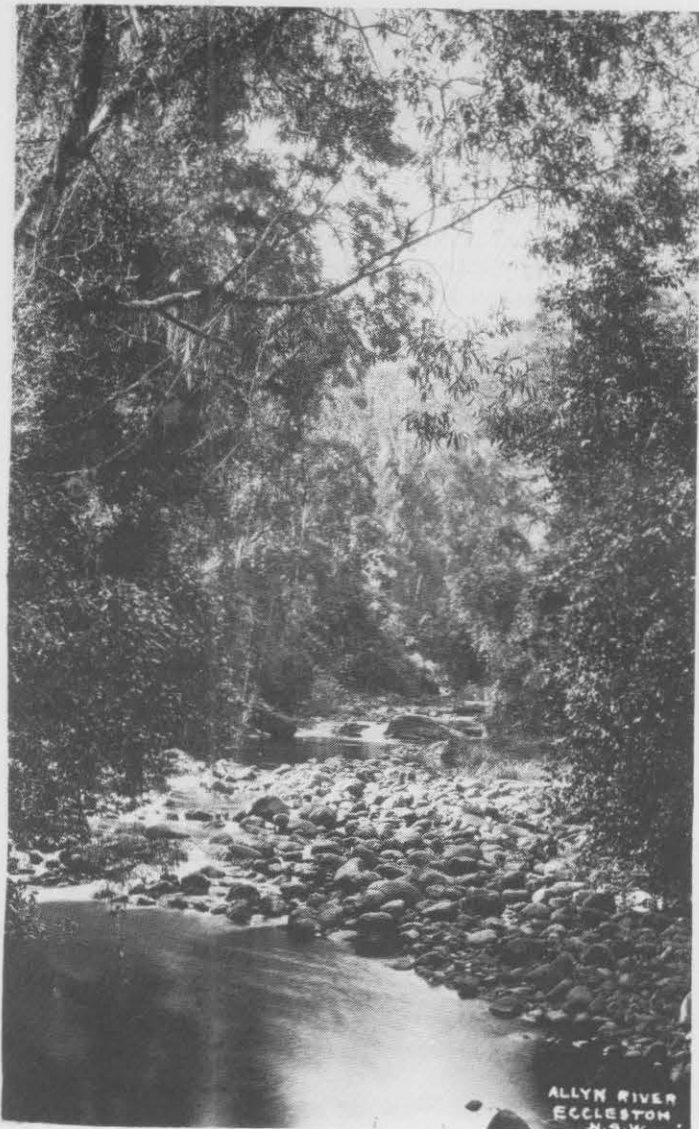
Yet there is still beauty and spiritual fulfilment to be found there. Who could be unmoved by the view from Careys Peak, the mystery of the primeval beech forests or the waterfalls thundering down the wild gorges. These unique features, part of the fabric of Barrington Tops, have withstood depredations by man and beast, and hopefully will continue to do so ad infinitum.



The Cave – Ladies' Well – Allyn River

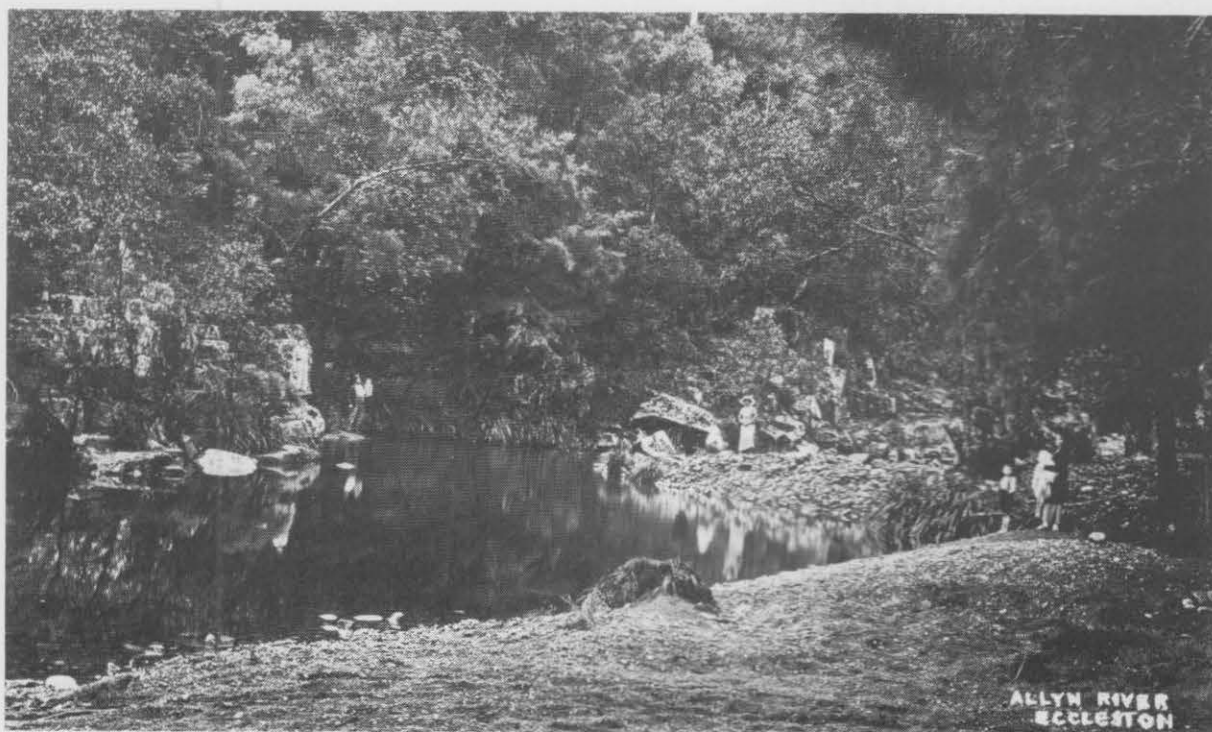


Allyn River Valley – Eccleston – c1921



Left
Allyn River - Eccleston

Below
Picnic Group on Allyn River - Eccleston



APPENDIX

TREE LIST HEREUNDER APPEARS IN 'RAINFORESTS OF AUSTRALIA'S HUNTER REGION' – DAVID WATERHOUSE 1980 P. 27

TREES OF THE UPPER WILLIAMS SUB-TROPICAL RAINFOREST.

<i>Abrophyllum ornans</i>	ABROPHYLLUM. Small tree large thin shiny leaves. Bears clusters of yellowish flowers.
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	BLACK WOOD or HICKORY. Usually on edge of rainforest. Very decorative wood.
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	GREEN WATTLE. Usually on edge of rainforest. Feathery phyllodes (leaf stems).
<i>Ackama paniculata</i>	CORKWOOD or ROSEWOOD MARARA. Bark once used as substitute for cork.
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	LILLYPILLY. Has edible pink or white fruits. Often near creeks.
<i>Acronychia (or Baitrella) oblongifolia</i>	YELLOW WOOD. Small tree. often near creeks. Greenish flowers with thin incurling petals.
<i>Alectryon subcinereus</i>	WILD QUINCE. Bears large pulpy fruits with black shiny seeds. Rough bark.
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	RED ASH. Smooth pale barked tree with bright red wood.
<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i>	LANCEWOOD or IRONWOOD. Small tree, with sharply pointed small leaves. Very tough timber.
<i>Baloghia lucida</i>	BRUSH BLOODWOOD. Has blood coloured sap. Timber burns easily even when freshly cut.
<i>Brachychiton acerifolium</i>	ILLAWARRA FLAME TREE. Deciduous. Bright red flowers. Soft stringy wood once used for ropes and mats.
<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>	BLACK WATTLE. Used to make first dwellings in Sydney. Small tree. Common along creeks.
<i>Callistemon salignus</i>	WHITE BOTTLE BRUSH. Paper bark. Pale yellow flowers. Widely planted as ornamental shrub.
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	RIVER OAK. Grows along river banks. Often festooned with epiphytes. Wood once used for roof shingles.
<i>Claoxylon australe</i>	BRITTLEWOOD. Small tree with pale green translucent leaves. Small red fruit with white hairs.
<i>Clerodendrum tomentosum</i>	VELVET SPIDER BUSH or DOWNY CHANCE. Has very soft downy leaves.
<i>Commersonia bartramia</i>	SCRUB CHRISTMAS BUSH. Small tree. usually near water or clearing. Bark fibre used by aborigines for making nets.
<i>Croton verreauxii</i>	NATIVE CASCARILLA. Small tree. Often in clearings. Used as ornamental shrub.
<i>Cryptocarya erythroxylon</i>	ROSE MAPLE. Pale pink wood smells like cider.
<i>Cryptocarya glaucescens</i>	SILVER SYCAMORE or JACKWOOD. Also called Native Laurel. Has soft pale coloured wood.
<i>Cryptocarya microneura</i>	NUTMEG LAUREL. Bears small pointed fruits.
<i>Cryptocarya obovata</i>	WHITE WALNUT. Densely foliated tree. Leaves are ashcoloured on undersides.
<i>Cryptocarya rigida</i>	BROWN BEECH or ROSE MAPLE. Has a pale brown wood once used for furniture.
<i>Daphnandra micrantha</i>	SOCKETWOOD. Branches joined to trunk in ball and socket fashion. Bark contains strychnine-like substance.
<i>Dendrocnide excelsa</i>	STINGING TREE. Common on edges of clearings. Wood very soft. Large stinging leaves.
<i>Diospyros australis</i>	BLACK PLUM or YELLOW PERSIMMON. Small tree. Thick shiny leaves with yellowish undersurfaces. Black oval fruits.
<i>Diospyros pentamera</i>	MYRTLE EBONY or GREY PERSIMMON. Rough barked tree with strong smelling dull red fruits. Fluted trunk.
<i>Diploglottis australis</i>	NATIVE TAMARIND. Often emergent. Large pinnate leaves. Fruits used to make jam.
<i>Dodonaea megazyga</i>	PEPPER HOP BUSH. Small tree with pinnate leaves and three-winged fruits.
<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>	SASSAFRAS. Bark once used to purify blood and ease stomach ache.
<i>Duboisia myoporoides</i>	DUBOISIA. Small tree. often in clearings Drooping branches, leaves poisonous and contain the drug hyoscine.
<i>Dysoxylum fraserianum</i>	ROSEWOOD. Often emergent. Wood smells like roses.
<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>	EHRETIA. Deciduous. Mostly on rainforest edge. Has tiny white flowers.
<i>Elaeocarpus obovatus</i>	FRECKLED ASH or PIGEON BERRY ASH. Can grow much taller than <i>E. reticulatus</i> . Leaves not as strongly veined.
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	BLUEBERRY ASH. Usually a small tree often outside rainforests. Has blue fruits and strongly veined leaves.
<i>Elaeodendron australe</i>	RED-FRUITED OLIVE PLUM. Bears bright red fruits. Usually only shrub sized.
<i>Enmenospermum alphitonioides</i>	BONEWOOD or SOAPWOOD. The pale yellow wood has a soapy smell.
<i>Endriana discolor</i>	TICKWOOD. Very like <i>Ackama</i> in appearance. Also common in coastal brushes.
<i>Endriana meulleri</i>	MEULLER'S WALNUT. Small tree. Sometimes used as ornamental shrub.
<i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i>	THIN-LEAVED STRINGYBARK. Occurs on edges of rainforest.
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	SYDNEY BLUE GUM. Often emergent. Common near Barrington Guest House.
<i>Euodia micrococca</i>	EUODIA or RINGWOOD. Small tree. Often several stemmed.
<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	BOLWARRA. Small tree. Sometimes adopts the form of a climber on other trees.
<i>Ficus stephanocarpa</i>	SANDPAPER FIG. Leaves feel like sandpaper. Usually a small tree.
<i>Ficus superba</i>	DECIDUOUS FIG. Strangles other trees. Fruits favoured by birds.
<i>Glacridium ferdinandi</i>	CHEESE TREE. Often on rainforest edge. Small fruits shaped like old fashioned cheeses.
<i>Gmelina leichhardtii</i>	WHITE BEECH. Bears large white flowers and mauve fruits.
<i>Guioa semiglaucis</i>	GUIOA. Small tree, often with several stems. Bears many small white flowers.

- Hedycarya angustifolia* NATIVE MULBERRY. Aborigines made fire sticks and spear tips from the wood.
Hibiscus heterophyllus NATIVE HIBISCUS. Large white flowers with red centres bloom in summer.
Hymenoporum flavum NATIVE FRANGIPANNI. Small tree. Bears large fragrant yellow flowers.
Litsea reticulata SHE BEECH or BOLLYWOOD. Bears black fruits in cuplike receptacles.
Neolitsea dealbata BOLLYGUM or GUDGERIE. Small tree with purple fruits.
Omalanthus populifolius NATIVE POPLAR or BLEEDING HEART. Small tree of rainforest edge. Heart shaped leaves turn red.
Orites excelsa PRICKLY ASH. Marked variations in leaf shape. Timber prized for furniture as it is like Silky Oak.
Pennantia cunninghamii BROWN BEECH. Leaves colonised by nitrogen fixing algae. Often near creeks.
Pittosporum revolutum YELLOW PITTOSPORUM. Small tree with clusters of yellow flowers. Large ruby coloured seeds.
Pittosporum undulatum MOCK ORANGE. Bears fruits like small oranges. Well known as ornamental shrub.
Planchonella australis BLACK APPLE. Large black fruits. Seeds smooth and shiny, once used for necklaces.
Pleiococca wilcoxiana PLEIOCOCCA. Small tree with large leaves and fleshy white fruit.
Polyosoma cunninghamii FEATHERWOOD. Small tree with very fragrant white flowers. Pale, attractively figured timber.
Polyscias elegans BLACK PENCIL CEDAR. Usually a small tree with 'umbrella-like' appearance.
Polyscias murrayi CELERYWOOD OR PENCIL CEDAR. Common on edge of clearings. Wood smells like celery.
Psychotria loniceroides RUSTY PSYCHOTRIA. Small tree, bearing clusters of brownish, velvety leaves.
Ouintinea sieberi POSSUMWOOD or PINK WALNUT. Seeds often germinate on trunks of tree ferns. Corky wood.
Rapanea howittiana TURNIPWOOD. Wood smells like turnips. Bears many small blue fruits.
Rapanea variabilis MUTTONWOOD. Small tree. Valued as ornamental shrub.
Rhodammia trinervata BRUSH TURPENTINE. Bears clusters of four-petalled flowers and small brown berries.
Rhodospaera
rhodantherma TULIP SATINWOOD. A rough barked tree with red flowers and brown, shiny fruits.
Sambucus australasica NATIVE or YELLOW ELDERBERRY. Small tree bearing yellow fruits once sought by aborigines.
Schizomeria ovata CRABAPPLE. Bears small translucent, eggshaped fruits.
Scolopia brownii FLINTWOOD. Usually a small tree. Also found in coastal brushes. Leaves often toothed.
Sloanea australis MAIDEN'S BLUSH. Often has 'buttresses'. Fruit capsules covered in bristles.
Stenocarpus salignus SCRUB BEEFWOOD. The wood is similar to that of the Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*).
Symplocos thwaitesii SYMPLOCOS. Small tree. Bears tiny flowers borne in short spikes.
Syncarpia glomulifera TURPENTINE. Often emergent. Extensively used for wharves as timber resistant to marine borers.
Synoum glandulosum SCENTLESS ROSEWOOD. Rarely attains the size of Rosewood. Bears reddish 3-lobed fruits.
Syzygium paniculatum BRUSH CHERRY. A small tree. Bears many red fruits resembling cherries
Tieghemopanax
sambucifolius ELDERBERRY PANAX. A small tree bearing milky white berries.
Toona australis RED CEDAR. Deciduous. Famous in Australia for its valuable timber.
Tristania conferta BRUSH BOX. Common on edges of rainforest. Timber used in Sydney Opera House. Widely planted as street tree in Newcastle and elsewhere.
Tristania laurina WATER GUM. Rough pale bark. Grows along creek banks or in rocky stream beds.
Trochocarpa laurina LEAFY TROCHOCARPA or WHEEL FRUIT TREE. Distinctive parallel venation on leaves.
Vesselowskyia rubifolia MARARA. Corky wood. Usually a small tree.
Wilkiea macrophylla LARGE LEAVED WILKIEA. Small tree bearing noticeably coarse leaves.

TREES OF THE UPPER MANNING VALLEY NOT RECORDED FOR THE WILLIAMS VALLEY.

- Alectryon subdentatus* RAMBUTON. Small tree with pinnate leaves.
Aphananthe philippinensis ASBESTOS TREE or NATIVE ELM. The ashes of this species were once mixed with water and used as asbestos.
Backhousia sciadophora SHATTERWOOD. So named because the wood shatters when struck with an axe.
Capparis nobilis BRUSH NUT. Bears large woody fruits (nuts) on stalks.
Coelebogyne ilicifolia BRUSH HOLLY. Bears papery, prickly leaves like holly.
Decaspermum paniculatum DECASPERMUM. A small tree with tough timber.
Dendrocnide photiniphylla SMALL-LEAVED STINGING TREE. Has rigid leaves and fewer stinging hairs than the closely related *Dendrocnide excelsa*.
Elattostachys nervosa ELATTOSTACHYS. Small tree with tough wood and 'ring' like markings on the trunk.
Ficus macrophylla MORETON BAY FIG. Well known as an ornamental street tree.
Geijera salicifolia BRUSH WILGA or GREEN SATIN HEART. Densely foliated with scaly bark.
Heritiera actinophylla BLACK JACK. Attractive wood once used for billiard cues. Leaves are palmate.
Mallotus philippensis KAMALA. Occurs also in China where the fruits are collected to make a dye for silk and wool.
Melia azedarach WHITE CEDAR. Widely planted on properties as a shade tree. Aborigines used bark extract as a fish poison.
Myoporum acuminatum BOOBIALLA. Small tree with long pointed leaves. Also on coast.
Notelaea venosa VEINED OLIVE. A relative of the Mock Olive (*Notelaea longifolia*).
Santalum obtusifolium SANDALWOOD. Small tree with perfumed wood and pale drooping foliage.
Sloanea woollsii YELLOW CARBEEN. Often strongly 'buttressed' at the base.
Streblus brunonianus WHALEBONE TREE. Aborigines made boomerangs from the wood.

REFERENCES

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 Waterhouse, David - 1980 - 'Rainforests of Australia's Hunter Region'
- 2 Earp, Rod - 1961 - *The Living Earth* - July-October p.18-9
- 3 Miller, James - 1985 - 'Koori: A Will to Win' - p.41 - Angus and Robertson
- 4 Enright, W.J. - 1932 - *Mankind* p.76 - Local Studies - Newcastle Region Public Library
- 5 Dawson, Robert - 1831 - 'The Present State of Australia' - London-Smith, Elder & Co. - 2nd Ed.
- 6 Andrews, Alan E.J. - North to the Manning 1824-1834: The survey-explorations of Dangar, Florance, Ralfe and White - *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* - June 1988 - Vol. 74 Pt 1
- 7 Enright, W.J. - 1923 - Barrington Tops League Literature - Maitland Branch
- 8 Arousseau, M - 1968 - 'The Letters of F.W. Ludwig Leichhardt' Collected and Translated by M. Arousseau - Cambridge - Published for Hakluyt Society at University Press - Vol. 2
- 9 'Education in Eccleston 1867 - 1967' - Eccleston School
- 10 Clouten, Keith - 1981 - 'Hunter Valley Bushwalk - Inspiring and challenging walks around the perimeter of the Valley' - Child & Henry - Australia
- 11 *Dungog Chronicle* 27 March 1923
- 12 Nixon, Allan M. - 1982 - '100 Australian Bushrangers 1789 - 1901' - Rigby
- 13 *Dungog Chronicle* 27 March 1923
- 14 Ibid 16 September 1947
- 15 *Scone Advocate* 5 April 1963
- 16 White, Judy - 1981 - 'The White Family of Belltrees' - The Seven Seas Press - Sydney
- 17 *Dungog Chronicle* 8 February 1924
- 18 Dawson, R - 1831 Op Cit,
- 19 *Dungog Chronicle* 14 and 21 June 1910

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 *Maitland Mercury* 27 September 1949
- 2 Campbell, T.G. - 1925 - Visit to Barrington Tops Plateau - *The Australian Museum Magazine* p.195
- 3 Enright, W.J. - 1932 - *Mankind* p.76 - Newcastle Region Public Library - Local Studies
- 4 *Dungog Chronicle* 14 January 1916
- 5 Ibid 10 May 1921
- 6 Rupp, H.M.R -B.A. - 1930 - 'Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales' - Angus & Robertson Limited - Australia
- 7 *Maitland Mercury* 23 June 1928
- 8 Ibid 23 June 1928 - Appreciation by H.J. Carter
Ibid 28 June 1928 - An Appreciation by Erdekundist
- 9 Personal correspondence - Trustees of The Australian Museum to Hopson family 19 July 1928
- 10 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 10 April 1923
- 11 Ibid 8 November 1952
- 12 *Dungog Chronicle* 13 April 1923
- 13 Ibid 12 April 1923
- 14 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 6 April 1923
- 15 Barrington Tops League - Maitland Branch Literature
- 16 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 10 April 1923
- 17 Ibid 12 April 1923
- 18 Ibid
- 19 *Dungog Chronicle* 13 March 1923
- 20 Marceau, R.J.E. - Personal Correspondence 15 July 1925
- 21 Ibid
- 22 Ibid
- 23 British Association for Advancement of Science - 'Maitland District Handbook' - Printed by E. Tipper, West Maitland - 1914 - Mitchell Library
- 24 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 15 May 1947
- 25 *Dungog Chronicle* 21 January 1924
- 26 Messmer, P.R. - A Trip to Barrington Tops - *Australian Museum Magazine* - February 1944 p.194-9 - Musgrave, A - A Trip to Barrington Tops - *Australian Museum Magazine* - May 1944 p.238-42
- 27 *Dungog Chronicle* 22 January 1924
- 28 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 22 January 1924
- 29 *Dungog Chronicle* 8 February 1924
- 30 Dunphy, Myles - Manuscript Files - Mitchell Library
- 31 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 15 March 1947 - 26 July 1965
- 32 *Maitland Mercury* 6 October 1877 -
Maitland Weekly Mercury 17 October 1896
- 33 The Barrington Club Archives - Archives of Barrington-Gloucestter Tops Fishing Club

- 34 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 15 March 1947
- 35 Carter, H.J. - 'Gulliver in the Bush - wanderings of an Australian entomologist' - Angus & Robertson 1933
The Royal Australian Historical Society - Newsletter November 1975
- 36 *Dungog Chronicle* 27 January 1925
- 37 Carter, H.J. - 1933 Op. Cit. p.134-5
- 38 Ibid p.136
- 39 *Dungog Chronicle* 1 October 1926
- 40 Ibid
- 41 Musgrave, A and Campbell, T.G. - March 1927 - Royal Australian Ornithologists Union Camp on Williams River -
Australian Museum Magazine p.26-34
- 42 *Dungog Chronicle* 19 October 1926 -
Musgrave & Campbell 1927 Op. Cit.
- 43 *Dungog Chronicle* 26 October 1926
- 44 Rupp, H.M.R. - 1928 - *Proceedings of Linnean Society of NSW* Vol. 53 - p.336-342
- 45 Heyner, C.E. - March 1931 - Barrington Tops Illustrated - *B.P. Magazine* - p.65 -7
- 46 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 6 April 1929
- 47 Aitchison, Therese - 1980 - 'Barrington House - Then and Now'

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 *Dungog Chronicle* 8 & 22 February 1933
- 2 Ibid 4 September 1934
- 3 Ibid 11 March 1947
- 4 Ibid 16 October 1934 - 9 November 1934
- 5 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 17 April 1936
- 6 Fraser, L. & Vickery J.W. - 1937-9 - Condensed Paper - *Proceedings of Linnean Society of NSW*
- 7 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 22 January 1942
- 8 Ibid
- 9 Ibid 4 June 1946
- 10 Messmer, P.R and Musgrave, A - 1943-4 - A Trip to Barrington Tops - *Australian Museum Magazine* Vol. 8 p.194-9
- p.238-42
- 11 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 28 January 1946
30 January 1946 - 1 & 11 February 1946
- 12 Ibid 8 February 1946

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 15 March 1947
- 2 *Dungog Chronicle* 21 February 1947 - 21 March 1947
- 3 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 18 March 1947
- 4 Barrington Tops - *The Australian Museum Magazine* - June 1948
- 5 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 26 January 1950
- 6 Ibid 5 January 1950
- 7 Ibid 4 February 1950
- 8 Ibid 23 January 1950 - 14 August 1950
- 9 Ibid 23 January 1950
- 10 Ibid 20 March 1950
- 11 The Barrington Club Archives - University of Newcastle - Mitchell Library - R.S. Woodgate, Kotara
- 12 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 20 March 1950 - 8 November 1952
- 13 Ibid 6 July 1951
- 14 Ibid 14 February 1952
Newcastle Sun 23 May 1955
- 15 The Barrington Club Archives - Mitchell Library - *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 15 March 1952 -
8 November 1952
- 16 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 31 July 1952
- 17 The Barrington Club Archives - University of Newcastle - Mitchell Library
- 18 *Dungog Chronicle* 22 January 1924 - *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 8 November 1952
- 19 Ibid 20 August 1966
- 20 Ibid
- 21 Ibid 2 September 1954 - 13 April 1955 - 26 May 1955
- 22 *Newcastle Sun* 18 April 1955
- 23 Newspaper cutting - n.d. Archives National Parks Association
- 24 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 26 May 1955 - 17 January 1956
- 25 *The Barrington Club Bulletin* 1954 No. 17
- 26 Ibid 1956 No. 26

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 *Newcastle Sun* 2 November 1957
- 2 *Dungog Chronicle* 19 August 1959
- 3 Bates, 'Old Bill' - 'Little Village in the Foothills' -1988 - Dungog Historical Society
- 4 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners Advocate* 4 & 11 January 1958
- 5 *Dungog Chronicle* 21 December 1957
- 6 *Maitland Mercury* 31 December 1957
- 7 *Dungog Chronicle* 21 December 1957
Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate 1 & 3 January 1958
- 8 Ibid 4 January 1958
- 9 Ibid 15 April 1958
- 10 Ibid 14 May 1958
- 11 Ibid 4 July 1958
- 12 Ibid 23 September 1958
- 13 *Dungog Chronicle* 12 November 1958
- 14 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 11 November 1958
2 December 1958
- 15 Ibid 24 January 1961 - 17 June 1962
Maitland Mercury 10 February 1961
- 16 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate* 10 July 1961
- 17 Ibid 26 May 1962
- 18 Personal correspondence with A. Munro & R. Filson - Archives of Newcastle Bushwalking Club
- 19 University of Newcastle - Archives
- 20 Newcastle Bushwalking Club Archives
- 21 Ibid
- 22 Ibid
- 23 *Maitland Mercury* 22 August 1963

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 *Compass* - September 1968 - National Parks Association Archives
- 2 *Dungog Chronicle* 19 January 1977
- 3 Ibid 2 April 1980 - Forestry Commission literature - John A. Brown -Newcastle Land Rover Club
- 4 *Newcastle Morning Herald* 2 January 1984
- 5 Ibid 28 July 1989
- 6 *The Sun*, News Pictorial 27 August 1986 - Newspaper cutting - National Parks Association of NSW - Archives
- 7 *Gloucester Advocate* 10 December 1986
- 8 *Dungog Chronicle* 1 April 1987
- 9 *Newcastle Herald* 16 December 1992
- 10 Ibid 2 February 1993
- 11 Ibid 18 & 19 January 1992
- 12 Ibid 15 & 20 February 1993
- 13 Ibid 2 March 1993
- 14 Ibid 17 March 1993 - 24 April 1993
- 15 Ibid 13 April 1993

INDEX

- Aeroplane Hill 35
 Agricultural & Fisheries, Dept. of 66
 Alan Howarth Reserve 66
 Alley, Selby 58
 Allyn River 9,10,11,18,19,29,52,57,65,69
 Anderson, Dr. B.A. 29
 Armidale 45
 Arundel River 10
 Ashby, Dr. 47
 Ashby, Edwin 29,47
 Arousseau, Marcel 28
 Australian Agricultural Co. 10
 Australian Armoured Brigade (1st) 41
 Australian Guide Book Co. 33
 Australian Museum 17,35,41,51
- Back Creek 11
 Baker, W. 20
 Baker, R. 30
 Bald Knob 12
 Bancroft, Dr. Josephine 28
 Barnard River 10
 Barr, Donald 29
 Barrett, Charles L. 29
 Barrington 11
 Barrington Gorge 20
 Barrington Guest House 10,20,30,33,35,41,52,69
 Barrington-Gloucestter Tops Fishing Club 28
 Barrington National Park 52
 Barrington River 10,11,18,19,20,28,46,58
 Barrington Tops - rainfall, vegetation 9, goldfield 11, source of rivers, Mountain Sanatorium & Tourist Resort, beauty of 18, opening up of 19, National Park, road across Tops 27, trout introduced, Divine service held 28, snakes, Biological Station 29, increasing popularity, development 33, expenditure on road, natural history, plane crash 35, snowfalls, source of Hunter River, Newcastle's Sesqui-Centenary, wildlife 41, limestone caves, marble deposit, tourist development 42, National Park, map being prepared, Primitive Area, first phone service 45, Development Plan 46, scientific data 47, objection to proposed Park, Plan of Management 51, blasting new road, approval for Plan, Air Beacon at Trig, aerial dropping of poison baits 52, Army exercise, approval of Park 57, new map, access roads 58, National Park gazetted, road across Tops opened 65, extensions to Park, additions granted, World Heritage Listing, new Plan, further submissions 66, Wilderness proposal 69
 Barrington Tops Broom Council 66
 Barrington Tops Bushfire Prevention Assoc. 58
 Barrington Tops League 18,19,33
 Barrington Tops National Park 57,65,69
 Barrington Tops Tourist Development 42
 Barrington Trig 57
 Barrington, Viscount 10
 Basden Falls 58
 Basden, Ralph 42,45,58
 Beean Beean Plains 18
 'Belltrees' 12
 Bennett, Hon. W. 17,20,21,27
 Bettington, B.C.J. 29
 Bidstrup, Flying Officer George F. 35
 Big Hole 57,58,65
 Boonabilla Creek 66,69
 'Borumbat' 10
 Bowman River 11,18
 Boydell, Charles 9
 Boydell, William 9
 Broughton Is. 18
- Brumlow Creek 45,57
 Brumlow Tops 9,58
 Buchan, G. 35
 Bureau of Meteorology 45
 Buxner, Lt. Col. 20
- Campbell, James 11
 Careys Peak 9,11,12,19,27,28,30,33,41,45,52,57,69
 Carrington 10
 Carrowbrook 35
 Carter, A. 20
 Carter, Bruce 12
 Carter, H.J. 17,28,29
 Cavalier, Lyon 20,27,28,33,41
 Cayley, Neville 12,29
 Central Mapping Authority 58
 Cessnock 33
 Chalmers, Mr. 21
 Chesworth, John 21
 Chichester 57
 Chichester Dam 17,18
 Chichester River 10,18,66,69
 Chichester State Forest 51,66
 Chichester Valley 20
 Childs, W.H. 17
 Cinesound Talking Picture Gazette 33
 Civil Aviation Dept. 52
 Clarence Town 10
 Clarke, Rev. W.B. 10
 Cobark River 18
 'Cobberbawl' 12
 'Cobber' 12
 Cobbys Creek 58
 Cobman Browne, F. 21
 Cochrane, Rev. W.H.G. 28
 Coll, James 20
 Collison, Kenneth T. 35
 Collison, Mr. 27
 Cook, Miss 20
 Cooke, M.G. 21
 Copeland 11
 Cradle Mountain 29
 Croft, Mr. 33
 Crosbie (Crosby), Mr. & Mrs. 20,45
 CSIRO 47
 Cutlers Pass 20,29
 Cutler, Sid 20
 Cutler, Mrs. 20
- 'Dalkeith' 17,18
 Dangar, Henry 10
 Darwin 35
 David, Prof. T.W.E. 17
 Dawson, Robert 10
 Deards family 20
 Denison Diggings 11
 Dick, John C. 21
 Dilgry River 18
 D'Ombraim, Dr. E.A. 29
 Double Falls 58
 Double Falls Creek 58
 Dungog 17,18,19,20,27,28,29,30,35,41,42,52,66
 Dungog Tourist Bureau 41
 Dunnicliff, A.A. 21
 Dunphy, Myles 27
- Earp, Roderick W. 42,46,51,52
 Earp, Woodcock & Beveridge 51
 Eccleston 19,21,27,28,51
 Eccleston Agricultural Bureau 18
 Eckford Downs 45
 Edstein, Mr. 33

Edwards, Albert [Ab] 12,29,33
 Edwards family 20
 Edwards Hut 12,17,18,20,27,29,41
 Edwards, Mrs. Snr. 20
 Edwards, Oliver 12
 Edwards property 65
 Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. Will 20
 Edwards, W.H. 12
 Edwards, W. Snr. 11,29
 Elkin, A.P. 17
 Enright, Walter J. 17,18,20

 Fairhall, Ald. A. 35,42
 Far Eastern Creek 58
 Far Eastern Falls 58
 Farmer & Co. 28
 Farmers' & Settlers' Assoc. 17
 Farrell, R.E. 51,52
 Fern Tree Creek 51,52
 Ferry, E. 20
 Filson, Rex 57
 First World War 17
 Flemington 12
 Florance, Thomas 10
 Forestry Commission of NSW 47,51,52,57,65
 Foster, A.S. 51,52
 Fraser, Lilian 35
 Freudenstein, Hon. Mr. 65
 Fry, H. 21
 Fry, Ald. H.W. 18,21

 Gallipoli 17
 Garlick, J. 20,21
 Gill, Dr, John 10,11
 Gilling, Mr. 33
 Gillwinga Walk 65
 Gilroy, Rex 65
 Gloucester 9,18,19,42,65,66
 Gloucester Falls 10,65
 Gloucester River 10,18,65
 Gloucester Tops 10,58,69
 Gloucester Tops National Park 52
 Gloucester Tops Park Trust 65
 Gordon, Hon. L. 65
 Gould, Elizabeth 10
 Gould, John 10
 Governor, Jimmy 11
 Governor, Joe 11
 Governors Lookout 11,20
 Grahamstown Dam 41
 Gregory, C.A. 33
 Gresford 52
 Gringai (Gringhi) 9
 Gummi Creek 45
 Gundy 27,28

 Hancock, A. 19
 Harrison, Launcelot 12,17,28
 Hartcher, Mr. 66
 Hayne, W. 12
 Hedley, C. 17
 Henry, J. 65
 Hewitt, R. 20
 Heyner, C.E. 30
 Hill, Mr. 27
 Hines, Harry 66
 Holden, William 51
 Hopson family 20
 Hopson, John 7,17,19,20,27,28,29,41,69
 Hopson, John Jnr. 18
 Hopson, Lindsay 18
 Hosking, Dr. 66
 Hoskins, J.S. 17
 Howarth Forest Road 66

 Humphries, Lt. C.C. 27
 Hunter-Manning National Parks Assoc. 51,52,57,65
 Hunter Pastoral Co. 66
 Hunter Region 4WD Council 65
 Hunter River 18,28,41
 Hunter River & Barrington Districts Zone Council 33
 Hunters Springs 45
 Hunter Valley 17,18
 Hunter Valley Research Foundation 45

 Institute of Town Planning 45

 Jackson, J. 20
 Jeffries Turner, Dr. 29
 Johnson, Mr. 33
 Johnson, Laurie 47
 Johnson, Warwick S. 42
 Junction Pools 58

 Karuah River 10
 Katoomba 42
 Kelk, J.W. 20
 Keppell, Rt. Hon. William 10
 Kerripit Beech Flora Reserve 65
 Kerripit River 10,18
 Keys, J.H. 28
 Kholwha Creek 10,66
 King, C.W. 19
 Kinghorn, J.R. 29
 Kooris 9,10,17,35
 Kosciusko 17

 Lagoon Pinch 11,12,18,69
 Lagoon Pinch Road 57
 Lamb, Mr. 27
 Laurie, A.G. 21
 Lawrie, Mrs. 29
 Le Souef, D. 12
 Lea, A.M. 29
 Leach, Dr. J.A. 12,29
 Leichhardt, F.W. Ludwig 10
 Lewis, Hon. T.L. 65
 Limestone Creek 42
 Linnean Society of NSW 17,35
 Lister, Charlie 51
 Lister Park 51
 Loughlin, E. 21
 Lower Hunter Council 42

 McDonald, Alexander S. 7,20,21
 McDonald, Dr. Kenneth 33
 McDonald, Hector 47
 McKenzie, Catherine 7
 McLeod, Norman I. 30,35
 Mack, Amy 28
 Mackay, J.K. 20
 Mackerras, Dr, L.M. 28
 Maiden, J.H. 12
 Maitland 19,52
 Maitland Technical College 19
 Manning River 10,18
 Manning, William 10
 Marceau, Robert J.E. 7,18,19, 41,69
 Marlow, B.J. 47
 Matheson, Daisy 7
 Matthews, G.M. 12
 Meehan, Eva 45
 Meehan, Tom 41,45
 Messmer, Pearl R. 35
 Mittagong 18
 Moonan 28
 Moonan Brook 19
 Moonan Flat 9,11,27,30,45
 Moree 35

- Morgan, Clare 66
 Morris, Hon. Milton 66
 Mount Allyn 65
 Mount Barrington 9,18,20
 Mount Cabre Bald 66
 Mount Kosciusko 29
 Mount Royal 66
 Mount Royal Range 9,10,11,57,58
 Mount William 10
 Mount York Natural History Museum 65
 Mountain Trails Club 27
 Munro, Arthur 58
 Munro Hut 58
 Murrurundi 10,18
 Musgrave, A. 17,29,35
 Muswellbrook 10
 Mutch, T. 20,21
- Nancarrow, J.H. 17
 National Fitness Movement 35
 National Parks & Wildlife Act 65
 National Parks and Wildlife Service 57,65,66,69
 National Parks Association 51,57,66
 Neve, Stuart 20,27
 New England Trout Acclimatisation Scty 45
 Newcastle 19,20,27,28,41
 Newcastle Aero Club 33
 Newcastle Bushwalking Club Inc (Syn) Newcastle
 Technical College Bushwalking Club
 41,45,46,57,58,66
 Newcastle City Council 33,35,42,45,46
 Newcastle Land Rover Club Ltd. 66
 Newcastle Ski Club 57
 Newcastle Technical College 58
 Newcastle Tourist Advisory Committee 42,45,46
 Newcastle Trades Hall 46,57
 Newcastle University College 58
 Nobbys Signal Station 27,28
 Northern Parks & Playground Movement 7,45,46,51,52
 Northern Ski Club 33
 NSW Government Tourist Bureau 33
 Nyngan 35
- O'Gradys Hut 45,58
 'Operation Forest Lout' 69
- Packer, W. 21
 Page, Dr. Sir Earle 30
 Paterson 11,57
 Paterson River 10,18,52,66,69
 Peirce, T.E. 18,21
 Pender, Mr. 27,57
 Pender & Foster Pty.Ltd. 51,52
 Pender, R.L. 20,21
 Pender, W.S. 21
 Pigna Barney Caves 42
 Pigna Barney River 10,18,42
 Pioneer Tourist Bus 33
 Pitt, M. 42
 Polblue 11,45,58,65,66
 Port Stephens Council 42
 Pulver, Astley P. 42
 Purdue, Ald. 46
- Quinlan, Ald. 41,42
- Ralphe, Surveyor 10
 Rams Head Crossing 28
 Rawdon Vale 11
 Reid, George H. 17
 Richardson, J. 42
 Richley, Ald. J. 45,46
 Rocky Crossing 58
 Royal Hotel 30
 Royal Ornithologists Union 29
- Royal Zoological Scty 29
 Rumbel, Charles 12
 Rumbel, Fred 29
 Rumbel, J. 20
 Rumbel, Sam 12
 Rupp, Rev. H.M.R. 17,29
- Salisbury 12,20,29
 Salisbury Gap Road 29
 Sandgate War Cemetery 35
 Sassafras Gully 20,27
 Saxby family 20
 Saxby, R.J. 12
 Saxbys Swamps 57
 Schroder, Ricky 51
 Scone 12,19,27,41,42,45,65
 Second World War 35
 Selby Alley Hut 58
 Sharpe, V.J.T. 41
 Shortland, Lt. John 41
 Sim, Paul 17
 Simpson, Mrs. 20
 Singleton 19,28,41,42
 Sivyver, Mrs. B. 27
 Sivyver, H.J. 27
 Ski Club of Australia 33
 Smith, Mr. & Mrs. 33
 Smith, C. 21
 Smith, D. 21
 Smith family 20
 Smith, Frank 17
 Smith, Sydney 21
 Snowy River 45
 Spooner, Hon. E.S. 33
 Stewarts Brook 11,28
 Sydney Botanic Gardens 47
- Tasmania 29
 The Barrington Club 42,45,46,57
 The Barrington Tops Development Assoc. 57
 The Barrington Tops Fire Prevention Assoc. 57
 'The Brothers' 12
 'The Corker' 12,20,45,52
 'The Leap' 17
 The Pioneers Hut 57
 The Scone Fishing Club 28
 Thompson, Jack 51
 Thunderbolt 11
 Thunderbolts Lookout 11
 Thunderbolts Trail 11
 Timor Caves 42
 Tomalla 9,10,11
 Toohe, J.G.C. 29
 Tubrabucca 11,19,41,45
 Tugrabakh 10
- UNESCO 66
 Underwood, Jackie 11
 Upper Allyn River Sawmill 51
 Upper Hunter Regional Development Committee 35
 University of California 47
 University of Newcastle 58
 University of Sydney 28,30,33,47
 Uralla 11
- Vickery, Joyce 35
- Walker, Constable 11
 Wallarobba Council 42
 Wanarua 9
 Wangat River 18,66,69
 Wangat Valley 20
 Ward, Fred 11
 Warren, Flt.Lt. Anthony G. 35
 Waterhouse, Dr. G.A. 28,29
 Wearne, W.S. 7,20,21,27
 Wharton, Miss Marjorie 20
 Whartons Mill 27,30

White, George Boyle 10
White, Henry Luke 12,27
White, Cpt. S.A. 29
Wilderness Proposal 69
Wilderness Society 69
Wilderness & Wild Rivers Act 66
'Wilga' 12
Williams River
10,11,18,19,20,29,30,41,51,57,58,65,66,69
Williams River Gorge 58
Williamtown 35
Wilson, J. 46
Winke, Prof. N. 33
Wran, Premier Neville 66

Young, Bert 27
Young & Green Motor Service 27,28
'Yowie' 65