

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Unincorporated Area

The Unincorporated Area of NSW (UA) is the far northwest section of the state (**Figure 1.1**). Extending about 350km along the NSW-Qld border from the Paroo River west to Camerons Corner, then 500km south along the NSW-SA border to the Shire of Wentworth, the UA covers an area of 93,000 square kilometres. The eastern boundary zigzags unevenly from northeast to southwest, excluding the White Cliffs area, and most of the Menindee Lakes, but capturing a small section of the Darling River between the towns of Menindee and Pooncarie. On the east the UA adjoins the Shires of Bourke and Central Darling.

The term ‘Unincorporated’ means that the area has no local government. Broken Hill lies within the UA, but is incorporated as a city. The Unincorporated Area falls within the responsibilities of the Western Lands Commission, now part of the NSW Department of Natural Resources.

The UA has a remarkable history, both Aboriginal and European. Although Broken Hill has always been the dominant population centre because of its rich silver-lead-zinc mines, the first mineral discoveries in far west NSW were in the UA, silver at Thackaringa, Umberumberka (Silverton) and Day Dream, and gold at Mount Browne (Milparinka) and Tibooburra. There were about 20 mining towns and villages in the UA, surviving from a few months to several decades. Apart from gold and silver, tin and copper mining and limestone quarrying were major enterprises.

Today there are just four inhabited towns or villages in the UA: Tibooburra, population ca 150, Silverton ca 38, and Milparinka and Burns, each with a population of less than 10. Tibooburra and Silverton have elected Village Committees whose role is to advise the Western Lands Commissioner on typical local government issues. Most of the inhabitants of the UA live on pastoral stations.

The Unincorporated Area is distinguished by its low, dispersed population, estimated at 1161 residents at June 2004 (Australian Bureau of Statistics). Partly this is the result of its location at the extreme edge of the state of NSW and its geographical attributes, straddling a major watershed in a semi-arid climate. However a major factor is the primacy of the main town in the area, Broken Hill, with a resident population of 20,440 at June 2004 (ABS 2004). Although outside the scope of this Heritage Study, Broken Hill has historically driven many events in the Unincorporated Area and so cannot be ignored.

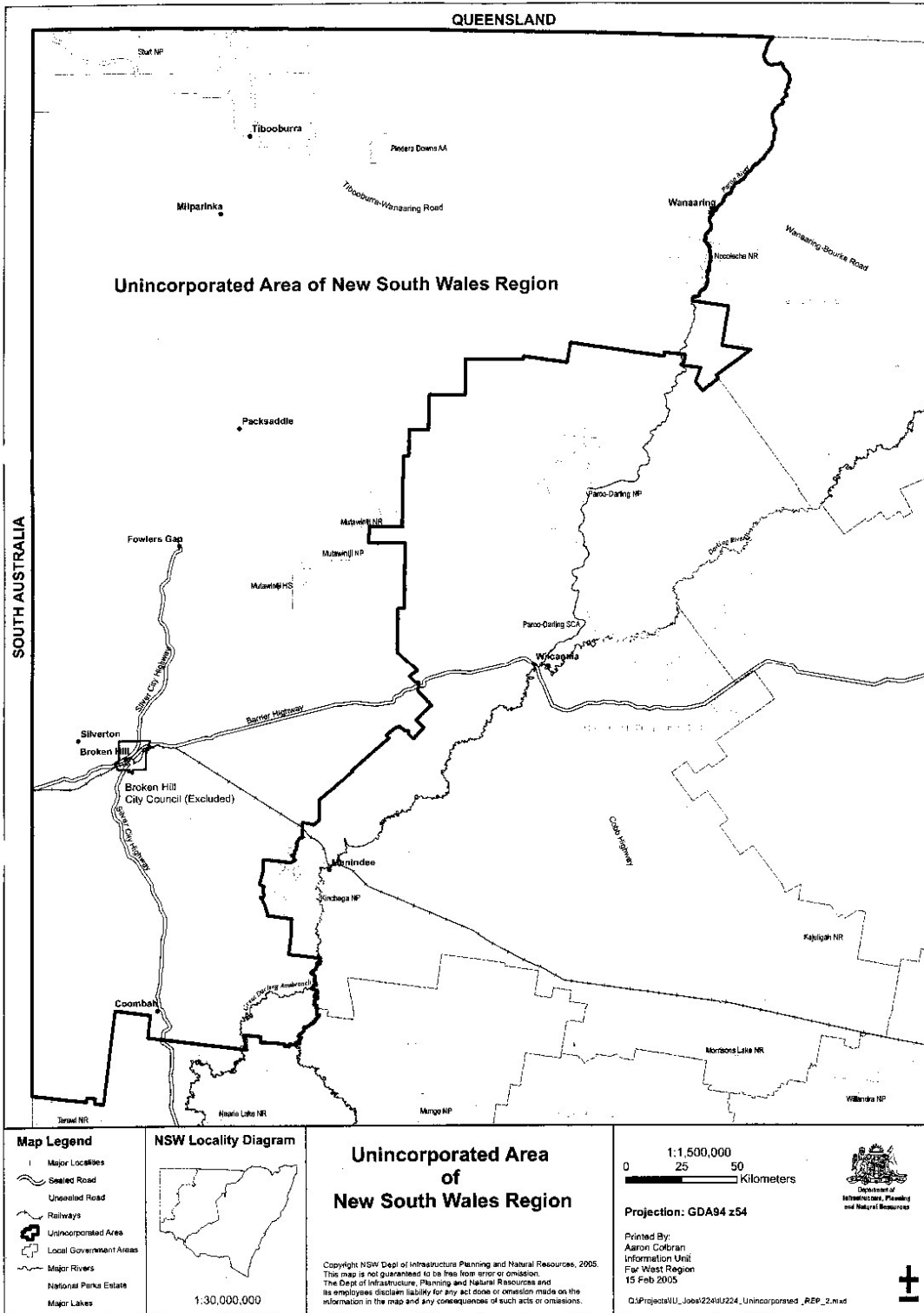


Figure 1.1 The Unincorporated Area of NSW

1.2 Previous Heritage Studies

Two heritage studies have been undertaken in the far west of NSW, for the city of Broken Hill and the town of Silverton, both by Latona Masterman and Associates, and both in 1987, in the early phase of Local Government heritage studies (Latona Masterman and Associates 1987a, b).

The Broken Hill Heritage Study was followed, in 1994, by the Broken Hill Line of Lode Identification Study (Austral Archaeology 1994). Undertaken for the Broken Hill City Council, in preparation for their mining museum development 'The Line of Lode', this study focussed on the history and heritage of the major mines within the city of Broken Hill.

In 2005, McDougall & Vines prepared the Silverton, New South Wales, Heritage Management Plan, which provided the Silverton Village Committee with conservation recommendations for the heritage buildings in the town. This was a development of previous reports by McDougall & Vines assessing building condition and documenting building improvements (McDougall & Vines 1993, 1996). Heritage grants have been used to do conservation and interpretation works on several of the historic ruins at Milparinka, under the direction of the Milparinka Heritage and Tourism Association Inc., although no heritage study has been done there.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service, now part of the Department of Environment and Conservation, has over the years undertaken studies and management plans of historic heritage in the national parklands, which have contributed to a draft cultural heritage management strategy for the Far West Region of the National Parks Service (DEC 2003), and there have been a range of archaeological and oral history studies of Aboriginal heritage. No other general heritage studies have been done in the Unincorporated Area.

1.3 This Study

The study was advertised as a Community Heritage Study. The Heritage Office guidelines for community heritage studies define a heritage study as follows:

A heritage study investigates the historical context of a local government area and identifies, assesses and lists items of heritage significance associated with this context. The study explains why the items are significant and recommends ways of managing and conserving that significance.

A heritage study provides information to support:

- A community's sense of identity – of its beginnings, its present and its potential
- The future management of heritage
- Education programs which help make the community's heritage assets better known, understood and appreciated
- Heritage tourism strategies
- A community's sense of ownership of its heritage assets.

A study results in a report comprising:

- An historical analysis of the area, community or organisation, usually by using the State historic themes

- Investigative research and field work
- An analysis of significance and a condition survey of items and areas identified during the study
- Inventory sheets of significant items
- Management and promotional recommendations.

In the past, heritage studies had usually been carried out by professional consultants, with some level of community consultation. In some cases problems resulted, with communities and local councils divided over heritage issues. This led to the development of community heritage studies, where the community actively works to research and nominate items, guided by the consultant. The aim is to give the community much more ownership of the study process, with the likelihood of less conflict within the community about heritage listing and future management.

The guidelines suggest that community heritage studies are likely to be more appropriate and affordable in rural areas of NSW, which 'do not always have a large number of heritage items', and are not under development pressure. In principle the community based heritage study is a commendable concept. However it was not viable in the Unincorporated Area of NSW, which posed a number of unique problems.

The UA is approximately 500km north-south, 350km wide along the Queensland border, and mostly at least 100-150km wide. Elsewhere in rural NSW, at least 5 and up to 20 local government areas would fit within the same area. The UA has a population of just over 1000 people. There is no 'community' identification with the UA as such, partly because of the sheer size, but also because the fact of being unincorporated means there is no local government focus for the community as elsewhere in NSW. (Working in the Unincorporated Area increases awareness of how important local government is as a 'civic' focus for communities.)

The two larger towns, Silverton and Tibooburra have Village Committees, but in both cases these consist of a very small number of people, reflecting the low populations in these towns. Further, they represent and deal with issues concerning just those towns, and not the rural hinterland. In any case, since Silverton itself already had a heritage study and a program of building assessments, the town was not a focus of this study. The size of the UA means that those living at the northern end, near the Queensland border, having virtually no interaction with those living at the southern end, just 100km from the Victorian border. Working with a single or even a couple of community committees, on the model of community heritage guidelines, was, just logistically, impractical.

As an alternative, consultation was pursued through existing community organisations, especially the Tibooburra Village Committee, and trips to Tibooburra were planned to coincide with the committee's meetings. The West Darling Pastoralists' Association, and the Broken Hill and Tibooburra Local Aboriginal Land Councils were also consulted. There is no historical society, library or archives within the UA, but the Broken Hill Historical Society, Broken Hill Family History Group, Broken Hill City Council Library, with its excellent Outback Archives, have material about and interests in nearby parts of the UA, and were most helpful with material, but less interested in taking a role in researching or nominating heritage

sites. The Wentworth Historical Society has more material and interests relating to the southern part of the UA than does Broken Hill, and it is likely Bourke would be in the same position regarding the northeastern area along the Paroo.

In summary, it became clear fairly quickly that the community heritage process was not appropriate for the UA heritage study. Advertisements in the local Tibooburra newspaper *Corner Country* brought no response, even though at an individual level, Tibooburra residents were interested in the project and provided information and assistance.

The size of the UA also limited the amount of field investigation that was possible, and this was aggravated by the fact that after years of drought, the second half of 2005, when the field component of the study was underway, was very wet. Most roads in the UA, including the Broken Hill-Tibooburra Road, are closed in wet weather. A great deal of time was lost in rescheduling trips following missed meetings. One key locality, Poolamacca Station, now owned by the Wilyakali Aboriginal Corporation, and including Tarrawingee Town and a long section of the Tarrawingee Tramway, was finally reached on the fifth attempt, in January 2006. Four previous scheduled visits had been washed out.

Perhaps the sheer amount of historic places and material in the UA was to be expected, given both the size of the area and the intensity of prospecting and mining. There are for example, about 20 abandoned towns or villages, mostly related to the mining boom of the late 19th century, and two abandoned train lines, one of which is of national significance. There were 70 pastoral runs in 1884, when such holdings were at their greatest size. Two or three of these were amongst the largest pastoral holdings that historically existed in NSW. These now comprise at least 300 separate stations and two national parks.

Most surprising is the rarity of previous studies – historic, archaeological or heritage. A single historical archaeological PhD thesis has been located; three historical places are on the NSW State Heritage Register. The otherwise admirable Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual (Pearson and McGowan 2000) makes no mention of any mining outside Broken Hill, not even the Milparinka-Tibooburra gold field. Nearly all available historical accounts especially those in popular media or directed at tourism are based on the same tiny number of early sources. There has not been time to do any original historic research during this study, but to avoid providing just another secondary paraphrase, where possible direct quotes have been used in the historic sections of this report. It has however been a remarkable experience to be the first historian or heritage professional to step onto some exceptional historic places.

It was clearly impossible, within the time and financial constraints of an LGA-style heritage study, to do justice to the wealth of material, and some hard decisions had to be made. It was decided to concentrate on a few aspects rather than try and do everything superficially. The study has concentrated on four main aspects:

- Heritage inventories of the towns of Tibooburra and Milparinka,
- A selection of the abandoned towns, five of which were visited,
- The railways, including the railway town of Burns, and

- Places that represent the range of responses to the major environmental constraint on human life in the UA – water.

Other important themes, especially Aboriginal and Exploration, have by necessity been dealt with superficially, mainly by summarising the current state of heritage listings. Both these themes deserve more generous treatment.

The major areas that have had to be substantially limited are Pastoralism and Mining. These are the two major historic themes of the UA, and each deserves a specific study in its own right. Even so, it would be difficult to do justice to either of them within the constraints of the standard heritage study.

In this study, a small sample of pastoral stations has been included: Mount Gipps, Poolamacca and Sturts Meadows, in the Barrier Ranges. Only limited field work was possible, but the range of heritage places considered gives an indication of the richness of the pastoral heritage of the UA. As well, existing lists of pastoral heritage in Sturt and Mutawintji National Parks have been included.

Four important mining heritage areas have been described in some detail, two of which are already partially heritage listed: Day Dream Mine and Smelter, the Warratta Goldfield (part of the 'Albert Goldfield' on the State Heritage Register), Umberumberka Mine (listed under Towns) and the Zinc Sintering Works at Corruga, a mineral processing site probably unique in Australia. Field investigation at these sites ranged from two hours to a day, in all cases totally inadequate given the nature and size of the places. Equally significant mining places, such as Thackeringa, where it all started, Mount Browne, and the Euriowie Tinfield, were not visited at all.

Finally, it is usual in heritage studies for the thematic history to be presented as a continuous narrative, followed by the complete heritage inventory. In this report, the two are integrated, with the inventory of relevant heritage items immediately following the account of the historic theme. This has been done partly because the heritage inventories differ so much in nature, from specific items to existing heritage listings. This approach was also appropriate for the large number of towns covered, and each has a short historic section followed by individual heritage items, the number depending on the amount of information available. The historic sections could be grouped separately as a thematic history. Not all historic themes in the NSW historic themes list have been included, due to the scale of the project.

1.4 Heritage Significance

The NSW heritage assessment criteria are based on the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, the accepted standard for heritage assessment by Australian heritage agencies and professional consultants. The seven NSW criteria expand on the four basic values of the *Burra Charter*: historical, aesthetic, scientific and social significance.

Criterion (a)

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

Criterion (b)

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

Criterion (c)

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

Criterion (d)

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

Criterion (e)

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

Criterion (f)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW' cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Criterion (g)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

(or a class of the local area's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.)

There can also be gradings of significance: exceptional, high, moderate, little, or intrusive. These are based on the degree of integrity of the components of the place.

1.5 Heritage Inventories

Although there has not been a full heritage study of the Unincorporated Area of NSW, a number of heritage items are already listed on heritage inventories and registers.

NSW Heritage Register

In NSW there are different types of statutory listings for local, state and national heritage items. A property is a heritage item if it is listed:

- in the heritage schedule of a local council's local environmental plan (LEP) or a regional environmental plan (REP);
- on the State Heritage Register, a register of places and items of particular importance to the people of NSW.
- on the National Heritage List.

The State Heritage Inventory is a statutory register which provides legal protection for heritage items, under the *Heritage Act 1977* (amended 1998) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Other statutory listings which have effect in NSW are:

- Commonwealth Heritage List, a list of places owned or leased by the Commonwealth which have heritage value;

- Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), a register of Aboriginal sites managed by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation;
- Australian National Heritage Shipwreck List, a list of all known shipwrecks in Australian waters.
- Heritage and Conservation Registers, or Section 170 Registers, list items under the care, control and management of NSW state agencies. Items on heritage and conservation registers are included under the State Heritage Register.

There are three heritage items in the Unincorporated Area of NSW already on the State Heritage Register:

- Albert Goldfield
- Day Dream Smelter
- Mt Wood Station.

The first two are discussed later under Mining, the third under Pastoralism.

There are of course very limited planning controls and no LEP or REP in place for the Unincorporated Area of NSW. However, the Heritage Office maintains a working list of heritage places in the UA, which was made available for this study.

National Trust

The National Trust Register maintained by the National Trust of Australia is one of the most comprehensive of the non-statutory registers. It was first established nearly fifty years ago and is a reference for the compilation of statutory registers, particularly local government heritage studies. Currently, there are some 12,000 items listed on the Trust's Register. They are said to be Classified. **Table 1.1** lists the heritage places in the UA on the National Trust register.

The Trust's Register is intended to perform an advisory and educational role. The listing of a place in the Register, known as 'classification' has no legal force however it is widely recognised as an authoritative statement of the cultural significance of a place. Most places listed in the Register are in private ownership. Listing does not imply a right of access by the public, nor that the owner should open the property for public inspection. As a community conservation organisation, the Trust has no funds available to contribute directly towards the repair or maintenance of buildings listed in the Register. The listing of a place in the Trust's Register has no legal force. However, the Trust does encourage owners of listed places to respect their heritage significance.

Register of the National Estate

The Australian Heritage Commission compiled the Register from 1976 to 2003. The Australian Heritage Council is now responsible for keeping the Register. There are more than 13 000 places of natural, historic and indigenous significance listed. The Register database contains information on listed places as well as all others in the process of assessment or rejected by the Council or Commission.

Following legislative changes, the Register of the National Estate is now purely a database, with no protection provided to heritage items listed. **Table 1.2** gives a summary listing of the heritage places on the Register of the National Estate. This data is taken from the Australian Heritage Database, searchable on the internet. It should be noted that different lists for the RNE are produced by searching the RNE direct, or through the Australian Heritage Database Inventory, using 'Unincorporated', NSW, as the search LGA, and some places may be only partly in the Unincorporated Area of NSW (or not at all).

Specific details about Aboriginal heritage places are not publicly searchable. Edited extracts of the full data, provided by the Department of Environment and Heritage, will be found in the section on Aboriginal People. Similarly edited extracts of natural heritage places listed on the RNE will be found in the section on Environment.

National Heritage List

The new National Heritage List is intended to list places of outstanding heritage significance to Australia. The National Heritage List will comprise natural, historic and Indigenous places that are of outstanding national heritage value to the Australian nation. Each place in the List is assessed by the Australian Heritage Council as having national heritage values which can be protected and managed under a range of Commonwealth powers. A place entered in the National Heritage List is a *national heritage place*.

Places on the list are protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This requires that approval is obtained before any action takes place which has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the national heritage values of a listed place.

At the time of writing this report, 29 places were on the National Heritage List, and a further four were added by October 2006. Only five are in NSW. Four of these are in Sydney: Kurnell, First Government House, the Opera House and North Head; the fifth is the Brewarrina Aboriginal Fisheries. For comparison, the other figures are: Victoria 13, Tasmania 3, WA 3, Queensland 3, ACT 2, and NT, SA and Antarctica 1 each. This apparent imbalance (ie the Sidney Myer Music Bowl is listed but not Uluru, Kakadu or the Sydney Harbour Bridge) is probably due to the fact that the listings result from individual nominations.

During 2006, the Paroo River Catchment Area, which lies partly within the Unincorporated Area, was nominated to the National Heritage List, but has not yet been accepted for listing. Other nationally significant heritage places in the Unincorporated Area of NSW which could be nominated to the National Heritage List are discussed later.

Table 1.1 National Trust (NSW) Listings Unincorporated Area of NSW

| |
|---|
| MINING SITES NEAR BROKEN HILL |
| Day Dream Smelter |
| Thackaringa Mines |
| Mt Euriowie Mines |
| Huel Byjerkerno Mine (Euriowie) |
| Purnamoota Mines |
| Terrible Dick Mine |
| Umberumberka Mines |
| Tarrawingee Limestone Quarry |
| SILVERTON |
| Railway Station |
| Masonic Temple Former, Canopus St |
| Methodist Church, Sturt St |
| School, Loftus Street |
| Three stone houses, Stirling Street |
| Municipal Chambers Former, Burke St |
| War Memorial Youth Camp, formerly police station/ courthouse/ gaol, Burke St |
| Museum formerly gaol, Burke St |
| Silverton Urban Conservation Zone |
| Silverton Hotel. Layard St |
| MILPARINKA |
| Milparinka Hotel |
| Ruins group: former bank, courthouse, police station, post office |
| Bank former |
| Courthouse former |
| Police station, residence and lockup |
| Post Office Former |
| OTHER |
| Mt Poole Sturts Cairn |
| James Poole Monument, Mt Poole |
| Bynguano Range |
| Waka Station |
| Cottage, Tibooburra |
| Tibooburra Mining Area, Warratta Station |
| Wool Scours Mt Wood Station |

**Table 1.2 Register of the National Estate
Heritage Places in the Unincorporated Area of NSW**

| Heritage Item | Location |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Bancannia Lake | Silver City Hwy, Broken Hill, |
| Bullea Lake | Milparinka |
| Bulloo Overflow | Tibooburra |
| Bynguano Ranges | Broken Hill |
| Cobham, Patterson and Green Lakes | Silver City Hwy, Milparinka |
| Coturaundee Nature Reserve | White Cliffs |
| Depot Glen, Pooles Grave, Mount Poole Cairn | Milparinka |
| Dry Lake | Wilcannia Wanaaring Rd, Wanaaring |
| Former Municipal Chambers | Burke St, Silverton |
| Fort Grey Depot | Tibooburra |
| Fowlers Gap Research Station | Silver City Hwy, Broken Hill |
| Indigenous Places (5) | Tibooburra |
| Indigenous Places (2) | Menindee |
| Indigenous Places (6) | Milparinka |
| Indigenous Places ((3) | Broken Hill |
| Lake Altibouka | Tibooburra |
| Milparinka Courthouse (Former) | Milparinka |
| Mootwingee National Park | Broken Hill |
| Mount Wood Station | Sturt National Park |
| Mundi Mundi and Umberumberka Reservoir | Silverton |
| Mungundi Lake | Wilcannia Wanaaring Rd, Wanaaring |
| Nocholeche Nature Reserve | Wanaaring |
| Paldramatta Lake | Silver City Hwy, Milparinka |
| Round Hill Area | Barrier Hwy, Broken Hill |
| Salt Lake | Silver City Hwy, Milparinka |
| Silverton | Adelaide St, Silverton |
| Sturt National Park | Silver City Hwy, Tibooburra |
| Tenannia Waterhole and Swamp | Wanaaring Hungerford Rd, Wanaaring, |
| Waitchie Lake | Wilcannia Wanaaring Rd, Wanaaring |

1.6 Recommendations

According to the Community Heritage Study Guidelines, a heritage study aims to provide information to support:

- A community's sense of identity – of its beginnings, its present and its potential
- The future management of heritage
- Education programs which help make the community's heritage assets better known, understood and appreciated
- Heritage tourism strategies
- A community's sense of ownership of its heritage assets.

The report has pulled together at least some of the information about the history and heritage of the Unincorporated Area, hopefully in a form and context that will make it of use for the above aims. These recommendations address four aspects: the recognition of the importance of many heritage places by listing them on formal heritage registers, the issue of future management, heritage tourism potential, which depends on development of educational material, and areas where further investigation is needed.

Heritage Listing

A standard Local Government Heritage Study would assess a range of heritage places, and identify those of most significance to that area for listing on the LGA's Local Environment Plan. Items of exceptionally high significance to the state or nation would be nominated to the State Heritage Register. However there would be items covered by the study that would not warrant heritage listing.

This heritage study of the Unincorporated Area has inevitably concentrated on heritage items that by their nature are high profile: some have been previously identified and are on the State Heritage Register, the National Trust list and the Register of the National Estate. A few exceptional places have been identified here for the first time. Almost all, however, have high heritage significance, at least at a local or regional level. Several are clearly of state significance, and a few are exceptional, meriting recognition at a national level. The problem in fact has been to identify those places that should not be listed. To some extent this is an issue of coverage; the question being whether there are better examples within the UA.

Table 1.3 lists the heritage places investigated during this study, with their assessed level of significance. This list does not include the natural and Aboriginal places on the Register of the National Estate or some items on the National Trust List, or the town of Silverton, covered by the Silverton Heritage Study. Nor does it include, specifically, individual historic items in Sturt and Mutawintji National Parks, and other gazetted conservation areas. These are already protected by being within national parklands, although some deserve specific identification and listing because of their intrinsic heritage significance.

Table 1.3 Heritage Items in the Unincorporated Area Identified in this Study

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| ABORIGINAL | |
| The Pinnacles Aboriginal Place | National, State |
| EXPLORATION | |
| Depot Glen | National, State |
| Poole's Grave | National, State |
| Sturt's Cairn | National, State |
| Fort Grey / Sturts Tree | National, State |
| PASTORALISM | |
| Old Mount Gipps Station | |
| Mount Gipps Homestead sites | State |
| Mount Gipps Shearing Shed | Regional |
| Stephens Creek Stone Tank | Local |
| Mount Gipps Hotel | State |
| Clevedale Well and Gardens | Local |
| Clevedale Stone Yards (Piggery) | State |
| Poolamacca Station | |
| Poolamacca Homestead | State |
| Poolamacca Hotel | State |
| Poolamacca Stone Tank | State |
| Sturts Meadows Station | |
| Sturts Meadows Homestead | Regional |
| Sturts Meadows Shearing Shed | Regional |
| Sturts Meadows Shearers' Quarters | State |
| Sturts Meadows Conservation Area | Regional |
| MINING | |
| Day Dream Mine | State |
| Day Dream Smelter | State |
| Warratta Gold Field | State |
| Zinc Sintering Works, Corruga | National, State |
| TOWNS AND VILLAGES | |
| Thackeringa | National, State |
| Umberumberka Mine Settlement | National, State |
| Day Dream | National, State |
| Lakes Camp – Nevada | State |
| Purnamoota | State |
| The Pinnacles | State |
| Round Hill - Taltingan | State |
| Euriowie | State |
| Albion | State |
| Tarrawingee | State |
| Acacia Dam | State |

Table 1.3 (cont.) Heritage Items in the Unincorporated Area Identified in this study

| Milparinka | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. The Milparinka Courthouse | State |
| 2. Police Barracks and Cells | State |
| 3. Milparinka Post Office | Regional |
| 4. The Commercial Bank | Regional |
| 5. The Milparinka Public School | Regional |
| 6. Baker's Store and underground tank | Regional |
| 7. The Albert Hotel | Regional |
| 8. Milparinka Cemetery | Regional |

| Tibooburra | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Town | |
| 1. Granite Townscape | Local |
| 2. Courthouse | State |
| 3. Police Station | State |
| 4. Albert Hall | Regional |
| 5. CWA Room | Local |
| 6. Tibooburra Outback School | Local |
| 7. School Principal's House, PO | State |
| 8. War Memorial Hostel | Regional |
| 9. War Memorial | Local |
| 10. Fossil Tree | Local |
| 11. Outdoor Picture Show | State |
| 12. Church of the Corner | Local |
| 13. Family Hotel | State |
| 14. Tibooburra 'Two Storey' Hotel | State |
| 15. Rural Lands Protection Board | Local |
| 16. Sturt Memorial | Local |
| 17. House, Briscoe Street, Section 1 | Local |
| 18. House, Briscoe Street, Section 3 | Local |
| 19. House, Briscoe Street, Section 3 | Local |
| 20. Ground Tank, Sturt Street | Local |
| Common | |
| 1. Sandstone / Granite Landscape | State |
| 2. Sandstone Quarries | Regional |
| 3. Dry-blowing Area | Local |
| 4. Mining Shaft | Local |
| 5. Cemetery | Local |
| 6. Aboriginal Cemetery | State |
| 7. Telephone Pole | Local |
| 8. Allpress Dam | Regional |
| 9. Tibooburra Racecourse | Local |
| 10. Tibooburra Airstrips | Local |

Table 1.3 (cont.) Heritage Items in the Unincorporated Area Identified in this study

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Burns | |
| 1. Border Hotel | Regional |
| 2. Railway Crossing | See Silvertown Tramway |
| 3. Silvertown Tramway | See Silvertown Tramway |
| 4. Silvertown Tramway Houses | See Silvertown Tramway |
| 5. Burns Astronomical Station | State (also South Australia) |
| 6. Burns Border Survey Monument | State (also South Australia) |

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Warri Warri | Local |
| Yalpunga | Local |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| WATER | |
| Rat Hole Tank | State |
| Mount Darling Tank | State |
| Stephens Creek Reservoir | State |
| Umberumberka Reservoir | State |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| TRANSPORT | |
| Silvertown Tramway | National |
| 1. STC Dams No. 1 and 2 | |
| 2. Limestone Siding | |
| | |
| Tarrawingee Tramway | State |
| 1. Yancowinna Creek Bridge | |
| 2. Poison Creek Bridge | |
| 3. Tramway Formation, Corona Road | |
| 4. Tarrawingee Station | |
| | |
| NSW Railways | |
| 1. Mount Gipps Siding | Local |
| 2. Willa Willyong Rail Bridge | Local |
| | |
| The Cut Line | State |

Natural

The natural heritage items listed on the Register of the National Estate have been summarised in this report, but not re-assessed. Most of them are wetlands and appear to have been nominated to the Register as a set. While they are important places, this list does not necessarily include all important natural heritage locations. The National Parks and Nature Reserves in the UA preserve important natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage complexes, some of which are summarised in this report. These gazetted lands should be included in any heritage list for the UA. For both parklands and places of natural heritage importance outside the parklands, the Department of Environment and Conservation is best placed to provide advice.

Aboriginal

The Aboriginal heritage places listed on the Register of the National Estate have been summarised in this report, but not re-assessed. One additional highly significant place has been included, The Pinnacles Aboriginal Place. There are other important places, notably the old Aboriginal reserves at Tibooburra and Milparinka, which are not on the RNE list, but deserve further investigation. Location details have not been included although the locations of some, such as the Pinnacles Aboriginal Place, are a matter of public record, or are well-known.

All Aboriginal heritage objects and sites are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Placing important Aboriginal places on the State Heritage Register or a Local Government heritage list does not give them any further protection, but it does provide recognition. Extensive consultation with associated Aboriginal people and appropriate Aboriginal organisations is essential before any Aboriginal heritage places can be listed on the SHR or a local or regional planning instrument.

Historic

The majority of the heritage items considered in this report are of historic or combinations of natural, Aboriginal and historic significance. They have been assessed in terms of national, state, regional and local significance, as indicated in Table 1.3. Usually the distinction would be between state and local significance, in terms of nomination to the SHR or a Local Environment Plan. In this case, regional significance has been included as well.

Partly as a result of the focus of this study on high profile items, a large number of the items considered have high levels of significance. In some cases their significance is enhanced by being part of a group. The following items should be considered as important heritage complexes.

Milparinka Town

While each of the historic buildings and ruins at Milparinka are important, together they form a significant heritage precinct.

Briscoe Street, Tibooburra

The north end of Briscoe Street, including the Police Station, School Principal's house, Open Air Picture Show, Tibooburra and Family Hotel, Albert Hall, Courthouse and several houses, should be regarded as a unified heritage precinct.

Silverton Town

On the same basis, the town of Silverton should be regarded as a heritage precinct comprising the important building and ruins as well as the Silverton Tramway line running across it. Silverton also needs to be linked more strongly with Umberumberka Mine; without the mine there would have been no Silverton.

Silverton and Tarrawingee Tramways

The many individual items along these railways: sections of permanent way formation, remains of bridges and culverts, ground tanks, houses and archaeological sites, telephone and telegraph poles, are individually not of high significance, but in combination provide a rich record of these important transport corridors. This is

enhanced by the amount of historic documents and photographs available. The Tramways should be considered as heritage corridors, defined to include the full array of contributory items, including those in Broken Hill.

Day Dream

Currently the Day Dream smelter is listed on the SHR. The Day Dream heritage precinct should also include the Day Dream Mine, the only historic mine open to the public, and the associated Day Dream town. The same situation applies to several other towns notably Euriowie, which is associated with an historic tin mining field.

In summary, there are a number of places or heritage complexes in the UA should be listed on the State Heritage Register. Some of these are of national significance, notably the original mining areas in the Barrier Ranges, Thackeringa and Umberumberka, and the Silverton Tramway. Many others, assessed as of regional or local significance should be considered for listing on any future Regional Environmental Plan.

Heritage Management

The most significant threat to heritage places in the UA is the climate. Buildings that are no longer used, and historic items in abandoned towns and mining sites, will gradually deteriorate due to weathering. In spite of this, and the fact that some areas have been abandoned and in ruins for a long time, it is remarkable what has survived. For example, wooden slatted shafts at Warratta Creek, which have to be over 100 years old are in good condition, as are many of the stone ground tanks.

The major issue is on-going maintenance of historic buildings or stabilisation of ruins when there is such a low population base and no local government. This means it is difficult to find the matching funds needed for most grants, a perennial problem in small rural communities with a low economic base.

Heritage Tourism

Heritage tourism encompasses both eco-tourism and cultural tourism, though in many cases, especially involving tourism to National Parks, these are combined.

The City of Broken Hill has over the last two decades capitalised on its history and heritage to encourage cultural tourism, with major restoration programs for historic buildings, the development of the Line of Lode Memorial, museums and art galleries, and many private heritage tourism providers, ranging from displays of historic photographs, to new exhibitions which rely on both the natural and cultural assets of the area.

Broken Hill's tourism providers promote many themes and historic places in the Unincorporated Area, notably Silverton and Milparinka. Both these towns are now primarily tourism destinations, Silverton benefiting from its proximity to Broken Hill, and Milparinka from its identity as a historic 'ghost town'. In both cases, there has been some valuable state-funded conservation works, especially of the beautiful sandstone ruins in Milparinka.

In contrast, the largest town, Tibooburra, does not sell itself as a 'heritage' town, probably because in contrast to Milparinka and Silverton, it still functions as a dynamic if small regional centre. It is on a tourist route, from Broken Hill to Camerons Corner and on to Innamincka and the Cooper, and caters well for tourists in terms of accommodation, food and supplies. Nearby Sturt National Park provides a wide range of natural and cultural experiences, with original pastoral homesteads and the reconstructed gold mining display at Golden Gully.

However, given the range of historic places in the UA, there are surprisingly few available to tourists. They are not inaccessible, in fact, tourists can easily visit many of them, and in some cases, such as Euriowie town, drive right through them. But they are so poorly interpreted that most visitors are barely aware they exist. There is of course the issue of site management and public liability when heritage places are widely advertised, but there are also tourism opportunities.

Here are a few examples, some relating to places that are already or have been in the past accessible to tourists, but where opportunities are wasted because of lack of planning and inadequate interpretation

Umberumberka Mine

Just a couple of kilometres from Silverton, Umberumberka Mine and its associated settlement are accessible via the Silverton Heritage Walking Trail. The track is well used (a jogger ran past on the day the mine was visited). The Mine is in a small scenic valley on the edge of the Mundi Mundi Plain. The Silverton Tramway runs through the valley on a high embankment and then enters a curved cutting towards Silverton; the walking track in fact runs through the cutting. There is a large stone lined ground tank and at least one telegraph pole along the railway line, as well as some beautiful stone culverts. Ruins of stone buildings climb up the valley sides, to and above a reconstructed head frame. Technically there is no legal access along the railway embankment into the mine. There is a gate and fence with a danger/keep out signs, but both are broken down and it is easy to walk or drive among the ruins, indeed the walking track brochure leads the visitor right to them and it is obvious that many visitors ignore the signs.

This is the second oldest mining area in the Barrier Ranges, the first to make a profit and the mine that underpinned Silverton. There are many historic photographs and detailed maps showing the position of all the mine and settlement buildings. Yet there is nothing here to inform the visitor what it is all about. There is great potential here for a major interpreted tourism attraction, but access and safety issues need to be addressed.

Silverton Tramway

The Silverton Tramway runs for 56km from Broken Hill to Burns via Silverton. It is easily accessible at those three locations, and also at Umberumberka Mine. Between Broken Hill and Silverton it is never more than 2km from the main road; southwest of Umberumberka Mine it skirts the edge of the Barrier Ranges, overlooking the Mundi Mundi Plain. There are a number of historic places along the line: the site of the 1915 attack on the New Year's Day Picnic Train, the Zinc Sintering Works, Limestone and Thackeringa Sidings, Silverton itself, the Silverton cutting, the Umberumberka Mine and the Burns terminus at the border.

Elsewhere in the world, disused railway lines have been transformed into walking or cycle tracks, because the permanent way provides easy access and a ready-made 'track' into otherwise hard to access country. The Silverton Tramway would be particularly suited to such a development – its total length is reasonable, and it is already accessible at both ends and in the middle. A small number of additional access points would break up the track into short day-walk segments. The main requirements would be reconstruction of bridges (the pylons are mostly still in place) and questions of access through pastoral stations. Provision of water tanks and perhaps safety phones at intervals along the track could be considered.

The Tarrawingee Tramway is longer, but sections of it run alongside public roads. Rather than a walking track along the entire line, these sections could be incorporated into a driving tour which connected a range of historic places such as Albion and Tarrawingee townsites.

Water

One of the most important historical themes for the UA is the quest for water, especially a reliable water supply for the city of Broken Hill. The Stephens Creek and Umberumberka Reservoirs are accessible to the public and have in the past been picnic venues for Broken Hill residents. Umberumberka is particularly attractive; it is close to Silverton and reached via the Mundi Mundi lookout, on the beaten tourist track. It has a range of interesting historic items relating to the construction of the dam and the provision of the water supply, including the full historic sequence of pumps. While this material is accessible to visitors, it is very poorly interpreted, with a small and very tired photo display, and inadequate signs.

Stephens Creek Reservoir, closer to Broken Hill, and with a long history as a recreation area, is positively unwelcoming. There is a beautiful small public garden but to find it, the visitor has to run a gauntlet of high fences, locked gates and an excess of 'keep out' signs. As a result picnicking there no doubt feels like holidaying in a refugee detention centre.

Stephens Creek Reservoir, opened in 1892 after years of political controversy, is one of the largest and oldest reservoirs in NSW. The area has older historical associations, notably with Charles Sturt's expedition in 1844-5. The historic information available at the reservoir is virtually non-existent: an ancient sign – itself a heritage item - relating to the Sturt expedition, and a single notice board giving statistics about the reservoir. The beautiful pumphouse and commemoration plaques are behind locked gates.

The story of the Broken Hill water supply is full of intrigue (including the burning of effigies of politicians) and there are plenty of things to see, both in Broken Hill, in the UA and at the Menindee Lakes. There is potential to attract a wide audience: lovers of old machinery, those who enjoy a theme to their travels, or who just want some attractive places to visit.

Most other potential cultural and also natural tourism themes in the UA connect with water - the Silverton Tramway and NSW Railways water trains, the distinctive stone underground tanks, often the only items well preserved in the old town sites or at the

railway sidings, the slabbed wells, the red gum lined creeks that flood after rain and regularly close the roads, and the ephemeral lakes that provide important water bird habitat in the right seasons.

There is great potential for rehabilitating the tourist areas of Umberumberka and Stephens Creek Reservoirs and using them as the foundation points of historic interpretation of a range of water-related items throughout the Barrier Ranges.

The Towns

Silverton and Milparinka are recognised historic towns with existing programs of cultural tourism interpretation. Tibooburra has its own character which could be enhanced by provision of better information about many of the buildings in the town, but this should be low-key, for example by having walking tour brochures and booklets, rather than putting up too many historic signs. The proposal to develop an interpreted driving tour through the common should be supported. Some specific actions would enhance the heritage of the town, for example, restoring the original verandahs of the police residence and the school principal's house opposite, both of which have stunning sandstone facades hidden behind very ordinary verandah infills, and rehabilitating the town's original ground tank in Sturt Street.

There are several abandoned towns that are easily accessible, right beside main roads, but which are mainly unidentified and certainly uninterpreted. Most accessible is Euriowie which is bisected by the Silver City Highway, but Thackeringa, Albion and Tarrawingee are also close to roads. Anyone who knows what to look for can find these, as shown by the holes dug by bottle collectors, but there is nothing at the sites to inform tourists about the existence of the towns, what is there and why they are historically important. Even Day Dream town, at the tourist venue of the Day Dream Mine, is poorly interpreted.

Education Material

There are a number of useful popular books about the history of the Unincorporated Area. Some such as the booklets by R.H.B. Kearns, deal with places in the Unincorporated Area as adjuncts to the history of Broken Hill. Others such as Shaw (1987) and Gerritsen (1981) deal with specific places, Yancannia Station and Tibooburra respectively, while McGowan (2002) in *Australian Ghost Towns* puts some of the UA mining towns into an Australia-wide context. There are also some valuable tourism oriented web sites and brochures, notably for Silverton and the Corner Country, and for Day Dream.

However apart from these latter items, most written material is at least 20 years old, and there is not much of it. There is great potential for educational and tourism material, for example guides to the heritage of Tibooburra, Umberumberka Mine and the Reservoirs, which could take several forms – booklets, tour guides, brochures etc.

Future Investigations

Two major historic themes have been inadequately covered in this study: mining and pastoralism. Both of these deserve targeted heritage studies.

Most of the abandoned towns dealt with in this study, as well as several not covered, were centres of extensive mining fields. In some cases, such as Euriowie there is relatively recent (1980s) documentation and maps of the mines and associated historic relics; elsewhere this appears never to have been done. The most knowledgeable people regarding mining history are the mining inspectors and geologists who work for the Broken Hill office of the Department of Mineral Resources. Mining inspector Bob Johnston has been compiling historical records of mining in the area, and geologist Barney Stevens has located and recorded many of the old mining leases and shafts. Their work would be essential background to any further studies.

As noted earlier, the silver, gold, tin and copper fields of the UA have been surprisingly neglected by mining and industrial archaeologists, historians and heritage professionals. However, mining heritage is not high profile in NSW; only 13 (0.8%) of the 1500 items on the State Heritage Register are mining sites, one of which is the Day Dream smelter.

Pastoral heritage is a bigger challenge. The mining areas are localised and discrete, but pastoralism extends over the whole area of the UA. In 1884, there were 70 pastoral stations, including some of the largest ever in the state. Even a targeted pastoral heritage study could not cover them all. Pastoral heritage items include homesteads, shearing sheds and associated buildings, outstations, station wells and bores, fences and yards, but the dog fence and gates, Travelling Stock Routes and public watering places would also be considered here.

This is an area neglected generally in NSW heritage. In western NSW (all the LGA's west of the Blue Mountains), there are only five homesteads on the State Heritage Register, 3.1% of the 168 items from WNSW on the Register (or 0.3% of the total of ca. 1500). One of these is Mt Wood Station, in Sturt National Park.

Other themes warrant further study as well. The UA campsites of the Burke and Wills Expedition do not appear to have ever been investigated. There is a fascinating story in the road, tracks, coach routes, hotels and change stations. There are many valuable resources available including large numbers of historic photographs in both private and public hands, though these collections are mainly uncatalogued and not easy to access. There are also many people with long associations with the UA, whose knowledge should be recorded before it is lost. An oral history recording program, on several of the historic themes considered here, should have the highest priority.

While this study has not done justice to these and other historic themes, perhaps it has at least demonstrated that this semi-arid corner of the state of New South Wales has a fascinating and diverse history, represented by a surprising number of significant, if poorly documented heritage places. It is hoped that this will encourage increased recognition of the interest and value of these places.

2 THE LAND

2.1 Geography

The Unincorporated Area of NSW straddles one of the most important watersheds in Australia, between the major continental basins of Lake Eyre, to the west and north, and the Murray-Darling to the east and south. This distinction is ancient - the rocks of the ranges in the UA are among the oldest in Australia, and in the past drainage from these uplands flowed to open sea on both east and west.

A spine of ancient uplands runs through the UA. The Barrier Ranges, at the south, are the major area, and to the northeast, and separated from them by the small enclosed Bancannia Basin, are the Bynguano, Noontherungee and Coturaundee Ranges. Close to the Queensland border are the lower hills of the southern end of the Grey Range - Mounts Arrowsmith, Shannon, Browne, Sturt and Poole.

The low, sharp western scarp of the Barrier Ranges overlooks the Mundi Mundi Plains stretching west towards the Flinders Ranges. Further north on this western flank, the dunefields of the Strzelecki Desert march east beyond Cobham Lake or, north again, about the hills of the Grey Range.

Sandfilled distributary channels, Pine, Stephens and Yancowinna Creeks run southeast from the Barrier Ranges towards the Darling River. East of the Grey Range the Bulloo River, rising much further north in Queensland, dies in the huge sump basin of the Bulloo Overflow. Further east again is the Paroo River, the most westerly tributary of the Darling, and the eastern boundary of the Unincorporated Area.

Many small creeks, lined with gum trees, drain the ranges. Most of the time their sandy beds are dry, but after even the slightest rainfall, they carry torrents of water and mud, cutting road access.

2.2 Geology

The rocks of Broken Hill and the Unincorporated Area are the oldest in NSW and among the oldest in Australia. The very oldest rocks are the Archaean cratons, more than 2,500 million years (Ma) old. Cratons are the oldest, most stable parts of the continental crust, which have not been affected by tectonic processes for at least a billion years. Australia has three cratons - the Yilgarn and Pilbara in WA, and the Gawler craton, which forms much of the Eyre Peninsula in SA.

Many of the rocks in the UA date to the Proterozoic, between 2500 and 545 million years ago. This is the period of the first major continents, the first glaciations and the first signs of complex life. During this time more rocks were added to the Gawler craton, enlarging and expanding it to the Broken Hill area, which formed part of the first continents.

The geology and as a result, the landscape today, shows the effects of many processes over the 2000 million years of earth history represented in the rocks of the UA. Proterozoic rocks show a major change in the Earth's climate: the first glaciations.

Glacial deposits are found in a broad band from Flinders Ranges and the Broken Hill area, through central Australia to the Kimberleys. They consist of two types of rocks, thick beds of tillite, unsorted gravel, sand and mud, which was dumped by glaciers and ice-sheets, and dropstone units, beds of fine mudstones containing large pebbles and boulders. The latter were carried out to sea, or in large lakes, by icebergs, and dropped when the ice melted. There are two glacial phases represented in the Barrier Ranges: the Sturtian, 780-700Ma, and the Marinoan, 610-575Ma. The distribution of Sturtian tillites suggest that there was a glaciated mountain range extending from Broken Hill to Mt Painter in SA.

The Proterozoic rocks have been affected by several phases of metamorphosis, generally of the high temperature-low pressure type, commonly associated with major regional movement of subsurface hot fluid. This is dated at 1590Ma in the Broken Hill area. Many of Australia's major orebodies, producing gold, copper, lead, zinc, silver and uranium, occur in Proterozoic or older rocks. The Kalgoolie- Norseman and Pilbara gold deposits are 2600Ma or older, but the Mt Isa, Olympic Dam and Broken Hill ore-bodies are the result of major regional events associated with the concentration of metallic ores in the period 1830-1500mA.

The ore deposits of the smaller and earlier mining areas in the Barrier Ranges are geologically very different and much younger than the Broken Hill ore body. The Broken Hill type deposits occur in a sequence of rocks that were once sediments and volcanics. These ore bodies formed at the same time as the sediments and volcanics, and were affected by many metamorphic and folding events. The younger Thackaringa-type deposits formed 500Ma ago from material remobilised from the Broken-Hill type deposits. These deposits are characterised by small amounts of very high grade silver, only in the form of silver chloride (horn silver), occurring at shallow depths.

The gold-bearing rocks of the Milparinka-Tibooburra area are also younger. Muds and sands of post-Cambrian age (570Ma) were metamorphosed by granite intrusions about 410Ma ago; gold was precipitated in quartz veins. Weathering and erosion during the Jurassic (205-135Ma) reworked the slates and quartz veins and concentrated the gold, depositing it on the beaches of an ancient sea.

The geological history of the area to the northeast of the Barrier Ranges, the Bancannia Trough and the Bynguano, Noontherungee and Coturaundee Ranges is different again, and highly complex. There were volcanoes in the Late Proterozoic (586Ma) and early Cambrian (525Ma) in what later became the Bancannia Trough. These relate to a rifting episode at the end of the break-up of the supercontinent of Rhodinia. The ranges to the east of the trough, including the Koonenberry Fault, which produced the distinctive Mt Koonenberry, are the result of the following 200 million years of deformation, the result of changes from rifting to compression, related to the formation of the supercontinent Gondwanaland.

The last 65Ma has been a period of changing climate, with periodic uplifting of the ranges and continued erosion and weathering, the latter concentrating or forming new minerals in the ore bodies. Within this period, a sea incursion into the Murray-Darling Basin brought the marine shoreline to at least Lake Tandou on the southeast of the UA, and the climate changed from sub-tropical to the present semi-arid.

Sources for UA geology: Branagan and Packham (2000), Johnston (2004), Plimer (1994), Brown and Stephenson (1991), and Mills and David (2003).

Heritage Items:

No items of geological heritage are specifically dealt with in this study.

The Geological Society of Australia has a Standing Committee for Geological Heritage, whose objectives are, in liaison with Divisional Subcommittees, to promote the understanding and conservation of geological heritage, formulate criteria for geological heritage assessment, and identify document and evaluate the significance of geological features, and to make heritage nominations, specifically to the Register of the National Estate. The Society has a policy document on Geological Heritage available on its website.

The Society uses the following definition:

Significant geological features (SGF) are those features of special scientific or educational value which form the essential basis of geological education, research and reference. These features are considered by the geological community to be worthy of protection and preservation.

There is no reference in this definition to the extent of the feature, which may be as small as a single road cutting, exposure or outcrop, but for management purposes may need to be surrounded by a buffer zone of sufficient size to protect its integrity.

There has been one general overview of the geological heritage of NSW (Percival 1985), which was based on a report prepared for the Australian Heritage Commission in 1978-79. A single item, Round Hill, just east of Broken Hill, was listed on the RNE for geological heritage significance, but this is identified as 'removed'. A summary of the listing is included below.

The complexity of the regional geology, its uniqueness within NSW and its high economic and educational value mean that there are many places in the UA that would qualify for listing and protection on the grounds of geological heritage significance. Branagan and Packham (2000) and Plimer (1994) describe specific localities where sections or outcrops represent key aspects of the geology.

ROUND HILL AREA, BARRIER HWY, BROKEN HILL, NSW

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Removed from Register or IL
Place ID: 621

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

The Round Hill area exposes many of the significant and characteristic features of the Broken Hill ore deposit and its geological environment as a result it is an outstanding educational site, frequently having been studied by mine geologists, visiting overseas and interstate earth scientists, and student excursions. It is probably the best and most representative area in the Broken Hill Region to show the surficial expression of the lode horizons, shear zones, and structure.

2.3 Flora and Fauna

The dominant vegetation in the UA is mulga (*Acacia aneura*) woodland. Mulga woodlands occur in a range of topographic situations: sandplains, dunefields and rocky hillsides. On the sandplains and dunefields associated trees include western bloodwood, whitewood, ironwood, needlewood, beefwood, sandhill wattle, and a variety of woody shrubs. On the rocky hills, mulga is associated with white cypress pine, beefwood, whitewood and other species. The other major woodland community is belah – rosewood woodland, limited mainly to the southern end of the UA, west of the Darling.

Mulga communities grade into shrublands on the alluvial slopes and plains, especially on the south and east of the Barrier Range, towards the Darling River. The typical dominant species in the UA are bladder saltbush, *Atriplex vesicaria*, and black bluebush, *Maireana pyramidata*, - pearl bluebush, *Maireana sedifolia*.

Other important vegetation associations are the yapunyah (*Eucalyptus ochrophloai*) woodlands along the Paroo River, an important source of honey; grasslands, including areas of Mitchell grass (*Astrebla* spp.) and swampland communities, on the Bulloo Overflow, along the Darling River floodplain and at the ephemeral lakes, particularly in the Bancannia Basin. Riparian woodlands of red gum and black box line many creeks.

The fauna of the UA is typical of semi-arid and arid Australia. The largest native animals are the red and western grey kangaroos, and the euro, and while many smaller mammals have disappeared historically, populations of the yellow-footed rock wallaby survive, especially in the Bynguano, Noontherungee and Coturaundee Ranges. The area is rich in bird life, and the lakes along the Paroo River and the Bancannia Basin are important waterbird habitats.

Heritage Items:

Items of natural heritage were not investigated in this study. However, the national parks and nature reserves, which conserve areas of important vegetation and fauna, and the waterbird wetlands have been listed on the Register of the National Estate. A summary of these listings is included here.

BANCANNIA LAKE, SILVER CITY HWY, BROKEN HILL

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| List: | Register of the National Estate |
| Class: | Indigenous |
| Legal Status: | Indicative Place |
| Place ID: | 102153 |

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

This lake is clearly capable of supporting large numbers of waterbirds. The large numbers of herbivorous waterbirds, especially Eurasian coot and black swans indicates that the lake probably supports dense stands of submergent macrophytes. More counts would be needed to see what suite of species use the lake as it varies with in salinity and hydrology. The lake is an important refuge area for waterbirds when it has water.

BULLEA LAKE, MILPARINKA

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 103625

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

This lake is clearly an important site for breeding ibis. No other site had such a large colony of ibis during this study. Importantly we believe that our estimates of colony size were at least 50% underestimates based on counts of black swan nests on Lake Altibouka. The lake also supports other breeding birds. The lake obviously also supports reasonably high concentrations of waterbirds at times.

BULLOO OVERFLOW, TIBOOBURRA

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 16257

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

It is possible that cultural values, both indigenous and non indigenous, of National Estate significance may exist in this place. As yet, the Australian Heritage Commission has not identified, documented or assessed these values. Bulloo Overflow represents a unique inland wetland system featuring a drought/flood phenomena, which is reflected in the flora and fauna. It contains several rare species of avifauna, eg, grey grass wren and supports a wide range of water birds and migratory waders when in flood. Together with Sturt National Park it represents the most completed example of arid land systems in Australia. It contains many examples of Aboriginal and European cultural history.

BYNGUANO RANGE, BROKEN HILL, NSW

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Historic
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 620

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

It is a site of intense occupation by Aborigines, engravings, paintings and relics. The yellow footed rock wallaby which is rare in New South Wales inhabits the range. It is a sample of semiarid shrubland in a rocky upland situation surrounded by gibber plain and sand plains.

**COBHAM, PATTERSON & GREEN LAKES, SILVER CITY HWY,
MILPARINKA**

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 103626

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

The lakes did not support particularly large numbers of waterbirds during this study although this is only based on one count when the lakes were full. We were not able to follow the lakes through the flooding cycle to see if they later supported more waterbirds. They may have done so as they dried although, as they are freshwater lakes, it is unlikely that they would ever support particularly large numbers. They will however support a different suite of species to the nearby easterly salt lakes of Salt Lake and PalDRAMATA Lake. They are adjacent to the main Broken Hill and Tibooburra Road and they could have potential for education of the public on the importance and ecology of wetlands in and Australia.

COTURAUNDEE NATURE RESERVE, WHITE CLIFFS

Class: Natural
Legal Status: Registered (21/03/1978)
Place ID: 612

Statement of Significance:

The Coturaundee area is significant to Paakantji people. The Coturaundee Ranges and the associated features were formed during the travels of a number of ancestral beings including Euro, Kangaroo, Kuluwirru and the two Ngyati. Of particular significance is the Muckabunnya waterhole in the centre of the Reserve. This relates to the story of Ngyati's travels during the dreaming and rain making ceremonies. The area contains important Aboriginal painting and engraving sites similar to those at Mutawinji. These sites and the historic Aboriginal camping places demonstrate the age and continuity of Aboriginal use of the area. The reserve supports a small population of the yellow-footed rock wallaby which is listed as threatened in New South Wales under the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act, in a significant remnant of the natural vegetation of the area. The reserve provides a fauna continuum to the nearby Mutawinji National Park

DARLING RIVER (BOURKE TO WENTWORTH), WILCANNIA

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 17418

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

The least disturbed river section in the Murray-Darling basin. The most significant river traversing the semiarid zone in Australia, and as a riverine environment that has both representative and unusual examples of geomorphic features and processes, especially clay dunes and anabranh systems of past and present river systems.

DRY LAKE

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status:

Place ID: 103614

Statement of Significance:

The relatively few waterbirds and small size of this wetland indicate that on its own the wetland is not particularly significant. But it is an example of many such wetlands along the course of the Paroo River which together would contribute significantly to providing habitat for waterbirds.

FOWLERS GAP FIELD STATION, SILVER CITY HWY, BROKEN HILL

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Registered (28/05/1996)

Place ID: 19186

Statement of Significance:

Fowlers Gap Research Station is a significant arid zone reference area and an important research and education facility. It is the only research station in the arid zone of New South Wales and is the only research station in the winter rainfall arid zone of Australia. The invertebrate fauna of the place is better known and documented than any other range land area in New South Wales, while all other features of the natural environment have been well researched and documented. Areas within the station have been monitored, regularly photographed and data collected for over thirty years, providing an unparalleled record of environmental change and response to monitored environmental conditions in the arid zone of southern Australia. Over 100 scientists have done research and field experiments in the place, with many scientific publications resulting. Research topics are varied and relate to most aspects of the arid zone and its management.

GILPOKO LAKE, WHITE CLIFFS, NSW

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Indicative Place

Place ID: 103596

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

Gilpoko Lake generally supported significant numbers of birds but not large numbers such as other lakes in the area. We suspect that this lake may be deeper than some other lakes with less area for foraging. It remains an important component of the wetlands that make up the, Overflow Lakes of the Paroo River, although not as important as others for the conservation of waterbirds.

LAKE ALTIBOUKA, TIBOOBURRA

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 103589

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

This lake is a highly significant wetland in northwestern New South Wales. It regularly fills with water and can support particularly high concentrations of waterbirds (39,000 average ground count). When conditions are appropriate, it may also support the breeding of swans for more than six months. It supported the largest colony of breeding swans in this study.

MOOTWINGEE* NATIONAL PARK, BROKEN HILL

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 14121

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

Mootwingie* National Park forms a protection barrier for the Aboriginal sites in Mootwingie historic site. The park contains excellent stands of mulga and habitat for the yellow-footed rock wallaby (a rare species), Mount Wright area is of tremendous palaeontologic significance as a Cambrian fossil locality (one of few in New South Wales). Together with Coturaundee Nature Reserve to the north, Mootwingie represents natural communities of western New South Wales.

MUNDI MUNDI AND UMBERUMBERKA RESERVOIR, SILVERTON, NSW

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 17192

Statement of Significance: Not Available

MUNGUNDI LAKE, WILCANNIA WANAARING RD, WANAARING, NSW

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 103615

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

This lake is not important for waterbird conservation. It provides habitat for relatively few waterbirds and similarly little breeding habitat. Importantly however, it represents one of the many waterholes that fill from the Paroo River. Together these may form significant habitat for waterbirds.

* The original (and inconsistent) spellings used in the Register of the National Estate are retained here, to facilitate searching the Australian Heritage Database. New terminology is Mutawintji National Park and Historic Site; Coturaundee Nature Reserve is now Mutawintji NR.

PALDRAMATA LAKE, SILVER CITY HWY, MILPARINKA

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Indicative Place

Place ID: 103630

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

PalDRAMATA Lake is not a particularly large salt lake but it does support reasonably high populations of waterbirds in quite high densities. It is an important example of a salt lake close to a main arterial road and may have educational possibilities. It also probably fills more often than the much larger and more important Salt lake.

PAROO CATCHMENT AREA, WANAARING, NSW

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Indicative Place

Place ID: 101350

Statement of Significance: Not Available

SALT LAKE, SILVER CITY HWY, MILPARINKA

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Indicative Place

Place ID: 103629

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

If data for the period March 1987-December 1990 had been examined, then Salt Lake would have not been considered an important lake for waterbirds. This represents the problem for assessing the conservation importance of wetlands in and Australia. They may not be important for many years. There is little doubt that Salt Lake is one of the more important wetland in northwestern New South Wales. The question remains as to how often it receives water.

STURT NATIONAL PARK, SILVER CITY HWY, TIBOOBURRA, NSW

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Registered (21/03/1978)

Place ID: 604

Statement of Significance:

Sturt National Park is representative of the shrub steppe rangeland in western New South Wales; it provides one of the best examples of this land type in conjunction with acacia dominated fluviatile and aeolian land types. The area, due to its size, is an important wildlife refuge, and has a significant species diversity including 246 native species, as well as a high diversity of landforms including Aeolian dune systems, Mitchell Grass Plains, the Jump Ups and Gibber Desert. The park is an important area for scientific studies to monitor and examine the habitats of many species and research into semiarid and arid landform types and associated climax/disclimax problems in ecology. This area provides a full range of landforms and land types of western New South Wales, including the most easterly extent of climax dune (longitudinal) type, which is most clearly recognised in the Simpson Desert.

**TENANNIA WATERHOLE & SWAMP, WANAARING HUNGERFORD RD,
WANAARING**

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 103631

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

This wetland seldom had many birds but it had large stands of lignum which were used for nesting. We believe a number of duck species probably utilise such habitat for breeding. This waterhole represents typical effluent wetlands that occur beside the Paroo River along its length, particularly towards the southern end. While not itself a particularly important wetland, it represents a class of wetlands that were not extensively surveyed during this study but together would make an important contribution to waterbird conservation.

WAITCHIE LAKE, WILCANNIA WANAARING RD, WANAARING

List: Register of the National Estate
Class: Natural
Legal Status: Indicative Place
Place ID: 103613

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

Waitchie Lake is a regular breeding site for yellow-billed spoonbills and may be typical of several wetlands along the Paroo River. It did not support large numbers of waterbirds and we do not consider it to be of high conservation importance.

NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST NOMINATION

**PAROO RIVER CATCHMENT AREA, HUNGERFORD RD, HUNGERFORD,
NSW (sic)**

List: National Heritage List
Class: Natural
Legal Status: [Nominated place](#)
Place ID: 105898
Place File No: 1/03/227/0017

Nominator's Summary Statement of Significance:

The Paroo River is important for its qualities as a wild river, unregulated and free to flood and fill its many rich overflow lakes. It is the only one of 26 river catchments in the vast area of the Murray Darling Basin that has not been seriously altered by water extraction - the last natural river system in south-eastern Australia. As such it is an important reference point for the understanding of inland river systems and their ecology. The Paroo River catchment, with its long-lasting water and surrounding valuable stone resources has made the area an important focus for Aboriginal people over tens of thousands of years. In addition to the cultural significance of the area to Aboriginal peoples, archaeological sites provide important evidence of the changing technology and ways of Aboriginal life over the last 10,000 years. The Paroo catchment was also a place of substantial early contact between Aboriginal people and the early European settlers. The Paroo was also an important part of Australia's early pastoral industry, an association that has continued to the present time.

3 THE PEOPLE

3.1 Aboriginal People

The Unincorporated Area is an area of overlap between the peoples of the Darling River and those of the inland desert country. The Darling River, the Paaka, is the centre for Paakantyi (Barkindji) speakers, but their country extends well away from the river. The people called themselves by different names according to their different groups, but they all spoke what were basically dialects of the same language.

Wilyakali was spoken in the Broken Hill area and as far west as the Olary district in SA. To the south, and west of the Darling were Thangkaali speakers, while Pantyikali was the language of the Mutawintji and White Cliffs areas, and the term is probably synonymous with Wanyipalku. The Milpulo were apparently associated with the same area and further south.

To the north and west of the Paakantyi speakers was the country of the Malyangapa, Wadikali and Karengapa speakers, extending beyond the historic colonial borders separating NSW, SA and Queensland. In the same way that Paakantyi is the inclusive term for all the Darling River groups, Wangkumara is now used for the broad group of languages and peoples that extend from the Cooper Basin through southern Queensland and across the north of NSW to approximately Bourke.

The two maps included here, from Norman Tindale's *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia* (1974) and Luise Hercus' (1993) *Paakantyi Language* use two different spelling systems; the latter is the now widely used alphabetic linguistic system.

Historically, and today, Europeans have regarded this country as hard and uncompromising, but for the Paakantyi and Wangkumara peoples it provided inspiration for a rich culture. On the one hand there are hundreds of Aboriginal campsites, and also important stone quarries. The geology offered abundant rocks; and there are many locations where there are literally tens, if not hundreds of thousands of stone artefacts. On the other, the geology also underpinned a rich creative culture: there are marvellous galleries of rock engravings and paintings and huge stone arrangements. The Bronzewing Pigeon storyline links the dramatic landscapes of the Pinnacles west to SA, and north to Poolamacca, Mutawintji, Mount Browne and other sacred places in Queensland. Other landscapes tell the stories of the Three Brothers and the White Lady.

After the turmoil caused by the arrival of Europeans, the Paakantyi and Wangkumara peoples held on, living and working on the new pastoral stations, and in and around the ephemeral mining settlements and towns. An 1886 photograph shows Aborigines with a donkey team delivering merchandise from Silverton to Broken Hill, at a time when Silverton was the larger town, and before the construction of the Silverton Tramway.

Reserves were set up at Tibooburra and Milparinka, and Poolamacca, close to the important art sites at Euriowie and Sturts Meadow, was a refuge where the whiteman's rations, blankets and tents were doled out. Aboriginal Protection Board

records give census figures for Aborigines by town in the early 1900s (after that the numbers are amalgamated). Population figures are available for Torrawangee (Tarrawingee), Tibooburra, Milparinka, Broken Hill and Silverton. The town of Tarrawingee was on Poolamacca Station, so this represents the Poolamacca community. At Tarrawingee/Poolamacca there were between 16-49 people between 1900 and 1914, but up to 84 at Milparinka, and just five at Broken Hill and three at Silverton. The records specify that tents were provided to Aboriginal people at Poolamacca.



Figure 3.1 Aborigines with donkey team arriving with merchandise from Silverton (1886). Courtesy BHP-Billiton Archives.

Prejudice particularly over schooling was commonplace, and arbitrary government control culminated in 1936 when the entire Aboriginal community of Tibooburra, 70 in number, were forcibly removed to Brewarrina. In spite of this, important places were remembered and fought for. Fifteen years after the 1983 blockade of Mootwingee Historic Site, the much larger Mutawintji National Park was handed back to Aboriginal ownership and management, and in 2002 Poolamacca Station was acquired by the Wilyakali Aboriginal Corporation.

Bobbie Hardy's *Lament for the Barkindji* (1976) provides an excellent account of the history of Aboriginal people in the far west of NSW, and Heather Goodall's *From Invasion to Embassy* (1998) describes the complex history of Aboriginal reserves and removals. George Dutton's story (Beckett 1970) provides an insight into both traditional and pastoral life.

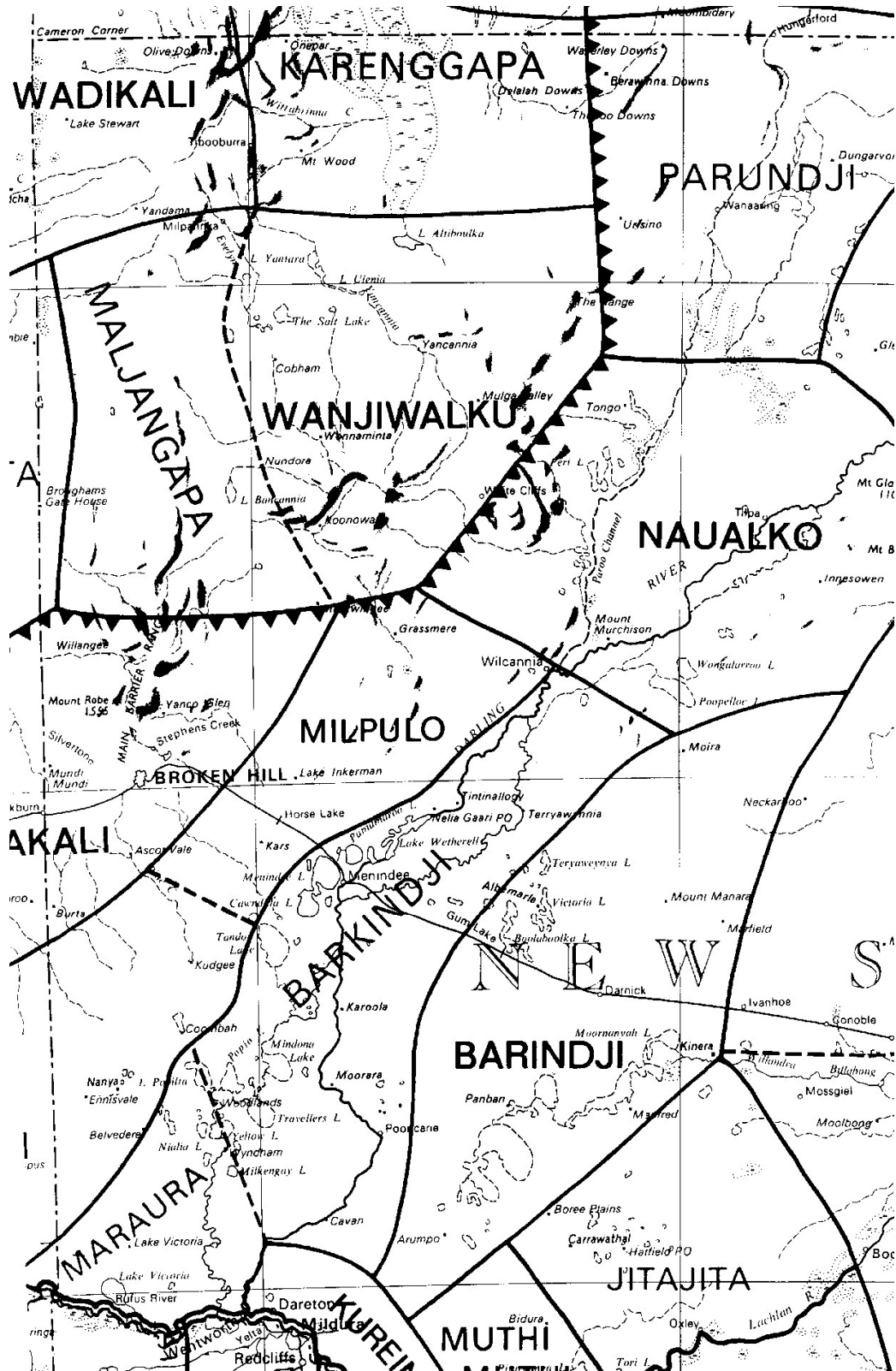


Figure 3.2 Aboriginal tribes in the Unincorporated Area, from Tindale 1974.

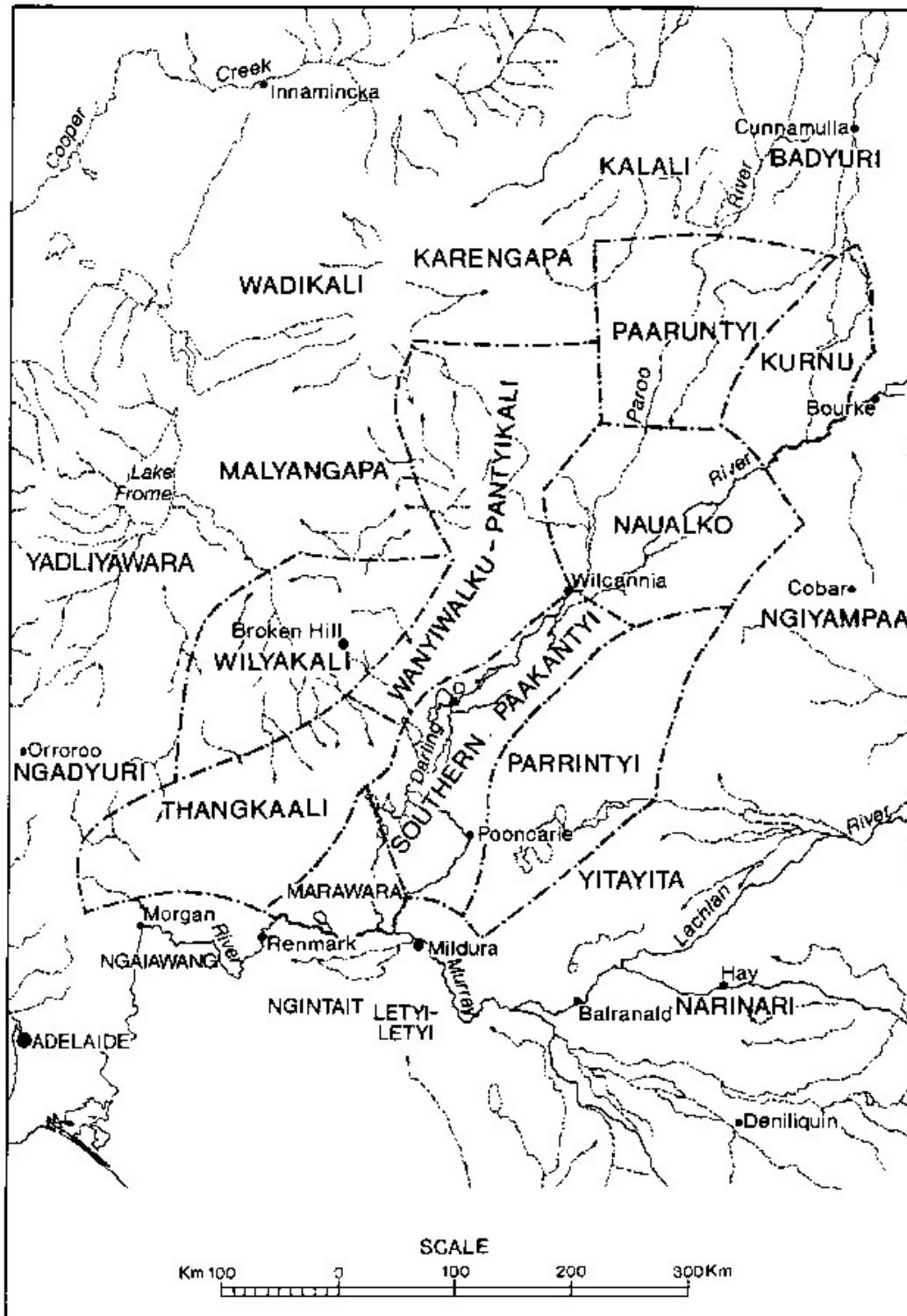


Figure 3.3 Paakantyi speakers and neighbours, from Hercus (1993).

Heritage Places

It is not possible to do justice to the range and number of Aboriginal heritage places in the UA in this study. All categories of places occur here: Dreaming sites, Art sites, Quarries, Living sites, Burial sites, Resistance sites, Pastoral work sites, Reserves, Other historic sites and re-acquired sites. Some places fall into more than one category, for example Poolamacca Station is a place on the Bronzewing Pigeon storyline, close to the Euriowie rock engravings, a pastoral work site, a government rations station, and a re-acquired site.

Aboriginal sites and places in NSW are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, now administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation. The DEC maintains AHIMS, the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System, a register of recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW.

Two sets of Aboriginal heritage places are included in this study. The first is an edited version of a preliminary list of Aboriginal places and landscapes within the Far West Region compiled in 2003 by the Cultural Heritage Division of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, now DEC (**Table 3.1**). This was part of a draft cultural heritage management strategy for the Far West Region of the NPWS (DEC 2003).

The Far West Region Reserves, Sturt NP and Pindera Downs Archaeological Area, near Tibooburra, and Mutawintji National Park, Nature Reserve and Historical Site, and Nocolche Nature Reserve, part of which lies in the UA, all contain major Aboriginal heritage places. In addition, the DEC has acquired a block at the southern end of the Warratta Ranges, just north of Milparinka, which includes White Lady Rock. This is currently managed by DEC on behalf of the Tibooburra Aboriginal community.

The second set lists those places on the Register of the National Estate (**Table 3.2**). Originally these places were protected under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1984, but recent amendments have turned the Register into just a database. For protection at a federal level, places must now be nominated to and accepted onto the new National Heritage List.

Information about natural and historic listings on the RNE is publicly available and searchable on line via the Australian Heritage Database. However, the only information publicly available about Aboriginal places is their Local Government Area and identification number. The Department of Environment and Heritage has provided the full details for this study, but only a summary is included here: names, ID No, date of registration, nearest town and either the 'official statement of significance', or if there is not one, a brief summary of the description. Most of the Aboriginal places on the RNE were registered in the 1980s, and the nature of the information indicates that it is unlikely that they have been reviewed since. Some have been included more recently; these are the ones that do not have an official statement of significance. These listings are also identified as indicative, and in some cases as 'not assessable'.

There is some general overlap between these two lists, but there are important places on each that are not on the other. In addition, there are two odd inclusions in the RNE list: Yantara and Ulara Lakes, and Bancannia Lake. The site type for these is given as

‘place of significance to Aboriginal people’, but they are listed because of their natural values as water-bird sites, and their descriptions make no mention of Aboriginal significance (although this is probable). They have been included here for completeness.

These two lists overlook an important category of Aboriginal heritage place: historic sites (although the Tibooburra burial ground could fall into this category). Not included are the Tibooburra and Milparinka Reserves, and especially Poolamacca Homestead, an important historic heritage place for Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people had historic ties with other stations, such as Yancannia, Kallara and Weinteriga, the latter in its historic extent extending from the Darling River into the UA. The frontage of Weinteriga was one of the first properties purchased by Aboriginal people in the 1980s, using funds under the NSW Land Rights Act 1984. Momba Station on the Paroo River, also in Central Darling Shire, was a major Aboriginal centre in the 19th Century.

In this study inventory descriptions have been prepared for two highly significant Aboriginal heritage places which are not included in either of these listings.

The Pinnacles Aboriginal Place
Pastoralism: Poolamacca Homestead

In addition, the **Tibooburra Burial Ground** has been included in the inventory of heritage items on the Tibooburra Common, in the section on Tibooburra town.

Full consultation with the Aboriginal community about Aboriginal heritage places in the UA was beyond the scope of this study, but the heritage study was discussed with the chairperson of the Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council, Maureen O’Donnell, and the coordinator of the Tibooburra Land Council. Poolamacca Station was visited by invitation of Maureen O’Donnell; members of the O’Donnell family currently live there.

To consider any of these Aboriginal heritage places for formal listing under the NSW heritage process will require extensive consultation with the appropriate Aboriginal people. The Department of Environment and Conservation has guidelines of consultation with Aboriginal communities regarding heritage issues, and the Registrar of Aboriginal Owners (NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs) and NSW Native Title Services can advise on appropriate groups to consult.

Table 3.1

Preliminary list of Aboriginal places and landscapes within the Far West Region of prime management focus for discussion with the Aboriginal community (DEC 2003: Table 7.2)

| Aboriginal places and landscapes | Feature | RNE |
|---|--|-----------------|
| Sturt NP | Engravings, stone arrangements, quarries | |
| Paroo Darling NP | Historic, paintings | |
| Mutawintji NP | Engravings; stone arrangements; stone mounds; historic; ceremonial (men's and women's sites); living place | Yes (Gap Range) |
| Yantara Lake | Spiritual | |
| Coolanbury (Koonenberry) Mountain | Spiritual | |
| Marden Stone Arrangements | Stone arrangements; ceremonial | |
| Brindiwilpa | Ceremonial (rain making) | |
| Mt Browne | Spiritual (bronze wing pigeon) | |
| Mt Poole 'Depot Glen' | Mythological (giant kangaroo), engraving | |
| Nuntherungie | Spiritual, art | |
| Fowlers Gap | Engravings | |
| Poolamacca [Euriowie] | Engravings; paintings; burial mounds | Yes |
| Sturts Meadows | Engravings | Yes |
| Stephens Creek | Waterhole | |
| Stephens Creek | Engravings, stone arrangements | |
| Broughton Vale, Scopes Range, including Burkes Cave | Engravings, paintings, quarry, shared history | Yes |
| Cobham (Salt Lake) | Spiritual | |
| Gnalta Peak | Mythological, giant kangaroo, Gullawarra's Hat | |
| Yantobullyu Tibooburra Town and surrounds | Spiritual | |

Table 3.2 Aboriginal Heritage Places listed on the Register of the National Estate.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| The Three Brothers | Tibooburra | Spiritual |
| White Lady Rock | Milparinka | Spiritual |
| Pindera Downs | Tibooburra | Stone arrangement |
| Big Mountain Tank | Tibooburra | Quarry |
| The Burial Ground | Tibooburra | Aboriginal cemetery |
| Mt Browne Area | Milparinka | Mia-mias |
| Mt Arrowsmith | Milparinka | Stone arrangements |
| Depot Glen | Milparinka | Rock engravings |
| Mountain Outstation | Milparinka | Rock engravings |
| Euriowie | Broken Hill | Rock engravings |
| Sturts Meadow | Broken Hill | Rock engravings |
| Gap Hills (Mutawintji NP/NR) | Broken Hill | Art sites, campsites |
| Coturaundee NR (Mutawintji NP/NR) | Broken Hill | Spiritual |
| Scopes Range (Burkes Cave) | Broken Hill | Art, campsites |
| Tandou Lake lunette | Menindee | Burials, archaeology |
| Kangaroo Lake lunette | Menindee | Burials, archaeology |
| Yantara Lake & Lake Ulenia | Milparinka | 'of significance to Aboriginal people' |
| Bancannia Lake | Milparinka | 'of significance to Aboriginal people' |

THE THREE BROTHERS

Type: Aboriginal Occupation Site

Register of the National Estate ID: 607

Date Registered: 21/10/1980

Nearest Town: Tibooburra

Official Statement of Significance:

The Three Brothers is a natural feature of the landscape with considerable mythological significance to the Wongkumara Aboriginal people. The creation mythology surrounding the three pillars of rock explains the formation of the landscape and how the visible landscape becomes part of Aboriginal totemic relationships as well as making explanatory and moralistic statements about traditional Aboriginal social mores. Myths such as that associated with the Three Brothers are very important to the survival of traditional knowledge, the understanding of Aboriginal history and cultural continuity.

WHITE LADY ROCK

Type: Places of significance to Aboriginal people

Register of the National Estate ID: 14772

Date Registered: 11/08/1987

Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance:

The White Lady Rock, a natural feature of the landscape, is an important mythological site of the Wongkumara people associated with the story of the travels of the ancestral mother figure (Ngamatja). Ngamatja is considered to be both the spiritual mother and healer of the Wongkumara Aboriginal people. Myths, such as those associated with the White Lady Site, are very important to the survival of traditional knowledge, cultural continuity and understanding Aboriginal history.

PINDERA DOWNS STATION (PART)

Type: Aboriginal Stone Arrangements

Register of the National Estate ID: 611

Date Registered: 21/03/1978

Nearest Town: Tibooburra

Official Statement of Significance:

This site is a well preserved example of a combination of stone arrangement forms typical of the western division of New South Wales. (The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

BIG MOUNTAIN TANK QUARRIES

Type: Aboriginal Quarries

Register of the National Estate ID: 18611

Date Registered: 14/11/1979 - Indicative Place 04/12/1991 - Not Assessable

Nearest Town: Tibooburra

Official Statement of Significance: None

Description:

The site consists of a complex of thirteen quarried areas along a 1km x 0.5km westward extension of mesa. The superimposed workshops, two single or isolated workshops and a number of small extraction workshops.

THE BURIAL GROUND

Type: Aboriginal Cemetery

Register of the National Estate ID: 100419

Date Registered: 27/02/1996 - Indicative Place

Nearest Town: Tibooburra

Official Statement of Significance: None

Description: About ten graves are visible although there are many more without mounds in the immediate vicinity of the site. The Wangkumara have buried their dead here since the Dreamtime and in recent times, and the site was in use until the Aborigines were removed from Tibooburra in 1935. There is currently a mesh fence surrounding the visible mounds erected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Tibooburra District, some years ago, to protect remaining mounds from stock and vehicles.

MT BROWNE AREA

Type: Aboriginal Occupation Site

Register of the National Estate ID: 606

Date Registered: 21/10/1980

Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance:

The Mount Browne area is significant because it contains a rare and impressive collection of three standing mia-mias (wooden bough shelters) and the remains of two collapsed shelters. It is one of a number of similar sites in the Tibooburra area of New South Wales and one of only a total of seven such sites recorded in the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service site records. The survival of these wooden sites into the present is very rare because of their extreme vulnerability to natural decay, bush fire and weathering.

MOUNT ARROWSMITH AREA

Type: Aboriginal Stone Arrangements

Register of the National Estate ID: 608

Date Registered: 21/10/1980

Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance:

In the far western area of New South Wales the ceremonial life of the past Aboriginal inhabitants has left material expression and archaeological traces in the stone arrangement sites. This site is a particularly well preserved example of the linear type of stone arrangements found in the western ranges area of far western New South Wales. (The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

DEPOT GLEN, CATHEDRAL ROCKS ENGRAVING SITE

Type: Aboriginal Art Site

Register of the National Estate ID: 616

Date Registered: 14/11/1979 - Indicative Place

Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance: None

Description:

Rock engravings located to date are below the second highest crag at Cathedral Rocks on vertical formations, and include, at a height of from 3ft-4ft above the creek bed, kangaroo and emu feet, a lizard, dots, a hooked line, human hands and human feet. They are pecked into the rock by the linear and intaglio pecking technique. The engravings were recorded as being very weathered and patinated and exactly the same colour as the surrounding rock. They could be in excess of 10,000 years old. However, the majority of engravings at the site have been destroyed with a pick axe since that recording

MOUNTAIN OUTSTATION ENGRAVINGS

Type: Aboriginal Art Site

Register of the National Estate ID: 622

Date Registered: 14/11/1979 - Indicative Place 21/04/1993 - Not Assessable

Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance: None

Description: The site is situated on a rocky outcrop on the south side of a hill. The engravings are scattered in three areas. Motifs include kangaroo and emu tracks, concentric circles, U-figures and compilations of dots and circles resembling schematic human faces. There are more than twenty engravings at the site and the range of motifs displays stylistic similarities to central Australian engraved art. The motifs resembling schematic human faces are similar to the famous Cleland Hills face engravings which previously had been considered to be the only engravings of this type in Australia.

EURIOWIE ABORIGINAL AREA (PROPOSED)

Euriowie Historic and Aboriginal Site

Type: Aboriginal Occupation Site

Register of the National Estate ID: 609

Date Registered: 21/03/1978

Nearest Town: Broken Hill

Official Statement of Significance:

The engravings at Sturts Meadows and Mootwingee together with those at Euriowie form a very interesting group, within 40 miles of each other but representing what are believed to be different phases in the art history of Australia. The types and particularly the relative proportions of motifs used differ markedly from site to site,

and geological evidence about the conditions of the rock and the patination of the engraved grooves at each side indicates that the sites are of markedly different ages. The engravings at Euriowie seem to be quite recent and an Aboriginal informant recalls ceremonies at the site in which the rocks were marked. (The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

STURTS MEADOWS AREA

Type: Aboriginal Art Site

Register of the National Estate ID: 610

Date Registered: 21/03/1978

Nearest Town: Broken Hill

Official Statement of Significance:

The engravings at Sturt's Meadows, together with those at Euriowie and Mootwingee, form a very interesting group, within 40 miles of each other, but representing what are believed to be different phases in the art history of Australia. The types and particularly the relative proportions of motifs used differ markedly from site to site and geological evidence about the condition of the rock and the patination of the grooves at each site indicate that the sites are of markedly different ages. Sturt's Meadows are the oldest site and may be over 7,000 years old.

GAP HILLS AREA

Gap Range Area Mootwingee National Park

Type: Aboriginal Art Site

Register of the National Estate ID: 14795

Date Registered: 30/06/1992

Nearest Town: Broken Hill/White Cliffs

Official Statement of Significance:

Gap Hills Area rock art complex is notable for its large number of rock engravings, estimated at between 1,700 and 2,000 identifiable motifs in addition to the many more that are partly weathered away. This is comparable in number to the nearby Mootwingee Historic Site, which is acknowledged as the largest known engraving site in the region. The site represents an excellent example of western New South Wales Aboriginal rock engraving, but at the same time exhibits several of its own unique features. These include the widespread depiction of human footprints, circular pits with lines of various lengths radiating from them, and the combined style of engraving of some of the animal figures. It is probable also that some of the panels of figures and tracks describe religious and ceremonial events that are only portrayed at this site.

A high level of technical skill has been employed in the implementation of the engravings, many of the figurative motifs being portrayed with great accuracy.

Particularly significant is the rare depiction of what might be the tracks of extinct megafauna, including two examples which may represent the tracks of sthenurines such as *Procoptodon*. There is also a large track with long claws or toenails which cannot be identified as belonging to any existing animal.

Being in a relatively remote area with many well preserved engravings, the Gap Hills rock art complex has considerable scientific significance for the study of rock art chronology, style and distribution. In particular, the site has potential for examination of relative chronology of rock engravings based on differential weathering and patina. The design range and distribution would also provide useful comparative material for the other major engraving sites in the region at Euriowie, Sturt's Meadows and Mootwingee, since superficially there are both similarities and differences in these aspects of the four areas.

Gap Hills is of religious and contemporary significance to the Aboriginal community of the western region of New South Wales, and there are still a number of Aboriginal people who know details of the religious mythology of the area. As a known refuge for the endangered yellow footed rock wallaby, the area has added significance for Aboriginal people, to whom the animal is thought of as very sacred. The area is also regarded of contemporary significance to the general Aboriginal community who consider it as an important educational and cultural resource which should be preserved for future generations.

COTURAUNDEE NATURE RESERVE

Wertago Proposed Nature Reserve or Aboriginal Area

Type: Fauna Groups

Register of the National Estate ID: 606

Date Registered: 21/03/1978

Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance:

The Coturaundee area is significant to Paakantji people. The Coturaundee Ranges and the associated features were formed during the travels of a number of ancestral beings including Euro, Kangaroo, Kuluwirru and the two Ngyati. Of particular significance is the Muckabunnya waterhole in the centre of the Reserve. This relates to the story of Ngyati's travels during the dreaming and rain making ceremonies. The area contains important Aboriginal painting and engraving sites similar to those at Mutawinji. These sites and the historic Aboriginal camping places demonstrate the age and continuity of Aboriginal use of the area.

The reserve supports a small population of the yellow-footed rock wallaby (*Petrogale xanthopus*) which is listed as threatened in New South Wales under the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act, in a significant remnant of the natural vegetation of the area. The reserve provides a fauna continuum to the nearby Mutawinji National Park

SCROPES RANGE AREA

Type: Aboriginal Site Complex
Register of the National Estate ID: 623
Date Registered: 01/11/1983
Nearest Town: Menindee

Official Statement of Significance:

Burkes cave has both historic and prehistoric significance. Occupation there goes back 10,000 years and has provided an important cultural sequence for western New South Wales. The cave is decorated with paintings, and there are some engravings nearby. It was used by the explorer, Burke, and later was a mail change on the coach road. There are some historic graffiti on the smoke blackened walls. (The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

TANDOU LAKE LUNETTE

Type: Aboriginal Site Complex
Register of the National Estate ID: 14798
Date Registered: 11/08/1987
Nearest Town: Menindee

Official Statement of Significance:

Tandou Lake Lunette contains a series of early Pleistocene deposits with evidence of Aboriginal activity. As well as remains of extinct animals, including megafauna. At least forty distinct middens have been found which range in date from 13,000 to 25,000 years ago. Earlier megafaunal remains and more recent human cremations indicate that this site provides a rare opportunity to enhance scientific understanding of human economic adaptation during changing environmental conditions.

KANGAROO LAKE LUNETTE

Type: Aboriginal Site Complex
Register of the National Estate ID: 14804
Date Registered: 11/08/1987
Nearest Town: Menindee

Official Statement of Significance:

This area has high archaeological and geomorphological significance, since it contains traces of human occupation extending back 17,000 years and fossils of extinct megafauna in a lunette. The area is also of significance to local Aboriginal people.

YANTARA LAKE & LAKE ULENIA

Type: Places of significance to Aboriginal people
Register of the National Estate ID: 102150
Date Registered: 03/07/2000 - Indicative Place
Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance: None

BANCANNIA LAKE

Type: Places of significance to Aboriginal people
Register of the National Estate ID: 102153
Date Registered: 03/07/2000 - Indicative Place
Nearest Town: Milparinka

Official Statement of Significance: None

THE PINNACLES ABORIGINAL PLACE

County: Yancowinna

Parish: Alma

Location: The Pinnacles lie about 15km southwest of Broken Hill.

Name: The name 'Pinnacles' derives from the three distinctive conical hills.

Status: An area of 170 hectares encompassing the North, Middle and South Pinnacles became an Aboriginal Place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act `1974 on 5 July 1996.

Description:

The Pinnacles are three conical hills that dominate the landscape south of Broken Hill. The highest is 334m above sea level, or 80m above the surrounding plain.

Information Sources:

There have been two important reports on the Aboriginal significance of the Pinnacles. Anthropologist Lindy Warrell (1995) in consultation with Aboriginal people from both SA and western NSW recorded oral traditions in The Pinnacles area, notably the Bronzewing Pigeon Story. This study led to the declaration of The Pinnacles Aboriginal Place. In 1998, Sarah Martin did an archaeological survey of The Pinnacles area, and concluded that the significant area extended beyond the Aboriginal Place. Extracts from Martin's work, which summarises Warrell's report, are included here, omitting details about the traditional stories.

History:

Martin (1998) wrote:

Evidence of South Australian people camping at the Pinnacles in the historic period was collected from families based at Silverton (Martin notes). The father of Steve Roberts, the present owner of White Leads Station, knew of the location of the spring or soak in Pine Creek and said that it was covered with a sheet of galvanised iron (Steve and Jimmy Roberts pers.comm.) There is also an unsubstantiated fragment of local oral history suggesting that Aboriginal people may be buried in the cemetery associated with the historic Pinnacles village (Badger Bates pers.comm.). Lindy Warrell (1995) collected oral history about people camping and carrying out ceremonies at the Pinnacles.

Heritage Significance:

Martin (1998) summarised as follows:

The Pinnacles and the surrounding country is a major site of the Bronzewing Pigeon story which travels from Murnpeowie in the Northern Flinders Ranges, across to Yunta, then north to the Pinnacles, Broken Hill, Poolamacca, Euriovie, Mutawintji, Mt Browne, Tibooburra and then up to Paddy Paddy in Queensland and finally to Mt Isa. This major story travels across the country of several different language groups and links them all together.

Detailed knowledge about the Bronzewing Pigeon (Marnpi in Adnayamathanha) story is still held by people from the Flinders Ranges who traditionally used to come to the

Broken Hill area for trade and ceremonies, and in the more recent past to work on pastoral stations in the area including Mulyungarie and Corona. The Adnyamathanha people have the advantage of still being fluent in their language and being able to sing traditional songs including songs about the Pinnacles and other sites on the storyline (Warrell 1995).

The story of the Bronzewing Pigeon is also known to local Aboriginal elders, some of whom have passed away since Lindy Warrell's field work.

The general Broken Hill area and Broken Hill in particular is known from ethnographic records and oral history to be a place of convergence of several important myths, including the Bronzewing Pigeon; Eagle Hawk and Crow; Crow; Hawk and Duck; and Kuluwirru Stories (Beckett 1858, Berndt 1987, Martin 1986-1995, Warrell 1995). The Native Cat and Goanna Story also originated near Poolamacca in the Broken Hill area (Tunbridge 1988).

The Pinnacles can be seen as a cultural landscape with natural features of mythological and ceremonial significance; natural resources including water and stone of mythological, ceremonial and economic significance; and a pattern of archaeological material that reflects both the day to day activities and activities related to mythology and ceremony. The archaeological survey has demonstrated that at least some of the archaeological material can be directly related to the mythology of the Pinnacles and therefore cannot be separated from the Pinnacles in terms of management.

Other Heritage Significance:

The Pinnacles is an important geological and mining area, and is the site of an early town, The Pinnacles / Wallarunga. See **Towns**.

The dramatic landscape of The Pinnacles has attracted artists, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

Recommendation:

The relevant Aboriginal knowledge holders must be consulted before The Pinnacles Aboriginal Place (and surrounding important areas) is included on any heritage register.

Historic Themes:

| Australian Theme | NSW Theme | Local Theme |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Peopling Australia | Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures | Mythological and ceremonial, day-to-day life, water and stone resources. |

3.2 European

The first Europeans to see the country now designated the Unincorporated Area of NSW were the members of Thomas Mitchell's exploring party, who travelled down the Darling River from Bourke to Menindee and back in 1836. They did not leave the river, but Mitchell could see the high country to the west, and named two peaks Mount Daubeny (near Mutawintji) and Mount Lyell (part of the Koonenberry Range). Nine years later, Charles Sturt led an expedition from the Darling River to Stephens Creek, just east of the later location of Broken Hill, then north to Depot Glen on Evelyn Creek near Milparinka, and on into the centre of the continent, searching for the mythical 'inland sea'.

By the mid-1850s, white pastoralists had pushed up the Darling and the first riverboats reached Wilcannia in 1859. In the early 1860s squatters moved from the frontages into the back country, aided by exceptionally wet years in 1862-3. By the time silver was discovered at Thackaringa in 1876 and gold at Mount Browne and Tibooburra in 1881, all the land had been taken over by the European arrivals.

The main European endeavours in the UA were mining and pastoralism. The traces these activities have left on the land are perhaps less obvious than in wetter and more densely settled areas of southeastern Australia, but they are widespread and distinctive: homesteads, shearing sheds, fences; mines, and abandoned mining towns, roads and railways, and especially the marks of the eternal need for water – wells and bores, pipelines, tanks and dams, large and small, earth, stone, and concrete.

This study primarily deals with the European heritage of the UA and the main themes: exploration, pastoralism, mining, transport and communication, and water are dealt with separately in later sections.

3.3 Chinese

Chinese men worked as miners, market gardeners, hawkers and shop-keepers in the Unincorporated Area, but they are hard to see in the historic record. At Milparinka there were Chinese market gardens on the flats of Evelyn Creek below the town. Svenson (1995) says they grew cabbages, potatoes, peaches, pears, grapes, turnips, carrots, parsnips and perhaps even apples. There was a Chinese storekeeper in Milparinka too, Tom Gox, or 'Cocky the Chinaman' and his store was in Loftus Street, just down the road from the Albert Hotel. He sold bread and cakes, and provided meals and coffee for coach passengers. The building was moved to a stock watering place in the 1920, according to Svenson, who has recorded a number of Chinese artefacts in the town, including bottles, coins and an opium tin lid.

Bobbie Hardy (1969) says that a Chinaman was run off the Corner goldfields in 1881 and in early 1894, the *Tibooburra and Mt Browne Advertiser* noted that the waterholes at Mount Browne having dried up, only the soakages provided drinking water and these were being 'used by the Chinese to wash their dirt, notwithstanding that they have been cautioned by the police from doing so'.

There was a Chinese population in the Broken Hill area as well. At Round Hill (Taltingan) east of Broken Hill, there were several Chinese market gardens along the

Willa Willyong Creek, including 'Jimmie's, and Louie Lihou's and there are nine Chinese men buried in Round Hill cemetery. They were market gardeners and fruit hawkers, and they had been in Australia for a long time, between 15 and 45 years. Chung How, who died in 1892 aged 58, is listed in the burial records as a Chinese hawker, Argent Street, which suggests he may have had a shop in Broken Hill.

Heritage Places:

Two places recorded during this study may have a Chinese connection, both are on Clevedale Station, adjacent to Round Hill.

Clevedale Market Gardens, see Mount Gipps Station

Clevedale Stone Yards (Piggery), see Mount Gipps Station

Geoffrey Svenson's 1994 MA thesis on the archaeology and history of the Chinese at Milparinka would provide more details on Chinese heritage there.

3.4 Afghans

The other important ethnic group in the UA were the Afghans, many of whom in fact came from Peshawar within what is now Pakistan. They originally came to Australia as camel-drivers, but took on a role similar to the Chinese working as hawkers and carriers. The first named Afghan in western NSW is Dost Mahomet, a camel-driver on the 1860-61 Burke and Wills expedition, who died in 1881 near Menindee (Central Darling Shire).

According to Hardy (1969), the camel era west of the Darling reached its peak in the early years of the 20th century, but even by the 1890s there were large camel camps at Bourke and Broken Hill, the latter surviving until the early 1930s, and smaller ones at Wilcannia and Tarrawingee. Most Afghans were practising Muslims; their galvanised iron mosque in Broken Hill still stands.

There was some conflict between the Carriers' Union and the Afghan camel-drivers. The union secretary threatened Broken Hill businesses with a boycott if they did not stop employing non-union Afghans at cut rates. When some stations in the far northwest of the state tried to evade the union ban by sending their wool by camel train to the railway at Hawker in SA, the secretary travelled to Adelaide to ensure the ban would hold in SA (Hardy 1969).

On New Year's Day 1915, two Afghans (often referred to historic accounts as Turks), Mullah Abdullah, a camel driver and butcher, and Gool Mahomed, an ice-cream vendor, attacked a picnic train on the Silverton Tramway near the Picton sales yards, northwest of Broken Hill. The Manchester United Lodges' had conducted an annual picnic at Penrose Park, Silverton, since 1901, and the Silverton Tramway Company provided 40 open wagons, with bench seating for the 1200 picnickers. With a Turkish flag flying from the ice-cream cart, Abdullah and Mahomed opened fire on the train with rifles, killing four people and wounding seven. When the alarm was raised, the police chased the two men to White Rocks, where they died during a shoot-out. In retaliation the German Club in Delamore Street (closed because of WW1), was burnt down by a furious mob, but they were prevented from attacking the camel camp by police and militia.

The Afghans left two written statements at the scene, plus an application by Gool Mahomed to join the Turkish Army. Mahomed's motive was his support for Turkey, then at war with Australia, but Mullah Abdullah was unhappy about a recent court conviction for illegally slaughtering a sheep (Kearns 1975, Camilleri 2005).

Heritage Places:

No heritage items relating to the Afghan community were recorded in the UA during this study. This is an area that deserves further investigation, for example to locate any traces of Afghan camel-camps at Tarrawingee, and possibly also in the Milparinka-Tibooburra area.

The Broken Hill Local Environment Plan includes the Mosque, in Buck Street, Broken Hill, and White Rocks Reserve, Schlapp Street, Broken Hill.

4 EXPLORATION

The Unincorporated Area was first sighted by Europeans in 1836, when the explorer Thomas Mitchell travelled down the Darling from Bourke to Menindee. At the approximate position of Wilcannia, he saw and named a number of hills to the northwest. The furthest away, Mt Lyell, probably part of the Koonenberry Range, was named after the geologist Charles Lyell. Mt Daubeny, named for geologist Charles Daubeny, is in the Bynguno-Coturundee-Noontherungee Range. Mt Murchison, closer to the river in Central Darling Shire, was also named by Mitchell 'after my friend Mr. Murchison, a gentleman who has so greatly advanced the science of geology.' Mitchell was prescient naming these hills after geologists, given the remarkable geological history preserved in the rocks of the UA.

The Unincorporated Area was traversed by early exploration journeys, not as a destination in itself, but country to be crossed in search of other things. In 1844 Charles Sturt set out from Adelaide in search of an Inland Sea. His expedition followed the Murray to Lake Victoria, then the Darling to the Menindee Lakes. From here he travelled northwest into what is now the Unincorporated Area, camping at waterholes on Stephens Creek, then at Pooles Creek at the northern end of the Barrier Ranges. The main expedition was restricted to a waterhole at Depot Glen on Evelyn Creek for many months, while a smaller party led by Sturt travelled further inland. To shelter from the heat, an underground shelter was built at Depot Glen, and to keep the men occupied, Sturt had them build a stone cairn on top of Mt Poole. A second camp was set up at Fort Grey, now in Sturt National Park. Hot weather, lack of water, and to failure to find the Inland Sea weakened the expedition. Charles Poole died at Depot Glen and is buried there, and Sturt himself was ill. In 1845, the expedition retreated.

Sturt's expedition is commemorated in the UA. Depot Glen, Sturt's Cairn and Poole's Grave are easily accessible by road, and are part of the tourist round. Although the expedition travelled to the west of Tibooburra, that town has a Sturt Memorial consisting of an upturned replica of Sturt's Whaleboat, which was abandoned somewhere in the area. Further south, Sturt has a lower profile. At Stephens Creek Reservoir there is an old sign indicating Piesse's Knob, a nearby hill named after a member of the expedition Louis Piesse. There is also a Sturt monument whose location is uncertain, possibly in the locked grounds of the Stephens Creek Pumping Station.

Fifteen years later, the Victoria Exploring Expedition, led by Burke and Wills, also passed through the UA, in their unsuccessful attempt to make the first crossing of the continent from south to north. They had travelled from Melbourne to Swan Hill, then via Balranald and Pooncarie to the town of Menindee. From here the expedition travelled roughly parallel to Sturt's route, but further east, camping at Kokriega, later known as Burke's Cave, in the Scropes Ranges, and passing through the Mutawintji and Nuntherungie area, to the Bulloo Overflow and into Queensland.

The search for Burke and Wills led others, such as Howitt, to travel through the area. At the same time young men working on the Darling frontages, such as Ernest Giles, W.H. Wright, Vincent Dowling or venturers from further south, such as Robert Gow

and Abraham Wallace (with his wife Matilda), now ventured out from the river in the late 1850s and early 1860s (Wallace, M. nd) looking for pastoral land. When silver and gold were discovered in the late 1870s-early 1880s, the following rush meant that Europeans walked over virtually every part of the UA. In 1882, 22-year old George Morrison would retrace Burke and Wills route from Normanton in the Gulf to Melbourne, on foot and alone, and write a travel article about it in the *Melbourne Age*.

Heritage Places:

There are a small number of high profile heritage places relating to exploration in the UA, notably those near Milparinka – Depot Glen, Poole’s Grave and Sturt’s Cairn - associated with Charles Sturt, as well as a handful of commemorative plaques or signs. Apart from this, there is surprisingly little recognition of early exploration in the area, especially relating to Burke and Wills. There are in fact a large number of listed Burke and Wills heritage places, in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland, but none in NSW. It appears that there has been no recent investigation of Burke and Wills route or campsites in NSW, again in contrast to Queensland, where new research has been reported in the publications of the Burke and Wills Historical Society (www.burkeandwills.net.au).

Assessing heritage places relating to exploration in the UA requires as a first step, investigation of the state of knowledge about the explorers’ routes and campsites, a task beyond the scope of this study. The best maps located of routes through the UA are those in Shaw’s book *Yancannia Creek* (1987) which have been included here. The following notes provide an overview.

Thomas Mitchell

Thomas Mitchell travelled down the Darling from Bourke to Menindee in 1836 (**Figure 4.2**). Although he did not set foot in the UA, he named three peaks visible from the Darling after important geologists. Further information is required on the locations of Mt Lyell and Mt Daubeny before heritage assessments can be completed.

Mt Lyell is not shown on any modern maps; probably part of the Koonenberry Range, it was named after Sir Charles Lyell (1797 – 1875), who popularised the theory of uniformitarianism through his multi-volume *Principles of Geology* (1830-33), the most influential geological work in the middle of the 19th century, which put geology on a modern footing.

Mt Daubeny is in the Bynguano-Coturundee-Noontherungee Range block, to the northwest of Wilcanna. Charles Giles Bridle Daubeny (1795 – 1867) was a chemist, botanist and geologist who worked on volcanic phenomena, and environmental controls on vegetation, and thermal springs.

Mt Murchison, is in Central Darling Shire, in the Ponde range, just north of the town of Wilcannia on the Darling. Sir Roderick Impey Murchison (1792 – 1871), a Scottish geologist, is known for his work on the geological structure of the European Alps; he established the Silurian and Devonian systems. He was a founder and president of the Royal Geographical Society, of which he was in 1830 one of the founders, and left a bequest to establish the Murchison Medal for excellence in geology.

Charles Sturt

In 1844, Charles Sturt traveled from Adelaide up the Murray to Lake Victoria, then up the Darling to the Menindee Lakes. He cut across to the Barrier Ranges (**Figure 4.2**), camping first at the Parnari rockholes at the Gorge on Stephens Creek, and then at a pass, near a hill he recorded as Coonbaralba, near the present day Stephens Creek Reservoir. From here the expedition crossed the Barrier Range, and moved north along its western side, to Floods Creek, then north again to Depot Glen and finally Fort Grey, now in Sturt National. From here Sturt made an abortive foray to the northwest, but the lack of water and illness forced the expedition to retreat.

Many of the English placenames in the UA were bestowed by Sturt, in honour of his patrons or expedition members: Mt Gipps, after the Governor of NSW Sir George Gipps, Lewis's Hill, and Piesse's Knob, Mount Poole, Mount Browne after expedition members. He named the Barrier Ranges the Stanley Ranges.

Depot Glen, Poole's Grave and Sturt's Cairn are listed as a single item on the Register of the National Estate, and the second two on the NSW National Trust list. The information included here is from the RNE listing. There appear to be no traces left of the Fort Grey Stockade, but a blazed tree still exists in Sturt National Park. The Sturt memorial at Tibooburra, a replica whale-boat, is dealt with in Towns: Tibooburra.

There is little else to mark the Sturt's route or camps. At Stephens Creek Reservoir there is a commemorative plaque (Hardy 1968), not seen during this study, and probably behind the locked gates, see Water: Stephens Creek Reservoir), and a sign indicating Piesse's Knob, a distinctive hill so named because it resembled Piesse's cap (**Figure 4.1**).



Figure 4.1 Piesse's Knob, from Stephens Creek Reservoir

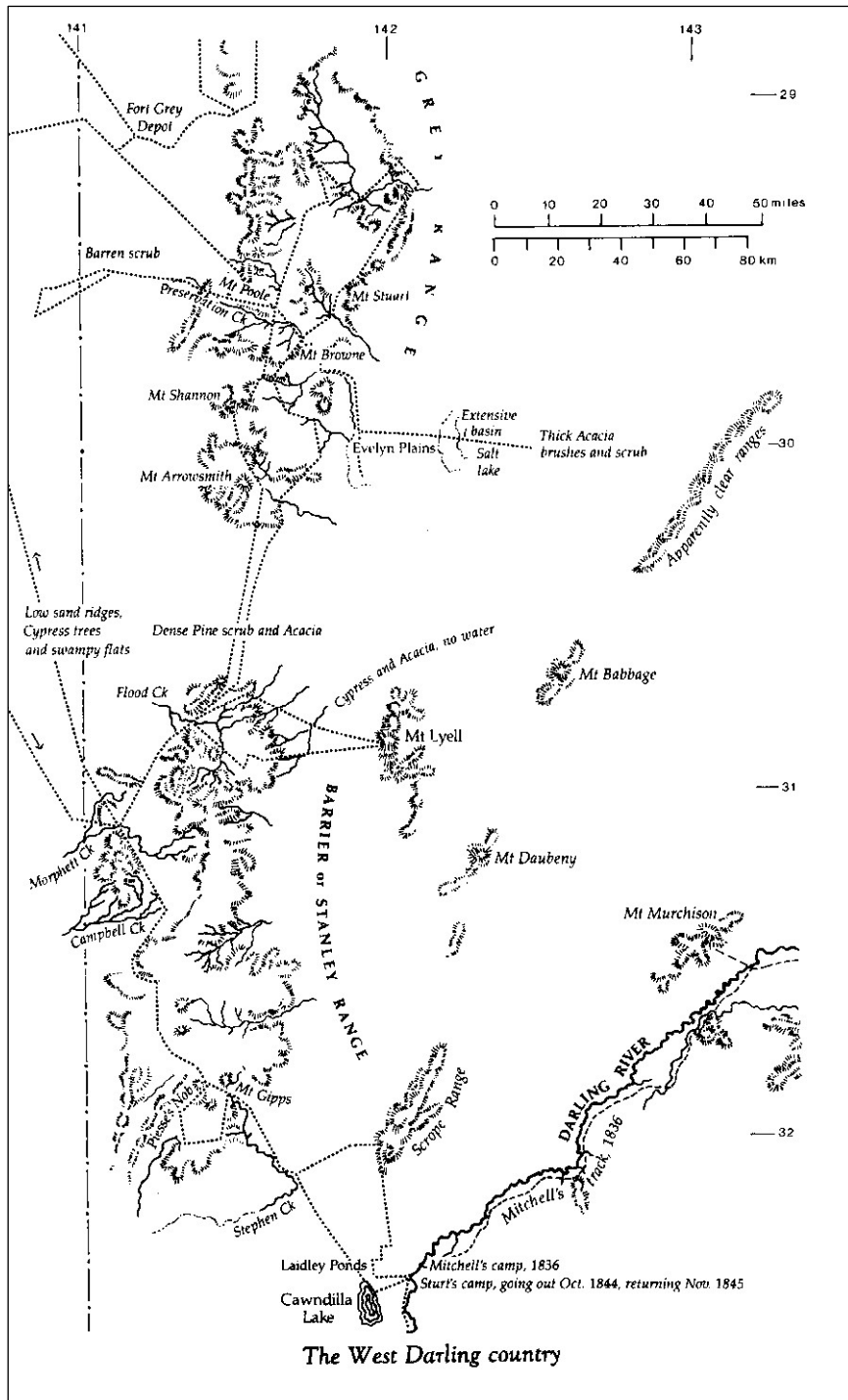


Figure 4.2 Exploration routes through the West Darling country: Mitchell (1836) and Sturt (1844), from Shaw (1987).

Burke and Wills

By contrast, there seems to be no recognised heritage places along the route of the Victoria Exploring Expedition, led by Robert O'Hara Burke and William Wills (Figures 4.3, 4.4). They camped at 16 localities in the UA, between Kokriega or Burke's Cave in the Scropes Ranges, and the Bulloo Overflow on the Queensland border (Table 4.1). The exception is the overhang at Mutawintji where William Wright, carved his initials (See Pastoralism, Mutawintji National Park).

This is surprising, because there are over 40 memorials to the expedition between Melbourne and the Gulf, several of them heritage listed, reflecting the enduring fame of the Burke and Wills Expedition (Table 4.2). None of these are along the route of the expedition through the Unincorporated Area, between the Menindee Lakes and the Queensland border. Kokriega (Burke's Cave) is listed on the RNE as an Indigenous heritage place. In spite of the numerous books and films, and recent conferences held by the Burke and Wills Society, there appears to have been little research on this section of the expedition route.

Table 4.1 Burke and Wills' Camps in Unincorporated Area
Sources: Becker list from Tipping (1984); Beckler (1993)

| Camp No. | Ludwig Becker | Joseph Beckler |
|----------|--|--|
| 37 | Cookerega (Gogina) | Gogira or Scrope's Range |
| 38 | Within 3 miles of Bilpa | Pilpa, a small, natural rock basin - |
| 39 | Boturka (Badunga) | Bodurga, a shallow depression in the terrain where the ground consisted of very hard grey clay |
| 40 | Mootwingee Range 1 | Mutanie |
| 41 | Mootwingee Range 2, 8 miles beyond camp 40 | |
| 42 | Nuntherange Creek | Nanthurungee, water 50ft wide. |
| 43 | Yeltawingee Creek | |
| 44 | Wannaminta Creek | Wonamente creek |
| 45 | Paldromatta Creek | Nangaverra, small creek, extensive plains; an extensive lakebed approx 24 miles from Duroadoo |
| 46 | Torowoto | Duroadoo (Torowoto) |
| 47 | Mud Plains 1 (crossed Sturt's track) | |
| 48 | Rat Point (camp on border of mud plains) | |
| 50 | Karriapundi Plains | |
| 51 | Mud Plains 3 (across Qld border) | |
| 52 | Poria Creek | |
| 53 | Bulloo | |

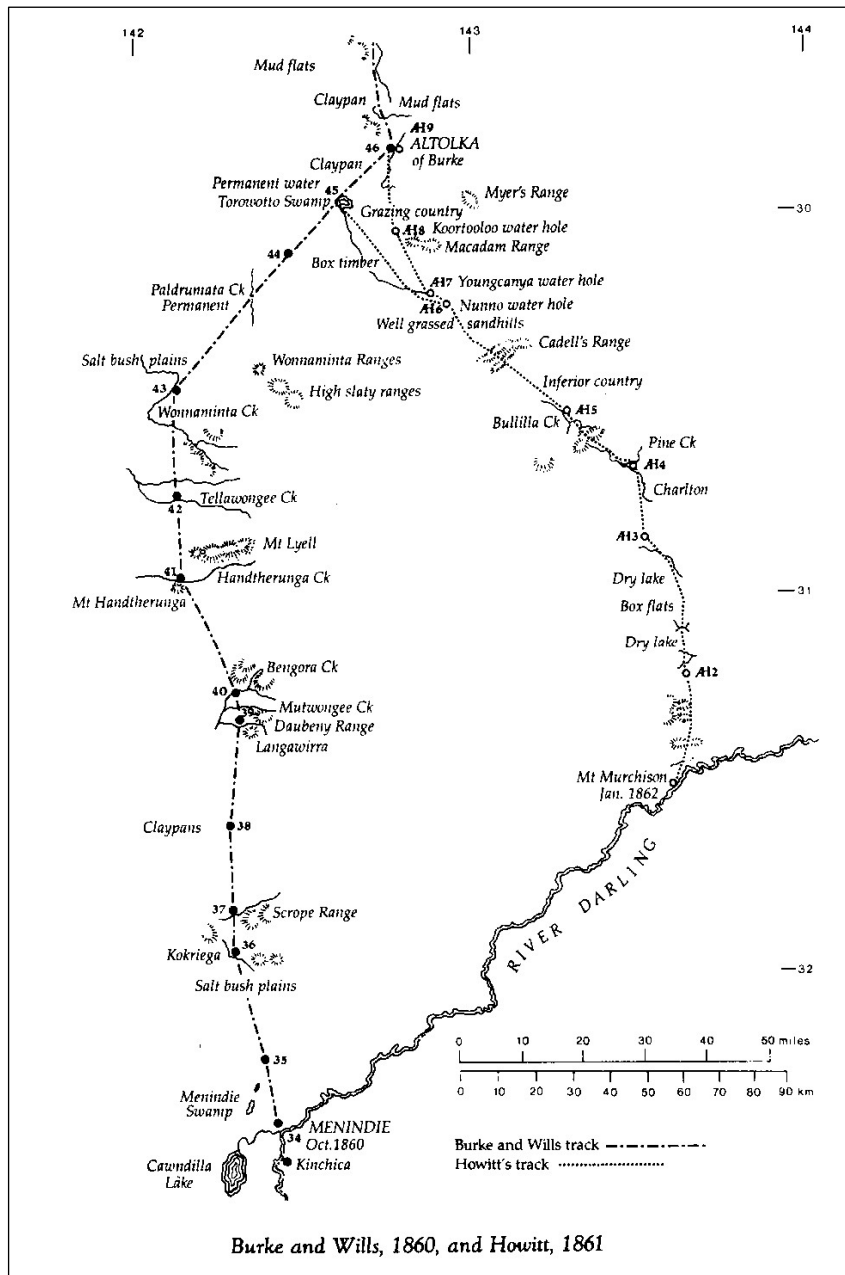


Figure 4.3 Burke and Will's route (1860) through the west Darling country, from Shaw (1987).

Figure 4.4 Burke and Will's camp on Teltawongee Creek (=Tellowongee, Yeltawingee?), between Mutawintji and Wonnaminta, from Beadle (1948) – the only map seen with a Burke and Wills campsite marked.

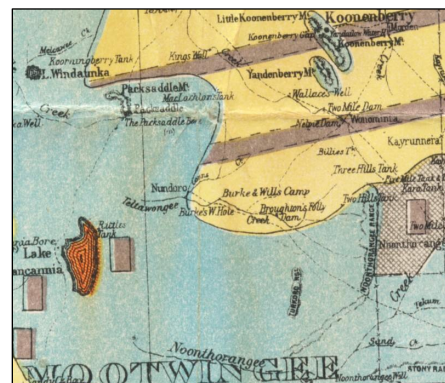


Table 4.2 Burke and Wills Heritage Listed Places
Source: Australian Heritage Places Inventory, 2005

| Monument or Place | LGA | Listing |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Burke and Wills Memorial Obelisk Wills Street Castlemaine, VIC | Mount Alexander Shire | Victorian Heritage Register |
| Burke and Wills Clump Murray Valley Hwy, Lake Boga, VIC | Swan Hill Rural City | Register of the National Estate |
| Burke and Wills Dig Tree Nappa Merrie Station, Thargomindah, QLD | Bulloo Shire Council | Queensland Heritage Register |
| Burke and Wills Memorial Obelisk Wills St, Castlemaine, VIC | Mount Alexander Shire | Register of the National Estate |
| Burke and Wills Monument Carpenter St, Bendigo, VIC | Greater Bendigo City | Register of the National Estate |
| Burke and Wills National Heritage Place Strzelecki Trk, Innamincka, SA | Bulloo Shire | Register of the National Estate |
| Burke's Memorial Innamincka, SA | Unincorporated (SA) | Register of the National Estate |
| Dig Tree Reserve Nappamerry Station via Thargomindah, QLD | Bulloo Shire | Register of the National Estate |
| Dr Ludwig Becker's Grave Bulloo River, Thargomindah, QLD | Bulloo Shire Council | Queensland Heritage Register |
| Gray's Tree Gidgeala - Kudriemitchie Rd, Kudriemitchie Outstation via Innamincka, SA | Unincorporated (SA) | Register of the National Estate |
| Innamincka Historic Reserve Strzelecki Track, Innamincka, SA | Unincorporated (SA) | Register of the National Estate |
| McKinlay Memorial Murray St, Gawler, SA | Gawler Town | Register of the National Estate |
| Wills Monument and Blazed Tree Innamincka, SA | Unincorporated (SA) | Register of the National Estate |

Heritage Assessment:

This brief account of the exploration trips through the UA by Sturt and Burke and Wills does not do them justice. There is a lot of information available (most of the extensive Burke and Wills records are now available on the internet) but it would require a focused study including field work to identify places on the ground. The routes of Howitt in 1861 (looking for Burke and Wills), and Giles, Dowling and Gowmerit investigation as well.

DEPOT GLEN, POOLES GRAVE, MOUNT POOLE CAIRN

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Indicative Place

Place ID: 613

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

Location: Milparinka

Statement of Significance:

Historically significant as the location in which Capt. Charles Sturt's party was forced to camp for 6 months in 1845 due to drought. The sites are strongly symbolic not only of the Sturt expedition, but of exploration of arid Australia generally. Depot Glen contains permanent water, crucial to exploration in this area; Poole's grave and marked tree is one of the few authenticated Explorer's grave sites; the cairn on Mt. Poole is indicative of the problem of maintaining party morale in such conditions; and the subsequent pastoral settlement of the land opened up by Sturt is exemplified by the Mt. Poole station remains. The combination of these elements makes the site richer in significant physical remains than most other 19th century Explorer's campsites in Australia.

Description:

The site has three main components:

Depot Glen, a natural water hole; a tree marked "J.P. 1845" and a later memorial marking the grave of James Poole, several graves related to the pastoral settlement of the area; and a large stone cairn built by Sturt's men on the top of Mt. Poole, 5km to the NW of Depot Glen.

FORT GREY DEPOT

List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Indicative Place

Place ID: 617

Nominator's Statement of Significance:

Location: Tibooburra

Statement of Significance:

Major depot and stockade site during Captain Charles Sturt's 1845 exploration of Central Australia. The only identified remains of Fort Grey is the blazed tree on the edge of Pinaroo Lake, which is one of the earliest relics of European exploration of central Australia.

Description: Fort Grey is currently a ranger's outstation in Sturt National Park in the general vicinity of Sturt's 1845 depot. No physical evidence of Sturt's camp is known to have survived, except a blazed tree on the edge of Pinaroo Lake to the east, which is now dead and in very bad condition.