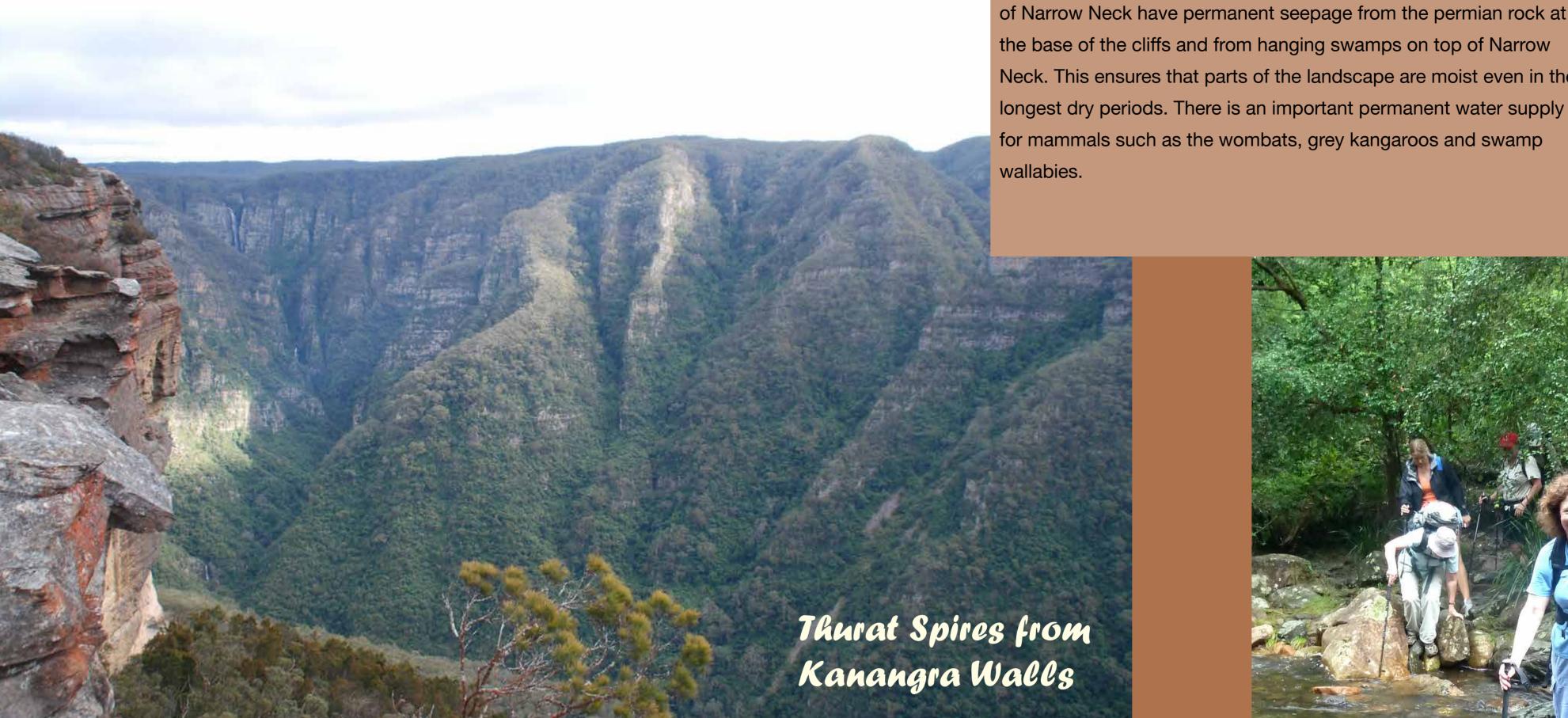
Dunphys camp Blue Mountains National Park gateway to Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness

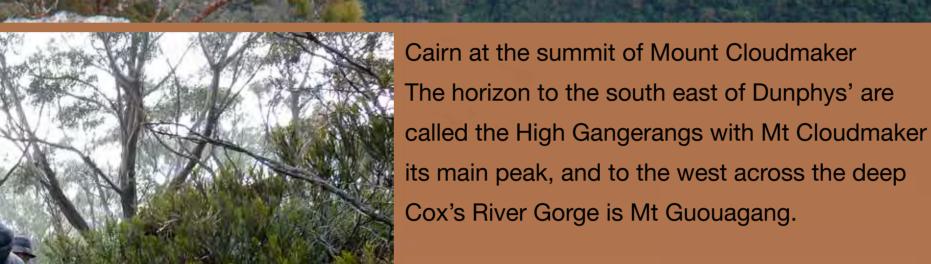
Blue Mountains National Park



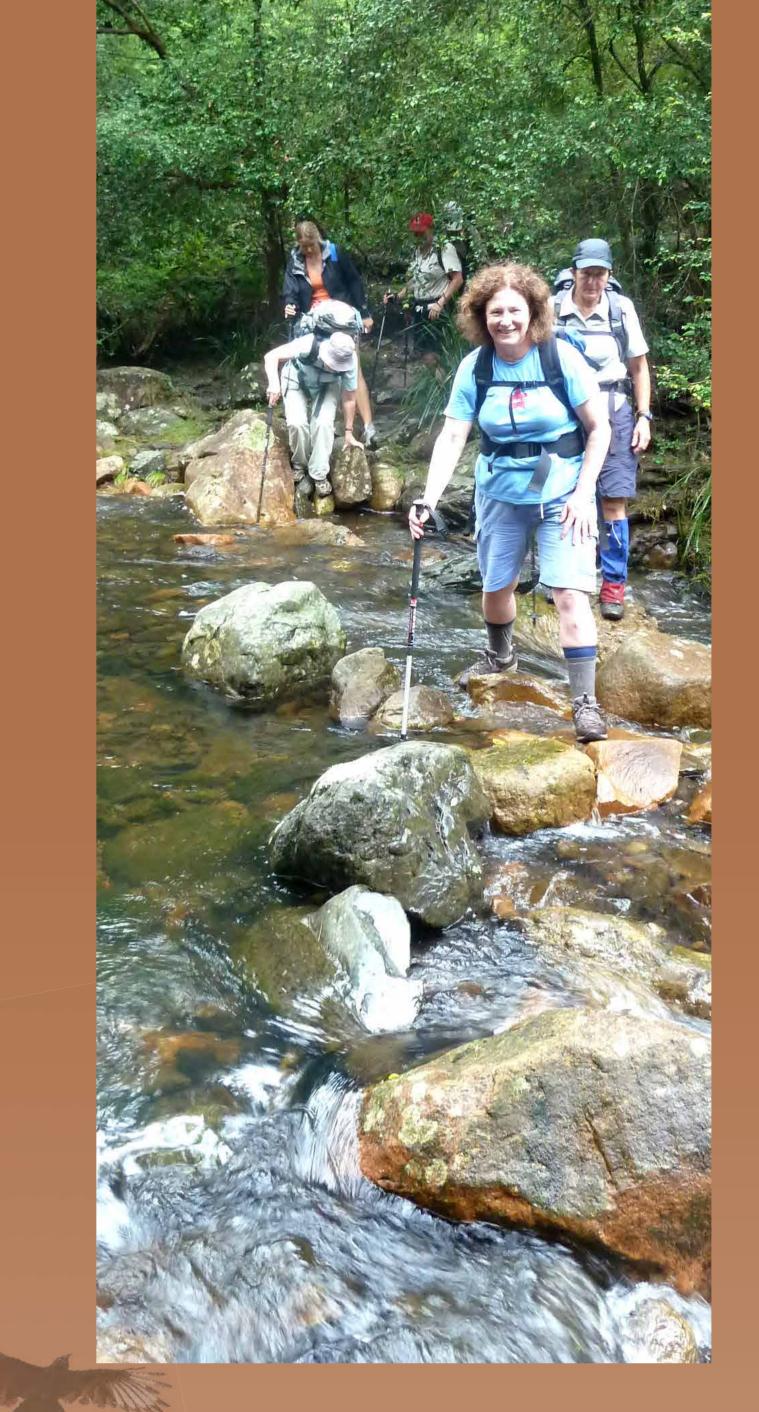
The Boyd Platean-Kanangra Walls

Photo taken from the approach to Mount Cloudmaker, via Rip, Rack, Roar and Rumble. These names were given by Myles Dunphy, for a series of long steep ridgelines that reach up from the Coxs River to Mt Guouagang. These are covered by open forests of stringy bark, Angophoras, grey and redgum on the lower slopes. On the upper slopes grow Blaxlands stringybark and monkey gums. On the mountain tops low forest of Black Ash and Blue Mountains Mallee. Intermingled with the closed heath is shrubland of dwarf she-oak and banksias. High altitude means it is cold and damp on the Boyd Plateau. The granite derived soils support grassy and ferny alpine forests. The canopy changes to snow gum, brown barrel, mountain gum and ribbon gum on the granite soils.





Both Mount Cloudmaker and Guouagang are omposed of metamorphic rocks which clearly show clear steep bedding planes in contrast with the the horizontal sedimentary rocks of the Wild Dog Mountains. It can be tough climbing to the top, but views over the 900 metre deep valleys



The walk to Medlow Gap via the Medlow Firetrail goes across the

upper spurs of the Breakfast Creek catchment. The southern cliff



eastern water dragon.

Steep spurs fall below the cliffs of the Wild Dogs to the valleys below, where the creeks flow into the Coxs River. The steep gravelly slopes are sparsely covered by woodlands which become taller and grassier on the lower gentle slopes just above the creek banks.

In Carlons Gully to the Cox's River via the Breakfast Creek track, is a very moist gully with remnant rainforest along the creek and shrubby forest on the lower slopes. The creek banks are lined with river she-oak, Casuarina cunninghamiana with patches of Backhousia myrtifolia, sassafras and coachwood rainforest. The gum tree open forests have grey gum, forest red gum and Angophora floribunda as well as Deanes blue gum. These forests are excellent habitat for nocturnal creatures like greater and sugar gliders and glossy black cockatoos that feed on the she oaks. Numerous ponds support small fish and frogs which are food for the red-bellied black snake and the

Gundungurra Aboriginal Country

Gundungurra

The southern valleys and plateaus of Blue Mountains National Park are the traditional lands of Gundungurra Aboriginal people. Gundungurra clans lived mostly in the Coxs and Wollondilly River catchments, parts of the Nepean River Catchment to the east and **Great Dividing Range to the west.**

In Gundungurra mythology, the world and the heavens were created during the Gunyunggalung or 'Far Past Times'. In the Gunyunggalung, all animals were people with superior strength and magical powers called Burringilling.

Burringilling

Ancestral people formed and shaped the world into its present hape and laid down the Law for all people to follow. Every part of he world could account for its present form by an event from the Gunyunggalung, from the creation of major rivers and landforms to the grass growing between rocks to the forms and shapes of animals and plants. All of the events of the Gunyunggalung could be accessed and 'awakened' directly through song, story, ceremony

Gurangatch and Mirrigan

is a creation story which travels for 170 kilometres through the southern Blue Mountains and tells of the creation of Coxs and Wollondilly rivers. Gurangatch, described as a 'gigantic eel' and 'partly fish...partly reptile', is chased through the southern Blue Mountains by Mirrigan, the 'tiger cat' or quoll. Gurangatch plough through the landscape from 'Murraural' waterhole at the junction of 👚 at Medlow Gap. When required, Gundungurra people could follow the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly rivers, making the water flow after 🌇 Gurangatch on this shortcut route between Kedumba and Megalong

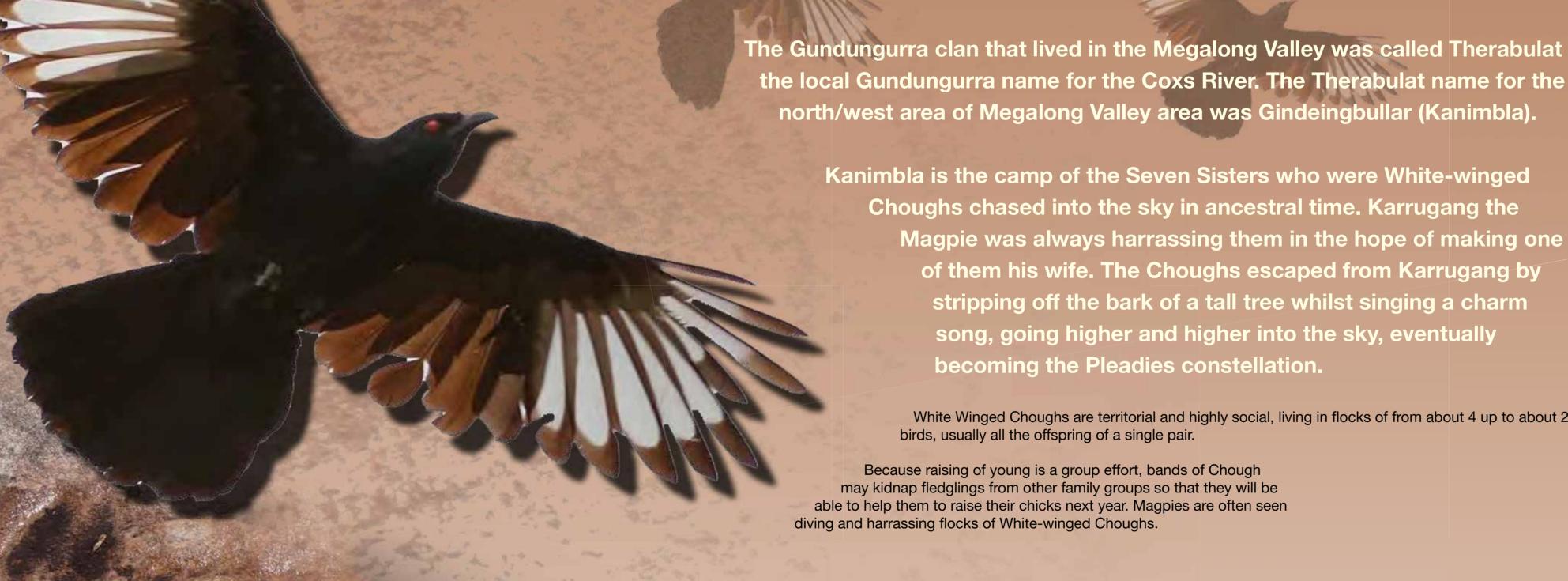
Pursued by Mirrigan, Gurangatch creates the river channels and major tributary channels of the Wollondilly/Cox River systems as well 🥟 northwards to connect with Ironpot Ridge via the Dunphys Camp. some areas adjacent to these catchments. During the epic chase, Gurangatch forms a number of deep waterholes in which to hide Gurangatch's final waterhole occurs on the other side of the Great Dividing Range in the Upper Fish River at Joolundoo Waterhole. Several of Gurangatch's waterholes lie beneath the stored waters of Sydney's drinking water, Lake Burragorang, although there are many that occur outside the catchment area which can still be visited

Dunphys Camp

Located along a traditional Gundungurra Pathway Dunphys Camp lies between the Megalong and Kedumba Valleys via Medlow Gap The 'Journey of Gurangatch and Mirrigan' highlights a traditional pathway from Karrangatta Waterhole on the Coxs River near the bas of Black Dog Ridge to a 'waterhole' near Mount Mee-oo-wun (Mouin Valleys and avoid the longer Coxs River loop around the Wild Dog Mountains. Once through Medlow Gap, many traditional pathways extend into the Breakfast Creek area, or people could traverse

A traditional pathway extends from Dunphys Camp over Ironpot and Tinpot Mountain where axe grinding grooves, rock art and stone tools can still be located. Over 150 stone tools have been recorded near Dunphys Camp made from materials such as quartz, basalt and chert, likely imported from the Coxs River and other nearby deeply incised

When traditional lives were disrupted, Aboriginal families followed their pathways from Burragorang and Kedumba valleys into Megalo Valley, settling near mining camps, selecting land or living with valley settlers. Some areas they settled were made Aboriginal Reserves by the Aborigines Protection Board. Amongst Aboriginal people buried at the Megalong Valley Cemetery is Gundungurra Elder Billy Lynch (1839-1913) who was given a traditional burial there. It was through the Megalong Valley that many Aboriginal families eventually made their way to the west Katoomba Aboriginal camp that became knowr as the Gully. In 1896 Gundungurra people held the last recorded bbun (corroborree) at the Glen Shale Mining Village hall.



north/west area of Megalong Valley area was Gindeingbullar (Kanimbla). Kanimbla is the camp of the Seven Sisters who were White-winged Choughs chased into the sky in ancestral time. Karrugang the Magpie was always harrassing them in the hope of making on of them his wife. The Choughs escaped from Karrugang by stripping off the bark of a tall tree whilst singing a charm song, going higher and higher into the sky, eventually becoming the Pleadies constellation.

White Winged Choughs are territorial and highly social, living in flocks of from about 4 up to about 20 birds, usually all the offspring of a single pair. able to help them to raise their chicks next year. Magpies are often seen

REPORT ALL FIRES

The name Megalong was originally recorded as 'Meglow'. and there are two

recorded meanings: 'Valley under the Rock', and 'hand' possibly referring to the



Breakfast Creek from

Black Horse Range

For more information about your national park, visit the Blue Mountains Heritage Centre and National Parks Shop, end of Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath 2780. Open every day except Christmas Day, 9.00am to 4.30pm T (02) 4787 8877. Or find us on the web at nswnationalparks.nsw.gov.au

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White Wing Choughs images, courtesy David Jenkins: https://www.flickr.com/photos/birdsaspoetry/

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Six Aboriginal language

groups treasure their ancestra Connection to Country across the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, that reach back into ancient time. We respectfully acknowledge the Elders and Ancestors of Gundungurra, Darug, Dharawal, Wanaruah, Darkinjung and Wiradjuri Aboriginal people.



WORLDHERITAGE

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area covers one million hectares of Australia's finest wilderness areas and parks, combining eight adjoining parks and conservation reserves - Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve and Yengo, Wollemi, Gardens of Stone, Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai and Thirlmere Lakes national parks.