

“MYSTERIOUS AUSTRALIA”

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INSIDE:

MORE DINOSAUR FINDS AT LITHGOW.

A FRAGMENT OF THE LITHGOW URU.

MYSTERY TOOLMAKER OF PLEISTOCENE LEURA.

THE LITHGOW GIANT.

MORE DINOSAUR FINDS AT LITHGOW.

By Rex Gilroy

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In the December issue of “Mysterious Australia” I reported the discovery of a three-toed [Theropod] dinosaur foot impression in a large sandstone slab, found by me when I chanced to look at the slab on the side of a mountainside track outside Lithgow, while exploring with new field assistants Phil Whittaker and Graham Merrick.

This find was made on Friday 27th November 2015. Since then the boys have been active over the Christmas-New Year period, during which they have located what appears to be a “*Cretaceous graveyard*”, comprised so far of fossil skulls and a three-toed Theropod dinosaur. A number of skull specimens were distorted through burial, possibly in a swampland, where the bones were softened by moisture, followed by the crushing pressure of overhead deposits of mud and gravels. Some specimens were not so badly affected however, and it is these that are reviewed in this article.

The Cretaceous Period [66-144 million years ago] was a time of vast swamplands and forests throughout what is today the Blue Mountains – Lithgow region, and these latest finds are beginning to reveal a fossil record of reptilian species hitherto unknown to the area.

One fossil is that of a 21cm long by the same in width three-toed Theropod dinosaur foot impression, found by the boys on Sunday 27th December 2015. Found also was the skull of a small, long-mouthed reptile, whose open jaws revealed three teeth. A right profile specimen, it measures 18.5cm length by 9.5cm tall at the rear of the head and 5.5cm tall at the snout, the mouth being 7.5cm in length. This species awaits identification.

On Friday 1st January 2016 the fossil site revealed a massive basaltic mineralised dinosaur skull, crushed flat on its left side. An undoubted Theropod, it had to have been a good 5-6 metres in length from nose to tail tip. Discovered by Graham Merrick [at 12.22pm!], the fossil measures 41cm length by 31cm tall, the open jaws being 13cm in depth each. This right profile specimen reveals three teeth, two of which are towards the front of the jaws. The flattened specimen is 16cm in width and there are two eye sockets 8cm tall by 7cm width separated 2.5cm apart. Allowing for the unfortunate distortion of this skull it can be seen to differ in skull shape to that of the *Bullaburrasaurus gilroyi*, discovered by me at a Bullaburra location on Friday 15th August 2014.

However, both species were probably contemporaneous and shaped the landscape with a variety of smaller Theropod species, as indicated by the mass of small feet impressions of species such as Coelurosaurids – and an Australian form of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, feet impressions of which have been found on the Blue Mountains and at a northern Sydney district location [Gilroy & Foster]. As to the Lithgow skull, I believe the tentative name of *Lithgowsaurus merrickii* is appropriate.

Another major discovery from the Lithgow Cretaceous fossil site is the long, flattish basalt-mineralised skull of a crocodile-like species. Discovered by Phil Whittaker on Wednesday 30th December 2015, it measures 54.5cm in length by 33.5cm width across the head, 27.5cm width across the mid-jaws and 18.5cm width near the snout. The jaws are 12cm deep, the head being 14cm in depth. The right eye socket, although only partly intact, would have been the same measurement of the complete left socket, which is 9cm in depth by 8cm width, and they are separated 18cm apart. The open jaws display a number of indistinct teeth.

The skull is reminiscent of a *Paracyclotus davidi* 1958, which lived in lower Triassic times [Triassic Period 208-245 million years ago], and which may have survived into the Cretaceous Period, as the Lithgow fossil [if it is of this species] suggests. One of Australia's most spectacular

amphibians, it is known from a complete skeleton to have reached 2.5m length, its large skull armed with many small but sharp teeth. I tentatively name the fossil **Paracyclotosaurus Whittakerii**.

Who can say what future discoveries await at the Lithgow site. Where this is we are not saying, to avoid the unwanted attentions of vandals and fossil thieves etc. The Lithgow site is further evidence to discredit the remark of a well-known Sydney-based scientist, who once attempted to dismiss this author's dinosaur discoveries on the Blue Mountains when, during a radio attack on my work, he declared there was no evidence of dinosaurs on the Blue Mountains! The Gilroys and their Lithgow colleagues declare otherwise!

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*The Theropod dinosaur fossil foot impression, found by Phil & Graham.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*The skull of the small, as yet unidentified reptile, discovered by Phil & Graham.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



Graham Merrick's BIG find! The mineralised flattened skull of a reptilian giant that once roamed the Lithgow landscape upon its hind legs, a meat-eating carnosaur that would have preyed on whatever crossed its path!
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



Close view of the skull. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



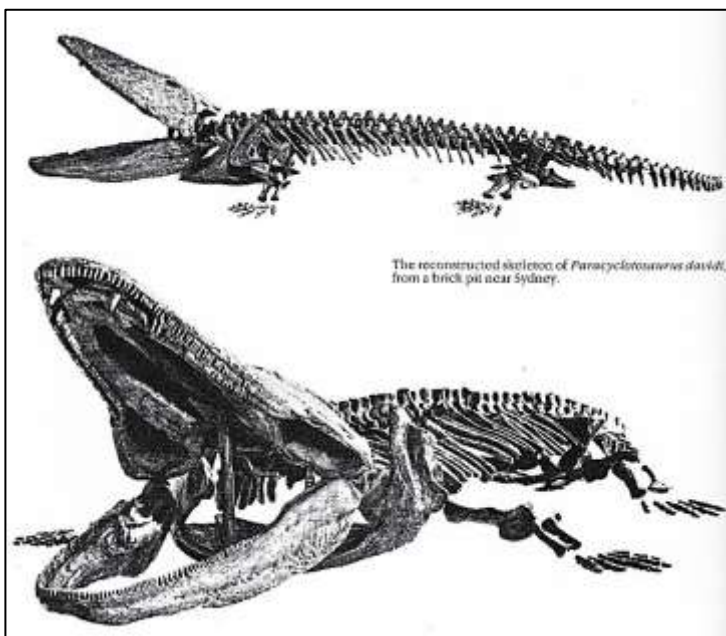
Phil Whittaker's equally important discovery, which shows that amphibious dinosaur species leading to the crocodilian reptiles were once present hereabouts.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



A close view of the skull. Note the teeth.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



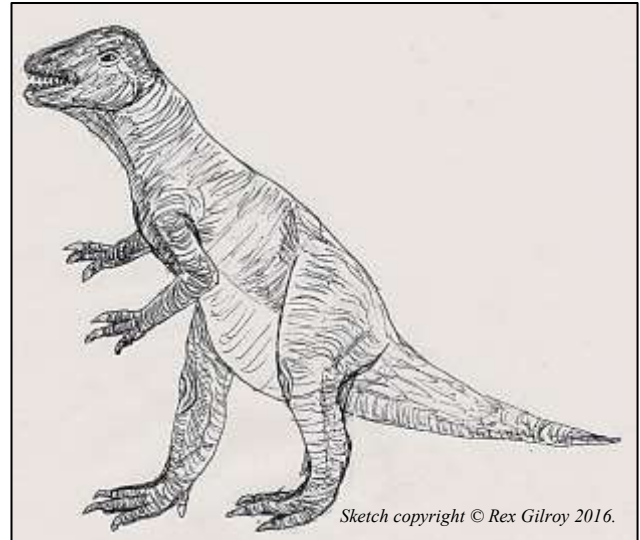
A downview of the skull. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



Photos of a Paracyclotaurus davidi from a Sydney brick pit. [Dinosaurs of Australia and Other Animals of the Mesozoic Era, by John Long, Reed Books Pty Ltd Sydney 1957].



The Bullaburra , NSW dinosaur skull, found embedded in a large, heavy 24cm deep slab of sandstone, is 40cm long from front of upper jaw to rear of skull with a depth of 31cm. The length of the upper jaw is 27cm, the lower jaw has lost some of its frontal area, being 14.5cm long. Its right eye socket is 11cm by 5.5cm and is situated towards the rear of the skull. The open jaws measure 15cm wide at the front.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



The Bullaburrasaurus may have looked like this sketch by Rex Gilroy, a reptile of 5m length from head to tail.
Sketch copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.

A FRAGMENT OF THE LITHGOW URU.

By Rex Gilroy
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In the December 2015 issue of “Mysterious Australia newsletter, we reported on the amazing Lithgow Uru temple finds of Friday 27th November 2015. In that single day two new temple sites were uncovered by myself, Phil Whittaker and Graham Merrick [Heather, not well, stayed with the car]. Plans are under way to resume our researches at these sites.

Following the Gilroys’ visit, Phil & Graham discovered a slab of ironstone at a creek site which bore on one side, the fragment of an apparent Sun ‘head’ with the hint of a neck on the right side of the visible Sun-disc, the disc having been carved in relief, and with the fading remains of five sun rays projecting outwards from the top right of the image fragment.

The fragment measures 17.8cm tall by 16cm in width and is 3.8cm in depth. However, given a loan of this incomplete relic for a few days research on it, I soon discovered, faded although still negligible on the back of the stone, an Ur inscription, which the translation revealed, stated: “*For Nim our God we gather in a body within our City of I-ka-I-a, City of the Gods, to observe him at his temple built on high.*” Does this inscription refer to the temple found by us on the mountainside? Also, the name for the Uruan city, I-ka-I-a is an important find for me, because I had not seen the name of this Stone-Age Uruan city on any rock inscriptions since it was first discovered by myself and Greg Foster, on Friday 25th May 2001 at another Lithgow temple location.

Hopefully a search now under way by Phil & Graham may yet recover more of this stone fragment. Lithgow, it seems, hides a great deal of evidence of Australia’s ‘lost’ history!

The name means “*Soul of the Sun, the Sun on high*”.

Phil and Graham have uncovered other Uruan stone images which add further to the growing evidence of their area having been a major centre of Uru culture in the dim past.

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*The stone fragment of a Nim Sun-God image.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*The chalk-outlined image.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*Rear view of the fragment bearing the chalk-outlined, faded inscription.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*

MYSTERY TOOLMAKER OF PLEISTOCENE LEURA.

By Rex Gilroy
Copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.

On the first day of any year I always carry out a search, hoping to find the “first discovery of the year”. Sometimes Heather and I have made long drives to places such as Sunny Corner, the Mudgee district and Newnes. This Friday 1st January 2016, we drove our dog Andy to a long, North Leura fire trail, where I walked him down a steep hill into a gully, along which the road turned to follow.

The dirt road is above a creek here, and at one point there is a distant view through a gap in the hills of the Grose Valley. It was here, across from two large rock overhangs above the creek, that, chancing to look at the low bank at the base of a steep, scrubby hillside, I spotted a hollow formed by a stone having been dislodged by recent heavy rain. Just below the hollow lay the stone, oddly-shaped enough for me to be curious enough to pick up.

Close examination proved it to be a very crudely flaked eolith, or ‘dawn tool’, and my knowledge of stratigraphy told me that I had found an implement of immense age.

The bank was 52cm in height from the surface to the road’s edge. 27cm below the surface was the hollow, being part of a strata of gravel that followed it to its base at the road’s edge. The 27cm depth of strata followed the slope of the hillside up into another overhanging ridge of old Pleistocene dirt and gravels.

I was able to estimate an age of around 2 million years BP [Before Present] for this eolith, a hard slate-type stone, whose single worn cutting edge displayed ancient signs of past use. Perhaps its maker had inhabited the rock shelters across the creek I theorised.

The tool was measured to be 8cm tall by 10.2cm width and 6.5cm in depth.

Time was running out that afternoon, and putting all my recording 'gear' into the backpack and the camera bag over one shoulder, with Andy on the leash I proceeded to climb back up that steep hillside. I had not gone far before spotting something not seen on the way down – a crude, undoubted Eolithic ironstone bone-smashing tool, which I stopped to record before placing it in my backpack. Recent rains had exposed it on the surface. It measured 9.5cm length by 8cm width and was 6cm in depth.

However, it was the prehistoric 'chopper' from the embankment that was my prime interest, for it came with stratified information!

The evidence is that primitive 'dawn' Homo genus hominins, if not very early Homo erectus then some other, pre-erectus form, had made these stone implements, examples of the earliest attempts at stone tool manufacture in Australia.

Heather and I have of course found even older examples of 'dawn tools' in Australia, and particularly at sites on the Blue Mountains, where fossil hominin feet impressions at numerous sites tell of beings that roamed these wilds, if not elsewhere across the continent anywhere between 2 to 3.5, perhaps even 4 million years BP, as our finds of mineralised skull-types over the years clearly demonstrate.

Leura already stands out for fossil remains of primitive hominin ancestors of ourselves as previous newsletters have shown, ie a section of lower lumbar vertebral column turned to ironstone, recovered months ago on the summit of the very same steep dirt service road that has just revealed the stratified eolith.

2016 promises to be another year of big finds, demonstrating that the 'first Australians' were primitive Homo ancestors of ourselves, and whose respective ages are showing that Australia experienced a separate and earlier hominin evolution to that of Africa!

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A section of the dirt fire trail near the gully where the 'dawn tool' was recovered from the bank strata. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



*The stratified bank with the 'dawn tool' against the base of the ruler where it was first seen.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*The 'dawn tool' displaying its crude cutting edge.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*

THE LITHGOW GIANT.

By Rex Gilroy

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Through the efforts of 'Team Gilroy' field assistants Phil Whittaker & Graham Merrick, in recent times some remarkable fossil discoveries have been made in the Lithgow district revealing life forms of our geological past as our "Mysterious Australia" newsletters have shown. Now remains of fossil hominins are being added to the list which is adding much knowledge to the study of fossil hominin evolution in Australia, and the history of pre-Aboriginal races between the Blue Mountains and the New South Wales central western districts in particular.

As this article goes to press 'the boys' have made two more unique fossil hominin skull finds which will be reported fully in our next newsletter.

Of all the evidence for early hominins in the Lithgow district recovered by Rex & Heather Gilroy over the years, our finds of fossil feet impressions have continued to increase. The most remarkable of these "tracks through time" are those of giant beings who roamed the area at the dawn of the Pleistocene Period and earlier. The most common of these are generally 65-68cm in length by as much as 50cm width across the toes and 27cm width across the mid-foot and heel, suggesting beings of 3.66m height, there are other monstrous feet impressions in rock suggestive of hominins of around 4m height. Mystery surrounds the 90cm length fossil right foot impression discovered on Wednesday December 9th 1998. The toe width of this 'titan tootsie' was 54cm, the heel being 40cm width with a depth in solid granite of 7cm. This huge impression was found in the depths of Kanangra Boyd National Park, the locale of many other fossil giant and smaller-size hominin feet impressions over the years. In the same forest depths that day I also found a 68cm length by 50cm toe width fossil footprint 27cm width across the heel by 14cm depth in solid granite.

On previous field expeditions of Heather and I, often with our leading Sydney-based field assistant Greg Foster, many remarkable discoveries of giant and smaller hominin-sized fossil feet impressions have been made at Kanangra, the Blue Mountains and Sydney district .

The question arises, “*Who were the makers of these footprints*”? It would appear, from a comparison of both types of tracks with others from South-east Asia, that we are dealing with our immediate ancestor, *Homo erectus*, in both his average [modern] human and giant height forms. There is evidence that both forms of *Homo erectus* shared Australia throughout the Pleistocene Period, which began around 2 million years ago.

Evidence of Giant *Homo erectus* of the early Pleistocene Period has been recovered in the Cowra district, central western New South Wales, where on Thursday 25th April 2013, our Cowra-based field assistant, Glenn Woods and I came across a huge limestone rock in a dried creek bed. Close examination revealed it to be the endocast of a huge hominin skull, recently exposed from old Pleistocene bank sediments.

The fossil measured 86cm in length by 63cm in width and was 40cm in depth. The lower jaw was missing, although the upper jaw displayed the internal impressions of large teeth. The endocast also displayed eye sockets separated 8cm apart measuring 22cm in width and 17cm in depth. We estimated that, had the rest of the skeleton been present, the owner of the skull would have stood about 5m tall [ie 16ft 5 inches].

The face was forward-projecting and the skull doliocephalic [ie long and narrow] in shape. This skull endocast, despite some distortion formed during the early stages of the mineralisation process, matches another giant specimen, discovered on the Horton River near Barraba, on the western fringe country of the New England Ranges, in north-eastern New South Wales. This huge endocast is 50cm in length from rear of braincase to mid-facial areas, by 36cm width across the face. The cranial summit is 35cm long. There is a 6cm width gap between the large eye sockets which are 12cm width by 8cm depth. At the time of this discovery Heather and I estimated that the owner of this skull would have stood 4m tall or over.

Both the Cowra and Barraba skull endocasts date at least 1 million years old and appear to be regional variation forms of giant *Homo erectus*. In the flesh, their fearsome countenances, projecting brow-ridges, apeish-looking noses, and large mouths housing big teeth, their bodies, large and powerful-looking, would surely have struck terror among the other smaller hominins that shared Australia back then! And let us not forget the females of the species, who while probably a little smaller, would have not been far behind the males in general appearance!

A third giant-size skull endocast from Lithgow NSW is now available to identify yet another regional variation of the same giant *Homo erectus* race. Recovered from the same location where Phil Whittaker and Graham Merrick have been working, this new giant skull fossil was found by our new “Team Gilroy” [Lithgow Division] field assistant, Adam Bayer, on Friday 8th January 2016.

The endocast displays noticeable distortions and some of the rock [basalt] is missing, particularly much of the rear of the braincase. Portions of stone are missing from both sides of the jaws area, although there remain internal impressions of at least five teeth, two of which belong to the lower jaw [which is otherwise missing]. On Sunday 10th January 2016 we drove to Lithgow to see the latest fossil finds of Phil & Graham. When we saw the giant endocast I immediately thought of the Cowra and Barraba specimens. Here was yet one more regional variation of the same giant *Homo erectus* race! The endocast measured 37cm long across the cranium and 35cm long from rear of available braincase area to the front at the teeth impressions, by 34cm deep, the length of the skull at its base being 41cm. The eye sockets are smaller than those of the Cowra and Barraba skulls, being 8.5cm wide and 6cm deep and 8cm apart. The teeth measure 6.5cm tall by 44 to 6.5cm wide, which is much the same as the Cowra skull.

I set about photographing this heavy fossil. Luckily, Adam Bayer turned up and I was able to take his photo with his BIG find.

Back home I reconstructed the skull from photos to show that, with the missing portions intact, the skull was a long, narrow [doliocephalic] specimen typical of *Homo erectus* skull-types, and not brachiocephalic [ie roundish] as with modern human examples.

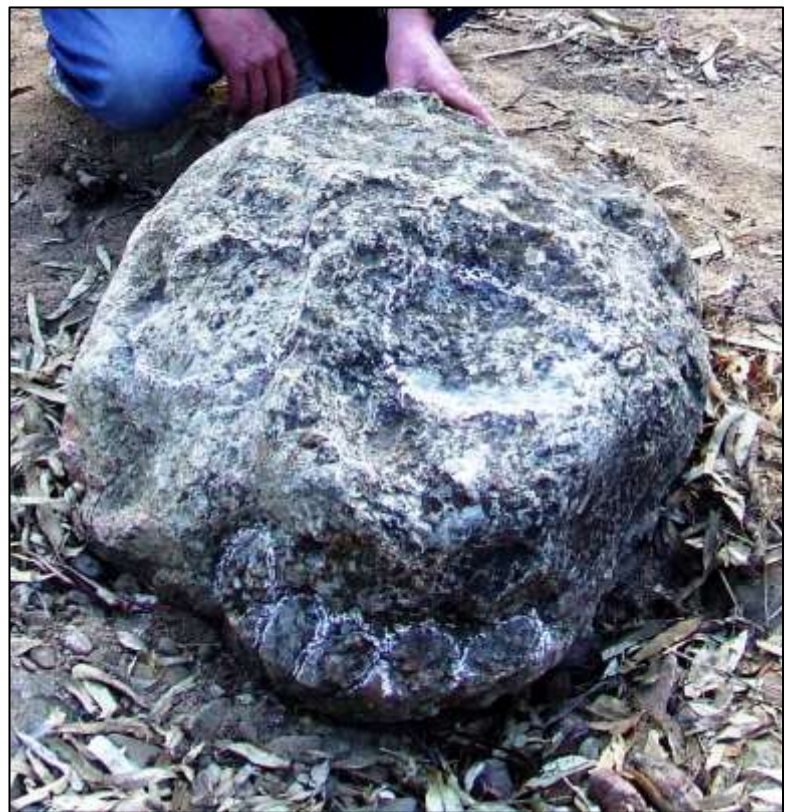
Adam Bayer's discovery, together with the Cowra and Barraba endocasts has helped to finally identify the *Homo erectus* giant form responsible for all the stone megatools, which have been found over a wide area of New South Wales alone, particularly those of the Bathurst district.

Giant beings of the past are an established scientific fact throughout the Old World. In October 2014 the Gilroys discovered giant fossil feet impressions in the United States that were identical to Australian examples. Far more fossil hominid feet impressions and those of giants in particular, are being found across Australia than any other country in the world. Truly, Australia can be called "The Land of the Giants"!

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Rex Gilroy's illustration of a giant hominin in relation to a smaller, modern human. Fossil feet impressions and huge stone megatools found across Australia, as well as giant-size fossil skull endocasts, prove the former existence of these monstrous forms. seen. Sketch copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



The giant Cowra, NSW skull, just after discovery with the eye sockets chalk-outlined. Teeth impressions were shortly afterward found on the upper jaw area. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



*Glenn Woods studying their 'big' discovery. Note chalk-outlined teeth.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



A close view of the teeth impressions. They measure 38cm wide. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



*Rex identified the skull endocast as being that of a giant race of Homo erectus, of which the Barraba [Horton Giant] NSW skull endocast [see page 212] is a representative of a regional variation.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



Glenn Woods watches as Rex measures the massive find. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



Heather Gilroy with the huge endocast. It measures 86cm long by 40cm deep and is 63cm wide. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



Glenn studying the footprint. The giant who made it lived around 1 million years ago. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



On a mountainside overlooking the skull endocast site, Rex and Glenn uncovered a giant hominin fossil foot impression. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.

The Gilroy left foot beside this giant-size right foot impression, chalk-outlined for better photographic purposes. The fossil foot measured 61cm long by 27cm wide across the toes, 29cm wide across the upper foot, 21.5cm wide at mid-foot and 20cm wide across the heel, being 1cm deep. The fossil impression is about 1 million years old. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.





*Rex Gilroy pleased with his 'big' find at the Horton River, NSW.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*A close-up of the 'Horton Giant'.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*The giant endocast [left] with hammer stone 'megatool' to left of picture. Note ruler to its left.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



A 16.5kg jasper club [top] with the 20kg basalt 'chopper' [left] [from Nundle, NSW] and 16.5kg basalt hand-axe. Only beings of immense stature and strength would have been able to have made and used such implements. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



Size comparisons: the 16.5kg jasper club and hand-axe from the Bathurst, New South Wales megatool site, compared with an Aboriginal stone hand-axe and club beneath. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.



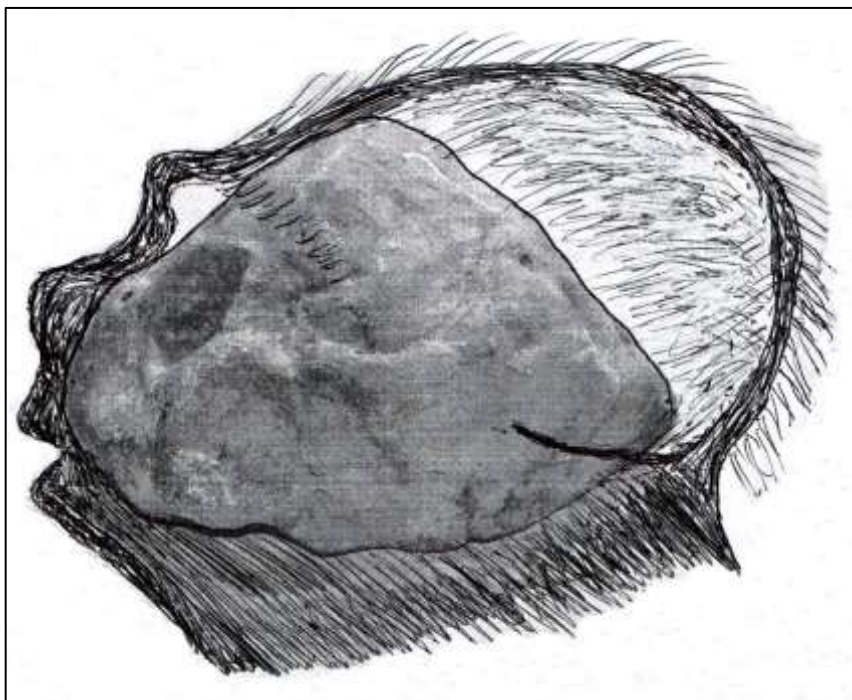
*Adam Bayer with his giant Homo erectus skull endocast find.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



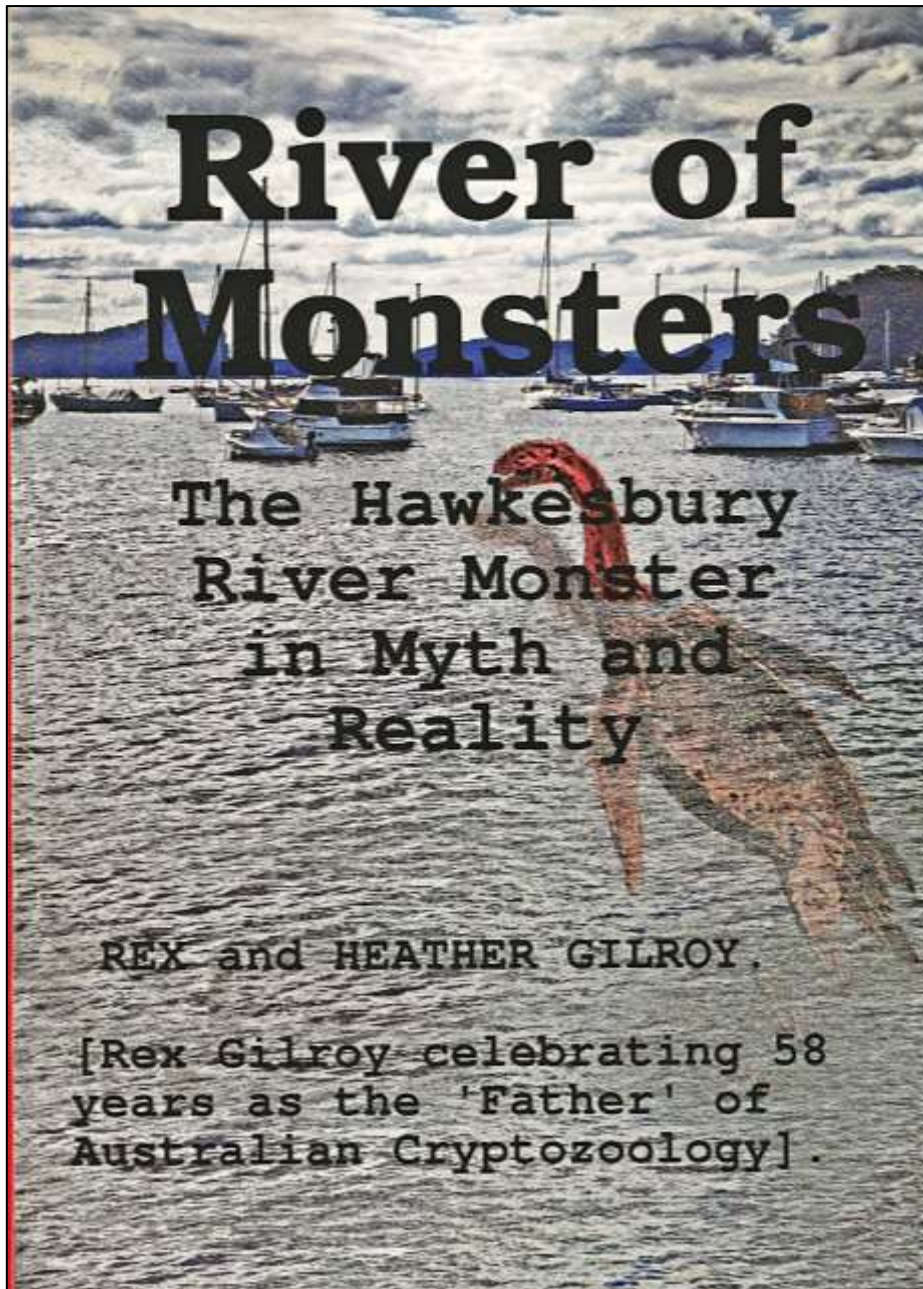
*The endocast, frontal view. Note the distortions in width towards the skull base.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*Right profile of the fossil.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



*Rex Gilroy's reconstruction of the skull
endocast, left profile.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2016.*



Our latest book "River of Monsters - the Hawkesbury River Monster in Myth and Reality". [Celebrating Rex Gilroys 58 years as the 'Father' of Australian Cryptozoology!]
-The cost is \$AUD36 plus p&h.
On order through us or from Lulu.com.

PLEASE NOTE!

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY
20TH FEBRUARY, 2016.**

Same time, same place – 12 Kamillaroi Road, Katoomba.

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[or catch our website on rexgilroy.com or mysteriousaustralia.com]

or on our Facebook page- - 'Rex and Heather Gilroys' Blue Mountains UFO Research Club'
or 'Rex and Heather Gilroys Mysterious Australia'

So until our next meeting – Watch the Skies!

Rex & Heather