

“Mysterious Australia”

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INSIDE:

**~CELTS, EGYPTIANS AND PHOENICIANS VOYAGED
SYDNEY RIVERS!**

~IN SEARCH OF MOUNTAIN TIGERS.

WE HOPE THIS NEWSLETTER FINDS ALL OUR MEMBERS IN GOOD HEALTH DESPITE THE WEATHER, and the dreaded virus, which has seen so many favourite locations closed off by the authorities. Firstly, we would like to thank the members for the donation of 15 brand new plastic garden chairs for when we are able to hold our meetings in the fresh mountain air in the backyard.

In spite of the on-going virus epidemic Heather and Rex Gilroy have not let it interfere with our researches, nor our plans for the new year, which include new book publications. Besides UFO Skywatching at sites on the Blue Mountains and Lithgow district, our Club meetings will be 'jazzed up'. The Gilroys plan regular news items on Facebook, and new UFO books will soon be under way.

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CELTS, EGYPTIANS AND PHOENICIANS VOYAGED

SYDNEY RIVERS!

Dr [hc] Rex Gilroy PhD

Professor [hc] of History

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Evidence is abundant showing that around 3,000 and more years ago Bronze-Age Mineral-seeking colonists from Europe and the Land of the Nile, having already found Australia, were venturing inland on the coastal river systems to establish colonies in rich soil farmland. Having colonized areas bordering the Hawkesbury and Georges Rivers, from settlements on the Nepean River they ventured onto the nearby Blue Mountains, leaving behind them valuable relics of their presence here.

Today tourists and others are loving the Old Kingdom Egyptian hieroglyphs to death, yet there is far, far more evidence lying 'out there in the bush', including the ancient ruins and rock inscriptions, which tell an epic story of voyages by Middle and Near-Eastern, as well as ancient European cultures, which saw the sails of many ancient maritime peoples land upon our shores. The many years of field work by Rex and Heather Gilroy and our field assistants has seen our evidence grow to the point that we possess perhaps several thousand stone slabs inscribed in ancient tongues and images of gods and goddesses of many ancient lands.

As this article is being prepared I am planning a new series of searches along the Sydney rivers, and nearby Blue Mountains. Meanwhile the Gilroys still have about 1,000 small votive offering inscribed stones from a huge former Celtic city once accessed from the coast by an ancient river system. While Queensland is rich in ancient maritime civilization evidence, the Sydney district and Blue Mountains shows [like Queensland] that thousands of settlers, once occupied this land. Colonies became so powerful that ruling classes were established, with military back-up. The interested reader can learn much more in our books. [see our websites].

Lately a mass of evidence of Bronze-Age [200 to 1400 BCE] Celtic colonisation and farming was carried out along the Georges River. Celtic ships that ventured down the Hawkesbury River left their marks, but they also settled the Penrith district, from where they ventured across the nearby Blue Mountains, leaving evidence of ancient farming settlement near Blaxland, such as the large Bel idol and altar stone shown in the accompanying photos.

These ancient farmers and miners have left behind them a wealth of rock inscriptions, showing how the Australian landmass, from the coast of far north Queensland to Victoria, and the Adelaide district were colonized by Egyptians, Celts and Phoenicians at various times; how they all at one time or another sailed up the Murray into the Darling River, penetrating offshoot rivers, to establish settlement of one nationality or another in the Far and Central West of New South Wales. Hence the ruined temples and pyramidal structures and remains of ancient settlements found today which mystify those who are unaware of Australia's 'lost' History.

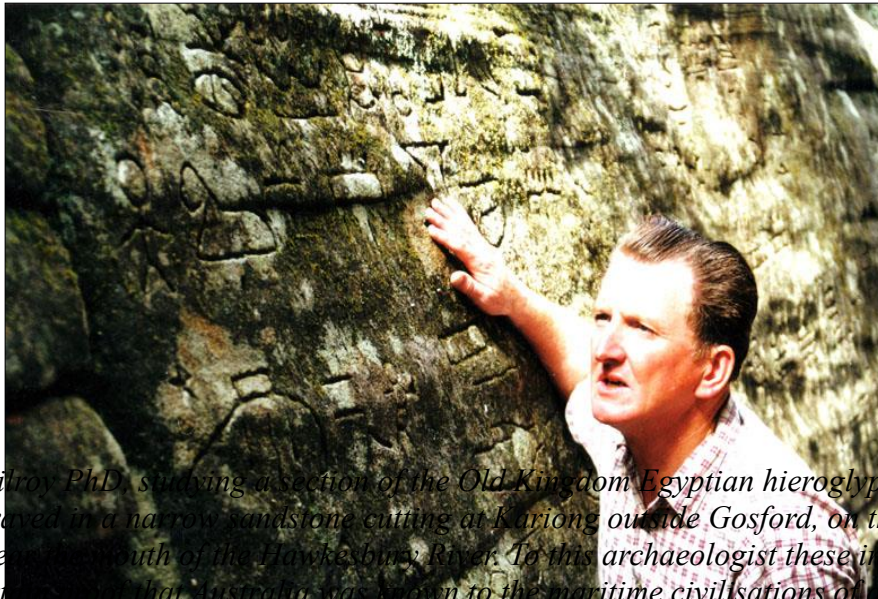
And then there was the Uru...

This first people of the Aryan Dawn evolved in Australia from 'archaic' Homo sapiens around 100,000 years ago, and had developed their megalithic culture long before the Aborigines ever arrived here a mere 65,000 years ago. A new book, "Uru – Motherland of the Gods" shows through fossil evidence alone that these ancient white people were the true 'First Australians'. Our new book is still in preparation and will cause a stir when it is released; just as our recently released book, "Identifying the Yowie – 60 years of Australian Relict Hominology" reveals evidence that Australia was

inhabited by a number of ancient races, including giants and pygmies, long before the advent of the Australoids.

If you knew as much as Heather and I do about our 'unknown' [and quite often suppressed] history, you too would accept that our hominin ancestors evolved in Australia long before they first appeared in Africa, and that Captain James Cook, a great navigator, stands at the end of a pantheon of maritime peoples from the ancient world, who having been influenced by the Uru, sailed to our shores to colonise and settle, leaving behind them the ruins of their former presence .

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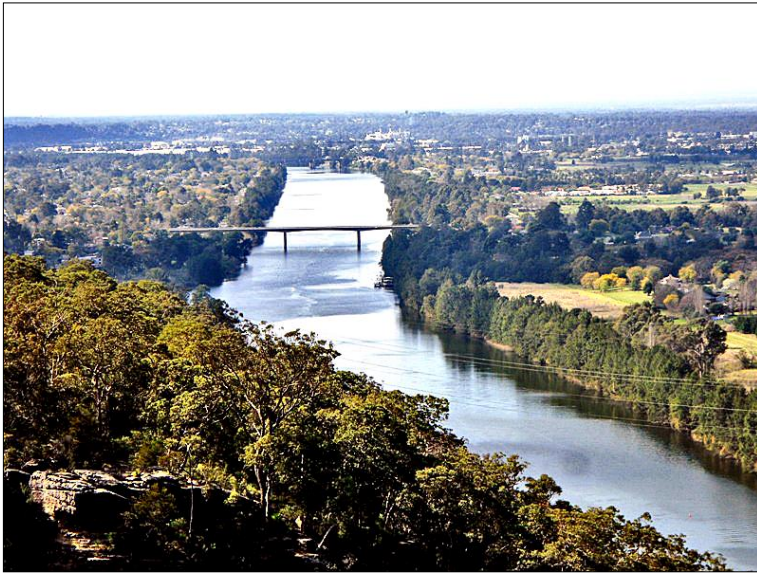
Dr Rex Gilroy, PhD, studying a section of the Old Kingdom Egyptian hieroglyphs [2780-2100 BCE] engraved in a narrow sandstone cutting at Kariong outside Gosford, on the NSW Central Coast, near the mouth of the Hawkesbury River. To this archaeologist these inscriptions are certain proof that Australia was known to the maritime civilisations of antiquity.

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Heather Gilroy , with 3,000 year old stone heads of the Phoenician Sun-God Baal with Phrygian cap, and Earth-Mother Goddess Tanith, found by a Hawkesbury River farmer at Richmond, New South Wales in 1974.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The Nepean River, looking north from above Lapstone Gorge. Bronze-Age and other ancient colonists once sailed the Hawkesbury-Nepean Rivers to settle and farm these shores. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

North section of a small temple which is located near the Celtic Sex worship temple, in a deep sandstone gorge inland from the Nepean River. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



This Egypto-Phoenician inscription states: "A repository of knowledge of Ra the Sun. Place offerings here where the Eye of Ra watches over the land from this place". Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

A close view of the Egyptian hieroglyph meaning: "A repository of Knowledge". Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.





To the left of the “repository of Knowledge” inscription is this one: “Ships bring new life to this land. Ra’s Eye watches over the land here at this enclosure, where the Sun’s course and the Moon’s phases are measured”.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

A section of the Celtic sex-worship temple. Note the large hollow where offerings were deposited on the rockface to the left, about which are Celtic ogham letterings and symbols, as there are also on the rockface to the right.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



This inscription cut into the wall opposite the hollow states:

“Place offerings of mushrooms in here for the God. Observe the phallus swelling erect to the clouds”.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



This image at the far end of the hole, describes a human figure holding a cup alongside the disc of Bel the Sun-God and a mushroom. The message is: “Drink the juice of Bel’s sacred fungus”.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.





A close view of the ogham letterings and phallic image, carved at the base of the hollow. The ogham strokes for 'B-L' [Bel] are seen towards the bottom right hand of the picture.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



A close view of the hollow.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



West of the two small temples of both Egypto-Phoenician and Celtic origin, are the scattered ruins of an apparent Bronze-Age Celtic farming settlement and the remains of a Bel Sun-worship temple. Amid temple rubble lies this large head image of Bel.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



This inscription found north of the Temple ruins, calls on everyone to celebrate Beltane at the Temple.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The first of two rock inscriptions found at a creek site some distance from the Bel Temple. This message refers to two Bel Temple priests, Dalma and Hubi.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



Gilroy field assistant Greg Foster found this small Celtic ship carving near the large Bel head.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



During June 2012 Mr Colin Foster while excavating in his front yard unearthed at about 2 metres depth, a large sandstone image, soon followed by a large squarish sandstone specimen "bearing strange markings". The image of a squatting human-like figure however, caught his attention. Thinking the mystery relics might be of interest to the authors, he contacted us to come and "pick them up"! Upon arrival I was amazed, for the human-like figure was in fact an ancient Bel idol similar to other examples in museums and photos in books on Old World history! The image measured 50cm tall by 32cm in width and 40cm in depth. The head bore the broken remains of a 'hennin' cap, there were once two small feet in squatting position at the base, but one had broken away long ago.. The relic was at least 3,000 years old. The other stone was an altar.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The right profile of the image. A small piece of stone has been placed beneath to stand it upright as it was in antiquity meant to be wedged in the ground.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



Left side of the idol. A ridge down the back contains the chalk-outlined ogham message: “Bel. Bel the Sun. Bel our God”.

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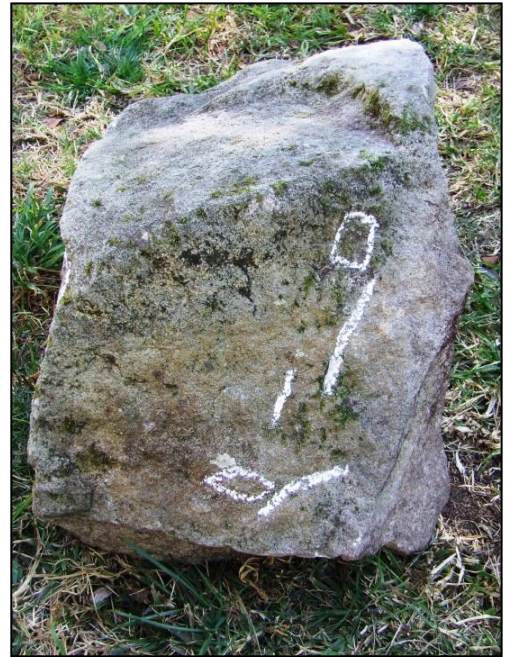


The altar stone recovered with the Bel image by Mr Foster. The ancient ogham inscription on its right side has been translated to read: “Praise Byanu Mother of Heroes and of the Sun whose Eye is above all. Behold His rays of light and warmth. On Beltane at the Temple observe and worship the black-haired Son of the Goddess and recite his name at this place of light.”.*

*[*May Day, May 1st].
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*

Heather Gilroy had to do two car trips so Rex could pick the relics up. Both were extremely heavy, but with a neighbour of the Fosters and the use of metal garden stakes for use as a runway, once home each was slid down onto the backyard lawn without damage!

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



Inscription on the front of the altar stone reads: “Meeting place of the Servants of the Sun’s Eye”.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.





During April 2007 the Gilroys made further important discoveries in the Mt Magnificent area out of Adelaide. On Wednesday 25th April, Rex Gilroy together with fellow researcher, Kevin Robb, found a number of stone images of Baal and various rock inscriptions at a site on the banks of the Finness River below Mt Magnificent. Among these finds was a lengthy Phoenician inscription, weathered with time, engraved into a heavy lump of basalt. It is a “message stone” of considerable importance. It had to have stood in a temple long ago destroyed by floods which periodically sweep through this river down to the coast. Kevin Robb holds the valuable relic.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



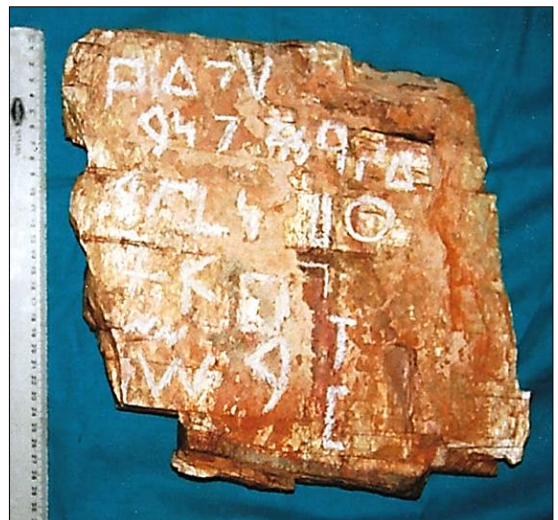
The inscription states: “Taga of Haddah, your King, makes this prayer – Divine of the Gods, Baal, upon this flat land which Hatta the overseer found for the growing of grain, accept our offerings of thanks placed within your temple. The ships of commander Yamo brought your people here through dangerous seas and wintery perils. Gavin the miner discovered gold which we now mine. On Beltane let everyone rejoice throughout this land, which is dedicated to you, Oh Baal”.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

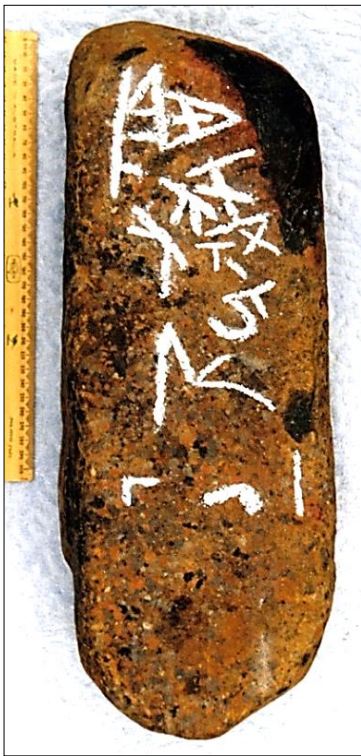
A side view of the “King Taga” stone. It measures 35cm length by 26cm tall and is 21cm in depth.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

On Friday 21st July, 2006 while on their way to Central Australia, the Gilroys stopped their vehicle at a point about 60km west of Nyngan on the Barrier Highway. Rex had a sudden ‘hunch’ that he would find something and he did! In a stand of Mulga scrub he found a broken slab of slate rock bearing Phoenician script on one side. It was later translated to read: “Our White King, servant of Baal, Sasapana, has journeyed to this place to declare his praise for Baal of the Canaanites. On this flat land where the Temple of Baal has been established. All gather and give praise to the God. Inscribed by Sabata the priest”. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



Following the discovery of the King Sasapana inscription west of Nyngan, Rex Gilroy searched roadside bushland near Muriel Tank, located 70km west of Nyngan and 6km from Cobar. Here he uncovered a large brown rock containing an Egypto-Phoenician inscription. The translation reads: "In Winter to this flat land we have come by ship, the people following Hata our leader. Here we give thanks to Ra, whose rays shine forth for us. On this flat land of Ra we mine copper and gold when Ra awakes". [[ie *in daylight]. This inscription implies a large settlement had been established somewhere hereabouts, the vessels penetrating from the Darling River along its Mulga Creek offshoot when it was navigable. The inscribed stone measured 12.5cm length by 46cm width. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



Phoenician inscription found at Timbumburi, south of Tamworth, New South Wales by Rex Gilroy in January 1995. It states: "This place, the land called Koha, the land of the Sun, belongs to Rata". Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



Rex Gilroy with the Timbumburi Phoenician property marker stone. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The remains of massive mineral ore smelting operations by the ancient miner-colonists extends for many kilometres along the shoreline far to the north and south of Clairview. Untold thousands of people had to have been involved in these ancient mining activities. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The small limestone Thoth idol carved in baboon form recovered at Clairview. Ages of weathering and tidal activity has worn away the outer patina of the rock, but its basic features are still recognisable. Note the squatting aspect, the arms resting upon the knees.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The Thoth idol, left profile. The Phoenician letters for 'T' and 'H' [ie 'Thoth'] had been carved deep enough to still be faintly visible, hence the need to chalk them in along with other features.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The Thoth idol, right profile. The features here have been worn away.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



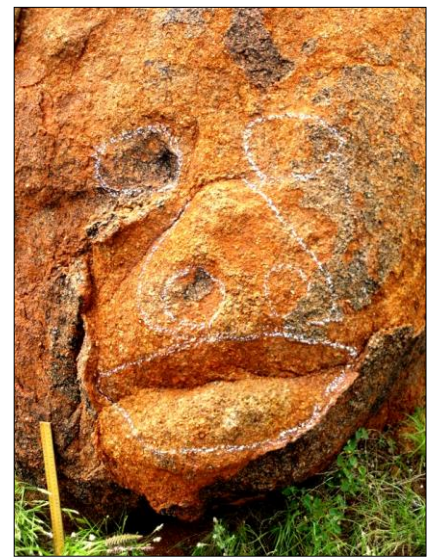
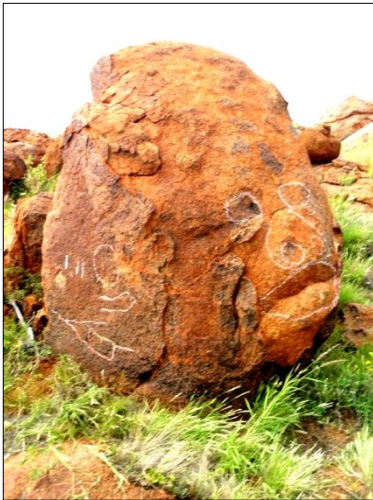
The rear of the Thoth idol, also displaying evidence of wear by great ages of salt water.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



A standing stone bearing a lengthy Celtic inscription, now in the grounds of a motel near Alice Springs where it was found, states in ancient Celtic: “Light the Beltaine fires. Worship the Goddess [Byanu] at this temple prepared for the Sun [Bel]. Upon this stone pour water in libation. Here gather in a body, Ham priest of Bel the Sun declares”. Workmen had once removed the stone from a megalithic temple ruin. The Site is known to the authors. Rex Gilroy measured the once upright message Stone. It was 1.46metres tall when upright, by 1 metre square at the base.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



A crumbling sandstone head of the Bronze-Age Celtic Sun-God, Bel. Discovered by the authors at an isolated Central Australian location, during March 2011. The image, whose outer patina is weathering away, measured 2 metres tall by 1.5 metres width across the face, 1.5 metres length on both sides and 1 metre wide at the rear base. Erected amid a now crumbled temple enclosure, the image faces the west. Photos copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



IN SEARCH OF MOUNTAIN TIGERS.

Dr [hc] Rex Gilroy PhD
Professor [hc] of History
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The vast expanses of the Blue Mountains to the west of Sydney is part of the Great Dividing Range, and covers at least 268, 987 hectares.

Today it is gazetted as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area which, besides the Blue Mountains National Park, includes Wollemi National Park, Kanangra Boyd National Park and Nattai National Park along with other smaller National Parks.

Within this vastness of gum scrub and rainforest wilderness are regions seldom if ever explored by man, or yet to be discovered if anyone can penetrate these inaccessible and mysterious regions. It is a vast wilderness land ideally suited to the Thylacine, which has been known to these wilds since Aboriginal times, a last great refuge from human depredations, from where they periodically emerge to be seen by the modern human inhabitants of the settled areas.

Ancient Aboriginal rock art depicting these marsupials known to exist in remote places, date back 3,000-4,000 years, and early 19th century European settlers were aware of their existence. In order to cover the great many reports, the authors will 'sandwich' the Blue Mountains, beginning with encounters reported from the northern [ie Wollemi] region, working our way south to the southern boundary of this wilderness north of Goulburn.

We begin with the Goulburn River National Park, where campers frequently catch sight of these elusive striped-bodied animals, as they move about in the bush. Campers have over the years claimed to have seen 'tigers' drinking at the edge of the Goulburn River, sometimes quite close to camp grounds in daytime.

Some locals of the Park fringes theorise that the 'tigers' move back and forth between the adjoining Wollemi and Goulburn River wilderness. This is based upon occasional farm stock attacks that appear to begin around the Glen Davis area, then Park fringe properties further north perhaps a week later, or else they are seen moving in a northwards direction on the edges of properties, until within say a month, there are sudden appearances in the Goulburn River area. Later the pattern will be repeated in reverse. Similar studies of 'panther' migratory habits have followed the same pattern in the New England district. There also appears to be another 'tiger' movement that extends back and forth through the northern fringes of the Wollemi section of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park. We must also take into consideration the emergence of these marsupials from the depths of the Wollemi onto farms on both the western and eastern fringes of the Park, particularly along the Putty Road, where drivers have over many years been claiming night time sightings of Thylacines, seen in the headlights glare crossing this dense bushland-lined road.

During April 1967 sightings of a 'tiger' were being made at Putty Road farms, particularly in the Howes Valley area, where some poultry had been claimed snatched by one, perhaps two of these creatures. Efforts to track the animal or animals down were made, it is said but all failed due to the general inaccessibility of the forest country.

On 3rd January 1980 I received a phone call from a Mr Roger Handly and his wife. They said that about five weeks before, on 27th November 1979, while photographing birds at Mount Mondilla, they found paw prints in mud that appeared to match those of the Thylacine. They said that the depth of impression of the tracks suggested an animal of at least 75 lb weight. The location was 40 miles south of Singleton on the Putty Road.

The 'tiger' tracks were found in a 'hanging swamp' area which was part of a rain forest on the south side of the mountain.

Roger Hardy also informed me that in the Mount Mondilla area are deep gorges. Early timber getters never entered this inaccessible area. Locals even today believe that Thylacines spotted near the mountain are coming from there.

Mr John Gilmore phoned me in August 1986, to relate an experience he had back in August 1979, while driving along Putty Road towards Bulga.

“I was past Howes Valley near Howes Mountain, on a stretch of winding road. The time was 3am. Suddenly I caught sight of a large dog-like animal in the headlights just as I was turning a corner. It had already crossed the road heading west into gum forest, but stopped, standing side on as I approached about 100ft from it. It stood there looking towards my vehicle as I stopped to see if I could get a good look at it. The animal then bounded off up an embankment out of sight.

However, I did get time to study the creature. It was dog-sized but not thin like a greyhound. Its buttocks were tapered toward the tail. The fur colour was light brown and there were dark stripes on the body that began at the neck base and extended to the tail rump.

“The head looked Alsatian-like but had shorter, thicker ears than a greyhound. The snout was not longer than a greyhound and was more Alsatian-like. The front legs were longer than the back, but shorter than those of a greyhound. The back legs were also shorter than the front ones”.

John had seen what other motorists continue to see today along that road, a Thylacine.

From the numbers of Thylacine encounters still being reported from along the Putty Road, between Colo River and the Bulga area just south of Singleton, it is obvious that these marsupials inhabit the Wollemi and Yengo National Parks, moving back and forth across the Putty Road mostly at night, and it is certain that the Wollemi wilds hide the majority of these creatures.

During the 1970s and early 1980s ‘tigers’ were being reported seen in the Newnes region. Heather and I had made investigations on and off hereabouts already, when we were approached by Lithgow bushmen Rod Gurney and Robert Ashworth, who soon became my two Lithgow-based field assistants. These boys soon introduced us to Mr Col Medlock, his son Robert and other assistants, together with three four-wheel drive vehicles, the objective being to carry out an expedition deep into the Newnes-Wollangambe wilderness. Mystery paw prints had been appearing deep in these wilds for many years, and a camping group had recently claimed to have spotted a Thylacine thereabouts, so we were soon concentrating our attention on that region.

The Wollangambe Wilderness is a truly wild and remote region, situated north of the Grose Valley and north of the Bell-Bilpin Road. We began our expedition on Saturday 24th September 1983. During the course of our search we uncovered a sandstone shoal containing water pools with ancient Aboriginal stone axe grinding grooves, and a rock shelter containing surface stone flakes manufactured around 6,000 years ago. There was also a rock shelter some distance off the rough, 4-wheel drive trail we were on, where we came across pigmy-size ochre paintings.

However, a more important discovery was *“just around the corner”* for us. Driving on deeper into the range we stopped to investigate an extensive tract of swampland, whose muddy shoreline contained paw prints of wombats, wallabies, bandicoots, possums and dingos.

At one particular spot we came across paw prints unlike any of the others and certainly not those of any dog. I recognised them to be those of an undoubted Thylacine. Casts made from these tracks would later be successfully compared with Thylacine paw casts from Tasmania, found by another researcher in 1974.

The success of our expedition was publicised in the Lithgow Mercury newspaper, and in February 1984 we organised another expedition to this remote area with Rod Gurney and Robert Ashworth, and found more Thylacine paw prints in the swamp mud. These tracks were however barely half an hour old, and we were able to follow the movements of the Thylacine, observing how it had emerged from a nearby gully to move through foliage to the muddy shoreline, and walk along it for some metres, before stopping to drink at the water’s edge, then return the way it had come.

The swamp is surrounded by dense scrub and situated at the foot of a deep gully encased by steep cliffs. There is a maze of crevices and caverns in which any animal could live unseen, and it was into this gully that the ‘tiger’ tracks led.

Later, on another detailed search for evidence above the gully, we stumbled upon tracks of a full-grown animal, an apparent female, alongside paw prints of a cub at least several hours old.

In the nearby dense scrub, we came across signs of a scuffle between a wild pig and a Thylacine, as indicated by the dozens of tracks embedded in the soil over a wide area. These were only half-an-hour old and led deep into dense forest.

It became obvious to us that a colony of from 6 to 8 of these elusive creatures existed in the gully. Rod and I later staked out the site overnight with cameras, in the hope of capturing a 'tiger' on film as it came to drink at the swamp, but failed to see any. Over the years we have kept the location of the swamp and gully a closely guarded secret, to give these marsupials an opportunity to increase their numbers, and keep away unwanted human interference. At the time of writing this book [2017] Thylacine tracks are still being left at this site.

The Newnes Plateau country has lately [2015-2016] been the scene of a few 'tiger' sightings, and paw prints finds which may, or may not have been made by Thylacines. To the west of here, outside Capertee, at least two of these elusive forest-dwellers have been claimed seen by campers on separate occasions.

In 1986 the Gilroys were contacted by Mrs Patricia Marson, to say that, in October 1972, she was on a camping trip with the Sydney Bushwalkers Club at Mount Wilson, which like nearby Mount Irvine, overlooks the Wollemi National Park/Wollangambe Wilderness country, from out of which 'tigers' have been known to emerge to be seen hereabouts and at nearby Bilpin.

"We were sitting around a campfire for a while, then climbed into our sleeping bags about 10.30pm as the fire turned to embers. There were nine of us in all, and about to sleep when, to our utter astonishment, a creature boldly emerged from bushes and walked up to our campfire remains. Then seeing us, turned and dashed off into the darkness. We all agreed, the animal looked like a Tasmanian Tiger, body stripes and all, and about the size of a large dog.

If it was what I believe it was, this was not to be my only encounter with a creature of this description, for on Christmas Eve 1983, I was walking in bush near Govetts Leap with my son, David and his wife Kay in afternoon light, when we all spotted the same type of animal moving through bushes. We all believed we had seen a Tasmanian Tiger. In both cases the animals had brownish body fur and dark body stripes, and looked exactly like photos of the Thylacine in books," she said.

The early 1980s saw a number of Thylacine sightings being reported to the Gilroys from the Blackheath district, nearby Medlow Bath and also the Grose Valley on the eastern side of Blackheath. Yet there had been outbreaks of sightings for years, as far back as the late 1960s at least, and it was on the town's south side that I was to have my own meeting with a Thylacine.

This encounter is forever etched in my mind, for I am one of those people privileged to have seen a Thylacine, a species dogmatically declared totally extinct on the Australian mainland as well as in Tasmania, by all but a handful of scientists.

My own story is as follows: *On the night of Tuesday 22nd February 1972 at 10.15pm, I was with a woman friend, being driven along the Great Western Highway just south of Blackheath to my home at Katoomba.*

As we approached the turnoff to Evans Lookout, and on the corner of the local city council water catchment fence [left side of road going south] which encloses a vast area of scrubland, we saw in the glare of the car's headlights a strange animal. It was dog-like and about the size of a full-grown Alsatian, with fawn-coloured short body hair and a row of blackish body stripes extending barrel-wise from mid-back to tail rump.

The animal had been walking across the highway [usually quiet on a weeknight] when we saw it, forcing the woman to brake quickly. By this time the car was but a few metres from the animal, which just stood there staring at the vehicle, mesmerised by the headlights glare.

In the few seconds before the animal dashed off the road into the darkness of the catchment scrub, we were able to get a good look at it. Apart from its size, it was greyhound-like in appearance with narrowing flanks, its body sloping downward to a long thin tail, which followed the slope of the back and seemed kangaroo-like in that it did not appear to wag. The shape of the head, legs and body was unmistakable, it was an undoubted Thylacine.

The animal had escaped into scrubland that extends eastward to a gully, which drops down into the Grose Valley, where sightings of Thylacine-type animals continue to be reported seen by campers and bushwalkers to the present day.

Not long after this experience I learnt that, between December 1971 and throughout January 1972, there had been a spate of sightings of an animal, or animals, answering to the description of the Thylacine, near Blackheath along the Great Western Highway in the vicinity of our sighting. These were mostly reported by motorists. In the 45 years [as of 2017] that have elapsed since my own 'close encounter' with a Thylacine, these animals have continued to be reported seen from time to time along the stretch of highway between Blackheath and Medlow Bath three kilometres further south.

Between the location of my encounter and the outskirts of Medlow Bath township on the way to Katoomba, the railway lines run parallel with the highway. On the western side dense bush-covered gullies drop down into Megalong Valley.

Beyond the Megalong Valley stretches the vastness of the Jenolan Range and Kanangra Boyd National Park, itself an extension of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park, bordering the western side of the vast Burratorang Valley. It is from these wilds that Thylacines have been reported for generations.

The theory is that these marsupials, in the course of their migrations across the ranges, have developed a route across the Megalong Valley, from where they negotiate steep gully slopes that allow access to the cliff tops, from where perhaps, some venture into the Grose Valley, to follow the dense forests of the Grose River through the Valley, eventually to climb gullies on the Valley's northern side to enter the Kurrajong-Colo scrublands on the southern fringe of the Wollemi Wilderness. Indeed, it is also not impossible that the 'tigers' follow an ancient migratory route that extends from those wild ranges of the Jenolan and Kanangra and other adjoining wildernesses, and which leads them across the highway into the Grose Valley and beyond. It is also not beyond the realms of possibility that Thylacines also follow this migration trail in reverse, ie from the Kurrajong-Colo region into the Grose Valley, and on to the Megalong Valley to enter the Kanangra-Jenolan wilds and beyond.

The wildernesses in which they live are largely inaccessible to modern human interference, and we wonder, just how many 'tigers' exist 'out there' in those wildernesses of the Kanangra and those valleys through which the Kowmung River flows. The same question can be asked of the Wollemi National Park. The Blue Mountains wildernesses hide many mysteries - the Thylacine is one of them...

The numbers of sightings between Blackheath and Medlow Bath, seemingly heading towards the Grose Valley, led me in June 1983, to lead a four-man expedition into the Grose to search for possible traces of the 'tigers', and also to search areas around the northern base of the valley cliffs past Mawson's Head, where campers had recently claimed sightings. The search took us 25 kilometres into the valley. We searched the sandy banks of the Grose River for paw prints without success, and after a mammoth effort to fight our way through the cliff-base jungle we had to give up the search...

On the morning of Thursday 24th March 1983, I received a phone call from Mr John Turner of Shipley, located on the west side of Blackheath close to the Kanimbla Valley cliffs. He informed me that on the previous night, 'something' had visited his farm [where he grew apples and raised poultry], leaving paw prints in mud around his dam, situated amid dense bush with a gully below it to the north, which led down into the Kanimbla Valley. He had only just found the tracks that morning and asked Heather and I to come and inspect them.

We wasted no time in driving to his property. When I saw the impressions I recognised them at once as those of a Thylacine, and immediately began making plaster casts of them. The tracks were situated beneath a small embankment close to the waters' edge. We found wallaby tracks nearby and signs of a scuffle.

A week later, on Sunday 10th April we returned to Mr Turner's property after he phoned us, to say that what might have been the same animal had returned the night before, leaving chew and scratch marks on his fowl house door, and more tracks around the area of the dam.

It was obvious to us that the creature was visiting the farm from the Kanimbla Valley [which lies directly north of Megalong Valley] by moving up the gully. Another search of the farm and its surrounds failed to turn up anything new, and the creature did not return.

Mr Turner told us that, in 1973, he was driving along the Great Western Highway from Katoomba to Blackheath late one night when, near the [now demolished] Katoomba Piggery at Bathurst Road, and opposite the railway lines bordering the water catchment, he saw in his headlights what he was certain was a Thylacine, as it ran from the railway lines across the highway in front of his car, heading in the direction of the Megalong Valley. The animal was so close that he almost hit it as it reached the other side of his vehicle.

He described it to us as a short greyish-furred animal, with narrow flanks and a drooping, long thin tail. The head, he observed, appeared too big for the body, and from the mid-back to the tail rump were faint black coloured body stripes. This encounter occurred 4 miles from my own 1972 sighting.

In October 1995, Mr Bob Donaldson was driving friends to Blackheath from Katoomba around 1am. As they passed through Medlow Bath, and just past the Foy Avenue turnoff, which is a busy area, about 6.1 metres ahead of his vehicle, illuminated by the headlights and standing on the left of the highway near street lights, they all spotted a dog-like animal of Alsatian size. Its body fur was a mousy-brown colour with greyish stripes extending barrel-wise along the body. The animal, an obvious Thylacine, then began running along the edge of the highway to vanish into nearby bushes.

Back in 1960 Mr Gordon Pereira [of whom more will be said anon] was a NSW Government Railways station assistant, driving his car home from work at Medlow Bath railway station about 10pm when, 1½ miles east of the [since demolished] Caltex depot on 'Whipcord Hill', on the Great Western Highway, an animal which he described as being about greyhound size with a large head, was caught in his headlights as it ran across the highway from the scrubland on the western [Megalong Valley] side to the railway lines, disappearing within seconds.

According to Mr Pereira the animal's body fur was a light brown colour with dark stripes along its body and it had a long thin strait tail which it did not wag.

Further west beyond Blackheath lies the town of Mount Victoria, on the western edge of the Blue Mountains. Here during September 1970, a 'tiger' was seen and accurately described by a Mr Jim Neal, who spotted it as it ran across the Great Western Highway on the southern side of town. That same year a "Tasmanian Tiger-like animal", was seen by Mr Bill Forbes [since deceased] after it had just killed one of the goats he bred on his Mt York Road farm.

Meanwhile, in the Hartley Valley below Mt York, a striped-bodied dog-like creature was reported seen attacking sheep on more than one occasion about this same time. Mount Victoria locals were asking themselves if more than one 'tiger' was responsible for these killings.

On Saturday night, 4th October 1986, Mr Mike Davis was driving from Lithgow past Mount Victoria township. Just outside the town was a small separate community called Brown Town by the locals. These few houses were situated on the east side of the Great Western Highway, with an oval across the road on the western side [the community no longer exists]. The time was 11.25pm, when, just past the houses and oval, Mike clearly saw a Thylacine [there was, he said, no mistaking the body stripes and other features] running onto the road from left to right ahead of his car, illuminated by his headlights.

"It stopped for a second as I approached, looked towards me, then quickly left the road into scrub. It was about 5ft from head to tail tip and up to 1 ½ft tall. The body fur looked light grey or brownish in colour, with dark stripes situated about mid-way on the spine extending down towards the back legs, stopping about the rump. The tail was thicker at the base than at the tip and was about 1ft in length. Its body looked roundish and the head appeared out of proportion to the body with massive jaws."

In 1977 Mike said he saw a similar animal in Hartley Valley around 9pm one evening while driving to work.

“I was driving up the Gap Road at the time when it ran across the road ahead of me, so close that I almost ran over it.

“At that time sheep were being killed and torn up in Hartley Valley by a Tasmanian Tiger-like beast, and that is what I believed ran in front of my car. Yet, when I went to the Lithgow Police Station to report my sighting, all they did was laugh at me and said I was crazy”!

The same type of animal was seen killing a sheep in Megalong Valley in January 1987. That month Mr Ron Perry was picnicking with his family in the valley around 3pm one day on the bank of the Cox River Picnic Ground. Before leaving they went for a walk along the river's edge on a bush track. Suddenly a striped-bodied dog-like animal strode across the track just ahead of them then ran off out of sight.

In February 1977, in the Kanimbla Valley north of Megalong, Mr Kevin Cummings was driving out of the valley one day when, as his vehicle passed a tall embankment, he saw ahead of him, what he immediately recognised to be a Thylacine, run across the dirt road he was on and up the embankment. The striped-bodied animal was too large to have been anything else.

Grabbing his camera Kevin leapt from his car and, as he said later, *“tore up the embankment after it”!*

“I could see it entering a stand of gums across a paddock about 200ft away, so gave chase.

“Its body fur was a greyish-brown colour and the body stripes, a blackish-brown colour, when first observed, ran from the middle of the back onto the tail rump. It had a long thin tail about the length of its body. The length of the animal was something like 5ft from nose to tail tip. Its body was sloped and the tail followed the slope.

“I was already out of breath as I entered the trees, and soon realised the animal had given me the slip, so I walked back to the car. It would have been great if I had been able to get even one photo of the creature”, he said to Heather and I later.

West of the Kanimbla-Megalong Valleys lies the Jenolan Road, where motorists and locals have been seeing ‘tigers’ for generations.

Mr George Skinner, a maintenance painter who was working at Jenolan Caves back in the early 1980s, once told this author that he was driving home from work around 5pm one evening in March 1982. Passing the Titania Motel [Oberon] sign at the Oberon turnoff, he spotted an animal with black body stripes the size of a large dog, as it ran across the Jenolan road from left to right into bush. The animal's body fur, he noticed, was a gingery brown, with a large head.

“The stripes appeared to extend from the nape of the neck, running barrel-wise down its back to the rump of its long tail. It ran almost 1ft off the ground on all fours. I remember it had pricked ears, but nothing else because the whole encounter was over in seconds”, he told me some time later.

One night during June 1984 Mr Cedrick Mansley was driving on the Jenolan Caves Road, when a striped-bodied animal ran across the road ahead of his vehicle, clearly visible in the glare of the headlights. He realised that only one species could answer the dog-like physical appearance of this strange animal, and that was a Tasmanian Tiger.

“I have no doubt about what I saw. Before it vanished off the roadside I noticed its length, about 5ft, the body stripes were blackish and ran from the middle of the back to the rump of the tail upon reddish-brown coloured body fur”.

People living on the fringes of the Jenolan pine forests have reported seeing ‘Tasmanian Tigers’ for many years. There was talk among tourists to the caves back in the 1940s, of ‘tigers’ making appearances up behind the Devil's Coach House, but long before then in the early 1900s property owners in the high country north of the Caves, had tales to tell. These accounts concerned eerie meetings with ‘tigers’ in the depths of what today is the vast Kanangra Boyd National Park. They are still claimed to inhabit those wilds today.

From the Jenolan-Kanangra wilds they are believed to move into the Burratorang Valley south of Katoomba, where early settlers knew of them. Campers, who have entered that valley from the southern end of Megalong, have claimed sightings in recent years. Present-day Aboriginal people of the Southern Highlands, claim the Thylacine still roams the Burratorang, as well as the equally vast Wollondilly Valley which adjoins it to the south.

The 'tigers' occasionally get seen in Jamieson Valley south of Katoomba. Over many years camping groups penetrating the valley have claimed to have caught sight of one that inquisitively observed their activities from ferns, or else seen one drinking from a forest pool.

Back in May 1972 a Sydney bushwalker, Mr Noel Wright, got the surprise of his life, when a Thylacine emerged from ferns to stand momentarily on the track between Ruined Castle and Mount Solitary. The animal, he said, was a good 6ft [1.83m] length from nose to tip of tail, and stood about 2ft off the ground on all fours. It had mousy-brown body fur, and blackish body stripes that extended from the mid-back to the rump of the tail on a greyhound-like [ie thin] body. He also noticed the body tended to slope downwards and the long tail followed the slope of the back.

The animal then made a quick exit back into the ferns.

Thylacines have occasionally been reported seen above Jamieson Valley on the fringe of Katoomba.

On Sunday 15th June 2003, about 8.30pm to 8.45pm, Robyn Simon was driving with a friend, Rebecca Jackson, on Acacia Street past Katoomba Golf Course, towards its junction with Cliff Drive.

Robyn was driving near the Club House just before entering Cliff Drive, where a two-storied, shingle-roofed house stands amid pine trees, on the corner opposite the golf course and beside a second house, when in the headlight's glare they both saw a Thylacine moving slowly across the road from the Club House towards two houses.

According to Robyn, the animal was as large as a "big Labrador dog", moving with a "slinky loping movement", somewhat like a cat. It was about 5ft [1.53m] in length from head to tail, which was stiff with no point. The fur was short, with a sandy beige colour. There were body stripes extending barrel-wise from the mid-back to the tail rump. These were of a chocolaty-brown colour and not very obvious. The stripes were, she said, wider at the top and narrowed to a point and extended half way down the side of the body.

The animal turned to look at the women in the car. Then it just loped off the road into the yard between the two properties.

Robyn noticed the tail itself was 2ft [61 cm] in length. The animal stood about 61cm off the ground on all fours and had a body about 30cm in depth. [The Thylacine was surely a male, females being more thickset - RG].

Robyn says the animal appeared to know where it was heading, as if it were used to a particular route. It looked used to civilisation she said.

Yet how did the animal get where it was seen? Had it found its way across country, moving at night, from the Medlow Bath-Grose Valley region, keeping to the water catchment scrub into Katoomba, or else along the Megalong Valley cliffs side, avoiding houses to reach the area it was seen in? Or, had it found its way up the cliffs via a steep slope, like the Devils Hole, to establish itself somewhere in a lair deep in the fern and bush-choked cliff tops on the western side of Cliff Drive within view of Narrow Neck Plateau?

It could have come from the 'Neck' in the first place, up the waterfall gully from Megalong Valley near the narrowest point of Narrow Neck, which is used by so many other marsupials.

Therefore the 'tiger' seen by Robyn Simon and Rebecca Jackson could only be a visitor to the Katoomba area, until it settles into a new habitat, perhaps with its mate if one is nearby, out on the 'Neck' or back in Megalong Valley.

On the night of 6th October 1982, at 8.26pm, Mr John Galluzzi was driving toward Katoomba on the Great Western Highway, when, at the bottom of Boddington Hill, Wentworth Falls, "*This creature appeared, cantering across the road from right to left.*

It tried to get through the armour rail on the highway, but couldn't, so it ran parallel with it for five yards, then it went through the rail at a higher opening. It appeared greyish-brown, with dark stripes on the hind quarters, but none occurred up front.

"It was 1½ft tall by 3½ft length from head to tail. The tail went downward toward the ground", said John.

He had seen the animal in the glow of the car headlights when at a sharp bend. The animal was going for a gully that stands on the eastern side of the highway.

Mr Gordon Pereira [mentioned earlier] was puzzled as to what he could do about the mysterious dog-like animal that had been making repeated attacks on his chickens at his Wentworth Falls property during June 1972. Finally, he hit upon the idea of constructing a trap for the creature in the form of a chicken-wire cage. The trap was baited with meat, and Mr Pereira began a vigil.

After several fruitless nights, however, he retired to bed on the evening of 14th June. Suddenly, at 5am he was woken by sounds coming from the direction of the cage, situated at the far end of his property on the edge of thick bushland. Leaping from his bed, Mr Pereira went torch in hand to investigate his trap.

The trap had apparently caught something, but by the time he reached the cage it was empty. Upon examining the cage, he found that the creature, whatever it was, had escaped by ripping through the chicken-wire covering, leaving a hole 8½ by 11½ inches in size. There was blood on the wire and wooden framework and a trail of paw prints led from there down a bush track. Mr Pereira also found a pile of excrement left by the animal. That morning he made plaster casts of the paw prints and also found two small teeth, apparently left by the animal.

Mr Pereira dispatched the casts along with the teeth and blood samples to university zoologists in Sydney, but received little response, other than the explanation that the creature was “probably a domestic dog”.

Other residents in the area, however, did not share this explanation. Sightings of a strange greyhound-like animal with black body stripes had been made by people in the Blaxland Road area of Wentworth Falls, where it had been raiding homes for food. Local naturalists were convinced from the general description, that the mystery carnivore was a Thylacine.

In March 1973 an animal answering to the description of the Thylacine was claimed by a Mrs Cummins to have raided her fowl yard at Wentworth Falls. In fact, despite the number of reported sightings that were taking place about this time in the Wentworth Falls area, no one in authority took any notice. No university-backed investigation was attempted, mainly on the grounds that, to quote one ‘expert’: “*People are imagining they have seen Thylacines, when we all know that this species has been extinct on the Australian mainland for thousands of years*”!

So, people only ‘imagine’ sightings of Thylacines? This explanation I find hard to believe. Not everyone can be suffering from hallucinations and sightings descriptions have often been very accurate.

Let us re-examine the description of an average male and female Thylacine, and some other relating facts before proceeding further:

A full-grown Thylacine measures at least 2 metres from head to tail, stands about 55 centimetres tall on all fours, and has a rigid kangaroo-like tail which does not wag due to it being a continuation of the spine. The body narrows at the flanks like a greyhound. The male Thylacine has a larger and thinner face than the female, and the number of stripes can differ with the sexes. Males tend to have from 9 to 11, beginning at mid-back and ending at the tail-rump, while female stripes number 18 to 22, beginning at the neck base and ending at the rump. The female’s pouch faces the rear, allowing the mother’s young to be protected from injury as she moves through undergrowth.

These marsupials are secretive, and with the inaccessibility of their mountainous habitats in particular, it is no wonder that little evidence of their survival is available to researchers.

It is difficult to arrive at exact population figures for mainland ‘tiger’ colonies, but small families of four to eight individuals could exist in remote areas of eastern Australia. There could be a current population of perhaps several hundred, but this is inconclusive.

Thylacine breeding habits are largely unknown. Early observations suggest mating occurs in summer when three or four young are born. Some breeding occurs throughout the year, since young have been seen in the pouch at all months. The young probably spend about 4 months in the pouch and then run with the mother, hiding while she hunts for food.

On the night of Saturday 1st April 2000, 16-year-old Shannon Kus, his mother Marjorie and his mate Brad Miller, were walking home from the Wentworth Falls Country Club.

The time was around midnight as they left the Country Club road into Cook Road, then turned into Banksia Road on their way home.

At this point they all saw, barely 4 metres away, a striped-backed animal, standing beneath a street light.

Shannon later described the animal to me as being about 1.5 metres in length from head to tail. Its fur was a tan colour, and the body stripes were blacky-brown. These extended from about the mid-back onto the tail rump. The tail, he noticed, was long and pointed, and followed the slope of the back. The head and everything else about it compared with pictures he had seen of Thylacines, and it was also a thin-bodied animal, which would surely make it a male [females being thicker set animals].

The animal had apparently appeared from out of nearby bush to stand under the street light. The creature, said Shannon, remained there for perhaps 2 to 5 minutes as they stood observing it. Then a car passed it and the animal ran off into the bush from where it had emerged.

In September 1999, Mr Phil Smith and his wife Kassi were driving from the west on the Great Western Highway at 60 to 70 km an hour, slowing down as they approached a fruit shop at Linden on the left-hand side of the road. The time was 11.30am.

At this moment they both saw “*a greyhound-like animal*”, long and skinny, run across the highway from the right-hand side [south] to the left [north]. They noticed that another passing motorist also saw it.

Phil described the animal as having body fur of a burnt colour [ie blacky-brown], with a row of orangey-brown stripes extending barrel-wise from about mid-body to tail rump. It stood half a metre tall and was about 1 metre in length from nose tip to tail.

“*The animal appeared confused as it reached the middle of the highway, then dodging other traffic, it ran off under the roadside alcove and disappeared into bush*”, said Phil.

The animal the Smiths saw was an undoubted Thylacine and similar to others claimed seen in the nearby Faulconbridge area over recent years.

The Lower Blue Mountains towns are ideally placed for Thylacine sightings, with dense scrub-covered gullies on either side of them. So it is with Springwood, where in November 1963, police constable Mark Appleton, then 28 years old, was driving his father into Springwood along Hawkesbury Road. Suddenly they spotted a kelpie dog-sized animal, greyish-furred in colour, with black stripes down its back, as it dashed across the road ahead of them, illuminated in the car headlights.

During 1968 an old man told locals around Winmalee north of Springwood, that he had seen two Thylacines emerge together from a gully thereabouts that leads into the Grose Valley. This incident followed bad bushfires in the lower Blue Mountains-Grose Valley. What were probably the same pair were seen by Winmalee residents moving about in scrub behind St Columba's College. They were seen shortly after by a motorist driving on Hawkesbury Road through Winmalee about 9pm, when they crossed the road to be caught in his headlights.

On the 25th January 1982, about 10pm, Mr Darryl Morris and his wife Carrol were driving to Mount Riverview.

“*We were driving at 20mph speed, when, turning a corner I saw this strange dog-like animal as did Carrol, as it emerged from bushes on the right-hand side of the road. It then ran across the road as I pulled up. The headlights provided us with a good look at the creature. It was about 18 inches tall at the shoulders, 4ft in length from head to tail, and it had short body hair of light sandy colour, with a row of dark stripes arranged along the body beginning at the shoulders to the rump of the tail. It had a rigid tail.*

Our sighting lasted only seconds before the animal vanished into roadside bushes”, said Darryl.

In May 1984 I received a letter from a Mrs Julie Tonurist, a scientist, who informed me that, back in 1974, she lived at Springwood and travelled home from work on the FISH [a former Blue Mountains train service].

“On one occasion I saw an animal [from the train window] closely resembling a Tasmanian Tiger, on the south-western side of the railway line near Glenbrook. It was at the edge of the bush at the top of a small gully.

It was verging on dusk and the train was of course travelling quickly, but the unusual head and the tail shape and striped appearance were unmistakable. At the time, none of my friends believed me and so I took it no further”, she said.

Mr John Stalling was a 28 years old bushman in June 1982, when he gave me three experiences he had with Thylacines in the Glenbrook area.

His first experience took place in July 1982 when he saw one standing beneath a street light at 5.45am, as he was walking up a road. The animal retreated into bush at the top of a gully.

His second experience occurred in January 1983, when from his bedroom window he saw what may have been the same animal seen by him the previous July, or another one, as it moved beneath a street light in the early hours of the morning. It looked to be Alsatian dog-sized and he saw the familiar dark body stripes of a Thylacine. The creature then ran down the side of a house into scrub.

John’s third sighting of a ‘tiger’ took place in March 1984 around 6.10am.

“I was driving down Bruce Road at Glenbrook, when at a spot 20 yards from the location of my previous [January 1983] sighting, I saw either the same animal or another, eating some small animal, perhaps a possum, on the roadside. I was on my way to work at the time, heading for Glenbrook Railway Station and had no time to pursue it, when it ran off holding its prey in its mouth. I saw it dash up a 4ft embankment into scrub, a greyish-furred, black body-striped animal. I have no doubt that these animals are living somewhere out there in the Glenbrook National Park, from where they enter Glenbrook township’s fringes at times in search of food”, he said, in an interview with me in 1985.

Southward from the Burratorang Valley lies the Wollondilly Valley, from where sightings of Thylacines have been frequently spoken of by farmers and others living on its eastern and western fringes. Residents of Bowral, Mittagong, Berrima, Moss Vale and other communities all believe that the Tasmanian Tigers seen in their areas, are coming from the nearby scrublands of the Wollondilly region.

On 13th June 1982, Heather and I were phoned by Mr Sam Condon, a university mathematics student and farmer, who owned a farm on the eastern side of Mittagong on the Wollondilly River.

Sam said that one night in June 1980 about 10.30pm, as he and his wife were driving up their dirt road toward their farmhouse, their headlights caught three Alsatian dog-size animals, yellowish-brown furred, with vertical black body stripes along their bodies, feeding upon a wallaby they had apparently just killed on the roadside.

“As our vehicle came closer they left their prey to dash into roadside scrub.

There is no doubt in our minds that the creatures we saw were Tasmanian Tigers”, said Sam.

During May 2010 a female Thylacine and cub were seen moving through bushland not far from Wombeyan Caves by campers.

The presence of living Thylacines in the wilds of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park is a reality, particularly to the many people who have seen them over the years. Living Thylacines are also a reality to many property owners and others throughout the south coastal and inland region. We shall now investigate the ‘tiger tales’ of southern New South Wales....



*Heather Gilroy sits beside the 3,000-year-old rock engraving of a mother and baby Thylacine, in this 1973 photo. Carved on a sandstone shoal north of Springwood, lower Blue Mountains, New South Wales. The engraving shows that the former Aborigines of the Blue Mountains were familiar with these marsupial carnivores.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



*The northern mountain fringe of the vast Wollemi wilderness rising up over Denman, west of Singleton.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



*The eerie wilderness of the Wollemi.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



*Immediately to the northwest of the Wollemi National Park lies Goulburn River National Park, through which the Goulburn River winds its way amid mountainous scrubland and old volcanic plugs. This is 'tiger' country, where campers have afterwards informed the authors of apparent Thylacine sightings.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*

*The valley scenery of Glen Davis. Here is known 'tiger' country!
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021*

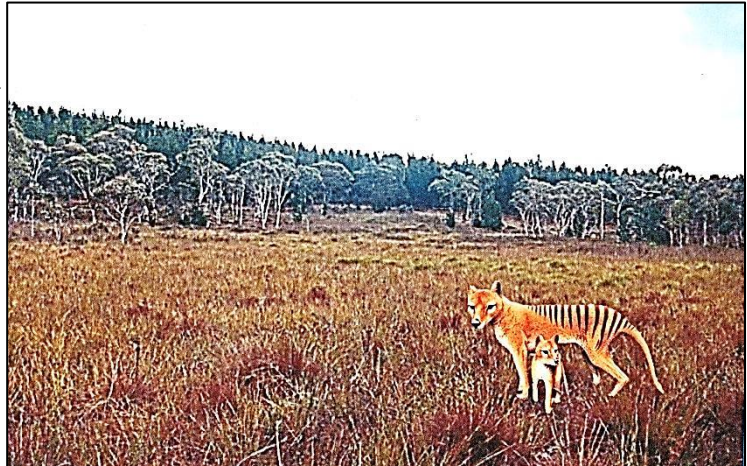




The Capertee Valley north of Lithgow. Thylacines as well as 'Panthers' have been part of local folklore hereabouts since pioneer times of the 19th Century. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

This remote open swamp had been the scene of an encounter by campers with a female Thylacine and her cub. During the Gilroy's September 1983 Thylacine expedition this swampland was located and searched. At one location on the swamp's edge the Gilroys uncovered a number of Thylacine paw impressions in mud, from which they prepared plaster casts.

This scenic reconstruction image copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The Gilroy Thylacine expedition, searching for paw prints at a creek in the depths of the Wollangambe Wilderness. Besides Rex and Heather, the other members of the expedition were Rod Gurney, Robert Ashworth, Col Medlock and his son Robert.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

The expedition investigating a remote open area for possible Thylacine paw prints.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



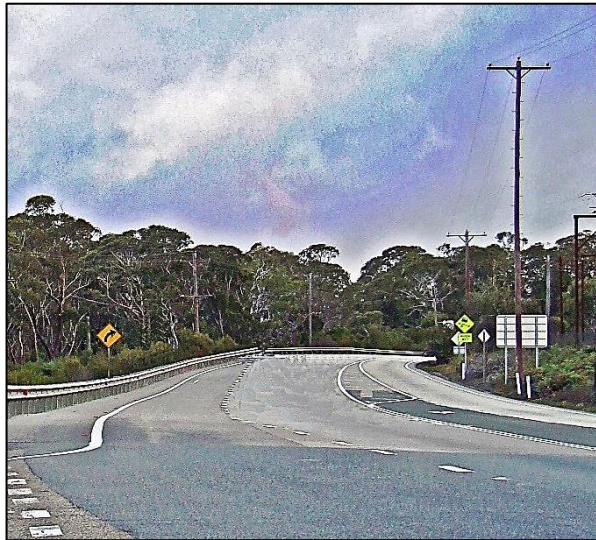


Two of the casts made from the paw prints. The top print is that of a back paw, measuring 11cm length from tip of mid-digit to rear of pad, by 8.5cm width across the outer digit. The bottom print, that of a front paw, measures 9.5cm length from tip of mid digit to rear of pad, by 8cm width across the outer digit. Both paw prints were embedded 1cm in the mud.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

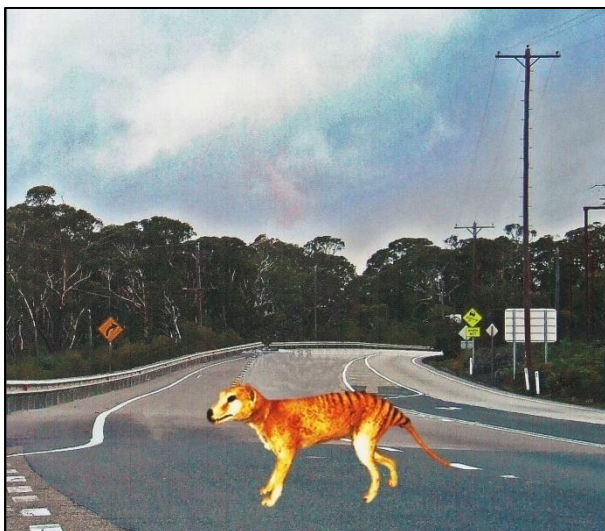
The Thylacine was first seen at a distance crossing the highway in the headlights of the car being driven by a woman friend taking Rex home to Katoomba.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The scene of Rex Gilroy's encounter with a Thylacine just south of Blackheath township, at 10.15pm on the night of February 22nd 1972, on the Great Western Highway, at the turnoff to Evans Lookout. The scrub of the Katoomba Water Catchment seen here on the left, follows the highway to Medlow Bath and the western outskirts of Katoomba.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



By the time the woman brought the car to a halt the 'tiger' was barely 3 metres in front of the vehicle mesmerised momentarily by the headlights glare. It then dashed off the road and through a two-strand wire fence into the Catchment scrub. As soon as Rex arrived home he made a sketch of the animal with all the details he had been able to memorise.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The Grose Valley. The author believes the Thylacine may have been heading for a nearby gully that leads into a pass, which enters the Grose Valley, where 'tiger' sightings have been made by campers over many years. The Thylacine in question was probably following a well-worn migratory path, which has its 'epicentre' in the Jenolan Range, from where these marsupials move through the rugged Megalong Valley, to negotiate a steep area between the cliffs to reach and cross the railway line and the Highway at about the same location where we had our sighting. Based upon generations of sightings accounts, the authors believe this migratory pattern continues through the Grose Valley as far as the Kurrajong district, where the 'tigers' leave the Valley to enter the Kurrajong scrub and move on into the Wollemi National Park wilderness. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



On Thursday afternoon 28th January 2015, on a Blackheath fire trail, above a gully Rex Gilroy found a number of Thylacine paw prints in a sandy patch. The impressions had been made early that morning.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



The paw prints had been made by a large animal moving about in the sand. A number of paw prints were indistinct. The best two impressions were 31cm apart, pointing in opposite directions, one pointing east, the other west. These were cast.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.



*The two paw impressions prior to casting. That to right of photo points west, and is a rear paw impression; the east-pointing specimen is a front paw. The fifth digit has not been impressed in either specimen.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



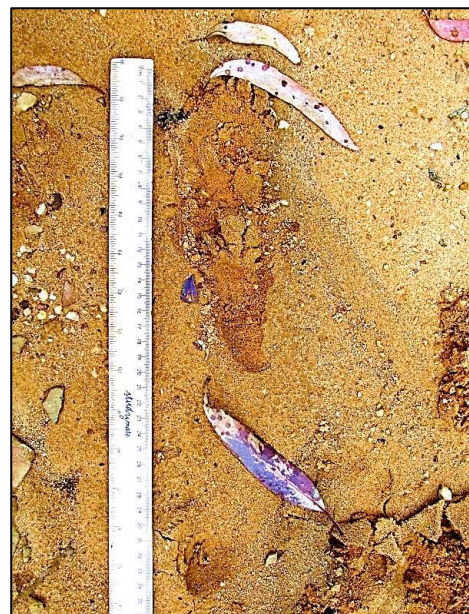
*Close view of the east-pointing impression. It measured 12cm in length by 10cm width across the toes. The pad measured 6cm length by 7cm width - here was a big animal.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



*Close view of the west-pointing impression. It measured 11cm length by 9cm in width across the toes. The pad being 5cm in length by 7.5 in width.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*

One indistinct rear paw impression included an attached ankle joint, the latter being more distinct. The paw impression measured 8.5cm length by 6.2cm width across the toes, the pad being 5cm length by 5.5cm width. 3cm behind it the ankle joint measured 8cm in length by 2.5cm in width, the full length measurement for the paw and ankle joint impressions including the gap between the two was 10.5cm.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.





*Cast of the west-pointing hind paw.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*

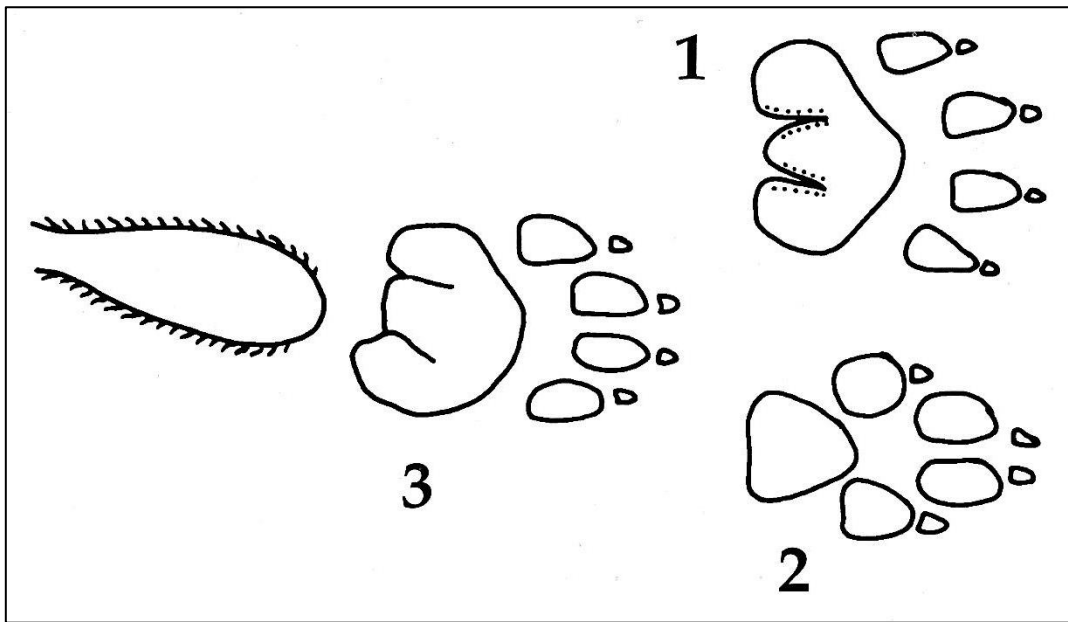
*Another view of the ankle joint and paw print combined cast and other two paw print casts. The Thylacine making the impressions appeared to have been moving about in the same spot, having just emerged from a forested gully on the north side of the east-west fire trail.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



*Cast of the east-pointing front paw.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



*The fire trail showing the drying casts of the two best preserved paw prints and the ankle joint with indistinct paw impression.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*

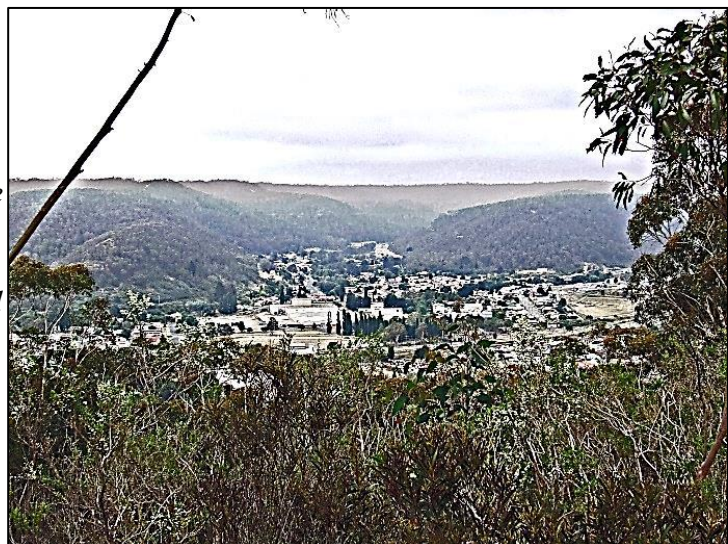


Dr Eric Guiler's drawing showing the paw prints of 1. left front paw print of a Thylacine; 2. left front paw print of a dog [rear paw similar]; 3. the left rear paw impression of a Thylacine. The impression of the ankle joint is rarely seen. Sketch courtesy Dr Eric Guiler, "The Tasmanian Tiger in Pictures", St David's Park Publishing, Hobart, Tasmania, 1993.



Hartley Valley on the western fringe of the Blue Mountains, as seen from Mount York. In past years there have been occasional sightings claims of both 'panthers' and 'tigers', who have probably found their way here from the mountain country on the north side of the valley. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.

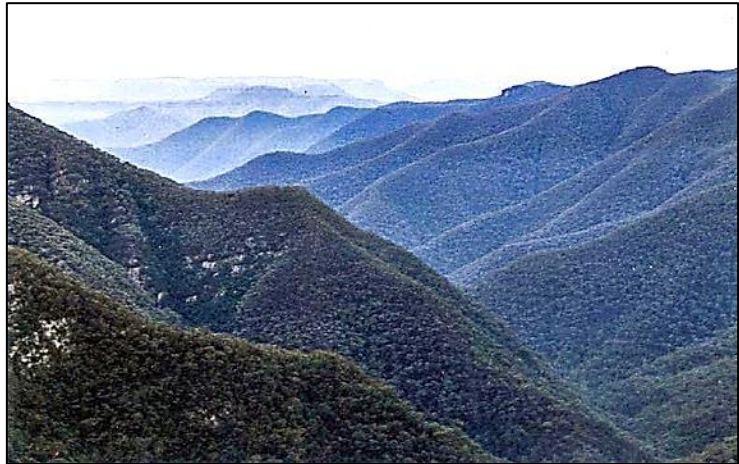
A view of Lithgow, ringed by rugged forest-covered sandstone mountains. Known for its 'panther' sightings, there are also residents who have claimed to have seen Thylacines in the nearby scrublands over the years. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.





*The Kanimbla Valley, looking east to the western escarpment of the Blue Mountains. Situated north of Megalong Valley, it shares 'tiger' reports, as the creatures are known to migrate between these valleys in their hunt for native animals and farm stock.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*

*The deep, almost impenetrable valleys of the vast Kanangra Boyd National Park, as seen from Kanangra Walls.
Hereabouts campers have been reporting encounters with Thylacines for generations.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*



*Kanangra Walls, NSW. Campers and day bushwalkers have over the years claimed to have experienced close encounters with the elusive 'tiger'. One day in 1980, a lone bushwalker was surprised by a Thylacine he had obviously disturbed, when it leaped from out of trackside shrubbery barely 3 metres in front of him into bush on the opposite side of the track close to the cliff edge. The animal escaped following the clifftop shrubbery. From the years of sightings and close encounters by people in the Kanangra wilds, and on properties skirting the edges of this National Park, it is likely that this mighty wilderness hides a reasonably large number of these marsupials.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2021.*

PLEASE NOTE: The next meeting will be held on 17th April, 2021 same time, same place and will be our first meeting of the year [covid circumstances permitting].

We hope everyone has been well. There should be some good Skywatches ahead of us up here at Katoomba weather permitting. Meanwhile, there is a lot happening ‘up there’ at present so

– until our next meeting ~

Keep safe and
Watch the Skies!
Rex and Heather



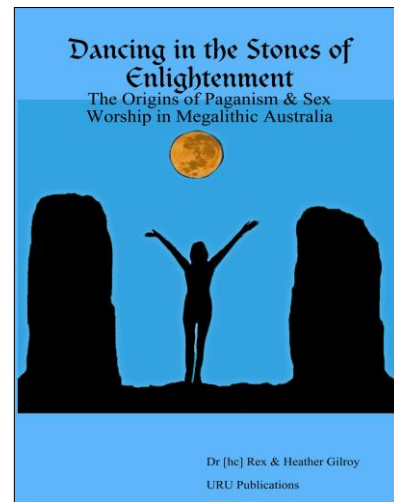
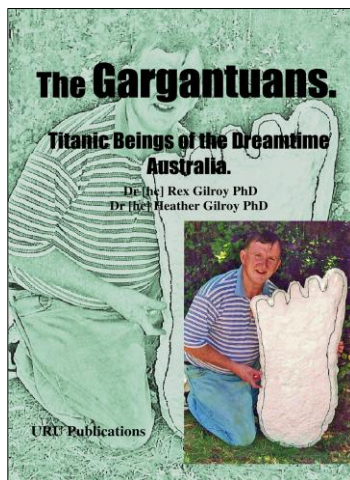
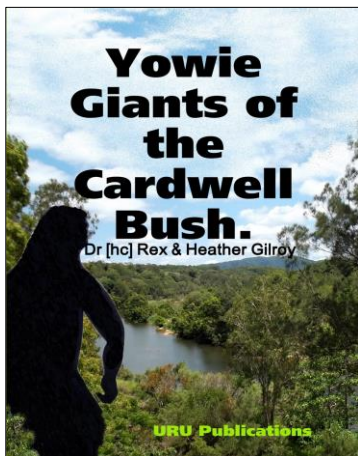
URU Publications. PO Box 202, Katoomba NSW 2780.

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