

THE SOUTH COAST AND SOUTHERN TABLELANDS



DESPITE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES in their lifestyles, the Aborigines who inhabited the narrow, heavily forested coastal plain that fringes the whole southeastern coast of New South Wales maintained regular social contacts with their compatriots occupying the elevated tableland west of the Great Dividing Range. Although they too have pursued differing lifestyles, the European settlers of the two regions have maintained even closer connections.

Europeans first traversed the coast by land in 1797, when a party of shipwrecked seamen walked from the far South Coast to **Sydney**. The first real crossing of the range to examine the interior of the colony was made a year later when an official expedition, designed to convince dissident Irish convicts that there was no handy haven for escapees in the interior, explored to the southwest into the **Berrima** district. Cedarcutters had moved down the coast into the Illawarra district by the beginning of the nineteenth century and by 1812 a few graziers had followed them. By 1815, surveyor-general John Oxley owned a cattle station in the interior near what is now Bargo.

The exploitation by Alexander Berry and Edward Wollstonecraft of land granted to them in 1822 at the mouth of the Shoalhaven River (see Nowra) was followed in 1828 by official surveys of the upper Shoalhaven River valley and the coast to the Moruya River. Soon after the survey, land was granted in both these areas to settlers who were involved mainly in cattle grazing. In a few suitable areas the holders of large land grants leased land to small tenant farmers, often from Scotland or Ireland, who grew some grain and potatoes and produced crude butter and cheese for the Sydney market. Townships were established in 1839 at **Braidwood** on the Shoalhaven and at Broulee on the coast.

Dr Charles Throsby, who settled near Oxley at Bong Bong (see Moss Vale) in 1819, led the movement further into the interior by exploring as far as the present site of **Canberra** and established land connections with the coastal settlements. A camp for convicts established at Towrang as a result of his work became the nucleus of a frontier settlement at **Goulburn** which expanded rapidly into a regional centre. For a short time Goulburn was a service centre for the whole of southeastern Australia, including what is now Victoria. The 1823 discovery of the Monaro Plains by Captain Mark John Currie and Major Ovens brought squatting communities of wool producers into the **Queanbeyan** and **Cooma** districts. Much of the Cooma land was held initially as branch squatting stations by the owners of large freehold properties around Goulburn.

Since most of this expansion occurred between 1820 and 1830 under laws hastily drawn up to control the squatting boom, the pioneers had to be controlled by an improvised administration. For a few years surveyor John Lambie, based at **Cooma** as crown land commissioner for the Monaro pastoral district, was the sole representative of law and government from **Queanbeyan** and the Moruya River to Bass Strait. The coastal settlements which he also controlled were expanded to the south when the Imlay brothers settled near the site of **Bega** in the 1830s. The plans of Benjamin Boyd in the 1840s for a pastoral empire on the Monaro with its own port at Boydtown near **Eden** were ruined by his insolvency and early demise. Settlers from **Braidwood** moved into the Cobargo area in the early 1830s seeking insurance against drought on the tableland.



View from 'Sand Hills', near Lake George, New South Wales. Watercolour by Abraham Lincoln, from his Australian Sketches, 1838–44. Few European artists were attracted by the endless and often featureless bush. Lincoln was an exception, but even in this painting a pleasant stream winds its way through a clearing, showing where civilised men and women may settle.

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The links between coast and tableland were cemented by gold discoveries. The **Araluen** rush of 1851 gave **Moruya** a brief taste of glory as a goldfields port. Later rushes at **Kiandra** in 1859, **Nerrigundah** in 1861, **Bermagui** in 1880 and **Pambula** in 1890 temporarily stimulated townships further south, but all faded rapidly.

During the nineteenth century the South Coast became a land of small dairy farmers with some timber production. With inadequate ports bedevilled by bars at the river entrances, it was initially served by a mosquito fleet of small sailing coasters owned by individuals but, from 1853, the regular services of the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company slowly drove out all competition. **Braidwood** pastoralists, with no satisfactory roads, sought access to sea transport initially through **Jervis Bay**, but found a more suitable route in 1856 through the Clyde Mountain road to **Batemans Bay**. The wool producers on the Monaro and around **Goulburn** relied entirely on road transport to and from **Sydney** until the railway entered the area in the 1880s. Still, **Boyd's** dream of a southeastern province of New South Wales using its own ports died hard and fervent local patriots, both on the tableland and along the coast, wasted much time and paper in urging the virtues of rail or road links from the tableland to ports at **Jervis Bay**, **Broulee** and **Eden**. A web of state transport radiating from Sydney frustrated all such efforts.

The Illawarra district, centred on **Wollongong**, relied at first on the pattern of dairy and forest industries which was followed further south, but from 1849 the exploitation of rich coal seams provided a base on which metal extraction and fabrication industries could be established from 1908. Poor roads, inadequate sea transport and an ageing population left the rest of the coast virtually stagnant from about 1890 and, around the turn of the century, it suffered from an emigration of people to northern New South Wales and Queensland.

In the search for a national capital, the scenic qualities of the southeastern region and its location between **Sydney** and **Melbourne** gave it a distinct advantage. The original selection

in 1904 of Dalgety, southwest of **Cooma**, was vetoed by the host state, New South Wales, as being too far from **Sydney**, but the selection of **Canberra** in 1908 eventually satisfied everybody. Commenced in 1911, the building of the city was interrupted by World War I but, after resumption in 1920, the initial phase was concluded in 1927 with the opening of the federal parliament in Canberra. The southeastern region thus acquired its own regional centre that could legitimately challenge the old dominance of Sydney.

The gentle bucolic charm of the South Coast attracted tourists from the 1890s, but the transfer to **Canberra** between 1927 and 1929 of some thousands of federal public servants, used to the maritime amenities of **Melbourne**, gave the tourist industry a considerable boost. The federal enclave at **Jervis Bay**, which had accommodated the Royal Australian Naval College from 1916, was an obvious primary target, but the Canberra influence slowly permeated the whole South Coast. Fortunately for the region, the painful readjustment within the dairy industry that followed World War II was offset by a major investment in the roads of the region. What had hitherto been a steady trickle of tourists became a major flood which has drastically altered the character of the coast. The growing custom of retirement from Canberra to the coast has generated a number of areas which might be described satirically as 'little Canberra-on-Sea'.

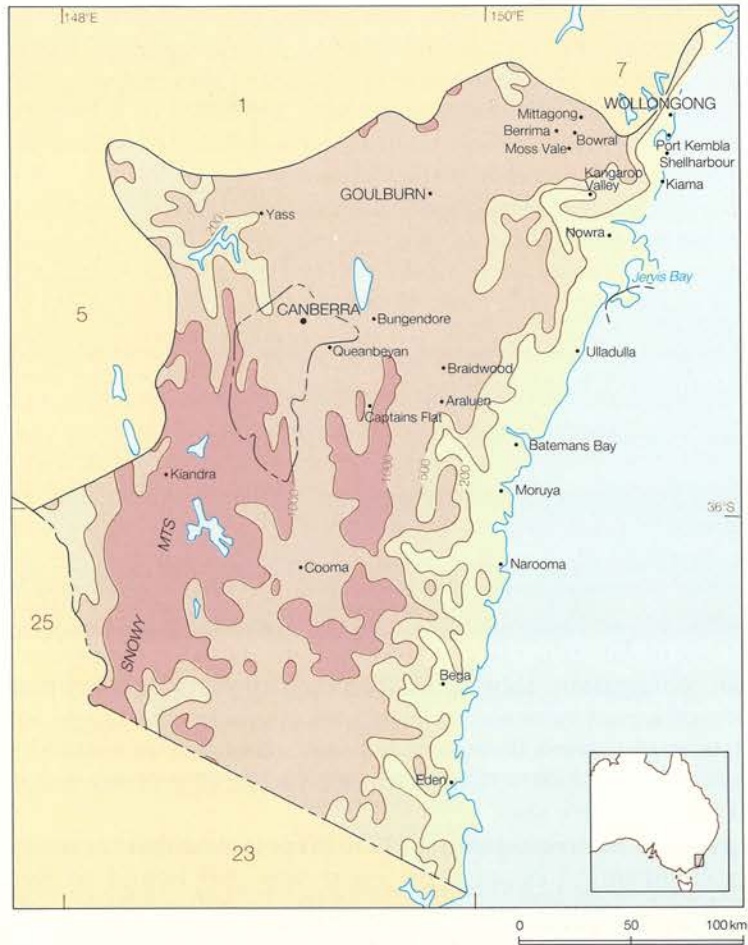
The high country south of **Cooma** also began to attract tourists from around the turn of the century when the snowfields were first exploited, but the area remained remote until the launching in July 1949 of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority. The task of harnessing the headwaters of one of Australia's largest river systems, both for the generation of electricity and the expansion of irrigation, took more than twenty years and occupied a considerable labour force, many of whom were recent European migrants. The works left the mountains with an up-to-date road system that provided easy access for an expanded population of tourists in pursuit of snow sports. Cooma, once the service centre for the construction works, became a tourist centre also.

The evidence given to an investigation in 1931 made it clear that the interests of coast and tableland were still divergent because the coast was still bound to **Sydney** by strong economic bonds, but the postwar scene is quite different. In economics, education, culture and recreation, the influence of **Canberra** on both coast and tableland is such that Sydney is beginning to recede from all of the region except the Illawarra. The **Wollongong** and **Port Kembla** mining and industrial complex, in deep economic recession in the 1980s after its long postwar boom, is inescapably part of a coastal metropolis extending north to **Newcastle**.

H.J. Gibbney

SUGGESTED READING

- W.A. Bayley, *Behind Broulee: a history of the central South Coast of New South Wales*, Moruya 1964.
 H.J. Gibbney, *Eurobodalla: history of the Moruya district*, Sydney 1980.
 W.K. Hancock, *Discovering Monaro*, Cambridge 1972.
 J. Larkins, *Story of the Snowy Mountains: its history and people*, Sydney 1980.
 L. Wigmore, *Canberra: history of Australia's national capital*, Canberra 1972.

**ARALUEN**

[35°39'S 149°49'E]

Popn: 879 (1881), 60 (1961). Name: Aborig = 'place of waterlilies'. Also called Happy Valley. H. S. Badgery and H. C. Burnell settled in valley in 1827. Cattle leases in district taken up in the 1830s. Gold discov in Araluen valley in 1851. Hotel opened in 1853, post office in 1858. High gold production in 1858–60. Second most productive field in NSW in 1868–69: approx 15 000 diggers worked field along river during 4-yr rush. First gold dredge on field used in 1899, later 11 at work, last working until World War II. Naughton's Co-operative Cheese Factory opened in the 1900s, supplied by 14 dairies.

BATEMANS BAY

[35°43'S 150°11'E]

Popn: 266 (1881), 1183 (1961), 4924 (1981). Bay named by Capt James Cook in 1770 after Nathaniel Bateman, captain of a vessel he had served on. Crew of the *Fly* attacked by Aborigs in 1808. Robert Johnston entered bay in 1821 and rediscov Clyde R: returned with Alexander Berry and Hamilton Hume and traced river to source. District surveyed in 1828: deserted hut and stockyards found. Cedar-getters and land clearers in district in the 1820s. Town settlers arrived at private township of St Vincent in 1841 after role of Broulee as port declined. Illawarra and South Coast Steam Navi-

gation Co found Clyde R to be navigable in 1854: regular services in the 1860s–70s led to growth. Village surveyed in 1859. Oyster farming estab in 1860, became a major producing area: fleet of 40 oyster boats in 1870. Sawmill erected in 1870. Proclaimed a port in 1885. First ferry across river in 1891, bridge opened in 1956. Trawler attacked by Japanese submarine between here and **Moruya** in 1942. Tourist and retirement centre since World War II, especially for **Canberra** residents.

BEGA

[36°39'S 149°51'E]

Popn: 625 (1861), 516 (1871), 2632 (1911), 2277 (1933), 4388 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'beautiful' or 'large camping ground'. District runs taken up in 1829 by squatters from **Braidwood**. Settlers in the 1830s estab township on bank opposite present site: but moved to higher ground after floods. Town dates from the late 1840s, gazetted in 1851. Subdivision of Bega valley in the 1850s saw bidding for land between large Twofold Bay Pastoral Assoc (see Eden) and independent farmers with half valley going to latter group. Scanes Hotel built c1867, now a museum (Nat T). Wesleyan Chapel built in 1869; St John's Church built in 1878, designed by Edmund Blacket. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1881. Municipal gasworks estab in 1885. Dairying

developed in the late 19th cent with NSW Creameries Co butter factory and several cheese factories by 1901.

BERRIMA [34°29'S 150°21'E]

Popn: 249 (1841), 377 (1846), 192 (1851), 475 (1871), 161 (1911), 857 (1961), 596 (1971), 685 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'southward' or 'black swan'. John Wilson led brief expedition to district in 1798. Rediscovered by John and Hamilton Hume in 1814. District explored by Charles Throsby in 1818, runs taken up soon after. Harper's Mansion (Nat T, RNE) on hill overlooking town built in 1829–30. Town site on new road from Sydney to Goulburn chosen by NSW surveyor-general Thomas Mitchell in 1830. Town plan approved in 1831, beginning with village green (now a park): proposed to be chief centre for southern NSW. Courthouse (RNE) built 1833–38. District court moved to Goulburn in 1850. Convicts started work on gaol (RNE) in 1835, opened in 1839, used as internment camp in World War I, closed in 1919; a rehabilitation centre for young prisoners since 1949. Walls and gates from original gaol remain, but internal buildings rebuilt in 1945. Surveyor-General Inn built in 1835 is oldest in NSW continuously licensed (from 1839) and in original building. Taylor's Crown Inn (now galleries) and Colonial Inn (now restaurant, RNE) opened in the 1840s. Holy Trinity Anglican church built in 1849, designed by Edmund Blacket; St Francis Xavier Roman Catholic church built 1849–51. Growth virtually ceased after bypassed by rlwy in the 1860s. New Berrima cement works estab in 1929. Berrima Village Trust estab in 1963 to preserve historic buildings: village as whole listed on RNE, has become a major tourist attraction.

BOWRAL [34°29'S 150°26'E]

Popn: 133 (1871), 3005 (1933), 6862 (1981). Name from Aborig name for Mt Gibraltar. Village also known as Wingecarribee and Burradoo. John Wilson and others explored area in 1798, first Europeans in district: development at that stage forbidden by govt. Wingecarribee homestead (RNE) built in 1857 on land taken up by surveyor-general John Oxley in 1815: home was imported from England in kit form and is only known one of type in Aust. Village originally grew on Old South Rd, but stagnated after road diverted in the 1830s; renewed growth after road from Gib Gap to Bong Bong built in 1852. Oxley's son subdivided 81 ha of his land for town site in 1859 when heard rlwy was planned, then sold surrounding blocks for farms. Town proclaimed in 1863, first inn estab that yr. Rlwy opened in 1867. Tannery estab in 1868. Became a municipality in 1886. Courthouse (RNE) built c1896. Bong Bong area first settled by Charles Throsby in 1819, township surveyed in 1821. Town attracted police post, military station, post office and commissariat store, but settlement declined after post office moved to Berrima and mail coach service ceased. Since the late 19th cent has been popular as country retreat for wealthy Sydney people.

BRAIDWOOD [35°26'S 149°49'E]

Popn: 212 (1851), 1551 (1901), 944 (1981). Named after Royal Navy surgeon Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson



The site of Berrima was selected by the surveyor-general, Major Thomas Mitchell, in 1830 as the chief centre for southern New South Wales. The Surveyor General Inn, built in 1835, and continuously licenced since 1839, is the oldest hotel in New South Wales. Photograph by Ray Joyce.

WELDON TRANNIES

who took up an early land grant in 1825. District explored in 1822, surveyed 1824–28 and settled by pastoralists from 1824. Former council chambers and bank building (RNE) built c1835. Bedervale (RNE) designed by John Verge, built for John Coghill in 1836. Township surveyed in 1839 after becoming headquarters for district land commissioner in 1837. Post office and original courthouse opened in 1837. Royal Hotel, now museum, built in 1840. Manar (RNE) built by convicts in 1841. Stone flour mill built in the 1840s. Boomed when gold found in district in 1851–52. St Bede's Roman Catholic church built in 1856, as was Wesleyan church. Commercial Hotel (RNE) built in 1859, post office (RNE) in 1865, St Andrew's Anglican church in 1881, new courthouse (RNE) in 1900. Declared a historic village by Nat T, listed on RNE. Gold discov at Major's Creek to south in 1851.

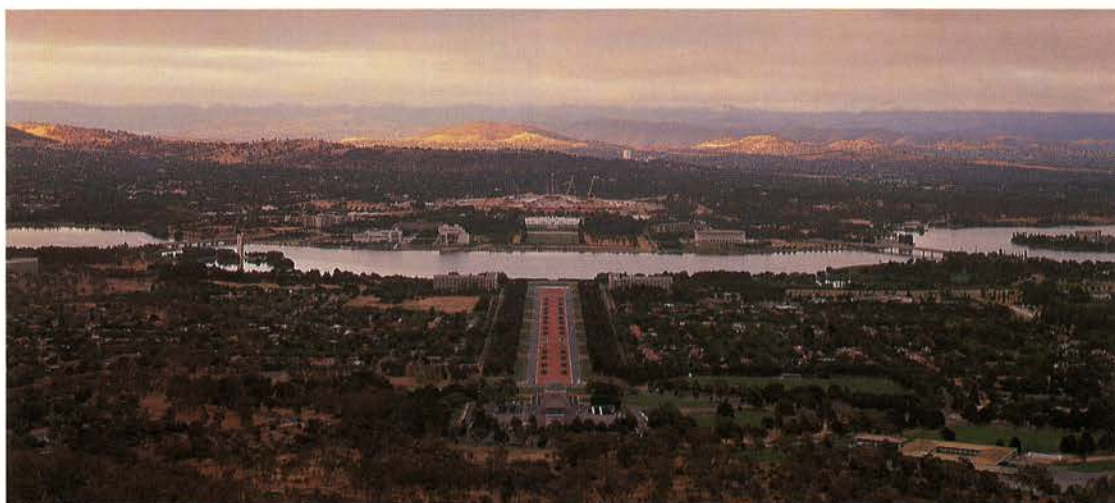
BUNGENDORE [35°15'S 149°28'E]

Popn: 63 (1851), 655 (1933), 493 (1966), 683 (1981). Turalla taken up in 1825, homestead (RNE) begun c1833–35. Carwoola homestead (RNE) built c1849 on land grant of 1828. First village settlement in 1835, town site approved in 1837. Bungendore police district estab to serve Limestone Plains (see Canberra). Harp Inn built in 1838. Bungendore Inn estab in 1847, was Cobb & Co staging post. St Mary's Roman Catholic church built in 1861, courthouse in 1866. Rlwy station (RNE) built in 1884, line opened in 1885. Nat T classified 19 buildings in town and district in 1972.

CANBERRA [35°17'S 149°09'E]

Popn: 116 (1911), 7325 (1933), 56 449 (1961), 142 822 (1971), 219 331 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'meeting place'.

Limestone Plains District explored by Charles Throsby Smith who reached Black Mountain in 1820. Became known as Limestone Plains after Charles Throsby followed Molonglo R to area in 1821. Govt botanist and explorer Allan Cunningham reported



*Canberra, showing the new Parliament House under construction.
Photograph by Leo Meier, 1985.*

WELDON TRANNIES

favourably on area in 1823. First run, Canberry, taken up by Joshua Moore on Molonglo R in 1824. Duntroon run taken up by Sydney merchant Robert Campbell in 1825: older section of house (RNE) built in 1833, many of outbuildings in the 1830s–40s. Acquired for military college in 1910. District first surveyed in 1829. Village gazetted on Pialligo estate c1834. Lanyon to southeast taken up in 1835, homestead (Nat T, RNE) built 1856–59 by Andrew Cunningham.

Country village St John the Baptist Anglican church (RNE) built 1841–45; first school built nearby in c1845. St Ninian's Presbyterian church built in 1873. Old Canberra Inn opened in 1876. Yarralumla house built in 1891 on run taken up in 1828: property acquired by govt in 1913 to become residence of gov-gen.

National capital: the early years Aust Capital Territory created in 1908 as federal enclave in NSW: land for city acquired by commonwealth govt in 1911. Mt Stromlo selected for astronomical observatory site in 1910, observatory built in 1926. International design competition for new capital city won by Walter Burley Griffin in 1912. Commemoration stone on Capital Hill unveiled in 1913 to inaugurate national capital project and construction of first public buildings began. Cotter Dam built in 1913. Rlwy opened in 1914, first passenger service in 1923. Federal Capital Advisory Commission estab in 1921. Hotel Canberra (RNE) built 1922–26. City plan gazetted and early suburbs laid out in 1924. The Lodge, prime ministers' residence, built in 1925. Govt bus services began in 1926. Sydney Buildings (RNE), first commercial buildings constructed in city by private enterprise, built 1926–27: matching Melbourne Buildings (RNE) built 1941–46. Parliament House completed in 1927 and federal parliament sat here from that yr when officially opened by Duke of York. Albert Hall (RNE) opened in 1928. Institute of Anatomy opened in 1930, building (RNE) taken over by National Film and Sound Archives in

1984. Canberra University College estab in 1930. Aust War Memorial (RNE) built 1934–41, extended 1968–71 and extensively remodelled in 1984.

Growth and maturity Aust National University created by federal govt in 1946 as research institution; first undergraduates admitted in 1960 when it merged with University College. Rapid suburban development from the mid-1950s as more and more public service departments moved from Melbourne. National Capital Development Commission estab in 1957 to take over planning and building. Aust-US Memorial erected and Aust Academy of Science estab in 1954, building opened in 1958. First new town in Woden valley begun in 1962: other recent suburban areas include Belconnen (begun in 1966), Tuggeranong (1973). Carillon now on lake built in 1963 as British govt gift to mark city's 50th anniversary. Lake Burley Griffin created in 1963–64 with damming of Molonglo R. Royal Aust Mint operations transferred here from Melbourne in 1965. Space tracking stations estab at Tidbinbilla (1965), Orroral Valley (1966) and Honeysuckle Creek (1967). National Library, estab in 1901, moved to present building in 1968. Black Mountain Tower opened in 1980 as communications centre. High Court building also opened in 1980. Aust National Gallery opened in 1982. New Parliament House planned to open in 1988; construction authority estab in 1979, design selected in 1980.

CAPTAINS FLAT [35°34'S 149°28'E]
Popn: 206 (1911), 1778 (1954), 309 (1981). Copper, lead, zinc and gold discov in 1874, mined 1882–c1901 and again 1937–62. Rlwy from Bungendore opened when mine reactivated in 1937 with introduction of flotation treatment process. Rlwy abandoned when mine closed. First report on pollution of Molonglo R from mine dumps in 1911; anti-pollution conditions written into leases when mines reopened.

COOMA

[36°13'S 149°09'E]

Popn: 47 (1851), 2330 (1911), 1969 (1933), 2249 (1947), 9103 (1966), 7353 (1976), 7978 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'sandbank' or 'big swamp'. Monaro district named from Aborig *maneroo* = 'treeless plain'. Area explored by Capt M.J. Currie in 1823. European settlers first took up Monaro district in the late 1820s, but majority of runs first taken up in the 1840s. Christ Church (RNE) built in 1845, oldest in Monaro district. Site for village laid out in 1849 with sale of town land in 1850. Raglan Gallery (RNE) built as Lord Raglan Hotel in 1854; Royal Hotel (RNE) built in 1858; Travellers' Rest Pioneer Museum built in 1861 as hotel and Cobb & Co staging post. Discovery of gold at **Kiandra** in 1859 led to town growth. Telegraph to **Sydney** opened in 1860. St Paul's Church (RNE) built in 1865, spire added in 1891. Proclaimed a municipality in 1879. Post office built in 1879; both courthouse and gaol in 1887 (all RNE). Rlwy opened in 1889, leading to tourism in **Snowy Mountains** and further town growth. *Southern Cloud* aircraft crashed in district in 1931, wreckage not found until 1958. Selected as headquarters for Snowy Mountains Scheme in 1949, leading to rapid popn growth with large numbers of European immigrants. Flags of the 27 nationalities of workmen on Snowy Mountains Scheme erected in 1959 to mark 10th anniversary of project. Municipality and shire amalgamated in 1981.

EDEN

[37°02'S 149°55'E]

Popn: 120 (1851), 482 (1861), 214 (1871), 1245 (1961), 3107 (1981). Named after family name of Baron Auckland, secretary of state for the colonies, when town planned in 1842. George Bass explored and named Twofold Bay in 1797. Started as whaling port after industry estab in Twofold Bay in 1828. Peter and George Imlay had whaling business and grazing land in district by 1833. Wattlebark industry also became important in the 1830s. Permission given to estab town in the 1830s: first land sold and town gazetted in 1843. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1857. Grew as port for **Kiandra** goldfield. Port failed to develop to any great extent as **Sydney** merchants did not wish to have a South Coast rival. Twofold Bay whaling station closed c1930, having been taken over by Davidson when Boydtown (see below) collapsed. *Cumberland* sank offshore after striking German mine off Gabo Is: copper from ship salvaged in 1952. Fish cannery opened in 1948. Large woodchip mill estab nearby in 1968 to supply Japanese market: bulk loading facilities for shipping opened in 1970 when exports began. Ruined blockhouse at Bittangabee Bay may have been built by Portuguese sailors in the 1520s. Boydtown on opposite side of Twofold Bay estab in the 1840s by Ben Boyd, but abandoned when his financial situation collapsed in 1849. Boyd estab bay whaling station in 1844, closed in 1849. Remains of town acquired for tourist development in the 1930s.

GOULBURN

[34°45'S 149°44'E]

Popn: 655 (1841), 3241 (1861), 10 187 (1911), 20 544 (1961), 21 755 (1981). Goulburn Plains named after

Henry Goulburn, secretary of state for the colonies, after district explored by Charles Throsby, Hamilton Hume and James Meehan in 1818. Township also known as Strathellan in early times. District sighted from Mount Towrang in 1798, but govt forbade entry. Hamilton Hume's 1814 exploration opened area. Gov Lachlan Macquarie passed through area in 1820, settlers soon followed. Plan for township of Goulburn Plains drawn up in 1828 to settle soldiers discharged from NSW companies; town on higher ground proclaimed in 1833. First inn and store opened on original site in 1832. Road route from **Sydney** surveyed by Thomas Mitchell 1830-36. Bradley's or Goulburn Brewery (RNE) built in 1836 (flour mill) and 1840 (brewery). Riversdale (Nat T, RNE) built in 1838 as Victoria Inn; St Clair built c1845. First school opened in 1839. Flour mill estab c1849. Old courthouse (RNE) built in 1849. Southern Railway Hotel (RNE) built c1850. Mulwaree Inn (Garoorigang House, RNE) built c1857. Growth with expansion of pastoral industry, then with discov of gold at **Braidwood** and other places to the south. Proclaimed a municipality in 1859; decreed a city in 1864 by virtue of becoming a bishop's see (in 1851), last town in British Empire promoted for that reason. Belmore Park (RNE) dedicated in 1867. Rlwy opened in 1869, town remained southern terminus until 1875 and was important staging post: station (RNE). St Saviour's Anglican cathedral (RNE) built 1874-84 to an Edmund Blacket design. Gas supply began in 1879. Post office (RNE) built in 1880-81. Original water supply and steam pumping house (RNE) estab in 1883, buildings now a museum. Courthouse (RNE) opened in 1887; town hall (RNE) in 1889. Co-operative dairy factory estab in 1901, woollen mills in 1922. Became an important wool sales centre in 1930. Abattoirs opened in 1951. Largest penal concentration in southern NSW was at Towrang to northeast from 1833 to c1846: remains of stockade and powder magazine together with 1839 convict-built bridge are listed on RNE. District homesteads listed on RNE include Lockyersleigh (1828), Lansdowne (c1830), Kippilaw (1836), Norwood (c1838), and Burrungoroolong (1882). Open cut silver, lead, zinc and copper mine opened at Woodlawn in 1977.

JERVIS BAY

[35°07'S 150°41'E]

Named Port Jervis after John Jervis, Earl St Vincent, in 1791. Capt James Cook named Point Longnose in 1770. Inlet explored by George Bass in 1797 and by Lieut James Grant in 1801. Coastline mapped from the land by Lieut Kent and surveyor James Meehan in 1805. Visited in 1811 by Gov Macquarie who recommended settlement be established, but project abandoned because of difficulty of land access. Area explored on land by Charles Throsby in 1818. Point Perpendicular lighthouse (RNE, Nat T) built in 1899. Norwegian whalers estab shore station in 1912, but closed in 1913. Royal Aust Navy training college estab in 1915 when control of area transferred from NSW to commonwealth. College transferred to Flinders, Vic, in 1930. Danish-seine fishing began in 1933. Navy estab here

again in 1958. Destroyer HMAS *Voyager* sank off coast in 1964 after collision with aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* during exercises. Settlement of Huskisson estab c1841, post office operated from 1843 until c1851, reopened in 1875, by which time town had two shipyards. Road from Nerriga surveyed in 1841 and later became the Wool Road from **Braidwood**, increasing importance of Huskisson as port. More recently has become fishing and resort town. Gold mined at Nerriga from 1878 to 1960.

KANGAROO VALLEY [34°44'S 150°32'E]

Popn: 561 (1911), 174 (1966), 349 (1976). Named thus because of large number of kangaroos found there: originally known as 'the Kangaroo Ground'. Charles Throsby and party probably first Europeans in valley in 1818. Kangaroo Land run granted in 1823. District surveyed in 1831. Cedar-getters in area by the 1830s. H. Osborne officially granted Barrengarry in 1840: cattle breeding developed in the 1850s; Barrengarry House built in 1862. Free selectors in valley from 1861 (300 by 1871) leading to growth of dairy industry. First store in valley opened in the 1860s. Osborne, first village in valley estab in 1867: post office opened in 1870, school in 1871. Dairy factory operated at Beaumont 1888–1910; others opened in the 1890s, but generally small and short lived, last in valley closing in 1924. Horse and cattle stud estab at Barrengarry in 1895. Suspension bridge over Kangaroo R opened in 1898. Subterranean clover introduced 1909–14. Timber industry developed after World War II.

KIAMA [34°40'S 150°51'E]

Popn: 199 (1851), 1161 (1881), 2256 (1947), 4719 (1971), 7717 (1981). Name: Aborig *kiarama-a* = 'where the sea makes a noise', referring to the blowhole. George Bass anchored in future harbour and saw blowhole on his exploratory voyage to **Western Port** in 1797. Surveyors John Oxley and James Meehan explored area from sea and land respectively in 1819. First European settlers were cedarcutters in 1821. Town site reserved in 1826; first permanent house built in 1832; town proclaimed and laid out in 1839. Woodstock sawmills estab in 1838; important to local economy in early yrs. Dairying industry estab in 1842. Toll bar on road at Kiama 1844–49. Jetty built in 1849. Kiama Steam Navigation Co (later Illawarra Steam Navigation Co) formed in 1853. Steam flour mill built in 1856. *Kiama Independent* founded in 1863, oldest surviving newspaper in NSW published by one family throughout its history. Declared a municipality in 1859. Permanent harbour basin built 1871–76. Post office (RNE) built in 1878. First direct shipment of butter to UK in 1880. Basalt quarried from 1882. First gas plant in NSW outside major cities opened here in 1883. Rlwy to Bombo (North Kiama) opened in 1887, extended to Kiama in 1893: passenger shipping declined as result, but bluemetal from district quarries shipped until 1963. Rapid growth of tourism since the 1950s; suburban developments since the late 1970s cater in part for **Wollongong** workers. Breakwater extending in the 1980s to offer further protection to fishing and pleasure craft. Municipality enlarged in 1954 to include Jamberoo



Kiama's picturesque harbour, with the Hotel Brighton in the background. With its spectacular blowhole, Kiama has served as a tourist resort since the railway brought it within easy reach of Sydney in 1887. Hotels like the Brighton have served generations of tourists. The Brighton, remodelled in the 1930s, was demolished in the 1980s. Photograph, c1975.

TOURISM COMMISSION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

and Gerringong. Alne Bank (RNE) homestead at Gerringong built in 1851: Charles Kingsford Smith took off from here in 1933 on inaugural Trans-Tasman airmail service. Aust's first co-operative butter factory opened at Jamberoo in 1884. Minnamurra House (Nat T, RNE) built in 1840; Terragong House (RNE) in 1858.

KIANDRA [35°53'S 148°30'E]

Popn: 102 (1871), 271 (1881), 41 (1933). First called Gibson's Plains. William Brodribb crossed Kiandra plateau in 1848. Town, first in **Snowy Mountains** area, estab in 1860 following beginning of gold rush of 1859–61. One of two first ski clubs in world formed here c1880 after skiing introduced as means of winter transport, rather than sport, by Norwegian miners in 1861. Popn reached approx 15 000 during peak mining period 1859–60, but popn soon fell owing to extremely difficult winter conditions. Three Mile Dam at Mt Selwyn built by Chinese miners for sluicing in 1882; one of first Aust fields to use sluicing techniques. Town declined from c1900, now a ghost town.

MITTAGONG [34°27'S 150°28'E]

Popn: 291 (1871), 2621 (1961), 4266 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'little mountain'. John Wilson briefly explored area in 1798 and made first written records of lyrebirds and koalas. Francis Barrallier explored Nattai R in 1802. Expansion to southwest of **Sydney** held back until settlement encouraged by Gov Lachlan Macquarie and road built in 1819. Lower Mittagong or Mittagong Flat area settled in 1821 when first run taken up. Villages grew around Nattai, New Sheffield

and Fitzroy inns in the 1830s: last-named inn (rebuilt 1845) remains, now a guesthouse. The Poplars (RNE, now motel) built as the Prince Albert Hotel by Bartholomew Rush in 1845. Iron ore found nearby in 1833. School, now library, built in 1848. FitzRoy Iron Works estab in 1848 by Neale, Holmes and William and Thomas Tipple Smith: first iron smelting in Aust with blast furnace fully operational by 1863. Blast furnace ceased operation in 1877, works closed in 1886 after only limited success. Town was union of two townships of Nattai and New Sheffield, named Mittagong when rlwy station opened in 1867. First church was the Wesleyan in 1865. St Stephen's Church, designed by Edmund Blacket, built in 1878, replaced first Anglican church in district at Lower Mittagong. Coal mined in district in the 1880s–90s. Municipality proclaimed in 1889. Maltings built by Tooths in 1899 to produce barley malt for brewing: maltings here now produce most of state needs. Frensham School for Girls estab in 1913. Second rlwy line from **Picton** built in 1919 to avoid steep gradients of first. Broken Hill Proprietary Co mined iron ore from local mine during World War II.

MORUYA [35°55'S 150°06'E]

Popn: 148 (1856), 907 (1911), 708 (1933), 2003 (1981). Name: Aborig *mherroyah* = 'place of black swans' or 'water crossing'. Surveyor Florance surveyed coast from **Batemans Bay** to Mherroyah in 1828. First European settler was Francis Flanagan who took up Shannon View in 1829. In 1829 Moruya R was southern boundary of settlement as proclaimed by Gov Darling. Kiora village grew around property of same name taken up by John Hawdon in 1831; Kiora House built 1833–35. Small-scale shipbuilding began in 1847. Moruya township surveyed in 1850, gazetted in 1851. Post office opened in 1855. Pilot station at Newstead used from 1860 until regular shipping ceased in 1953. Wesleyan church built in 1864–65. Granite quarry opened in 1868, supplied stone for **Sydney** GPO pillars in 1872–73; reopened in 1924 to supply material for Sydney Harbour Bridge pylons and Cenotaph; a settlement (Granite Town) of 60–70 houses existed 1924–31. Gold mined in the 1860s at Wagonga and silver mine at Moruya opened in 1861: still some workings in the 1970s. Courthouse opened in 1881. Proclaimed a municipality in 1891. Tourism increasingly important, especially with growth of **Canberra**. Moruya Co-operative dairy factory opened in 1892, replaced by new factory in 1930. Wharf replaced in 1899. Aerodrome used in World War II as advanced operational base. Japanese ship attacked trawler between here and **Batemans Bay** in 1942; US freighter torpedoed off Moruya in 1944.

MOSS VALE [34°33'S 150°24'E]

Popn: 134 (1871), 1555 (1911), 3096 (1947), 2748 (1954), 4415 (1981). Named in 1864 after Jeremy Moss, thought to be first European settler. Rlwy station first called **Sutton Forest**, name of another township to southeast. John Wilson and party explored area in 1798. Oldbury (RNE) built in 1828. Throsby Park (Nat T, RNE) built 1834–37 on land granted to Charles

Throsby for his explorations between Southern Highlands and **Jervis Bay**. Village founded in 1853, town proclaimed in 1861, land sales in 1864, declared a municipality in 1888, amalgamated with shire in 1933. Rlwy opened in 1867 and town grew rapidly in the 1870s. Morton Primitive Reserve estab to south in 1938, declared nat pk in 1967, expanded a number of times since. Popular middle-class retirement area since the 1960s.

NAROOMA [36°12'S 150°08'E]

Popn: 401 (1911), 1185 (1961), 2758 (1981). Name: Aborig *noorooma* = 'clear blue waters'. Montague Is off coast sighted by Capt James Cook in 1770. Earlier settlement at Punkalla served as port for Bodalla and Nerrigundah: ruined jetty and timber mill remain. Post office opened at Narooma in 1881. Proclaimed a port in 1884. School opened in 1888. Ferry estab in 1892. Tourist resort from the 1900s. Bridge opened in 1931. Oyster industry estab c1900. Fish cannery estab in 1940. Village of Central Tilba to south classified by Nat T in 1975, listed on RNE for virtually unchanged 1890s buildings.

NOWRA [34°53'S 150°36'E]

Popn: 243 (1871), 1887 (1911), 6221 (1961), 12873 (1971), 17 887 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'black cockatoo'. Shoalhaven R sighted by George Bass in 1797. District explored by James Meehan in 1802, by G. W. Evans in 1812. Cedar-getters in area c1812. First European settler took up land in 1822. Archer, winner of first two Melbourne Cups (1861–62), bred at Terrara, run granted in 1836. Town site reserved in 1850, town founded in 1862, proclaimed a municipality in 1871, amalgamated with shire in 1948. Bridge across Shoalhaven built in 1881, replaced in 1980. Rlwy to Bomaderry, north of river, opened in 1893. HMAS Albatross estab 10 km to south in 1948 as Aust's only naval air station. Shoalhaven paper mills opened at Bomaderry in 1956. Aborig Cultural Centre opened in 1977. City of Shoalhaven proclaimed in 1979. Gold discov at Yalwal to west in 1860, serious alluvial mining in the 1870s. Reef mining began in 1871, last mine closed in the 1920s. Tourism has grown since the 1920s; Nowra now serves as a major regional centre for surrounding coastal resorts.

PORT KEMBLA [34°28'S 150°54'E]

Popn: 844 (1911), 4960 (1947), 7830 (1961), now included in **Wollongong**. Area originally called Red Point, named by Capt James Cook in 1770. Jetty served Mt Kemplab mine and name changed to Port Kemplab in 1892. Coast explored by George Bass and Matthew Flinders in 1796. Survivors of the wrecked *Sydney Cove* arrived here in 1797 after boat voyage and overland trek from **Flinders Island** where ship was lost. First land grants in 1817; first permanent European settlement in 1826 when protective garrison estab. Bulli Coal Co estab coalmining in 1859. Mt Kemplab colliery estab in 1882; rlwy built to Red Point, jetty built in 1883. Work on inner and outer harbours began in 1898. Aust's worst mining disaster occurred at Mt Kemplab in 1902 when explosion killed 96 men. Refining

and smelting works opened in 1909 to treat copper ore from **Mount Morgan**. Metal Manufacturers opened plant in 1918, Aust Fertilizers Ltd in 1921. Hoskins, later Aust Iron and Steel Ltd, set up works to produce pig iron in 1928 when the **Lithgow** firm moved here and amalgamated with three British companies. Broken Hill Proprietary Co took over company in 1935. Commonwealth Rolling Mills opened in 1938. Steel plate and hot strip mill built in 1955. Tinplate production began in 1957. Production reduced and workers laid off in 1982–83. Blister copper from **Mount Isa** refined here 1953–59, Mt Lyell (see Queenstown) blister copper from 1965. Further harbour improvements c1960, export coal loader completed in 1963, Stage 1 of another in 1982. Roll-on, roll-off berth completed in 1973.

QUEANBEYAN [35°20'S 149°15'E]

Popn: 72 (1841), 1408 (1911), 5033 (1947), 9448 (1961), 19 056 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'clear water'. Gazetted in 1838 at junction of Molonglo and Queanbeyan rivers explored by Charles Throsby Smith and party in 1820. The Oaks built in 1839. Kent Hotel opened in 1849. St Gregory's Roman Catholic church in 1849–50, Methodist church in 1859, Christ Church in 1860. Old stone hospital built in 1861. Proclaimed a municipality in 1885. Rlwy opened in 1887, extended to **Canberra** in 1914. Rlwy station (RNE) built in 1887. Queanbeyan Wool and Manufacturing Co estab in 1888. Local hotels suppld Canberra until 1928 when first hotels allowed in Canberra. Declared a city in 1972. A substantial proportion of the workforce is employed in Canberra.

SHELLHARBOUR [34°35'S 150°53'E]

Popn: 125 (1861), 1877 (1933), 5523 (1954), 13 394 (1961), now included in **Wollongong**. Descriptive name. Shells burned for lime to be sent to **Sydney** in early yrs. Port estab in the 1830s and wheat exported until rlwy opened in 1887 — port then declined. Robert Towns offered land for settlement of immigrant families in 1843: 23 families settled. Private village of

Peterborough estab in 1851; municipality proclaimed in 1859, name officially changed in 1885. Large property at Albion Park to west subdivided into small lots in 1860. Illawarra Light Horse Corps, first of its kind in NSW, formed there in 1870. Butter factory built in 1885 at Albion Park. Dairy factory opened at Shellharbour in 1889. Rlwy opened in 1891.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS [36°24'S 148°28'E]

Name descriptive. Mt Kosciusko, highest peak in Aust, named after Polish patriot Tadeusz Kosciusko by Paul de Strzelecki in 1840. Dr Lhotsky in area in 1834, stockmen ventured through district 1835–39. Mountains surveyed by Thomas Townsend in 1846–47. Meteorological station estab on summit 1898–1902. Hotel Kosciusko built 1906–09, burned down in 1951. First road to summit from Jindabyne opened in 1909. Kosciusko State Pk created in 1944; became a nat pk in 1967, now 629 708 ha. Earliest suggestion for water scheme in mountains was made in 1884. Idea of dual purpose power and irrigation scheme emerged in 1944. Comprehensive scheme approved by states concerned and commonwealth in 1949 to divert water from Snowy River to inland river systems as well as generating electricity. Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority created that yr with headquarters at **Cooma**. Guthega power station opened in 1955. Eucumbene Dam built 1956–58 as first major storage of scheme, diverted water to Murrumbidgee River and Murray River. Original town of Jindabyne estab in the 1840s, drowned by lake formed by dam and new town estab in 1964 by Authority. Duke and Duchess of Gloucester officially opened Snowy Mountains Scheme in 1965. Scheme completed in 1975. Ski resorts developed at Smiggin Holes, Perisher and Thredbo largely since World War II, although earliest was at Charlotte's Pass in the 1920s. Skitube rlwy built to Guthega mid-1980s. (See also Cooma, Kiandra).

ULLADULLA [35°22'S 150°29'E]

Popn: 129 (1871), 1844 (1947), 1210 (1954), 2781 (1971), 6018 (1981). Name: Aborig *ullada ullada* = 'safe harbour'. Earlier known as Wasp Harbour. Surveyor Thomas Florance in district in 1827–28. Early European settlers came for cedar. Poet Henry Kendall born at Milton to north in 1839. Jetty built in 1859, demolished in 1961. First stone pier in harbour built in 1863: iron lighthouse erected at end in 1871, removed to present site in 1889. Govt school opened in 1861. Clipper *Walter Hood* wrecked in bay in 1870. Fishing industry developed by Italian immigrants in the 1930s. Resort function increasingly important from the 1950s. Milton to north subdivided as private township c1860.

WOLLONGONG [34°25'S 150°53'E]

Popn: 831 (1841), 501 (1851), 4725 (1911), 18 116 (1947), 131 754 (1961), 208 651 (1981). Name: Aborig *wollongong* = 'sound of the sea'. George Bass and Matthew Flinders investigated coast in *Tom Thumb* in 1796, named Lake Illawarra as Tom Thumb Lagoon. Illawarra and Berkeley runs held in 1817. Charles Throsby and James Meehan explored district in 1815 and stockman's hut estab by Throsby. Land grants



BHP steelworks towering over the houses of Port Kembla. Photograph by John Storey, 1983.



Hotel Kosciusko. Postcard, c1920.

MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

made in 1816. Garrison sent here in 1826, marked official beginning of settlement in the Illawarra and first use of present name for settlement. Wollongong was main cedar port of Illawarra c1826, first coal loaded there in 1829. First church service held in 1831, first town hotel opened c1833. Town lots surveyed by Thomas Mitchell in 1834. Town grew as dairying and agric centre. Steamer communication with Sydney began in 1839. Foundation stones of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral and St Michael's Church (RNE) laid in 1840; latter finished in 1859. Bulli Pass route explored in 1844, opened to wheeled vehicles in 1868. Harbour estab with development in 1844 and 1868. Coalmine opened at Mt Keira in 1849, coal shipped from Wollongong Harbour. Govt school opened in 1851. *Illawarra Mercury* founded in 1855. Gaol built in 1855, demolished in 1920. Borough council estab in 1859. Albert Memorial Hospital estab in 1864. First steel manufactured in area in 1882. First gas street lighting in 1883. Courthouse (Nat T, RNE) built in 1885–86. Rlwy opened in 1887. Wollongong Harbour Trust estab in 1889, but dissolved in 1895 as **Port Kembla** became dominant port. Telephone exchange opened in 1904. Rapid development after iron and steel and other industrial plants estab at Port Kembla from the early 20th cent. City declared in

1942, became City of Greater Wollongong in 1947. Large influx of European migrants after World War II. Institute of Technology estab in 1951, became University of Wollongong in 1975. Area in economic recession in the mid-1980s with decline in employment in iron and steel and associated industries and closure of some coalmines.

YASS

[34°51'S 148°55'E]

Popn: 173 (1841), 1804 (1881), 3254 (1947), 4283 (1981). Name: Aborig *yahr* = 'running water'. District explored in 1821 by Hamilton Hume who later lived here for 40 yrs. District settled in the 1820s. Cooma Cottage (RNE) built c1835, bought by Hume in 1839. Town reserve laid out in 1832, post office opened in 1835. Store, now Hamilton Hume Museum, built in 1836. Town gazetted in 1837, became centre of important fine wool growing area. Old St Augustine's Roman Catholic church built from 1838; first Roman Catholic school opened in 1847. St Clement's Anglican church (RNE) built 1847–50 to an Edmund Blacket design. Henry O'Brien pioneered boiling down of sheep for tallow in the early 1840s. Became a municipality in 1873. Rlwy opened in 1876. Courthouse (RNE) built 1879, post office c1882.