

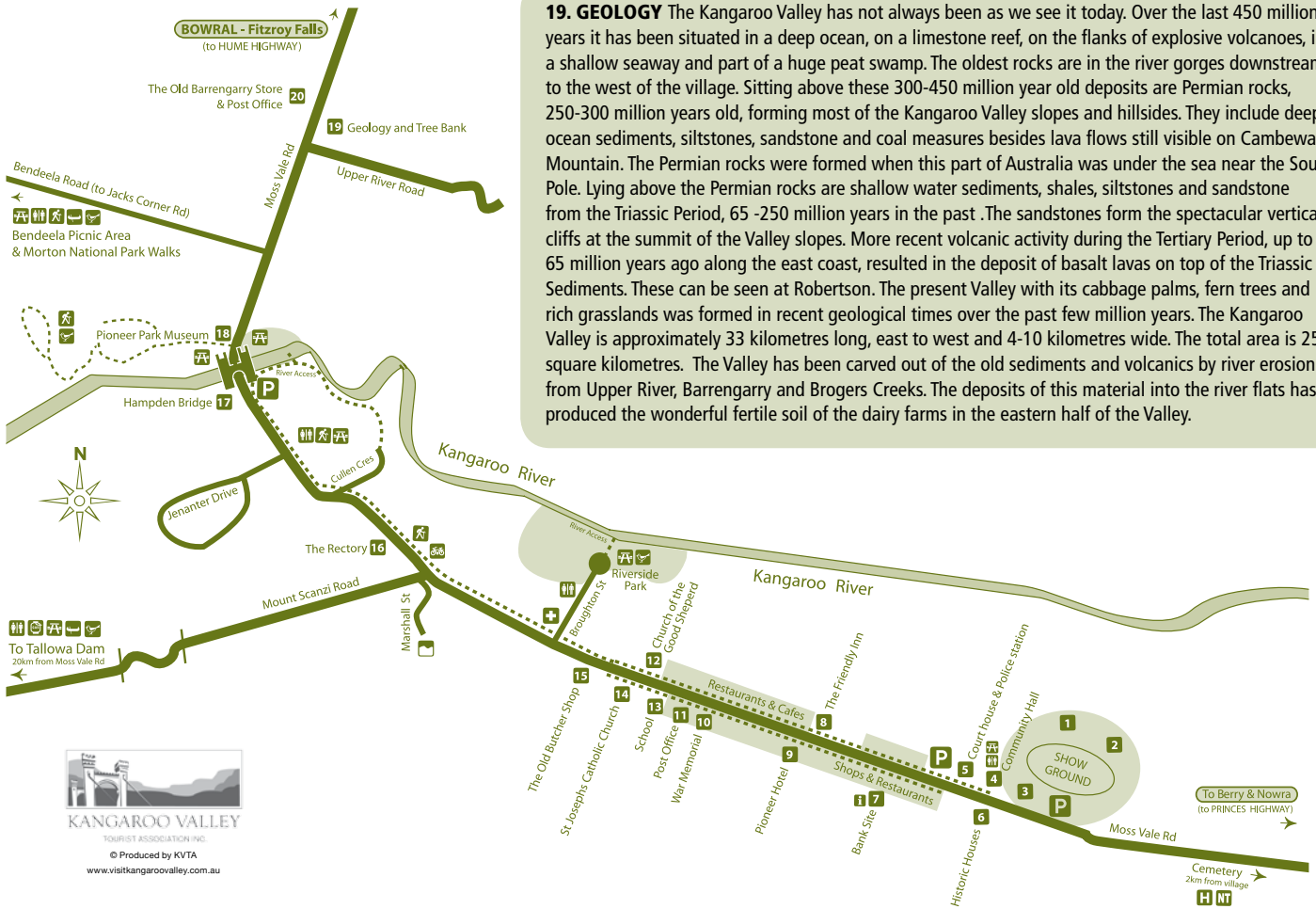
Discover our National Treasures in beautiful Kangaroo Valley's  
**HISTORIC PIONEERING COMMUNITY**



## **HISTORIC WALK**

You will see National Trust listed architecture and landscape plus historic buildings

**19. GEOLOGY** The Kangaroo Valley has not always been as we see it today. Over the last 450 million years it has been situated in a deep ocean, on a limestone reef, on the flanks of explosive volcanoes, in a shallow seaway and part of a huge peat swamp. The oldest rocks are in the river gorges downstream to the west of the village. Sitting above these 300-450 million year old deposits are Permian rocks, 250-300 million years old, forming most of the Kangaroo Valley slopes and hillsides. They include deep ocean sediments, siltstones, sandstone and coal measures besides lava flows still visible on Cambewarra Mountain. The Permian rocks were formed when this part of Australia was under the sea near the South Pole. Lying above the Permian rocks are shallow water sediments, shales, siltstones and sandstone from the Triassic Period, 65 -250 million years in the past .The sandstones form the spectacular vertical cliffs at the summit of the Valley slopes. More recent volcanic activity during the Tertiary Period, up to 65 million years ago along the east coast, resulted in the deposit of basalt lavas on top of the Triassic Sediments. These can be seen at Robertson. The present Valley with its cabbage palms, fern trees and rich grasslands was formed in recent geological times over the past few million years. The Kangaroo Valley is approximately 33 kilometres long, east to west and 4-10 kilometres wide. The total area is 256 square kilometres. The Valley has been carved out of the old sediments and volcanics by river erosion from Upper River, Barrengarry and Brogers Creeks. The deposits of this material into the river flats has produced the wonderful fertile soil of the dairy farms in the eastern half of the Valley.





### **1. SCENIC GRANDEUR - National Trust Listed Landscape**

This valley is considered one of the principal scenic features of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region where the natural scenic grandeur of the valley walls contrast with the peaceful rural landscape of the lush valley floor. Magnificent vistas of the valley may be obtained from various vantage points from the roads that descend into the valley whilst pockets of rainforest vegetation heighten the scenic attraction of the area.



**2. ABORIGINAL CULTURE** - This information is based on what is known so far. Research is still going being done this subject and will be updated as new information becomes available.

The earliest inhabitants of this district were the Jerringa people. Several tribes, like the Wodi Wodi had exclusive use of the Valley and had names for various locations. 'Noggarah' meant a big gully and they called the riverside flats, 'Parronrah'. Kangaroos and other wild life abounded so the valley was a game reserve and a meeting place for the tribes of the area. There is a 'Dreaming line' which passes through Kangaroo Valley and the Valley is considered a spiritual place of great energy and healing. With the arrival of the cedar getters and cattlemen in the 1800s the aboriginal way of life changed and eventually only two tribes remained, at Trimbles Creek and along the river on the southern side of the village. They were peaceful and traded 'bush tucker' with the settlers. In the early 1900s the remnants of the tribes relocated to the Shoalhaven area.



### **WHITE SETTLEMENT**

The cedar cutters were active in the early part of the C19th with the logs being floated down the Kangaroo and Shoalhaven Rivers and taken by bullock drays to coastal vessels for shipping. In 1818 Dr Charles Throsby, guided by the aboriginal chief Timelong, mapped a route into the valley. This exploration opened up the Kangaroo Ground to white settlers and the isolation of the aboriginal places changed forever.



The man who really started the dairying industry in the Valley was Henry Osborne. In 1840 he purchased 2500 acres of land at Barrengarry. Charles Mc Caffrey managed this estate for the Osborne family. He was the first dairy farmer in the Valley and produced butter for the Sydney market, transporting it in kegs slung across pack horses, over the escarpment north of Gerringong Creek in Upper River to Wollongong. After the Robinson Land Act of 1861, pioneering families were attracted by the offer of fertile land grants and settled the Valley. After 1900 the population rose to 2,000 with several communities becoming established including Barrengarry, the Village of Osborne (Kangaroo Valley), Maguries, Bellawongarrah and Beaumont.

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### 3. SHOWGROUND

Our original showground was located at the hamlet of Maguries (opposite the Cemetery) and moved to the present day location in 1956. The opening day was preceded by 17 days and 31 inches of continual rain. You can still enjoy an authentic country show every February here – wonderful for all the family.

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### 4. COMMUNITY HALL – National Trust Listed

The iconic School of Arts was designed by James Burrell and built in 1908. There have been two extensions, 1928 and 1937 and the building is used now, as it was then, for community social events. It was also our Town Hall when Kangaroo Valley was the HQ for the Shire of Cambewarra.

### 5. COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION – National Trust Listed

Built in 1904 and still used today as the police station, this was designed by famous NSW Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon and is a particularly fine example of the series of rock faced stone courthouses designed for the cooler climate areas between 1895 and 1905.

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### 6. HERITAGE DWELLINGS

**OLD BAKERY and RESIDENCE** - This was built in 1890 and the cottage has been lived in by a succession of bakers and their families who sold the bread from the front of the bake house.

**POTTERY SHOP HOUSE** - A beautiful example of late C19th architecture is the Kangaroo Valley Pottery Shop. This was built by Peter L'Estrange in 1906 for Robert Davidson. He operated 'Cheap Stores' until 1926. Ted L'Estrange bought the building in 1927 and lived there with his family. He also operated a Billiard Salon and a barber's shop on the premises.

### HISTORIC COTTAGE

Built in the late 1800's this restored cottage is probably the oldest residence in the village. It was once the Headquarters of the RSL and then the home of Ruben Rosenberg, the town's tailor until 1925.

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### 7. BANK SITE

Originally the English Scottish & Australian Bank. Built in 1890 by Anton Wolf today it is the Fudge Shop.



### **8. FRIENDLY INN**

Built by Mr Wiley in 1891, as the Commercial Hotel and designed by Cyril Blackett. It was brick and stone and had 17 rooms. Originally it had neither verandah nor awnings. It was a popular meeting place and banquet centre for Valley Associations. Partially destroyed by fire in 1933, it was refurbished by Archie Freeburn and the name changed when Bill Stewart was proprietor.



### **9. PIONEER HOTEL**

The Motel and townhouses now occupy a large site that was the centre of much activity from 1876-1930. Travellers on the Cobb and Co coaches between Moss Vale and the Shoalhaven were accommodated at the weatherboard Pioneer Hotel and the community enjoyed the social functions in the 'Cosmopolitan Hall' built on the eastern end by Charles Robinson. Dan Condon was the last publican before the hotel was de-licensed in 1916 and the buildings dismantled in 1930. Harold May built his Kangaroo Valley Service station on the site in 1930 and this was demolished to erect the Pioneer Motel complex.



### **10. WAR MEMORIAL**

Designed by Mr Barr and built from granite in 1920 by Loveridge and Hudson. The memorial commemorates servicemen from the Boer War, WW1 and WW2 and is the centre of the Valley's annual commemoration of ANZAC day.



### **11. POST OFFICE**

In the early pioneering days supplies from Berry and Wollongong arrived every 3mths by pack horses over the narrow mountain track. Postal service on horseback was a couple of times a week. The first Post office, on the corner of Moss Vale Road and Jarretts Lane was operated by the Nugent family, from 1870-1909. In those days letters 'back home' were sent and received at times to coincide with the departure of the sailing ships plying between Australia and England. The Post office building was built in the 1880's and used as a temporary Court House, Council Chambers and Haberdashery store. For a few years postal business was carried out in Wiley's house next to the Commercial Hotel and moved to its present location in 1912.

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### **12. THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPARD – National Trust Listed**

Designed by John Horbury Hunt and built by John Tanner under the patronage of Isabel Osborne, in 1872. Constructed of brick and local sandstone, the Norman designed building had a thatched roof, which was replaced by shingles and then tiles. This was John Horbury Hunts' first work and bears all of the structural honesty for which he was later to become famous. The Memorial gates for George V's Diamond Jubilee erected in 1935.

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### **13. SCHOOL**

The first Valley Primary school was built in 1871 by Christopher Binns, an early pioneer. The twenty seven children were taught by Thomas Hird. Many rode horses to school but attendance was down when the river was up so more schools were built in other valley locations, eleven in total. In 1885, the present sandstone building was constructed by Bebbington and Bird.

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### **14. ST JOSEPHS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

This is the second structure on the site. The first, a wooden structure that seated about 30 people, was built in 1873. It was replaced in 1888 by the Church of St Joseph. Red Cedar cut and milled from the Valley was used for the pews. Fr Harnett rode a horse from Moss Vale to the Valley to conduct weekly Sunday Mass.

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### **16. THE RECTORY – National Trust Listed**

Designed by the renowned colonial architect John Horbury Hunt and built by John Tanner in 1882. The sandstone for the walls and chimney was quarried from the banks of the River at Hampden Bridge.



### **17. HAMPDEN BRIDGE – National Trust Listed**

Hampden Bridge was named after Lord Hampden, Governor of NSW 1895 to 1899. It replaced the 1879 timber truss bridge. It was designed by Ernest de Burgh and built by Loveridge and Hudson. The bridge and approaches are 280 long and about 20m above the water level of the Kangaroo River. The twin towers of sandstone quarried from the river banks are 76 m apart. Local timber was used and the 28 steel cables were manufactured in England and shipped to Nowra. Opened on 2nd February 1898, it is now the only surviving suspension bridge of that era. A week after the official opening the old bridge became a casualty of the valley summer floods and was swept away!



### **18. PIONEER PARK MUSEUM**

Here the Kangaroo Valley Historical Society showcases family life and farming methods of the early settlers. A remarkable collection of original settlers homes, an old school house, saddlery, blacksmiths shop and lifestyle exhibits that together make it the most significant museum of early settler life in the greater Sydney metropolitan region. There are also two bush walks to be enjoyed.



### **19. GEOLOGY - See inside cover.**

**TREE BANK** - As part of our sustainability program the Kangaroo Valley Tourist Association has planted 110 trees to commemorate the 110th birthday of Hampden Bridge. They will be harvested in 2080 for the restoration of the bridge's unique wooden suspension structure. Five specimen trees have been planted here, they are Black Butt, Grey Box, Iron Bark, Spotted Gum and Tallow Wood. The 110 trees have been planted at: Banksia Park - 40, Jenoma Cottages - 10, Man From Kangaroo Valley Horse Trail - 50, Crystal Creek Meadows - 10.



### **20. BARRENGARRY Post Office and GENERAL STORE**

There was a General Store here run by the Manager of the Osborne's estate and in 1875 the Barrengarry Post Office was established.

Other historic places of interest to visit;

### **THE GENERAL CEMETERY - National trust Listed**

The ground was consecrated in 1870. All denominations are allocated separate areas including 'infidels, pagans and suicides'. It was originally part of the outer settlement of Maguires.

For more information come to our Visitors Centre in the village or visit our website [www.kvexplorer.com.au](http://www.kvexplorer.com.au)



PLEASE RETURN this booklet for the next walker to use...  
**THANKYOU!**



**PLANET ARK**

Plastic Bag FREE Town



This booklet has been made possible due to the generous contributions of many. Special thanks to Kangaroo Valley Historic Society, Pioneer Museum Trust, Joan Bray, Loo Taylor, and the students from The School of Art & Design, University of Wollongong. Printed on 100% recycled paper.

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