

CASE STUDY: The History of Water Supply on the Central Coast

14. Prehistory of the upper Mangrove Creek Catchment

It is a little over two hundred years since the first European settlements were established on the Hawkesbury River catchment of which Mangrove Creek is part. When the Mangrove Creek Dam was first being considered in the mid 1970s, there was already awareness that the history of human habitation in the area was much older than that represented by sites like Fairview Farm. A team of archaeologists was brought in to uncover as much of the evidence of this prehistory as possible before it would be drowned by the rising waters of the dam.

Val Attenbrow was one of the team. Her report of the work carried out in the valley bottoms and then later in the entire catchment of the dam, revealed a fascinating pattern of human land use stretching over more than 10,000 years.

Archaeological sites from randomly sampled units within Upper Mangrove Creek catchment

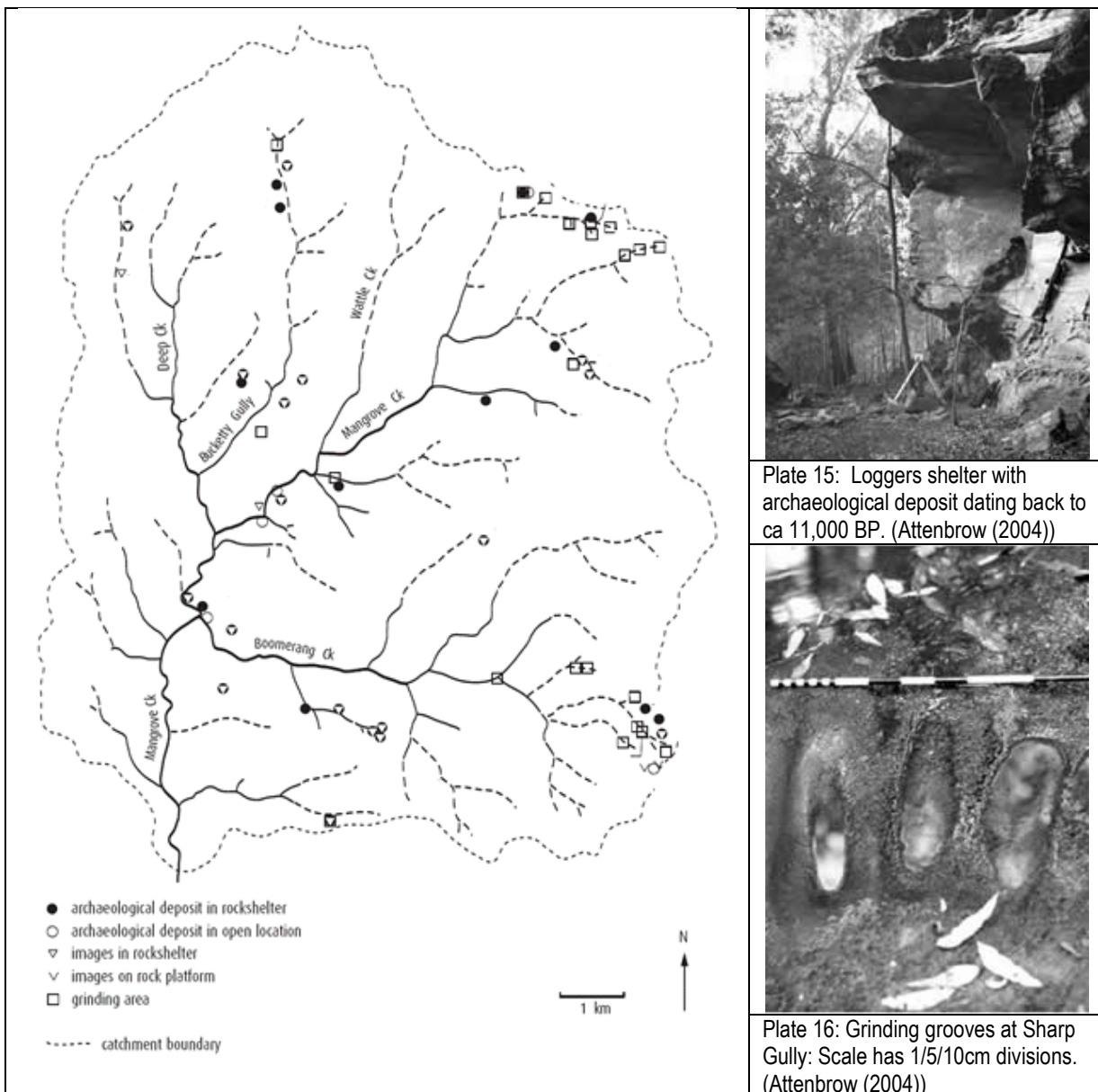


Figure 4: Archaeological sites from randomly sampled units within Upper Mangrove Creek catchment (Attenbrow, V., 2004. "What's changing: population size or land-use patterns? The archaeology of Upper Mangrove Creek, Sydney Basin." *Terra Australis*, No. 21, page 79.)