

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

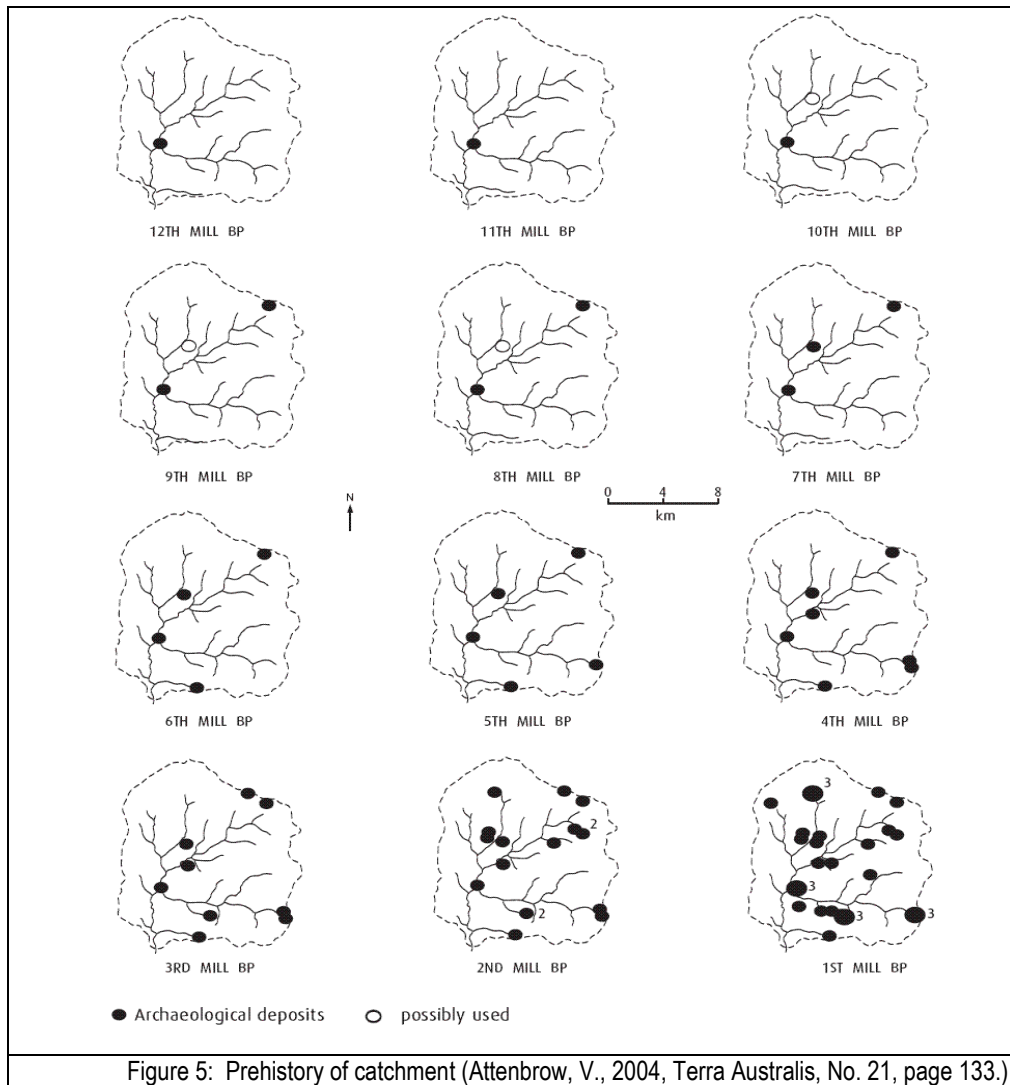
15. More on the prehistory of Upper Mangrove Creek

ACTIVITY:

Archaeologists used a carefully designed sampling procedure to obtain valid estimates of the intensity of land use over the past 12,000 years based on radioactive carbon dating.

Examine the following diagram together with Appendix 8, which summarise some of the results of the investigation. Then answer the questions below:

The distribution of human habitations used in the upper Mangrove Creek catchment in each millennium (1000 year period) for the past 12 000 years, based on evidence from random sampling units of the archaeological investigation (Note: 12th Mill BP means between 12,000 and 11,000 years ago and 1st Mill BP from 1000 years ago until present.) Attenbrow (2004).



QUESTIONS:

1. According to Appendix 8, what kind of climate existed in Australia 4,000 years ago compared with today? How important would the water resources of Mangrove Creek have been to the aboriginal peoples of the area at that time?
2. By the time European settlers began to move into the area 200 years ago, do you think that these water resources would have been of greater or lesser importance to the aboriginal inhabitants than they had been 4,000 years ago? Explain your opinion in terms of the information presented.