

EUNGELLA NATIONAL PARK

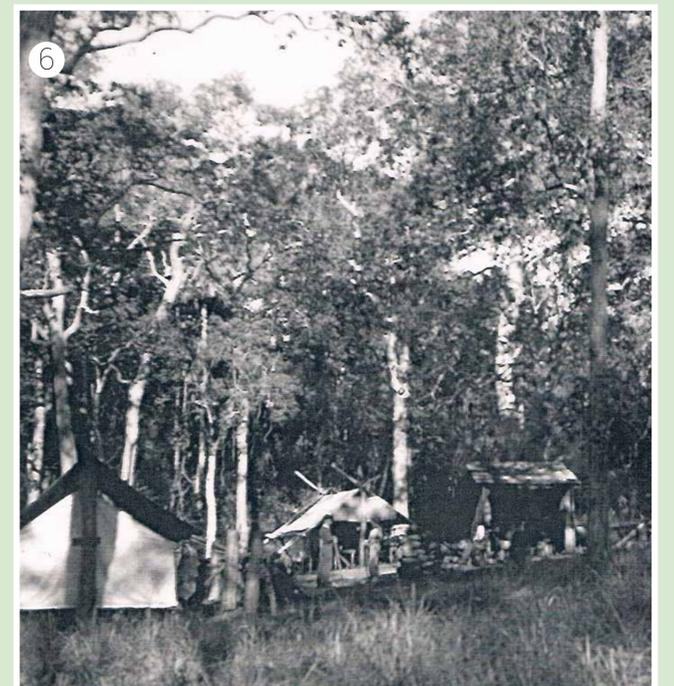


IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS:

1. National Park single men's quarters 1949

2. Gold miner's water wheel at the Diggings

3. National Park workers in 1949

Left to right (standing): Hec Birrel, Ron Mathews, Eric Smith, Dave Herron.
(Seated) Charlie and Elsie Jennings, Scotty Mayhen and Archie Mathews.

4. Gastric Brooding Frog illustration

5. Dobson's Sawmill 1914

6. Forestry camp 1948

7. Des, Warren and Melvin Patullo's haul - Red Cedar logs

Prior to the 1880s, what was to become Eungella National Park was home to two tribes of Aborigines for thousands of years - the nomadic Biria and Wiri tribes of the Birri-Gubba people. They inhabited Eungella, Crediton and Nebo.

White men made expeditions to the summit of Mt Dalrymple between 1878 and 1884 and in the 1880s the first gold prospectors arrived at the Diggings.

A thriving timber industry of Red Cedar was in full swing by the 1920s. Red Cedar was Australia's leading export and was the main reason for the Clarke Range road being constructed. Logs were mainly transported whole, whereupon Bullock teams were used to transport the timber to Netherdale where it met rail transport for export to England.

Land everywhere was being balloted and cleared for dairying and it wasn't until 1941 that 49,592 ha was declared protected as Eungella National Park. It was to be managed by the Department of Forestry.

Facing pressure from Mackay business people, walking tracks into the national park were commenced in 1947 and completed by 1953. The result was almost 18km of track that connected Eungella Township to Crediton Creek.

In 1975, the control of Eungella National Park was given to the Queensland National Park and Wildlife Service. By 1978 it was estimated that 4,000 people were visiting the park each month.

The park is home to a couple of recently discovered endemic species.

The Eungella Honeyeater was distinguished apart from the Bridled Honeyeater in 1979. The Gastric Brooding Frog - a frog that incubates its babies in the mother's stomach - was also identified, although this frog has apparently vanished with the last identification made in the mid 80s.

The 1990s saw upgrades to the road access of Finch Hatton Gorge and picnic shelters constructed at Broken River as part of the 50th year Anniversary of the Eungella National Park.

Step Back in Time

gathering Eungella's past

Images were contributed to the "Step Back in Time - Gathering Eungella's past" project by past and present residents.

Visit www.history.eungella.com.au for more information.