

“MYSTERIOUS AUSTRALIA”

Vol. 8, Issue No 2

FEBRUARY, 2018.



INSIDE:

MASSIVE SAUROPOD DINOSAUR RULED THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

SEARCH FOR THE LATA.

LITHGOW FOSSIL HOMININ SKULL DISCOVERY.

MASSIVE SAUROPOD DINOSAUR RULED THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

by Dr [h.c.] Rex Gilroy PhD.
Copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.

On Wednesday 7th February 2018 While walking our dog, Andy at a clifftop location near Katoomba, I came across a sandstone shoal which I found to contain a number of deteriorated and distorted footprints of enormous size, as well as smaller tracks, although still of remarkable size.

I could see these ‘tracks through time’ in the solid sandstone were of one monstrous creature, the larger specimens were hind feet impressions, the smaller examples being front feet.

The impressions have been exposed for eons and therefore subject to the ravages of time. The sauropod foot would in good impressions display five toes, whereas in the case of these tracks none have survived ages of weathering. The fossils have also suffered from the frequent attention of vandals, for the shoal has been littered with hundreds of names and initials etc of thoughtless tourists and vandals generally, as have been the interior of the feet impressions. [And people persist in asking me where this or that fossil footprint, ancient rock inscription etc site is. The results of revealing the locations even to one or two people can lead to the vandalism of the site once word is passed around!]

The large toes have worn away with time but what remains is enough to tell us a story. It is obvious that time has worn away a number of impressions, but those that still survive were made by a mighty sauropod reptile moving from east to west, amid perhaps a number of smaller sauropods [probable juveniles]. I took photos but as the day was just about over I left until the next day. However, due to tourists appearing on the scene every couple of minutes or so, it was impossible for me to chalk-outline the impressions, so for now I had to make do with sketching, measuring and photographing them.

Over an hour or so I managed to measure each print, and in between the tourists also measure the distances between each of the impressions. At the east side of the shoal I began with an incomplete [incomplete] footprint, which was 2 metres in length minus its heel, by 2 metres width across the toes area by 30 cm in depth. 2.1 metres west was the faded rear heel area of a probable left impression, which measured 21 metres length from the faded heel area to the vanished toe impressions, the foot being 1.8 metres width across the toes area. 3.6 metres further west was what looked like a huge two-toed foot but this was a result of ancient distortion in sloppy deep swamp mud. I detected numbers of indistinct small reptilian feet impressions in the former [now mineralised] mudflat. The 30 cm depth foot impression was 2.1 metres length by 1.9 metres width across the toes area. Distortion in the sloppy mud, due to the tremendous weight of the reptilian giant created the varying size distortions in both front and back foot impressions 3.6 metres on from this enormous track was that of a front footprint, 1.36 metres length by 1.6 metres width, a roundish impression, it was 30cm in depth. I was just 1.1 metres distant from another, distorted impression, partly coated in an ironstone deposit, and measuring 1 metre length by 2.4 metres in width, being 10 cm in depth.

Another smaller front foot impression could only be roughly measured by me on this occasion. It was 30cm in depth by about 80 cm width and 85cm length, a horde of tourist bus sightseers had descended upon the site. I packed up quick and left before anyone saw my activities!

Who can say at this stage what species left these massive tracks as it waded through and across an extensive mudflat. The large back feet impressions alone could suggest a massive beast around 150 ft [45.7 metres], weighing around 127 tonnes!

If ever the skeletal remains of the creature which left these footprints is eventually found, it will surely be a candidate for the largest sauropod species ever to walk the landscape of Jurassic Australia [208 – 144 million years ago]. What eventually became the Blue Mountains of New South Wales was yet to be

pushed up and the primordial ocean invaded much of the landscape and the future Blue Mountains was a land of swamps and tropical forests on the edge of ocean, where marine reptiles such as the Kronosaurus and Plesiosaurs swam, as fossil evidence now shows.

Just how many sauropod species existed hereabouts back then is debatable, but the creature which left the massive feet impressions must have towered above all others. A tentative name for this species, based upon the exceptional size of its footprints might be *Montanasaurus Gilroy* 2018 [ie “Mountain Saurian”].

I now intend to investigate the area of these fossil tracks in the hope of turning up further evidence of the Blue Mountains dinosaur past.

-0-



Might the gigantic Blue Mountains sauropod species have looked like this? Illustration added to by Rex Gilroy. Original illustration From Prehistoric Animals, by Dr Joseph Augusta. 1960, Courtesy Paul Hamlyn. London UK.



This massive foot impression embedded in solid sandstone, is 2.1 m length by 1.9m width and 30cm depth.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



*Just 3.6m east is the second track recorded it is 2m length [in step] by 2m width and 30cm depth.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*



*Another view of this large track, which is the easternmost impression.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*



The feet impressions continue westward to a cliff edge. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



*This smaller front foot impression is 1.36 m width by 1.6 width and 30cm deep.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*



*1.1m away is this 1m length by 2.4m width
and 10cm deep impression.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*

*This 80 cm width by 85cm length
front foot impression has not
escaped idiots who have thrown
rocks into it. The specimen is the
southernmost foot impression
surviving of these impressions,
forming a 'trackway' 208 to 144
million years old.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*





A 'Lata' sauropod in relation to a human-figure. Illustration courtesy "Dinosaurs" by David Lambert 1982, Book Club Associates, London UK. Adaption with human figure by Rex Gilroy

SEARCH FOR THE LATA.

by Dr [h.c.] Rex Gilroy PhD.
Copyright © Rex Gilroy 2017.

Of all the Cryptozoological mysteries of the Blue Mountains, none is more incredible, even unbelievable to many people than that surrounding two reptilian nightmares which have somehow survived the 'Age of Dinosaurs', namely the Theropod carnivorous species known to the old Aboriginal tribes as Murra-Murri , or "Man-Snake", and a sauropod known to them as 'Lata', or "lightning Feet". Much has already been written on the Murra-Murri in past issues of this newsletter. This article concerns the Lata.

The name 'Lata' is found in the ancient rock inscriptions of the Uru, the 'lost' megalithic civilisation on Australia, so that it appears the Aborigines acquired the name. These 'Lata' are described in ancient Uru stone art as well as that of ancient tribespeople of the Blue Mountains-Southern Highlands-Wollemi region dating back many thousands of years.

From what is known, the Lata had the appearance of sauropods, and like the rest of their kind, were vegetarian in eating habits, feeding upon forest foliage and swamp plants. According to the tribespeople, the Lata 'monsters' were, despite their often great sizes, gentle giants who never attacked humans, although due to their great sizes and weights it was wise to keep well out of their way to avoid being trampled upon!

Three to five thousand years old rock art claimed by Aborigines to depict the Lata, have been found on the Blue Mountains and in the Wollondilly region south of Burratorang Valley. These engravings always describe a long-necked, football-size or larger serpentine head, with a big bulky body at the end of which is a long pointed tail.

Ancient legends speak of tribesmen meeting up with one or more of these reptiles and spearing them, deep in the Burratorang, and also Wollemi Valley to the south. There are also old tales from the depths of the Wollemi wilderness pre-dating European arrival.

Large sauropod-type tracks have occasionally been found in remote and little-explored parts of the Wollemi National Park, whose swamplands can be eerie places to be in as evening approaches! These

tracks, between about a few days or 2-3 weeks old when found, could suggest reptiles of up to 15 or 20 metres length, while other fresh tracks appear to have been made by creatures up to 10 metres in length.

There is a story of a 1953 encounter in a Wollemi swampland some kilometres west of the Putty Road south of Singleton. In this incident, a Mr Norman Fevre, then 20 years old, while exploring a remote region came upon this swampland in the Wollemi depths. Here, as he wandered about the swamp shore on its northern side, he claimed later to friends that he saw a quote “50 ft [15 metres] length ‘Brontosaurus-like animal wading a few hundred feet away to my south”.

“It had a head about two footballs in size on the end of a long neck. There was a long bulky body and a tail that went down into the water. I could not get a more detailed look due to the tall swamp reeds”, Tom informed me, when he related his experience some 22 years later when he met me at a talk I was giving.

“I left that swamp in haste and never returned there”, he added.

One day in June 2000 a Mr James Turner found a number of “45cm width by 50cm length, five-toed footprints in the scrub, deep in a valley in the vicinity of the northern base of Mount Wilson.

“They looked like the ‘Brontosaurus’ tracks seen in movies”, as he said to this author.

As early as 1900 wild pig hunters had claimed to have seen more than one of these ‘Latas’ in the fringe country of the Wollemi wilds south of Singleton.

The mystery encouraged my wife Heather and I to carry out searches in areas of the Wollemi as early as the mid-1980s. This quest has also led us to investigate locations on the western side of the Blue Mountains possessing Aboriginal and early European settlers ‘Lata’ folklore. This has resulted in the discovery of old, and more recent ‘trails’ of some width, where large creatures have crushed wide paths up the forested hillsides from the Burraborang wilds to the Kanangra summit.

Since early settlement times of the Burraborang and Singleton districts, these sauropods have been described as mostly mottle-coloured and from 25 ft [about 7.6 m] to 50 ft [about 15.2 m].

The ‘Lata’ mystery figures prominently in the Gilroys new Cryptozoological masterpiece, “Living Dinosaurs – Reptilian Nightmares of Australasia”, which covers the mainland and south-east Asian region to Melanesia and New Zealand – Australia.

Casts of giant reptilian feet impressions are joined by a wealth of photos and sightings reports, particularly from Australia, with the latest Burraborang and coastal Plesiosaur reports, and much more. This book goes much further than our previous “Burraborang – The Search for Australia’s Living Tyrannosaurus”, to reveal evidence that the scientific community choose to ignore.

A publishing date will be announced soon!

-0-



*Rex Gilroy spots a 'Lata' sauropod in the depths of the Wollemi Swamplands – well, perhaps some day!
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*



A large ironstone slab containing the fossilised three-toed foot impression of a bipedal dinosaur, discovered on June 21st 1971 by Rex Gilroy on the side of Mt York Road, outside Mt Victoria, Blue Mountains NSW. After wrapping the fossil in a chaff bag tied with rope, he dragged it along the road for 2km to his then Mt York Natural History Museum.

Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



*Dr Rex Gilroy PhD autographing his books for fans at a conference.
Photo courtesy Deleece Cook 2018.*

REX GILROY
2016 PARACON BOOK-SIGNING
CARRINGTON HOTEL
PHOTOGRAPHER DELEECE COOK



*The Wollondilly Valley west of Mittagong-Bowral southern NSW. This vast region, lying south of Burratorang Valley, has always been a Lata habitat in Blue Mountains region Aboriginal folklore.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*



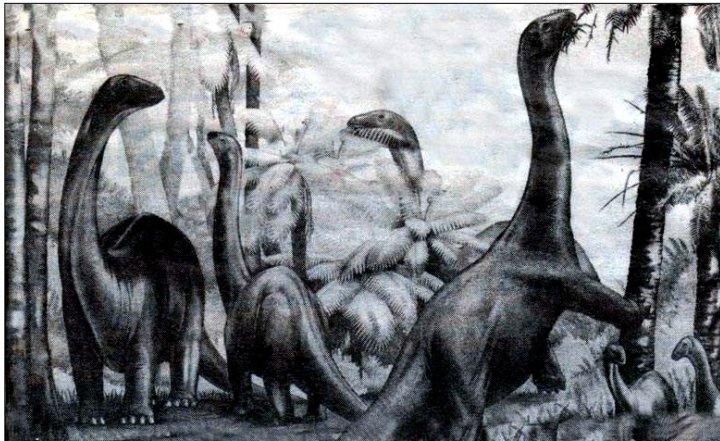
*This small stone engraving, done by an Uruan artist thousands of years ago, was recovered by Rex Gilroy on Sunday 11th January 2009 at a Wentworth Falls, NSW bushland location. Measuring 13cm tall by 12cm wide and 6.5cm deep, it bears a sauropod-like image with the Uruan glyphs for 'Lata', the name of a giant quadruped beast that in their folklore [and later Aboriginal] roamed the former Burratorang Valley Swamplands.
Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.*



Sketch copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.

Tyrannosaurus rex, the largest [12m length] carnivorous dinosaur to walk the earth in the Cretaceous period, around 70-65 million years ago. Tyrannosaurid fossils are known from Australia, suggesting this species reached this landmass. Yet today Aboriginal people over a wide area of our far north, from throughout the Gulf Country of the Northern Territory, and Queensland, and for some distance southward, firmly believe in the existence of a huge reptile of Tyrannosaurian proportions, called by them 'Burrunjor'. Burrunjor monsters have been claimed seen by Aborigines and Europeans in recent times, in remote regions of the Far North.

Sketch copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



An artist's depiction of four Rhoetosaurus brownie foraging in a Queensland Jurassic forest 180 million years ago. These sauropods reached 12 metres or more in length, with a body length of around 20 tonnes. Similar saurian giants have been claimed to inhabit the vast Wollemi Wilderness north-west of Sydney.

Photo Daily Telegraph, Saturday 30th November 1985.

LITHGOW FOSSIL HOMININ SKULL DISCOVERY.

by Dr [h.c.] Rex Gilroy PhD.

Copyright © Rex Gilroy 2017.

On Sunday 28th January 2018 Lithgow-based historical researcher & archaeologist, Phil Whittaker, while investigating a Pliocene -early Pleistocene site where, since 2015, he has uncovered three earlier primitive hominin skull-types, uncovered a fourth specimen of some importance in the study of pre-Aboriginal human evolution in Australia. The fossil appears brachiocephalic [ie rounded as in Homo sapien skulls].

The skull was of ironstone mineralisation and unlike many such fossils there is the deteriorated impression of the left mandible and lower jaw, which does not continue around to the right side of the skull. This is because the specimen had been subjected to geological pressure on its left side which effectively flattered and obliterated any right side features. There are eye sockets separated 1cm apart, being 3.5cm length by 2cm in depth. The skull is 10.5cm in width across the cranium, 21cm in length from mid forehead to rear of braincase, by 24cm in depth from mid-cranium to base of lower jaw. A tentative scientific name has been given the fossil – *Homo whittakerii* 2018.

Despite some distortion and the flattening of the skull before the mineralisation of the bones [and filling of the skull interior with fine gravels, the specimen appears to have been brachiocephalic [ie rounded] with a receding forehead and slight forward-projecting face. In this regard it is reminiscent of the 1972 Tarana 'archaic' *Homo Sapien* skull [whose eye sockets are larger than the Lithgow specimen]. The Tarana NSW 'archaic' *Homo sapien* dates to the same age as a small [juvenile?] *Homo erectus* recovered at the same site; ie 850,000 years BP [Before Present]. The 'archaic' *Homo sapien* endocast was recovered at a Fish River location in May 1972, and I found the smaller *Homo erectus* endocast in March 1973 about 33 m from the other skull in the same geological strata. For some years these two skull-types had been the best evidence for a pre-Aboriginal Australian Stone-Age history, that was until January 2000 when I uncovered the type specimen of an Australian Australopithecine ['robust' form] outside Katoomba on Narrow Neck Plateau; since dated at 2.5 million years, it 'opened the door' to what has become a growing number of Australopithecus skull-types, both of the 'robust' and 'gracile' forms. Prior to the Katoomba find, Australopithecines were not supposed to have left Africa!

Over recent years the Gilroys have added Australopithecine skull-endocasts to the growing collection dating back at least 3.5 to 4 million years. These discoveries go ignored by a decidedly left-wing Australian scientific community who see these fossils as a threat to the "Nobody before the Aborigines" dogma, and at the same time a double threat to the dying "Out of Africa" fable for our human origins. The fact is that we must cease thinking "Out of Africa" for our human beginnings and begin thinking "Out of Australia". The

Aborigines have been here a mere 65,000 years. The dates for our pre-Aboriginal Old Stone-Age hominins tell a different story!

We turn to the three earlier skull-types recovered by Phil Whittaker at the Lithgow NSW site. The first of these was a badly deteriorated skull turned to quartz, which by its mineralisation has to be at least 2.5-3 million years old. An undoubted 'robust', despite distortions it can be seen that this is one of the oldest specimens of an Australopithecine skull-type recovered in Australia, apart from the *Australopithecus australis* endocast recovered by the author at Kanangra NSW in May 2016, which has been dated to 3.5 million years BP.

The quartz Australopithecine skull measures 25cm tall by 13.5 cm width across the forehead and about the same in length. This fossil resembles the *Australopithecus Whittakerii* [robust] skull reported on in our December 2017 Mysterious Australia newsletter. Both doliocephalic [ie long, narrow] skulls display hardly any foreheads [the brain being located behind the eyes] and large eye sockets. In better condition these skulls would undoubtedly show relating features. This specimen by its mineralisation is at least 3 million years old. In fact, I believe both skulls belong to one-and-the-same race, and I give them the tentative scientific name *Australopithecus Lithgowii Whittaker 2018*.

The other remarkable skull-type shown here is the very large mineralised ironstone *Homo erectus* specimen, which Phil unearthed at the same site as the others, back on Sunday 27th December 2015. It is distorted in the facial area which is projecting forward with a receding forehead. An impression of the lower jaw is present, Together with the mandibular process on the left side only. The skull is 28cm tall by 16.5 cm length across the cranium by 23cm in width. The eye sockets are spaced 2.5cm apart and the facial section is 18cm in width, the lower jaw being 4cm in depth [no teeth survive] and the top of the mandible is 7.5cm length.

This skull displays 'archaic' *Homo erectus* features and is the largest yet seen by me. It shows that a larger form perhaps leading to the giant *Homo erectus* [ie the 3.66-4 metre tall giants of Australia]. These skull-types and those of the author demonstrate that there was a considerable radiation of racial variation within the Australian Genus *Homo*. The Lithgow *Homo erectus* is at least 1.8 million years old, and for now I tentatively name it *Homo erectus Whittakerii 2018*.

The evidence being unearthed by Phil Whittaker in the Lithgow area is showing that this region was a 'gathering place' for hominin types moving to and from the Blue Mountains. Much inter-breeding must have occurred, explaining the wide degree of variation in skull-types hereabouts in both the Whittaker-Gilroy skull collections; and it is certain that more than one form of primitive Australopithecine race was involved in these movements.

Phil Whittaker is to be congratulated for his achievement in unearthing the aforementioned skull-types, which to this author's mind have already made the Lithgow district a major habitation area for our 'unknown' Australian hominin ancestors of the Pliocene-Pleistocene periods.

What other fossil surprises of our pre-Aboriginal Old Stone-Age past yet await revelations in the Lithgow area?

-0-



Phil Whittaker, pleased with his latest fossil hominin skull recovered by him at a Lithgow district early Pleistocene site on Sunday 28th January 2018. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



Left view of the skull, tentatively named Homo Whittakerii 2018. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



Left view of the large Homo erectus skull-type recovered by Phil Whittaker at Lithgow. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



The four skull-types recovered from a Lithgow Pliocene-Pleistocene deposit, unearthed by Phil Whittaker. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.



The quartz crystal and ironstone 'archaic' ['robust'] Australopithecus Lithgowii Whittaker 2018 skull-types. Photo copyright © Rex Gilroy 2018.

PLEASE NOTE: The next meeting will be held on 17th March, 2018, same time, same place. Our previous meeting was a good one and we look forward to seeing you at our next one. There should be some good Skywatches ahead of us up here at Katoomba weather permitting. Meanwhile, there is a lot happening 'up there' at present so –until our next meeting –Keep safe and 'Watch the Skies!'

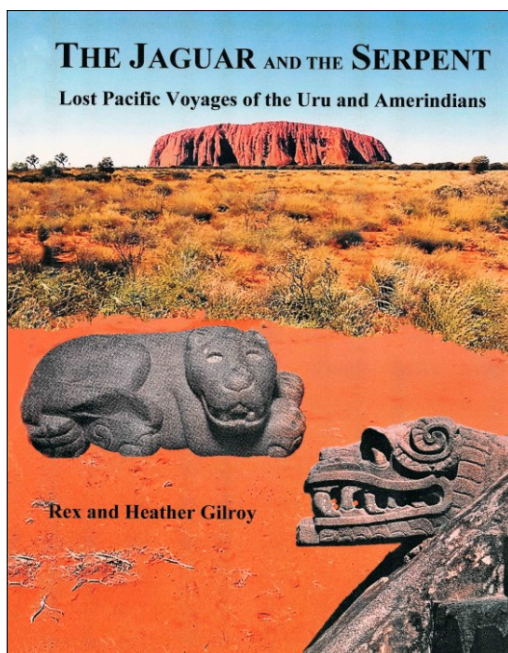


Rex and Heather

URU Publications. PO Box 202, Katoomba NSW 2780.


Phone 02 47823441 randhgilroy1044@gmail.com

**Other titles are also available, directly from us or from Lulu.com
Full pricelist available – please contact us. All prices shown in AUD
plus p&h \$A15 in Australia, [overseas postage on application].
Sorry NO Credit Card transactions.**



**THE JAGUAR AND THE SERPENT
– LOST PACIFIC VOYAGES OF
THE URU AND AMERINDIANS”.**

Announcing the release of the Gilroys’ great work on ancient cross-Pacific colonisation of the Americas by the Australian ‘mother’ megalithic civilisation of Uru, and the subsequent voyages to Australia by the Amerindian peoples influenced by them!
Uru Publications.


URU 

PUBLICATIONS 2016.

HAIRY MAN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS – A HISTORY OF YOWIE ENCOUNTERS FROM 1820 TO THE PRESENT.

For researchers of the Yowie mystery “Hairy Man of the Blue Mountains Wilderness– A History of Yowie Encounters from 1820 to the Present” is a book which concentrates on a single region of Australia, revealing the earliest known sightings and close encounters between pioneer settlers and the “Hairy People” from the 19th century to the present day.

This book is also a celebration of Rex Gilroy’s 58 years of achievement as Australia’s one and only true ‘Yowie Man’!



RIVER OF MONSTERS- THE HAWKESBURY RIVER MONSTER IN MYTH AND REALITY.

Is there a population of living Plesiosaurs, marine reptiles from the Age of Dinosaurs inhabiting the Hawkesbury River in Sydney’s north - creatures supposedly extinct for the past 65 million years? This book presents evidence supporting this proposition, Ancient Aboriginal traditions and rock art, and European eyewitness accounts dating from early settlement times to the present.

