

# A past "Place of Our Own"



Early photo of the North Era Campsite

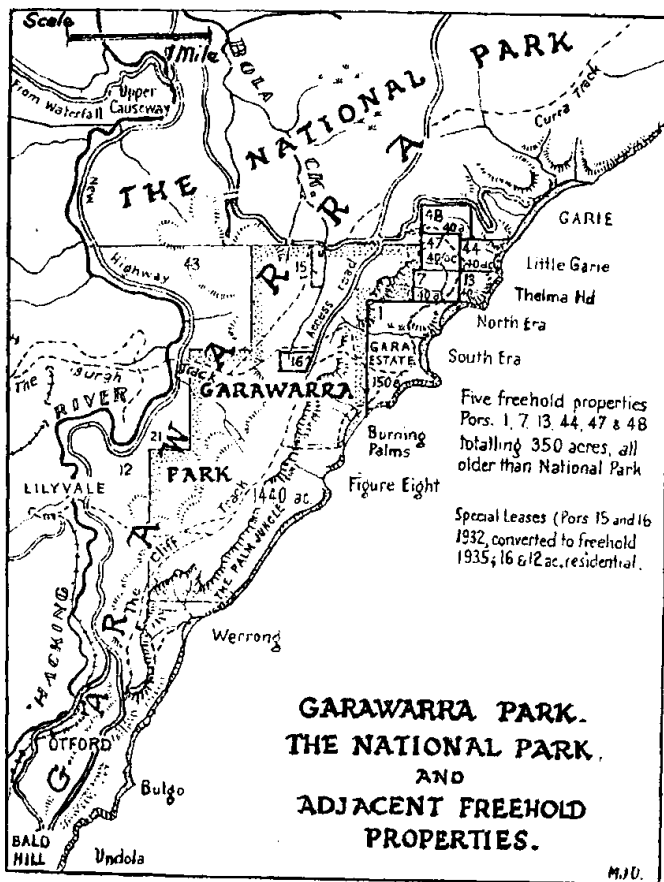
Many Members will have done one of our "classic walks" from Bundeena to Otford. This is a spectacular coastal walk with a wide variety of stunning scenery. A rest stop/Lunch is often enjoyed at North Era Beach and a swim indulged in. What many Members may be unaware of is that, before the National Park was extended, the club used to own some of the land, just in from the coast over the years 1947-52.

(Excerpted from "The First 60 Years") *The Club's earliest walkers had become enraptured with the strip of coast south from Garie to Burning Palms, with its three beaches, North and South Era and "The Palms" itself. In the late 1930s an intensive campaign by the walking movement led to the reservation of Burning Palms as "Garawarra", with a mainly bushwalker administration. Some huts had already been built on privately owned land on the northern headland at The Palms, whilst on the grasslands behind South Era the proliferation of shacks had persuaded walkers to camp at North Era.*

*In the Club's Second Decade, the drive to secure land at North Era was finally clinched in 1947, when we acquired 40 acres making up Portion 7 (see the map below).*

*We resolved to make the area available to all people camping in small impermanent tents: we would protect the water supply in the two rills, dig rubbish pits and toilets; additional trees would be planted near the edge of the swampy plain.*

With the dueling plans between the Bushwalking Groups wanting to extend the Garawarra Parkland, and separately by the Government to extend the Royal National Park (RNP), we offered our Portion 7 at no cost. After some negotiations, (as the Govt. did not want to be in the situation of becoming "beholding" to us) the Club received £458 compensation from the Govt., in return for our Portion being added to the RNP. The Members then decided that the funds should be set aside for a similar future project, Some 17 years later; it formed part of the financial nucleus for the Coolana purchase.



Miles Dunphy sketch map

Our camp site continues and has been upgraded into an official National Park campsite where sites can be booked: <http://www.wildwalks.com/camping-in-nsw-parks/near-sydney-campsites/north-era-camping-ground.html>

So, when you next stroll along North Era Beach, do a detour inland and see the land we used to own, and where Members of SBW were to be found camping on most weekends. Perchance we should arrange for a Plaque to be installed to commemorate our past association and contribution to the conservation of this scenic spot?



North Era campsite today