

Washout–Briar–Gulch
Feral ancestral (Monaro)

Washout
(locality) Bobundra

Departing from basalt:

West over the hill

From Maffra Lake's sward of grasses:

Extensive pastures.

In the Bobundra valley Pratt has yielded ground to Kiss (1884)

Rough granite:

Apple Box caps the dry hill

Sparse crop: the terraced slopes

Worked to the edge of washouts –

“He always seems to know when it's going to rain”

Horses search green pick along the creek

Cattle slip black rocks at the riffle

Slice broken banks

- “Bobundra Creek keeps this farm alive”

Under Black Range: the braided veins of torn out watercourses

Briar
(locality) Boloco

*In the new Country Jauncey and Campbell Curlewis retraced their tracks
back across the Snowy River, and went zigzagging through the Monaro* (1834)

Under Beloka Range

It hasn't rained for ten years

Inside the 20in isohyet

Sheep zig zag off the “blond” hill

Down the dirt-brown slope

Sniffing for water

A three-metre drop

Over the steep bank:

Boloco Creek

*

The cattle route from Guise's old Buloka run:

due west over Guises Range

south of Guises Lake into Ingebyra:

bears the scares (sic) of thousands and thousands of cattle which left deep furrows.

Pastorale 2010

(Autumn)

Upstream of Boloco junction – cross the bark bridge over Guises Creek
– south facing slope – briars gather over the sparse land, spiky
branches entangled by freezing
wind, birds (emus) harvest red berries.

WINTER
felsenmeer

(Spring)

Dalgety Bridge 1888
Hoary Sunray
Flowers on a bank
West of the Snowy
Upstream the Premier releases some election water

(Summer)

Roadside verge
near St James Boloco
rare Mauve Burr Daisy
her petals furred back
spindled:
remnant grassland
infested by Phalaris

*

By the middle 1860's graziers were looking to the high country to save them from disaster in years of drought. Such a year was 1865...

Dry years:

1865
1868
1877
1885
1895
1904
1915
1923
1926
1927
1930
1931
1938
1944
1953, 55
1957, 58
1965, 67, 68

Chronology of afflictions:

Boloco Creek 1880's: cattle; rabbits, sheep, plough, carts

Gulch
(Locality) Matong

Scoured gulches and eroded hillsides horrible to behold (Hancock 1972)

Dirt tracks cling like spider trails
To the sides of low hills and eroded valleys
Of the tableland
Southwest of Dalgety –
Loop
Foxs Creek
Blackburn Creek
Maranumbla Homestead
Numbla TSR
Numbla Creek
Matong Creek
Jimenbuen Creek
Jimenbuen Homestead
Crisps Creek
Boundary Creek
Matong Creek
Numbla Creek

Chain of ponds:

Matong Creek was once *a succession of deep waterholes, there being no high banks, and grass grew to the water's edge...platypus and divers were plentiful.*

By late 1860's *the whole length ...became a bed of sand...the water only came to the surface in flood time, when it spread the sand over the flats.*

(William Crisp 1947)

Squatters and selectors:

*half-a-million of sheep and lambs in Monaro ...
the owners seek to compensate themselves
for the 'fall in wool'
by multiplying
to an undue extent,
the backs that carry it*

(Sydney Morning Herald 1869)

c.f.

1885 – 835,587

1890 – 1,042,222

“wild country”



Blue source

8624-I&IV Numbla Vale 1:50,000 topographic map: fine blue beads on a blue thread link water sources rising through the grasslands in 1980 – spring fed gullies and creeks of the southern Monaro trickling down to the Snowy River.

The water table has subsided – the shallow Monaro basaltic lakes dry for a decade.

Blue beads: a string of empty...

*

Blue devil

The spiny leaves of outer space clasp the stem

Deep blue clustered rounded

(flower head)

Surrounded by sharply pointed purplish (spiky)

(bracts) –

the entire plant turns metallic blue in summer

Under tall kangaroo grass

Strong sun fades the indigo and breaks it apart after flowering

In the distance (across pale grasslands): Numbla Peak

Carrot –

Not to be mistaken for thistle –

Eryngium ovinum

NOTES

Washout

Line 5: Hancock, W.K. *Discovering Monaro: A study of Man's Impact on his Environment* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972), 99.

Briar

Line 1,2: Jauncey, John, "Transcript of notes written about 1889 or 1890 describing his travels to and in the Monaro, 1833-42", Q991.8/17A Mitchell Library, in Andrews, Alan E.J., *Earliest Monaro and Burragorang 1790 to 1840* (Palmerston, ACT: Tabletop Press, 1998), 106-107.

Line 15: Blackmore-Lee, T., "Guise Family of Jerribiggery" at

<http://www.monaropioneers.com/guise-r&w.htm>

Accessed 21/12/2011.

Pastorale

After asterix: Hancock, W.K., 134.

Dry year data calculated from Bureau of Meteorology, rainfall records Dalgety (Hamilton St), Station Number: 071005 at http://www.bom.gov.au/tmp/cdio/IDCJA0001_71005.pdf

Accessed 31/1/2011

chronology of afflictions. Hancock, W.K., 1972, 109

'Gulch'

Line 1: Hancock, W.K., 1972, 109

Chain of ponds: Quotation from Crisp, W., "Early History and Incidents in the Life of William Crisp" (Mitchell Library typescript signed William Crisp, 'Kaludah' 544 Blaxland Road, Eastwood dated 25/7/47) reproduced in Dunsmore, R., and M., 1988, *The History of the Crisp Family, Descendants of Amos and Elizabeth Crisp, From Brandon, Norfolk, England 1757-1978* (researched and compiled by Ralph and Mena Dunsmore née Crisp), Eastwood.

Squatters and selectors: Quotation from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 November 1869, in Hancock, W.K., 1972, 135.

Sheep numbers, see: Costin, A.B., *A Study of the Ecosystems of the Monaro Region in New South Wales, with special reference to soil erosion*, (Sydney: Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales, 1954), 814. Table 196.

'Wild country', refer to Rose, D.B., 2004, *Reports from a Wild Country, ethics for decolonisation*, (Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2004).

Blue Devil, see: Eddy, D., Mallinson, D., Rehwinkel, R. & Sharp, S., *Grassland Flora: a field guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW & ACT)*, (Crown Copyright, 1998), 108.