

THE VALLEY OF KATOOMBA FALLS CREEK

Katoomba Falls Creek is one of the several creeks which arise on the southern side of the plateau ridge in the Katoomba-Leura area, flow to the escarpment, then plunge down into the deep valleys. Katoomba Falls is where this creek plunges into the valley.

The valley is bounded to the north by the highway ridge, to the east by the ridge along which Katoomba St. goes, and to the west by the ridge along which Narrow Neck Rd. goes.

Most of the main creek flows through lands which are still public lands, owned by the people of the Blue Mountains in the name of the Council. Parts of some of the side creeks in the valley also run through public lands - Katoomba Golf Course is in one of these side valleys, publicly owned land.

These public lands within the valley - open space and much covered with natural bush - and the creek system itself, form the largest remaining open space within the urban area of Katoomba. They form a natural corridor, linking the National Park to the south and protected lands to the north. They contain hanging swamps which are essential for the continued flow of Katoomba Falls Creek. The swamps act as a natural filter for the water. They

act as a significant habitat for the fauna of the valley, especially many of the species of birds which live in or use the valley.

There is proven pre-European and post-contact Aboriginal heritage of the area, some Aboriginal people still living in or near the valley.

The valley was one of the earliest sites occupied and changed by white settlers after the invasion. It had a close association with the coal mining operations to the south of the valley.

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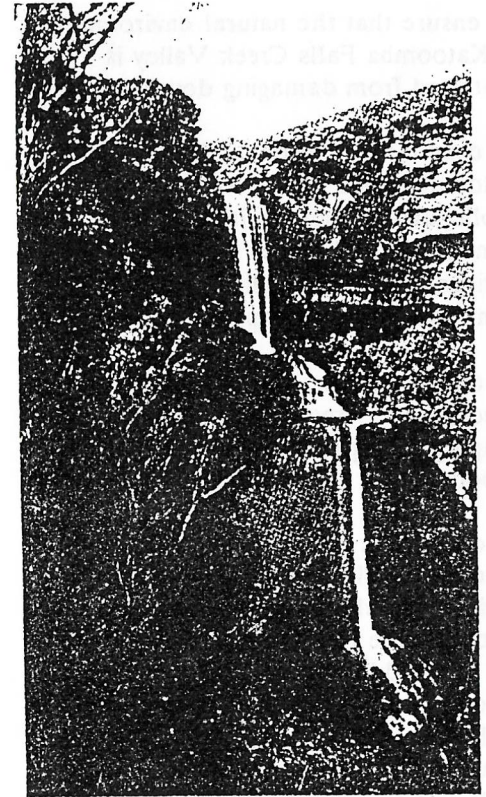
FRIENDS OF KATOOMBA FALLS CREEK VALLEY

This group formed in December 1989 after a series of meetings. In June 1994 the group became incorporated as an Association.

With the assistance of a Heritage Grant and with assistance from Blue Mountains Council, the group carried out an environmental study of the valley. The study, prepared by Dr. Fred Bell, was completed in June 1993.

The study is the basis for planning the protection of the public lands and the Creek and the Falls.

It is also the basis for developing a long-term plan of management.



Katoomba Falls, N.S.W.

"THE MOUNTAINEER"

March 3rd 1899.

One of the most pressing wants in Katoomba, is a park within easy distance of the most populous part of the town. We have often thought what an untold blessing it would have been if the two gullies - the one on the east side of Lurline Street, and that on the west side of Cascade Street had been reserved.

OBJECTS

To ensure that the natural environment of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley is protected from damaging development.

To ensure that the public lands in the Katoomba Falls Creek Valley remain public lands in perpetuity and are managed in such a way that the natural environment of the valley is protected from damaging development.

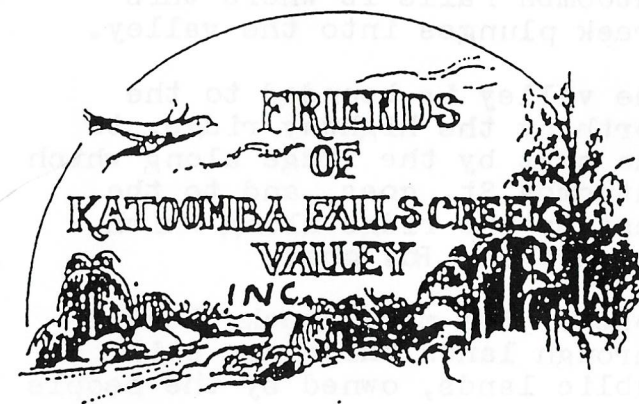
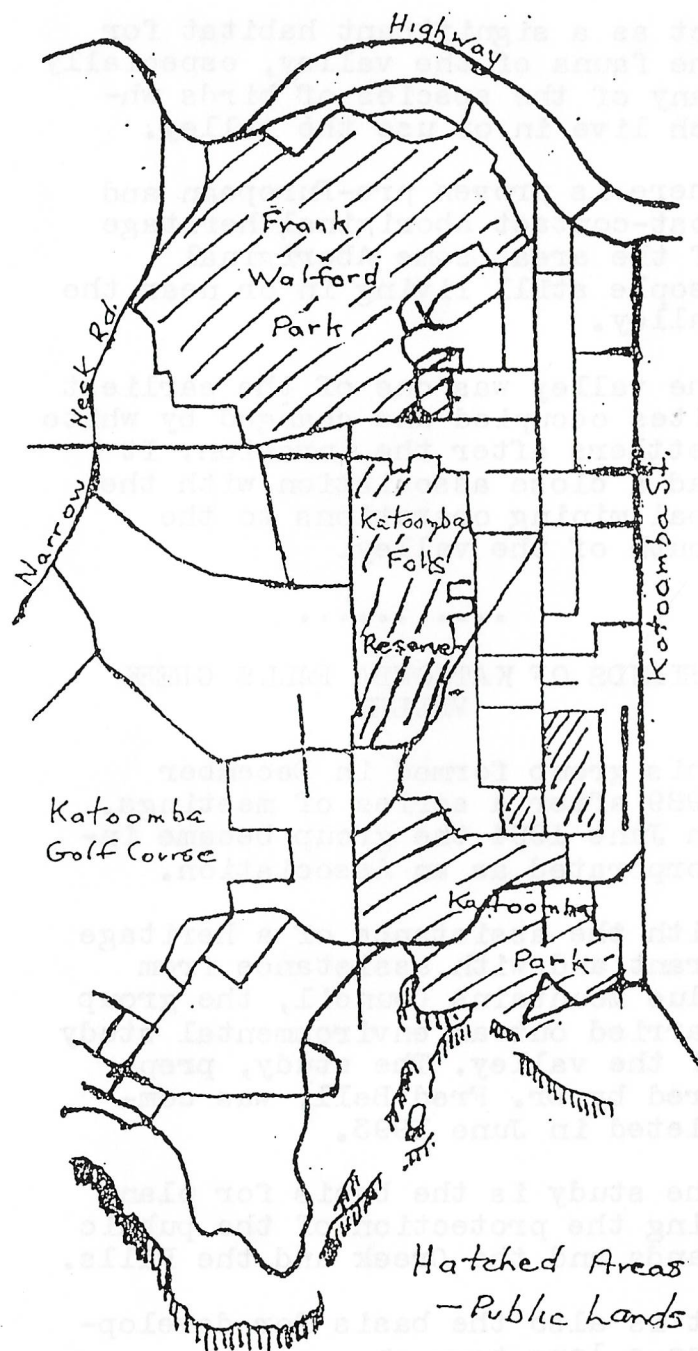
To ensure that the Katoomba Falls Creek, feeder creeks and associated hanging swamps and valley swamps be unpolluted.

To ensure the public lands in the Katoomba Falls Creek Valley be given environmental protection zoning, especially the Frank Walford Park section and the middle section known as Katoomba Falls Reserve, and be included in the LEPs covering the Blue Mountains, as environmentally sensitive lands and as community lands.

To ensure the rehabilitation of scoured, eroded and damaged areas of the Katoomba Falls Creek Valley, especially in the Frank Walford Park and middle sections of the valley, and especially the swamps, with special attention to elimination of exotic weeds and plant pests and to promote revegetation.

To ensure that no forms of motor vehicle racing are held in the Frank Walford Park section of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley, and that recreation uses of the valley be consistent with protecting the natural environment of the valley.

SKETCH MAP OF THE AREA



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