

November 26, 2004

THE FRIENDS OF KATOOMBA FALLS CREEK VALLEY

This tells briefly some of the story of the Friends.

Oct.15 1989 Eleven people get together to share their concerns about what's happening and might happen to the Valley – decide to get a public meeting.

Nov.19 1989 Public meeting of about 65 people agree that this is an issue to do something about – authorises another meeting to form a group.

Dec.10 1989 Formation meeting of Friends, set up to protect the Valley from development, to recognise the heritage of the Valley.

Jan.-April 1990 Big debate over car racing – group splits – those wanting car racing leave the group.

1990-2004 Friends began active bushcare for the Valley and has kept this up – led to formation of two active bushcare groups in the Valley.

Feb. 1991 Friends get a heritage grant of \$5000 and commits to do work worth \$5000, making a total of \$10000, to carry out an environmental study.

Feb.-Sept.1991 Council stalling on giving approval for study. Council meeting in Sept. rejects report recommending approval and \$10000 towards the Study. New Council rescinds previous Council's decision, gives approval plus \$10000.

June 1993 The Bell Study is completed, including findings acknowledging the Valley/Gully as Aboriginal country in both pre-European and post-contact-times.

1995-1997 Friends takes the Golf Course Developer and BMCC to Land and Environment Court over rezoning the Golf Course for huge development and WINS.

Developer appeals and Friends WIN the appeal.
Friends got legal aid and won costs but still had costs of almost \$10000. Members loaned money to Friends until fundraising paid back loans of members.

1990-2002

Friends involved in the planning process to produce plans for the BM lands and the uses of the lands, to ensure the Valley lands are protected under planning legislation.

Feb.2001

Friends becomes a party to the Native Title Claim by the Gundungurra Tribal Council, so as to support the Tribal Council.

Dec. 2001

Friends supports the application to have the Gully/Valley declared an Aboriginal Place.

1991-2004

Friends actively working for getting Plans of Management for the whole Valley/Gully which honour this special place.