

FACT SHEET

ISSN 2201-8514

May 2017

Placename application

The *Geographical Names Act 1966*, empowers the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (GNB) to assign names to places, investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin and history of any geographical name and to apply names with regard to position, extent or otherwise.

Place means any geographical or topographical feature or any district, division, locality, region, city, town, village, settlement, railway station or school or any other place within New South Wales but does not include any road, any local government area, urban area, county district or electoral district.

Individuals, private organisations and government authorities should submit any proposal to assign a geographical name on the attached form.

Prior to application, please refer to the *Guidelines for the determination* of placenames available on the GNB www.gnb.nsw.gov.au

The Naming Proposal form

Please supply as much information as possible to ensure accurate identification of the feature and attach a marked map if possible.

Marked maps should be at an appropriate scale to show all of the feature and the specific pattern of delineation.

The GNB welcomes suggestions for new place names. However, proposals will need to have the support of the local council.

If the proposed name is associated with the flora, fauna, topography, climate, history of the area or another nearby feature, full details should be provided.

Email or post the completed Naming Proposal form with attached maps to:

The Secretary
Geographical Names Board
PO Box 143
Bathurst NSW 2795

T: 1800 025 700
T: +61 2 6332 8214
E: SS-GNB@finance.nsw.gov.au
www.gnb.nsw.gov.au

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Naming Proposal form

Proposed Geographical Name **Basaltic Rock**

Local Government Area **Walcha Shire**

Parish **Salway**

County **Vernon**

State Electorate **Tamworth**

Lot and DP **N/A**

Area

Location / address **Ngulin Nature Reserve Long 151° 36' 15" E Lat 31° 20" 19" S Height ~1440m AMSL**

Description of feature, including location and extent (*Limit of 650 characters*)
(*Please attach identification aids e.g. marked map, marked photograph*)

High point on the Great Dividing Range on the northern boundary of the Ngulin Nature Reserve at the head of the Cobrabad River. The hill has large quantities of exposed basalt prisms, some closely aggregated to form blocks or short columns. It appears as a prominent feature clearly visible from near the Bendee cattle yards on Thunderbolts Way and is known locally as 'the pinnacle'.

Reason for choice of name (*If the name commemorates a person, please also complete commemorative naming form*)
(*Limit of 320 characters. If insufficient space please attach separate page to the Naming Proposal form*)

In 1835 Surveyor Ralfe completed a trace of part of the Great Dividing Range. He marked one point "A Basaltic Column of aggregations of regular five-sided Prisms." The feature became known as the 'Basaltic Rock' and in 1840 was gazetted as a boundary mark for the Police District of Macquarie. The name remained in use until the late 1850s.

Naming proposals approved by the Geographical Names Board will be advertised in local newspapers.

Name of local newspaper(s) **Walcha News, Armidale Express, Northern Daily Leader**

Applicant's name **Tony Dawson**

Address **46/160 Park Street, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444**

Telephone **02 6584 7648**

Email **dragdawson@hotmail.com**

Contact person if not stated above

Date **28/01/2018**

Your Reference **DAWS_BASALT**

SUBMIT

Please attach any supporting documents to your email

Basaltic Rock

In March 1835 Surveyor James Ralph traced the Great Dividing Range from the head of the Barnard River to the point where it is joined on the east by the range dividing the waters of the Manning and Macleay Rivers. The trace was marked on a series of nine maps which draftsman Frederick D'Arcy later reduced and connected to Ralph's earlier survey of the Barnard River.

Ralph's maps contained few comments on the nature of the country but there was one feature on the range that clearly captured his attention and which he distinguished with the following description:

A Basaltic Column of aggregations of regular five-sided prisms

This later became known as the Basaltic Rock and was depicted on Robert Dixon's 1837 map of the colony of New South Wales and on Richard Thompson's 1842 of a portion of north east Australia. When the Police District of Macquarie was established in 1840 the Basaltic Rock was one of the few precisely located boundary marks.

One account of the Basaltic Rock described it as

.. an insulated, and perpendicular column of basalt, composed of hexagonal prisms closely cemented, and it forms an interesting feature of research to the geologist, and a picturesque and singular object of contemplation to the amateur tourist.

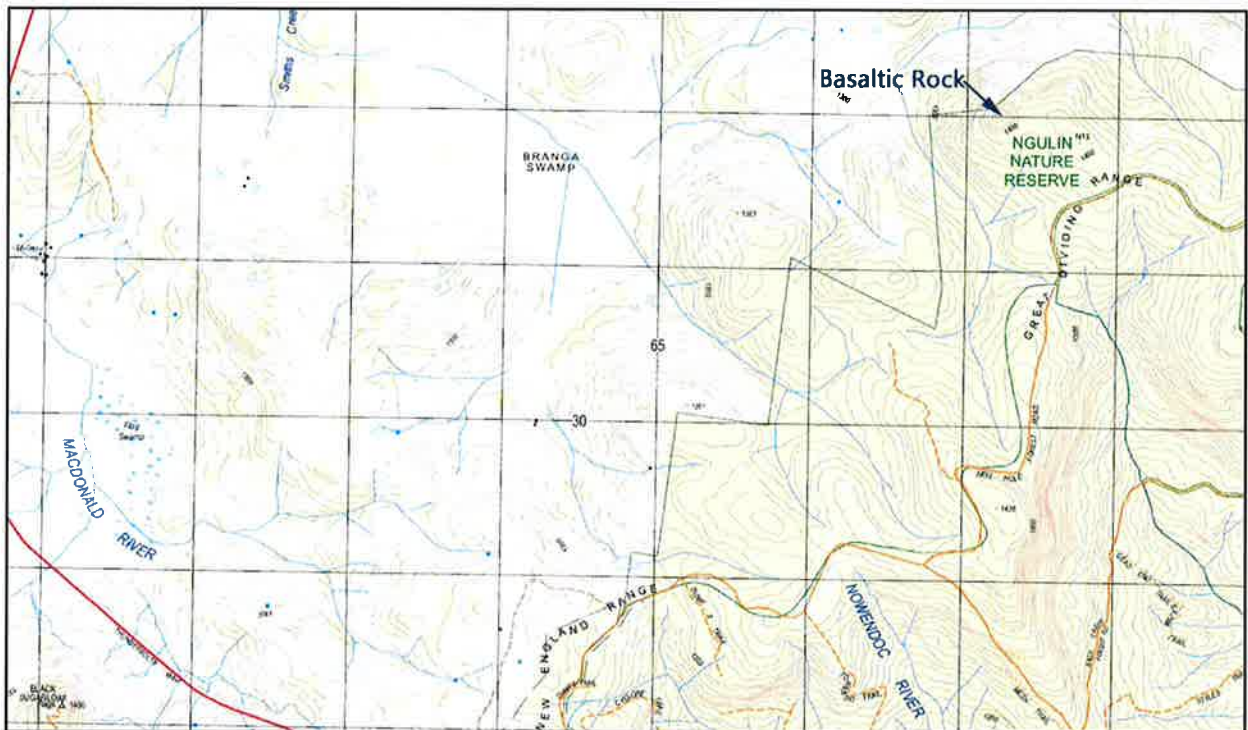
The Basaltic Rock remained one of the boundary marks for the District of Macquarie until 1852 when the Police District of Armidale was established and the boundaries of the Macquarie district were adjusted to coincide with those of the County of Macquarie proclaimed in 1843. The name subsequently fell from common use and was rarely referred to.

Recent research undertaken by the proposer and described in the December 2017 issue of *Placenames Australia* positively identifies the Basaltic Rock as an unnamed hill rising to around 1440 metres on the northern edge of the Ngulin Nature Reserve at the head of the Cobrabald River some 40km south of Walcha.

Although the tall column of basalt which gave rise to the name is no longer there, much exposed basalt remains, with some irregular prisms forming blocks or columns up to 1½ metres high, it is therefore proposed that this uniquely important historical feature be recognised by formally assigning its original name 'Basaltic Rock'.

(Note: further details, with references, can be found in the attached article)

Basaltic Rock – Map and Photographs



Detail from Lands Department 1:25000 Orthophoto Map 9235-3N BRANGA PLAINS



Aggregations of basalt prisms on the summit of the Basaltic Rock
(photo: T. Dawson – June 2017)



The Basaltic Rock from near the Bendee cattle yards on Thunderbolts Way
(Photo: T. Dawson – July 2017)

Placenames Australia

Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey

an initiative of the Australian Academy of Humanities, supported by the Geographical Names Board of NSW



In search of the Basaltic Rock

In August 1840 the Police District of Macquarie was formally gazetted. It was described as:

Embracing the whole of the county of Macquarie, above Crescent Head; bounded on the north by a line bearing west to a range heading Maria's and Wilson's Rivers, and by this range and a line from thence bearing south-westerly to Werrekembe, at the source of the Hasting's River, and by the range heading the Apsley River to the Basaltic Rock, thence by a range to the range heading the River Peel; on the south by the range heading Hunter's River to the source of the Barnard, and by this river and the Manning to Farquhar's Inlet on the sea shore, which forms the eastern boundary of the district to the point northward of Crescent Head aforesaid.¹

Despite the reference to the 'county of Macquarie' no such county had yet been proclaimed so the creation of the police district was, in fact, the first time that the boundaries of the Macquarie district had been officially published. The County of Macquarie was eventually proclaimed in 1843 prior to elections for the reconstituted Legislative Council, but covered only the eastern two-thirds of the police district.²

The police district, not the county, served for the establishment of the Macquarie District Council in 1843³ and it remained more or less unchanged until 1851 when, following the creation of the Police District of Armidale, its boundaries were brought into line with those of the county.⁴

Of the placenames listed in the original description all but one have endured. The exception is the Basaltic Rock, first described in an article on the opening of the north-eastern districts published in 1842:

before we quit New England, we must notice the remarkable object described on the maps as the Basaltic Rock. This is an insulated, and perpendicular column of basalt, composed of hexagonal prisms closely cemented, and it forms an interesting feature of research to the geologist, and a picturesque and singular object of contemplation to the amateur tourist.⁵



The Basaltic Rock (aka 'the pinnacle') from Thunderbolts Way

Yet, within a few years of losing its status as a boundary mark, the Basaltic Rock, a remarkable object which was to be of such interest, disappeared from the toponymic lexicon. So the question naturally arises, 'Where, exactly, was the Basaltic Rock?'

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The original description of the police district places the Basaltic Rock close to where the range separating the upper reaches of the Macleay and Manning River systems meets the Great Dividing Range. However, because both ranges are relatively broad this covers a considerable area within which to search for the feature.

The geology of the region is dominated by Comboyne Basalt,⁶ often appearing on the surface as exposed outcrops. While the singling out of one such outcrop suggests that it was a distinct and unambiguous landmark, to the best of the author's knowledge the Basaltic Rock has been marked on only two maps, the first published by Robert Dixon in 1837⁷ and the other by Richard Thompson in 1842.⁸ Both are drawn on a scale of 8 miles to the inch but neither is sufficiently accurate to determine a precise location.

Fortunately, a valuable clue was found in an 1856 account of a new line of road from Stroud to Walcha which stated that the road passed through the Nowendoc Run

*...to the Rocky Mound on the main range, called the Basaltic Rocks, which range divides the waters flowing to the eastward from the westerly waters on Solway's run.*⁹

Herbert Salwey, a New England solicitor and former Port Macquarie resident, held a Crown lease on the 32,000 acre St Leonard's Run.¹⁰ It lay along the Cobrabald River south of Walcha and had earlier been described as being:

*Bounded on the east by a range dividing it from the Walcha Run, Mr Dennis and Murphy's Tiar Run; on the west by a range dividing it from Fletcher's run, Branga Plains; on the north by a line from a sugarloaf hill on Fletcher's range to an old washpool on Cobrabald Creek, and from thence by a marked tree line bearing north-east to a sugarloaf hill on the Walcha Range, dividing it from Girard's run, Branga Park; and on the south by dense scrub*¹¹

The dense scrub on the south was where the plains ended and the land rose steeply to the Great Dividing Range and, by implication, the site of the Basaltic Rock.

The situation was further clarified by an 1887 map of the Parish of Salway in County Vernon.¹² By then the large runs had been divided into smaller portions but on the southern boundary of the parish are depicted two features that would have overlooked the former St Leonard's Run. One is labelled 'Basalt Rock' and the other 'Hill of Columnar Basalt'.

The 'Basalt Rock' is readily identified as the present site of trigonometrical station 'Grundy' (1463 metres) and the Grundy Fire Tower. The 'Hill of Columnar Basalt' is situated a little over 5 km west-south-west of Grundy on the northern boundary of the Ngulin Nature Reserve and appears on current maps as an unnamed hill rising to about 1440 metres. Jim Young, owner of the neighbouring 'Sallywood' station, informed the author that owing to its prominence the hill is known locally as 'the pinnacle'.¹³ It is important to note that this is a microtoponym with no formal standing and should not be confused with that of another feature, also in Walcha Shire but some 50 km to the north east, which bears the official name *The Pinnacle*.¹⁴

Grundy trig and 'the pinnacle' are accessible from Thunderbolts Way via Hell Hole Forest Road which runs along the Great Dividing Range. The Grundy trig site, despite heavy disturbance caused by the erection of the trig station, the fire tower and associated buildings, has an abundance of exposed basalt, some of it aggregated into small blocks. However, it is obvious that a large amount of rock has been removed from the hill to allow for the erection of buildings and for use in road construction.

The basalt formations at 'the pinnacle' are less obviously disturbed. Although the accessible southern slope is heavily vegetated with little exposed rock, the summit and upper part of the steep northern slope are largely free of vegetation and covered with irregularly shaped prisms of basalt. Some of these are closely aggregated to form blocks or short columns (photo below) and stretch down the hillside towards the Cobrabald River valley 170 metres below. Although nothing matches the description of the Basaltic Rock as 'an insulated, and perpendicular column of basalt' it is quite possible that such a formation existed at one time. The area was reserved for timber as long ago as 1882¹⁵ and prior to the creation of the Ngulin Nature Reserve from a section of the Tuggolo State Forest in 1999¹⁶ would have been significantly affected by forestry operations. Exposed basalt there would have been an easily available source of material for constructional purposes.

It is worth mentioning that apart from these hills, two others were also originally considered as possible candidates for the Basaltic Rock. One, now the site of trigonometrical station 'Flags' and a communications

...the Basaltic Rock



Aggregations of basaltic prisms on the summit of 'the pinnacle'

tower, is called the *Black Sugarloaf* but since it lies a few kilometres west of the former St Leonard's Run overlooking what was the Branga Plains Run it was dismissed. The other is situated within the Riamukka State Forest around 5 km east-south-east of Grundy trig, and, according to Vic Galvin of the Walcha Historical Society, some decades ago contained a section of five- or six-sided prisms 'varying in width and closely grouped in vertical columns'. However, this site, which is still being actively quarried, lies on the range separating the Macleay and Manning Rivers eastward of the Great Dividing Range, so it, too, was disregarded.

To decide between the two remaining candidates, Grundy trig site and 'the pinnacle', more information was needed, and since the Basaltic Rock first appeared on a published map in 1837 it must have been identified in an earlier survey. The two government surveyors known to have been employed in the region at that time were Heneage Finch and James Ralfe, and an examination of surveyors' letters held by State Archives NSW revealed one in which Ralfe wrote to Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to say that on 5 March 1835 he (Ralfe) had gone to the range at the head of the Barnard River

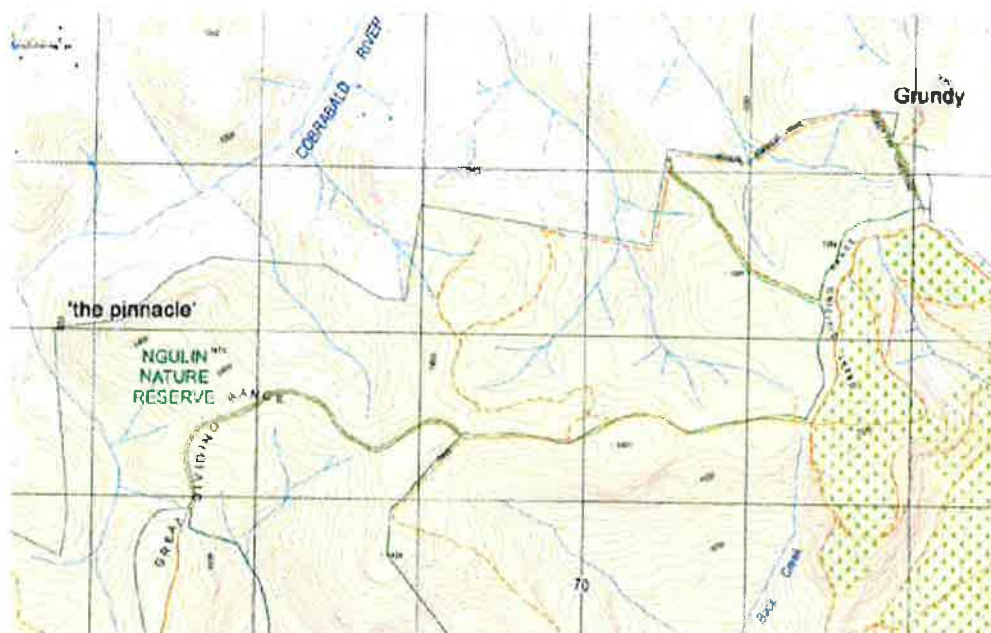
and traced in a North and North easterly Direction over beautiful open Table Land watered abundantly with Swamps which from the Direction they took were my only Guidance as to the Direction of the Range which was so undulating and of such Width as to render the exact Summit imperceptible, on the 12th I perceived rather a

*large Stream just under my right which I descended to and observing it flow in a northerly Direction I concluded it to be the Apsley I therefore crossed it in order to find the Range required between the Port Macquarie and Trial Bay Rivers...*¹⁸

This, it transpired, was the first official survey of the area and the only one completed before the Basaltic Rock appeared on Dixon's map. Ralfe's field notes have not been found but the series of nine maps showing his trace are held in the archive. Although they contain very few comments, on one of them a point on the range is marked with the annotation 'A Basaltic Column of aggregations of regular five-sided Prisms'.²⁰ As this was the only point singled out for special attention there can be little doubt that it is what became known as the Basaltic Rock. Even so, the difficulty remained of relating Ralfe's map, drawn to the then-standard 40 chains to the inch,²¹ to a current topographic map. Without marked reference points other than the feature itself the problem appeared insoluble.

However, the solution came in the form of another map. Draftsman Frederick D'Arcy had taken the maps of Ralfe's trace and connected them to those of Ralfe's earlier survey of the Barnard River,²² reducing the whole to a scale of 2 miles to the inch.²³ When a digital image of D'Arcy's map was superimposed on that of a current topographic map²⁴ and its scale and orientation adjusted so that the course of the Barnard River on the two maps fitted accurately, it revealed that Ralfe's basaltic column

continued next page



Detail from Lands Department 1:25000 series topographic map 9235-3N Branga Plains

fell squarely on the hill in the Ngulin Nature Reserve described on the map of the Parish of Salway as the ‘Hill of Columnar Basalt’, now known locally as ‘the pinnacle’.

It was a satisfactory conclusion to a search that, had the crucial information come to light earlier, would have been far easier—yet another instance of the clarity of hindsight.

Acknowledgement

I wish to express my gratitude to Jim Young of ‘Sallywood’ and Vic Galvin of the Walcha Historical Society for their valuable assistance in this project.

Tony Dawson

Port Macquarie Historical Society

Endnotes

¹ *New South Wales Government Gazette* 19 August 1840 [Issue No. 50] p787

² *New South Wales Government Gazette* 28 February 1843 [Issue No. 19] p312

³ *New South Wales Government Gazette* 15 August 1843 [Issue No.68] p1048

⁴ *New South Wales Government Gazette* 10 June 1851 [Issue No.64] p902

⁵ *The Australian* 5 May 1842 p3

⁶ Comboyne Basalt is a magnesium-rich form of the hard volcanic rock formed from cooling lava flows

⁷ Robert Dixon. *Map of the Colony of New South Wales*. J. Cross, London, 1837

⁸ Richard Thompson. *Map of a portion of North Eastern Australia*. R. Clint, Sydney, 1842; *The Australian* 28 May 1842 p2

⁹ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 26 September 1856 p3

¹⁰ *New South Wales Government Gazette* 20 July 1852 [Issue No. 73] p1115

¹¹ *New South Wales Government Gazette* 14 August 1848 [Issue No. 87 (Supplement)] p1001

¹² NSW Land and Property Information: Historical Land Records Viewer; Parish of Salway, County of Vernon, Walcha Land District 1887 [http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm]

¹³ Jim Young, proprietor of ‘Sallywood’ – personal communication

¹⁴ Geographical Names Board of New South Wales; Reference 46439

¹⁵ *New South Wales Government Gazette* 17 April 1882 [Issue No. 154 (Supplement)] p2134

¹⁶ Nowendoc National Park, Ngulin Nature Reserve and Tuggolo Creek Nature Reserve: Plan of Management. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2012.

¹⁷ Vic Galvin, Walcha Historical Society – personal communication

¹⁸ State Archives NSW: Surveyor General; NRS 13736, Letters received from surveyors 1822 – 1855, [2/1569B] *Ralfe to Mitchell 28 April 1835*

¹⁹ State Archives NSW: Surveyor General; NRS 13859, Crown Plans 1792 – 1886, [3237 – 3244] *Ralfe. Ranges, Apsley and Port Macquarie*

²⁰ State Archives NSW: Surveyor General; NRS 13859, Crown Plans 1792 – 1886, [3239] *Ralfe. Ranges, Apsley and Port Macquarie*

²¹ Surveyor General’s Circular to Surveyors 1 January 1836. In: *Marking the landscape – a short history of survey marks in New South Wales*. (I. H. Marshall, Ed) 2nd edn. p15. NSW Land and Property Information, 2002.

²² State Archives NSW: Surveyor General; NRS 13859, Crown Plans 1792 – 1886, [3234 - 3236] *Ralfe. Part of Barnard River and Range*

²³ State Archives NSW: Surveyor General; NRS 13859, Crown Plans 1792 – 1886, [3246] *Darcy. Plan of country between Port Macquarie, Port Stephens and Including Karuah River*

²⁴ NSW Land and Property Information: Spatial Information Exchange, SIX Maps [http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/]

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Naming Proposal form

Proposed Geographical Name **Grundy**

Local Government Area **Walcha Shire**

Parish **Salway**

County **Vernon**

State Electorate **Tamworth**

Lot and DP **N/A**

Area

Location / address **Hill on the Great Dividing Range : Long 151° 39' 20" E Lat 31° 19' 36" S Height 1463m AMSL**

Description of feature, including location and extent (*Limit of 650 characters*)
(*Please attach identification aids e.g. marked map, marked photograph*)

The hill is the site of Grundy Trigonometrical Station (TS 5648) currently registered by the Geographical Names Board. It is also the site of Grundy Fire Lookout Tower and is commonly referred to as 'Mount Grundy' or 'Grundy Mount' but has no officially registered name.

Reason for choice of name (*If the name commemorates a person, please also complete commemorative naming form*)
(*Limit of 320 characters. If insufficient space please attach separate page to the Naming Proposal form*)

The proposed name commemorates the Grundy family who owned or leased much of the land in the area from 1885 when William Grundy arrived from Victoria's Western District at least until the death of Robert Gillies Grundy in 1962. See attachment for further details.

Naming proposals approved by the Geographical Names Board will be advertised in local newspapers.

Name of local newspaper(s) **Walcha News, Armidale Express, Northern Daily Leader**

Applicant's name **Tony Dawson**

Address **46/160 Park Street, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444**

Telephone **02 6584 7648**

Email **dragdawson@hotmail.com**

Contact person if not stated above

Date **28/01/2018**

Your Reference **DAWS_GRUNDY**

SUBMIT

Please attach any supporting documents to your email

Grundy Family of St Leonards Creek, Walcha

Following the passage of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 by the New South Wales parliament many of the large pastoral runs formerly leased to graziers were divided into smaller blocks for purchase or lease. One such run was the 32,000-acre St Leonards Run on the upper Cobrabald River south of Walcha, part of the Branga Park Pastoral Holding then held by Robert Arthur Wauch and his brother Alfred.¹

In late 1885 William Grundy, recently arrived from the Balmoral district of western Victoria with his wife Jane (Gillies)² and children, Henry James (b. 1881), Robert Gillies (b.1883) and William (b.1885),³ purchased 320 acres at St Leonards Creek and leased an adjoining portion of 960 acres.⁴ This was the start of the Grundy family's long association with the district.

In the years following their arrival William and Jane had three more children, John Joseph (b. 1887), Flora McLean (b.1888) and Willimena Rose (b. 1891)⁵ but William appears to have been a less than dutiful husband, spending long periods away from home and, it appears, eventually deserting his family.

However, Jane Grundy, perhaps helped by her brother, John Haddle Gillies who had come to New England from Victoria before her and taken up land in the same area,⁶ kept the farm going and when the two eldest sons, Henry and Robert, attained their majority, they took up more land in their own names.⁷

In 1916, at the height of World War 1, Robert and his younger brother, John Joseph, volunteered for overseas service. Both served on the Western Front where, in October 1917 Robert received a gunshot wound to the cheek and was taken to England where he remained for the rest of the war.⁸ Ten days later John went missing in action at Passchendaele and it was later confirmed that he had been killed by an exploding shell.⁹ Shortly afterwards, in November 1917, Jane Grundy received news that her estranged husband, William, had drowned while attempting to cross a flooded creek near Miles on Queensland's Darling Downs.^{10,11}

In May 1919, following his discharge from the army, Robert returned to St Leonards Creek to again take charge of his farm. It is assumed that during his absence the farm had been kept going by his mother, uncle, and brothers Henry and William.

Over the succeeding decades Robert, who never married, extended his holdings on the upper Cobrabald and Tia Rivers below the Great Dividing Range. Henry, who married Dorothy Hayes in 1921,¹² and William who, like Robert remained unmarried, also stayed in the district.

Jane Grundy eventually left St Leonards Creek and moved to Stockton near Newcastle where she died in 1941 aged 90.¹³ Her brother, John Haddle Gillies died at Walcha in 1942, also aged 90.¹⁴ Henry Grundy died in 1948 aged 67¹⁵ but his 65-year-old brother Robert was still actively engaged on his farm at that time. However he suffered a nasty accident in 1950 when his horse reared and dashed his face against an overhead wire, almost tearing off his bottom lip.¹⁶ Some years later he retired and died intestate in 1962.¹⁷

Throughout the years the steep incline of the Great Dividing Range fringed the Grundy properties, rising to a height of more than 1400 metres above sea level and, in places, almost 200 metres above the valley floor. The highest point, at 1463 metres, had earlier become the site of an important trigonometrical station for the survey of New South Wales. It had been given the name 'Grundy' in recognition of the Grundy family's association with the district. Later the Grundy Fire Lookout Tower was also erected there.

Despite this the hill itself it has no officially assigned name. It is therefore proposed that this omission be rectified and that the hill be name 'Grundy' in conformity with the existing names of the trigonometrical station and fire tower, and in permanent recognition of the Grundy family.

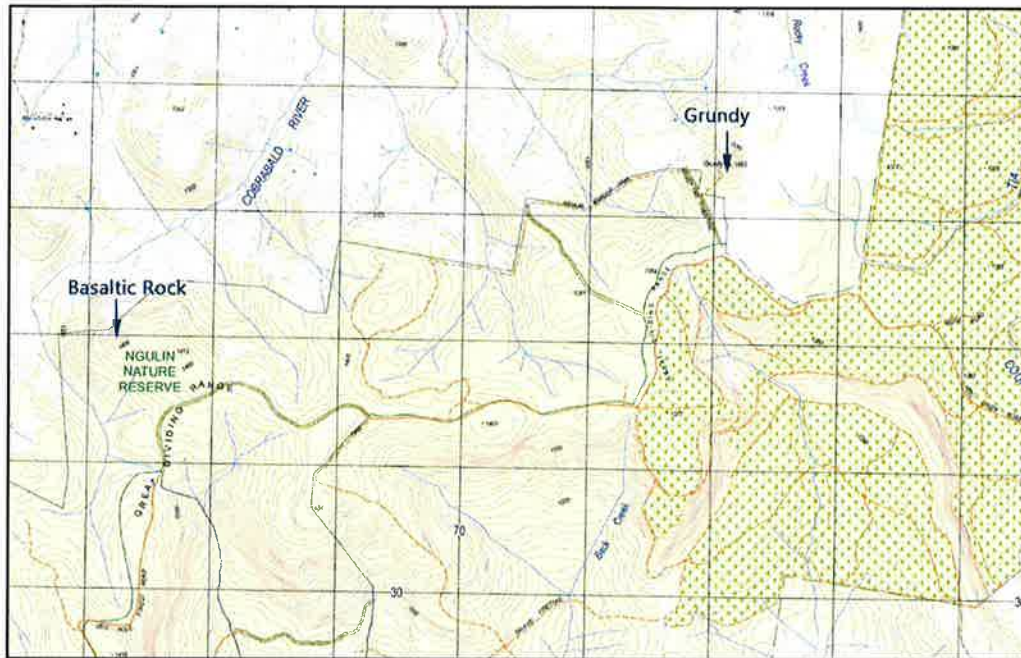
¹ New South Wales Government Gazette 5 August 1885 [Issue No 325 (Supplement)] p5056

² Register of Marriages, Victoria – Registration No 3152

³ Register of Births, Victoria – Registrations Nos. 7049, 21400, 15259

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- ⁴ *The Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser* 11 December 1885 p5
 - ⁵ Register of Births, New South Wales – Registration Nos. 31716/1887, 32748/1888, 35602/1891
 - ⁶ *The Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser* 9 January 1885 p4
 - ⁷ *The Walcha Witness and Vernon County Record* 9 December 1905 p2
 - ⁸ National Archives of Australia – NAA: B2455, GRUNDY R G
 - ⁹ National Archives of Australia – NAA: B2455, GRUNDY J J
 - ¹⁰ *The Brisbane Courier* 13 November 1917 p6
 - ¹¹ Register of Deaths, Queensland – Registration No. C3895
 - ¹² Register of Marriages, New South Wales – Registration No. 1066/1921
 - ¹³ Register of Deaths, New South Wales – Registration No. 25801/1941 ; *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* 5 November 1941 p4
 - ¹⁴ Register of Deaths, New South Wales – Registration No. 223106/1942
 - ¹⁵ Register of Deaths, New South Wales – Registration No. 24065/1948
 - ¹⁶ *The Sunday Herald* 4 June 1950 p4
 - ¹⁷ Register of Deaths, New South Wales – Registration No. 17613/1962 ; *The Sydney Morning Herald* 9 April 1962 p31

Grundy – Map and Photographs



Detail from Lands Department 1:25000 Orthophoto Map 9235-3N BRANGA PLAINS



'Grundy' from Peel Creek Road (Photo: T Dawson – October 2017)



Grundy Trigonometrical Station TS5648



Grundy Fire Lookout Tower

(Photos: T Dawson – April 2017)



Distant view of 'Grundy' from Tia Diggings Road (Photo: T Dawson – October 2017)