



Extract from

Southern Pencillings Part 2

From Moruya to Bega by the Raven

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I left off at Bergalia, six miles on the road from Moruya to Bega. Continuing the journey, a distance of four miles brings one to the strip of land dividing the waters of the Coila Lake from those of the Tuross Lake, which latter, by the bye, is in reality no lake at all, but the enlarged mouth or estuary, almost blocked up by sand, of the Tuross River. On this strip of land are two estates, Kyla Park, consisting of 700 acres, belonging to Mrs Hawdon, and a property of about the same area, owned by Mr. P. Mylott, the former being devoted to cheese and the latter to butter making.

The Coila Lake is a magnificent sheet of water, having numerous inlets, and swarming with water fowl, which are, however, too knowing for sport; at least, such was the experience of the writer. It is separated from the sea by a bank of sand. In flood times a great area of land in the neighbourhood, including the main southern road, is inundated by the overflowing of this lake. The residents of the district have therefore been trying to induce the government to cut a short canal to allow the water to escape, instead of, as they have hitherto been doing with this object, spending about £30 a year in cutting through the sand which divides the lake from the sea. It is thought if this project be carried out the lake, having then no connection with the sea, will eventually become fresh water. On the eastern side of Coila Lake are several prosperous dairy farms, where principally cheese is made; these range from 200 to 600 acres in extent.

After leaving Kyla Park, a few small selections are passed, also a post-office and public school, which is attended by as many as a dozen aboriginal children, of whose docility and intelligence the schoolmaster speaks very highly; we next come to the Tuross River, crossed by a handsome wooden bridge, and in a very short time drew up in the village of Bodalla, eight miles from Kyla.