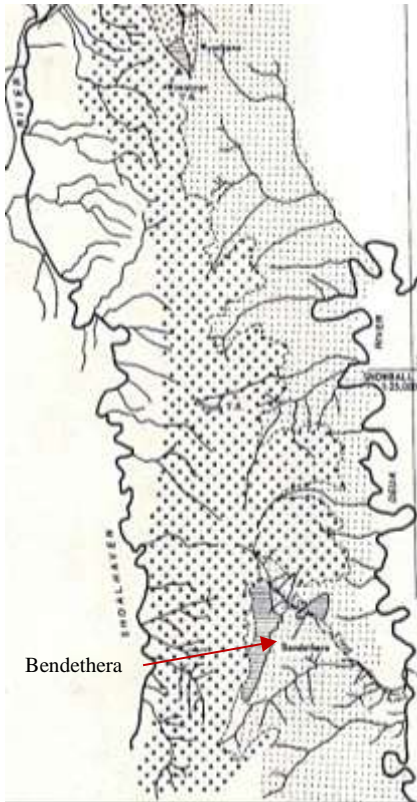


Bendethera Caves

The main Bendethera cave displays signatures dating from the 1890's. Due to their remoteness and less spectacular features the caves did not develop in the same way as the better known tourist caves. They have however been regularly explored by Speleology Groups. The Illawarra Speleological Society has written detailed accounts of their visits and exploration of the caves and published a Bendethera edition of their Newsletter in August 1979.



The Aboriginal people of the district of course were well aware of the caves. Reginald Heber Barlow a local Moruya resident writing in 1890 describes the annual gathering of the tribes at the caves. He was a man who was interested and sympathetic towards Aboriginal culture. He shows respect for their knowledge of managing the land and navigating through seemingly unmarked landscapes and their traditions handed down from Generation to Generation. The story he relates entitled Wyambeno is available in the Historical Society files.

-  Upper Devonian: Minuma Beds
-  Silurian Devonian: Braidwood Granite
-  Upper Silurian Limestone, shales, grits, homfels
-  Middle to Upper Silurian: Long Flat Volcanics
-  Ordovician: Quartzites, phyllities, slates, sandstones

Bendethera-Wyanbene Limestone Belt. From Geological Survey of NSW 1972



Caves photos from the Reid Family collection