

Three Brothers Mountains Middle and North

Item details

Name of item: Three Brothers Mountains Middle and North
Type of item: Complex / Group
Group/Collection: Aboriginal
Category: Place of significance
Location: Lat: -31.677729224 Long: 152.72583454
Primary address: , North Brother, NSW 2443
Local govt. area: Port Macquarie-Hastings
Local Aboriginal Land Council: Purfleet/Taree
Hectares (approx): 2132

All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
	North Brother	Port Macquarie-Hastings			Primary Address

Statement of significance:

Why is it an Aboriginal Place?

The story of the three brothers told by the local Biripi Aboriginal people explains the creation of the mountains.

Why is it important to Aboriginal people?

The Three Brothers dreaming story links the Three Brothers Mountains Middle and North Aboriginal Place to the Three Birpi Brothers Mountains South Aboriginal Place. The Aboriginal legend that explains the creation of the Three Brothers Mountains has been passed down through many generations of Aboriginal people. The telling of the legend is a creative act so no two tellings are the same, but the general storyline remains unchanged.

According to an often quoted account of the legend given by Harry Buchanan in 1975, there were 3 brothers who lived near the Camden Haven River near the sea. As part of their initiation, they were required to live alone in the bush for several months before they would be recognised as fully initiated. After being in the bush for several months they began to worry about their mother and father, so the youngest brother volunteered to go and check up on them. Just as he left the camp he saw an old witch but paid her no attention. He told his parents about her when he reached them, and his father gave him a special boomerang, and told him to quickly return to his brother's camp to warn them that the witch would try to kill them. The youngest brother headed back to his brother's camp but did not make it there by night fall, at first light he continued his journey but the witch was at the camp when he arrived. He asked the witch what she had done to his two brothers, and she replied that she had eaten them and would eat him too. Before the witch had a chance to do anything, the youngest brother hit her on the head with the boomerang and split her in half. He buried half her body in the river and half in the sea. Then returned to his brother's camp and gathered up their bones. He buried their bones where the North and Middle Brother mountains now stand, then went to where the South Brother mountain now stands and died. That night a mountain rose up where each body lay to mark the tragedy. The mountains were then named after the Three Brothers.

The Three Brothers Mountains are a spiritual place for Aboriginal people, who feel a connection to their country and their ancestors when they go there. The mountains are visible from all around, and the local Aboriginal people believe that the mountains protect them.

Date significance updated: 14 May 15

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Physical description: What's on the ground?
Unknown.

Nature of the environment

Middle Brother Mountain is the tallest of the Three Brothers and has a prominent crest that rises 556 metres above sea level. The Camden Haven River runs between Middle Brother Mountain and North Brother Mountain flowing into Watson Taylors Lake and then out to sea via Camden Haven Inlet on the east side of North Brother

Mountain. The mountains are covered with regrowth forest: sclerophyll forest and rainforest. There are also some areas of old growth forest.

Further information: Located completely inside Dooragan National Park (Dooragan - North Mountain) and Middle Brother National Park

Current use: Conservation, recreation, forestry, private agricultural use.

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
2. Peopling-Peopling the continent	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures-Activities associated with maintaining, developing, experiencing and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and practices, past and present.	Aboriginal Culture-

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
NPW Act - Aboriginal Place	Government Gazette		21 Dec 01	196	10766-1076

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Electronic	NSW Government	2001	Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales	View detail 
Written	van Kempen, Elaine	2005	North Brother- Dooragan	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

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