

ABORIGINAL DRAWINGS IN ROCK SHELTERS AT
BUNDANOON, N.S. WALES.

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(Plates xciii.-xcvi.)

Whilst on a collecting visit to Bundanoon in October of last year, my attention was directed to the existence of two Rock-Shelters which contained Aboriginal Pictographs. Bundanoon is about ninety-seven miles from Sydney on the southern railway. The shelters are situated close to Patrick or Paddy's River (which runs fairly parallel to the line, about a mile south of Bundanoon. The "river" referred to is a sluggish stream, and when the writer saw it, consisted of a chain of ponds or billabongs, some very deep and noted for eels (*Anguilla*, sp.), the same fish being freely depicted in one of the shelters.

Paddy's River rises at Exeter and unites with the Wollondilly, near Goulburn, one hundred and thirty-six miles south-west of Sydney. For purpose of convenience the shelters will be referred to as "No. 1" and "No. 2," being the order in which they were shown to the writer.

Both are of the usual form found wherever the Hawkesbury Sandstone occurs and frequently used by the Aborigines for camping in, the cooking of food, and sometimes for burial.

Shelter No. 1 is close to the river on the eastern side, not far from a crossing or ford. No. 2 Shelter is about a quarter of a mile south of No. 1 on the western side of the river and one hundred yards from the latter on elevated ground. The dimensions of the first shelter are as follows:—Greatest height, ten feet; the ceiling shelving back to four feet from the ground, the length on the floor being about thirty feet. In this shelter most of the drawings are made on the ceiling. The second example is much larger, and immediately under the centre of the eaves is a large sandstone block (Pl. xciv.) displaying about twenty grooves resulting from the rubbing-down and sharpening of axe-heads, the water during rainy seasons dripping from the roof assisting in the process. The following are the measurements of Shelter No. 2:—Seven feet high, fifteen feet from front to back, and forty-five feet long on the floor. Plate xciii. is taken rather from the northern end of the shelter, and