

A REMARKABLE ROCK-SHELTER IN THE MILTON
DISTRICT, NEW SOUTH WALES.

By R. ETHERIDGE, Junr., Curator.

(Figs. 8-13.)

The geographical distribution of the once frequented Rock-Shelters, with their pictographs, the petroglyphs or Rock-Carvings, so plentifully scattered throughout our metropolitan coastal area, and the more widely distributed arborglyphs, or Carved-trees, are amongst the few remaining subjects of investigation relating to our almost totally extinct Aborigines, left to us.

Through the interest taken in the study of these remains by Inspector E. Milne, of the Railway Department, Goulburn, and Capt. James Cork, J.P., of Milton, and under their guidance, I was able, by instruction of the Trustees, during February last, to pay a visit to a fine example of a Cave-Shelter situated on a branch of Coal Creek, in the parish of Little Forest, Co. St. Vincent. Coal Creek flows into Lake Conjola, a salt water sea lagoon, a short distance to the north of Milton.

There are three Shelters on this branch creek, within a short distance of one another. The principal opening is situated near its head, at a point where the scarp of Hawkesbury Sandstone is but a few feet above the level of the water course, and on its west bank. On the east bank, but somewhat lower down, are two smaller cavities, also containing pictographs.

The principal Shelter has been known for twenty-two years, and was discovered by Messrs. A. Cork and F. White when on a shooting excursion. After a lapse of fifteen years, a search was again made for it by Messrs. Milne and White, without success, but subsequently Capt. J. Cork, Inspector Milne and Mr. J. Higgins succeeded in locating it. The difficulty in fixing the exact spot arose from the extremely rugged and scrubby nature of the locality, typical coast brush country. There is still living in the Uladulla Aborigines Camp an old full-blooded black, known as "Berrima Jim," who was "made a man" at the last