



Figure 1 A scene from the first excavation, September 1935. L to R: J. Hornshaw, A. Hornshaw, N. Ritchie (née Williams), G. Bunyan, R. Hornshaw, L. Preston and Brown (with respect to the last two it cannot be determined who is who) (Photograph: AIATSIS B.L. Hornshaw Collection, N6793.19).

The Connections

The above information indicates that Hornshaw, Bunyan, Towle, Preston and McCarthy were all known to each other. They interacted and shared information on Aboriginal archaeology and anthropology, and were all active in the exploration, discovery, and recording of Aboriginal art, artefacts and culture. They assisted each other in their fieldwork and in its interpretation. They showed each other their discovered sites, and exchanged photographs and artefacts. Based on Hornshaw's notes and photographs alone it can be shown that he was accompanied on field trips by McCarthy at least twice, Bunyan at least 13 times, Towle at least three times and Preston at least twice. One excursion with Hornshaw, McCarthy and Towle (Hornshaw 1930-1937, field journal 2:32-36) was to Maroota to inspect petroglyphs, axe grooves and wells and took place just four weeks before the first excavation at the Lapstone Creek Rockshelter described in the next section.

In addition, Towle, Hornshaw and McCarthy were active members of the Anthropological Society of New South Wales. They would have interacted and shared in the Society's activities and they are on record as actively participating in the Society's meetings, excursions and exhibitions (e.g. Anthropological Society of New South Wales 1931b:50, 1931c:51, 1932b:139, 1934:185).

In this environment it would be difficult for any given individual in this group to undertake projects in isolation and without the knowledge of others in the group. This is an important observation. It has a direct bearing on aspects raised later in this paper.

The Time Sequence of the Field Investigations

The First Dig (the Non-Professionals)

Some time before 15 September 1935, George Bunyan discovered the Lapstone Creek Rockshelter. Realising its significance as an Aboriginal site, he informed his close friend Bernard Hornshaw of his find and the two families organised a field trip to the shelter on 15 September 1935. Those involved in this field trip are shown in Figure 1 except for Hornshaw who was behind the camera. Hornshaw records in his field notes (Hornshaw 1930-1937, field journal 2:37) that the shelter measured 31ft. (9.5m) long, 4ft. 3in. (1.3m) high and 11ft. (3.4m) to the back of the shelter. He goes on to say that the floor showed evidence of occupational debris. He says Messrs Bunyan, Preston and Brown and his son Ross were involved in digging and sieving while Hornshaw classified and recorded. Hornshaw's field notes record that pebble axes and ground axes were found in the top layers, the middle layers contained eloueras and points and the bottom layers contained only points which he noted indicated two occupational periods.

Ninety-six labelled artefacts from this excavation are still held in Hornshaw's stone artefact collection (Figure 2).

The Second Dig (the Professional and the Non-Professionals)

As previously demonstrated, a strong interconnecting network existed between the five main players who were involved in either of the shelter's excavations. It was inevitable that Towle and McCarthy would learn of the shelter's existence, its significance as an Aboriginal site and of the work that had already been