

ERIC KEIDGE

AUSTRALIA, NSW NATIONAL
PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RANGERS: HOLDING THE THIN GREEN LINE. SERIES TWO

"For our children's sake we must never take these special places for granted & if possible we must fight for their preservation. This is a calling not just a job".

I am a Field officer in Garigal & Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks, I have worked in this role for over 10 years.

The special values of the parks I work in are Aboriginal Cultural sites, ranked in the top 5 rock art precincts in Australia; drowned river valleys of the Hawkesbury River; & the dramatic Hawkesbury sandstone landscape.

Since I was a youngster I have wanted to work in National Parks, inspired by 'Skippy the bush kangaroo' TV series, ironically filmed on location in Ku-ring-gai, & by my love of the natural environment.

After years of working in earthmoving & construction I needed a life change, I went to University & completed subjects in Aboriginal archaeology. While I was at uni I saw an advertisement for a National Parks Aboriginal Field Officer.

My daily role varies between surveying, monitoring & recording Aboriginal Cultural sites; servicing day use areas; monitoring & maintaining remote areas by boat; marine mammal rescue; fire fighting; interpretation; carpentry & steel fabrication; earthmoving machinery for trail maintenance & track building; feral animal & weed control; law enforcement; search & rescue.

One of my career highlights was interpreting the Aboriginal heritage of Ku-ring-gai to an international delegation of peers.

I aspire to ordinary people that are committed to the protection of the natural environment, that risk their lives standing in the way of those who would seek to destroy it. Oh & of course David Attenborough.

In 5 years I will be working in the bush, committed to documenting & conserving the hundreds of Aboriginal cultural sites in Ku-ring-gai. That could consume a lifetime.

In 20 years I hope protected areas are managed adequately to accommodate fauna & flora through periods of accelerated climate change & this work be funded appropriately.



"Recently I participated in the 'Aboriginal Partnerships Project' where staff & Aboriginal youth from around the city worked together to conserve & document Aboriginal cultural sites across northern Sydney. I absolutely loved working with the lads, they worked hard, they were so thrilled to see their ancestors sites & were very inspired to carry out protective works to preserve them. For me it was a very respectful & fulfilling time working with the young men."



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**WELCOME
TO
GURINGAI LAND**