

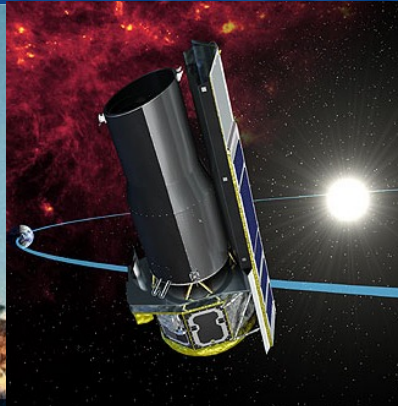
# What is a songline?

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With special acknowledgement and respect to the traditional owners of this land, the elders past and present, the traditional owners of Australia, and thanks to the Yolngu, Wardaman, Euahlayi and other groups who have helped and welcomed us.

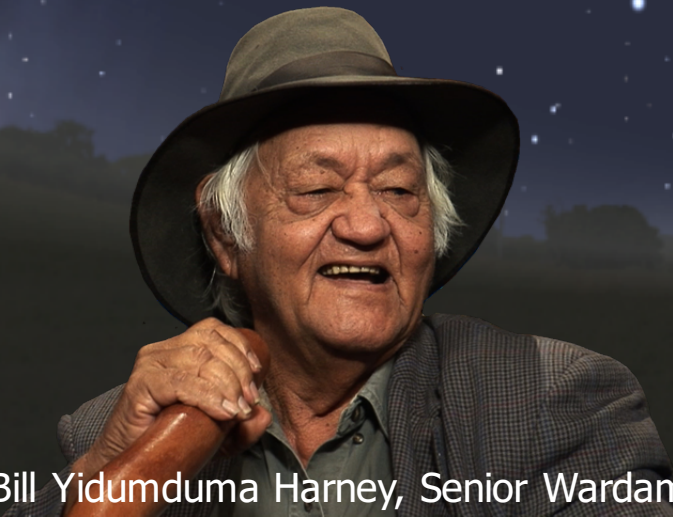




Altair →  
Bulyan  
Wedge-tail Eagle

↑  
Arcturus  
Munin  
Big Rock cod

↑  
Vega  
Jalala  
Tunnel



Bill Yidumduma Harney, Senior Wardaman elder

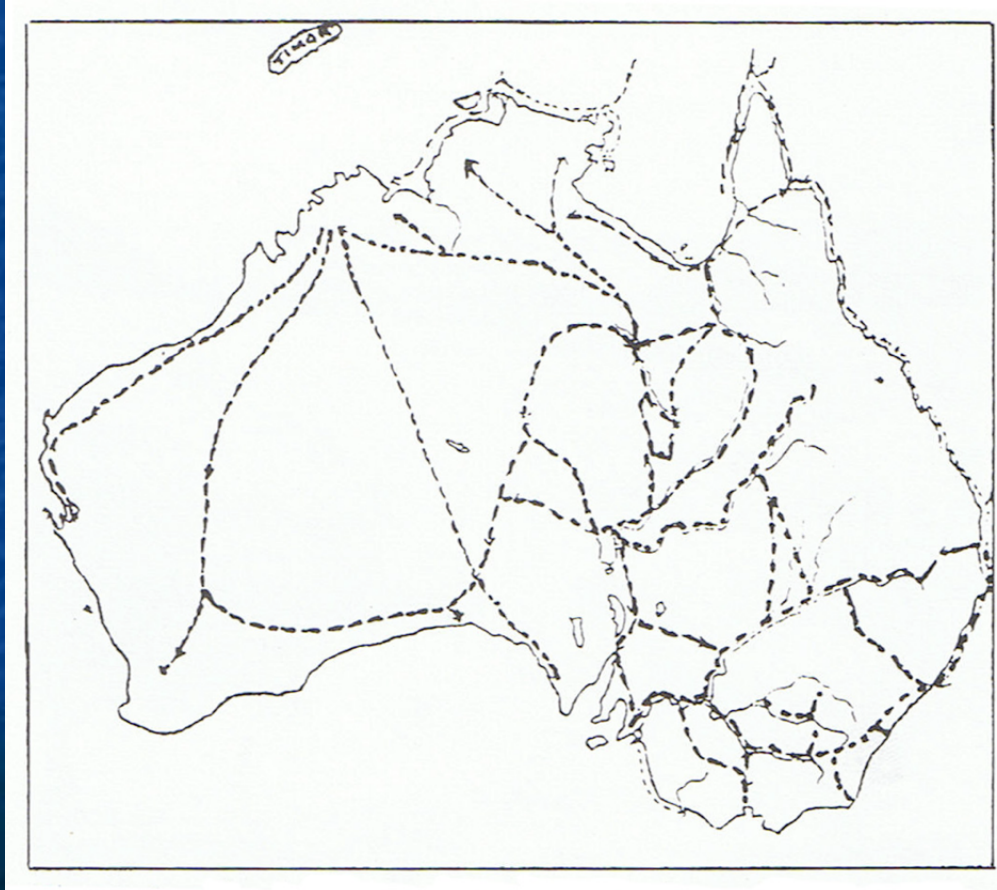


# The Yolngu explanation of the tides



- At high tide, as the Full/new Moon passes through the horizon at dusk/dawn, it fills with water
- When the moon is high in the sky at dusk/dawn (crescent Moon), it empties, leaving a low tide

# So there was astronomy. What about navigation?



Trade routes have been known for decades. Only now are we starting to understand their significance \*

*"Red and yellow ochre from this area are considered very powerful and were traded for long distances." #*

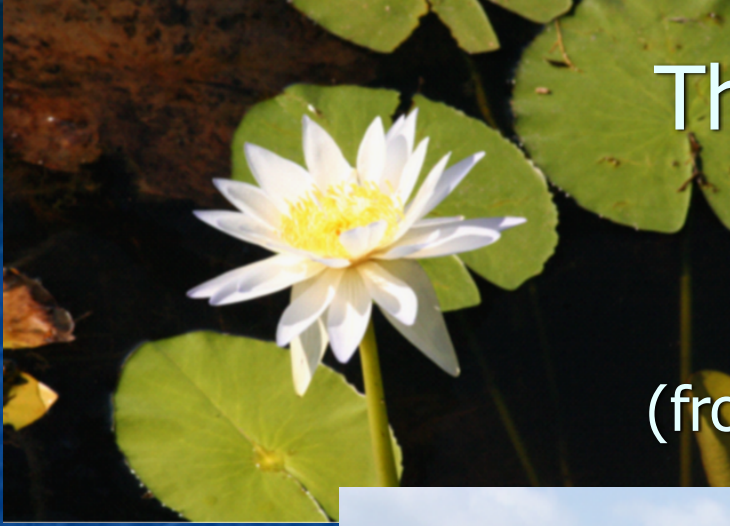
*Diagram from McCarthy (1939) 'Trade in Aboriginal Australia'. Oceania 9, 4*

*\* Kerwin (2010) "Aboriginal Dreaming Paths and Trading Routes"*

*#Lee & Harney (2009) Introduction to the Rock Art of Wardaman Country*



# The Morning Star (Banumbirr) Ceremony (from the Yolngu people)



Yarrapay

Pole made by Richard Garrawurra, from Elcho Island



# The Morning Star (Banumbirr)

“Every morning, in the right season, at the beginning of dawn, I will rise in the sky just before Walu, the Sun, makes the sky glow with her light...the people will see my light in the sky, and see the pathway of light towards this place.”



Pole made by Richard Ga



# Yolngu elder Gali dancing the Morning Star Ceremony, Elcho Island, May 2014



# So where's the rope?

Zodiacal light (caused by  
sunlight scattering of  
dust in the solar system)

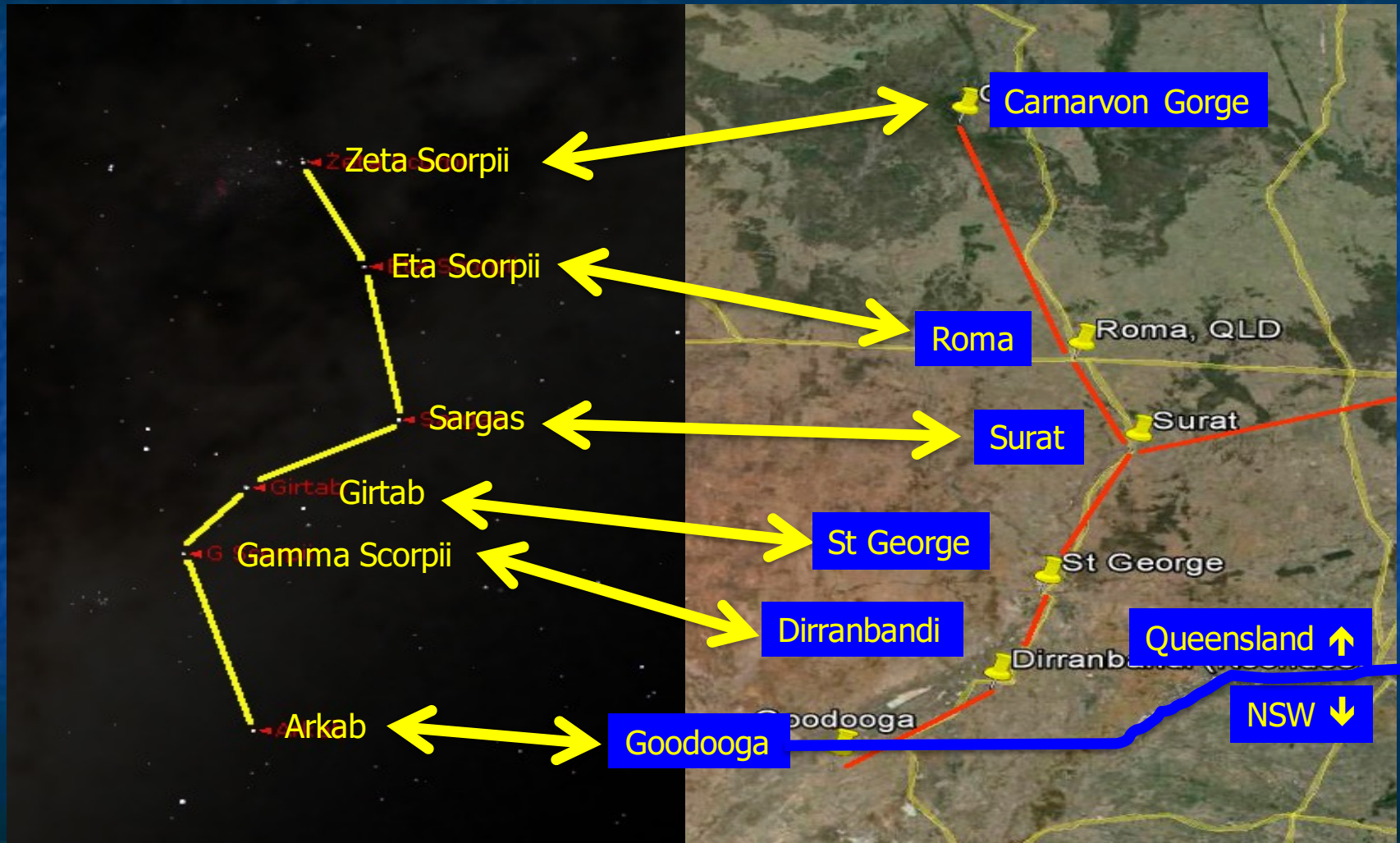




Yolngu 1      Ray 0

# A Euahlayi songline reflected in the sky

(Fuller, Anderson, Norris, et al., 2014, JAAS, based on traditional knowledge)





# Gujingga songline by Bill Harney



*Not just songline trail, walking trail, trade routes. You sing a song, then you follow your song, in that track you go along singing the song, like a blazed mark. (Dark Sparklers p. 63)*

**Many current-day highways are based on songlines**





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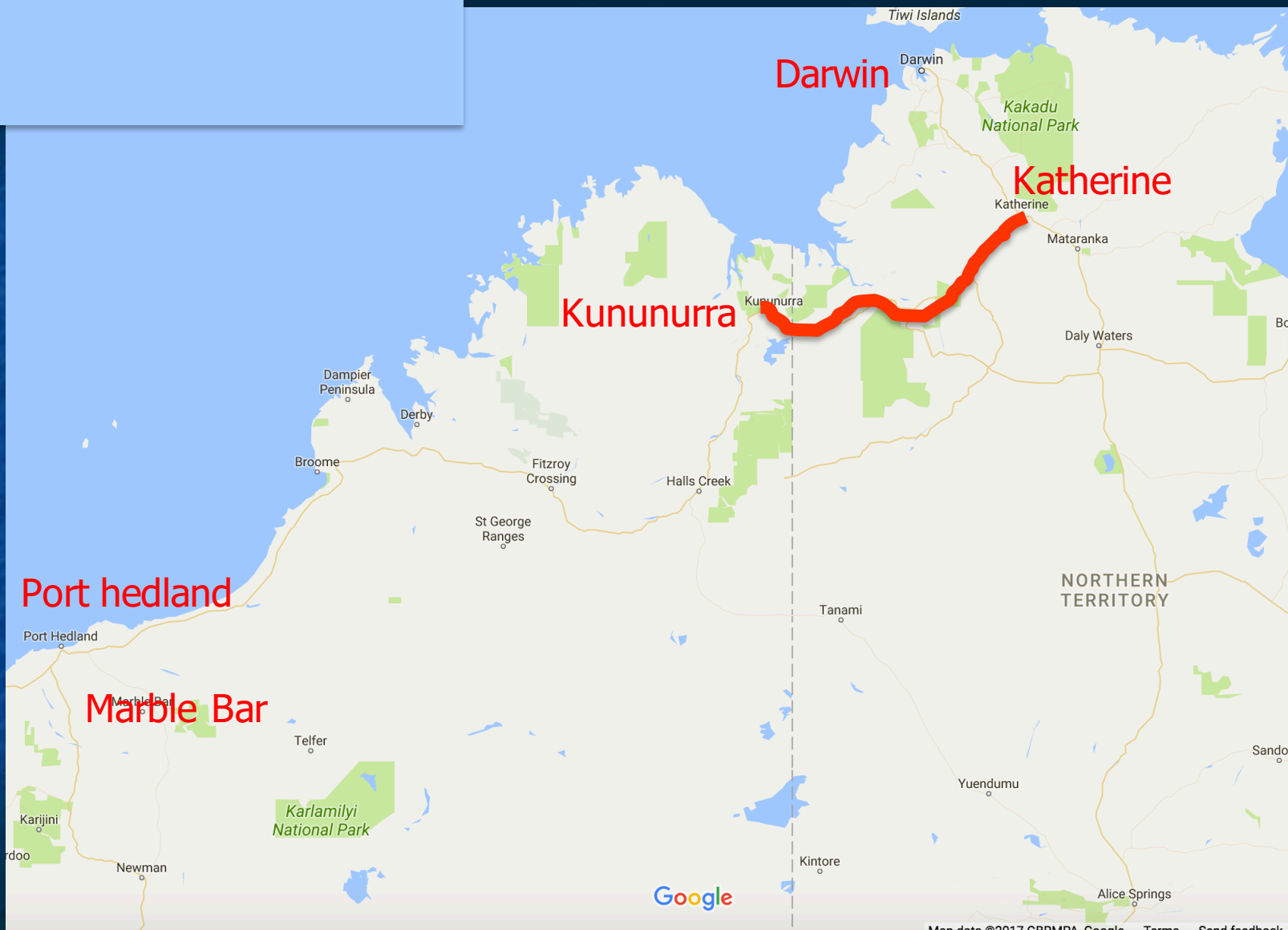
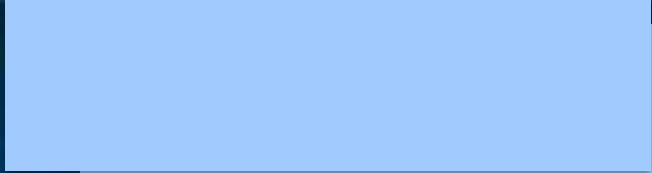
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# Gujingga songline by Bill Harney



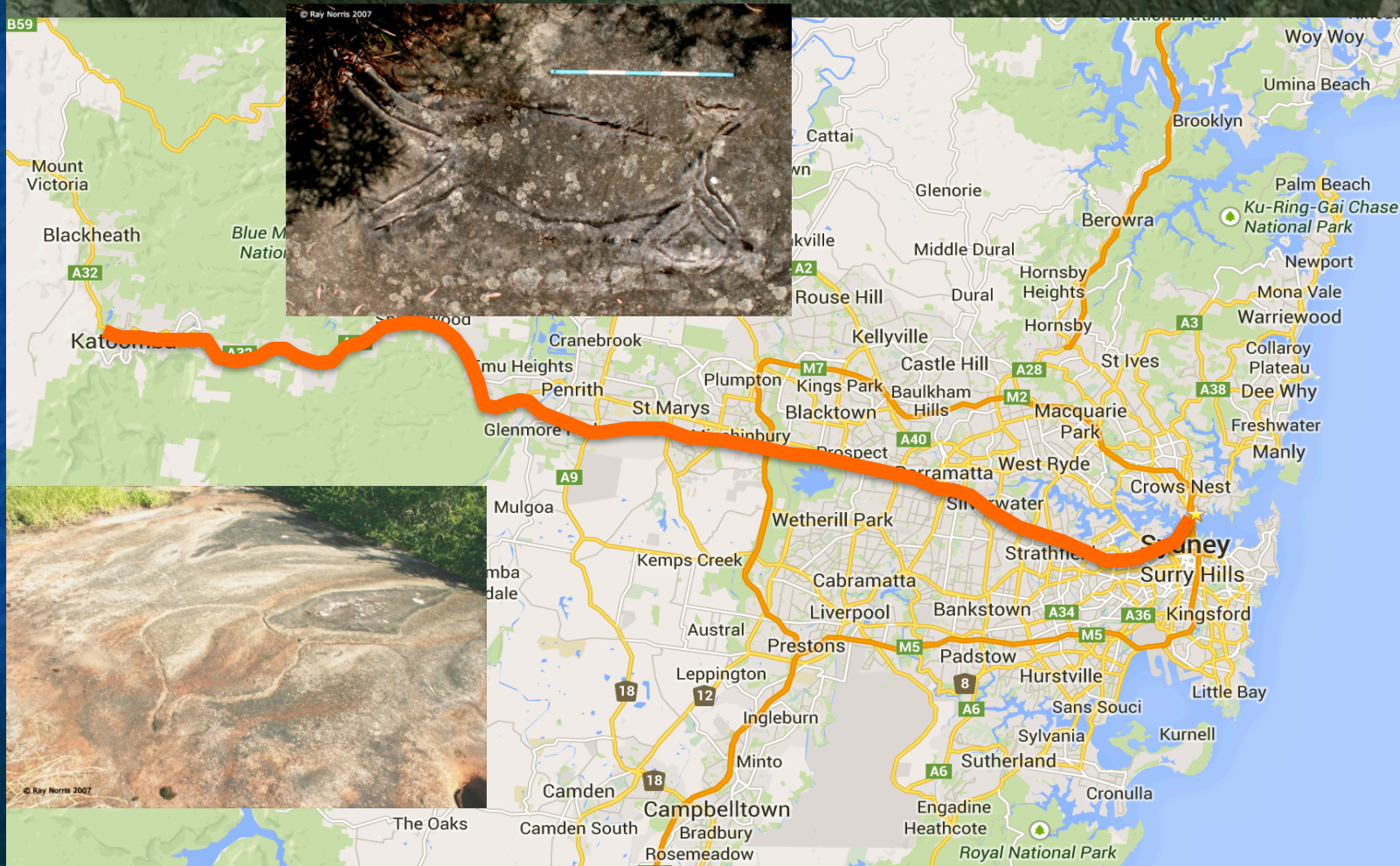
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# A Darug songline from Sydney to the Blue Mountains





For more info:  
**Emu Dreaming**

*Available from Amazon or  
[emudreaming.com.au](http://emudreaming.com.au)*

*See also*

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.02215>

