At around 2am on the 1st of January 1969, a magnitude 5 earthquake occurred near the Eastern Australian town of Coonabarabran, NSW. The local time, so early in the New Year, meant that many of the town’s residents were awake at the time. The event was duly noted in the local media and national press, but its memory eventually faded. Following devastating bushfires that raged in the nearby Pilliga Forest during December 2006, a local landowner was intrigued to discover curious large cracks in the ground, which had been hidden under heavy leaf litter for decades. The rediscovery of these cracks, their history, and possible association with the 1969 event, are presented along with further details about the earthquake; its relocation, focal mechanism and isoseismal map.