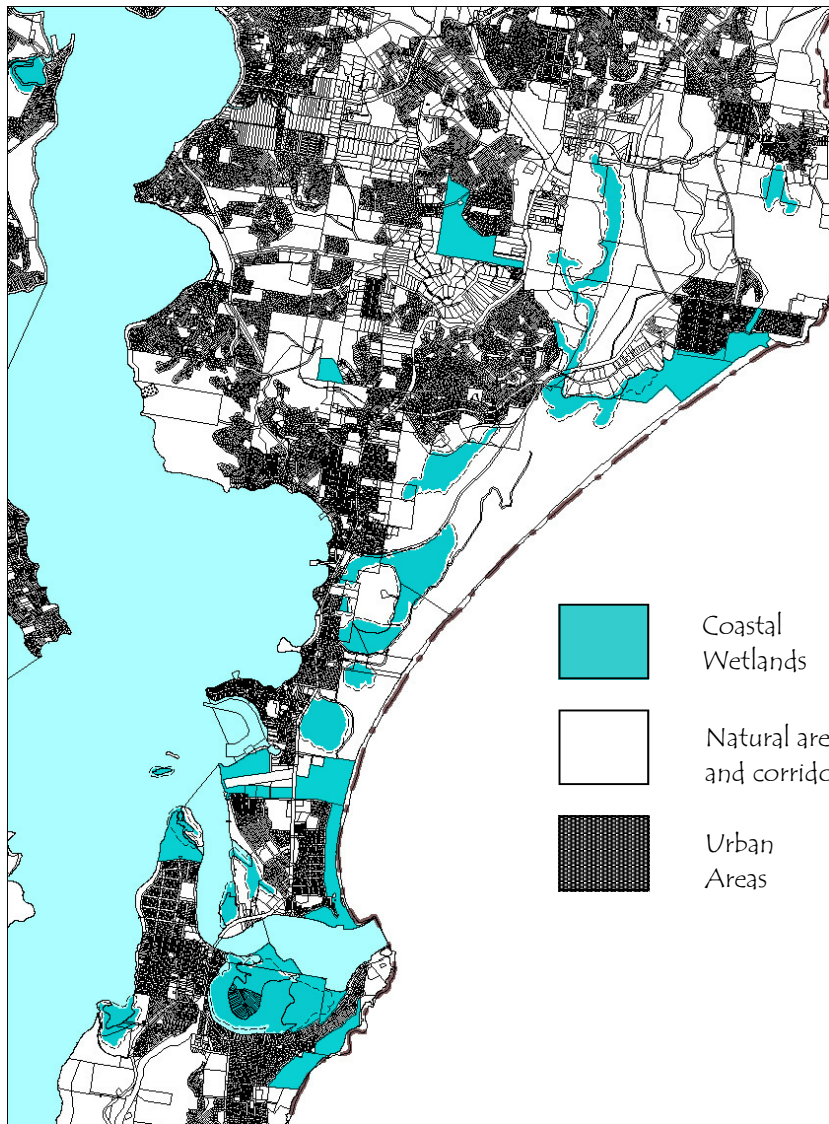


Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park



INTRODUCTION

The establishment of a Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park, encouraged by active Landcarers throughout the region, would recognise the unique complex of coastal wetlands and related natural areas extending from north of the Jewells catchment to the southern border of Lake Macquarie City Council in a fragile corridor between the Tasman Sea and Australia's largest coastal saltwater lake...Lake Macquarie.

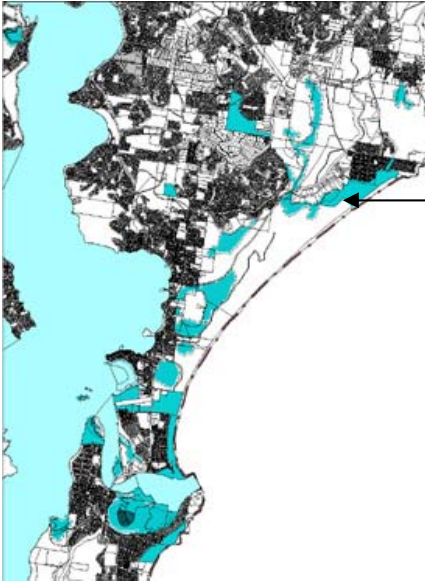
This system of 12 SEPP14 Wetlands includes, among others, such highlights as

- The Awabakal Nature Reserve
- Jewells Swamp
- Bangalay Reserve
- Belmont-Jewells Wetlands and Dune System
- Belmont Lagoon Reserve
- Golf Course Wetlands
- Pelican/Blacksmiths Cabbage Tree Palm Forests
- Blacksmiths Dunes
- Spectacle Island
- Pelican and Little Pelican Inlet Wetlands
- Coon Island Point
- Black Neds & Salts Bay
- Galgabba Point
- Wollarah National Park

We seek the long-term security of the coastal wetlands and dunes, tributaries and buffer zones as part of a complex interconnection of remnant natural areas of State and possibly international significance, complementing the already recognised estuarine and salt marsh wetlands on the Hunter River at Newcastle.

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Awabakal Nature Reserve
Redhead Lagoon

Second Creek Lagoon
Coastal Dunes

Contact
Redhead CARE Group
Ken Owens



AWABAKAL NATURE RESERVE DUDLEY

This site is a long-established valuable regional environmental site and is set to continue to inspire new generations of young people. Redhead Lagoon, its most prominent feature, forms an outlet to Freshwater Creek (First Creek) at Redhead Beach.

It has natural heritage values with a mosaic of vegetation communities including cliff top coastal heath, freshwater swamp forest, coastal Eucalypt forest and rainforest remnants in some of the deeper gullies.

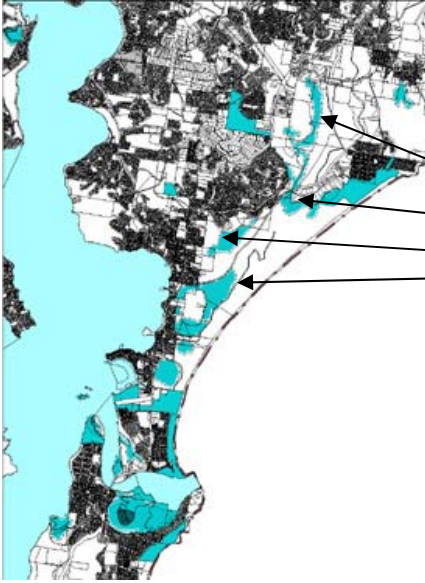
This reserve contains well documented Aboriginal Heritage values and is administered by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

CAIN St. RESERVES AND COASTAL DUNES, REDHEAD

Redhead C.A.R.E. and more recently Landcare in association with LMCC and its various funding bodies have a proud and long established record of volunteer achievement in facilitating projects on its 67ha site, undertaking an extensive programme of bush regeneration and site maintenance. This highly effective programme has provided improved public access and appreciation of its natural beauty through a 4km network of pathways, boardwalks, wetland bridges and whale/surf watching platforms, from which many successful whale sightings have occurred.

The area features a complex range of plant communities including *Melaleuca quinquinervia* Wetland, re-establishing *Eucalyptus robusta*, (Swamp Mahogany Forest), revegetated dune paddocks and restructured *Leptospermum laevigatum* hind dunes.

This area is home to a diversity of flora and fauna including bush birds such as Firetail Finches, Blue Wrens and Kingfishers, numerous species of wild fowl and international migratory birds including the Russian Sandpiper.



Belmont-Jewells
Wetlands

Contact
Belmont Wetlands
Landcare
Glenn Wrixon



BELMONT – JEWELLS WETLANDS AND NATURAL AREAS (EX B.H.P. LAND)

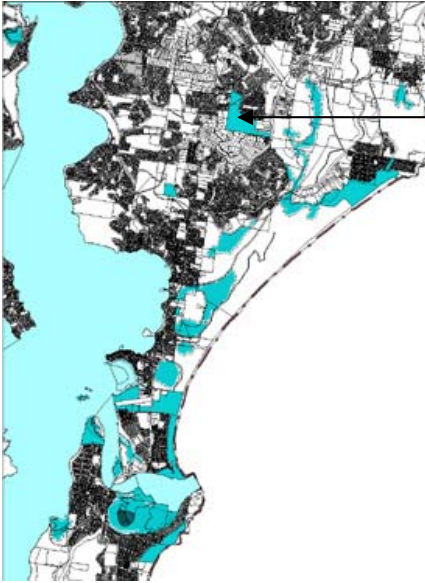
The Belmont-Jewells Wetlands and natural areas are a fragile corridor between lake and ocean containing the last coexisting littoral wetland and dune system in NSW. Behind protective coastal dunes exist a diverse series of natural habitats ranging from shallow open water to permanently or temporarily waterlogged swamplands, grading through reeds, sedge-land and swamp forest into open forests, woodlands and coastal heath.

These areas feature numerous flora and fauna, several of which are endangered or international migratory species. There is a variety of waterbirds, raptors and coast bush birds, as well as native animals and various bat species

The area is appreciated by the local and regional community who have been very active for several years to ensure its establishment as a Coastal Park that everyone can enjoy. It is intended that the carefully designed LMCC Coastal walk and the Fernleigh Track will provide access to the highlights of this area

A 506ha central section of this system was, until recently, BHP land, extending from the southern section of Jewells Wetlands near Kalaroo Rd., through dunes, forests and wetlands at Belmont North and leading south to Belmont Lagoon's northern margin. This property is now held with the Crown's property portfolio and is the focus of a Community Consultative Committee for the Premiers Department.

An urgent priority is the provision of long-term management. This task is being undertaken by a number of groups including the Jewells Wetlands Taskforce, LMCC Jewells Wetland Catchment Management Strategy and the Community Consultative Committee. The aim of these groups is to ensure that this central zone of the proposed Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park begins to receive proper design and rehabilitation to ensure past degradation is reversed and its core natural, recreational and hydrological values are protected and enhanced for future generations.



Bangalay Reserve

Contact
Windale Landcare
Don Roach



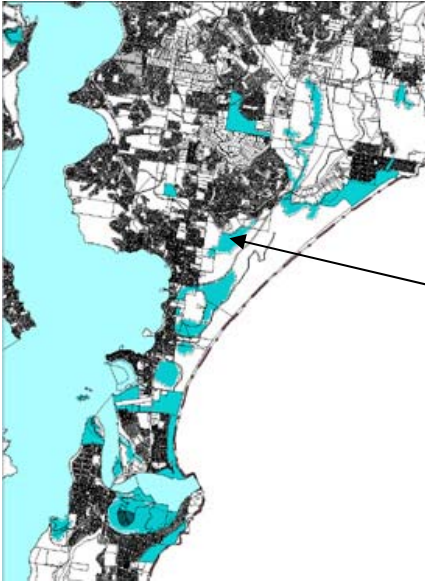
Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park

BANGALAY RESERVE

Bangalay Reserve is a 50 hectare area of bushland reserve [zoned 7(1)] wedged between the suburbs of Tingira Heights (W), Belmont North (S), Windale (N) and the Pacific Highway (E).

It is a mosaic of vegetation communities including Eucalypt Open Forest on the slopes and drier ridges, Gully Rainforest and Melaleuca/Swamp Mahogany forest in the creek gullies, and maintains a degree of connectivity through 7(5) zones to Floraville Ridge and the proposed coastal wetlands reserve of Jewells Swamp.

It has significant Aboriginal heritage values with caves, axe grooves and waterfalls found on the site. Bangalay reserve supports at least three threatened fauna species, Powerful Owl, Squirrel Glider, Regent Bowerbird, as well as numerous other fauna such as the Masked Owl, Sugar Gliders, Ringtail Possum, Brush Turkey, Echidnas and King Parrots. The threatened plant *Syzygium paniculatum*, (Magenta Lillipilly) can be found on this reserve.



Belmont North
Wetland

Contact
Belmont Wetlands Landcare
Glenn Wrixon

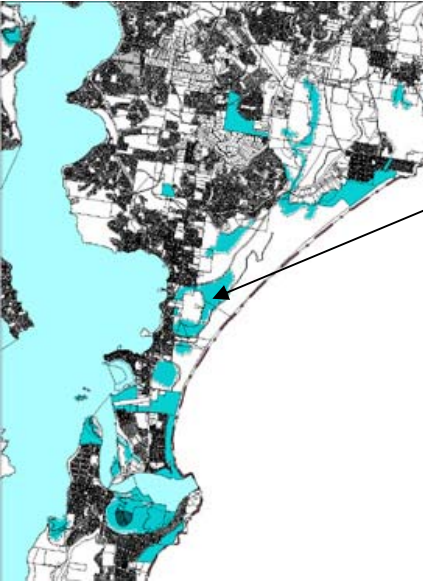


BELMONT NORTH WETLAND BURMA TRAIL

Belmont North Wetland is a substantial remnant of the Jewells Wetland System between the Old John Darling Colliery site and the wetlands immediately north east of Belmont Lagoon which features extensive *Melaleuca* forests and very important natural wildlife corridors, including the Burma Trail, a walking route used by early miners.

This area is a clear demonstration of threats created by development proposals bordering natural areas. Such pressures occur throughout the coastal zone.





Belmont Lagoon

Contacts

Belmont Lagoon

Landcare

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BELMONT LAGOON RESERVE

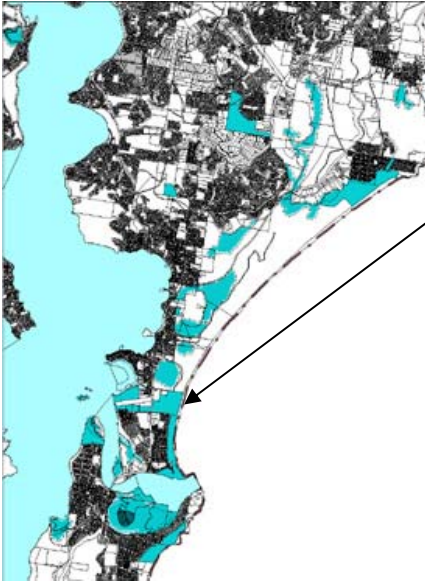
Belmont Lagoon is the Teardrop of the Moon, and according to the primary Aboriginal legend was formed the night the moon cried. Lake Macquarie's largest coastal wetland is a central part of the Jewells Wetland System which originally extended from Redhead to Swan Bay, and has a principal outlet into Lake Macquarie at Cold Tea Creek.

On a narrow isthmus between the South Pacific Ocean and Lake Macquarie, located only a few hundred metres from Belmont shopping centre, the lagoon provides a tranquil contrast to the busy urban area and provides for a fascinating range of passive recreational and educational explorations.

Famous for its black swans and diverse birdlife it is also home to several migratory birds and endangered species, as well as being one of the Lake's most significant marine invertebrate and fish breeding sites.

It has a rich Aboriginal and European history. Its large central open water area is, for example, divided by the World War II tank trap defence canal of Cold Tea Creek. Its native history diversity is hinted at by its range of fringing swamp forests, reed swamps, sedge lands and a large, quite pristine area of swamp heath, behind remnants of a coastal dune system.

Belmont Lagoon Committee and its Coastcare offshoot have worked for many years, planning, coordinating and developing a system of walking trails and rehabilitation projects ensuring, through its strong links to neighbouring Landcare and environmental groups, the steady enhancement of the area's natural and recreational values.



Pelican/Blacksmiths

Contact
Pelican/Blacksmiths
Landcare
Vnette Diver
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PELICAN / BLACKSMITHS RESERVES

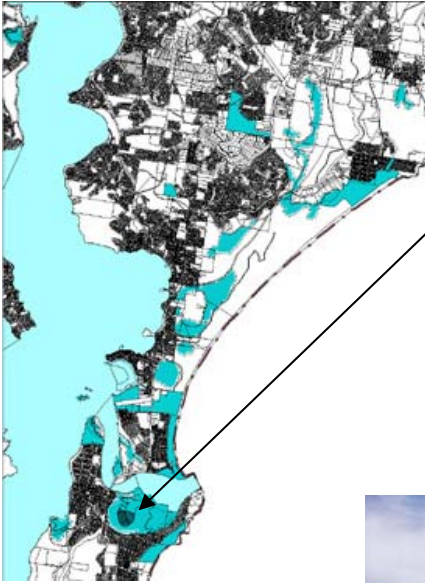
The Pelican/Blacksmiths Landcare site is situated between Swansea Channel (W), Soldiers Rd (S), Pacific Highway (E), and Aeropelican Airport (N) and is zoned 7(1) on the new LEP.

This area has a mosaic of several vegetation communities in which at least 63 native species have been identified, ranging from a lofty top storey of massive *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Paperbarks), *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm) see photo, *Banksia integrifolia* (Coastal Banksia), *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) and *Eucalyptus robusta* (Sydney Coastal Estuary Swamp Forest Complex).

The Sydney Coastal Estuary Swamp Forest Complex is listed as an endangered ecological community containing species listed under the Threatened Species Act. This area also contains some rare remnant rainforest components, moving through the mid to lower storey where numerous ground plants, ferns and sedges flourish.

The Pelican/Blacksmiths area is a remnant of once more expansive forests beyond dunes currently rehabilitated by Blacksmiths Dunecare

This site is home to 48 identified bird species and numerous small animal, reptile and bat species, some of which are endangered.



Salts Bay &
Black Neds Bay

Contact
Lake Macquarie Landcare
Inc



Salts Bay

Black Neds Bay



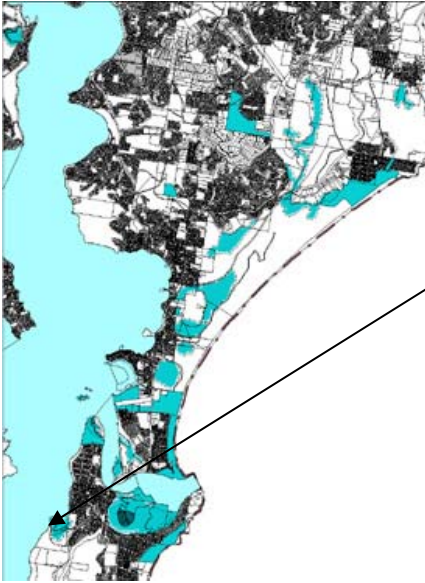
SALTS BAY RESERVE & BLACK NEDS BAY RESERVE

Salts Bay is an isolated remnant of littoral rain forest which is in the process of restoration and protection. It features a stand of Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona australis*), Casuarina and Paperbark with an extensive understorey of Spiny Swamp Rush. This area supports a variety of birdlife including Southern Emu Wren and Little Grassbirds.

Black Neds Bay forms part of a significant remnant of a mosaic of wetland vegetation communities. Part of the site is already gazetted as SEPP 14 wetland and another part of the site has the potential to be SEPP26 littoral rainforest.

Vegetation communities present include Sea-grass Meadows, Mangrove Forest, Sydney Coastal Estuary Swamp Forest Complex and remnant littoral rainforest.

Many migratory bird and bat species use the site and it contains threatened plant species, such as *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lillypilly).



Galgabba Point

Contact
Galgabba Landcare
Sharon McCarthy



GALGABBA POINT RESERVE

Galgabba Point Reserve is at Swansea south bounded by Lake Macquarie to the west, Galgabee Creek to the south, Old Pacific Highway to the east and Marks Street to the north. It is a significant bushland remnant with an Endangered Ecological Community (Sydney Coastal Estuary Swamp Forest Complex) and a number of endangered or threatened species such as the plant *Tetratheca glandulosa* and fauna including the Regent Honey Eater, Swift Parrot, Powerful Owl, Sea Eagle, Osprey and Squirrel Glider.

The majority of the site has diverse vegetation communities such as the *Angophora Costata/Corymbia gummifera* (Sydney Redgum/Red Bloodwood Open Forest) community, *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) Forest and *Avicennia marina* (Grey Mangrove) Estuarine Complex.

The Coastal Wetlands Crew Contacts

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Salts Bay & Black Neds Bay

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Lake Macquarie