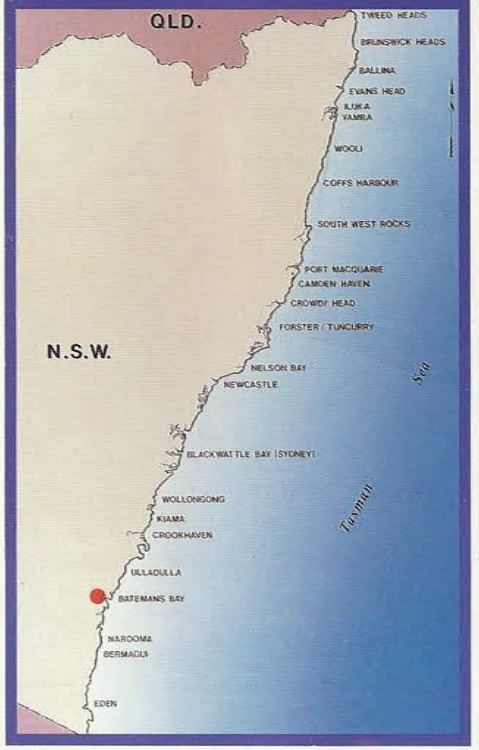
NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM



Since 1957, the Government has had a program to construct and improve fishing ports along the New South Wales coast.



Initially, the State Government established the NSW Fishing Ports Program to provide safer harbour entrances for the State's fishing fleets. It wasn't until later that the program expanded to include improved facilities such as wharves, jetties and moorings. The end result is much better support for the commercial needs of the fishing fleets.

The program is a great success. Not only has port development benefited commercial fishing and streamlined fleet operations, but in recent years it has also directly led to increased levels of fish production. By introducing the latest fish handling centres, the State's ports now make more public sales and offer far more community access to seafood produce.

While the commercial fleets benefit from the improved amenities the added bonus of all this development is that the local community and tourists also gain better access to the water. Indeed, the Fishing Ports Program can actually be a focus for people looking for some enjoyment on the water as well as for those interested in gaining a fresh haul of tasty fish.

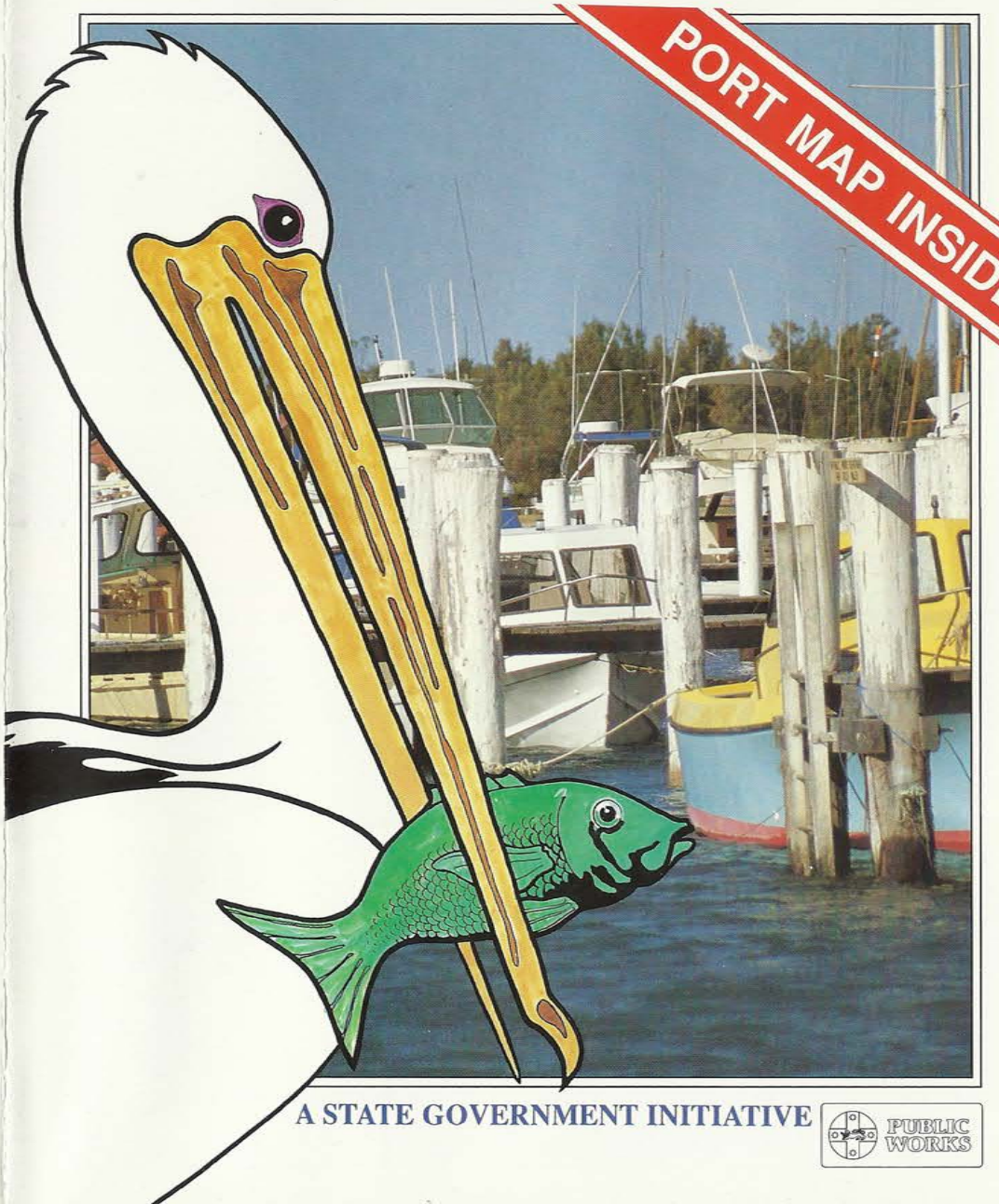
For more information about the NSW Fishing Ports Program, or about specific fishing ports along the coast, you can contact any of the following Public Works Department offices:

Lismore	(066) 21 1600
Coffs Harbour	(066) 52 0411
Newcastle	(049) 26 9711
Sydney	(02) 228 3722
Wollongong	(042) 26 8111

PUBLIC WORKS

NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM

Bateman's Bay



A STATE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

PUBLIC WORKS

BATEMAN'S BAY FISHING PORT

The sheltered, scenic waterways of the Clyde River estuary, calm water within the bay, and productive offshore grounds for fishing, combine to make Bateman's Bay one of the most popular places on the NSW coast for boating enthusiasts.



To support the fishing industry, and to improve the amenities offered to the local community and tourists, the Government has been upgrading the fishing and boating facilities at Bateman's Bay as part of the NSW Fishing Ports Program.



EARLY START TO PORT WORKS

A shipwreck near Moruya may have prompted the Government of the day to build a retaining wall at Bateman's Bay nearly 90 years ago.

By late last century, ships were regularly plying between Sydney, Bateman's Bay and the Moruya River. But when one Illawarra Steamship Navigation Company ship paid a visit in 1897, it was to stay forever.

It ran ashore on Pedro Point, just south of Moruya Heads, at midnight on October 16. The captain was knocked unconscious when the ship struck, but another officer took over and threw a pig overboard which swam ashore with a line attached. The 48 people on board were saved.

It was not the first ship to have been wrecked on that coast, and shortly afterwards the Government voted £5000 to build a retaining wall at the Bateman's Bay bar.

A training wall more than two miles long was planned, and construction started in 1900. Work went on slowly and intermittently until 1905 when the wall was almost a mile long. It has remained that length, although it has been strengthened and raised from time to time.

RECENT WORKS

Between 1978 and 1980 the Public Works Department created a boat harbour by dredging the sandflats behind part of the training wall.

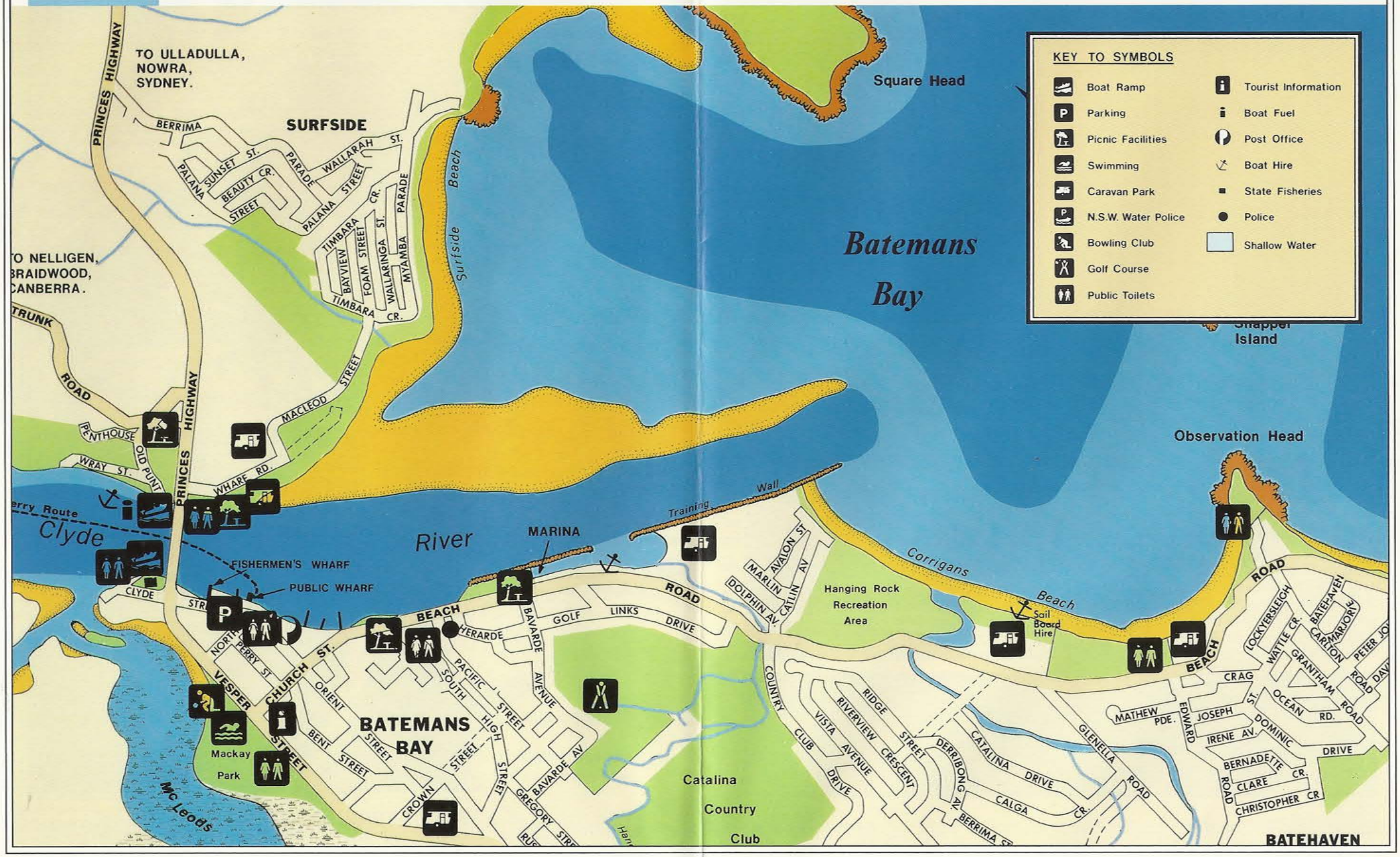
When the harbour was finished in 1980 it provided 70 berths for pleasurecraft, and 24 for fishing vessels.

In the same year, the Department built a new jetty just downstream of the highway bridge where the fishermen can unload their catch near the main commercial centre of Batemans Bay.

In 1982, an extra 40 berths for pleasure craft were built by the Department in the boat harbour to meet strong demand.



BATEMAN'S BAY FISHING PORT



EARLY HISTORY

The inlet on which the town stands was named by Captain Cook in 1770 after Captain Bateman, of the ship Northumberland. However, the region had to wait till Forbes' survey of 1864 for a detailed analysis of the depths in the bay and the Clyde River.

The Bateman's Bay area was settled about 1840. Growth was slow at first, but was stimulated by the establishment of a ship building industry in 1847, and a shipping service to Nelligen and Bateman's Bay in the 1850s.

Other southern NSW towns, like Nelligen, rose and fell with the gold mining industry.

But the use of Bateman's Bay for timber shipments to Sydney, and its location on the Princes Highway between Sydney and Melbourne together with the development of small-scale fishing, kept the township alive until the post-war rise of tourism.

Since last century the town has established itself as an administrative centre for the area, boasting a permanent public school since 1872 and housing Courts of Petty Sessions from 1877.

Early landholders on the outskirts of the village of Bateman were the Caseys, and Joseph, Edmund and Pat Corrigan. Their names have been preserved in the popular tourist areas, Caseys Beach and Corrigans Beach.



The Retaining wall built at Batemans Bay 1901
Photo taken by J. Check 1901



Snapper Point Quarry Workers Batemans Bay 1901. Mr. Maloney was the head man. Photo courtesy of his daughter Mrs Mary Dunne, Batemans Bay.



Batemans Bay Harbour Works at the Snapper Point Quarry wharf with the S.S. Rose and the punt.

FISHING FLEET TODAY

More than 20 boats make up the home fishing fleet at Bateman's Bay.

The larger vessels are mainly multi-purpose trap and trawl boats. The rest of the fleet consists of small prawn trawlers and lobster-potting, meshing or beach-hauling boats.

The fleet catches exclusively bottom-dwelling fish. Line and trap boats fish the reef areas on the continental shelf, while trawlers operate in the local prawn fishery.

There is no fishermen's co-operative at the port and fishermen have consent to sell their catch direct to the public and to local seafood outlets.

Bateman's Bay is a tourist resort and retirement town so fishermen have a ready market for their catch, demand usually exceeding supply.



