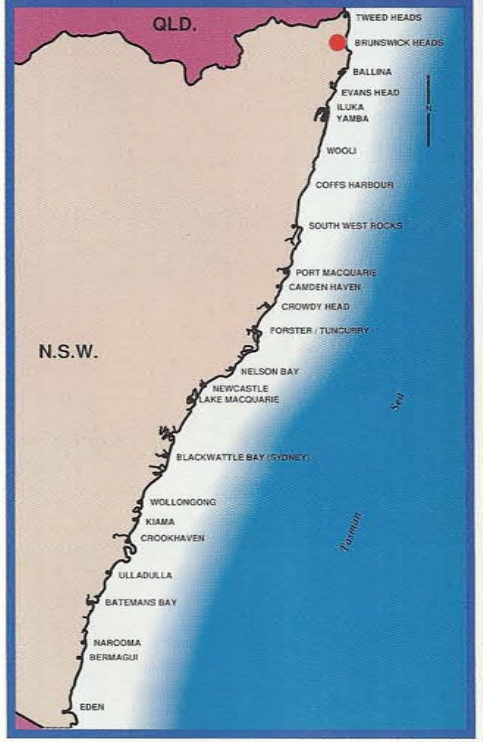
NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM



The NSW Fishing Ports Program commenced in 1957 to construct and improve fishing ports along the NSW 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:

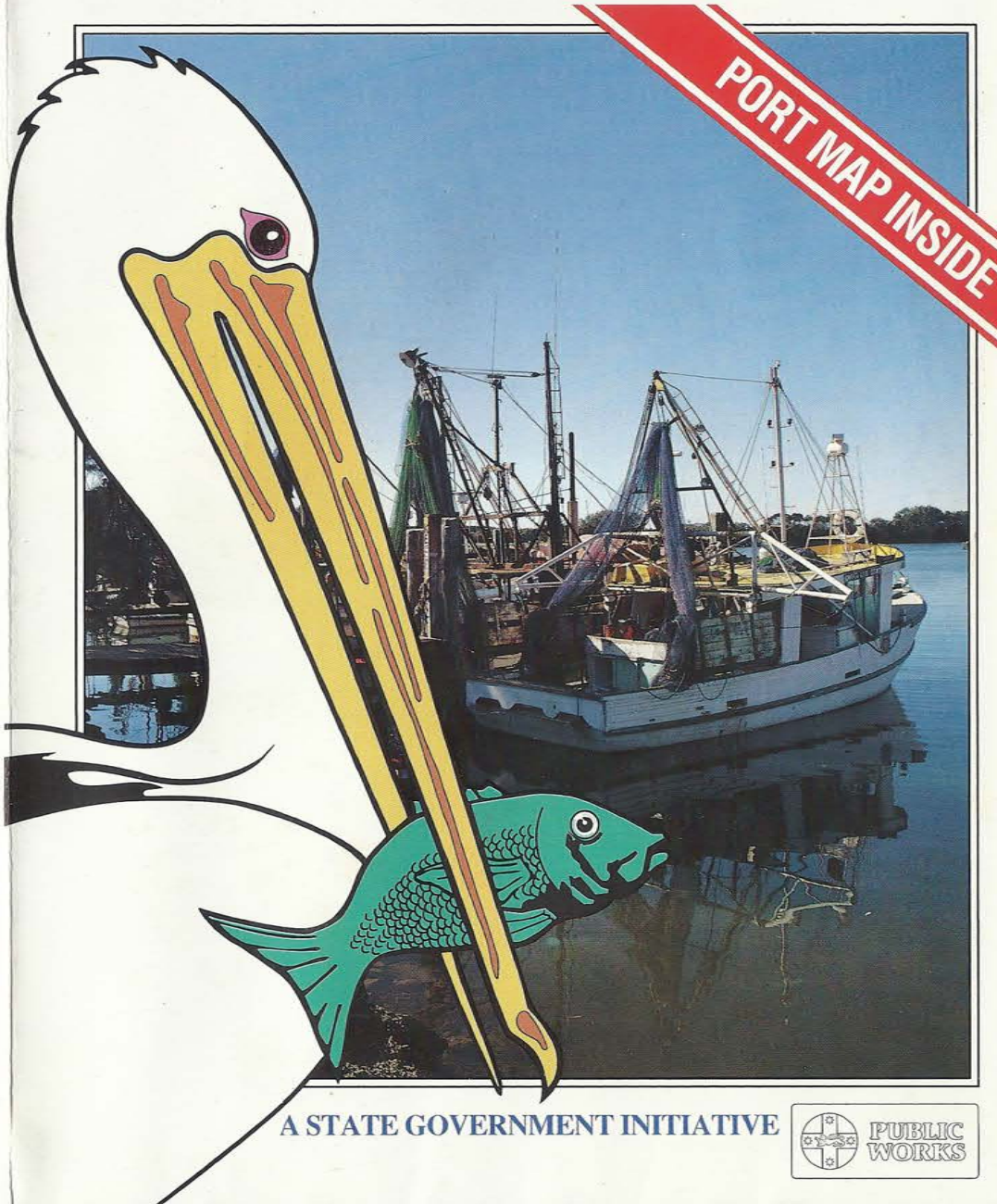
Lismore	(066) 21 1600
Coffs Harbour	(066) 52 0411
Newcastle	(049) 26 9711
Sydney	(02) 228 3722
Wollongong	(042) 26 8111

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PUBLIC WORKS

NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM

BRUNSWICK HEADS

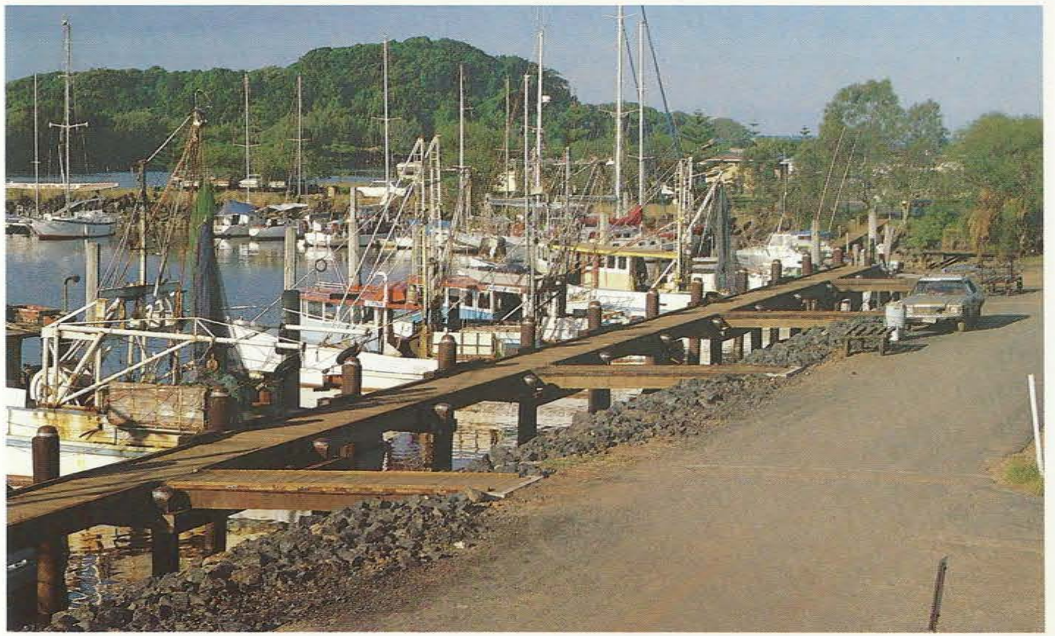


A STATE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

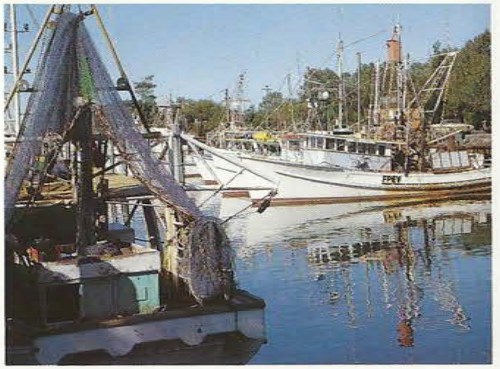
PUBLIC WORKS

BRUNSWICK HEADS FISHING PORT

The fishing industry at Brunswick Heads is vital to the local economy and has flourished since the Fishermen's Co-operative was constructed in 1964.



To support the fishing industry, the Public Works Department has been at work upgrading Brunswick Heads' facilities as part of the NSW Fishing Ports Program.



EARLY START TO PORT WORKS

The present Brunswick Heads port development commenced with the construction of training walls in 1959 followed by construction of the northern and southern breakwaters in 1960.

Local rock, drawn from a quarry 4 km south of Brunswick Heads was used and construction of the training walls and the breakwaters was completed in 1962.

This was followed by the construction of harbour and river works to provide safe anchorage and a deeper channel. Berthing was provided for as many as 30 trawlers, some up to 18m in length.

During 1968 and 1969 further works were carried out to the breakwaters and training walls.

Until 1964, prawns and fish caught by Brunswick fishermen were transported by road to the Fishermen's Co-operative located at Byron Bay. However, in that year, a large receiving and despatching depot was built at Brunswick Heads removing the need for transfer of catch to Byron Bay.

RECENT WORKS

Concreting mooring piles for both fishing craft and recreational craft were installed in recent times.

In 1990 work was completed on upgrading facilities within the boatharbour. These works included:

- Construction of the new timber mooring wharf, 94.5m in length, which provides berthing for 16 fishing craft
- Wharf services including water, power, lighting, fuel, and
- 150m of rock revetment works along the southern shore of the boatharbour.

The works constructed by Public Works as part of the NSW Fishing Port Program, have improved the efficiency of port operation and safety aspects for visitors.

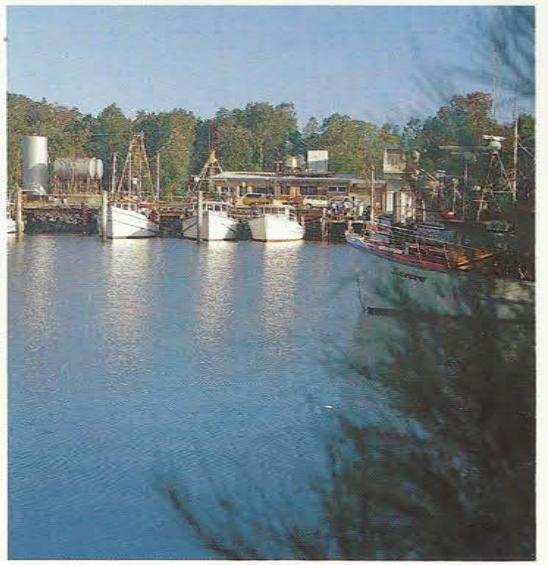
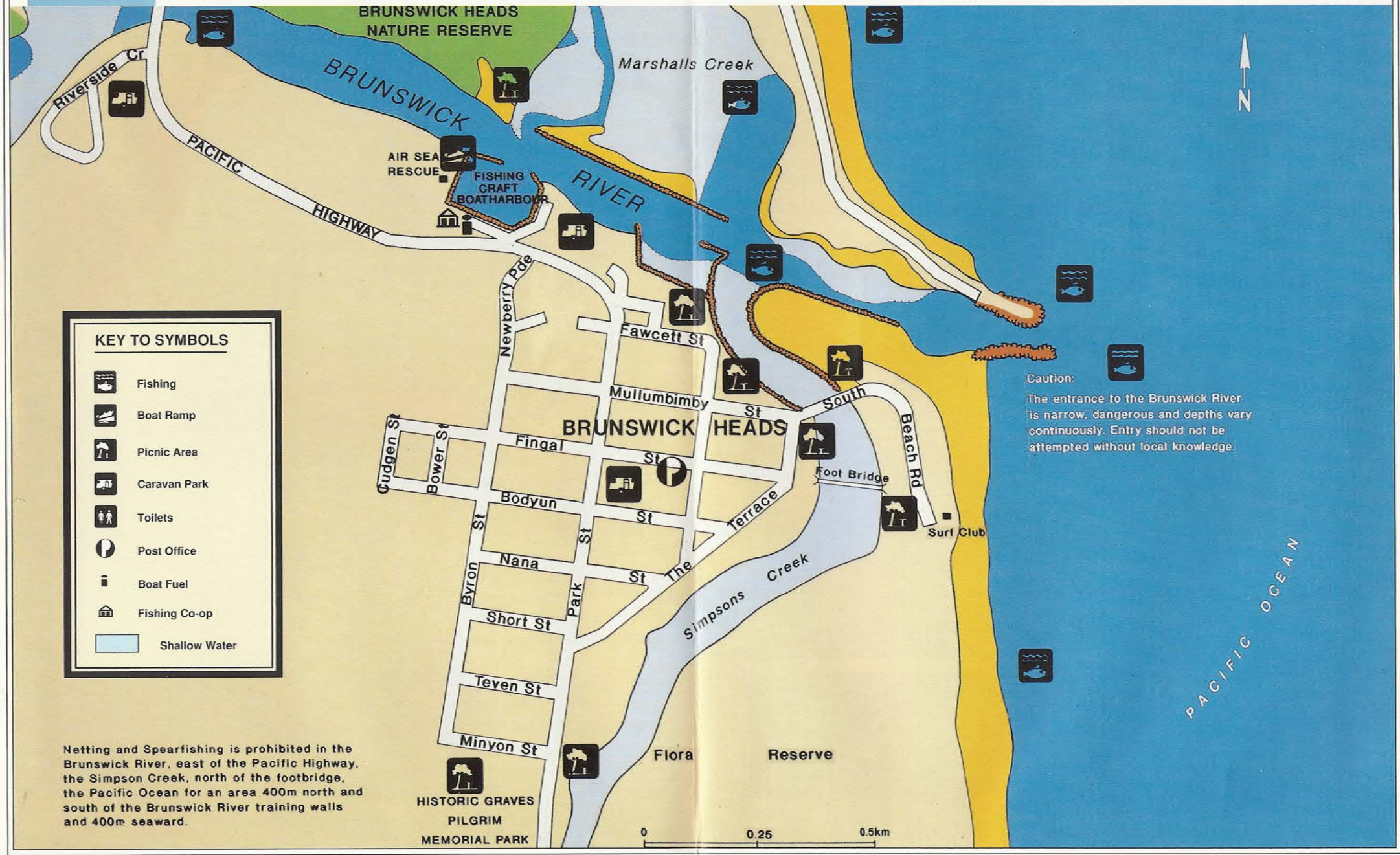


Photo Credit: NSW State Library

BRUNSWICK HEADS FISHING PORT



Early History

The earliest record of the Brunswick River is a report published in the Australian Quarterly Journal in October 1823. The report tells of its discovery by Captain Rous as he sailed north past the Richmond River. He described "another river ... with a narrow deep channel and rocky bar at the entrance and shallow north and south arms". Captain Rous named it the Brunswick River in honour of Queen Caroline of Brunswick (a republic within the borders of Germany).

The earliest pioneers who arrived on the Brunswick were cedar cutters attracted by the wealth to be gained from the great red cedar trees in the district. By the 1860s there were upwards of 50 to 60 men cutting timber.

In the 1870s a flagstaff was erected on North Head (later to become known as Harry's Hill).

A pilot station was established with Captain Simpson in charge and a boat crew was formed. The waters along the Brunswick section of the coast were dangerous and the river bar formed a barrier to all but the smallest of the ocean going vessels. However, Brunswick remained an important centre for settlers and two small sailing ships were used to trade over the bar.

Much of the rapid development of Brunswick in the 1880s was attributed to the proposed rail link between Lismore and Murwillumbah, passing just west of Brunswick. When this route was changed to pass through the new village of Mullumbimby it was a major setback for Brunswick.

The decline of Brunswick was short-lived, however, and the ocean and river beaches soon brought the town into favour in the early 1900s as the main holiday resort of the area. Many new retail business outlets were developed and a new police station was opened in Tweed Street. A new public hall was built and the government school was expanded to cater for the growing population.

When a fierce cyclone struck Byron Bay in 1954 it destroyed the Byron Bay jetty and all but one of the 23 boats which were moored there. The one boat which survived was 'Defiance'. The 'Defiance' selected the Brunswick estuary as its new base for fishing operations. After a number of boats had followed 'Defiance' to Brunswick, the nucleus of a re-established fishing industry was formed. This gave Brunswick Heads the chance to develop an industry of its own.





Photo Credit: NSW State Library

FISHING FLEET TODAY

Brunswick Heads is an important fishing port with prawning being the dominant type of fishing carried out by craft from the port.

In 1990 there were approximately 20 boats operating from the boatharbour with the main catch being medium king prawns.

Recent facilities provided by Public Works contribute substantially to the local fishing industry through the provision of a mooring wharf and services such as water, power, lighting and fuel.

