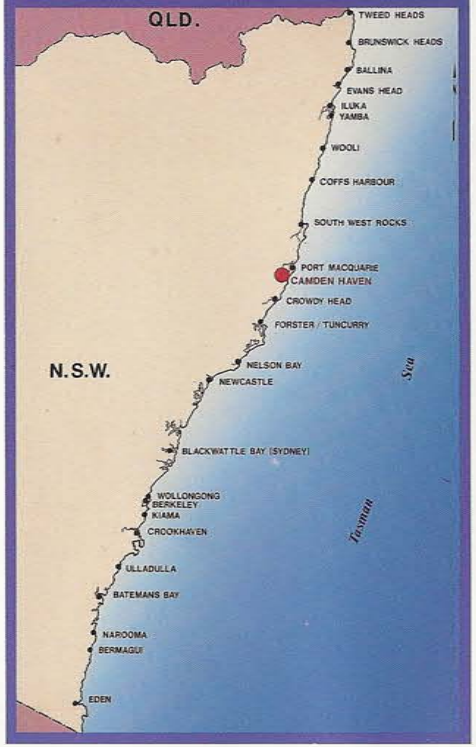
NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM



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) 237 7570
Wollongong	(042) 26 8111

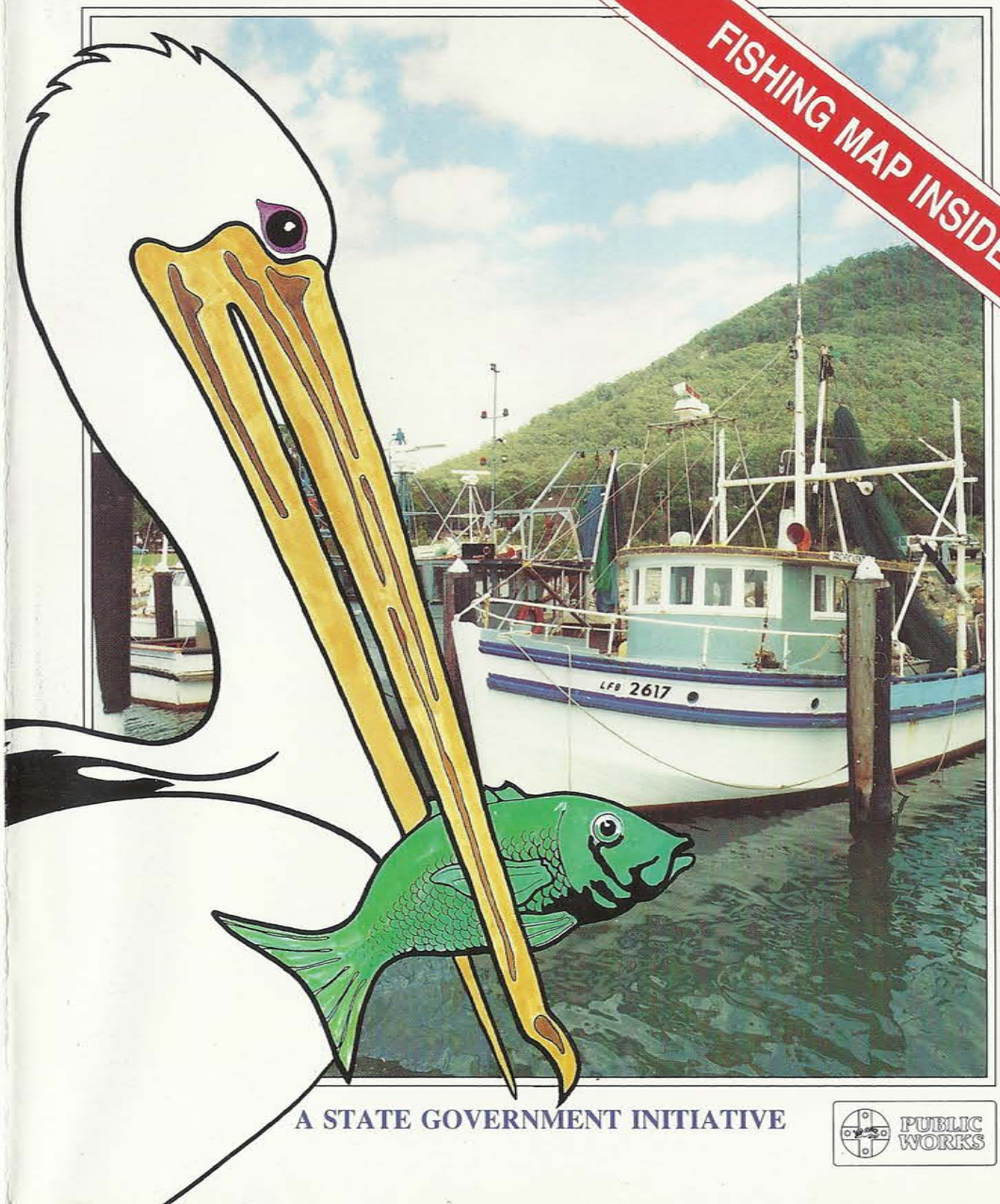
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PUBLIC WORKS

NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM

CAMDEN HAVEN

FISHING MAP INSIDE



A STATE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

PUBLIC WORKS

CAMDEN HAVEN FISHING PORT

The Camden Haven River is the home of a small but vital fishing industry, as important as tourism in sustaining the local economy.

To support the commercial fishing industry, and to improve the amenities offered to the local community and tourists, the Government has been at work in Camden Haven upgrading its fishing facilities as part of the NSW Fishing Ports Program.

EARLY START TO PORT WORKS

Since the early days, the Government has played an important role in the development of the Camden Haven port and waterways.

To assist boats using the port at Laurieton, the Public Works Department helped create a deeper and more stable river channel.

Although the entrance to the Camden Haven River is naturally protected from southerly weather, the channel leading to Laurieton was tortuous and unstable.

Efforts to improve the situation began in 1897 when C.W. Darley, then Engineer-in-Chief for the Department, prepared designs to help solve the river problem.

He proposed building two stone walls that would train or channel the river so that its course would become deeper and more stable. The walls were not fully developed when work stopped in 1901. But when sand quickly began to obstruct the river entrance again, further efforts were made to continue the work.

By 1912, the northern and southern training walls were in place and a



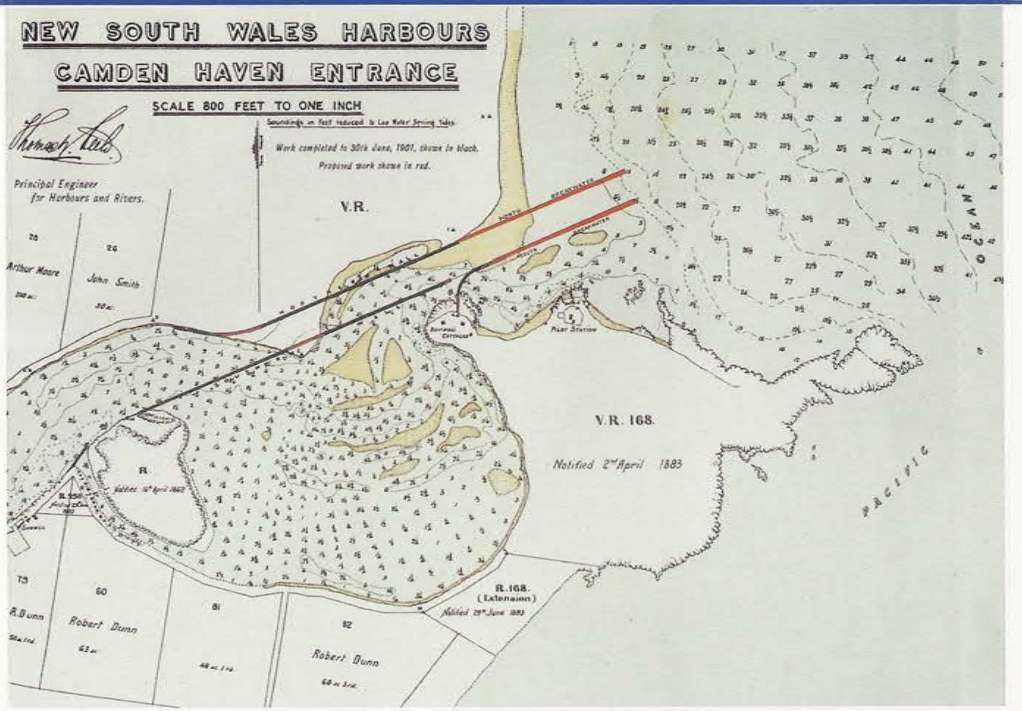
northern breakwater was established which stretched almost 1500 feet seawards.

RECENT WORKS

In 1972, the Public Works Department extended the entrance breakwaters, continuing the work which had been done early in the century.

In 1983, as part of the Government's Fishing Ports Program, the Department upgraded and extended the fishermen's unloading wharf. Then, it began a half-million dollar scheme to create new facilities at the Laurieton Fishermen's Co-operative.

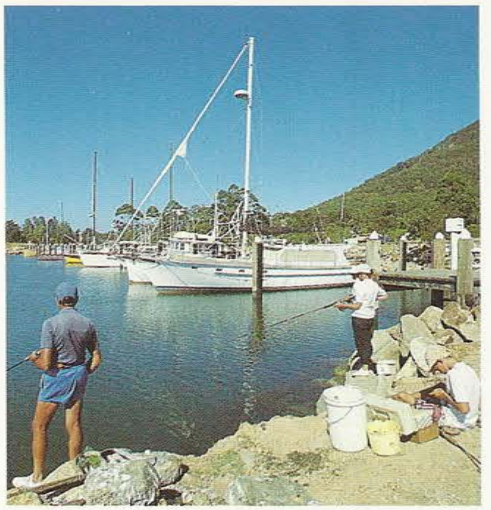
They included sheltered moorings for 21 vessels of up to 16 metres in length, a repair wharf, access road and



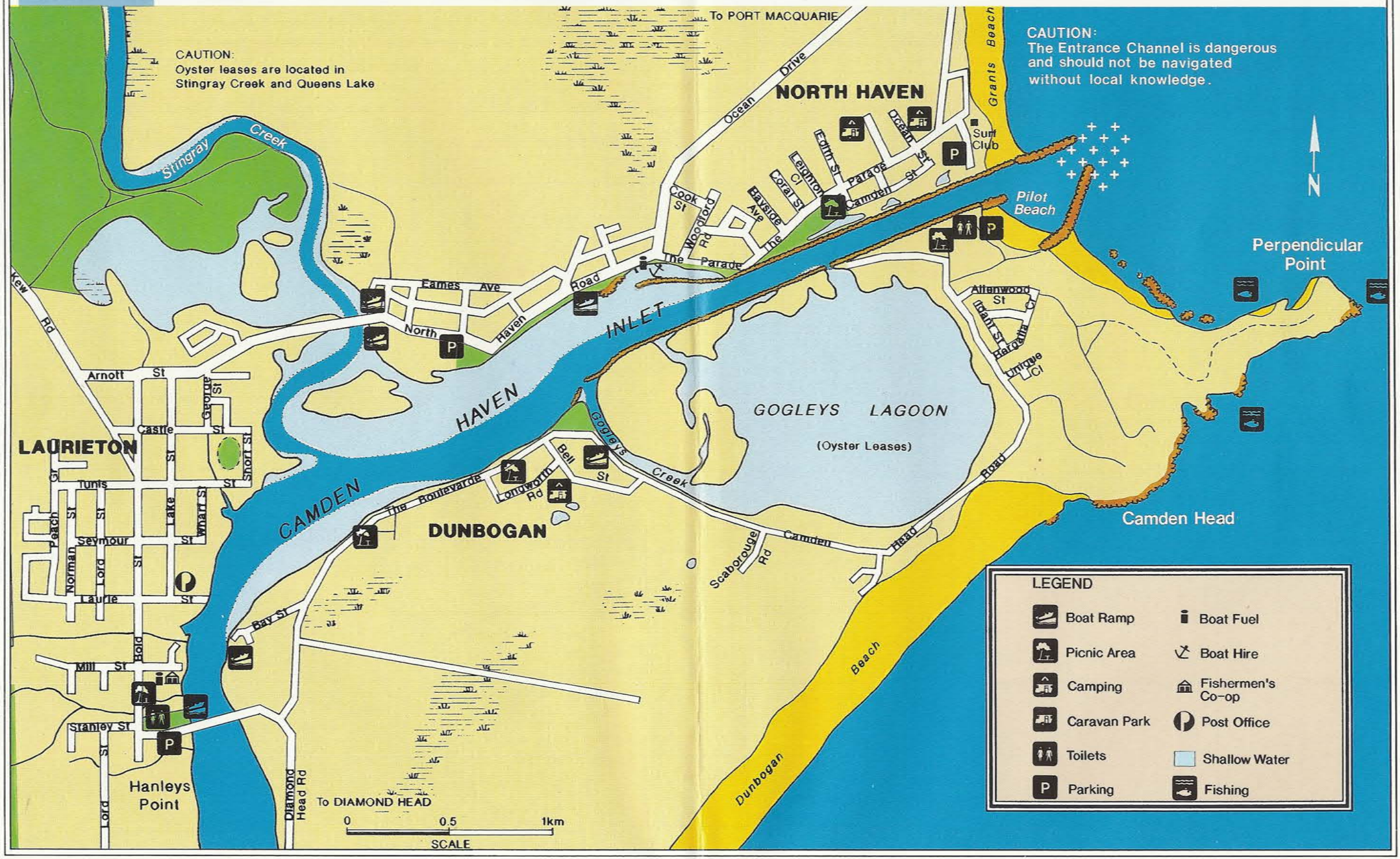
carparking, and vital services like lighting, water and power.

The facilities and foreshore landscaping gave a new lease of life to the area for the fishing community and the burgeoning tourist industry.

What was once a run-down and inaccessible foreshore has now been opened up to the public to allow them to enjoy the waterway and the interesting maritime environment.



CAMDEN HAVEN FISHING PORT



EARLY HISTORY

Captain James Cook was the first European to see Camden Haven. On May 12, 1770, he sighted the three Brother mountains. But although the coast was later charted by Matthew Flinders in 1802, it was not until 1818 that John Oxley made the first recorded exploration of the Camden Haven and named it after the colonial secretary Lord Camden.

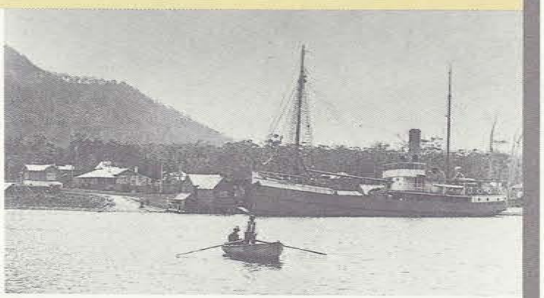
The first industry came to Camden Haven in the 1820s in the form of "limeburning". Oyster shells were burnt to produce lime for mortar needed in the brick-built Government buildings under construction in Port Macquarie.

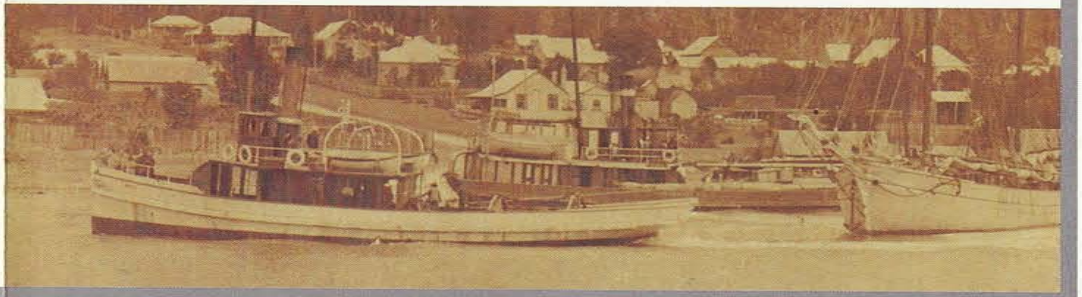
But by the 1870s, a broadly-based timber industry had been established. The earliest mills were built at Laurieton - on the flattest country closest to navigable water - and by the turn of the century an important timber trade to Sydney had been established.

The Camden Haven River became important for ships taking locally felled timber to Sydney. At high tide, ocean going vessels were able to sail up the river to Laurieton.

Timber supplies in the area declined, but later the fishing industry grew. Activities on the river and at the port of Laurieton gradually changed.







FISHING FLEET TODAY

The fishing fleet which operates from Camden Haven is small in comparison to some other New South Wales fishing ports.

But it is important to the local economy and future development of the area. The fishing fleet includes estuarine vessels and about 20 ocean going boats.

The estuary fishermen, some using only small punts, work the river and Queens and Watson Taylors Lakes while the ocean going boats fish up to 25 kilometres off the coast.

The catch includes prawns, lobsters and crabs as well as a variety of fish, and oyster farming contributes to the diversity and interest of local businesses.

The port improvements have boosted the efficiency and effectiveness of the local fishing industry. And at the same time, the work has enhanced the port and foreshore areas for the whole community and its visitors.





