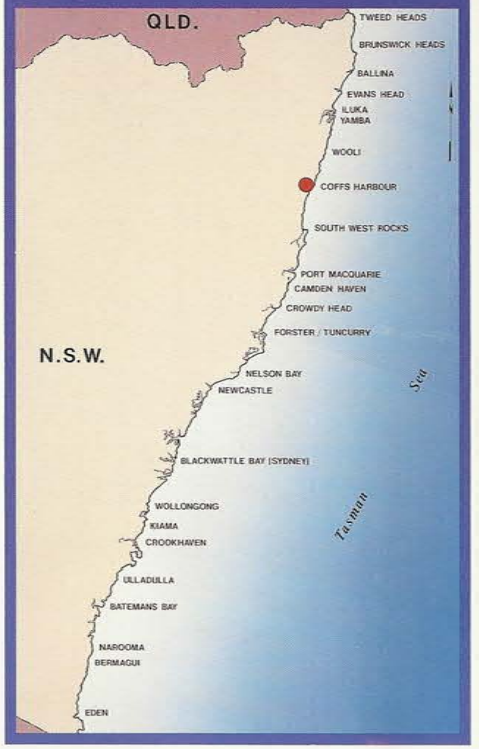
NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM

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:

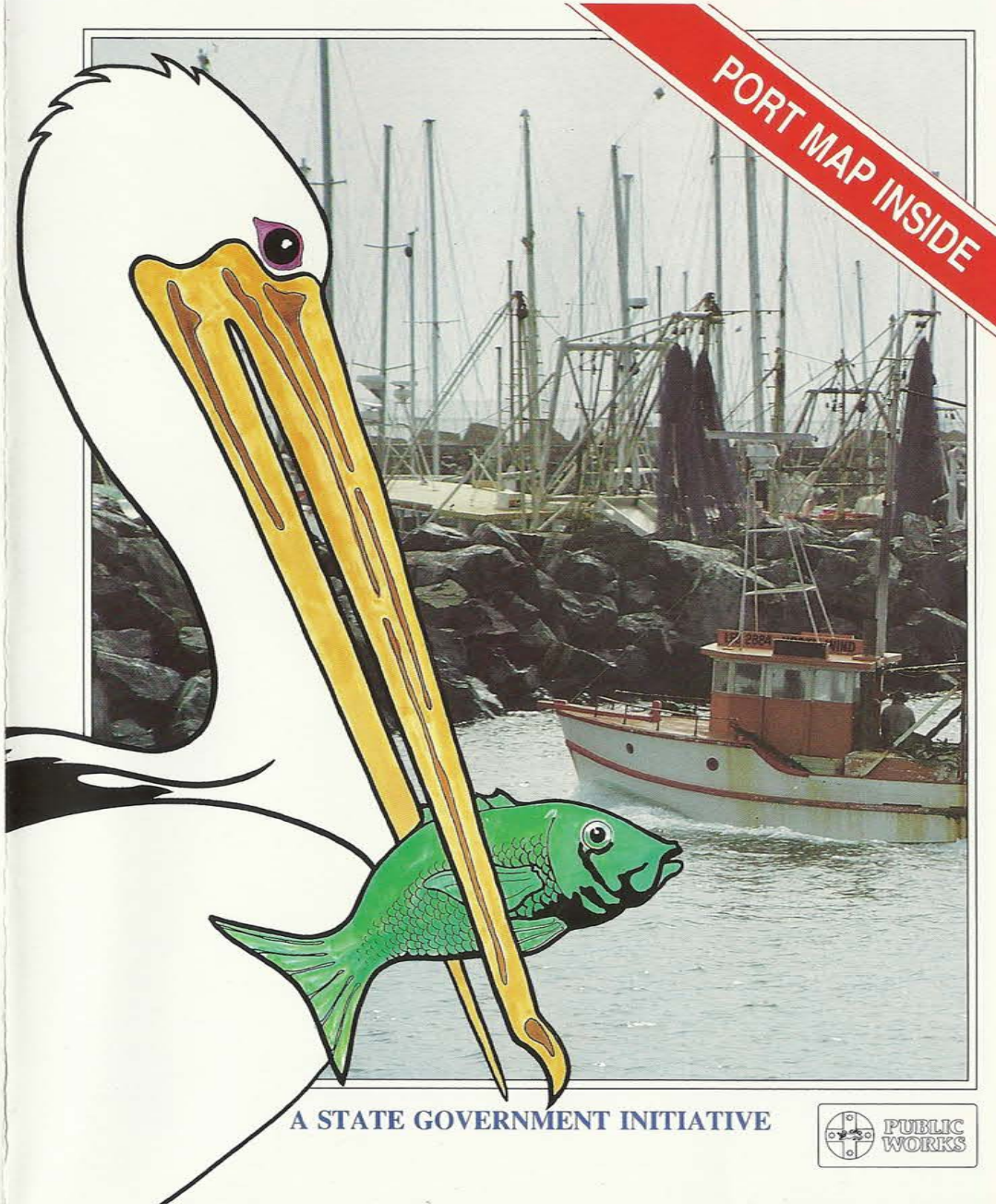
Lismore	(066) 21 1600
Coffs Harbour	(066) 52 0411
Newcastle	(049) 26 9711
Sydney	(02) 228 3722
Wollongong	(042) 26 8111

PUBLIC WORKS

NSW FISHING PORTS PROGRAM

COFFS HARBOUR

PORT MAP INSIDE



A STATE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

PUBLIC WORKS

COFFS HARBOUR FISHING PORT

Coffs Harbour offers the only deepwater, all-weather port entrance between Port Stephens and Brisbane.It is the base for an active commercial fishing industry, and a haven for pleasure craft.

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

EARLY START TO PORT WORKS

For almost a century, the Government has played an important role in the development of Coffs Harbour's port facilities.

In 1890, Parliament granted the £4000 needed to build the Coffs Harbour Jetty. The jetty was constructed in three main stages - with the first stage completed in 1892. Built to allow timber and other exports from the port, the jetty supported a railway line and a 7.5 tonne crane.

The first modification to the jetty was proposed in 1912. The jetty was widened and dredging was carried out at its end. Further extensions and modifications took place between 1946 and 1953.

The jetty was last used commercially in 1975 when the cargo ship Abel Tasman sailed for New Zealand. These days, it is used by locals and tourists, who stroll along the jetty or fish from its sides.

In 1911, the Commission of Inquiry decided that along with extensions to the jetty, a harbour should be built, enclosing almost 300 acres of water, to protect boats from heavy seas.

Work started in 1912. The gap between South Coffs Island and the mainland was first bridged to allow rock to be quarried from the island. The bridged area was later filled in



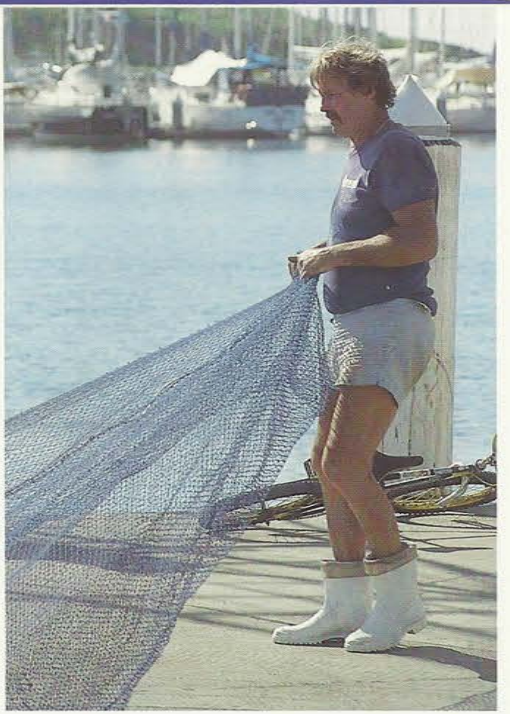
with stone. A tramline was built to carry rock for the 1000-metre long northern wall to Muttonbird Island, constructed between 1914 and 1927. The construction of the eastern breakwater, extending 400 metres seawards from South Coffs Island, was carried out from 1919 to 1946.

RECENT WORKS

In 1969, representations were made to the Minister for Public Works by Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-operative for improved facilities for the commercial fishing fleet.

In 1974, the Public Works Department completed construction of a boat harbour in the north-west corner of the harbour, which now provides 68 sheltered moorings for the fishing fleet. The boat harbour included breakwaters and wharves, and an area was reclaimed to provide a land base for the fishing industry and associated activities.

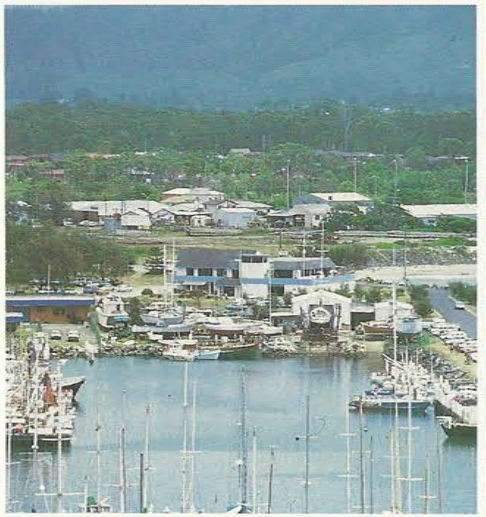




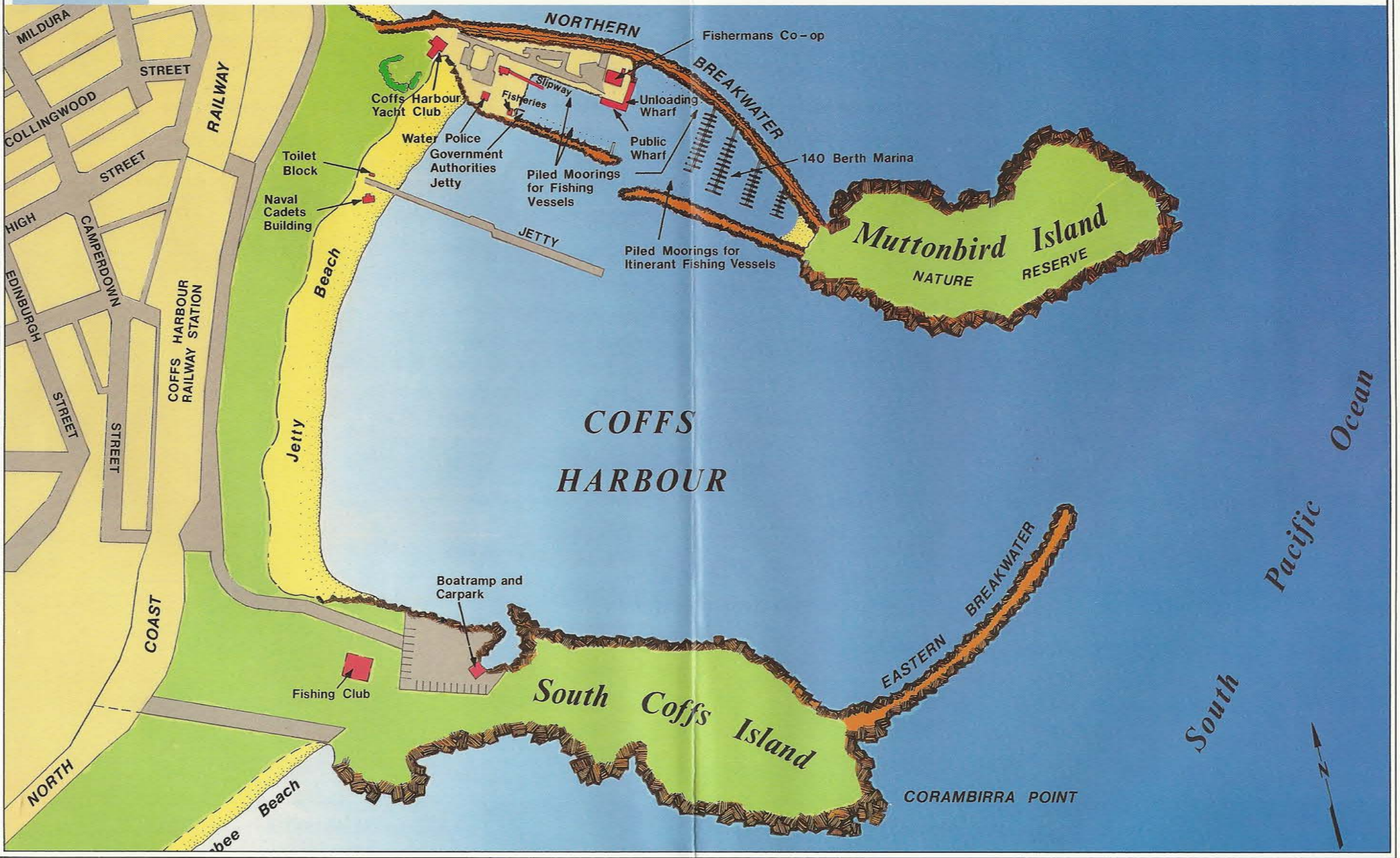
Other works in the late 1970 s included the construction of a slipway, extensions to the unloading wharf and boat harbour, and breakwater restoration.

In 1982, the Public Works Department constructed the initial stages of a floating marina for pleasure craft, providing 122 berths for permanent and visiting craft. This has now been extended to provide a further 19 berths.

The New South Wales Government has maintained a constant interest in Coffs Harbour. Consideration has been given to further developing the Jetty foreshore from an under-used port facility to an attractive tourist area.



COFFS HARBOUR FISHING PORT



EARLY HISTORY

Captain James Cook was the first European to sight the Coffs Harbour area on May 12, 1770, but the harbour was not formally discovered until 1847, when John Korff travelled to the mid-north coast in search of cedar.

Unable to cross Bellinger bar, he sheltered for several days in the lee of some nearby islands. He told authorities in Sydney he had found Korff's Harbour - a port which would give shelter to ships in a southerly gale.

However, when the harbour was officially surveyed in 1861, it was recorded as Coffs Harbour.

The first settlers arrived in the late 1870 s, attracted by the quantity of cedar. A timber industry quickly grew. In 1892, with the completion of the Coffs Harbour jetty, a busy hardwood export trade was established.

Even then, an early fishing industry was established. The first commercial fishermen sold their catch on the road to Bellingen and to ships sailing down the coast.

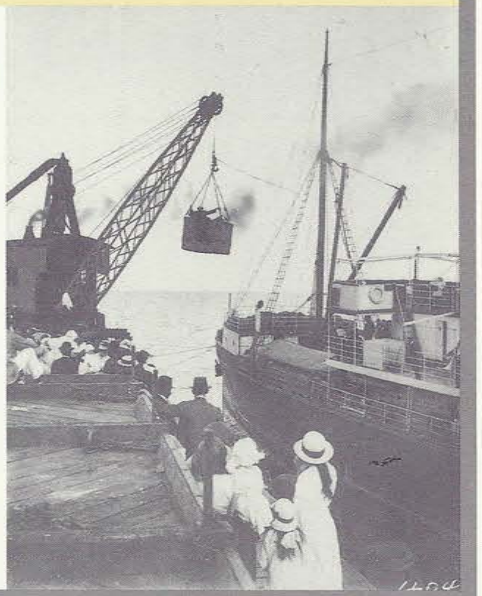
Tourists quickly discovered Coffs Harbour. Early this century, visitors began arriving to enjoy the climate and the beaches.

Until the mid-1950 s, the harbour was a major coastal trading port, but then commercial trade gradually ceased. The last export delivery was made more than ten years ago.

However, the fishing fleet has grown, and so too has the number of local and visiting pleasure craft in the harbour, keeping Coffs Harbour a bustling port.







FISHING FLEET TODAY

The fishing fleet which operates from Coffs Harbour is smaller than some other New South Wales fishing ports.

However, the fleet and the fishing industry are important to the local economy.

The smaller boats of the fleet are generally engaged in handlining and lobster potting, while the larger boats trap fish and trawl for school and king prawns, up to 30km off the coast.

The fish catch consists mainly of snapper, mullet, whiting, shark, flathead and morwong. The crustacean catch is primarily prawns, lobster and some crab.

The Public Works Department's port improvements have boosted the efficiency and effectiveness of the local fishing industry. At the same time, the work has enhanced the port and foreshore areas for the whole community and its visitors.

