

## BUSHLAND SITE

A case study of

# LAKE MACQUARIE STATE CONSERVATION AREA

## Wangi Peninsula Landcare

Littoral Rainforest

Swamp Oak Forest

Sheltered Dry Forest

### Project Partners:

- Lake Macquarie Landcare Resource Office (Lake Macquarie City Council and Lake Macquarie Landcare Network Inc.)
- Wangi Peninsula Landcare
- National Parks and Wildlife Service



Typical plant community on the end of Wangi Point (Image: D. Hilder)



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**Lake Macquarie**

Lake Macquarie is a large coastal estuarine lake in NSW with an overall length of some 22 kilometres in the north-south direction and 10 kilometres in width. The lake covers an area of approximately 110 square kilometres and has a catchment area of 605 square kilometres. The lake contains 12 major, and many more minor, estuarine creek zones where freshwater tributaries interface with the saline body of the main lake.



Early photograph of Wangi Point.

## History of Wangi Wangi

Wangi Wangi is a suburb of Lake Macquarie that lies on a long, narrow peninsula that juts out from the western shore of the lake. It is known locally as 'Wangi' and draws many visitors because of its beautiful scenic values and its access to fishing, swimming, boating, picnicking, and camping.

Wangi Wangi was originally occupied by the Awabakal Aborigines. An Aboriginal campsite has been found in Wangi. Lake Macquarie was first inhabited by the Awabakal tribe over 8,000 years ago. The word Awabakal means people of the calm surface, reflecting the beauty of the lake that provided nourishment for them.

The word Wangi has been translated variously as water, night owl or dark green tree so that Wangi Wangi would mean place of much water, many night owls or many dark green trees. Early settlers and fishermen used the word to mean peninsula and Point Wolstoncroft was called "Little Wangi". An 1826 sketch of the Lake and an 1829 map marked Wangi Point as "Wonde Wonde".

A reserve was declared over the area at the actual Point of Wangi Wangi in 1897 and a 100 ft reserve was also placed on the entire foreshore before subdivision commenced in 1916. The foreshore was a popular holiday camping area for Cessnock miners during December and January when the coalfields closed for Christmas. This tradition of camping at Wangi Wangi continues to be as popular today.



A view of Wangi Point from the rock platform, looking south. (Image: D. Hilder)



Bush regeneration work in the Sydney Sandstone Sheltered Dry Forest at Wangi Point Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area. This work was completed by contractors employed with the assistance of a Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Small Projects Grant and supports the work of the Wangi Peninsula Landcare Group. (Image: Before and after photographs courtesy of DECC)

## Site Information

### Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area (SCA) Wangi Point

Lake Macquarie SCA Wangi Point is a 40 hectare site containing a wide range of plant communities including three Endangered Ecological Communities supporting nine threatened species including Powerful Owl, Squirrel Glider and Swift Parrot.

Through the removal of weeds such as Lantana and Bitou Bush, sites throughout Lake Macquarie SCA Wangi Point, have returned to a healthy condition improving biodiversity and natural habitat.

### Endangered Ecological Communities

- Littoral Rainforest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions
- Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions
- Swamp Oak Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions

### Plant Communities:

- Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest (Bell)
- Sydney Sandstone Sheltered Dry Forest (Bell)
- Permian Macquarie Grassy Forest (Bell)
- Narrabeen Macquarie Headland Thicket (Bell)



## WANGI POINT LOCALITY MAP

- Macquarie Relic Dry Rainforest (Bell)
- Estuarine Rushland (Bell)

### Threatened Species:

- Black Eyed Susan - *Tetratheca juncea*
- Variable Midge Orchid - *Genoplesium insignis*
- Wallum Froglet - *Crinia tinnula*
- Glossy Black Cockatoo - *Calyptorhynchus lathami*
- Swift Parrot - *Lathamus discolor*
- Powerful Owl - *Ninox strenua*
- Squirrel Glider - *Petaurus norfolcensis*
- Koala - *Phascolarctos cinereus*
- Grey Headed Flying Fox - *Pteropus poliocephalus*
- Eastern False Pipistrelle - *Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*
- Little Bent Wing Bat - *Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*



Swift Parrot - *Lathamus discolor* breeds in Tasmania migrating to Australia feeding on the nectar of winter flowering gum trees. (Image courtesy of DECC)



Glossy Black Cockatoo - *Calyptorhynchus lathami* feeds on Casuarina cones. (Image courtesy of Deane P. Lewis)



Black Eyed Susan - *Tetratheca juncea* found through out Lake Macquarie growing in clumps of single or multiple stems. (Image courtesy of Australia Museum)



Grey Headed Flying Fox - *Pteropus poliocephalus* Australia's largest bat and an important pollinator and seed distributor. (Image courtesy of Australia Museum)

### **Natural Resource Management Issues:**

- Connectivity
- Weed incursion
- Pedestrian access
- Social amenity
- Feral animals
- Fire ecology
- Track erosion
- Domestic pets

### **Wangi Peninsula Landcare**

Wangi Peninsula Landcare evolved from Wangi Peninsula Advisory Committee, building on the good work achieved since 1987. They meet on the last Friday of the month and welcome anyone who would like to come along.

Wangi Peninsula Landcare and Wangi Peninsula Advisory Committee achievements include the placement of extensive tracks, walking trails, seats and bush regeneration to aid in natural resource management and social amenity.



Volunteers have worked hard in heaping Lantana and other weeds to allow decomposition returning organic material such as carbon back to the soil. (Image courtesy of DECC)



Wangi Peninsula Landcarers Annette Blatchford, Bernard Bell and Jan Bennett working on Crofton Weed in the Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest in Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area Wangi Point. (Photograph courtesy of Peta Norris DECC)

By working alongside NPWS Officers volunteers enhance their knowledge and experience in bush regeneration furthering their skills and abilities in protecting our natural resources.

Wangi Peninsula Landcare enjoy working in the many and various plant communities of Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area and would love to share with you their experiences in volunteering for our bush.

### **Our Backyard - Diverse and significant**

Annette Blatchford, Bernard Bell, Jan Bennett and many others contribute much of their time in saving and protecting significant sections of Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area (SCA) Wangi Point.

Asked why Annette enjoys putting in her time and effort she replied, "It's a beautiful and important area by Lake Macquarie containing a variety of significant plant communities such as rainforest."

Annette continued, "I have lived here for over 24 years and walk through here all the time listening to the bird life and seeing how the plants are growing ." She emphasised, "It's our backyard and we love to look after it and after putting in so many hours I couldn't walk away from it now."

Wangi Peninsula Landcare would like to acknowledge Peta Norris, John Eaton, Kathleen Hellmann and all the other NPWS Officers who have worked along side them in regenerating Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area (SCA) Wangi Point.



## Partnerships

Volunteers of Wangi Peninsula Landcare have dedicated themselves to the restoration and protection of Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area Wangi Point for over 20 years. Issues included weeds such as Lantana and Bitou Bush and through partnerships with National Parks and Wildlife Services, Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Lake Macquarie City Council, Trees in Newcastle, Wangi Scouts and Lions gained support and funding to manage the natural environment at Wangi Point.



Track leading down to the lakes edge through the eucalypt forest. (Image: D. Hilder)

Blue Flax Lily - *Dianella caerulea*  
(Image: D. Hilder)



## Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority



The Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority provides support to this and other projects through the Catchment Officer, Regional Facilitator and Community Support Program supporting Catchment Action Plan Management Targets of:

- Regenerate native vegetation (MT02)
- Treat Weeds (MT03)
- Threatened Species Work (MT 04)
- Enhance Foreshore Vegetation (MT30)

If you would like to know more about the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority please phone: **4324 3844**

or go to: [www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au)

## References

- Photo of Wangi Point - Lake Mac Infohunt.  
[www.lakemac.infohunt.nsw.gov.au/library/lhist/suburb/wangi](http://www.lakemac.infohunt.nsw.gov.au/library/lhist/suburb/wangi)



**October 2007:** Entrance to the park from Dobell Drive diverging tracks provide access for walkers and fishermen (Image: D. Hilder)

**October 2007:** Eucalypt forest in a sheltered area off Watkins Road. (Image: D. Hilder)



**October 2007:** Rock platform at low tide with a stand of Eucalypts (Image: D. Hilder)



**October 2007:** A single Eucalyptus near the park sign on the edge of the lake. (Image: D. Hilder)



**October 2007:** Swamp oaks - *Casuarina glauca* growing on the edge of the lake. (Image: D. Hilder)

## Resources

Publications such as the *Lake Macquarie Coastal Planting Guide* (LMCC), *Attack of the Killer Weeds* (Coastcare), *Weeds of the Hunter and Central Coast* (Weeds Committee Information Booklet), *Foreshore Stabilisation and Rehabilitation Guidelines* (LMCC) and *Native Plant or Weed, Pick the Difference, Volumes 1 & 2* (Ann Loughran) and *Restoring Natural Areas in Australia* (Robin Buchanan), are some of the documents used by volunteers throughout Lake Macquarie in protecting our natural areas.

In addition, the Community Support Information Pack produced by Lake Macquarie City Council and the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority is available in limited hardcopy and CD format covering a wide range of resources used in natural resource management in Lake Macquarie.

## Contacts

If you wish to know more about this and other projects in Lake Macquarie, please contact the Landcare Resource Office on **4921 0392**.

LML's website [www.lakemacquarielandcare.org](http://www.lakemacquarielandcare.org) can provide links to newsletters, environmental programs, grants, Landcare, weeds and trees.

Images courtesy of:

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*Denis Hilder of Landcare Resource Centre 2007*



**LAKE MACQUARIE  
BUSHLAND SITE**

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