



***Guringai Tribal Link
Aboriginal Corporation***

ABN 18 351 198 069. ICN 4270

***(Traditional Owners of the NSW Central Coast
and the Northern Beaches of Sydney)***

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11th September, 2018

Warren Brown
Coastal & Estuary Officer
Coastal Protection
Central Coast Council
PO Box 20
WYONG NSW 2259

Emailed to: Warren.Brown@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Dear Warren

Please find following;

* GTLAC report for Due Diligence Assessment, Rip Road Reserve, Ettalong.

Thank you for including the Guringai Mob in this project.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Tracey-lee Howie
Senior Female
Cultural Heritage
Officer
(contacts above)

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT REPORT for RIP ROAD RESERVE BOOKER BAY, NSW

*Prepared by Tracey Howie-Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation for
Central Coast Council (Southern Office).
September, 2018.*



Google map image: Location of Study area.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE **DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT REPORT** **RIP ROAD RESERVE BOOKER BAY, NSW**

INTRODUCTION;

Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation (GTLAC) was contacted by Central Coast Council (Gosford) in regards to proposed stabilisation works along the foreshore of the Rip Road Reserve, Booker Bay on the southern bank of Brisbane Waters.

This assessment was to establish the presence or absence of Aboriginal sites (midden) and areas of Cultural significance to the Aboriginal community and to assess potential impacts to them.

STUDY AREA;

The study area is within the Gosford Local Government Area (Central Coast Council - Southern Office) approx. 9kms from the township of WoyWoy, on the southern bank of Brisbane Waters, west of the Rip Bridge and consists of sandy beach foreshore at the base of north/western facing grassed slope with scattered mature native vegetation and introduced species, sandstone staircase structures and established garden beds.

METHODOLOGY;

The survey was conducted on foot.

Representatives on site;

GTLAC - Tracey Howie, CCC - Warren Brown, Coastal & Estuary Officer for Coastal Protection and Mairin Ireland, Environmental Management Coordinator for Environmental Reporting.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES;

Stabilisation works are required for the foreshore to minimise the effects of natural erosion and sea level rise. No proposed methodology is current for this project and recommendations will reflect the results of investigations of the foreshore midden and surrounding areas.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION;

The study area for the proposed stabilisation works, has been and still is, home to the Guringai Mob (Wannangine), for generations and seasonally occupied in various locations by the Darginyung peoples. Pre and post European settlement.

Well known and documented members of the Guringai mob were; Boongaree (Bungaree), Matora, Mosquito, Jewfish, Cora(Gooseberry), Flathead, Long Dick, Sophy (Booratora), Kitty and Charlotte Ashby.(nee.Webb).

Thier presence in this area was initially recorded pre 1790. References to these Guringai people are located on Government Blanket list and Court Bench records taken in the Gosford areas and Colonial Secretary minutes, which are held at Gosford Library and early recordings from surveyors John Fraser,Chappell, Felton & Sarah Matthews, journals written by Rev.L.E.Threlkeld, Rev. Glennie, Matthew Flinders, Augustus Earl, R.H Mathews, and current AIATSIS maps.

The traditional areas occupied by the Guringai/Wannangine comprises of; All of Port Jackson catchment, including the tributaries of Middle Harbour and Lane Cove River, the Broken Bay catchment, including tributaries of Brisbane Water, Cowan Creek and Pitt Water,the water shed along Peats Ridge, following along the range through to Kulnura, as well as the Lakes of the Central Coast to lower Lake Macquarie.

Charlotte Webb was the very first recorded Aboriginal birth on the Central Coast. She was born in 1823 in Gosford. Charlotte was the daughter of Sophy (Boorangah), daughter of Boongaree (Bungaree) and Matora. Sophy had relations with Ship-building merchant, James Webb. Charlotte was the result of this union.

FINDINGS;

Aboriginal midden site (AHIMs #45-6-3600) was identified within the study area at the time of this survey measuring approx. 17mts in length, 12 mts wide and consisting of cockle, oyster, mud whelk, pippi. A single large bone fragment was also identified within the midden material.

Images of the skeletal remain has been supplied to Dr. Sarah Crocker, Forensic Anthropologist - Macquarie University for analysis to determine if human or animal.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Should proposed stabilisation works require any ground surface impacts, a comprehensive Archaeological survey with a qualified Archaeologist and an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan constructed in consultation with Guringai TLAC would be required for midden site #45-6-3600.

Immediate and temporary recommendations are as follows;

* Geotech fabric covering with loose sand weights for the exposed skeletal material, until further instructions/recommendations by Dr. Sarah Crocker, Forensic Anthropologist - Macquarie University.

Section 90(1) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 states that it is an offence to destroy, deface or damage, or cause or permit destruction or defacement of or damage to, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place without first obtaining the consent of the Director General of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Statutory Considerations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984. (Commonwealth)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage and Protection Act 1984 (Cwlth) was enacted at a Federal level to preserve and protect areas (particularly sacred sites) and objects of particular significance to Aboriginal Australians from damage or desecration. Steps necessary for the protection of a threatened place are outlined in a gazetted Ministerial Declaration (Sections 9 and 10).

This can include the prevention of development.

As well as providing protection to areas, it can also protect objects by Declaration, in particular Aboriginal skeletal remains (Section 12). Although this is a Federal Act, it can be invoked on a State level if the State is unwilling or unable to provide protection for such sites or objects.

National Parks and Wildlife Act. 1974. (NSW)

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act) provides blanket protection for Aboriginal objects (material evidence of Indigenous occupation) and Aboriginal Places (areas of Cultural significance to the Aboriginal community) across NSW. An Aboriginal object is defined as;

any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

An Aboriginal place is any place declared to be an Aboriginal place by the Minister for the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), under Section 84 of the Act.

It is an offence to disturb Aboriginal objects or places without a permit authorised by the Director-General of the OEH. In addition, anyone who discovers an Aboriginal object is obliged to report the discovery to OEH

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ABORIGINAL SITES and OBJECTS:

(Please note that not all Aboriginal site types and materials are listed here).

Artefacts; (as defined in NPW Act. 1974)

Stone artefacts are culturally modified stone materials that occur when a stone material is struck by another stone to manufacture stone tools and implements. Other types of artefacts are quartz, modified shells and glass or ceramic, post European settlement.

Shell midden;

Shell middens are large deposits of shell materials that have accumulated over centuries of celebrations, ceremonies and/or feasts performed on the foreshore areas. Middens usually also contain artefacts and small animal and/or bird bones.

Scarred or culturally modified trees;

Scarred and culturally modified trees are usually large trees in which the thick outer layer of the tree has been removed with a traditional tool. Large removals were used for making canoes. Other removals were used for coolamons (trays with concave edges used as buckets or large plates), shields and shelter.

Stone Hatchet/Axe;

Stone hatchets and axes are made from binding a hard rock that has been sharpened on a sandstone platform/outcrop, to the end of a piece of wood and secured with tree resin and/or string made from rubbing strands of long, tough grasses together until they are tightly fused.

Grinding Grooves;

Grinding grooves are indented scars on sandstone platforms/outcrops, as a result of sharpening spears and axes in the same indentation over centuries. They are usually located near a constant water source.

Engraving sites;

Engraving sites are located on sandstone platforms/outcrops and boulders and are depictions of animals, human figures both natural and mythological, site indication markers, travel route markers and traditional tools. All engraving sites have a special meaning and form sections of much larger site complexes/story lines.

Ochre/Pigment Art;

Ochre art is usually located within a sandstone shelter/overhang and consists of drawings or hand stencils. Hand stencils are made by chewing a small amount of ochre mixed with egg white or water and sprayed by mouth over the hand when placed against the wall of the shelter/overhang. Another type of pigment art is charcoal drawings.

Spear;

Spears were usually made from the long narrow stem of a matured Xanthoria grass tree and were either sharpened on a sandstone at one end or had a stone spear head fixed to one end by binding it with tree resins.

Womera;

Womeras were used to propel a spear by placing the blunt end of the spear onto a sharpened stick or animal tooth that has been fixed to one end of a narrow piece of wood, about 30cm in length. Womeras made the spears travel much faster and more accurate than just throwing them with a bare hand.

DESCRIPTION OF ABORIGINAL SITES and OBJECTS Continued:

Aboriginal Place;

An area of land or waters identified as being of Cultural significance and importance to the Aboriginal Community and,
any place declared to be an Aboriginal place by the Minister for the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), under Section 84 of the Act.

Water Holes;

Water holes are deep bowl like indentations in sandstone platforms/outcrops associated with fresh flowing water or permant water sources such as natural springs.

Burial sites;

Burial sites contain human remains of Aboriginal persons pre European settlement and not within the confines of a graveyard/cemetery.

Sandstone Shelters;

Stone shelters were used as protection from extreme weather conditions and for shelter whilst travelling through the ridge top areas. They usually contain a sandy floor and can contain artefact materials.

Fish Traps;

Fish traps were made from boulders that are small enough to be carried and placed in a semi-circular formation within the low lide area of the foreshore. Upon a low tide the fish trapped within the rock formation were collected for consumption.

Knapping Site;

An area continually occupied over centuries/generations for the purposes of stone tool making and containing several, usually hundreds of offcuts and discarded fragments from the tools.