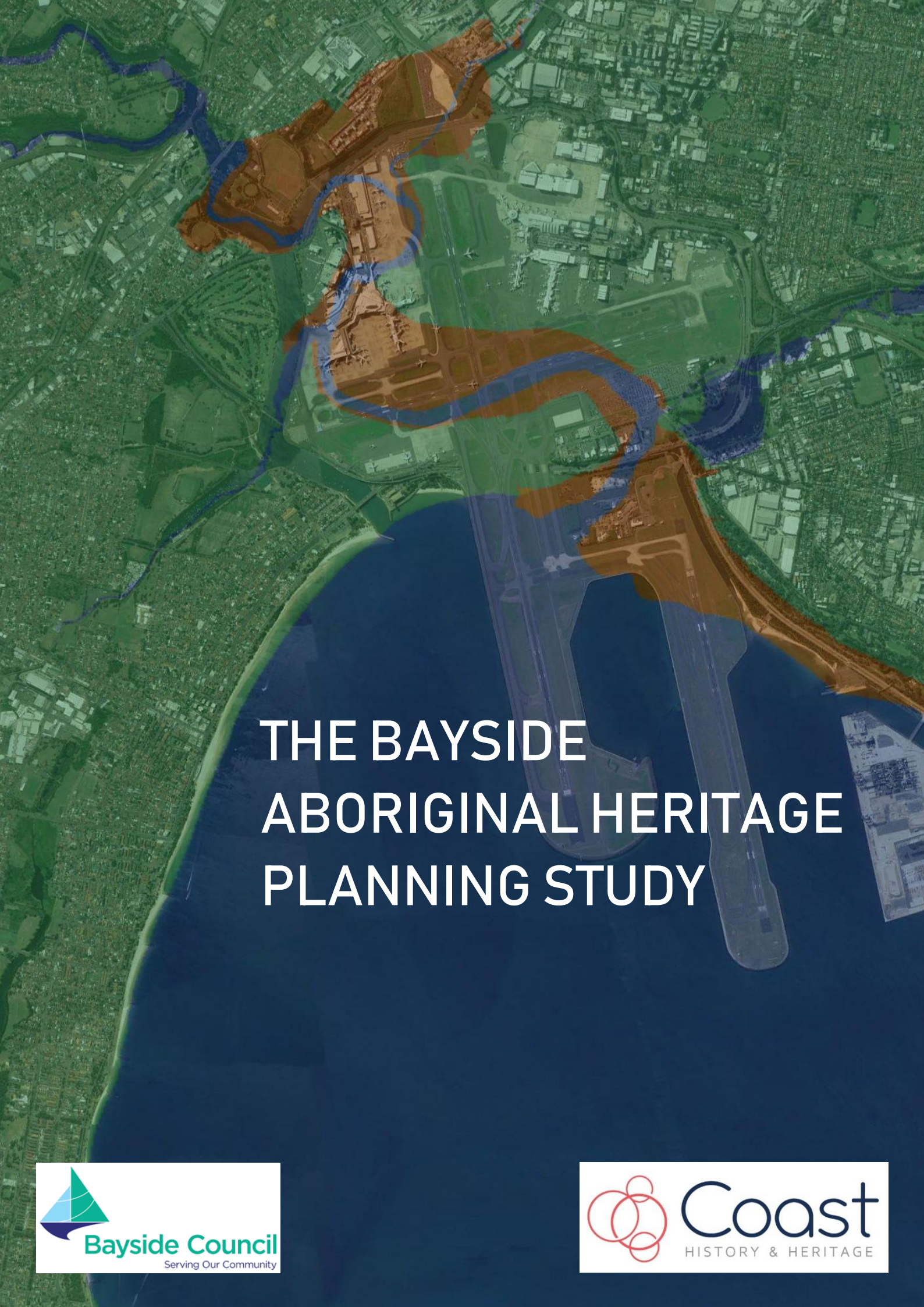


THE BAYSIDE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE PLANNING STUDY

Bayside Council
Serving Our Community

Coast
HISTORY & HERITAGE

Bayside Council covers half of Botany Bay.

Aboriginal heritage can be found all across Bayside
- from ancient sites to current places of family or work

Some of these places are known and recorded. Many are not

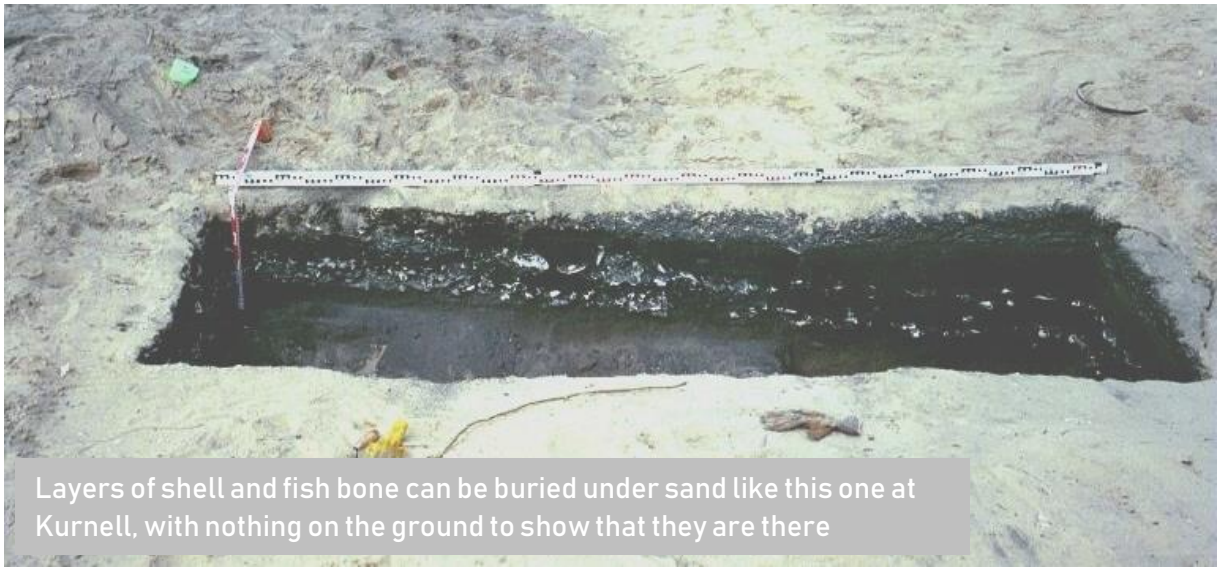
As Bayside grows and develops over the coming years, Council wants to protect, manage and celebrate the Aboriginal heritage of Bayside

Coast History & Heritage have been engaged to help Council do this, through an Aboriginal Heritage Planning Study

Ancient Camps

Aboriginal people have camped around Botany Bay and along its creeks and rivers for thousands of years.

Some of these camps have survived, like shell middens where Aboriginal people cooked and ate oysters, cockles, fish and other animals by the shore.



Layers of shell and fish bone can be buried under sand like this one at Kurnell, with nothing on the ground to show that they are there

We know where some of the campsites around Bayside are, but we know that there are many more hidden beneath the ground.

We are tracing the old waterways to help us understand where these sites might be.

This will help Council protect them.

If you know of any sites we would love to hear from you to help ensure that they can be protected for the future.

This is what the Cooks River looked like before it was diverted to build the airport runways in the 1950s

Historical Places

The Sir Joseph Banks Hotel at Botany was built in the 1840s and still stands today.

It is on a heritage register because of its importance to the economic development of Botany Bay.

But its Aboriginal significance is not officially recognised.

Aboriginal people like Johnny Malone were running tour businesses out of the hotel in the 1860s, and later in the 1880s and 1890s star Aboriginal athletes competed on its running track.

These associations should be recognised on the heritage register and maybe also through some signs at the site.

But this place also has a deeper Aboriginal history.

Johnny Malone. Photo courtesy of NSW NPWS Collection, Kurnell

ABORIGINAL BONES.

AN OLD BURYING GROUND.

THE BOTANY FIND.

Although the bones unearthed by the storm at the rear of Sir Joseph Banks' Grounds at Botany, on Monday night, have been recognised as having belonged to an aboriginal, no ade-

Article from the Evening News, 12 June 1913.

There was a burial ground near the hotel, which is not on any register.

Unless we make sure this place is recorded through the Aboriginal heritage study, it could be damaged or destroyed because no-one knows it is there.

Recent Places

The Aboriginal history and heritage of Bayside is not just about ancient places.

Aboriginal people continue to live across the area and their experiences are part of the story.

There will be places of work and leisure that are significant to individual people, their families or the broader Aboriginal community.

For example, many Aboriginal people have worked in the industries around Botany and Mascot like these and many more.

We'd love to hear more from you about these experiences, and how they could be commemorated.

Planning to Protect

This precious Aboriginal engraving at Rocky Point was destroyed when the Captain Cook Bridge was built in the 1960s.

At that time there were no heritage registers and no laws to protect Aboriginal sites.

Photo courtesy of Bayside Library Services

Today we have registers and laws, but the best protection is still knowing where Aboriginal heritage places are, or where they are likely to be.

If we only find out when bulldozers start digging, it is very hard to protect something, so this study is about recording that information now.

We also need to understand <u>why they are important</u>, to be able to work with the community to decide how best to recognise and protect them.

Sometimes what is significant is not a building or a site but the memories associated with that place.

In these cases, it might be more appropriate to use a sign or plaque to remember a place, a person or a history, like this one at Newtown.

We Need Your Help

Aboriginal people know the stories and significance of many places.

We cannot help Council to protect, manage and celebrate these places without knowing where they are and why they are important.

Some of the things we'd like to learn more about are:

~ How long have you lived in Bayside, and what do you like about it?

~ If you moved here, was it for family, for work, or for other reasons?

~ If you have worked in Bayside, where and what was it like?

~ What stories would you like to see told in Bayside?

~ What places in Bayside are significant to you?

~ Are you aware of any other Aboriginal heritage places in Bayside?

~ What could Bayside Council do to better protect Aboriginal heritage?

We will respect your knowledge and your right to control how your information is used. Council is happy to sign an agreement with you to make sure that your rights are protected.

Please contact us any time…

Please contact Paul Irish, Fenella Atkinson or Rebecca Bryant at Coast History & Heritage if you'd like to know more, or to get involved.

We're happy to come and have a chat and explain more about the study.

Coast
HISTORY & HERITAGE

Phone: 1800 450 995
Email: admin@coasthistory.com.au

….we'd love to hear from you