





MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

History Matters: Gathering knowledge to build social licence for oyster reef restoration

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are advised that this presentation may contain an image of deceased persons.

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SPE-SHELL SERVICES!

On average a wild oyster filters 2 litres of water an hour. That's nearly 50 litres a day!

Just imagine what a whole reef could do...

Food and shelter to over **300** marine animal species

- Fish
- Crabs
- Snails
- Prawns
- Shellfish
- Worms

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SHELLFISH REEFS AT RISK

A Global Analysis of Problems and Solutions

Michael W. Beck, Robert D. Brumbaugh, Laura Airoldi, Alvar Camarero, Loren D. Coet, Christine Crawford, Omar Deleo, Graham J. Edgar, Bruce Hancock, Matthew Kay, Hunter Lenhart, Mark W. Luckenbach, Caitlyn L. Toropova, Guofan Zhang

85% of oyster reefs have been lost globally (15% remaining)

Over the last 150 years

99% of oyster reefs are functionally extinct in Australia (1% remaining)

NSW OYSTER REEF RESTORATION PROJECT

The loss of our Great Australian Oyster Reefs has been likened to losing the Great Barrier Reef today. Many people are unaware of this loss or the many benefits oyster reefs once provided.

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News / August / Gathering Indigenous knowledge to replenish oyster reefs and country

News...
Gathering Indigenous knowledge to replenish oyster reefs and country

Image Salty Dingo

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"I went to sound and explore the Bay, in the doing of which I saw some of the Natives; but they all fled at my Approach. I landed in 2 places, one of which the people had but just left, as there were small fires and fresh Muscles broiling upon them: here likewise lay Vast heaps of the largest Oyster Shells I ever saw".

Lieutenant James Cook, HMS Endeavor
 Botany Bay 29 April 1770

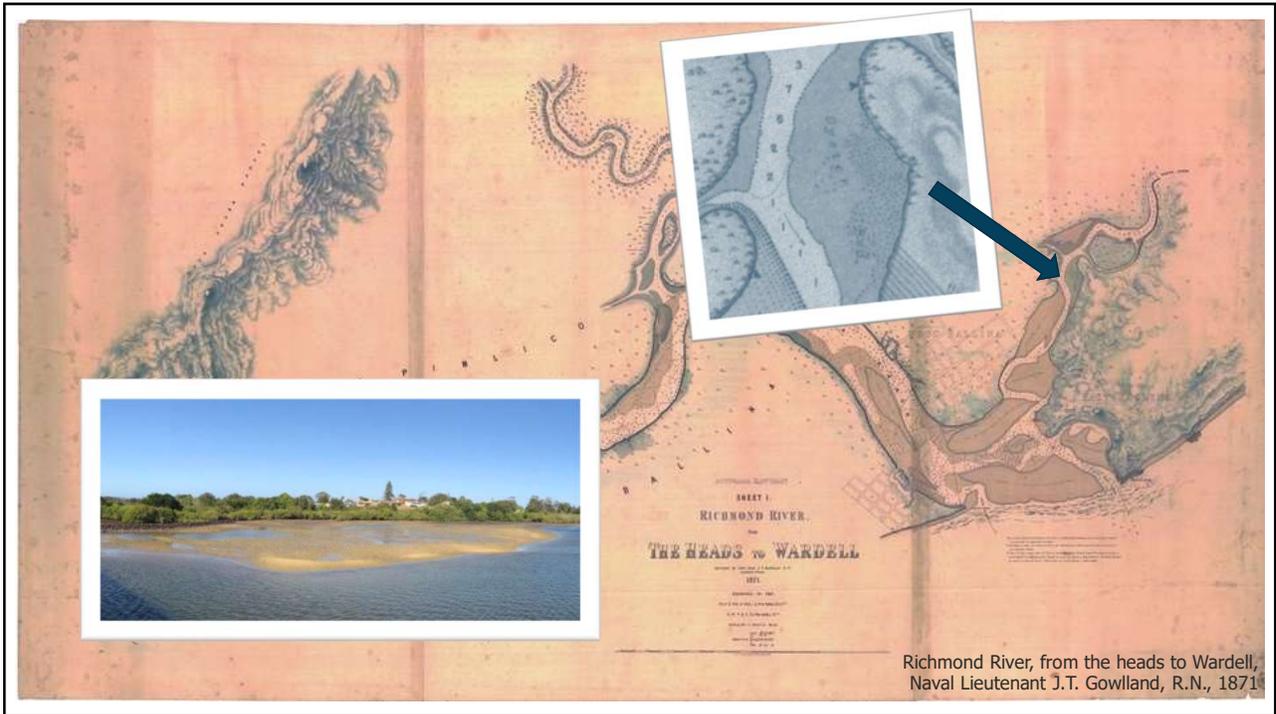
DEEP DIVE COLONIAL HISTORY

James Cook, 1773
 Botany Bay mud oysters – Artist SoupSue, soupsue.com

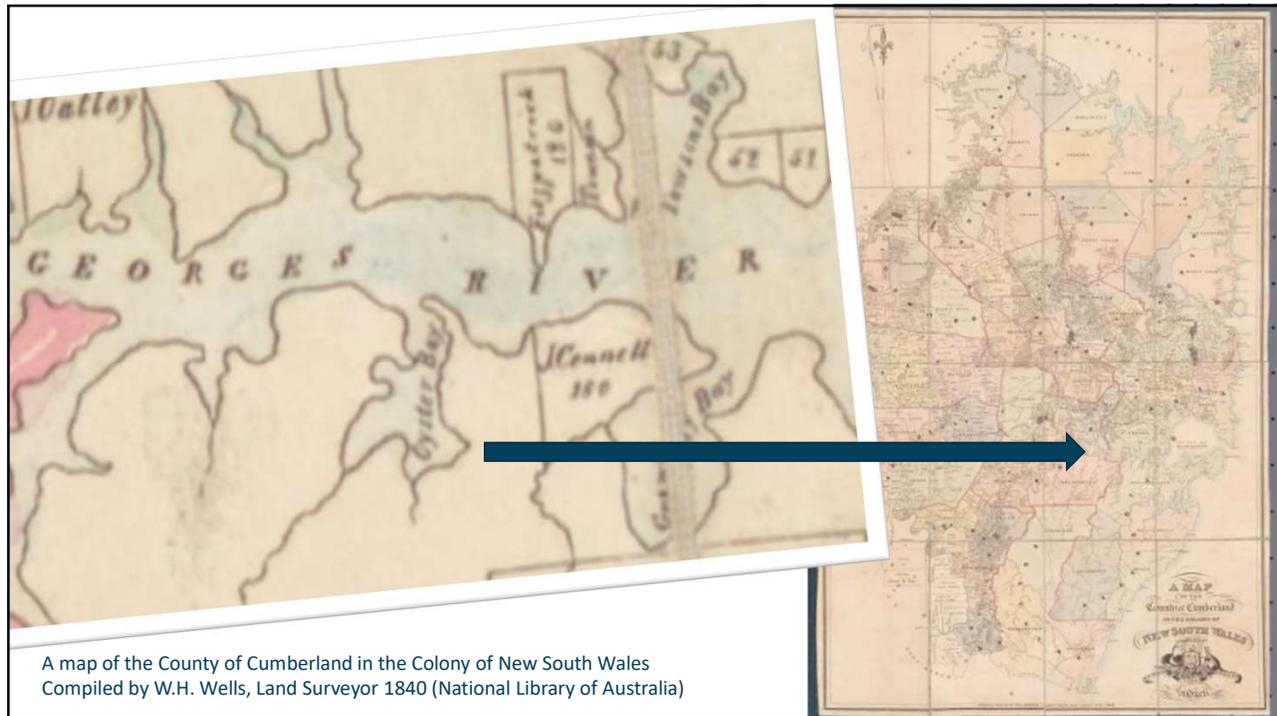
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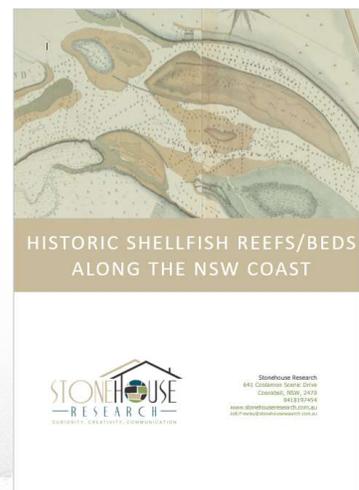


A map of the County of Cumberland in the Colony of New South Wales
Compiled by W.H. Wells, Land Surveyor 1840 (National Library of Australia)

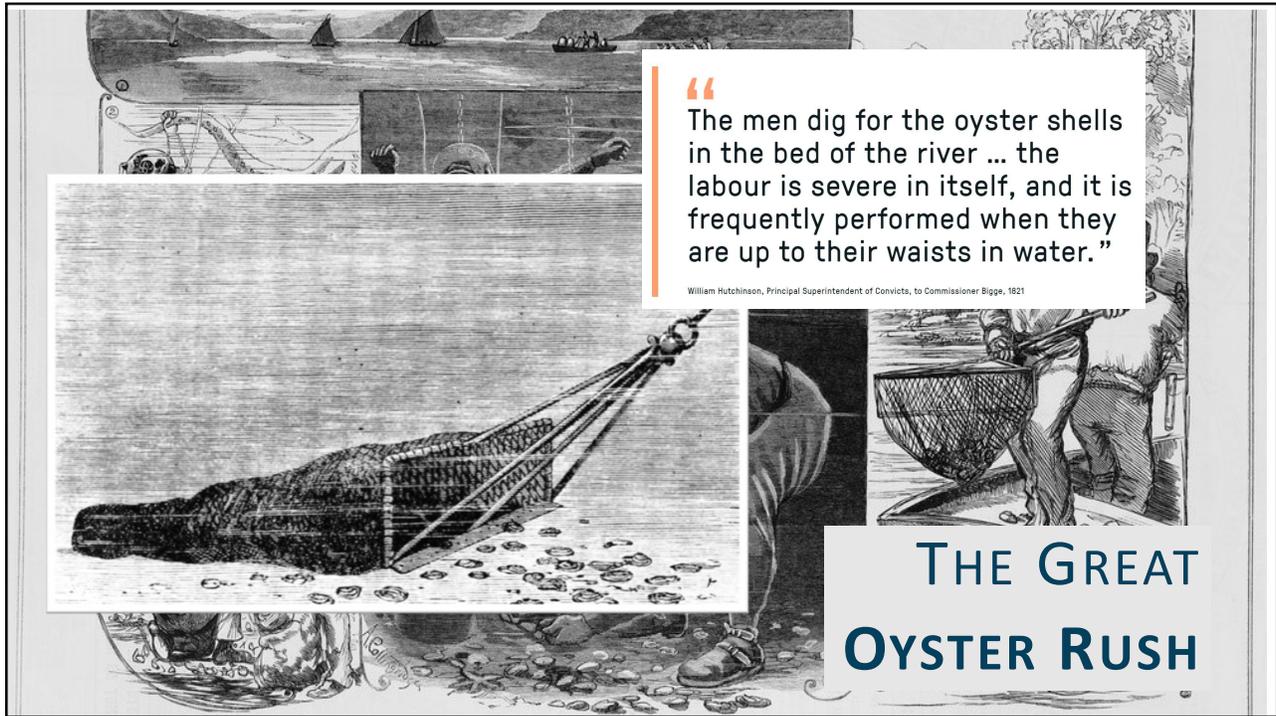
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Historic Shellfish Reefs Research Results

- **96 maps:** definitive information for Hunter, Clarence, Richmond
- **Clear estuarine features** e.g. “beds” or “banks” for several other estuaries
- **Oyster Culture Commission Survey 14 estuaries with natural beds:**
 - Hunter, Clarence, Clyde, Richmond, Port Stephens, Bellinger, Bherewerre Creek, Botany Bay, Cape Hawke (Wallis Lake), Crookhaven & Shoalhaven, Jervis Bay, Manning, Macleay, Port Macquarie



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SHIP NEWS.

Remain His Majesty's Ships *Glaston*, *Buffalo*, and *Porpoise*; with the *Bridgewater*, and *Greenwich* and *Venus* Whalers.

BOATS.—Sailed on Saturday the 2d. inst. for Hawkebury, the *Jamot*, and same day the *Edwin*, both belonging to Thomas Raby.

Sailed on Monday last for *Botany Bay*, to take in lime, the *Joan*, belonging to *John Palmer*, Esq.

Came in from Hawkebury on Wednesday, laden with grain, the *Union*, *T. Jones* owner; and the *Sophia Maria*, *T. Dargon* owner.

The day before yesterday being Good Friday, the market for the various commodities sold, but, by that Order a wonderful reduction was effected, forbidding the bakers to make any quality but one, for which also one price alone should be demanded.

The Society then presented, which considered the Regulation the most immediately necessary, does not thank Heaven exist at the present juncture, and therefore a further reference to the intent and meaning of the Ordinance may not perhaps be very rightly required; yet the present abundance can by no means constitute an argument for carrying on the business in downright opposition to

Yours, &c.
A G E S T R E V E R .

SHIP NEWS.

On Monday came in the *Bee Colonial* vessel, from Botany Bay, with a freight of Lime for the use of Government. She sailed at day light on Sunday morning, and at half-past ten was forced to bring up off South Reef, in a heavy gale which lasted several hours, during which she parted her hawser, about 20 fathoms of which went with her anchor.

On Sunday last arrived the schooner *Governor King*, belonging to Messrs. *Kable and Underwood*, from King's Island, nearly six weeks from this Port—with 35 tons of oil and 1000 skins. She parted His Majesty's armed tender *Lady Nelson* on the evening of her arrival; took in the *Margaret's* Sailing party at King's Island, who have brought round a number of very fine kangaroos and eagles.

She left on a cargo at the *Canochias*, and arrived at *Georges* seat on the evening of her arrival; took in the *Margaret's* Sailing party at King's Island, who have brought round a number of very fine kangaroos and eagles.

REMAINDER OF PORT NEWS.

The *Colonel* vessel *Francis* will positively fail this day for *Port Phillip*, to assist in rendering such assistance to *Lieutenant-Governor Collins* as His Excellency judged he might immediately stand in need of. *Mr. Rushworth* is appointed to command that vessel, vice *Mr. Aicken*, who we understand has engaged for the integrity, shortly to be launched.

BOATS.—Arrived on Tuesday the *Raven*, *Raby*, with lime from Botany Bay; the *Hope*, *Thompson*, the *James*, and the *Union* from Hawkebury.

Sailed again yesterday the *Hope* and *Union*.

New Bridge.—A Commission of inquiry into the propriety of a new bridge in our Paper of last Wednesday made suggestions for the improvement of the Bridge.

He acknowledged the necessity of the work. Care was taken to be more immediately attended to; that the object of the hour resting on the adequacy of the

THE GREAT OYSTER RUSH

SYDNEY.

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Oysters in mortar, Vaucluse House. Photo Jacqui Newling © HHT
 Sydney Gazette, April, October and December 1803.

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GOOD BYE-VALVE OYSTER REEFS!

HISTORICAL LOSSES



Overharvesting



Habitat destruction



Catchment clearing



Disease



Land fill



Water pollution

A GRAND SANITARY WORK—RECLAMATION OF MUD FLATS AT COOK'S RIVER, BOTANY BAY. (For letterpress, see page 652.)
 1. Hoisting of marine machinery and from the piers on to the wharves. 2. Dredging the flats. 3. Hoisting the fresh water from the river. 4. Hoisting the fresh water from the river. 5. Hoisting the fresh water from the river. 6. Hoisting the fresh water from the river.

NSW GOVERNMENT Reclamation Cooks River 1888 Australian Town and Country Journal, September 29, 1888 p 26 State Library of NSW www.marine.nsw.gov.au

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Background image D. Harasti

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Image: Shane Chalker

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marine.nsw.gov.au/projects/oyster-reef-restoration

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