

Importance of Aboriginal Heritage in Lake Macquarie

The Lake Macquarie area is the home of the Awabakal People and is rich in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. The earliest Archaeological Site that has been discovered in the area was a Midden at Swansea Heads that was dated at almost 8,000 years old.

There is likely to be many more Significant Archaeological Sites yet to be discovered as well as many sites that have deep significance to Aboriginal people of today. Cultural Heritage Sites and Artefacts help to tie people to the land and our history and are of significant value to all Australians.

This brochure outlines how these important sites and objects can be protected during Landcare activities and where Landcarers can go for further information.

Contacts and Further Information

Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 3018

BLACKSMITH NSW 2281

02 4971 4800

Office of Environment and Heritage

[AHIMS register](#)

Phone: (02) 9585 6345

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

References and useful documents:

Australian Heritage Commission, *Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values*, 2002, available online at www.environment.gov.au

Lake Macquarie City Council, *Sustainable Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area: Lake Macquarie Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy*, 2011, available online at www.lakemac.com.au

Lake Macquarie City Council, *Caring for Country: Aboriginal Heritage Issues and Landcare Projects*, 2005.



Lake Macquarie
Landcare
Resource Centre

Landcare Resource Centre

Cnr Toronto and Five Islands Rd Teralba NSW 2284
Box 1906 HRMC NSW 2310

Phone: 4921 0392

E-mail: lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.lakemacquarielandcare.org

Aboriginal Heritage Awareness

For Landcare Sites on Beaches and Dune Systems in Lake Macquarie



Produced for Landcare Volunteers by Lake Macquarie Landcare with support from:



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Artefacts that may be present on Landcare sites

Aboriginal Archaeological sites and Artefacts are fragile and irreplaceable; they are also protected by the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, so it is vital that you are aware of any that may occur on your Landcare site. This can be done by consulting with the Landcare Resource Centre (LRC), who now conducts searches through the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) before new Landcare Sites are established, and with Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC), the Land Council for all areas East of the Lake, from Redhead to Catherine Hill Bay.

However, not all Significant Sites and Artefacts are recorded or even known. Many may be covered in layers of soil and/or vegetation. For this reason Landcarers need to be aware that their work may inadvertently uncover potential Artefacts that need to be respected, left undisturbed and reported to BLALC and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Artefacts that may occur on Landcare sites on beaches and dune systems in Lake Macquarie, include:

- Cutting, grinding and digging tools
- Shell Middens
- Burial Sites



Above: Cutting tools and flakes found in the Lake Macquarie area (photos courtesy of BLALC)



Above: Shell Middens at a Beach in Lake Macquarie (Photo source: LMCC Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy)

Helping protect Significant Sites and Artefacts

Landcarers can help protect Significant Sites and Artefacts through the following actions:

- Before doing any works that involve soil/ vegetation disturbance, check if known Significant Sites occur on your Landcare Site (ask LRC or BLALC),
- Look out for potential Artefacts and stop work if any are found in order to consult with BLALC,
- If your Landcare site contains Significant Sites or Artefacts, follow advice from the BLALC and LRC to help protect and respect these by:
 - Avoiding soil disturbance,
 - Keeping objects/ sites protected from vandalism, erosion and other threats,
 - Avoiding the use of chemicals and weed removal immediately around objects/sites where these might expose or damage them.

