



Lake Macquarie
Landcare

Case Study

Foreshore Site

Green Point Foreshore Reserve



Project Partners:

- Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare
- Lake Macquarie Landcare Resource Office
- NSW Government Environmental Trust



Lake Macquarie
Landcare



NSW
GOVERNMENT



NSW
Environmental
TRUST



Lake Macquarie
City Council

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust

Background

The Green Point Foreshore Landcare site is located within the Lake Macquarie local government area along the north east shores of the lake. The site formerly hosted several gravel quarries, coal mines and the area was used for logging for timber for the mines in the region. The land had, up until 1984, remained largely undeveloped because of its 120 year history of coalmining, which came to an end when the last employee left in November 1984 after site rehabilitation work.



The area known as Green Point has been the subject of many preservation attempts. As far back as 1929 an attempt was made by locals to establish a foreshore park. A recommendation was made to Lake Macquarie Council in 1957 to retain the whole 202 ha at Cardiff Point for public recreation.

Lake Macquarie

Lake Macquarie is located on the NSW east coast, it contains mountains, forests, waterfalls, extensive beaches, and a large coastal estuarine lake with an area of approximately 110 square km, and a catchment area of 605 square km.

These areas support a wide range of habitats and uses including nature conservation, recreation, residential and commercial development and rural activities. As a result, the natural environment has suffered a high degree of modification and degradation.

Aboriginal Heritage

Lake Macquarie is rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage dating back tens of thousands of years. The people who lived around Lake Macquarie and Newcastle were known as the Awabakal which means "*the people of the flat surface*" presumably referring to the Lake and its flat surrounds.

In 1984 an application was made to Lake Macquarie Council for land rezoning to allow for a residential, tourist, and marine development. Almost immediately there was opposition to the proposal. The Green Point Action Committee (GPAC) and other groups asserted that Green Point was large bush block on Lake Macquarie's northern shores and their last hope for a National Park or Reserve in the area. In 1987 there was a plan to purchase 80 ha at Green Point as part of the Bicentennial grant, because the land was privately owned the cost of purchasing the land was too prohibitive. In 1992 the council purchased 41ha of the land for \$1 million. By 1992 the major landholder sold 170ha of the land to a building business, D. F. McCloy Ltd. Over the next 3 years there was a long running battle between the developer who wanted to develop the site with 600 residential lots and groups such as GPAC who wanted the land retained as a reserve.

Finally in 1995 a formal settlement was struck, 120ha was to be set aside as a regional park and the remaining 58ha was to be used for residential development.



Site Information

Green Point Foreshore Reserve is a 152 ha site containing a wide range of plant communities including three Endangered Ecological Communities and a SEPP 26 Littoral Rainforest supporting a variety of threatened species including Powerful Owl, Squirrel Glider and Sea Eagle.



Through the removal of weeds such as Lantana and Bitou Bush, sites throughout Green Point Foreshore Reserve (in particular rainforest areas) have shown considerable resilience demonstrated by substantial natural regeneration.

Management Issues

- > Urban encroachment
- > Mine subsidence
- > Fire ecology
- > Previous land use
- > Connectivity
- > Weed incursion



September 2007: View of the Lake foreshore where the Casuarinas extend right down to the high water mark.

Vegetation

Plant Communities

- Coastal Plains Stringybark - Apple Forest
- Lake Macquarie Spotted Gum Forest
- Hunter Valley Moist Forest
- Swamp Oak - Rushland forest
- Foreshore Redgum Ironbark Forest
- Littoral Rainforest



Black-eyed Susan - *Tetradlea juncea*

Threatened Species

Magenta Lilly Pilly - *Syzygium paniculatum*

White Flowered Wax Plant - *Cynanchum elegans*

Black Eyed Susan - *Tetradlea juncea*

Aroid - *Typhonium eliosorum*

Cycad - *Macrozamia flexuosa*



Magenta Lilly Pilly - *Syzygium paniculatum*
(Image: Plantnet)



White Flowered Wax Plant - *Cynanchum elegans*
(Image: of Peter Richards)

Endangered Ecological Communities

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



Cycad - *Macrozamia flexuosa* (found on poor quality clay-based soil, under a eucalypt canopy)
(Image: Courtesy of Palms & Cycad Society of Australia (PACSOA))

Fauna

White Bellied Sea Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Powerful Owl - *Ninox strenua* (*Threatened*)

Squirrel Glider - *Petaurus norfolcensis* (*Threatened*)

Ringtail Possum - *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

Grey-Headed Flying Fox - *Pteropus poliocephalus*

A number of migratory Fruit Pigeons



Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* largest owl in Australia feeds mainly on tree dwelling mammals and nests in tree hollows.
(Image: Australian Museum)



Squirrel Gliders *Petaurus norfolcensis* (Image: Katrina Ulyatt)

Bush Regeneration by Volunteers

Since the late 1980s, volunteers have worked to regenerate the beautiful bushland at Green Point. At first they worked as part of Green Point Action Committee, then joined Landcare in 2004, before changing the name to Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare in 2007. Individuals have changed, but around 30 people have worked regularly in the reserve over the years. Current members (2013) are Graham Couper, John Duffield, Megan Dunkin, Greg Powell, Win Warner and Pieter Woittiez.



August 2006: Landcarers on the Landcare Field Trip to Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare site, being given an overview of the site by Graham Couper.

Two members of the group have TAFE qualifications in bush regeneration, and all are experienced. They have the knowledge and skills to regenerate the bushland successfully. Their work is entirely weeding and vine pruning. No planting is needed – the bush regenerates naturally from seeds on the plants and in the soil. The group returns regularly to their sites to do follow-up weeding, which is essential.

The group works every Wednesday and the first Saturday each month. They enjoy the camaraderie of working together in the bush, in the dappled light under the trees, with the sounds of bird song and the smells of the bush; they see shy birds and animals; and they have the satisfaction of seeing the bush regenerate.

The group welcomes new members, and invites you to join them. Contact Graham Couper on 4946 8342 or Win Warner on 4946 8451.



(From left to right) Win Warner, Phyl Williams and Graham Couper.
(Image courtesy of Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare)

Projects and Achievements

Volunteers of Green Point Action Committee (GPAC) have dedicated themselves to the restoration and protection of Green Point Foreshore Reserve since 1989. They were confronted with mountains of Lantana and Bitou Bush and through partnerships with the Australian Government (Envirofund), NSW State Government, Lake Macquarie Catchment Committee, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) and Trees in Newcastle (TIN) gained support and funding to manage the natural environment at Green Point.

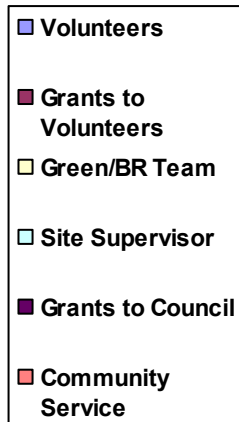
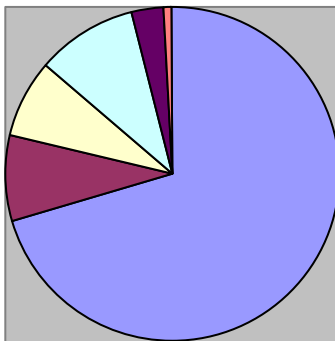
Grants Received 2004 -2013

- *2005 Black Jacks Point Rainforest Rehabilitation Project* - Funded by Australian Government Envirofund, Awarded to Green Point Action Committee Landcare
- *2010 Conservation Volunteers Australia* - Awarded to Lake Macquarie City Council
- *2013 Littoral Rainforest Grant* - Funded by Hunter Councils (Through NSW Environmental Trust), Awarded to Lake Macquarie City Council
- *2013 Green Point Foreshore Reserve Threatened Species Regeneration* - Funded by NSW Environmental Trust

Bush Regeneration 2004 – 2013

(Figures provided by Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare. Note Lake Macquarie City Council is not responsible for the accuracy of this information)

Volunteers	9693 hours
Grants awarded to volunteers	1135 hours
Green and Bush Regeneration Teams	1050 hours
Lake Macquarie City Council – Site Supervisor	1369 hours
Grants awarded to Council	418 hours
Community Service Orders	102 hours



Environmental Trust Project 2013 - 2015

Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare has been awarded a grant by NSW Environmental Trust, under the Restoration and Rehabilitation program. The project is entitled *Green Point Foreshore Reserve Threatened Species Regeneration*, and the value of the grant is \$47,080. The aim of the project is to protect and preserve the threatened species *Tetratheca juncea*, and to build community awareness. One of the most significant populations of *Tetratheca juncea* grows in the reserve.

Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare has contracted Lake Macquarie Landcare Bush Regeneration Team to carry out the work. The Bush Regeneration Team will weed the area where *Tetratheca* grows, then extend the weeding into surrounding areas to form a protective buffer. Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare has already weeded the southern buffer zone.



Graham Couper and Minister for Environment and Heritage Robyn Parker inspecting the *Tetratheca juncea* after being awarded the bush regeneration grant.

Work undertaken as part of the Threatened Species Regeneration Project

Before Removal of Bitou & Lantana



After removal of Bitou & Lantana



References and Further Information

Australian National Botanic Garden - www.anbg.com.au

Buchanan, R, 2009, [*Restoring Natural Areas in Australia*](#)

LMCC, 2004, *Lake Macquarie Coastal Planting Guide*, available at www.lakemac.com.au

LMCC, *Lake Macquarie: Past and Present - History of Suburbs*, available at www.lakemac.infohunt.nsw.gov.au/library/lhist/suburb/suburb.htm

Weeds Australia - www.weeds.org.au

The Lake Macquarie Landcare website www.lakemacquarielandcare.org provides links to newsletters, environmental programs, grants, Landcare, weeds and trees.

If you wish to know more about this and other projects in Lake Macquarie please contact the Landcare Resource Centre.

Produced at the Landcare Resource Centre 2013



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