

Our Aboriginal History - The Eurobodalla is located in Yuin country which stretches from the Shoalhaven River to the Victorian border. The Yuin area is made up of many language groups, including the Dharumba, Djirringanj, Dhawa and Dhurga. There were clans under the Yuin who lived by the coast or inland. The Brinja Yuin people occupied land from south of the Moruya River to the Wagonga Inlet.

There is significant evidence of a people who hunted, gathered seafood, traded and established strong spiritual bonds with this country and while number dwindled from the 1880's onwards and clans were directed to reserves this coastline continues to serve its aboriginal families via hard won traditional fishing rights. Mogo, Moruya and Bodalla are the three principal towns where our local Koori population live.

BATEMANS BAY History - In 1770, when Captain James Cook sailed by on April 22, 1770 on the

Endeavour he named Batemans Bay after Nathaniel Bateman whom he had previously sailed with. The first whites to pass through the area was in 1797 when survivors from a wreck of the coast of Victoria made it to the Clyde River. Nine of them died in the Batemans Bay area and the others crossed the Clyde River in a canoe they found. Three reached Sydney.

In December that year George Bass sailed south. On December 14th 1797 he reached Batemans Bay. It wasn't until 1821 that the schooner Snapper arrived in the Bay. The small island in Batemans Bay is named after that vessel.

Batemans Bay was established as a settlement in the 1830s. Nelligen became the major town and port in the region in the 1860s. In the 1870s a hand powered punt was installed to cross the Clyde River in Nelligen with a motor powered punt installed in 1915 to cross the Clyde River at Batemans Bay. A steel girder two lane bridge was then built across the Clyde in 1956. That famous bridge was replaced in 2022.

The best place to start with the history of the Batemans Bay area is at the Old Courthouse and Police Residence Museum. Managed and operated by volunteers from the Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society this museum has lots of local history as well as an interesting collection of artefacts and photographs. The Old Courthouse and Police Residence Museum is located at 3 Museum Place, Batemans Bay. Opening Hours: Tues, Wed and Thurs: 10am - 3pm

Where to Eat

Batemans Bay has a wide variety of options. Rather than list them the best way to discover what is available to you is by our online Eating Out Map.

There are eating out options for all tastes and needs in the town.

Scan the QR Code above for an interactive map to give you café and restaurant names and locations.

