

TYAGARAH MIDDEN

Registered middens in Tyagarah Nature Reserve are located between Belongil Creek and the Brunswick River.

DINNER TIME CAMP

Due to the lack of 'stratification or layers', the middens in Tyagarah Nature Reserve may have been deposited as a 'dinner time camp'. They consist of a thin layer of shell.

The Tyagarah middens provide an example of traditional beach

gathering of food resources that continue to the present day.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Once abundant on the outer barrier dunes of the east coast, sand mining and human development has resulted in the destruction of many middens.

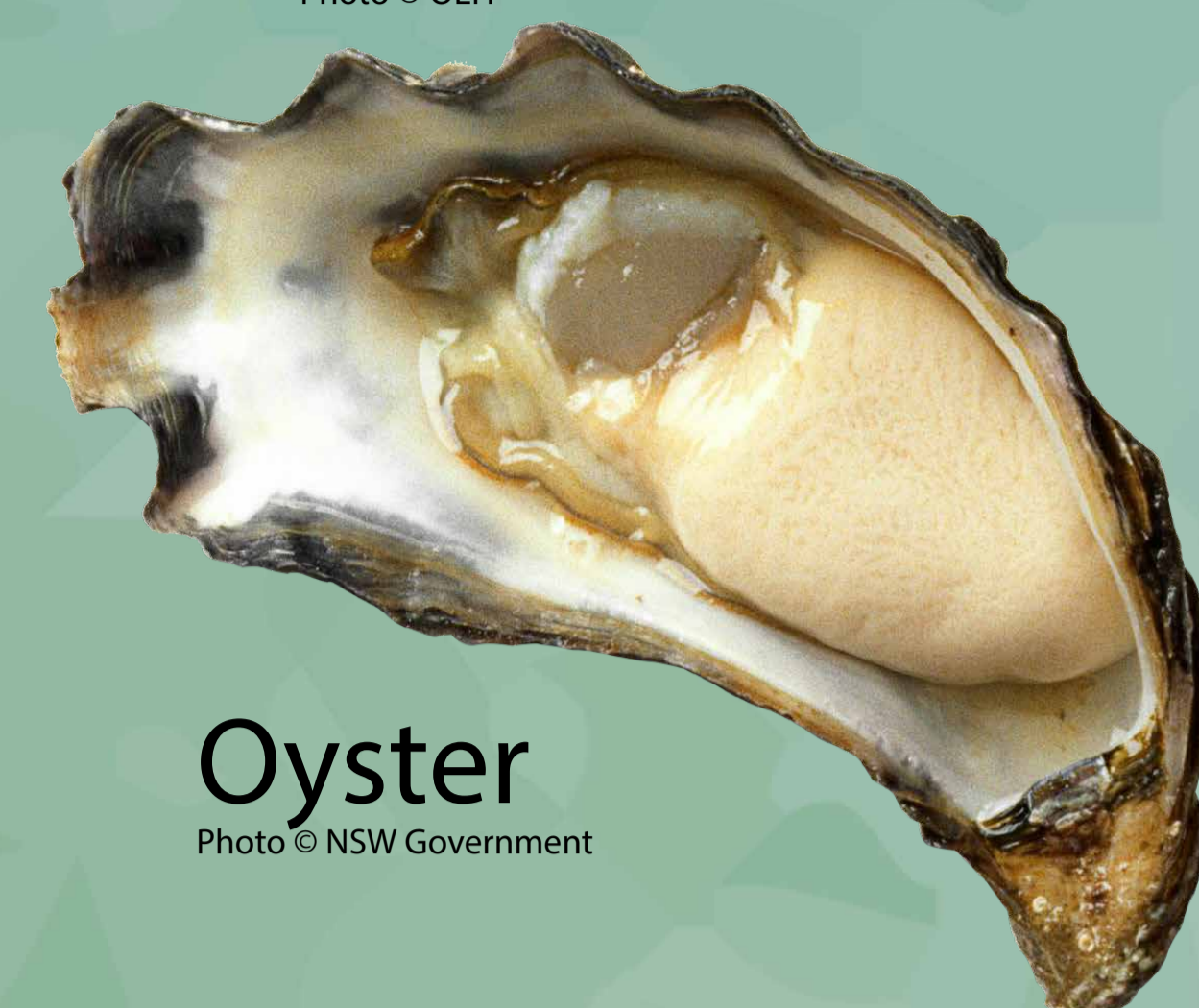
Any large coastal midden is of high archaeological significance and there is much more to learn from middens in Tyagarah Nature Reserve.



Whelk



Pipi
Photo © OEH



Oyster
Photo © NSW Government



Flakes



Bandicoot
Photo © M Thompson OEH



Eastern Long-necked Turtle
Photo © OEH



Black Bream (saltwater)
Pat Tully © NSW Government



Sand Flathead
Pat Tully © NSW Government



Goanna
Photo © Arthur Chapman

THE PASS MIDDEN



In 1994 the barbecues and picnic tables covering The Pass Midden are removed and the area regenerated.

STRATIFIED MIDDENS

The Pass Midden's rich deposits provide a glimpse into our ancestors' way of life. Estimated to be 1,000 years old this stratified midden contains many layers of marine and land animals.

WITHIN THE LAYERS

Shellfish such as pipi, cart-rut, limpets and periwinkles, gathered from the seashore and rock platforms, are found with animal

bones, charcoal and ochres. Marine species include bream, flathead, jewfish and a small amount of eel-tail catfish.

Land dwelling animals include pademelon, wallaby, python, goanna, lizards, bandicoot, greater glider and long necked turtle.

PROTECTION

Arakwal Elders fought to protect the Pass Midden when it was threatened by human development.



Red-necked Wallaby
Photo © OEH

PROTECTING MIDDENS

Development of roads, trails and tracks along with coastal erosion threaten the long-term survival of middens.

Clarkes Beach Midden is an important midden and faces threats from erosion. Shell

and bone dating (shell dated up to 263 years old, and bone between 118-172 years old) age the midden to a time before non-Aboriginal settlement.

We continue to protect them.



Alwyn Roberts (Chair, Bundjalung of Byron Bay Aboriginal Corporation - BOBBAC) and management committee inspecting Clarkes Midden.

