

Temporary changes at Stockton Beach & dunes



Guudji yiigu

a Worimi welcome

Stockton Beach & dunes are still recovering from severe erosion & flooding following a recent storm.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

On Saturday the 30 June 2012, the beach front & RVA will re-open for driving, subject to favourable conditions.

For your safety the following temporary restrictions apply:

- Drive only on the beach front, or in the Recreational Vehicle Area (RVA).
- The RVA, which is located south of the Lavis Lane access, is open for dune driving.
- All dunes between the Lavis Lane and Anna Bay accesses are CLOSED to driving.
- The park is currently CLOSED for all camping.
- Access via Lavis Lane or Anna Bay entrances only.

Please be aware that if the beach becomes impassable due to changes in conditions, it may be temporarily closed to all vehicles, for public safety.

ON THE SPOT FINES, AND/OR PROSECUTION APPLY.

TIDE WARNING:

At high tide, sections of the beach may be impassable. **Plan your trip to travel at low tide.** If the beach front is too narrow to pass safely, retrace your route. Do not attempt to bypass around the dunes.

It is recommended you do not drive on the beach 2 hours before & after high tide (See tide chart on back).

On Saturday 30 June, there will be a large high tide (1.78m) at 5.09pm.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- soft sand remains in the park.
- Drive safely and according to conditions.
- It is recommended that you assess your 4WD's capability for these particular conditions.
- Changing weather conditions including wind direction, swell & tides, may affect your ability to enter/exit the beach.

Temporary signs are installed, and NPWS Rangers will be patrolling the park daily, to provide information & ensure compliance.

WHERE CAN I DRIVE?

Drive only on the beach front, or in the RVA, south of the Lavis Lane access.

The area behind the beach front between the Lavis Lane & Anna Bay accesses, is still unstable due to erosion & flooding, and is unsafe for driving and is closed.

In addition, in many areas the storm has exposed the remnant soil profile containing Aboriginal cultural material.

Worimi Aboriginal Owners have been working with Archeaologists and NPWS to identify, record & protect these sites.

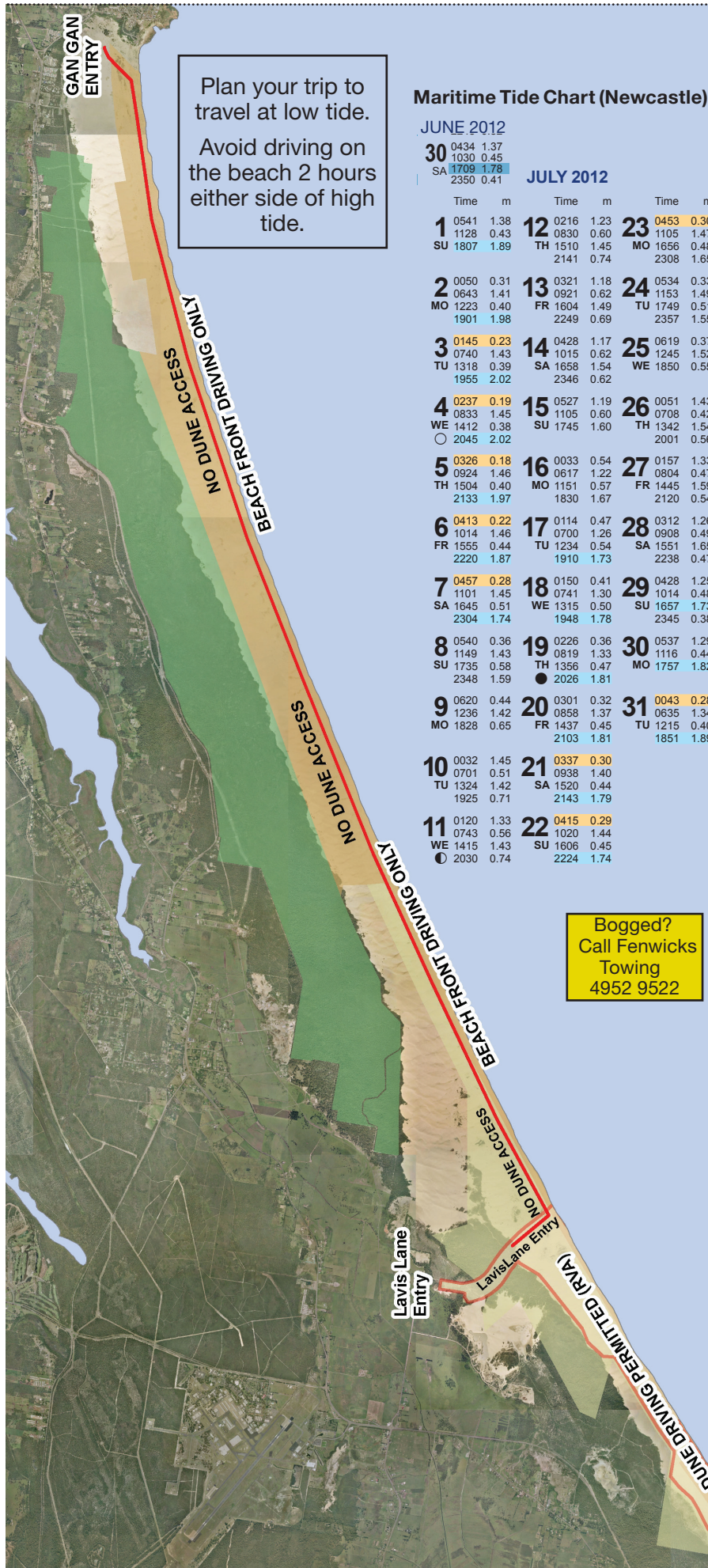
Large, exposed middens in the RVA have been fenced, but there are still Aboriginal sites in the northern dunes which were exposed by the storm, and are yet to be assessed.

WHAT ABOUT CAMPING?

The park is temporarily closed for all camping. Erosion, inundation & soft sand continue to be an issue, creating limited opportunity for safe & sustainable camping.

There are several nearby accommodation & camping alternatives. Contact Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre on 1800 808 900 or visit portstephens.org.au

MAP OF TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS TO STOCKTON BEACH & DUNE DRIVING



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WHAT ABOUT COMMERCIAL TOURS?

Commercial tour operators are licensed to operate on the dunes on adjoining freehold land owned by the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council. These dunes are off park and are not accessible to the public.

WHY DID THIS PARTICULAR STORM CAUSE SO MUCH DAMAGE?

The unusual combination of a very high tide, a significant storm surge and the southerly swell direction, resulted in a high level of damage to the landscape.

While there have been many other storm events at Stockton Beach, the severity of impacts to the frontal dune and park landscape has been regarded as some of the worst since the 1974 storm that wrecked the Sygna.

FURTHER INFORMATION

CALL NPWS HUNTER REGION
PHONE 02 4984 8200 (office hours)
or visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

WWW.WORIMICONSERVATIONLANDS.COM