

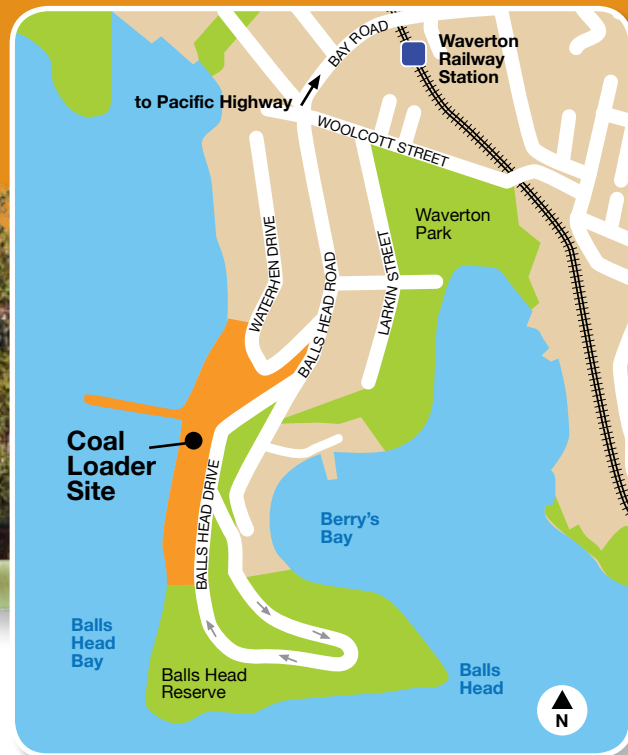
the Coal Loader

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

2 Balls Head Drive, Waverton NSW 2060

Monday-Friday, 9am to 4pm
Saturday, 10am to 4pm

Parkland areas open 24 hours, 7 days
For café opening hours call 0422 887 396



A Bush Foods Garden

The bitumen road which existed since the 1920s was removed in 2010 and a bush foods garden planted, featuring a variety of edible and otherwise useful native plants.

B Cammeraygal Engraving

Before white settlement this area was home to the Cammeraygal people. The engravings, first recorded by non-Aboriginal people in the 1840s, were buried under a road in the early 1900s, and excavated a century later. The larger engraving of a whale or shark is part of group of engravings including fish, turtles and spirit figures.

C Powerhouse

Built in 1926 to provide electrical power for the Coal Loader, and now home to the North Sydney SES. The timber panels on the bottom of the windows, and the round windows at the top, provided ventilation to dissipate heat from the electrical transformers.

D Mess Hall

Constructed in the 1920s to provide eating and showering facilities for workers. By the early 1980s there were 19 workers including a foreman, two tunnel men and a shiploader working here. Since closure of coal-loading operations in 1992, the building has been used as accommodation, a recreational room, music recording studio and now a meeting room.

E Visitor Orientation Deck

Overlooking the man-made wetland and the stunning view, the deck showcases site maps and information on the site's history.

F Workshops

A small team of tradespeople including blacksmiths, carpenters and welders maintained machinery and infrastructure here. You can still see the hearth where the blacksmith's forge was located in the centre of the southern workshop.

G Cafe

Now a café, this was originally a workshop used for maintenance of electrical equipment and combustion engines. The original sandstone wall and steel railway track framing remain.

H Early Site Office

This building was one of the first buildings on the site and initially operated as the site/pay office. The cage on the southern wall contained the Bundy clock and equipment, for workers to sign in and out. Today it is used for storage.

I Genia McCaffery Building

Constructed in the mid 1920s, this building was the administration office and then site caretaker's cottage. Renamed in 2012 in honour of North Sydney's long term Mayor, the building is now being used as a sustainability learning centre.

J Community Garden

Originally a vehicle parking area and then caretaker's courtyard garden between 1992 and 2006, this area is now a community garden. Established in 2007, and run by volunteers, the garden is operated on organic principles and is irrigated using rainwater tanks.

K Chicken Yard

Originally an old shed, even the chook yard follows adaptive reuse principles. The chickens are maintained by volunteers from the community garden group who are rewarded daily with fresh eggs.

L Coal Loading Tunnels

These tunnels feature remnants of the different coal loading systems. In the 1920s coal was unloaded from large ships (colliers) and dumped on the platform above by cranes that moved along the seawall. Chutes in the tunnel roof released the coal into elevated travelling 'feeders' which directed coal into skips below. When full, the skips travelled onto the adjacent wharf to discharge their coal onto waiting ships. A conveyor system was introduced in the '70s.

Tunnel 1, closest to the harbour's edge, retains the travelling feeder and a coal-loading skip. This is the last of 33 working skips on the site.

Tunnel 2 is open 24/7 and links through to the adjacent Balls Head Reserve walking track. It is lit by automatic sensor lighting.

Tunnel 3 will be reused for water storage when the green roof garden on the coal-loading platform is completed.

Tunnel 4 once stored water used to suppress the dust from the coal stockpile above. This tunnel now provides an important seasonal roosting site for a threatened species of micro-bat called Eastern Bent-wing Bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*).

M Coal Loading Platform

Built on the old coal loading platform, this green roof garden will consist of community garden

plots irrigated by recycled stormwater, aquaculture beds, an urban fruit tree forest, performance space, seating and viewing areas, heritage interpretation of the original coal loading operations, and solar panels that will generate electricity to offset 100% site power use.

N Wharf

The original 160m wharf allowed for loading coal at high and low tide. From 1921 to 1976 coal skips transported coal out along the wharf and two large gantry moved along the wharf depositing the coal into the bunkers of the docked ship. A conveyor system was used from 1976.

O Sandstone Bund Wall

The original stone wall separated two oil tanks and acted as a bund for spills. It was reconstructed in 2010.

P Water Tank

Located underneath these terraces is a 65,000 litre tank. Rain water is captured on the roofs of nearby buildings and is used for toilet flushing, garden and nursery irrigation.

Q Wetland

This thriving wetland now occupies the former site of one of two Union Steam Shipping Co. fuel tanks, which were removed in the 1980s. A wetland was developed in the 1990s on the sandstone bedrock as part of site remediation works, by the then site caretaker.

R Community Bushland Nursery

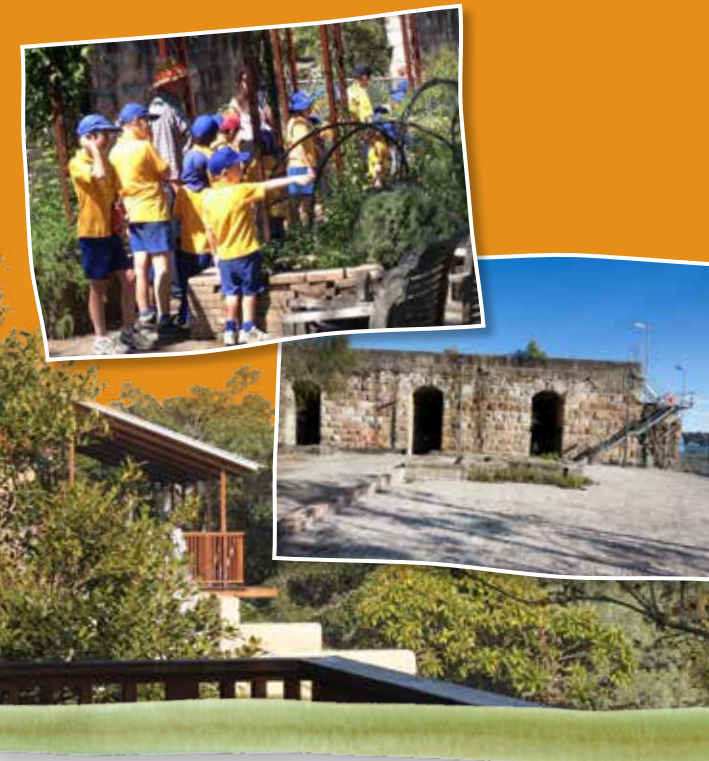
Community volunteers work with Council to propagate local native plants that are used for local vegetation restoration and green corridor projects.

S Parkland/Picnic Area

the Coal Loader

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

SELF-GUIDED MAP



The Coal Loader is a site demonstrating the layering of human history, from the ancient culture of the Cammeraygal Aboriginal people, to an industrial coal bunkering and distribution centre, to a showcase for sustainability.



the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability



A Bush Foods Garden
B Cammeraygal Engraving
C Powerhouse
D Mess Hall
E Visitor Orientation Deck

F Workshops
G Cafe
H Early Site Office
I Genia McCaffery Building
J Community Garden

K Chicken Yard
L Coal Loading Tunnels
M Coal Loading Platform
N Wharf
O Sandstone Bund Wall

P Water Tank
Q Wetland
R Community Bushland Nursery
S Parkland/Picnic Area

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 CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY
Learn from the Past : Embrace the Future



- Visit the sustainably retrofitted buildings to see what you can do at home
- See the Aboriginal rock engravings and bush foods garden
- Visit our community garden and chook yard
- Attend a free sustainable living workshop
- Organise a school excursion or free group guided tour
- Visit the artist-in-residence
- Walk through the historic coal-loading tunnel to Balls Head
- Picnic in the parklands or grab a coffee in the cafe