

The waters of New South Wales contain an immense wealth of maritime archaeological sites and relics. With an estimated 1800 shipwrecks, along almost 1800 km of coastline, NSW has the largest accumulation of shipwreck sites of any State or Territory in Australia - almost 27% of the national total!

The extent of this resource reflects the strategic importance of NSW, its historic settlement patterns, the volume and frequency of maritime activity along its shores, and the popularity of scuba diving. The history of Australia's 'first state' and the experience of many of its inhabitants has been inextricably linked to the adjacent seas since time immemorial.

*Photo: Tim Smith, Heritage Branch*



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## DISCOVER NSW MARITIME HERITAGE



**For more information, contact:**

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*Photo: Damien Siviera (<http://damiensiviera.com/>)*

## SHIPWRECKS & MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

Maritime archaeology comprises the study of man's relationship with the sea from the evidence left behind by past societies. The maritime resource includes shipwrecks and aircraft, prehistoric sites, fish traps, ports, harbours and jetties, defence structures, submerged landscapes and much more.

In order to relate to our maritime cultural heritage and understand how it has shaped our society today, we need to first understand the significance, form and function of the traces of maritime activity left to us in the archaeological record.

We need to do this in a way which integrates seamlessly with what we know of our past from land-based investigations. If we are able to understand and explore this unique record we will be better informed about our past and how to protect our heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.



Photos: **Right** Courtesy Foxtel  
**Left** Brian Busted

## NSW MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

The Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning, is the agency responsible for the management of maritime archaeology and underwater cultural heritage in NSW. The Branch administers both the Commonwealth's *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*, and the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*. The two acts, together with the Annex to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001 (endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW as best practice in 2005), provide protection to maritime archaeology and underwater cultural heritage sites in NSW and adjacent waters.

The Branch employs a team of professional Maritime Archaeologists who provide maritime and coastal archaeology strategy, policy, information and advice, promote standards, and physically manage the State's historic shipwreck resource. The Maritime Team aims to discover, enhance and make more widely available knowledge about our maritime culture in whatever form it takes.

## SHIPWRECKS ARE PROTECTED

All shipwrecks that have been on the seabed, lake or riverbed, or even dry land for more than 75 years are protected. A small handful of these shipwrecks, such as the *Lady Darling* (1880), *Bega* (1908), and the Japanese midget submarine, *M24* (1942), lay in restricted zones that require a permit for entry. Most sites can be visited freely. Where you propose to undertake intrusive survey, investigation, recovery, or the transfer of possession of relics, you will require a permit. If you would like information about the permit process, the Maritime Team will be happy to provide advice.



Photos: **Top** Courtesy Cosmos Archaeology, **Left** Sarah Ward, Heritage Branch, **Right** Sarah Ward, Heritage Branch.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Community members are encouraged to take an active interest in the research, identification and protection of maritime sites in NSW. It's interesting, educational, and most of all fun!

You may consider joining the *Shipwreck Spotters Program* and help us to unlock the keys to our past by reporting new finds, conducting shipwreck research, and recording sites in your local area. Or, you could try one of our maritime archaeology courses, the exciting *Wrecks Alive* program, or just come along to one of our free outreach events. Whatever your interest, the Maritime Team can tell you how to go about exploring it!

## MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on any of the NSW Maritime Archaeology Program activities, please complete your details, tear off and post this card.

I am interested in:

- The Wrecks Alive project and/or Adopting-a-Wreck
- The Wreck Spotters Program
- Maritime Archaeology Policy, Standards & Guidance
- A presentation/lecture for my club or society
- A permit to dive a protected Historic Shipwreck
- Maritime Archaeology Training Courses
- Joining the MAP mailing list
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact details:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124



Photos: **Left** Sarah Ward, Heritage Branch, **Right** Mike Meyer / Heritage Branch.