

From: [Kerrie Foxwell-Norton](#)
To: [Jane Lofthouse](#); tracey@destinationtweed.com.au
Subject: Cabarita Beach/Bogangar Surfing Reserve Nomination
Date: Saturday, 11 November 2017 1:39:22 PM
Attachments: [Cabarita Beach Surfing Reserve Nomination November 2017.pdf](#)

Dear Jane and Tracey

Apologies re: the e-introduction Tracey but thought you and Jane will both appreciate this email.

Finally, we have the final version of our Surfing Reserve Nomination ready. Tracey, a local committee has been developing this application for about 12 months. If you read through the nomination, it will be clear why we have done so and what this means for Cabarita Beach/Bogangar. We think that this is a very positive initiative and worthy accolade for Cabarita Beach/Bogangar and puts us in fine company both nationally and internationally. In terms of Tweed tourism, it may also present some marketing opportunities.

Please read all about Surfing Reserves [here](#)

We invite the Tweed Shire Council and Destination Tweed to also provide a letter of support. As you can see, local community groups have provided letters of support. I will send this on to Geoff Provest today also. Further down the track, we will be looking for funding and creating local fundraising initiatives to fund public plaques/monuments and a booklet (with various permissions sought of course).

Please do email me or phone my mobile below if you have any questions. We are very keen to submit to the National Surfing Reserve Board after such a long process so ask that you please advise asap if you are keen to be involved.

Regards

Kerrie
Chair: Cabarita Beach Regional Surfing Reserve Steering Committee

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What's New?

Foxwell-Norton, K. (2017), [Environmental Communication and Critical Coastal Policy: Communities, Culture and Nature](#), Routledge: London.

Foxwell-Norton, K. & Lester, L. (2017), '[Saving the Great Barrier Reef from disaster, media then and now](#)', *Media, Culture & Society* (first published online February 16).

Hackett, R., Forde, S., Gunster, S. & Foxwell-Norton, K. (2017), [Journalism and Climate Crisis: Public Engagement, Media Alternatives](#), Routledge: London.

Foxwell-Norton, K. (2017), '[To save communities from rising seas, we must open our ears](#)', Climate Home, 6 April.

Chair [IAMCR Environmental Impact Committee](#)

Editor: [Australian Journalism Monographs](#)

Emerging Scholars Editor: [Australian Journalism Review: Emerging Scholars](#)

Book Reviews Editor: [Journal of Alternative and Community Media](#)

Member: [Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research](#)



Photo: Paget Thomson, Coastal Visions Cabarita Beach ©

**Cabarita Beach/Bogangar
Regional Surfing Reserve Nomination
November 2017**

Prepared by the Cabarita Beach/Bogangar Surfing Reserve Steering Committee

Chair: Kerrie Foxwell-Norton

Secretary: Luke Porter

Members: Scott 'Chicka' King, Linda Sinclair, Matt Hurworth, Andy King

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Brad Farmer, Chair of Australian Surfing Reserves for his input, support and patience.

Thanks to Caba Boardriders, especially Scott 'Chicka' King for his help in compiling a short history of the club.

Thanks to Steve and Wendy Peterson for their help in providing a short history of the Cabarita Longboarders.

Thanks due to Cabarita Beach SLSC for their support.

Thanks are due to the Tweed Shire Council and to the Cabarita Beach/Bogangar Resident's Association for their support.

Many thanks to Paget Thomson for the use of his beautiful Cabarita Beach/Bogangar image.

And last but by no means least, to the Cabarita Beach/Bogangar community for their passionate dedication to the protection and preservation of their place.

FIRST LOCALS
Clans of the Bundjalung Nation

We acknowledge our 'First Locals', the clans of the Bundjalung nation and pay our respects to elders past and present. Their descendants retain a spiritual connection to this land that we seek to name a regional surfing reserve. Their presence here is still evident, ten thousand years later, with a midden site preserved at the bottom of Norries Headland. A midden is an archaeological term that refers to a historic site containing the waste products of day to day life. The midden at Cabarita Beach/Bogangar contains remnants of shells, fish, and so on.

'First Locals' in surfing parlance – the First Nations – never ceded their sovereignty and remain the Traditional Custodians and Owners of this land.

With gratitude and respect.

Introducing: Cabarita Beach/Bogangar

Cabarita Beach/Bogangar and its surf breaks are recognised locally, nationally and increasingly, internationally for their quality, consistency and beauty. The shape of our coast, with Norries Headland and smaller points protruding into the sea, produce both protection and possibilities in diverse wind, swell and tide conditions. For many decades of modern Australian surfing, these breaks were relatively unknown and uncrowded – access was by car via unsealed roads developed mostly by local sand mining companies and tourists numbers were small.

This is a relatively recent history with Norries Headland carved from rock that is 400million years old and evidence of the ‘First Locals’, the clans of the Bundjalung Nation dated over ten thousand years ago.

In the 21st century, these quiet conditions have altered substantially with highway and road construction, residential and tourism development revealing the secrets of surfing Cabarita Beach/Bogangar to the world. Cabarita Beach/Bogangar is now listed as one of Australia’s best beaches (Farmer & Short, 2012) and its popularity is growing exponentially, evident in the influx of surfers that descend on its breaks every day. Increasing numbers to share our surf breaks has bought both opportunity and challenge to the small village of Cabarita Beach/Bogangar.

Bounded by nature reserves, Cabarita Beach/Bogangar has retained much of its natural beauty. This natural beauty is the principal reason residents love their place, and also the reason tourists, and surfers flock to visit on weekends and holidays. We are here to surf the waves, swim in the water, watch the whales cruise by, walk the long beaches nestled between only the bush and the ocean, watch the sun rise and set, and bask in the spectacular sights and sounds that are Cabarita Beach/Bogangar.

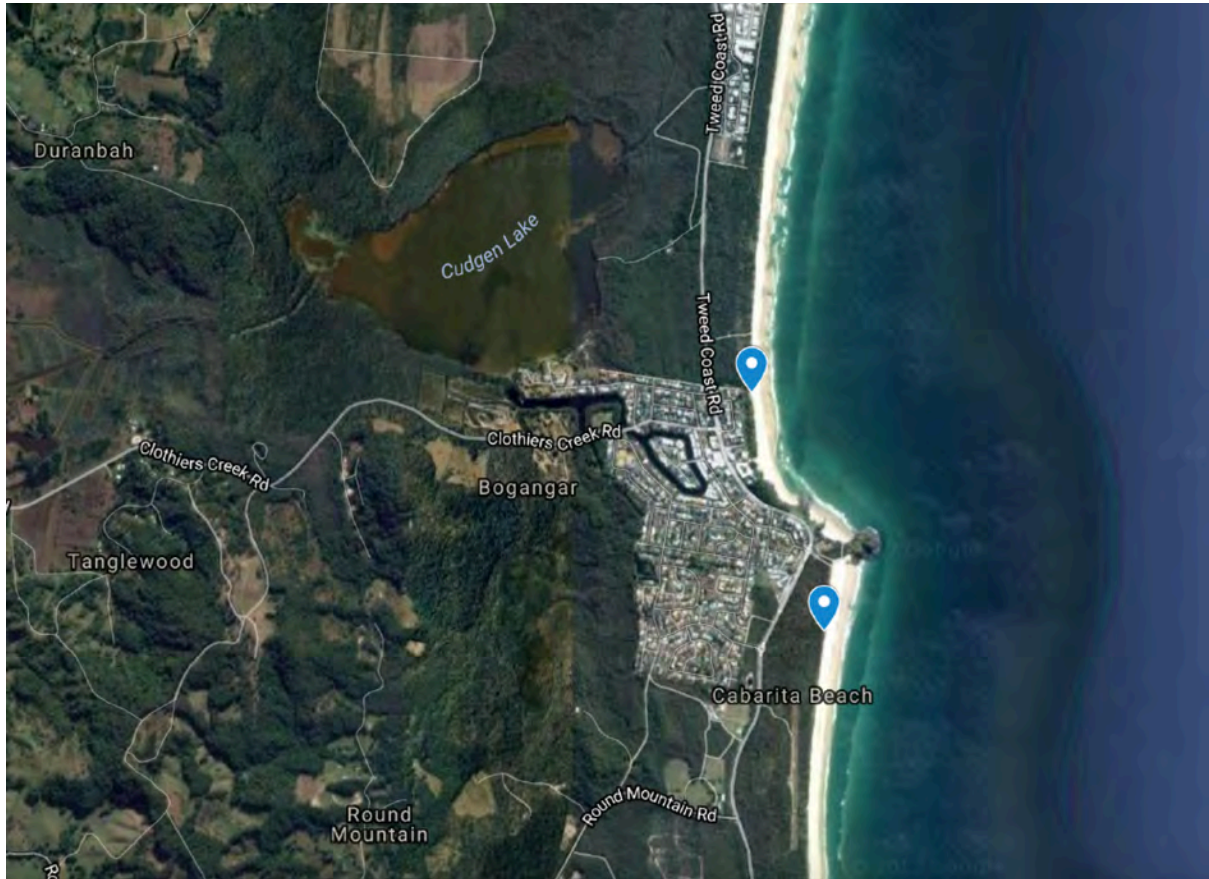
The protection of this extraordinary combination of natural beauty and consistent and quality surf breaks has motivated this nomination.

As permanent residents, we know that more surfers and tourists, and nearby residential developments, mean more people to love Cabarita Beach/Bogangar. Population and popularity also mean greater stress on the environment, crowded breaks and so on. How can we send a clear message to newcomers to love this place, the surf and its culture, and to take care of it? How can we ‘Keep Caba Special’?

A Regional Surfing Reserve frames the experience for those that live here and visit. It is national recognition of what we, as locals, already know: Cabarita Beach/Bogangar is special.

The Surfing Reserves message of ‘Share, Respect, Preserve’ is our message too.

Our Proposed Cabarita Beach/Bogangar Regional Surfing Reserve
From Surfing Breaks Cypress/Two Tits in the North to the Goanna Track in the South



The Regional Surfing Criteria are:

1. Reasonable quality of the waves (i.e. a regional-class surfing break)
2. A place considered special by the local surfing community (all beaches with local boardriders club); and
3. Long term usage of the beach and wave environment by local surfing community, e.g. long term SLSC and/or boardriders club with significant history

Below we outline Cabarita Beach/Bogangar’s fulfilment of these criteria, detailing our history and achievements alongside the quality and consistency of our surfing breaks.

Regional Surfing Reserve Criteria 1

Reasonable quality of the waves (i.e. a regional-class surfing break)

Cabarita Beach/Bogangar is blessed with many well-known and named breaks that work in diverse conditions. We outline these breaks below in detail.

Cypress / Two Tits

Description: A very consistent beach break that holds sand banks for unusually long periods of time, offering close to shore punchy shore breaks to more often long peeling lefts and rights on outside banks usually on shallow sand bars with a lot of variety from hollow barrel sections to high performance walls, very popular spot with the locals. Known locally as 'Two Tits' because of a now demolished home where two distinctive and pointed rooflines that were visible from the beach.

Works best: December to July in ESE swell directions but can often turn on in E swells on occasions. Best wind direction SE to SW, can handle large long period swells.

Ability level: Beginner to Experienced

Consistency: 8/10

Soft rock / Main

Description: Sand bottom break offering consistent right handers with long walls, the waves often break over a section call soft rock (a small shallow button of reef covered in congee) that produces a hollow barrel section.

Works best: December to July in E to SSE swell directions up to 6 feet.

Ability level: Beginner to Experienced

Consistency: 8/10

Grommies / Inlet

Description: Rock/sand bottom right hander with sharp hollow barrel sections that break across the front of the rocks between Soft Rock and The Point. A challenging ride with a heavy backwash end section.

Works best: December to July in S to ESE swell directions up to 6 feet.

Ability level: Experienced

Consistency: 4/10

The Point/ Headland

Description: Rock/sand bottom right hander offering everything from long full easy to ride rollers, to all time barrelling freight trains. On smaller swells to 3 feet the Point has much to offer for the beginners and mal riders with softer rides and an easy paddle out. On bigger days the Point can become a world class wave with step air drop take offs behind the headland and long hollow barrels from the take-off. As the wave starts running down the point it offers a big wall for performance surfing. It's not uncommon to get rides from the Point right through to Soft Rock/Main on larger swells, a ride of some 800m. The wave also tends to attract more swell than the more famous Gold Coast point breaks, especially during winter South Swells.

Ability level: Beginner to Experienced

Consistency: 9/10

Southside/ Back Beach

Description: Sand bottom point/beach break offering a verity of punchy left and right hand shore breaks to long hollow left handers that peel all the way down the beach in the right conditions. Loved strongly by the local crew and Cabarita board riders for its consistency and beauty, Southside often turns on at a moment's notice. The world's best surfers visit Southside often during the

Quicksilver Pro with the likes of Kelly Slater, JJ Florence and many more due to its power and consistency.

Works best: all year in SE to NE swells and will hold solid swells to 10 feet, best winds W to NNE.

Ability level: Beginner to Experienced.

Consistency: 8/10

Goanna track

Description: Sand bottom beach break producing punchy shore breaks and heaving rip bowels, often overlooked by visiting surfers. Locals love this break due to its consistency and lack of crowds and the magical walk through the littoral bush to the beach. A dangerous beach due to strong rips and under tows.

Works best: any off shore or light winds on any swell direction.

Ability level: Intermediate to Experienced

Consistency: 9/10

Regional Surfing Reserve Criteria 2
A place considered special by the local surfing community
(all beaches with local boardriders club)

History of Surfing and Achievements

Due to inaccessibility, lack of development, distance from metropolitan centres and the overall 'tyranny of distance', crowds have been slower to arrive at Cabarita Beach/Bogangar. Since the 1960's however, the population has gradually increased. This has been particularly noticeable in the last decade with nearby developments of Koala Beach, Salt and Casuarina and Sea Breeze at Pottsville. Improved highways have also bought a phenomenal increase in tourists travelling south over the border to visit Cabarita Beach/Bogangar.

The consistency of our breaks, and the protection offered by Norries Headland in both southerly and northerly winds, is attractive to surfers near and far. The headland, combined with the natural beauty of the bush has become a much-prized asset that local people have defended against development on many occasions in recent history. These efforts, to 'Keep Caba Special' (as was printed on locally made t-shirts) attest to the passionate commitment of local people to protect and preserve their place and its character as surf site royalty – where nature and surf culture co-exist.

Diverse breaks mean that learners to advanced, high performance surfers are accommodated at Cabarita Beach/Bogangar. The small village of approximately 4000 people is brimming with children, their parents, families and indeed, generations that have learnt to surf at their local break. The 'firsts' alongside the big days and memorable sessions have become the living memory of the people that have, and continue to live here. Our local story is imbued with surfing tales. Neighbouring coastal communities and the Tweed Shire will share stories too, of days spent in the water at Caba. Each weekend in the season, SLSC Nippers and Caba Boardrider 'Grommies', can be found at our beach, continuing the fine surfing traditions of past and present generations.

As a consequence of the local investment in surfing, Cabarita Beach/Bogangar has produced some highly competitive surfers. The list below while not exhaustive is indicative of surfing talent that has grown here:

Gavin Dickinson – Australian Indigenous Champion
Robbie Johnson – World Grommet titles Champion
Chippa Wilson – One of the top aerial surfers in the world
Josh Fuller – former WQS charger and development coach at the HPC
Sasha Stoker- former World tour professional and form head coach HPC
Steve Powell - Underground Hellman/Charger
Ben Johnson - Underground Hellman/Charger
Lucas Proudfoot- Underground Hellman/Charger
Brent Savage – Former WQS surfer Hellman/Charger
Jason Jameson – Shaper/ Underground Hellman/Charger
Arlon Fonmosa - Underground Hellman/Charger
Ray Gleave – Longboarding Champion/World Title Holder

Regional Surfing Criteria 3

Long term usage of the beach and wave environment by local surfing community, e.g. long term SLSC and/or boardriders club with significant history

As more people – both permanent and visiting – have visited Cabarita Beach/Bogangar, the waves have understandably become more popular. Our boardriders clubs and SLSC have grown with these changes. Of course, ‘unofficial’ clubs existed long before the development of the official clubs. Increased population, more young families and their children are an important driver and motivation for our various surfing clubs as they are today. All of these clubs share a commitment to the local community, to the development of young surfers and to ensuring a dedicated space for local surfers of all ages and levels to come together, share and celebrate our treasured surf.

Below we outline short histories provided by our local clubs for this nomination.

Cabarita Boardriders - Prepared by Scott ‘Chicka’ King

Cabarita Boardriders (Caba Boardriders) has a long and colourful history with the first attempt at establishing the club in 1985. Local lads Brian ‘Moona’ Davies, Scotty ‘Grom’) Rotumah and Scott ‘Chicka’ King managed to talk Ross Marshall into running the club. This first incarnation folded after 12 fun but short months and paved the wave for the next attempt to start a Caba Boardriders. It wasn’t until 1991 when Ben Johnson and Darren Peade both attempted to join a Gold Coast Club and were refused that Cabarita Boardriders relaunched. In 1992, Caba boardriders held its first committee meeting where Craig Langston was elected President, Paul Ricketts Vice President and Jeff Johnson, Treasurer/Secretary. Caba boardriders has since grown and 25 years later has established itself as a strong competitive club - a notable and often successful contender at events such as the Kirra Teams Challenge, Straddie Assault and the Australian Boardriders Battle just to mention a few. The club is family orientated organisation dedicated to the development of the young children and adults in our community.

Cabarita Longboarders Club - Prepared by Steve and Wendy Peterson

The club was founded in 1995 by a dedicated group of surfers that met at the headland every Sunday morning. From these humble beginnings, the group has now expanded to become a Club gathering people from all walks of life that enjoy the activities associated with the sport of long boarding. A friendly competition is held on the 4th Sunday of every month and regular events are held in conjunction with other longboard clubs throughout the region. These are popular events with our members bringing surfing and socialising together.

In 2017, Cabarita’s breaks hosted the Australian Longboard titles. Our club members performed strongly with commendable places from Trista Wagner (3rd in the Women’s over 35’s), Mike Pimm’s 2nd in the Over 60’s Mens and Ben Johnson’s 4th in the Over 40 Men’s Division. Our Club now has two Australian Champions: Mike Pimm: Winner of the Over 55’s Mens and Kirsty Best: Winner in the Womens Over 35’s. We hope to rehost the event in years to come, reflecting on the beauty of our coastline, the consistency and challenge of our waves and bringing the popularity of our event to the wider surfing community. Many greats and sadly departed surfing legends have been part of our club. Australian surfing legend and pioneering surfboard manufacturer Joe Larkin was our patron and lived in Cabarita until his passing this year. The first Women’s World Surfing Champion, Phyllis O’Donnell has also been a part of our club.

Alongside these clubs, **Tweed Coast Girls Board Riders** was created by local surfer Caroline Jackson with the help of a few other local women in 2011. At its peak, it boasted 60 members, many of

whom were young girls from Cabarita Beach/Bogangar and surrounding villages. While this club is currently inactive, it is hoped that it will be rejuvenated in years to come. It is also testimony to the love and commitment to surfing of the women in our community, many of whom share memberships with Caba Boardriders and Cabarita Longboarders.

History of the Cabarita Beach Surf Lifesaving Club - Prepared by CBSLSC

Cabarita Beach Surf Life Saving Club was formed in 1961 from an original membership of 30 people who operated out of a shed at the back of the Cabarita Beach Hotel. The Membership has since grown to over 700 Members. This includes Active Members, General Active Helping Members, Junior Members and Associate Members. CBSLC is affiliated with Surf Life Saving Australia and aim to provide voluntary life saving services to our beaches. Members are actively involved in preventing drowning and injury to visitors to any of our patrolled beaches. A new clubhouse in 2006 now includes a bar, meals and function area has meant this club has an enormous presence in the Cabarita Beach/Bogangar community.

The CBSLSC is a family oriented club, educating parents and their children about healthy lifestyles, safety in the surf and service to communities. Continuing the fine tradition of Australian Surf Life Saving, during the season, CBSLC can be found training for their duties, watching the surf and caring for the thousands that descend on their beach. As the population of Cabarita Beach and surrounds has increased so too has the number of next generation lifesavers and on any given Sunday, the beach is a sea of the pink rash shirts that signal the Nippers are training.

Final Remarks

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our Surfing Reserve Nomination. We care passionately about our beaches, our surf...our place. A Surfing Reserve will announce our dedication to all who live here and inspire locals and those who visit to 'share, protect and preserve' a beautiful slice of the Tweed and Australian coast.

Please find attached our Letters of Support that attest to community support for this nomination.



**Cabarita
Boardriders**

13 September 2017

Letter of support for Cabarita Beach / Bogangar Regional Surfing Reserve.

It is with great pleasure that Cabarita Boardriders sends its full support for the nomination of the Cabarita Beach / Bogangar Regional Surfing Reserve. We believe this a great move forward for our surfing and beach loving community and truly deserving of our beautiful beaches, surf breaks and coastal region. We are so blessed to live in such a magical surf rich paradise. To have recognition as an Australian Regional Surfing Reserve is a great attribute for not only Cabarita Boardriders but for our whole community.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Savage'.

Brent Savage
President - Cabarita Boardriders
0477 122 559

Appendix B: Support Letter Cabarita Longboarders



11 September, 2017

This is a letter of support on behalf of the Cabarita Longboarders Club for the nomination of our area as a Surfing Reserve.

Our headland has unique historic cultural connections, overlooks pristine marine habitats that capture incredible migrations of the humpback whales and provides idyllic conditions for families and competitors to enjoy the waves.

We rotate with the Short Board Club and the Surf Life Saving Community in guarding the legacy of our clean beaches and surf breaks.

Our community trust has dune care, land and environment management as well as ocean and water maintenance groups. All are keen to ensure we can support and keep our natural heritage of outstanding water reserves.

Steven Peterson (President)

Appendix C: Support Letter Cabarita Beach/Bogangar Resident's Association



President: Jillian Hargreaves **Vice President:** Gary Buckpitt
Secretary: Suzi Bourke **Treasurer:** Melissa Jones
Correspondence: PO 100 Bogangar 2488.
Email: info@cabaritabeach.org **Web:** www.cabaritabeach.org
Facebook: CabaResos

September 2017

The Cabarita Beach / Bogangar Residents Association wholeheartedly supports the nomination of this coastal area for classification as a Regional Surfing Reserve.

The beach, dunes and surrounding bushland are greatly loved by locals and attract many visitors from the hinterland and interstate. Our village fights hard to maintain the small village coastal character without high rise development. We love the headland which is extensively used as a passive whale watching area, an exercise trail and general viewpoint.

People have enjoyed surfing here since the 60s. The surf here is consistently good as there is always a beach to surf between Casuarina and Hastings Point. Our Surf Club has about 250 Nippers and the village also has a strong Board Riders group. Caba has hosted many Surfing Championships over the years including the Australian Titles this year. Facilities at the Cabarita Lions park attract many families not only to surf and paddle but to picnic and celebrate special occasions in the healthy outdoors.

Cabarita DuneCare is an active voluntary group who maintain the dunes and native Banksia forest fringing the coastline. They initiated a Bush Tucker Trail along the natural tracks formed over the years by surfers accessing the waves.

Yours faithfully

Suzanne Bourke
Secretary CBBRA
0417349274

suzi.bourke@gmail.com

Appendix D: Support Letter Cabarita Beach Surf Life Saving Club



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10/10/17

Cabarita Beach/Bogangar Regional Surfing Reserve

We fully support the nomination of Cabarita Beach being recognised as an Australian Regional Surfing Reserve. Our beautiful beach is a great asset for the whole beach loving community and truly deserving of our beach, surf break and coastline.

Our Club members, Nippers and their families enjoy and use every aspect of the beach, surf and parkland and having it declared a Surfing Reserve would enhance their enjoyment.

Yours sincerely

Fay Akers
Secretary



Appendix E: Support Letter Tweed Shire Council