

Warwick Anderson runs Kingfisher Oysters on Wapengo Lake

WAPENGO ESTUARY PROFILE

ESTUARY TYPE - Open Coastal Lake

WATER SOURCE - Wapengo Creek and minor creeks

ESTUARY SALINITY - 30 to 35 ppt

SEAGRASSES - Paddle Weed (Halophila) and Eelgrass (Zostera)

SURROUNDING LAND - Mangroves (Grey and a few River), Saltmarsh, Forest (Private, State and some National Park) and limited Agriculture.

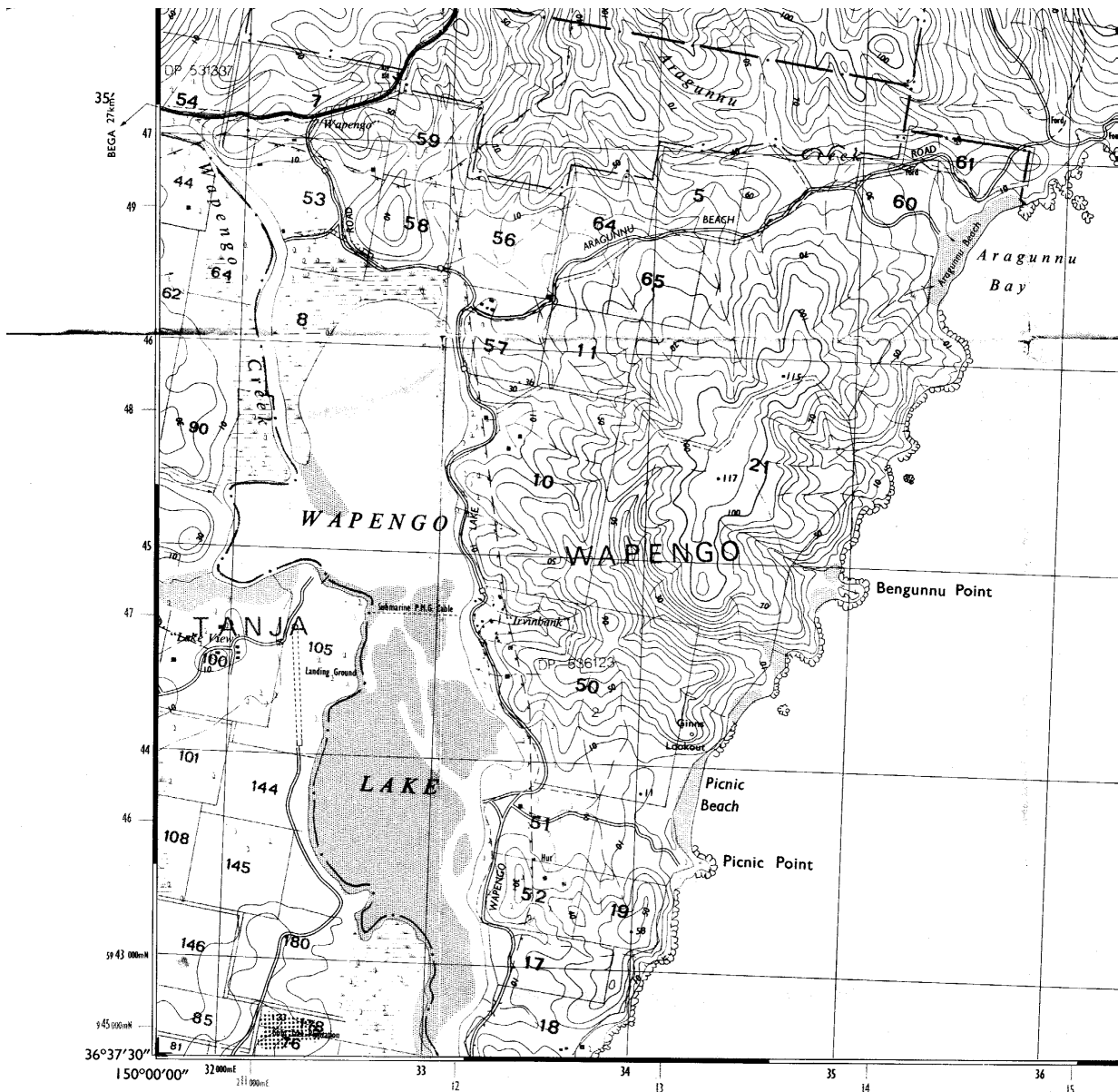
Wapengo Lake is a shallow estuary with a north/south axis, being approximately four kilometres long by one wide. The estuary mouth opens through two rocky headlands flowing through a system of channels into a back (northern) basin of about one square kilometre, having an average depth of about 1.5 metres. The estuary has a very good tidal flow.

Sydney Rock oysters are grown in the Middle and Back Lake, Angasi Oysters in the Mid Lake and Pacifics in the Front and Middle Lake. The shallow Back Lake is exposed to strong winds on many occasions, the resulting wave action stirring up the nutrient rich sediments and combined with the vigorous flow of seawater can induce high levels of phytoplankton, on which the oysters feed.

Unusually, Wapengo is nearly totally surrounded by mangroves with their accompanying salt marshes and is fortunate in having little human development in its catchment area, which is also quite small.

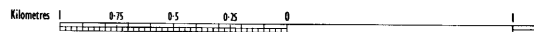
The lake has a mud bottom in most of the Back Lake and sand/mud in the Middle, becoming sand towards the entrance. A variety of algae are present, including Hormosira or "Neptune's necklace".

At their best a Wapengo Sydney Rock oyster has a beautiful blend of flavour, with nutty/algal notes, sweet firm flesh with a creamy finish.



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- Road loose surface two or more lanes; Bridge; Mile post
- Road loose surface one lane; Embankment; Cutting
- Track vehicular, unimproved earth; Gate; Cattle Grid
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- Building; School; Post Office; Police Station; Windpump; Mine
- Horizontal control point (with height); Landm
- Bench mark (with height); Spot height appr
- Mud; Sand
- Landmark landmark; Rocky pinnacle; Cave
- Contours

