

Whaling at Twofold Bay



Green Cape Lighthouse

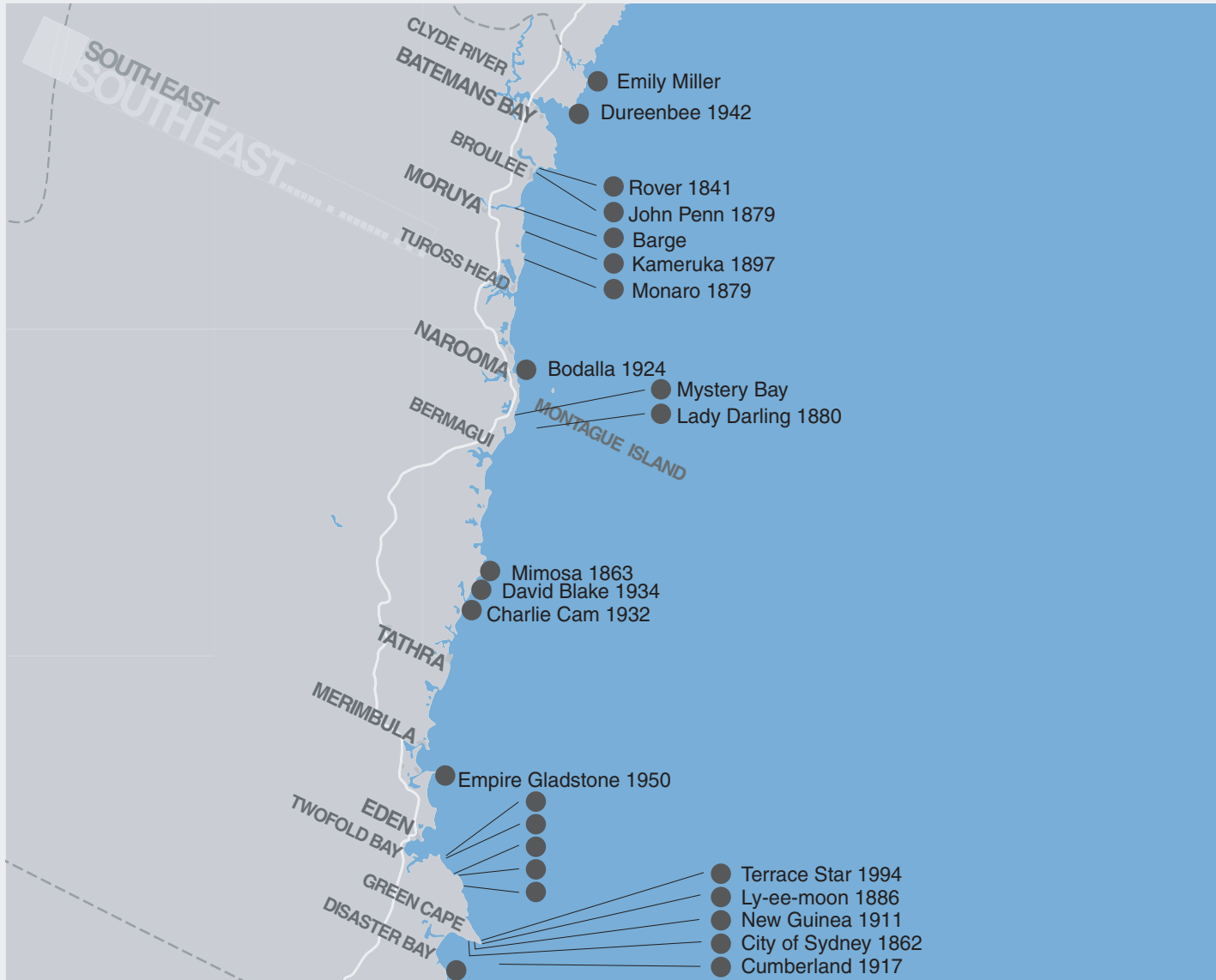
River basins extend from Batemans Bay to Cape Howe and are smaller than equivalent valleys on the north coast, though the Bega Valley is of considerable size. European settlement came chiefly by sea and small harbours string the coastline. Dominant land use has been dairying but at times pigs, maize and sorghum have also been important, as has fishing.

Communications with Sydney were at first dependant on sailing boats and, after 1858, on steamships operating from their Illawarra base. The region developed slowly as a pastoral area but developed an important shore based whaling industry at Twofold Bay. Whaling involved the Aboriginal community as equal partners to an unusual degree. Perhaps for some at least, this may have partially compensated for the loss of lifeways through European settlement on the coast and valleys. When the whale industry closed in the 1920s, tuna became a major commercial source, leading to the establishment of the Narooma cannery in 1937. Now that the sea once again contains whales, whale watching, along with game fishing, attracts many tourists.

The seas off the South Coast contain many important shipwrecks. They are significant evidence of coastal and international trade over 150 years. They are also evidence of the impact of WWII on shipping in Australian waters.

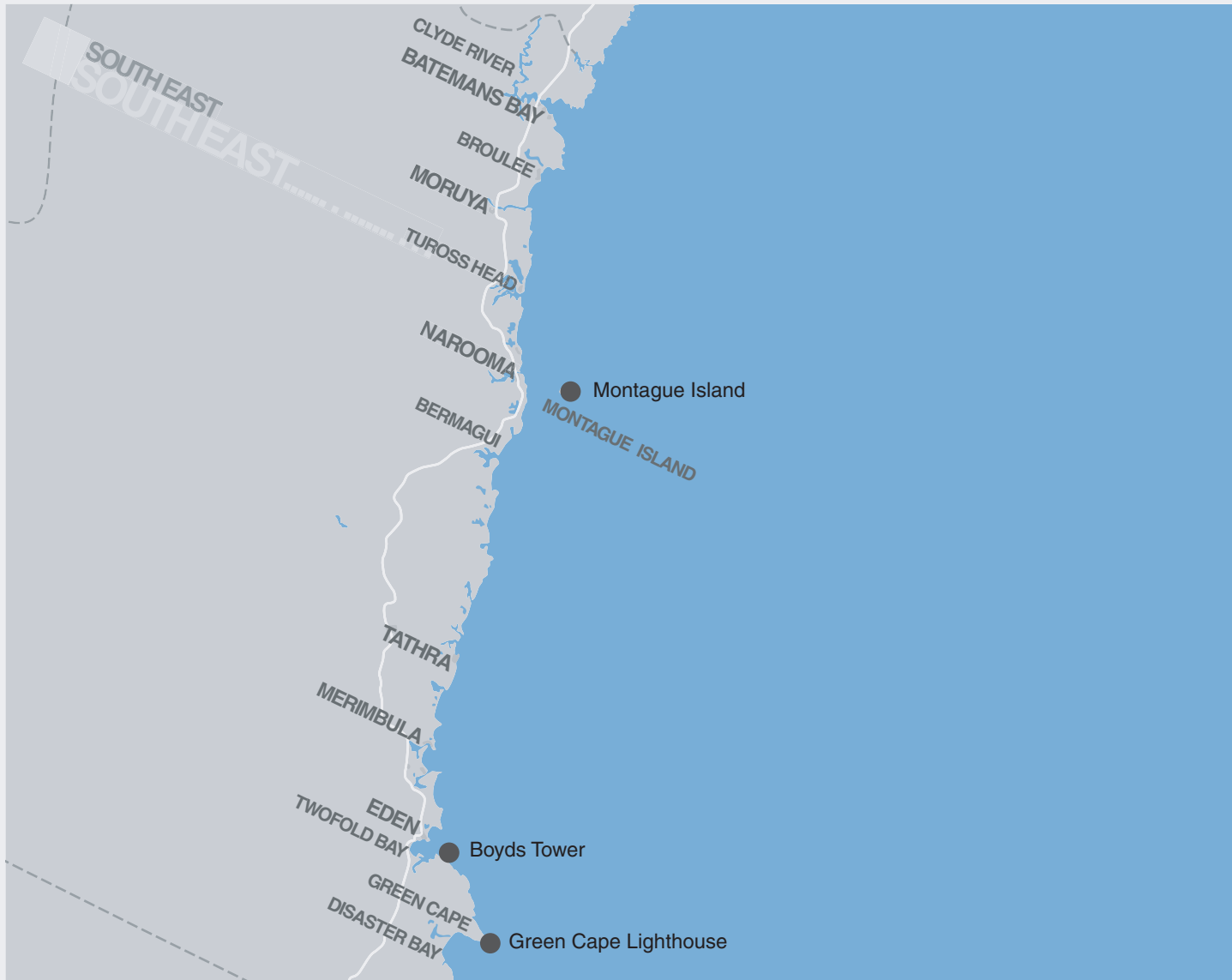


SOUTH EAST - SHIPWRECKS



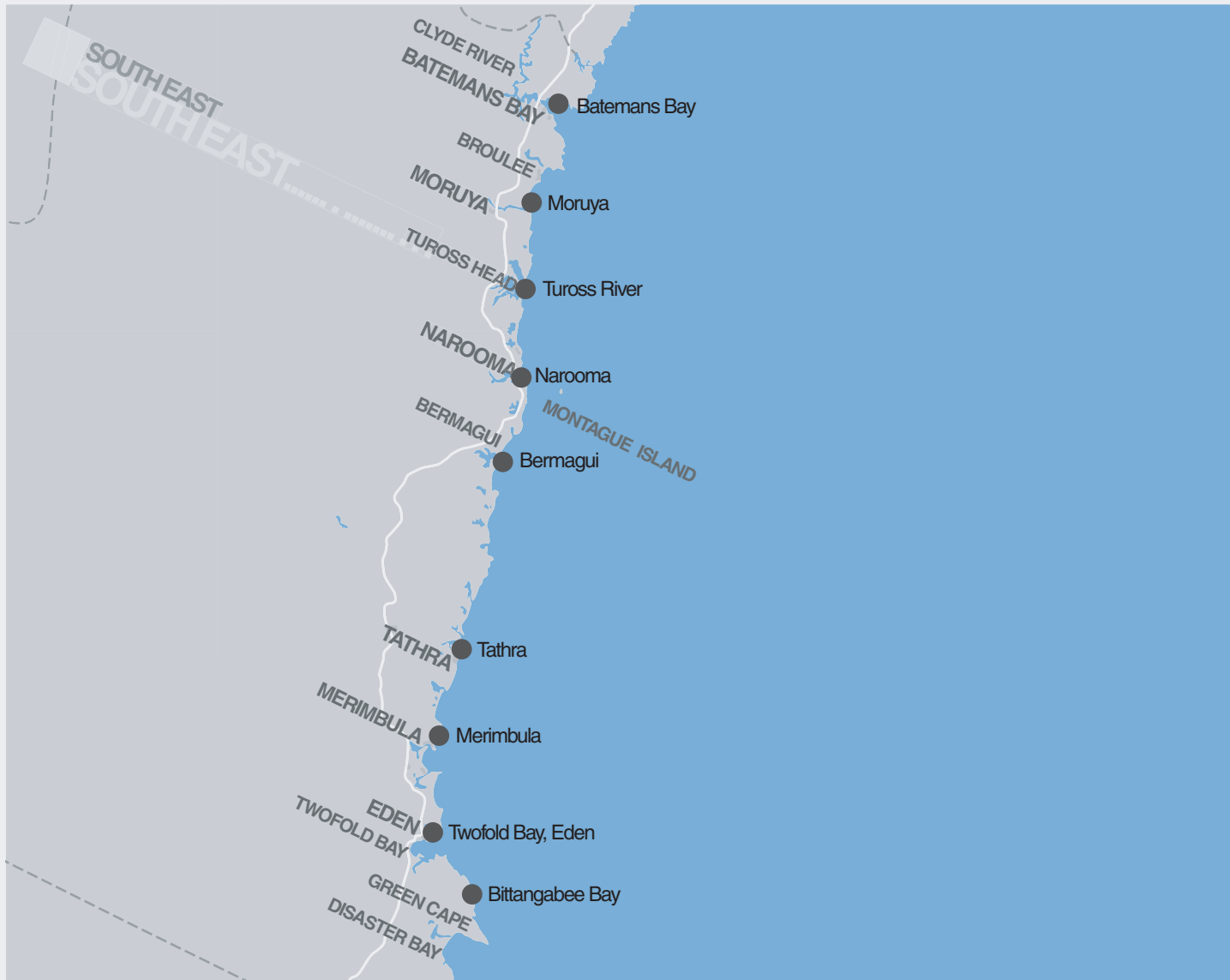
SOUTH EAST - LIGHTHOUSES

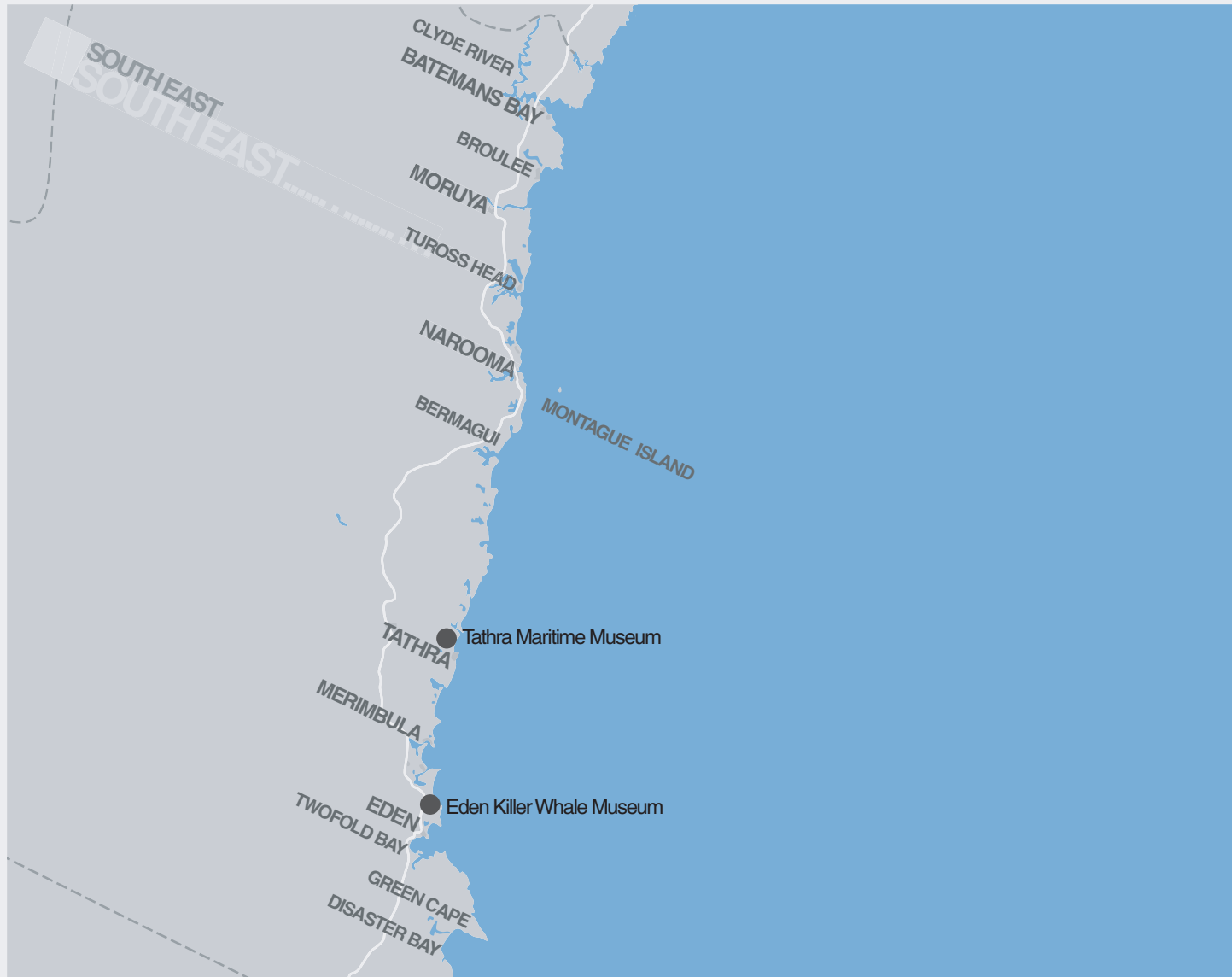
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SOUTH EAST - PORTS, HARBOURS

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SOUTH EAST - CEMETERIES

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