

Tony Robinson Walks – Round Table Meeting
Wednesday 28th September, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Attendees

Cr. John Tate, Wendy Badger, Dr Rosemary Barnard, Kerrie Brauer, Sarah Cameron, Jude Constable, Gianni Di Gravio, Susan Effenberger, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Ann Hardy, Dene Hawken, Nola Hawken, Garry Hazell, Annette Hubber, Ros Kerr, Sophie Mill, Bill Nethery, Bronwyn Orrock, Melanie Patfield, Keith Powell, Dean James Rigney, Kaitlyn Sheppard, Tim Smith, Keith Southall, Allan Walker, John Waring.

Welcome to country – Aunty Nola Hawkins, an Awabakal descendant, welcomed all attendees.

Introduction

Professor John Fryer described in detail the background to the *Tony Robinson Walks* program, including meeting with the researcher Katy Morrison and the potential sites that may be visited. Potential sites include: Nobbys, Macquarie Pier, Fort Scratchley, Christchurch Cathedral and cemetery, James Fletcher Hospital site/Bogey Hole, Rose Cottage, Maritime History and the Star Hotel Riot. The possible inclusion of some indigenous stories or references was stressed during discussions with Katy Morrison.

Filming Approvals – Annette Hubber, Screen Hunter

- Screen Hunter will work with the producers of *Tony Robinson Walks* to ensure that places are legally covered and to determine the logistics of filming. They will work to issue one consent for all filming.
- Screen Hunter already has a working relationship with Crown Lands, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Port Corporation etc., and will begin a working relationship with other involved stakeholders, such as Hunter New England Mental Health.
- Screen Hunter has already been in contact with the producers of *Tony Robinson Walks* – the locations will be confirmed in the coming weeks.
- In response to a question, Annette said that, in general, 90% of corporations allow Screen Hunter the rights to use the film again for promotional uses, such as on the NCC website. Screen Hunter has not yet asked the BBC for the copyright for non-profitable distribution of the film, however, it may be gained.
- The Heritage Council of NSW is an approval body for the filming/excavation of items listed on the State Heritage Register.
- Bill Nethery pointed out that Shepherds Hill is an obvious omission to the list of sites that *Tony Robinson Walks* wishes to visit – a tunnel and concrete bunker are part of the site.

- Currently, there are no landholders that have any problems with the filming. Annette will speak to Health as it has to be taken to their communication team in order to gain approval.

Excavation Approvals

- Excavation approvals can be a detailed process as we are dealing with Government bureaucracy and archaeology.
- The excavation co-directors of the Macquarie Pier dig (Paul Rheinberger and Terry Moore) will be working pro-bono. The Macquarie Pier excavation permit will soon be submitted to the Heritage Branch. Once the permit is approved, the Macquarie Pier project will commence. The Macquarie Pier excavation is purely for research purposes to put Newcastle on the international map. It will hopefully tie into the film production schedule and may be part of the *Tony Robinson Walks* program.
- Newcastle City Council has instigated their own excavation approval at Christchurch Cathedral cemetery. They will need to speak with Screen Hunter to ensure that duplications don't occur. Sarah Cameron will feed the excavation timetables onto Annette at Screen Hunter. The excavation at Cathedral Park will reinstate the headstones to their original location – this will take place when *Tony Robinson Walks* commences filming.
- The logistics for excavations are completely separate from the filming approvals. Excavation permits will not be for the producers of *Tony Robinson Walks*, but for the various organisations that are involved, such as the University of Newcastle, Newcastle City Council etc. This needs to be communicated to the producers of the program.
- We need to be prepared for last-minute changes in the logistics of the program as film producers often grab opportunistic moments.

General Event Logistics

- Crowd control will be coordinated by Screen Hunter in co-operation with Livesites – they will keep areas cordoned off. The film company will be well-equipped at being quiet.
- Screen Hunter will also contact the emergency services to ensure they are aware of the filming and will contact all stakeholders to ensure that all logistics are in place.
- There needs to be a single point of contact for each organisation. Annette will be the key contact, and Gianni Di Gravio has a number of 'expert' advisors when required.
- Sarah Cameron to contact Annette about entry into the Star Hotel. The DA on the site currently allows its demolition.
- Cr. John Tate supports *Tony Robinson Walks* and believes it will open the door to other events that will promote Newcastle's history and heritage.
- A copy of these minutes will be given to the producers of the program to assist them.

Media Announcements

- Screen Hunter can set-up a media launch when the production company arrives. They will need a primary contact to deal with media questions concerning the program – Gianni Di Gravio could be the media contact.
- It was considered that to avoid any potential problems arising as to which politician should make media announcements, that local member Tim Owen and the Lord Mayor would be advised of events and their good judgement would prevail in determining who should make any announcements.
- Minister Parker's office needs to be kept in the loop in regards to media announcements.