

**COAL RIVER WORKING PARTY
ANNUAL REPORT
2013**

I would like to thank the Tom Farrell Institute and the University of Newcastle for their ongoing support, and congratulate everyone who has attended and assisted in the ongoing work of the University's Coal River Working Party for 2013. We continue to work towards our primary mission and goals:

Our Mission

To achieve world recognition for Newcastle and the Hunter Region's historical contribution to the development of the Australian nation.

Our Goals

GOAL 1. TO HAVE NEWCASTLE AND THE HUNTER REGION'S IMPORTANT HISTORIC SITES NATIONALLY RECOGNISED

GOAL 2. TO ENSURE OUR LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS ARE WORKING EFFECTIVELY FOR OUR HERITAGE

GOAL 3. TO LOCATE, AND PHYSICALLY OR DIGITALLY REPATRIATE ARCHIVAL RECORDS OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH IMPORTANCE TO THE REGION

GOAL 4. TO RESEARCH, INVESTIGATE AND VERIFY HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

GOAL 5. TO INSPIRE AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE TO PROMOTE HERITAGE ACROSS THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Our achievements for 2013 include:

National Nomination - Newcastle's Coal River (*Mulubinba*) & Government Domain

In March we submitted a national nomination for the Coal River and Government Domain. We wish to especially thank Ann Hardy, Dr Brian Walsh, Russell Rigby, Kerrie Brauer, and Professor Erik Eklund (Monash University) and Dr David Roberts (University of New England) for their support and work for this nomination. It can be downloaded here:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/03/10/newcastles-7000-years-of-achievements-before-the-commonwealth/>

Newcastle Treasures Exhibition

We have been actively involved with the Newcastle Treasures Exhibition from its inception. As University Archivist and Chair CRWP:

1. Filmed the announcement at Fort Scratchley in October 2012 and created a blog post for the Coal River Working Party site:

Historic Return of Newcastle Treasures for Exhibition

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2012/10/30/historic-return-of-newcastle-treasures-for-exhibition/>

2. Wrote an article for the exhibition catalogue entitled "La Divina Commedia di Mulubinba: The Art and Science of Time Travel. Available here:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/03/10/newcastles-7000-years-of-achievements-before-the-commonwealth/> and here

http://coalriver.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/treasures_newcastle_catalogue1.pdf

3. On the 1 May 2013 I delivered a presentation on the Treasures Exhibition to the Society Event "Coffee with Art"

4. On the 3rd May 2013 I attended, presented, and filmed all eleven (11) presentations for the Newcastle Hunter Studies Symposium held at the Gallery and featuring scholars from around the County. These were digitised

and uploaded to our Coal River blog here:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/04/16/the-newcastle-hunter-studies-symposium/>

Ludwig Leichhardt 200th Anniversary

In January/February 2013 we prepared background documents, and organised meetings with scholars relating to explorer Ludwig Leichhardt's visits to Newcastle and the Hunter Region and provided our reading room for an Australian based German film company making a documentary for German television on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/01/29/ludwig-leichhardt-in-newcastle/>

City Evolutions

Members of the Coal River Working Party have been involved with the City Evolutions Project since its fledgling origins with Bronwyn Law and the Newcastle Precinct Business Committee back in 2009. It has been through three (or four) incarnations since then. From January 2013 we began meeting with Sarah Barns who successfully brought it to fruition, culminating in two applicants from the University's Architecture and Communication Faculties winning the joint grant last year (2012) from Newcastle City Council. These projections utilise our Cultural Collections images, especially the Ralph Snowball images, as well as some recorded interviews. The following Uni blog report features the 1830 Armstrong plan against the David Maddison Building:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/engage/#!/students-research-the-evolution-of-newcastles-oldest-street>

City Evolutions was launched 21 June 2013 5pm Watt Street. City Evolutions is a Newcastle "Vivid" Style Event which will continue from sunset to 10pm every night for a year.

Here is the blog story on the City Evolutions Project for Watt Street.

<http://blogs.newcastle.edu.au/blog/2013/05/28/uon-technology-to-light-up->

[newcastle/](#)

There has also been a news report on TV news NBN:

<http://www.nbnnews.com.au/index.php/2013/05/28/newcastles-watt-street-transformed-after-dark/>

EDO workshop on Heritage Law

The Environmental Defender's Office (EDO) Workshop was held on 21st May 2013 from 6pm to 9pm in the Advanced Technology Centre University of Newcastle. Special thanks must go to Professor Tim Roberts and the Tom Farrell Foundation for hosting the workshop.

Quest for Macquarie Pier 2013

On the 13th August 2013 geophysicists from GBG Australia began a subsurface investigation using ground penetrating radar (GPR) and electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) to locate the buried structure. The results from the ERT were very positive. Two archaeological firms have come forward to assist in the Project. Kerrie Grant, archaeologist from RPS (Australia & Asia Pacific) and Tim Adams Senior Archaeologist, Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd are preparing another ERT at the approx 1830 location of the stonework to confirm GBG Australia's findings, and, should the results be good, then prepare an archaeological research design to take to Council, the Heritage Branch and other stakeholders.

Newcastle App

Ann Hardy is co-ordinating a project to create a Newcastle App modelled on the National Trust's Lost Melbourne app. To date she has secured funding through the University's Vera Deacon Regional History Fund and External Relations as well as research support through Coal River Working Party and Lost Newcastle, and cooperative support through the City of Newcastle's Museum, Tourism and Local Studies Section.

Aboriginal Dual Naming of Newcastle's Landmarks

We are delighted to report that NSW Geographical Names Board and Newcastle City Council have unanimously endorsed the proposal prepared by the Guraki Committee to dual name eight features of Newcastle to recognise its Aboriginal history. The CRWP, along with Vera Deacon, Librarian of the Stockton Historical Society have long championed the idea of dual naming. Back in 2008 we prepared a proposal to dual name Nobbys (Whibayganba) following the re-discovery of evidence in the Fieldbooks of Sir Thomas Mitchell. See: <http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2008/11/17/nobbys-whibayganba/>

For more info on the recent proposal see:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/11/06/unanimous/>

3D Virtual Newcastle Time Machine

The work of Charles Martin on our 3D Virtual Newcastle Project (partly funded through the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund) was featured in an article "Painting a Bigger View" by Mike Scanlon on the exhibition and its curator Elizabeth Ellis. It is available here:

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/07/24/next-stage-of-3d-virtual-1820-newcastle-set-to-proceed/> and directly

here: <http://coalriver.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/2013-20jul-nh-p014.jpg>

Coal River Working Party Supporting Community Initiatives in the media and social networking

Our twitter and Facebook pages provided links to our blog stories as well as topical media stories. Our members provided creative support to the ABC Then and Now Photo Project, using resourcing provided by the Uni's Cultural Collections flickr site and other repositories as well as providing opinion pieces to stories involving heritage in the public eye.



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Video: Now and Then Photo Project

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1693475/video-now-and-then-photo-project/?cs=305>

Opinion Piece : Nobbys preservation historic achievement by David Shoebridge

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1371296/opinion-nobbys-preservation-historic-achievement/?cs=308>

Local Treasures: Time Travel Dalwood Style

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2013/06/19/local-treasures-time-travel-dalwood-style/>

Opinion: No point cutting out city's historic heart by Ann Hardy

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1665149/opinion-no-point-cutting-out-citys-historic-heart/?cs=308>

Macquarie Pier Revival by Janek Speight

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1695782/macquarie-pier-revival/?cs=305>

Opinion: Festive makeover to help Post office by Gionni Di Gravio

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1799131/opinion-festive-makeover-to-help-post-office/>

Blog Posts

Ludwig Leichhardt in Newcastle

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/01/29/ludwig-leichhardt-in-newcastle/>

Stockton is Newcastle's First Settlement? (Jan 24, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/01/24/stockton-is-newcastles-first-settlement/>

Corporal Wixtead and the fate of Newcastle's first Settlement in 1801 (Jan 15 2013)

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<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/01/15/corporal-wixtead-and-the-fate-of-newcastles-first-settlement-in-1801/>

Lake Macquarie in 1907 (Feb 10, 2013) - The Captain Deed Map

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/02/10/lake-macquarie-in-1907/>

Port Stephens in 1828 – Joseph Cross (Feb 8, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/02/08/port-stephens-in-1828/>

Newcastle in 1830 – The Armstrong Map Newly Redigitised (Feb 7, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/02/07/newcastle-in-1830/>

Kooragang Island in 1871 J.T. Gowlland Surveyor (Feb 7, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/02/07/kooragang-island-in-1871/>

Awaba or Lake Macquarie in 1841 – W Proctor with annotations by W.B. Clarke (Feb 5, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/02/05/awaba-or-lake-macquarie-in-1841/>

Newcastle's 7000 Years of Achievements Before the Commonwealth (March 10, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/03/10/newcastles-7000-years-of-achievements-before-the-commonwealth/>

The Newcastle Hunter Studies Symposium (April 16, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/04/16/the-newcastle-hunter-studies-symposium/>

Local Treasures: Progressive Sydney (1938) (April 15, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/04/15/local-treasures-progressive-sydney-the-newcastle-mayfield-and-toronto-bits-1938/>

Newcastle in 1887 – The Knaggs Map (April 11, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/04/11/newcastle-in-1887-the-knaggs-map/>



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John Turner memorial Lecture 2013 – Emeritus Professor Michael Rosenthal
(April 15, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/04/15/john-turner-memorial-lecture-2013-emeritus-professor-michael-rosenthal/>

Report of the EDO Workshop on Heritage Law (June 6, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/06/06/report-of-the-edo-workshop-on-heritage-law/>

Next Stage of 3D Virtual 1820 Newcastle Set To Proceed (July 24, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/07/24/next-stage-of-3d-virtual-1820-newcastle-set-to-proceed/>

Why Mark Twain Lost a Tooth in Newcastle (July 20, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/07/20/why-mark-twain-lost-a-tooth-in-newcastle/>

The Many Names of Newcastle-Mulubinba (August 30, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/08/30/the-many-names-of-newcastle-mulubinba/>

Quest for Macquarie Pier 2013 (August 20, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/08/20/quest-for-macquarie-pier-2013/>

The Life and Times of Macquarie Pier (September 11, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/09/11/the-life-and-times-of-macquarie-pier/>

Newcastle Rejected from National Story (October 31, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/10/31/newcastle-rejected/>

University Researchers One Step Closer to Father of Australia (October 23, 2013)

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/10/23/university-researchers-one-step-closer-to-father-of-australia/>

True Crime: Mason Young and Hooper by Dr David Murray (November 25,



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<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/11/25/true-crime-mason-young-and-hooper/>

No of CRWP blog hits: 36,499 (to Dec1)

Overall: 122,197

Number of hits on flickr = 10 million +

This report was read at the December 2013 meeting of the CRWP.

Gionni Di Gravio

Chair – UoN Coal River working Party