

**University of Newcastle's
Coal River Working Party**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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

Our Coal River Working Party Blog achieved 52,000 hits during 2014. The Cultural Collections Flickr site recorded over 13,000,000 hits during 2014.

Goal 1 – To have Newcastle and Hunter Region's important sites nationally recognised

Requests for use of images from our collections has been granted to the producers of Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty, which was filmed in Newcastle earlier in the year, and to screen internationally in 2015. Background research was also prepared for The Birdwood Flag and Warriors Chapel in Christchurch.

See: <http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2014/05/09/birdwood-flag/>

In September 2014 we prepared an ANZAC Centenary Application for "Australia's Forgotten ANZACS: Lost Images from Australia's First Conflict – The Fall of German Papua New Guinea"

Goal 2 – To ensure legislative frameworks are working effectively

We continue to advocate by spreading heritage related stories, and opening comment feeds through our Coal River twitter @CoalRiverWP and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Coal-River-Working-Party/190756727625437> accounts across a variety of Heritage related issues that appear in the local print, radio and television media.

Goal 3 – To locate and physically or digitally repatriate records of historical importance to Region

The Hannan Photographic Archive, consisting of over 100,000 original negatives across the latter half of the 20th century, 1950s - 2000s
The archives of three generations of the Bennett Family who established the Dungog Chronicle and other regional newspapers. 1880s - 1950s

The Rodoni Collection of around 700 glass plate negatives relating to 1914 New Guinea Conflict and photographs of NSW circa 1910-1930s
We have also received a donation of papers from David Dial belonging to one of the writers on the Expeditionary Force, Douglas Alison Adam, which provides some of the official records of the campaign, of which Rodoni's glass negatives complement beautifully.

Ten films were successfully digitised, along with another one (existing on two 16mm reels). In addition 8 DVD roms of further digitised Hunter Valley films, donated by Peter Smith (a former employee of the Hunter Valley Diary Co-operative) have also been transferred from disc to MKV and m4v formats and saved to the RDSi.

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

The following blog posts were prepared and published on the Coal River website:

January 2014

The Ancient Corroboree Ground at Wickham

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/01/20/corroboree-wickham/>

February 2014

3D Virtual Newcastle – What Charles and Vera Achieved in 34 Days
– Launch of Charles 3D work, and Marilla North’s “Vera Deacon: A pen portrait part 1: 1926-1946” in Volume 38 Issue 1/2 (2013) of Hecate with special cake made by Vittorio and Berenice Di Gravio

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/02/16/34-days/>

Local treasures: Newcastle Public Infrastructure in 1829 – Dr Ann Hardy and Gianni Di Gravio photograph a series of important papers in NSW State Records

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2014/02/18/local-treasures-newcastles-public-infrastructure-in-1829/>

March 2014

3D Hunter project – Newcastle in 1818 and 1830 Flythroughs published through You Tube

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/03/13/3d-virtualhunter/>

Local Treasures: The George Freeman Album – high resolution images of Newcastle from a family album

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2014/03/03/george-freeman/>

And

Case 2 in Dr David Murray's Coal River True Crime Series "Tiernan, Smith and Desmond: The Men from God Knows Where" published on our blog:
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/03/06/true-crime-2/>

April 2014

Local Treasures: Newcastle's King Edward Park by Dr Ann Hardy published on the Newcastle Government Domain site:
<https://governmenthousebarracks1804.wordpress.com/2014/04/22/king-edward-park/>

History of Carrington by Edward (Ted) Coulin) - first history of Carrington published through the Coal River site, with blessings of the family.
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/04/28/history-of-carrington-by-edward-ted-coulin/>

Archaeological Site Visit to 9 Watt Street Newcastle (Tattersalls)
Dr Ann Hardy and Gianni Di Gravio film a tour of the archaeological remains with Tim Adams, Senior Archaeologist and Excavation Director with Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/04/08/9wattst-tattersalls/>

Newcastle Coal Mining & Government Mines 1796-19820s
Article by Dr Ann Hardy published on the Coal River Site
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/04/01/newcastle-coal/>

May 2014

Charles Martin's 3D Virtual Newcastle Time Machine featured in a Herald series Newcastle Next displaying visions of Newcastle across time:
<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2274025/newcastle-next-time-machine-project-creates-insights-into-citys-history-video/?cs=305>

Australia in 1846 –early map of Australia published on Coal River Site in high resolution

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/05/25/australia-in-1846/>

Newcastle and Hunter Thanks the TROVE Team

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/05/22/thankyoutrove/>

Case 3 in Dr David Murray’s Coal River True Crime Series “The Sandhills” published on our blog:

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/05/02/true-crime-the-sandhills/>

June 2014

Local Treasures: Story of an Angel – History of Newcastle’s Mental Health Service by Dr Ann Hardy published on the Government Domain site:

<https://governmenthousebarracks1804.wordpress.com/2014/06/23/story-of-an-angel-history-of-newcastles-mental-health-service/>

Valley of the Hunter River (1960) - rare 16mm black and white film digitised and published through Coal River site:

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/06/02/valley-of-the-hunter-river-1960/>

Local Treasures: The UoN Hunter Film and Sound Archive – newly digitised 16mm films from the Hunter Valley Dairy Co-Operative (formerly the Oak)

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2014/06/10/hunter-film-sound-archive/>

Novocastria – NovoTalk No. 1 Travels across deep time by Gionni Di Gravio Art Gallery

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2014/06/01/novotalk1/>

July 2014 (The month of Ann)

Dr Ann Hardy’s Thesis on the James Fletcher Hospital Site:

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/07/31/hardythesis/>

Dr Ann Hardy's Newcastle Volunteer Service Award for her work for Coal River Working Party since 2007

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/07/30/volunteeraward2014/>

NewcastleWOW App in development

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/07/22/newcastle-wow/>

Newcastle from the air, circa 1928 - Milton Kent Airplane Photographs, Sydney.

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/07/18/newcastle-air/>

Jame Thomas Morissett – A Family Story by Ronald and Margaret Thompson

Morissett from the perspective of family hoping to address many historical misconceptions and errors – published on the Coal River site

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/07/18/morisset/>

The Work of Frederick B. Menkens Architect 1855-1910 by Les Reedman (1956) - full thesis published on the Coal River site

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/07/17/menkens/>

August 2014

Milton Kent's Airplane Photographs of Newcastle – even higher resolution images of aerial Newcastle published on Coal River

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/08/25/newcastle-aerial-photos/>

Telling Tales: Hunter history told through simple stories and perfect pictures Exhibition at Lovett gallery featuring the drawings of Dudley Lewis and 3D Artist Charles Martin

<http://uoncc.wordpress.com/2014/08/12/telling-tales/>

September 2014

3D Virtual Hunter Project: The Scott's Homestead on Ash Island

Began assembling material required for further work on the Hunter River Islands and Scott Sisters Home

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/09/27/ash-island/>

Case 4 in Dr David Murray's Coal River True Crime Series "Jacob's Mob" published on our blog:

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/09/21/true-crime-jacobs-mob/>

Newcastle - First Among Seconds?

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/09/02/newcastle-first-among-seconds/>

Background information to support Suzanne Martin's story in the Newcastle

Herald <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2540187/newcastles-founding-civic-document-video/?cs=305>

Uploaded over (46) Heritage Reports commissioned from 1963 to 2014 to Coal River New Research Pages:

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/key-documents/>

October 2014

Local Treasures: Newcastle 'Girls' - Chaos and Mayhem in the City – by Ann Hardy and Jane Ison published on the Government Domain Site:

<https://governmenthousebarracks1804.wordpress.com/2014/10/27/newcastle-girls-chaos-and-mayhem-in-the-city/>

The drawings of Edward Charles Close (1844) - four paintings of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie in an album in the State Library of NSW

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/10/28/close-1844/>

November 2014

Dr Ann Hardy – Outstanding Service to The National Trust of Australia Award

Guest Speaking Engagements during 2014:

Coal & Community Exhibition Presentations at Swansea Public Library (11 Feb), Toronto Public Library (11 Mar), and Belmont (29 Apr); eResearch Showcase (21 Mar) (3D Hunter Project); U3A (20 Mar); Library Update Presentations (31 Mar); Radical Newcastle Writers Festival (6 April); Tea Gardens Research Group Book Launch (12 April); Maitland Gaol Book Launch (17 April); ARHS Visit (26 April); TAFE (30 April); Malaysian Visitors Tour (8 May); Hunter Innovation Forum (17 May); Trove Celebration Art Gallery (27 May); Novocastria Art Gallery Talk (3 June); HunterNet Donors Dinner (23 July); Merewether Probus Club (5 August); U3A (21 Aug); Eastlakes U3A (2 Oct); In Conversation Lockup Museum (6 Oct); Toronto-Macquarie Men's Probus Club (7 Oct); Greg Heys Launch (29 Oct); 40th Anniversary Raymond Terrace Historical Society (1 Nov); Northern Settlement Services Ltd (NSS) (26 Nov)

GIONNI DI GRAVIO**University Archivist****Chair – Coal River Working Party****Councillor – Australian Society of Archivists (ASA)****University of Newcastle (Australia)**