

University of Newcastle's Coal River Working Party

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Our Mission: To achieve recognition for Newcastle and the Hunter Region's contribution in the making of the Australian nation.

Our Coal River Working Party blog achieved over 43,000 hits (as at December 9 2015). We currently have 400 Facebook followers, highest post reach at 7,300 and 300 Twitter followers. 2015 Newcastle Volunteer Service Award to Mr Russell Rigby. Our website underwent a makeover in the wake of the Communications Student Audit.

GOAL 1.

To have Newcastle and the Hunter Region's important historic sites nationally recognised

On the 15 September 2015 Doug Lithgow, Dr Ann Hardy and Gianni Di Gravio addressed the Newcastle City Council Public Voice Committee on the efforts since 1969 by the Parks and Playgrounds Movement and since 2003 with the work of the CRWP to assist to document, verify and seek recognition at local state and federal level for Newcastle's contribution to the history of Australia

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/09/16/publicvoice2015/>

GOAL 2.

To ensure our legislative frameworks are working effectively for our heritage

Public Advocacy

Aboriginal Dual naming – attended meetings in March See:

<https://www.facebook.com/coalriver/photos/a.417085761659198.99880.190756727625437/1032354106799024>

Newcastle Post Office

Opinion Op-Ed: Newcastle Post Office – Our Heritage Is Crumbling (Newcastle Herald 20 May 2015) <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/17/our-crumbling-heritage/>

Bulga Mine Expansion

The Eather Manuscript – History of Bulga 1820-1921 – providing full scan, transcription and related papers including interview with late Ian Eather, nephew of A.N. Eather, author of the manuscript.

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/01/30/eather/>

James Fletcher Site – excavation and plan for car park on historic parade ground reversed (historical information provided) -
<https://governmenthousebarracks1804.wordpress.com/2014/12/16/newcastle-military-barracks/>

Boomerang Park

King Edward Park – State Heritage Register (SHR) listing continues to be pursued.

GOAL 3.

To locate, and physically (or digitally) repatriate archival records of historical research importance to the Hunter Region

The Architecture of High Street Maitland (1961) by K.D. Charlton (Uploaded February 2015) <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/02/19/charlton/>

The Newcastle Tribe (1820) (Uploaded March 2015) New Hi Resolution scan of Wallis/Preston engraving <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/03/19/the-newcastle-tribe-1820/>

Condition of the Aborigines (1846) (Uploaded May 2015) – Full scan and transcription thanks to Peter Trenbath
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/05/11/1846-aborigines/>

Historic Stroud, Port Stephens and Tahlee in Colonial Art (Uploaded June 2015)
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/16/historic-stroud-port-stephens-and-tahlee-in-colonial-art/>

Port Stephens Painted by Augustus Earle in 1825-1828 (Uploaded June 2015)
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/16/port-stephens-augustus-earle/>

Port Stephens in 1826 (Uploaded June 2015)
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/15/port-stephens-in-1826/>

William Leigh – Valley of the Hunter between Maitland and Morpeth (1853)
(Uploaded June 2015)
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/23/leigh-1853/>

John Brown's Diary (Uploaded June 2015)
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/23/john-browns-diary/>

The "We Live In This Valley" (1962) Film Archive (Uploaded July 2015)
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/07/02/hvalley1962/>

Map of the Colony of New South Wales (1834) by Sir Thomas Mitchell (Uploaded September 2015) <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/09/09/mitchell1834/>

Lt William Sacheverell Coke and Desmond

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/11/06/coke-desmond/>

Original Plans for the Victoria Theatre Newcastle

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/12/04/victoria-theatre/>

Newcastle Military Barracks - UK National Archives give permission for sources to be published.

<https://governmenthousebarracks1804.wordpress.com/2014/12/16/newcastle-military-barracks/>

Margaret Henry Oral History Archive

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2015/09/17/margaret-henry-oral-history-archive/>

Island of the Insane – our records, perceptions and the lost voices from the ‘asylum’

<https://governmenthousebarracks1804.wordpress.com/2015/12/04/islands-of-the-insane-our-records-perceptions-and-the-lost-voices-from-the-asylum/>

GOAL 4.

To research, investigate and verify historical evidence

Myrtle Villa Rediscovered (Jan 2015)

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/01/29/myrtle-villa/>

GOAL 5.

To inspire, and share knowledge and expertise to promote the importance of heritage to communities

Indigenising the City – Summary of Conference Paper (Chicago USA)

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/11/03/indigenising-the-city/>

Historical and Archival Assistance provided to:

Kurt Sorensen Lock Up Exhibition

Bonnie McBain and Phoebe Trongchittham Islington Archive Project

Mike McAuley and students – 9 Watt Street Mural

Jonathon Dawes - UON Architecture Student

Greg Wilson re Selwyn Chessmen

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/12/selwyn-chessmen/>

Amy Hardingham – TANTRUM Theatre, ‘Stories in the Steps’ Watt Street

Anne Kempton – Timeless Textiles- Industrial Girls’ School project

Diedre Brollo – artist, *Art Bender* festival Friday 8 – 9 May, Lock Up

Friends of King Edward Park – Historical Fact sheet and plans

Robert Evans – History of King Edward Park

Bel Air Public School – Dr Ann Hardy See:

<https://www.facebook.com/coalriver/photos/a.842462469121523.1073741827.190756727625437/1032974166737018/>

Julie Keating – Lambton Book Launch

Cavill's Midden Proposal to Property Council re Aboriginal Centre Concept

<http://www.kinoman.az/en/music/listen/233735238?q>

Work Integrated Learning Initiatives:

- Dr Melanie James Comm Students – Communication Audit for CRWP (May Report)
- Tim Davidson, Jeff Julian and Charles Martin re 3D Hunter Project
- Newcastle App - Ann
- Digital Humanities/Creative Industries/Rock Art – Amir and Bernadette, Ann and Gianni

Creative Non-Fiction Writing

Coal River True Crime – Port Stephens Robert by Dr David Murray

<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/06/17/port-stephens-robert/>

Publications

Article *Multidisciplinary Approach to University - Community Engagement*. By A Hardy & E Ecklund) The Australasian Journal of University-Community Engagement - Vol 9 Issue 1. (CRWP as a case study).

Nobbys *Whibayganba*: Saving the giant kangaroo. By A Hardy & G di Gravio (Chap. 2 in Radical Newcastle)

Gianni Di Gravio

Chair, Coal River Working Party

December 2015