

Coal River Working Party Meeting

2nd April, 2012 1:00pm – 3:00pm

L417 Auchmuty Library, Callaghan Campus

Minutes

Start: 1.00 pm

1. Welcome to Country

2. Present:

Gionni Di Gravio (Chair), Sarah Cameron, Lesley Gent, Ann Hardy, Jillian Huntley, Jane Ison, Doug Lithgow, Charles Martin, Amir Mogadam, Keith Parsons, Melanie Patfield (Minute taker), Brian Roach, Ken Shilling, Maree Shilling, Julianne Tilse.

Apologies:

Ron Barber, Kerrie Brauer, Anne Creevy, Sue Effenberger, Professor John Fryer, Maree Gleeson, Glenn Hardy, Dene Hawken, Nola Hawken, Russell Rigby, Brian Walsh.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

The previous minutes for 5th March 2012 were adopted as a true and faithful relation and was motioned by Lesley Gent and seconded by Ann Hardy.

4. Business arising from previous minutes:

4.1 Goal Updates

4.1.1 Goal 1 – To have Newcastle and the Hunter Region’s important historic sites nationally recognised

National Nomination for Coal River

The Government Domain Subcommittee submitted a national nomination for “Coal River (Mulubinba) and Government Domain”. This was the third attempt at getting national recognition for Newcastle’s historic sites. A copy of the national nomination was emailed to a variety of stakeholders, such as the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, the General Manager of NCC, Robyn Parker MP and the National Trust.

Resolution 01-03/2012: The nomination and introductory letter will be emailed to members of the CRWP and placed on the CRWP blog.

Resolution 02-03/2012: Gionni to arrange a meeting with Sharon Grierson MP, Federal Member for Newcastle, to discuss the nomination and allow her to formally endorse the nomination.

State Heritage Listing for King Edward Park

King Edward Park was once a State Significant item on the NCC LEP and the site has also been included on the National Nomination for Coal River. Items currently on the State Heritage Register include the Bogey Hole and the Rotunda. The administrative process to place items on the SHR needs to be reviewed as some Newcastle State Significant sites have not yet been gazetted. Robert Evans and Liz Thwaites are working on the listing – if anyone has any information that could assist the nomination, please contact Ann Hardy.

Resolution 03-03/2012: Gionni to write to Robyn Parker and Tim Owen to ensure they are aware that King Edward Park was once listed as State Significant on the NCC LEP.

Resolution 04-03/2012: Sarah Cameron to check the details of King Edward Park in the NCC LEP.

4.1.4 Goal 4 - to research, investigate and verify historical evidence

Macquarie Pier Excavation

An archaeological excavation was previously ruled out; however, a GPR was seen as the best approach. The involvement of Sydney University could be a workable option where students can conduct the GPR.

Resolution 05-03/2012: Sarah to contact Ted Higginbotham to see if he is interested in working on the project.

Resolution 06-03/2012: Gionni to email Sue Effenberger to attain the scope of the project.

Resolution 07-03/2012: Jillian to email Gionni her contacts that may be interested in conducting a GPR.

4.1.5 Goal 5 – to inspire and share knowledge and expertise to promote heritage across the wider community

Heritage Walk Brochures – Charles Martin

Charles Martin is currently working with EJE to create a series of brochures promoting heritage walks in the Newcastle area. The brochures will give members of the public an introduction to Newcastle's heritage. They will feature a variety of photographs and maps so that the information can be easily digested. The six brochures will be circulated to schools and libraries and will be fact checked before they are distributed – the CRWP is available to make comments on the draft version of the brochures if required.

Tim Owen is very keen and supportive of these brochures and the promotion of Newcastle's heritage. Funding for the printing of the brochures could come from a range of places, such as the State Government. Prominent citizens of the time could be another series of brochures in the future. There may also be the possibility of developing an app once these brochures are complete.

National Trust Heritage Festival – “Innovation and Invention”

The festival will run from Friday 13th April to Sunday 29th April. The festival will open with the Art of Ideas art exhibition at The Lock Up on Friday 13th April. Other events include a walking tour of Miss Porter's neighbourhood and a “Hunter Innovation and Invention” forum at Newcastle City Hall.

6. General Business

6.1 Maitland Vale Tree Preservation

The development that could potentially impact upon the River Red Gums has now slowed as the developers have been declared bankrupt. Julianne is still taking measures to officially recognise the River Red Gums. The River Red Gums have not yet been recognised in the DA, which would essentially assign them protection due to that status. It would be useful in the future to invest in an arborist to officially classify the trees as River Red Gums, which will give them a legal preservation status. It would also be useful to build an archive of vegetation along the Hunter River. The River Red Gums could also be listed on the significant tree register with Maitland City Council. More information on the surveyors mark could be found on the State Heritage Register.

6.2 CRWP Strategy Workshop

A CRWP planning document “Developing Strategic Projects for 2012” has been created by Ann and Glenn Hardy.

6.3 School History Competition

The School History competition will be aimed at grades 9 – 11 in the Newcastle, Maitland and Port Stephens areas. Students can create a short film (7 minutes maximum) on a theme set out on the competition form, which will be due by the end of term 3. Brian will contact the History and English teachers associations to gain their support. Carol Duncan, other radio stations and the Newcastle Herald may assist in advertising this event. Sarah Cameron will also assist by writing a letter to principals. Members will be able to comment on a draft version of the competition.

6.4 Aboriginal Heritage

Dene, Nola, Kerrie, Ann and Gionni had a meeting with the General Manager of Newcastle City Council concerning various Aboriginal heritage matters. We do not want a repeat of the KFC site so it is important to get the archaeological investigation completed before the pressure to build occurs.

6.5 Nobbys – Macquarie Pier Panoramas and Nobbys Stories

John Waring of Live Sites collected five framed prints and three panoramas from the Fort to display at the Nobbys Open Day. They and the Society have worked out an arrangement concerning keeping track of the prints and their security and care.

John Waring and Live Sites are commencing a project to capture the stories of people that have had a past association with the Nobbys site. Live Sites volunteer and a keen historian Christine Bramble will co-ordinate the project. They will be obtaining the stories in both written and aural form and the Newcastle Museum are also keen to be involved. If anyone has any interesting stories associated with the Nobbys Lighthouse, please contact Gionni, who will pass your details onto John and Christine.

7. Close 3:00pm

8. Date of next meeting: Monday 7th May, 2012