

Coal River Working Party Meeting

2nd July, 2012 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive

Minutes

Start: 1.10 pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country:

2. Present:

Gionni DiGravio (chair), Jane Ison (Minute Taker), Charles Martin, Marilla North, Leslie Gent, Ron Barber, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Russell Rigby, Robert Watson, Peter Sherlock, Ann Hardy, Sarah Cameron, Ross Edmonds, Julie-Ann Tilse, Keith Parsons, Paul Walsh, Doug Lithgow

Apologies:

Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Professor Howard Dick, Brian Walsh, Sharon Grierson, Brian Roach, Sue Effenburger, Dene Hawken, Nola Hawken, Kerrie Bauer, Anne Creevy, Susan Harvey

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

The minutes for 4th June 2012 were adopted as a true and faithful representation and was motioned by Lesley Gent and seconded by Ann Hardy.

4. Business arising from previous minutes:

a. Our Story Our Heritage (Gionni DiGravio) (may be viewed in the CRWP Dropbox) was compiled as the result of a meeting between Ed Duke and Professor Howard Dick.

b. Survey – Register of the National Estate – July 2012 (Ann Hardy) A list of the survey of places in Newcastle that were on the Register of the National Estate was distributed. The Register no longer has statutory authority. Many of the places are now on the Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) and others are on the State Heritage Register (SHR), larger areas such as King Edward Park and Fort Scratchley are in Conservation Areas. Ann Hardy and Sarah Cameron identified some omissions. A few appear to have no heritage listing such as 2 and 11 Barker Street and 54 Perkins Street. Other relics and items are within Conservation areas and details of their significance may not be documented, for example the remnants of the leading light tower in Perkins St, the

Masonic and Bowling Club gates and the columns of the former Court office at Parnell Place. The CRWP may want to review this survey and identify items that may need further research. (Sarah Cameron) Ted Higgenbotham is reviewing the plan for inner Newcastle and has defined precincts that will be added to the register. A draft plan is expected by the end of September.

c. Letter to Local, State and Federal members has been drafted to invite them to address the CRWP if they are able.

d. Julianne Tilse will look at an identification of the Aboriginal word 'mulubin' which is described as an 'edible fern' or 'flower which abounds in Newcastle' and where the Aboriginal name of Mulubinba (i.e. Newcastle) originates.

e. Grants: (Lesley Gent) RAHS grants close 20th July and RAHS won't fund complete projects. (Sarah Cameron) The Heritage Branch will relaunch their funding in October.

5. Presentation:

(Paul Walsh) A Novocastrian Tales Project for South Newcastle Beach areas.

Paul Walsh and Susan Harvey are developing a formative project for consideration. The small park above South Newcastle Beach is a suitable and relatively secure location for a community garden that could incorporate possibly the design of bronze sculptures of Threlkeld and Biraban, plantings using a local indigenous tree and an explanatory plaque. The park would be a shared partnership between NCC, the Aboriginal communities and local community facilitating a greater awareness of the heritage of the area.

Discussion of 2012 Proposed Projects – Meeting Reports:

DRAFT PROJECT 2: (King Edward Park Heritage Nomination – Ann Hardy)

The nomination has been submitted through CRWP and the area named the Newcastle Recreation Reserve.

DRAFT PROJECT 5: (Coal River Publications – Charles Martin)

There is the possibility of applying for grants or sponsorship (eg. Newcastle Permanent) for future projects once initial projects are established and underway – potentially online. The target market would initially be local schools and eventually include the tourist and Novocastrian market(s). There is the potential for the project to link to DRAFT PROJECT 5 – The Heritage for the Future. Marketing of any products designed is important but it is

envisaged that projects will be undertaken "under the auspices of the Coal River Working Party." Technical (IT) help is considered essential and Gionni DiGravio is to investigate an 'expert' to advise. Short (1 year) and longer term (3-5 years) projects are being considered. Projects should have a standard formats and presentations but allow integration with other projects or publications made by the group to create a cohesive set of publications;

Short term goals include; brochures that could be either printed or downloaded; e-books that can be modified over time; Pilot projects would probably include brochures about Newcastle – possibly walks around the city and/or suburbs; incorporating the EJE walks into e-book or a downloadable brochure format; creating an e-book on Nobbys.

Longer term goals of a major book print containing materials from the e-books plus additional text and illustrations on quality paper and print can be considered in future. (Gionni DiGravio suggested other possible options such as Now and Then images. Doug Lithgow mentioned the possibility of using information online to create a Nobbys e-book using technical support.)

Groups could meet prior to the next meeting.

6. General Business

Marilla North suggested the possibility of getting children involved in the discovering the ancestral lines of our early convicts using a list that defined by Jack Delaney – a possible integration with DRAFT PROJECT 5 Heritage for the Future.

Ron Barber reported that Bill Hopkins has retired as president of Fort Scratchley.

7. Close: 3:05 p.m.

8. Date of next meeting: Monday 6th August, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.