

## Coal River Working Party Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive

### Minutes

**Start: 1.00 pm**

**1. Acknowledgement of Country:** Gionni di Gravio

**2. Present:**

Professor Tim Roberts, Peter Sherlock, Lesley Gent, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Gionni Di Gravio (Chair), Jane Ison (Minute Taker), Ken Shilling, Maree Shilling, Amir Mogadam, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Doug Lithgow, Robert McLardy, Ron Barber, Brian Walsh, Keith Parsons.

#### **Apologies:**

Nola Hawken, Dene Hawken, Robert Evans, Terry Moore, Julianne Tilse, Liz Thwaites, Brian Roach, Sue Effenberger, Sarah Cameron, Kerri Brauer

**3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:**

The previous minutes for 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 were adopted as a true and faithful representation and was motioned by Ann Hardy and seconded by Ken Shilling.

**4. Business arising from previous minutes:**

#### **National Nomination for Coal River**

Copies of the 2012 National Nomination were sent to our Federal and State members and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle. As this is a Federal nomination, federal support would be greatly appreciated. Sharon Grierson has a prime role to play in assisting with a successful application and could assist by possibly taking the application direct to the Federal level and involving the Environment Minister, Tony Burke. Robyn Parker has written that she would support the application and Tim Owen has acknowledged receipt. We have not heard from Lord Mayor as yet.

**Resolution 01-05/2012:** All local representatives (Sharon Grierson; Tim Owen; John Tate) to be invited to meetings and receive a copy of the minutes.

## **State Heritage Listing for King Edward Park**

Ann stated that the Government Domain Committee met in April and assisting in SHR nomination of King Edward Park. In 2008 there were several individual SHR nominations prepared for items within King Edward Park and comments made by the NSW Heritage Council included that these did not include the totality of the park. Significance was not sufficiently reflected in nominations and it was suggested that more information was required, also a map of the park was needed.

## **Macquarie Pier GPR/Excavation**

Dr Martin Gibbs (University of Sydney) and Newcastle Council Archaeologist Dr Ted Higgenbotham were contacted with regards to Macquarie Pier.

Dr Martin Gibbs is interested in pursuing a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigation, and has been directed to our website for further background. He said there is a possibility in carrying out this work in June 2012 provided transportation costs are covered.

Dr Ted Higgenbotham is also interested in an archaeological dig if possible. He is concerned that any excavation may be complicated by the building structures that once occupied the site. He asked that we wait until June for his report on Newcastle's Convict Sites be completed and discuss.

Charles Martin suggested that public interest and education might be encouraged by signage when the GPR and/or dig is commenced.

## **5. Discussion of 2012 Proposed Projects**

### **Presentation - Heritage for the Future (Amir Mogadam)**

Amir outlined strategies for the CRWP to adopt to address the loss of heritage and gain recognition of Newcastle's cultural and historical heritage. The major goal would be to measure attitudes of Newcastle locals to their heritage and look at the role of heritage in the community's life and prosperity. Projects needed to be measureable and practical and initially the CRWP would choose the groups with whom to work. The program is specifically aimed at youth and the education of our future decision makers – high school students, church groups, youth groups, and indigenous groups.

The program would be assessable over 18 month and three-year periods using achievable, tangible and measureable outcomes. Develop a pilot plan within local high school years 8 – 11, run an initial assessment and present workshops where students look at how heritage affects them. Establish a forum or perhaps a blog where participants can discuss and add ideas are some of the strategies suggested by Amir for feedback. Blog feedbacks and repeat questionnaires will develop a clear understanding of where the CRWP stands in relation to community attitudes. A more positive outcome from locals may occur if by promoting heritage and increasing their self-confidence shows how heritage can enhance their lives.

Maree Shilling suggested that school involvement should initially go through the Department of Education rather than the school and this approach provided the possibility of involving wider community members. (ex. children/grandparents) Doug Lithgow was interested in assisting with working in the schools. A plan to approach other groups needed considering.

Lesley Gent suggested that further developments of this strategy could include talks by CRWP members to small groups to discuss the distinction between heritage and history. Charles suggested that incorporation of the EJE project (Heritage walks) may be considered later in the program. Further suggestions would be able to be discussed in committee.

Further strategies incorporated include the development of a master plan including registering the precinct as a National Heritage site and encouraging government at all levels to contribute to that plan. By identifying and promoting projects, publishing research, officialising values, and providing heritage consultation and education, the CRWP will combat influences of non-heritage groups with a major stake in Newcastle. We need to have influence with these groups and attempt to involve a broader spectrum of people. Wider recognition and education may allow for more funding to become available, as gaining funding for each step is difficult. Increased funding can allow for greater diversity of projects. John suggested that publicising CRWP goals is important and Gianni's appearances in the media possibly need more emphasis – especially to our local businesses/men. Could publicity be organized to media including through Carol Duncan on her monthly broadcast?

## **Strategic Planning – Proposed Projects**

By establishing leaders and helpers for the goals outlined on the Draft Plan compiled by suggestions made by CRWP members, groups along the lines of those operating with the Government Domain group can see if it is possible to achieve success with each goal and develop activities to achieve an outcome. It is possible to combine some goals outlined the draft plan.

### **Heritage for the Future**

**Project Leader:** Amir Mogadam

**Helpers:** Ann Hardy, Charles Martin, Doug Lithgow

### **New Goal: Coal River Press Publications**

It is not necessary to have only paper print (viz. apps, ebooks, online, apps)

**Project Leader:** Charles Martin:

**Helpers:** Brian Walsh, Maree and Ken Shilling, Ann Hardy

**Goals: Develop the Convict stockade and other convict sites:** All the goals connected to convict Newcastle should be amalgamated into one.

Newcastle's convict history is an unacknowledged history stemming from the Pearson Report 1995: <http://coalriver.files.wordpress.com/2008/02/combined-pearson-report.pdf> Peer support needs to be gained to defeat the presumption that Newcastle didn't exist as a convict site and there has been a representation to the Hyde Park Barracks to 'get us back into the story.' Keith questioned whether Sarah Cameron could see how the council could be involved with heritage grants and reported that any involvement in the

lumberyard site needs NCC approval. Maree Sh. would like to wait until June before considering moving on the leadership of this goal.  
Could Damaris Bairstow's reports and Ted Higgenbotham's map go on the CRWP site?

**Project Leaders:** perhaps Maree and Ken Shilling  
**Helper:** Brian Walsh

**Goal 1: To have Newcastle and Hunter Region's important historic sites nationally recognised.**

Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson is happy to talk to the Hunter Business Chamber concerning this goal and selling the economic benefits of tourism and heritage. The University is a member of the Hunter Business Chamber so participation and involvement in their meetings is possible.

Maree will also communicate with Stuart LEEMAN to see if there is a possibility of getting copies of maps and other documents held in the David Madison Building which is moving to private hands. The University is very keen to have this information.

Proposed Projects: Revision of projects for 2012 is progressing. Consider ways to make the draft projects more concise. Groups could meet prior to the next meeting.

**6. General Business**

**7. Close: 3:00 p.m.**

**8. Date of next meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.**