

# Coal River Working Party Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive

## Minutes

Start:

### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. **Present:** Gionni Di Gravio (chair), Ron Barber, Ann Hardy, Jane Ison (minute taker), Marie Shilling, Ken Shilling, Howard Dick, Julianne Tilse, Marilla North, Sarah Cameron, Brian Walsh, Damien Egan, Russell Rigby, Doug Lithgow,

**Apologies:** Sue Effenberger, Lesley Gent, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Keith Parsons, Brian Roach, Charles Martin, Kerrie Brauer

### 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

The minutes for 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 were adopted as a true and faithful representation was motioned by Maree Shilling and seconded by Ken Shilling.

### 4. Reports and Updates:

#### Update on City of Newcastle heritage activities by Heritage Strategist (Sarah Cameron)

a. **Victoria Lifeboat:** A permanent memorial of the role of the Victoria Lifeboat in the maritime history of Newcastle is currently being prepared by Council, Newcastle Now, and descendants and friends of the Victoria Lifeboat. Keith Southall, Gionni Di Gravio and Keith Powell have been approached for input. The project is aiming for completion by the end of June 2013. (Discussion - Members wondered whether firstly, the Heritage network could consider addressing the lack of a management plan for Nobbys? (Doug Lithgow) and secondly, if there was a possibility of a history of the pilot service and better access to the Cornish Dock – possibly in the form of a viewing platform. (Howard Dick and Doug Lithgow) Sarah Cameron advised that Newcastle Port Corporation is responsible for this site and it is an operational area. Sarah Cameron suggested that the NPC would need to be approached to consider the possibilities.

- b. **City Evolutions project on Watt Street Newcastle:** Tenders are currently being assessed for the City Evolutions project, which will interpret the history of Watt Street through various media including art installation and technology. The plan extends up to King Street. Paul Tibbles from Livesites is now coordinating the project on behalf of Council and Newcastle Now.
- c. Council is progressing with the review of the **Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan** (Ted Higginbotham & Associates) although there are issues with content that are being worked through and a delay with the draft being available.
- d. **Laman Street:** Beneath the western end of the Laman Street is the site of the Burwood Coal and Copper company track. This area may require archeological examination and council has made an allowance for this in the programmed works if necessary. The European artefacts found in the fill are to be recovered and will go on display to show representative samples of the fill layers.
- e. **Hunter Heritage Network:** CRWP members may like to provide feedback for the September 2013 meeting at Singleton which will focus on Aboriginal heritage.
- f. **Fort Scratchley:** Council is preparing a strategic plan for the next four years. The draft will be released for public comment and the CRWP will be advised of dates. The fort should have its own State heritage listing as per the recommendation of the Conservation Management Plan. The OEH want to keep it within the Coal River precinct. One option is that at the very least the heritage listing be amended to clearly articulate the values of the FSHS within the Coal River.
- g. **Civic Precinct and Town Hall:** These sites are now on the State Heritage register. See video of event here:  
<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2012/10/24/newcastle-town-hall-and-civic-theatre-honoured/>
- h. **Council Heritage Policy** is being currently under review and will go out for comment it is anticipated in February 2013:  
[http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about\\_newcastle/history\\_and\\_heritage/newcastles\\_heritage](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about_newcastle/history_and_heritage/newcastles_heritage)

**Fort Scratchley (Ron Barber):** The 'big shots' weekend was a successful open day and the June exhibition resulted in some requests for a WW2 exhibit – especially as Newcastle features in the WW2 history curriculum. An application for a VIM (Volunteer Initiated Museum) grant for the WW2 room has been made. The fort is investigating the possibility of reintroducing the 1 o'clock gun and are hoping to have it restored. The western barbette is featured in one of Snowball's images. Any GPR surveying required within the fort could possibly be carried out at the same time as the investigation of the pier.

(Discussion: Members wondered whether the Customs House Time Ball was operational and whether there were any plans to open the eastern tank embrasure. Was it possible to write to OEH requiring information on the different heritage aspects of Newcastle. If council could take the lead the landowners would support plans. Sarah Cameron will talk to Daniel Ballentyne about unifying the various groups with the one aim.)

**National Nomination redraft: (Ann Hardy):**

Ann will redraft the nomination incorporating the suggestions made in the letter from the Commonwealth Department and the recent paper by Dr David Roberts and Professor Erik Eklund (Journal of Australian Studies). David Andrew Roberts & Erik Eklund (2012): Australian Convict Sites and the Heritage of Adaptation: The Case of Newcastle's Coal River Heritage Precinct, Australian Historical Studies, 43:3, 363-380

Link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1031461X.2012.706620>

Ann will attend the Australia ICOMOS National World Heritage Symposium seminar in November.

**National Trust 2013 (Ann Hardy):**

The National Trust Heritage Festival theme for 2013 is *There's Nothing like Australia's Community Heritage Milestones* to be held during 18 April- 31 May. The AGM for the National Trust will be held at Tomago House on Sunday, 18 November at 11.00 a.m.

"Community and Heritage" group to brainstorm ideas for 2013 heritage festival to include Marilla North, Ann Hardy, Jane Ison, Damien Egan, Ken Shilling, Maree Shilling. Mary Bell may have been the person involved in surveying with Marilla in an earlier exercise and may be worth involving.

**Lost Newcastle App. (Ann Hardy):** There has been interest in an App for Newcastle similar to the National Trust Victoria Lost Melbourne App. The license fee is \$10 000 and would permit the inclusion of up to 100 buildings. A working party will be set up, to discuss how it can be

financed, managed, and incorporate content from a variety of resources including CRWP, UoNCC Flickr, Lost Newcastle Facebook Group (Carol Duncan), and collaborations from already developed app by Dr Tessa Morrison in Faculty of Architecture.

City Branding Discussion (How cities define themselves.) CRWP needs to be more involved with helping developers to define Newcastle.

1. Does Council have any formal link with Newcastle Northumberland? If this link doesn't exist it may be a good connection to make. (Howard Dick)

2. Can the Tony Robinson program be used for internal use? WTFN and Screen Australia may have an agreement to have a copy of the Tony Robinson film. – (Gianni Di Gravio now has a copy of the Time Walks episode.) The CRWP thanked Donna and Mike at the Grand Hotel for the subscription to the History Channel for the broadcast of Tony Robinson's Time Walks.

**Inner Vista Living Archives Newcastle Collection by Sarah Birch: (Julianne Tilse):** Sarah Birch is a local business woman whose company Inner Vista approached the University's Cultural Collections about commercially reprinting a series of sub division plans as large artworks. A percentage of the proceeds will go to the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund which enabled then volunteer Melanie Patfield and Gianni Di Gravio to scan around 2 kilometres of plans in mid-2011 and post them on our Cultural Collections flickr site here:

The Northumberland and Permanent Building Investment Land and Loan Society

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/sets/72157627009132400/>

'MAYFIELD' Folder of Subdivision Plans (c. 1862 - 1937)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/sets/72157627126349915/>

Map Treasures

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/sets/72157627003398259/>

Sarah was blown away by the beauty, quality and size of the online images, and the treasured history they contain, and contacted the University with a commercial proposal to get physical

reproductions of the prints out to the wider community for sale. Further info:

[innervistadesigns@gmail.com](mailto:innervistadesigns@gmail.com)

Discussion: Julianne noted that at the launch of the above enterprise there appeared to be a shared perception among developers that heritage would slow down development and a perception among our elected reps that heritage is not necessary. How do you get the councilors to support our heritage? (Doug Lithgow) Could request be sent to Sir David Attenborough for potential involvement in a natural history TV documentary on the Skottowe Manuscript (1813) for which he wrote the Foreword in 1988.

Marilla North thanked the Radical Newcastle site and Gionni Di Gravio's filming the Lyrical Afternoon in celebration of the life and work of Norman Talbot, Dorothy Hewett and Merv Lilley was held at Varuna, The Writers' House in Katoomba, on the 15th September 2012.

<http://radicalnewcastle.wordpress.com/2012/09/21/a-lyrical-afternoon-at-varuna/>

**4. Close 3.00 p.m.**

**5. Date of next meeting: Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**