

Coal River Working Party Meeting

3rd September, 2012 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive

Minutes

Start: 1.10

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Present: Gionni Di Gravio(Chair), Jane Ison (minute-taker), Damien Egan, Ken Shilling, Maree Shilling, Sue Effenberger, Ann Hardy, Russell Rigby, Marilla North, Lesley Gent, Brian Roach, Brian Walsh, Charles Martin

Apologies: Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Tim Owen, Ron Barber, Susan Harvey, Keith Parsons, Paul Walsh, Robert Watson, Professor Howard Dick, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Kerri Brauer, Sarah Cameron, Nola Hawken, Dene Hawken, Julianne Tilse

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Lesley Gent/Ken Shilling

The minutes for 6th August 2012 were adopted as a true and faithful representation and was motioned by Lesley Gent and seconded by Ken Shilling.

4. Business arising from previous minutes: None

5. Reports and Updates:

PROJECT 2 – The National Estate: (Ann Hardy):

The Government Domain committee met on 20th August. Arranging a Dropbox to permit members to share and manage historic sources is underway. Ann Hardy gave an update on the KEP state Heritage Nomination and it is likely that the nomination will not be considered until after the Land and Environment court decision. David Kelly is a new comer to the group and we had a general discussion about the James Fletcher Hospital site and it is surrounds. Russell Rigby showed some of the mining plans of Newcastle's and how far many of the drifts go under the harbour and sea.

Lost Newcastle App: Ann Hardy mentioned that the National Trust may possibly buy the rights to the Lost Melbourne App. Ann will informally meet to assess support for its use and application for its use in the Hunter and keep Siobhan Curran in the loop.

PROJECT 5 – Publications: (Brian Walsh):

Apple (ibooks) and Amazon (ebooks) have programs allowing non-paper publications that permit authors to do their own presentations. Brian Walsh has produced an ibook for a local society that should be a useful exercise for the publications committee.

PROJECT 5 – Newcastle’s History: (Brian Roach):

Brian is compiling a list of dates of interesting events in Newcastle’s History. He is concentrating mainly on events from 1860 but would like dates of any significant event from any year. Could members please send any dates directly to him at :-

broach33@live.com.au

6. Presentation: Newcastle Recreation Reserve: Gionni DiGravio

Gionni Di Gravio presented his talk given at the public awareness raising meeting King Edward Park meeting on 29 September. Presentations were also made by Professor Richard Leplastrier and Professor Peter Stutchbury. Gionni’s presentation at the meeting may be viewed on the CRWP site at

<http://coalriver.wordpress.com/>

The CRWP site contains two options for downloading John Bingle’s book *Past and Present Records of Newcastle, New South Wales*

7. Draft Projects:

Some projects are underway. Members could look at the projects to see if there is an area that they could investigate.

PROJECT 1.1: (Bowling Club Site) (Brian Walsh?) An archaeological dig should be undertaken on the former bowling club site concerning the original government coal shaft. There is a plan completed.

PROJECT 1.1: (Macquarie Pier) Sue Effenberger is interested in working towards the survey of the Pier once she is available after October.

PROJECT 2: National Estate: Ann Hardy will consider what Hunter Valley sites could possibly be added to those listed in her compilation and presented in July.

8. General Business

There was a discussion about the letter that elaborated the reasons for the unsuccessful National Nomination for Coal River (Mulubimba) and Government Domain Newcastle. The result was disappointing but the response was encouraging and it was agreed that the best result would be to respond to the suggestions in the letter with as much detail as possible by the November meeting and resubmit the nomination.

Members should contact Gianni Di Gravio if they have updates for the blog.

Brian Walsh has registered www.coalriver.com.au for two years. It would be possible to redirect it to the CRWP site but would incur an ISP fee to do so. For the moment it is simply 'parked'.

Marilla North has an interest in sponsoring an award to get the children to research their genealogy (genealogical mapping) especially those who had ancestors in the Newcastle area. The opportunity exists for a subscription to ancestry to be sponsored.

9. Close: 3.05 p.m.

10. Date of next meeting: Monday, 8th October, 2012 (Long Weekend on 2nd October)