

# Coal River Working Party Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive

## Minutes

**Start: 1:00**

1. **Welcome to Country:** Acknowledgement of Country by Gionni di Gravio
2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio (chair), Ann Hardy (minute-taker), Ron Barber, Charles Martin, Lesley Gent, Brian Roach, Marilla North, Maree Shilling, Brian Walsh, Ken Shilling, Russell Rigby, Julianne Tilse, Robert Watson, Doug Lithgow, Jane Ison, Bob Jones.

**Apologies:** Emeritus Professor John Fryer Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Kerrie Brauer, Nola Hawken, Dene Hawken, Keith Parsons, Rosemary Barnard, John Waring, Professor Howard Dick, Sarah Cameron, Anne Creevey, Sue Effenberger, Ruth Cotton,

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 was adopted as a true and faithful representation, moved – Maree Shilling and seconded – Ken Shilling.

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

**Review Macquarie Pier Funds- ‘Macquarie 2010’ (Gionni di Gravio)** - Gionni informed there has not been much activity regarding the Macquarie Pier investigations, funds have not been spent. There have been problems getting GPR for the project, and questions were raised about whether funds could be redirected to an interpretation project involving the pier using computer modelling (Charles M work). Sarah C and Peter Sherlock to liaise to work on an archaeological brief for the existing proposal. **ACTION-** No feedback this meeting, discuss further next meeting.

5. **Presentation: Brian Walsh ‘My tour app’:-** Brian presented on a low cost, low tech app builder [www.mytoursapp.com](http://www.mytoursapp.com) that allows you to upload text, sound and photos to the web. Cost is \$750 setup fee, and then \$195 per year, unlimited number of tours inside the app, 100 downloads Per month. For unlimited downloads, \$1,495 setup, then \$995 per year. This app is used by Powerhouse Museum, Sydney Walking. No technical knowledge needed, just upload text, sound and images. Published on iOS and android; unlimited tours; unlimited changes within tours, self managed. This may be something the CRWP may want to support in collaboration with other groups (such as Newcastle Now, or Cruise ship companies), could be very useful for visitors to Nobby’s Headland and Coal River Precinct, or applicable to Newcastle’s convict sites. Funding

unlikely through the CRWP, however if funding could be sourced (with assurance of ongoing funding) then the CRWP may be able to provide historical knowledge and other support to build content.

## 6. Reports and Updates:

- a) **Gionni di Gravio**- No update regarding the Macquarie Pier Funds. The Macquarie Treasures exhibition at the Newcastle Art Gallery has been successful, with many guest speakers. Shane Frost spoke about the Awabakal culture during the Macquarie era and his interpretation of Joseph Lycett's Newcastle Corroboree showing healthy and dying trees symbolising threatened Aboriginal culture and European occupation, this was a fascinating insight. It was suggested that a high resolution digital copy would be useful for research purposes. Lesley Gent also suggested sending a thank you letter to Elizabeth Ellis for helping to get the chest to Newcastle and her marvelous contribution to research of the Macquarie chest over many decades.
- b) **National Trust Heritage Festival (Ann Hardy)** - Ann advised that the Heritage Festival will take place 18 April – 31 May 2013, the Hunter Regional Committee of the National Trust have local events planned. There will be an event at City Wine Makers to launch fundraising efforts for a Lost Newcastle App on Saturday 11 May. Other information about state wide events is available at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw/Heritage-Festival> **ACTION**- Ann H will send out information about upcoming events.
- c) **National Nomination due 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013(Ann Hardy)** - National nomination has been resubmitted and correspondence from the Department queried whether it was a complete new nomination or amended version. There were significant changes to the nomination, including revisions and additions and updating of links. Basically the entire document was altered. The department may consider it to be a new nomination. **ACTION**- Ann H and Gionni to continue to raise the profile national heritage significance of Newcastle.
- d) **Hunter Heritage Network Seminar at Singleton**- Gionni di Gravio advised that he attended the network seminar on 29<sup>th</sup> March where the Singleton Mayor and other Councillors spoke about the importance of community, social significance in interpreting history and heritage. The event was held at the Singleton Showground where the Pender designed Showground Pavilion has recently been done up, there are also plans to reinstate the rose window. Many of the local council areas also spoke positively about their council heritage committees. It was a very inspiring day.

## 8) General Business

- a) Brian Walsh informed that Tocal will feature on SBS 1 program "Who do you Think You Are" on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
  
- a) Doug Lithgow informed of the importance of the Pizzey Plan completed in 2007 and that many of the new Newcastle Council staff may not be aware of the cultural interpretation plan and the proposal to interpret with 'light cannons' the Coal River Precinct. **ACTION-** AH to write to Council informing them of the Coal River Cultural Interpretation Plan.
  
- c) Russell Rigby informed of the Army Survey plans at the National Library, they are available on-line and many show Maitland and Port Stephens. These are Parish maps and not easily located because they are identified mostly by parish name. Plans show detail of vegetation, ruins, bridges etc. If you would like further information please contact Russell Rigby.

9) **Close: 3:00**

**Date of next meeting: Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 in the IDC Building, 1-3pm.**