

Coal River Working Party Meeting

5th May, 2014 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive

Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. **Welcome to Country:** Acknowledgement to Country by Gionni di Gravio.

Present: Gionni di Gravio (chair), Ann Hardy (minute-taker), Russell Rigby, Ron Barber, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Keith Parsons, Brian Roach, Russell Rigby, Doug Lithgow, Julianne Tilse, Damien Egan, Marilla North, Kerry Grant, Tim Adams, Bronwyn Law, Pearl Nunn.

2. **Apologies:**

Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Cynthia Hunter, Ruth Cotton, Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Coralie Watson, Anne Creevey, Kerrie Brauer, Ruth Cotton, Robert Watson, Sarah Cameron, Margaret Henry, Howard Dick, Brian Walsh, Bob Jones, Jane Ison, Charles Martin, Angela McKay, Suzanne Martin.

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 7th April 2014 was confirmed by Ken Shilling and seconded – Maree Shilling.

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

5. **Presentations-**

- a) **Presentation by Ann Hardy on Newcastle- National Heritage Nomination**

Ann gave background information to National Nomination- In 2003 the University formed the Coal River Working Party to identify and document the contribution of Newcastle and the Hunter to the Australian story. Coal River Precinct listed on the State Heritage Register in December 2003. 'Coal River' Newcastle has been nominated for National Heritage Listing on four separate occasions since 2007. These were:-

- April 2007 - "Coal river Heritage Park - Newcastle"- by Dr Erik Eklund
- Feb 2010 - 'Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape' Hardy, Ann et al.

- Feb 2012- National Nomination – “Coal River (Mulubinba) and Government Domain”
Revised Ann Hardy and Gianni Di Gravio
- Feb 2013 - National Nomination – ‘Coal River (Mulubinba) and Government Domain’
Revised Ann Hardy and Gianni Di Gravio

Previously the area was listed on the Register of National Estate (RNE). In 2003 a new national heritage system (National Heritage List (NHL) & Commonwealth Heritage List) was established. There were 13,000 items on the RNE, currently the NHL has 85 items. What have changes meant? Some places of heritage significance do not have heritage acknowledgement, are ‘unlisted’. Finite resources to assess National Nominations, nominations are simply not being assessed, there is a backlog. What can the CRWP do?

- Advice from ICOMOS regarding the nomination - document as well strategic advice.
- Continue to consider current nomination each nomination period, assess on basis of what the theme is. Can take years to get places listed, particularly under arrangement. The Coal River Precinct already has State significance, there is no reason why it can't be assessed for National Significance.
- Get an opinion from Prof. Erik Eklund and others

CRWP to comment on Australian Heritage Strategy currently on public exhibition until 9 June 2014.

Ann advised that Federal Member Sharon Claydon has met with Minister Greg Hunt and Director of Heritage Branch regarding the Newcastle nomination, and has requested further information from the CRWP regarding how many nominations have been submitted, and what representations have been previously made to the Dept of Environment. Keith Parsons requested a list of 85 items on the NHL. Doug Lithgow made the point that even when an item has heritage listing there is not always the respect or will to care for places. Julianne Tilse asked whether the State Government heritage authorities had any input into nomination, Doug Lithgow suggested that in 2007 he was told that the NSW Heritage Branch would have input if nomination chosen for the priority list. RESOLVED: When Minister for Environment next calls for National Heritage Nominations that CRWP review approach depending on theme announced.

Moved: Marilla North. Seconded: Damian Egan

6. Reports and Updates:

- Updates- (Gianni di Gravio)** – Gianni advised that Tony Robinson recently visited Newcastle to film episode of ‘Tour of Duty’ with a focus on war service. He spent a day

filming at Fort Scratchley and Christ Church Cathedral and interviewed many people. Episode to be aired in 2015. Gionni also advised that the Flag held at Christ Church Cathedral, has a significant story and was the first Australian flag flown at Gallipoli. The flag was created by women of the Hunter. It is hopeful that in the future the flag can be restored by University Conservator Amir Mogadam.

Brian Roach also advised another items of significance is the Book of gold. Bronwyn Orrock has been involved in research of items held at Christ Church, many of which are on the State Heritage Register.

Gionni has uploaded an e-book to the CRWP blogsite the "History of Carrington", as well as another part of Dr David Murray's "Coal River True Crime". Doug Lithgow asked whether the film from the late 1970s 'West of Coal River' is on-line, Gionni advised it is and he is interested in participants re-gathering in the same location to document a recount and reflect on changes that have occurred in the area (coal river).

Last meeting Gionni spoke about bricks from 9 Watt Street, and has liaised with archaeologist Tim Adam about bricks donated by owner as a fundraising initiative with proceeds going to the Vera Deacon History Fund. Tim advised he has received advice from Heritage Branch NSW and they have no concerns regarding the concept, as the historic bricks would be discarded anyway. Gionni informed that he would also speak with the University Foundation about the project and auction arrangements. If an auction is to go ahead both the Heritage Branch and University Foundation will be informed and further guidance sought. Kerry Grant advised that developers have been quite generous and cooperative as the development had been postponed since October 2013, so that an archaeological investigation could be carried out.

Gionni has recently put online "A Say in Your Community with the Australian Assistance Plan" (1973) the film was digitised as part of the University of Newcastle (Australia) Archives of the The Hunter Regional Council for Social Development. The Australian Assistance Plan (AAP) was piloted in 1973 by the Whitlam Labor Government. The Plan created Regional Councils for Social Development (RCSD) and funded the employment of a social planner and Community Development Officers within each Regional Council. The Hunter Region was one of the first areas the plan was put into practice. The film was mostly shot in and around Newcastle and features appearances by Dr Tony Vinson, Director NSW Bureau Crime Statistics; Brian Brinley, Adult Probation Officer; Susan

Hellyer, Social Planner, Hunter Region; Dixon Park Community Group; Wickham Primary School; Gloucester; Maitland; Windale Progress Association; Bill Plaizier, Newcastle Youth Service; Newcastle Learning Exchange; Pete Meehan 2KO Radio; Newcastle East End; Trinia. Other people have also been identified, including artist Julie Squires as a young child.

Available <http://radicalnewcastle.wordpress.com/2011/04/08/archives-of-the-hunter-regional-council-for-social-development/>

b) National Trust (Ann Hardy) – Nil

c) Update (Sarah Cameron) – Nil

7. General Business

- a) Maitland History Society-** Julianne Tilse has been invited as a representative of the CRWP to speak at Maitland historical Society. Gionni suggested that it would be good to let the Maitland group know of the 46,000 images available online free from the University's Flickr site.
- b) Newcastle significant heritage-** Bronwyn Law advised of the upcoming bicentenary of the Newcastle East Public School, it is the oldest school in Australia, a significant milestone in Australia, asked the CRWP was doing in terms of this event. Gionni advised that at this point there is nothing planned. Bronwyn also pointed out the significant cultural items held at Christ Church Cathedral in Warriors Chapel, there have been funds available for ANZAC projects.
- c) Macquarie Pier's Foundation stone -** Kerry Grant informed that the project to find the Foundation stone at Macquarie Pier has not progressed further. Kerry plans to speak with Sarah Cameron about gaining an agreement, or contract that covers public liability, hopeful that NCC can assist to draw up a contract. GPR work has been done, and instead of redoing this, a preferred strategy may be to use a new intervention that enhances what has already been done. CRWP needs to consider what to do after excavation and earth is exposed. What if something is found, what next? **ACTION-** Kerry to discuss further with Sarah Cameron.

- d) Newcastle images-** Russell Rigby informed that he is presenting at upcoming Australia Earth Science conference, he plans to interpret J. Henderson Coal explosions, poster and video created by Charles Martin. Mine subsidence board and Environmental Impact Statement. Russell suggested he could do a presentation at next meeting. Russell also showed sketches he has recently located, these are by French (1853) of AA Comp. A Pit and B Pit, view towards Stockton, Stokes Map of Newcastle, and sketch of Newcastle from Obelisk 1859s.
- e)** Ron Barber advised he will be an apology at next meeting.

8. Close: 3:00

Date of next meeting: Monday, 2nd June, 2014 in the IDC Building, 1-3pm.