

## **Coal River Working Party Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive**

### **Minutes**

**Start: 1:00**

- 1. Welcome to Country:** Acknowledgement to Country by Gianni di Gravio.
- 2. Present:** Gianni di Gravio (chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Keith Parsons, Ron Barber, Ziggy Szyda, Ruth Cotton, Russell Rigby, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, David Dial, Brian Roach, Brian Walsh, Kerrie Grant, Amir Moghadam, Howard Dick, Jude Conway, Suzanne Martin, Lesley Gent, Bernadette Drabsch.

**Apologies:** Kerrie Brauer, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Ian Eckford, Member for Wallsend Sonia, Peter Sherlock, Peter Leven, Lyndall Ryan, Tim Adams, Jane Ison, Marilla North, Rob Jones, Bronwyn Law, Robert Watson, Charles Martin, Helen Denzin, Bronwyn Law.

**Visitors:** Nil

- 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 was confirmed by John Fryer and seconded – Amir Moghadam.

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

**5. Presentations-**

- a) Russell Rigby – 2105 Newcastle Volunteer Service Award –** Gianni presented Russell with a Community Volunteer Award for his tremendous contribution to the Newcastle Community, and historical research over many years. Members of the CRWP warmly

thanked and congratulated Russell on this wonderful achievement, and commitment to the CRWP.

**b) Ken Shilling- *Surgeons at Sea Database*.** Ken gave a presentation on the *Surgeons at Sea: An index to the filmed surgeons' journals on the convict ships to Australia, with some strays* recently launched by the Newcastle Family History Society. The database listing of the Surgeons journal includes information about convicts, children, soldiers, crew, free settlers and their families. In total there are 52, 244 entries, each showing (where possible) status and age of each individual, their medical condition or punishment, ship of arrival, name of surgeon. To order a copy of the CD contact Newcastle Family History Society, PO BOX 233, Lambton 2299.

**c) Bernadette Drabsch – NSW Rock Art Project.** Following Amir's discussion at last month's meeting about 3D scanning of rock art, Bernadette further presented on a possible rock art project. She advised that many people didn't know about Aboriginal rock art of the area (including academics and general community), there is a need to undertake high resolution scanning of rock art sites in NSW on regular basis, compare data collected at sites and monitor movement, surface degradation and vandalism.

Bernadette summarised the Draft Proposal highlighting the following:-

- Collaboration with Natural History Illustration & Wollotuka Institute.
- Assess which sites are stable, require urgent conservation.
- Provide a highly detailed digital archive of each site in case of loss and damage.
- Create an interactive landscape map promoting interests cultural heritage of the region.
- Provide a meaningful research

Amir and Bernadette would appreciate any support and input. Professor Fryer provided some background to work already underway, and suggested contacting Gary Jones (former member of the CRWP), Gilleen Huntley, both have already done work in this area and would be worth contacting again.

## **6. Reports and Updates:**

**a) Updates- (Gionni di Gravio) – Dual Naming** - Gionni advised that the Geographical Names Board have publicised a proposal for dual naming of several Newcastle Landmarks. This proposal has been under review for about 5 years, there is general support from Aboriginal groups involved, and the Geographical Names Board is now inviting feedback from the community. Places include:-

*Whibayganba* - as a dual name for Nobbys Head.

*Tahlbihn* - as a dual name for Flagstaff Hill.

*Burrabihngarn* - as a dual name for Pirate Point.

*Yohaaba* - as a dual name for Port Hunter.

*Coquun* - as a dual name for the Hunter River (South Channel)

*Khanterin* - as a dual name for Shepherds Hill.

*Toohrnbing* - as a dual name for Ironbark Creek.

*Burragihnbihng* - as a dual name for Hexham Swamp.

Further information

[http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place\\_naming/current\\_proposals/naming\\_proposal?id=5339](http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place_naming/current_proposals/naming_proposal?id=5339)

-**Update CRWP WordPress** - Gionni also advised that the CRWP WordPress site continues to be revised/changed, the minutes/ agenda are now available, as well as meeting details are set out more clearly on website.

-**Book launch** - Ed Tonk's book *No Bar to Time* will be launch this week, the book is about hotels of the Newcastle local Government area.

**b) Update- (Ann Hardy)** – Ann advised Newcastle App almost complete. There have been several book launches, Smoky City by Nancy Cushing and Howard Bridgeman, and Biography of Tom Farrell.

**c) Update- National Trust** – No News.

**b) Update – Newcastle Council (Sarah Cameron)** - NIL.

**7. Advocacy** – NIL

**8. General Business-**

**a)** John Fryer advised that he had had a rethink in terms of name change of the CRWP. After some reflection he thought that it would be a good idea to change name to indicate history/heritage/ in Newcastle and the Hunter.

**b)** Howard Dick advised that Boomerang Park at Raymond Terrace (supposedly oldest park in the Hunter) is currently under threat. It is 5 hectares of park land that council proposed to subdivide a section of and develop. There has been a lot of opposition and a community formed to advocate for conservation of the park. The contact person Gillean

Lye, if anyone wants further details contact Ann. Gionni advised that he found a newspaper article about the park, includes a story of 'Old Boomerang' and gentlemen who lived in the area during the 1800s, in which the park is named after.

**9. Close: 3.00 PM**

**Date of next meeting will be Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 in the IDC Building, 1-3pm.**