

Coal River Working Party Meeting
1st August, 2016 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
2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), David Dial, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Robert Watson, Russell Rigby, Brian Roach, Keith Parsons, Jude Conway, Bronwyn Law, John Witte, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Peter Sherlock, Sue Effenberger, Howard Dick, Chas Keys, Doug Lithgow, Dennis Thurlow, Lynette Daly, Daphne Robinson, Tim Davidson, Ivan Demidov, Anne Creevey, Sarah Cameron, Gary Estcourt.

Apologies: Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Brian Walsh, Suzanne Martin, Patsy Withycombe, Ian Eckford, Marilla North, Robert Jones, Ron Barber, Lesley Gent, Hafiz Rahman, Barrie Shannon.

Visitors: Nil

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 4th July 2016 was confirmed by Maree Shilling and seconded – Brian Roach.
4. **Business arising from previous minutes: - NIL**
5. **Presentations-**
 - a) **Heritage Near Me Team (Office Environment & Heritage) - (Sarah Cameron & Gary Estcourt)**
– Sarah and Gary described the new funding arrangement under the *Heritage Near Me* incentives program developed to complement current State Heritage funding programs. It provides funding opportunities and support directly to owners and managers of local heritage items. There are 3 grant schemes in the new program, including 1. Heritage Activation Grants, 2. Local Heritage Grants, 3. Heritage Green Energy Grants. OEH will accept EOI at any time, with \$6 million of funding available, team will assist in developing a business plan, and can tailor support, this new model is very 'hands on' and looks at the needs of a project. It does not require dollar-for-dollar

funding and is for local heritage items benefiting many small historical groups/museums. For further info see <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/heritage-near-me-incentives.htm> or contact Gary Estcourt (Snr. Heritage Project Officer) at OEH on gary.estcourt@environment.nsw.gov.au or Sarah Cameron at Sarah.Cameron@environment.nsw.gov.au

b) Newcastle National Nomination – (Amir Mogadam) Amir presented a new strategy for a National Nomination for Newcastle, and reflected on previous nominations that proposed quite large parcels of land at Coal River, Government Domain and King Edward Park. He highlighted the general lack of support for a national heritage nomination for Newcastle from the wider community. Amir suggests smaller precincts be nominated, possibly at the Civic Precinct to promote the transition from Newcastle as a town to a city. An individual site would be more straight forward to list, and a buffer zone around a designated area would also add significance to nearby heritage sites. There was a general discussion about the pros and cons of a new strategy and possible need to broaden the discussion with business groups such as Hunter Property Council and Newcastle Business Chamber. As mentioned at the last meeting discussions have been held with Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Claydon.

6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL

7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio) - Gionni advised that the National Library of Australia recently made available in high resolution and tiff format many of their documents including maps. This will support researchers. A recent HHI post “Barrallier’s Surveys of the Hunter Region (1801-1802)” shows some early maps and plans of the Hunter region, many of the sources are held at the National Archives of the United Kingdom. See

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/15/barrallier-hunter-surveys/>

- Gionni noted that the *Past Matters: Rock Art and Indigenous Heritage Workshop* held at the Central Coast Campus on Friday 22nd July was well attended, there were approx. 45 people from the UON and wider community. Speakers included Jillian Huntley, Val Attendrow, Amir Mogadam, Robert Pankhurst, Carol Carter, Ivan Demidov, Gionni di Gravio & Ann Hardy. Presentations will be available online in the coming months. See

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/06/10/past-matters-2/>

- Previous to today's meeting a short meeting was held with local Aboriginal organisations to discuss ways of advancing the dual naming success, this preliminary meeting focused on bringing Lycett's famous Newcastle Corroboree painting to life in 3D virtual reality. Charles Martin has worked on a 3D terrain model of early Newcastle Mulubinba, and 3D designers in a local firm called Virtual Perspective Tim Davidson and Ivan Demidov were present and able to describe 3D Virtual reality. The meeting brought various groups together for a general discussion, Ann Hardy will provide feedback to Lillian Eastwood with view of further collaborations with Aboriginal consultative groups.

Update - (Ann Hardy) – Ann advised that the Radical Newcastle exhibition has been postponed until mid-2017. She is currently organising two walking tours as part of the 'Being Human Festival' to be held in November 2016, this festival is popular in the UK and the walks as part of the Being Human Festival will be a first for Newcastle. Events are sponsored by the UON. Further information will be available in coming months.

Update- National Trust – Keith Parsons advised that the former AA Company house at Hamilton South owned by council is currently on the market to be sold, it is in very poor condition and would be difficult to renovate and he questions any future use of the building. The 1905 pavilion at Newcastle South Beach may be at risk of demolition, a recent proposal for upgrades of beach facilities does not show the pavilion and concerns raised in regard to its future. It has been suggested that the pavilion may be the last surviving beach pavilion in NSW. The Hunter Branch of the National Trust is advocating to ensure the protection of this item. HRCNT meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Lock Up, 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle 5.30 – 7.00. Anyone is welcome to come along.

8. Update – Newcastle Council – (Sue Effenberger) - Sue gave updates.

8. Public Advocacy – NIL

9. General Business-

- a) (Brian Roach)- Newcastle Dictionary of Biography- Brian circulated a proposal for discussion based on the concept of Aust. Dictionary of Biography that documents people of Newcastle/Hunter. There was general support for such a project and members invited to form a

sub-committee to discuss how the project could proceed. If you are interested please email Brian Roach on broach33@live.com.au

- b) (Doug Lithgow)- Doug briefly mentioned a planning document “A Community Perspective on planning for Newcastle’s Future” 1998 that he would like circulated for discussion at the next meeting.
- c) (David Dial)- David reported on the proposed refurbishment of the Former Army Drill Hall at Newcastle West, for a proposed café/restaurant. The hall was built in 1910 and has an association with General Birdwood and his visit to Newcastle in 1920 to return the ‘Birdwood Flag’. Birdwood Park near the former drill hall is named after the general. David also commended Lake Macquarie City Council in naming of new streets in honor of local WWI Soldiers.
- d) (Jude Conway) – Jude reminded members that Local Studies at Newcastle Council provides a ‘Newcastle Stories’ talk on the first Thursday of every month, about various rare and interesting items in the library’s collection.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 5th September, 2016 in the IDC Building, 1-3pm.