

Coal River Working Party Meeting
5th September, 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), Emeritus Professor John Fryer, 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, Doug Lithgow, Dennis Thurlow, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, Suzanne Martin, Patsy Withycombe, Lesley Gen, Ziggy Szyda, Helen Denzin, Frank Elgar, Natalie Dimmock, Lyn Daley-Jones, Dale Allison, Charles Martin,

Apologies: Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Marilla North, Robert Jones, Hafiz Rahman, Bill Robertson

Visitors: Nil

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 1st August 2016 was confirmed by Peter Sherlock and seconded – Bronwyn Law.

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

5. **Presentations-**
 - a) **(Jude Conway) - Molly Morgan** – Jude gave a wonderful presentation about the life of Molly Morgan and how she came to the Hunter Region. Born Mary Jones in 1762, married William Morgan, she had numerous name changes and was transported several times to NSW. She came to Newcastle at 18 and later given land at Horseshoe bend at Wallis Plains, she died in 1838 at Anvil Creek. Story is available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/29/molly-morgan/>

 - b) **(Doug Lithgow)- Community perspective of planning in Newcastle.** Doug gave a presentation on a workshop the Parks Movement had held with the Newcastle Council in 1998–Community Perspectives of Planning in Newcastle. He maintained that Newcastle’s heritage

was owned by others from early colonial times and we must understand the forces acting and work to have our heritage clearly expressed in future planning. It's an ongoing political problem. Newcastle's Heritage has been influenced by the natural and cultural forces of its Geology, Indigenous and colonial history, landscape and Landform; Its industrial culture and art. The estuary and hinterland provided Indigenous people with abundant opportunities to live in and understand their whole environment. Colonialism focused initially on Convicts and Mining and the land became principally a mining province exploited by others outside the region. This started with the convict mining in the Coal River Precinct. Then early Newcastle was surrounded by AA Coy and its mining. Mining Companies became real estate entrepreneurs and influenced the settlement pattern long after mining was exhausted.

Our development has created difficulties for the region to nurture and own its heritage and express it in its own planning and future. Document available here

<http://parksandplaygroundsmovement.blogspot.com.au/2016/02/community-perspective-on-planning-for.html>

6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL

- 7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio)** - Gionni advised that he recently went to the State Records Regional Repository meeting at Penrith where there were representatives from Broken Hill library who commented on the successful National Nomination for the City of Broken Hill. This success came about because of the broad community support, the nomination was also championed by Simon Molesworth (International National Trusts Organisation) and ICOMOS. Much of the discussion at the workshop centred on regional archives, lack of human resource to accession and digitise records and need to be innovative and use of digital technology. Cultural Collections at the UON is fortunate to have a large volunteer/student base to undertake archival projects, something that would like to see across the GLAM sector in Australia.

Gionni noted that this week is History Week and Tamsin O Connor will be presenting on Friday 9 September at the History Seminar Series in Cultural Collections. Title of presentation is "Bad Neighbours: Smugglers and Pirates of the penal station and Port of Newcastle, 1804-1824." Tamsin is a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney. Her thesis, entitled 'All those Places of Condemnation': Power Relations and Aspects of Resistance at the Penal Stations of New South Wales 1804 – 1842." Presentation available here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/13/newcastle-pirates/>

Update - (Ann Hardy) – Ann advised that HHI were notified by the Dept. of Environment and Energy about the national nomination for Newcastle informing that the nomination had been carefully considered and although the nomination shows ‘Coal River’ may have national heritage values it was not considered a priority for the relevant assessment period, “The Council noted that convict sites are already well-represented on the National Heritage List, and was not clear how Coal River would demonstrate features of the convict system not already represented in the list.” Despite this the Minister will automatically reconsider Coal River (Mulubinba) and Government Domain when the next call for nominations is made. A letter was also received from the Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Claydon about the nomination, stating she was seeking a briefing from the Dept. of Environment and Energy regarding the decision, she believed the HHI had submitted a strong application for inclusion on the NHL and deserved an explanation as to why it continued to be excluded from the priority list. There was general discussion among the group about the nomination and it was highlighted that although there are already convict places on the NHL, Newcastle was unique as a convict landscape (Macquarie Pier) not intact and ‘frozen in time’ as other sites, but living and continuous use by the wider community.

Update- National Trust – Keith Parsons advised that the Hunter Branch of the National Trust has written to Newcastle council about the 1905 pavilion at Newcastle South Beach. It is an opportune time to highlight its significance because of current upgrade of beach facilities.

Update – Newcastle Council – (Sue Effenberger) - Sue spoke about her new role in council and the excellent foundation set by former heritage strategist who planned many projects now ready for implementation. The Coal River Interpretation Plan (Pizzey Plan) is able to progress to the next phase, and the Newcastle Heritage Conservation Plan has been reviewed and awaiting endorsement, the Newcastle Aboriginal Plan is being reviewed, and the Newcastle Archaeological Plan underway. The recent announcement of the Aboriginal Dual Naming for places in Newcastle will now see a strategy to initiate multi-digital projects. Cathedral Park interpretation continues and Aboriginal naming/culture will be incorporated there.

8. Public Advocacy – NIL

9. General Business -

- a) (Ron Barber) – Ron reminded members that the next HHI meeting will be held at Fort Scratchley on Monday 10th October, in Barracks Room. Parking will be available below the fort

in temporary car park that will be opened for the afternoon (next to children's play area on Nobbys Road).

10. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 10th October, 2016 at Fort Scratchley, Nobbys Road Newcastle, 1-3pm.