The National Heritage List is a record of places in the Australian jurisdiction that have outstanding natural, Indigenous or historic heritage values for the nation. These places are protected by federal law under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Nominating a place for the National Heritage List means identifying its national heritage values on this form and providing supporting evidence. If you need help in filling out this form, contact (02) 6274 2149.

Form checklist

1. read the Nomination Notes for advice and tips on answering questions in this form.
2. add attachments and extra papers where indicated (Note: this material will not be returned).
3. provide your details, sign and date the form.

Q1. What is the name of the place?

The Coal River Precinct, Newcastle (NSW State Heritage Register No.1674)
and The Convict Lumber Yard (NSW State Heritage Register No.570).

For the purpose of this nomination ‘the place’ including both sites is called the ‘Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape’.

Q2a. Where is the place? Address/location:

The Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is situated at the southern entrance to the Port of Newcastle, New South Wales. It includes landmarks such as Nobbys, Macquarie Pier, the southern headland (Colliers Point/Signal Hill and Flagstaff Hill) including Fort Scratchley, the convict lumber yard and adjoining foreshore. It is bounded by Fort Drive, Nobbys Drive, Foreshore Drive, Shortland Esplanade and Scott Street. Nobbys Lighthouse is a Commonwealth Heritage Place and Fort Scratchley was a Commonwealth Heritage Place up until recently when it was transferred to the Newcastle City Council. The convict lumber yard, which is in close proximity to the Coal River Precinct on the west, and identified as Community land and is on the State Heritage Register as 570 within Lot 2 DP 706760’. The entire Lumber Yard extends beyond Lot 2 into adjoining property to the north, east and west. The street address is Scott and Bond Streets Newcastle NSW 2300.

Although the proposed area is based on the existing Coal River Precinct boundaries set out in the NSW Heritage Office listing, this nomination of a cultural landscape is reflected in the wider early township area of Newcastle and as shown in Sir Thomas Mitchell’s fieldbook of his survey of Newcastle in 1828.
1828-1830. Mitchell, Sir Thomas Livingstone (1792-1855) Field, Note and Sketch Book, 1828-1830 (Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales)

A map of the area showing the two State Heritage sites proposed for National Heritage Listing
Q2c. Type of map you have supplied: Cadastral

Q3a. Who owns it? Owner’s name (If more than one owner, attach a list): The place is public land owned and controlled by Commonwealth, State and Local Governments. The most immediate authority is Newcastle City Council.

Address: Newcastle City Council, City Administration Centre, 282 King St, Newcastle

State: NSW
Postcode: 2300

Telephone: 02 4974 2000
Fax: 02 4974 2222
Email: mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Q3b. Is the owner(s) aware of the nomination?

NO □ YES × SOME ARE □ (Please list):
Q4. Who has an interest in the place? This could include the property’s manager, local environment or historical groups, local council, Indigenous people and developers or industry groups. Please provide names and contact details.

University of Newcastle Coal River Working Party
Contact - Gionni di Gravio ph 02 4921 5819

Heritage Office of NSW
Contact - Bill Nethery, ph 02 9873 8500

National Trust of Australia (New South Wales)
Contact - Graham Quint (Conservation Director)

Hunter Contact - Ann Hardy Secretary, PO BOX 2151 DANGAR NSW 2309 ph 0438509139

Parks and Playgrounds Movement Incorporated
Contact - Doug Lithgow ph 02 4943 1781

Hunter Heritage Network Incorporated
Contact - Sarah Cameron, President, ph 02 4974 2000

Awabakal Land Council
Contact - Ray Kelly 02 4965 4532

Worimi Land Council
Contact - 02 4965 1500

Federal Member for Newcastle
Contact- Sharon Grierson MP, 02 4926 1555

Newcastle City Council
Contact - Ms Sarah Cameron, NCC Heritage Officer, ph 02 4974 2000
Contact - Ms Barbara Heaton, Place Manager, ph 02 4974 2000

Newcastle Port Corporation
Contact 1800 048 205.

Newcastle Region Art Gallery
Contact- Ron Ramsey, Director, ph 02 49745100

New South Wales Maritime Authority
Contact - ph 02 9563 8511

Commonwealth of Australia
Contact - Department of Environment and Water, Mr Graham Crocket, 02 262742196

Australian Coal Association
Contact - 02 6273 6044

Fort Scratchley Historical Society Inc
Contact - Bill Hopkins, President, ph 02 4927 0889

Newcastle Family History Society
Contact - Ken and Maree Shilling ph 4963 2813

Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association
Contact - Bob Cook ph 4926 1117

Engineers Heritage Australia (Newcastle)
Contact - ph 02 4926 444

Surf Life Saving Association of NSW
Contact - ph 02 9984 7188

Residents Standing Committee on Newcastle Development
Contact - Beverly Southern, ph 02 491635

Newcastle East Residents Group Inc.
Contact - Joan Browning, Secretary 49 49297167

Tourism NSW
Contact - Ms Sheridan Ferrier, ph 02 49784000
5. What is its significance? How would you tell people that this place has great importance to Australia? For example, why does this place, unlike other similar places, best highlight an outstanding aspect of Australia’s heritage?

Natural, Indigenous and historic heritage values that make the Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape an outstanding heritage place of national significance is described using the following themes, Aboriginal, Industrial history and Intangible heritage.

The Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is a distinctive area of public land at the mouth of the Hunter River encompassing Nobbys, Macquarie Pier, Convict Lumber Yard and the original convict coal mine workings beneath what is now known as Fort Scratchley. The area is of cultural and historical significance and provides both tangible and intangible expressions of Newcastle's Aboriginal & European Heritage.

The site has a combination of Aboriginal and immigrant settlements that reflect the interaction between people, accompanied with the mutual respect towards each of these diverse cultures. Conflict between Aboriginal and immigrants in other places of the Colony are well known, however in Coal River there are examples of two culturally distinct people sharing their knowledge and often collaborating to understand the meaning of one another’s traditions and customs.

This area is also of central importance to the nation in building an economy that contributed to the economic, political or social processes of Australia. It is truly a ‘Birthplace’ site in terms of how collaborations in these early years forged out distinctive social and political processes that helped establish a more democratic society in Australia. Themes of ‘mateship’ and ‘past struggle’ are all indicative of the convict occupation of the area. Convicts worked in difficult conditions and great adversity to assist in establishing an emerging civil society, free labour and the beginnings of private enterprise. This was enhanced by the progressive early Governor of New South Wales Lachlan Macquarie who endeavoured to transform the Colony from a convict settlement into a prosperous and more democratic society. In Newcastle he undertook an intensive public works programme with the construction of Macquarie Pier that strengthened the Colony’s power base towards establishing a more “Free and Fair Austrailia”.

Regarding definitions we declare that the site has importance for the Nation based particularly on the categories “a”, “d”, “g” and “i”.

Preface

Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is of outstanding National heritage significance because it is a place of ‘living history’, where Aboriginal and Colonial lifestyle is mirrored in the landscape. These two cultures reflect the early Aboriginal and European association with the place and their use of the land and how these cultures came together to tell a unique story. This cultural landscape continues to reflect meanings of the past, and is now the urban post-industrial city of Newcastle.

This cultural landscape signifies a place of contact between Aboriginal and migrant people and the valuable relationships that were formed (Windross p.11). Some of the early relationships, such as between Bungaree and Governor Macquarie, and the collaboration of Biraban and Reverend Threlkeld, is evidence of pre-1840 contact. These two people came together to reveal valuable aspects of each other’s culture, which are important stories in terms of Australian cultural heritage.

Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape shows outstanding heritage value to the Nation because of the characteristics it shows of Australia’s natural and cultural environment that is not known to exist elsewhere. The elements of this single environment represents modes of construction, engineering and surveying techniques that were used in conjunction with an understanding of the natural earth formations and ocean and river systems.

The proposed Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape also marks a series of important transitions in Australia’s journey to nationhood; from government industry to private enterprise, from convict to free labour, from punishment to profit, from a natural to a human-fashioned landscape. The landscape tells these stories in a dramatic fashion; through its changing landforms shaped by the demands of industry, through its archaeological remains intact and in situ, and through the continued and inescapable presence of a bustling working harbour.

A recent report of the Precinct notes that “It is difficult to think of another major city which can point to such a rich mix of important heritage themes in such a special landscape environment” ( Coal River Cultural Tourism Management Plan p.38).
Aboriginal

The uniqueness of this culturally significant place and its association with Aboriginal an industrial heritage themes are important to consider together because of the emergence of new knowledge, research and fresh interpretations of the landscape. Recent work has provided a greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and resources that they used in the area. Aboriginal people of the area are believed to be the only Aboriginal Tribe to discuss coal in their legends (Threlkeld in Gunson, 1974, 65). ‘The area today, known as Newcastle was an industrial and trading centre long before white intrusion.’ (Maynard, 2003, 250). Futhermore, Aboriginal culture was quite sophisticated and the mining of coal was common practice, long before European occupation.

There is a strong theme of Aboriginal economy, with sites that include shell middens, grinding areas, clay digs and stone tools. Chert, is still present at the base of Nobbys head was a major source of raw material for the fashioning of stone tools. It is very rare for such material to be found so close to a large regional city (Walker et al, 1989, 25).

The Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape holds great meaning and significance to Aboriginal people because it is associated with Dreaming stories that depict the laws of the land and signify how people should behave in regard to the environment. The Dreaming story of the ‘Giant Kangaroo’ is of historical importance to the National because it shows the continued link that people have with the Mulubinba landscape. Aboriginal people lived in this area enjoying its rich and varied environment. Despite extensive changes, evidence of Aboriginal occupation can still be found in the Landscape. Nobbys Headland is a Dreaming place for local indigenous people and represents a site of fundamental importance to Aboriginal people.

There is also evidence that Corroborees took place in the area, these events are documented in many written and visual sources (Percy Haslam Papers. A5410(i) leaves 7).

Industrial History

The Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is the birthplace of Australia’s coal mining industry and marks the site of the discovery of coal, and the first modern coal mining undertaken in the Southern Hemisphere. The first profit ever made in the fledgling colony of New South Wales of ‘2 pounds, 5 shillings’ made at Coal River in 1801. Newcastle and the Hunter Region has bankrolled the Australian economy from its inception in the early 1800s and continues to underpin Australia’s prosperity.

The Penal settlement of Newcastle in 1802 provided hard labour for re-offending convicts, and after the settlement’s re-established in 1804 following the Irish rebellion at Vinegar Hill, convicts were sent to work the first coal mines in the Colony.

Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is emblematic of the shift from punishment to profit, convict society to civil society. There are no other convict sites in Australia (including those proposed for World Heritage nomination) that capture the economic and cultural transitions so well. Most convict sites are no longer ‘living sites’, whereas the Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape makes tangible the links between convict industry, subsequent development, and the present-day.

Four highly significant and tangible convict sites in the proposed area include the convict coal mines (under Fort Scratchley), the convict lumber yard site, Macquarie Pier and Nobbys Headland. More recently research has uncovered the convict coal mines located under Fort Scratchley (Sept 2006) and there is scope to conduct further research and to open up the mines these early mines. Professional excavation of the convict lumber yard site between 1987 and 1989 found ‘substantial evidence of its history and hence of the major themes which generated the development of Newcastle.’ Nobbys Headland also has the potential for archeological investigations of the chambers known to exist that had been put there for the ‘Blowing up of Nobbys’. (see Appendix A) The early coal mines, Macquarie Pier and Nobbys Headland are particular sites in need of professional cultural interpretation.
The Coal River (*Mulubinba*) Cultural Landscape is unique because it represents the establishment of the largest coal port in the world, and the earliest major public works project in Australia, Macquarie Pier (Nobbys Breakwater). The construction of the pier is important to the history of capital works programs of Colonial Governments because it demonstrates the technology that was being used globally at that time.

Although convicts were sent from Newcastle to Port Macquarie in 1823 when Newcastle became a free settlement, many of the convicts remained in Newcastle to complete the pier ("Historical Records of Newcastle 1797 - 1897," p 9). Construction of the Pier started in 1818 and was completed in 1853 and is testament to the skill and technology used in the Colonial period (Davies 1996.p 41). The breakwater is the foundation of Nobbys Beach that has gradually built up to form the popular surfing beach in Newcastle.

The industrial setting of Newcastle also meant that many early methods of mining technologies were brought to the Colony from various parts of Europe. In 1801 and 1804 John Platt, a skilled coalminer set out the mines in what was clearly the method at the forefront of mining technology - the bord and pillar system. Colliers Point was the site of the first coalmining in Australia. The industrial landscape today is a reminder of the rich colonial mining heritage of the Nation.

The Convict Lumber Yard or stockade ceased to be a convict workplace by about 1850 and much of the fabric from this era remains buried beneath the sand drifts that subsequently covered the site. The stockade is already a nationally significant archaeological site marking the beginnings of industry at Newcastle.

The Macquarie Pier was strategically established to serve the purpose of industry, defence and the growing economy. This structure not only provided a safe entrance into the Hunter River, but contributed to the Colony’s growing coal export trade. A coal-fired beacon was erected on Signal Hill to guide and warn mariners was probably the first light on the Australian coast. It was extinguished in December 1857 when the new lighthouse at Nobbys commenced operation. On the hill were also erected a signal station and about 1860, a house for the harbourmaster (Captain Allen). Due to a perceived threat from Britain’s enemies in the 1870s, substantial fortifications were erected at key outposts in British colonies, such as Fort Scratchley in 1881. The Fort is the only coastal installation, or shore battery built in 1831, in Australia to have fired on an enemy in time of war when the fort’s guns returned fire on an attacking Japanese submarine the early hours of 8 June 1942 (Carey 1986).

Nationally, the area has much to contribute in regard to industrial heritage and convictism in Australia.

**Intangible Heritage**

The area retains significant natural and cultural landmarks including Nobbys Head, Fort Scratchley Headland, Newcastle Harbour and the Hunter River. Newcastle Coast is included as a geological heritage site in "The Geological Heritage of NSW" (Percival 1985). However, what is valuable is how the natural landscape and its unique geology including faults, coal seams and sedimentary deposits that have been interpreted and the special meanings it holds for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The area is of outstanding heritage significance for all Australians because of the meanings that are associated with the environment and the landscape there.

The place represents the technical achievement of many people associated with the landscape, especially their use of resources (coal) of the area, a use that continues to be reflected today. The intangible element of the city’s history remains active and can be seen every day in the various movements in the landscape, from Nobbys headland to the harbour and from the breakwater to the beach. As the coal ships line up along the oceans horizon and await entry to the port, it is a reminder of Australia’s first industry, an industry that is currently fuelling the climate debate. Again, meanings associated with the Coal River (*Mulubinba*) Cultural Landscape is changing in the twenty-first century.
As already mentioned Whibayganba or Nobbys Headland is a spiritual Aboriginal place that tells the Dreamtime story of the giant kangaroo. It is also related to the history of earthquakes in the region. This Aboriginal Dreamtime story has been written about by various people as told by local Aboriginal people. These recordings signify the important associations that were formed to increase understanding of Aboriginal culture and of the special relationships that existed between Aboriginal people and migrants of the area. A fresh interpretation of our cultural history is providing new knowledge of Aboriginal culture that is in need of extensive examination (Christian Herald, 1855). The story of the ‘giant kangaroo’ tells of the codes of behavior that is significant to an understanding, and the sophistication of Aboriginal culture in terms of Aboriginal law (of the Kangaroo being chased by wallabies for a wrong deed and finding refuge on Nobbys Island, becoming trapped inside). The kangaroo was thought to put “desire before code of behaviour” after attacking a female wallaby. This “conflicted with the laws governing kinship pattern of survival based on the purity of blood lines. It destroyed the totemic structure, so strongly emphasised in the Bora teaching.” (Percy Haslam Papers, A5410(i) leaves 7). A strong Aboriginal culture of the area highlights the association that Aboriginal people had with nature and the environment.

Finally, all of the themes described of the Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape show that it was a place central to the management of convict labor, early coal mining technology and the development and growth of Australia, particular its economic growth. It represents an important chapter in the history of convictism in Australia and is indicative of the transition from a punitive convict settlement to a free settlement based on an emerging civil society through economic and cultural development. With this, along with Aboriginal associations, it is a true ‘Birthplace’ site.

“Its buildings and subterranean remains concentrate elements of the Newcastle story from pre-history through the first hundred years of European settlement. In the beaches and later Nobbys Beach Pavilion the all-embracing questions of Newcastle character are exemplified.”

(Coal River Tourism Management Plan, p 38)

(NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL, CULTURAL COLLECTIONS)

The 1938 painting “Pleasure” by Herbert Gallop exemplifies the Newcastle character within the Coal River Cultural Landscape: Nobbys the famous landmark and the Lighthouse the Steam ships and the surf and sand with the cliffs of Colliers Point site of the first Convict Coalmines 1801-04 and coal fired beacon and now the massive fortifications of Fort Scratchley 1882 as a backdrop to modern Newcastle. (Brown & Jurisich. "The Nobby's Collection" p. 28).
Q6. Which criteria does it meet? Please try and identify each criterion from the list below applies to the place and explain why it meets that criterion (attach evidence in relation to each criterion claimed to have been met).

- **a** - the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia’s natural or cultural history

  Coal River (*Mulubinba*) Cultural Landscape is an outstanding heritage value to the Nation because of the characteristic of Australia natural and cultural environment that is not known to exist elsewhere. The elements of this single environment represents modes of construction, engineering and surveying techniques that were used in conjunction with a sound understanding and respect of the natural earth formations, ocean and river systems.

  - The place is an extraordinary example of the national understanding of Aboriginal languages, Biraban and Threlkeld’s work is the earliest and the most accomplished in Australia. Their work documents the dreamtime story of the giant kangaroo, stories that need to be retained of this fading culture.
  - The place (Nobbys Headland) is significant to aboriginal history (as represented in stories documented by Threlkeld) and is associated with both Aboriginal culture with the natural landscape formations.
  - The coastal outcrops of the Nobbys Island and Signal Hill were recognised by leading local and overseas geologists in the early 1800s as of great geological significance. Professor Sir Edgeworth David referred to the Late Permian section exposed along the coast as probably the finest of its kind in the world (Kerr, R. 2000)
  - The place represents patterns of economic and social development of the early colonial period through the movement from government-controlled and convict-worked industry to the arrival of free labour and the beginnings of private enterprise.
  - The place best shows how the landscape has changed over time due to the large-scale transformation of local geography to meet industrial, commercial and residential demands and is expressed in a tangible way.
  - The place best represents a convict penal settlement that is directly related to the beginning of Australian industry (coal mining).
  - The place is an exceptional example of the forced migration of convicts and developments associated with punishment and reform and is an important stage of human history in the modern era.
  - The place has a high degree of significance in regard to Australian convict heritage, particularly convict labour and the associated convict built heritage of the site that is reflected in the landscape.
  - The place is an outstanding example of the work begun by convict labour (port related works and Macquarie Pier) becoming an importance place for the Australian maritime economy, a use that continues to be reflected today.
  - The place is an outstanding example of early navigational, maritime and military history and Nobbys lighthouse as a primary site associated with all of these themes.
The place is of central importance to the nation in building an economy that contributed to the economic, political or social processes that were formed.

The place is an outstanding example of Australia’s early position at the forefront of applied coal mining technology in the early 1800s that contributed to the nation’s economic development.

The place is highly significant culturally because of its representation in documents that exist in historical records and visual sources about the site from the late 1700s that show the changes to the landscape.

The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia’s natural or cultural history.

The Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is unique because it represents the earliest major public works project in Australia, (Macquarie Pier -Nobbys Breakwater). This work provided a safe entrance into the Hunter River and contributed to the Colony’s growing coal export trade. The convict breakwater is testament to the skill and technology used in the Colonial period that has become the foundation of Nobby’s Beach, now a popular surfing beach.

The place is a remarkable example of the transition of Australia’s first industry (coal mining) that has greatly contributed to the Australian economy (its inception at the foot of Nobby’s Island and the Flagstaff Hill).

The place is nationally rare because Macquarie Pier is the largest early major public works project begun with convict labour in a penal settlement.

The place is nationally rare because of its attributes as a former Island that was later joined to the mainland by a breakwater started with convict labour in 1818.

The place is nationally rare because if possesses Australia’s oldest surviving mining heritage with significant surviving physical evidence. (See Appendix C) [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/coalriver/pdf/johnwilson_coalriver%20report_full.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/coalriver/pdf/johnwilson_coalriver%20report_full.pdf)

The place is nationally rare because if possesses Australia’s first convict work site (Convict Lumber Yard).

The place is nationally rare because if possesses the oldest surviving lighthouse on the east coast of Australia that was replaced by the earlier coal fired beacon located on Signal Hill, first lit in 1804.

The place is nationally rare because if possesses an intact coastal fortification showing patterns of evolution in construction and military technology from the 1880s to the 1940s.

The place is nationally rare because Nobby’s beach has been formed along the line of Macquarie Pier (breakwater) and is indicative of the shift from work and industrial usages to leisure-orientated pursuits and contemporary beach culture; in essence the beach has formed due to human intervention.
c. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia’s natural or cultural history.

- The place has the potential to provide important new national information in regard to Aboriginal sites in the precinct that reveals a rare incidence of Aboriginal archaeology close to the major regional city.

- The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because the recording of the ancient Aboriginal language by Biraban and Threlkeld (one of the earliest and most accomplished in Australia) and the potential for scholars to yield information from unpublished works that will contribute to further knowledge of Aboriginal language and culture. (Roberts, 2008)

- The place has significant potential to contribute new knowledge about the relationship between two cultures in the early contact period as it was an important site of the interaction between Aboriginal and European people.

- The place enables us to interpret the natural slices through the rock sequence that the coastal cliffs provide to learn more about the environments that existed in the Newcastle area during the Late Permian, (about 250 million years ago) and interpret how the environment has changed over time in this area. (Kerr, R. 2000)

- Significant features of this cultural Landscape, the early convict coal mines and the Convict Lumber Yard, have the potential to provide information about colonial and convict life in Australia. Nationally they hold immense cultural value and there is the opportunity for further archaeological research to be conducted on these sites. In a global context, these early convict coal mines are rare.

- The place has significant potential to reveal, through archaeological field work knowledge of Australia’s early cultural history related to mining and there is the scope to reveal further information about the convict workings, particularly knowledge of convict artefacts and tunnelling on Nobby’s Headland (pre 1850s).

- The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia’s largest public works projects begun with convict labour (Macquarie Pier) and to better understand the nature of this construction and techniques used in the convict-era.

- The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because it will contribute to an understanding of early Australian industrial convict sites and advance our understanding of convicts as a cultural group and the contribution made by their enforced labour. Furthermore, this will contribute greatly to Australian historiography of Colonialism and convictism.

- The place has significant potential to contribute new knowledge about Aboriginal culture, industrial heritage and convict occupation from research of existing historical records and visual sources that have not yet been analysed.

d. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

- a class of Australia’s natural or cultural places, or
- a class of Australia’s natural or cultural environments

- While other places with similar characteristics exist (Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasmania), this place shares all those characteristics and emerges from that group as the earliest example of a convict coal mine in Australia, and the southern hemisphere.
While other places with similar characteristics exist in terms of public infrastructure (example, the Great North Road) the construction of Macquarie Pier shares most of those characteristics and emerges as the earliest example of a major public works project developed by convict labour in Australia.

While other places with similar characteristics exist, this place differs to Port Arthur and Norfolk Island as a place of secondary punishment, in that it progressed to economic and cultural transitions and is a convict ‘living’ site.

The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Aesthetically the Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is a rare example of the transformation of the natural landscape that has been shaped by convict labour and early European occupation and intervention. The precinct, especially Nobbys Headland is an outstanding landmark.

- The place has a high degree of aesthetic value, a wealth of individuals have found creative inspiration from the landscape since 1804 to current day and whose artistic works have documented the transformation of this unique place shaped by human intervention. (See Appendix D)

- The place has a significant heritage value in regard to visual aesthetics as it captures the essence of Australian industry and maritime history.

- The place is of significant heritage value in regard to visual aesthetic as it is featured on numerous panels of the Nationally significant Macquarie Chest, a gift to Governor Macquarie. (See on-line resource)
The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

The site represents the establishment of an industry that continues to be a major strength of the Australian economy.

- The place shows technical achievement and innovation in introducing the first coal mining in the Southern Hemisphere and marks the use of the transfer of the ‘bord and pillar’ coal mining techniques from across the world to Australia.

- The place shows the best early example in Australia of a major Colonial public works project (Macquarie Pier) and where built features and the natural landscape work together, its original use remains active and the structure is still recognisable today.

- The place shows innovative and technical achievement related to masonry, quarrying and construction techniques to build Macquarie Pier, to provide a safe entrance into the port that contributed to the growth of the Colony’s coal industry.

- The place shows skilfulness of design in the reshaping of the Nobby’s Headland for the construction of Nobby’s Lighthouse.

- The place represents the diversity of skills among the convicts whose craftsmanship and artistry produced works that are now considered to be of National importance, for example the Macquarie Chest.

The place holds special meanings to the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people who share the spiritual dreamtime stories of Whibayganba or Nobby’s Headland, a spiritual Aboriginal place that tells the dreamtime story of the ‘giant kangaroo’.

The place holds special meanings for people who share the knowledge of the Aboriginal culture, much of which has only recently come to the forefront of further investigation and research.

The place holds other special meanings for academics, historians and the community who value the rich cultural significance of this place and the diverse meanings that it holds.

The place is closely associated with the re-offending convicts following the 1804 Irish rebellion at Vinegar Hill who were the first convicts at Coal River.

The place is closely associated with Governor Macquarie who implemented many Colonial projects that supported the developing coal industry and economic growth of the Colony.
- The place is closely associated with Aboriginal and migrant relationships that lead to new knowledge of Aboriginal culture to be further understood, for example the relationship between Biraban the Aboriginal leader and Reverend Threlkeld.

- The place has a strong association with Captain Cook who sighted Nobbys Island on his voyage in 1770.

- The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

- The Coal River (*Mulubinba*) Cultural Landscape contains sites of outstanding significance for local indigenous people. Whibayganba (Nobbys Head) and Coquun (The Hunter River) are the locations of a dreaming story that details Newcastle and the Hunter’s earthquake history.

- The place has heritage values that are held by Aboriginal people as part of their culture and traditions of Whibayganba or Nobbys Headland and the Dreaming stories represented at the site.
Q7a. How would you describe the place?

The proposed Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape is a unified cultural landscape rich in historical importance that is comprised of sites which invoke and exhibit the four themes of transition enumerated above. The Park is a unique precinct that shows the transition from a penal settlement to a civil society and to a major port city and the transition from a place of punishment to a place of outstanding economic importance to the nation. The site is now ready for national recognition and professional management. The principal heritage elements of the nomination are:

Nobbys

Nobbys is a distinctive landmark at the mouth of the Hunter River, noted by Captain James Cook during his voyage of discovery up the east coast of Australia. On 10 May 1770 Cook wrote in his ship’s log that the Endeavour passed by a ‘small clump of an island lying close to shore’. Shortland named the island Hacking Island, in his ‘Eye Sketch’. Paterson named it Coal Island presumably because of the visible coal seams. The Aboriginal name was Whybaygamba, and this has been documented in Mitchell’s survey sketch book of 1828.

Nobbys Island was used as a place of confinement for the worst convicts before the island was joined to the mainland. Several tunnels were cut into Nobbys for the blowing up of the headland and these tunnels were visible for many years and gradually becoming sealed by falling rock. (Windross 12) The entrance to a tunnel shelter in the northern cliff face has been covered by rock falls.

A meeting was held in Newcastle in June 1854 to protest against a perceived threat to remove the island in the interests of navigation. However Nobbys was cut down from 62 metres to 28 metres instead and the lighthouse established there in 1857 replacing the coal-fired beacon that had been operating at Signal Hill.

Nobbys Lighthouse is an operational Lighthouse standing on Nobbys Headland at the entrance to the Port of Newcastle. This lighthouse is the oldest functioning lighthouse on the Australian mainland, built in 1857, is unique because the headland where it is situated was cut down by half to erect the lighthouse. Prior to this a coal fired beacon on Fort Scratchley had operated from 1804, this was the earliest light beacon in the Colony. As a landmark, the lighthouse it is clearly identified with the southern arm and the entry to the Port of Newcastle. The Lighthouse is intact and free standing. “Nobby’s Lighthouse is the lighthouse built on Nobby’s Headland in 1857... It remains highly intact and operative to this date. The lighthouse consists of a free-standing stone tower, cast iron glazed lantern, conical roof and vent, cantilevered gallery, internal access ladder (not seen) and original optic. Historically, Nobby’s Light & Signal Station were used as a day marker for shipping as well as at night,” (Clive Lucas Stapleton 2007, p. 2).

Nobbys is a Newcastle icon that was depicted on the Newcastle City Coat of Arms until 1968.

Colliers Point Mines

Lieutenant Colonel Paterson writing to Governor King named the headland Collier’s Point and explained that:

The point is composed of two strata in sight and one, which is bare at low-water mark only. This is by much the best coal, which you will see by the specimen I desired might be kept apart from the other, which is the middle strata, about 16 inches deep; that below is 22 inches; the distance between them is about 20 feet.

In 1801 and 1804 John Platt, a skilled coalminer set out the mines in what was clearly the method at the forefront of mining technology - the bord and pillar system. He advised Governor King of the damage done when the mines were not properly regulated and timbered. Colliers Point was the site of the first coalmining in Australia, which continued at the location until 1814. Dr D F Branagan has identified the lower seam and the middle seam as the Dirty or Dudley seam.

The Newcastle Morning Herald 29 January 1885 reported on the old convict coal workings and the wall then being built the fort:

All necessary precautions having been taken by filling in or roofing the many underground chambers their entrances were finally blotted out of sight for ever by a thick wall of concrete and masonry.
Macquarie Pier

Governor Lachlan Macquarie laid the foundation stone for ‘Macquarie Pier’ on 5 May 1818. The pier was the most ambitious harbour improvement project of a convict era.

The connection to Nobby’s Island was completed in June 1846. Heavy seas in subsequent years breached the pier, which was later strengthened on the seaward side by using huge sandstone blocks transported by rail from a quarry at Waratah. The work was completed by 1872. A sand dune system and the popular Nobby’s Beach have formed on the ocean side of Macquarie Pier. In 1957 the harbour side of the breakwater was cement rendered except for a small stairway near Nobby’s.

The Macquarie Pier, constructed to enable safe entrance into the harbour was started in 1818 with Governor Macquarie laying the foundation stone. This was the Colony’s largest public works project and is not only important to the history of capital works programs of the Colonial Government, but to convictism and early technology in Australia. The construction of Macquarie Pier assisted in safe harbour access, it was essential structurally and strategically in enhancing the efficiency of the coal exported, thus increasing profits for the British Empire. The provision of convicts to construct Macquarie Pier was in the economic interest of the Colony.

Convict Stockade Lumber Yard

The stockade was once enclosed by a 3.4 metre high log wall. Here convicts both lived and worked. They were also employed outside the stockade at timber cutting, lime burning, coalmining and breakwater-building. In 1820 there were about 1000 convicts working in the area.

The stockade ceased to be a convict workplace by about 1850 and much of the fabric from this era remains buried beneath the sand drifts that subsequently covered the site.

The Berthing Master’s Office and the Stationmaster’s Cottage on the stockade site are evidence of the association of the area with Newcastle’s port and railway history, as are the Customs House and Sailors Home adjoining to west and east, beneath which extend the archaeological remains of the stockade’s fabric.

The stockade is already a nationally significant archaeological site marking the beginnings of industry at Newcastle.

Harbour Works and Reclamation

Harbour works and reclamation started in the convict era.

The first wharf was built west of the stockade, and a lagoon embayment to the east provided a harbour for the small craft used to convey convicts for cedar getting and lime burning tasks. A ballast wharf was constructed east of the main wharf (Watt Street) and a stone boat dock was built within the reclaimed area about 1860, for the use of pilots and port boatmen. Slipways were added in 1870. The dock and the boat sheds were part of the pilot Station.

The space between the ballast wharf and the shoreline was reclaimed and used for railway marshalling yards. A rail extension was provided to carry Waratah sandstone to reinforce the breakwater.

The Commissioners for Railway built Zaara Street Power House at the eastern end of the yards in 1915. Most of the area is now part of the Foreshore Park.

Signal Hill

Signal Hill is an important and historic landmark with a commanding position overlooking the river entrance. The northern extremity was Colliers Point.

Lieutenant Shortland camped at the base of the hill when he entered and surveyed the river in 1797 and noted the coal seams in the cliff face.

Fresh water was available from a small watercourse at the base of the hill.
The coal-fired beacon erected on Signal Hill in 1804 to guide and warn mariners was probably the first light on the Australian coast. It was extinguished in December 1857 when the new lighthouse at Nobbys commenced operation. On the hill were also erected a signal station, a distinctive pagoda-like building as a residence for the stoker and signalman, and about 1860, a house for the harbourmaster (Captain Allen).

Signal Hill was also known as Beacon Hill, Captain Allan’s Hill and Flagstaff Hill by 1840. Due to a perceived threat from Britain’s enemies in the 1870’s, substantial fortifications were erected at key outposts in British colonies, such as Fort Scratchley in 1881.

Extensive quarrying to gain material for Macquarie Pier and other purposes has dramatically altered the shape of Signal Hill and the old convict coal workings beneath the hill were sealed up with a thick wall of concrete in 1885.

Q7b. What condition is it in? Describe whether the place is intact or if there has there been any damage or disturbance.

The place has remained in public ownership because of its great significance to harbour and port function, defence and other strategic considerations. This has contributed to its present spatial integrity with a considerable amount of surviving physical evidence in the sites identified in this nomination. Further archaeological and investigative work is needed to reveal more physical evidence. An effective overarching plan of management, driven by the aims and objectives of the National Heritage List, is necessary in order to manage, protect, and integrate the diverse heritage items and themes that are demonstrated by the proposed Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape. Piecemeal management and poorly integrated planning represent potential threats to the National Heritage values included in the Park. Such a threat can be seen manifest in the current proposal for a restaurant and bed and breakfast development on Nobbys headland, which has the potential to compromise the Commonwealth-Heritage Listed Nobbys lighthouse, and the National Heritage values of that area of the proposed landscape.

Q8. What is its history?

Newcastle was the first area of white occupation in New South Wales outside of the Sydney basin and was permanently established as a place of secondary punishment in 1804. By 1819 there were almost 700 convicts in the area, and by 1820 the total resident white population was approximately 1,200. The area was of major economic importance as a source of coal, timber, lime and salt for the new colony. The closure of the penal settlement at Newcastle in 1823 led to a decade or two of stasis. Population growth, trade and wealth shifted towards the lower Hunter Valley, and the principal town of Maitland and its nearby port Morpeth.

Awabakal and Worimi people live in and around the Hunter River. The Awabakal’s traditional country ranges from Lake Macquarie to the southern shore of the Hunter River, while the Worimi live in what became known as the Stockton Bight/Port Stephens area. From the late 1790s initial contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people tended to be sporadic, but after 1804, the Awabakal and the Worimi had to contend with the permanent occupation of their country by convicts and their gaolers. Written, visual and archaeological evidence indicates that traditional patterns of their economy, society and kinship were maintained into the 1850s. Thereafter, traditional societies were overwhelmed by more widespread and intensive land use with many Aboriginal people choosing, or being forced, to relocate to a mission on Lake Macquarie which was established by Reverend Threlkeld in 1824. Others moved to the Lake Macquarie area, and their ancestors are resident in the region today, and still have connections to their culture and land.

It was the presence of coal which initially attracted Europeans to the area in the early 1800s. The outlet of the Hunter River and the presence of coal were officially noted by Lieutenant John Shortland in 1797. Shortland’s journey north of Sydney in the Governor’s whaleboat in September 1797, his eye-sketch of the river he named after Governor Hunter, his optimistic impression of the area, and his return of coal samples to Sydney were historically important factors in the eventual expansion of the newly-established penal colony out of the Sydney Basin.

Shortland’s visit was not the first landing in the area by Europeans. William and Mary Bryant, along with six other escaped convicts and two children from Sydney, may have landed in the area in March 1791. There is some debate whether they entered what was later known as the Hunter River, and most likely they landed at Glenrock Lagoon, five kilometres south of the Hunter River. The Bryants are well known to Australian history since they, remarkably, made it all the way to Timor, only to be found out by British officers from the recently-
wrecked *Pandora.* In Newcastle history, however, their claim to fame rests with their discovery and use of coal at Glenrock Lagoon.

Another pre-1797 European contact came in June 1796. David Collins, Judge-Advocate for the fledgling colony, detailed a visit by a party of fisherman ‘from a bay near Port Stephens’. This party brought back samples of coal to Sydney. Unlike Shortland, a navy man with a subsequent heroic career, these unnamed fishermen of lowly status were difficult candidates to eulogize as European explorers, despite the impeccable European credentials of Collins as a source. Moreover, their visit to Coal River had been an occasion for violence between the visiting party and local Aborigines. Collins reported that the party ‘conducted themselves improperly on shore, two of them were severely wounded by the natives...’ Collins does not record nor did he probably know of the outcome for local Aborigines. Coupled with these on-shore visits by Europeans was Captain Cook’s sighting of what later became ‘Nobbys Island’ in May 1770.

Further exploration in 1801 confirmed the area’s resources and potential. In June 1801 Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson, together with Lieutenant Grant, Ensign Barrallier, a party of marines and a gang of convicts arrived at Coal River to work the coal and exploit the cedar, accessible via the Hunter River. The more senior and capable officers left in July leaving Corporal Wixstead in charge. The 1801 settlement struggled under the inexperienced leadership of Wixstead and later the overly severe Surgeon Mason, and was withdrawn in early 1802.

Governor King first established the outpost in 1801 to control unchecked exploitation by private traders and provide hard labour for re-offending convicts. The settlement was withdrawn in 1802, but re-established in 1804 following the Irish rebellion at Vinegar Hill. Systematic extraction of coal continued in the immediate area from 1804 to 1817, after which newer mines west of the nominated area were opened. The Australian Agricultural Company took over the government mines in 1831. Free labour eventually replaced convict workers from the 1840s (Pemberton, 1986).

A convict settlement was re-established in 1804. This was designated a place of secondary punishment. The first convicts sent to Coal River were Irish rebels who participated in the Castle Hill insurrection. Coal mining had the dual value of being both dangerous, punishing work, while also producing a potentially valuable resource for the new colony. Captain Wallis established a refectory for women on Nobbys Island around 1816, he did this because there were increasing problems in managing both men and women together. Women convicts also came to Coal River, Nobbys was used as a factory for women. (Windross 11)

Coal mining was seen by early colonial administrators as a possible means to make the colony more financially self-sufficient. Governor Hunter had reported that the coal sighted at Coal Cliff, south of Sydney, was inaccessible, but the Coal River deposits outcropped at convenient locations at the entrance of the Hunter River. In 1797 Lieutenant Shortland was impressed with the loading and trade potential of the area: ‘Vessels from 60 to 250 tons may load there with great ease,’ (Shortland, 1798 in *HRNSW*, 481-82) It was these seams at the entrance to the river, outcropping at Nobbys and on Colliers Point/Signal Hill, that were the focus of the first systematic coal mining. The officer in charge of the 1804 settlement, Lieutenant Menzies, wrote that to Governor King that ‘an excellent mine has been opened, the strata of which continues a yard six inches thick.’ From geological records, and later written evidence, we know this seam to be the upper split of the Dudley seam. (Lt Menzies in *HRNSW*, 367)

From 1811 both coal production and the settlement’s population increased. From 73 persons in 1811 the population almost doubled to 134 by 1812. Similarly coal production increased from 800 tons in 1808 to 1400 tons in 1811, and peaked at 2193 tons in that decade. The penal settlement continued until 1823 with the convicts mining coal, preparing lime from shell and timber getting. The increase in convict numbers and production levels at Coal River coincided with Governor Macquarie’s decade-long programme of public works and construction. Such ambitious colony building would not have been possible without the resources provided by the Newcastle outpost. (Broadbent in Broadbent & Hughes, 1992, 157) For example, the first Government House at Parramatta was constructed using imported lime to secure the sandstone bricks, while Macquarie’s extensive building programme utilised the vast amounts of lime from Coal River.

If the first occupation of the 1800s was largely about coal, subsequent free settlers of the early 1820s were attracted by land. It was the availability of fertile land with rich alluvial soils adjacent to the Hunter, Williams and Paterson Rivers which was especially appealing. The Hunter Valley was opened to free settlement in 1823, and extensive numbers of settlers, sheep and cattle entered the valley in the next five years. Some of the more recalcitrant convicts were removed to the new penal station at Port Macquarie. However, convicts remained in the town, as assigned servants, as labourers on the town gang, and after 1831, as miners working for the Australian Agricultural Company, which took over the ownership and operation of the Government mines. Some convicts were also sent to Newcastle Gaol during the 1830s after conviction in the Sydney courts. (McCabe, 1999, 179). During the 1830s, one historian estimates that 165 female convicts passed through Newcastle goal whether on their way to private assignment, after conviction in Sydney, for punishment, or for
re-assignment (McCabe, 1999, 181). By the 1830s, the Hunter Valley included a number of wealthy landowners with large estates, many owned by ex-army officers, which typically had considerable demand for convict workers. (Walsh, 2006, 67-90)

In the 1830s large numbers of convicts returned to Newcastle. The convict lumber yard was renamed ‘the stockade’ and a large gang was put to work on finishing the Macquarie Pier. A guard house was built adjoining the stockade in 1833 as the public work gang returned to continue the breakwater. Work on the pier had lapsed in 1823. It was finally complete by 1846. Over this period Nobbys was also used to ‘stockade’ convicts, usually as a method of punishment.

By the 1850s Newcastle resumed stronger economic growth. The gold rushes momentarily unhinged the regional labour market, but the ending of the Australian Agricultural company’s monopoly in coal mining in 1847 and the boom in emigration in the 1850s and 1860s, sparked a new round of coal mine development which shaped the urban typography and demographic makeup of the developing suburbs of Newcastle. These new developments around the pit top towns of Adamstown, Hamilton, Waratah and Wallsend, were inaugurated by private companies. The coal mining industry of the Hunter Valley had finally transformed into a market economy.

This firm economic base encouraged other related industries such as railway workshops, regional steamship companies and secondary manufacturing, as well as naturally created further demands for improvements in harbour facilities, navigational services, and coal loading technology. From 1857 the Great Northern Railway, augmented by the private lines of the coal companies, formed the backbone of the regional economy, linking Newcastle with the produce and trade of the valley, and ultimately eclipsing Morpeth and Maitland as the economic hub of the region. It wasn’t until 1887, when a direct rail connection to Sydney was opened, that the centrality of the port in Newcastle’s maritime economy was significantly challenged.

Likewise by the 1850s elements of the proposed Coal River Heritage Park had firmly entered the hearts of Novocastrians. Nobbys Head by this time was a clearly identifiable image of the town so much so that plans to remove Nobbys via explosive methods were vigorously resisted. An 1854 petition called on the government to halt the destruction of Nobbys. This petition represents one of the nation’s earliest demands for the preservation of a culturally-significant landmark. The subsequent construction of the 1857 lighthouse on a preserved Nobbys crowned Newcastle’s most identifiable landmark. It announced the maritime connections of the town, and the port community’s continuing battle with the vagaries of the sea and the dangers it posed to seafarers. At a deeper cultural level strong feelings for Nobbys showed that Novocastrians no longer evinced a migrant sensibility as they embraced their local environment and its significant features in a place they now called home.

We’d like to know about other places that have similar characteristics to the place that you are nominating. For example, these other places might have similar species or rock formations; they might be similar buildings or places with similar histories, traditions or beliefs attached to them. We want to know what makes the place you’ve nominated a better example than these other places, in short, why is it outstanding? See the Nomination Notes for more tips.

Q9. What other places have similar characteristics? How do these places compare with the place you are nominating?

No other convict sites in Australia exhibit the range of transitions in their surviving physical evidence as shown by the proposed. These other sites, including Port Arthur Historic Site, Norfolk Island, Fremantle Prison, and Hyde Park Barracks, show important features of the convict story yet there is no tangible link to subsequent economic and cultural development The outstanding heritage value of the proposed Park lies in this relationship between our colonial past and our present, and in the archaeological and surviving built evidence.

It is important to bear in mind that Norfolk Island was initially established in 1788 not as a place of secondary punishment, but as a way to divide the colony’s resources in the face of scarcity. It was only after the closure of the Newcastle penal settlement in 1823 that Norfolk Island was re-established as a place of secondary punishment in 1825, its regime and underlying philosophy based on the first such experiment at Coal River. The personnel for the new site of punishment later included Commandant James Thomas Morisset, who had spent three years at Newcastle from 1819 to 1823. Newcastle was indisputably the first place of secondary
punishment and an experimental outpost which was highly influential on later convict policy. Similarly, the Sarah Island site, on the west coast of Van Diemen’s Land, was established the year after Newcastle was closed. It too was a convict outpost that sought to exploit the local resources of coal, timber, and lime. The successful Newcastle experiment must have weighed heavily in this case too.

Furthermore, while places such as Norfolk Island, Fremantle Prison, and Port Arthur are particularly strong on evidence of changing incarceration and punishment regimes, they are less revealing in terms of the convict industrial and economic role. The First Government House site is an evocative place that says much about colonial society and the personalities that controlled the convict system yet again it does not evoke the role of the convict workforce. At the Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape the presence of the convict coal mine and the nearby convict lumber yard is an especially significant pairing which reveals much about the economic role of convictism in producing crucial resources for the emerging colonial economy.

Other sites of secondary punishment such as Port Macquarie, Sarah Island, and Moreton Bay have less physical remains than the Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape. These sites are often located in isolated areas with difficult access. The Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape sits at the ocean gateway to Australia’s largest regional city. The well-populated Central Coast and Hunter Valley regions, together with the nation’s largest city, Sydney, are only a short drive away.

National recognition and further development of the Coal River (Mulubinba) Cultural Landscape represent an unparalleled opportunity to show large numbers of Australian and overseas visitors crucial elements of the convict story in a vibrant, lively and accessible precinct.

Q10. What other information is available on the place? List any articles, books, reports or heritage studies that may provide evidence supporting your nomination. You may also have information from Traditional Owners and Custodians, scientists or heritage specialists. If they have agreed to share their knowledge, please include their contact details.

On-line Resources

University of Newcastle Website

Coal River Timescape Google Earth addon

• Coal River Drilling Movie Released - 1st February 2006
• Report on Coal River Drilling Released - 31st January 2006
• News Archive

• 1770 - Captain Cook sights Nobby’s

• 1797 - Lieutenant John Shortland’s Eye Sketch of Hunter’s River

• 1801 - Captain James Grant Aboard the Lady Nelson
Grant, James (1803), The narrative of a voyage of discovery, performed in His Majesty’s vessel the Lady Nelson, of sixty tons burthen, with sliding keels, in the years 1800, 1801 and 1802, to New South Wales. London : C. Roworth. pp.148-172.


• 1801, 14th June - Report on Hunter River by Lieutenant James Grant, Commander pp. 404 - 409
• 1801, 24th June - Ensign Barrallier to Governor King. (King Papers) pp.413 - 414
• 1801, 25th June - Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King. (King Papers) pp.414 -416
- 1801, 25th June - Surgeon Harris to Governor King. (King Papers) pp.416 - 418
- 1801, 11th August - Lieut. - Colonel Paterson to Governor King (King Papers) pp.447 - 448 and Lieutenant - Colonel Paterson's Journal and Discoveries at Hunter River pp. 448 - 453
- 1801, 21st November - Mr M. Mason to Governor King (King papers) pp. 627 - 628
- 1801, 11th December - Mr Surveyor Grimes on Hunter’s River pp.634 - 635
- 1802 - Barrallier's Account to Greville


- 1805 - John Platt’s Account of the coal mines at Newcastle.
Platt, John (5 May 1805), Account given by John Platt a coal miner of the coal mines at Newcastle. Sydney Gazette.

- 1811-1812 - Lachlan Macquarie visits Port Stephens and Newcastle
http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/journeys/1812/1812.html

- 1818 - Sophia Campbell paints the township of Newcastle

- 1818 - Lachlan Macquarie Journal to and from Newcastle

- 1818 - Macquarie Collector's Chest, ca. 1818
http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=xr69/a1089;thumbs=1

- 1819 - John Slater’s Letter to his wife in Nottingham

- 1819 - Wentworth's Description of New South Wales

- 1820 - Lycett landscapes of Hunter River estuary

- 1821 - Lachlan Macquarie's Voyage and Tour of Inspection
http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/journeys/1821/1821b.html

Mitchell, Sir Thomas Livingstone (1792-1855) (C 42) 14MB PDF Database Picman (Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales)

- 1828 - Field, Note and Sketch Book, 1828-1830
http://coalriver.wordpress.com/

- 1828 - Map of the River Hunter and its Branches
1828 - Peter Cunningham's Two Years in New South Wales

Cunningham, Peter Miller. (1827) *Two Years in New South Wales*; New Burlington Street pp.142-161.

1830 - Early map of the Town of Newcastle. (Armstrong)

1832 - NSW Directory 1832


1833 - Breton's Excursions

*Breton, William Henry* (1833), *Excursions in New South Wales, Western Australia and Van Diemen's Land, during the years 1830, 1831, 1832, and 1833*. London : Richard Bentley. pp. 86-299.

1834 - J.D. Lang's 1st Edition


1843 - James Backhouse


1845 - United States Exploration Mission


1851 - Henderson's Excursions and Adventures


“At the entrance of Newcastle there is a small high island, called by the English Nobby’s Island. The blacks have a tradition that it is the abode of an immensely large Kangaroo which resides within the centre of the high rock that occasionally he shakes himself which causes the Island to tremble and large pieces to fall down.” Rev L.E. Threlkeld in the Christian Herald, 17th February 1855, Vol.III, p.5-6. [Published in Australian Reminiscences & Papers of L.E.Threlkeld, Missionary to the Aborigines, 1824-1859. 2 vols, ed. Niel Gunson. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, 1974:65

1857 - John Askew travels the Maitland Road.


1866 - Ludovic Hébert de Beauvoir’s visit to Newcastle 17th - 22nd October 1866


1876 - Newcastle and the Hunter Region described in “Australia” by Edwin Carton Booth ; illustrated with drawings by Skinner Prout, N. Chevalier, etc.

- 1878 - The Vagabond Papers
  

- 1889 - Charles Thomas Holmes Visits Newcastle
  
  Holmes, Charles Thomas (1889) *Diary of Charles Thomas Holmes (1864-1926)* relating to his trip to Newcastle on the 29th March 1889.

- 1923 - The Sunshine Family Visits Newcastle and Maitland
  

1999 - Newcastle's Coal River Historic Site: Prospectus

*Newcastle's Coal River Historic Site: Prospectus.*, (1999), Prepared by the Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc. for the Rt Worshipful Councillor John Tate Lord Mayor of the City of Newcastle NSW. 20 October.

Coal River References

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Cunningham, Peter (1828), *Two years in New South Wales : comprising sketches of the actual state of society in that colony, of its peculiar advantages to emigrants, of its topography, natural history, &c &c*. 3rd ed London : Henry Colburn.


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Barrow, John ed. Notes and sketches of New South Wales : during a residence in that colony from 1839 to 1844 / Mrs. Charles Meredith. The life, voyages and exploits of Sir Francis Drake : with numerous original letters from him and the Lord High Admiral to the Queen and great officers of state 2nd. ed. abrig. London : Murray.


Davison, Frank Dalby & Nicholls, Brooke (1935), Blue coast caravan. Sydney : Angus and Robertson.


Nicholls, Mary ed. (1973), Traveller under concern : the Quaker journals of Frederick Mackie on his tour of the Australasian colonies, 1852-1855.. Hobart : University of Tasmania.

Lang, John Dunmore (1852), An historical and statistical account of New South Wales :including a visit to the gold regions, and a description of the mines, with an estimate of the probable results on the great discovery. 3rd ed. London : Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans,


Russell, Henry Stuart (1888), *The genesis of Queensland: an account of the first exploring journeys to and over Darling Downs: the earliest days of their occupation; social life; station seeking; the course of discovery, northward and westward; and a résumé of the causes which led to separation from New South Wales*. Sydney: Turner & Henderson.


Pike, Douglas H. [1952?], *John Slater's letter*

Other Sources


Hunter, Cynthia (2001), *Coal River History Site Stage One, Historical Analysis of Site and related historical and cultural infrastructure*, Newcastle: Coal River Tourism Project.


Web sites

Government

Newcastle City Council
[Link](http://www.ncc.nsw.gov.au)

Department of Environment and Heritage
[Link](http://www.environment.gov.au)

NSW Heritage Office
[Link](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_01_2.cfm?itemid=5053900)

Dangars index and map
[Link](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/dangar/toc.html)

University of Newcastle web sites
[Link](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/archives/aboriginalstudies/index.html)
[Link](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/coalriver/relateddocuments.html)
[Link](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/chrp/threlkeld/1892.html)

Pictures/ images of Newcastle
[Link](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/archives/coalriver/images.html)
State Library of New South Wales

State Library of NSW (re: Macquarie Chest)

Fort Scratchley, Newcastle
http://www.fortscratchley.org/

Newcastle on the Edge, History Week Project 2008
http://newcastleontheedge.blogspot.com

Also Refer to Appendices

APPENDIX A: Keene’s Plan.
APPENDIX B: Contemporary Images
APPENDIX C: Surveying Project 2006 & INVESTIGATION OF CONVICT COAL MINE WORKINGS BENEATH COLLIERS’ POINT, NEWCASTLE EAST RESULTS OF DRILLING INVESTIGATION
APPENDIX D: Relevant historical images
Q11. Are there sensitive issues associated with the place? These may be issues that need to be kept out of the public eye such as matters relating to sacred or religious sites, or the location of rare fossils, plants or fragile places.

NO × YES □

If you answer yes, we will contact you to discuss the issues.

Q12a. Do the values reflect a National Heritage Theme announced by the Minister?

NO □ YES ×

Q12b. If you answered yes, please state which theme: “A Free and Fair Australia”

Your details

Your details are needed in case we require more information on the nominated place. Your identity is protected under the Federal Privacy Act 1988 and will not be divulged without your consent or as allowed for under that Act.

Title: Mr
First name: Gionni
Family name: di Gravio

Are you nominating a place on behalf of an organisation? NO □ YES ×

If you answered no, please complete the address details below, if yes, please name the organisation and your position in it and then complete the address details for the organisation below:

Organisation: Coal Working Party, University of Newcastle
Position: Chair

Address: University Drive

CALLAGHAN
State: NSW
Postcode: 2308

Telephone: 02 4921 5819
Fax: 
Email: gionni.digravio@newcastle.edu.au

FINAL CHECKLIST

Before signing and dating your nomination form, please make sure that you have:

☑ completed name, location, boundary, significance and criteria questions
☑ attached and labelled the location/boundary map and/or site plan
☑ attached and labelled any photographs and supporting evidence or extra information.

Signature of nominator
Date

Send your completed nomination form and attachments:

By mail to:

The Nominations Manager
Heritage Division
Department of the Environment and Water Resources
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If the person making this nomination is, or is representing, a small business (a business having fewer than 20 employees), please provide an estimate of the time taken to complete this form.

Please Include

The time spent reading the instructions, working on the questions and obtaining the information; and

The time spent by all employees in collecting and providing this information.

2 Lieutenant John Shortland of the H.M.S. Reliance named and charted the River on the 9th September 1797 whilst en route to Port Stephens. The letter to his father reporting the discovery is in Historical Records of NSW, Vol.3 pp481-82.


6 David Collins, An account of the English colony in NSW from its first settlement in January 1788 to August 1801 : with remarks on the dispositions, customs, manners &c. of the native inhabitants of that country : to which are added some particulars of New Zealand, compiled ... from the Mss. of Lieutenant-Governor King, and an account of a voyage performed by Captain Flinders and Mr. Bass ... abstracted from the journal of Mr. Bass, London : Printed by A. Strahan ... for T. Cadell and W. Davies ..., 1804, 2nd edition, 4 p328.

7 Collins, An account, p328.

8 Captain Cook's voyages round the world ; the first performed in the years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771 ; the second in 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775 ; the third and last in 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780 ;for making discoveries in the northern and southern hemispheres, by order of his present Majesty. Containing a relation of all the interesting transactions which occurred in the course of the voyages. Including Captain Furneaux's journal of his proceedings during the separation of the ships. With a narrative of Commodore Phipps's voyage to the North Pole. And an abridgement of Foster's introduction to his history of northern discoveries on the progress of navigation. To which is added, Governor Phillip's voyage to Botany-Bay [sic] ; with an account of the establishment of the colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island, &c. &c Published Newcastle : Printed by M. Brown ..., 1790, 1790 V.1 pp437-39.

9 Lieutenant Grant to Governor King, 14th June 1801 in Historical Records of New South Wales, vol.4 Hunter and King 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, Sydney, Charles Potter, 1896, pp404-09.