



JOHN BINGLE

RADICALS, RENEGADES & REVOLUTIONARIES

John Bingle (1797-1882) was one of the earliest environmental campaigners in Newcastle, advocating for public parks and cultural amenities. He was a sailor, merchant and landholder, who first visited Newcastle in 1821 where he met Major Morisset who took him for a walk around the town. It was not until 1851 that he returned and established a business in Newcastle and became director of two banks, a member of the diocesan committee of Christ Church, and was the first Chair of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce in 1856. As its first order of business the Chamber lobbied the Government to grant the Horseshoe beach, the coastline and the Windmill hill areas that Bingle had visited all those years ago to the citizens of Newcastle. The Chamber also asked for two blocks of land in Watt Street to establish an Exchange and Reading Room. Bingle and the Memorialists had attempted to secure the Recreation Ground, but the decision was deferred by the newly established Newcastle Municipal Council; nevertheless Bingle helped to establish Newcastle Recreational Reserve now known as King Edward Park. Bingle died at Newcastle on 10 April 1882 and was buried beside his wife in Christ Church cemetery.