

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

“MTW Colonial Heritage – CHAG planning”



A community-based group looking to address Environmental issues affecting Singleton Shire residents

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We seek identification as to what is making our Children and Community Sick so they can be mitigated by OH&S Compliance Orders.

SSHEG Focus on Health

SSHEG is Not Anti Mining or Anti Power Stations

NSW Minister of Planning

Department of Planning and Environment,
23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Project Assessment Committee - Briggs

“MTW 2014 Approval CHAG Implementation Complaint”

This letter of Complaint raises three issues for Urgent action by the Minister of Planning, as yet again the Bulga Milbrodale Community are to be left to suffer the indignity and Psychosocial impact from Coal Mining as it has over the last 40 years.

1. **Bulga Residents being again sidelined by RIO Tinto and NSW Planning in the decision making process regarding Bulga Environs Cultural Heritage Conservation.**
2. **“Cockfighters Valley Precinct” History and Heritage is about to be glossed over again by the MTW CHAG processes that they have recently announced.**
3. **Call for recognition of Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity and support of the Bulga Cultural Centre proposal June 2016 submitted to CHAG and as attached.**

1. Bulga Residents being again sidelined by RIO Tinto and NSW Planning in the decision making process regarding Bulga Environs Heritage Conservation.

For forty(40) years since the demise of Patrick Plains Shire in 1976 and the forced amalgamation as Singleton Shire Council, Bulga Community has been left to their own resources resulting in the formation of Bulga Milbrodale Association and their reliance upon local fundraising to improve Village Infrastructure. In the meantime they have battled Government Departments and local Council for a fair deal for their Village while having to suffer the indignity of witnessing the demise of their Heritage, House by House by Mining.

Contrary to PAC Approvals, in Nov 2015 NSW Planning and MTW Mine have intervened to change the MTW European Heritage decision making process, with now the Singleton Shire Council to be the Heritage arbitrators and approvers of all MTW CHAG Projects. This appears a deliberate decision to exclude both the CHAG and the Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity's involvement.

After five years of RIO Tinto Coal & Allied Conservation Heritage Advisory Committee (CHAG) meetings, and now possibly to avoid complicating RIO's Sale Strategy, MTW Conservation Heritage Management now has advised, contrary to previous CHAG and PAC Approvals advice, that NSW Planning and MTW Mines has approved documents that establish Singleton Shire Council as the exclusive Heritage decision maker.

Instead of CHAG members being involved in the Heritage decision making processes along with Heritage Council of NSW, it now appears that Singleton Shire Council echelon are intended to be the decision makers as they have for the last thirty odd years related to any Mine Compensation Monies and thus the devastation their impact has had on the local communities such as Bulga and Milbrodale.

The Question is: was it always the aim to extinguish Bulga all along by denying the Colonial and Aboriginal Significance of the area, and Mine it all? Even the 2015 PAC proposed the Health option to relocate and move the Bulga Village to make way for Coal Mine Expansion !

Reviewing the treatment received by the Bulga Village Community over the last 40 years from Singleton Shire Council, it has been less than proportional, with much of the Bulga Community infrastructure improvements actually funded by the Bulga Community itself.

It is clear that ever since the Patrick Plains Shire in 1970 was amalgamated to form the "Singleton Shire Council" that the "Bulga Precinct" has apparently been ignored for Funding etc in stark contrast to the period from 1876 to 1976 under the Patrick Plains Shire.


Before the NSW Government and RIO Tinto Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) Mines further antagonise the Residents of Bulga Village, perhaps the NSW Planning Minister, Heritage Council, and Planning Assessment Commissioners who approved this 2015 MTW Mine Continuation and their associated "Colonial Heritage Provisions", should reconsider the recent Dec 2016 NSW Department of Planning CHAG Governance Approvals documents.

It is made clear here that Singleton Shire CHAG Governance is not being argued against, only the continued devastating effect to place CHAG decision making and project approvals into the hands of the very people and organisations in Singleton Town and Council; where although "ostensibly chartering for History and Heritage Conservation" they have, by their inaction, collectively watched for forty years the opportunity to safeguard their Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage by allowing its wanton neglect, deterioration and destruction by Mine Land grab: - This is now so obvious to outsiders to these issues.

This track record of neglect is illustration when compared to neighbouring Council efforts: such as,; in 1985 Muswellbrook to Jerrys Plains was established as a Landscape Conservation area: and in 1989 the Hunter Regional Environmental Plan (Heritage) schedule 5 lists Muswellbrook and Wollombi Conservation Areas along with many others while Singleton is conspicuous by its absence.

This pattern of a somewhat tacit focus on Heritage in Singleton Shire Council continues to today: the stark difference between the Heritage Conservation initiatives of the adjoining Cessnock, Maitland, and Muswellbrook Councils is compared to the underdeveloped Singleton Council support as displayed on Council web sites illustrated below.

It is surprising that the 1920 WWI Memorial Gates are Heritage Listed while the majority of the Bulga Environs and Village with Homes dating back to 1860's and earlier have been ignored! Why?



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Application Tracker

Building, Development and Certification

Development Contributions

Electronic Housing Code (EHC)

Heritage

Heritage Committee

Heritage Listed Properties

Heritage Grants

Heritage Policy

Minor works or maintenance to a Heritage Item

Frequently Asked Questions

Major Developments

On Exhibition

Pre DA Meetings


Public Road Consents

Publications

Strategic Land Use Planning

[Planning & Development](#) > [Heritage](#)

Heritage



(Photo taken as part of the Heritage Week Photography Competition 2016 - Entrant George Koncz)

Local Heritage Fund

Owners or managers of heritage listed properties may be eligible for up to \$2,000 financial assistance from the Cessnock City Council Local Heritage Fund. Please visit the [Local Heritage Fund Page](#) for more information.

Heritage Advisor


Council has a Heritage Advisor who is able to provide specialist advice to Council and the Community on heritage protection and maintenance. The Heritage Advisor is available on the first Thursday of each month and can provide advice on:

- Proposed building works to a heritage item or in a heritage conservation area
- Proposed development near a heritage item
- The choice of material for building works on a heritage item or in a heritage conservation area
- Whether a Heritage Impact Statement is needed for proposed building works

The Heritage Advisor can also provide assistance if you are applying for State Government funding for works to a heritage item owned by yourself.

You can make an appointment to see or speak to the Heritage Advisor by contacting 4993 4127.

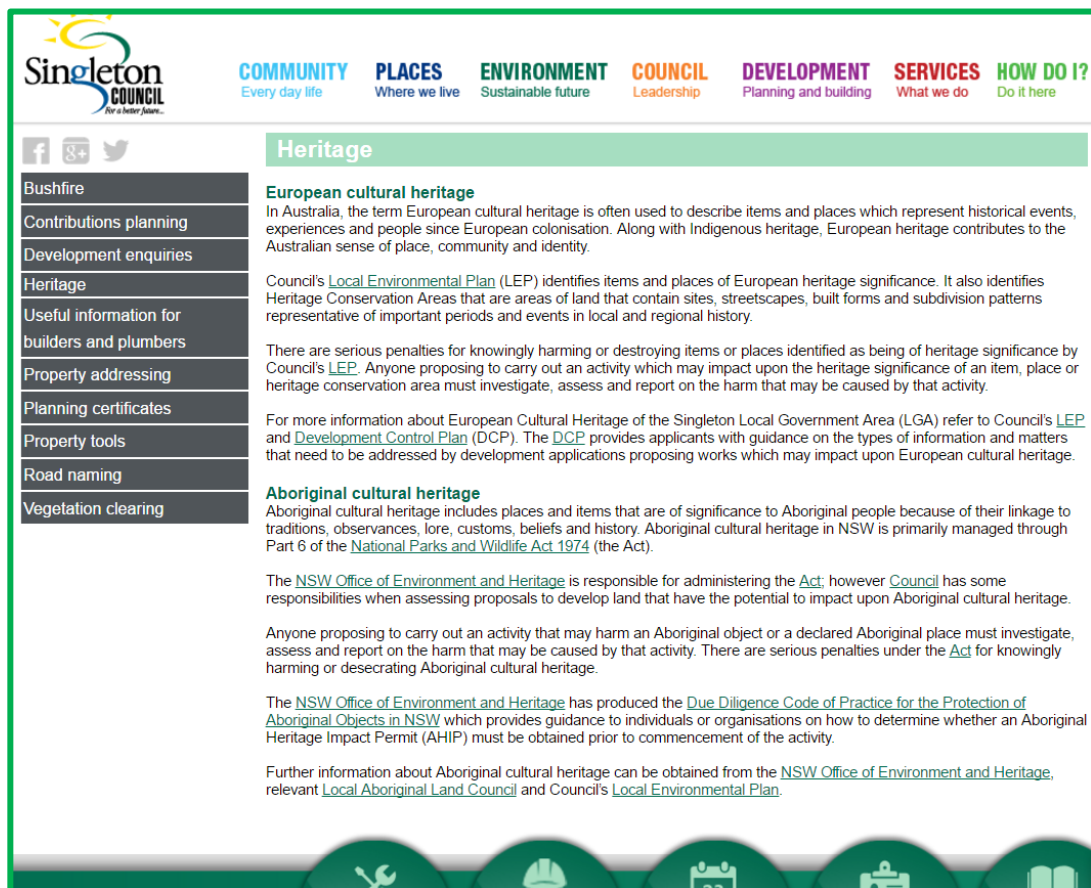
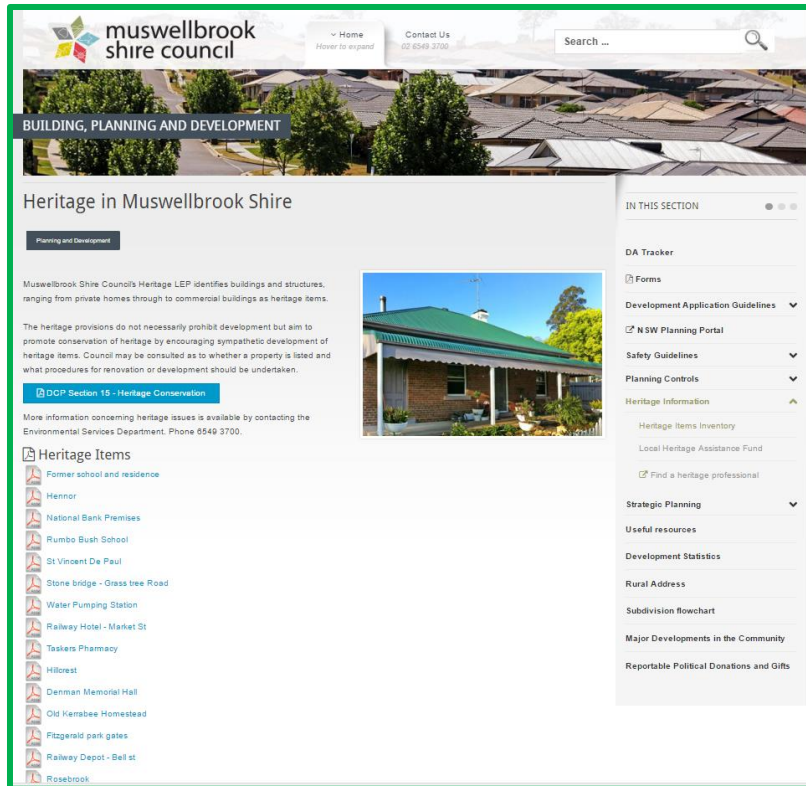
News

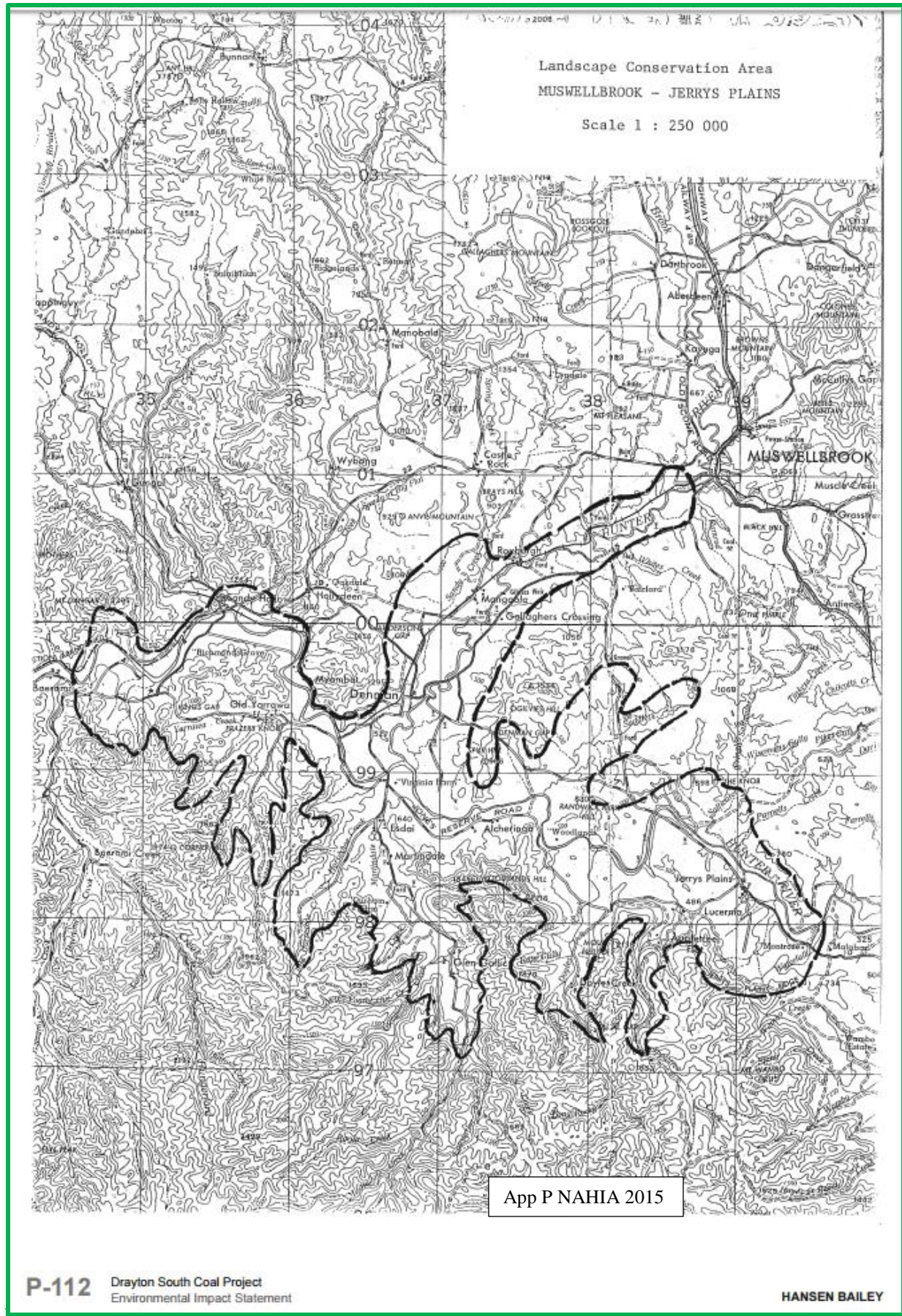


[Thank you to Fire Crews](#)

Date:

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent commended the efforts of Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and all emergency





DENMAN		LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AREA		HUNTER	
Location		Name or identification of listing		Region	
Proposer	A.M. WARD R.MCDOUGALL	Crown land	Freehold	Map reference	
		X	X	Singleton	
Date of Proposal	16.8.84	Local Govt Area/s		1 : 250 000	
Suggested Listing Category	CLASSIFIED	MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE		Owner/s	
Committee (Trust use)	LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION			PRIVATE/VARIOUS	
Council (Trust use)	21.1.85				
Reasons for Listing					
<p>Aesthetic: The lush cultivated alluvial flats of the central Hunter and lower Goulburn Rivers present a magnificent view, with the wide valley floor of majestic scale bounded by low hills to the east and west and the rugged escarpment of Wollemi National Park to the south (Appendix A).</p> <p>Social: This area contains many of the high quality properties and large pastoral estates which contribute to the great rural wealth of the Hunter Valley (Appendix B).</p>					
Description					
<p>The area begins along the Hunter River a short distance below Muswellbrook and comprises the long sweep of valley floor extending south-westerly some 25 km to the junction of the Goulburn River at Denman. The section of the Goulburn River Valley below Sandy Hollow is included. The area then extends some 25 km south-easterly down the Hunter Valley to Jerrys Plains Ridge. In this lower section, the valley widens and embraces several major tributaries. The escarpment of Wollemi National Park comprises the southern boundary of the area.</p> <p>Geology and Landform - (Appendix C)</p>					
Recommendations					
<p>The high scenic and cultural qualities of the listed area should be protected through appropriate Environmental Protection zonings under a Local Environmental Plan.</p> <p>Open cut mining of the alluvial river flats should not be permitted. Should it be necessary for open-cut mining of the non-alluvial lands, the aesthetic and social values of the Classified area should be recognised in the mining operation and the rehabilitation programme.</p>					
Bibliography					
<p>W. Allan Wood : Dawn in the Valley : Wentworth Books 1972</p> <p>C.S.I.R.O. : General Report on the Lands of the Hunter Valley 1963</p>					

2. “Cockfighters Valley Precinct” History and Heritage is about to be glossed over again by the MTW CHAG processes that have been recently announced.

Many Residents have voiced concerns that our Heritage and History is being lost by Mining activities, particularly Aboriginal Heritage, and following the Bulga 2002 Deed of Agreement uproar, the SSHEG submission to 2010 Warkworth Mine EIS sought to establish “The Proposed Aboriginal, Colonial, Flora and Fauna Conservation Heritage Protection Zones” as so detailed.

Bulga Residents (Aboriginal and Colonial) with Ancestral lineage back to the Pioneer Settlers times of “Cockfighters Creek”, feel they have been entrusted with the responsibility to protect their Cultural Heritage that has been, for whatever reason, suppressed: and they watch day by day as yet another Uncle’s Home is destroyed throughout Mine Lease Lands, many not even bothered to be researched to identify their Bulga Cultural significance during Mining approval processes of their burials.



Bulga residents and supporters gather at Wallaby Scrub Road on Friday morning.

The Bulga Declaration

We, the undersigned, make this promise: we will not allow the Warkworth mine to destroy Saddle Ridge. Saddle Ridge harbours woodlands and wildlife that are vanishing from the Hunter Valley due to open cut coal mining. It is an ancient pathway and place of harmony, protection, and direction for Wonnarua people. It shields the village of Bulga from noise and dust rising from the super pits of Rio Tinto's Mount Thorley-Warkworth mine. For the Wonnarua, the people of Bulga, and the wildlife, Saddle Ridge is home. It protects and guides them. Such things cannot be compensated for. They cannot be sold, or replaced.

The NSW government may have signed the death warrant for Saddle Ridge and the village of Bulga, but the people have not. The government and Rio Tinto are colluding against us, but we are united and we will not be subdued.

The highest courts in New South Wales have rejected the Warkworth mine expansion for the same reasons we reject it. By siding with Rio Tinto to subvert the people's victory in court, the government has crossed a line. Now we are the ones that will uphold fairness, protect the ridge and restore faith in organised community.

We stand with the village of Bulga and the Wonnarua Traditional Custodians. We pledge to them that we will use all peaceful means to help them protect community and culture from the Warkworth coal mine.

In contrast to Mining silence on Heritage, in a short few weeks in 2016 Composite Ancestral Heritage was found to relate to many of these Mine Lease areas as foreshowed by SSHEG in 2010, and to this is added the various Historical writings documented in publications that Residents have prepared over the years and in recent times.

Below is the set of documents that provides the Aboriginal and Colonial starting point Research Outline, together with the 20 year three stage Community implementation “*Bulga Culture Centre*” Plans utilising the facilities already earmarked at the Heritage listed Bulga School :-

- i. “The History of Bulga 1820 -1921”, Alexander Eather 1874-1959.
- ii. R.H. Mathews (1880-1918) collection of R. H. Mathews Papers, held by the National Library of Australia, Elkin Collection of rare books at the University of Sydney’s Fisher Library, and Mitchell Library Sydney.
- iii. “Bulga Public School – Centenary Celebrations” Sat 19 Oct 1968.
- iv. “The Clarks of Bulga –150 years on Cockfighter’s Creek”, Stewart Mitchell (2004).
- v. “A History of Bulga – Gateway to the Hunter Valley since 1820” Bulga Milbrodale Progress Associations Inc (2013).
- vi. Unpublished manuscript Bill Greenhalgh (2014) “Cockfighter Creek – Warkworth Village” Singleton Library.
- vii. “Somewhat Perilous” - The journeys of Singleton, Parr, Howe, Myles & Blaxland in the Northern Blue Mountains, (2004).
- viii. “Bulga Culture Centre – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley” (June 2016) SSHEG.

Little of this Heritage is either acknowledged or investigated in Mine Environmental European Heritage Impact documents, and even less Heritage has been protected or restored in the last 40 years, but instead left vacant to deteriorate while studies and reports are compiled by Mines.



The Pioneer Settlers and Their Descendants

The first white settlers at Bulga, almost without exception, came from the Windsor and Richmond area of the Hawkesbury Valley. Howe, Singleton and their party came from that locality and it was logical that their friends and neighbours would soon learn of the exciting new lands to the north that beckoned pioneers.

Bulga Pioneers – circa 1890

Standing – Ann Holmes, Peter McAlpin, William G McAlpin & William Partridge
Sitting – Thomas & Mary Ann Hayes, Thomas & Elizabeth Eather, Elizabeth Partridge, James & Sarah Coe, Mrs Eliza Clark (at front)

Bulga Pioneer Settlers - report in 1896 Singleton Argus

We have been shown a photographic group of the oldest surviving residents of the Bulga, and judging from the hale and hearty look of the faces which adorn the picture we are constrained to admit that nature has been kind to those veterans, both male and female, who years ago settled in the vicinity of the Bulga. There are 12 persons in the group, and their aggregate ages would equal nearly 900 years.

Mr Peter McAlpin and Mr W. G. McAlpin are the oldest residents—the former being 87 years of age and the latter 86. They are natives of Stirling, in

Scotland. They arrived in this country in the year 1812 by the steamer “ General Graham,” The latter remarks that they are, no doubt, the oldest immigrants in the colony. Mrs. James Clark is also 86 years of age. She has resided at Bulga for a period of 51 years and has been blind the last 20 years of her life. She is a native of Scotland. Mr Thomas Eather has reached the age of 72 years, and Mrs Eather that of 74. These two residents are natives of Richmond, Hawkesbury. They have resided at Bulga for a period of 35 years. Mr Wm. Partridge is 79 years of age, and Mrs Partridge 75. They are natives of England, Mrs Partridge has been an invalid for 30 years, and during the last 18 years of her life she has been unable to walk. Mr Thos. Hayes is 72 years of age, and Mrs Hayes 70. They are natives of England and have resided at Bulga for the past 41 years. Lastly, we have Mrs Holmes, who is 56 years old and is a native of Bulga.

The group was photographed by Mr H. B.Solomons, of this town.

The Pioneer Settlers themselves collectively lived through the turn of the 20th Century, and much has been recorded with only an indication here of the extent to which this Heritage is being ignored by Coal Mining and Governments over the years.

The early Pioneer Settler Families of Cockfighter Creek established an enclave that lives on today in their many ancestral descendants still living in and around the area almost two centuries later. The Pioneering Culture has many examples.

“James Swales Clark (J.S), for example was an intense lover of nature and knew a good deal about natural history and the flora and fauna of the country (J.S living and working at Helenus Scott’s Glendon around 1843 association with Ludwig Leichardt at the time is perhaps no coincidence) J.S would get native animals – wombat, flying squirrel, kangaroo, wallaby, gullawine, platypus, possum, goanna and various species of snake, birds and parrots; then skin, tret and stuff them for a very fine collection. He would case some specimens and send them off to a friend in England who in turn would pass them on to one of the British Museums for preservation”

*The History of Bulga near Singleton N.S.W. from 1820 to 1921
by grandson Alexander Nicholas Eather (1921 extract)*

The Cockfighter Creek presented a very different appearance to the early settlers from its present aspect, being then deep and narrow with alternate stretches of deep water and sand. Then the banks were fringed with big, shady oak trees. This was the main water supply of Bulga. In the vicinity wandering tribes of blacks were to be seen. On the sites of their old camps the stone implements of this strange race are found today. From an ethnological standpoint Bulga is an intensely interesting locality for many beautifully made stone implements found today throw considerable light on savage life. Here also is to be seen the remains of an ancient Bora ground with its sacred circle still defined by small mounds of earth and a ring of carved trees, still bearing the curious emblematical devices which marked this strange and mysterious ceremony of initiation to tribal rites. This Bora was held in 1852. On reliable authority of residents of the locality it was attended by between 500 and 600 blacks from various tribes from as far as Mudgee and Goulburn.

Besides Heritage Documents and Artefacts given to local Museums, significant records and Artefacts from the earliest Pioneer Settlers at Cockfighter's Creek were sent by local Cockfighter's Creek Settlers to the Museums around the world, and especially the Australian Museum.

In particular, boxes of Aboriginal Stone Artefacts were sent to the Australian Museum, Sydney that were collected by the Colonial Farmers on land in the period 1900 to 1940's as better and deeper ploughing occurred over the "Cockfighters Valley Precinct" Environs.

Significantly, in 1918 Australian Museum recorded and with locals photographed the collection of Sacred Bora Trees and then tree specimens were taken for their preservation in view of the likely loss to bush fires.

SSHEG seeks an inventory of Cockfighters Creek Artefacts held in Museums throughout the world as a necessary step in the recognition of the early Colonial Culture of the Bulga Environs.

For the last 40 years, the true Aboriginal and Colonial significance of the Cockfighters Valley Precinct had to be ignored and downrated so that Open Cut Coal Mining could proceed. However when the full weight of Archival evidence, Museum Artefacts, Colonial records, newspapers etc are gathered, the true loss by Mining will be seen.

Investigations in preparing “The Bulga Culture Centre – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley” (2016) (attachment 1) soon identified “Cockfighters Valley Precinct” as a rightful adjunct of the Greater Blue Mountains National Parks as the various Aboriginal and Colonial connectivity relationships surfaced. This is recorded by the Pioneer Settlers as typically illustrated below, firstly by Alexander Eather in 1921 and secondly, by RH Mathews Surveyor of Singleton in 1893.

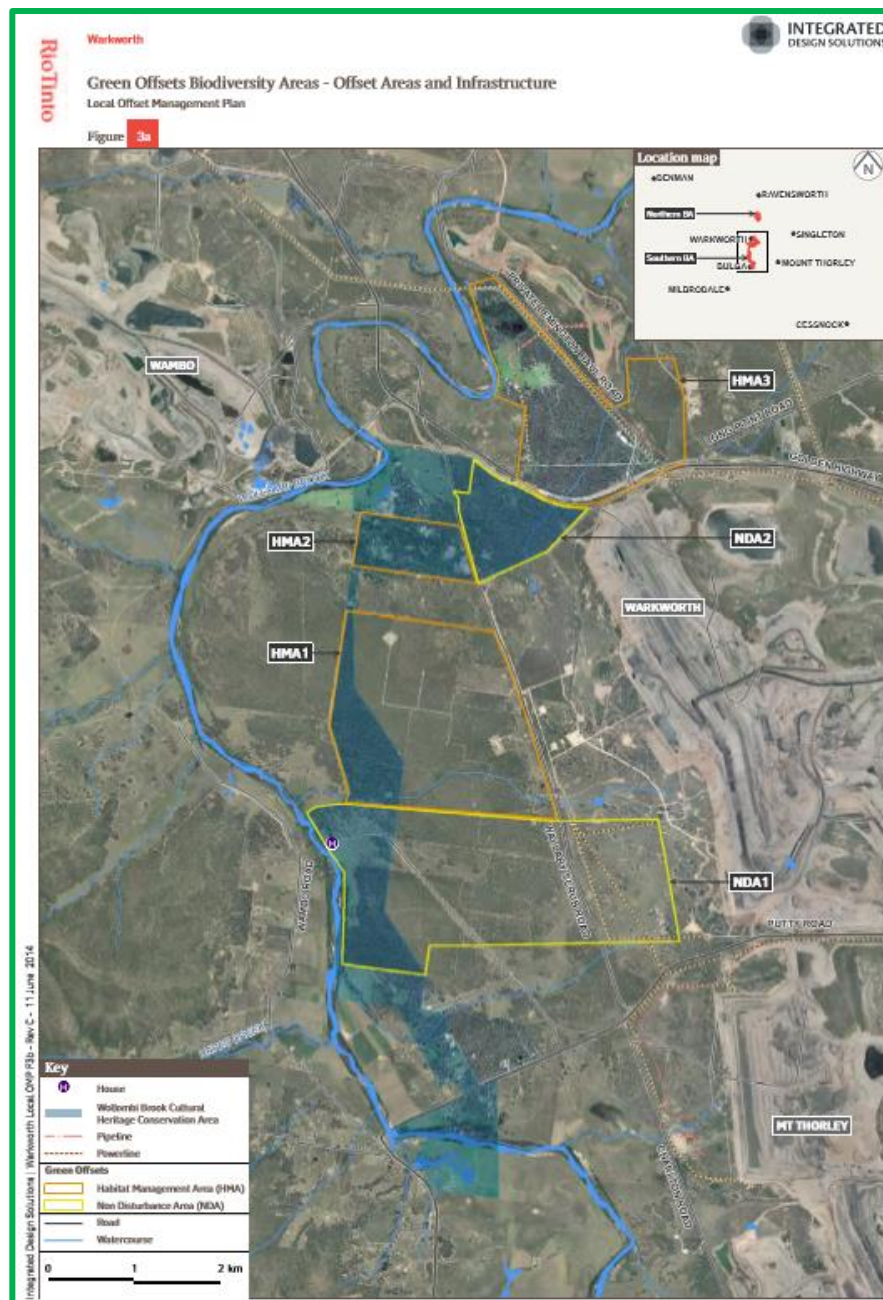
In 1826 Thomas and wife Sarah Eather with her small son Thomas riding a bullock, William Mc Alpin, young Billy Freeman, a number of Aborigines and dogs started out on the one hundred mile trek. Marked trees were the only guide they had, but the Aborigines were masters of the bush. They had trade routes right through the mountains where they traded with other tribes for such things as the best stone for axe heads and flints....Their devotion to duty, their courage in dealing with strange tribes....Arriving on the western side of where the creek from “The Inlet” (Hayes Creek) runs into Wollombi Brook they erected bark hut and later a substantial a slab dwelling home named “Richmond”....When the Eathers arrived there was a camp of 300 Aboriginal near where they settled. These rightful people of the land proved extremely helpful to the pioneers...

It is generally supposed by old colonists who have been a good deal among the aborigines in the early days of the Colony that the figure of a man represents either a good or evil spirit, and generally were those who presided over the ceremony of the Bora. The figure in this cave, having the legs and arms fully extended, seems to represent a man lying on the ground. It is known that, at the ceremonies of the Bora some of the aboriginal tribes were in the habit of making a colossal figure of a man on the ground with sticks, and covering them over with earth, so as to show the outline distinctly. Such a figure represented Baiamai, or the Great Spirit. In front of this cave there is a large level valley, timbered with large and lofty trees, well suited for a Bora ground, and I think it more than probable that Boras were held here, and that the figures in the cave are connected with the ceremonies which took place on such occasions. There was plenty of good water in the Bulgar Creek close by, and good hunting grounds all around.

R.H. Mathews 1893

The Ridges and Saddle Ridge to the East of Bulga Environs across to the Hunter River and all along and parallel to the Wollomi Brook will have been replaced by Mine overburden Dumps, and Final Voids as mining may come to an end in 30 more years.

Resident's Health and Social Impacts pale into insignificance when the Flora and Fauna impacts are considered. More is the pity that a mutually agreeable balance was established in the 2002 "Deed of Agreement", where areas were set aside from Mining; as illustrated.



Confusion of the interplay within the Aboriginal and Colonial and European Heritage Conservation Zone exists as outlined to CHAG in previous meetings. There are clear Colonial artefacts within the now so called “Aboriginal Conservation area” along with the land discrepancy of the futuristic extent for Mining (not approved) as shown.

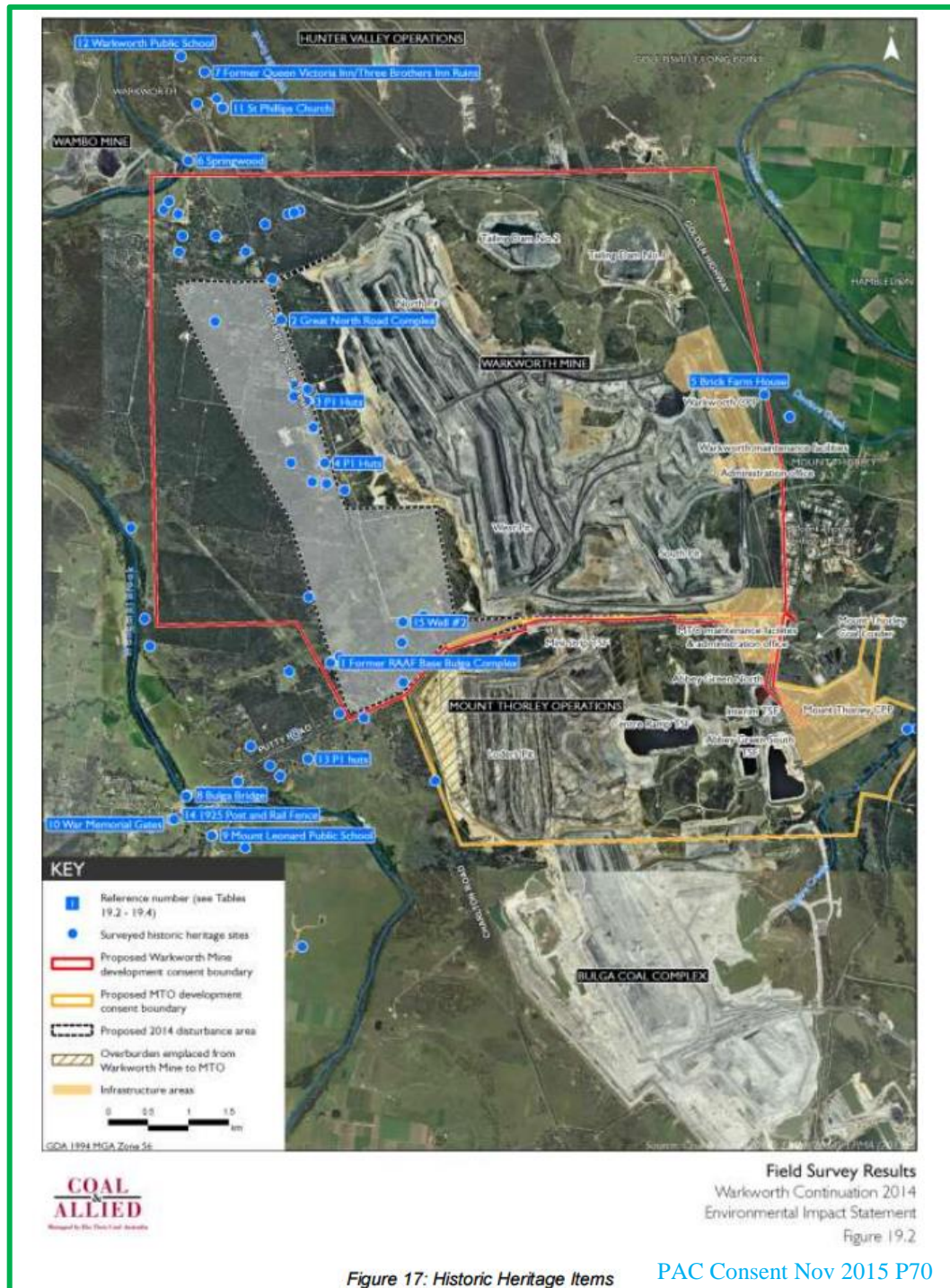
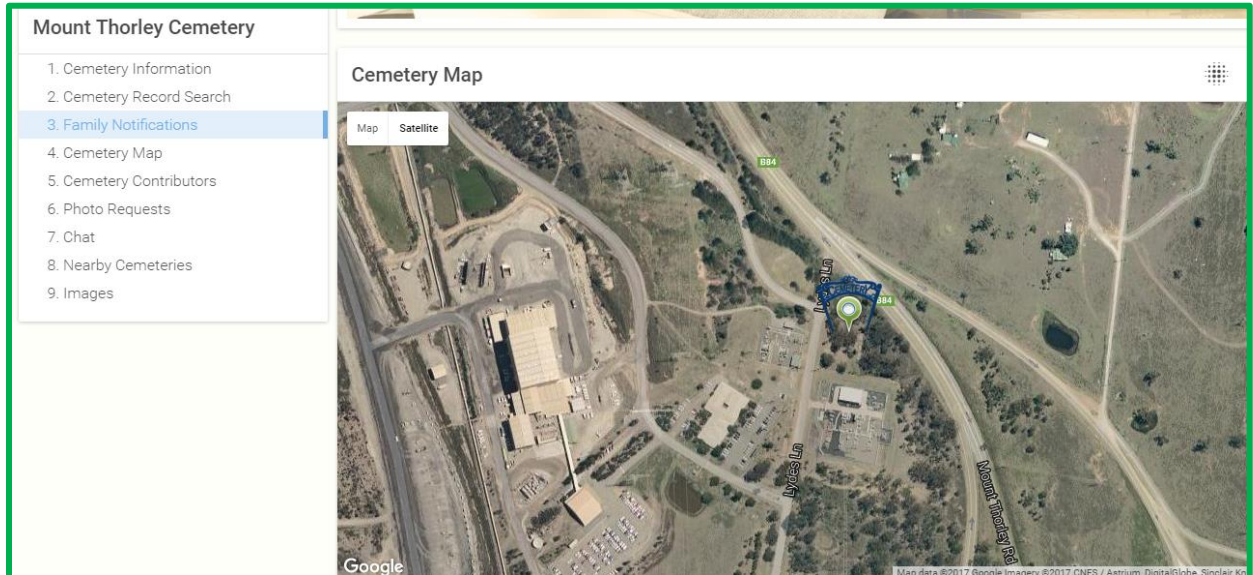


Figure 17: Historic Heritage Items

PAC Consent Nov 2015 P70

Significantly, the Thorley Public Pioneer Cemetery on Lydes Lane is conspicuous by its absence, as are the “Girale and Newport” Homesteads not recognised in the Mine Leases and Lands as Artefacts.



The Commission agrees with the RMS recommendation to amend the conditions of consent to require the Applicant to liaise with Council to close the intersection of Lydes Lane and the Golden Highway to the satisfaction of RMS within six months of the date of any consent.

Intersections

48. Unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant shall:
- (a) close the intersection of Lydes Lane and the Golden Highway in consultation with Council and to the satisfaction of the RMS, within 6 months of the date of this consent; and
 - (b) pay the RMS \$375,000 towards the upgrade of the intersection of the Golden Highway (Putty Road) and Mitchell Line of Road within 12 months of the date of this consent.

When things go wrong in Open Cut Mining, and compensation is warranted; should not the local Communities benefit from compensated?

Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd

NSW EPA Enforceable Undertakings Case Studies

In September 2015, Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd entered into an enforceable undertaking with the EPA in relation to a water pollution incident near three of its open-cut coal mines near Singleton: Mt Thorley, Warkworth and Hunter Valley Operations. The incident involved the discharge of mine water from a section of pipe used to transfer mine water from underground mine workings.

Coal & Allied agreed to undertake a number of corrective actions and pay \$130,000 for regeneration, revegetation and weed management of 10 hectares at the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia site at Shortland.

Similarly, when endangered species of birds are impacted by Mining, and the money goes to OEH to be spent where!!!!

35. Within 6 months of the commencement of development under this consent, the Applicant shall contribute \$1 million to OEH's *Saving Our Species – Regent Honeyeater* conservation program. The contribution may be used as a supplementary measure for any approval required under the EPBC Act for this development.

Biodiversity Management Plan

Perhaps some of this money needs to be used to establish the “Wedge-tailed Eagles -Bulga Bird Study Group”, to compensate for the loss of their foraging Lands to Mining in this area.

It is noted that the Wedge-tailed Eagle owns this land; and a recent feeding encounter on Wallaby Scrub Road and the reported fear of damage of Drones use at the Bora Ground confirms this land as their territory and should have been considered in the Mine EIS Documents.

However, it is more than disappointing that trading has been attempted of one Heritage item in favour of another. (most of Wallaby Scrub Road with no Mine Lease) traded for (portion of Charlton Road with funding promise to GNR Group at the time). This is outlined in the NSW Heritage Councils reported response to the obvious NSW Planning and Mining pressures.

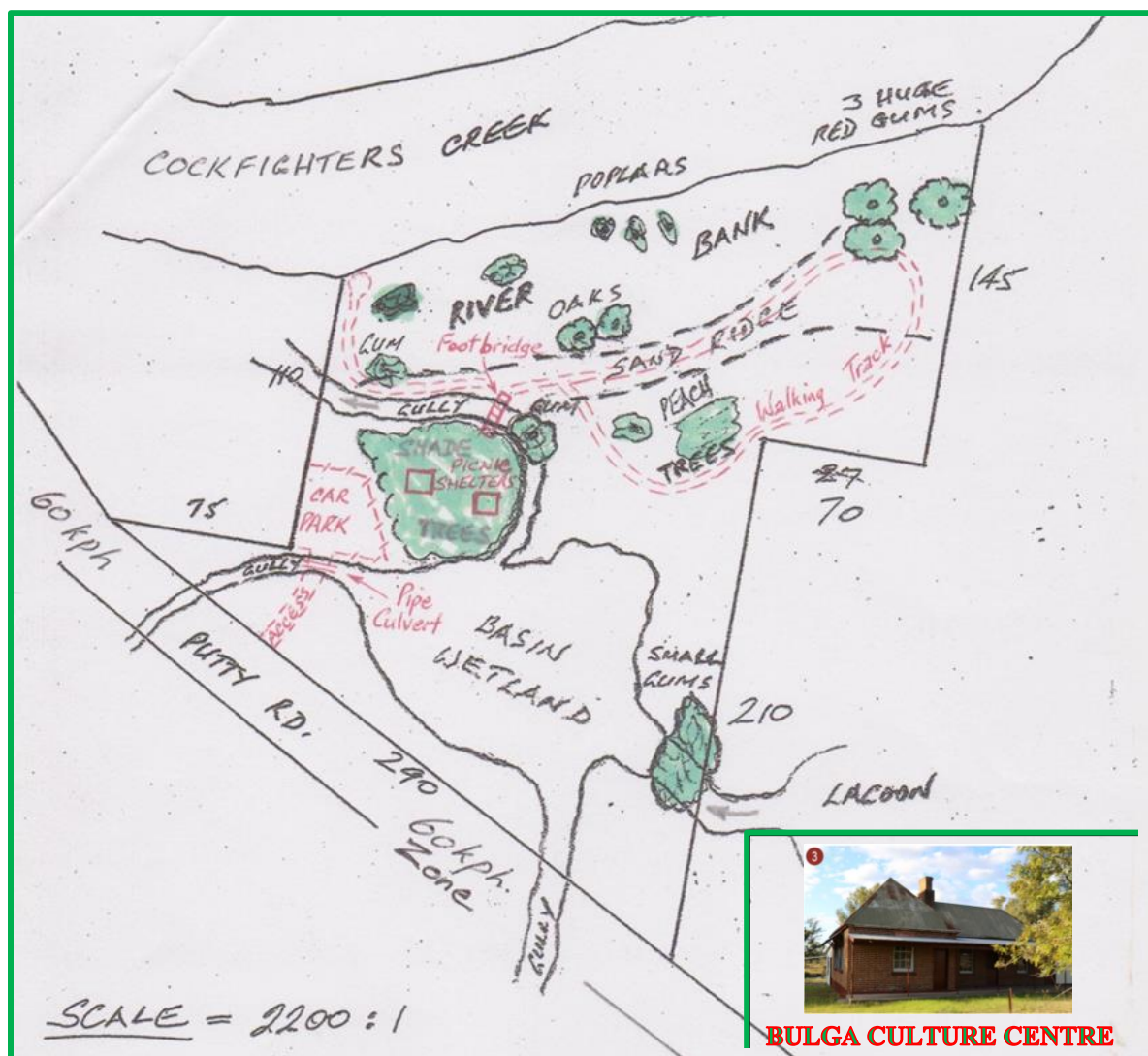
The Heritage Council has withdrawn its objections to the road closure as another section of the former Great Northern Road (Charlton Road) will remain undisturbed and the Applicant has made a commitment to promote conservation of the Great Northern Road in other locations.

Wallaby Scrub Road and Convict Built Bridge across the Wollomi Brook is only part of Mitchell's Great North Road on its way North, now through Hunter Valley Operations Mines and Lemington; and on to Muscle Brook, as the NSW Colonial Government's plans in the 1830's extended to Northern Territory Coast at “Victoria” as a trade route.

Unfortunately, up until now, the Bulga Milbrodale Community has relied upon its own resources to defend both their Community existence from Mining along with the Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage significance of these Bulga Environs.

3. Call for recognition of Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity and support of the Bulga Cultural Centre proposal June 2016 submitted to CHAG.

The “Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre” at this stage is seen to dovetail with the “Our Villages Our Vision 2012” and Bulga Stock Reserve by incorporating the Heritage significant Bulga School that is beside and fronting the Putty road as this would be ideally suited for the Culture Centre outlined. This is also in line with Bulga Community approaches made to Singleton Council in 2011. Concept extracts follow.



MTW Community Heritage Advisory Group Management Plans – Bulga Village

Cockfighters Valley Precinct – Cultural Studies & Heritage 1810-1855 Cohabitation

The Objective of this Study is to capture the early 1800's Archival Cultural Heritage so as to provide lasting Visualisation and Talking Heritage to at least in part compensate for the lost Heritage opportunities that were otherwise hidden or allowed to fall into Rack and Ruin or otherwise lost. The Key aspects are:-

- Incorporate “Cockfighters Valley Precinct” into MTW Heritage Managements Plans
 - Bulga Cultural Centre 20 year Plan (June 2016)
 - Cultural Studies & Heritage 1810 – 1865 within 2 -5 years
 - Holistic Bora gatherings archival recollections Research
 - Chronology of Archival documents 1810 – 1855 Research
- Talking Heritage – Aboriginal & Colonial Surviving Descendants of Bulga area in 1st Year 2017
- Heritage Visualisation – 1810, 1825, 1840, 1865, Pre Mining Lands, Post Mining lands
- Bulga Cultural Centre – Bulga Environs - Heritage Preservation of Bulga Village 2-5 years.
- Warkworth Mine Heritage Conservation Park – SSHEG submission 2010, 2011 & 2014



Up Until 1810 the Sydney Colony was hemmed in on the Eastern Seaboard and encircled by the Blue Mountains , Valleys and Gorges. By 1810 stories were emerging of Convicts having contact with aboriginals living beyond the Blue Mountains to the west.

Following the successful crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson to Mt Blaxland in 1813, others such as the Howes explorations to North West was in search of a more trafficable road route to Bathurst to the West. Howe by 2019 had found a way to Doyles Creek via Howes Valley to what is now Jerrys Plains on the then unrecognised Hunter River. Howe attuned to the Aboriginal presence in these Blue Mountains “got wind of the Grassy Plains further to the East and sent his aboriginal guides to investigate”.

By March 1820 Howes Party had established the Bulga Track which descends beside the Aboriginal Baiame Cave into a Grassy Valley and what soon became Cockfighters Creek, and the “Gateway to the Hunter Valley”.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage

The Holistic Vision for the Hunter Valley Heritage Conservation Tourism Centre at Bulga traces the ongoing Cultural ages from the earliest documented times all the way through to current 21st Century and beyond; broadly identified Ancestral Heritage Periods are as follows:-

1. Aboriginal occupancy.
2. NSW Colony exploration 1788 – 1820
3. Colonial Exploration Saint Patricks Plains - early Settlement 1810 -1825
4. Colonial Settlement 1825-1852, Convicts & Bora period.
5. Colonisation of Hunter Valley 1860 – 1900.
6. Hunter Valley Food Bowl 1900 – 1945.
7. Post WW2 Industrialisation 1950 - 2000
8. New Millennium Challenges 2000 – 2020.
9. Coexistence, Health, Environment and developing Tourism. 2020 - 2050
10. Future Rehabilitated Land & Water Environs, Solar Farms, Mountain Wind Farms.

The Concept is to establish a Tourism Centre located in and about the Bulga Village Environs as it had grown to be to provide an ongoing Daily Community Service Activity which captures and puts on as Visualisation Talking Displays of the Cultural Heritage of these Bulga Environs, and especially incorporating the Artefacts, Museum Archives, Talking History of bygone times - "Bulga Pioneer Descents", and the changing landscape sacrificed along the way.

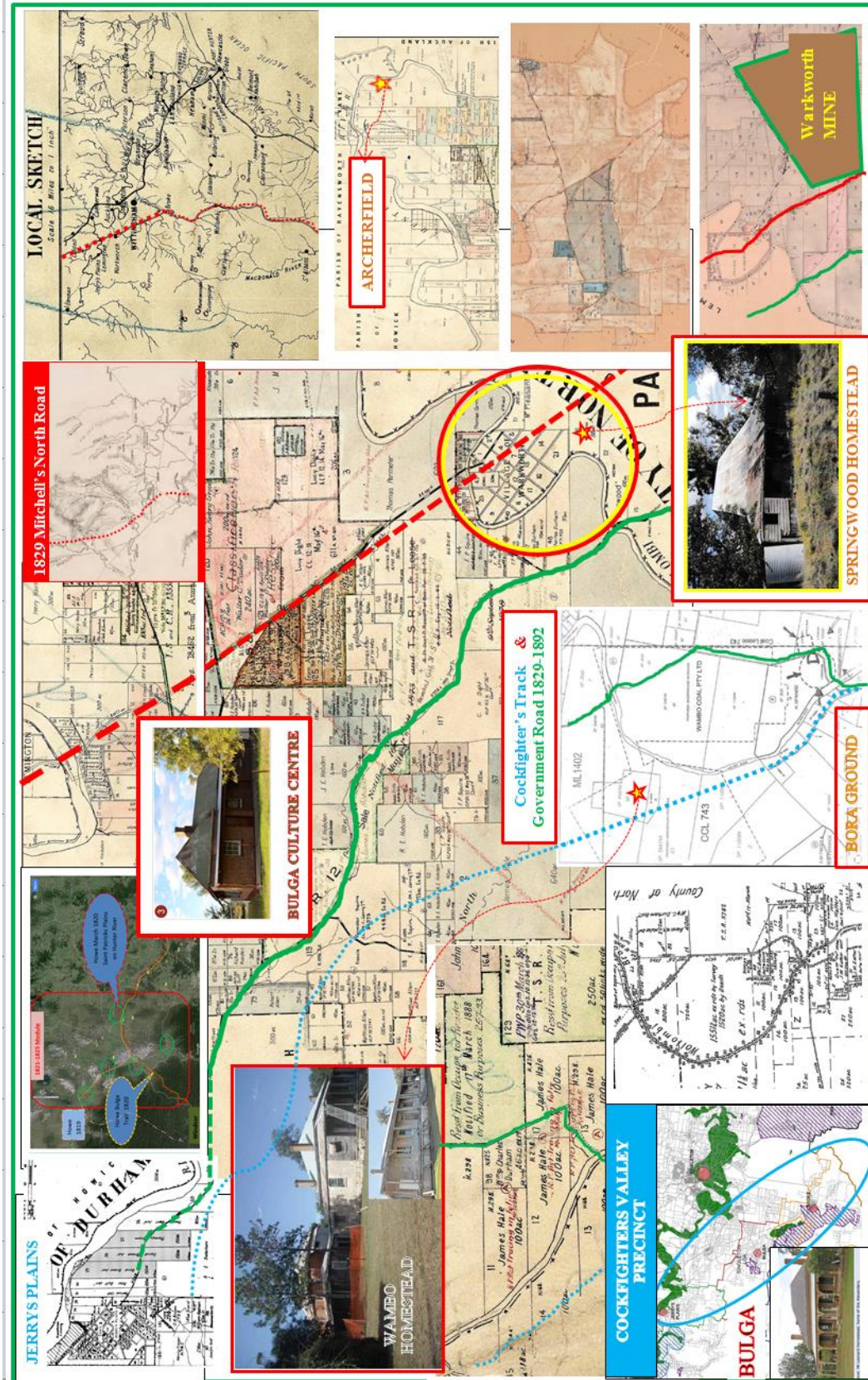
By 1950 before the Industrialisation of the Hunter Valley, Bulga Village Environs had grown to be in and about the Wollombi Brook, providing the Community Hub for the Agricultural endeavours in the region along the Putty Road transport to and from the Upper Hunter Valley and beyond.

The presence of Coal Deposits from the Wollombi Brook all the way to the East to the Hunter River resulted in Coal Mine Leases by 1979 beginning to eat into the Land that progressively hemmed in the Cockfighter's Valley Residents from Broke, Vere, Milbrodale, Bulga, Warkworth to Jerrys Plains Villages (and Hunter River Residents nearby) as five consecutive Mines: - Bulga, Mt Thorley, Warkworth **1982**; Wambo and Hunter Valley Operations, also developed from Underground to Open Cut Operations.

Although much Mine compensation has been paid to the Hunter Valley Communities, over the last 35 years, (except those that sold to Mines) the most affected Residents at Bulga have little to show for their sacrifices in the face of Mine Blasting damaging Homes, Cracked Community Buildings, Cemeteries; Choking Mine Dust and Fumes, Noise Night and Day, Bright Glaring Lights, and the Disease Impact especially on School Children at Bulga, Milbrodale and Broke Schools over the years, and Homes vacated when classified as unfit "mine affected landholdings" due to Government assessed Disease Risk from nearby Mining Operation.

This Bulga Culture Centre Vision aims to balance the Mine Compensation debt overdue for Cockfighter's Valley Residents and is planned to be developed over the next 30 Years.

"Ancestral Heritage focuses upon the capture of the contributions made by successive Human Generations – Our Ancestors to the Environ Domain, showcased as Interactive



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

The Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre Implementation Plan has its initial focus on Colonial Cultural Heritage as past down to Descendants of the Early Colonial Settler Families, some who retain a family lineage to this Cockfighter Valley area.

This is envisaged to be visually collated as Talking Heritage Modules to capture the Oral Heritage recollections of long standing Bulga Community Residents, Siblings, etc, past and present. These Modules to be prepared for direct Tourism Interactive Visualisation (TIV) use.

The Need for Professionals Historians to establish Primary Archival Heritage facts and Visualised Extracts is fundamental to Authenticate the information, such as: that is supported by writings and Diaries of Explorers, Accounts of events recorded at the time, Photos, Paintings, searches back through Documents based on previous publications with rewritten History, etc.

Tracing the "Migration paths of Early Colonial Settlements", collate and prepare TIV's related by periods of Pioneer Exploits, Farming Family Enterprises, Characters, Homesteads, Lifestyle Cultures, Social interactions, Community Impacts, and the like, etc.

Bulga Culture Centre Implementation Plan Vision

Anniversary Tourism Vision (2 Years 2016-2018)

Aboriginal occupancy.

NSW Colony exploration 1788 – 1820

Colonial Exploration Saint Patricks Plains - early Settlement 1810 -1825

Short Term Tourism Vision (5 Years Target 1825 - 1852)

Colonial Settlement 1825-1852 & Bora period.

Convict's role in Settlements

Medium Term Tourism Vision (10 Years Target 1860- 1945)

Colonisation of Hunter Valley 1860 – 1900.

Hunter Valley Food Bowl 1900 – 1945.

Long Term Tourism Vision (15 Years Target 1942 - 2050)

Post WW2 Industrialisation 1950 - 2000

New Millennium Challenges 2000 – 2020.

Coexistence, Health, Environment and developing Tourism. 2020 – 2050

Futuristic Tourism Vision (15 Years Target 2050 – 2100).

Future Rehabilitated Land & Water Environs, Solar Farms, Mountain Wind Farms.

Hunter River Transportation with Locks

Cities on Mine Moonscape land, Recreation and Water Storage Dams.

The Bulga Ancestral Culture emerges

The initial Phase of the Ancestral Heritage Study in the Hunter Valley focuses upon the changing nature of the Colony's Culture as the mixture of the Privileged, Incarcerated, Free Settlers, rich and poor in a strange land; lived side by side and interacted with the first peoples and their Aboriginal Culture.

The Colonial Culture that developed in the somewhat protected Colony Environs of the first 30 years of close living 1788 -1818, is contrasted with Colonial Settler's Culture in the next 30 years 1818 -1848 as the "Foothold of the Colony became an Established Settlement".

The Lion's share of these changes that imprinted what was to emerge as "The Australian Bush Spirit", and was forged by overcoming nature's challenges initially, in 1790's and then in 1820's at Patrick's Plains, "The Birthplace of the Hunter Valley", and then spread North onto the Liverpool Plains and beyond.

The Character Traits of the early Explorers, the Pioneers, Early Settlers, with Convicts, often dependent on each other for survival; starting with Bark Huts as Settlements developed in these "Strange and Harsh Lands". These Traits imprinted upon their lives, coalesced as a distinctive Settler Culture in a similar way that Environs had shaped and moulded the original Habitants of the land, the Aboriginal Tribes with their distinctive language, artefacts and belief systems.

The cumulative assembly of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and developing Social interaction manifests as the Culture that defines each Period as distinct from any other Period.

The Bulga Environs became the enclave as the "Gateway to the Hunter Valley" to the extent that for more than a century Patrick's Plains provided the Agricultural food bowl pathway of the colony.

Our Villages *Our Vision* 2012

A Future Vision for
Broke, Bulga & Milbrodale

Supported by Xstrata Coal

Undertaken by Coakes Consulting



ii | Our Villages Our Vision 2012 – A Future Vision for Broke, Bulga & Milbrodale



Farming

"It's important because it makes us money."
"We don't want to be touched by non-rural industry."

Singleton Military Base

"Source of local employment opportunities."

Mining

"Close to mine for work."
"Employment of locals in the mines is important – to keep living in the area economically viable."
"Mines are a good source of local employment opportunities."

Local business

Broke Village Store
"A good service point and meeting place."
Bulga Roadhouse Café
"Vital to the community and for tourists and visitors passing through."
Cockfighter Creek Tavern
"Provides a great place for locals and visitors to eat, drink and socialise."

Viticulture

"We wish to be able to maintain the area as a highly prized wine destination in its own right, rather than the outer suburbs of Pokolbin."
"We appreciate that Pokolbin has done a lot to publicise 'The Hunter Valley' as a premium wine destination, but their mentality is generally to keep all the business within a couple of kilometres
"Generally speaking, the Broke area cellar doors would welcome more midweek and weekend visitation of self-drive independent visitors."
"The vineyards bring sustainable income and jobs, as well as long term investment from tourism and visitors."
"The vineyards offer a great tourist attraction and host some great events."
"Vineyards bring in money and more people to the area."

Tourism

"We need to protect and expand the area as a gateway to the National Parks."
"(McNamara Park) park is well utilised by tourists."
"(McNamara Park) brings visitors to the area for low key holidays – no crowds."
"(Community events) are great to attract tourists and day trippers."



Sense of Identity (Broke)

Spirit
"This is the tranquil side of the valley. The village atmosphere provides the delineation between villages of Broke and Pokolbin."
"A lot of people move to the area for the community values and village atmosphere."
"When you need to come together and raise funds for any projects they seem to do it."
Rural Amenity
"I love its beauty and how quiet it is – hopefully it stays this way."
"Broke has a unique landscape, scale and ambience."
"Country lifestyle is great – the peace and quiet, to enjoy family and friends."
Place
"It's a great place to live – close to work, the mines, and close to decent restaurants."

Sense of Identity (Milbrodale)

Spirit
"A fairly close knit community which likes to be well informed."
"The unity of the community is a strength in itself"
Rural Amenity
"The community values the ambience."
Place
"It's our home. For family, friends, farming and work, and driving, walking, biking"

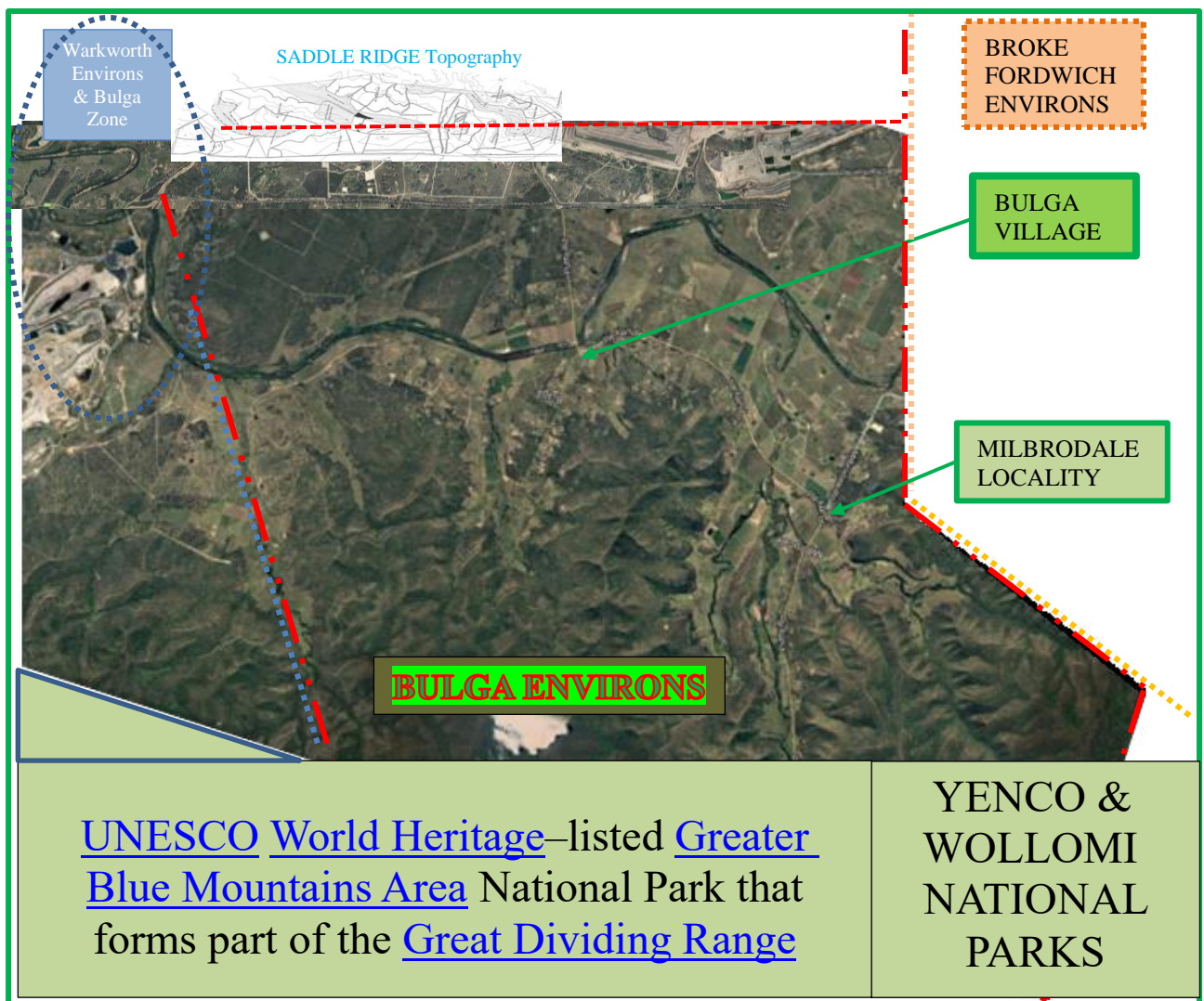
Places of Historic Significance

Historical Sites – Convict Trail
"Much of the history of the area starts with the convict trail. It was also a cattle route."
Historical Sites – Mount Leonard
"Many [buildings] date back to settlement days."
Wollombi Brook (Cockfighter Creek)
"Cockfighters Creek (Wollombi Brook) was named after this horse) has been with us since 1820 when this area was discovered."
Broke Bridge
"It's an iconic bridge. It makes Broke stand out as people can identify the bridge with Broke"
Bulga Bridge
"It has great community and historical value. It is 100 years old."
Charlton Road
"Important thoroughfare. Historically significant."
Wallaby Scrub Road
"The road is heritage listed. It is vital to the local community, workers and tourists."
"If it closed, it would lessen the appeal of the area due to difficulty of access."
Indigenous Culture and Heritage
Yengo National Park
"Aboriginal significant sites are found throughout the area."
Baiame Cave
"Very significant site of the dreamtime."

*Quotes from primary school children (Photovoice Project).

4. Call for recognition of Bulga Environs as State Significant Heritage Area exemplifying “Aboriginal, Colonial and Convict Significance”

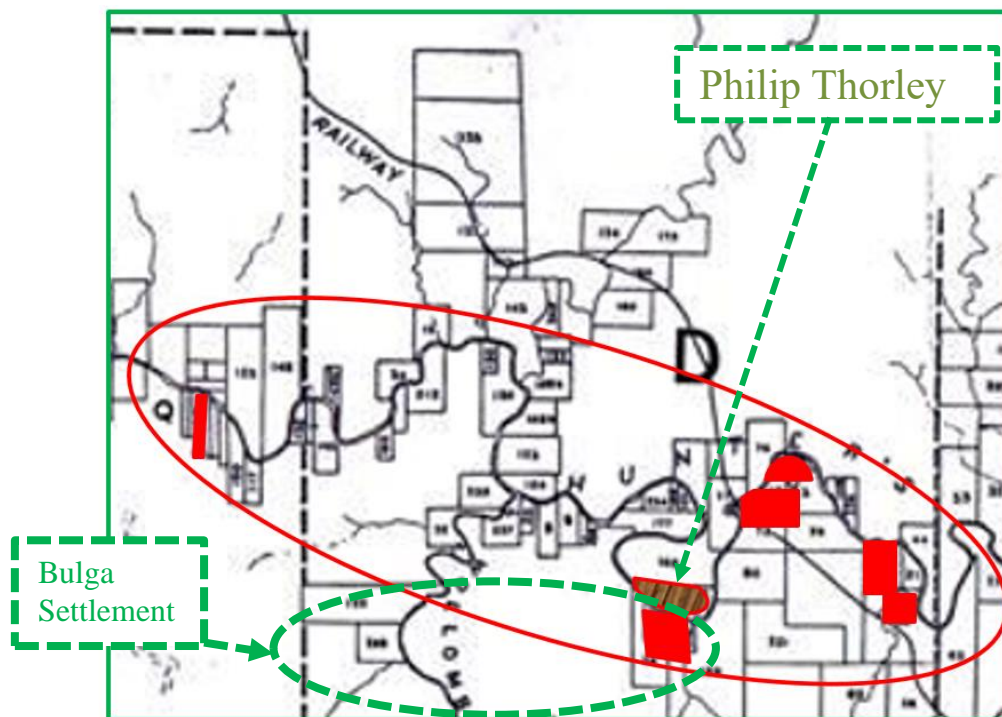
Fundamental to the recognition of Bulga Environs is the recognition of the coexistence of Ancient Aboriginal Cultures that predated Aboriginals resident at the time of Pioneer Settlers entering these lands, and these combinations and the topography of these lands has led to the steadfast Community Culture that survives as an Entity in these particular lands.



Bulga Environs & Bulga Settlement

The Bulga Environs outlined above are shown here limited to the western watershed of the Charlton North, Saddle Ridge through to Watts' Hill and the water seepage across the Wallaby Scrub Road – the Great Northern Convict built road - and the Flora and Fauna impact of Mining on any remaining Lands.

However, the Pioneer Colonial Settlers in 1821 as Saint Patricks Plains extended along the Hunter River as illustrated and described below. Both Philip Thorley and Benjamin Singleton are shown on the Hunter River in 1821 over the Bulga Environs.

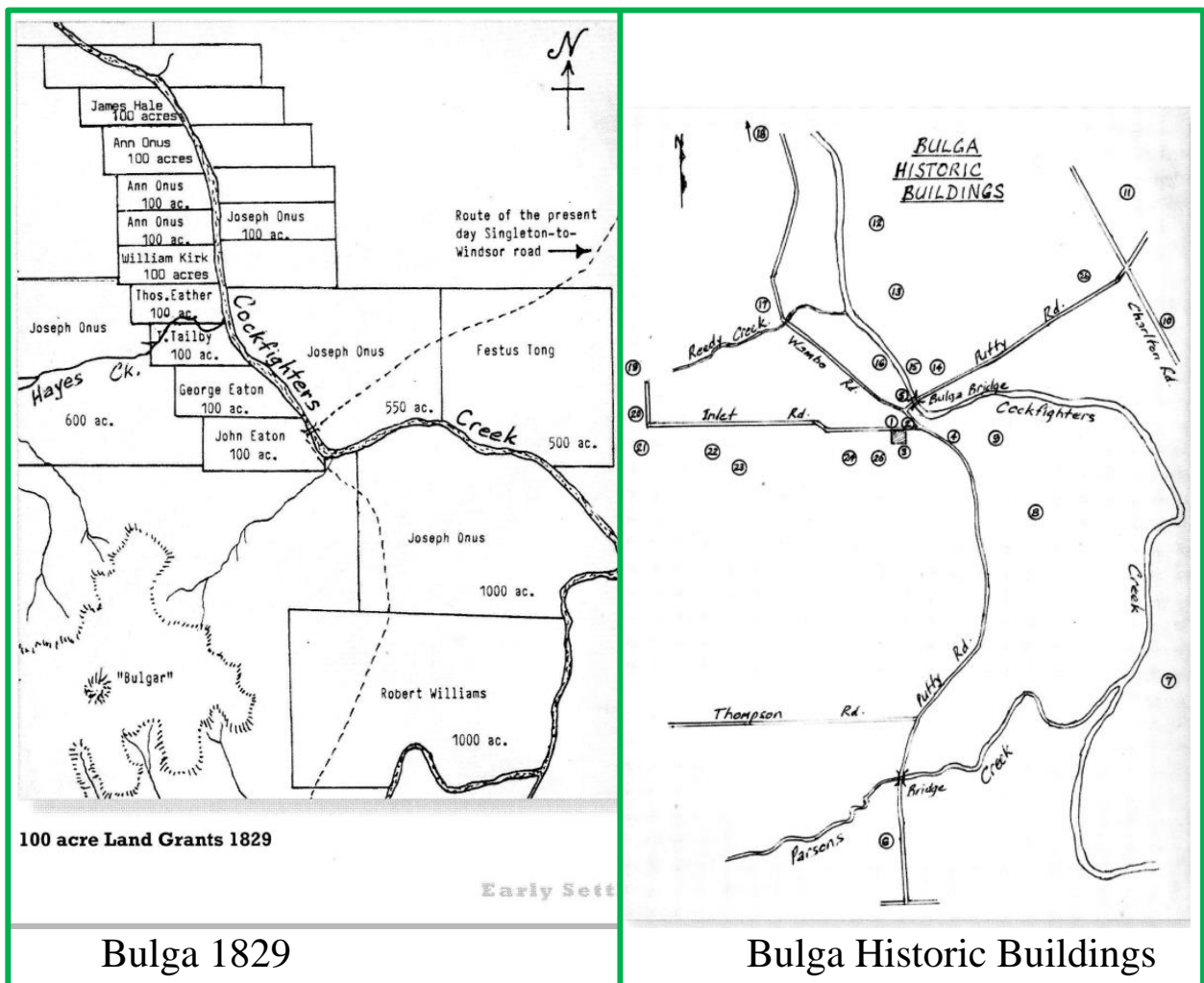


1821 “The Birthplace of the Hunter Valley”

The “Country of Northumberland” suitable Agricultural Land Localities along the River Hunter established Parishes ranging from 18,000 to 35,000 acres, all with River or Brook frontages, and including individual Parish Church and School Estates of 1200 to 2500 acres; *however without Roads*. Philip Thorley’s family amongst the first.

Benjamin Singleton in 1822 is recorded as on a small Grant upstream of Philip Thorley Grant on the East side of the River Hunter. Thus Benjamin Singleton Family was likely here and then the second recorded location of Stock was on the Hunter River Flats at Neotsfield in the period 1822; but by 3rd August 1822 this became James Mudie's Grant of 2150 acres.

By 1825 "The first recipient of land closer to "The Bulgar" was Joseph Onus No 225 of 100 acres in 1825"; and a second portion of 550 acres, on both sides of Cockfighters Creek. By 1829 Land Grants fronting the Cockfighters Creek established the Bulga Enclave as it were.



The Bulga Settlement, Culture and Colonial Heritage rose from 1820 through to WWI, after which the Bulga Settlement grew around the Recreation Grounds, Shops, Garages, and Tavern; as we know it today.

Aboriginal Significance

The Baiaame Cave and the likelihood of Ancient Bora Grounds in this vicinity at the Milbrodale Locality was surmised by RH Mathews in 1893, however by 1820 the Bora Ground used (last in 1852) was located just East on the Cockfighter's Creek some 14 Kms due North of the Baiaame Cave, and 4Km NNE of Bulga Bridge.

The Connectivity of Aboriginal and Colonial Tracks and eventually Government Roads through the Greater Blue Mountains National Parks also established the "Cockfighters Valley Precinct" as an adjunct with the Bulga Environs as the "Gateway to the Hunter Valley".



Aboriginal surface Surveys by Mining Companies all along the ridges to the East and parallel to the Wollomi Brook and across to the Hunter River testify to the Aboriginal significance of all these lands. Thus, the Bulga Environs outlined above are shown limited to the western watershed of the Charlton North, Saddle Ridge through to Watts' Hill and the water seepage across the Wallaby Scrub Road – the Great Northern Convict built road - and the Flora and Fauna impact of Mining on any remaining Lands.



CHWG Meeting 7th May 2014

The significance of the Coexistence Debate

Today the NSW Government promotes their focus, that Mining Coexists beside established Communities of the Hunter Valley.

In reviewing Archival reports and personal letters of the Pioneer Settlers on Cockfighter's Creek in Patrick Plains at these earliest times, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that "Coexistence" started long before the arrival of Colonial Settlers.

"The Baiaime Tribal Inhabitants" of this Locality resided here and "conveyed the understanding" they were entrusted with protecting these "Peaceful and Spiritual Gathering Trading Lands". Many of their descendants have been recently spared by their passing of having to suffer the indignity of watching their ancestral tribal lands be chewed up by Mining, while others today try to convey to authorities their youthful dialogue on these lands with their elders.

John Howe's Exploration Party, certainly Benjamin Singleton, and Aboriginal Myles perhaps better than most at the time respected the bush craft of Aboriginals they encountered especially at Jerrys Plains in 1819 where assistance by way of an easier path to the Grassy Plains led to their incursion via escapement certainly beside the Baiaime Cave on March 1920; suggesting at the least "Tacit approval of their Presence". This is not surprising as "Baiaime Tribe members" had been previously recorded at Bora Gatherings in " in 1810 near the colony outskirts".

Later archival recordings already indicate the "Baiaime Tribe" as the custodians of both the Cave and "Bora Grounds and Tribal assembly areas some miles away", and thus avoided and respected by Colonial Settlers. This may explain, that after the last 1852 Bora Grounds gathering of Regional Tribes that it was not until 1892 that RH Mathews a local Surveyor of Singleton first recorded the Baiaime Cave as well as a detailed Surveyor of Bora Ground land; however so far without any reference to the actual details of the Sacred Bora trees? Why not ?

While other Tribes were responsible for other skirmish elsewhere, the Colonial Recorded History and Archival writings for the Cockfighter's Creek Environs record the peaceful nature of this area so far identified.

Colonial & Convict Significance 1820's



Figure 3.1 Map showing the sequence of exploration and settlement around the Sydney colony, and the line of Oxley's 1818 expedition, north of the Hunter Valley (GWG, 1997).

HERITAGE Listing of Bulga Settlement & Village by 2020

Is the Bulga Settlement finally assured after the 2015 MTW Mine PAC 2 option to “Relocating the Village at the expense of the State Government and Applicant”, and with the outcome dismissed by all?

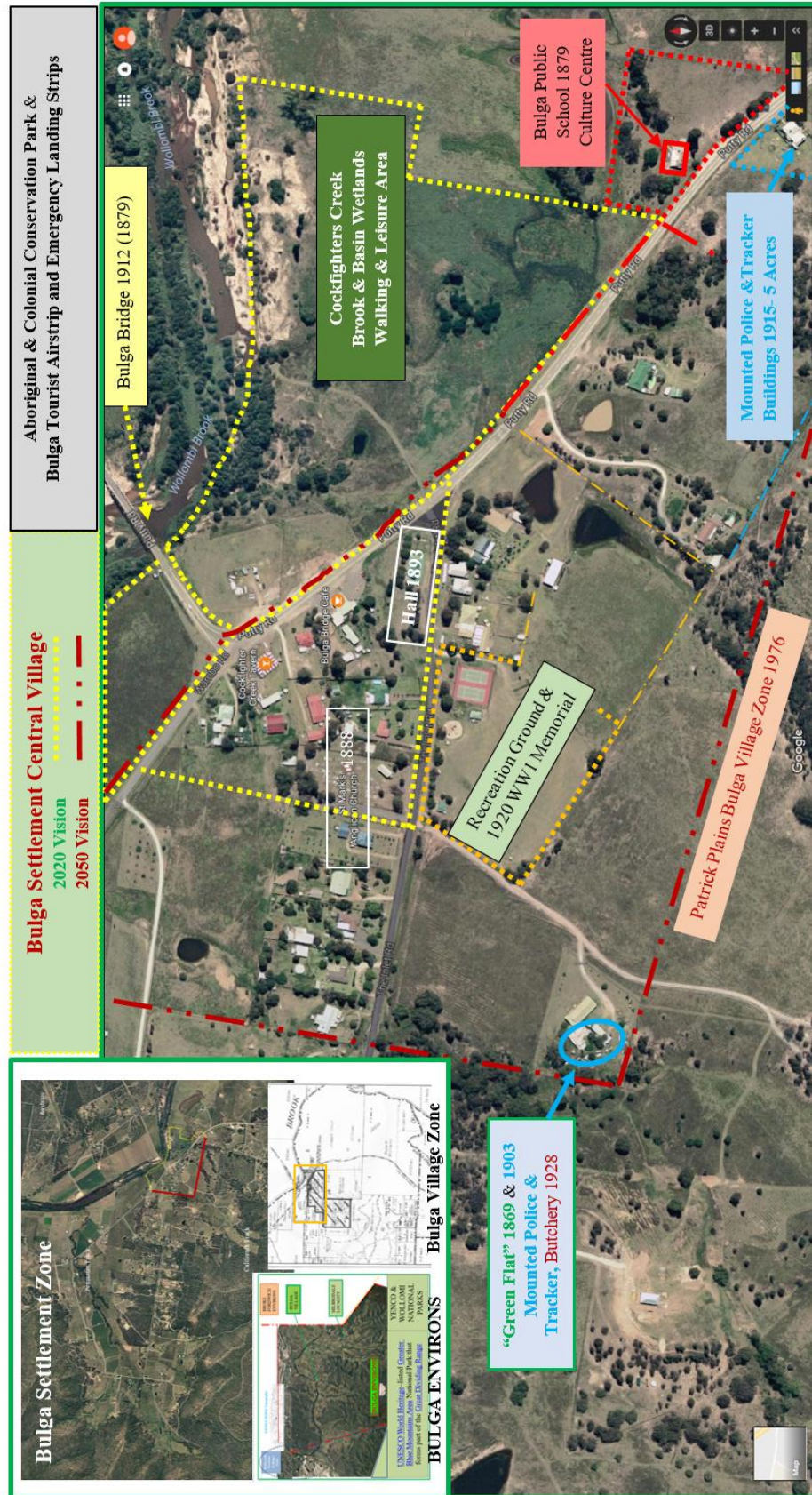
The proposed Revoking of the Mine Subsidence Bulga classification in Sept 2016 over this valley area suggests that issues like Bulga Church and Cemetery Mine Blasting Damage, etc. are being walked away from.

An Audit Review would indicate that the Bulga Environs – Bulga Settlement & Milbrodale Settlement and its alliances in Patrick’s Plains District Council 1843 and Shire 1903-1975 have never been fully integrated into the Singleton Shire. The 1914 Recreation Grounds and 1920 WWI Memorial Gates fell into disrepair, and by the 1980’s a redevelopment master plan of the Recreation grounds with new facilities arose.

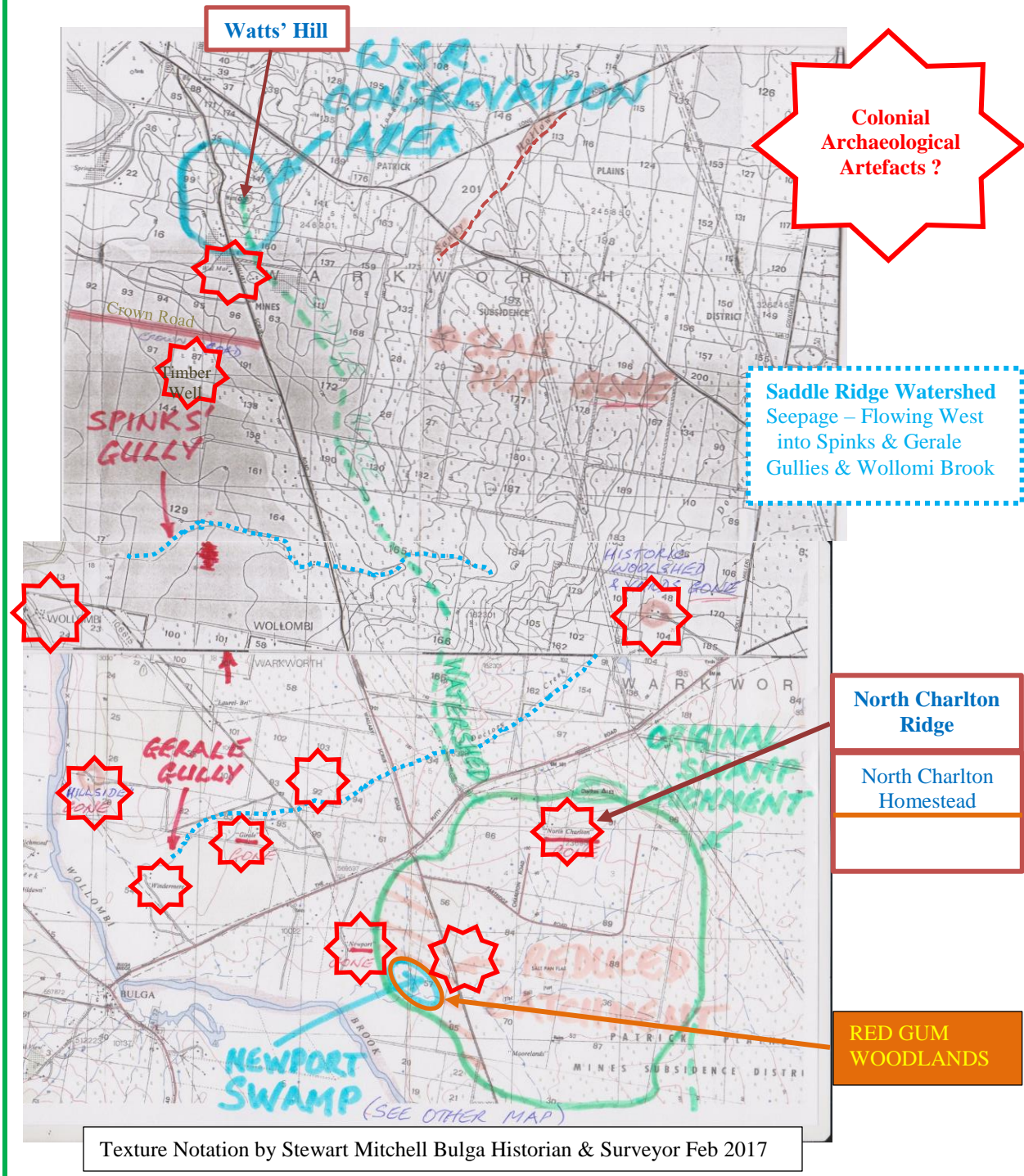
“In 1983 the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association was formed and undertook the mammoth task of restoring the Bulga Recreation Ground to its former glory. A master plan for the development was approved by the Shire Council”. Some Funding from Council, Mining and local Businesses and Grants, mixed with Community Volunteers labour, also needed the BMPA fundraising, a hallmark of gala days and country fairs.

One year on since the MTW Mine Approval in Nov 2015 and yet no Onsite Village Enhancement Work is evident. Thus, the following *“Bulga Environs, Bulga Settlement and Bulga Settlement Bulga Village”* Composite Plan below is designed to give the Five Mines that are impacting the “Bulga Settlement” two years to fund and finalise, and gain approval for the 2020 Bulga Central Village Masterplan, while in the meantime provide funding of \$100,000 for Bulga Cemetery Repairs, and \$50,000 tagged for BMPA to obtain Professional services to finalise and publish their Bulga Settlement Masterplan Designs, Heritage listings, with modern Tourism Caravan/Camping facilities, Motel and B&B Zones.

When it comes to Heritage Conservation, “The Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity” has moved to operate from the Heritage Listed Bulga Public School to provide the base for the Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage Work as outlined in the June 2016 document entitled “Bulga Culture Centre – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley”.



Watts' Hill - Saddle Ridge Watershed - Nth Charlton Ridge across Sandy Hollow to Doctors Creek and "North Charlton Homestead and Shearing Shed

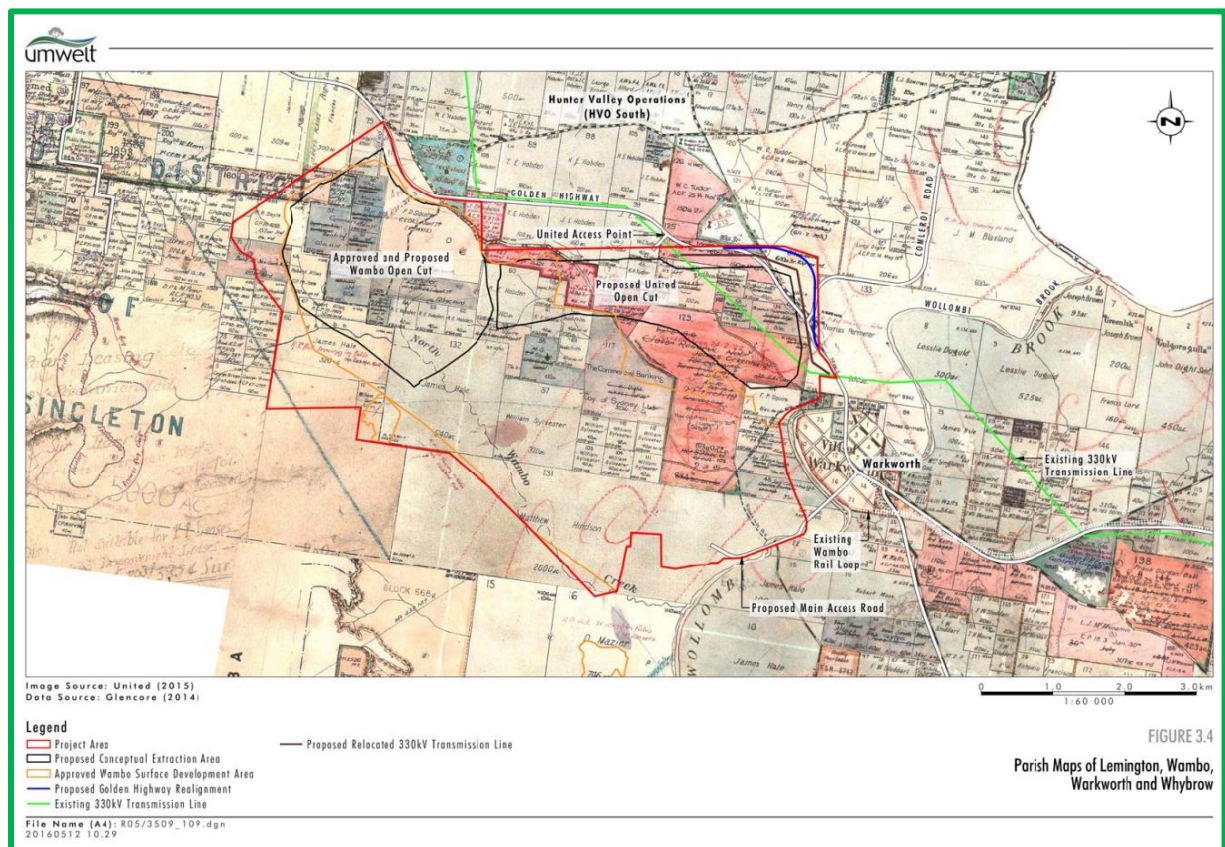


These Maps and the adjoining Parish Maps are dotted with the location of buildings and Homes on these Farm lands with clear substantial Homesteads marked and recorded State Mapping Maps.

The Colonial and Convict content related to these dwellings are further supported by actual Land Title Records especially in the period 1820-1891 and then through to current times.

We believe that the extent of our Ancestral Heritage – Colonial, Convict, British, European, etc – warrants that archaeological excavations are required in all these identified locations, including the sifting of all soils to a depth of one metre to locate any “Colonial Artefacts” before any further mining is to proceed at these sites.

The Bulga Environs perpetuates the Colonial Identity, which records the relationship between individual property locality, Mailing address, and their ongoing Community associations with Bulga Village.



Wambo EIS 2016 - early 1830's + Tracts to North and East

Hunter Valley Pre Open Cut Mining 1947



Fig. 1
The Hunter Valley
circa 1947
(Newcastle shown by
blue dot)

Early architech in hunter valley 2008

Today (in 2012) the area is renowned for its vineyards and its coalfields, its industry and agricultural pursuits, natural beauty and rural amenity – aspects that do not always co-exist comfortably. It is in this changing rural and industrial context that the area has begun to ask questions of its future. Will we be able to maintain our standard of living? Is our region healthy and robust? Are we maintaining standards of equity in our local region? Are we sustaining economic health and diversity? Are we planning effectively to ensure a sustainable future? It is these types of questions – and the passion and commitment of local people to the region – that has encouraged the Our Villages, Our Vision project. Local communities in the region are expressing their discontent, frustration and concerns about the future of the region, particularly regarding the role of mining. It is in this context that this project has developed; as a possible way to define a shared and inclusive vision for the future. The words and information provided in the ‘vision’ are derived from community members (long-term and new residents), government and industry, local businesses and employees, children and families – we thank all who participated in the project for their time and contribution.....It is hoped that the document will be used by community members, groups, government and industry to support strategic planning, [\(Extract Our Vision Our Future 2012 – Bulga Mine\)](#)

How the Bulga Environs should be Compensated from Coal Mining

Recognition of Bulga Environs as the unique Aboriginal, Colonial and Convicts Significance Area.

- 1) Establish the Bulga Settlement Heritage Park encompassing Bulga Culture Centre and Bulga Village Centre.
- 2) Heritage list Bulga Public Government School built 1879 as such.
- 3) Strengthen, Repair and document Bulga Cemetery and Mt Thorley Cemetery Graves to compensate for the ravages that result from the incessant Mine Blasting. (Estimated at \$60 -100,000 over five years).
- 4) Restore and Repair the former Bulga RAAF Base Landing strips for Emergency and future Bulga Environs use rather than allowing the regrowth to occur. Presently the shorter NE SW Runway is being used by Mine Aeroplanes apparently for surveys and Aerial Seeding, while the main SE NW runway has been allowed by Mining to become overgrown. Heritage Act 1977 Appendix G Classifies both runways as “Operational in 2001” and owned by Singleton Council.

Thematic Study: WWII Aerodromes and associated structures in New South Wales								November 2001 Appendix G
Table 1 - Summary of 'parent' Aerodromes								
SITES IDENTIFIED	PRE-WAR	USE	CLASS.	LAT. LONG.	CONST. DATE	STATUS AS AT 1942/43	REMARKS	POST-WAR
<i>Operational Aerodromes</i>								
Albion Park, Shellharbour Municipal Council	-	OPER	I/F	34.34 150.47	c.1941	-	2 runways 4500 x 150 6000 x 150	Light aircraft
Bulga, Singleton Shire Council	-	OPER	GR/T	32.38 151.02	c.1941	AI	2 strips 5000 x 150 Complete	Council land
Fleur, Penrith Shire Council	Farming land	STN	FAA (USN)	33.52 150.47	1942	A	-	Gliding Association CSIRO
Mascot, Botany Bay Council	Airfield	STN	3 Comm Flight	33.56 151.11	1940	-	Civil installation Suitable for MB	Sydney Airport
North Bourke, Bourke Shire Council	Airfield	FERRY	US FERRY	30.03 145.57	c.1940	E	2 runways 6000 x 145 *x 63 * 1 x strip 7000 x 188	Civil aviation
Nowra, Shoalhaven City Council	Civil airfield	STN	-	34.55 150.34	1940	A (DW)	All over field runway STN: 2 runways 7300 x 45 *	Transferred to the RAN
Williamtown, Port Stephens Shire Council	-	OTU	I/F Station	32.48 151.50	1941	AI	Suitable for MB	RAAF occupation

- 5) Entomological study of the surface groundwater flow impact on the vegetation etc of lands west of the Great North Road from the impact of the Mining of North Charlton Ridges and Saddle Ridge, especially the Lichen “blanket” over areas of these RAAF lands.
 - a This surface water and seepage has for centuries from the Saddle Ridge Watershed to the west, continues down the sloping lands into the Bora Ground area and served the associated Bora Campsites throughout these lands and can be traced to flowing in the Unnamed creek within 400 metres of the Sacred Tree Bora Circle near the Wollomi Brook.
 - b. The surface water from around 500Ha around North Charlton Ridge now reduced to 75Ha has had devastating effect on the ‘Newport Swamp’ 5 Ha Red Gum perimeter Trees whose age is well in excess of 200 years old,; possibly 300 to 400 years old.
- 6) Fund and progressively tidy up and Restore Springwood Homestead and Research and Multi Media Document the earlier Burwood Homestead and Cockfighter Creek Crossing at this location.
- 7) Fund and prepare the Composite recognition by way of Multi Media Documents (CrMMD) of the salvage, relocation, and preservation of Bulga Environs identified Colonial located on Mine Lease and owned Lands.
- 8) Fund and prepare the Composite recognition by way of Multi Media Documents establish on the northern section of State Historically Significant Wallaby Scrub Road an Interpretation Centre, tables, Toilets, Golden Highway signage and with Multi Media Displays that portray the history of the Great North Road and Cockfighter Creek Convict crossings, Springwood Homestead, Warkworth Sands and walking tours, etc.

- 9) Fund and prepare the Composite recognition by way of Multi Media Documents the ongoing Significance of Travelling Stock Routes, Howe's Track, Old Bulga Track, and role of Bulga Pioneer Bullock Teams in establishing these and other Government Roads.
- 10) Fund and prepare (CrMMD) of the Significance of the 1830's and 99 Year Stock Lease use of "Mountains and Valleys west of Bulga and the relationship to the California and Perimeter Trails, and the impact regarding Fire Security of Bulga Environs established over these times
- 11) Fund and arrange the Enlargement of the existing Bulga Recreation Ground by an adjoining permanent Camping and Caravan Sites and modern Facilities to provide for the envisaged increased Tourism associated with Bulga Culture Centre and "Bulga Beats Annual Festival" which currently relies upon private arrangements.
- 12) Fund and arrange the ongoing "Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity" access to MTW Mine lands for the purpose of Archaeological Studies involvement as outlined elsewhere in this and other documents.

"The Wonnarua and Hunter Valley Conservation Heritage Park (WHVCHP)" proposed in Community Submissions first in 2010 sought recognition of the combined Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage Conservation. Specifically, the significance of Mitchell's Great North Road connectivity between Broke Vere to Warkworth Village and Wambo Homestead involvement in this road was featured in the WHVCHP along with the WWII RAAF Base State Significant Heritage. Two Clark Ancestral Homes; "Girale and Ohio" were located in this same area while "Willow Farm" is nearby.

- 13) Finalise, Fund and progressively implement over the next 5 years the Bulga Milbrodale Inc “Bulga Village Bulga Environs Masterplan and Facilities” as generally outlined.

“Bulga has a Church, Community Hall, Police Station, Scout Hall, Rural Fire Service, NPWS Office & Depot, Sports Ground, Hotel and Service Station/Café with approximately 500 residents living in the locality. The closely-knit Community gathers regularly at Hall, Hotel and Sports Ground functions as well as Church services, RFS and Progress Association meetings. Non-registered heritage items, St Mark’s Church and Cemetery at Bulga. Graves within the Cemetery have collapsed in recent years as a direct result of mine blast ground vibration. The mining company has been made aware of this

c) Other heritage items of local but unlisted significance that have been destroyed since mining commenced are:- • McGregor’s shearing shed and sheep yards at Doctors Creek, • The pioneer slab cottage with wooden shingle roof at Sandy Hollow Creek, • The remains of the hotel beside old Jerrys Plains Road, Warkworth and • The 1856 Martin’s Wine Shop at Charlton Road which was bulldozed to make way for a relocated power line. No effort was made to salvage, relocate or preserve any of these historically significant structures. e) The mining company has shown a total disregard for the non-indigenous examples of early architecture within their mining lease boundaries. Before Warkworth mine bought the **Clark owned** RAAF area, it was a large and very successful sheep station. The property was around 90% open grazing land and with around 10% lightly timbered. Since Warkworth purchased the property this area has been neglected and trees allowed to take over the southern end of this area.

- 14) Fund, research and Multi Media Document, and provide appropriate management and restoration of the 2002 declared NDA1 & 2 and HMA1,2 & 3 land areas Environmental Significance.
- 15) Provide an inventory of Cockfighters Creek Artefacts held in Museums throughout the world as a necessary step in the recognition of the early Colonial Culture of the Bulga Environs.

- 16) Fund, research and Multi Media Document the significance of Warkworth Sands, their establishment, occurrence throughout the Hunter Valley especially within the “Cockfighters Valley Precinct”. and HVO and MTW Mine areas.
- 17) Fund and commission “MTW Historical Significance Study Team” of Heritage and Historical eminent scholars and academics, to report on the Great North Road to Muscle Brook and beyond and the Bulga RAAF Bases. This is to include RAHS, National Museum, Australian Museum, State Library, State Archives, Universities and Heritage and Historical Bodies.

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley		
Table 5.5 Assessment against State Heritage Register Criteria		
SHR Criteria	ERM Assessment	Threshold Justification
(a) Historical significance	The Great North Road was the first of the 'Great Roads' to be established in Australia and was important in connecting Sydney and the Hunter Valley. The road was modelled on the 'Great Roads' of England and is significant in demonstrating an early convict road that resulted in opening up the Hunter Valley to trade and settlement. While not retaining as much physical evidence as other sections of the GNR, this section retains much of the original alignment and is historically significant at State level. This criterion is met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows evidence of a significant human activity • is associated with a significant activity or historical phase • maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity
(b) Historical associational significance	The road has a special association with Governor Darling who was responsible for the 'Great Roads' concept in Australia and assistant surveyor, Heneage Finch and Sir Thomas Mitchell who were	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons

- 18) Celebrate Community Anniversary Opportunities that are approaching in the Bulga Community, with amongst the most significant for the Hunter Valley is the Howe Exploration of the Land North of the then Colony frontier at Windsor in November 1819 and March 1820 at Bulga and Howe's Monument at Saint Patricks Plains, now Whittingham. Visually collated as Talking Heritage Modules to capture the Oral Heritage recollections of long standing Bulga Community Residents, Siblings, etc, past and present. These Modules to be prepared for direct Tourism Interactive Visualisation (TIV) use.

The Vision of a Community Heritage Visitors Centre with guided tours of Aboriginal sites, Bulga Mountain Rock Art, Bulga Pioneer Trail, Colonial Homesteads, Mining exhibitions, and RAAF field days would be a worthwhile Tourism venture moving with the development of the area.

Although much Mine compensation has been paid to the Hunter Valley Communities, over the last 35 years, (except those that sold to Mines) the most affected Residents at Bulga have little to show for their sacrifices in the face of Mine Blasting damaging Homes, Cracked Community Buildings, Cemeteries; Choking Mine Dust and Fumes, Noise Night and Day, Bright Glaring Lights, and the Disease Impact especially on School Children at Bulga, Milbrodale and Broke Schools over the years, and Homes vacated when classified as unfit “mine affected landholdings“ due to Government assessed Disease Risk from nearby Mining Operation.

This Bulga Culture Centre Vision aims to balance the Mine Compensation debt overdue for Cockfighter’s Valley Residents and is planned to be developed over the next 30 Years.

The Summary is as follows:-

Bulga Residents being again sidelined by RIO Tinto and NSW Planning in the decision making process regarding Bulga Environs Cultural Heritage Conservation.

“Cockfighters Valley Precinct” History and Heritage is about to be glossed over again by the MTW CHAG processes that they have recently announced.

Call for recognition of Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity and support of the Bulga Cultural Centre proposal June 2016 submitted to CHAG and as attached.

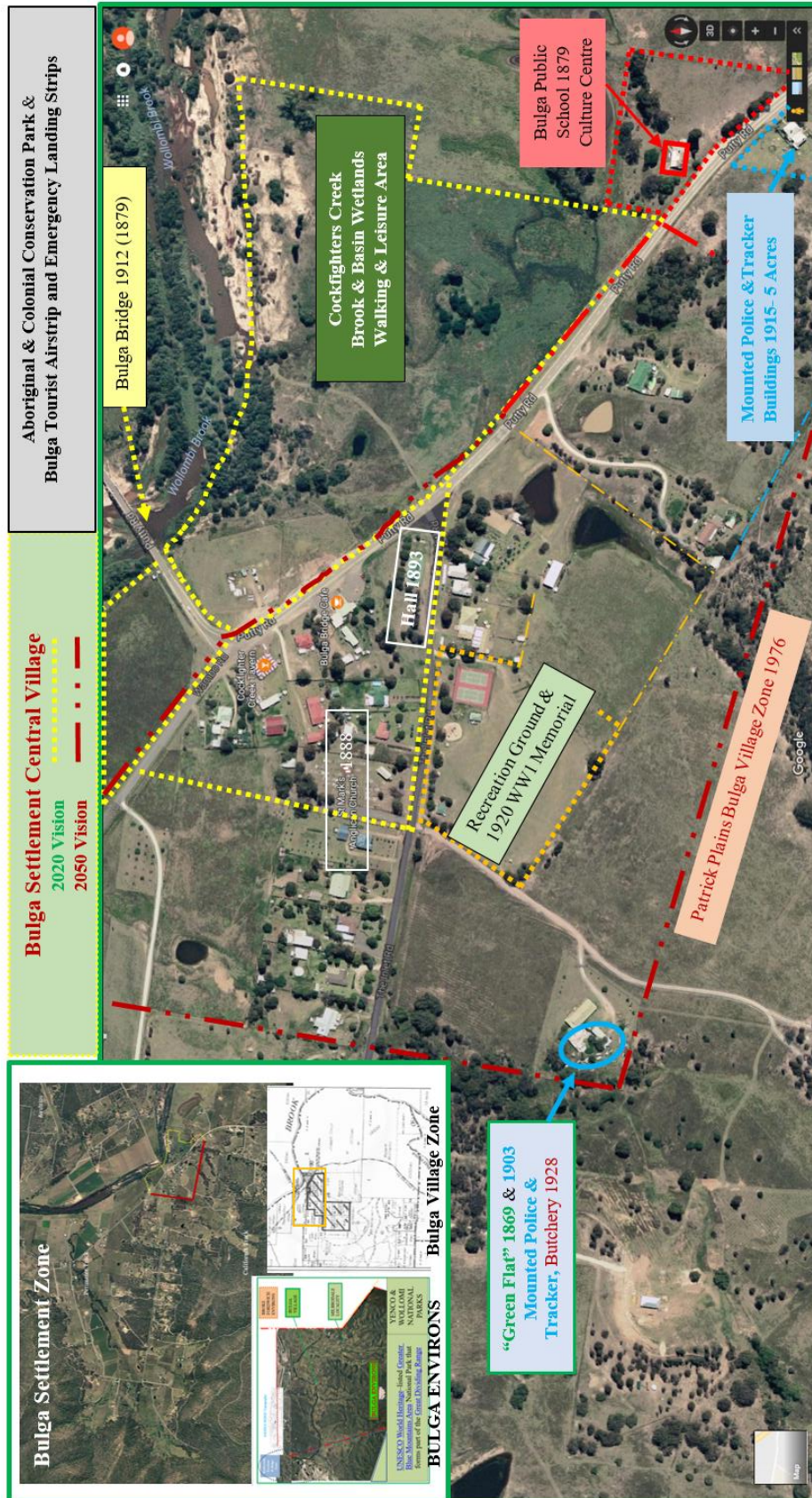
Thanking you in anticipation of your acknowledgement

Dr Neville Hodkinson

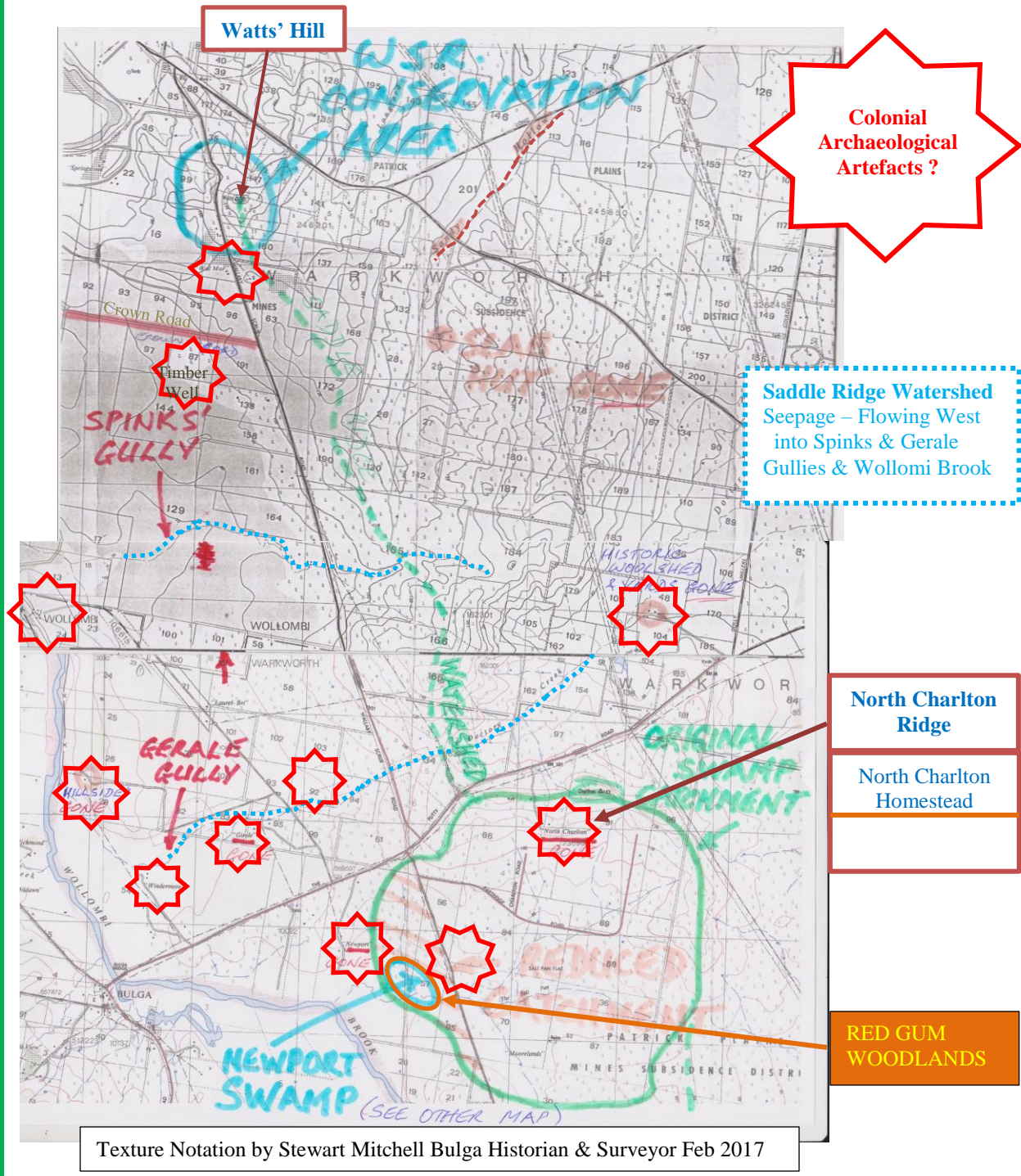
Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

Attachment 1

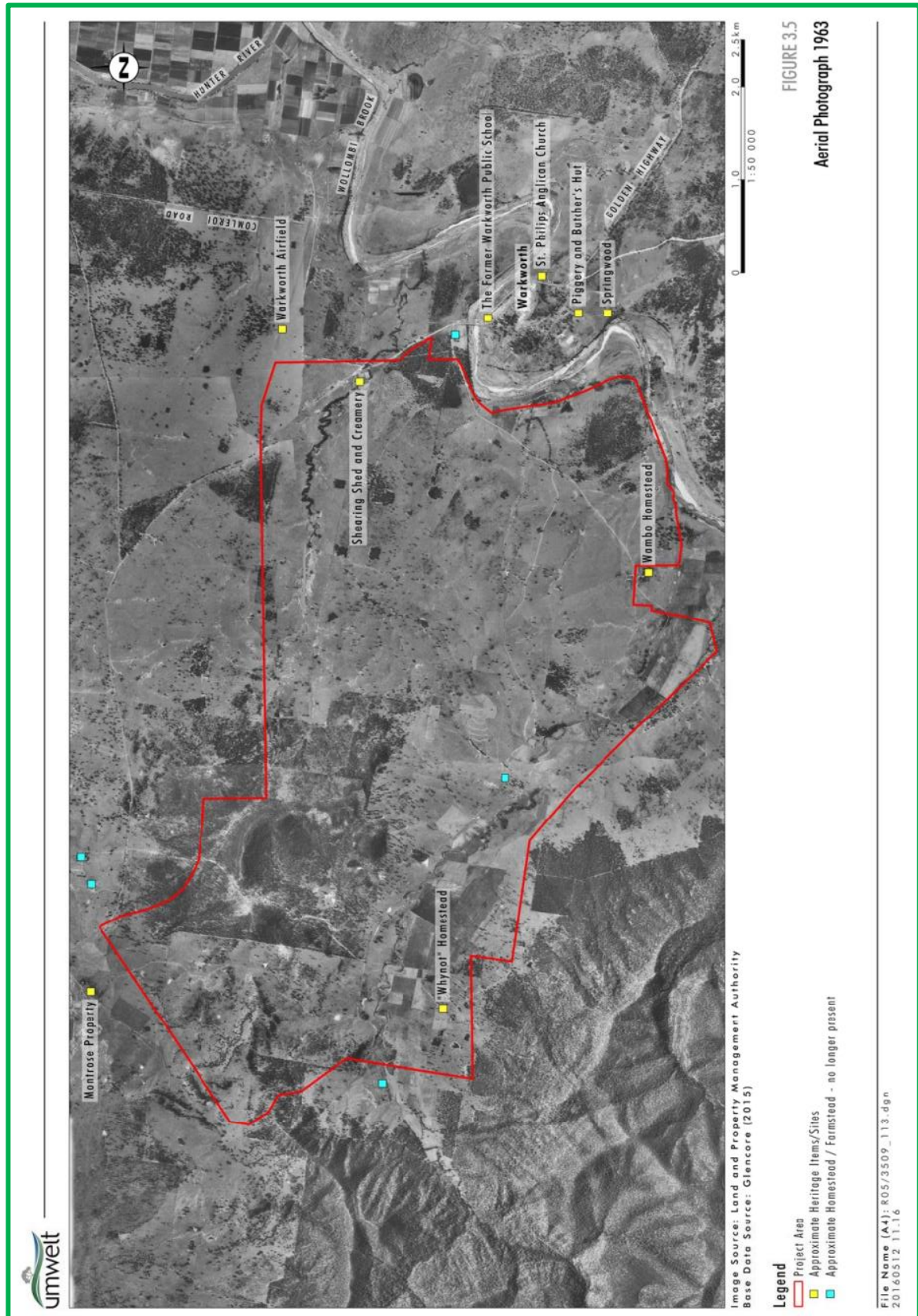
“Bulga Culture Centre” – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley “
Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD - June 2016 @ 140 pages.



Watts' Hill - Saddle Ridge Watershed - Nth Charlton Ridge across Sandy Hollow to Doctors Creek and "North Charlton Homestead and Shearing Shed







Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Governor Macquarie Land Grants March 1821

Twelve months passed since the naming by Howe on 15th March 1820 of Saint Patrick's Plains and Governor Macquarie passed that portions of this land be granted to John Howe and the free members of his party for the grazing of cattle and sheep within the area. To these men the compensation of a land grant was the greatest and richest reward of all.

On Saturday March 31, 1821 the following grants were promised in the Wollombi Brook area.

PHILIP THORLEY. Promised 100 acres to become grant no. 17, allotment 15 portion no. 19 which he names "Mount Thorley".

DANIEL PHILLIPS. Promised 100 acres to become grant no. 18, allotment 14 on the eastern side of Philip's which he named "Grenfield".

JOHN DIGHT Snr. 850 400 acres, allotment 7

It was not until January 30, 1824 a further 3 years later that the remainder of the men received their grants.

GEORGE LODER JNR. Promised grant no. 181 of 200 acres which was allotment 16, portion no. 20 to the west of Philip and Dargan's grants, named "Mount Loder".

ANDREW LODER. Promised grant no. 182 of 100 acres, allotment 17, portion no. 45 which he gave the name of "Mount Pleasant", now "Old Farm".

THOMAS DARGAN JNR. Promised 100 acres, allotment 18, portion no. 46 beside Philip's grant on the southern side.

DAVID BROWN Promised grant no. xx, allotment 5, portion no. yy

THOMAS PARMENTER Promised grant no. xx, allocation 3 31st October 1821 on Hunter River at Jerry's Plains

On Saturday March 31, 1821 the following grants were promised on the Hunter River at Saint Patricks Plains

JOHN HOWE. 700 acres in the Parish of Wittingham to become grant no. 3, allotment 11 which he named "Redbournberry", in regards to his English birth place.

BENJAMIN SINGLETON. 200 acres in the Parish of Wittingham, became grant no. 12, allotment 16 and to be claimed 2 years later 3rd August 1822 as 2150 acres by James Mudies as Allotment 3 (adjoining Henry Dargan's Neotsfield)

Also on 31st March 1831 Promised 40 acres, allotment 18, grant no xx, and this Grant is where the Town of Singleton now stands.

JOHN BEVERIDGE 600 acres as grant no xx, allotment 6.

JAMES COBB. 600 acres as grant no xx, allocation 8.


JOHN BROWN. 60 acres as grant no xx, allotment 14.

HENRY DANGAR the surveyor, on September 6, 1821 received 700 acres, grant no xx, allotment 4 named "Neotsfield".

ΑΠΟΚΛΕΙΕΤΑΙ ΟΙ ΓΥΝΟΙΣ ΟΕΙΟ ΔΑ ΤΗΟΛΑΙΟΝΣΙΣ

[illegible]

Henry Dangar Index to Map of Hunter River allotments 1821-1825



WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE

tracking

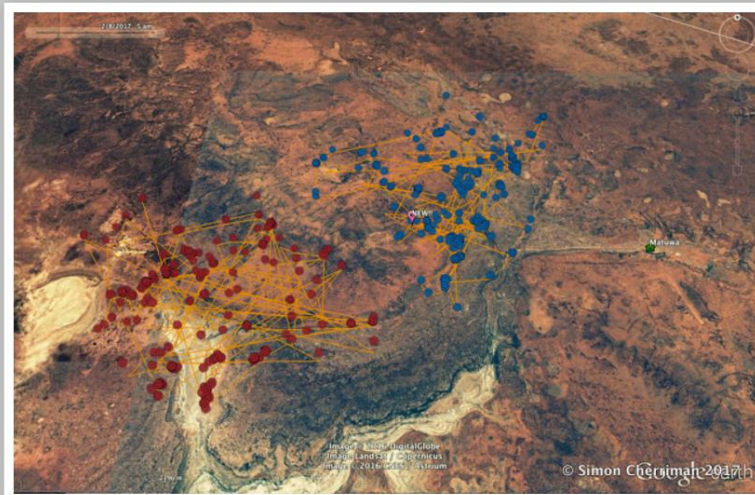
This website has been set up as part of a community education project which allows YOU to follow the movements of Wallu, the first ever Wedge-tailed Eagle to be tracked by satellite, and other eagles satellite-tagged in Western Australia. This exciting and pioneering study aims to shed light on aspects of these amazing eagles' biology which have never before been researched.

[Home](#)[Study Area](#)[Photos](#)[Meet the Eagles](#)[Satellite Tracking](#)[Documentary](#)

Sunday, 5 February 2017

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Email address...

Malya's parents' territory happens to be adjacent to that of [Wallu](#), our 'founding member' of the eagle tracking family, and zooming out provides a comparison of the 2 birds' movements during the past 8 weeks. The dark, diagonal line shown on the below map (click to enlarge) is a ridge running north-west to south-east, a landform which appears to form the northern boundary of Wallu's territory. So far these two birds have not overlapped, but it is important to keep in mind a juvenile like Malya may be tolerated 'intruding' on another adult's patch, unlike one of his parents. It is great to be able to have this context of two arid-zone wedgies!



About Me



Simon Cherriman

G'day, I'm Simon, and I'm passionate about the environment! I am an environmental educator, specialising in wildlife filmmaking, but I also use photography, writing, public presentations and guided walks, all with the aim of educating and inspiring others about the beauty of our natural world. I believe this is a necessary cause because the human population is becoming progressively isolated from the natural world, and losing sight of the reality of our situation; we depend on a healthy earth to survive. Reconnecting people with nature is vitally important if we are to understand that ecology is the law by which everything on earth is governed, even people. It all starts with taking note of the plants and animals in our backyards. This interest can then spread to streets, local bush reserves, then regions, states and so on. The more we understand, the more we appreciate and the more likely our decisions will be made with consideration for preserving ecological relationships.

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Wedge-tailed eagles do battle with mining giant's drones, knocking nine out of sky

ABC Goldfields [By Jarrod Lucas](#)

Updated 18 Nov 2016, 10:09am



PHOTO: Wedge-tailed eagles have taken out nine drones in the Goldfields. (Flickr: Jim Bendon)

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) have become unlikely prey for wedge-tailed eagles in Western Australia's Goldfields, costing a mining giant more than \$100,000 to replace its newest surveying tool

RELATED STORY: [Eagle stood down after attack on boy](#)

RELATED STORY: [On the trail of the wedge-tailed eagle](#)

MAP: [Kambalda 6442](#)

A description of significant habitat for this species was developed from published information and expert opinion for a recent document developed by the Forest Practices Authority to avoid or limit the clearance and conversion of significant habitat for threatened forest fauna (Forest Practices Authority 2008). Significant habitat includes both nesting and foraging habitat. Foraging habitat is described as a wide variety of forested (including areas subject to native forest silviculture) and non-forest habitats. Nesting habitat is described as tall eucalypt trees in large tracts (more than 10 ha) of eucalypt or mixed forest. Nest trees being amongst the largest in a locality in sheltered positions on leeward slopes, between the lower and mid slopes and with the top of the tree usually lower than the ground level of the top of the ridge. More than one nest may occur within a territory but only one is used for breeding in any one year. Breeding failure often promotes a change of nest in the next year (Forest Practices Board, 2000; Forest Practices Authority 2008). [Scientific Report No8 Mar 2009](#)



*Red Gums (angophora costata), Merewether Hills, Newcastle.
Alfred Sharpe, architect & artist, watercolour, 1899
Beauchamp Collection, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, Sydney.*



HERITAGE: Bulga residents Helen Upward (left) and Marie Mitchell dressed for the occasion to mark the Bulga Bridge centenary celebrations that will be held in the village on Saturday, October 27. 2012