

VIRTUSHERITAGE



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Editorial

Welcome to the third issue of our newsletter, our forum to communicate with our clients, community groups, agencies and other technical partners.

We have had a busy start to 2016 with ongoing projects drawing on our capabilities in community consultation, Aboriginal, historical and industrial heritage, historical research and ground penetrating radar (GPR) investigations servicing southeast Queensland, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Hunter Valley and southwest Sydney.

Some of these projects are featured in this edition, including Cathedral Park GPR and historical investigations, Newcastle CBD and historical and Aboriginal archaeological investigations in Belmont and the lower Hunter Valley.

Our community voluntary projects are continuing in Fingal Head and Mapoon, and some recent updates on our team's commitments to community and research projects are included in this edition.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and welcome your feedback.

Mary-Jean



Projects



The Christ Church Cathedral and cemetery, Newcastle in 1968. Source: Fairfax Syndication

Ground Penetrating Radar at Cathedral Park

Newcastle City Council

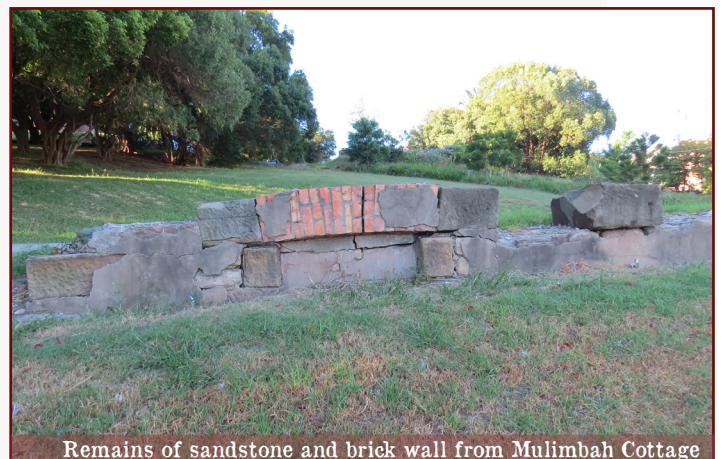
In February 2016, Virtus Heritage undertook a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey at Cathedral Park, Newcastle on behalf of the Newcastle City Council (NCC).

The main objectives of the investigation were to test the feasibility of GPR at the site, and to determine the location of burials, archaeological features and other ground disturbances. Three grids were surveyed at Cathedral Park in areas of the Christ Church Cemetery (State Heritage Listed) and the adjoining site of the former cottage 'Mulimbah' which was occupied from 1840-1947. Another objective of the investigations was to target the potential location of the mass burial site associated with the *Cawarra* shipwreck. The *Cawarra* was a paddle-steamer that sank on 12 July, 1866 in Newcastle Harbour and led to the loss of 60 lives at sea. Thirty-one of these victims were recorded as being buried in a mass grave near the King Street entrance of Cathedral Park.

No evidence for the mass burial was detected with GPR in the surveyed area and the original site may have been affected by extensive landscaping of the area over the decades. The GPR survey did identify a number of archaeological features in the area associated with the old 'Mulimbah' Cottage. These include three possible burials, three likely burials and a compact floor feature and metal object. It is possible that at least two of the likely burials may be Simon and Mary Ann Kemp, the origi-



Dr Emma St Pierre and Adrian Leonard collecting GPR data



Remains of sandstone and brick wall from Mulimbah Cottage

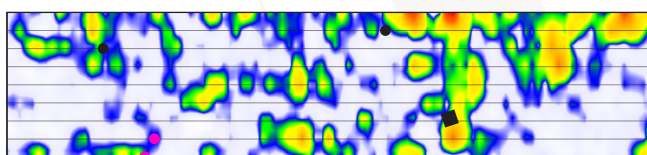
nal owners of Mulimbah Cottage dating to 1876 circa. However, this identification cannot be known for certain without archaeological excavation of these potential burial features. The floor feature and metal object beneath the floor, adjacent to the front of the original location of Mulimbah Cottage was likely associated with the Mulimbah Cottage garden. These features and potential graves are not documented in these locations within the existing historical record of the site.

Extensive disturbance of the site was also evident across all areas investigated with GPR, including subsurface rubble and ground disturbance related to previous archaeological investigations, landscaping and demolition of an existing retaining wall. A single likely burial and two buried objects were also identified within the surveyed area of the Cemetery, near the northern boundary of the park on King Street.

GPR was shown to be a successful technique at Cathedral Park, as the investigation detected potential archaeological features and burial features within two of the three investigation areas, providing new information about the site and its history. Further investigations with GPR coupled with archaeological testing are being proposed for later in 2016.



Tombstones at the Christ Church Cathedral cemetery, 1981. Source: Fairfax Syndication.



GPR amplitude map showing burials and potential burials



Registered midden site near a flood gate

Hunter River Floodplain Due Diligence Assessment

Office of Environment and Heritage NSW

Virtus Heritage was commissioned by the Office of Environment and Heritage NSW (OEH), to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological and historical heritage due diligence assessment for maintenance and upgrades to flood mitigation structures as part of the Lower Hunter Flood Mitigation Scheme (LHFMS). Background research and Aboriginal register searches were carried out for sixteen sites, subsequently inspected by Virtus Heritage to determine potential harm to Aboriginal objects and historical heritage items.

Five Aboriginal sites, including one isolated find, two artefact scatters with potential archaeological deposit (PAD), one AHIMS registered site (Aboriginal midden), and one area of high potential archaeological deposit were identified during the site inspections.

Virtus Heritage has recommended that further Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) be undertaken by OEH. The application will include appropriate mitigation measures for impacts on Aboriginal objects, such as surface collection of sites, and sub-surface testing and salvage of associated PADs, in consultation with OEH and associated registered Aboriginal parties.

Belmont Historical Heritage and Archaeological Assessment

GWH Build

Virtus Heritage was engaged by GWH Build to prepare a Historical Heritage Assessment (HHA), Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and an Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment (AA) and consents for proposed Water View Apartments residential development at 21-27 Victoria Street, Belmont NSW.

The site is comprised of four, post 1950s, free standing houses on the corner of Victoria and Walter Streets, approximately 100m from the shore of Lake Macquarie.

The proposed development requires the demolition and removal of the existing buildings and structures on the site, followed by excavation for basement parking, footings and new drains, prior to the construction of four residential structures and landscaping.

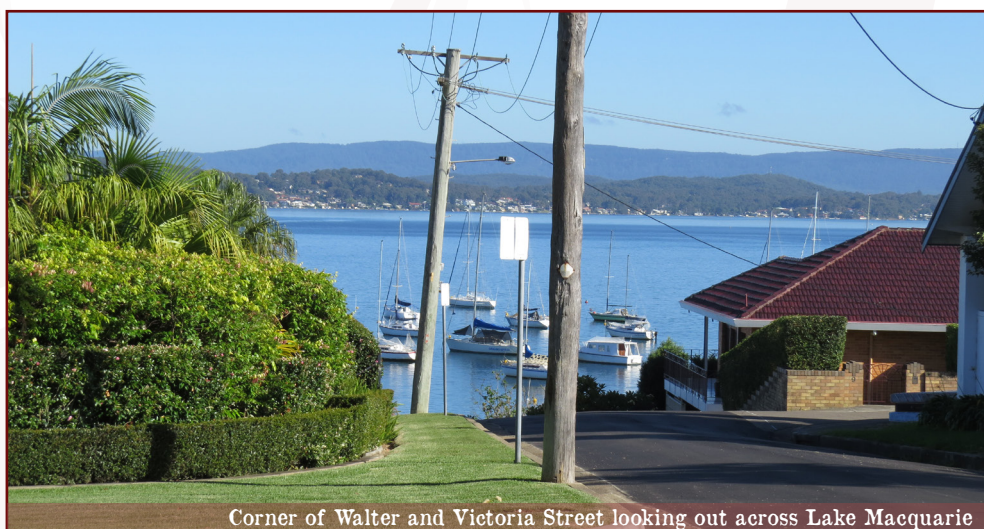
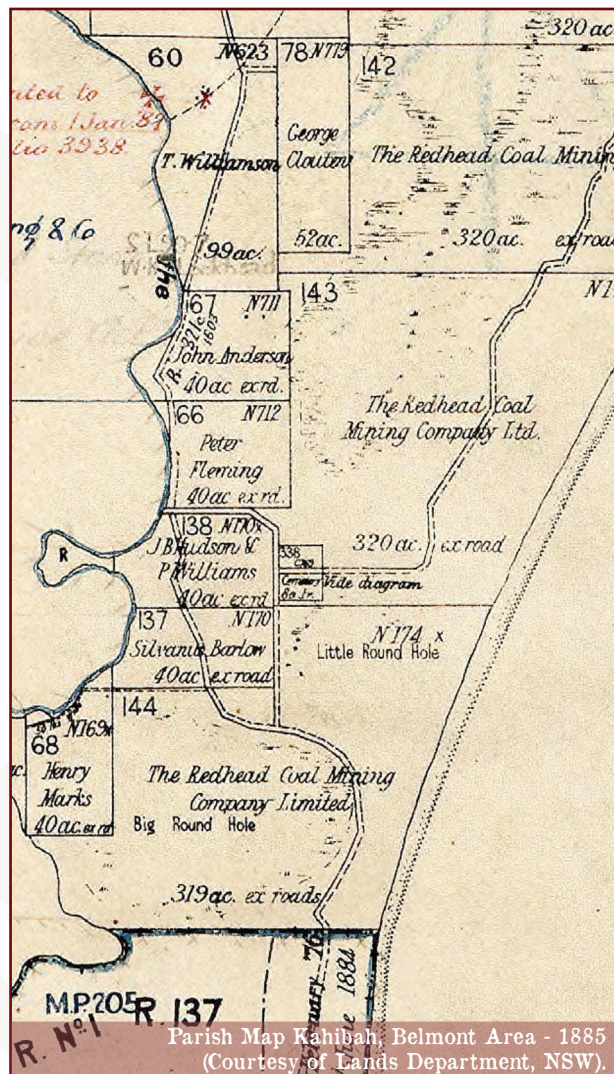
The project area lies within the historic Bahtabah Aboriginal Mission land grant. The mission was established by the Reverend Lancelot E. Threlkeld in 1825 and was in operation until 1831 when the mission was moved to Toronto in Lake Macquarie. The mission building was later demolished in the mid-1830s.

As one of the earliest Aboriginal missions in NSW, any artefacts associated with the mission and early contact period would be considered to have State significance.

In May 2016, a site inspection was conducted by Mary-Jean Sutton and Mike Parker from Virtus Heritage with Mick Green, CEO of the Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Helen Sheppard and Michael Noonan from GWH Build. Dr Peter Mitchell also attended to conduct a geomorphological assessment of the project area.

No Aboriginal objects were identified during the site inspection, however, the entire project area is considered PAD (Potential Archaeological Deposit), as there is potential for contact period or mission period deposits, with scientific significance. No physical remains of other early missions established by Threlkeld (Government Farm in Newcastle and Ebenezer in Toronto) are extant and therefore any evidence relating to the Bahtabah mission would be extremely rare.

Following best heritage practice, GWH Build working with Virtus Heritage are obtaining further heritage approvals with the Heritage Division and OEH, in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties, to undertake further archaeological testing to establish if any remains of the Bahtabah Mission or Aboriginal occupation deposits are extant within the project area.



Community



Jason Jia with historic carved wood canoes from Mapoon at the Queensland Museum

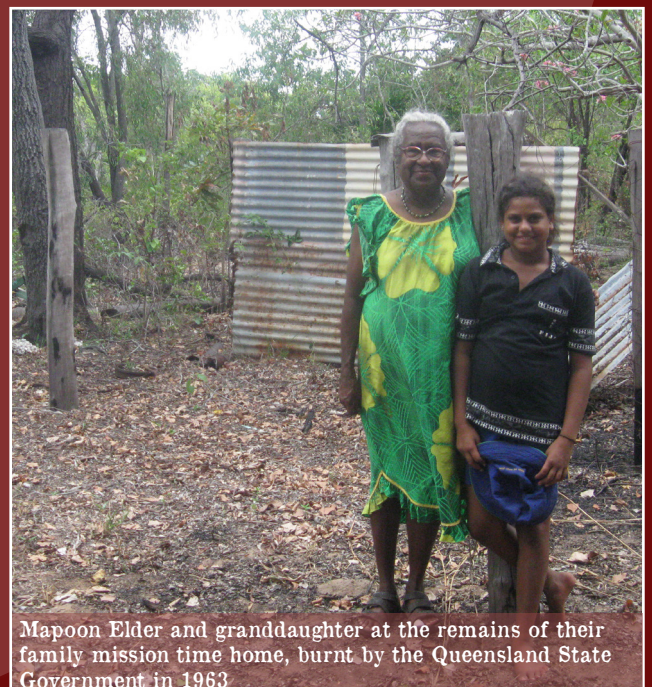
Cultural Heritage Outreach

As part of our commitment to working with Aboriginal communities to assist with repatriating family histories and cultural heritage back to their homes and collaborating on research projects, Jason Jia (Culture Heritage Ranger, Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council) visited the Northern NSW, Gold Coast and Brisbane assisted by Mary-Jean and Emma. Jason visited several research institutions, including the Presbyterian Church Archives, Brisbane; Queensland Museum, Brisbane and Anthropology Museum, University of Queensland to view collections and obtain records to take home to Mapoon. Jason also visited the University of Queensland and Griffith University to discuss community goals and aspirations for research projects and met with community members at Fingal Head Cemetery to share experiences for cultural heritage management and protecting unmarked graves and burial places.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Reconciliation Australia, established in 2001, is an independent not-for-profit organisation which promotes respect between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, by building relationships to encourage reconciliation. The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program contributes to this, by helping businesses to facilitate understanding, promote meaningful engagement, increase equality and develop sustainable employment and business opportunities.

Virtus Heritage recognises the need for the Reconciliation Action Plan program to promote equality across Australia and the responsibility we have as Heritage professionals to be involved. Nina, Rachael and Mary-Jean are currently working on a Reconciliation Action Plan for Virtus, and we will soon be finalising the document in consultation with, and with input from community members we work and maintain relationships with.



Mapoon Elder and granddaughter at the remains of their family mission time home, burnt by the Queensland State Government in 1963

Noticeboard



180 Degrees Consulting Impact Program

Our Research Assistant Nina Kojovic has recently returned from Lima, Peru as one of 17 students selected to participate in the 180 Degrees Consulting Impact Fellows program. The program was designed to expose university students and young professionals to top social enterprises in a developing economy and provide the most concentrated social impact possible for selected organisations. Over the course of the week Impact Fellows had the opportunity to interact with in-country social sector leaders, and work with them to scale their operations and tackle real-world impact challenges.

Nina was in Lima for one week working on her chosen project with Puriy, a social enterprise that trains Peruvian women who have experienced domestic violence on how to make hand-made goods. The goods are sold to raise money for Padma, a psychological services organisation that assists local women who have been abused, disempowered or struggling with motherhood. The project focuses on providing financial analyses, sales strategies, and product mix research. While the research is different from our focus at Virtus Heritage, the challenges and experience Nina gained in a new cultural setting help her to further develop her consulting skill set.

While staying in Lima the Impact Fellows enjoyed busy days meeting with their respective clients and researching business recommendations on site. Nina's team, made up of two Americans, a Brit and a Singaporean had the chance to visit Gamarra, the textile district and a leather curing facility to meet with suppliers to discuss product options. After business hours the field partner, Emzingo, treated Fellows to seminars from Microfinance partners and social enterprise founders in communal workspaces around the city. The trip was topped off with exposure to the Peruvian foodie culture. Nina also had the opportunity to travel within the Sacred Valley of the Incas, Cusco and Machu Picchu to see archaeological sites and tourist spots when client work was complete.

To find out more about the 180 Degrees Consulting Impact Fellows program the link to the website is: <http://180dc.org/students/impact-fellow/>

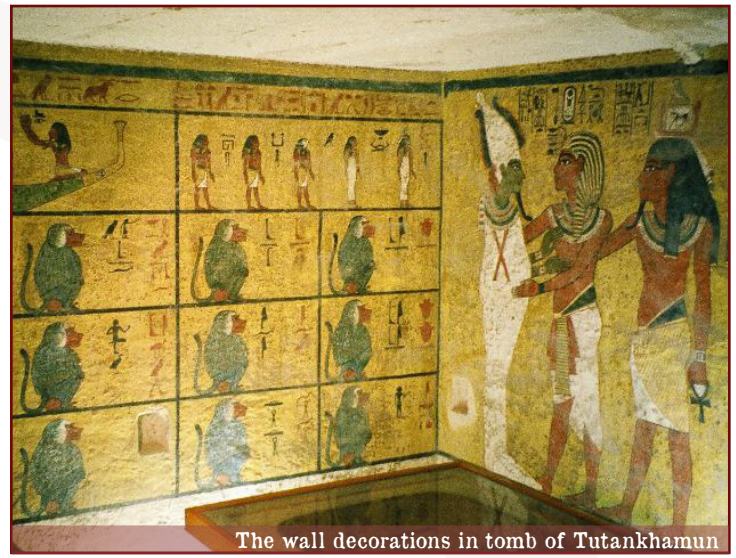


180Degrees
CONSULTING
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Larry in the News

Recently a controversial claim was made over the alleged discovery of a secret subchamber in tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamun. Scans of the tomb, conducted by Japanese radar specialist Hirokatsu Watanabe have bolstered speculation by British archaeologist Nicholas Reeves that a subchamber exists housing the remains and treasures of Queen Nefertiti. The scans were undertaken in November 2015, and according to Watanabe, suggest possible cavities behind decorated walls in the tomb.

After the supposed findings were announced, comments were sought by a number of unaffiliated radar experts for their interpretation of the claims. Among these experts was Virtus Heritage affiliate Prof. Lawrence Conyers, who found the data to be seriously problematic. Prof. Conyers observed that the released GPR data did not appear to have been processed or that any of the anomalies visible in the data were convincing. He suggested that the raw data collected by Watanabe be released to other GPR experts for peer review, which might allow them to reach a consensus in its interpretation, as opposed to rampant speculation by the press. Other scientists who were approached for comment also expressed doubt on the findings and agreed that raw data should be released for third-party review. For more on this story, see related articles at [Scientific American](#) and [National Geographic](#)



The wall decorations in tomb of Tutankhamun



Fieldwork on Colyers Island, Bluff, New Zealand

PhD Fieldwork in New Zealand

In June, Chris Jennings (Senior Archaeologist, Virtus Heritage) carried out fieldwork for his PhD research on Colyers Island, Bluff Harbour New Zealand. His research focuses on early Polynesian quarrying practices and stone tool manufacture during the earliest phase of New Zealand prehistory. Chris was assisted by colleagues Dr Jay Woodhams (now at Australian National University) and Matt Carter (La Trobe University) over three days, where they mapped the quarry site using Differential Geographic Positioning System (DGPS) equipment and used 3D photography to record quarried boulders. The fieldwork will contribute to understanding the spatial characteristics of the site, and stoneworking activities carried out there.

Australian Geographic

Our research work in Mapoon on Aboriginal unmarked graves and burial mounds collaborating with Mapoon Elders and families featured in this month's Australian Geographic magazine. A larger feature will be published online later this year on Australian Geographic's website:

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/>

Emails, Phones and Office

In coming weeks, we are upgrading our telephone system and emails. A separate office telephone will be set up in a new office separate to Mary-Jean's home residence to take multiple calls. New emails with a company domain will also be shortly activated. Our existing email addresses will still function and forward to new addresses. Our existing work telephone and fax line numbers remain unchanged.



