

## Glendell Continued Operations Project

Singleton New South Wales

for

Cluster Corporate Services

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

4PSQ, 14 Darcy Street Parramatta NSW 2150 or GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Review of Heritage Impacts

30 November 2021 Version V1.5

## Introduction

1. We acknowledge the Wonnarua people, the Indigenous people of the subject area, and the Gadigal, Wangal and Waridjuri peoples, the Indigenous peoples of the lands on which we work.  
We understand that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a connection to place, land, water and community, established over many thousands of years. We recognize the cultural significance inherent in these connections, that sovereignty over this land was never ceded and that it continues to be sacred to its rightful owners.  
We pay respect to Elders past and present, and stand with all First Peoples in their quest for justice, truth telling, and reconciliation.
2. The Brief for this report received on 9th September 2021 set out specific requirements by which this desktop review is framed. We confirm that the authors examined the following as required in our brief:
  - a. advice provided by Glencore’s heritage expert in the Project EIS and RTS;
  - b. advice provided by the Heritage Council of NSW on the EIS and RTS;
  - c. detailed engineering information on the relocation methods, including information from specialist building moving contractor Mammoth Movers; and
  - d. assessment of relocation options (including relocation methods) prepared by Glencore.
3. Since the above material is very extensive and clearly laid out, this review takes it as read, and refrains from repeating findings except where particularly needed.
4. The Glendell site has not been visited in the preparation of this report however it is well known to the lead author Hector Abrahams.
5. The Authors of this report are Hector Abrahams, Meg Quinlisk and Tristan Ryan, whose Curricula Vitae are at the end in Appendix A

## Heritage Values

6. **Three statements of Heritage Values**, which have been fully developed, are quoted and discussed below
7. **Aboriginal Statement of Heritage Values** as defined by Shaun Canning (2019)

*The assessment of cultural significance presented in this section relates primarily to the Project Area, but also includes commentary on the cultural significance of the wider region.*

*It is noted that the numerous Aboriginal stakeholders who participated in this cultural values assessment process hold values which relate to the wider Hunter Valley region generally, but less directly to the Project Area.*

*There was very little information presented in any of the workshops, site visits or written material which relate specifically to the Project Area, and no additional material and/or values were discussed or provided beyond those recorded during the Mount Owen Continued Operations ACHAR (2013) process.*

*A common theme in many Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments is the proprietary interest members of the relevant Aboriginal communities hold regarding the wider cultural landscape including archaeological sites or places within any given area. This Project is no exception in this regard. Within the context of the current assessment, there are strong on-going connections to places created and used by ancestors alongside demonstrably strong interests in the way those places are managed or harmed because of this Project. These sentiments are not unique and must certainly be considered in the overall assessment of the significance of the places in question. The connection to these places is noted as often being relatively unspecific and generally do not appear to relate to any surviving traditional knowledge or customary cultural practices.*

*The cultural values expressed by the participants in this assessment have been consistent in voicing an overarching concern for the wider landscape and criticism of the negative impact of mining on that landscape. Consistent in the material collected is a sense of 'loss' or 'outrage' and grief at the treatment of Aboriginal people since First Settlement (dispossession and genocide are mentioned repeatedly) through to more contemporary experiences (i.e. the Stolen Generation).*

*There is also a consistent theme of the 'powerlessness' Aboriginal people often feel when confronted by situations where they feel disempowered or unable to exercise influence on decision makers. There is a sense of loss and lament for what once was, but with a very strong expression of 'corporate' ownership of the wider region by the Wonnarua people (regardless of the variety of ways in which those groups represent their own interests). There is also an element of celebrating the survival of those who are now 'speaking for country'. While the entire estate of the Wonnarua people is significant to those concerned, there is little direct evidence (anecdotal or otherwise) of any particular or specific places or values of significance within the Project Area.*

*For many of the informants, the contemporary attachment to place appears based on the linkage to archaeological places which were created by 'the ancestors' and thereby constituting*

*a connecting thread to a cultural world from another time. In a similar sense, there was some attachment to the Ravensworth Homestead expressed during the site visits. This attachment was based largely on the premise that Wonnarua people had most likely lived and worked on the estate through time, rather than any specific historical associations.*

*This general lack of direct or specific cultural knowledge in no way diminishes the strength of connection to the places within the Project Area. However, the attachment to place is one which is predominantly of contemporary association rather than traditional knowledge, custom, lore or practice.*

*It is noted that the surrounding area is held to be of higher significance to many members of the Wonnarua community, however the sites and/or places within the Project area held no higher significance or value(s) than any other.*

*Significantly, many of the comments during the workshops highlighted the benefits of this ACHAR process to the RAPs. Participants describe the process as having empowered the groups concerned by having provided the opportunity for the groups to get together to discuss the cultural values assessments and discuss how this process has benefited the group(s) as a whole.<sup>1</sup>*

**8. Comments on Aboriginal Heritage Significance:**

- The historical record shows that the Ravensworth Estate was a location of significant conflict between Aboriginal people and Europeans. These events had implications beyond the local area, including the occasioning of mounted military police being sent to the area and the trial of Lieutenant Nathaniel Lowe, the first instance of a military officer being tried for actions against Aboriginal people.<sup>2</sup>
- These events should be understood in the context of wider conflict within the Hunter and beyond. The estate was one of the venues for a number of attacks and reprisal killings that occurred throughout the Hunter region in this period. Some details of the wider conflict are described in the *Heritage Assessment and Statement of Significance – Ravensworth Estate*, prepared by Lucas Stapleton Johnson (pp. 29-37)
- Due to particular events within the Ravensworth Estate and events that followed directly from them, the estate has a wider significance than the immediate local area that encompasses the Hunter region and the justice system of the colony. These events, specifically, are: the killing and wounding of Bowman's employees by Aboriginal people; the murder of an Aboriginal man suspected of involvement in the wounding of Bowman's men (within a mile of the original Bowman homestead); the murder of another Aboriginal man, Jackey-Jackey (at Willis Plains), after his alleged involvement in the killing of Bowman's men; and the subsequent trial of Lieutenant Nathaniel Lowe. The historical value of Ravensworth Estate is important to the whole of New South Wales and the Estate is likely, in our view, to meet the threshold for State heritage significance for its historical heritage value.
- Notwithstanding the knowledge about killings having taken place on the Estate and the ceremony held near York Creek close to the homestead (1970s), Native Title standards of

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<sup>1</sup> Shaun Canning, *Glendell Continued Operations Project: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (Australian Cultural Heritage Management 2019): 55.

<sup>2</sup> Lucas Stapleton Johnson, *Heritage Assessment and Statement of Significance – Ravensworth Estate*, November 2019, pp. 29-37.

- evidence for establishing an unbroken connection to a specific place are not required in an assessment of social or historical significance under the Heritage Act.
- Statements in the report prepared by Tocomwall for the Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People (PCWP) dated 25 June 2020 contribute to an understanding of social significance. Testimony from people such as Aunty Barb Foot (p. 89), the heads of Family of the PCWP (p. 91), Scott Franks (p. 49) and Maria Stocks (pp. 51 and 86) are sufficient to establish that there is social value attached to this specific bounded place of the Ravensworth Estate for at least some Wonnarua people. That specific references to the specific parcel of land are limited (though not absent) does not diminish this social significance. The Tocomwall report gives a clear understanding of the spiritual significance of the broader landscape, which is intertwined with the social significance of this specific place. The social significance of the place for the PCWP is well-established.
  - The Tocomwall report also notes that the place has aesthetic value, research potential/scientific value and is both rare and representative for its research potential value, from the perspective of the Wonnarua people (Tocomwall pp. 57-8, 91-3). The place is noted in the Lucas Stapleton Johnston assessment as having “moderate to high potential for retaining physical evidence of the history of use of the land by the Wonnarua people,” (p. 346).

9. **Colonial Homesteads of the Hunter Valley** Statement of Heritage Values by Lucas Stapleton Johnson (2012)

*The **Hunter Estates** are an historic and cultural phenomenon that is associated with a particular approach to settlement in Australia and the management of convicts, implemented in total in the Hunter Region in the 1820s. The Hunter Estates and their homestead complexes are the surviving evidence of the foundation layer of settlement of the Hunter Region.*

*The evidence of this significance still exists today and is demonstrated by:*

- *The grid pattern surveyed and overlaid on the land in the 1820s still existing today in the NSW land titles system, the minor road systems, the early fence lines and the configuration of the surviving estates.*
- *The large number of notable persons in Australian history who settled the region and went on to develop the estates, founded the industries, and established the Hunter Region society of the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.*
- *The colonial bungalow homesteads in their many forms, including their subsequent growth, together with the groupings of outbuildings and associated agricultural structures and elements (fences, racecourses, sheep and cattle runs, stock routes etc.) and archaeology, established during the establishment settlement period of 1820 to 1850.*
- *The picturesque landscape of the region with estate lands adjacent to the watercourses throughout the alluvial plains and river valleys and their homestead complexes situated on knolls surrounded by significant plantings including ‘marker trees’ and remnant gardens and domestic and agricultural outbuildings set in open pastoral and grazing land.*
- *The continuing foundational industries of sheep and cattle grazing, grain crops, vineyards, tock breeding and horse studs, many with state wide reputations and some known internationally for their products and outputs.*

- *The archaeological evidence of pre- and post-Contact Aboriginal occupation in the region and the associations and documented evidence of the interactions that occurred between Aboriginal people, the settlers and the Hunter Estate.*
- *The historic archaeology of the original settlement pattern of the region and subsequent growth and development of the Hunter Estate including the chains of settlement patterns and varying settlement types, the era of convict labour and the later period of tenant farming.*
- *The depth of knowledge of the region and interest in the Hunter Estates held by the Hunter Region community as shown in the great wealth of research, books, images, heritage studies, memoirs and other documentation relating specifically to the history of the region, its people, industries, buildings and the estates.<sup>3</sup>*

10. **Ravensthorpe Homestead** Statement of Heritage Values (Lucas Stapleton Johnson 2019)

*The place forms part of the traditional lands of the Aboriginal people of the Hunter Valley, the Wonnarua, made more meaningful by the recorded reports of interactions and conflicts between the Wonnarua and the colonists in the Ravensthorpe locality.*

*The Ravensthorpe Estate is representative of the rapid colonisation of the Hunter region in the period 1820s to 1840s and the history of the place has led to the area of Ravensthorpe becoming a known locality in the state of NSW, with the Ravensthorpe Estate and homestead complex at its centre.*

*Established in 1824, the Ravensthorpe Estate is associated with a range of significant colonial places and people including Dr. James Bowman, principal surgeon of the colony of NSW, who established the estate and is one of only a few places where, under Edward Bowman, horticultural experimentation first started in Australia. The place retains tangible evidence of the colonial period including substantial archaeological remains, landscape features and cultural plantings and made more meaningful by the surviving c1832 homestead complex including its siting and configuration.*

*The Ravensthorpe homestead complex includes a rare, formally designed farmyard complex of colonial buildings including a good example of a colonial bungalow, with stonework and roof carpentry of note. As originally built, the "H" plan bungalow is a rare feature, indicating a design (potentially) by a gentleman architect.*

*Because of the relatively modest history of development throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, the place has the potential to provide information, by way of further study and archaeological investigation, into colonial building techniques, 19<sup>th</sup> century lifestyles, agricultural and horticultural practices and the working lives of convicts in a non-institutional setting, which is considered very rare.<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>3</sup> Clive Lucas Stapleton and Partners, *Hunter Estates: A Comparative Study of pre 1850s Homesteads Complexes in the Hunter Region Volume I* (Sydney: Clive Lucas, Stapleton 2012): 69.

<sup>4</sup> Lucas Stapleton Johnson and Partners, *Heritage Analysis and Statement of Significance: Ravensthorpe Estate, Singleton, NSW* (Sydney: Lucas Stapleton Johnson and Partners 2019): 349.

11. **Comments on Heritage Significance** of Ravensworth Homestead:

- The detailed statement of significance identifies the historical values of the site as being of local significance. Due to particular events within and associated with the Ravensworth Estate, specifically: the attacks on Bowman's employees; the murder of an Aboriginal man suspected of involvement in the wounding of Bowman's men (within a mile of the original Bowman homestead); the murder of another Aboriginal man, Jackey-Jackey, (at Willis Plains) after his alleged involvement in an attack on Bowman's men; and the subsequent trial of Lieutenant Nathaniel Lowe, the historical value of Ravensworth Estate is important to the whole of New South Wales and the Estate is likely to meet the threshold for State heritage significance for its historical heritage value. Although these events did not occur at the homestead itself, the homestead should be understood as part of the estate.
- It is noted that the land has a "high potential" for retaining physical evidence of the history of use of the land by the Wonnarua people, "although evidence examined thus far indicates that many sites have low scientific significance"<sup>5</sup>. The high potential merits significance at a high level.
- A comparative analysis (Appendix B) revealed that Ravensworth had more land and more assigned convicts than other estates in the Hunter Valley. Therefore, as a prominent Hunter Valley Estate, with a purpose-built convict barracks, extensive records of convicts on the estate, the historical value of Ravensworth Estate and the Homestead group in particular is important to the whole of New South Wales and of State significance.

12. Whilst the comments on the statements of Heritage Values, given above, serve to elevate some aspects of the level of significance of the place, these existing Statements of Heritage Values are highly adequate for assessing impact against. It is usually the case in heritage impact assessments of complex sites, including Aboriginal values, that understanding of values and information about the places increases over time. So, impact assessed against this statement can be said to be of a minimum level, and in fact may expect to be found to be greater over time.

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<sup>5</sup> Lucas Stapleton Johnson and Partners, *Heritage Analysis and Statement of Significance: Ravensworth Estate, Singleton, NSW*: 346.

Likely loss of Heritage Values associated with Continued Operations Proposal Generally, and the two relocation proposals, along with suggestions for further amelioration.

13. Our **assessment of the impact** on Heritage Values of the proposal in its three parts, measured against significance, is set out in the table below. The impact assessment of the two relocation proposals undertaken by LSJ is so comprehensive and well founded as to not require reassessment in detail. Within their own terms, these two assessments are agreed. Our assessment elaborates on matters outside of the framework of their work, in the main, the impact on the estate, and on the group of Hunter Valley Homesteads. By placing the impacts of the three proposals side by side, it is clear to see in which actions the main impacts and ameliorations lie. After the table the relative impacts are summarised.



Heritage Values	Proposed Actions		
	<p><b>Continued Operations Proposal</b></p> <p>A proposal to not preserve the place, in favour of continuing operations. As part of this, archaeological investigations will be made, the land reconstructed to a different form, including a new deep lake (in place of two for which consent is in place) Hebden Road is relocated, and Yorks Creek remade in a new form.</p>	<p><b>Ravensworth Farm Proposal</b></p> <p>Intact relocation of all Homestead Buildings, Garden plants and trees to <b>Ravensworth Farm</b>, and archaeological investigation of original site, on a site contoured to reproduce original land contour, adaption of house for domestic use.</p>	<p><b>Broke Proposal</b></p> <p>Dismantling and reconstruction of main Homestead Buildings, to Broke as a community centre, construction of gardens and drives.</p>
<p><b>Aboriginal Heritage Values</b></p>	<p><b>This summary of impact has not been prepared based on reviews of existing reports and not in consultation with the Wonnarua</b></p>		
<p>A. Historical – <i>forms part of the traditional lands of the Wonnarua and the site of conflict between colonial settlers and Aboriginal people. The broader impacts of the events on the estate, particularly the murder of Jackey-Jackey and Lowe’s subsequent trial, mean that the estate as a whole is like to be of State significance.</i></p>	<p>The comprehensive removal of the land itself violates the traditional relationship between the Aboriginal peoples and their land</p> <p>In the testimony of local Aboriginal people, this is a great loss.</p> <p>The proposed recovery and study of archaeological evidence, which is in itself</p>	<p>The removal of the homestead from its place, severs the authentic historic association of that fabric with that place and the important events/processes that took place there.</p> <p>The relocation of the homestead on adjacent land, approximates the association. This represents a credible partial mitigation in our view, the historical</p>	<p>In this proposal, the association is not at all approximated in our view, as the relationship to the surrounding country is lost entirely. The proposal will severely negatively impact the historical value of the place.</p>

<p><i>Likelihood of Wonnarua people living and working on the estate throughout time. It is noted that there is a “high potential” for retaining physical evidence of the history of land use by the Wonnarua people (LSJ, p. 346)</i></p>	<p>destructive, is not a strong mitigating gesture.</p> <p>The historical values of the estate will be heavily impacted by the proposal.</p>	<p>values of the homestead group and its historic association are not lost altogether.</p>	
<p><i>D. Social, Cultural and Spiritual – Wonnarua people have identified an ongoing connection to the land through their recollections and recounts of historical ceremony.</i></p>	<p>The proposal will substantially negatively impact this value.</p>	<p>The proposal will substantially negatively impact this value.</p> <p>It may be that the relocation partially mitigates the loss, but this is not evident in the statements of interviewed Wonnarua people.</p>	<p>The proposal will substantially negatively impact this value.</p>
<p><i>E. Research potential – The Estate has a moderate to high potential for retaining physical evidence of the history of the use of the land by the Wonnarua people.</i></p>	<p>The proposal will necessitate the removal of any evidence within the project area. While recovering of archaeological relics may enlighten researchers about the history of the use of the land, it is in this proposal a destructive process which removes evidence from its context and its relation to the place. The impact on its research</p>	<p>No mitigation.</p>	<p>No mitigation.</p>

	potential significance is therefore substantially negative. Research carried out as part of the proposal that does not destroy evidence or remove it from the place may have a positive impact.		
<b>Heritage Values of the Estate</b>			
A. Historical – part of the rapid colonisation of the Hunter Valley, part the of convict system and conflict with Aboriginal people.	<p>A very large part of the historic land holding granted to James Bowman, has come under the single ownership of Glendell over recent decades. This makes it relatively rare among Hunter Valley estates. As a single large entity potentially controlled for a single future purpose, this is a notable preservation.</p> <p>The complete reformation of the landscape is a major loss of landscape integrity, such that the holding, and its geographic name is perhaps all that is historically surviving of the integrity of the place.</p> <p>The future viability of the estate for historic pastoral use is unlikely according to the EIS, and</p>	<p>The removal of the homestead from its original setting takes away the historic integrity of the homestead.</p> <p>This impact is partly ameliorated by the close association created in the relocation proposal</p>	<p>Not only is the removal of the homestead from its original setting a loss of integrity of the homestead, there is no credible association provided in the Broke location.</p>

	represents a high loss of this aspect of significance.		
B. Associational - James Bowman, a principal NSW surgeon, and Edward Bowman established the site as horticultural experimental.	The historic association with Bowman is partly retained, as the holding and its name is preserved, and the site of the homestead, albeit demolished, will always be known, and may be interpreted.	The historic association is partly further retained by the relocation intact of the house and garden, and its active interpretation	The historic association is lessened in this proposal
C. Aesthetic and/or technical	The landscape setting of the estate is lost.	This proposal provides an amelioration to a modest degree, by placing the homestead group in a highly considered and accurate reconstruction of its original setting.  If the homestead drive sequence were able to be longer, the sense of the arrival to the centre of a whole estate would be increased.	Since no sense of an estate setting is achieved in this proposal, the loss is complete.
E. Research Potential – archaeological potential relating to lifestyles, agricultural and horticultural practices.	The proposal will necessitate the removal of any evidence within the project area. While recovering of archaeological relics may enlighten researchers about the history of the use of the land, it is in this proposal a destructive process which		

	<p>removes evidence from its context and its relation to the place. The impact on its research potential significance is therefore substantially negative. Research carried out as part of the proposal that does not destroy evidence or remove it from the place may have a positive impact.</p>		
<p>G Representativeness – of the rapid colonisation of the Hunter Valley and the convict system.</p>	<p>Since Ravensworth is highly representative of all estates, the loss of significance to the historic group of Hunter Valley colonial homesteads is high.</p> <p>The decision to remove the homestead to enable exploitation of its underground coal has the further impact of creating a direct precedent that will apply to similar homesteads in the Hunter Valley that sit on lands which have current mining leases or exploration licences. According to our analysis detailed in Appendix C the unrealised but potential impact of this precedent will be the non-preservation of many colonial homestead places.</p>		

Heritage Values of the Homestead			
<p>C . Aesthetic and/or technical – a good example of a colonial bungalow including landscape features.</p>		<p>Substantially retained.</p> <p>The loss would be further ameliorated if a viable use be proposed beyond the life of the mining operations for the homestead. The plan of the house was set out originally to suit occupation by a manager and occasional visits by the owner. It does not accord with the layouts of contemporary houses, and will need significant adaptation to suit common requirements for kitchen family open plan living, bathrooms, solar access. Added to the unlikely viability of pastoral use of the estate, were something other than domestic use proposed, a public use that reflects the public policy origins of all Hunter Valley Homesteads, this would be an amelioration.</p> <p>The intact move technology proposed would itself be a substantial and first-time achievement in NSW, such that it would likely make the future</p>	<p>Partly retained.</p> <p>Whereas not all the homestead group of buildings is to be relocated, there is no modification proposed.</p> <p>A viable public use is proposed, notionally.</p>

		homestead of high technological significance for the State.	
E. Research Potential – includes archaeology pertaining to the convict period in particular colonial building techniques and lifestyles.	The proposal will necessitate the removal of any evidence within the project area. While recovering of archaeological relics may enlighten researchers about the history of the use of the land, it is in this proposal a destructive process which removes evidence from its context and its relation to the place. The impact on its research potential significance is therefore substantially negative. Research carried out as part of the proposal that does not destroy evidence or remove it from the place may have a positive impact.	Exploited in full	Exploited in full
F. Rarity – “H” plan bungalow and formally designed farmyard complex of colonial buildings.		Retained in full	Retained in part

## Summary remarks

14. Whilst we are not competent to assess the **validity of the economic imperative argument** to mine the coal deposits under the Homestead, we join with the assessment of LSJ in affirming this would be a non-preservation of the place. We add to this the impact the loss of the integrity of the estate, plus the new matter of the creation of a precedent which will impact potentially the other Hunter Valley estate houses is named in Appendix C.
15. Of the two relocation proposals, the tabulation shows that the intact move to **Ravensworth farm better** preserves many more aspects of significance than the rebuilding at Broke.

The relocation to Ravensworth farm has been envisaged and explained in a high level of detail and technical logistics. It is an impressive and costly commitment to the homestead group.

The weakness of this proposal is that it imagines, after the mine has closed, establishment of a private homestead dwelling at the centre of a viable pastoral landholding. This is unlikely to be viable for, firstly, the EIS Economic evaluation is very doubtful of the viability of pastoral use for the land, both historically and in the future.

Further, Ravensworth was not designed as a country homestead, but rather to accommodate a live-in manager of a large pastoral enterprise with occasional periods of residence by the owner in one part of it. Only modest changes are required to make it viable as offices for the continuing operations. Whilst the current proposal suggests further minor changes to the Homestead to make it suitable as a residence, in our view this part of the proposal only meets the standards of an occupant of antiquarian disposition. Likely requirements for a viable homestead would be for a quite different and not compatible standard of accommodation, based on open plan kitchen/dining/living facing



north and multiple bathrooms. Lastly, the future setting of the homestead is not amenable. In the estimation of the EIS, the future setting will be a post mining landscape having some new industrial use taking advantage of the industrial scale infrastructure which is in place.

So, to overcome this weakness in viability, to better mitigate the impact on heritage values, a long-term use should be sought that has a viability outside of pastoral economics and doesn't have to meet standards of large private dwellings.

It is recommended that an investigation be undertaken to identify more suitable future land uses.

16. Although the **rebuilding at Broke is a poor option** by comparison, it has one attribute above the Ravensworth farm relocation, the likelihood that a commercial community/gallery use does not require the plan form of the Homestead to be altered. As with all Hunter Valley estates, Ravensworth was created as envisaged by the policies of the British Crown, and bought to its present state by the NSW Government policies for coal mining in the 1970s. Since public policy is responsible for all of its significance, perhaps it is appropriate that public use be part of the future of the estate and its homestead.

## Further Opportunities

17. The following are opportunities that seek to further mitigation. It is acknowledged that not all opportunities outlined are viable at present, however are considered important to highlight possible further impacts.
18. **Large land holdings** are historically common in the Hunter, but currently rare. Long term retention of the large land ownership holding for the Ravensworth Estate provides an opportunity for broader interpretation and broader engagement with the public through other uses than pastoral.

In particular, a larger holding provides a broader opportunity for engagement with Indigenous people and the cultural values they ascribe so wholly to the landscape at large. The process of reconstructing so much of the landscape is a likely fertile opportunity for involvement by those stakeholders.

In light of this, future retention of the landholdings by one owner would be a positive impact and is encouraged.

19. Another further mitigation would be to **commence now** the processes for deciding on the future of the Homestead and the Estate lands. The current proposal is for the future of the place post mining to be planned five years before the closure of the mine. This process should be started much sooner and allowed more time to reach its conclusion.
20. At a more detailed level the following mitigations relate specifically to the **homestead relocation** to the Ravensworth Farm site.
  - i. Involvement of trades and trade education in the conservation works in such a way as to benefit the competencies in the Hunter Valley for a generation.

- ii. Reopening of a viable Ravensworth sandstone quarry to the benefit of conservation of the many buildings made of this material in the Hunter valley
  - iii. An appropriate interpretation of the original site of the Homestead which will remain a persistent place
  - iv. Lengthening of the driveway experience to the new Homestead
  - v. Acoustic attenuation of the new Hebden Road To improve viability of the Homestead group
21. To address the impact of the Continued Operations **setting a precedent**, we suggest examination now of conservation options for those other homesteads potentially impacted by this precedent. This may assist to remove the precedent threat if viable plans are in place to preserve those places.
22. Details of the broke plan could be finalised, however, this will not change the impact of removing the homestead from its landscape to an unrelated setting.

## Appendix A: Author Curricula Vitae

# Hector Abrahams

## Principal

Hector Abrahams has been a leading architect in Sydney for 30 years. Hector has gained diverse experience in public and private work in the areas of conservation, cultural landscapes, master planning and adaptive re-use and has developed a reputation for an insightful and perceptive understanding of cultural issues in urban and non-urban places. A substantial body of work is for Christian churches and faith groups, mostly parish sites but also sites such as university colleges, cathedrals, convents, cemeteries and a hospital.

After visiting and studying Australian war memorials and cemeteries in France, Hector instigated the design team that successfully bid for the restoration and expansion of the

Australian National War Memorial and Cemetery in Villers Bretonneux, France. This project, now known as the Sir John Monash Centre opened in April 2018 and was recently awarded an International Architecture Award in the Museums and Cultural Buildings category.

Current works also include designing a new chapel, landscape and associated buildings in a bushland cemetery environment in the northern suburbs of Sydney, an award-winning Conservation Management Plan for Parramatta Park Trust, CSIRO Black Mountain Masterplan, conservation and building works for Leichhardt Town Hall and Pioneer Memorial Park as well as extension work on Sydney University Colleges.



## RECENT KEY PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- St John's College, University of Sydney, master plan, conservation management plan, other projects.
- St Paul's College, University of Sydney conservation management plan
- 44 Bridge Street, Sydney, conservation management plan
- Parramatta Park, *Your Parramatta Park 2030 Management Plan*
- Tarwyn Park, Upper Bylong Valley, significance assessment and heritage impact assessment for
- St Mary's Anglican Church, Waverley, master planning and conservation projects
- Waverley Uniting War Memorial Hospital conservation management plan, master planning
- Leichhardt Town Hall, conservation and refurbishment of the exterior and concert hall interior
- CSIRO Black Mountain, Canberra, master planning
- Lowy Institute, 31 Bligh Street, major refurbishment
- Sir John Monash Centre & the Australian National Memorial, France (with Cox Architecture), site conservation plan, master plan, design
- Admiralty House Gatehouse, Sydney

## EDUCATION

BARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, 1986  
BSC (ARCH) (HONS)  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, 1984

## AFFILIATIONS

FRAIA, M.I.COMOS

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

2012 – PRESENT HAA  
1986 – 2012 CLIVELUCAS, STAPLETON AND PARTNERS



# Tristan Ryan

## Urban and Heritage Strategy

Since joining Hector Abrahams Architects at the beginning of 2018, Tristan has worked closely with Hector Abrahams and other practice members on a range of projects, from heritage assessment and conservation management to architectural and master planning projects.

Tristan has experience assessing cultural landscapes, urban environments, and individual buildings. He specializes in advising clients on how to enact sensitive

change at significant places, ensuring that they continue to be useful to their owners and are properly conserved.

While working at HAA, Tristan has developed his skills in heritage assessment, master planning, conservation management planning, urban design and business development. He is interested in the conservation and development of social housing and ensuring cities remain liveable despite climate change.



### KEY PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- Manly Hospital Conservation Master Plan
- Uniting Waverley War Memorial Hospital - Master Plan with Architectus, planning proposal, DCP negotiations, outdoor gym
- Newtown Mission - conservation management strategy to inform a master plan for the site
- Australian War Memorial - redevelopment heritage impact assessment
- Parramatta Park - cultural heritage management plan for this world heritage listed park, forming part of the multi-award winning Your Parramatta Park 2030 management plan, impact monitoring for events program, significance assessment of gatehouse
- Parramatta Road - heritage assessment for Inner West Council
- Kwong War Chong building, Haymarket - significance assessment and recommendations for City of Sydney
- St John's College, University of Sydney - conservation management plan
- CSIRO Black Mountain Campus, Canberra - master plan with Cox Architecture
- Hornsby Town Centre - master plan with Cox Architecture
- Haymarket Library and Corporation Building, Haymarket - independent assessments for City of Sydney regarding their application for awards of Heritage Floor Space
- 389 Illawarra Road and 436 Marrickville Road, Marrickville - significance assessments for properties subject to an IHO for Inner West Council
- Tarwyn Park, Upper Bylong Valley - heritage significance assessment and statement of heritage impact for this significant cultural landscape, including diagrams for the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to inform the decision of an independent panel for a mining application.
- Bondi-Waverley Anglican Parish - master plan for the development of three separate sites with Cox Architecture

### EDUCATION

MURBANISM (HERITAGE CONSERVATION)  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, 2020

MA (HONS 1ST CLASS)  
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, 2016

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018 – PRESENT HAA

2020 – PRESENT UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
DEPT OF ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND  
PLANNING (TUTOR)



# Meg Quinlisk

Consultant Historian

Meg is a historian specializing in strategic conservation planning and analysis of cultural significance.

Working in the heritage sector since 2003 on a broad range of places including churches, major landmarks, government buildings, and cultural landscapes Meg was a past president (2004-2005) of the Manly, Warringah, Pittwater Historical Society.

She undertakes skillful, coherent and rigorous architectural and social historical research applied to the understanding of heritage. She is also skilled in the assessment of cultural significance, particularly where significance is intangible or derived from complex layers of meaning development. She is interested in the conservation and development of social housing and ensuring cities remain liveable despite climate change.

## KEY PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- Newtown Mission, Newtown - A detailed history as part of the Conservation Management Strategy for this state significant inner-city church, informing a master plan for the complex site.
- Tarwyn Park and its setting, Bylong Valley - Assessment undertaken on behalf of the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage to inform their advice on a mining application for the Upper Bylong Valley.
- Sir John Monash Centre and the Australian National Memorial, France - Site Conservation Plan for Australia's primary overseas memorial to the First World War, based on extensive historical research. An innovative approach to policy development was taken to retain the integrity of the site in the context of substantial change.
- Hamilton House – Assessment of State significance of Peter Muller-designed house under Interim Heritage Order.
- Bondi Pavilion – NSW State Heritage Register nomination for Waverley Council.
- Sydney Harbour Bridge – Study of National Heritage Values for the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.
- Australian National Maritime Museum - Assessment of potential Commonwealth Heritage values.
- Redstone, Dundas (Walter Burley Griffin designed house) – NSW State Heritage Register nomination.
- National Heritage Investment Initiative - Conducted initial assessment of applications under this Commonwealth-funded grant strategy for two rounds of the program's operation.
- Nobby's Lighthouse, Newcastle - Advised Minister for the Environment regarding potential impacts to Commonwealth Heritage values posed by a proposal to adapt the lighthouse as a restaurant and the lighthouse keepers' quarters as guest accommodation.



## EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS (HONS)  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) BROWN  
UNIVERSITY

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012 – PRESENT HISTORIAN AND HERITAGE  
CONSULTANT (FREELANCE)

2013 – PRESENT VISITOR INTERPRETATION  
OFFICER, SYDNEY  
LIVING MUSEUMS

2003 – 2012 CLIVE LUCAS, STAPLETON &  
PARTNERS, HISTORIAN AND  
CONSERVATION PLANNER (ASSOCIATE  
PARTNER OF THE FIRM 2005-2009)

2004 – 2005 MANLY WARRINGGAH,  
PITTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
(PRESIDENT)



## Appendix B: Convicts on Hunter Valley estates: comparative information



## Convicts on historic Hunter Valley estates : comparative information

Comparative analysis is an important step in understanding significance. Two areas of comparative analysis not addressed by previous studies on Ravensworth to date were researched and findings are discussed here. The findings must be considered as provisional, due to the short amount of time available to undertake the research, and due to the limited access to documentation posed by the Sydney lockdown, which coincided with part of the research phase.

### Comparative numbers of assigned convicts on Hunter Valley estates

As the number of convicts assigned to any one settler was likely to fluctuate regularly over the historic assignment period, one fixed point in time was selected as a means of obtaining a representative sample. The 1828 census, the first official census to be carried out in the colony of New South Wales, recorded all inhabitants of the colony, and their name, age, if free or convict, if born in the colony or ship and year of arrival, sentence if arrived as a convict, religion, employment, residence, district, total number of acres, acres cleared, acres cultivated, horses, horned cattle, sheep, and remarks.

Unfortunately, household-level data does not survive for the Hunter districts. (This type of data was analysed by Ted Higginbotham for the southwestern districts. A similar approach to the Hunter would be timely and likely fruitful as a research avenue.)

Secondary sources which detail convict numbers at the point of the 1828 census were also sought, though this research was limited to what could be located online. In this regard, the information was located only for Tocal, as the subject of a 2008 PhD thesis by Brian Walsh, Newcastle University.

Online indexes which allow free text searching were therefore relied on as a means of obtaining the data efficiently. The most useful for the purposes of this study was Jen Willetts' website *Free Settler or Felon*, which concentrates on the European settlement of the Hunter Valley.

Even excluding the Australian Agricultural Company's land, the Hunter represented one-fifth of landed property in the colony at the 1828 census, and one-tenth of the human population, or half of those living outside the County of Cumberland. There were 191 settlers in the Hunter Valley holding land of 1000 acres or more, representing nearly half (47%) of the landholdings in the area. While the number of assigned convicts was generally one servant per 100 acres, successful landholders could support additional convict numbers, and were not necessarily limited by the ratio convict to land area. Generally speaking, the larger properties had larger numbers of convicts. (CLSP, *Hunter Homesteads Study*, p. 16, 39)

There were 47 convicts listed at Ravensworth in the 1828 census (LSJ, November 2019, *Heritage Analysis & Statement of Significance* p. 39-40):

- 11 shepherds
- 1 stockman
- 19 labourers
- 4 female convicts (domestic servants)
- 1 male servant
- 1 overseer
- 2 shoemakers
- 2 blacksmith
- 2 sawyers
- 2 carpenters
- 2 stonemasons

The table below summarises the findings from a sample of homesteads in comparison to Ravensworth:

Estate	Acreage	Assigned convicts	Year of data if not 1828 census
Ravensworth	11000	47	
Total	3300	34	
Bolwarra	2000	6	1822
Kinross (Graham's Farm)	640	5	
Abbey Green	4000	13	
Dunmore	2330	9	
Aberglasslyn	1400	4 or 5	1823-24
Anambah	2000	6	1823
Bellevue	1000	8	
Segenhoe	10000	38	
Berry Park	2100	16	

Two conclusions are drawn from the sample data above:

1. Ravensworth had more land and more assigned convicts than other estates at the time; the closest comparison being Segenhoe
2. Although previous analysis of the settlement of the Hunter concentrated on the large proportion of landholders owing greater than 1000 acres, there is another clear distinction for estates of 3000 acres or more, where the scale of the enterprise (as evidenced by the number of people working in it) becomes less about subsistence and more about intensive commercial pastoral or agricultural activity.

## Comparative examples of convict barracks on Hunter Valley estates

The presence of a potential stone convict barracks at Ravensworth raised the question of where there may be other examples in the Hunter Valley.

As a typology, convict barracks are described as “not uncommon” on large pastoral estates, but they very rarely survive intact or archaeologically. This is due in large part to their reuse for other purposes following the period of convict assignment. Because they were privately built and unregulated, the documentary record is largely silent on convict barracks. Reviewing convict archaeology in 2001, Denis Gojak identified only two standing private farm barracks that had been excavated--one at Lake Innes House, and one at Tocal in the Hunter. At Tocal, the excavation showed that disturbance through later use limited the evidence the site could provide about the convict period. Gojak concludes that the remains of demolished barracks are “perhaps more attractive for detailed analysis, than those standing.” (Denis Gojak, 2001, “Convict Archaeology in New South Wales: An Overview of the Investigation, Analysis and Conservation of Convict Heritage Sites.” *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, vol. 19, Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology, 2001, pp. 73–83, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29544469>.)

Two factors cloud the verification of a building’s identification as a convict barracks in rural NSW. Firstly, local convict ‘lore’ can inaccurately ascribe a convict association to a place on the basis of features such as barred windows or irons in the cellar. Secondly, historical convict associations were frequently obliterated in the later 19th century as society sought to subdue the convict stain of the past, and the later uses of a convict barracks erased all evidence of its former association. Kirsty Altenburg’s 1988 MA (Archaeology) thesis (USyd) on a reputed convict barracks at Strathallan near Braidwood concluded that the wood or bark hut was universally used as convict accommodation as an expedient response to the immediate need for convict housing. Frequently building their own huts was the first priority when a gang of convicts arrived at a station. This was the case regardless of the scale and type of farming carried out on the property, though some settlers of lesser means housed convicts under the same roof as themselves. Purpose built barracks, where they existed, was a longer-term undertaking.

In 1985, as part her thesis research, Kirsty Altenburg wrote to 34 historical societies throughout NSW asking for information on potential convict barracks in their area. She received replies from 10 societies which identified convict accommodation. These she categorised based on whether she could confirm or discount (through documentary or physical evidence) each as convict barracks. In the largest category -- those where there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove -- there were several Hunter Valley examples nominated by local historians. These were:

- Invermein, Muswellbrook
- Segenhoe, Muswellbrook
- Balickera (Balikera), Port Stephens
- Tahlee House, Port Stephens
- Baroona, Singleton

- Balmoral, Muswellbrook
- Edinglassie, Denman
- Building foundations north of the town of Dungog
- Cellars that accommodated convicts at Stroud House, Windermere, and Tanilba.

Altenburg's 1985 communications did not reveal the confirmed barracks at Tocal, nor did Ravensworth come up.

Taking into account the large number of convicts present at Ravensworth by the 1828 census, it is conceivable that the potential stone convict barracks may have been built for that purpose. Convict barracks that have been archaeologically excavated are very rare. Barracks which are confirmed as such through documentary or other evidence are also very rare. The archaeological significance of the potential convict barracks at Ravensworth has the potential to contribute a great deal of understanding to the convict assignment system, something which is notably lacking from the UNESCO World Heritage Register inscription of Australia's convict sites.

Appendix C: estates for which non preservation of Ravensworth makes a direct precedent

List of Hunter Valley Colonial Estates which lie on land currently subject to exploration and mining leases.

<p><i>Cessnock LGA</i> The Glen Mulla Villa Myora Old Barraba Homestead</p>	<p><i>Gloucester LGA</i> Faulkland</p>	<p><i>Muswellbrook LGA</i> Dalmar Stud Kayuga Homestead Rosebrook Nego St Helliars Overdean Balmoral</p>
<p><i>Singleton</i> Ravensworth Archerfield Wambo Mt Leonard Abbey Green</p>	<p><i>Upper Hunter</i> Grampian Hills</p>	<p>Rous Lench Edinglassie Belmont Piercefield Merton</p>