

NEWCASTLE FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK
NEWCASTLE
N.S.W.



Heritage Office



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

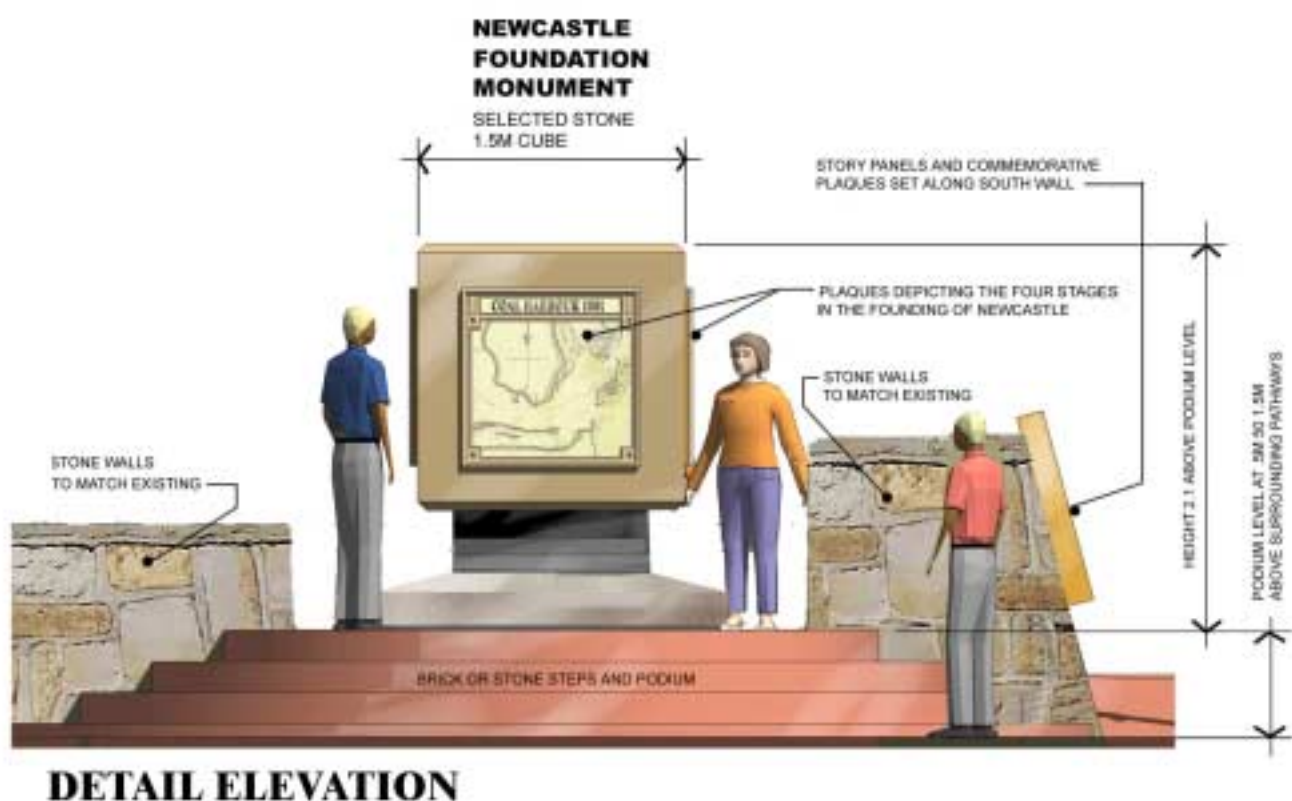
An Eye Sketch of Hunter's River.

*I judge this River large N. N. W. line to be 60 miles
from Port Jackson.*

*Tide runs 6 or 7 feet, runs about 2-3/4 knots, flows full, changes
rapidly & difficult in strong tide.
Discovered this River Sept. 18. 1797, when way to
Port Jackson.
No. 10 Sept 24 Sailed, more fresh water.*

St.

ASSEMBLED PORTIONS OF THE
ORIGINAL "EYE SKETCH" BY
LT. J. SHORTLAND 1797



FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK, NEWCASTLE.

A proposal prepared for the Parks and Playground Movement Inc.
by Charles Martin

This project was assisted by a grant from the NSW Government on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of NSW. The Heritage Incentives Program is administered by the Heritage Office, Department of Planning

Historic photos and maps sourced from N.C.C. Library and University of Newcastle Nobbys Coal River Heritage Park website.

Newcastle Foundation Monument

Pacific Park
Newcastle NSW

The design concept and detailed drawings for the proposed Newcastle Foundation Monument have been prepared for the Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc. by Charles Martin (B.Arch), a leading Newcastle architect and illustrator. We acknowledge that the project has been made possible by the provision of a generous grant from the NSW Heritage Office for the design and presentation of a suitable monument to celebrate the founding of the City of Newcastle.

Pacific Park has been chosen as the site for the monument because the park was especially designed to accommodate a monument as a focal point at the head of Hunter Street. The monument is intended to record four important stages in the foundation of the City of Newcastle. Each stage is to be depicted on a face of a large sandstone cube in a manner that reflects the Newcastle Borough Council's 1909 Jubilee Coal Monument, which once stood at the head of Hunter Street. The proposed monument is set in immediate surroundings that respect our Aboriginal heritage and formally complement the overall design of Pacific Park. The monument will add importance and dignity to a place that has a special relationship to local government in Newcastle, and a section of the monument area will recognise past local government leaders.

We recommend that the monument record four historic stages in the founding of the City of Newcastle:

- **Muloobinbah** –Known as place of sea fern by Aboriginal inhabitants.
- **1797 Coal River** -Shortland's discovery of 'a very fine coal river'.
- **1801 Coal Harbour** –First settlement at Colliers Point when convict coalminer John Platt set out the first coalmine using the latest bord and pillar mining technique.
- **1804 Newcastle** Permanent settlement established under Lieutenant Charles Menzies.

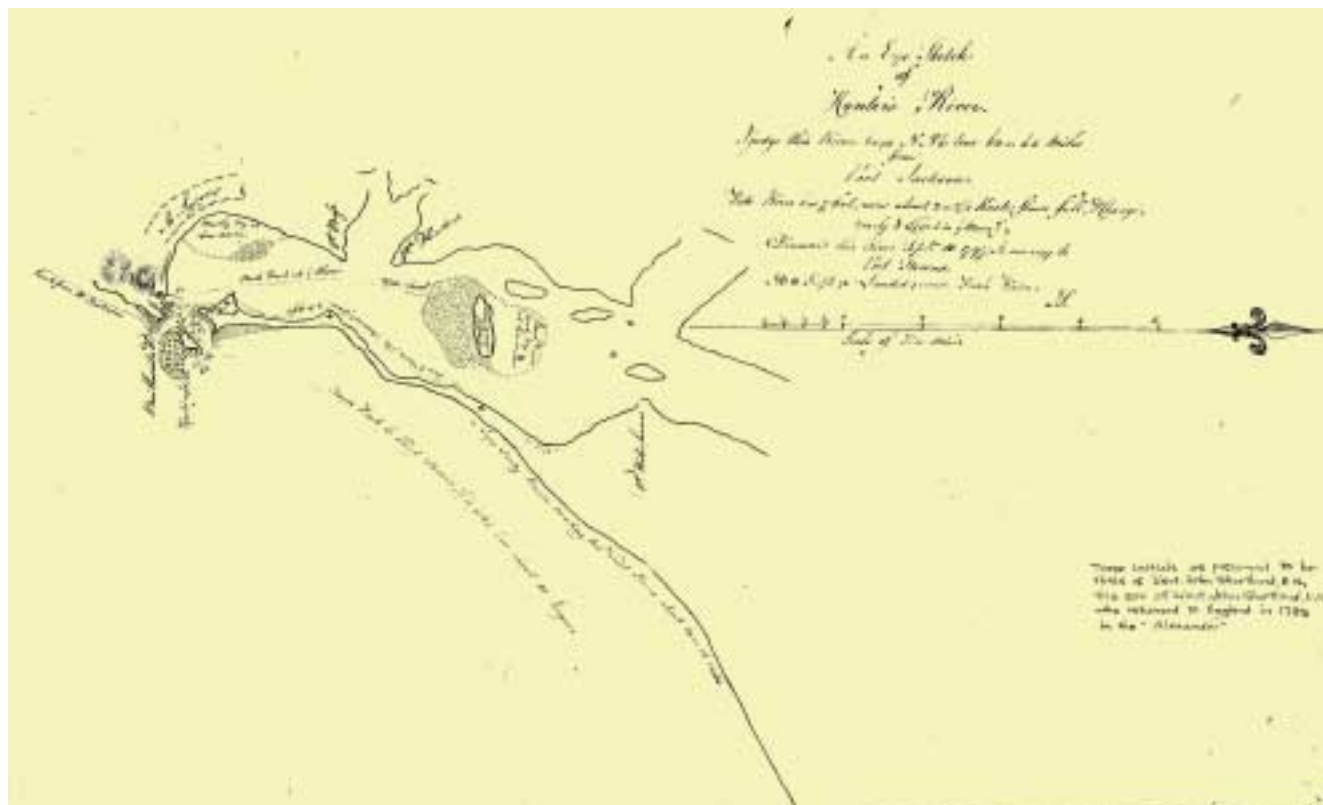
Many cities and towns are able to identify and commemorate their founding with a public memorial and we hope this foundation monument will make a valued contribution to the understanding of the founding of Newcastle.

It is anticipated that the monument will be ready for the commemoration of the June 2009 sesquicentenary of Local Government in Newcastle.

The unveiling of a significant Newcastle Foundation Monument will be a symbolic acknowledgement of our heritage and of the founding of the City and will be a public statement of confidence in the future.

Doug Lithgow, 27/8/2007

**Freeman of the city of Newcastle and
President of the Parks and Playgrounds Movement**

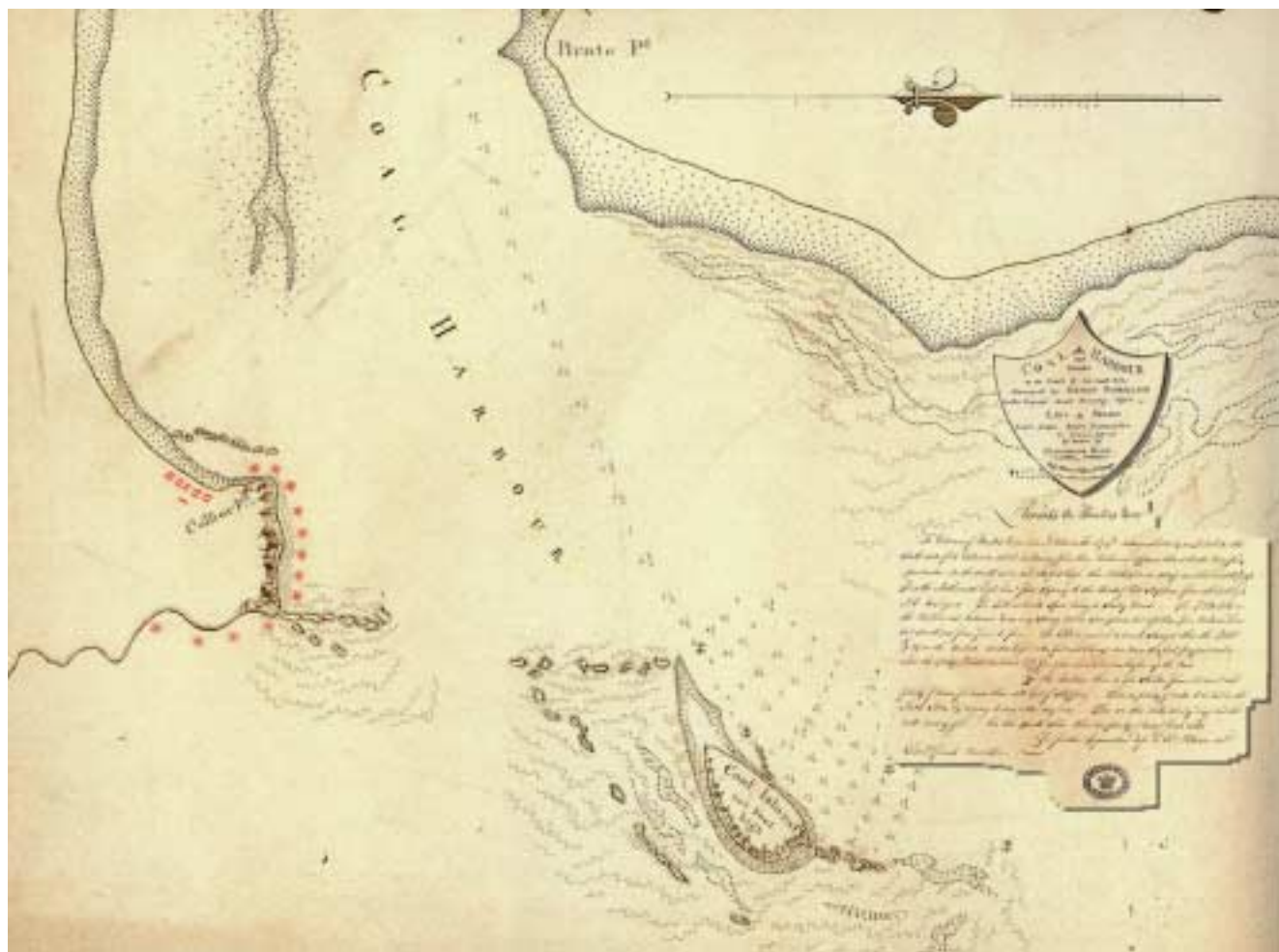


The Original Eye Sketch of Hunter's River "...lying true 60 to 65 miles N, NE from Port Jackson." (Original held at Hydrographic Department. Ministry of Defence. TAUNTON. SOMERSET. UK. TA 1 2DN UK).

My Dear Father,

About a twelvemonth since I went on an expedition in the Governor's whaleboat as far as Port Stephens, which lies 100 miles to the northward of this place. In my passage down I discovered a very fine coal river, which I named after Governor Hunter. The enclosed I send you, being an eye-sketch which I took a little time I was there. Vessels from 60 to 250 tons may load there with great ease, and completely landlocked. I dare say, in a little time, this river will be a great acquisition to this settlement. The short time I remained at this river we had rain, which prevented my doing so much as I otherwise would.

Lieutenant J. Shortland's account to his father J. Shortland Senior of his discovery of the Hunter River
Dated 10th September 1798



(Image: Assembled portions of Survey Map by Ensign Barrallier, June 1801, showing Coal Harbour and Colliers Point).

I have the honour to send you via the schooner [The Francis, a map of] the entrance to the river, and some of the adjacent parts, which I have drawn up since we arrived, with the relevant depths, rocks, sandbanks and its various coal mines that have been discovered to date. I am rapidly advancing toward the northern bank which you may imagine to end most probably at Port Stephens, but I am held back at almost every moment by the great space that exists between the shores and by the difficulty of finding points that are suitable for establishing clear bases for the triangles.

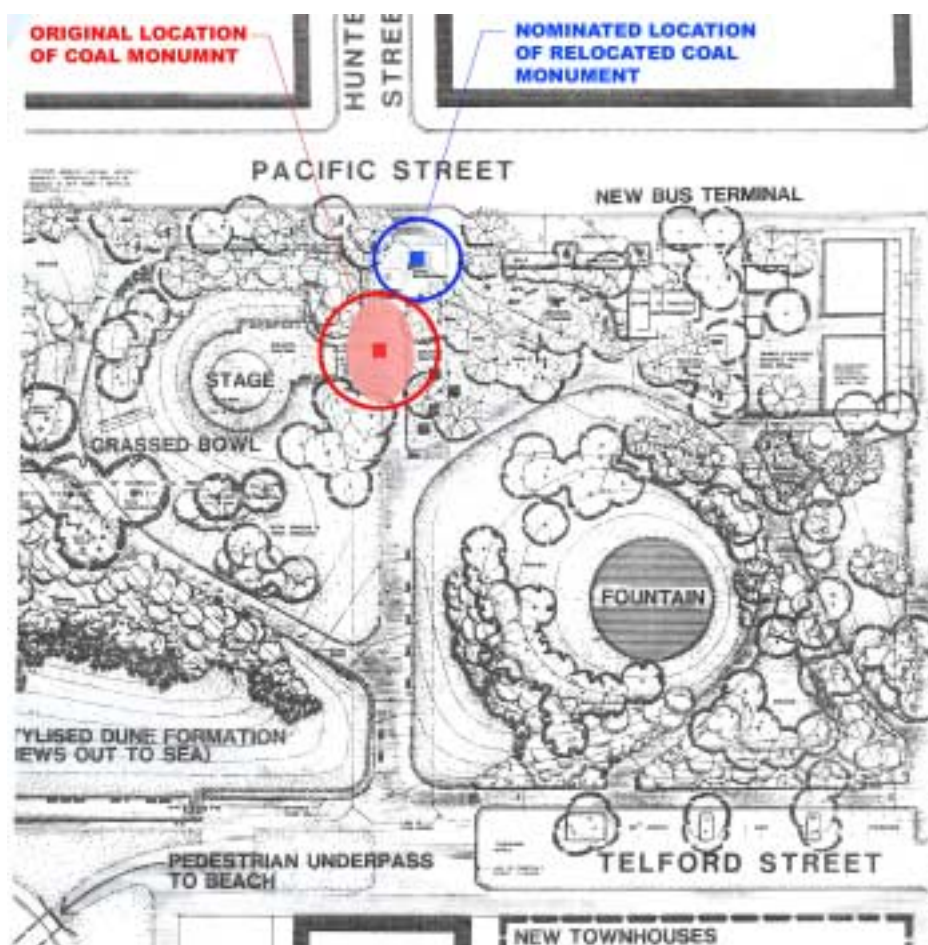
You can see from my map what a fearsome passage one has to traverse in order to reach this beautiful river. The roaring of the waves, crashing one upon the other and breaking with a terrible noise on the steep rocks of the island, and raging as they roll onto the sands of the opposite shore, would make the most intrepid sailor tremble. [If you had been here] you would have seen all the seamen, with terror showing on their faces but remaining firm at their posts, obeying with incredible dexterity their captain's orders in order to extricate him from this almost impenetrable labyrinth.

Excerpt: Ensign Barrallier to Governor King HRNSW Vol. IV Hunter's River 24 June 1801 p.413, 414}
Translated from the French by Emeritus Professor Ken Dutton

DESIGNER'S STATEMENT

I was approached by Mr. Doug Lithgow (President of the Parks and Playground Movement) to assist in developing a concept for the design of a monument to mark the foundation of Newcastle (1804) and for the occasion of the sesquicentenary of Local Government (1859-2009). The following is a Statement outlining the design philosophies and general approach in arriving at the proposal presented here.

When the original plans were drawn up for the extension and general transformation of Pacific Park by Newcastle Council and Landscape Architect Bruce McKenzie it was envisaged that a place be set aside for the relocation of the Jubilee Monument also known as the "Coal Monument" (presently located in Parnell Place Newcastle East) to a position not far from its original site on the centre line of Hunter Street.



Design Plan for Pacific Park (1980's). Bruce McKenzie, Landscape Architect.

However, it is acknowledged by all that the "Coal Monument" will remain in its present location in Parnell Place. Therefore it would seem appropriate to place a new monument of appropriate design and scale in the nominated position to mark historic anniversaries such as the Foundation of Newcastle and the sesquicentenary of Local Government in Newcastle.

The Parks and Playground Movement have initiated a move to conceive and present a design that would be fitting for this location and the occasion with the aim of raising awareness and financial support from government, business and private sectors. Having worked on many schemes that required a knowledge and understanding of the history of Newcastle, and also in the preparation of other documents relating to the interpretation of the architectural heritage of Newcastle, I was able to conceive and visually convey a concept I feel is of a suitable design. I collaborated with Mr Lithgow and his committee to further develop the proposal that can ultimately be presented to the Newcastle Council, State Government, the N.S.W. Heritage Office, interested businesses and the general public for their awareness and support.

DESIGN APPROACH

The basic approach was as follows:-

A: Define the limits of the site base and ascertain the present usage of that part of the site and its surrounds.

B: Establish those features to be incorporated into the monument itself and the reference points of Newcastle's history to be included.

C. Consider the monument and its appropriate integration into the present landscape and its relationship with the original park design.

D. Examine the scale of the new proposals and the materials to be used.

A: The site.

It should be noted that the original Coal Monument, was modest in scale and located on a defined island which was mounded to the centre with small paths and steps defined by decorative urns leading to the base of the monument. Further embellishments incorporated flower gardens and decorative borders. This helped increase the visual impact of the monument, which was also set on the centre line of Hunter Street which extended through the park to Telford Street.



Jubilee Monument looking east (c. 1918)

With this in mind, it was felt that it would be necessary for this proposal to increase the base site to allow for greater flexibility and to create a visually significant statement in the present landscaped environment. Adjacent to the present nominated monument location is a triangular portion of the park that is at present surfaced with asphalt and contains a metal framed shelter and half a dozen assorted park benches. It is felt that if this piece of land could be incorporated into the design site it would greatly enhance the impact of the proposed monument and be planned to give greater amenity for the public than is currently available with the present structures. It should be noted that all trees within the site are retained and incorporated into the recommended design for the monument and its surrounds.

The following recent photographs illustrate this point. The area is on a main pedestrian thoroughfare between Hunter Street and the Newcastle Beach and developments beyond. Where the Jubilee Monument once stood at the head of Newcastle's main street is now a rather large expanse of bitumen.



The Jubilee Monument looking north from the hospital over Pacific Park toward the harbour and Stockton c.1918.



Photo of proposed monument location at centre left (August 2007).

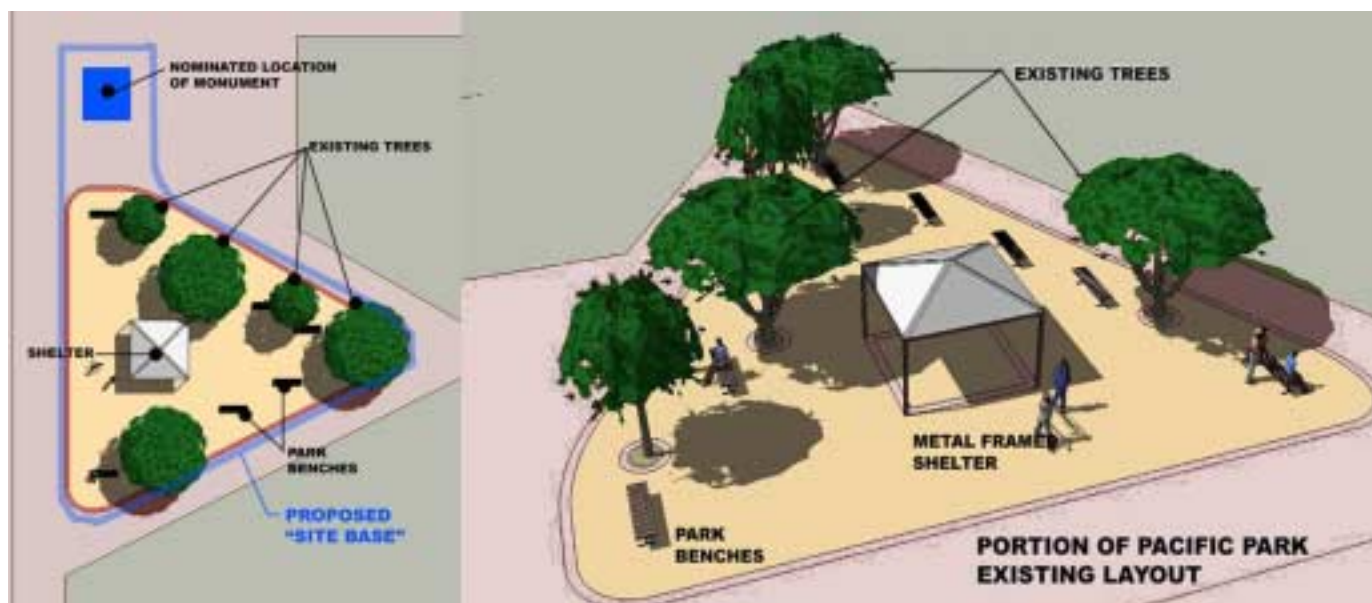


View showing general surface treatment and park furniture (Photo 2006)

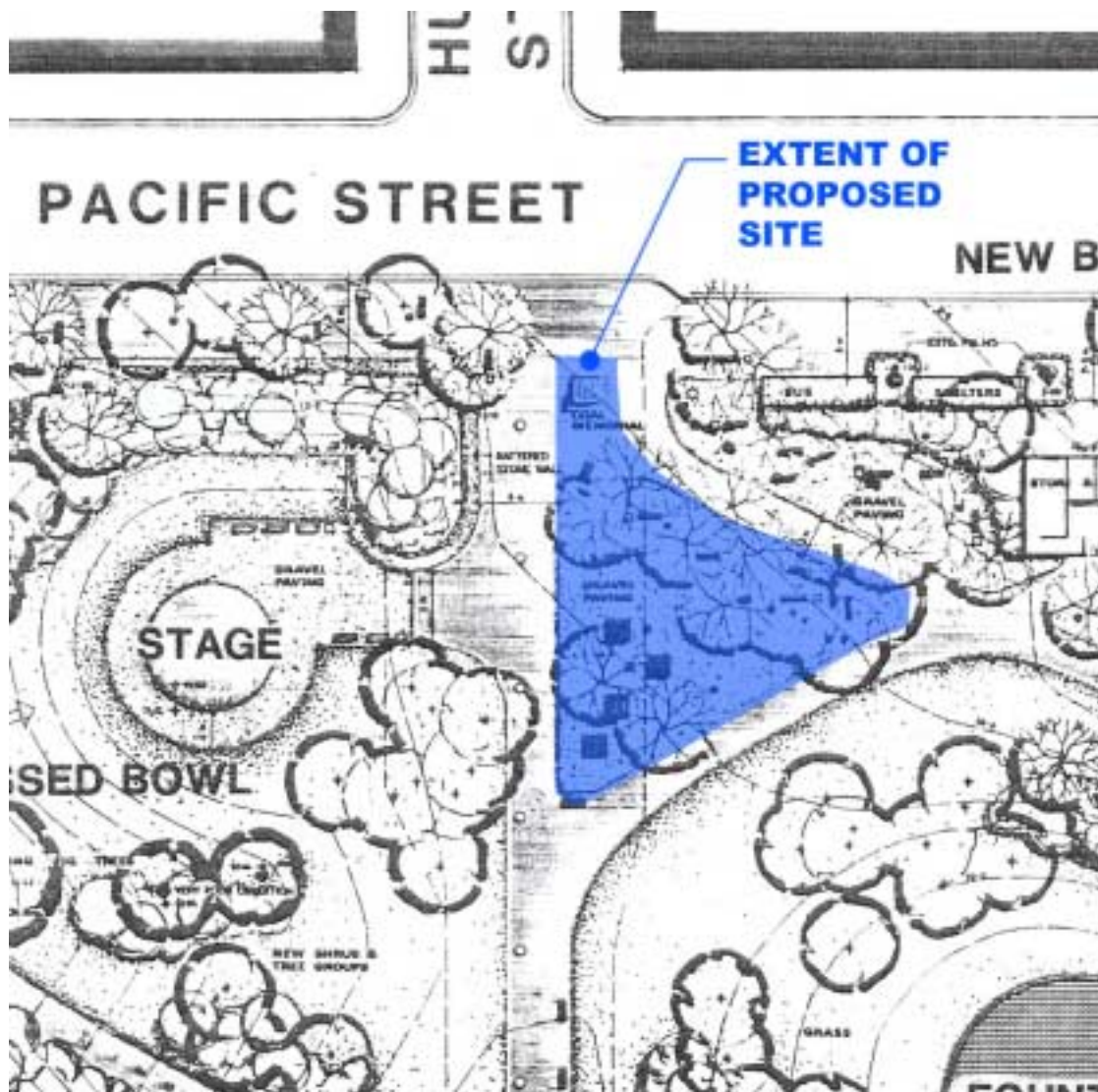


View from Park to corner of Pacific and Hunter Streets (Photo 2006).

The following is a computer model of the recommended site base for the monument. It depicts the layout and park shelter and furniture that are in place at the moment. The surface is mainly freshly laid bitumen.



Computer model of portion of Pacific Park showing existing amenities.



*Part of original plan for Pacific Park
(Bruce McKenzie: Landscape Architect)*

Above is portion of the original landscape plan for Pacific Park designed by Bruce McKenzie, Landscape Architect. In the twenty years since its realisation, the park has developed very much according to the original plans, creating a delightful inner city park. However the area highlighted is still rather nondescript as shown in the previous photos and we believe that the Foundation Monument will make a significant improvement to the area. As can be seen it is bounded by pedestrian pathways and centred on the Hunter Street axis and provides a fitting focal point for the grassy amphitheatre noted as STAGE in the landscape plan and complements the adjacent Newcastle Herald fountain. It is proposed that the monument proper be the same size as the original Jubilee Monument, and that it be located in the position designated by the Landscape Architect in the landscape plan.

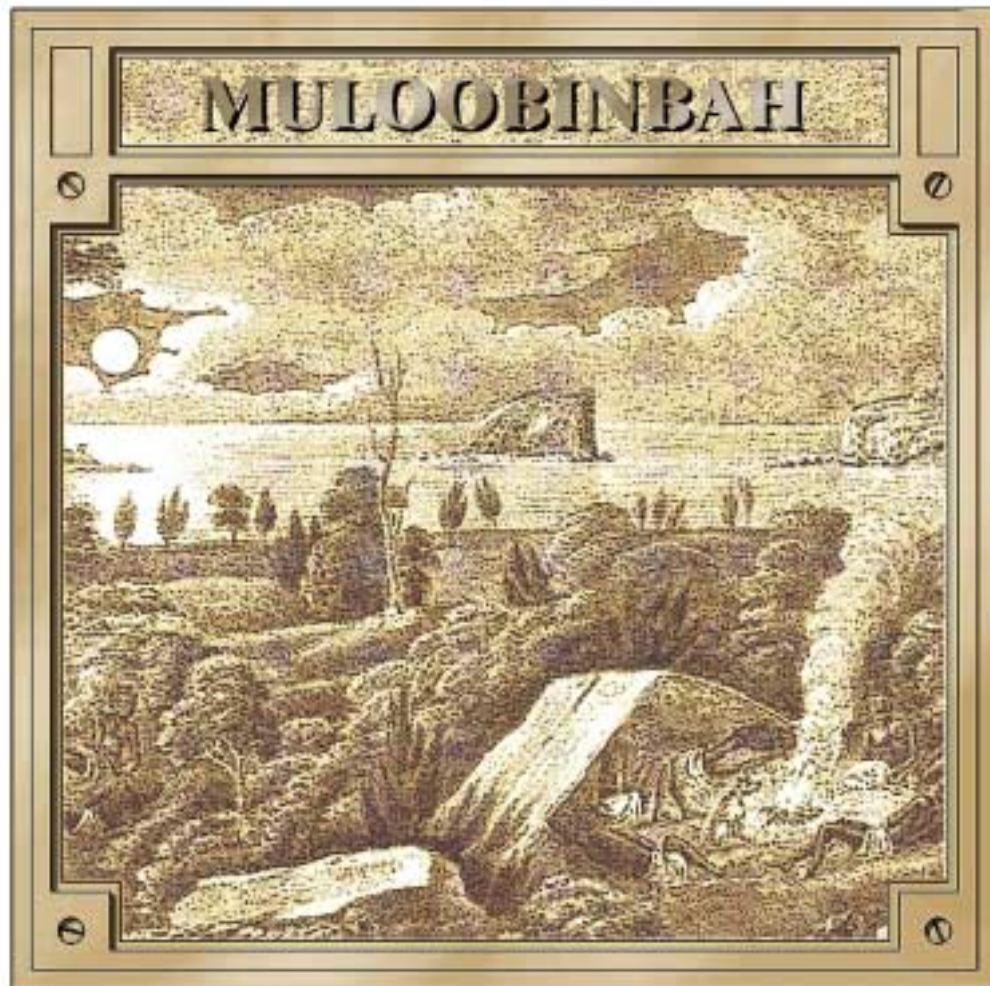
Since there is about .75 to 1.00m cross fall on the intended site, it is proposed that the platform area shown be about half a metre above the high point as indicated in the above plan. This would mean that the monument base would be about 1.25m above the pavement level with any plaque or inscription being at eye level or slightly above.

Setting the main platform above the adjoining pathways would create a sense of place and occasion. Low stone wall enclosures would further reinforce this and provide space for interpretive material and other commemorative plaques that may be added in future years. Seating is provided and table sets are located under the existing trees. A disabled ramp is also provided. Further explanatory notes are included in the following drawings and images.

B: The Monument

It is envisaged that the monument should record four historic stages in the founding of the City of Newcastle.

1.



MULOOBINBAH *Mu-lu-bin* (edible sea fern) –*ba* (place of).

Original inhabitants. The Worimi and Awabakal peoples.

“The Awabakal traditional lands are to the south of the Hunter River, while the Worimi traditional lands centre on and around Stockton and Port Stephens. Both Groups traded and socialised with each other at corroborees and various ceremonies. The Awabakal and Worimi also enjoyed the benefits of an elaborate trading network with other coastal groups and with inland clans, which included the Wonarua people”. (From “NEWCASTLE a brief history” by Susan Marsden).

(Image: Detail of Aborigines resting by a campfire near the mouth of the Hunter River, Newcastle. Joseph Lycett c.1820).

2.



COAL RIVER 1797. Lieutenant J. Shortland's naming and charting of a "very fine coal river", 10th September 1797

Extract: Letter from Governor Hunter to the Duke of Portland, 10 January 1798

A small river has been lately discovered by a boat I had occasion to send northward in pursuit of the deserters; it is about sixty-five miles from this part; on its south shore and near the water a considerable quantity of coal was discovered, and specimens were brought hither. As soon as the public service will admit of any absence from hence, I propose to go thither in a boat to examine this discovery for myself, after which your Grace shall be more particularly informed.

(Image: Assembled detail of Lieutenant Shortland's "Eye Sketch" 10 September 1797).

3.



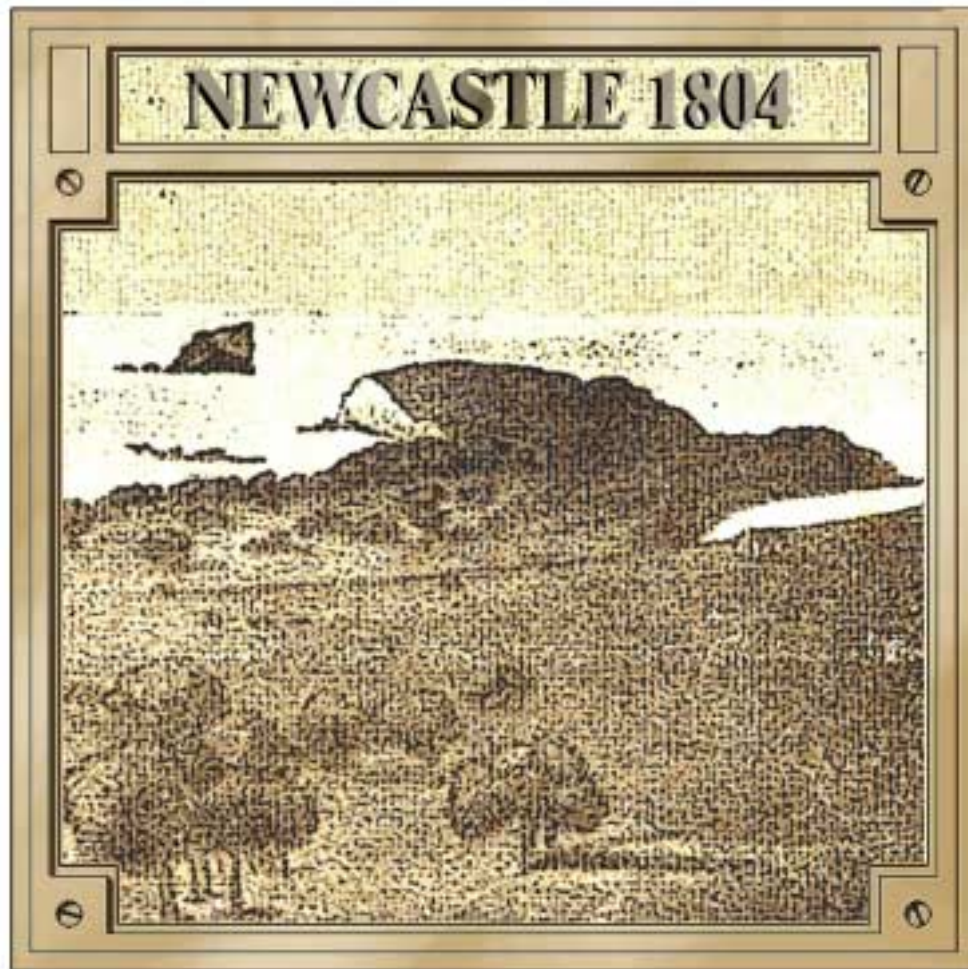
COAL HARBOUR 1801 (First settlement at Colliers Point where convict coalminer John Platt set out the first coalmine).

Remarks by Lieutenant Grant on board His Majesty's armed survey vessel, *Lady Nelson*
James Grant, Commander

Sunday, 14 June, 1801- At 6am bore up and made all possible sail, the Coal Island (an island in the entrance) N.N.W. 6 miles. At half past 10 I went on shore with Dr Harris, to examine the entrance, which we found very narrow. On the left hand side going in was a reef of rocks from the island, with much heavy surf breaking on it; on the right was an extensive flat, with a tremendous roll of sand breakers over it. The channel in was troubled with much heavy swell, and did all but break, so that I hove the boats head around and pulled out again; sounded 5 fms. On considering the risk we run of bringing the vessel in without well ascertaining the channel; I pulled in, carrying from 5 to 4 and 3½ fathoms close to the island. On our getting on shore we climbed up this steep island and hoisted a flag as a signal this was the right place.

(Image: Part of Survey Map by Ensign Barrallier, June 1801, showing Coal Harbour and Colliers Point).

4.

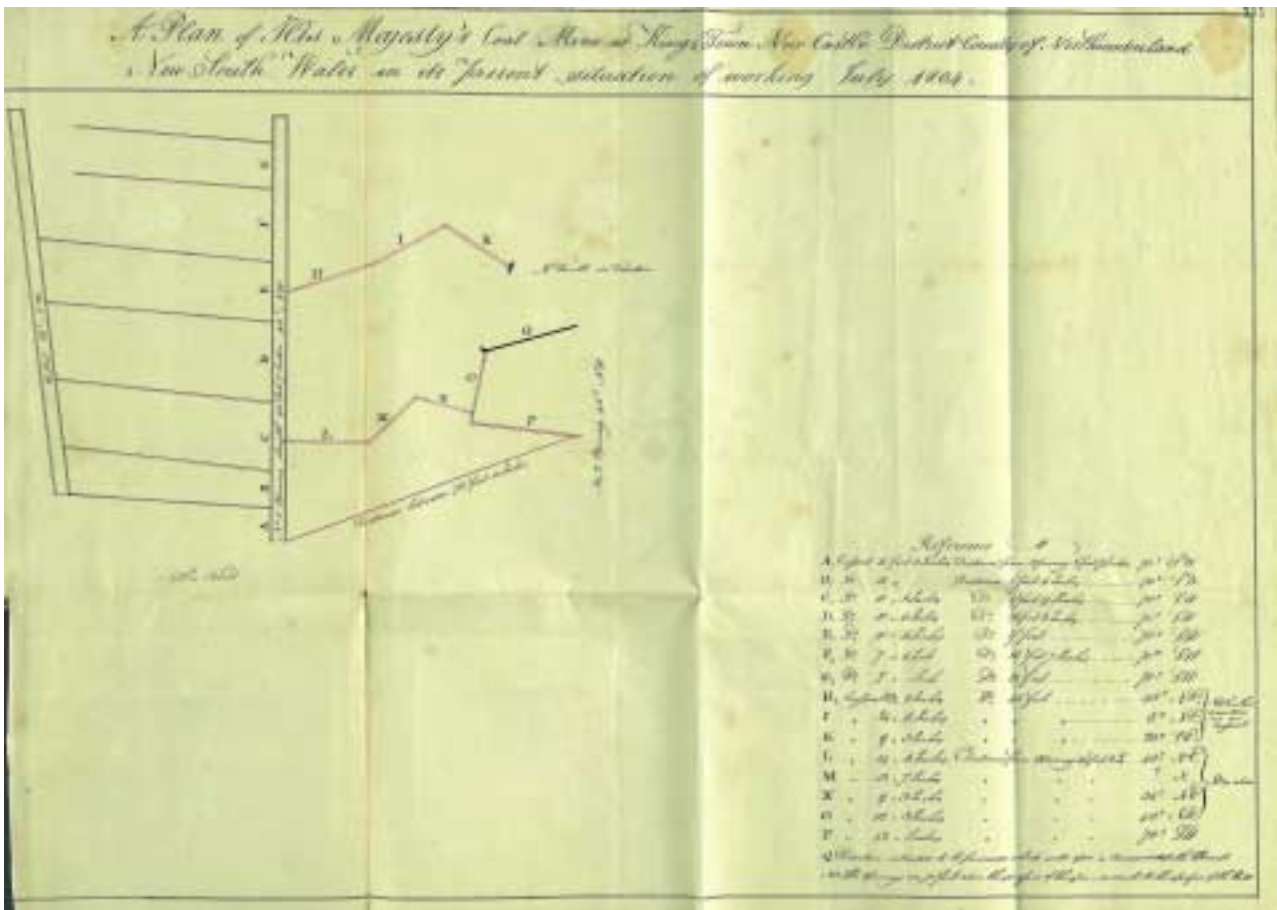


NEWCASTLE 1804 (Permanent settlement established under Lieutenant Charles Menzies, 30th March 1804).

Extract: Lieutenant Menzies' first report to Governor King, 19 April 1804

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that we arrived here on Friday, 30th of March, at noon. Previous to the vessels entering the harbour I went in a small boat to examine the situation of the mines, and fix on a place the most suitable for the settlement, which I found to be a most delightful valley, about a quarter of a mile from the entrance and south head, and close to the mines. I immediately ordered a disembarkation to take place, and began to unload the three vessels.

(Image: Detail of Mr Bauer's sketch of this delightful spot)



Extract of letter from Governor King to Lord Hobart, 14th August, 1804

Having so frequent a communication with the settlement at Newcastle, I have a pleasure in communicating the great exertions made there by Lieut. Menzies, as I have no doubt of that neighbouring settlement continuing to increase the great advantage this colony at present derives from them. I have the honour to send by the Albion, a box containing some blocks of coal that have been got from the lowermost part of the pits they are now working; and to give your Lordship every idea of the works going on there, I enclose some plans received from Lieut. Menzies respecting their progress. A sufficiency of coal and cedar are received from thence to supply the blacksmith's and necessary carpenters' works at these settlements and for the use of the crown as well as that of individuals.

(Image titled: "A Plan of His Majesty's Coal Mine at Kings Town New Castle District County of Northumberland New South Wales in its present situation of working July 1804").

C: Integration with Pacific Park.

As mentioned previously, the general area that has been nominated as part of the site base is at the moment rather nondescript in appearance; therefore, by making a statement of place and occasion it would greatly enhance the amenity of the park and create a fitting focal point. Integrated seating and shelters could be incorporated in the overall design to further strengthen the sense of place.

D: Scale and materials

Defining this area could simply be achieved by creating a raised paved platform over the triangular site that is at present bounded by pathways. The paving design could also incorporate appropriate patterns or motifs relating to the city and local government. The sense of place could be further reinforced by construction of low stone walls to define the area and it is proposed to employ materials used elsewhere in the park. Steps and a disabled ramp will give access to this platform. Part of the site is given over to space for sculpture that acknowledges the prior Aboriginal presence on the site. Liaison with local Aboriginal representatives is an essential requirement for this aspect of the monument and the site generally. Apart from some small scale planting, the existing Banksia trees provide sufficient landscaping and have been incorporated into the overall design. The photos below indicate the proposed materials to be used in the project.



Views of existing low stone walls and brick paving showing material treatment for proposed monument.



Typical medium height stone wall to southern side of main pedestrian way.

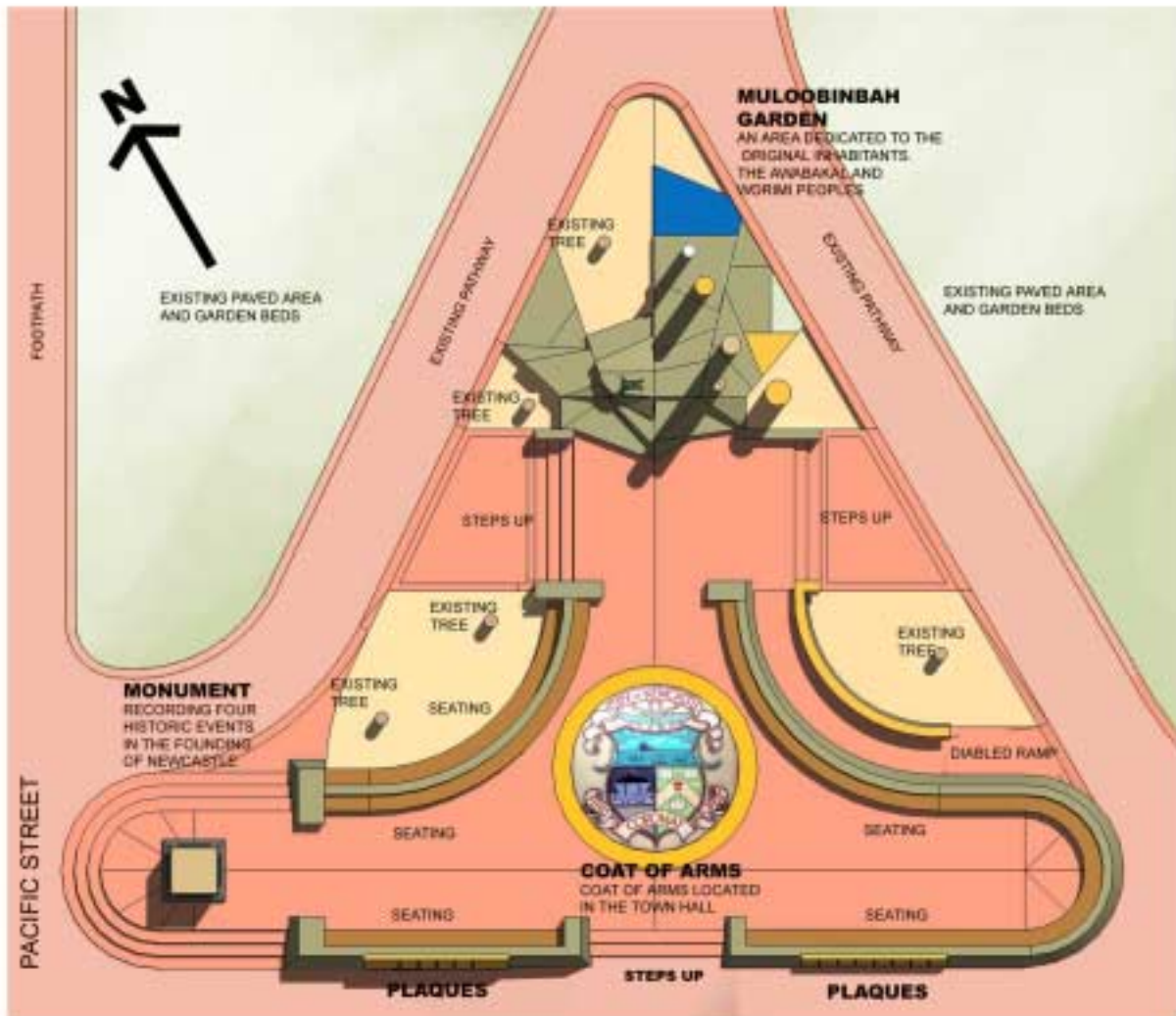
PROPOSED DESIGN AND IMAGE GALLERY



LOCALITY PLAN



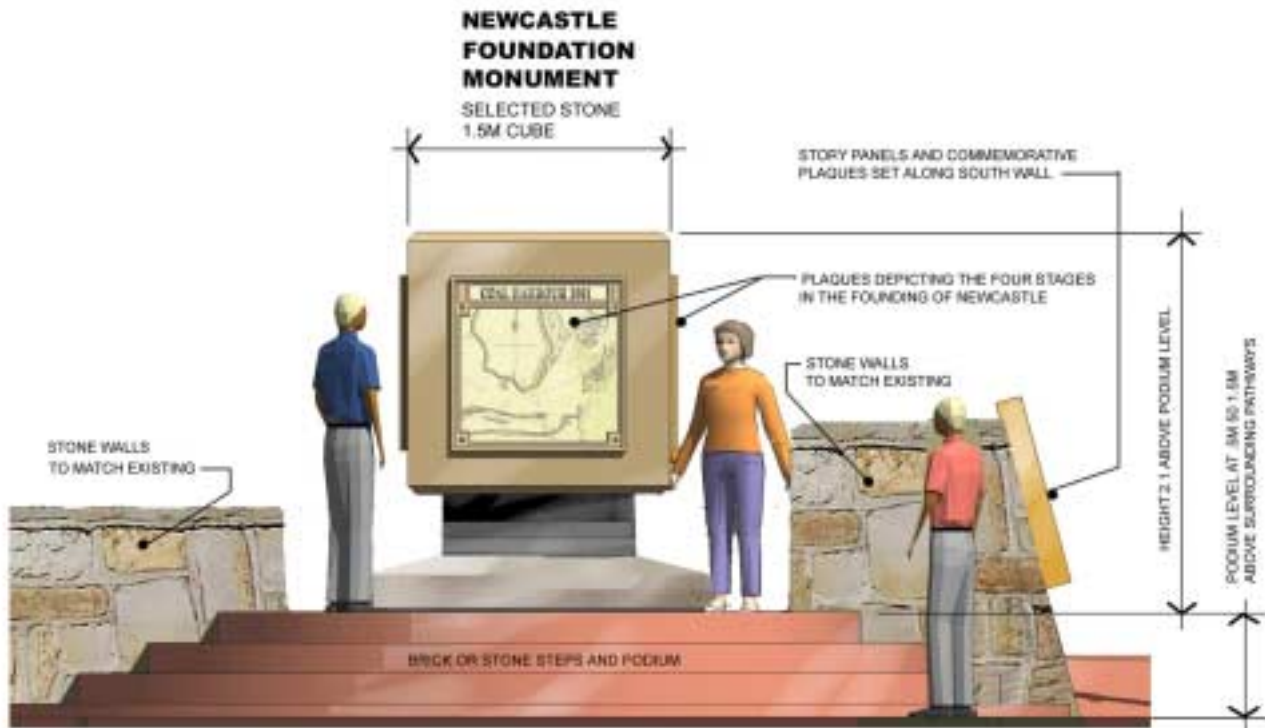
SITE PLAN



PLAN



FOUNDATION MONUMENT PACIFIC PARK NEWCASTLE



DETAIL ELEVATION



NEWCASTLE COAT OF ARMS

USED BY NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION
OF A REGISTERED COAT OF ARMS 1965

FOUNDATION MONUMENT
PACIFIC PARK **NEWCASTLE**



ELEVATIONS

FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK

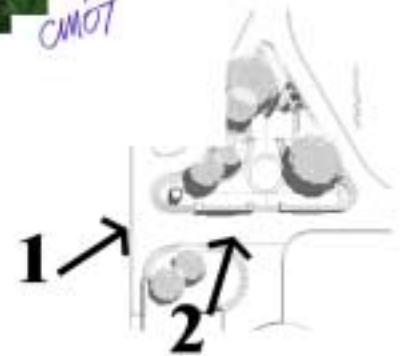
NEWCASTLE



AERIAL VIEW 1



AERIAL VIEW 2



FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK NEWCASTLE



AERIAL VIEW 3



AERIAL VIEW 4



FOUNDATION MONUMENT

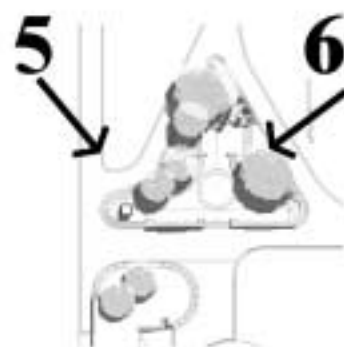
PACIFIC PARK NEWCASTLE



AERIAL VIEW 5



AREIAL VIEW 6



FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK NEWCASTLE



FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK NEWCASTLE



VIEW 3

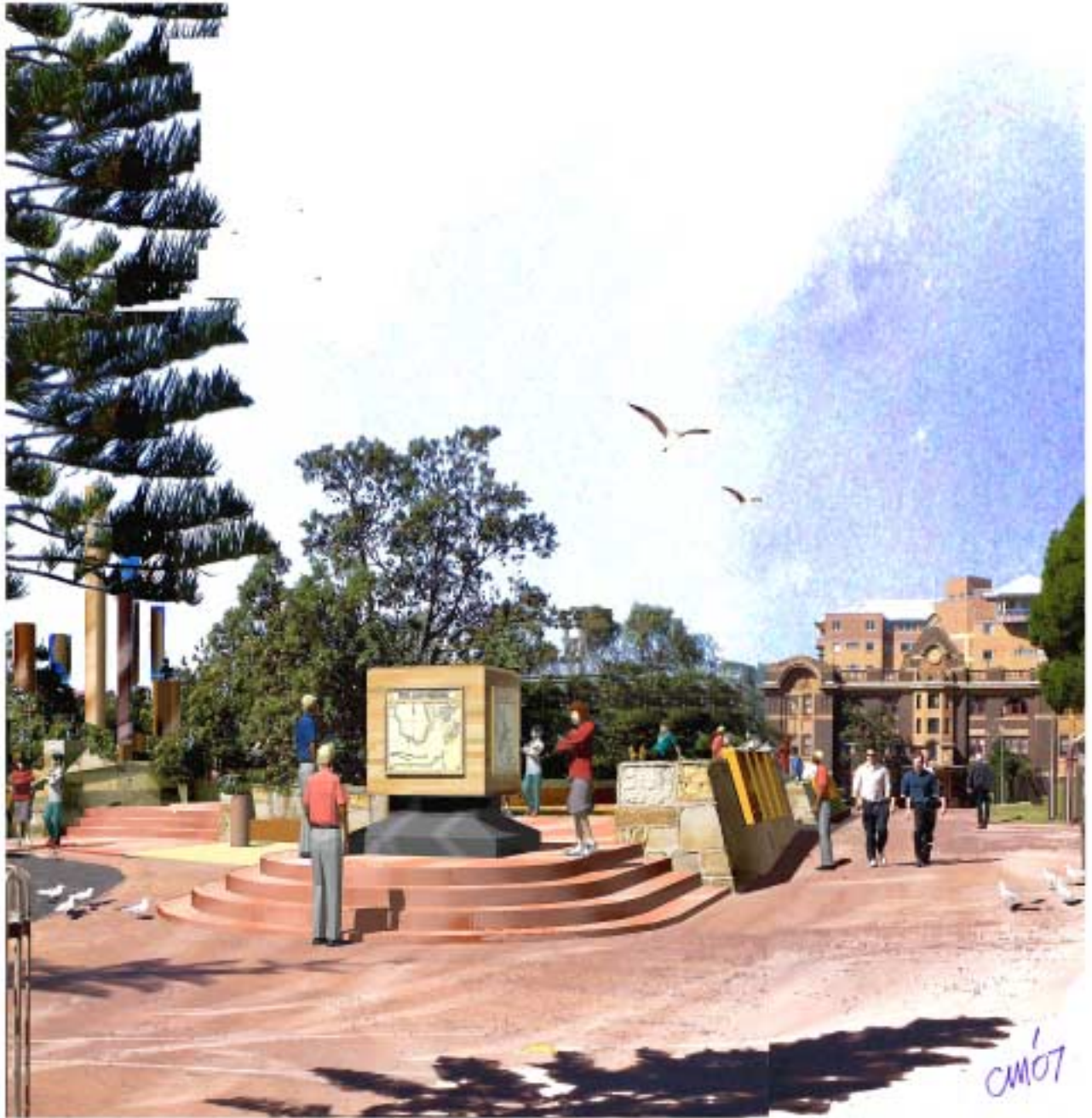


VIEW 4



FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK NEWCASTLE



VIEW FROM PACIFIC STREET

Photo montage showing Newcastle Foundation Monument in the foreground with stone wall with commemorative plaques along the walkway toward Tyrrell House and Telford Street.

FOUNDATION MONUMENT

PACIFIC PARK **NEWCASTLE**

CONCLUSION.

Pacific Park was the venue for many ceremonial civic occasions in the early part of the last century. While Civic Park is now the focus for many such events today, it is important that Pacific Park regain its significance as one of the places of Civic reaffirmation. The general treatment of the monument area will include a stone wall dedicated to Local Government and the whole project should be completed for the celebration of the sesquicentenary of local government in Newcastle on 7th June 2009. The Foundation Monument will make a significant contribution to the recognition and celebration of the early history of Newcastle. The Pacific Park site is at a significant location in relation to the original town of Newcastle and is within a few hundred metres of important archaeological sites and historic areas relating to the early settlement of Newcastle - a place first described by Lieutenant Shortland as “a very fine coal river”.



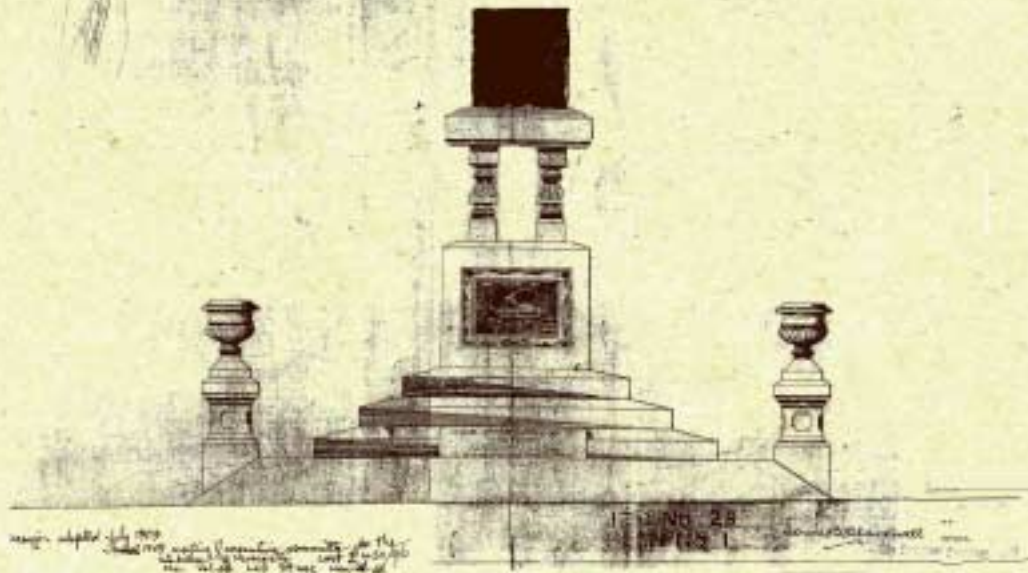
Laying of the foundation stone of the Jubilee Monument (1909)



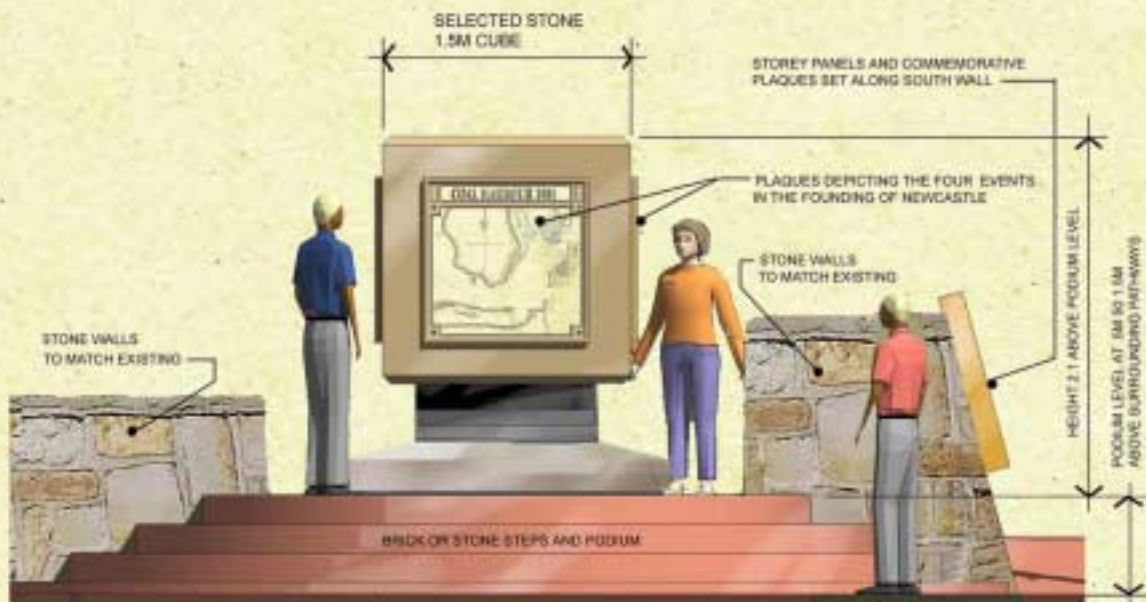
Armistice Day 1919

The preceding photographs attest to the civic importance that the site once enjoyed, and it is anticipated that it will again attain its role as a prominent civic and historic place.

JUBILEE OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE MEMORIAL



ELEVATION DRAWING OF THE JUBILEE MONUMENT
HUNTER STREET
NEWCASTLE 1909



ELEVATION DRAWING OF PROPOSED FOUNDATION MONUMENT
PACIFIC PARK
NEWCASTLE 2009