



VIRTUS HERITAGE

ANTHOLOGY

Autumn Edition

March 2025



PROJECTS | NEWS | DISCOVERIES



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.



DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our biannual journal.

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I welcome you to this edition of Anthology. I'm happy to share the accomplishments, milestones, and developments within our team and community.

The past year had been one of tremendous growth, resilience, and transformation. We faced challenges, yet through collaboration and innovation, we emerged stronger than ever as we approach our 15th birthday as a Company.



It's been inspiring to witness the dedication and passion within our team and community, as we've built new partnerships, deepened our connections, and embraced opportunities for learning and development. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that Virtus Heritage continues to be a place of growth, support, and impact.

In this edition, we reflect on some of the milestones and achievements of the past year, we take a look into recent projects undertaken by the team and share some exciting updates on what we have been up to.

Thank you to all our clients, community, team, and collaborators. Your support, dedication, and partnership have been the driving force behind our success. We are incredibly thankful for each of you, and we look forward to continuing this journey together, achieving even greater things in 2025.





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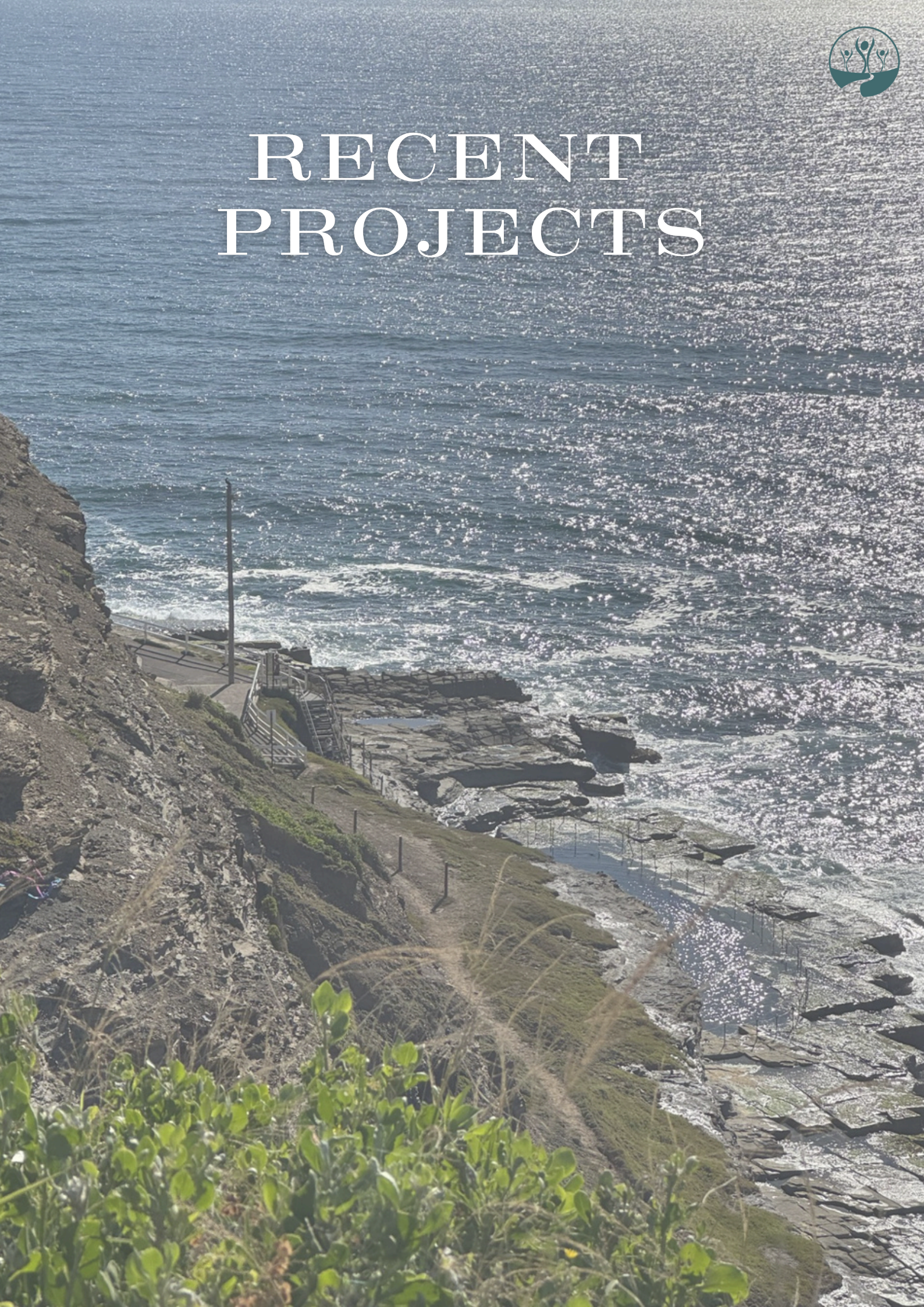
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RECENT PROJECTS





MARTIN'S WRITING RETREAT

As part of Virtus's ongoing commitment to fostering growth within our team and advancing research and development, we are proud to offer a writing retreat annually through our focused time to their academic and professional pursuits. In 2024, Martin Wright seized this opportunity to further his specialized research on a shell midden assemblage from Northern NSW. His work aims to build a more comprehensive and nuanced narrative of cultural history of this significant site.

Caroline Ephraums a member of our team, played a key role in supporting Martin's research. Drawing upon her expertise in marine biology, she not only assisted with the project but also had the chance to expand her knowledge by learning directly from Martin's insights and methodologies. Together, their collaboration exemplifies the spirit of intellectual exchange and professional development that Virtus fosters, contributing to both individual and collective growth in the field.



Furthermore, Virtus Heritage developed a Shell Midden-Themed educational Dig Kit specifically designed for students in preschool to junior high school. Designed to engage individuals of all ages in archaeology, these kits allow users to explore the fascinating world of shell midden sites, which hold valuable insights into the cultural and ecological history of coastal communities. Each kit contains authentic environmentally sustainable artifacts, tools and materials to stimulate a real archaeological dig, providing a unique hands-on opportunity to uncover the secrets of ancient coastal societies. Ideal for classrooms, home learning and libraries, this kit provided an exciting introduction to history science and the environment.





PRESERVING LEGACIES: A FUTURE FOR OUR PAST

Tjungundji Aboriginal Corporation

Preserving Legacies is a global initiative that focuses on equipping traditional custodians and local leaders with scientific knowledge and training to form climate adaptation actions and safeguard their heritage sites. Through utilising capacity building, community-led storytelling and climate science, Preserving Legacies takes a people and place-based approach to climate heritage adaptation and encourages conservation efforts to rise and meet the challenges of the climate crisis.

Aunty Diane Nicholls and Aunty Maria Pitt, as part of Tjungundji Aboriginal Corporation, were selected to represent their traditional burial mounds and the Mapoon mission site in the 2024 Preserving Legacies cohort.

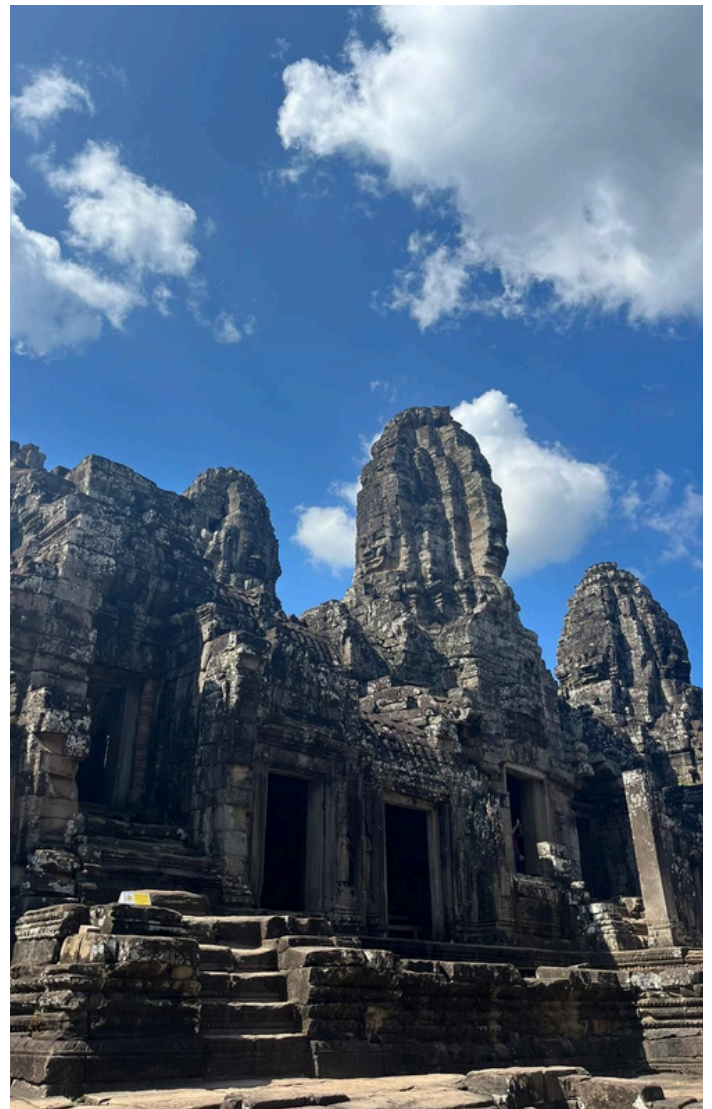
As part of this program, Aunty Di, and Lilith Malcolm (Archaeologist, Virtus Heritage) travelled to Cambodia together to participate in Ankor Wat's risk assessment session. Ankor is in its second year of the Preserving Legacies program.





Aunty Di and Lilith were shown five of the 92 temples of the greater Angkor temple complex and heard many stories about the temples and iconography from local archaeologist, Dara Phoeung. Some of the temples visited included Ankor Wat at sunrise, Banteay Srei, Angkor Thom and Ta Prohm, which is also famous as part of the Tomb Raider movie set.

Preserving Legacies is a three-year program; we are so excited to see what Aunty Di and Aunty Maria get up to over the next two years!





ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT

Boomerang Creek, NSW

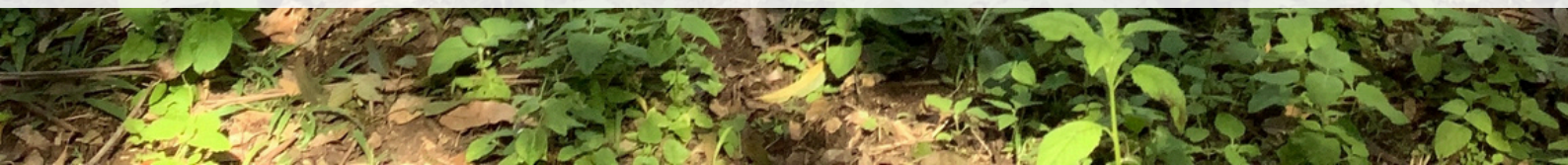
Virtus Heritage was engaged by Local Land Services to prepare an Aboriginal archaeological due diligence assessment for the proposed riverbank rehabilitation project in the Richmond catchment at Boomerang Creek. The project area is located within the lands of Widjabul Wia-bal determined native title claim area.

On 18 June, representatives from Widjabul Wia-bal, Local Land Services and Soil Conservation Service met with Lilith Malcolm (Virtus) who undertook a pedestrian site inspection of the project area.





The visual inspection confirmed that the project area had extensive ground disturbance associated with the previous and current agricultural land use, and from recent flooding events. Discussions on site with Widjabul Wia-bal and Virtus, when considering the disturbance, it was agreed that the potential for unknown Aboriginal objects to be harmed was lowered. However, the project area being located in proximity and along numerous watercourses (Boomerang Creek and Micks Creek), and its location within the broader cultural landscape (Dunoon being located approximately 5km away), means that there is still potential for Aboriginal objects to be uncovered and harmed in heavily modified contexts if extant in the project area.





MANAGING HISTORIC HERITAGE FOR THE KURANDA WEIR RECOVERY PROGRAM

Far North, QLD

In December 2023, a severe rainfall event affected the Barron River catchment, particularly Kuranda, on Djabugay's traditional estate. The Bureau of Meteorology recorded rainfalls of up to 975mm in 24 hours and called this event the highest 24-hour total ever reliably recorded in Australia's history. The rain event lasted five days and flooding affected the Kuranda Scenic Railway, listed on the Queensland Heritage Register for its state heritage values and the Barron Gorge Hydro Station, listed on the Mareeba Planning Scheme for its local heritage values (Figure 1). The Barron Gorge Hydro Station generates up to 66MW of energy, enough to power 70,000 homes, and is one of CleanCo Queensland's portfolio of renewable energy generators.



Figure 1. Postcard of Barron Falls and Kuranda Railway, part of Kuranda Weir can be seen in the background.

Flooding washed away part of the southern bank of the Barron River (Figure 2). Access to the hydroelectric intake tower was lost (Figure 3) and the railway became dangerously close to an unstable bank. Flooding exposed an old concrete retaining wall, part of the Kuranda railway's 1890s construction. Floods and land slips are common themes in the history of the Barron Gorge Hydro Station and the Kuranda Railway. With more extreme weather events predicted in the future, CleanCo proposed to replace the earthen embankment with a concrete wall and stabilise the bank to withstand future floods.



Figure 2. Before and after 2023 floods, note the bank and access to the intake tower that was washed away (inside red box) and sand deposited on the northern bank.



CleanCo engaged Virtus Heritage led by Alice Buhrich (Principal Archaeologist) for advice on managing heritage impacts for the Kuranda Weir Recovery Program. The work, approved under an Exemption Certificate from the Queensland Heritage Council, required Virtus Heritage to review historical information; develop an Archaeological Discovery Protocol; prepare induction training material for contractors; identify, record, map and assess existing features including rock walls, garden beds, concrete culverts and other features; provide a photographic recording of works; and monitor excavation works together with Djabugay representatives.



Figure 3. The Barron Gorge Hydro Station intake tower and temporary access wall.

Historical sources revealed that the site had been used as a temporary stop during the 1950s Barron Hydro Station upgrade. We found that the rock walls, rock edgings and tropical plantings, installed to beautify the site for tourists on the train, have local heritage value (Figure 4). Following the Burra Charter processes, we suggested a cautious approach. Seven of the rock features were removed during earthworks, half of these were in poor or very poor condition. The remaining nine features were preserved and assessed as mostly being in fair condition.



Figure 4. Rock walls and garden beds were assessed as having local heritage values.

The Barron Gorge Hydro Station resumed operations in July 2024. The concrete wall was completed in December 2024, providing safe access to the intake tower and maintaining the integrity of the Kuranda Weir, ready for the 2024-25 wet season. Our work with CleanCo Queensland is part of Virtus Heritage's commitment to environmental sustainability and a future based on renewable energies.



CITY OF COFFS HARBOUR ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

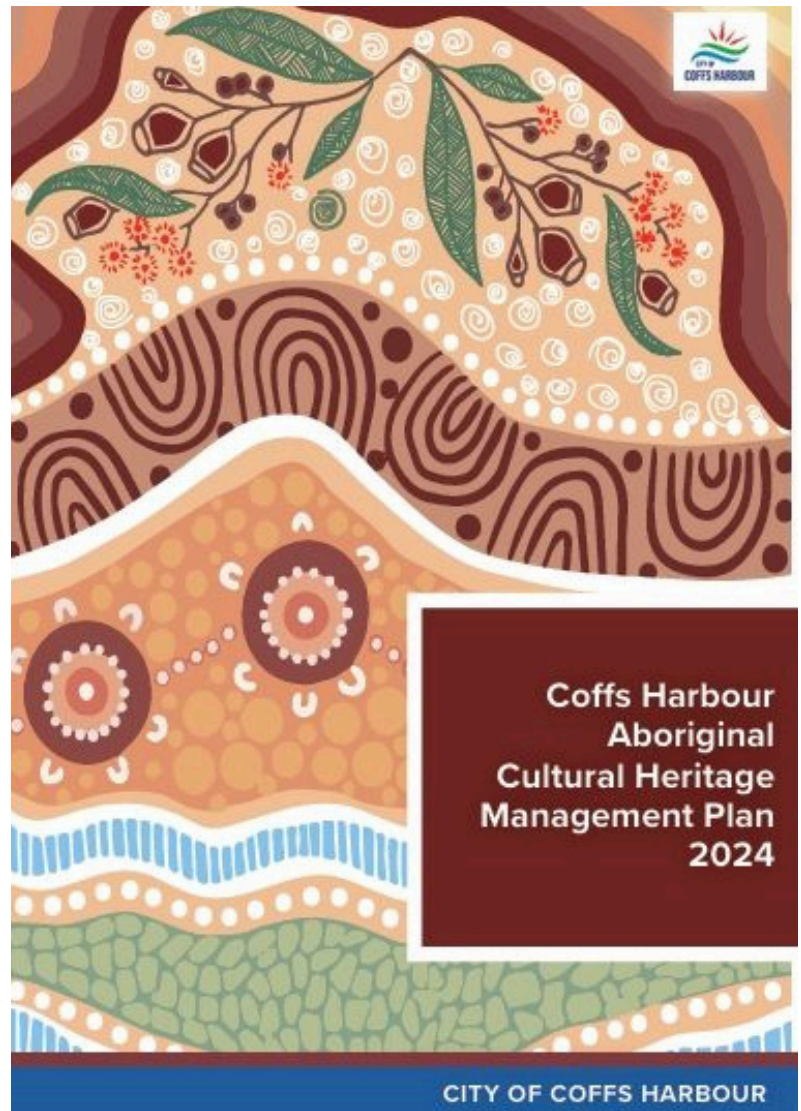
Our team is very honored to be part of the development of The Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP).

We are proud to contribute to initiatives that preserve, protect, and share the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal communities across NSW.

The ACHMP was adopted by the Council of the City of Coffs Harbour on 8 August 2024. Virtus Heritage and GHD (Shaun Lawer) were engaged by the City of Coffs Harbour to work with Coffs Harbour and District LALC and Gumbaynggirr Knowledge Holders and families to write a Thematic History and the ACHMP document (based on previous stages of cultural mapping undertaken by the LALC, Knowledge Holders including the Garby Elders group and Heritage NSW (formerly Office of Environment and Heritage)).

An ACHMP is a living document whose cultural mapping will evolve over time and the Thematic History tells part of the story of the cultural history of the region. The Coffs Harbour region has unique and diverse Aboriginal cultural heritage and the ACHMP acknowledges the value and importance of the Gumbaynggirr people's stories and culture by seeking to improve the City's management practices for Aboriginal cultural heritage as part of its planning, assessment, and project delivery processes.

Coffs Harbour ACHMP is available to view on the The City of Coffs Harbour website.



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Virtus Heritage was involved in the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) for the Cessnock City Council. This project marks a significant step in preserving the rich cultural history of the area and ensuring that Aboriginal cultural heritage is properly protected and respected for future generations.

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) provides guidance and a framework to proactively manage and promote the protection of cultural heritage values and sets out an implementation plan for future works. The ACHMP will assist landowners, council staff, applicants and developers in understanding their risk of harming Aboriginal objects and places, outlines legislative obligations and clarifies the level of assessment required with any application for development or potential disturbance. It will also act as a tool to assist the Wonnarua, Awabakal and Darkinjung peoples in meeting their obligations to Care for Country.

Cessnock City Council (Council), in consultation with the local Aboriginal community through:

- Cessnock City Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee;
- Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council,

and, with assistance of the NSW Department of Environment and Planning (DPE), has prepared this ACHMP to promote awareness and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA).

The ACHMP will assist and support Council in meeting the planning principles and actions identified in its Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 (Cessnock City Council 2018) as well as the principles outlined in Council's Heritage Policy (Cessnock City Council 2020).

At Virtus Heritage, we are proud to play a part in this vital project.

Cessnock City Council ACHMP is available to view on their website:
<https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/achmp>

Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan

Cessnock LGA Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Prepared for Cessnock City Council

ABN 56 159 910 228
Suite 17, 11-13 Peel St, Kings Hill NSW 2487 Ph: 02 6674 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Website: www.virtusheritage.com.au





GRANT WRITING UPDATES

Our Senior Anthropologist, Anya Graubard, has been hard at work preparing grant applications under the NSW Heritage Grants Program 2025–27 for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

One of these grants was developed in partnership with the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation (WNAC) to support the installation of protective fencing and interpretive signage at two significant Aboriginal places in St Clair. This project builds on Virtus Heritage’s ongoing collaboration with WNAC, including our previous work at the St Clair Mission in Mt Olive, NSW.

The second grant, inspired by the power of Virtual Reality (VR) to bring cultural landscapes to life, was prepared to support Ghurrumbil Dreaming Indigenous Corporation. The proposed project aims to create an immersive virtual reconstruction of the Cubawee Aboriginal Reserve near Lismore, which was active from the 1930s to the 1960s.

We are proud to contribute to initiatives that preserve, protect, and share the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal communities across NSW.

NEWS

Our team have been busy when not in the field. Take a look at all the recent behind the scenes happenings at Virtus Heritage.





CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

Virtus Heritage is proud to announce the expansion of our scope of works into the Connecting with Country domain, guided by the Government Architect of NSW. Connecting with Country is a transformative framework that fosters meaningful engagement with Aboriginal communities, aiming to embed Aboriginal cultural values, knowledge, and perspectives into the design, planning, and management of places.

This approach goes beyond acknowledgment—it seeks to create genuine, place-based connections that honour the deep cultural, spiritual, and environmental relationships Aboriginal people have with Country. Through respectful collaboration and active listening, Connecting with Country encourages projects that reflect the living culture, history, and identity of Aboriginal communities.

At Virtus Heritage, we are committed to supporting this vision by integrating these principles into our work, ensuring that our projects contribute to culturally rich, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes across New South Wales.

To date, we've completed two Connecting with Country assessments in Western Sydney, with plans to grow our involvement in this important space. We are excited about the potential to form partnerships that will enrich our work and deepen the cultural value we bring to projects.



STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS THROUGH THE REGIONAL LEADERS NORTHERN RIVERS PROGRAM

As proud members of Business NSW's Regional Leaders Program, 2024 has been an exciting year for Virtus Heritage. Our team has actively engaged with industry leaders, explored innovations, and celebrated achievements across the Northern Rivers region..



Engaging with Regional Leaders

Our Associate Director, Kelly Kent attended the Northern Rivers Regional Leaders Lunch at Plantation House, Tropical Fruit World, where she had the opportunity to hear from NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP and connect with fellow leaders on key regional business opportunities

Exploring AI and Innovation

Shaun and Caroline participated in the AI Tech and Innovation Summit in Byron Bay, hosted by Business NSW Northern Rivers. This event provided valuable insights into the future of artificial intelligence and technology, sparking new ideas for innovation within our industry.





Supporting Agribusiness & Sustainability

Our team members Tara, Lilith, and Caroline braved the wet weather and attended the 40th anniversary of Norco Primex Field Days, learning about the latest advancements in sustainability and agribusiness while supporting local industry leaders.



Celebrating Our Achievements

Virtus Heritage was honored to be named regional finalists in the NSW Business Awards for:

- ◆ Excellence in Small Business
- ◆ Excellence in Sustainability

Throughout 2024, our Regional Leaders membership has connected us with diverse events, fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and regional growth. As we continue to push boundaries and embrace new opportunities, we look forward to an even bigger year ahead!



EMPOWERING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Last year, our Director Dr Mary-Jean Sutton was invited with Laurie Perry Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation by AGL to the decommissioned Liddell Power Station to hear the exciting news from PM Anthony Albanese and team about the government's leadership and substantial investment in a sustainable future.

Congratulations to AGL and SunDrive for their commitment to developing solar panel manufacturing in the Hunter Valley. AGL are champions to Wonnarua people with projects supporting capacity building and investment with Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.





EXCAVATE + EDUCATE: INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY

Virtus Heritage is proud to unveil its Excavate and Educate Dig Kits, designed to ignite curiosity and bring history to life for young learners. These hands-on kits, crafted sustainably by local artisans, offer a unique glimpse into Australia's cultural heritage, combining fun with real archaeological insights.

Each kit includes wooden tools and replica artefacts, encouraging students to "excavate" treasures, record their findings, and embrace the excitement of discovery.

The kits cater to primary school students, with themes exploring:


- **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:** Delving into history with artefacts and materials that teach about the heritage of First Nations communities.
- **Maritime Heritage:** Exploring shipwrecks and coastal archaeology, shedding light on Australia's maritime past.

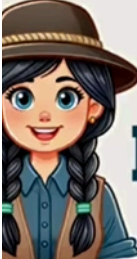
With tailored lesson plans and an interactive approach, these kits promise to enrich classrooms while fostering a lifelong passion for discovery.

To learn more or bring this educational experience to your classroom, visit virtusheritage.com.au contact us at info@virtusheritage.com.au.









 **VIRTUS HERITAGE**

 **EXCAVATE
+
EDUCATE**

**EDUCATIONAL TOOLKITS
FOR
KIDS AND STUDENTS**





NANGA MAI AWARDS SPONSORSHIP

Virtus Heritage was proud to sponsor the 19th Annual NSW Department of Education Nanga Mai Awards, donating our Excavate + Educate Dig Kits to support young minds in their exploration and learning journey.

This is a celebratory event recognising the outstanding achievements of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students and staff in NSW public schools, as well as community members and other important stakeholders who have made significant contributions to excellence in Aboriginal education in their communities.

Award winners were recognised in a special award ceremony on 25 November 2024, highlighting their outstanding achievements in Aboriginal Education.

The Nanga Mai team chose to award the dig kits to Curran Public School and Nanima Pre School Association, Wellington.

Honoured to be part of an event that celebrates excellence in Aboriginal education.



We're a proud sponsor of the
NSW Department of Education

Nanga Mai Awards

Celebrating and recognising
excellence in Aboriginal
education.





STRETCH RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN UPDATE

We were proud to announce our commitment to reconciliation with the launch of the Virtus Heritage Stretched Reconciliation Action Plan in November 2024. This initiative reflects our dedication to fostering respectful relationships and creating meaningful opportunities for Indigenous communities.





STRETCH RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN UPDATE

We were proud to announce our commitment to reconciliation with the launch of the Virtus Heritage Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan in November 2024. This initiative reflects our dedication to fostering respectful relationships and creating meaningful opportunities for Indigenous communities.

At Virtus Heritage,, reconciliation is more than just a commitment- its embedded in our values and the way we operate. Our support presented in our Virtus Heritage Stretch RAP reflects our dedication to:

- Closing the Gap by fostering equitable opportunities for Indigenous communities.
- Strengthening unity and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- Creating meaningful partnerships that support economic and social empowerment.
- Honouring and preserving cultural heritage, ensuring respect for Indigenous traditions and histories.
- Supporting the Cultural Collective, our not-for-profit sister charity, in its mission to drive cultural awareness and social impact.
- Driving sustainable, long-term changes through education and awareness.

Through this plan, we reaffirm our commitment to reconciliation, meaningful action, and a more inclusive future for all. Together we can make a lasting impact.

Please reach out for opportunities to share your experiences and insights for reconciliation and to have a conversation.





Reconciliation Australia RAP Conference

Kelly Kent our associate director represented us at the 2024 Reconciliation Australia RAP Conference in Meanjin (Brisbane)!

The event was filled with inspiring speakers and practical sessions, highlighting new ways we can drive meaningful change through our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.



We're excited to keep pushing forward on our journey, strengthening our impact.

Our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan is available to view on our website:
www.virtuseritage.com.au/resources/



NAIDOC SPORTS & HEALTH DAY 2024

Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council

The Virtus Heritage team was proud to attend The Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council (TBLALC) NAIDOC week Sports day and Health Expo at Arkinstall Park in Tweed Heads on Wednesday, 10th July 2024. The theme for last year's event was "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud" This theme honoured the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations Cultures symbolized by fire as a connection to Country, community and traditions. The Sports expo was a vibrant celebration of culture, health and community bringing together local businesses, organisations and families to honour NAIDOC week.

Lilith, Tas and Caroline brought a number of interactive activities including the new Excavate and Educate Archaeology Dig Kits, sustainably produced by Virtus Heritage. The kits allowed the children to feel like real Archaeologist, discovering artefacts while learning about the significance of the items they uncovered. The day was a wonderful way to develop a deeper understanding of history, culture and the environment through interactive, fun and meaningful activities.





INTERNAL CONFERENCE 2024

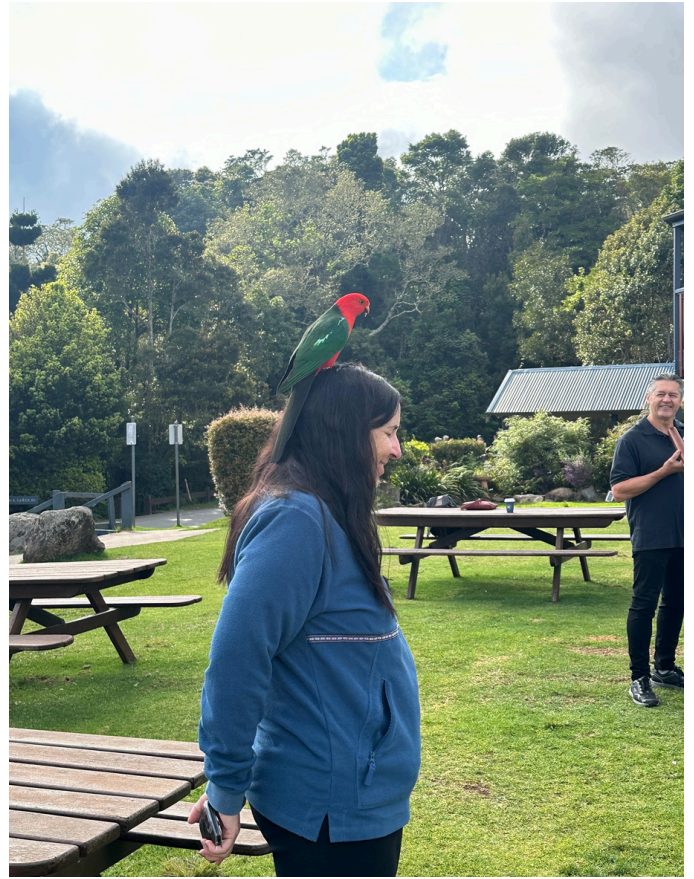
Investing in our people and culture are important, September last year we had a wonderful annual conference held at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Villas and Lost World Spa & Conference Centre on Yugambah country.

Thankyou to Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre for Aunty Erica's welcome to country and David's didgeridoo music to kick off an amazing three days. Thankyou to Paul Fairweather for a great BOLD BRAVE BETTER masterclass to inspire and light the creative fires in our team.

We shared learnings on projects to continue to improve and develop our processes and to listen to one another's perspectives and feedback. This is our special time to come together and take time to reconnect with our team who are across Northern Rivers NSW, Sydney, Cairns, Wollongong and Hervey Bay and having fun in a beautiful venue.

It was a fantastic opportunity to connect, collaborate, and cultivate new ideas amidst nature's beauty. Here's to growth, teamwork, and innovation!







NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

We're excited to introduce the newest members of our team who bring with them a wealth of experience, fresh perspectives, and great energy. Together, we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and grow.



PAMELA KOTTARAS

PRINCIPAL ARCHAEOLOGIST, SYDNEY

Pamela is a heritage consultant who specialises in historical archaeology, with a focus on conservation and public outreach. She has a strong connection with rural places and early settlements.

Pamela is passionate about delivering high-quality assessment and management of NSW's heritage. Her experience crosses the boundaries of large and complex projects such as solar farms, residential development, road building, hospital and disaster rehabilitation, to smaller projects such as individual school upgrades and scoping reports. Pamela's projects have included SSDs, SSIs, council DAs and reviews of environmental factors. Pamela is particularly proud of the work she has completed with School Infrastructure NSW and their subconsultants.

ANTONELLA SKEPASIANOS

SENIOR HERITAGE CONSULTANT, WOLLONGONG

Antonella Skepasianos is an experienced Heritage Consultant and Project Manager with over six years of expertise in specialist heritage services. Holds a Master of Research from the University of Wollongong, specialising in forensic archaeology, geophysical imagery, and historical heritage.

Proficient in archaeological assessments, heritage management planning, and statutory compliance across sectors, including construction, infrastructure, and land development. Demonstrates strong capabilities in surveying, GIS and graphics software, pre-fieldwork logistics, excavation, and post-fieldwork reporting. Experience spans NSW and Florence, Italy, highlighting expertise in managing complex projects, stakeholder engagement, risk management, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Committed to preserving cultural heritage and achieving sustainable outcomes.





NEW TEAM MEMBERS!



ALICE BUHRICH

PRINCIPAL ARCHAEOLOGIST, CAIRNS

Alice joined our team in August 2024. Alice gained her PhD in Archaeology from James Cook University in 2017. Her thesis, on visual and social identity in rainforest communities, won the Dean's Award in 2018. Alice specialises in navigating complex heritage issues and implementing best practices in cultural heritage management. Her experience comes from over two decades of work in the cultural heritage industry. Her current areas of interest are grassroots community projects, impacts of climate change and renewable industries.

JODY HAWES

BOOKKEEPER & ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

Jody is our current Bookkeeper and Administration support assistant at Virtus Heritage. Prior to joining Virtus Heritage, she gained experience at a local accounting firm, where she developed a solid foundation in bookkeeping.

Jody is an experienced professional with a strong background in administration and bookkeeping. Having worked in various office environments, Jody has successfully managed a wide range of administrative tasks, including office coordination, scheduling, and document management, while also handling comprehensive bookkeeping duties such as invoicing, payroll processing, and financial reporting. Jody has developed excellent organizational skills and a thorough understanding of accounting software like Xero, Excel, and other financial tools.

Jody is enthusiastic about collaborating with her colleagues and contributing to the success of the company.





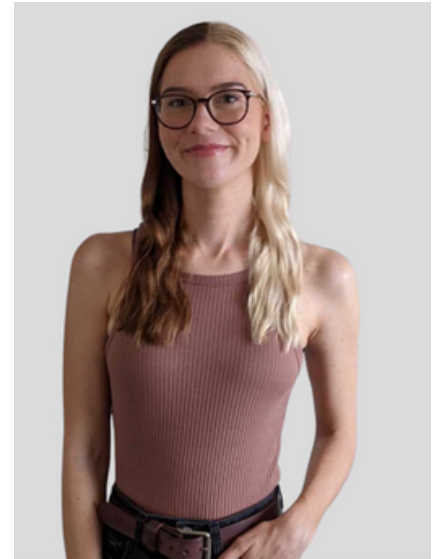
NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

KATE MORRIS

ARCHAEOLOGIST, NEWCASTLE

Kate grew up in Tully, Queensland on traditional Jirrbl (also spelled Jirrbal, and Dyirbal), Jirru (also spelled Djirru), Girramay and Gulnay lands. She now resides in Newcastle, New South Wales on traditional Awabakal and Worimi lands. Kate is an archaeologist with seven years' experience who has excavated internationally and has been working in private consulting in NSW for five years. Kate's heritage management experience includes national parks, development, energy, utilities, construction and mining sectors with a focus on Aboriginal heritage. With an excellence in fieldwork, analysis, research, and report writing skills, with further experience in oral history recording and anthropology. Kate also has an in-depth knowledge of NSW and federal heritage legislation and assessments, and a familiar knowledge of QLD heritage legislation and processes.

Kate is an internationally published author and was one of six speakers who presented at the 2021 ICOMOS Symposium. She has led a number of primary and high school interactive talks on archaeology and conducted presentations for the University of Queensland Anthropology Museum. She has also contributed to the creation of two Reconciliation Action Plans that have been endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and is passionate about positive community outcomes. While Kate has been based in Newcastle she has been working closely with the traditional owners and LALCs in the Hunter Valley, Blue Mountains and central NSW regions for half a decade.





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