

President's Notes

At the March club night we introduced an acknowledgment of country at the beginning of our meeting. This was suggested by a member of the club and the committee thought it was an appropriate thing to do.

This is the wording for our acknowledgment that might vary slightly from month to month:

We acknowledge and respect the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal nation, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet.

We are fortunate to meet on the same traditional land as the University of Newcastle's Shortland Campus is situated, and they have done some research on the Pambalong clan. You might be interested in one or two facts they have uncovered.

The area, which encompassed the land of the Pambalong stretched from Newcastle West, extended along the southern bank of the Hunter River, west through Hexham (Tarro) to Buttai and across to the foothills of Keeba-Keeba (Mount Sugarloaf) to the northern tip of Lake Macquarie and back to Newcastle West. They were known as the 'big swamp people'

The Pambalong like all the clans comprising the Awabakal people lived in a virtual paradise of plenty. They had the added rich resources of the swamp and wetland areas within their clan territory. Their already rich diet of the marine and marsupial variety was supplemented with mud-crabs, wild duck, waterfowl and an endless variety of other bird life.

20th Anniversary of Hunter Estuary Surveys.

Don't forget the celebration of our 20th Anniversary of Hunter Estuary Surveys to be held at Shortland Waters Golf Club at 6 pm on 20 May. All members are invited. A selection of food platters will be served and a cash bar will be open. Please reply to the Secretary at secretary@hbc.org.au by 13 May with names and numbers and any special dietary requirements.