



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Dot point history of Cullen Valley Art Site 1

- **9th December 2010 - Coalpac Archaeological Assessment for Coalpac Consolidation Project**
 - During the ground assessment 2 Archaeologists from AECOM and 3 Aboriginal representatives paid extra attention to this cave.
 - No rock art or artifacts were noted.
- **6th April 2014 – LEG came across the cave while doing flora studies in the area.** They noted the white hand print but did not have time to thoroughly inspect the area.
- **8th April 2014 – LEG reported finding the site by phone and email to OEH Aboriginal Heritage Unit.**
- **8th April 2014 – OEH Heritage Unit acknowledged LEG's report by email and said they would investigate.**
- **10th April – OEH Heritage Unit advised by email that a search found no recorded sites within search area.** LEG asked for it to be recorded. Also liaised with Auntie Helen Riley of Mingaan.
- **28th April 2014 – LEG Submission to Cullen Bullen open cut proposal.** The sighting of the art site was documented in this submission.
- **13th May 2014 – Coalpac inspection of art site after reading the LEG submission. This inspection was carried out by Luke Kirkwood the Principal Archaeologist from AECOM, Ben Eastwood the Environmental Manager from Coalpac, and Ian Follington the CEO of Coalpac. Conclusions below (taken from the Coalpac Mods Response to Submissions Report 16/6/14)**
 - After inspection it was concluded that the white hand print was obvious and could not have been easily overlooked in 2010. Therefore the hand print was a modern replica and was no more than 3.5 years old, likely less. (The AECOM Archaeologist who inspected the site in 2010 was interviewed and confirmed that the white hand print was not at the site in 2010).
 - After computer analysis of the ochre hands, also not seen in 2010, AECOM concluded it to be suggestive but not conclusive.
 - **It was therefore concluded that the cave did not contain any authentic or traditional rock art.**
 - It was suggested by AECOM that this site not be registered on the AHIMS register.
- **24th June 2014 – Article appeared in the Australian "Mines 'rock art' just 3.5 years old".** This article was picked up by others such as Andrew Bolt under the headline "Hand it to some fraud" in which he claimed "The group [LEG] seems very easily fooled" with some respondents accusing LEG of placing the hand print in the cave. The story also appeared around the world on web sites such as the BBC. Both locally and through the web LEG's reputation was badly damaged.
- **25th June 2014 – a LEG volunteer re-inspected the site and found the Ochre hands, which we were unaware of previously, having not yet read the recent Coalpac submission.** It was thought that these hands, although very weathered, were definitely genuine.
- **26th June 2014 – OEH were contacted to confirm whether site was registered on the AHIMS when reported in April.** Request for urgent site inspection by OEH experts to confirm authenticity. Also liaised with Mingaan re possible inspection. Julie also rang Christian Hampson, Paul Houston and another lady in the Dubbo Office by phone. Plus Auntie Helen Riley of Mingaan on several occasions. Plus Richard has contacted Mingaan on several occasions.
- **14th July 2014 – Jackson Ward Archaeology inspected the art site as well as the surrounding area.**
- **23rd July 2014 – Submission to P&E of document entitled CoalpacC-Mods_BMCSResponseToHBRResponses_Supplement_140722.pdf**