

Coal River Working Party Meeting
5th December, 2016 1:00pm – 3:00pm
University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive
Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. **Welcome to Country:** Acknowledgement to Country by Gionni di Gravio

2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Robert Watson, Russell Rigby, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Keith Parsons, David Dial, Bronwyn Law, Doug Lithgow, Bronwyn Law, Suzanne Martin, Patsy Withycombe, Lesley Gent, Patrick Lindus, Charles Martin, Brian Roach, Louise Gale, Charles Martin, Jude Conway, Howard Dick.

Apologies: Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Tim Adams, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Natalie Dimmock, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, Sue Effenberger, John Witte.

Visitors: Nil

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 7th November 2016 was confirmed by Lesley Gent and seconded – Suzanne Martin.

4. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - Ann advised that further information was received after the last meeting about Nctle Courthouse, in 2015 Tanner Kibble Denton Architects prepared a CMP for the Courthouse, this was endorsed by the Heritage Council and is available at the Heritage Division library. It was prepared for Government Property NSW. In terms of the heavy rail and AA Co. bridge pier and interpretive sign *Urbis* prepared a HIS for the Newcastle Rail Truncation on behalf of Transport for NSW in 2014. This too should be in the Heritage Division library and on Transport for NSW's website.
http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/b2b/projects/WTI_Residual-Corridor-Management-Plan_Dec_14.pdf

5. **Presentations - NIL**

6. **Aboriginal heritage update – NIL**

7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio) - Gionni read out the Chairs Report (2016), it included many projects and events, such as the 'Past Matters' Rock Art workshops, public presentations, new collections, student and community projects, many of the projects are showcased online. Suzanne Martin and Doug Lithgow each thanked Gionni and Ann for their work, and other HHI members for their support, work and commitment during 2016. The Chairs Report is available online <https://coalriver.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/hhi-2016-report.pdf>

GLAMx Living Histories Digitisation Lab - Gionni also gave an update on the GLAMx Living Histories Digitisation Lab that will open early 2017. In 2016, the Auchmuty library embarked on a new venture to promote the Work Integrated Learning course in the Bach. Arts, and to provide Aboriginal placements and cadetships. The focus in 2017 will be implementing the program and opening of the new GLAMx Lab, pilot projects will include Indigenous heritage and 3D digitisation of Aboriginal artefacts. The 'Living Histories @ UON' website will also be launched at the end of Feb 2017- invitations will be extended to HHI members.

Update - (Ann Hardy) – National Trust Heritage Festival - The 2017 Australian Heritage Festival theme is 'Having a Voice' and communities across the Australia are invited to tell their stories through different voices, further details about the festival are here <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/>

National Nomination- Since the last meeting a letter was received from the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP (Minister for the Environment and Energy) advising the HHI group could discuss the Coal River National Nomination further with a representative from the Department. Ann H contacted the representative and noted the following:-

- Approx.60 nominations are submitted each round – only 3 or 4 are chosen for assessment.
- Minister can select a particular theme for nominations.
- Nominations are usually compared with places already on the NHL to see if similar places are already represented – it is therefore important to describe the unique characteristics of the Coal River Precinct, make a strong case around this.
- Supplementary information is important to send with revised nominations.
- Show support from relevant parties (owners/managers)
- The EPBC Act has a strict definition of nominated 'place', must be a single precinct with a well-defined boundary (generally a unified place). NHL legislation doesn't allow for serial listings (as does World Heritage legislation). Therefore it is recommended that any revised nomination be reduced to a single listing.

Ross and Pat Craig Collection – This collection includes images of Stockton and was kindly donated by the Craig family and supported by the Vera Deacon History Fund. The collection is available UONCC Flickr site <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157675926056946>

Newcastle Walking Tours – On 13 November 2016 the Crime & punishment Walk and Radical Newcastle walk were held in Newcastle. These pilot walks were an initiative of The Centre of 21st Century Humanities and supported by Cultural Collection. Walks were developed and led by Nancy Cushing and Ann Hardy, and limited to 25 people. Ann will let HHI members know of walks planned for 2017. Further information is here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/11/14/walking-tours/>

Conference ‘New & Emerging Challenges to Heritage & Well-Being’ at Griffith University QLD and November 23 - Ann presented a paper “Healthy Cultures: Healthy Communities – a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage and well-being” discussing the UON’s Hunter (Living) Histories Initiative (HHI), and the multidisciplinary model in which the group operates, how increasingly health and well-being are recognised as outcomes of engaging with cultural heritage. Further information here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/11/25/healthy-cultures-healthy/>

SLNSW Publication- The State Library of NSW has produced a publication “Techniques for Handling Special Collection Items for Clients and Staff”, it provides a good general overview of techniques for handling and moving items, single sheet items, caring for photographs, glass negatives, books, objects, paintings, textiles and other items. The publication is freely available from SLNSW.

Update- National Trust – Keith Parsons advised that the Hunter Branch of the National Trust had an AGM yesterday at Grossmann House, committee members were elected and the next meeting will be early 2017.

Public Advocacy – NIL

8. General Business -

- a)** (Lesley gent) – Advised that she was involved in the Glenbawn Dam project several years ago, along with Sue Effenberger, they plan to revisit and offer support with the collection.

- b)** (Doug Lithgow)- Doug spoke about National Heritage Listing for Newcastle and how there is a need for a Conservation Management Plan for the Coal River Precinct. There was general discussion about strategy and revising the current nomination to include a single precinct. Howard Dick spoke about the significance of the Newcastle Government Domain as the early seat of government in Newcastle, this place may have heritage characteristics not already represented on the NHL (also mentioned that the Sydney Public Domain was being nominated for listing to the NHL)

9. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 6th February 2017 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.