

**Coal River Working Party Meeting**  
**6<sup>th</sup> June, 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), David Dial, Doug Lithgow, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Brian Walsh, Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Ron Barber, Peter Sherlock, Russell Rigby, Brian Roach, Keith Parsons, Helen Denzin, Suzanne Martin, Jude Conway, Bronwyn Law, Anne Creevey, Julieanne Tilse, Lesley Gent, Bill Robertson, Virginia Reid, Patsy Whittingham, John Witte, Barrie Shannon

**Apologies:** Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Robert Watson, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Ian Eckford, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Alan Baynham, Marilla North, Robert Jones, David Campbell Tim Adams,

**Visitors: Nil**

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 2nd May 2016 was confirmed by Maree Shilling and seconded – Ron Barber.
  
4. **Business arising from previous minutes: - NIL**
  
5. **Presentations-**
  - a) **Newcastle photographs - (Ron Barber)** Ron showed some photographs of early Newcastle, included were images of military trainees in King Edward Park during the 1910s, construction of Longworth House and Newcastle Post Office, and 'Eight Hour Day 17 November 1911. Ron hopes to make images available to UON Cultural Collections.

**b) Dangar Plan- (Russell Rigby)** Russell gave an overview of early Newcastle and the Dangar Grid, describing various plans of the township and changes of street names. The grid is still evident today and a significant feature from Governor Macquarie's period.

## **6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL**

**7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio) –** Gionni informed that he attended a meeting of the representatives of the national GLAM sector (i.e., Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) in Canberra. Gionni represents the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) on a national level, as well as University of Newcastle (Australia) Cultural Collections on a regional level. Representatives came together to formulate the "GLAM Peak Australia Federal Election Statement". A copy was presented to Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery who was present at the HHI/CRWP meeting. Further information about the GLAM Aust. and Digital Access meeting is available here

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/05/18/glam-peak/>

- Gionni also advised that he recently visited the Hunter Research Foundation who are relocating many records to the UON. Amongst the archives were some historic weather records from the Hunter Region (some earlier than the weather records compiled by Algernon Henry Belfield). He has informed Assoc. Prof. Bridgman and Dr Ken Thornton about the significance of these Hunter records.
- The *Past Matters: Rock Art and Indigenous Heritage Workshop* was held 20<sup>th</sup> May at the Auchmuty Library, about 60 people attended and we have received positive feedback. Thanks to presenters and Dr Bernie Curran who was MC on the day. The workshop was supported by Cultural Collections, University of Newcastle Library & the Hunter (Living) History Initiative. Videos of presentations will be available here <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/04/19/the-past-matters-rock-art-and-indigenous-heritage-workshop/> A second workshop is planned for the Central Coast Campus on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July- Speakers TBA.
- Since the Past Matters workshop we were contacted by Nicholas Hall (Indigenous Rock Art Workshop Co-ordinator) from the National Museum of Australia about ways to look ahead to new possibilities for collaborative efforts from various organisations and institutions nationally. He has invited representatives from Cultural Collections to a 'Rock Art' workshop at the National Museum in Canberra on Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June. We will give feedback at next meeting.
- **Update - (Ann Hardy) –** The book 'History - King Edward Park' by Dr Robert Evans was launched last week at an event held by The Friends of King Edward park. Sadly, author and colleague Dr Evans passed away in early May, he was a valued member of the Government

Domain Committee that met for several years to support historical research of early Newcastle. Thoughts are with his family and friends. Dr Evans book is an overview of the evolution of parks and cultural institutions in Newcastle.

- Update from Ruth Cotton who has passed on the following re: her latest projects- Hamilton Heritage Plaques - In a partnership between the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, building owners (and 'Hidden Hamilton') 16 heritage plaques will be installed at the end of June on buildings that are heritage listed under the Newcastle LEP, or are on a site of local historical interest. (Hamilton has over 60 heritage listed buildings and monuments). Walking tour brochure - A Hamilton walking tour has been developed, and a brochure is now in the design phase - similar in look and feel to the Newcastle ones, but distinctive to Hamilton. The walking tour brochure will be in print form, and also downloadable from the Visit Newcastle site. It will have links to relevant stories in the Hidden Hamilton blog. Expected to be in place by mid-July. And finally, 'More Hidden Hamilton: Further stories of people, place and community' will be published by Hunter Press on 28 June. Pre-publication special flyers available at meeting. Ruth has used images reproduced, with attribution, from Cultural Collections, University of Newcastle and conveys her appreciation to the University for this generous access.

**Update- National Trust** – Keith advised that in book 'A Forger's Progress: The Life of Francis Greenway' by Alasdair McGregor (2014) it is mentioned that Greenway designed the pagoda that was located on Signal Hill (Fort Scratchley) in Newcastle during the 1800s. Gianni mentioned there have been numerous sources showing the pagoda, its design, location and other information about the interesting structure (pagoda) its origins are not really fully understood. If it was a Greenway design, then this is significant as he was known for ornate design and fancy features (obelisks, gates etc). Gianni advised that the pagoda is shown in Sir Thomas Mitchell's Field Notes and Sketches (1828), see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2012/01/25/sir-thomas-mitchells-field-notes-and-sketches-1828/>

**b) Update – Newcastle Council – NIL**

**8. Public Advocacy – NIL**

**9. General Business-**

- a) (Bronwyn Law)- Bronwyn Law advised that The Assoc. of Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS) Newcastle held a special information day held at the Newcastle Club on the 16th May 2016 to discuss a research project of School of Arts/Mechanics' Institutes in the Newcastle and Hunter Region. ADFAS is undertaking the project to contribute to the preservation of national heritage. If you have information about 'Schools of Arts', 'Mechanics Institutes' and community Halls in the Hunter Region and would like to contribute to the project please contact Bronwyn on [bronwyn.law@bigpond.com](mailto:bronwyn.law@bigpond.com) Gionni advised that Cultural Collections are compiling relevant archives and Ann is working on a blog post.
- Hunter Heritage Network Seminar on 24th June at Tomago House- further details to be emailed.
- b) (Brian Walsh)- Brian advised that the Paterson Historical Society has recently digitized many of their photographic collection. The society's collection is available on Flickr here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/patersonmuseum/with/25489237300/>

**11. Close: 3.00 PM**

**Date of next meeting will be Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 in the IDC Building, 1-3pm.**