

Coal River Working Party Meeting
7th November, 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), Tim Adams, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Robert Watson, Russell Rigby, Keith Parsons, David Dial, Jude Conway, Bronwyn Law, John Witte, Peter Sherlock, Sue Effenberger, Doug Lithgow, Brian Walsh, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, Ian Eckford, David C, Bronwyn Grieve, Suzanne Martin, Patsy Withycombe, Lesley Gent, Ziggy Szyda, Helen Denzin, Dale Allison, Charles Martin

Apologies: Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Marilla North, Robert Jones, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Lyndall Ryan, Brian Roach, Natalie Dimmock,

Visitors: Nil

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 10th October 2016 was confirmed by Robert Watson and seconded – John Witte.

4. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - Gionni discussed Supercars Australia and plans for them to come to Newcastle in 2017, at the last meeting there was a lengthy discussion and it was agreed that the group would pursue the opportunity to promote Newcastle's history and offer knowledge of the city's history to the organisers. Letters were sent to Lord Mayor Nelmes and Supercars Australia CEO. Letters were read aloud.

5. **Presentations-**
 - a) **(Ian Eckford - UON PhD student) - Newcastle's Christ Church Cathedral.** Ian gave wonderful presentation about the architecture of Christ Church, his research is a critical examination of the influences on the design by first architect John Horbury Hunt. Twelve architects have worked on Newcastle's Christ Church, and Hunt was the most influential. Hunt was influenced by many theorist and practising architects, he was widely read and collected

journals documenting architectural practices of the time. He was a pioneer of Australian Gothic revival. The group congratulated Ian on his presentation and wished him well with his doctoral research.

b) (Russell Rigby) - Aust. Agricultural Company Library - books for the far side of the world, 1825. Russell showed the AA Company Timeline, from 1824 (when the Company was formed) to 1829 (when Sir Edward Parry was appointed Commissioner). Russell referred to the 3 Letterbooks and Index in UON's archives, including the AA Company Letterbook A- Despatch Book London to Australia (1825- 1829), AA Company Letterbook B- Despatch Book London to Australia (1 Nov 1824- 30 Aug 1828), AA Company Letterbook C- Despatch Book London to Australia (30 Sept 1827- 29 Dec 1828) – these Letterbooks were created in 1829 when directors appointed Parry as Commissioner. The London Secretary JS Brickwood compiled a set of extensive abstracts in three volumes. Parry's secretary Henry Darch copied the volumes, one set was sent to England and other retained in the NSW. The Letterbooks contain a list of books, there were a wide range of subjects from spelling, beekeeping to religion and a useful source for students and researchers, and possibly a student project.

6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL

7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio) - Gionni advised that progress is being made in terms of arrangements to have Work Integrated Learning students in Cultural Collections during 2017. There is support from the UON to increase the number of WIL students in the library, many of the students in first semester 2017 will be from the humanities, who have opportunities to gain GLAM sector skills. A pilot project in second semester will include digitisation of Aboriginal artefacts. This project will require more specific technical knowledge and support and the library has allocated further space for these new initiatives.

- UON Cultural Collections has been working with the Recollect team to establish a new digital format for accessing cultural sources, named 'UON Living Histories'. The website will be launched early December.
- Recent HHI WordPress posts include The Carrington Pump House. It was recently announced that there is a heritage nomination for the Carrington Pump House and the historic hydraulic works established in Newcastle in 1877. We were surprised to find that it had been established just a year after the one in the United Kingdom and predates the Pump House in Sydney which was not built until 1891. Also find online illustrations from Thesis 608 held in the University of

Newcastle's Cultural Collections (Auchmuty Library), the CMP for the Pump House and other sources <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/10/11/carrington-pump-house/>

- Other posts include the Peter Sansom Collection including railway and train photographs, see <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/09/30/another-treat-for-the-rail-buffs/>

Update - (Ann Hardy) – Ann advised that HHI were sent a response from The Hon. Josh Frydenberg (Minister for the Environment and Energy) regarding Hunter Living Histories/Coal River Working Party's nomination for the National Heritage List. This was forwarded via the Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Claydon. The letter advised that HHI can arrange to discuss their application with the Dept. Environment and Energy by contacting Dr Lawrence Bourke. He also noted that the nomination is the first assessment period for which the nomination has been considered, and therefore must be considered in the two consecutive assessment periods. The Minister will pass our concerns to the Australian Heritage Council.

- Cultural Collections will be hosting a new travelling exhibition 'Windows into Wartime' produced by State Records NSW for the Centenary of Anzac commemorating the First World War. The exhibition will run from 3 April to 12 May 2017.

Update- National Trust – Keith Parsons advised that issues that the Hunter Branch of the National Trust is concerned with are: - changes to the Crown Lands Management Bill, as well as the future of the former Newcastle Court House. The Hunter National Trust AGM is on at Grossmann House on Sunday 4th December at 11am. RSVP Ann Hardy on ann-hardy@hotmail.com

8. Public Advocacy – NIL

9. General Business -

- (Bronwyn Grieve) – Bronwyn advised she is currently completing a PhD in Natural History illustration and looking at events and stories that relate to 'more than coal'. Particularly interested in heritage/cultural sites and environmental actions in Newcastle and the Lower Hunter Region. Heritage/cultural sites can either be existing, or those no longer existing. Members of HHI provided many examples for Bronwyn to follow up.
- (Ron Barber) – Fort Scratchley Historical Society. Ron advised that tomorrow the barbette will be lifted out of the ground, and will be back in place by Anzac Day 2017.

- c) (Brian Walsh) – Invited members to the upcoming book launch “John Eales of Duckenfield – the men and the mansion” By David Brouwer, published by Paterson Historical Society. Launch will take place at Morpeth Museum on Friday 18 November at 6.00 pm.

- d) (Suzanne Martin) – Suzanne raised concerns about the historic AA Company railway siding near Hunter Street. These relics are of historic significance with plans underway to develop the former railway corridor there are concerns that this relic will not be retained. Tim Adams informed that the item is likely to be on councils LEP or Engineers Australia register. Keith P also commented that another archaeological relic is the 1850 rail turntable currently buried under a section of ground at Honeysuckle and must also not be forgotten.

- e) (Doug Lithgow)- Doug advised that he recently met with Lord Mayor Nelmes about progress in terms of promoting the National Heritage Listing for Newcastle and how the Council activities have affected the Heritage Management Plan.

10. 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.