

## Hunter Living Histories Initiative/Coal River Working Party Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Barrack Room, Fort Scratchley, Fort Drive Newcastle

### 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, Keith Parsons, Jude Conway, Bronwyn Law, John Witte, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Peter Sherlock, Doug Lithgow, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, Ziggy Szyda, Charles Martin, Tim Adams, Louise Gale, Chas Keys, David Dial, Dennis Thurlow.

**Apologies:**, Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Marilla North, Robert Jones, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Brian Roach, Sue Effenberger, Howard Dick, Natalie Dimmock, Frank Elgar, Suzanne Martin, Patsy Withycombe

**Visitors: Nil**

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 5th September 2016 was confirmed by John Witte and seconded – Jude Conway.
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - NIL
5. **Presentations-** NIL
6. **Aboriginal heritage update** – NIL
7. **Update- (Gionni di Gravio)** - Gionni advised that Tamsin O Connor's History Week presentation in Cultural Collections is now online, it was very well received, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/13/newcastle-pirates/>. Title of presentation is "Bad Neighbours: Smugglers and Pirates of the penal station and Port of Newcastle, 1804-1824."
  - There has also been some movement in terms of involving more Work Integrated Learning students in projects in Cultural Collections, as well as opportunities to engage in Hunter Living Histories projects and wider community. Several pilot projects have been chosen for

2017, including 3D scanning of Aboriginal artefacts. Ann Hardy will assist co-ordinate projects.

- UON Cultural Collections will launch the new Living Histories Recollect website on Tuesday 6 December. This is an online community engagement platform for UONCC heritage collections. Further information about launch will be provided over coming months.

**Update - (Ann Hardy)** – Ann advised of several book launches. Firstly, “John Eales of Duckenfield – the men and the mansion” By David Brouwer, published by Paterson Historical Society. Launch to be held at Morpeth Museum on Friday 18 November at 6.00 pm. RSVP [morpethmuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:morpethmuseum@bigpond.com) Secondly, book launch of ‘Restless sojourner in France’ by Marie Ramsland at Nctle East Public School on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at 5.30.

**Update- National Trust** – Keith Parsons gave a brief report on behalf of the Hunter Branch of the National Trust.

**Update – Newcastle Council** – (Sue Effenberger) - NIL.

## **8. Public Advocacy – NIL**

## **9. General Business -**

- a) Supercars in Newcastle (Bronwyn Law)** – Bronwyn advised that Newcastle Council, Destination NSW and Virgin Australian Supercars are working together to bring ‘Grand Finale’ Championships to Newcastle in 2017. Council has entered into a five year agreement and they plan to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with partners. The proposed route includes residential streets, Nobbys Road, Scott Street and Watt Street in Newcastle East. Concerns about heritage impacts were raised, particularly at the Coal River Precinct, and Pacific Park that may be significantly impacted due to a new road construction. Most of this area is within the Newcastle East conservation area. Although Bronwyn acknowledged that many residents have concerns about the personal impact of the event (such as noise, access issues and general disruptions over several weeks), it were the environmental and heritage issues that she wanted to bring to this meeting. Doug Lithgow and Anne Creevey also raised concerns about heritage stating the need for Heritage impact Statements (HIS) and Statement Environmental Effects (SEE). Gionni advised that Prof. John Fryer had sent comments in regards to this item and his comments were tabled. In summary, comments include:-

- The TV coverage for event will go for hours and worldwide and commentary team will need background information. HHI/CRWP can provide the in-depth background information to the commentators. Every 20 minutes they will need a 'filler' about Newcastle history, Nobbys, Aboriginal stories, the Pilot station, Fort Scratchley, where the old gaol was, the Timberyard, the Great Northern pub, the hospital site, coal mines, who lived where in the East End and their stories, the railway station, Customs House, Boatmen's Row, etc.
- Recommend HHI/CRWP engage with Virgin Australian Supercars and the TV producers, (just like we did with Tony Robinson).
- We need to be able to give the Supercar and TV producer's good historical images (paintings and photos) to highlight the area.
- With a bit more lateral thought, we could suggest names for the corners, e.g. Gaol corner, Hospital bend, Pilot Station "S's", Cathedral chicane, Nobbys, Macquarie Pier Parade, etc.
- CRWP can spread its historical/heritage message to a whole new demographic and a world-wide one. This might be the catalyst to get national cultural/heritage recognition for our area.
- Consider approaching Computer Science and Communications lecturers with the idea of a project for undergraduate classes or final year project students? A phone app for Supercars where the track is shown and when you get to that spot you can see old and new photos of that location PLUS a short heritage/history message about it. If the Supercars 'authority' liked the idea, they might fund it. The communications students would also get the brief of providing the history 'bites' for the commentary team.

There was a lot of discussion from the group about the event, concerns for heritage, but also positive outcomes and opportunities to engage with organisers to promote the city's history. Tim A suggested that it may be timely to engage soon whilst an MOU is under consideration and to have 'Cultural heritage' considered.

**ACTION:** Chair of HHI to write to Lord Mayor of Newcastle and event organisers suggesting that MOU acknowledge the significant cultural heritage in Newcastle East and offer to provide knowledge and information to help promote history and heritage to a global audience.

- b) Bogey Hole (Bronwyn Law)** – Bronwyn L asked about the Bogey Hole and any news in terms of re-opening. Ann H mentioned that recently there was an announcement made for funding repairs of the Bogey Hole to see it reopened, however she will confirm this at next meeting.

- c) (Gianni di Gravio) – Many thanks to Ron Barber and Fort Scratchley Historical Society for allowing the HHI meeting to be held at the fort, much appreciated.

**10. Close: 3.00 PM**

**Date of next meeting will be Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at University Council Board  
Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.**