

University of Newcastle's
Hunter (Living) Histories Initiative
(formerly Coal River Working Party)

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Our Mission: To achieve recognition for Newcastle and the Hunter Region's contribution in the making of the Australian nation.

GOAL 1. (G1)

To have Newcastle and the Hunter Region's important historic sites nationally recognised

GOAL 2. (G2)

To ensure our legislative frameworks are working effectively for our heritage

GOAL 3. (G3)

To locate, protect and physically (or digitally) repatriate archival records of historical research importance to the Hunter Region

GOAL 4. (G4)

To research, investigate and verify historical evidence

GOAL 5. (G5)

To inspire, and share knowledge and expertise to promote the importance of heritage to communities

The University of Newcastle established The Coal River Working Party (CRWP) under the leadership of Dr Erik Eklund in 2003 to support a local community organization, The Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc., in their endeavours to have an historically significant area of Newcastle East, the “Coal River Heritage Precinct” nationally recognised.

The CRWP gained a new Chair in 2008, Mr Gianni Di Gravio, University Archivist, and operations came under the support of the University’ Cultural Collections (Archives) in the Auchmuty Library. Over the past thirteen (13) years the CRWP became the overall umbrella for all Hunter Regional research support projects, so realignment was well overdue.

It was refreshing that a team of University Communication students, under the tutelage of Dr Melanie James, suggested that the “Coal River Working Party” re-name itself as the “Hunter History Initiative (HHi)”, to better reflect its work across the Region.

2016 has been the year where it transitioned its site and identity to the new name of the “Hunter (Living) Histories Initiative (HHi)”. It re-defined its activities into Projects, and created a set of categories on its website to reflect the activities undertaken across those Project categories.

The blog has achieved over 40,000 hits through 2016 and it currently has over 850 Facebook followers across the HHi/CRWP pages.

The year began with a community member creating a visual index to hundreds of subdivision plans held in Cultural Collections, and has ended with the installation of a Living Histories @ UON digital platform being introduced as Cultural Collections new digital catalogue, and a new GLAMx Living Histories Digitisation Lab being constructed on Level 3 of the Auchmuty Library to advance Aboriginal cadetships, Work integrated Learning and Internship opportunities for students and young people in the wider community.

As part of this change, Dr Ann Hardy’s position as the “Coal River admin” position has been re-defined to become the “Living Histories Co-ordinator” which allows the HHi to fully support all the new emerging digital creative & humanities and student work integrated learning (WIL) areas as part of our University’s community outreach support.

We sincerely thank VERA DEACON, and her FELLOW DONORS to the VERA DEACON REGIONAL HISTORY FUND that have enabled our volunteers to obtain paid employment in our projects. To help, please click here:

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/vera-deacon-fund/>

HUNTER (Living) HISTORIES INITIATIVE

2016 PROJECTS across the Digital Humanities & Creative Industries has included:

- **3D Virtual Hunter (G5)**

Using extensive historical resources held in the University's Cultural Collections, 3D artist Charles Martin has been creating a virtual historic Newcastle from Aboriginal Dreaming to the Colonial period. Timothy Davidson, Creative Director of Virtual Perspective, a local company with over 10 yrs experience within the 3D animation, visualisation and digital media fields has gamified Charles' work and is currently exploring how virtual reality and augmented reality can be applied to the fields of archaeology, anthropology, history and cultural heritage. See Tim's presentation at the 2016 Past Matters Workshop:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WNPsQk0ciw>
Examples of Charles' work can be found here: <http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2014/02/17/3946514.htm> ; <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/02/16/34-days/> ; <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1157494/video-fly-through-3d-history-of-newcastle/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96EzCkPj9sk>
- **Aboriginal Sites Documentation Team (G4)**

A cross disciplinary team dedicated to ensuring that important Aboriginal sites across Newcastle and the Hunter Region are properly documented and safeguarded, and that information is made available to further our knowledge of Aboriginal history and culture. In 2016 Dr Amir Mogadam and Dr Ann Hardy organized two Past Matters Workshops to promote research and advocacy for Aboriginal Rock Art and Indigenous Culture at the University's Callaghan Campus in May 2016 :
<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/04/19/the-past-matters-rock-art-and-indigenous-heritage-workshop/> and July 2016 (Ourimbah Campus)
<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/06/10/past-matters-2/>
See also:
<https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2011/05/20/aboriginal-archaeological-report-for-former-palais-site-released/>
; <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/01/20/corroboree-wickham/>
; <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/01/30/eather/>
- **Advocacy, Public Lectures & Presentations (G5):**

Providing research support and guidance for community driven efforts to protect heritage sites, celebrate commemorative events, public exhibitions or establish new infrastructure. Examples include support for National Indigenous Cultural Centre (NICC), Hunter Heritage Network and National Trust.

In addition:

Public Advocacy - 12 April 2016 Dr Ann Hardy and Gionni Di Gravio attended launch of *Waratah & Mayfield: Nineteenth Century Industrial Towns* Compiled by Julie Keating Photos by Ralph Snowball from UONCC and others.

Public Presentation - Coast Australia Series 3 Newcastle Filming of Arthur Love and Gionni Di Gravio with Neil Oliver, 14 April 2016.

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/04/15/convict-mines/>

Public Lecture - 24 April 2016 – Gionni Di Gravio was Keynote speaker at the U3A State Conference at Belmont. Staying Connected Past Present Future: What can 50,000 years of Hunter Region History teach us about human connections?

Public Advocacy - ADFAS School of Arts/Mechanics' Institute Project

To support this important initiative of the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, the UON compiled a listing of all its records relating to School of Arts/Mechanics' Institutes in the Hunter Region to aid community researchers. Read more:

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/06/10/adfas/>

Public Lecture – 2 June 2016 – Gionni Di Gravio presentation to the Newcastle Oasis Club

Public Advocacy - 5 July 2016 Dr Ann Hardy and Dr Amir Mogadam visited site of Raymond Terrace Historical Society to conduct site assessment with recommendations. Finalised Assessment was completed on 5 August 2016.

Public Advocacy - 8 July 2016 Dr Ann Hardy was MC at launch of Marie Byles Biography by Anne McLeod (Speaker Vera Deacon) at the United Services Club Watt Street Newcastle

Public Advocacy – 14 July 2016 Dr Ann Hardy and Gionni Di Gravio visited Morpeth Museum to conduct oral history interview and digitize images.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157675177681351>

Public Advocacy - 25 July 2016 Dr Ann Hardy and Gionni Di Gravio met with King Edward Park Group and Federal and State MP Sharon Claydon and Tim Crakenthorp re National Nomination and historical significance and importance of King Edward Park Reserve.

Public Lecture - 3 August 2016 Gionni Di Gravio was invited by Newcastle Art Gallery Society to speak at their Black White Restive Morning Function *Black White Restive: The Geometric Descent into Madness and Imprisonment*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/08/03/black-white-restive-talk/>

Public Lecture – 30 August 2016 Port Stephens U3A – *Staying Connected Past Present Future: What can 50,000 years of Hunter Region History teach us about human connections?*

Public Lecture – 6 September 2016 Eastlakes U3A – Dr Ann Hardy and Gionni Di Gravio on Oral History Collections at the UON

Public Advocacy - Gardner Soldier Memorial Commemorates 100 Years

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/16/gardner-soldier-memorial-commemorates-100-years/>

Public Advocacy - Walking Tours - On Sunday 13 November 2016 the Crime & punishment Walk and Radical Newcastle walks were held in Newcastle. These pilot walks are an initiative of [The Centre of 21st Century Humanities](#) and Global Newcastle Network, supported by UON Library's Cultural Collection.

The walks were developed and led by UON historians Dr Nancy Cushing and Dr Ann Hardy. <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/11/14/walking-tours/>
Public Lecture – 23 November 2016 Healthy Cultures: Healthy Communities – a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage and well-being by Dr Ann Hardy <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/11/25/healthy-cultures-healthy/>

- **Archival Acquisition, Accessioning & Description (G3)**

Key Hunter Regional Archival Collections have been making their way into University custody including the **Dr Bob James Mateship and Fraternal Societies** (we are still waiting word on possible archival location for large format items within UONCC), the **Hunter Valley Research Foundation**, and important consignments The Josiah Cocking Glass Negatives, Hunter Valley related Glass Negatives from the Raymond Terrace and Maitland Historical Societies and many others.

Peter Trenbath (UONCC Volunteer) has accessioned over 540+ boxes of archival consignments from the Estate of the Late Eric Hinton (Artist and Sculptor); Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences; David Maddison, Dean of Medicine; Royal Newcastle Hospital, Nick Saunders, former Vice Chancellor, UON; John Hunter Hospital Eric Hunter; Faculty of Medicine: Research at UON; Family Action Centre UON; CAUL/UNISON - UON Library Material; UON Economic Department 1955-1978; Donald Moore: research into the James Thomson (1834-1882) poem "City of Dreadful Night"; Wallsend Hospital Artefacts; BHP Site, Mayfield; UON Engineering Faculty Extensions 1997; Roy Watt Oval Plans, UoN; Communist Party of Australia, Newcastle Branch, 1968-1972; Waratah School of Arts, 1881-1890; Royal Commission into Coal, 1929; Sir William Windeyer Correspondence, 1848-1897; J & A Brown Coal; John Turner Papers; UON Grant Summaries: June and December 1990; Hunter Gymnasium Conversion, 1997-2002; UON Sports Union: History and Minutes, 1990; Newcastle Theatre Programs Collection: Amateur Companies and three local High Schools, 1968-1981; 2NUR-FM; Central Coast Campus, University of Newcastle - Print and VHS/Cassette/Zip Disk material; Charles Deamer, ASTC, Dip.ME, MIE(Aust) (1917-2004), Newcastle Engineer - transcription by his daughter of an oral history provided by Deamer's sister as well as a collection of books; Academic Senate, University of Newcastle (1991-2000); Pat and Ross Craig papers. Allan Weller Shoebridge Archives, Conduit: John Shoebridge (5 boxes Newcastle Mining, Engineering and Industrial History Publications) with original sign-on register from Lambton Colliery 1880s; Ross and Pat Craig Archives and Facilities Management.

- **Birdwood Flag Conservation (G1,G3,G4,G5)**

The Birdwood Flag was the first Australian flag that WW1 troops fought and died under. It was manufactured with funds raised in the Hunter Region, and officially sanctioned. Under the professional guidance of our University Conservator, we are assisting the Christ Church Cathedral's Birdwood Heritage Committee in securing grants and expertise to assist in documenting the process of conservation by International Conservation Services (ICS) in Sydney. **Launch of Birdwood Flag Restoration Project** was held on Friday, 22

April 2016, a nationally significant cultural initiative, more info:

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/06/22/birdwood-launch/>

- **Coal River Working Party (G1, G2, G3, G4, G5)**

Every month we provide a forum for scholars, students, community historians, and representatives of heritage groups and businesses across Newcastle and the Region to come together to discuss initiatives to promote the history and culture of the Region. Our present tasks are to promote for quest for National Nomination, which was again rejected by the Commonwealth via letter 1 August 2016. "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 a nomination must be considered in the two consecutive assessment periods. The Minister will pass our concerns to the Australian Heritage Council." Newcastle <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/12/11/hey-newcastle-celebrate-more/> and <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2015/09/16/publicvoice2015/>

- **Coal River ePress (G3, G4, G5)**

We provide a portal for the online publishing of scholarly works through our online sites as well as better access ('user-friendly') to online resources held at other institutions. This year we published:

Historical Resources

Port Stephens as it looked on 16th March 1795 (G3)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/12/port-stephens-1795/>

Matthew Flinders Terra Australis (1798-1803) (G3)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/12/terra-australis-1798-1803/>

Lieutenant John Shortland – Hunter's River 1797 (G3)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/12/shortland-eye-sketch-1797/>

Barrallier's Surveys of the Hunter Region (1801-1802) (G3)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/15/barrallier-hunter-surveys/>

The Death of Burigon, Chief of the Newcastle Tribe (1820) (G4)

Thanks to historian Dr Mark Dunn who, whilst conducting research for his PhD, came across this important sketch map located within the State Records of New South Wales, showing the actual location of the attack on Burigon, Chief of the Newcastle Tribe, which resulted in his death in 1820. The murder

of Burigon was a landmark case in Australian legal history. His murderer, John Kirby, was the first white man tried, convicted and hanged for the murder of an Aboriginal person under British Law. See:

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/02/09/burigon/>

Dangar's Map of the River Hunter (1828) (G3)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/11/dangar-1828-map/>

Belle Vue Brisbane Water (1845) (G3)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/06/28/brisbane-water-1845/>

Beautiful Images of Newcastle in the 1870s from the State Library of Victoria (G3) <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/02/23/newcastle-1870s/>

Creative Non-Fiction Writing

Case 6: From Whitechapel to Where by Dr David Murray

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/02/19/whitechapel/>

Case 7: When I finally sleep tonight by Dr David Murray

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/05/16/sleep/>

Case 8: Unholy Love by Dr David Murray

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/08/29/unholy-love/>

Case 9: Johnny's Gone Mad Again by Dr David Murray

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/30/johnny/>

Promotion of novels *Steel River* and *Base Metal* by Antoinette Holm

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/04/18/holm/>

Online Publications

Wallsend and Plattsburg [Manuscript]: A Study compiled by the Students of Fourth and Fifth Years, School of Architecture, Newcastle College, N.S.W., University of Technology. Newcastle November '55 by R. Armstrong, R. Evans, K. Gannon, L. Reedman.

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/03/14/wallsend-plattsburg-1955/>

Carrington Pump House (Thesis 608)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/10/11/carrington-pump-house/>

From Scone to the Head Waters of the Hunter. A Survey of Properties and People Following the Gundy Road 1896 – 1897. Written by Malcolm Henry ('Mac') Bridge of Muswellbrook in 1963. Transcribed and indexed by his granddaughter Margaret Ashford in 2016.

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/08/bridge-1963/>

The Twelfth Man: John Fleming and the Myall Creek Massacre by Patricia Withycombe (Complete Hons Thesis)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/06/john-fleming/>

Tamsin O'Connor, "Bad Neighbours: the Smugglers and Pirates of the Penal Station and Port of Newcastle, 1804 – 1824."

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/13/newcastle-pirates/>

- **Creative Arts Drama Performances (G5)**

We provided support and background research for exhibition planning and theatrical performances as well as school student projects. Recent examples include the Tantrum Arts performance piece at Fort Scratchley "Manning the Fort" and CAPA 2001 performances.

- **Digitisation (G3, G5)**

Algernon Wants You!

Launch of collaborative project between two NSWSR Regional repositories to crowd source data entry volunteers to scientifically digitize important set of weather journals for the property Eversleigh for the years 1877 to 1922. See:

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/04/06/algernon-wants-you/>

Central Coast Campus, Ourimbah Collection This is another large project in which 5000+ photos have been accessioned and digitised by a team of people from the Central Coast Campus and Cultural Collections. Special thanks to Fiona Neville, Ruth Berriman, and Cynthia Brown. Our wonderful volunteer, Lyn Politis, has cleaned data in spreadsheets, scanned extra photos, added metadata to the files and uploaded them all to Flickr.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157658351065784>

Goldthorpe Glass Negatives - Dr Amir Mogadam has cleaned and rehoused the negatives and volunteer Helen Myers scanned and uploaded the negatives.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157667869527306>

Ross & Pat Craig Collection – Thanks to Mr Alf Rigby's donation to the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund, thousands of images relating to Stockton have been uploaded to the flickr site here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157675926056946>

Royal Newcastle Hospital Graduate Nurses Association Indexing Project -

Thanks to RNHGNA's donation to the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund, over 6000 entries were indexed with in the Royal Newcastle Hospital material as part of this Project.

SUN Glass negatives - Dr Amir Mogadam has cleaned and rehoused 456 negatives. Those digitized and uploaded to flickr are here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157632116637069>

Allan Morse Wine Label Collection consisting of over 5000 items has now been completely accessioned and digitised thanks to our staff and volunteers, with special thanks to Hayley Halliwell and Sue Paton.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157632512800333>

- **Film Digitisation (G3, G5)**

We have begun negotiations with NBN Television regarding the future of their audio visual archives and have been supporting the work of Mr Phillip Lloyd in backing up the digitization process. Design has begun on a GLAMx Living Histories Digitisation Lab which will provide space for a film digitization lab incorporating equipment that Mr Lloyd is currently using at NBN. Our digitised film is available through our UONCC youtube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/UoNCC/videos>

- **Global Newcastle (G5)**

Global Newcastle is an emerging network of university, archives and library-based scholars committed to conducting and facilitating research on Australia's oldest and largest regional city. By investigating, digitising and activating the archives held by the Newcastle Region Library in this first phase, we will facilitate wider community and academic use of these collections and bring Newcastle into the national and international historical frame.

- **Mapping (Google Maps/Google Earth) (G5)**

Lachlan Wetherall, a researcher in the local community, has created a visual index in google maps, of the hundreds and hundreds of digitised Newcastle and Lake Macquarie sub division plans on our UON Cultural Collections flickr site. It makes it so much easier locating our holdings rather than keyword searching. A post recently shared on our UONCC Facebook page reached over 14,000 people. Lachlan's Page is here: <http://lachlanwetherall.com/then-and-now/newcastle-historical-real-estate-maps-index/>

- **Newy History App (G5)**

Dr Ann Hardy has been compiling biographies and histories of Newcastle most important historic buildings, places and cultural icons for a mobile device application. <https://coalriver.wordpress.com/2014/07/22/newcastle-wow/>

- **History of Hunter Women (G5)**

The Infamous Molly Morgan. Compiled by Jude Conway

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/09/29/molly-morgan/>

- **Oral Histories (G5)**

Major collections of oral histories were made available to the wider community. The **Margaret Henry Oral History Archive** is currently online through Soundcloud with an introduction here: <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2015/11/10/margaret-henry-oral-history-archive-2/> financed by the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund. The second is the **Voices of the Hunter (VOTH)** Project which digitises the hundreds of oral histories created by the late John (Jack) Delaney. <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/02/02/voices-of-the-hunter-digitised-oral-history-tapes/> With the help of the Coal & Allied Community Development Fund. The third is the **Noel Davies Oral History Archive** - This includes interviews relating to the Star Hotel Riot, and to Lake Macquarie. <https://soundcloud.com/uoncc/sets/the-noel-davies-oral-history>

Lost Newcastle Oral History Project. An exciting new community engagement initiative, the Lost Newcastle Oral History Project, is underway, under the leadership of Dr Ann Hardy. It is a community resource to gather social and cultural histories of the Hunter Region through digital oral history-audio/audio-visual recordings. - <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/04/07/lost-newcastle-oral-history-project/>

Lost Newcastle Oral Histories - Assoc. Professor Ray Walker (1924 – 2016) by Dr Ann Hardy <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/12/ray-walker/>

- **Radical Newcastle Exhibition (G5)**
Dr Ann Hardy is presently scoping out exhibition themes, material, preparing summaries and meeting with Exhibition stakeholders across the community and partnering institution The Newcastle Museum.
- **Transcriptions (G3, G4, G5)**
Community volunteers are currently assisting in transcribing important Important historical documents relating to Newcastle, the Hunter and New England Regions e.g. 1845 Aborigines Report, Newcastle in 1829 <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2014/02/18/local-treasures-newcastles-public-infrastructure-in-1829/> ; The Belfield Eversleigh Climate Records, <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2012/01/19/belfield-climate-archive-expands-with-new-find/>; Reports of Aboriginal Massacres in Port Stephens and Baker's Island, 1829 – 1834 by Gianni Di Gravio <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/04/11/bakers-island-1834/>

- **Wine Studies Research Network (G5)**
We continue to support the work of Dr Julie McIntyre and her work in the wine industry of the Hunter Region. We have recently digitised the Morse Wine Labels Collection (thanks to the work of volunteer Hayley Halliwell): <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/sets/72157632512800333/> as well as rare 16mm film footage from the We Live In This Valley (1962) <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2015/07/02/wlitv-1962/> and <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2015/07/01/we-live-in-this-valley-1962/>

- **Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and Student Research Support (G5)**

Inaugural UON Student Historian-in-residence - Patrick Lindus (third year Bach. Social Science Degree majoring in History) has gained experience in Cultural Collections during 2016 See: <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/05/13/digital-humanities-project-history-of-shanghai-in-newcastle/>

UON RHD student Support

- We hosted four RHD students with mentoring and support in their respective fields of research.

UON Undergraduate Student Support

- We hosted four students as part of UON practicums or undergrad volunteers

Proposed practicums in Cultural Collections (HUMA3003) 2017

- Five prospective students have indicated their interest in adopting practicums through the 2017 HUMA3003 course research topics include witchcraft, LGBT writing, labour history, politics, Godfrey Tanner Collection-Classics, geology of Newcastle, survey of existing documents (with focus on Former Palais site.

External Placements

- We hosted 6 external students from CSU University

Theatres on Campus – Architectural Student Special Project

A finding aid was created by Gregg Heathcote to assist Architecture Students with their campus projects. See:

<https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2016/05/04/theatres-on-campus/>

Gionni Di Gravio
Chair, Coal River Working Party
December 2016