

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
3rd April, 2017 1:00pm – 3:00pm
University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.

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), Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Russell Rigby Keith Parsons, Doug Lithgow, Suzanne Martin, Lesley Gent, Brian Roach, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Ron Barber, David Dial, John Witte, Jude Conway, Howard Dick, Kaye Fisher, Angelique Carr, Peter Langton, Dana Silayi, Charles Martin

Apologies: Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Bronwyn Law, Ian Eckford, Patsy Withycombe, Tessa Boeh-May, Anne Creevey

Visitors: Nil

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 6th March 2017 was confirmed by Robert Watson and seconded – Ron Barber.

4. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - NIL

5. **Presentations** – NIL

6. **Aboriginal heritage update** – NIL

7. **Update- (Gionni di Gravio) -**
NBN Film archive- Gionni advised that Phillip Lloyd has moved the majority of the NBN archive into the new GLAMx Lab. We are seeking students/volunteers wanting to learn how to digitise audio-visual sources.

Work Integrated Learning students are currently undertaking some interesting and diverse projects, many relate to existing projects, such as Brooke S geology project that will be useful when undertaking further 3D interpretation of the landscape (pre-history). Russell Rigby emphasised the importance of geological studies in better understanding pre-history of the region. Dr Greg Blyton is also interested in expanding academic writing about Aboriginal history pre-settlement in Newcastle, using evidence from archaeological research. Dana S is currently researching Aboriginal individuals of the Hunter Region, her work will make a contribution that can be used in future digital heritage projects.

Digital Heritage Conference – Brisbane 19-21 April. Ann and Gionni are currently liaising with Tim Davidson and Charles Martin in preparation for the Digital Heritage conference later this month. The Wallis album and Joseph Lycett artworks have been particularly useful in Tim D work incorporating Aboriginal cultural representations. We will provide an update and presentation at next meeting.

Heritage Officer Position at NCC – At our last meeting the need for a Heritage Officer position at NCC was discussed, the Chair wrote to council requesting a heritage professional be available at HHI meetings. Gionni tabled the letter sent to NCC. This week NCC has advertised for a Heritage officer and Jody V read out the job description.

Greg and Sylvia Ray book “The Hunter Region in the Great War” was recently launched, great connections and David Dial made a significant contribution with 11 000 names listed. Book is \$49.95 and available at newsagents and bookshops.

Update - (Ann Hardy) –

The new GLAMx Lab. As mentioned we have several Humanities students (HUMA 3003) on placement with us in the GLAMx Lab (several were at the meeting and gave a summary of their projects), most are digitising oral histories and audio recordings.

NEWYhistory App - Ann advised that the Newcastle history App had been progressing slowly, the company building the app has provided us with incomplete files, fortunately a UON student Jarred C has kindly transferred content into an iOS/Android compatible format, made relevant edits and included new features. We are greatly appreciative of his input and hope to have complete in coming months.

Newcastle Writers Festival - Marilla North's book *Come in Spinner* will be launched on Friday 7 April at Newcastle's Writers Festival, she will also be in conversation with Ann Hardy.

Public Advocacy – Ann advised recent vandalism within the Coal River Precinct and Newcastle East areas. If members of the community witness harm, damage, wilful neglect to a State Heritage item or illegal disturbance of historical or Aboriginal archaeology they can ring and report to Enviro Line on 131555 or contact the Conservation Team (OEH) on 98738550.

Update- National Trust – Keith Parsons advised that a Section 60 has been advertised for Newcastle Supercars, race track enters the Coal River Precinct and the Hunter Regional Committee plans on putting in a submission. The Jubilee Monument currently located in park in Parnell Place will be relocated for road widening. Another issue is the Great Northern Hotel requires new utilities and infrastructure to be built, unfortunately the age of the building does not allow for this new infrastructure on site because of architectural constraints and location off-site may need to be considered. These issues will be discussed further at this month's HRCNT meeting.

8. General Business -

- a)** (Jodi Vial) – Jodi V spoke about her Scott sisters of Ash Island project, she was inspired to research the sisters because there wasn't much known about them locally. She visited the current Scott Sisters exhibition at the Australian Museum mentions and although Ash Island is referred to there is very little mention of their association with Newcastle and Hunter Region. Jodi may explore the possibility of the exhibition coming to Newcastle.
- b)** (Russell Rigby)- Russell advised he is currently listing maps of the region, to form a collection.
- c)** (Jude Conway) - Issue of access to Herald archives was raised again, a few members confirmed that archives were currently in storage off-site, access by general public remains difficult.
- d)** (Russell Rigby) - advised that former Empire Hotel site was to be developed and suggested that Aboriginal archaeology was highly likely be found there, as it is very close to the former Palais site where many artefacts were found. Tim A may have further information.

- e) (Brian Roach) advised that a recent newspaper article stated that a high rise development was proposed for area near Cottage Creek, near Wickham. Brian will find further information about location.

- f) (Suzanne Martin) advised that Newcastle's Christ Church will commemorate 200yrs in May, several events are planned and will let us know at next meeting.

- g) (Prof. John Fryer) – kindly donated two publications, *Boolaroo Bulletin Oct. 1988 – A Centenary Publication 1898-1998*, and *Legends & Dreaming* Published by Edwards & Shaw, 1952. Thank you John.

9. Close: 3.00 PM

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