

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
7th August, 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), Russell Rigby, Keith Parsons, , Brian Roach, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Louise Gale, Ron Barber, David Dial, Kaye Fisher, Ziggy Szyda, Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Chaz Keys, Suzanne Martin, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Ken Thornton, Sue Effenberger, Bronwyn Law, Anne Creevey, Amanda Hinds, Justin Guion, Jessica Waugh, Sarah Xenos,

Apologies: Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Howard Dick, Patsy Withycombe, Lesley Gent, Doug Lithgow, Jodi Vial, Peter Sherlock, John Witte, Hugh Watt, John Fryer, Charles Martin, Christine Brudelin, Ian Eckford, Jude Conway.

Visitors: Dr John Parkinson, Robyn Hyland and Mr Hyland.

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 3rd July 2017 was confirmed by Brian Roach and Ken Schilling.

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

5. **Presentations**

WhoWhatWhereWhenWhy? (Russell Rigby) Russell gave an excellent overview of the history of street names in Newcastle during the first decades after settlement. Many of the street names were changed from original names to reflect engineers instrumental in invention and innovation during the industrial revolution of the early 19th Century, such as Stevenson and Watt. Other early streets include Parnell, Wolfe, Bolton, Newcomen and Perkins. It is not known whose idea it was to name the street, could have been Thomas Mitchell or Governor at the time.

6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL.

- 7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio)** – Gionni spoke about the Birdwood Flag Commemorative event that took place at Newcastle’s Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday 30th July. It was a wonderful event with many people from across the community. Amir Moghadam (UON Conservator) has published a post about the project/event and is available here ‘The Birdwood Flag Conservation Project’ <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2017/08/01/birdwood-2017/>

Gionni attended the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, and Archives & Museums) peak Australia meeting in Hobart in July. The group looked at a draft national framework for digital access to collections and development of a digital access to Collections Toolkit for smaller regional cultural institutions to use, particularly outside the metropolitan centres. This tool kit will assist any size organisation of any kind and help them to plan digitisation projects. Other aims include having workshops in regional areas and support networking opportunities. For further information see <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2017/07/31/glam-peak-hobart/>

Many of the Opus magazines are now scanned, the 1950s & 60s are done and some of 1980s, we are in the process of doing the 1970s. Thanks to the volunteers and students who have assisted with these. For further information and view digitised magazines see <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2017/08/01/memories-of-nuc/>

Cultural collections and the GLAMx lab are increasing the amount of digital space needed to store digitised cultural material, this need is only going to expand. Gionni has had ongoing discussions with IT to make them aware of this increasing need. Sue Effenberger thanked staff at Cultural Collections, specifically Gionni for the impeccable referencing of sources and the array of sources available on Flickr and on website.

- 8. Update- (Ann Hardy)** – Aust. Historical Association ‘Entangled Histories’ Conference was very attended with many delegates coming from across the Australia, and internationally. Several sessions included themes associated with Newcastle, several members of HHI gave papers and generally it was a good opportunity to network.

-Many of the GLAMx students were at the meeting, and special welcome to Sarah Xenos a Sociology student currently on placement. She started last week and is reviewing sources available in cultural collections associated with the Williamstown area, specifically the RAAF base area. Also, special thanks to Justin Guion who recently finished his placement and has digitised Index cards relating to the NBN television archive. We have another student from natural history illustration who is drawing the Aboriginal artefacts and UON graduate Jessica Waugh has also joined us and is working on digitising aerial photographs from the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, we thank these people for their contribution.

- RAD Newcastle Exhibition is still on until the end of August, the launch was well attended and so far have received some positive feedback. Stephen O'Brien also wrote an interesting opinion piece on the exhibition that was published in the Newcastle Herald, see

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/4799454/newcastles-loud-proud-history-of-getting-rad/>

- Jude Conway created a DIY Women's history walking tour, promoted during the recent AHA conference in Newcastle. It tells stories of Awabakal women, the first Newcastle women's surf club in 1908 and International Women's Day marches. Some of the women highlighted on the walk include Joy Cummings, Irene Hall, Dymphna Cusack, Del de Glorion, Jean Perrett and Margaret Henry. To download the walking tour see

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/07/19/diy-newcastle/>

- Letter received from Federal Government, Department of Environment, Heritage and Water about the National nomination submitted earlier in year by the HHI to have Newcastle East on the National Heritage List. Unfortunately the nomination did not make the final assessment list.

9. Update - (Tim Adams) – Tim provided an update in terms of archaeological investigations in Newcastle and Newcastle East. He showed photographs of Foreshore Park at Newcastle, Nobbys Road near crossing, Macquarie Pier, as well as Watt Street storm water and historic barrel drain from late 1880s named "Flinty gully". New drainage is currently being installed. Russell R suggest local stone ballast may have been used, and Ann H suggests the Glennie Photographic collection may show stone work in Scott, Hunter and Watt streets from the 19th Century. Tim also showed images of the foundations of the early Honeysuckle Station that has been revealed during the light rail project, and informed that there will be an archaeological report completed, as well as an interpretation plan developed. Tim will continue to liaise with Supercars and NSW transport, we thank him for his input at meetings.

10. Update- National Trust – Keith mentioned that there hasn't been a meeting for several months but there is one this Wednesday at 5.30 at the Lock Up. He discussed the fate of Store building in Newcastle West that was built in 1898 and has had numerous additions, he questions whether the building is really crumbling at all. It is an icon, and has significant social history. Prior to the 1980s it was largest store in Southern Hemisphere. The site is earmarked to be part of the bus interchange and high rise residential development. The former David Jones building is also going to be developed, the facade will be kept and there will be a mix of retail and residential. Newcastle City Council has also readvertised the Heritage Officer position.

11. General Business -

- a) (Ron Barber) – Ron advised that the "Ancient Order Foresters" plaque was found in a garage at North Lambton, now on exhibition at Fort Scratchley.
- b) Keith Parsons asked about the Hunter Heritage Network and Ann advised that at a recent Hunter Heritage Network AGM it was decided that the network be disbanded and donate funds to a regional history fund.

12. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 4th September 2017 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.