

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
3rd July, 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 Ann Hardy
2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Jodi Vial, Russell Rigby, Keith Parsons, Peter Sherlock, Brian Roach, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Louise Gale, Ron Barber, David Dial, John Witte, Jude Conway, Kaye Fisher, Ziggy Szyda, Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Chaz Keys, Suzanne Martin, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Robert Watson, Ken Thornton, Hugh Watt, Tim Adams, John Fryer, Sue Effenberger, Julianne Tilse

Apologies: Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Brian Andrews, Charles Martin, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Marilla North, Rob Jones, Howard Dick, Patsy Withycombe, Brian Walsh, Lesley Gent, Anne Creevey, Doug Lithgow, Helen Denzin, Bronwyn Law, Linda Cox.

Visitors: Kaye Fisher's family were present at meeting. Welcome also to Hugh Watt who is PhD (archaeology student) from Sydney.

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 5th June 2017 was confirmed by Ken Thornton and seconded – Peter Sherlock.
4. **Business arising from previous minutes: -**
5. **Presentations**

Newcastle Earthquake Project (Kaye Fisher) Kaye gave an overview of her project undertaken whilst on practicum in the GLAMx Lab. She compiled and scanned resources associated with the Newcastle Earthquake, and interviewed several people about the event. Kaye showed the blog post on the Hunter Living Histories site that contains a combination of written/visual and audio recordings that were digitised. She specifically thanked Bronwyn Law and Suzanne Martin for offering their time to describe their experiences during the earthquake. Russell Rigby mentioned that some of the early research has now been discredited, others

spoke about their own experiences during the earthquake, as well as the impact of the earthquake on animals. 'Animal behaviour' during disasters may be an interesting aspect to follow up. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/05/15/earthquake/>

Up Brown Street in Top Gear – (Robert Watson) Robert presented a series of articles found on Trove about steam powered cars in Newcastle during the 1940s. He found that there were often races up Brown Street, thought to be the 'steepest in the state'. Articles were very detailed and describing races, drivers and types of cars etc. Thank you Robert for uncovering these articles and bringing them to our attention.

6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL

7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio) – Gionni has returned from leave and thanked Jodi Vial for taking the minutes for the June meeting, it is greatly appreciated. Ziggy handed the Chair a letter, and stated he wasn't pleased with the response to an item he raised at May meeting. Gionni reiterated the involvement HHI had with television production companies doing stories about local history. Companies have their own research assistants and decide on what content goes to air.

-Gionni advised that the Birdwood Flag has been conserved and a re-hallowing commemorative service will take place at Newcastle's Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday 30th July at 4pm. All are invited. Ann will send out invites.

8. Update- (Ann Hardy) – Ann informed that Aust. Historical Association 'Entangled Histories' Conference will be held in Newcastle this week, there are several papers on Newcastle and the Hunter Region, some from members of this group.

- RAD Newcastle Exhibition will be launched tomorrow at the Newcastle Museum at 5.30pm, all are welcome.

- On 24 June Ann facilitated a panel discussion in conjunction with Timeless Textiles and the Lock-Up Cultural Centre about the Newcastle Industrial Girls School (1867-71), panellists included Jane Ison, Wilma Simmons, and Dr David Eastburn. This International exhibition 'stitched up' finishes on the 6 August. <http://www.thelockup.org.au/whats-on/unstitched> . Also see post on HHI site <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/06/19/stitched-up-exhibit/> .

-The Newcastle Recreation Reserve (also known as King Edward Park) is currently under consideration for inclusion on the State Heritage Register of NSW. In 2012 a small dedicated group the 'Government Domain committee' submitted a State Heritage Register (SHR)

nomination to the Office of Environment and Heritage. The Heritage Council of NSW considers nominations for listing on the SHR based on assessment of heritage significance and taking into account any submissions received from the public. Further details on making a submission see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/06/23/newcastle-recreation-res/> similar submission process is also open to have the Newcastle Reservoir listed on the SHR.

- 1. Update- National Trust** – Keith spoke about the signal box in Market Street was the first built in NSW using state of the art signalling system. It looks as though the interior of box will be maintained. Currently the Wickham Masterplan is on public exhibition, need to consider a heritage conservation area for the suburb.

2. General Business -

- 3.** (Tim Adams) – Tim has kindly offered to come to monthly meetings to provide updates in terms of archaeological investigations in Newcastle and Newcastle East. He is a rescue archaeologist engaged by Supercars and Transport for NSW. At present much of the city is closed off for construction, particularly Watt Street area, as well the light rail development has started in Newcastle East where some archaeological testing is being carried out. All approvals are in place. Tim showed photographs of recent excavation in Watt Street and is recording what is being found. A building foundation was uncovered at the foreshore along Wharf Road, believed to be from rail yards, likely concrete footings. Apparently Macquarie Pier plaque is in storage with NCC. There is also involvement of the Aboriginal community in archaeological investigations. Tim will continue to liaise between Supercars and Transport for NSW to disseminate information to this group about archaeology found in the area. Sue E asked about original road surface on Watt Street, evidence? Apparently works were to identify cables etc. and have not gone down to natural surfaces, therefore no significant archaeology found. Tim showed gave an overview of archaeology that was found at the 9 Watt Street (former Tattersalls Club), this was an extensive project and funding is being sought to produce a full report. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2014/04/08/9wattst-tattersalls/> Tim was thanked for his input at the meeting.
- a)** (Julianne Tilse) – Advised that she recently attended a talk in Canberra about colonial artist Dorothy Paty who was in Newcastle during the mid-1800s. A researcher also recently paid a visit to Cultural Collections about Paty's work and Ann Hardy suggested that Julianne make

contact with Margaret McBride who did her PhD on Newcastle women artists that likely included Paty.

9. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 7th August 2017 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.