

**Hunter Living Histories Meeting**  
**5th June, 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:** Ann Hardy (Chair), Jodi Vial (Minute taker), Russell Rigby, Keith Parsons, Peter Sherlock, Brian Roach, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Ron Barber, David Dial, John Witte, Jude Conway, Kaye Fisher, Peter Langton, Charles Martin, Bronwyn Law, Kerry Bashford, Ziggy Szyda, Helen Denzin, Natasha Schroder, Jodie Vial, Brian Walsh, Lesley Gent, Anne Creevey, Doug Lithgow, Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Ken Thornton, Dennis Thurlow.

**Apologies:** Gionni di Gravio, Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Chaz Keys, , Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Marilla North, Rob Jones, Howard Dick, Patsy Withycombe, Suzanne Martin,

**Visitors:** Peter Langton's family were present at meeting.

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Amend 'Hunter Rainbow History Group'. Also Bronwyn Law's Uncle not grandfather. The minutes for 1st May 2017 was confirmed by Ken Thornton and seconded – Peter Sherlock.
  
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - At last meeting concerns were raised about archaeology and Tim Adams has been invited to this meeting to listen and address some concerns of members about disturbance to archaeology in and around Newcastle East. Anne C advised that the wall in Watt Street was being changed, the footpath dug up and barricades installed. Anne C advised she has seen destruction of artefacts by machinery, bottles etc. found, very important to Australian history and Newcastle history, and in a heritage area that would have archaeology present. What will happen in Watt Street? The city's oldest street, and one of the oldest streets in Australia. Anne C very concerned about due diligence. Tim advised that there was the potential to find the foundations of the early cottages below Fort Scratchley, and that approvals under the heritage Act had been gained, proper archaeological methodology

was used, for example at Shortland Esplanade (under full excavation permit). Question was asked about what will happen to interpretive plaques? Tim advised that all plaques removed will be reinstated as close as possible to the location they were taken from. Doug L asked whether the Bathers Way redevelopment was part of the development for Supercars. Tim advised that Shortland Esplanade is NCC separate work to Supercars. Doug also raised concern about the convict coal mines under the fort and Tim stated that the majority of the works are not going to a great depth. Some works may be deeper. Majority will not have the ability to disturb relics. Doug said the 1981 competition for landscape design of the foreshore that we currently have will be changed dramatically, and has concerns about what will replace it. Anne C information from council is very conflicting re: depth, old pipes in Watt Street are a long way down. We need to understand the extent of works. Also cobblestones, sandstone guttering and kerbs etc. Ann H thanked Tim for coming along to the meeting.

## 5. Presentations

**Godfrey Tanner Project (Peter Langton)** gave an overview of his latest project undertaken in whilst on practicum “Emeritus Professor Ronald Godfrey Tanner & Collected Papers”. He spoke about Tanner’s life and his numerous works that have been scanned and are now available on-line. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/05/17/godfrey-tanner/> Anne C offers to meet with Peter to discuss Tanner further as she was a very close friend of his. Brian R suggested there may also be material in the Anglican Synod report's about Godfrey as he was involved in the Anglican church, was very religious. Ann H suggested to Peter to consider writing Tanner’s biography for the ADB, although it is some time off (2022) it is worth considering. Keith P also suggested that there is another Aust. Biography site now available that may be worth considering. Final question asked whether Godfrey's books had been repaired, Ann H that as far as she was aware the books were in good condition, but she will find out.

**Cooks Journal analysis – (Russell Rigby)** At the last meeting Ziggy outlined discrepancies he had found in Cook’s Journal and documentation relating to the east coast, particularly around Hunter River and Port Stephens areas. Russell R has analyzed the Historical Records of N.S.W. and other historical sources (such as Cook’s journal) to gain a better understanding of the actual dates and locations recorded etc. and gave a presentation of what he found in terms of the quite complex recordings. He discussed the log of the Endeavour in relation to its voyage past Newcastle/Port Stephens in May 1770. First European description of the area, first reference to Indigenous people, recorded smoke. Helen D also invites people to view photocopies of Cook's log. Many thanks to Russell for the thorough overview.

**Scott Sisters Project (Jodi Vials)** – Jodi gave an overview of her project undertaken in whilst on practicum at the GLAMx Lab and few months ago “The Scott sisters of Ash Island”. She spoke about the Scott’s Sister, and the narration of diary entries that are available on-line as sound recordings. She also visited the Scott Sister exhibition that was on at the Australian Museum and noted that there were several Newcastle speakers on a panel about the subject. She also questioned why the work of the sisters hadn’t featured much in Newcastle. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/03/27/the-scott-sisters-of-ash-island/>

**6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL**

**7. Update- (Ann Hardy)** – Ann informed that Aust. Historical Association was holding ‘Entangled Histories’ Conference in Newcastle 3-7 July, for more information see <https://www.theaha.org.au/call-for-papers-entangled-histories-aha-annual-conference-2017-3-7-july-2017/> RAD Newcastle will open later this month at the Newcastle Museum and members will be invited to the launch, Ann will send out invitations.

**8. Update- National Trust** – Keith P spoke about concerns over council changes to public exhibition of DA's in libraries. Currently DAs are available to view in council office during business hours. Coal Monument in Newcastle East was erected in 1909, recently the coal block split during its relocation. The Monument has moved several times without any damage sustained, and the Trust would like to know who was supervising the relocation, engineers etc. The signal box in Market Street was the first built in NSW using state of the art signalling system. Trust position is that we would like engineering oversight.

**9. General Business -**

**a)** (Bronwyn Law) – At last meeting Bronwyn raised concerns were raised about heritage interpretative plaques that may be removed due to roadway development to accommodate Supercars (particularly Watt Street area). Other concerns relate to the development at Newcastle South Beach cliff area where many archaeological relics have been found.

**b)** (Ron Barber) – This Thursday evening at Fort Scratchley there will be a commemorative event marking the attack on Newcastle during WWII. The Fort will be open, free entry. Sunset ceremony at 5pm. Grammar School cadets will attend, museum actors will read out military

actions/dialogue etc. NCC has sponsored the event, four members from band Red Gum will perform for 1.5 hours.

- c) (Ziggy Szyda) – Ziggy asked that minutes be changed as per a typed note he handed Chair at beginning of meeting. However, it did not reflect the issues he brought up at the last meeting, therefore is in General Business. Ziggy raised concerns about the way meetings are run, and do not always run to time, Ann H advised that often meetings do run overtime and apologized for this. However agenda items suggested by Ziggy were addressed and the Chair gave considered and conclusive answers. Furthermore, Russell’s presentation today addressed further the agenda item about Cook’s Journal that Ziggy raised at the May meeting.

**9. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.