

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
6th March, 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), Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Keith Parsons, Peter Sherlock, Doug Lithgow, Suzanne Martin, Lesley Gent, Brian Roach, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, David Dial, Jude Conway, Ziggy Szyda, Chaz Keys, Kaye Fisher , Angelique Carr, Peter Langton, Dana Silayi, Tessa Boeh-May, Georgia Wright

Apologies: Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, John Witte, Bronwyn Law, Charles Martin, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Ian Eckford, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Russell Rigby, Patsy Withycombe.

Visitors: Nil

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

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

5. **Presentations** – Russell Mitchell Reese from *Curious Legends* spoke about the Hidden Port Project that he has been working on to inspire writing and performance associated with Newcastle Port. It is an interactive project combining photography, writing and performance and are calling for submission and stories. The competition will result in the best of the submissions receiving a prize and part of the performance that will take place in May 2017. For more information see <https://hiddenport.curiouslegends.com.au/> . Gionni suggested that Mitchell look at the HHI website for further sources. Ann also mentioned the *Heritage Near Me Grants* for possible future funding <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/support-for-local-heritage/heritage-near-me-incentives-program>

6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL

7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio) -

Supercars Australia, Destination NSW and Newcastle City Council have announced the final circuit for the Coates Hire Newcastle 500 car race scheduled for 24-26 November 2017. On 16 February Ann, Gionni and Amir meet with representatives of Supercars to discuss the proposed circuit and heritage issues. We showed them the HHI post of the proposed route and the various heritage/historic sites in the location, including sites where archaeological relics may be found, such as Macquarie Pier. <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/01/24/supercars-newcastle-500/>

“Newcastle Stories” - The Newcastle University of the Third Age (U3A) ran a course “Newcastle Stories” in 2016 researching diverse and engaging stories about Newcastle. Griff Foley (Course Tutor) has shared the project of written stories and we have shared these short works on-line. They make a valuable contribution to historical knowledge of Newcastle and the Hunter Region. For more information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/02/13/newcastle-stories-u3a/>

The Geology and the Changing Landscape of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley - Brooke Sargent (UoN Bachelor of Arts student) recently complete 80 hr placement with Cultural Collections. She researched geology of the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Region to assist with the 3D Virtual Hunter Project. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/02/14/geology-newcastle/>

- Aerial photographs - Gionni advised that a large collection of aerial photographs from 1937 have come into cultural collections from the UON's Geology Dept., we have a student volunteer starting shortly who will begin digitising these extensive records. A companion set also exists that came from the HVRF, these too are official photographs.

Update - (Ann Hardy) –

The new GLAMx Lab at the Auchmuty Library has recently opened and we have several Humanities students on placement, several are here today. We are still in the process of setting up the lab, at present students are working on individual projects, mostly associated to digitising oral histories and audio recordings.

Living Histories@UON launch – last week the Living Histories@UON new digital platform was launched. Living Histories @ UON is a state-of-the-art online platform providing access to digital items including photographs, audio, video, exhibitions, and oral histories. Thank you to those who attended. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/02/24/living-histories-uon/>

National Nomination- Coal River Precinct National Nomination has been revised and submitted to Dept. Energy & Environment. The Newcastle Herald also ran a story <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/02/20/crp-seeks/> . Doug Lithgow asked whether HHI had compiled a list of those who support the nomination, Ann advised that there were individuals and organisations who supported the nomination, however would be beneficial to recontact them to seek current letters of support.

Other News & Events- Uncovering Australia's climate history since European settlement - Free History Seminar: 22 March 2017 @1PM in Cultural Collections (Auchmuty Library). Further information here <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2017/03/03/lindenashcroft/>

History@Newcastle Research Seminar Series 2017. Further information here <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2017/03/01/historynewcastle-2017/>

Newcastle Stories: a series of talks held on the first Thursday of each month. Next talk is on Early Newcastle on 16 March, 10am-11am. Wallsend District Library. Further information is here <http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Library/Heritage-History/Exhibitions-and-Events/Events>

2017 John Turner Memorial Lecture – To be delivered by Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, topic *Bringing the Artful Dodger to Life: Data Visualisation and Convict Transportation* presented by The University of Newcastle (UON), Newcastle City Council and the Global Newcastle Research Group. Further information <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2017-john-turner-memorial-lecture-tickets-32311680105?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=esfb&utm-source=fb&utm-term=listing>

Public Advocacy – NIL

Update- National Trust – Keith Parsons advised that there is a position vacant as Museum Officer, National Trust Hunter Region (Part-time) for the 4 properties located in the Hunter region; Grossman & Brough House in Maitland, Tomago House in Tomago and Miss Porters

House at Newcastle. For more information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/03/02/pv-museum-officer/> HRCNT supports the recently submitted Coal River precinct National Nomination. Also, heritage concerns have been raised in regard to the proposed Supercars route in Newcastle East and the HRCNT will comment on the S.60 Application that is now in public exhibition. There was also a discussion about the Heritage Officer position at NCC, and importance for the city to have a council heritage officer. Members of the HHI also strongly support the need for NCC to have a heritage professional and ask the Chair to write to council requesting a heritage professional be available at HHI meetings.

8. General Business -

- a)** (Jodi Vial) – Jodi V has been researching the Scott Sister from Ash Island and asked whether anyone had knowledge of Marion Ord. Both Jude C and Gianni were able to provide advice.
- b)** (Brian Roach) asked whether anyone had information about Reid Street, Newcastle East, Suzanne Martin may have a photograph and will contact Brian.
- c)** (Ron Barber)- Ron informed that the Military Band will play the 1812 Overture this Saturday at Fort Scratchley, the 6 inch guns will be fired during the performance. Tickets are available through Ticketek.

9. Close: 3.00 PM

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