

**Hunter Living Histories Meeting**  
**1st May, 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, Suzanne Martin, Peter Sherlock, Freyer Montefiore, Brooke Sargent, David Arthur, Howard Bridgman, Brian Roach, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Ron Barber, David Dial, John Witte, Jude Conway, Kaye Fisher, Angelique Carr, Peter Langton, Charles Martin, Patsy Withycombe, Bronwyn Law, Kerry Bashford, Ziggy Szyda, Helen Denzin.

**Apologies:** Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Doug Lithgow, Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Ian Eckford, Lesley Gent, Anne Creevey, Chaz Keys, Jodie Vial, Brian Walsh, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Marilla North, Rob Jones, Howard Dick, Julianne Tilse

**Visitors: Nil**

**General Introductions:** Members briefly introduced themselves. Helen D thanked David Dial for his regular contributions in the Herald about WWI. We also thank Bronwyn L for bringing along her uncles military memorabilia that was displayed at meeting.

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 3rd April 2017 was confirmed by Ron Barber and seconded – Ken Shilling.

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

5. **Presentations**

**Newcastle in 1825 (Charles Martin)** gave an overview of his latest work that greatly contributed to the recent presentation given at the Digital Heritage Conference in Brisbane. He produced a lot of audio-visual material that was edited/sound applied and condensed into a 4 minute video. See *Newcastle in 1825 (2017)* by Charles Martin

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/17/newcastle-in-1825/> Charles described the methodology used and created some night time scenes. He has also started to include animals that were in the early settlement. Russell suggested that bullocks were present (rather than horses), and Brian R stated pigs were also common.

**Rainbow project – (Kerry Bashford)** Kerry is involved in *Rainbow Project* and gave an interesting talk about the 'Yellow Sock Club', a club that supposedly operated in the Hunter Region during the 1950s onward. Members were gay men who wore yellow socks to indicate their membership to the 'club'. Minimal historical information has been found that confirms whether the club really existed at all, suggesting it may be an urban myth! Kerry spoke about the current oral history project (Rainbow Project) and the importance of reframing history by interviewing men about their individual stories not often told elsewhere. The recordings will be available online on the Living Histories@newcastle website. If you have any information about the Yellow Sock Club please forward to Ann H and she will send on to Kerry. Gianni also advised that the UONCC held the 'You are Here Now' exhibition in 2009 celebrating GLBTIQ lives at the University of Newcastle see, <https://uoncc.wordpress.com/2009/10/14/you-are-here-now-exhibition-launched/>

## 6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL

7. **Update- (Gianni di Gravio)** - Digital Heritage conference - Gianni and Ann attended the Digital Heritage Conference in Brisbane in April. The paper was a collaboration with Charles Martin and Russell Rigby and Tim Davidson. The following 4 minute video was shown at the conference, which the Newcastle Herald featured on the front page on April 20. Tim D incorporated Charles model into the VR Oculus Rift and this was also shown and warmly received. Conference delegates were from various disciplines and the majority of papers were theoretically based, not many had produced digital models. The keynote speakers were a highlight and a summary of the conference is available here *Digital Cultural Heritage: FUTURE VISIONS Conference* <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/24/digital-cultural/> Tim Davidson and Kate Slatter from *Virtual perspective* also had a display at the conference showcasing 3D technology. There were numerous posts on HHI WordPress and these are listed at end of minutes.

### **Update - (Ann Hardy) –**

The new GLAMx Lab. As mentioned we have several Humanities students (HUMA 3003) on placement with us in the GLAMx Lab. Each gave a brief overview of their projects and there was much interest and discussion among members. Kaye F project on the Newcastle earthquake sparked a lot of discussion and offers of information, and Howard Bridgman was able to provide further information about the project Brooke S worked on several months ago about Beryl Nashar. Recent posts on Hunter Living Histories are: - *Aboriginal Education Conference 1986 (UON)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/13/aboriginal-education-conference-1986-uon/>

*Convocation Lectures 1980 – 1999* <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/24/convocation-lectures-1980-1999/>

**Update- National Trust –** Keith P spoke about the heritage significance of the Wickham School of Arts building, particularly its social and cultural significance because of the association with Henry Lawson who attended the school. Bronwyn L advised that Newcastle ADFAS has been involved in a project to identify SoA in the region and has recently researched the one at Wickham, and may have relevant information that could be shared. Also the former Store building in Hunter Street Newcastle West is under threat of demolition, there were three main stages of development of the Store (1890, 1920s – 1937). After the 1989 earthquake the building's facade was secured and repaired.

## **8. General Business -**

- a)** (Bronwyn Law) – 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. Ann H suggested that if anyone has concerns about 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. Ann H suggested Tim A may be able to address group about archaeological concerns. **ACTION:** - Ann to invite Tim A to next meeting.
  
- b)** (Ziggy Syda) – Ziggy outlined his analysis of 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. Russell R offered to look into this further with Ziggy as the recordings

are very complex. Ziggy Szyda also raised concerns about historical inaccuracies in TV shows about Newcastle and asked how much influence the HHI has in terms of the final content presented. Gianni advised that the group has no control over what facts and content goes to air on productions such as Tony Robinson's *Time walks* or Neil Oliver's *Coast Australian*, production companies have their own researchers who draw on sources from various locations and institutions.

#### **9. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.

#### **Recent publication on HHI WordPress include:-**

*View of King's Town (Newcastle) circa 1822-1825 (Published 1828)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/05/kings-town-newcastle/>

*65-73 Hunter Street Newcastle in 1891*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/06/65-73-hunterst-newcastle-1891/>

*Newcastle in 1855 (Illustrated Sydney News)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/06/newcastle-in-1855/>

*Newcastle in 1865 (Illustrated Sydney News)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/06/newcastle-in-1865/>

*Honeysuckle Project – Historical and Industrial Archaeological Survey October 1991*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/06/honeysuckle/>

*Wreck of the Victor, at Newcastle. 16th April 1866*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/06/victor-1866/>

*Wreck of the Cawarra, at Newcastle (Illustrated Sydney News 16th August 1866)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/07/cawarra-1866/>

*View from Stockton to Newcastle (Illustrated Sydney News 16 February 1867)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/07/view-from-stockton-1867/>

*The Nobby Rock, Newcastle (Illustrated Sydney News, 25 November 1871)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/07/nobby-rock-1871/>

*Newcastle Harbour and Stockton (Illustrated Sydney News, 27 September 1873)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/07/newcastle-harbour-and-stockton-1873/>

*Coast View of Newcastle and Entrance to Harbour (Illustrated Sydney News 29 August 1873)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/07/newcastle-coast-1873/>

*Newcastle in 1889 (Illustrated Sydney News 27 June 1889)*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/04/07/newcastle-1889/>