

**Hunter Living Histories Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup> October, 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, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Brian Roach, Louise Gale, Prof. Lyndall Ryan, Ken Thornton, Ron Barber, David Dial, Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Suzanne Martin, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Anne Creevey, Jessica Waugh, Lesley Gent, Doug Lithgow, John Witte, Hugh Watt, Jude Conway, Charles Martin.

**Apologies:** Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Christine Brudelin, Ian Eckford, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Howard Dick, Marilla North, Rob Jones, Bronwyn Law, Amanda Hinds, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling.

**Visitors:**

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 4th September 2017 was confirmed by Don Seton-Wilkinson and John Fryer.

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

5. **Presentations**

**GLAMx lab Living histories Digitisation Lab - (Gionni di Gravio & Ann Hardy)**

Ann and Gionni recently gave a paper with two other universities (Deakin & UOM) at the Aust. Archivists Conference in Melbourne about 'Engaging Tertiary Students with University Archival Collections. They spoke about how the UON has embarked on a this new venture to promote and augment the established Work Integrated Learning course in the BA, with a focus in 2017 on the implementation of the program in the new GLAMx Living Histories Digitisation Lab, and on Indigenous heritage and a 3D digitisation project of Aboriginal artefacts. The paper was well received.

### **“Restoration of Township Map of Haydonton (Murrurundi)” - (Robert Watson) –**

Robert discussed the process of digitising historic sources associated with the Haydon family. Over 30 000 sources from Haydon family that have been scanned. The place ‘Haydonton’ was one half of the township now known as Murrurundi, originally much of the areas was owned by the Dangar family. An historic map has also been digitised, it is of very poor quality, unfortunately adhesive contact was applied some years ago that has caused damage. The digitised plan has been adjusted to remove discolouring and damaged edged etc. using Photoshop. Other plans have also been scanned and Robert has produced a chronology of the various maps to share with family and friends of the Haydon family.

**Mapping the Massacres of Australia- (Prof Lyndall Ryan)** - Lyndall spoke about her research project documenting known massacre sites in colonial Australia. The digital map was launched during AHA conference held in Newcastle in July 2017. The project is a result of a research grant. Lyndall discussed the Mapping the Massacres of Australia website and how it works. The project has had very good media coverage and next stage will be gathering further information from the community, particularly regional communities where there have been many respondents. We thank Lyndall for sharing her research with the HHI group. See the following link for further information <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/newsroom/featured-news/mapping-the-massacres-of-australias-colonial-frontier>

### **6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL**

**7. Update- (Gianni di Gravo)** – Gianni advised that the event celebrating and promoting the Vera Deacon History Fund went very well, it was great to hear about some of the projects initiated through the fund about the history of the region. See photos on Flickr

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/albums/72157685698757854>

- We thank Mr Ross Edmonds for allowing us to present John R. Bingle’s personal copy of the *Past and Present Records of Newcastle New South Wales (1873)* and map of Puen Buen, John Bingle’s estate of 1800 acres (728 ha) of land at Dart Brook, in the Upper Hunter district. The map shows the progress of the settlement in the Hunter-River-District 1821-1825 (Railways of later dates) by J.F. Campbell 21st August 1925 (From J. F. Campbell “The Genesis of Rural Settlement on the Hunter” Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Vol XII 1926 Part II.) Also see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/09/08/bingle-1873/>

The book also contains a list of the first settlers on the Hunter River 1821-1825. This important historical work on Newcastle was published in Newcastle by Bayley, Son, and Harwood at the Pilot Office, Hunter Street in 1873. The book contains a photograph of Bingle, with signed dedication, as well as tipped in engravings from the Illustrated Sydney News, and extracts from his daughter Sarah Cross Little. John R (i.e., Rayden) Bingle, whose signature denotes its ownership, only son of John Bingle. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/09/08/first-settlers/>

**Update- (Ann Hardy)** – The GLAMx Lab updates- Tom Sinclair is our first WIL communications student at the Lab and we thank him for digitising the 1988 *News Night* content and related Index Cards, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/10/10/nbn1988-project/>  
- Another project is the *OCTAPOD Archival Project – Celebrating 20 years* undertaken by WIL student Freya Montefiore, <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/09/22/octopod-archival/> Overall there have been 14 WIL students this year in the Lab and several have continued to volunteer.  
-NEWYHistory App will be launched shortly. Thanks to Jarred Casely (UON student), there are over 100 items (places) with historical information and photographs. Ann will notify members of launch details.  
-Reminder Dr Greg Blyton is speaking tomorrow night at Newcastle Museum for Earth Science Week (October 8-14). To celebrate this year's theme, Earth and Human Activity this free public event will explore our local Aboriginal heritage.

**Update - (Tim Adams)** – Tim provided an update in terms of archaeological investigations in Newcastle and Newcastle East, particularly the Foreshore area. Tim advised that the Macquarie Pier plaque has been reinstalled, as close as possible to previous location.  
-Newcastle light rail - There has been pre-construction investigation stage, six trenches across several blocks, much of what was found was silt and sand, as fill. Relics most likely to be found 2 metres and lower (beneath light rail works). Pacific and Enterprise Parks mostly sand fill (drift sand from dune sand). Australia Agricultural Company timber footings from 1840s have been exposed, these differ to later concrete footings. Excavations are showing the various layers of early Hunter Street. Depth of impact is likely to miss significant archaeology. Harbour wall has been exposed and compared to early plans. Doug suggested there is the opportunity for proper heritage interpretation of Aboriginal and European cultural heritage. Tim agreed and advised there are plans to present archaeology and interpret heritage in a public way. Another project (unrelated to the Supercars or Light Rail project) involved a test trench sunk at Convict Lumber

Yard to explore the depth of relics and record findings of area of early convict hospital from the 1820s.

**8. Update- National Trust** – Keith provided a brief update.

**9. General Business -**

**a)** (Russell Rigby)- Russell spoke about the shaft that was recently exposed at Stockton Beach.

For further information see 'Stockton Colliery No. 3 Shaft'

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/09/12/stockton-colliery-3-shaft/>

**12. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 venue TBA, 1-3pm.