

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
4th September, 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 Gianni di Gravio

2. **Present:** Gianni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Russell Rigby, Keith Parsons, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Brian Roach, Louise Gale, Ken Thornton, Ron Barber, David Dial, Kaye Fisher, Tim Adams, Robert Watson, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Ken Thornton, Anne Creevey, Amanda Hinds, Jessica Waugh, Lesley Gent, Doug Lithgow, Peter Sherlock, John Witte, Hugh Watt, Julieanne Tilse, Beth Anastasiou,

Apologies: Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Brian Andrews, Ian Eckford, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Howard Dick, Patsy Withycombe, Jodi Vial, Charles Martin, Christine Brudelin, Ian Eckford, Jude Conway, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Suzanne Martin, Sue Effenberger, Bronwyn Law,

Visitors:

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 7th August 2017 was confirmed by Ron Barber and Louise Gale.

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

5. **Presentations**

Save Lake Munmorah Power Station Mural – (Ken Thornton)

Ken advised it was the 50th anniversary of Lake Munmorah Power Station, the station was decommissioned in 2010, demolition began in 2014 and many of the structures have been demolished, a video was shown capturing this. Ken is part of a group (Munmorah Reunion Committee) trying to protect a mural by artist Gino Volporto located in the Administration building. The ceramic mural was created in 1967 and is 9 metres in length and 1.8 metres high and celebrate (from L to R) the generation of coal. 800 individual pieces attached to a single

layer brick wall. The mural has been 3D scanned, and is in immediate threat of damage due to ongoing demolition at the site. So far meetings with management have been unsuccessful, and there has been minimal input or discussion with community groups in terms of heritage and conservation concerns. Keith Parsons suggested the possibility of gaining an Interim Heritage Order (IHO), this would allow time for a proper heritage assessment to be conducted. The Munmorah Reunion Committee are considering compiling a nomination for the State Heritage Register (SHR). It was suggested that Ken (team) prepare a document outlining current issues and concerns that could be circulated to others who may be able to assist. Keith P also suggested referring it to the National Trusts (Industrial Heritage Committee) that meets monthly in Sydney.

"The Big Stink in Honeysuckle"- Louise Gale

Louise G gave a fascinating presentation recounting a case in Newcastle associated with a "big stink at Honeysuckle". The story relates to a slaughterhouse that was located on Wharf Road during the 1850s. Louise described many issues around licensing and concerns about contagions and the spread of disease, and generally was effecting residents of Honeysuckle area. The incident was widely reported in the local newspaper. The owner of the slaughterhouse was Alderman Atkinson Tighe, numerous complaints were made stating the business was a nuisance and very smelly.

6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL.

- 7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio)** – Gionni discussed the recent visit to a rock art site at Mount Yengo on the 4 August 2017 with Dr Bernadette Drabsch and UON Natural History Illustration Field Studies & Culture Class NHIL3004. We visited the Finchley Park Reserve (also known as the Northern Map Site or Flat Rock) to undertake a site documentation through art, film, photography and digitisation using drone technology. The aim is to visually record, contextualise and interpret the site's present condition, including its flora, fauna, Aboriginal engravings, motifs and landscape in context. This work also forms part of the greater initiative of the East Coast Rock Art Collaborative Project, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/08/09/nhil3004/> Dr Greg Blyton from Wollotuka also attended on the day.
- The complete work documenting the historic legacy of The Store, and a 1988 exhibition created by The Newcastle Printmakers Workshop in the Newcastle Regional Museum is now online.

We thank the Newcastle Printmakers Workshop for permission to share the full digital scan of the entire work freely to the wider community. <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/08/11/the-store-1988/>

- 8. Update- (Ann Hardy)** – The GLAMx Lab is coming together well, 14 WIL students have been involved with similar number volunteering. Sarah Xenos a Sociology student completed a project for Cultural Collections associated with the Williamtown area, we also have a Communications student starting shortly. Sarah’s project can be viewed here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/08/30/environmental-impacts-of-raaf-williamtown/>
-The NEWYhistory app has been completed with the assistance of Jarred Casely (UON student), the app has over 100 items (places) and has historical information and photographs. We thank Jarred for his IT expertise and interest in getting the app to completion. A launch of the app will be organised shortly.
- 9. Update - (Tim Adams)** – Tim provided an update in terms of archaeological investigations in Newcastle and Newcastle East, particularly the Foreshore area. Gionni pointed out there are some aerial photographs by Milton Kent (1929) on Cultural Collections website, many show the buildings and infrastructure in the Newcastle East area, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2014/08/25/newcastle-aerial-photos/>
-Tim described an historic drainage system found whilst carrying out works at the intersection of Hunter and Watt streets, the drain is not thought to be of high heritage significance.
Next phase of construction for Supercars route is at the end of Watt Street (Black Wharf). Anne Creevey advised that Siobhan Lavelle (Snr Archaeologist at OEH) has been involved in Bathers Way development and suggested she be invited to this meeting to provide an update on archaeology from OEH perspective.
-Tim also commented on an apartment that is currently being constructed in Bolton Street, no archaeological evidence was found on inspection, previous demolition of the site took place in the 1980s, archaeology likely to have been destroyed during this time.
- 10. Update- National Trust** – Keith mentioned that submissions have closed for King Edward Park nomination to State Heritage Register. The Heritage Council of NSW has recommended listing, however the Minister has not made a decision.
-Newcastle Store building in Newcastle West is under threat, earmarked for demolition, unfortunately the SEPP overrides many environmental and heritage aspects. The Trust

supports retaining at least the façade of this historic department store. Newcastle City Council has also readvertised the Heritage Officer position.

11. General Business -

- a)** (Lesley Gent)- Lesley advised that she has been involved with Tomago House, they are looking for educational material specific to Aboriginal heritage of the area. Gionni advised that there are several Indigenous representatives that we can put her in contact with.
- b)** (Keith Parsons)- Keith asked about the Hunter Heritage Network and Ann advised that at a recent Hunter Heritage Network AGM it was decided that the network be disbanded and outstanding funds be donated to a regional history fund.
- c)** (John Fryer)- John advised that he was recently contacted by Nicholas Hall about recording Aboriginal archaeology, and specifically John's work on the Baiame Cave and the application of photogrammetry.
- d)** (Doug Lithgow) - Doug asked whether Newcastle Council had appointed a professional heritage adviser, applications closed 22 August. To date there has been no news regarding this appointment.

12. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 9th October 2017 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.