

**Hunter Living Histories Meeting**  
**6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**UON New Space Building, Hunter Street, Newcastle**

**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, Louise Gale, Ken Thornton, David Dial, Tim Adams, Suzanne Martin, Jessica Waugh, Lesley Gent, Doug Lithgow, John Witte, Hugh Watt, Jude Conway, Charles Martin, Sarah Johnson, Joshua White, Patrick Lindus, Vera Deacon, Kaye Fisher, Emma Heath, Siobhan Curran, Paul Newey, Jodi Vials, Mark Sutherland

**Apologies:** Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Christine Brudelin, Ian Eckford, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Jane Ison, Marilla North, Rob Jones, Bronwyn Law, Amanda Hinds, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Brian Roach, Chas Keys, Prof. Lyndall Ryan, Carol Duncan, John Fischetti, Brian Walsh, Robert Watson, Anne Creevey, Ron Barber.

**Visitors:**

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 9th October 2017 was confirmed by Tim Adams.
  
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:** -
  
5. **Launch/Presentations**

**Launch of the NEWYhistory App - (Jarred Casely & Ann Hardy)** - The NEWYhistory app was launched at the meeting. Ann Hardy and Jarred Casely spoke about the App and its development, it is a collaboration between the National Trust NSW and UON inspired by 'Lost Melbourne' app. The app has over 100 stories, a statement of significance, history statement and gallery of photographs. Thanks to Siobhan Curran and Carol Duncan suggesting a history app, to the UON Library and Greg Anderson for in kind support, Vera Deacon and general community who contributed information and sources. Many thanks to the cultural institutions for

use of images. Lastly many thanks to Jarred who came on board earlier this year and created the digital architecture for the app and transferred content into the new format- his expertise was greatly appreciated. Mark Sutherland from the UON Library presented Jarred with a Certificate of Appreciation and Vera and Jarred cut a celebratory cake to launch the app. We sincerely thank Jarred for his assistance.

**Aboriginal artefacts project -Natural History Illustration – (Emma Heath)** – Emma is a Natural History Illustration student at the UON and gave a brief overview of her work in the GLAMx Lab, she illustrated hundreds of artefacts from the former Palais site in Newcastle West. Emma sketched each artefact from 3 different aspects to capture the detail. A poster has been developed showing the artefacts and is available to view in the Lab. The plan is to upload sketches to Livinghistories@uon digital platform in the new year. Congratulations to Emma on her work.

## 6. Aboriginal heritage update – NIL

7. **Update- (Gionni di Gravio)** – Gionni advised that he and Ann met with Natural History Illustration students on the 6th October 2017 and visited some historic sites of Newcastle. They were introduced to a variety of important places on a walking tour including Christ Church Cathedral, the former Parsonage site, the former Newcastle Court House, Rose Cottage, James Fletcher Hospital Site, former military barracks site, Exchange and former Town Hall Chambers in Watt Street, Customs House, Cornish Dock, Macquarie Pier and Fort Scratchley.
- The BHP Coal Geology Plans have also been scanned and are now available on-line. The plan set was donated to the Geology Department at University of Newcastle by BHP Coal Geology, in the early 1960s. The plans were transferred to Cultural Collections and stored in archives at the Auchmuty Library, University of Newcastle (2012), together with other archival material from the Geology Department. We wish to thank Russell Rigby for editing the scanned plans so they could be made accessible to the wider community. See for more information <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/10/30/bhp-geology-plans/>
  - Baiame Cave Site Documentation Visit (2016) student projects are also now on-line, these projects are the work of Natural History Illustration Field Studies & Culture Class NHIL3004 after a visit to the cave on the 28th June 2016. Projects can be viewed here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/10/16/baiame-cave-2016/>
  - Russell Rigby's presentation about Newcastle streets names "How many Inventors?" has been made available on-line, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/10/13/how-many-inventors/>

**Update- (Ann Hardy)** – Ann gave a general update on projects at the GLAMx Lab. Patrick Lindus has almost completed the Engineers Oral Histories project that he has been working for Engineers Australia Newcastle Division- it is a collection of over 50 oral histories with engineers mostly associated with the Hunter Region. Several of these are already available on SoundCloud. We thanks Patrick sincerely for this work. See <https://soundcloud.com/uoncc/sets/engineers-australia-oral>

**Update - (Tim Adams)** – Tim provided an update in terms of archaeological investigations in Newcastle and Newcastle East, mostly associated with the light rail project in the inner city. He advised that testing for Aboriginal archaeology was taking place in Newcastle West, some artefacts found relating to tools, such as Bondi points (many are damaged). New works will begin around Newcomen, Brown and Perkins streets. The AA Company Bridge (pier) will remain in situ.

**Update- (National Trust)** – Keith Parson's advised he is a Candidate for the upcoming elections for the National Trust Board. The Trust is impressed with plans to develop the former David Jones building, it is sympathetic and facade will be kept. Also good news is the reinstatement of the original 'NESCA House" bronze sign that has been put back in place on University House.

## **8. General Business -**

- a)** (Joshua White)- Joshua is an artist, works at a local art gallery and has been invited to contribute to the upcoming 1818 exhibition interpreting early Newcastle and the 3 works of convict artist Joseph Lycett - commemorating 200 years next year. The exhibition will be held at the Newcastle Art Gallery next year. Joshua initially had the idea to produce a documentary, however is now considering creating a digital work and would like the support of this group in researching the theme. Sarah Johnson from Newcastle Art Gallery was also present at the meeting, and is curating the 1818 exhibition, she gave an overview of the project. Sarah is particularly interested in how the Lycett works have made their way back to Newcastle, considering they have had several owners it is quite remarkable – further research is needed. The gallery has engaged 8 international artists have been invited to give a contemporary response to the 3 paintings. Artists will engage with cultural sources of the area.

- b)** (Paul Newey) advised that he plans to republish the book 'Convict Nobbys – the story of the convict construction of Macquarie Pier and the reconstruction of Nobbys Island' by Noel Davies, published in 1996. Some revisions are necessary and Paul is calling for any assistance this group can offer. Gianni advised a few errors had already been picked up, and others may want to be involved to review.
  
- c)** (Jude Conway) advised Newcastle Local Studies were having a talk by authors of "Climbing the Hill" a book about Newcastle East School, Australia's oldest continuous school and commemorated 200 years in 2016.

**12. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.