

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
4th December, 2017 1:00pm – 3:00pm
UON New Space Building, Hunter Street, Newcastle

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), Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Keith Parsons, Louise Gale, Ken Thornton, Ron Barber, David Dial, Tim Adams, Jessica Waugh, Lesley Gent, Doug Lithgow, Jude Conway, Charles Martin, Patrick Lindus, Kaye Fisher, Paul Newey, Bronwyn Law, Brian Roach, Chas Keys, Reece Sprack, Michael Sheriff, Angelique Carr, Victoria Havice, Peter Ward, Don Seton Wilkinson, Phil Warren, Robert Watson.

Apologies: Russell Rigby, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Brian Walsh, Anne Creevey, Suzanne Martin, Joshua White, John Witte, Hugh Watt, Sarah Johnson,

Visitors:

3. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** The minutes for 6th November 2017 was confirmed by Tim Adams.

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

5. **Launch/Presentations**
History of Royal Newcastle Hospital - (Kaye Fisher) – Kaye gave an interesting overview of the Newcastle hospital during the 20th Century and some of the nurses who were there, including Matron Irene Hall and Sister Faye Makin. We thank Kaye for her contribution.

6. **Aboriginal heritage update – NIL**

7. Update- (Gionni di Gravio) – Gionni read out HHI Annual Report 2017. There has been extensive work undertaken by WIL students and volunteers this year and Gionni congratulated everyone who has contributed to the projects. The GLAMx Lab is a new initiative for the Library and 15 students from various disciplines have undertaken practicums with us. During November a number of posts have gone up on the Hunter Living Histories WordPress site, including the Infographics created by Natural History Illustration students after visiting some historic sites of Newcastle during October. The student's works showcase a range of historic themes including the Christ Church Cathedral, the former Parsonage site, the former Newcastle Court House, James Fletcher Hospital Site, former military barracks site, Victoria Theatre, Newcastle Pilot Station, The Junction Plane Crash, Newcastle's Graveyard of Ships, Ash Island, Walka Water Work and Scone Lock Up. To view these student's works see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/11/15/nhil3004-newcastle/> Other posts include Maitland Flood (1930) Panorama, thanks to community researcher Robert Watson who identified the images and stitched the, together, see following link for further information <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/11/15/maitland-flood-1930-panorama/> Another instalment of 'Coal River True Crime' has also been published by David Murray, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/11/14/not-a-reserved-girl/> -Congratulation to WIL student Peter Langton and Ann H who were 2017 UON Industry Award Recipients, receiving WIL Student and Staff member of the Year awards, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/11/16/2017-industry-awards/> Also during November Scott Bevan wrote an article "Virtual Digging" in the 'Newcastle Herald Weekender' about the Deep Time project, we are grateful for the extensive research and content available in the article. For more information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/11/17/deep-time-project/>

Update- (Ann Hardy) – Ann also thanked the WIL students and volunteers in the GLAM x Lab throughout the year. We've also recently gained more volunteers after the Deep Time article was published as there has been quite a bit of community interest. Dana Silayi's Indigenous Names Research – Making Connections Project is also now available online, the project looked at names of Aboriginal people in colonial records (often Aboriginal and Anglo names were given). Ann took place in a 1-day seminar about 'Healthcare in Newcastle 1817-2017' hosted by Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute on 11 November, 2017 at HMRI. She spoke about healthcare and Newcastle Hospital (1817-1860). There were a diversity of speakers and themes covered and we thank the Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute (HPMI) for the opportunity to participate, and for sharing their video presentations. Presentations are available online <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/11/29/healthcare-1817-2017/> In preparation for the

seminar to following sources were digitised, "The Newcastle Hospital 1817-1915" by Ben Champion (1950) held in Cultural Collection, they are freely available to the community, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/12/01/healthcare-in-newcastle-1817-1860/> Many thanks to Karen Moller for digitising these records. A video 'The Dam that Zihni Built' was kindly provided by Judy Lindsay (Institution of Engineers Newcastle Division) and is available online and honours the work of Zihni Buzo (OAM), civil engineer who worked on the Oaky River Dam, NSW in the 1950s. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/11/30/dam-zihni/> Emma Heath (Natural History Illustration student) who presented at the October meeting has also put her project online and we congratulate her on her work, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/12/04/aboriginal-artefacts/> We would also like to thank Victoria Havice for being on placement with us, she has gained a variety of skills and we wish her all the best in the future, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/12/04/7799/> . Some aerial photographs of New South Wales donated to the Geology Department at University of Newcastle have been digitised and made public to the wider community via the UONCC Flickr, they are available online <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2017/12/04/7799/> . Many thanks to Jessica Waugh (Project Lead) and Jessica Grey for their assistance on this project it is greatly appreciated.

Update - (Tim Adams) – Tim provided an update in terms of archaeological investigations in Newcastle and Newcastle East. A well in Auckland Street was found, interestingly it is on the roadway on north side of Hunter Street. Also found were large sandstone blocks located near the corner of Brown and Crown streets. Tim showed photographs of some of the recent finds. We thank him for his input throughout the year and for keeping the group informed of archaeological works happening in Newcastle.

Update- (National Trust) – Keith Parson's advised that he has been re-elected to the board of National Trust NSW. The HRCNT AGM has been postponed until early next year and group will be advised of new date. He advised that the Trust supports keeping rail on the corridor and for any development built to be over the former corridor, there was a recent public exhibition period about this issue. A building in King Street (former Villa Clone and originally a tea merchant warehouse) façade has been significantly altered with windows taken out and façade bricks painted, and suggests former should be re-instated. Keith also asked whether Newcastle council had appointed a heritage officer, Tim Adams advised that he thought someone had been appointed. Ann hardy to follow up and invite to next HHI meeting.

8. General Business -

- a)** (John Fryer)- John gave an interesting overview of the history of aerial photography. First aerial photo taken in 1856 in Paris, used 2 plate glass negatives, taken from a balloon. Sometimes there were problems with weight in the balloon. During the civil war in America aerial photography was also used to look for the enemy (hydrogen balloon). Prior to WWI (man kite) was also used between England and France whereby a person sat under a box dragged along by a boat. In Australia there were aerial photographs taken in 1928 by the Australian- Mascot Photographic Company.
- b)**
- c)** (Doug Lithgow) – Doug offered a vote of thanks to Gionni di Gravio (Chair) for his enthusiasm and commitment to the Hunter Living Histories group- this was unanimously supported. Congratulations Gionni on the successes during 2017.

12. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 5th February 2018 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.