

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
5th February, 2018 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), Keith Parsons, Louise Gale, Leigh Budden, Ken Thornton, Howard Dick, Ron Barber, Claire Adamson, Phillip Lloyd, David Dial, Russell Rigby, Tim Adams, Jessica Waugh, Doug Lithgow, Charles Martin, Patrick Lindus, Paul Newey, Bronwyn Law, Chas Keys, Michael Sheriff, Peter Ward, Don Seton Wilkinson, Phil Warren, Robert Watson, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Suzanne Martin, Anne Creevey, John Witte, Hugh Watt, Christine Brudelin, Peter Sherlock.

Apologies: Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Levin, Brian Walsh, Joshua White, Marilla North, Rob Jones, Jude Conway, Lyndall Ryan, John Ward, Ian Eckford, Alan Baynham, Lesley Gent, Brian Roach

Visitors: Deb Mastello, Alex Mills, Tom Smith, Di Kinloch, Zane Metcalf

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

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

5. **Presentations**
Newcastle Local Studies - (Alex Mills) – Alex is from Newcastle Council and provided update on current and proposed projects and exhibitions. Local studies is looking to do 'exhibition stories' that involve historians and artists. Serving Country Exhibition is about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Servicemen and on from Fri 20 April- Sat 9 June, 2018 at the Lovett Gallery, War Memorial Cultural Centre, Laman Street, Newcastle. Serving Country shares the remarkable first person stories of 75 years of over 150 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women's experiences in Australia's Defence forces. Free. See link for more information

<http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Library/Whats-On/Events/Exhibition-Serving-Country-Lovett-Gallery> Starts 20th April, free admission.

Bronwyn Law asked about the Wickham project (in collaboration with GLOW and NCC) that she researched (WW1 serviceman from Wickham). Alex advised that a staff member had left and this has delayed the project, however plans are underway to incorporate digital sources into EMU system.

Tomago House - (Deb Mastello) – Deb is the property manager for National Trust in the Hunter region. She is currently looking at educational programs for the houses, particularly Tomago House and ways to interpret Aboriginal culture and the history of the area. Richard and Mariah Windeyer were the original owners of the house in the mid- 19th Century. Deb is working with Carol Ridgeway-Bissett on Indigenous interpretations and educational program for secondary schools. Deb is looking for new ideas and collaborators to work with Tomago House interpreting its history, such as virtual reality (VR). It was suggested that the UoN Innovation Team may be a useful partner, or input from Communication students to undertake an audit and recommend strategies etc. Howard Dick suggested that there are no museums celebrating the Hunter River and that this may be a theme to focus on. HHI plans to continue ongoing support and advice to Deb.

6. **Aboriginal heritage update** – NIL

7. **Update- (Gianni di Gravio)** – Gianni mentioned the Hunter Valley Climate Data Sets from 1843 to 1907 that is now online. On the 3 May 2016 a number of Hunter Valley meteorological journals came to light, documenting historic weather records from stations located in the Hunter Valley, dating from 1843-1907. These records form a significant data set to rival the Belfield Climate Records of Algernon Henry Belfield in Armidale. The location(s) of the earliest Hunter Valley data sets dating from 1843-1878 were not clearly identified, but since they were donated with the 'identified' set from Wollong Station (Mount Vincent), dating from 1891-1907, then it was surmised that they are records associated with the Wyndham Family. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/01/10/hv-climate-data/> Also complimenting research on Belfield weather records from Armidale in the New England region.
- A Catalogue of Historic Engineering: The Denman Collection (2017). A Catalogue of Historic Engineering: The Denman Collection. A listing and description of significant engineering equipment of Industrial and Agricultural use and an introduction to the Denman Museum. Compiled by the Denman Team: Tony Gardner, Phil Lawrence, John Rodham, Rob Smith, Bob

Francis, Mick Harrison and Mark Kelleher, with assistance from Jeff Wolfgang. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/01/10/denman-collection/>

- The Sands of Yellow Rock (1959) - Filmed in the Wollombi Brook Catchment of the Hunter Valley of N.S.W., Australia. Further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/02/01/sands-of-yellow-rock/>
- Where was King Bully of the Newcastle Tribe buried in 1857? - Gionni has analysed written and visual sources to better understand where King Bully may have been buried. The Gas Works may have been the site of an Aboriginal camping ground (located on present day Steel Street) and in area of burials. The various overlays show the topography of the area and ancient dune systems. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/01/12/king-bully/>
- Paddy Tighe's Lost Aboriginal Names of the Fixed Stars and Planets of the Hunter Region - Does anyone know what became of the papers of Henry O'Sullivan White? He was the son of George Boyle White, surveyor. We are trying to track down a record that Henry made of local Aboriginal star names and stories back in the 1840s. His informant was an Aboriginal man named Paddy Tighe, and in all probability the knowledge was recorded between the years 1848-1850. Paddy at aged 19 in 1848 knew names of all the planets. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/01/25/paddy-tighe/>
- Condition of the Aborigines (1845) – A full transcription of 1845 N.S.W. Legislative Council Committee – Select Committee on the Condition of the Aborigines. Thank you to our volunteer Mr Peter Trenbath and staff member Ms Karen Moller who transcribed over 60,000 words comprising the complete document in the UON's GLAMx Digitisation Lab. This transcription was corrected, edited and prepared for online. The original 1845 report can be downloaded here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/01/04/1845-aborigines/>

Update- (Ann Hardy) – Ann gave a brief overview of the WIL students and volunteers in the GLAM x Lab during January. Many of the NBN Television News Night programs are now available online. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/category/film-video-digitisation/nbn-television-archives/>

Update - (Tim Adams) – Tim provided an update of archaeological investigations in Newcastle and Newcastle East. Tim discussed recent sandstone uncovered that is associated with the old boat harbour and fish markets from 1890s. These relics have been recorded and sections may need to be removed for new works to be undertaken (possibly be reused). Other areas will be covered up. Tim also advised AA Company remnants from the 1840s have been located, mostly wooden sections from pier. Photographs were shown. An early 'dish drain' was discovered

running north-south direction and constructed from basalt possibly ballast from Melbourne, and remains in situ. In Crown Street a timber top drain has been uncovered, the drain has sandstone sides with timber capping. A report describing archaeological investigations will be publically available at the OEH. Peter Sherlock suggested that significant archaeological discoveries located during construction could be interpreted, relics are unique and special to the city, perhaps displayed using VR or new digital technology. Tim also advised that transport NSW have produced short videos on the archaeological discoveries. Ann will send links.

Update- (National Trust) – Keith Parson's advised that the Hunter Regional Committee of the National Trust has an AGM coming up on Sunday 18 February 2018, 11am at Tomago House. There will be a guest speaker, all welcome and morning tea available.

8. General Business -

- a)** (Maree & Ken Shilling)- Maree and Ken advised they were contacted by local private bus company who are after a local historian to led bus tours in the region. Details will be sent to Ann who will follow up.
- b)** (Chaz Keys) – Chaz advised that there is a 'Look whose talking' event on 22 February with Howard Bridgeman talking about natural history of the Hunter River. Ann will send around details.

12. Close: 3.00 PM

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