

**Hunter Living Histories Meeting**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive**  
**Minutes**

**Start: 1:00**

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country** by Gianni di Gravio
  
- 2. Present:** Gianni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Keith Parsons, Ron Barber, David Dial OAM, Jessica Waugh, Robert Watson, John Witte, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Tom Smith, Bronwyn Law, Anne Creevey, Doug Lithgow, Brian Roach, Tim Adams, Peter Sherlock, William Greentree, Charles Martin, Janese McDonald, Robert McClardy, Stuart Carter, Don Seton Wilkinson, Kaye Fisher, Karen, Louise Gale.
  
- 3. Apologies:** Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson, Sarah Johnson, Di Kinloch, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Leslie Gent OAM, Jude Conway, Ian Eckford, Brian Walsh, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Russell Rigby, Phil Warren, Chas Keys, Hugh Watt, Suzanne Martin.

**Visitors:** Gaute Rasmussen, Vendela Pento, Liz Burge.

- 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Adopted by Robert Watson and seconded by John Witte.
  
- 5. Business arising from previous minutes:** -

**6. Presentations**

- a. Victoria Theatre VR project – (Gaute Rasmussen, Vendela Pento, – UON IT Innovation Team).**

The team are working on a project to virtually recreate the Victoria Theatre in 1891. It is a collaborative project with UON researchers Dr Gillian Arrighi, who along with Stephanie Holm have been funded by a ARC grant, a national project involving 12 universities, administered by Finders University. The theatre has a long history, in the later 20<sup>th</sup> Century the building was used as a retail store and is currently owned by Century Venues. The team are after any posters, photographs, music from 1891, images of the interior, architectural plans etc. Keith P

suggested speaking with Sue Ryan at Newcastle Local Studies, there was an exhibition some years ago on the Victoria Theatre. Brian R advised that former owner was Paul Birchall and may have some information. Please contact the IT Innovation team, or Gionni di Gravio if you have any further information about the Victoria Theatre.

**b. NSW Government War Memorial Mapping and Survey Project – (Liz Burge- Project Officer)**

NSW Government War Memorial Mapping and Survey Project is being undertaken by Dept. Veteran Affairs. The current database is hosted by SLNSW, there are currently 2000 items on the database, however there are problems with database because there are inconsistencies and out of date information. The project looks at any form of war memorial and seeks to update information and include high quality images and condition reports for each site. The focus is very much about conservation management. A community survey will be undertaken, and Newcastle will be a pilot for the project. Brian R informed that many of the churches have memorials. Maree and Ken Shilling have done a lot of work on memorials in Newcastle and locating them, Robert McLardy has spent a lot of time researching memorials. Bronwyn Law also mentioned that ADFAS are currently undertaking a national program researching School of Arts buildings, many of which were War Memorials. Liz thanked the group for the invitation to discuss the project and meet key contributors that she will keep in touch with throughout the project. A Workshop will be held in Newcastle on 26 July 2018, Ann will forward further details to members about the workshop.

## **7. Reports and Updates**

**a. Update- (Gionni di Gravio)** – Due to time constraints update held over until next meeting.

**b. Update- (Ann Hardy)** – Gave a brief overview of the some of the work in GLAMx Lab by students, including Communication student projects compiling summaries of NBN Television programs from the 1980s. William Greentree was one of the students who continues to volunteer; he has reviewed the student's lab work and created a blog post about the experience. Will gave a brief presentation, see the following link for more information <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/07/02/nbn-archive-student-project-report/> Ann also advised that one of series that students worked on was 'The Valley's People', the series is available at UONCC YouTube Series 1 (1980) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAVipgLczZQ&list=PLkmNKCgS\\_V3Z\\_G70SsVlou7jIotRvfJ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAVipgLczZQ&list=PLkmNKCgS_V3Z_G70SsVlou7jIotRvfJ)

[Dr](#) and Series 2 (1981)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIRKzgPmj5o&list=PLkmNKCgS\\_V3bcBF\\_Qe8nVcBclaM6Zq27j](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIRKzgPmj5o&list=PLkmNKCgS_V3bcBF_Qe8nVcBclaM6Zq27j)

**c. Update - (Tim Adams)** – Tim advised that his role on the light rail project is coming to an end soon. He showed photographs of the Scott and Watt Streets corner, and a post from the 1850s, wooden rails, and red brick round drain from 1870s. Gionni asked if there were any evidence of burials in the area of Scott Street, Tim advised that nothing had been located in terms of human remains

**d. Update - (Tom Smith-NCC)** – Tom informed that he continues to work on sensitive mapping project assessing Aboriginal sites. The Glebe Road Heritage Conservation Area (The Junction) report has been finalised and adopted by Council. Council is also involved in the Centenary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of Lambton Park Memorial gates where a time capsule was placed (Robert Watson also involved), an event is planned on 19 October 2018. Liz Burge also recommended that council write to her about possible Commonwealth funding that may be available.

- Council is also looking at heritage interpretation of some of the suburbs, including Carrington and Merewether. Tom is looking for historical information about Merewether and hoping to make contact with historical society. Brian R informed that David Burrow is the contact at the Merewether Historical society. If members of this group would like to contact Tom, it is best to send an email via council's official mail, and cc him in.

## 8. Public Advocacy

## 9. General Business -

- a. **Bronwyn Law- mentioned 'Face to a Name' project** – the project is associated with the young men of Wickham who lost their lives in WWI. A digital platform has been created by Newcastle Council and there will be launched later in July at the Lovett Gallery in Newcastle. Ann will send out further details.
- b. **Doug Lithgow – Macquarie Pier 200<sup>th</sup> Commemoration-** Doug advised it is almost 200 years (5<sup>th</sup> August) since Governor Lachlan Macquarie laid the foundation stone at Macquarie Pier. Doug has contacted Newcastle Council and Lord Mayor about a possible commemorative event

as it is significant part of the city's history. Doug also recently met Janet Merewether on a visit to Sydney, she is a descendant of the Merewether family and is interested in documenting Newcastle's history – she is a filmmaker. Doug will invite her to a HLH meeting.

**10. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 6<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.