

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
6th August 2018 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Room X-201, NewSpace University Building, Hunter Street, Newcastle

Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. **Acknowledgement to Country** by Gionni di Gravio

2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Ron Barber, David Dial OAM, Suzanne Martin, John Witte, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Tom Smith, Doug Lithgow, Tim Adams, Charles Martin, Don Seton Wilkinson, Louise Gale, Kerry Shaw, Jude Conway, Ian Eckford, Russell Rigby, Tom Smith

3. **Apologies:** Member for Wallsend Sonia Hornery, Bronwyn Law, Di Kinloch, Brian Roach, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Robert Watson, Anne Creevey,

Visitors: Ryan Tranter, Dr Jessie Lymn (CSU),

4. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes 2nd July:** Adopted by Robert Watson and seconded by John Witte.

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

6. **Presentations**
 - a. **(Ryan Tranter NCC) - Update Interpretation project for the Camp Shortland area within the Coal River precinct.** Ryan spoke about the conditions outlined by the Heritage Council of NSW to interpret history, landscape design of the Camp Shortland area, and acknowledge early history. A new play area and shelters will also be included. Discussed the Pizzey Plan that was commissioned by council some years ago (available on HLH website), that shows the main themes relating to the area. The interpretation plan has come about due to Supercars approval process; interpretative panels will be installed in the area of the new roadway in park. Panels will be taken out during the race period in November. Ryan informed that many stories can be told but would like to be guided by this group. Gionni emphasised the importance of the gunpowder tunnels and coal mines under Fort Scratchley. Kerry suggested that augmented

reality would add another layer. Other suggestions were to use Charles Martins 3D animations, QR codes, activate spaces by telling stories of people. Plan is for council to resolve the design and infrastructure and send to OEH.

- b. **(Suzanne Martin) – Governor Macquarie** – Suzanne gave a wonderful overview of Governor Macquarie's visits to Newcastle, Wallis and other prominent people in early Newcastle. She also spoke of the buildings and infrastructure constructed during the Macquarie years, including and the foundation stone that was laid at the pier 200 yrs. ago on 5 August 1818.

7. Reports and Updates

- a. Update – (Gianni di Gravio). Gianni spoke about the recent blog posts including 'The Wreck of the *Berbice*, Stockton Beach June 1888' and the location of a shipwreck, believed to be the *Berbice*, and recent images from a drone, was reported in a Newcastle Herald article in August 2018. Russell Rigby has compiled a series of photographs of the wreck and some overlays showing the wreck today. We thank Russell for his work. For further information see

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/03/wreck-berbice/>

At the last meeting the IT Innovation team spoke about the 3D Virtual Reality Reconstruction of the 1891 Victoria Theatre project, since then Gianni has undertaken an archival search for any related sources. We are thrilled to have tracked down early records of the Victoria Theatre Company Ltd that have been sitting in a garage lost for the past 30 years. Apparently, the Victoria Theatre Co. Papers (1886 – 1982) in eight bound volumes had been in the possession of Newcastle accountant Mr. Bruce Brown, who fortunately is still alive and donated the records to UON archives. To read all of the posts associated with the project see

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/?s=victoria>

NBN Television series 'Country Report' have been digitised and are now available online.

Joshua Curley, Digitisation Officer in the GLAMx lab, undertook the project. Country Report was a half hour program that aired on NBN from approximately 1988 to 1993 for regional viewers in the Hunter Valley, Central Coast and the Manning Valley. Country Report focused on rural and regional issues for 'the man on the land'. To read more about the project and access episodes see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/09/country-report/>

Gianni spoke about yesterday's event commemorating 200 years since Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone at the pier. The Newcastle Herald promoted the commemoration and many HLH members attended along with NCC staff, Lord Mayor Nelmes and other local members. Russell created a series of overlays showing the formation of the pier over the

centuries are available at the following blog post, as well as previous posts about survey and archaeological works at the pier <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/02/200th-macquarie-pier/>

Photographs of Newcastle were recently located online by researcher Matt Ward, held at the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom. These exceptional photographs show how the city looked in 1893, they are glass negative images taken by photographer Fred Hardie for the George Washington Wilson & Co. To view images see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/07/25/fred-hardie/>

Plan of the Town of Maitland (East) 1861 is available online, it shows numbered allotments and portions, landowners' names, named (and unnamed) streets, glebe, school house, quarry, cemeteries, various inns, various reserves (including reserve for race course and public recreation, reserve for court house and gaol, reserve for market, Cooks Square, Roman Catholic Church, Anglican church, Wallis Creek, Hunter River. Digitised in high resolution it is freely available. A kmz file is also available, open in Google Earth and use the opacity slider to view 1861 East Maitland over 2018 Google Earth Satellite Imagery. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/07/18/maitland-in-1861/>

- b. Update- (Ann Hardy)** – Ann showed part of a video containing digitised NBN Television material relating to trains and rail heritage in Newcastle, one segment showed the electrification into Newcastle in 1988, politician Neville Wran was present and made a speech. You can view footage at the following link <https://youtu.be/ojIPyKWOROM?t=12m54s>. Ann has done a search on Trove for newspaper articles relating to Aboriginal culture and rock art in the Hunter Region, the Singleton Argus was specifically targeted. Overall, there are quite a few articles about the rock art sites at Wollombi written in the 1930s, the earliest found article is from 1834. Some articles relate to Aboriginal rock art in the Central coast region, and Sydney. For more information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/07/09/aboriginal-rock-art/>
- Aerial photographs relating to Camberwell area and Lake Liddell overlaid on Google Earth and KMZ file available to view when opened in Google Earth. See <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/79226>
- c. Update - (Tim Adams)** – Tim advised that his role on the light rail project has ended, however he is willing to update on other matters of interest to the group.
- d. Update - (Tom Smith-NCC)** – Tom provided a brief update.

8. Public Advocacy

9. General Business -

- a. **Ann Hardy** – Welcomes Dr Jessie Lymn who lectures in library studies at Charles Sturt University and is in Newcastle over the next few days with a class of visiting students.

10. Close: 3.00 PM

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