

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

**Start: 1:00**

1. **Acknowledgement to Country** by Gionni di Gravio
  
2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio (chair), Ann Hardy (minute taker), Ron Barber, Doug Lithgow, Suzanne Martin, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Peter Sherlock, Robert Watson, Bronwyn Law, Brian Roach, Ian Eckford, Ross Edmonds, Anne Creevey, Maria Pavela, Tom Smith, Amanda Hinds, Jessica Waugh, Russell Rigby, Leslie Gent, Jude Conway, Don Seton Wilkinson, Christina O'Mara, Paul Walsh, Susan Harvey, David Dial, Nancy Cushing, Michael Paver, Dennis Thurlow.
  
3. **Apologies:** Hugh Watt, Prof. John Fryer, Prof. Maree Gleeson, Kerry Shaw, Diane Kinloch, Howard Bridgman, Louise Gale, Paul Newey, Tim Adams, Keith Parson, Anne Creevey.

**Visitors:**

4. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Brian Roach. Seconded Ken Shilling.
  
5. **Business arising from previous minutes:** -
  
6. **Presentations**

**Nancy Cushing & Jude Conway – Hidden Honeysuckle App.**

Nancy advised that the Hidden Honeysuckle app was a place-making project and joint project with HASS and Creative Industries and funded by the Newcastle Port authority. Emma Guthrey from architecture coordinated the project. Jude Conway undertook historical research to find stories that were different and quirky. Four themes chosen include, 'Animal Stories', 'on the water', 'the dark side' and 'step right up'. Jarred Casely assisted with the technical development of the App and it is planned to have audio also available in the future. Nancy advised that she enjoyed working with other disciplines on this project, and they worked well as a team. Jude's historical research was very broad, she searched various archives, social media and family

history groups, Hunter Photobank, UON Cultural Collections (appreciated the hi res images available). The Hidden Honeysuckle App is available to download free via iTunes and Android. Also, see <https://www.honeysuckleplacemaking.com/hidden-honeysuckle/>

### **Doug Lithgow – Nobby Headland remediation.**

Doug provided an overview of the changes that have taken place at Nobby's headland. Nobby's is an icon of Newcastle, has a complex history and rich Indigenous history. There was a conservation campaign to save Nobbys from being 'blown up' in the 1850s, 17 tons of explosives were proposed to flatten the headland and 3 tunnels excavated for explosives to be placed. Eventually only the top of the headland was removed and a lighthouse constructed. The existing lighthouse is 161 years old. Doug also spoke about people associated with the headland and the campaign to 'save' it back in the 1850s, people such as John Bingle and Mr Thorn. Bronwyn Law also advised that she has an account from a lighthouse keeper's daughter who lived at Nobbys Headland in 1947; it is a complete diary and will speak to author/family regarding permission to publish.

## **7. Reports and Updates**

**Update – Gionni di Gravio-** Gionni advised that the Victoria Theatre VR project is progressing well and that the company records brought to the archives by Bruce Brown are scheduled to be digitised. The date of the VR project launch is Tuesday 13 November at the Victoria Theatre in Perkins Street, Newcastle. There are also plans underway to have music included in the VR, special thanks to Helen English for her contribution. See latest blog posts here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/09/13/victoria-theatre-3d-vr/>

Further to the discussion at the last meeting about Henry Lawson's association with Wickham School of Arts Gionni has published a blog post with the entries from Lawson's diary that is kept at the SLNSW. Two entries specifically mention his time in Newcastle. Special thanks to Ross Edmonds for his research. See post for further information <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/09/11/henry-lawson-wickham-soa/>

A series of early photographs of Newcastle are also available on-line, and thanks to Russell Rigby who has annotated them. Most of the scenes are of Newcastle, Wickham and the Hunter River and port and Bullock Island. Original photographs are held at the SLNSW (X981 32-34) and can be viewed here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/09/03/scenes-of-newcastle-1880s/>

Gionni mentioned the VDRHF and the importance of providing opportunities for young people to gain meaningful experience and employment. Maria Pavela (UON Office of Alumni and Philanthropy) was also at the meeting and highlighted the work of the foundation and the importance of providing students with skills for the future.

**Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update:** There are several Work Integrated Learning students on placement this semester, including communication students, one is re-writing historical content for publication in the Newcastle Herald, and others are working alongside Phil Lloyd in the audio-visual lab documenting/filming some the processes used to digitise historic footage. Other students are from sociology, working on a survey asking the community about their perceptions of Newcastle's history. The other sociology student is identifying content of film footage from 1950s. Michael Paver has been experimenting overlaying on Google Earth some of aerial photographs recently digitised- concentrating on the Upper Hunter, and we thank Russell R for his input and expertise in this area. For further information, see Mapping the Aerial Photographic Archive <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/09/27/mapping-aerial-photographic-archive/>

**Tim Adams, archaeological update:** N/A

**Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update:** Tom has been working closely with Robert Watson on the Time Capsule project associated with Lambton Gates. A few weeks ago a team worked to excavate the capsule, it took many hours but eventually the contents were revealed. Contents included a Newspaper article 'Declaration of War', several coins and other items that are now with the conservator in Sydney. Plan it to locate items for the new time capsule to be reburied. Robert Watson is assisting in finding new content and is a member of the committee organizing the event. The commemorative event will take place at Lambton Park on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October – all invited. Invitations will also be emailed to HLH members.

**Paul Walsh:** Paul was at the recent event unearthing the time capsule and was inspired to write a short reflection. He gave an overview of his involvement in Newcastle's literary scene, he is the author of the popular 'Novocastrian Tales' and is inspired by local Indigenous stories. He is currently working on an interpretive project representing Indigenous leader Birabahn and is networking with Aboriginal groups and sculptor Julie Squires. Paul has been trying to get to

HLH meetings for years and thanked members for their knowledge and work, which had given him much inspiration.

## **8. Public Advocacy**

## **9. General Business -**

**Ron Barber** - Ron informed that a new exhibition space is be available at the fort.

**Suzanne Martin** - The former Newcastle Station was recently re-opened. Suzanne pointed out that the Roll of Honour has apparently been restored, however its location unknown. If anyone knows its whereabouts Suzanne would like to hear from you.

## **10. Close: 3.00 PM**

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