

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
3 February 2019 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), Prof. Maree Gleeson, Ron Barber, John Witte, Suzanne Martin, Peter Sherlock, Paul Newey, Bronwyn Law, Brian Roach, Ross Edmonds, Jessica Waugh, Russell Rigby, Lesley Gent, Don Seton Wilkinson, David Dial, Keith Parsons, Louise Gale, Bob James, Ian Eckford, Tim Adams, Doug Lithgow, Hugh Watt, Marilla North, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Ed Tonks, Denis Thurlow, Ken Thornton, Jan McLeod, Makayla , Jude Conway, Elizabeth Wade, Jude Nicholson.

- 3. Apologies:** Kerry Shaw, Diane Kinloch, Maria Pavela, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Kerry Grant, Prof. John Fryer, Howard Dick, Amanda Hinds, Charles Martin, Robert Watson, Sarah Johnston, Paul Walsh, Susan Harvey,
Visitors:

- 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** 3 December – Lesley Gent. Seconded - John Witte.

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

- 6. Presentations**
(Catherine Ziegler - Archivist ANU) – Tooth & Company Hotel cards digitisation project.
Catherine gave a wonderful overview of the digitisation project of the hotel cards, she described the various ANU archival programs, University archives and other archives holdings, including the Noel Butlin archives of business and labour. A historical timeline was provided describing the formation of the Tooth & Company Ltd, the brewery began keeping Index Cards on the hotels they owned, supplied, and some of their competitors hotels – known at ‘yellow hotel cards’. These cards contained information about the hotel, location, had a graph featuring the

number of barrels of Tooth's beer, or dozens of bottles of Tooth's beer supplied to the hotel, as well as information on the licensee, and total trade per year. A photograph of the hotel is provided with each listing. Catherine described the mapping process and some of the issues they had with finding locations. Ed Tonks reinforced the value of the 'Yellow Cards', he has found out so much from the yellow cards, photos etc. with resources spanning 50-60 yrs. There are many other photographs in local collections here in Newcastle that are associated- a larger project would be valuable to the community. Catherine and ANU were congratulated for making these archives publicly available

7. Reports and Updates

Update – Gianni di Gravio- Gianni discussed the Co-operative Store project and particularly the archives held at the UON that relate to the Store, including 'Minute Books', shareholder reports and other resources. When the minute books were given to the archives several books were missing (11-22) and may still be somewhere in the community, possibly were with the researcher/historian who wrote up the history in 1948 (unknown author). The Store 1988 publication is also available and can be downloaded from HLH website. There are several posts about the Store and associated archives on the HLH site see

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/?s=the+store>

Gianni documented the Stockton Breakwater memorials in the following post that also includes photographs taken on 18 January 2019. Using a chosen rock, the memorials have been crafted and decorated through paintings, shells, stones, motifs and adorned with flowers. Some are rudimentary, others more stylistic; some professionally created on permanent materials, others makeshift and temporary. All carry heartfelt messages and information relating to people that are no longer with us. For further information see

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/01/18/stockton-breakwater-memorials/>

Harold Maze collection of glass negatives have been digitized and are available on livinghistories@uon, also see information on HLH page 'Wilson Harold Maze Photographic Collection' <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/01/10/maze-collection/>

Ann Hardy, Glam Lab update: Ann advised that during January several blog posts were compiled. One on 3D scanning shows a series of screen shots and has other information about the 3D scanning process (a process used to scan the Aboriginal artefacts for the Deep Time Project). Although is a brief overview, the blog post provides some understanding of the various steps to create a 3D scan and will be useful for students on WIL placements/volunteers

interested in this area of digitisation. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/01/29/3d-scanning/>

We also published a short biography of Joy Cummings from information sent to Cultural Collections a number of years ago by Joy's family. You can read the post here, "Joy Cummings – "Words were not important – love has its own language" – A tribute to Australia's first female Lord Mayor. <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/01/18/joy-cummings/>

-Several UON students will be working on The Store Oral History Project over the next 6 months, promotion of the project is already underway and there has been a good response from the community. The project is sponsored by Doma Group, and managed by Artefact Heritage, with GLAMx Lab and the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund has employed students/volunteers to work on the project. Also, many thanks to the Newcastle Region Library for supporting and promoting the project. For further information about the project see "The Store" – whats your story ? <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/01/24/store-interviews/>

Tim Adams, archaeological update: Tim gave an update on archaeological work underway at the former David Jones building In Newcastle. On site was the William Rouse Hotel (1840s) and a few other buildings during the first half of the 1800s. The area would have seemed quite isolated during the colonial era and dwellings isolated from the main town and housing. Waterboard plans show laneways and more buildings filling out the block. Footings of one of the houses on site shows 4 rooms. There is possibly some mine subsidence (1870s), and as Russell Rigby pointed out the 'Newcastle Creep' (1908 report) may have also caused problems. 'Creep' was prevalent in that area of the Newcastle and caused substantial subsidence due to vulnerable geology and sand slip. A 1860s well has also been located and may reveal more about the use of the site and Rouse's hotel. Investigations remain ongoing in terms of Aboriginal archaeology. Mark Metrikas asked whether the site would be open to the public, Tim advised that it would not be, there are many OH&S issues, instead monthly updates to this group will be provided and members of the community are very welcome to contact Tim if they have further questions. Gionni emphasized the importance of archaeological investigations whilst the city is undergoing significant change and development – there is an opportunity not available elsewhere, many large cities have already undergone development. PLAN - Invite Aboriginal representatives (Shane Frost) to future meetings, as there is much interest from members in the Aboriginal heritage of the area.

Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update: N/A

8. Public Advocacy

9. General Business -

Ross Edmonds – Ross advised that there will an exhibition hand painted etchings at National Trust's Brough House in Maitland on Sunday 10 February, 10am.

Jan McLeod – Jan advised that her book "Shadows on the Track" will be launched on at Lovett Gallery, Newcastle Regional Library in Laman Street, Newcastle on Wednesday 13 March and she will give a presentation at next meeting that specifically looks at the Newcastle connection and the Field ambulance in Kokoda.

Hugh Watt – Hugh's post-graduate research investigates Aboriginal archaeology and he is specifically looking at instances where metal has been and used by Aboriginal people, for example where old Sheers, horse shoes etc. reused for another purpose. Gionni suggested Hugh contact Dr Greg Blyton as he may know of some examples, or have contacts.

10. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 4 March 2019 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.