

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
3rd March 2018 1:00pm – 3:00pm
University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive
Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. Acknowledgement to Country by Ann Hardy

2. Present: Ann Hardy (Chair), Ron Barber, John Witte, Peter Sherlock, Robert Watson, Bronwyn Law, Brian Roach, Ross Edmonds, Jessica Waugh, Russell Rigby, Lesley Gent, Don Seton Wilkinson, David Dial, Warren Hardy, Keith Parsons, Louise Gale, Bob James, Ian Eckford, Tom Smith, Doug Lithgow, Charles Martin, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Martin , Susan Walsh, Paul Walsh, Jan McLeod, Maria Pavela, Prof. John Fryer, Jude Conway, Marilla North, Denis Thurlow, John Lewis,

3. Apologies: Gionni di Gravio, Prof. Maree Gleeson, Diane Kinloch, Paul Newey, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Hugh Watt, Mikahlia Holmes, Tim Adams,

Visitors: Penny Ferguson, Claudia Liebenberg

4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Ron Barber. Seconded Peter Sherlock.

5. Business arising from previous minutes: -

6. Presentations

- (Dr Jan McLeod – (UON Historian) – Jan spoke about her upcoming Book Launch – “Shadows on the Track” A new book has provided unprecedented insight into the extreme medical challenges the Australian Army was faced with during the war in Papua between 1942 and 1943. Her publication *Shadows on the Track: Australia’s Medical War in Papua 1942-1943* came out of her PhD research and is the first major study of the frontline medical units from Kokoda, Milne Bay and the Beachhead Battles since the official histories were published in the 1950’s.

Authored by University of Newcastle historian, Dr Jan McLeod, the book explores the devastating factors that resulted in almost 30,000 soldiers suffering from illness and tropical disease during the six-month campaign. Drawing on a family connection to her uncles, Nick and Bill Kennedy who served in the 2/4th Field Ambulance, Dr McLeod is able to provide a more personal account of the medical war through sources, diary entries and never-before-seen photographs. Invitation to launch is extended to HLH members, launch is on Wednesday 13 March, 6pm at the Lovett Gallery, Newcastle Regional Library.

- (John Witte – Hunter Rainbow Project) – Livinghistories@UON LGBTIQ chronology. John gave a fascinating overview of the current project he is working on some community members collecting oral histories and other sources associated with the LGBTIQ community in Newcastle, and demonstrated the technical side of digitation and making accessing to the wider community. This is the collection of the Hunter Rainbow History Group which was formed to record and collect the stories and experiences of LGBTIQ people in Newcastle and the Hunter, to preserve and illuminate the hidden histories of this vital and resilient community. Hunter Rainbow History Group hopes to work with local history and LGBTIQ networks in the Hunter and is always seeking new volunteers and voices from the community to help with interviewing, logging, archiving, cataloguing, researching and organising. The project is in collaboration with the UON Cultural Collections, and available on the Livinghistories@UON digital platform, the view collections see <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/59991> Please let John know if you know anyone who would like to contribute to the project.

7. Reports and Updates

Update – Gianni di Gravio- Gianni was an apology at this meeting as he is attending GLAM Peak meeting in Canberra.

Ann Hardy, Glam Lab update: Ann advised of the following posts of the HLH website during February, most of them were compiled by Gianni.

Maitland Flood Scenes Photographed by Elijah Hart (1864-1870?)
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/26/maitland-floods-elijah-hart-1857/>

Pen and Pencil Sketches on the Hunter by a Chatty Writer (1889)
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/26/sketches-on-the-hunter-1889/>

Maitland in 1878
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/25/maitland-in-1878/>

The New Railway Bridge Across The Hunter At Aberdeen (1872)
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/25/aberdeen-1872/>

Floods in the Hunter (1870)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/25/floods-hunter-1870/>

Sketches of Newcastle by George French Angas (1822-1886)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/22/angas-1853/>

Lake Macquarie Surveys 1829

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/22/lakemac-surveys-1829/>

View of Muscleebrook (1869)

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/18/view-of-muscleebrook-1869/>

Victoria Bridge Maitland in 1855

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/18/victoria-bridge-1855/>

Selected Historic Records of Dalwood Vineyard

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/07/dalwood/>

The following video was also shown to group, it has been put together by Phillip Lloyd from the GLAMx Lab (NBN Television digitisation Lab) and has been currently aired on NBN television, "The Vera Deacon Regional History Fund"

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/02/25/promo/>

The Store Oral History project is going well, it has been promoted in the Newcastle Herald and on social media, as well as Local Studies mailing list. There has been a good response and we plan to interview 20 people, there has already been quite a lot of memorabilia that has come to us, including a recording of The Store choir in 1960s, photographs and scrapbooks.

An separate oral history interview was recently recorded with Barry Howard, he was a 'Stringer' with NBN Television during the 1960s, the interview is available here.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: N/A

Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update: Tom gave a brief update, mentioned that council is establishing a Strategic Heritage Committee, there has been some time since there was a designated heritage committee for the city.

8. Public Advocacy

9. General Business -

- a. (Penny Ferguson) – Penny attended meeting with her daughter Claudia Liebenberg discuss the Book “Ben and his Mates” that she has edited about the war diaries and letters of Lt. Ben Champion. The book documents the War diaries, letters and photographs of Lieutenant Ben Champion 1st AIF, 1915-1920. Launch of book is 30 April at Lovett Gallery in Newcastle, further information will be forwarded to members.
- b. (Russell Rigby) - 1890s Water Board maps, discussion about series of large-scale maps "Where did the stone come from?". We thanked Russell for his presentation and plan to compile a blog post about the plans.
- b. (Paul Walsh) Colonial Novocastrian - collaborative research/inspirations. This item will to be carried over to April meeting.

10. Close: 3.00 PM

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