

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
1st April 2019 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Room x602, UON NewSpace Building, Hunter & Auckland Streets,
Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. Acknowledgement to Country by Gionni di Gravio

2. Present: Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker) Ron Barber, John Witte, Robert Watson, Bronwyn Law, Ross Edmonds, Jessica Waugh, Russell Rigby, Lesley Gent, Don Seton Wilkinson, Ben Grieve, David Dial, Louise Gale, Bob James, Ian Eckford, Tom Smith, Doug Lithgow, Charles Martin, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Suzanne Martin, Jan McLeod, Maria Pavela, Prof. John Fryer, Jude Conway, Denis Thurlow, John Lewis, Tim Adams, Maddie Wilson, Gary Jones, Pat Davidson, Julie Baird.

3. Apologies: Prof. Maree Gleeson, Alex Zelinsky, Diane Kinloch, Paul Newey, Hugh Watt, Mikahlia Holmes, Susan Walsh, Paul Walsh, Howard Bridgeman, Sonya Hornery, Peter Sherlock, Coral Black, Brian Roach, Marilla North, Sarah Johnson, Anne Creevey, Amanda Hinds

Visitors:

4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Bob James. Seconded Jude Conway.

5. Business arising from previous minutes: -

6. Presentations

- **(Dr Bob James – (UON Historian))** – Bob spoke about Fraternal societies and his large collection of associated artefacts and memorabilia that is held at Cultural Collections at the University of Newcastle. The presentation ‘Fraternal Societies – Secretive, Biblical and Fantastic Show-Offs’ was videoed and is available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/04/05/fraternal-societies/> There were many questions asked at the end of the meeting, Russell R mentioned that David Jones department store made

a lot of regalia made of fabric and there was a lot of commercial enterprise related to the societies.

7. Reports and Updates

Gionni di Gravio- Update – Gionni described recent post about John Wyndham and the Dalwood for the Bordeaux Wine Exhibition (1882) document that was donated to the State Library of New South Wales by the Dalwood Restoration Association, where it joins a substantial collection of documents about the Wyndham family and the Dalwood Vineyards. Vines were first planted at Dalwood on 1st September 1830 by George Wyndham and his convict employees. It is now the oldest commercial vineyard in Australia. There is also a transcription of a fragile document that has some valuable information. We thank Don Seton Wilkinson (John Wyndham's great-great-grandson) for the transcription. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/04/01/bordeaux/>

Another blog post was published, 'Part of Hunter's River: (or the Coal River) surveyed by Lieutenant Charles Jeffries, Commander of H. M. G. Brig. Kangaroo. This is a linen copy of the Jeffries 1816 chart held in the State Library of New South Wales. The original is held in the Hydrographic Office, Taunton UK, Part of the hunters River, 1816 (High Street, (Watt St) Lighthouse (Beacon) also three mine entrances to the south of Flagstaff Hill shown) Ship wreck Dundee lost 1812, Commandants Farm at Cottage Creek .Coal Yards and two lead lights shown at Watt St Wharf. Survey is by Lieutenant Jefferies commander of the Brig Kangaroo, March 1816. Thank you to Doug Lithgow who provided the information when he visited the Hydrographic Office in 2008 and viewed the original source. See his report here: <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/12/14/hydrographic/> and other further information is at the following link <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/03/30/jeffries-1816-linen/>

"Know Your Hunter Region - To Sustain the Hunter, We Must Know the Hunter" was also shared on HLH website, it was a 2008 Presentation of The UON's Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment and provided by Dr Karel Grezel. It is an overview the geology of the region, and has numerous maps showing river systems, groundwater and catchment area. View post at the following link <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/03/26/know-your-hunter/>

Finally, a HLH post was compiled on "The Hunter Region's earliest photograph?" It explores what the earliest photograph ever taken may have been in the Hunter Region. One of the photograph was taken by Elijah Hart and, as part of a set of four images, is dated to 1857

according to the State Library of Victoria. It appeared to be one of the earliest photographs ever taken in the Hunter Region, until Maitland researcher, Peter F. Smith, recently contacted us with evidence that the photograph, along with the others probably dated to 1864 – 1870. To read more about this see post see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/03/07/earliest-photograph/>

Ann Hardy, Glam Lab update: The Store Oral History project is going well, there have been approximately 11 people interviewed so far. Focus will now be digitising a diversity of sources to be made available to the wider community, rather than a book. Blog post was compiled by Tenzin Legden “Ancestor to the modern ‘Selfie’” and daguerreotype and other type of early photography. Daguerreotype was the first practical method of taking a lasting image and was available to the public in 1839. The process was invented by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre, a French artist and a chemist who based it on Joseph Nicéphore Niépce’s process of heliography (sun drawing), a French inventor, who is credited as the inventor of photography. Despite its prominence, daguerreotypes were very expensive, and only the wealthy could afford to have their picture taken. Therefore, it was almost entirely replaced by 1860 with advanced and cheaper processes (e.g., Tintype, Ambrotype). Calotype. We thank Tenzin very much for his work.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: Tim gave an update and showed photographs of archaeology in Swan Street Newcastle, near Mosbri Cres. This street contained houses of the mid- 1800s. One dwelling has timber floorboards on brick. We thank Tim for the update.

Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update: Tom gave a brief update, mentioned that council is establishing a Strategic Heritage Committee, due to form in July. There is also a project to protect trees. We thank Tim for the update.

Julie Baird - City of Newcastle Museum Director brought in the historic Dangar Plan for members to view. The map was recently donated after it was found at a second-hand store in Sydney. Many thanks to Julie for sharing the map, there was a lot of interest and members appreciated the opportunity to view the original artefact .

8. Public Advocacy

9. General Business – N/A

10. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 6th May 2019 at University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive, 1-3pm.