

Hunter Living Histories Meeting

6rd April 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Join : <https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/890600588>

Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. Acknowledgement to Country ; Gionni di Gravio

2. Present: Gionni di Gravio OAM (Chair), Ann Hardy (minute taker), John Witte, Alex Mills, Don Seton Wilkinson, Robert Watson, Kerrie Shaw, Tom Smith, Doug Lithgow, Louise Gale, Judy Lindsay, Ross Edmonds, Leslie Gent OAM, Anne Creevey, Mark Metrikas, Howard Bridgman, Bob Syron, Ian Eckford, Peter Sherlock, Hugh Watt, Robert McLardy, Heather Sharp, Maria Pavela, Damien Linnane, Patrick Lindus, Cameron Archer, Paul Kiem, Paul Newey, Mel Woodford.

3. Apologies: Prof. Maree Gleeson, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Marilla North. Kieran Sturt, David Dial OAM, Tim Adams, Dennis Thurlow.

Visitors:

4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Doug Lithgow. Seconded Robert Watson

5. Business arising from previous minutes: - NIL.

6. Presentations – NIL.

7. Reports and Updates

Update – Gionni di Gravio – Gionni welcomed participants to the Zoom meeting and informed that most UON staff are working remotely due to the COVID-19 shut downs. He also welcomed some of the interstate and new participants.

Gionni gave updates during March including the airing of 'Revelation' ABC 3 part series that included local archival footage from UON Cultural Collections. Some WIL students and volunteers were involved in locating and researching archival footage for the series.

- At the last meeting, we briefly showed historic footage of the Victory in the Pacific (VP) Celebrations Newcastle (N.S.W.) 1945 recently digitised. The Newcastle Herald and NBN Television each did stories about the historic find. Many thanks to Greg and Sylvia Ray who donated the footage to the UON in 2019, and Mrs. Vera Findlay of Greta who located it. Many thanks to Dr Heather Sharp for her contribution in the media stories. Further information about the footage is here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/03/03/newcastle-1945-ww2/>
- We were very pleased to have a generous donation to purchase a new camera to capture our 16mm and 8mm film archive. With only having one camera this meant that if it broke audio-visual digitization of this format would cease until another camera was located and purchased (only available second hand). Phillip Lloyd describes SONY Colour Video Camera and AV digitization here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/03/12/glamx-av-what-we-need-right-now/>
- Another HLH post includes 'Spanish Flu and Newcastle 1919: What can we learn today?' compiled by Dr Edward Bridle and includes sources from the centenary of the Spanish Flu. <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/03/18/spanish-flu-newcastle-1919/>
- Recently we met with Newcastle Industrial Heritage group to discuss 'Fortress Newcastle: A Call To Action' project and possible GLAMx Lab collaboration with WIL students. The COVID-19 outbreak has drawn further attention to the need to adapt to change and new technologies and innovation in times of need. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/03/24/fortress-newcastle/>
- Finally, the digitization project of records associated with Margaret Illukol (c.1955 – 2015) is now available online. Margaret was born in Uganda and attacked by a hyena in 1963 that left her with significant facial disfiguration. Margaret eventually came to Australia supported by Rotary clubs, and settled in Newcastle; she became a nurse at Royal Newcastle Hospital. Maria Pavela also informed of the UON Margaret Illukol scholarship to be launched shortly, thanks to a generous bequeath of Margaret to support students. Further information is available here "Remembering

Margaret Illukol (c.1955 – 2015)”

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/04/03/margaret-illukol/>

- David Dial advised that he is preparing the third weekly article of "The Hunter Remembers WW2" for the Newcastle Herald; one feature has an image from Cultural Collections commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the WWII August 1945. He also advised that Lake Macquarie City Library's "History Illuminated" historical cruise in March would be postponed until later in the year. David has a weekly article in The Newcastle Herald,

Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update: - Ann spoke about the current CNMS3333 student project re-creating NBN Television News stories from 50 years ago. This is quite a unique project for multi-media communication students, thanks to Ed Reddin (course co-ordinator), Phillip Lloyd and volunteers who prepared the archival sources.

Further information on this project is available here 'Our Regional World 50 Years Ago' <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/04/06/our-world-50yrs/>

- The Arthur Perry Tram Collection is now available online, we are grateful to Arthur Perry for loaning his collection for digitisation, and that Ashleigh Miller volunteer at the GLAMx Lab for her expertise in digitising, editing and uploading images to the libraries digital platform. Further information is available here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/03/13/arthur-perry-collection/>

- Ann reminded members of the HLH Instagram that has two posts weekly, it can be accessed from the HLH WordPress site. Maria Pavela commended the site and work of Kieran Sturt who is researching and writing the weekly posts.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: - N/A

Alex Mills – Newcastle Council Library – Alex updated the group on the current COVID-19 constraints on Library services since 7 March, many staff are working remotely and at present operations at library branches are temporarily suspended and offering digital services only. Alex also advised there is likely be an 8-week delay in digitization equipment arriving in Australia, due to the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Tom Smith and Isabelle Howlett - Newcastle Council update: N/A

8. Public Advocacy

- **Mark Metrikas (Hunter Regional Committee of the National Trust)** – Mark gave an update on some of the heritage and advocacy issues that the committee are currently involved.

9. General Business –

Howard Bridgman - advised that he continue to research historic weather records is working out a coding system. He is still looking for historic weather data sets, particular those that may exist outside the region. If anyone has information please contact Howard on

Peter Sherlock – advised that the William Fourth vessel is not currently operating and volunteers are off site due to COVID-19, however they had a successful cruise and fundraiser on the Hunter River with special guest historian Vera Deacon

Doug Lithgow – Reminded the group of some video footage of group celebrating Joyce Bond's Freeman of the City award in the 1980s. Joyce was a heritage and community activist and event was at Anne von Bertouch's gallery. Video recording has been digitised and AH will upload to livinghistories@UON.

Ann Hardy - was contacted by UON academic Yvonne Fletcher about whether the UON Library is collecting "artefacts" associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic. There was a general discussion on how the community could share stories; one suggestion was an oral history project whereby people could conduct their own interviews, perhaps via Zoom. Example of grandchildren interviewing grandparents about the current situation. Dr Heather Sharp supports such an initiative and is interested in collaborating further.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 4th May 2020, 1-3pm.

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)