

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
2nd March 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Room L329, Auchmuty Library, Callaghan Campus,

Minutes

Start: 1:00

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country** by Prof. John Maynard

- 2. Present:** Gionni di Gravio OAM (Chair), Ann Hardy (minute taker), Prof. John Maynard, Prof. John Fryer, Greg Blyton, Ron Barber, John Witte, Suzanne Martin, Don Seton Wilkinson, David Dial OAM, Keith Parsons, Jessica Waugh, Mark Rigby, Robert Watson, Bob James, Kerrie Shaw, Tim Adams, Tom Smith, Doug Lithgow, Isabelle Howlett, Louise Gale, Judy Lindsay, Ross Edmonds, Dennis Thurlow, Brian Roach, Warren Hardy, Tessa Boer-Mah, An Ha Phan, Maria Pavela, Garry Jones, Lyn Keily

- 3. Apologies:** Prof. Maree Gleeson, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Howard Dick, , Hugh Watt, Charles Martin, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Leslie Gent OAM, Paul Kiem, Paul Newey, Howard Dick, Mark Metrikas, Ian Eckford, Marilla North.

Visitors: Glenn Dormand, Tony Whittaker, Bill Pascoe, Debbie Dates, Warren Dates

- 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** John Witte. Seconded Ron Barber

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

6. Presentations

- Dr Bill Pascoe spoke on the 'Gazetteer of Historical Australian Placenames a digital mapping project. He is involved in creating the early phase of the digital platform. Bill described some of the features and gave examples of other mapping projects. The platform will be an interactive research tool that primarily functions from 'place' and location. We thanked Bill for his time and unfortunately, when time for

questions many unrelated remarks were asked resulting in the meeting losing track and a lot of disruption.

- Glenn Dormand and Tony Whittaker – “Stories of our Town” Project – there was a heated discussion for 40 minutes, finally settling down to a brief overview by Glenn on the idea for an Aboriginal documentary. Glenn acknowledged the lack of local ‘history’ on Newcastle and is seeking funding to produce further documentaries. He came to the meeting to seek advice and collaborate with the wider community. Glenn tried to take questions about Aboriginal participation and the scope of the episode, however much of the discussion was unrelated and not very productive. Unfortunately, Glenn did not have the time to explore any of the other documentaries scheduled for the year, which includes an episode associated with motor cars/petrol in Newcastle. For further information about the “Stories of our Town” Project see <https://storiesofourtown.com/>

7. Reports and Updates

Update – Gionni di Gravio – The robust heated discussion carried over for most of the meeting, and unfortunately, there were some offensive remarks made towards the Chair and another visitor. Gionni and Prof Maynard were constantly challenged and questioned over matters unrelated to the meeting agenda, and regrettably, it was a very tense meeting for those attending. Gionni eventually was able to briefly mention the “Stories of our Town” Project, seeing it as an opportunity for stories about Newcastle to be told by Newcastle people. When Glenn suggested an episode from an Aboriginal perspective, it was recommended he consult Aboriginal communities, including Traditional owner groups and scholars for direction. Gionni extended an invitation to Aboriginal representatives to attend this meeting for their feedback on Glenn’s proposal. Unfortunately, due to the tensions in the room this did not occur.

Ann Hardy, Glam Lab update: Due to time limitations no update provided.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: Tim gave two presentations. Firstly, he showed photographs of a recent archaeological investigation at the Morpeth Terminal Station, and his second presentation was a more considered presentation regarding the Market Street Boat Harbour in response to one of Russell Rigby's "Who What When Where Why" propositions that he commonly used to frame his research questions (and heartening to see Russell's legacy live on). We thank Tim for his regular and very informative updates.

Tom Smith and Isabelle Howlett - Newcastle Council update: Due to time limitations, no update provided.

8. Public Advocacy

9. General Business –

Kerrie Shaw (Heritage Digitisation Specialist, City of Newcastle) – Kerrie spoke about the digital lab planned a Newcastle West, which will hopefully open in early July 2020. The library is seeking volunteers and informing people that the project was nearly finished. If you are interested in volunteering please contact us.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 6th April 2020 – Venue TBA. 1-3pm.