

Hunter Living Histories Meeting

3rd August, 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. **Acknowledgement to Country** ; Gianni di Gravio

2. **Present:** Gianni di Gravio, Ann Hardy, Maree Gleeson, Doug Lithgow, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, John Clark, Ian Farnsworth, Judy Lindsay, David Dial OAM, Jude Conway, Emeritus Prof. John Fryer, Don Seton Wilkinson, Robert Watson, Mark Rigby, Laurie Allen, Peter Sherlock, Howard Bridgman, Bob Donnelly, Lesley Gent, Louise Gale, John Witte, Crystal, Ken Thornton, Robert, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Bronwyn Law, Charles Martin, Maria Pavela, Paul Kiem, Roland Bannister.

3. **Apologies:** Sonia Hornery (Member for Wallsend), Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Diane Kinloch, Ross Edmonds, Tim Adams, Ian Eckford, Mark Metrikas, Kerrie Shaw,

4. **Visitor: Dr Helen** ‘Music and World-Building in the Colonial City: Newcastle, NSW, and its Townships, 1860-1880’

5. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes 6th July:** Lesley Gent. Seconded: Ian Farnsworth.

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

7. **Presentations –**
 - **Dr Helen English** (UON academic) – Helen spoke about her new book ‘Music and World-Building in the Colonial City

Newcastle, NSW, and its Townships, 1860–1880”. It has taken 7-8 years of research and the book captures the diversity of music making in the local coalfields of the Hunter, the choirs, benefit concerts and general visionaries of the working miners. Many were aspirational and came from areas such as Northumberland in England, some were strong leaders who supported the development of music making in the Hunter Region. For more information see See <https://www.routledge.com/Music-and-World-Building-in-the-Colonial-City-Newcastle-NSW-and-its-Townships/English/p/book/9780367077648>

- **Emeritus Professor Maree Gleeson** - (Conjoint UON) spoke about the History of the Rotary Club of Newcastle and the upcoming commemoration in 2023. Maree has had informal discussions with Gionni and Ann to explore a collaboration with the Library, for example to examine Rotary archives held at UON. Immediate actions are to establish a history working group, view archives, a UON HLH webpage, decide on outcomes of the project.

8. Reports and Updates

Update – Gionni di Gravio – Gionni spoke about the following HLH posts:-

- No. 77 Squadron Notes and Stories by Kenneth F. Wilkinson
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/06/77-squadron-wilkinson/>
- No. 77 Squadron – Robert Lees Andrew
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/10/andrew/>
- No. 77 Squadron – Warrant Officer James H. Mitchell (419051)
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/14/77-mitchell/>
- COAL RIVER TRUE CRIME: A CIVILISED ENDING
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/10/civilised-ending/>
- Birdwood Park Newcastle (N.S.W.) History
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/17/birdwood-park-history/>

Doug Lithgow also advised that the Deed associated with the park is in the UON archives. When the earlier campaign was fought the AA Company wrote to Newcastle Council.

- Stories of Our Town: Scott Sisters of Ash Island Film Released
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/24/scott-sisters-film-released/>
- Reminder that physical access to the University Archives and GLAMx Lab is by appointment only. [See COVID-19 measures here.](#)

Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update: - Ann advised that the Segenhoe Flats and Toll Cottage were recently listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/07/segenhoe-shr/> and <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/06/rose-cottage-shr/>

Other HLH posts include:-

“Florence Austral – Our forgotten Diva”
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/06/austral/>

Interview with Pilot Officer Ronald (Ron) Slater
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/17/ron-slater/>

Do you have Memories of the McMullin Building ?
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/17/mc-memories/>

Tim Adams, archaeological update: - N/A

Tom Smith, City of Newcastle – N/A

9. Public Advocacy

10. General Business –

Bob Donnelly – Bob informed that eighty per cent of the exhibition at the Delprat’s Cottage has been completed by the Industrial Heritage group.

David Dial – 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII will be commemorated on 15 August 2020 and David would like to encourage people to do something to mark the occasion, such as lighting a candle at home or in the driveway (as at Anzac Day but at sunset). Ann advised that a UON student Joshua Webb is putting some audio to the 1945 footage that was digitised earlier in the year.

Maree Shilling – NFHS is having their meetings and guest presentations via Zoom and details are on Facebook. Maree and Ken are also working on a publication showcasing 50 stories of interesting people buried at Sandgate cemetery.

Peter Sherlock- Gave an update of the Maritime Museum situation and storage issues, agreement with storage provider at Carrington expires mid-September.

Don Seton-Wilkinson – Don mentioned that he has been having problems with the new version of Trove, others at the meeting also said they were having issues. Ann suggested arranging a representative from Trove to talk at a future meeting.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 7th September 2020, 1-3pm.

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)