

Hunter Living Histories Meeting

6th July, 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, Doug Lithgow, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, John Clark, Ian Farnsworth, Judy Lindsay, Ross Edmonds, David Dial OAM, Jude Conway, Emeritus Prof. John Fryer, Don Seton Wilkinson, Robert Watson, Mark Rigby, Laurie Allen, Marilla North, Peter Sherlock, Howard Bridgman, Bob Donnelly, Lesley Gent,
- 3. Apologies:** Sonia Hornery (Member for Wallsend), Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Diane Kinloch, Tim Adams, Heather Sharp, Louise Gale, Mark Metrikas, Kerrie Shaw, John Witte.

Visitors: Wendy Gallagher (State Archives)

- 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes 1st June:** Maree Gleeson. Seconded Lesley Gent.
- 5. Business arising from previous minutes:** - NIL.
- 6. Presentations –**

- **Wendy Gallagher** (Snr adviser Regional Engagement) State Records & Archives NSW gave a presentation on resources held at State Archives related to our region, and provided See [Local History Resources](#)

- **Tom Smith** (Heritage Planner, City of Newcastle) spoke about the City of Newcastle's Draft Heritage Strategy that is currently on public exhibition.

7. Reports and Updates

Update – Gionni di Gravio – Gionni spoke about the Air Force 100 Project involving community members, the GLAMx Lab and Cultural Collections. Commemorations will take place in 2021 and this project includes creating a series of podcasts and support for digitization of RAAF collection. William Greentree (UON student and former WIL student) is involved, along with others. A number of HLH posts are available and include resources to create the podcasts. See the following link

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/category/air-force-100/>

-Interview with Ian Sim McHutchinson Sim (2015) has been edited and archives. Ian is a former surveyor and documented rock art in the Sydney basin during the 1950s and 60s.

-Gionni advised that he recently received a letter about the listing of Toll Cottage on the State Heritage Register (SHR) and thanked everyone who has been involved in researching and supporting the listing. Further information can be found here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/06/rose-cottage-shr/>

- Another post includes the story of the *Haunted Swamp: The Mystery of the Hexham Bunyip* that investigates the notebook diaries of William John Turton, local cabinet maker, engineer and business man. See

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/06/16/hexham-bunyip/>

-The Fortress Newcastle Project <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/06/12/fortress-newcastle-project/>

-Other HLH posts include Indigenous cultural of the region, and include the following, *Aboriginal Spirit beings – MULLUNGBULA – Two Rock Women*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/06/17/two-rock-women/>

-*Aboriginal Spirit Beings – WAUWARAN – home of the Monster WAUWAI*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/06/17/wauwai/>

-*Aboriginal Spirit Beings – KOYOROWEN (Wild Man of the Woods) and Wife KURRIWILBAN* <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/06/17/wild-man/>

-*Aboriginal Spirit Beings – Puttikan*

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/06/17/puttikan/>

-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 UON Library and City of Newcastle (Councillor Carol Duncan and Community & Culture Committee) are collaborating on a project about opera singer Florence Austral. Research currently online, including recordings and memorabilia etc. The following HLH post “Florence Austral – Our forgotten Diva” has links to found resources. See

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/07/06/austral/>

-Ann has updated HLH posts about the “Stories of Our Town” Newcastle Documentary Series, current film relates to Scott Sisters of Ash Island and should be released soon. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/06/11/soot-2/>

Tim Adams, archaeological update: - N/A

Tom Smith and Isabelle Howlett - Newcastle Council update: Tom has spoken about Newcastle’s Draft Heritage Strategy.

8. Public Advocacy

9. General Business –

Bob Donnelly – Bob informed that the Fortress Newcastle project is progressing, and many local history groups are now involved, with more information gathered about the region’s military history and fortifications. Also includes Women’s military history.

David Dial – Lake Macquarie 2 hr lunch cruise (27 July) is likely to be rescheduled. The construction of the Newcastle to Branxton memorial cycleway is underway and will highlight the region’s military history. 15 August 2020 marks 75yrs since the end of WWII, and at this stage there doesn’t seem to be many events planned.

Ron Barber – Fort Scratchley has recently reopened on weekends.

Prof John Fryer – John advised that both himself and Prof Barry Boettcher from the UON feature in the upcoming TV series ‘Murder in the Outback’ on Prime in a few weeks. Prof Fryer, is an expert in height analysis and has worked on other forensic cases over the years, often using photogrammetry methods.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 3rd August 2020, 1-3pm.

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)