

Hunter Living Histories Meeting

12th April, 2021 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University of Newcastle – Room L326, Auchmuty Library

Minutes

TO JOIN - from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/84532576609?pwd=d0lTVtINZjU3Sct4VFc5RmXrU2YzQT09>

Start: 1:00

1. **Acknowledgement to Country** ; Gionni di Gravio.
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2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio OAM, Sonia Honery (MP), Ann Hardy, Doug Lithgow, Ron Barber, John Clark, Judy Lindsay, David Dial OAM, Emeritus Prof. John Fryer, Robert Watson, Mark Rigby, Bob Donnelly, Louise Gale, Ken Thornton, Sarah Xenos, Bronwyn Law, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Paul Kiem, Ian Eckford, Emeritus Prof. Howard Bridgman, Emeritus Prof. Maree Gleeson, Kerry Shaw, Charles Martin, Peter Sherlock, John Witte, Suzanne Martin, Jude Conway, Ross Edmonds, Chaz Keys, Ian Farnsworth, Tim Adams, Howard Dick, Shane Blatchford.
3. **Apologies:** Kerrie Brauer, Sarah Johnson, Brian Roach
Ian Farnsworth, Maree Gleeson, Robert Watson, Nancy Cushing, Lesley Gent, Peter Ring
4. **Visitors:**
5. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes 1st March:** Ron Barber Seconded: Doug Lithgow.
6. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - NIL.
7. **Presentations –**

- **Chaz Keys (Chaz is former Deputy Director General of the NSW State Emergency Service)**. Chaz gave a fascinating talk about the recent history of floods, natural and social sciences, and economics of floods in Australia, as well as flood mitigation. He spoke about his previous publications and recent book “Maitland Speaks: the Experience of Floods”. We thanked Chaz for sharing his expertise and knowledge.

- **Dr Justin Ellis (UON School of Humanities and Social Science)** – talked about Copley research project looking into policing and the queer community in Newcastle 1950-1980. Research team also includes Assoc. Prof Kate Senior and they are looking to do 20 interviews and specifically after more affirmative stories of that period. **The project will also produce a short film.** If you are interested in being interviewed or know someone who would like to contribute please contact justin.ellis@newcastle.edu . A media release about the project will be available shortly.

8. Reports and Updates

Gionni di Gravio – Update. Gionni spoke about the Stories of Our Town project and the upcoming episode *Lycett and Wallis : Unlikely Preservers of Aboriginal Knowledge*. HLH members will be invited to the launch to be held on Monday 19 April at the University Library, however numbers will be limited. Ann will send invites this week. Other events showing this episode will take place at Newcastle Museum (Lost Newcastle Facebook) and Newcastle Art Gallery in early May. Many thanks to local Indigenous communities, professional experts who shared their knowledge in this episode.

Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update. Reminded group of the call out by Dept. of Roads for people with knowledge of 'Hollywood' Depression Camp to take part in a oral history project.

-Volunteer program has been on hold at the GLAMx Lab until April.

-Currently there are 3 WIL students at the Lab, including Erin Boxwell who is appraising Zara's House archive (9 boxes) and Special Collections may acquire this archive in the future. Jeffrey Freeman is working on a project associated with Central Coast, whilst Maddie Camps is transcribing oral histories.

-Volunteers will cease digitising the NBN television film archive from 1 June, many thanks to Phillip Lloyd and the team for their tremendous work over the past 4 years digitising this significant regional audio-visual archive.

-Doug Lithgow asked about funding and support of the HLH meetings and also suggested an oral history interview with significant Indigenous local Elder and is able to facilitate this.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: - Tim spoke about the Shepard's Hill defense structures and asked if anyone was familiar with any maps or plans associated with the site from the WWII period. Ron Barber was able to offer advice and Tim will follow up.

9. Public Advocacy - NA.

10. General Business –

Ross Edmonds – spoke about the mystery of the stained-glass windows at Miss Porters House in Newcastle West. The windows were 'discovered' stored at the back of the house a few years ago and apparently predate the house (circa 1880s) and likely to have been part of a government building, later installed at the Porters House. If you have any knowledge of the windows we would be very interested in hearing from you.

Ron Barber - advised that Director of Hong Kong Coastal Defense Museum was very appreciative of Special Collections and high res images provided, they will be

enlarged and used at the museum, acknowledgement and credit to UON special collections will be provided.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 3 May 2021, 1-3pm.

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)