

Hunter Living Histories Meeting

1st March, 2021 1:00pm – 3:00pm

University of Newcastle - IDC Building, Callaghan Campus

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.

Gionni advised of the sad news that Aunty Nola Hawken passed away over the weekend. Aunty Nola was a supporter of HLH and dear friend to many of us and will be missed. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

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, Lesley Gent OAM, 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 Ring, Peter Sherlock, John Witte, Suzanne Martin, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Jude Conway, Ross Edmonds, Chaz Keys, Ian Farnsworth, Tim Adams, Bill Landenberger

3. Apologies: Kerrie Brauer, Sarah Johnson, Diane Kinloch, Howard Dick.

4. Visitors: Dr Irene Perez Lopez, Sharyn Goldstein, Pam Dean-Jones,

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes 1st February: Lesley Gent. Seconded: Ron Barber.

6. Business arising from previous minutes: - NIL.

7. Presentations

- **Dr Irene Perez Lopez – (Architecture & Built Environment) Shoreline Cultural Heritage.** Shared her current project with students mapping the Newcastle shoreline, they are using archival records and historical maps to identify risks and changes, and developing overlays/video showing changes that will help guide future development and planning. Irene spoke about the various stages of the project, creation of database to make sense of the information. Howard Bridgman suggested that the map collection at the UON geology may also be useful, as well as the Shortland Wetlands archive. Maree Gleeson suggested historic maps held at Hunter Water may also be a valuable resource.

- **Sharyn Goldstien (Coastal Management Program Advisor, City of Newcastle) – Newcastle’s coastal history and culture.** Sharon spoke about the ‘Our Changing Coast’ project; her team are using historical sources to develop a long-term program of actions for local coastal areas. Environmental aspects are considered, as well as European and Aboriginal heritage, recreation to ensure development continues at Newcastle in this changing coastline in a sustainable way. Sea levels are being recorded, as well as the hazards and risks. Sharon also mentioned the value of student projects, such as oral histories with the community to capture stories about the coast/beach. If anyone would like to contact Sharon, her email is sgoldstien@ncc.nsw.gov.au

- **Dr Ian Eckford - ‘Story of Middleton’ first Newcastle Chaplain – 200yr commemoration.** Ian gave a fascinating talk about George Augustus Middleton who was Chaplain at Newcastle in 1821. In writing his book about the Newcastle Cathedral, he became interested in researching some of the religious men of the early settlement. Ian described the usual context that many of the clergy found themselves i.e. convict environment and began researching their backgrounds, training and roles as teachers and farmers. Ian described the conditions for two of the Chaplains, firstly Reverend Richard Johnson and Reverend Samuel Marsden. We thank Ian for allowing his presentation to be recorded, and for sharing his knowledge. Recording is available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/03/15/story-of-middleton/>

8. Reports and Updates

Howard Bridgman - Wollong weather records update - Howard gave an update on the latest project relating to weather records. This current project came about when Kimberley O' Sullivan from Cessnock City Library noticed the Wollong records project on HLH site, and identified records from same collection held at the Cessnock Library (previously thought to be missing). Kimberley has agreed to provide records and other items to special Collections, Dr Ken Thornton is involved in scanning and entering data in spreadsheets, and other volunteers will work on project as well. It will take several months to set up. A student intern may also be available later in the year to assist on the project.

Update – Gionni di Gravio –

- Gionni welcomed people to the first physical HLH meeting since March 2020 and as already mentioned gave a lovely tribute to Aunty Nola Hawken.

Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update: - No update.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: - Tim gave a brief update, and mentioned he will give a future update about archaeological work in Newcastle.

Kerry Shaw, City of Newcastle – Cobra Book scanner has arrived at the city Library, and is now installed and digitizing begun of the Lambton Council Minute Books (1870) for 150th Anniversary of Lambton in June. Will be available online. Video showing the scanner is here on the ABC Newcastle Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ABCNewcastle/posts/10158938183402591> A future HLH meeting is planned for May to view the digital library and Magic Box. Suzanne Martin asked about the 'Declaration of Newcastle', disappointed that it is not on public display; Kerry will look into this, and find out where the declaration is held.

Other Updates

Bob Donnelly, Fortress Newcastle – Two funding applications have been submitted, one from Port of Newcastle and another from Saluting Their Service

(AWM) and project is progressing well with interview being carried by Glenn Dormand and the Stories of our Town team.

9. Public Advocacy -

Ross Edmonds updated the group on the Wickham School of Arts, and informed that funds had been recently allocated for maintenance and it appears the building has been 'saved'.

10. General Business –

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 12 April 2021, 1-3pm.

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)