

Hunter Living Histories Meeting

2nd November, 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. **Acknowledgement to Country** ; Ann Hardy

2. **Present:**, Ann Hardy (Chair), Doug Lithgow, Prof. Erik Eklund, Ron Barber, Judy Lindsay, David Dial OAM, Emeritus Prof. John Fryer, Robert Watson, Mark Rigby, Laurie Allen, Peter Sherlock, Bob Donnelly, Lesley Gent OAM, Louise Gale, John Witte, Ken Thornton, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Bronwyn Law, Paul Kiem, David Dial OAM, Ross Edmonds, Tessa Boer-Mah, Crystal Phillips, John Witte, Simone Cox, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Charles Martin,

3. **Apologies:** Gionni di Gravio OAM, Emeritus Prof. Maree Gleeson, Kerry Shaw, Professor Howard Bridgman, Diane Kinloch, Tim Adams.

4. **Visitors:**

5. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes 12th October:** confirmed by Robert Watson Shilling and Seconded by John Witte

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

7. **Presentations –**
 - Professor Erik Eklund (Federation University, Victoria) gave an interesting presentation reflecting on his time as Foundation Chair of the UON's Coal River Working Party, to working in other rural areas, such as the Gippsland in Victoria, he

discussed the challenges (similar to the Hunter Region) when it comes to Mining history, published book 'Mining Towns' in 2012. Also spoke about Merv and Janet Copley collection, and important collection associated with the Aust. Assistance Plan (AAP) records covering the 1970s. Currently researching the 1919 Pandemic, which he started last year and this year quite timely considering the current pandemic. There were many questions and comments, and we greatly appreciate Erik addressing this group.

8. Reports and Updates

Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update: — Ann advised that a new Manager of Cultural Collections will be appointed shortly and will be invited to the December meeting.

- Other news is that Gionni awarded the Order of Australia Medal at the beginning of the year but COVID restrictions delayed the official Investiture Ceremony until recently. See following link to OAM Investiture Nationally Recognises University Service to Regional Histories <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/10/23/oam/>

- Kyle Yerbury (WIL student) has been working on the Florence Austral Timeline, this is a collaboration with City of Newcastle. See link showing Timeline <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/110312?keywords=> Kyle has also experimented with capturing text from digitised interviews and this may be something that can continue as a student project, as the transcription is very useful to researchers. Bradley Cunningham (Library Intern) is making good progress on 'Revitalisation of Indigenous culture and knowledge Project', he is reviewing audio-visual material from the NBN Television archive 1980s, this project will be completed mid- December.

- Another project that is recently completed is 'Reliving the Victory – 1945- 2020 Reconstruction' by Joshua Webb (UON creative industries student) this rare 16mm colour film of Newcastle (Australia) celebrations during Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day in 1945 was originally silent footage. In 2020, the entire soundscape to accompany the silent footage was created. This newly created audio and reconstruction has turned this historic silent film to what you now hear in this video. <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/10/29/rtv/> also noted positive comments from

military historians Assoc. Prof Heather Sharp and David Dial OAM. Well done to our students and interns.

- Lyn Keily has also uploaded to livinghistories@uon images from the South Maitland Railways Archive. The South Maitland Railways (SMR) Archive held at the University of Newcastle (Australia) has helped a team, on the other side of the world, restoring railway steam locomotives at the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, located in Whitehead, Northern Ireland. There is a particular item located on all of their locomotives called an “injector” and it was almost impossible to find technical drawings to repair them once they had worn out. These plans were located and digitised using our Context 42 inch plan scanner, and sent to James in high resolution. Further information here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/10/29/uranus-131/>

- Other posts for October include video of Elsie Leask (UON student) who entered the 2020 CHASS Prize for a Student in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences submission, although she was not awarded the prize, we believe her sentiments convey an important statement. See video here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/10/28/elsie-leask/>

- Thank you to our marvellous volunteers, including Phillip Lloyd and Mark Rigby who come in several days every week to digitise the NBN Television archive, as well as Kieran Sturt who contributes weekly to the HLH Instagram posts.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: - N/A

Tom Smith, City of Newcastle – N/A

9. Public Advocacy -

10. General Business –

Robert Watson – Gave a brief update on the tunnels that he spoke about last meeting. Dr Lloyd Pilgrim may be able to assist supervise a final year surveying

student. Discussions also with archaeologist Tim Adams and Rob Barnes, heritage geologist. Project to progress during January. Thank you Robert for the update.

Ron Barber – (Fort Scratchley Historical Society) gave an update on the fort and recent reopening.

Leslie Gent – Advised the Friends of UON are no longer accepting books.

Judy Lindsey advised some student poems from 1950s (many about the Coronation) from Newcastle Girls' High were recently found, teacher at the time was Miss Tilse. Judy is scanning the items, which are very fragile. Judy also asked about the 1926 film 'Term of his Natural Life' that was filmed at Stockton and whether available online. Mark Rigby advised there are some short clips available online. Ann shared links in chat.

David Dial – update on Sea Ambulance, and discussion on the Hunter Memorial project and fundraising to restore vessel. David approached for names of ex-servicemen.

Bob Donnelly - Fortress Newcastle Project planning meeting on 10 November at 10am at Delprats Cottage at 133 Ingall St, Mayfield East. Contact Bob Cook if you require further information.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

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

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)