

# Hunter Living Histories Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm

## Zoom Meeting

### Minutes

**Start: 1:00**

1. **Acknowledgement to Country** ; Gianni di Gravio
2. **Present:** Gianni di Gravio OAM, Ann Hardy, Doug Lithgow, Ron Barber, John Clark, 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, Marie Brokensha, Crystal Phillips, John Witte, Helen Denzin.
3. **Apologies:** Emeritus Prof. Maree Gleeson, Kerry Shaw, Ian Farnsworth, Professor Howard Bridgman, Diane Kinloch, Tim Adams, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Charles Martin,
4. **Visitors:** Georgia Kissa
5. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes 7th September:** John Fryer. Seconded: Ron Barber
6. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - NIL.
7. **Presentations –**
  - Tessa Boer-Mah (Heritage Now) spoke about the Augmented Reality Hamilton Heritage Walk, giving an overview of a project currently underway via an app, walking tour of Hamilton using new technology to showcase past and present streetscape. Tessa advised that the book Hidden Hamilton authored by Ruth Cotton has been extremely useful in researching the suburb's history. The project is in

collaboration with City of Newcastle and will be available from in the coming months. Tessa will keep the group informed when the App is launched.

- **Robert Watson** – Robert presented a slide show of a forgotten part of Newcastle’s history. Older residents of Lambton had occasionally mentioned an explosives bunker which was used during WW2 to store munitions, so its location was tracked down and the owner gave permission for a visit to take photos and do measurements. It may also be an explosives Bunker (mid- late-1800s?)  
Two entrances had been excavated straight into a rock wall, leading to two rooms each around 4.6m x 2.3m connected by a 20m long corridor. What makes this discovery especially exciting is that there is almost no deterioration of the walls, no signs of vandalism and almost no graffiti. Gouges and holes on the walls suggest that the excavation was done by handworking methods and explosives. By contrast, WW2 bunkers were mostly constructed of concrete. It is suggested that these rooms were created in the second half of the 19th century for a nearby coal mine. ACTION – Discuss further with specialists such as Arthur Love, Tim Adams and Lloyd Pilgrim, and explore how further research can be undertaken, possibly engage UON students. John Fryer also suggested laser scanning would be an effective way of documenting the tunnels and encouraged Robert to contact Dr Lloyd Pilgrim (Snr Lecturer Engineering at UON).

## 8. Reports and Updates

**Update – Gionni di Gravio** – Gionni gave a general update, including the following posts:-

- “Stories of Our Town” Documentary Series – Indigenous Histories. Glenn Dormand and Tony Whittaker are progressing well with their latest documentary, they recently visited the SLNSW and met with Richard Neville (Mitchell Librarian, Director Engagement) to inspect the Macquarie Collector’s Chest and the Wallis Album, these are two significant cultural items associated with Newcastle. See following link for further information <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/09/21/soot-3-2/>

- Chronology of Local Regional Film Productions – One of our GLAMx audio visual volunteers, Mr Mark Rigby came to us with a suggestion to bring together as much of

the audio visual historic film and video legacy relating to the Hunter and Central Coast regions, including what has been digitised. The following link shows a chronology of existing digitised material, as well as what still needs to be digitised.

We are also doing a call out for items that may be lost or missing. See

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/10/08/film-chron/>

- Another post relating to audio-visual sources is the archive of Jens Christensen (1893-1981) a Lake Macquarie Film Maker. The following is an Archive listing of the Super 8 and Standard 8 Films of Christensen donated to the University of Newcastle's Cultural Collections (Archives) by his daughters Betty Williams and Norma Clark in 2011. For further information see

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/10/08/jens-christensen/>

**Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update:** - Ann advised that student Thomas Sharples recently worked on the Croudace House. Historic Croudace House is located at New Lambton Heights. Thomas looked at archives and collections associated with the house and created content for exhibition panels to be displayed at the house. Many thanks to HLH member Suzanne Martin for her assistance on this project. See

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/09/24/croudace-forgotten/>

- Update on State Heritage nomination for King Edward Park. Ann advised that a letter was received from Heritage NSW and further discussion with David Hoffman, Senior Heritage Officer who explained that there is no need for a renomination, however likely there will be a recommendation that Headland Reserve be excised from existing nomination. There will be a Notice of Intention of any proposed changes and a public comment period.

**Tim Adams, archaeological update:** - N/A

**Tom Smith, City of Newcastle –** N/A

**Other Updates**

– Special welcome to new member Marie Brokensha who is a filmmaker and photographer of French origin, recently moved to the Hunter Region and interested in the region's history and heritage.

- Georgia Kissa a UON researcher also joined the meeting to talk about her research, she is looking for anyone who lives (or have lived) in Hamilton and has experienced any extreme events (social and natural) such as the Newcastle Earthquake (1989), BHP Closure (1999), Pasha Bulker Storm (2007), 2015 floods, etc. Participants could be residents and/ or experts (architects, council officers, academic, etc.). Ann will circulate further information about the project, and Georgia is contactable at [Georgia.Kissa@uon.edu.au](mailto:Georgia.Kissa@uon.edu.au)

## **9. Public Advocacy -**

## **10. General Business –**

**Bronwyn Law** – Bronwyn informed that she was interested in exploring the history of swimming Clubs in Newcastle, she is aware that quite a lot has been written on Surf Clubs and wants to know what archives and collections exist associated with the swimming clubs in the Newcastle area.

## **11. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 2 November 2020, 1-3pm.

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)