

Hunter Living Histories Meeting

11 October, 2021 1:00pm – 3:00pm

via Zoom

Minutes

Start: 1:00

1. Acknowledgement to Country ; Gionni di Gravio.

- Vale Vale Ian Sim (1921-2021) – Recorder of Aboriginal Engraving Sites

Ian McHutchinson Sim was a land surveyor in the Sydney area. He was a keen bush-walker. He came into contact with Aboriginal people growing up on the north coast of NSW. In the 1950s he worked as a surveyor in western NSW in the Goodooga area, and spent time recording language. Ian and his wife documented Aboriginal Rock Art in the Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter and Nepean regions during the 1960s. Two sets of interviews were recorded in the Cultural Collections GLAMx Lab in 2019.

Vale Richard Belfield and Martin Babakan – Weather Records

We were deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Richard Belfield, who passed away on the 19 September 2021, and Martin Babakan, who passed away on the 6 October 2021. We send our sincere condolences to their families.

Both these men were responsible in enabling important weather records kept by Richard's grandfather, Algernon Henry Belfield to be made available to climate researchers across the world.

2. Present: Gionni di Gravio OAM, Ann Hardy, Doug Lithgow, Emeritus Prof. John Fryer, Emeritus Prof. Howard Bridgman, Ron Barber, Judy Lindsay, Lesley Gent, David Dial OAM, Robert Watson, Sarah Xenos, Mark Rigby, Bob Donnelly, Louise Gale, Ken Thornton, Jeffrey Freeman, Cheryl Anne Bailey, Peter Sherlock, Dr Garritt van Dyk, Tim Adams, Mala Scorse, Nicole Chaffey, Dr Bob James, Dr Amir Mogadam, Rachel Vaughan, Zoe Mathers, John Witte, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Jane McManus.

3. **Apologies:** Kerrie Shaw, Sonya Hornery MP for Wallsend, Emeritus Prof. Maree Gleeson,\
4. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes 6 September:** Don Seton-Wilkinson Seconded
Doug Lithgow.
5. **Business arising from previous minutes: -**
6. **Presentations –** Tim Adams, Archaeologist (Umwelt) Archaeological Discoveries
Along the Great North Road

7. Reports and Updates

Gianni di Gravio. Gianni spoke Stories of Our Town films due to be completed over next few months, first is Fortress Newcastle and the other is The Castanet Club Film is due for release on the 20th or 21st October.

The Fortress Newcastle Film, which is now in the final stages of completion, is scheduled for release on 11 November 2021. See Hunter Living Histories:

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/09/02/fortress-newcastle-2021/>

- Blue Plaques NSW Program - Tim Crakanthorp MP Member for Newcastle inviting communities to select sites to nominate for the program. On 27/9/2021 we sent him a list of twelve sites. More information about the program is available here

<https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/celebrate/love-your-local-heritage/blue-plaques-nsw/>

- Green Bans – Jack Munday Exhibition - The City of Newcastle will be hosting an exhibition on Green Bans and Jack Munday, and are seeking our involvement. Possible special collections archives may be in the Trades Hall material, Merv and Janet Copley Collection and Parks and Playgrounds Movement Archives. Our community informants can only think of one green ban in Newcastle, involving the Newcastle East community against high rise buildings. They were unable to think of any other Green ban actions in Newcastle. If you have any insights on the matter of Green Bans in Newcastle please contact us.

-History Week 2021 event - Video from the Special Collections online event 'From the Ground up': exploring regional collections is available here:
<https://youtu.be/e6NWTUvgAn4> A post by university Conservator Dr Amir Mogadam on the Rodoni Glass Negatives is available on the Hunter Living Histories site here:
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/09/08/from-the-ground-up-university-of-newcastles-photographic-collection-the-case-of-rodoni-collection/>

- UON Libraries Upgrade Websites and Decommissioning of Libguides - the new Library Catalogue is now LIVE. Information held on the Libguides site is now being moved over to the Living Histories site. This includes our information on archival finding aids, rare books and special collections and our digital scriptorium sites that have hosted our Coquun Hunter River sites and Aboriginal Sourcebooks. Please bear with us as our links are updated; if you find any dead 404 links, please let me know and we will endeavour to fix them. The Hunter Living Histories Dreaming site has been updated <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/dreaming/>

Living Digital Heritage Conference (Free Online Event) Friday 5- Sunday 7 November 2021 - Hosted by the Centre for Ancient Cultural Heritage and Environment (CACHE), Macquarie University, this free event will run from 5-7 November 2021. See <https://event.mq.edu.au/living-digital-heritage/>

- UON Libraries. From Monday 11 October, to support those staff and students who are approved to be on campus, the Auchmuty and Ourimbah libraries will be extending their opening hours from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. The Information

Commons from 9am-9pm. A click-and-collect service remains in place for all other staff and students.

- A Month of Murder Video Series - Greens MLC David Shoebridge will be presenting a webinar with his work with Wonnarua people and stories relating a massacre in the vicinity of the Ravensworth Homestead in the Hunter Valley. See: <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/09/01/ravensworth-wonnarua/>

- State Archives and Records Authority NSW (SARA) - NSW State Archives & Records intend to reopen their Reading Room at the Western Sydney Records Centre effective from Tuesday 19 October. All visitors need to be fully vaccinated (or have a medical exemption), and will need to show proof of compliance with this requirement.

GLAMx Lab – (Dr Ann Hardy)

- It is Mental Health Week 2021 and we have shared some historic photographs of the James Fletcher Hospital site that commemorates 150 Years this week – see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/10/11/milestone150/>

- Ann introduced Rachel Vaughan who is an intern doing museum and heritage studies (UoS) and is working with Special Collections on the Fortress Newcastle project until end of January.

- Ann also introduced Zoe Mathers (University Research Library) who will regularly attend HLH meetings to address any research questions people may have.

Other updates

- Fraternal Society Project (Dr Amir Mogadam with Dr Bob James) – Amir provided an update on the Fraternal Society project and is currently researching local people involved in making regalia associated with the society. Amir provided several names and asked assistance from the group. Many thanks to Louise Gale for her research.

- Fort Scratchley Historical Society (Ron Barber) – Proposed date to reopen fort is 18 October, tunnel tours are bookable online.

- Weather Records Project (Associate Professor Howard Bridgman) – 2 conference abstracts submitted, NZ conference has special interest in Historic weather data.

- Missing Piece of 1906 Snowball Panorama & Fred Barrie's Red Cedar Camera and other Newcastle historic glass negs (Robert Watson), located via Lost Newcastle Facebook page See: <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/10/15/1906-panorama/>

- Previous discussion prompted the following information on the 'History of Aerial Photography' (Emeritus Professor John Fryer) see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/10/15/aerial-history/> And this related post Newcastle and Suburbs Aerial View 1944 (Gionni Di Gravio) <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/10/15/newcastle-aerial-1944/>

8. General Business –

Discussion about HLH meeting and format. The group was formed in 2003 (previously known as Coal River Working Party) and Chaired by Prof Erik Ecklund. We thought it was timely to revisit the format/times.

The following questions were discussed:-

- 1.Regarding the meeting format, What do you think works well ?
- 2.What doesn't work so well?
- 3.What has been the most useful thing about attending HLH meetings?
- 4.What other subjects would you like covered from our presenters?
5. Do you prefer physical/Zoom meetings ?
6. Would you prefer another day/time of the week?

Dr Chip van Dyk provided feedback from an academic perspective, stating Zoom was good, can be convenient as can fit around lectures etc, agree with Gionni that hybrid meetings don't always work. Enjoyed site visit earlier in the year to Digital Library where Kerry Shaw showed digital technologies.

Ann will email questions to group, and similar questions will be sent to other academics and students over next few months.

Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 1 November 2021, 1-3pm. Meeting ZOOM only.