

**Hunter Living Histories Meeting**  
**6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**University Council Board Room, IDC Building, University Drive**  
**Minutes**

**Start: 1:00**

**1. Acknowledgement to Country** by Gianni di Gravio

**2. Present:** Gianni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Ron Barber, John Witte, Robert Watson, Bronwyn Law, Ross Edmonds, Jessica Waugh, Don Seton Wilkinson, Louise Gale, Ian Eckford, Tom Smith, Doug Lithgow, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Suzanne Martin, Jude Conway, Denis Thurlow, Garry Jones, Brian Roach, Susan Walsh, Paul Walsh, Jane Ison, Lesley Gent, Margie Ostinga, Kim Ostinga, Keith Parsons,

**3. Apologies:** Prof. Maree Gleeson, Charles Martin, Paul Newey, Hugh Watt, Sonya Hornery, Peter Sherlock, Marilla North, Tim Adams, Maria Pavela, David Dial, Russell Rigby,

**Visitors :**

**4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Bob James. Seconded Jude Conway.

**5. Business arising from previous minutes: -**

**6. Presentations**

- **(Ross Edmonds – ('Rob the Ranter'-Literary Life in Early Newcastle)** Ross gave a wonderful presentation on 'Rob the Ranter' who frequently wrote in the Newcastle Chronicle, the presentation is available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/05/14/rob-the-ranter-literary-life-in-early-newcastle/> We thank Ross for his contribution.

**(Kim Ostinga – (Friends of King Edward Park)** – Kim spoke about the heritage values of KEP and gave some background about the legislative changes associated with management of the park, and ownership. HLH submitted a State Heritage nomination in 2013 to have the park on the State Heritage Register (SHR), (named Newcastle Recreation Reserve), this nomination

was supported by the Heritage Council of NSW and remains before the minister for approval. The Friends support the recent land claim by the Awabakal Land Council and have advocated for heritage values be acknowledged of the entire park – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage values. Kim thanked the group for the opportunity to speak about KEP and welcomed any advice regarding conserving the parks heritage.

## 7. Reports and Updates

Gionni di Gravio- Update – Gionni described recent HLH blog posts – “Miss Hayes and The Great Northern Hotel Album” Agnes Hayes was born in 1853 in Tipperary, Ireland. She came to Australia on 29th April 1854, became the licensee of the Great Northern Hotel after she took over from William Winch in 1873 at the youthful age of 20, which was unusual since most women who applied for licenses were much older, by comparison, at the time. The collection was scanned by WIL student Tenzin Legben who also compiled the blog post. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/04/08/miss-hayes/>

Dr Bob James presentation from last meeting ‘Fraternal Societies – Secretive, Biblical and Fantastic Show-Offs’ is now available on-line, see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/04/05/fraternal-societies/>

Another recent blog post by Roland Bannister ‘BOP BOPA-A-LU A WHOP BAM BOO! HOW LITTLE RICHARD MADE ROCK AND ROLL HISTORY IN NEWCASTLE’ is about rock star Little Richard’s successful concerts at the old Newcastle Stadium in 1957, in a theatrical rejection of his decadent ways, Little Richard announced his sudden renewed commitment to God and confirmed his faith by throwing his valuable rings into Newcastle harbour. He cut short his Australian tour and returned to the US to train as a preacher. To read more about this story see the following:-

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/05/06/little-richard-newcastle/>

**Ann Hardy, Glam Lab update:** The Store Oral History project is progressing well, 15 interviews have been completed and if anyone knows other potential interviewees please let Ann know, as we are still after 5 people to interview. Jessica Waugh, Deborah Waddell and Victoria Grey are employed on the project with funds donated by Doma group to the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund. Ann also showed the Deep Time video recently released by UON marketing, there has been positive feedback, and there is a stage 2 of the project currently underway to

create VR in portable headset to be taken off site. For more information see

[https://youtu.be/ydp\\_RD3fKLI](https://youtu.be/ydp_RD3fKLI)

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

**Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update:** Tom gave a brief update, mentioned that the former Civic Station was previously on the register 170, however due to a change in ownership this heritage listing no longer applies, and there are plans underway to have the former station reassessed, acknowledged and used as a tourist information centre. Also Geotrail project is progressing well, it is an online app and content compiled with the assistance of Russell Rigby. The app will provide information relating to walking trails that focus on geology at Bathers Way, and have historical and Aboriginal stories. Stage 1 is complete and currently being 'tweaked'.

## **8. Public Advocacy**

Keith Parsons mentioned that Chris Richards (National Trust member) has formed the Australian Heritage Party. The Newcastle Showground is under threat as there is medium density housing planned for the site, Toronto foreshore is also under threat of high rise, and Boomerang Park (c 1830s) Raymond Terrace, one of the oldest designated parks in NSW has had 31% rezoned for housing. The HRCNT has monthly meetings, new members are welcome.

**9. General Business** – N/A (apologies to Paul Walsh for meeting running over time, his item will be early next meeting)

## **10. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 3rd June 2019 at Newcastle Family History, Elder Street, Lambton 1-3pm.