

**Hunter Living Histories Meeting**  
**5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**University Council Room, IDC Building, Callaghan Campus**

**Minutes**

**Start: 1:00**

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country** by Gionni di Gravio
  
- 2. Present:** Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Ron Barber, John Witte, Ross Edmonds, Jessica Waugh, Denis Thurlow, Lesley Gent, Charles Martin, Mark Rigby, Don Seton Wilkinson, Doug Lithgow, Marilla North, Tim Adams, Russell Rigby, Ian Eckford, Louise Gale, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Maria Pavela, Bob James, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Bronwyn Law.
  
- 3. Apologies:** Sarah Johnson, Paul Kiem, Peter Sherlock, Prof. Maree Gleeson, Robert Watson, David Dial, Suzanne Martin.
  
- 4. Visitors :** Karen Moller, Pauline Ibbetson
  
- 5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Ross Edmonds. Seconded Lesley Gent.
- 6. Business arising from previous minutes: -**
  
- 7. Presentations**
  - **Deep Time Project** - Vendela Pento – (UON's IT Innovation Team) Vendela gave an update on Deep Time 2 which included the VR having several filtering options to view certain types of artefacts, a modified VR model is also being created so that Deep Time Project can be viewed in portable headsets, this will be ideal when talking about the project off-site with community groups.
  
  - **Rob the Ranter** - Louise Gale (Family researcher) – Louise presented further information on 'Rob the Ranter', a story initiated by Ross Edmonds some months earlier. Louise presented her research findings and will be shared on the HLH blog.

- Hope of Stroud banner - Pauline Ibbetson and Karen Moller (Stroud Museum) spoke about the GUOOF Oddfellow Lodge in Stroud “Hope of Stroud” presented a chronology of the museum committee’s involvement in the banner, how it came to be located, relocated and some background about decisions that were made. Some NBN Television footage showing the banner in the 1990s was also shown to the group.
- Hope of Stroud banner - Bob James (Historian) gave a presentation on the same theme (Oddfellow Lodge in Stroud) providing specific historical information about the banner, and context of the Lodges in the Port Stephen’s area, and Manning Region.

## 8. Reports and Updates

- **Gionni di Gravio- Update** – Gionni talked about the Port Stephen’s map showing Aboriginal placenames that were recorded by Ebsworth in 1826, the map has been overlaid on Google Earth to interpret current locations, minimal change/development has occurred around the shoreline at Port Stephens- particular the Tahlee area. We need people with a good working knowledge of these locations to assist. Gionni plans to make map and overlay available to wider community.
- Gionni also spoke about the open day that was recently held at Tomago House. Tomago house is a National Trust property and has been closed to the public for some time, there was a great turn out for the day, and very successful in terms of attracting new members and volunteers to assist in re-opening the house. Both Gionni and Ann spoke at the day, suggesting ideas supporting future use of the house, collaborative projects and partnerships, such as WIL students to map out management and communication strategies. If you are interested in joining a working party to help reopen the house please contact Deb Mastello on [dmastello@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:dmastello@nationaltrust.com.au)
- Ann Hardy, Glam Lab update: Advised she launched a book created by the Newcastle Family History Society (NFHS) on 31 July, publication “The Sent Me North – Female convicts of the Hunter“ at the Lovett Gallery. The book has many contributions by the descendants of female convicts and members of the NFHS – there are over 80 contributions, as well as a database with over 3 thousand names. The event was well attended. Accompanying the launch was a Convicts Bonnets exhibition. Mel Woodford (President NFHS) will speak at the next meeting about the publication, how it came about and the contributors. For further information about the book see the following blog post <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/08/06/women/>

- We also have several Communication students on WIL placements in the GLAMx Lab at present, including Kieran who has created an Instagram account, to join us Instagram see @hunterlivinghistories .
- To commemorate the moon landing's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary we published some of Terry Stanmore's photographs showing moon landing inspired window displays at The Store in Newcastle West in 1969. Terry kindly provided his photographs to UON Cultural Collections to be digitised and make available to the community. The photographs are part of The Store Oral History Project to be launched late September. See the following link to view photographs <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/07/21/the-store-moon/>
- **Bob James, historian** - Bob advised that the local history working party had its first meeting prior to today's meeting and glad there were several members who attended. Meetings will be on each month at midday prior to main HLH meeting.
- **Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update:** Tom gave a brief update, he mentioned that the newly formed assets and advisory committee will meet on 3 September – June 2020.
- **Tim Adams – Umwelt –** Tim spoke about archaeological work that has been underway near the former Civic Station for landscaping and utilities. Works have revealed old carriage sheds (1873), these are very large sheds up to 200 ft long. Tim also spoke the 1870s Shortland Fountain, apparently the base of the original fountain has been located.

**9. Historical Groups & Museums updates** – Gianni also mentioned that Keith Parson of the Hunter Regional Committee of the National Trust has recently been unwell and we wish him a good recovery.

## **10. Public Advocacy – N/A**

## **11. General Business –**

- Russell Rigby – Russell advised that the Coastal Trail App will be launched soon, the aim of the project is to showcase 250 million years of geological history, colonial and Aboriginal heritage. Development of the App is in its final stages.

**12. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 2nd September 2019 at IDC Building, Callaghan Campus  
1-3pm.