

Hunter Living Histories Meeting
3th June 2019 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Newcastle Family History, Elder Street, Lambton

Minutes

Start: 1:00

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country** by Mel Woodford

- 2. Present:** Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Ron Barber, John Witte, Robert Watson, Ross Edmonds, Jessica Waugh, Denis Thurlow, Brian Roach, Susan Walsh, Paul Walsh, Lesley Gent, Keith Parsons, Kerrie Shaw, Maria Pavela, David Dial, Russell Rigby, Peter Sherlock, Amanda Hinds, Kate Makepeace, Charles Martin, Mark Metrikas, Mel Woodford, Alex Mills, Howard Bridgman, Mark Rigby.

- 3. Apologies:** Prof. Maree Gleeson, Paul Newey, Hugh Watt, Sonya Hornery, Marilla North, Tim Adams, Bronwyn Law, Jane Ison, Don Seton Wilkinson, Garry Jones, Ian Eckford, Brian Walsh, Diane Kinlock, John Fryer, Jude Conway.

- 4. Visitors :** Paul Stolk, Hellen Cohen,

- 5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Doug Lithgow. Seconded Maree Shilling. Ross Edmond's presentation was not included in the previous minutes, AH will amend.

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

- 7. Presentations**
 - (Paul Stolk & Hellen Cohen) -- (UON Business and Law School) – Paul is from the business and law school at the UON and co-ordinated the work integrated learning program, he described the opportunities that the school offers for students enrolled in BUS300 whereby they are able to undertake 100 hr placements in the community. If anyone is interested in offering opportunities for positions they are welcome to contact either paul.stolk@newcastle.edu.au or Hellen Cohen on hellen.cohen@newcastle.edu.au After

Paul's presentation there was a discussion about teaching across the disciplines, often there is a focus on STEM subjects. Teaching of local history was discussed (or lack of) and there was consensus that there is a need for this area of teaching to be strengthened. Bob James offered to convene a sub-committee of the HLH to explore this issue. Further discussion about the parameters of such a group, membership and when/where a group would meet.

- Paul Walsh – (Colonial Novocastrian – collaborative research/inspirations)- Paul spoke about his previous publications (including Novocastrian Tales) and his current project the 'quiet project' about (Yirannali) at South Newcastle Cliff. This is an Aboriginal reconciliation project. Paul gave an overview of past projects, and provided a website that has more information about educational aspects see <http://tuskproductions.com.au/> . He would also like to revisit stories about early Newcastle and has been inspired by the research undertaken by this group. He is seeking help from members and has asked for people to contact him about interesting stories relating to colonial Newcastle, particularly stories about relationships and friendships. Paul's email is paul@tuskproductions.com.au There was also a discussion about convict artist 'T.R. Brown' and the many initials of his name, Mark M commented on this, outlining that initials might have incorrectly been given by the engraver interpreting Brown's sketches.
- Alex Mills – (Newcastle Library Strategy). Alex gave an excellent overview on the Newcastle Library Strategy recently adopted by council. He discussed the consultation process, and the vision of the strategy. Local history, collections and archives feature strongly in the strategy, as well as plans to collaborate with community and business partners. Alex also spoke about a new digitisation Lab to be established at the Library in Newcastle, this will be a space available to the community. The library strategy is available on-line. Following there was a discussion about community resources and Howard Bridgman advised that the Newcastle Theatre Company is apparently going to close in coming months and there are concerns about what may happen to archives held there.

8. Reports and Updates

Gionni di Gravio- Update – Gionni described recent HLH blog posts – 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/>

- Another blog post is a photograph of 'George Wyndham's Dalwood Cricket Team' thanks to Don Seton Wilkinson who is a descendant of George Wyndham and a postgraduate student at the UON. Further information is available here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/05/07/dalwood-cricket-team/>

- A rare map of 'Floods in the lower Hunter, 1857' is now available on HLH. It shows the "extent to which the low lands of the River Hunter, and its tributaries between Oakhampton and Hexham were submerged by the Great Flood of August 1857." The map was drawn by J. Francis Adams, Licensed Surveyor, and ordered to be printed by the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales. Further information is available here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/05/08/floods-in-the-lower-hunter-1857/>

Ann Hardy, Glam Lab update: The Store Oral History project is progressing well, 17 interviews completed and thank you to Brian Roach who offered to be interviewed. One of the interviewees Eugene Guihot gave us scrapbooks that had belonged to his late wife Jean Guihot. Sadly Jean passed away in 2017, however 6 scrapbooks have been scanned and are available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/05/14/j-guihot/> This digitisation project was undertaken by Tenzin Legden WIL student at the GLAMx Lab. Click on the scrapbook, they have been formatted in PDF and can be downloaded. Each scrapbook (PDF) has been OCR'd meaning they are searchable if opened in Adobe Acrobat.

Tim Adams, archaeological update: N/A

Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update: Tom gave a brief update, he mentioned the former Civic Station was in the process of being heritage listed, and Development Control Plan (DCP) is on exhibition, reviewing 3 existing conservation areas, Hamilton South, Cooks Hill and The Hill. Peter Sherlock asked about the former Maritime Museum and need to negotiate protection of the collection. Tom also mentioned that he was working with the Local National Trust committee on conservation matters related to the Wickham School of Arts.

9. Public Advocacy

Keith Parsons advised that the HRCNT was working on a submission on the Wickham School of Arts, the committee has monthly meetings, and new members are welcome.

10. General Business –

- Ron Barber – (Fort Scratchley Historical Society) advised that the HMAS Newcastle was due to visit Newcastle, this will be its last voyage – after 25 years in service as it will be decommissioned. The fort will honour the occasion with a 7-gun salute at midday.

- At the end of the meeting a cake was cut to celebrate 125 years of The Lambton Mechanics Institute building, part of which is rented for the Newcastle Family History Society. Many thanks to Newcastle Family History for allowing us to hold the June HLH meeting at Lambton.

11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 1st July 2019 at UON NewSpace Building 1-3pm.