

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

**Minutes**

**Start: 1:00**

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country** by Ann Hardy
  
- 2. Present:** Ann Hardy (Chair), Jessica Waugh (Minute taker), John Witte, Suzanne Martin, Howard Dick, Louise Gale, Mel Woodford, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Judy Lindsey, William Greentree, Ross Edmonds, Ross Edmonds, Brian Roach, Ron Barber, Lesley Gent, Chaz Keys, Peter Sherlock, Hugh Watt, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Doug Lithgow, Marilla North, Paul Kiem, Tim Adams, Mark Rigby, Dael Alison, Denis Thurlow, Bronwyn Law, Bob James, Don Seton Wilkinson.
  
- 3. Apologies:** Gionni di Gravio, Russell Rigby, Sarah Johnson, Prof. Maree Gleeson, Robert Watson, Charles Martin, Maria Pavela.
  
- 4. Visitors :**
  
- 5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Ross Edmonds. Seconded Lesley Gent.
- 6. Business arising from previous minutes: -**
  
- 7. Presentations**
  - Dael Alison (UON PhD candidate) – Presentation of 19th Century Literature of the Hunter, presents a number of examples of Newcastle and the Hunter in early literature by various authors, including James Hardy Vaux, Birabhan, Rev Threlkeld, 'Rob the Ranter'.
  - Mel Woodford – (Nctle Family History Society) – Spoke about NFHS latest Book "They sent me North: Female Convicts of the Hunter" and database compiles of female convicts. Mel also spoke about the Bonnets exhibition 'Roses from the Heart', the exhibition has been extended and will be shown at the stitches and craft show at the Newcastle Entertainment

Centre. Also see – HLH blog post “They sent me North: Female Convicts in the Hunter” – Book Launch <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/08/06/women/>

- Don Seton-Wilkinson (UON PhD Candidate) – Dalwood House Australia's oldest Greek Revival building.

## 8. Reports and Updates

- **Ann Hardy - GLAMx Lab update:** Ann introduced new WIL students at the GLAMx Lab. Recent HLH WordPress posts include ‘Radical Newcastle- Radicals, Renegades and Revolutionaries’ See this link <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/08/29/radical/> At last meeting Louise Gale spoke about Rob the Ranter, her presentation is online, see “M.E.H.”, Rob the Ranter’s Adored Poet <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/09/02/m-e-h-ranter/> and , “Unmasking “Rob the Ranter” <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/09/02/unmasking-ranter/>
- Other HLH posts were compiled by Gionni and include “Life of George Muddle – Diary of an Ordinary Person in the Hunter Valley of the 1840s-1850s”. For the past twenty years, the Dudley Museum has held a xerox copy of a manuscript diary kept by George Muddle (1823-1889) documenting, in the main, his life as a servant worker on Charles Boydell’s estate Camerallyn, located between the Paterson and Allyn Rivers in the Hunter Region, on an almost daily basis from 1847 to 1858. See link <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/08/15/george-muddle/>
- The Maryland Station Weather Record 1868-1897 Weather records from Maryland Station on the New South Wales – Queensland border (near “The Summit”) were located by William Oates, Archivist at the University of New England in 2016. This was the second major historic climate data set uncovered following the discovery of the extensive climate records of Algernon Henry Belfield from the Eversleigh Station in the New England District of Armidale, NSW. See following link <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/08/21/maryland-station/>
- **Bob James, historian** - Bob gave an update on the local history working party who are looking for a way to integrate local history into the curriculum at schools. Discussions at the meetings included constitutes local history.
- **Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update:** N/A
- **Tim Adams** – Umwelt – No update.

## **9. Historical Groups & Museums updates –**

## **10. Public Advocacy – N/A**

## **11. General Business –**

Maritime Museum - Howard Dick raised the issue of the future of the Maritime Museum, there may be a lack of space at the regional museum. Possibility of using the Carrington Pump House. Peter Sherlock gave an update on the working progress regarding the Maritime museum collection and its future.

Lesley Gent – Advised that she was able to contact Ron Slater (former RAAF pilot) to arrange an interview on 11 October when he visits Newcastle. Ron was identified when NBN Television footage (1963) of the Sabre plane crash in Mayfield was shown at HLH meeting. Also, the UON book fair raised over \$10 000 for scholarships.

Judy Lindsey – Advised that Engineers Aust. ‘Inner Newcastle Heritage walk’ will take place 7 September 10.00am-1.00pm, meeting at Newcastle Regional Museum, \$10 per person.

## **12. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 3rd November 2019 at IDC Building, Callaghan Campus 1-3pm.