

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

**Minutes**

**Start: 1:00**

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country** by Gionni di Gravio
  
- 2. Present:** Gionni di Gravio (Chair), Ann Hardy (Minute taker), Jessica Waugh, Sonya Hornery MP, Cr Carol Duncan, John Witte, Suzanne Martin, Cameron Archer, Louise Gale, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Judy Lindsey, Ross Edmonds, Ron Barber, Peter Sherlock, Doug Lithgow, Paul Kiem, Karen Moller, Mark Rigby, Denis Thurlow, Bob James, Don Seton Wilkinson, Charles Martin, Keith Parsons, Ken Thornton, Ian Eckford. Robert Watson, Brian Roach, Stephen Miller, David Dial, Heather Sharp, Howard Dick.
  
- 3. Apologies:** Lesley Gent, Sarah Johnson, Bronwyn Law, Mark Metrikas, Coral Black, Peter Leven, Kerrie Brauer, Marilla North, Prof. Maree Gleeson, Emeritus Professor John Fryer, Hugh Watt, Tom Smith, Tim Adams, Maria Pavela.
  
- 4. Visitors:**
  
- 5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes 4 November 2019:** Confirmed by Ron Barber.  
Seconded John Witte.
  
- 6. Business arising from previous minutes: -**
  
- 7. Presentations**
  - Dr Cameron Archer – (Book “The Paterson Valley Then & Now”) – Cameron gave an interesting presentation about the Paterson Valley and his recent book “The Magic Valley: The Paterson Valley – Then & Now” compiled over 40 years living and working in the Paterson Valley. The book examines the relationship between humans

and their environment, as well as the impacts of Aboriginal land management. The book draws on many historic sources and these are woven into contemporary discussion. Further information about the book is here

[https://books.google.com.au/books/about/The\\_Magic\\_Valley.html?id=ub66xAEACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.com.au/books/about/The_Magic_Valley.html?id=ub66xAEACAAJ&redir_esc=y)

- Dr Bob James – (Digitising vs Physical objects) Bob talked specifically about Fraternal Societies collections and although this type of collection is not always considered ‘significant’, the artefacts do have associations with many themes, such as early professions. The Fraternal Societies Project highlights the beginning of Freemasonry (1717) to the modern era. In summary the Fraternal Story is important because is a story that has not really been told, the Hunter districts have been crucial to the fraternal story. Fraternalism offers new employment opportunities, especially in the S.T.E.M areas. The story of how modern society has evolved is the fraternal story. (Dr James’ Fraternal Societies collection will be housed at the UON Cultural Collections)
- Stephen Miller – ("Bringing Electric Trains to Newcastle") Stephen is a UON student and volunteer at UONCC and has an extensive knowledge of railway history in the Hunter Region. Stephen gave a very detailed history associated with railway infrastructure in the Hunter region, and interesting account of the implementation of electric trains and the many years in the planning to have it developed.

Many thanks to all of our presenters.

## 8. Reports and Updates

- **Gionni di Gravio** – Gionni gave an overview of the HLH achievements throughout the year, as outlined in ‘The Hunter Living Histories 2019 Report’. The report is available online here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/12/03/2019-report/>
- HLH posts for November include “Bikinis or Coal Jetties on Stockton Beach? An Alternate Vision from 1911” showing three Newcastle plans that form part of a collection of twenty one (21) plans held at the University of Newcastle’s Cultural Collections. These originally accompanied the 1911 Royal Commission as to the Decentralisation in Railway Transit. For further information <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/11/27/bikinis-or->

[coal-jetties-on-stockton-beach-an-alternate-vision-from-1911/](#) Gionni thanked everyone for their contributions throughout the 2019.

- **Ann Hardy - GLAMx Lab update:** Ann gave a brief update of the WIL communication students and thanked all the students and volunteers who have worked on projects during 2019.
- HLH posts during November include “Remembrance Day 2019”. This was a collaboration between Fort Scratchley Historical Society (FSHS), Alliance Francaise de Newcastle, UON’s GLAMx Lab and KRD print to compile a film of historic photographs that were illuminated on the fort walls on Sunday 10 November 2019. The creative team included John Cronin (UON Work Integrated Learning student) with Dr Heather Sharp (UON), Beth Preston (UON), Michelle Thompson, Karen Smith (FSHS). Further information is here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/11/11/rem-day-2019/>

The “Eight Hour League 150th Anniversary” exhibition was held during November at Hunter Unions Building, King Street, Newcastle. The Eight Hour Committee was the forerunner to Newcastle Trades Hall Council (Hunter Workers). Rob Noble organised the exhibition and has written a brief history of The Eight Hour Day Movement in Newcastle and the Hunter Region, the history is available here

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2019/11/21/8-hr-150/>

- **Tom Smith- Newcastle Council update:** N/A
- **Tim Adams – Umwelt –** N/A

## 9. Historical Groups & Museums updates –

- **Keith Parsons (National Trust)** – Keith raised the issue of the 1922 Art Deco Newcastle Baths and the possibility of the aging site being developed, he stated that the Trust supported retaining the heritage façade and was opposed to large scale new development as shown in some of the images published in the local paper. Cr Carol Duncan outlined her long standing association with trying to promote the city’s history and is certainly an advocate for retaining heritage, and in 2012 she created the Lost Newcastle Facebook page that now has a membership of over 48, 000. Carol advised there is often a lot of confusion and misinformation around development and heritage,

and she is willing to discuss any concerns that people have. Carol is also happy to attend HLH meetings and be part of general discussions about the city's cultural heritage.

**10. Public Advocacy – N/A**

**11. General Business –**

**12. Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 2nd February 2020, venue TBA 1-3pm.