

# Hunter Living Histories Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm

## Zoom Meeting

### Minutes

**Start: 1:00**

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country ;** Gionni di Gravio
- 2. Present:** Gionni di Gravio OAM (Chair), Ann Hardy (minute taker), Prof. Maree Gleeson, Lesley Gent OAM, Tessa Boer-Mah, Mark Dunn, Doug Lithgow, Ron Barber, Anne Creevey, John Clark, Judy Lindsay, Ross Edmonds, John Witte, David Dial OAM, Jude Conway, Emeritus Prof. John Fryer, Don Seton Wilkinson, Robert Watson, Mark Metrikas, Mark Rigby, Laurie Allen, Marilla North, Peter Sherlock, Howard Bridgman, Kerrie Shaw, Bob Donnelly,
- 3. Apologies:** Sonia Hornery (Member for Wallsend), Kerrie Brauer, Peter Leven, Diane Kinloch, Maree Shilling, Ken Shilling, Keith Parsons, Tim Adams, Garry Jones, Steve Miller, Heather Sharp, Louise Gale.

#### Visitors:

- 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Maree Gleeson. Seconded Lesley Gent.
- 5. Business arising from previous minutes:** - NIL.
- 6. Presentations – NIL.**

- Dr Mark Dunn (New Book ' – Mark's new book "The Convict Valley - The bloody struggle on Australia's early frontier" that covers a lot of the early contact history of the Hunter Valley, incorporating both Aboriginal and convict histories and also using many primary sources from the SLNSW and state archives and other

institutions. He spoke about his long connection to the Hunter Region and the idea to pursue through a PhD this significant history, but noticed there was a gap, acknowledged the publication “Dawn in the Valley” published several decades ago. This book includes convict and Aboriginal history in the story of the Hunter region, and will be officially available this week. The book is available from local bookshops or direct from NewSouth Publishing. We sincerely thank Mark for his wonderful contribution to historical knowledge of the region.

## 7. Reports and Updates

**Update – Gianni di Gravio** – Following on from Mark’s talk Gianni mentioned the HLH post on Paddy Tighe’s lost Aboriginal names of the Hunter Region. The post is about George Boyle White and local Aboriginal star names and stories back in the 1840s. His informant was an Aboriginal man named Paddy Tighe. The link to the post is available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/01/25/paddy-tighe/>

- A recent HLH post on “Dawn in the Valley” includes author Walter Allan Wood’s Research Papers. Allan Wood wrote on the Early History of the Hunter Valley Settlement, the seminal work published in 1972. In 2009 The University of Newcastle Archives took custody of Wood’s personal papers. It was a condition of the author that his collection would be accessible to University postgraduate students for possible future research. Wood was a very determined and generous man when it came to sharing knowledge with others. Further information is available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/05/06/wood-papers/>
- Gianni has also been tidying up some of the links on the HLH site that were broken, as well as uploading Archaeological reports, which are a good resource of recent material for local researchers. See new research <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/key-documents/>
- Following on from Prof Michael Chapman’s talk on the Wangi Power Station Project at last month’s meeting a HLH post has been created on the innovative methods for recording and disseminating industrial heritage through a multidimensional mapping of the architecture of the Power Station over time. This project will integrate data from archival drawings, point cloud scanning, drone photogrammetry and geotechnical modelling. See <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/05/07/wangi-power-station/>
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**Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update:** - Ann spoke advised that a HLH post was available on the Victoria Theatre (1891) and the VR technical reconstruction of the theatre, Gaute Rasmussen from the Innovation Team provided information about technical process and methodology. See

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/05/15/vicvr-tech/>

- Resources associated with Raymond Terrace were compiled by Dr Heather Sharp's students from EDUC4809: Historical Consciousness, Public Memory, and Nation Building class who participated in a seminar at GLAMx Lab at the Auchmuty Library during Semester 1. Included are downloadable PDFs available proposed as an educational resource for teachers. See

<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2020/05/11/rt/>

- Some issues of the National Trust Bulletin (NSW) have also been published with permission of the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales). The publications are from 1st February 1972 and 31st July 1979. These were digitized as part of the WIL placement in 2018. View the bulletins here

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/106121>

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

**Tom Smith and Isabelle Howlett - Newcastle Council update:** N/A

## 8. Public Advocacy

## 9. General Business –

**Robert Watson** – Advised that Newcastle Council are doing maintenance work on a drain/culvert in Lambton. In consultation with Tim Adams Robert showed images of the covered culvert and historical photos from the Ralph Snowball collection showing detail of the historic streetscape and culvert system.

**Maree Gleeson** – Maree thanked Gionni for the Wikipedia entry about Margaret Illukol, it is greatly appreciated and timely with the recipient of the Margaret Illukol

scholarship to be announced shortly. See Wikipedia entry here

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_Illukol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Illukol)

**Tessa Boer-Mah** – Mentioned she is after a contact for Wallsend Historical Society. If anyone can assist please sent information to Ann and she will pass on.

**Kerrie Shaw** - spoke about the Book scanner for the Newcastle Library, now due around August to delays related to the COVID outbreak. A Lab is also due to open during August and the digital library at Stewart Avenue will have regular exhibits, such as Podcasts, first will feature Alexander Scott, his famous daughters “Scott sisters” and their work, Australian Lepidoptera.

**Bob Donnelly** - discussed Fortress Newcastle project connecting local history groups and researchers in a project that looks at the region’s military history and fortifications. At this early stage the group is building up research material, also inviting other groups to contribute.

**Peter Sherlock** – Peter represents HLH on the Newcastle ocean Baths Committee, and reports that has been little progress due to COVID disruption, and will report further next month.

**Ron Barber** – Fort Scratchley remains closed however during the COVID period photos and stories have been shared on FSHS Facebook page resulting in 20 000 hits.

## 11. Close: 3.00 PM

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 1-3pm.

(ZOOM Meeting details will be sent via email)