

# Hunter Living Histories Meeting

2 August, 2021 1:00pm – 3:00pm

## Zoom

## Minutes

**Start: 1:00**

1. **Acknowledgement to Country** ; Gionni di Gravio.  
- Vale Dr Bernie Curran OAM
2. **Present:** Gionni di Gravio OAM, Ann Hardy, Doug Lithgow, Mala Scorse, Assoc. Prof Nancy Cushing, Emeritus Prof. Maree Gleeson, Emeritus Prof. Howard Bridgman, Ron Barber, Judy Lindsay, David Dial OAM, Robert Watson, Sarah Xenos, Mark Rigby, Bob Donnelly, Simone Cox, Louise Gale, Ken Thornton, Charles Martin, Jeffrey Freeman, Bronwyn Law, Cheryl Anne Bailey, Peter Sherlock, John Witte, Ross Edmonds, Shane Blatchford, Howard Dick, Ian Eckford, Don Seton-Wilkinson, Lesley Gent, Karen Crofts, Marilla North, Joe Flood, Kerrie Shaw, Christine Bramble, Dr Bernadette Drabsch
3. **Apologies:** Tim Adams, Kerrie Brauer, Peter Ring, Brian Walsh, Sarah Johnson,
4. **Visitors:** Welcome to friends and family of Leslie Kilmartin, Elva Fitzell, Jennifer Cromarty, Maree Adermann, Wendy Holz (NSMSL), Alison, Jill Stephens, John Cromarty, Rosalind Wallis.
5. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes 3 May:** Ron Barber Seconded John Witte.
6. **Business arising from previous minutes:** - NIL..
7. **Presentations –**
  - WW2 Diary - Richard Baines talked about his father Ronald Baines WW2 diary and also brought along several items associated with his father's life (see HLH

post [Great Escape Diary](#) for further information. Part of the presentation will be available shortly.

- Book '*The Elusive Captain Cromarty, William, 1784 - 1838*' – by Dr Leslie Kilmartin. After a long academic career, Dr Leslie Kilmartin is now a writer living in Melbourne. He has a first-class honours degree in psychology, a masters in sociology and a PhD in sociology. This is his first venture into biographical writing. William Cromarty is his three times great grandfather. Dr Kilmartin discussed his latest book, he is also a family descendant of the Cromartys and has had several visits to Special Collections to undertake research for the book. Other descendants were also present at the meeting, zooming in from interstate locations. A recording of the presentation will be made available shortly. An online copy of the book '*The Cromartys of Port Stephen* is available here on Living Histories, <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/112572>

Special thanks to Robert Watson for assisting Dr Kilmartin with the Zoom technology.

## 8. Reports and Updates

**Gionni di Gravio – Update.** Gionni advised during July he updated some posts to the HLH site, many were ABC Newcastle broadcast notes, including:-

-*Floods in the Hunter* <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/07/22/floods-hunter/>

Alexander Galloway (1876 – 1945) – Newcastle Compose. About the life and musical compositions of Alexander Galloway, a Novocastrian composer who penned hundreds of songs over a seven-year period including A Song for Newcastle and Sailing on to Dreamland (The Song of Beautiful Lake Macquarie). Included newly digitised and restored recordings. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/07/22/alexander-galloway/>

-*Searching for the St Michael” Sunken Hulk at Morpeth 1841.* The St Michael was a hulk, later converted to a store-ship, that sank at Morpeth, New South Wales in 1841. Conservation research summary is also available here <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/07/23/st-michael/>

-*Mayfield East Public School – 150th Anniversary 2008*. To assist staff and students and the community in celebrations the University Library prepared online historical items that form a substantial portion of records relating to the establishment of one of this region's oldest schools. For further information see <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2021/07/23/meps-150th/>

**Ann Hardy, GLAMx Lab update.** Ann mentioned the University Library is launching the Library Client Satisfaction Survey for all users, across all Libraries and will be open until August 21, 2021. Ann will email the link to the group and encouraged all to participate.

-Registrations are now open for [History Week 2021 – 'From the Ground Up'](#) . The events will take place 4 - 12 September 2021 and the University of Newcastle will host several events including one hosted by the University Library.

- The HLH Instagram page has now hit over 1000 followers, many thanks to Kieran Sturt for his ongoing involvement.

- Haslam Collection Project – Currently Shellie Smith a library intern is working on this project with us in Special Collections until end of the year, plan is to further digitise items in this collection.

**Christine Bramble – local historian.** Christine has written widely on military history of the region, particularly associated with women, including a biography on Matron Greaves. Christine is now moving on to another project associated with the First World War Field Ambulance and if anyone is interested in this theme or has information they'd like to share please contact with Ann Hardy who will pass on information.

## 9. General Business –

**Close: 3.00 PM**

Date of next meeting will be Monday, 6 September 2021, 1-3pm. Meeting location TBC.

