



# Founders

NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

*'To live on in the hearts and minds of Descendants is never to die!'*

**PATRON:** Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, Governor of New South Wales

## President's report

**B**y the time this reaches you, we should have our email address up and running. It is [ffaus@ol.com.au](mailto:ffaus@ol.com.au). We have been having some difficulty with the modem but our web-master George Griffiths and executive member Bruce Arnett have been helping out in this regard.

Your executive has been investigating the possibilities of producing a School Resources Kit on the First Fleet, in addition to the continuity of the *Junior Newsletter* which would be so important in instilling the importance of our ancestors arrivals in this land.

Also the executive has given the go ahead for a Seminar/Conference on the First Fleet and the Fellowship, to be held at Panthers, Penrith, next Australia Day weekend. Initial details are in this issue and more details will follow in future issues of *Founders*.

I hope to visit Brisbane in August to speak to the Queensland Family History Society, and at the same time to investigate the possibility of forming a Chapter in Brisbane. Back in the 1980s the Fellowship did have a branch located in Toowoomba. I send an appeal to members in the Brisbane area to please contact me if you would be interested in forming a Chapter in this area. We need one member to act as catalyst, and organise an inaugural meeting. FF House will defray any costs. My home address is 162 Beecroft Road, Cheltenham NSW 2119. My phone number is 02 9868 3063 and my email address is [pgjn@bigpond.com](mailto:pgjn@bigpond.com).

We recently had a rather long and involved letter from a New South Welshman re the absence of a proper memorial to Arthur Phillip. The executive, whilst sympathising with the said gentleman, Mr D M Hollier, referred to one main problem, that of POLITICAL CORRECTNESS.

There is quite an imposing memorial and fountain to the memory of our first governor in

the Botanic Gardens, quite close to the Mitchell Library, but the original plans at the site of the First Government House in Sydney envisaged a large statue of Phillip with a row of flagpoles envisaged by the architects of the Museum of Sydney on the site of First Government House.

I was really amazed when reading the latest journal of the Friends of First Government House that the Senior Curator of the day, in 1996, blithely declared that the Museum is not the birthplace of a nation; it is not trying to concoct a national identity – the bush, the Anzac. I went through all that with the Bicentenary and we are not into all that stuff.

**How about that for Political Correctness???  
What Rubbish!!!!**

A historian recently remarked, with regard to the deteriorating standards of history teaching in our schools, that a small politically correct brigade is bent on changing Australia into its own image.

We really have to contradict these new wave ideas regarding the first white settlement of our nation. It does not help Reconciliation, indeed it seems to be the antithesis of Reconciliation.

I mentioned in the last issue of *Founders* that I would be speaking to a dinner group at the Royal Australian Historical Society. It really went off extremely well and I was delighted to see that Janice Eastment, FF John Small/Mary Parker, was in attendance.

I must, on your behalf, thank our Vice-President, Pam Quick, FF Jane Langley, for the donation of curtains to FF House. They really enhance our HQ.

I hope this reaches you all in time, blame me if it does not, but there will be a **President's Welcome and OPEN HOUSE on Sunday 4 May at 2.00pm**. RSVP the week before!!!

Come May or June we will welcome our 7000th member !!

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# News of Members

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FOR PERIOD 27 OCTOBER 2002 TO 22 FEBRUARY 2003.

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period; five adults, two juniors and two spouse associates.

PATRICK BURN+ANN SMITH: Mrs Pamela Thomas.

BENJAMIN CUSLEY: Mr Brock Mason Trimmings (jun.).

ANDREW FISHBURN: Mrs Kylie Maree Espinoza.

ELIZABETH FITZGERALD: Mrs Alayne Harrison-Thorpe.

FREDERICK MEREDITH: Mr Cameron Meredith Ayres (jun.).

JOHN NICHOLS: Mr Dennis John Hogan (sp Mrs Susan Margaret Hogan).

JOHN SMALL MARY PARKER: Mrs Elaine Margaret Hepp (sp Mr Wilhelmus Johannes Hepp).

## BIRTHS

Welcome to additional First Fleeters:

ROLAND DALTON BARTLETT (FF John Gowan), at Lawson, 4 November 2002. A brother to Cooper.

JESSICA LOUISA FLOOD (FF Jane Langley and Philip Skirwin Henrietta Skirwin, James Sheers and Mary Smith, William Douglas and Mary Groves), 6 December 2002. Daughter to Vicki and Jon Flood, sister to James and Benjamin, ninth grandchild to Margaret and the late Rev. Canon A. R. Hardwick (#6203).

JOSHUA PATRICK RAFTER (FF Mary Williams), born at Nambour, 1 August 2002. First grandson of Mary-Joy Payten (#1135).

MADISSON KATE STANFIELD (FF Daniel Stanfield and Alice Harmsworth), 26 April 2002. Daughter to John Coulton Stanfield and Melissa Anne Parsons and sister to Kieran William Stanfield, second grandchild for Kevin (#6109) and Doris Stanfield.

## DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

MAVIS VIVIAN ASTLEY (#2711) nee Kable, resident of Wesley Heights Hostel, Manly, on Thursday, 6 February 2003. Her children Jack (#2710), Lynn (#2736) and Jill survive her. Descendant of First Fleeters Henry Kable/Susannah Holmes.

DOREEN CROSS (#4046), of 95 Quirk Street, Dee Why. Died January 2003, aged 79 years. Descendant of First Fleeter John Nichols.

ARTHUR EDWARD EBB (#2820), passed away on 28 February 2003. Loving husband of Marj. Descendant of First Fleeter John Cross. Sixth generation Australian.

HUGH CAMPBELL McCUBBEN (#6365), passed away 1 September 2002. Aged 69 years. A proud Australian and descendant of First Fleeter Richard Morgan.

OLIVE LINDA PHILPOT (#5809) passed away at The Manor Nursing Home on 6 January 2003, in her 96th year.

## KITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

On the agenda are plans to research information most suitable to make up a kit for our young members and other young people interested in the First Fleet. Out there in the schools, young people are learning about our country, Australia and the arrival of the First Fleet.

When it comes to doing a project, they need lots of information and this is where we can play a role. Two of our members, whose backgrounds are in education and realise the need for the kit, have offered to research what is essential to be included.

Having this on the 'drawing board', is a great step forward. Thank you to those two members.

## MAIL BOX

Letter from Louise Halfpenny seeking information about Thomas Halfpenny, a marine on board *Sirius*. Married Catherine Wilmot and had a son Joseph.

Louise can be contacted at:  
12 Brookside  
Copthorne  
West Sussex, RH10 3QN  
England



Closing date for  
copy and pictures  
May/June issue  
June 10 2003

OFFICE HOURS  
10.00am to 3.00pm  
Monday to Friday



# what's *on*

## PRIVATE TOUR OF CAMDEN PARK – HOME OF THE MACARTHUR FAMILY

TO BE HELD ON  
**SUNDAY, 18 MAY 2003**  
from 10.30am

AT  
**ELIZABETH MACARTHUR AVENUE  
CAMDEN**



Camden Park is only open to the public one day a year, but will be privately opened exclusively for the Fellowship of First Fleeters on this occasion.

The house and Macarthur family were recently featured on the ABC-TV series *Dynasties*.

The house was built for John Macarthur, who unfortunately died before it was completed. The family has continued to live there, and the National Trust calls it 'probably the most important country home in Australia'. 'The fact it has always been lived in by the family means it's packed with all the old possessions and fittings, so it's a bit like a treasure trove,' says sixth-generation Macarthur family member, Edwina Macarthur-Stanham.

The house is painstakingly maintained as a 19th century country manor, with antique furniture, many portraits of the Macarthurs, old books and a massive sandstone cellar.

There will be tours of the house by the family, and there is a massive garden with Australia's oldest camellia.

The grounds are suitable for picnics. Plenty of parking.

Adults: \$15.00. Children: \$12.00

To ensure your place book early by phoning FFF office 9360 3788. More information next issue of *Founders*.

## SNOWY MOUNTAINS 'TOUR ONE'

**MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER –  
SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER**

This fantastic package includes hearty breakfasts, morning teas, lunches and three-course dinners, including wine, in the elegant 'Top of the Town' restaurant. Live music Wednesday night as entertainment. Daily coach tours – you will ride the Ski Tube to Blue Cow Mountain, viewing the highest peaks in Australia, visit Cabramurra, Thredbo Alpine Village, Mt Kosciusko, Bega Valley, cheese factory, The Big Trout at Adaminaby, Happy Valley, and lots more.

**PRICE:** a comfortable \$510.00pp. \$50.00 deposit – refundable if unable to go. (*Limited singles available*) Please send deposit and name as soon as possible.

Headquarters for the tour will be High Country Motel, built in the typical alpine-style found throughout the area. All the units are comfortable and have central heating. The large, open lounge area overlooks the pool and the adjacent hillside and guests can enjoy, in comfort, the lovely log fire and the beautiful view.

**Note:** Unless 40 people book we will catch the XPT to Canberra and get picked up at the station.

## NASH FAMILY REUNION

The reunion of the Nash Family will take place on

**SUNDAY 6 JULY 2003**

**AT NOON**

**Wren Ground, Murragingy**

Entrance is off Knox Road, Doonside

(Mrs) Lydia Hope (02) 9831 2279



# the ROPE and PULLEY (STORY)



my First Fleet ancestors were Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley. They arrived with the First Fleet – Anthony Rope on the *Alexander* and Elizabeth Pulley started the journey on the *Friendship* but was off loaded at Cape Town and continued the trip on *The Prince of Wales*, arriving at Botany Bay 18 January 1788.

They were both convicts. Anthony at age 26 was charged on 10 March 1785 at Chelmsford Essex with burglary by breaking and entering the home of Robert Gosling on 2 September 1784 and stealing all sorts of clothing. There seems to be some evidence to indicate that Robert Gosling was in fact Anthony's employer. He was found not guilty of breaking and entering but guilty of stealing goods valued at 35 shillings and sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Anthony was one of the hundreds of convicts forced to wait years in the hulks, due to the African revolution, to be transported. During this time Anthony worked digging sand and gravel from Woolwich Shoals and wheeling the material to build roads and embankments. The hulks were old ships of no further use in the open seas. They were crowded, dark and unsanitary. It must have been very depressing to those on board.

On 13 May 1787 the fleet set sail. There is no record of Anthony's journey so he must have behaved himself aboard ship. Not so for Elizabeth Pulley! She was sweet 16 when she was tried and acquitted for stealing wearing apparel. The next year she was imprisoned in 'The Castle' for stealing an assortment of goods, mostly clothes. Later that year she was given three weeks gaol

for stealing wearing apparel. She was also publicly whipped in the marketplace of Bridwell. In 1781 she was again convicted of stealing wearing apparel to the value of three shillings and was sentenced to 12 months hard labour in the house of correction at Aylsham. On 11 January 1783 she was convicted of stealing:

Item	Value
• 10lb Cheese	3/-
• 31b Bacon	1/6
• 240z Butter	1/-
• 31b Raisins	1/-
• 71b Flour	1/-
• 2 rolls Worsted	1/-

She was sentenced to hang but was later reprieved to seven years transportation. With more space I could describe the terrible conditions of the prisons of those days; suffice to say she must have been made of good stuff to survive the five years while she waited for transportation.

On the *Friendship* she gained an unenviable reputation of being a fighting, uncouth whore, one of the five troublesome Elizabeths that many words have been written about, but there is one entry that redeems her. A

female convict on the *Prince of Wales* was giving birth. Our Elizabeth, being the only woman clean and intelligent enough to be trusted, was assigned to help with the delivery. There is also a notation to suggest that Elizabeth herself was pregnant, but there is no record of the birth or otherwise or any record of the child. It is believed to have been either aborted or died during the journey.

It is well documented that the fleet first landed in Botany Bay but finding it unsuitable for

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colonisation, Captain Phillip relocated to Port Jackson, now known as Sydney Harbour. It is also well documented that the male convicts, of whom Anthony Rope was one, were put to work building quarters for themselves, the officers and the women, when they were allowed to disembark. This work took from 26 January to 6 February. During that time the female convicts, dressed in heavy European clothes, just had to endure the stifling heat aboard the ships anchored in the harbour.

When they disembarked they were immediately set upon by the male convicts and from all accounts the sailors and the marines were no better behaved. It was a night of wild abandonment which was not dampened by the sudden arrival of a violent thunderstorm accompanied by heavy rain and squalls.

This is when my ancestors met. Their first son, Robert was born nine months later. They were married on 19 May 1788. As both Anthony and Elizabeth had served their seven years in England and on the journey out here, they were virtually considered free people soon after arriving in Australia.

Anthony was brought before the court on 25 May, to answer to the charge of killing a goat owned by Lieutenant G Johnston valued at six shillings. The meat was used in a 'Sea Pie' to celebrate the wedding. Anthony claimed he found the goat dead along a track and that it had been mauled by a wild animal but the meat was still

sweet. Luckily he was acquitted, as a charge like that could have led to hanging or years of hard labour. If that had happened we would not be here.



Our family came from the second child – a daughter Mary – who grew up to marry James Tobias Ryan and my family came down that line. Anthony was put to work making bricks. Twice he received 25 lashes for either not working or for 'laziness'. On 31 March 1791 Anthony was given a further 25 lashes for buying a pair of shoes believed to be stolen. The seller, J Marriott, was also given 25 lashes for selling them.

On 6 December 1791 Anthony was granted 30 acres to farm plus 20 acres for his wife and 10 acres for each of their two children, so he took up 70 acres at 'The Ponds', two miles north of Parramatta. In 1796 they sold their farm for 50 pounds and moved to Mulgrave. Apparently he was a good farmer as all his family, including six children, were off government stores and, despite being flooded out three times, became self supporting.

In 1818 the family then sold up and moved to 'Tumbledown Barn' at Windsor. The floods still remained a problem and at one stage the whole family had to be rescued from the roof of 'Tumbledown Barn'. The area is still known as Ropes Creek. Elizabeth became a model wife but Anthony's activities have been noted in various journals. In 1806 he was accused of working an illegal rum still.

In 1816 he, with others, rowed a life boat from the Hawkesbury to Port Macquarie, apparently for the government, and was granted 10 pounds compensation because someone stole his clothes after reaching Port Macquarie.

In 1826 he only just got out of a charge of harbouring an escaped convict. On 9 August 1837 Elizabeth Rope died. She was aged 76 and was buried next to her son William in the Anglican Cemetery, Church Street, Castlereagh. Her headstone and footstone are still standing. On 20 April 1843 Anthony died at age 84 and was buried in the same cemetery but no headstone has been found. The Rope and Pulley Association has erected a new one next to that of Elizabeth.

This is just a short summary of a very interesting life of two of our pioneers. Other books that give much more detail are:  
*Strands of Rope & Pulley* by Sylvia Taylor  
*Reminiscences of Australia* by James T Ryan  
*Sydney Cove 1788* by John Cobley  
*The Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts* also by John Cobley and many others.

WARREN WHITE



# from the chapters

## North Coast – New England Gathering

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2003

What a warm welcome William and I received on arriving at Coffs Harbour. On the Saturday Evening, we joined the North Coast President Colin Robertson and other members for dinner at a delightful Thai Restaurant which had a special ambience about it, topped off with delicious food.



*Members of New England and North Coast Chapters*



*Head Chefs who cooked the delicious BBQ*



*Two special Presidents  
Colin Robertson, North Coast Chapter left and  
Warren Luxford, New England Chapter, right*

Sunday was the highlight of the weekend, when about 40 members from North Coast and New England Chapters gathered at Boambee Reserve for a day of fellowship. Each of these people made us feel very special and as if they already knew us.

The planning and preparation that went into this day made it quite evident why the membership is so strong in both of these chapters. Chapters remain 'healthy' when their members unite like they did on this day.

Warren Luxford, President of the New England Chapter, and his band of merry members arrived by coach from the hinterland. Come October, the reverse will happen when North Coast travels to New England. Wish we could be there, but unfortunately due to work commitments, we are unable to join them.

The chefs cooked a great BBQ that complemented the array of salads to choose from followed by 'low calorie' (I don't think) desserts. After hours of fellowship with one another, it was time to say goodbye – till next time, and we will make sure it's not too long till we see one another again. North Coast and New England, thank you again for making us feel so welcome.

During 2003, we plan to visit our other chapters – Northern Rivers and North West, when we will look forward to meeting their members.

**PAMELA HEMPEL**  
Public Relations Officer

## South Coast Chapter

### COMING EVENTS

#### SATURDAY 24 MAY

Travel by 19-seater coach to Sydney for a guided tour of Cockatoo Island

#### TUESDAY 1 JULY

Behind the scenes tour of the NSW State Records Archives at Kingswood

For further information contact Jean Mortimer (02) 4257 5575 or email: [terryjeanmort@yahoo.com.au](mailto:terryjeanmort@yahoo.com.au)



# INTERESTING FACTS

**N**ext time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be ...

## HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT THE 1500s:

- ❖ Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats, and other small animals (mice, rats and bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip off the roof – hence the saying 'It's raining cats and dogs'.
- ❖ There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.
- ❖ The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying 'dirt poor'.
- ❖ The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh on the floor to keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entryway – hence, a 'thresh hold'.
- ❖ Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide body odour. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the sons and men, then the women and finally the children, last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it, hence the saying, 'Don't

throw the baby out with the bath water'.

- ❖ They cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then



start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while – hence the rhyme, 'peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old'. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could 'bring home the bacon'. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and 'chew the fat'.

- ❖ Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.
- ❖ Most people did not have pewter plates, but had trenchers, a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Often trenchers were made from stale paysan bread, which was so old and hard that they could use them for some time. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of times worms and mould got into the wood and old bread. After eating off wormy, mouldy trenchers, one would get a 'trench mouth'.
- ❖ Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or 'upper crust'.
- ❖ Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up – hence the custom of holding a 'wake'.
- ❖ England is old and small and they started running out of places to bury people. They would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a 'bone-house' and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. They thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin, and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night ('the graveyard shift') to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell' or was considered a 'dead ringer'.

Believe it or not!!!

*Article from North Coast Chapter Fellowship of First Fleeters Newsletter*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from page 1)

Sometime ago I received a letter requesting to use an article I had prepared for a local Family History Newsletter. I did not have any objections but in the last few weeks was delighted to receive a rather grand publication called *Chasing George*, written by a new found cousin Laraine Dillon.

What, may you ask, has this got to do with the First Fleet? This book is of interest to some members of at least six Fleet Families. Through my mother and father I am related to a number of double cousins in the Fellowship through the Hadley/Tunks line.

A number of we First Fleeters are descended from a French Napoleonic prisoner of war sent to the Colony in 1800 to grow grapes for wine at Parramatta. First Fleeters involved are Tunks, Rope/Pulley, Hibbs, and Thomas Spencer and Mary Phillips.

This book is available from Laraine Dillon, 23 Grey Street, Redland Bay, Queensland 4165, phone 07 3206 8130 email [larmax@ozemail.co.au](mailto:larmax@ozemail.co.au). I can heartily recommend this to any keen historians of Australian history.

I was privileged to attend and speak at the book launch at Old Government House, Parramatta, early in April.

In Fellowship  
**PETER**

## Bicentenary of Land Grants Celebration 2003

Saturday 5 April was the finale to weeklong celebrations for the Nepean/Castlereagh Area. The Fellowship of First Fleeters 'flew their flag' at the International Rowing Regatta Venue at Penrith.

Hundreds of people travelled from all over to stroll amongst the exhibitors' stands. President Peter Christian, FFF Web Master George Griffiths (both pictured below), and William Hempel shared information with interested folk, who wanted to know more about the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

The Rope-Pulley Family were especially well-represented as were the Tunks, Herbert and Nash descendants. Peter Christian planted a memorial tree for the Tunks Family.



## Australia Day 2004

**P**lans are underway for the long weekend in January 2004 to celebrate Australia Day in a way we have never done before.

To give people the opportunity to come from all over Australia to join their immediate family and other descendants of their First Fleet ancestors, a weekend of celebrations has been planned.

During the day, Saturday 24 January, a conference would be held with key speakers that would be of interest to everyone. There would be a workshop for the children, which would be a fun time for them. In the evening, a dinner is planned as a finale to the day when families can make up their own tables.

The venue, Panthers at Penrith, has been chosen as it is central for those travelling north, south, east and west. Panthers is large enough to hold a dinner for 500 plus, and conference facilities for 400 people plus, as well as accommodation on-site to cater for 400-500 people.

Panthers has offered special rates for accommodation for those wanting to stay in-house. If you haven't had the opportunity to see Panthers for yourself, you will be amazed by its size.

On the Sunday, those who want to attend a church service

or visit one of the cemeteries nearby where First Fleeters lie, may do so. You will have to note your intentions when booking.

Holding this celebration over a long weekend will also give members the opportunity to make other plans for the following days. Family organisations will be contacted and invited to attend. What a great time to plan a Reunion! A booking sheet will be enclosed in your copy of *Founders* in a few months time, so watch out for it.

Those attending the conference will have the opportunity of winning a great prize – it's a secret at this time!

Spread the word, as we don't want anyone to miss out!

If you are proud to be an Australian as well as a descendant of a First Fleeter, we can assure you will feel more so in January 2004 when you assemble at Panthers.

*'To Live On in the Hearts and Minds  
of descendants is Never to Die.'*

**PAMELA HEMPEL**  
Public Relations Officer

Opinions expressed herein are those of the article authors and correspondents and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, nor the views of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to omit any material considered unsuitable for publication. Space limitations may result in some material being held over to another issue. **RON MAGUIRE**, Hon. Editor

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