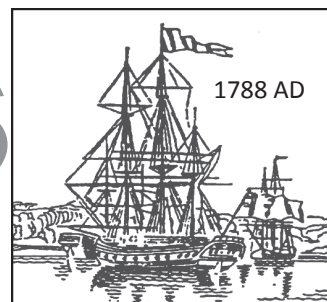


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Inc.

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



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

NORTHERN RIVERS CHAPTER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

On Sunday 25th November, the Fellowship of First Fleeters Northern Rivers Chapter, met at the Alstonville Bowls club to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Northern Rivers Chapter in 1987.

We were honoured to have Peter Christian at our celebrations. Peter was closely involved with Lionel Phelps in establishing the Chapter at that time. Peter had a leisurely (12 hours) trip from Sydney to Casino by train, where he was met by one of our members, Betty McPherson, on Saturday night. After a quiet night in Lismore, he was collected from his motel by another member Val Dunstan, who delivered him



Peter Christian greeting
Lionel Phelps

to the Bowls club at Alstonville in time for celebrations and lunch. Peter also had the pleasure of presenting Lionel Phelps with Life Membership of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Lionel held the position of President for many years. He has been the holder of our archives and had our book "Never to Die" printed in 2004. (copy of which was sent to FF house) He received Membership of the Order of Australia in 2000.

This was a pleasant surprise for Lionel, who commented that he had only recently been to Peter's farewell at First Fleet House. Being old friends, they and Lionel's wife Lenore enjoyed many reminiscences.

After a delightful lunch, to lighten the mood Rex Soward recited his poem 'Don't get hooked on fishing'.

After Lionel & Peter cut our anniversary cake, Val Dunstan gave us a potted history of the 25 years of our Chapter. This brought back memories for those who have been part of the Chapter for all or some of that time.



Peter Christian bestows Life Membership badge on Lionel Phelps

Peter then enjoyed the rest of the afternoon with Lionel & Lenore at their Richmond Hill home near Lismore.

He had a much quicker trip back to Sydney on Monday

morning by plane. We all appreciated Peter spending the time with us and congratulate Lionel Phelps on his Life membership.

LOOKING BACK

Extracts from the official history compiled
by Val Dunstan

- ◆ The impetus for forming a chapter was the approaching Bicentenary and twenty five people attended the first meeting in November 1987.
- ◆ The chapter originally covered the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed River Districts, with meetings held quarterly at first, in the RSL Club or at various homes.
- ◆ A First Fleeter float took part in Lismore's 1988 Australia Day procession and later that year chapter members visited the First Fleet Monument at South Grafton.
- ◆ For a few years a chapter display was mounted at the St Carthage's Floral Festival.
- ◆ Members were thrilled when their founding President, Lionel Phelps, was appointed Chancellor of Southern Cross University in 1998.
- ◆ Five years later, Lionel informed the Chapter that he had inherited a title: Freeman of the City of Gloucester, UK
- ◆ In 2011 a radio play 'The Watch on the Headland' was presented at a chapter meeting. It told the story of the wait for supply ships at South Head in 1790

Founders

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CONTENTS

1. Northern Rivers celebrates 25 years .
2. President's Desk & Editorial.
3. The First Fagin, book and film.
4. Joseph Wright story
5. continued
6. Robert Watson story
7. continued;
A Convict in the Family;
Chapter Secretaries
8. Australia Day celebrations
9. Celebrating our Beginnings 1838;
First Service Commemoration.
10. Was there an Orgy?
11. Our Chapters in Action.
12. Member updates; At The Helm;
Norfolk Island Museum



PRESIDENT'S DESK

Australia Day Lunch – Postponed

In late December the Pullman Hotel advised us that the Ibis Room where we were to hold our Australia Day Luncheon would not be available to us. The renovations that are being carried out in the foyer area are behind schedule. The Hotel did offer us an alternate venue that your Directors decided would not suit our purpose.

Rather than cancel the luncheon we have decided to re-schedule and re-name the event. We are now to celebrate the '**Sailing of the First Fleet**' on the **11th May 2013**. The First Fleet sailed from Portsmouth on the 13th May so our luncheon date is the closest Saturday to that date.

I know that this change has inconvenienced some people and I apologise to those individuals. There are still vacancies available for the lunch and a flyer is enclosed with this edition of Founders for those Members and their Guests who wish to participate. If you have already advised us that you are coming to the new lunch you do not have to notify us any further. New tickets will be sent to you.

I encourage Members to embrace the change and support this event as it recognises an important date in our history. I look forward to seeing many of you at the **Ibis Room. Pullman Hotel, on the 11th May 2013.**

Ian Palmer



EDITORIAL—

Your editor has some exciting news this issue. John Boyd, our Research Officer advises that we have a 'new convict family' making 191 trees in the First Fleeter Forest. That's right. Onto the data base has gone the family of Robert Watson, a pioneer who made his mark at the eastern end of Sydney Harbour and whose name is well remembered thereabouts today.

Congratulations to new member #8206 Suzanne Kirby, who has not only proved that Robert is her ancestor, but also jumped straight in and written his story for *Founders* and our website. You can read about Able Seaman Robert Watson of the Sirius on pages 6 and 7.

Also this month, we publish another First Fleeter story. This one has been contributed by # 7989 Graham Sparks and outlines the life of one Joseph Wright.

Do keep your stories coming. *Founders* has at least five more awaiting publication and our aim is to have everyone of those 191 included on the website as soon as we can. Remember, you read them here first.

Australia Day has come and gone and perhaps with it, the focus on the 225th anniversary of the landing. Congratulations to those Chapters that clearly let their communities know of our beginnings. We had planned to gather the stories of the day and give an overview countrywide, with short notes from all over. However, with Albury-Wodonga District putting on its first Australia Day face, we thought our readers should share their enthusiasm by presenting a longer report.

Central Coast also took to the open air for the first time this year on the waterfront at the Entrance. Surviving the hourly cannon fire of their neighbours, the Corps of Marine, the brave members stood their ground and despite convict garb, managed to avoid being pilloried in the stocks.

Once again North West Chapter presented their inland landing at First Fleet Gardens at Wallabadah and an outline of the proceedings can be found in this issue.

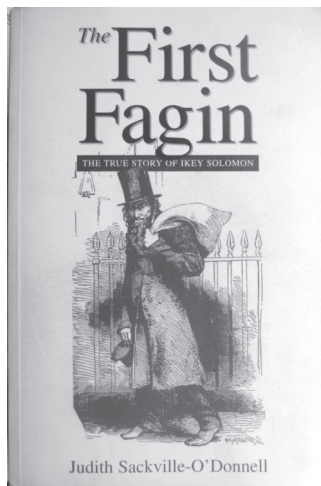
In *Founders* 44/1 we lamented the disappearance, whereabouts unknown, of the statue of Governor Arthur Phillip from First Fleet Park at Sydney Cove. Members may not be too thrilled to learn that he seems to have been replaced by a public toilet. The sad story was published straight after Australia Day, in an article in the Sydney Daily Telegraph written by Professor Gary Sturgess of Sydney.

Jon Fearon

THE FIRST FAGIN

By Judith Sackville-O'Donnell

READ THE BOOK— SEE THE FILM



Set against a background of wild fictitious fancy as sensationally portrayed by early nineteenth century pamphleteers, Judith Sackville-O'Donnell's *"The True Story of Ikey Solomon"*, published in 2002 makes compulsive reading.

This is history at its best, with every chapter scrupulously end-noted and it is

obvious that the author took great care to analyse the archival material and the other records of the life and times of Isaac Solomon, the notorious London 'fence'.

Here is much more than the fictional character developed by Bryce Courtenay in his *"The Potato Factory"* and continued in the mini-series of the same name, however enthralling and entertaining each of these remain. And the reader needs to distinguish between the zealous East London property receiver on whose court cases Charles Dickens may have reported and the 'very old shrivelled Jew, with matted hair' that became Fagin in *Oliver Twist*.

Ikey's life has some amazing twists and we are given a carefully researched background of Jewish London and some of the families and characters who made that area their own. Escaping from Newgate Gaol is amazing enough in itself, and then to travel half way round the world from New York to Van Diemen's Land as a paying customer in order to link up with the wife and family he obviously adored, makes for a great love story. He was, he said, 'determined to brave all for the sake of my dear wife and children—I don't care what may happen.'

As you may not know the story, your reviewer is reticent to reveal too much about the interplay of the characters, the courts and the condemned, the authorities and the convicts, the relatives and neighbours, the settlers and the well-to-do. For those with Jewish background, Ikey's life and his connections often, seemingly, on the fringe of that faith, makes a

fascinating contrast to the career and works of his sons who later become benefactors pillars of the Sydney Jewish society.

Our story remains however, inextricably linked to the early days of Hobart with its business entrepreneurs, land developers and the not too far distant institutions, the female factories and convict prisons.

Ostensibly about one man, this book is really about the family, particularly Ikey's wife Ann who had to hold that family together. And there is a First Fleet connection too, perhaps only known to those who belong, which came about when Ikey's third son, David, married the granddaughter of First Fleeter, James Bryan Cullen, an original settler and farmer of New Norfolk.

This is a book to read and reread. And now there is a much acclaimed film! Briefly showing in selected Cinemas in 2012, it is now available as a DVD (from Ronin Films). Made in Tasmania and with the author Judith Sackville O'Donnell as the screen writer and advisor, it faithfully portrays the events brought out in the book. The film is presented as a docu-drama and is wonderfully narrated by Miriam Margolyes.



Historians and archivists appear on screen at regular intervals to validate and give background to the unfolding family love story, setting the latter in its historical context.



Your reviewers were moved by the performance of the local actors, Ryk Goddard as Ikey and Carrie Mclean as Ann, in both their London and Hobart settings. Seeing the film took us both straight back to the book for a closer look.

We recommend both book and film. Perhaps you too will agree with the author and film director's claim that Ikey Solomon ought to be as recognisable an Australian icon as Ned Kelly and Phar Lap.

JOSEPH WRIGHT First Fleeter

Joseph Wright was an original English-Australian.



Sloane Square, Chelsea

Joseph was born in Chelsea, London in 1767 to Joseph and Elizabeth Wright. Little is known about Joseph Junior in 18th century England, but he may have been a trainee blacksmith or similar. In

1784, when Joseph was 17 years old, while walking in Sloane Square, Chelsea, he noticed some renovations being done in Sloane Street. He decided to help himself to the lead flashing around the dormer windows and took it home with the idea of advertising and selling it. Unfortunately, he made one trip too many back to the house on 6th May, 1784 (bad choice) and was caught coming from the building with three pieces of lead in a basket along with another man who had a knapsack on his back with some lead too. This man took off, but Joseph was caught and taken to the publick house (police station) by John Dandy. The lead was taken back to the house where it matched exactly the place where it had been cut from the roof.

Joseph was charged with stealing 218 lbs of lead to the value of 40 shillings. After nearly three weeks behind bars, in London's Central Criminal Court (The Old Bailey) on 26th May, 1784, Joseph was tried and found guilty of theft, with the testimony of three witnesses, William Rothwell, the owner, John Dandy the arresting officer and Ruben Jackson, the plumber, who matched the lead to the house. (Old Bailey reference no. t17840526-21) He was sentenced to 7 years transportation. As the jails in London were overcrowded, he was transferred to a hulk on the Thames, the *Censor*. Transportation to Africa was considered, but it was decided that it would be too hot and also water supplies were not suitable. Meanwhile, Joseph and other convicts were taken ashore during the day in working parties and returned to confinement on board at night. He was to spend 3 years in these deplorable conditions.

Finally, in 1787, a decision was made to set up a colony in Botany Bay, Australia, discovered by Captain Cook in 1770. After 3 years on the *Censor*, finally on 24th February, 1787, Joseph was dispatched by open wagon for the three day journey to Portsmouth in the bitter cold. He boarded the *Scarborough* on 27th February, 1787, one of 11 ships making up the First Fleet. *Scarborough* had been converted to a convict transport fully rigged, three-masted ship, with two decks, weighing 430 tons. The ship was 111 ft long and 30ft wide She carried a crew of 30 and on board were also 50 marines and 201 convicts and was under the command of her Master, John Marshall. Joseph was listed as convict 96 when he boarded the *Scarborough*.

As with all others the amount of clothing estimated for a convict for one year was: 2 Jackets, 4 Woollen Drawers, 1 Hat, 3 Shirts, 4 pairs Worsted Stockings, 3 Frocks, 3 Trousers and 3 Pairs Shoes. Inventories of the time also listed the provision for two years.

The fleet finally departed from Portsmouth on 13th May 1787 for the 8 months and 1 week voyage under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip. The fleet called at Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Rio de Janiero, Brazil and the Cape of Good Hope in what is now South Africa. There was a mutiny on *Scarborough*

five days after leaving England but fortunately Joseph was not part of it. The ring leaders were caught and transferred to the *Sirius*, given 24 lashes and places in double irons for the remainder of the voyage.

The fleet reached Botany Bay on 18th January, 1788, but this site was found to be unsuitable, so the fleet moved north along the coast to Port Jackson and anchored at Sydney Cove. The new colony was declared on 26th January, 1788. Joseph, along with others, was put ashore the next day to clear the cove and cut down trees. He was 20 years old when he arrived here. Nothing more is recorded of him for the next two years so he must have been well behaved and stayed out of trouble.

Eleanor Gott was a Second Fleeter. She was baptised at St. Peters, Liverpool, England on 26th October, 1765 daughter of John Gott and Ann Caugley and was the eldest of six children. Her father was a shoemaker and Eleanor was taught the trade by her father. Becoming very proficient in her trade, she was intent on being a well dressed young woman and a neat homemaker who liked nice clothes and was able to read and write. Coming from a family of limited means, Ellen, as she was also called, resorted to stealing and in 1787 was sent to prison for the theft of a gown and cloak. This did not deter this resourceful young woman and on 3rd August, 1789 was again charged with stealing some items of clothing from her employer, Charles Norris. The fact that she had been convicted of theft 18 months previously did not negate this latest misdemeanour. This time she was sentenced to three years transportation, an unusually short period, in August, 1789.

After serving three months of her sentence, she embarked on the 2nd Fleet ship, *Neptune* bound for Sydney Cove. The harshness and depravity of this voyage is well documented and it was known as the hell ship. Poor Ellen, then 25 years old, survived while many others did not. We can only imagine the sufferings, privations and abuse she and others endured. Out of the 499 boarded, 158 died during the voyage.

She arrived at Sydney Cove on 27th June, 1790 after 159 days at sea. After taking some time to recuperate in the colony that had little food, Ellen finally settled in and there she met Joseph Wright. It probably wasn't a whirlwind romance but they seemed to hit it off pretty well. So much so, that they were given permission by Governor Arthur Phillip to marry on 13th December, 1790 at St. Phillips Church, Sydney. The original wedding book and certificate used in the new colony shows a large signature by Ellen Gott and a cross from Joseph Wright. The ceremony was witnessed by **Edward Field** and **Matilda Proud** both of whom signed with a cross. Ellen was 25 and Joseph was 23. They spent their honeymoon in Sydney town, probably Darling Point, where they lived till 1794.

Joseph and Ellen's first child, **Joseph**, was born at Port Jackson on 11th February, 1792. The second child, **Robert**, was born on 15th June, 1794 and baptised at St. Johns, Parramatta three weeks later on 6th July..

In 1794, now free by servitude, Joseph was given a grant of 30 acres of land at Mulgrave Place on the Hawkesbury River. He is listed among the first 22 settlers to receive land grants. Records show his land as being 30 acres, with 12.5 acres under wheat and maize and running 6 hogs. The early settlers suffered great hardship battling floods, unreliable transport and a lack of roads. The rent was to be one shilling per year with payment commencing after ten years.

Joseph and Ellen's neighbours were **William and Mary Douglass** on one side and **John Fenlow** on the other side. The Douglasses were congenial neighbours, good family people like the Wrights. Later intermarriage of their families and also with the nearby Butlers, would cement this early association on the river. John Fenlow however was different, a wild young bachelor.

In July, 1796, **John Malloy**, our first General Practitioner, was called upon to give medical evidence in a murder case at the settlement on the banks of the Hawkesbury River at Mulgrave Place. John Fenlow, Joseph and Ellen's neighbour, had shot his servant, **John Lane** using a bullet thought to be an old 1oz lead weight. An interesting point was raised that Joseph, convicted of stealing lead in London, may still have been in the unofficial scrap metal business. There was some speculation only, that Joseph made the bullet which was used to kill John Lane, but this was never proved. When John Fenlow was convicted, another convict, **Thomas Gilberthorpe** took over Fenlow's land grant and his wife and Ellen became friends due to their mutual Catholic faith. Later on, Joseph found out that Thomas and his wife were harbouring a runaway, **George Bruce**, so he felt he should report the matter to the authorities. Ellen then quickly told her friend what her Joe was up to.

Their third child, **Mary**, was born, circa 1797, and the fourth child, **John**, about 1800. By mid 1800 Joseph owned 9 pigs and had 13 acres sown in wheat and another 13 ready for planting maize. Their family had now increased to four children and they were still supported from government stores.

By this time the long voyage to Australia and the rigours of farming were starting to affect Joseph's health. He found he couldn't continue to run his farm alone and was forced to sell. The family moved to Prospect where Joseph was employed on a farm owned by **Edward Shipley**. Their fifth child, **Sarah**, was born there on the 12th March, 1802.

This move to Prospect, however, was short lived and the family moved back to the Hawkesbury area and purchased a smaller tract of land, 15 acres, from **Owen Cavanaugh**. The next farm returns indicate that Joseph had sown 8 acres with grain, leaving 6 acres fallow. Half an acre was pasture and there was an orchard of 0.7 of an acre. He now owned 7 hogs and held a bushel of maize so was no longer supported from government stores.

In 1803, Joseph and Ellen suffered the loss of their wheat crop. It was ruined when the boat carrying his produce was swamped in transit down the river and the whole crop was lost. He requested compensation but was denied. In the same year, on 10th April, he went to court requesting more money for his property to sow more wheat, but lost the case. In 1804 he supported a testimonial to the fair dealing of merchant **Robert Campbell** who was about to leave on a visit to England.

Joseph and Ellen's sixth child, **Samuel** was born on 25th December, 1805. Early the next year, Joseph was convicted, along with three other settlers, of employing an escapee, **Thomas Desmond**, who had absconded from public labour. The other settlers were each fined 3 pounds and Joseph 20 pounds, to be paid to the Orphan's Home. However, the Judge was lenient with Joseph and halved his fine to 10 pounds.

The land grant he had purchased was low lying and prone to flooding. In 1806 and again in 1809, the area suffered extensive flooding and all his crops were destroyed. In the midst of these

calamities their seventh child, **Thomas** was born on 12th March, 1809. He replanted his land with wheat and barley.

His health was now declining and he found it almost impossible to harvest his crop himself. In 1810, he tried to get assistance from other farmers but couldn't afford their exorbitant rates. He then wrote to Governor Macquarie to ask for some assistance to get his crop harvested, but his request was denied. Although there is no record of his sons, Joseph Junior 18 years old and Robert, 16 years old, they probably assisted their father to bring the crop in.

Joseph's health continued to deteriorate (although his illness is unknown) and sadly he passed away on 30th August, 1811 at Pitt Town. He was 44 years old. A service was held at St. Philips, Sydney, where he was described as a native of London and buried at Town Hall Cemetery, Sydney. (Burial Certificate No 256 Vol: 5)

Joseph had left the deeds to his property to Ellen and although she owned the farm now, she also had 7 children to look after and support Joseph, now 19, Robert 17, Mary 14, John 11, Sarah 9, Samuel 5, Thomas 2. Although there seems to be some doubts regarding the dates, all of Ellen and Joseph's children were baptised in churches at St. Philips, Sydney, St. Johns, Parramatta, and St. Matthews, Windsor. It seems Eleanor was bought up in the Catholic faith as a child and continued to worship in the local churches with her husband and children. Their marriage lasted 21 years, probably being like minded in their faith and love for each other.

On 31st March, 1812, Ellen married **Daniel Buckridge** at St. Matthews, Windsor. They lived together on Ellen's farm at Pitt Town and records show they were still together in 1828. There seems to be some evidence that Daniel had been granted a land grant of 50 acres at Castle Hill in 1818 but this cannot be verified.

Ellen's 2nd marriage to Daniel Buckridge seems to have been a success and he should be given a great deal of credit for adopting all of Ellen's children as he had no children with Ellen. He helped her sons to have trades as Wheelwright, Blacksmith, Cooper and Shoemaker. Daniel was laid to rest on 18th June, 1834 and a headstone marks his grave in the Pitt Town Cemetery.

Now 69 years old, Ellen continued to live on her farm for another 9 years but there seems to be no record of those years. On



28th April, 1843, Ellen (Eleanor) Buckridge (Wright)(Gott) passed away aged 78 years. She is buried

with her 2nd husband, Daniel at Pitt Town Cemetery.

To have found out in my lifetime that Joseph and Ellen Wright helped to pioneer this great land of Australia and that they were actually my family makes me very honoured yet humbled indeed. The fact that they lived to 44 and 78 years old after suffering unimaginable hardships has helped me understand how Australia become the great country we call our own today. I am proud to call them my Nana and Pa.

Narrative prepared by #7989 Graham Sparks, 4th Great Grandson. Corrections and additions welcomed. Contact the author at grahamkay1@bigpond.com

THE ROBERT WATSON STORY

Robert Watson was born in Northumberland northern England in about 1766 (First Fleet record), though his birth could have been as early as 1756 (according to his age shown on his death certificate). He joined the *H.M.S. Sirius* on 20th December 1786 as an able seaman. As yet little is known about his earlier life.

He set sail as a crew member and sail maker aboard the *H.M.S. Sirius*, the flagship of the First Fleet, from Portsmouth England in May 1787. During the voyage he was promoted to Quartermaster. The ship was under the command of **Captain John HUNTER**, the 2nd Lieutenant RN was **Philip Gidley KING** and it also carried **Captain Arthur PHILLIP**. These 3 officers were later to become the first 3 governors of the new colony. The fleet arrived in Botany Bay on 21st January 1788 after 252 days at sea. Robert Watson is reputed to have been one of the first to have set foot on Australian soil (ref: Royal Navy Settlers website).

Robert Watson left Port Jackson on board the *H.M.S. Sirius* on 2nd October 1788. They sailed back to the Cape of Good Hope to get much needed flour and other supplies. The arduous voyage took more than seven months to complete and returned just in time to save the near-starving colony.

The *Sirius* was to act as a re-supply vessel and communications link between New South Wales, Norfolk Island and England. After reaching Norfolk Island and successfully unloading the marines and convicts on 13th & 15th March 1790 in Cascade Bay, tragically, on 19th March 1790, the ship was wrecked on a reef at Sydney Bay, Norfolk Island whilst trying to land provisions. The *Sirius's* crew would be stranded for a year on Norfolk Island.

Robert Watson most likely had a common law marriage (as no marriage record has been found) with **Sarah Dorsett** one of the many convict women aboard the *Lady Juliana* (also commonly referred to as The Floating Brothel). Sarah had been convicted of stealing a man's coat and is frequently mentioned in Sian Rees's novel "The Floating Brothel" and also the autobiography of **John Nicol**, which was published in 1822. The *Lady Juliana* left Plymouth on 29th July 1789 and arrived in Port Jackson 309 days later on 6th June 1790, one of the slowest journeys made by a convict ship. The *Lady Juliana* was the first convict ship to arrive in Port Jackson after the arrival of the 1st fleet. Three weeks after the arrival of the *Lady Juliana*, the ships of the infamous 2nd Fleet arrived. Sarah Dorsett was later sent to the penal colony on Norfolk Island and arrived there in August 1790. She was accompanied by her infant son **Edward Dorsett Powell** who had been born at sea near Rio de Janeiro and whose father was a sailor on the *Lady Juliana* by the name of **Edward Powell**.

Robert Watson left Norfolk Island on 21st February 1791 aboard the ship Supply with Captain John Hunter and crew members of the *Sirius*. Robert remained in Port Jackson whilst Captain Hunter and some of the crew continued on to England. He then returned to Norfolk Island in May 1791 to become a free settler. He received a 60 acre grant at Cascade Run and was selling provisions to the government by May 1792.

In 1792 his daughter Rebecca was born. He also had a son John (possibly born in Sydney). He eventually sold his farm in 1793 when he became mate of the schooner '*Francis*'.

In 1800 Robert was placed in charge of the Dawes Point battery on the east point of the western side of Sydney Cove. In 1801 he was also appointed Boatswain of the dockyard which was also located on the western side of Sydney Cove. **Governor King** granted him land in 1801 at South Head, later to become known as Watson's Bay.

At some stage between 1794 and the 1806 muster, Sarah had left Robert and her 3 children and she was listed as living with **John Woodward** (later they had 4 children together)

In April 1811 soon after the South Head Road was completed, **Governor Macquarie** visited Robert Watson at the new stone house and outbuildings he had built and the Governor granted him a free licence to sell spirits there. On 17th August 1811 after this visit Governor Macquarie also appointed him Harbour Master and Senior Pilot of Port Jackson.

In January to March 1814 he was piloting the '*Kangaroo*' during the evacuation of Norfolk Island. Soon afterwards he resigned from his post of pilot, but retained the appointments of Harbour Master and Boatswain of the dockyard. His son-in-law **Robert Murray** was appointed Pilot in place of Robert Watson.

In November 1816 he was dismissed from his appointments on a charge of stealing canvas. He was subsequently sentenced to 3 years in HM gaol at Parramatta but only served 2 weeks; Governor Macquarie granted him a Conditional and Absolute pardon for "In consideration of the former good character of the said Robert Watson, and of his long and faithful service in this colony" (State Records of NSW Colonial Secretary Index, 1788-1825)

In November 1818, the Macquarie Lighthouse was completed and Robert was installed as its first Lighthouse-Keeper on the same salary that he had received as Harbour Master.

At the end of October 1819, he requested temporary leave because of illness and died at his house in The Rocks, Sydney, on 1 November 1819 after 31 years in the colony. His funeral service was held at St Philips Church and he was buried in the Sandhills Cemetery (present day site of Central Railway). Both Robert's and Edward's remains were removed in 1901 to the Bunnerong Cemetery (Botany).

The above are just a few of the many incidents, positions held & services performed by Robert Watson since his arrival in the colony.

Following are places in Sydney named after Robert Watson:

Observatory Hill in Sydney is in Watson Road (possibly named after Robert).

HMAS Watson which is located at South Head is also named after Robert Watson. (www.navy.gov.au/establishments/hmas-Watson)



Pioneer Park



HMAS Watson

In 1929 a stone seat bearing the following inscription was erected in Robertson Park, Watson's Bay:

"To commemorate Robert Watson after whom this Bay is named. Quartermaster of *H.M.S. Sirius* 1786-1790 Signal -Man South Head 1791-1811 Pilot and Harbour Master 1811-1816 Superintendent of Macquarie Light-house 1818 Died 1st November 1819'.

His Children, His legacy.

His adopted son **Edward (Dorsett Powell) Watson** followed in his father's footsteps and became Master of the *Estramina*, the *Lady Nelson* and the *Hawkesbury Packet*. Edward died on the 19th February 1820 aged 31 years and was buried with Robert Watson who he considered to be his father. Edward had one known son named Edward Watson Jnr.

Little is known at the moment about Robert's other son (his only known biological son), **John Watson**, who also followed in his father's footsteps and became a mariner. On 26 October 1821, along with his sister, petitioned the Governor to be granted their father's land at South Head.

Rebecca Watson (my 4th Great Grandmother), married **Robert Murray** a Port Jackson Harbour Pilot (who tragically drowned on 30 January 1822). She was pregnant with her daughter **Sarah Rebecca Murray** when he died. She had lost her father, her brother Edward & her husband within the space of 2 years. Tragically she turned to alcohol and died on 28 Sep 1826, leaving her daughter an orphan.

As Colleen McCulloch wrote in her book *Morgan's Run*:
 "How much of England has England wasted! The intelligence, the ingenuity, the resourcefulness, the hardiness.



And all of the owners had sat in English gaoles and hulks utterly wasted. What is wrong with England, that England is blind enough to throw such assets away as worthless rubbish" I say thank God for England's stupidity.

I would like to dedicate this story to my nanna Olive Jackson for starting me on this road of discovery and also to my grandpa Herbert Jackson (one of the brave "Rats of Tobruk") for being a descendant of so many convicts (8 so far) & free men who helped shape this great country.

I would also like to dedicate this article to Robert Watson for having the courage and foresight to venture to and stay in this foreign land and make so many valuable contributions to the new colony.

Suzanne Kirby with editorial help from Doug Kirby

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 Hobart Town Gazette
 National Archives, London
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 State Records of NSW Colonial Secretary Index, 1788-1825
List of convict ancestors for Herbert Jackson
 Sarah Dorsett – 2nd Fleet – arrival June 1790 - Lady Juliana
 Mary Ann Harrison – 2nd or 3rd Fleet – arrival July 1791 – Mary Ann
 Edward Robinson – 3rd Fleet – arrival Oct - 1791 – Admiral Barrington
 William Henry – arrival June 1801 – Earl Cornwallis
 Jane Carr – arrival June 1801 – Earl Cornwallis
 George Smith - arrival Jan 1806 - Fortune
 Thomas Fuller – arrival Nov 1817 – Larkins
 Richard Jackson – arrival March 1833 - Andromeda



A CONVICT IN THE FAMILY

Would you trust this man?

From 13th April to 14th July 2013, the Historic Houses Trust of NSW will present an exhibition at the Museum of Sydney entitled "A Convict in the the Family!"

An important part of the exhibition will be a series of photographs by documentary photographer Mine Konakci. For some time Mine has been encouraging fold withy convict ancestry to poser for shots that indicate the reason their forebear was transported to our alien shores.

Her section of the show is entitled "For a Pittance". So what can you make of this picture? Will #5527 Ron Withington, highwayman emeritus, be a positive danger to us all as we make our unsuspecting way across the Blue Mountains in its bicentennial year?

Time will tell. But, be warned and be prepared to give up your valuables.

Then again, perhaps the exhibition will reveal all!

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

ALBURY-WODONGA DIST.
 Sue Webb 6021 3727
ARTHUR PHILLIP
 Joy Zamiatin 9451 8665
CANBERRA
 Brian Mattick 6231 8880
CENTRAL COAST
 Jon Fearon 4323 1849

EASTERN FARMS
 Robin Palmer 9871 4102
HUNTER VALLEY
 Yvonne Bradley 4957 4758
LACHLAN MACQUARIE
 Judy Dwyer 6365 8234
MORETON
 Don Cornford 0457 466 020

NEW ENGLAND
 Wal Whalley 6772 3499
NORTH COAST
 Mal Dale 07 3283 4485
NORTHERN RIVERS
 Margaret Soward 6686 3597
NORTH WEST
 Jo Crossing 6766 8255

SOUTH COAST
 Dorothy Conkey 4261 2337
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
 Wendy Selman 4862 4849
SWAN RIVER
 Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630

Australia Day Celebrations

Albury-Wodonga District Chapter

The Fellowship of First Fleeters for the first time was represented at the Albury City Council Australia Day Ceremony by the Albury-Wodonga District Chapter. The ceremony took place at Noreul Park on the beautiful Murray River and attracted visitors from both sides of the NSW/VIC border.

With the aid of a marquee made available by the Albury Lions Club, a diverse array of relevant First Fleet material was set up for display. The display was impressive featuring quality items such as paintings, charts, scrolls, transcripts, copies of individual family histories, etc. So eye-catching was the display that many interested persons took time to peruse items, make enquiries and chat about the Chapter and its role in the FFF. Many visitors were keen to seek information on how to trace their ancestry.

There was great enthusiasm and fellowship among the Chapter members who manned the stall. A colourful, relevant atmosphere was generated by a large number of members as they dressed in convict uniforms. Syd Lukins looked the part with a ball and iron chain around his ankle while many of the ladies wore convict bonnets they made especially for the occasion. The costumes certainly proved to be a top attraction.

The first foray by the Chapter into the Albury Australia Day Ceremony was an outstanding success. The Chapter received positive public recognition which helped promote the Fellowship of First Fleeters. The Albury City Council has already requested our presence at the 2014 Ceremony. At Chapter level, three FF descendants, after visiting the stall expressed a desire to join and will attend the February meeting.

Australia Day 2013 was a proud moment for the young FFF Albury-Wodonga District Chapter and its members. A strong foundation for involvement in future Albury Australia Day celebrations has been achieved.



The Bonnetted Belles of Albury-Wodonga

And Elsewhere

NSW Parliament arranged a special open afternoon on the 26th January and quite a few of our members took the opportunity to view the convict indents that State Records had put on display.

Several chapters arranged their own activities without direct community connection. **Canberra** held its usual Australia Day lunch at Southern Cross Yacht Club and **Swan River** held their brunch on the river banks at Burswood. Once again **Hunter Valley** held their barbecue on Newcastle's river foreshore, marvelling at the RAAF flypast along with aerobatic biplanes and a Catalina in action on and off the water.

Evans Head was the venue for **Northern Rivers** celebration and members were pleased to welcome friends from Moreton Chapter as well. An informal morning of chatting preceded a delicious barbecue and salad lunch. There was even some entertainment and a small talk on flags. The impending bad

North West Chapter at Wallabadah

North West Chapter aimed to keep the Fleet's arrival 225 years ago in the hearts and minds of the local people of the Liverpool Plains by re-enacting the landing at First Fleet Park, Wallabadah on 26th January 2013. Six members of the Chapter dressed in costume for the occasion.

Local man Bob McGilchrist (Second Fleet descendant) set the scene by rowing his flat-bottomed tinny in a deep pool in the adjoining Wallabadah Creek. On board were our President Graham Tydd (FF Ann Forbes) dressed as Captain Phillip and Colin Worrad (FF Friend) dressed as Philip Gidley King.



Graham Harband, Graeme Tydd, Colin Worrad, Harold McLean, Maurie Miller & Ron Ayton

At the banks of the creek were convicts Harold McLean (FF Margaret Dowling/Owen Cavanough) and Morrie Millar (Associate descendant of FF John Nicholls) who helped the two officers out of the boat. Watching over the proceedings was marine Ron Ayton (FF Matthew Everingham) with his

musket at the ready and assisting him was drummer Graham Harband (Associate descendant of FF Ann Martin).

To the beat of the drum the party marched up the bank where the flag, attached to a sapling, lay ready to be placed in a tree stump to mark the occasion. All the while our Secretary, Jo Crossing, was telling the story of the landing.

Toasts were happily proposed by Captain Phillip, first to the King, then the Queen and after that to the Prince of Wales and the new colony. Three shots rang out from the colour party by the flag and these were answered by three more from the tinny. The sound effects department used bursting balloons!

Children from the local school added to the occasion by reading out histories provided by First Fleet descendants who had come to live in the Wallabadah area. An outstanding example of one such person was Ray Collins (FF John Cross) whose vision for the gardens has become a lasting tribute to our pioneering forebears. Fellowship members Australia-wide are encouraged to visit the First Fleet Park if ever the chance arises. It is a wonderful place to enjoy, relax and contemplate our beginnings.

weather arrived soon after the gathering so members scurried home before the flood started and fallen trees marred their way.

North Coast had a display table in the main street of Dorrigo which aroused some passing public interest. With two different councils and six venues available, **Central Coast** opted for tables at the waterfronts of The Entrance and Gosford. Having the Corps of Marine alongside set the historic scene well and their re-enactment of the official landing and the flag raising in front of the tent hospital was very impressive.

The chapter presence at Gosford however, with the tent sandwiched between a hat stall and a sherbet stall, produced very little interest, despite the good signage. All the action was down on the water.

As in many parts of the country, our citizenry now seem to celebrate the fun of being modern Australians without much thought to the pioneers whose coming made it all possible.

CELEBRATING OUR BEGINNINGS—A Series for the 225th Anniversary

2 THE JUBILEE, 1838



The Regatta held for the first time in Sydney Harbour in 1837 became the focal point and greatest attraction of the anniversary in 1838. The success of the preceding year and newspaper advertisements

encouraged numerous crowds of gaily attired people, attended by servants and posters bearing the supplies for the day's refreshments ..(to wend) their way towards the waters edge. The Sydney Gazette reported glowingly on the day stating that people crowded the decks of three steamers, one of them hired by a group of Australians who took their friends out on the harbour for the day.

The raising of the steamer's flag, a NSW ensign designed in 1832 and pictured here, drew the 'most deafening and enthusiastic cheering.' The Australian newspaper expected this flag, a white British ensign with a blue cross bearing five white stars would become 'the emblem of an independent and a powerful empire within fifty years.'

From the vantage point of 175 years on, it is significant to compare this flag with another, without its Union quadrant, flying on the Victorian goldfields just a few short years later. Another point worth musing upon is to consider how many First Fleeters were still about and present by or on the harbour to celebrate the jubilee of their own arrival.

Once again, in 1838, an anniversary dinner was held and among the many toasts was one to the Sister Colonies, VDL, WA



and SA. Of course each of the latter by now had their own annual celebrations of their founding and these have continued onto the present day, when gazetted holidays are part of each state's annual calendar.

So the Anniversary Day of 1838 was essentially a Sydney celebration of prosperity after only fifty years. The Sydney Gazette positively beamed, observing that 'from a miserable neglected colony of outcasts, NSW had sprung into a settlement already of some importance in the scale of nations.'

We note that the press, its language reflecting of course the attitudes of the time, drew a sharp contrast between the 'untutored savage' and 'industrious and civilised man'. We read on, In fifty years the 'miserable gunya of the wandering Aborigine,' had given way to the 'extensive and flourishing town'; his 'tiny bark canoe' to 'a goodly fleet of Colonial traders beside numerous visitants from the various quarters of the world.'

In fact, the Anniversary dinner, mentioned above, included almost twenty toasts beginning with the monarch, the royal family, the British navy and army, the 'Mother Country', or 'Land of our Fathers', and ended with 'Civil and Religious Liberty all over the world.' Such were the still British sentiments of the organisers and presumably the diners, the majority of them by now native born from immigrants, both convict and free. The latter were now known as Australians, or natives, though they themselves still considered themselves as Britons.

Would such sentiments still be the strength and focus of the celebrations in a further fifty years and how would Australia as a whole be celebrated when two more colonies were now able to join the other three and look back at their own founding?

Acknowledgement: *Australia Day Council website.*

REMEMBERING THE FIRST CHRISTIAN SERVICE

For many members, the Anniversary of the First Christian service held on Australian soil is an annual opportunity to catch up with others and remember Richard Johnson and the part he played in the spiritual life of Sydney's first years.

Sunday 3rd February 2012 was no exception, being exactly to the day, 225 years since that first open air gathering. St Philip's was looking its best and there would have been well over 150 in attendance, not all First Fleeters of course, this being the parish's regular morning service.

Such numbers were in great contrast to two years ago when the 08 am service was selected for the anniversary and only three First Fleeters, all from out of Sydney, swelled the congregation.

The state Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir was in attendance and read the first lesson with firm conviction. The Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev'd Peter Jensen, preached the sermon and as has come to be expected on such occasions, his theme was Psalm 116, the same text used by First Fleet Chaplain Johnson in 1788.

The Archbishop's talk centred on the evangelical nature of Johnson's call to ministry and the fact, as brought out in this psalm, that the message required an individual response as much today as it did to the hearers under the tree those many years ago. Today's Australia, said

Peter Jensen, is marked by antipathy, ignorance and selfishness and shows a definite turning away from its evangelical heritage.

The order of service, with hymns and readings chosen, tends to be similar from one anniversary to the next, as does the display of Richard Johnson's Bible, Prayer Book and Communion vessels. However, the rich fellowship shared after the service is an added blessing to a meaningful morning for the congregation and the cameras were busy as clusters of First Fleeters gathered in their groups to recognise the occasion with members from Brisbane to Albury represented.

Footnote: Glenda Miskelly's excellent article following last year's service can be found in Founders 43/2. More details of the life and times of Richard Johnson can be found there.



Some FF members from Southern Highlands, South Coast, Central Coast, Eastern Farms and Moreton Chapters who attended.

WELL, WAS THERE AN ORGY?

For many people including some of Australia's historians, the jury is still out on this one. Did it happen then?

Definitely NO, says Grace Karskens who was interviewed recently (13.10.12) by Linda Morris, Sydney Morning Herald journalist. Grace is, says Linda, 'a mite frustrated. . . (by) the stereotype of Australia's early settlement, all that stuff about Britain's convicts being dumped, chained and flogged on a barren shore, a veritable hell on earth ...'

Each myth has suitably been disproved:-

- **Convict leg irons and ball and chain shackles?**

No, they were taken off early convict arrivals and unless the convict re-offended, never went back on.

- **Convict uniforms stencilled with broad arrows?**

No. The first convicts wore their own clothes, not uniforms.

- **Penal Colony?**

Convict men and women did not live in prisons but in wattle and daub huts they built themselves in the neighbourhood of the Rocks and claimed as their own property. They were unguarded.

- **An untrodden wilderness?**

Sydney was criss-crossed by Aboriginal paths, leading from Port Jackson south to Botany Bay and north to Pittwater.

- **The fabled orgy alleged to have occurred during a thrilling summer thunderstorm after the convict women disembarked on February 6, 1788?**

Never happened says Karskens.

As you would expect, soon after publication of the interview, the letters pages were bristling with comment, both for and against the riot assertion.

Derek Parker reckoned that Manning Clark was not the first to write about it, citing a reference to 'licentiousness' and 'depravity' by Watkin Tench, and a 'scene of debauchery and riot' by Surgeon Arthur Bowes.

The next day a reader, Col Beszant, countered with the following : published under the heading :

NOT LETTING THE FACTS GET IN THE WAY.

Like others before him, Derek Parker (Letters, October 15) perpetuates the myth of the orgy that supposedly took place with the landing of the female convicts off the Lady Penrhyn on the evening of February 6, 1788.

In a Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay, published in 1789, Watkin Tench wrote, "While they were on board the two sexes had been kept most rigorously apart, but when landed their separation became impracticable ... Licentiousness was the unavoidable consequence and their old habits of depravity were beginning to recur."

Rather than being an eye witness account of the actual landing, this is a general observation and not for the first or last time would a man of "superior breeding" pass judgement on the perceived moral failing of the lower classes.

A few pages later, Tench writes of the first court proceedings in the colony, "Hitherto ... Nothing of a very atrocious nature had appeared." Surely an orgy of such dimension would have warranted a comment.

As for Arthur Bowes, it was beyond his ability to describe the "scene of debauchery and riot" because he wasn't even there. He spent all night aboard the Lady Penrhyn where, after the women were taken off, the crew were given extra grog rations.

Even Lieutenant Ralph Clark, who routinely describes the women as "whores" and who was on shore, makes no mention. His only record of that evening is of the tumultuous thunderstorm that killed three sheep and a pig.

The "orgy" is a good yarn. Nothing more and nothing less.

Col Beszant Moss Vale

We conclude with the challenge to our readers. What do you think about this both popular and academic brouhaha? After all, they are our ancestors they are arguing about.

Do let us know!



EXPLORING 1813

This year is the Bi-Centennial of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains. 'Back to St Bartholomew's Day' is on Saturday 27 April 2013, from 9am to 3pm. The event will be held at the old **St Bartholomew's Church, Prospect** built in 1841 and located off Ponds Road, Prospect (between the M4 motorway and the Great Western Highway). There will be an official unveiling of the restoration work to the explorer William Lawson's family vault, followed by a demonstration of musket firing and marching drills by the NSW Corps of Marines, trade table displays, cemetery records and tours, plenty of refreshments,

variety stalls and family entertainment. At 10am Dr Siobhan Lavelle will give a talk titled **"Exploring 1813: 200 years since the 'First Crossing' of the Blue Mountains."** The Fellowship of First Fleeters will have a trade table - come along and say hello.



ROPE-PULLEY FAMILY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Would like to invite all descendants of Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley to a family reunion celebrating 225 years since their arrival with the first fleet and their 225th wedding anniversary. The reunion will be held at **Nepean Ferry Wharf 18th & 19th May 2013 commencing at 12 md.** Bring a picnic lunch for both days. Afternoon river cruise and Bistro dinner in evening.

Sunday 10.00 Castlereagh Cemetery service then 11.00 at Castlereagh Hall for rest of the day. Wear convict or Colonial dress.

Hope to see you there.

For more information email Rosemary on nonistaggs@optusnet.com.au



Our Fifteen Chapters in Action

ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT – *Both sides of the Murray River.*

Venue: Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury -monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10am for 10.30 **Next Meetings:** 16 March -and 20 April- Fellowship with presentation by one of our members **Contact:** Sue Webb 6021 3727

ARTHUR PHILLIP – *Milsons Point to Brooklyn and across to all northern beaches.*

Venue: Meeting Room, Old Gordon Public School. 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon - monthly meetings, third Friday at 10.30 .
Next Meetings: 15 March Speaker: John Flint: *The Macquaries and Friends*; 19 April Speaker: Richard Whitaker: *Droughts and Flooding Rain*; 17 May Speaker: Commander Chris Bolton: *The Australian Navy*; **Event:** Thursday 2 May Outing to North Head Sanctuary, North Fort and Manly - details to be advised. **Contact:** Joy Zamiatin, 9451 8665

CANBERRA – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations to be advised. **Next Meeting:** TBA. **Contact:** Brian Mattick 6231 8880

CENTRAL COAST – *Gosford, Tuggerah Lake, Wyong, Budgewoi and surrounds.*

Venue: Wyong RSL Club, corner Anzac Ave and Margaret Street, Wyong - monthly meetings, second Saturday at 10am for 10.30. **Next Meetings:** 9 March Speaker: Ron Withington: *Dispatched Down Under*; 13 April Note change of venue for this meeting only, at Evergreen Life Care, West Gosford: Speaker Patricia Skehan: *Canada Bay Exiles*; 11 May: No meeting due to Sydney Luncheon. **Contact:** Jon Fearon 4323 1849

EASTERN FARMS – *Ryde, Eastwood, Parramatta, Kings Langley, Pennant Hills and surrounds.*

Venue: The Hall at Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St. Eastwood -monthly meetings, first Saturday from 10am - 12.00 noon
Next Meetings: 2 March - Lyn Fergusson: Her biography: *Admiral Arthur Phillip*; 6 April - Elizabeth Ellis, author of "Rare and Curious" a book about the Australian chest created for Governor Macquarie. 4 May - Dr Greg de Moore, author of biography "Tom Wills: His Spectacular Rise and Tragic Fall". **Contact:** Robin Palmer 9871 4102

HUNTER VALLEY – *Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.*

Venue: Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall, 153A Brunner Road, Adamstown - bi-monthly meetings, third Monday from 10am – 12.30pm. **Next Meeting:** 15 April: Members' Report on Norfolk Island visit; **Events:** 25 March Cockatoo Island Convict Trail. Meet at Circular Quay at 10.30. 5 April: Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle's Treasures from the Macquarie Era. **Contact:** Yvonne Bradley 4957 4758

LACHLAN MACQUARIE – *Orange, Bathurst, Parkes, Dubbo, White Rock, Cowra, Kelso.*

Venue: Kinross Wolaroi School Library - **Next (Quarterly) Meeting:** Saturday 18 May: Speaker, Local Museum Curator, Historic Houses and Sites around Orange, from 2 - 4 pm. **Contact:** Judy Dwyer 6365 8234 or 0428 173 213

MORETON – *South East Queensland.*

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton - bi-monthly meetings, on an available Saturday.
Next Meeting: 16 April Julie Webb on "Researching information about a First Fleeter & preparing a submission for Fellowship of First Fleeters web site". **Event:** 19 May a visit to St John's Cathedral, the last Gothic cathedral to be completed; with follow on talk about the cathedral by John Moore on 8 June. **Contact:** Don Cornford 04 5746 6020

NEW ENGLAND – *Armidale to Glen Innes and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations to be advised - first Saturday. **Next Meeting:** 11 May 12 noon at St. Peter's Parish Centre, Tingcombe St., Armidale. Topic: *Assistance for First Fleeter research*. **Contact:** Wal Whalley 6772 3499

NORTH COAST – *Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Woolgoolga.*

Venue: 95 Ferretts Rd Nana Glen, Bi-monthly meetings, first Sunday at 11.30am. **Next Meeting:** 7 April: **Speaker :** Warren Hellwig: *Sailing Experiences*. **Event:** Wednesday 8 May Lunch at Ulmarra Hotel **Contact** Robyn Condliffe 6653 3615

NORTHERN RIVERS – *Lismore and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am
Next Meeting: 24 March 11.30 , lunch 12.30, Alstonville Bowling Club, Alstonville. Lunch info- Karin 6682 5338

NORTH WEST – *Tamworth and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, first Saturday at 1.30pm
Next Meeting: 6th April – bus trip to Gunnedah to view 2 museums; possibly a coal mine. Leave Tourist Information centre 8.00 am BYO picnic lunch **Contact:** Jo Crossing 6766 8255

SOUTH COAST – *Engadine to Burrill Lake.*

Venue: Laurel Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto - monthly meetings except. Jan, May and Dec. - first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm **Next Meetings:** 5 March, John Boyd: *Chapter chats*; 2 April; Members report on Norfolk Island visit. **Events:** 18 April Tour of Parramatta Park; 11 May: Chapter Lunch at Dapto Leagues Club. **Contact:** Dorothy Conkey 4261 2337

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – *Mittagong, Moss Vale and surrounds.*

Venue: Mittagong Community Centre - bi-monthly meetings - second Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.30pm.
Next Meeting: 10 April: speaker TBA; **Events:** 25 April Wreath Laying in Mittagong 11 am. 29 May: Possible trip to Goat Island with other Chapters, **Contact:** Neville Usher 4869 1406

SWAN RIVER – *Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.*

Next Meeting: 2pm 18th May: atLevel 1, 14 Oatram Street, West Perth. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison officer

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New Ordinary Members

JACOB BELLETT

#8197 Neville John Ellis

JAMES RUSE

#8198 Graydon Charles Smith

#8199 Andrew James Smith

#8213 Adrienne Ingrid Beck

JOHN RANDALL / JOHN MARTIN

#8200 Beverley May Widdison

#8202 Margaret Mitchell

JOSEPH WRIGHT

#8201 Robert James Conway

EDWARD RISBY

#8203 Robyn Patricia Fletcher

THOMAS LUCAS

#8204 Elizabeth Margaret Cook

ANN FORBES / WILLIAM DRING

#8205 Jill Elizabeth Paley

ROBERT WATSON (new First Fleeter)

#8206 Suzanne Kirby

ANN FORBES

#8207 Judith Anne Schulstad

JOHN NICHOLS

#8208 Steven

MARY PHILLIPS

#8209 Vicki Cooper

JAMES WILLIAMS

#8210 Kerry Taylor

ELIZABETH HAYWOOD

#8211 Gwendolen Mabel Shelton

FREDERICK MEREDITH

#8212 Nancy Deloi Bosler (OAM)

ZACHARIAH CLARK

#8214 Roald Taylor Falla (Junior 24/6/2011)

#8215 Bonnie Taylor Falla (Junior 24/6/2011)

Additional First Fleet Ancestors

WILLIAM BAKER / SUSANNAH HUFFNEL

#7946 Jill Heather Finch

New Associate Members

#8173.1 Terence Gardiner

#8114.1 Chrissie Cornelius

#8085.1 Dianne Rayner

(formerly F105)

Friend Members

F119 Leonie Bedford

F120 Carmel Anne Creighton

F121 Beverley Pace

WE GOT IT WRONG, SORRY.

Errors from Members' Updates in Founders 44/1 -

#8156.1 Graham Norton Lambert

#8194 Arthur Heathcote

#8188 Margarette Irene McGrath

BIRTHS

FF MARY PARKER/JOHN SMALL

Saska May Manton 29.5.12 Mullumbimby—1st child of #8994 Timothy Manton & Claire Snel; 4th g-child to Colin Manton #4388

FF JAMES WRIGHT

Ruby Isobel Copelin 22.8.12

Granddaughter of Bruce Agland #7076 Hunter Valley Chapter

FF NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE

Bella Johanna Mason 14.10.12

Fleur Alice Jones 5.12.12

Grandchildren of Lynne & Tony Pye;

DEATHS

FF CAROLINE LAYCOCK

#5717 Ron Davies 16.10.12 father of Errol & Annette Walker of Toowoomba, Qld

FF JAMES WILLIAMS (Dad) ANDREW FISHBURN (Mum)

#1956 Douglas Strange 1.10.2012 husband of Gwen

FF NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE

#6202 Kenneth John Arch 10.12.12

FF SARAH EGGLETON

#2722 Eleanor Elsie O'Brien. 6.1.2013 of Parkinson, Qld.

FF JOSEPH WRIGHT

#2953 Heather Causer 14.1.2013 from South Coast NSW.

FF JAMES BLOODWORTH

#226 Nell Sansom 10.2.2013 of Taree, NSW— just short of turning 100; one of 3 sisters, long term members



Descendants of FF Hannah Peat have advised that they have found Hannah's death notice in the Asian Journal for British India. She died at Chandernagore, a former French Colony on 14th April, 1822. Perhaps this new information will encourage the family to submit the Peat story for Founders and the web.



Founders was somewhat miffed to discover after the event that there had been another service on 3rd February commemorating Chaplain Richard Johnson's first service in 1788. This one was held in the open air in Richard Johnson Square during the afternoon and was apparently organised by the Australian Christian Nation Association.



Another special historical occasion we missed was the unveiling of a newly installed statue of Lachlan Macquarie in Hyde Park on 31st January 2013. We will try to rectify this omission with an account of the event next issue.



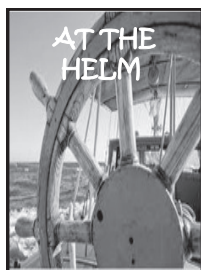
State Records NSW has given the nation a special gift to mark our 225th anniversary. The project is called "Sentenced Beyond the Seas" and involves the digitisation in full colour of over 800 original indents. The Convict indents include all ships arriving between 1788 and 1801. Go to www.records.nsw.gov.au



If you still handle cash you will know that every year the Mint produces commemorative \$1 coins both for collectors and general use. This year's coin celebrates 200 years since our first currency: the Holey Dollar and the Dump. The Holey Dollar was worth 5/- and the Dump 15 pence.



The Fellowship has generously been given a commemorative set of four First Fleet \$1 silver proof coins produced for collectors by a major coin company to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the First Fleet's arrival, the first two being the Departure and the Journey.



First Fleet Wall - Norfolk Island

The Norfolk Island Government has recently opened a new museum dedicated to HMS *Sirius*, flagship of the First Fleet. Included in the display is a **First Fleet Wall** that will eventually be filled with individually inscribed name plaques for every person that landed at Botany Bay in 1788. Each plaque is able to be sponsored by a descendant for \$15.00 on a 'one-off' basis (that is, each plaque can only be sponsored once).

The plaques are currently in production and while may

not be ready for those visiting Norfolk's Foundation Day celebrations on the 6th March 2013, reservations can be placed by email at

info@museums.gov.nf or in person at the museum.

In addition, every First Fleet descendant that visits the museum can sign a 'Descendant's Book'. The book has a page for each First Fleeter and will allow a unique collection of the names of descendants.

The HMS *Sirius* Museum at Kingston on Norfolk Island is now a 'must see' for every descendant of a First Fleeter. The curator says: We look forward to seeing you!

