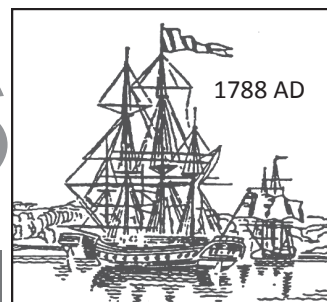


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Inc.

ACN 003 223 425

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



Volume 44, Issue 3

45th Year of Publication

June/July, 2013

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

NORFOLK ISLAND

225 YEARS ON

FIRST FLEETERS RETURN EN MASSE

Under the leadership of Events Directors Sharon and Bob Lamb over 90 members of the Fellowship, from five states, gathered on the island in early March for the week long festivities. One of the Fellowship's past patrons, the former governor of New South Wales, Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair, also attended most of the events. Peter had organised a **William Broughton** reunion with about 20 people. This reunion also included a wedding at the home of John, Brad and Adrienne Forrester. The Forrester family some years ago had been able to purchase their current property on the site of that held by their First Fleet ancestor, **Robert Forrester**. The property overlooks Cascades and the Pacific Ocean.

Most of the travellers who arrived on Friday 1 March found that their clothes were wet as a result of the luggage being left uncovered at Sydney airport during the heavy rain while the plane was being prepared. After the initial shock, everyone laughed and described how their accommodation resembled a Chinese laundry. Despite such a setback all who made the journey enjoyed themselves, with a lot of first timers wondering why they had waited so long to visit this paradise in the Pacific.

Some travellers from Brisbane arrived the following day without their luggage as Air New Zealand had left two

baggage trolleys in the loading area. It seemed that they had forgotten to load them onto the aircraft. Arrangements were made for the luggage to arrive the following day.

The **Welcome Dinner** was held at the Governor's Lodge on the Monday night and was attended by 164 descendants of First Fleeters. Sharon was a guest speaker at the function and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Fellowship. She gave a brief history of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, announced the names of the 47 First Fleeters represented by descendants who were present and told the story of her First Fleeter, **Joseph Tusso**, who was sent, as a convict, to Norfolk Island. After Joseph received his 'ticket of leave', he joined the NSW Corps and returned to the Island on the *Reliance* and the *Francis*, before sailing on the *Investigator*, with Matthew Flinders, to circumnavigate and map Australia.

Another speaker at the dinner, Liz McCoy, the former curator of the Resource Centre, outlined the history of the arrival of the First Fleet to Norfolk Island.

The **Sirius Museum Welcome Wall** and registration books were officially opened on Tuesday 5 March and from the enthusiasm shown by those who were there it seems to be a popular attraction. The

artifacts belonging to the *HMS Sirius* had been relocated from downstairs at the Pier Museum to the new Sirius Museum. Apparently the transfer of the anchor to its new site was an incredibly complex exercise and the move can, we understand, be viewed on U Tube. **Continued on page 4**



William Broughton # 1162 presents historic photographs to Lisa, curator of Norfolk Island Pier Store Museum as part of the Broughton family re-union. Past patron Peter Sinclair 2nd on right, is also a descendant of First Fleeter William Broughton.

Founders

The magazine of the
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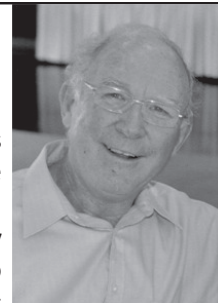
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**President's Desk****Ian Palmer**

One of the most significant anniversaries this year is the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth in May 1813. There had been many unsuccessful attempts, from the earliest days of the colony, to traverse this 'un-crossable' mountain range. Following the valleys and the rivers had both proved to be unsuccessful so our intrepid trio followed the ridges and in spite of enduring many hardships, were successful in their venture. This feat allowed the colony, which had been restricted to the narrow coastal strip of land between the ocean and the mountain range, to expand westwards and opened up vast areas of grazing and agricultural land.

I have many memories, as a youth, of holidaying in the Blue Mountains and visiting 'The Explorer's Tree' on Pulpit Hill, just west of Katoomba. This monument was just a tree stump at that time, surrounded by a simple fence and held together with steel bands that surrounded the trunk, of what had once been a mighty White Mountain Ash, Eucalypt. The tree had been marked by the explorers as they passed this spot on their epic journey.

There are many events planned over the next two years to remember not just the crossing of the Mountains but the building of the road by William Cox in 1814. This extraordinary feat was achieved by a party of around thirty convicts and eight guards in just six months.

**NEW FIRST FLEET FAMILY**

The director's meeting of 23rd March at First Fleet House had a pleasant interlude when visited by descendants of **FF Robert Watson** on their way back from a family pilgrimage to Norfolk Island.

Suzanne Kirby, you may remember, has recently discovered her link to Robert Watson, Able Seaman on HMS Sirius and her story about this First Fleeter appeared in the last issue of Founders.



President Ian Palmer was able to officially present their certificates to # 8206 Suzanne and to her mother #8225 **Carol Earl**. The family became the first known descendant line of Robert Watson, now our 191st Fleeter. All the visitors were shown over the House and then gathered outside for photos before heading to Watson's Bay for lunch.

Suzanne and her immediate family live in Jindabyne, so a chance to walk in their ancestor's footsteps on Norfolk Island and in Sydney was too good to miss.

Welcome to the Fellowship, Suzanne and Carol.

Rebecca Kirby, Carol Earl, James E., Sue Kirby, Jaydon E., Michelle Brand, Mitch K.

FIRST FLEETERS GATHER AT NORFOLK PLAINS

DESCENDANTS' DAY AT LONGFORD

2 MARCH 2013

As reported by Julia (FF John Palmer/Richard Morgan) and Don Cornford – Moreton Chapter

It was wonderful to meet forty or so descendants of First Fleeters while representing the Fellowship of First Fleeters at the Descendants' Day that was part of the Gathering on the Norfolk Plains at Longford in Tasmania. The day was organised to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Norfolk Islanders in the area.

Just six weeks after the First Fleet arrived in Sydney a party of fifteen convicts and seven free men led by Lieutenant Philip Gidley King landed on Norfolk Island to establish a settlement. Over the next twenty-five years many more people were settled on Norfolk Island until the settlement was closed in 1814. Initially the Norfolk Island residents were invited to apply for transport to Van Diemen's Land but very few took up this offer. Orders were then issued that all Norfolk Islanders were to be relocated to the southern colony that had been set up in 1803. A number of voyages saw them settling in the Hobart and New Norfolk areas. The final group, in 1813, was relocated to the Norfolk Plains, an area around the present towns of Cressy and Longford. Many of those leaving Norfolk Island were First Fleeters and almost all were ex-convicts and their families.

Along with Moreton Chapter member Ian Cornelius (FF

First Fleet ancestors (FF Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne) their stall for the Convict Women's Press promoted recently released books telling the stories of the inmates of the Women's Factories of Tasmania.

While setting up the stall the day before the celebration we were privileged to be given a live interview on ABC local radio which was broadcasting from the venue.

The response by patrons at our stall was at times almost overwhelming. Many people came to ask what the Fellowship was, to tell us that they had First Fleet ancestors and to en-



Judith & Kyle Wood, Julia, all First Fleet descendants & Don. Judith's stall was "Convict Women's Press".



Don & Julia Cornford with Ian Cornelius, Moreton Chapter members.

Elizabeth Thomas), we set up our stall with a Fellowship banner, First Fleeter charts, and a computer to display photos of our FFF trip to Norfolk Island in 2001 and the Fellowship website. The stall next to us was manned by Fellowship member, Judith Wood (FF Elizabeth Cole) and her husband, Kyle, who has just recently discovered that he has

quire about membership. Most were from Tasmania but we also had enquiries from all other states and New Zealand. There was much excitement among people and many with First Fleet ancestry came seeking us out.

We explained to people the concept of chapters and asked people if they would be interested in being part of a chapter if any were to be formed in Tasmania. Nearly forty people who are either Fellowship members or interested in joining, as well as those who are interested in joining a Tasmanian chapter, gave us their contact details and these have been passed on to the Chapter Development Officer. One person claims descent from seven First Fleeters.

We took the opportunity to make a general presentation to the whole gathering on the Fellowship and the First Fleet. We outlined the role of the Fellowship and the benefits of membership. Included was some information about Arthur Phillip, the voyage of the First Fleet and the role of the *Sirius*. This was very well received, with one gentleman telling us "I have learned more about the First Fleet today than I have ever learned before".



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

Continued from Page 1

Foundation Day on Wednesday 6 March was witnessed by hundreds of people at Emily Bay, Kingston, a slightly different landing point from the one by the pier that visitors may have seen in the past. The crew of the two long boats rowed against the strong wind to deliver the re-enactment party and supplies to the beach. The party then proceeded to erect a tent and flag pole and raise the Queen Anne Jack declaring the island for England. Quite a few of our members were dressed in colonial costume for the occasion. It was a challenge to hold onto the Fellowship's banner as the wind gusts were quite extreme. The morning's events were followed by an organised lunch and entertainment on the site of the 1788 Government House.

The Resource Centre, relocated to Quality Row at Kingston, opened on Thursday 7 March and proved popular with family researchers delving into the information about their first Fleeters. The centre was extremely busy, so Sharon and her husband, Bob offered their services to help Liz McCoy. The Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) Administration was surprised and was not prepared for the demand for tourists to do research.

Government House was open for inspection on Thursday afternoon and Jen Pope, the wife of the Administrator, greeted everyone as they walked through. She was pleased to meet so many descendants of First Fleeters and especially those of the first and second settlements on the island.

A farewell dinner was held on Thursday evening 7 March at the Paradise Hotel and even though the dinner was enjoyable it had a sadness about it, as most of the guests were leaving the next day.

During the week there were many enquiries made about joining the Fellowship of First Fleeters and an added highlight was witnessing the number of people forming new friendships. It is to be hoped that these people will remain as good friends and continue sharing their ancestral stories.

With the departure of most of the Fellowship contingent Foundation Week 2013 came to a quiet close but directors Bob and Sharon stayed on, taking part in many other island activities in the fortnight following. During that time they were able to visit the **Norfolk Island Central School** assembly and make several presentations on behalf of the Fellowship.



REPLICA FLAG BORROWED

The North West Chapter was approached by the Lion's Club of Tamworth to do a re-enactment for the 225th Anniversary at their Annual Collector and Trading Fair in Tamworth Town Hall. Having been asked to be as true as possible to what may have happened, we approached the Liverpool Shire Council and asked to take down the replica flag from the First Fleet Memorial Gardens flag pole.

The Council was very agreeable so at 1.00 on Saturday 1st March, 2013, we raised the flag and proposed toast to King,

Queen, Prince of Wales and the Colony. All this time the Lions Club MC, Mike Cashman, told the story of the first landing and the origin of the replica flag. The flag was returned that afternoon.

This was a great opportunity to let all who were present to know of the 225th anniversary and the North West Chapter's existence in Tamworth. Patricia Warrad



WESTERN VISITORS

Following a very enjoyable holiday on Norfolk Island, a number of the Members from the Swan River Chapter called into First Fleet House, during a brief stay in Sydney, before returning to Western Australia. Led by Chapter Vice President, Julie Aitken and husband Alex, the group included Lynton & Loraine Symingotn, Reg & Florence Smith, Xavier & Mary Aerts, Graeme King & Judy Schreiber, Graydon & Francisca Smith with daughter Adinda.

These Western Australia folk do not have many opportunities to visit Sydney so really appreciated the chance of calling into First Fleet House to familiarise themselves with the facilities available to Members, and to scan the library for information about their own particular First Fleeter. On hand to show them around and answer many questions was the President of the Fellowship, Ian Palmer and his wife Robin.

Following a tour of the office the group enjoyed a cuppa and the chance to chat about various aspects of their Chapter, the

Fellowship and family history activities. The membership of the Swan River Chapter is growing steadily and it was great to catch up with such an enthusiastic group of Members. Ian Palmer



CELEBRATING OUR BEGINNINGS – A Series for the 225th Anniversary

3 THE CENTENARY, 1888

By the time New South Wales was ready to turn Anniversary Day into a centenary celebration there were now five sister colonies. Each sent representatives to Sydney to celebrate with New South Wales in 1888. New Zealanders were also there. Victoria had separated from New South Wales in 1851, and Queensland in 1859. (In 1863 control of the Northern Territory passed from New South Wales to South Australia.) Only Western Australia was not self-governing by 1888, and after 1856 Van Diemen's Land had become Tasmania

The grand bicycle steeplechase, Albert Ground, Sydney, Anniversary Day 1870. Source: Illustrated Sydney News, February 1870, National Library of Australia

The colonial press at the time was mixed in its attitudes towards celebrating 26 January. South Australia's *Advertiser* took pains to point out that New South Wales, though 'senior', was not 'the parent colony' of all the others, which had their own 'local memories and historic dates'. That day was not 'in any sense', it insisted, 'the anniversary of a common birthday' because 'the idea of Australia' was too closely linked to 'the unpleasing circumstances of its early occupation'. The Brisbane *Courier* was more direct: Australia as 'the cesspit of England' had been infected with 'the cancer of convictism'. Its editor acknowledged that Australia had 'witnessed much that had best be forgotten, much that cannot be contemplated without shame, but also much of which the Anglo-Saxon race may well be signally proud'.

For Tasmania's *Mercury* the central fact was 'the centenary of the occupation of the country by the British people'. The editor expected all Australians to celebrate the centenary whether they were 'natives or merely dwellers in an adopted land'. 'Natives' was the term now widely adopted to describe the native-born of European descent — their strongest advocate being the Australian Natives' Association (ANA), founded in 1871 in Victoria to provide medical, sickness and funeral benefits. By the 1880s it had also become a powerful voice for the federation of the Australian colonies and the celebration of a national day.

South Australians, despite their misgivings, were prepared to commemorate 26 January as 'the first stage in Australian colonisation'. They acknowledged that while the day had 'special interest for New South Wales', all the colonies were joining in what was 'really a national festival'. Australians were, after all, the *Mercury* explained, 'in reality one family...one people' because of the British background they shared. South Australia's *Advertiser* agreed: the united celebrations in Sydney showed 'the substantial oneness of what is rapidly becoming, if it has not already become, the nation of Australia'. Further west, the *West Australian* predicted that the day would come to 'be regarded as the national holiday of Australia'. Later that year the



West Australian government legislated to 'commemorate the Foundation of Australia' with a public holiday. Not until 1910 did the South Australian government follow, by moving the surplus holiday on 22 January (the late King Edward's accession) to 26 January as Australia's 'Foundation Day'.

There had been much debate in Sydney about what kind of Anniversary Day celebrations should mark the centenary. Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of New South Wales, planned something

for everyone, or almost everyone. When questioned about what was being planned for the Aborigines, Parkes retorted, 'And remind them that we have robbed them?' At the centre of his plans was the unveiling of a statue of Queen Victoria, the British sovereign since 1837, the opening of Centennial Park, a park for the people, and a great banquet for leading citizens. And, of course, the Sydney Regatta. The celebrations were to last a week, making the visit worth-

while for governors, leading politicians, civil servants and others who had travelled far by train or ship.

Across Australia celebrations usually centred on sports (foot, cycle, yacht and horse races) and picnics, with extra trains and trams available, especially to the sea in the summer heat. The Sydney and Hobart regattas continued their well-established traditions, the Hobart Regatta including skittle alleys and side-shows, games and food stalls for those on shore. The ANA organised excursions and associated activities in Victoria, where it was strongest, but also in the other colonies, where branches had been established. In Brisbane, it hired a steamer to go down to the bay, with guests leaving the boat at Lytton for games and dancing. A novelty was a cricket match between ladies and gentlemen, the latter carrying broomsticks instead of bats. The ladies won. In Fremantle, the ANA branch held a conversatione. In Adelaide where the day was only partially observed as a public holiday, there was an inter-denominational thanksgiving service, cycling races and a Sheffield handicap foot race in the afternoon, with fireworks at night.

South Australia's *Advertiser* judged Sydney's centenary celebration a success, feeling that it had 'certainly drawn the colonies closer together', putting them 'on somewhat better terms'. The colonies were more inclined to put aside their differences and seek to develop their mutual interests, especially after Parkes agreed to drop his legislation to re-name New South Wales as Australia

By 1888 more than 60 per cent of the continent's population was native-born, a contrast to some 20 per cent in 1838. The colonies beyond New South Wales acknowledged the significance of Anniversary Day in 1888 though this seemed to be due as much to their British background as to their feelings for the continent they shared. But would these colonies continue to celebrate the day beyond the centenary?

Acknowledgement: Australia Day Council website



WHERE IS THIS?

NO 1 in
AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

All over Australia you can find memorials, plaques, monuments and art works that celebrate the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. Some are more well-known than others.

For this series we give you a double challenge. Each time we ask you to identify where the pictured memorial can be found.

Some help this time - it is in Sydney city.

Do send the editor your answer.

First one in gets the reward: publication of your name to highlight your cleverness!

Second suggestion: Send in your own puzzlers.

The Thomas Acres Society Reunion.

To commemorate the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet and with it our ancestor Thomas Acres, the Thomas Acres Society held a 225th Anniversary reunion. The function took place at Campbelltown Catholic Club on 2nd February.

One hundred and seventy descendants and friends came together to honour the memory and achievements of Thomas Acres. The society's Vice President, Mrs Yvonne Butcher acted as MC and kept proceedings going at a cracking pace.

The President, Mr James Bruce, pictured, gave a welcoming speech and during luncheon proposed a toast to Thomas Acres, along with the Loyal toast to The Queen and Australia. An interesting and informative narrative was given by the Secretary, Mr John Walker on the life on Thomas Acres, he also arranged a slide show of photographs relating to the many descendants of our first Fleeter.

A lovely two course luncheon was served and enjoyed by all.



The specially designed cake which was based on a scene of Sydney Cove 1788 was cut by committee members to great cheer. There was a trivia competition which had the old grey matter working overtime. A lovely commemorative mug engraved with the 'Charlotte' and relevant dates was available to

guests as a lasting souvenir of the day.

As the day drew to its end the reunion was closed by the president, although some of the company now proceeded to the complimentary coach tour, which included St. Peter's and St. John's churches and cemeteries along with a visit to Thomas Acres School and reserve which made up part of his original land grant.

After renewing old acquaintances and making new friends the company departed proud of our First Fleeter ancestor Thomas Acres, proud to be Australian.

The Committee, *The Thomas Acres Society*.



JOHN NICHOLS FAMILY SOCIETY

JNFS - Founded in 1984

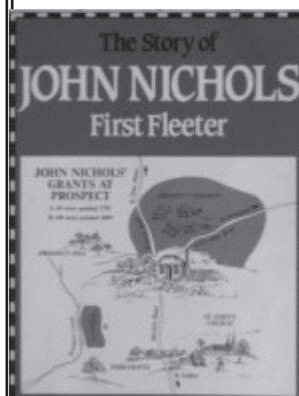
The Committee of the **JOHN NICHOLS FAMILY SOCIETY** welcome descendants of JOHN NICHOLS, FIRST FLEETER to join JOHN NICHOLS FAMILY SOCIETY. The aim of our JNFS is to assist members in researching JOHN and ANN NICHOLS, their descendants & to pursue family history. Our Society

has archives of BDM Certificates and Family Photos.

Our JOHN NICHOLS FAMILY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP is \$12 per year (within Australia) printing Newsletter in MAY/DECEMBER.

Contact: LILIAN MAGILL / JNFS Honorary Membership Secretary

PO Box 200 Panania 2213 email lily@researchbylily.com.au



EDWARD PUGH

Convict on the "Friendship"

The most likely birth record for Edward states that he was born on the 22nd March, 1760, in the Parish of St Mary's, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. He was baptised at St Chad's in the Parish of St Mary's, on 9th April 1760.

His parents were David Pugh and Elizabeth Hammer; they were married by licence on 9th June, 1757 at St Julian's, Shrewsbury. Edward had two siblings: Richard, christened 11th September, 1758, and Elizabeth, christened on 19th July, 1766.

The church of St Chad's, where Edward was baptised, collapsed in a pile of rubble in 1788. It was old and had a number of cracks in its structure. A new church was built nearby using some of the old church stones.

Edward was committed by T. Pottat Esq. on the 18th September, 1784, charged with stealing a great coat belonging to William Barnard. He was found guilty on the 5th October at Gloucester Quarter Sessions, and sentenced to be transported for 7 years to America.

Due to the War of Independence in America he was held in Castle Gaol, Gloucester for over 3 years until he was ordered to be transported to New South Wales. The Castle Gaol at Gloucester was originally a medieval castle that replaced the Norman castle in the twelfth century. By the seventeenth century this castle was being used as the gaol, but it had fallen into a serious state of disrepair, and in 1797 it was demolished to be replaced by the new county gaol. During Edward's time in gaol it appears he fathered a girl, named Ann or Nancy, with **Elizabeth Parker**. The child was born in Castle Gaol, Gloucester, but a search has not found any record of the birth in the gaol.

On the 23rd March, 1787, Edward was ordered to Portsmouth to be put on the *Prince of Wales* with Betty Mason and Elizabeth Parker, who had her daughter **Ann** (**Nancy**, an infant) with her. They would have had to travel about 190km from Gloucester to Portsmouth, most likely in a caged cart.

Edward was received on the *Friendship* on the 10th April, 1787; his occupation was given as house carpenter, age 22. He was just over 5ft 6ins tall, of dark complexion, with hazel eyes and light brown hair. On the same day Elizabeth Parker was received on the *Friendship* and was recorded as **Elizabeth Pugh** in Ralph Clark's Journal. However, no record has been found of a marriage.

Edward must have behaved himself on the voyage out, as he does not get a mention in the journal of Ralph Clark, who also travelled on *Friendship*.

Just 13 days after the women came ashore in the new colony, Elizabeth Parker died on the 19th February, 1788, leaving her daughter, Ann. She is recorded as the first white woman to die in the new colony. Also on board the *Friendship* from Rio to the Cape of Good Hope (Table Bay) was **Hannah Smith**, and her infant son, **William**, who died on the 5th June 1788.

On the 15th June, 1788, Edward Pugh married Hannah Smith. Two weeks later (the 30th June, 1788) Ann, the infant child of Elizabeth Parker, died; her death was recorded as Ann Pue.



Edward was born in the Parish of St Marys, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. His birth date was 22nd March 1760 and baptised on the 9th April 1760 in St Chad's, Shrewsbury. The original St Chad's Church was old and had many structural cracks and in 1788 it collapsed into a pile of rubble a new church was built using some of the stone from the original church

Edward and Hannah went on to have five children of their own: they were **David**, born 1789, **Simon**, born 1791, **Edward**, born 1794, **Harriet** born, 1796 and **Charlotte**, born 1799. The two girls and Simon all grew to be adults. However, what happened to David and Edward is still a mystery.

At Christmas time 1788 Edward and Hannah's house was robbed of a pound of flour by **Michael Dennison**, who was convicted of stealing and received 150 lashes.

Edward came off sentence in July, 1791 and was given a land grant in August at the foot of Prospect Hill. In December, Captain **Watkin Tench**, on an inspection of the

area of Prospect, noted that Edward Pugh had 2 ½ acres under cultivation but that the soil in this area was "but indifferent", and that water was very scarce.

Edward must have abandoned working his land grant as he joined the NSW Rum Corps in 1800 and stayed there until 1810. It appears, though, that he returned to his land after his time in the Rum Corps, as in 1814 he was described as a landholder in the Parramatta area.

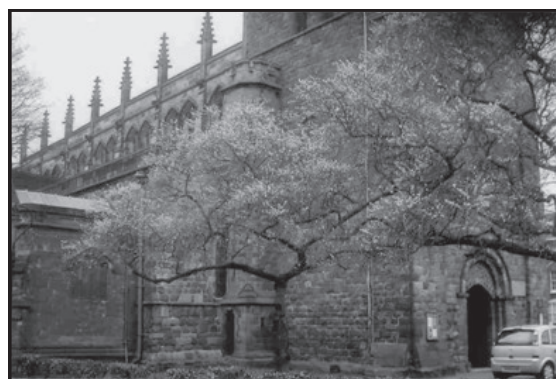
Edward then had several working locations and jobs. In 1820 he was working for a Mr Withers, and in the 1822 Muster book it shows "**Edward Pugh**, Free B S, Friendship, occupation Fiddler at Windsor". He was the only person listed in the 1822 muster book as a Fiddler. He served in the *Endeavour* schooner in 1824, and in 1828 he was working as a labourer for **Henry Seymour**, surgeon, in Richmond.

Edward died a pauper in Windsor District Hospital on 30th November

1837 and was buried at St Matthews, Windsor. There is no headstone for Edward. Paupers were buried down the back of the cemetery at St Matthews.

The names of Edward and Hannah Pugh are, however, displayed in a memorial of sorts. The spot where they had their land grant at Prospect was assigned the name Pemulwuy on the 30th January, 2004, and a new suburb with a modern housing estate was established. The streets have been named after the First Fleet holders of the land grants in the area, with an Edward Drive, Pugh Street, and Hannah Way.

Ray Keating



St Mary's Church in Shrewsbury

The church was made redundant in 1987 but remains open to visitors as it has stain glass windows dating back to the 1300s and a carved timber ceiling

The Story of William Dring and Ann Forbes

We all probably know the basic history of the First Fleet and the voyage to Botany Bay, Terra Australis. But let us recap for a few moments. The Fleet of eleven ships led by **Captain Arthur Phillip** on the *Sirius* left Portsmouth on Sunday May 13, 1787 with approximately 1400 people on board made up of convicts, some giving birth on the voyage and some bringing children (about 800). There were also officers, sailors, medical staff, marines and soldiers, some with wives and children.

The fleet took eight months to reach Botany Bay with stopovers at Tenerife on the Cape Verde Islands, Rio de Janeiro and The Cape of Good Hope to replenish supplies and repair sails and other ship equipment. The faster ships reached Botany Bay on January 18, 1788. Finding it unsuitable for a settlement the fleet moved north to Port Jackson and landed in Sydney Cove on January 26, 1788. This was, according to some historians, the greatest mass migration in history. As can be imagined conditions were extremely harsh when they disembarked.

Three weeks later, on 14 February a small group of convicts, consisting of eight males and six females under the control of officials and marines, were dispatched to Norfolk Island to establish a settlement. The plan was to set up farms for food crops and also to harvest pine trees for shipment back to Port Jackson as building material and additionally to use the straight pine trees to make masts and spars for shipping. It was also planned to harvest the flax-like plants that grew there to make sails. By establishing a settlement it was hoped to deter the French who were known to be exploring the Pacific Ocean. Before long it was realised that Norfolk pines, unlike others of the species, were useless as masts as the branches ringing the trunk made them prone to snapping. It would seem that the flax was unsuitable for sails, and with the French appearing not to show any interest in the island it later became a timber supplier for local use, including small boat building, and for Port Jackson. It was run as a prison camp.

More convicts were dispatched to Norfolk Island over the following months and among them were **Ann Forbes** and **William Dring**. Ann had arrived at Port Jackson on the *Prince of Wales* and William on the *Alexander*. **Ann Forbes** was 16 when sentenced to hang at Surrey Lent Assizes for stealing ten yards of cotton material. Also found guilty was her partner in the crime **Lydia Munro**. Both their sentences were later commuted to transportation, Ann for seven years and Lydia, according to some records, for fourteen. **William Dring**, a 17 year old, was found guilty at the Quarter Sessions at Kingston upon Hull for stealing six bottles of brandy and other articles and was sentenced to transportation across the sea for seven years. Prior to transportation he spent two years on the *Ceres* hulk on the River Thames.

William Dring was an enigma. He was well respected by **Governor King** for his diligence and was made a coxswain but despised as a troublemaker by other members of the island hierarchy. In 1790 the *Sirius* on one of its trips back and forth to Norfolk was wrecked on the reef where supplies were generally unloaded. Dring and another convict volunteered to swim out to the wreck to salvage supplies. All went well until they discovered the casks of rum in the lower holds on the stricken ship. To keep warm as nightfall approached they lit a fire on the deck which quickly got out of control on the wooden ship. The fate of the *Sirius* was then completely sealed and the two con-

victs were dragged back onshore by marines and placed in irons. One story is that the Lieutenant-Governor banished Dring to a nearby islet, probably Nepean, for three weeks with one



About a kilometre offshore from Norfolk Island lies Nepean Island - a small islet of coral and sandstone - a haven for thousands of seabirds.

week's food supply. Nevertheless he survived and Ann and William Dring were, according to one record, returned to Sydney in 1794 on the *Daedalus*.

The marriage, it seems, did not survive beyond 1796 or 97. The fate of **William Dring** is very uncertain. One school of thought is that he died in the colony a number of years later. Another theory is that he somehow returned to England and spent the rest of his life there. Much research has been done in England on all known William Drings of a similar age group but none seemed to tally with our William Dring. (Continued next issue)

Matthew Hogan (March 2013). dimatt@tpg.com.au

WATCH THIS SPACE

... says Vice President **Denis Smith** who was recently holidaying in London and visiting Westminster Abbey. He is shown here with Sir Christopher Benson, Chairman of the British-Australian Society Education Trust, and society member Pauline Lyle-Smith who has often visited Australia.

They are pointing to the great spot on the floor of the nave, just inside the main west door and between the stones for David Livingstone and the Unknown Warrior where in 2014, a commemorative stone will be laid to honour our great founder **Governor**, and later **Admiral, Arthur Phillip**.

As Denis points out, this is a very high traffic area and will be given a lot of exposure to the general public.



If you are planning a visit to London next year, mark 8th-10th July for a visit to the Abbey so we as a Fellowship can show our support in honouring our founding father in the bicentenary commemoration of his death. On the following days there will also be celebrations in Bath, so you may like to include these in your itinerary as well.

What a perfectly good reason to send *Founders* to London to cover the event; the details of which we will give you as they are known.

Elizabeth Williams

8th July, 1936 – 14th March, 2013

First Secretary of the Fellowship of First Fleeters ~ 1968

Personal Memories of Elizabeth (Liz) Williams from John and Rosemary Kirkby, Bundanoon. (Southern Highlands Chapter)

We first met Liz in 1991 when we enrolled in a gardening class at Moss Vale TAFE. Immediately we became friends through her great teaching, sense of humour and love of life. We enjoyed many outings and excursions with Liz to garden venues, and joined her for bushwalks in the Southern Highlands.

When a new Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters was formed in 2005, we discovered Liz had been a founding member in Sydney in 1968, being the FFF's first secretary and Member Number 4. She was descended from First Fleeters **William**

Nash and Maria Haynes – both sailed on the Prince of Wales.

Liz, a horticulturalist, was our guest speaker in the Southern Highlands at our meeting in October 2010, talking about Sydney's Flora just before the arrival of the First Fleet on January 26th 1788.



Liz was the second young youngest of ten children, and spent a great deal of her later life supporting one of her older sisters with the help of her husband, Brian. When Brian became unwell, Liz was devoted to his care and after he was admitted to Warrigal in Bundanoon, spent every lunch-hour with him, bringing him his favourite food and keeping him company.

Liz lived a fairly simple life in Werai amongst her vegetable patch, herbs and garden. She believed strongly in sustainable living, recycling, human rights and reconciliation with the Aboriginal people. Liz and Brian met many Aborigines in Redfern through Father Ted Kennedy, who was a great friend of Brian's. Brian and Liz both attended Father Ted's Memorial "Smoking Ceremony" in Redfern in 2005 when Ted died. Liz also pushed Brian in his wheelchair and marched across the Harbour Bridge on "Sorry Day".

Liz was truly a Renaissance woman, passionately interested in history, geography and the social issues of our world, actively researching the answers to her deep and thoughtful questions. She enjoyed great pleasure from being surrounded by her books and the beauty of classical music.

Liz lost her fight for life on the fourteenth of March, 2013 after a very courageous battle – a lovely lady who was so caring to Brian, her family and her many friends.



KABLES DINING ROOM

The Dining room named **Kables** at the now Four Seasons Hotel, (formerly the Regent of Sydney) George St. Sydney, is no more.

The present management has refurbished the Hotel and demolished completely the former dining room. It has now made way for two further function rooms, without title. The only reminder of the former place and the history of the site is the original plaque set on a pillar near where the dining room entrance was. This plaque was the result of a request by the family way back in the early 1980s to identify the original family's home and, next door, the original gaol in the colony, over which Henry Kable was in charge as Chief Constable. I am presuming this plaque will remain as it is only small and would take some issue to remove. After 30 years the face of the city changing completely each year has made way for less history reminders to be acknowledged.

It is a sad day for the family who were so proud of the acknowledgement of this First Fleet couple who, as the plaque states 'went on to earn their places among Sydney's most enterprising citizens...true pioneers of the Australian spirit'

Zillah Campbell .. (nee Kable) zcampbel@bigpond.net.au



The Sydney Way Project is a new vision for the Cahill Expressway/ Circular Quay Railway structure. **Tim Cole** wants to transform the ground floor support piers, at each end of Circular Quay, with mosaic themes, telling the unique Sydney Story. The First Fleet, settlement and convict history will be represented. www.sydneymway.com.au

BOOK REVIEW

THE THIEF FLEET

by JAMES TALBOT

There have been several novels over the years focusing on the First Fleet and this new publication, *The Thief Fleet*, by James Talbot, successfully follows this tradition.

The author, a legal man from Western Australia, indicates at the outset that his novel, published in 2012, is a revised version of his earlier work, *To the Ends of the Earth*, 1986, in the period leading to the Bicentenary. Your reviewer is unaware of any previous coverage in *Founders* from that time.

The main title, *Thief Fleet*, along with its subtitles, *Unwanted, Unwilling and Unruly*, suggest the focus will be on the convicts. Indeed the opening chapters feature powerful descriptions of the eighteenth century underworld and introduce the reader to the two purported to be main characters, Joe Cribb and Catherine Brandon. We are naturally inclined to read on to find out how these two and their friends interrelate before and during the voyage on *Alexander*.

However it would be wrong to think that their story is the major plot line. Talbot fixes much of his attention on the real purpose of the voyage and its leading travellers, Arthur Phillip, John Hunter and Robert Ross. It is the interplay amongst them, together with their hired ships' captains, that brings out the strength of the novel so convincingly.

This in essence is Phillip's story and brings out his strength of character despite the unseemly odds pitted against his plans for a successful undertaking and it is that strength that is cleverly brought to the fore throughout.

Contrasts abound in almost every chapter. Convicted felons react against their law enforcers; the raging seas buffet vulnerable timbers and experienced seamanship; and underpinning all is the endless face-off between the government purse strings and the international politics of the time.

The author's choice of vocabulary and prose style adds significantly to the success of the novel and his characters are deftly painted as the chapters proceed. There is, unfortunately a suggestion of caricature for some, such as Richard and Mary Johnson, but even they are depicted as growing to fit them for the task ahead.

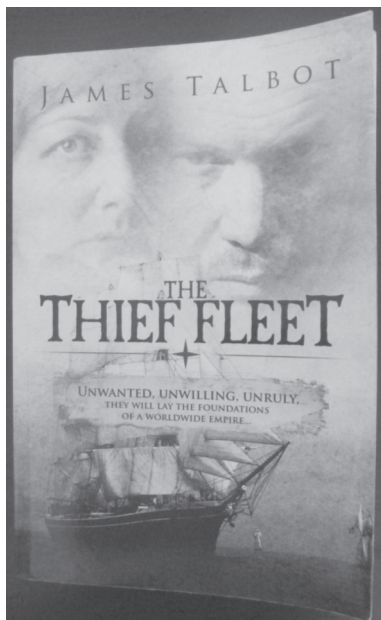
In the light of the interplay between late eighteenth century European politics and England's real and expressed need for an outpost on the other side of the world, Talbot gives the reader a masterful insight into the lives and times of the main players at each of the three ports of call, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch.

First Fleeters of today should enjoy this powerful work of fiction set in the time of their pioneer ancestors, and will, no doubt like your reviewer, look forward to reading more as the series continues.

Notes: 1. A major recent review of the novel, by the author Hal G.P.Colebatch, can be found in *The Spectator* magazine of 8 December 2012.

2. *The Thief Fleet* can be obtained by credit card direct from Amazon.com who will then ship print-on-demand copies to each individual's address by return mail.

3. The author will do personal inscriptions at the purchaser's request, and in gratitude for each one will give a share of royalties to the Fellowship. Contact *Founders* for more details as to how to activate this offer.



OUT AND ABOUT

On Monday the 18th February I attended the meeting of the Hunter Valley Chapter at Adamstown. The President Barbara Turner, Secretary Yvonne Bradley and all the Members present made Robin and myself feel very welcome.

The guest speaker on the day was the very knowledgeable Kevin Short who spoke most enthusiastically about the history of Maitland and the surrounding district. What a story he told! We had no idea that Maitland was the 'hub' of the Colony in the early 1800's.

Situated at the confluence of Wallis Creek and the Hunter River, Maitland rapidly grew into a major centre for residential, commercial, agricultural and shipping interests. To further the town the railway was connected in the mid 1800's. Unfortunately as a result, the towns' importance as a shipping centre declined as goods could reach Sydney much quicker by train.

The towns' regular inundation due to flood waters made it less attractive for residential and commercial use and a slow decline began until the installation of flood mitigation work. Maitland is currently enjoying a resurgence and is presently the fastest growing country town in NSW. A most fascinating talk.

The meeting was followed by a light luncheon where I had the opportunity to meet and chat with many of the Members of the Chapter.

It was very pleasing to witness one of our Chapters in action and to know that Barbara and her Committee are doing such a great job.

Ian Palmer



Left to right: Yvonne Bradley (Secretary), Ian Palmer, Helen Pacey (Treasurer), Robin Palmer, Barbara Turner (President)

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:** 18 May - Lyn Fergusson: *Admiral Arthur Phillip*; 15 June - Jeanette Adams: *Meet my Ancestor*; 20 July - David McGrath: *Meet my Ancestor No 2*. **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:** 17 May: Commander Chris Bolton: *The Australian Navy*, 21 June: Lynette Dudley: *Rose Cottage, Wilberforce*; 19 July: Annual General Meeting, *Show and Tell Day*. **Events:** Thursday 27 June: Rocks Walking Tour; Sunday 28 July: Outing to Pioneer Village Wilberforce and Ebenezer Church. **Contact:** Joy Zamiatin, 9451 8665

CANBERRA – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations to be advised. **Next Meeting:** 20 July: Annual General Meeting, 2 pm, at 11 Titheradge Place, Chapman. **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:** 8 June: Pauline Walker and Margaret Morelli: *First Fleeter Andrew Fishburn*. 13 July - Annual General Meeting. John Boyd: *My Role in Research with the Fellowship*. **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:** 1 June - Derelie Cherry: *Alexander Maclean from Scotland to Sydney*; 6 July - Juli Allcorn: *The life of a squatter's wife in the 1860s*. **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 June: Terry Maher: *His historic property, Rathluba, at Maitland*. **Events:** 30 May: Bus trip and tour of historic Tahlee. \$44 includes bus, tour, morning tea and lunch. All chapters welcome. Departs 8.30 am Adamstown Pensioners' Hall; Book with Helen Pacey 4023 4979; 16 July: Tour of Grossman House and St Mary's Church, Maitland, \$17 includes lunch. **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:** 8 June - John Moore: *Chaplains of the First Fleet*. **Events:** 19 May: a visit to St John's Cathedral, the last Gothic cathedral to be completed; 14 July: Visit to Templin Historical Village, Hotel lunch to follow. **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: Mylestom Hall, courtesy Mary Kell, Bi-monthly meetings, first Sunday at 11.30am. **Next Meeting:** 1 June: Show & Tell - bring along hobbies, family treasures, etc. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 6653 3615

NORTHERN RIVERS – *Lismore and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am; AGM Sunday 28th July 11.30 , lunch 12.30 **Next Meeting:** 26th May 11.30 , lunch 12.30, Alstonville Bowling Club, Alstonville. Lunch info- Margaret 6686 3597

NORTH WEST – *Tamworth and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** 1 June – at Family History Group's rooms, North St, Tamworth; 3 August - AGM, same time and venue. **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:** 4 June - Graham Bevan: *Bromeliads*; 2 July: Annual General Meeting. **Event:** 20 June - Tour HARS, Albion Park Airport.; **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:** 12 June - Linda Emery: *A Southern Highlands Tour through the heritage photographs of the Berrima District Historical and Family History Society*. **Event:** 29 May: Excursion to Goat Island with other Chapters to celebrate the Sailing of the Fleet, **Contact:** Neville Usher 4869 1406

SWAN RIVER – *Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.*

Next Meeting: 2pm 18th May: at Level 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

RICHARD PARTRIDGE/MARY GREENWOOD
#8216 Rhonda Trollope
JAMES McMANUS/JANE POOLE/JAMES BRADLEY
#8217 Christine Gwen McLaren
ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY
#8218 Kevin John Tibbey
#8231 John Barry Lee
#8232 Susan Margaret Mackenzie
#8233 Jessica Eileen Mackenzie
#8234 Gordon Edward Mackenzie
#8240 Anne Barbara Leonard
OWEN CAVANOUGH/MARGARET DARNELL
#8219 Terry Musgrave
THOMAS LUCAS
#8220 Lelaine Mavis Simmonds
JAMES FREEMAN
#8221 Marlene Beryl Giggins
THOMAS WILLIAMS
#8222 Nerisa Selina Williams
#8241 Jennifer Elizabeth McInerny
CATHERINE JOHNSON
#8223 Christopher Erin Hammond
ANN SANDLIN/JOHN WINTER
#8224 Margaret Ann Hodgens
ROBERT WATSON
#8225 Carol Olive Earl
NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE
#8226 Janice Anne Rutter

MATTHEW JAMES EVERINGHAM
#8227 Alan Carl Rose
DAVID KILPACK
#8228 John Scott Fuller
JOHN RANDALL/JOHN MARTIN
#8229 Francis Peter Strickland Mason
ANN FORBES/WILLIAM DRING
#8230 Ms Katrina Anne Paley
ROBERT FORRESTER
#8235 Beverley Joan Fox
GEORGE JOHNSTON/ESTHER ABRAHAMS
#8236 Heather Margaret Jacobs
JOHN NICHOLS
#8237 Edward Francis Mitchell
JOHN & HANNAH BARRISFORD
#8238 Douglas Wolfenden Simpson
THOMAS JAMISON
#8239 Philip Ross Aiken
ANN MARTIN
#8242 Daniel Hatton
#8243 Mollie Eden Hatton (Junior)
#8244 Amelia Cait Hatton (Junior)
New Friend Members
F#118 Rod Sanderson
F#122 Dianne Stepa
F#123 Gail Patricia Jacobs
F#124 Max Farley
New Associate Members
#8023.1 Denis Adams
#8223.1 Amy Hammond

Additional four First Fleeters

ANN FORBES/WILLIAM DRING
ELIZABETH PULLEY/ANTHONY ROPE
(already confirmed **OWEN CAVANOUGH/MARGARET DARNELL**) i.e. 6 FF descendants
#1331 Joan Rosemary Peak

BIRTHS

FF NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE
Harrison Oscar STONE born 26.1.2013 Norwest Private Hospital. Parents: Jennifer Stone (nee Cornish) #1378 & Adam Stone #1378.1
12 Currawong Cres Bowen Mountain 2756
Grandmother: Nanette Cornish # 1376
FF JAMES WRIGHT
Olivia Michelle **DEEG** born 22.2.2013 to Chad and Jenna Deeg at Maitland Hospital. Another granddaughter for #7076 Bruce Agland.

DEATHS

FF JAMES FREEMAN
#7326 Yvonne Joy Pullen 17.9.2011, sister of Marlene Giggins; sadly missed
FF HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES
#105 Alice Catherine May Montgomery
11.4.2013, a loyal and enthusiastic foundation member, mother of James Montgomery.
FF PHILIP GIDLEY KING
#836 Patricia Christie 6.4.13, taken ill on a Queen Mary II cruise near Mauritius, died in hospital at Durban, SA. Sister of #660 Elizabeth Geldard of Moreton Chapter.



The Central Coast Chapter has been asked to let the wider Fellowship know about the drive to re-open **OLD SYDNEY TOWN** at Gosford. Ask for a petition at roost1788to1810@gmail.com You can also find the ideas and progress of the plan on the Facebook site *Bring Back Old Sydney Town*.



James Talbot, author of the *Thief Fleet* which is reviewed in this issue, has advised *Founders* that he has now completed two more books in the series, *A Wilful Woman* and the *Devil To Pay*. He is currently working on the fourth and final volume which will bring events and characters up to the present day.



Christina Henri's project *Roses from the Heart* is nearing completion. She is currently in Ireland where the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Naoise O' Muiri and the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Ruth Adler, are hosting an event at the Mansion House in Dublin- May 16 to promote her work and arranging for major displays next year. 'Blessing of the Bonnets' will be held in a cathedral in Dublin next May and again in London. Christina is expecting to have all of the 25,566 bonnets required for the realisation for the *Roses from the Heart* memorial. If you are still holding any completed bonnets you should get them to Christina at the Female Factory as soon as possible. Dates for these events on her website, Blog and Facebook as soon as they are confirmed.



You will be pleased to know that the missing statue of **Arthur Phillip** is safely in storage awaiting any future development of First Fleet Park at Circular Quay. Artist/photographer Tim Cole recently visited the Directors' meeting to show his proposal for historic and heritage installations in the vacant areas under the railway viaduct at the Quay. It is most worthy cause and we will keep you posted. See a design sketch on page 9, this issue.



An archivist studying the Colonial Secretary's papers about the **Blue Mountains** has recently discovered the name of one of the three convicts who accompanied Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth on their expedition over the mountains in 1813. He was Samuel Fairs and surely also deserves recognition in this bicentenary year.

VALUED DONORS TO THE WORK OF FIRST FLEET HOUSE

South Coast Chapter
Jennifer Ward #2354



WE GOT IT WRONG - SORRY:

from Founders 44/2
Saskia May Manton 29.5.12
Mullumbimby—1st child of #8994
Timothy Manton & Claire Snel;