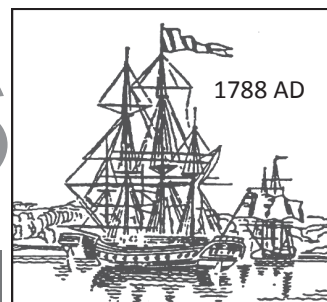


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Inc.

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



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46th Year of Publication

June/July 2014

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

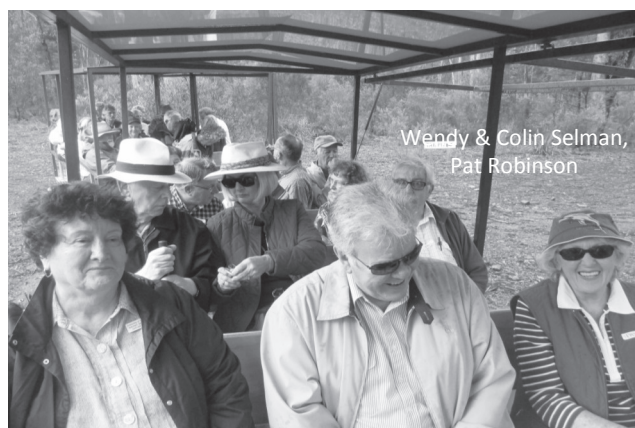
CHAPTERS GATHER IN JOADJA VALLEY

Over the past year nearly all chapters of the Fellowship have organised successful outings to local places of historical interest. It was ever thus! We all have a strong sense of heritage and love the chance to explore sites of long ago.

So when **Wendy Selman** of the Southern Highlands Chapter announced that there would be a guided tour of the heritage listed Joadja Creek Valley and that members of the Fellowship were invited to join, many responded positively and 42, representing five chapters, booked their adventure for 26th March.

Unfortunately flood rains swamped the valley that week and when the postponed tour finally took place on 11th April, numbers had dwindled to 30. The valley is half an hour's drive west of Mittagong and on a cloudy and windless day, folk from three different chapters and other members 'at large' from as far afield as Canberra, and the Blue Mountains gathered for morning tea at the information centre. Also in the party were members of the National Trust.

products such as paraffin wax for candles, kerosene, lubricating oils and greases, and ingredients for soap.

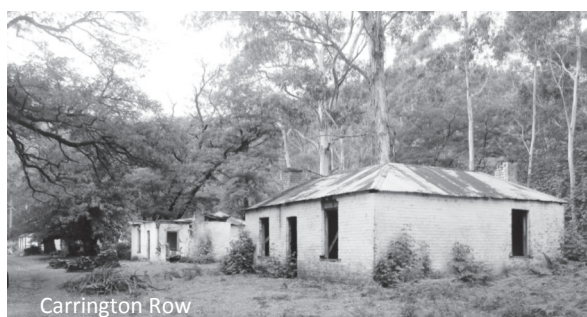


The whole enterprise was self-sufficient. At its peak the community was home to more than 1200 people, mostly Scottish immigrants who lived in tough conditions in this isolated valley. The company encouraged its people to produce their own food, and the rich lowlands allowed for extensive orchards. The latter continued to supply Sydney markets long after the refinery stopped working and the town closed.

The mines themselves were located halfway up the valley sides where a narrow seam of shale was almost worked out during the operating years 1878 to 1891. All workings were coal-fired and the needed coal was also mined in the valley itself. All bricks for the building of miners' cottages and all other buildings including stacks and the industrial retorts to extract the kerosene oil were made from valley clay and fired on site.

Access in and out of the valley for people and goods was by steep inclined tramway using winches at the top of the hill. Later, goods were transferred from here to Mittagong by purpose built railway. Major items needed in the production process were the Scottish-built iron retort buckets and the machinery for the refinery. All these had to be brought into the valley via the incline.

Continued on Page 3

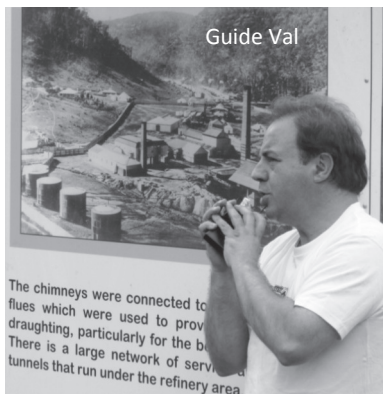


Before long our host **Valero**, who owns the historic site and has a

passion for its heritage, had us boarding his "people mover" road train for the 2 hour tour around the valley.

Val has a wealth of knowledge and shares it with enthusiasm, living up to his designation as leader of **Joadja Creek Heritage Tours**. In introducing himself he wondered if he, of Spanish and Swedish extraction, could be considered qualified enough to address a group of First Fleeters.

He need not have worried. His tour was outstanding and we learnt so much about the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company Limited. It was formed in 1878 to mine shale and refine it into different by-



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Arthur Phillip returning to Sydney Cove?
See page 3.

Founders

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President's Pen

Ian Palmer



Recently a member of my family contacted me about an article I had written a couple of years ago. He has been doing his own research and the information he unearthed didn't correspond with what I had written. While we were discussing the discrepancies we both agreed that the information I had quoted is available from several sources, we have both seen it, and now we both believe that it is **wrong**. It is the old story of someone writing something in good faith that is incorrect and others quoting the same article without doing the proper research. **Unfortunately, over time, the false information is assumed to be fact.** The lesson to be learnt from all of this of course is to apply the --

GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY

DO your own research

DO NOT rely on others

Where possible use primary sources for information (BDM records, other official registers)

Document your sources of information

ALWAYS work backwards from the known (yourself) to the unknown (your forebears)

NEVER believe everything on a Birth, Death Marriage certificate

NEVER completely trust the spelling of surnames, place names etc

ALWAYS check surname variants when researching

ALWAYS have at least two separate sources of proof for each event

REMEMBER that everything is only speculation until verified

ALWAYS photocopy or scan certificates and important documents and leave the originals in a safe place

IF a document exists, read it!!

JOIN at least one Family History Group, Genealogy Society or Historical Society

SHARE your information and documentation (copies only) with other researchers

MATTHEW FLINDERS BICENTENARY COMMEMORATION

Saturday 19th July 2014 in SYDNEY

Venue: Customs House Forecourt, Circular Quay.

* **10.30am** Navy Band will begin playing on the forecourt of Customs House.

* **11am** Naval Service, followed by Presentation of the Circumnavigation Story

* **11.30am** Unveiling of Bronze Mural by State Premier on pylon opposite Customs House, actual site of First Government Wharf.

Note:- For Commemorations in other parts of Australia, please check with your local authorities.



While Sydney remembers Matthew Flinders with a mural, in England there will be several opportunities to pay tribute to the great navigator.

Vice-President **Denis Smith**, along with our roving reporter, **Ron Withington**, will be attending the unveiling of the new bronze of Flinders at his 1814 burial site, now the Concourse at Euston Station, London, on 18 July.

Keep those stories coming in. Yours may have already gone to the website while awaiting space in *Founders*.

CHAPTER STORY WRITING CHALLENGE

Progress score as at 20.05.14 is:

Members at Large	2	Non members	2	Central Coast	1	Hunter Valley	1
Moreton	2	Arthur Phillip	1	Eastern Farms	1		

From page 1

Val explained the ethos and workings of the company as he drove us around the area, pausing at the excellent signage showing the processes and associated structures. In three spots our train was halted and we spent time wandering among the ruins, marvelling at what had been and musing over the way nature has returned to take over the town since its closure over 120 years ago.



Rain was threatening as we returned to the shop and cafe. **Elise**, our co-host, had prepared a wonderful sausage sizzle and salad for all and there was much to think and talk about as we relaxed on the veranda over the meal, admiring the beauty of the valley and the toughness of its inhabitants so long ago, and enjoying a delicious lunch together.

The fellowship shared by all was rich indeed and Wendy and her chapter

Carrington Row featured cottages formally set out to resemble a Scottish village, the **Tar Pits** showed an area of land where the bush cannot return, and the **School of Arts**, now roofless, was the community's meeting place of its day, its activities tied strongly to the local Masonic lodge and its members.

Now that the whole complex comes under heritage guidelines funding has been obtained to remove some vegetation that is threatening foundations, cover unprotected endangered structures and make particular areas safe for visitors. There are plans to restore and refurbish one cottage as a museum.

team are to be commended for organising such a wonderful outing. *Founders* was so glad to have been included and to revel in the friendliness on the day. Although we were unable to stay to see the production and taste the results at Val's newly established whiskey distillery, we know that the day was voted an outstanding success by all who were there.

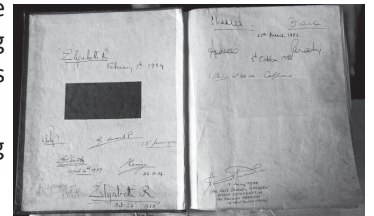
Recommended if you are ever in the area. Plan a pilgrimage. The complex is open at weekends for self-guided tours, and during the week for groups if booked. Contact Joadja Creek Heritage Tours on www.joadjatown.com.au

FIRST FLEET BOOKS GET THE ROYAL TOUCH



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, at their own request, attended morning service at St Andrew's Cathedral on Sunday 12th April. This was not part of the official agenda for the royal visit so the service was not televised.

However, it was great to see that the Rev Richard Johnson's bible and prayer book, our First Fleet treasures, had made the journey safely from St Phillip's in York St for the occasion. Both the Duke and Duchess were able to add their signatures to the 'royal' end papers of each. We note that feathered quills were not the writing implements of choice and wonder what effects modern inks have on those historic pages.



Founders would like to hear from any of our members who were at the Cathedral that morning and to thank them for, albeit unknowingly, representing the Fellowship on the day.

A final comment while on matters of a royal nature. We understand at least one chapter always sings 'God Save the Queen' at their meetings. Do they do this because they are closet monarchists, or is it to commemorate the fact, according to some diarists, that what was a very new anthem back then was sung at Sydney Cove on the 26th January, 1788? What a fascinating rendition that must have been!

<http://wpmedia.o.canada.com/2014/04/bible1.jpg>

ARTHUR PHILLIP IS COMING BACK

Founders has been advised by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority that planning is now underway to reinstate the restored Royal Australian Historical Society (1954) monument, bust and plinth, of Governor Arthur Phillip prior to the bicentenary of his death on 31st August 2014.

The 5th March workshop which was attended by representatives of the Fellowship and other interested bodies discussed eight possible locations, three of which were ruled out as un-



suitable. The other five all have merit and the final decision will be made by SHFA in conjunction with the City of Sydney.

If you wish to view the pictorial report and the proposed locations, e-mail your request to the editor and it will be forwarded to you. One thing can be sure - whatever site is chosen, someone, somewhere will be unhappy! There will be local commemorations at the site in August, and details will be made known soon.

Photo supplied by SHFA

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

ALBURY-WODONGA DIST.

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ARTHUR PHILLIP

Joy Zamiatin 02 9451 8665

CANBERRA

Brian Mattick 02 6231 8880

CENTRAL COAST

Jon Fearon 02 4323 1849

DERWENT

Cecily Dougan 03 6231 1256

EASTERN FARMS

Robin Palmer 02 9871 4102

HUNTER VALLEY

Raymond Green 02 4964 1328

LACHLAN MACQUARIE

Judy Dwyer 02 6365 8234

MORETON

Don Cornford 0457 466 020

NEW ENGLAND

Wal Whalley 02 6772 3499

NORTH COAST

Paul Wood 02 6568 9655

NORTHERN RIVERS

Margaret Soward 02 6686 3597

NORTH WEST

Barbara Hodgson 02 6766 5535

SOUTH COAST

Dorothy Conkey 02 4261 2337

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Wendy Selman 02 4862 4849

SWAN RIVER

Jodi Gratton 08 9384 5944

THE FORTIFICATIONS OF SYDNEY COVE - PART 2

After nearly six years as Governor, **Arthur Phillip**, suffering from continuing poor health which required better medical attention in Britain, was granted permission to resign his commission and he departed 11 December 1792 on the ship *Atlantic*.

During March & April 1793 the settlement was visited by the Spanish ships *Descubierta* and *Atrevida* under the command of **Alessandro Malaspino** who was charged with conducting a scientific expedition in the Pacific under Spanish Royal commission. After the French revolution of 1789 and the execution of King Louis XVIth in 1793, France and Britain were again at war. Spain had now aligned with Britain so the visitors were accorded friendly safe haven under interim **Governor Major Grose**. Nevertheless covert paintings of the settlement were made from one of the Spanish ships, probably using a telescope for greater detail. On return to Spain, Malaspino pointed out to the Spanish court that the settlement and the northern advance settlement at Norfolk Island could become a springboard to threaten Spain's island possessions across the Pacific region.

Things were to change, however, and in 1796 Spain, under King Charles IV, thought it better to be on the side of a resurgent France which was achieving spectacular military success particularly under the leadership of the youthful and aggressive **Napoleon Bonaparte**. By 1799 France was in political disarray so, as in battle, Napoleon seized the moment and assumed the position of First Consul of the young French republic which effectively paved the way for his later absolute rule.

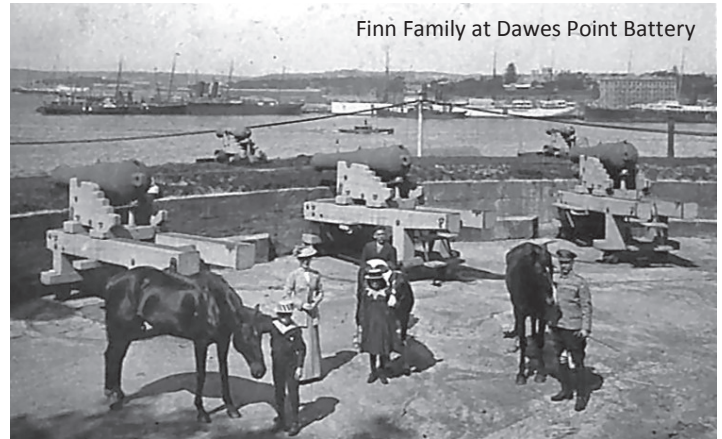
These events in Europe probably prompted the defences on the west side of Sydney cove to be strengthened with the construction of a fort, Fort Phillip, on Windmill Hill. This became known as Flagstaff Hill when a semaphore signalling mast was added. Very much later, about 1856 an observatory was constructed over part of the old fort's wall and the site became known as Observatory Hill.

February 14th 1797 saw the Spanish fleet destroyed by **Horatio Nelson** in the Battle of Cape St Vincent. So the next year in May a half moon battery was re-established on the eastern face of Bennelong Point. The battery consisted of the guns removed from the HMS Supply when that ship was withdrawn from service.

In 1800, **Captain Edward Abbott**, of the NSW Corps, made an assessment of the Sydney defences preparing a report dated 1st October, 1800 and noting that Sydney Cove was protected by the following batteries: Dawes Point or Western Battery, consisting of eight 12 pounder guns and 2 six pounder guns; Windmill Hill with 4 six-pounder guns; while Eastern Cove Battery had a further four six-pounders.

In 1801-2 under the sponsorship of Napoleon Bonaparte, **Nicholas Baudin** and **Jacques Hamelin**, in the ships *Geographe* and *Naturaliste* noting the geography mapped and named the whole of the west coast of Australia, a precursor for a possible French claim of possession and then settlement. Many place names such as Cape Naturaliste, Geographe Bay, Hamelin Pool & Cape Leveque still reflect that visit. Subsequently Baudin visited Van Diemen's Land and then sailed northwards to Sydney Cove to obtain fresh provisions and to purchase an additional ship. This suspicion of French interest prompted the establishment of a settlement in 1803, Risdon, and 1804, Hobart in Van Diemen's Land and an aborted attempt at settlement on Port Phillip Bay at the same time.

In 1805 Nelson defeated the French fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar. This was an important victory at sea for Britain under threat of invasion from Napoleon. Disaster for Nelson could also have spelt disaster for the fledgling colony with Australia possibly becoming a French speaking nation. Even so, during **Lachlan Macquarie's** governorship 1810 - 1821, France, under Napoleon Bonaparte's dictatorship, was still the mortal enemy. It was left to Wellington to free Spain from French domination in 1812-13 and he finally destroyed Napoleon's political control of France at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.)



Finn Family at Dawes Point Battery

Macquarie, the first military governor of NSW, came from humble stock. He was a proactive administrator and with his wife **Elizabeth's** influence, set about vigorously improving the rather depressing liquor ridden society and convict enclave as Sydney Town and surrounds must have appeared on their arrival. Many improvements followed such as the introduction of coinage, the holey dollar and dump, the establishment of a bank and convict construction of a road across the Blue Mountains to Bathurst. Fine sandstone buildings were ordered, even a new government house was considered for which the grandiose stables were built. In modern times this became the site of the Conservatorium.

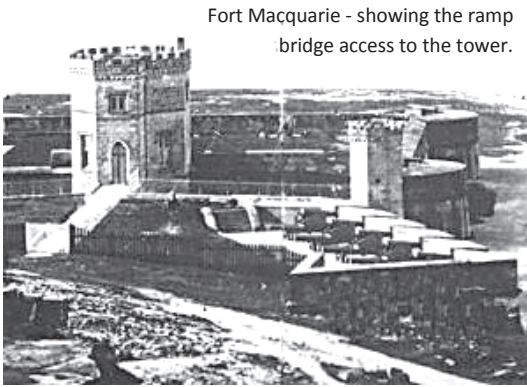
Macquarie, frustrated at the lack of architectural skill in his administration, slowly came to rely upon the genius of convict/emancipist **Francis Greenway** who had arrived in 1814. A building surge followed with the design and construction of a number of prestigious public buildings. So it should come as no surprise that Macquarie ordered the construction of a substantial and imposing fort to be built on the eastern side of the entrance to Sydney Cove replacing the insignificant redoubt.

Different sources suggest two who could have provided the engineering input namely, Artillery officer **Captain John Gill** or **Lieutenant Watts**, both from the 46th regiment. No doubt Macquarie would need to have been satisfied. Nevertheless it was to the architect Francis Greenway whom Macquarie summoned in a brief dated 4/7/1817, 'to draw out a ground plan and elevation of a neat handsome fort - intended to be erected, as soon as possible, on the lower part of Bennelong's Point with ten embrasures; viz. four in the north face; four in the east face, and two in the west face; the south face of the fort being the entrance and not requiring embrasures. The fort is to be entirely built of best stone that can be produced near the spot.'

Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the fort, named Fort Macquarie in December 1817 and it was completed by 1821 being constructed from rocks cut from the Governor's Domain by convict labour.

It was a significant structure with impressive stone work. A description of the fort from a later time comments: *'that it could be described as a square redoubt, three faces of which were washed by harbour waters. At each angle there was raised a circular bastion for the purpose of supporting a 24-pounder gun mounted on a traversing carriage, while the Northern face supported a six gun embrasure. Inside the redoubt was situated a two storied stone tower measuring 90 feet in circumference, which was utilised for a dual purpose, as an ordnance store and guard-room, while in its basement 350 barrels of gunpowder could be stored.'*

It should be noted that the main tower was integrated as part of the southern wall of the fort. The military design of the entrance to the fort is unknown to this researcher. Later, about 1855, the fort seems to have been expanded with an additional battery platform with embrasures for five cannon on the south eastern side of the fort thus protecting Farm Cove from assault. An 1870 photo shows that pedestrian access was from the south via a ramp which led to a bridge and the crossing of that brought one to the entrance at first floor level. The bridge appears to cross a canal or moat used either for defensive purposes or to allow for armament deliveries and/or reception of dignitaries. Later the canal may have been filled in and become a corridor.



Fort Macquarie - showing the ramp
bridge access to the tower.

Governor Macquarie's ambitions were thought by the Colonial Office to be far too extravagant for a place which was intended to act as a deterrent to the criminally inclined of England. Their displeasure mounted with his somewhat, although perhaps to him adequate, vague reports about his grand building schemes, his use of convict resources and how he was getting necessary funding without first obtaining approval from the Home office. Thus it was that **J.T. Bigge** was appointed commissioner of enquiry, arriving in September 1819 to gather information that would be later used to Macquarie's disadvantage. This was effectively a vote of no confidence in his administration, so he probably became disillusioned and requested approval to relinquish his post as Governor. This was granted in 1821 and in early 1822 Lachlan Macquarie, his wife Elizabeth & their seven-year-old son Lachlan (Junior) departed his Sydney town.

So there were no accolades on his return to Britain & thanks to Bigge's critical reports tabled later in 1822 his reputation was tarnished. Macquarie died in 1824 and it remained for his beloved wife Elizabeth to doggedly refute the allegations.

Yet Macquarie not only left his mark in Sydney and his satellite towns with many fine buildings but also a cultural shift. No longer were reformed emancipists treated with contempt as pariahs but were even accepted by the Governor at his dinner table. This was much to the chagrin of the wealthy, the privileged self serving land holders, army officers and others who had exploited them to make their fortunes. Macquarie laid the foundations that were in time to evolve into a more inclusive

egalitarian society which still frames the Australian way of life. If for this and nothing else he should be honoured.

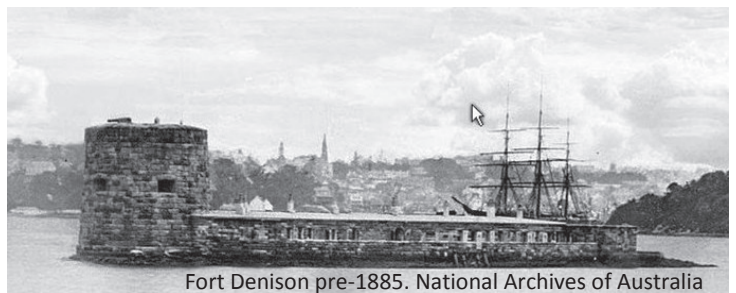
Defensive considerations would have been behind early settlements in other parts of Australia from the 1820s, the convict settlement of Moreton Bay in 1824 and the military outpost of Frederickstown, Albany W.A.) the latter to forestall possible French interest in the area.

In 1854 Britain and France, now allies in support of the Ottoman Empire but really protecting their Mediterranean zone of influence, were at war in the Crimea with expansionist Czarist Russia. Besides the immortalised success/disaster of the 'Charge of the Light Brigade' at Balaclava, there were successes too at Inkermann and the siege & fall of Sevastopol, all at great loss of life on both sides..

We rarely hear of the blundered failed naval and land attack on the fort and naval facilities and shipping at the far eastern Russian port of Petropavlovsk in 1854. The local Russians of Petropavlovsk are very proud that their significantly outnumbered soldiers repulsed the allies, inflicting considerable casualties. The event is commemorated in their local museum with a large panoramic depiction of the battle scene.

Perhaps a fear of a retaliatory Russian naval attack on Sydney or maybe that Sydney and Melbourne were the new El Dorados of the world may have attended **Sir William Denison's** appointment as the Governor of NSW, transferring in 1855 from the position of Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's land. Trained as a military engineer, he oversaw much effort to improve the defences including the completion in November 1857 of the much languished Fort Pinchgut, afterwards to be known as Fort Denison, built originally on an island opposite Sydney Cove. Construction had begun back in 1841 perhaps prompted by the 1839 arrival in the early morning, unannounced, of a squadron of six vessels - two of them being sloops-of-war which had quietly anchored in Sydney Harbour. This was the United States Naval Expedition, under the command of Captain Wilkes, for a voyage of discovery in the South Seas.

The fort comprises a Martello Tower and within the tower are a number of spaced embrasure openings from which three can-



Fort Denison pre-1885. National Archives of Australia

non could fire. The arrangement must have been quite dangerous with the recoil of the cannon and deafening for the gunners in a closed environment. It has been suggested the concept was an offensive failure with ships passing by before the cannon could respond. The tower had quarters for a garrison of twenty-four soldiers and one officer.

Fort Denison's armament included besides the three cannon in the tower, two 10-inch guns, one on a 360-degree traverse on the top of the tower and one in a bastion at the other end of the island, and twelve 32-pounder cannons in a battery between the base of the tower and the flanking bastion.

First Fleet Convict - ROBERT ABEL - *Alexander*

The story of Robert Abel provides an interesting insight into the British court system in so far as he was sentenced to transportation for seven years but was not convicted of any crime.

At his Old Bailey Trial in Sept 1784 '**Robert Abel** and William **Rellions** were indicted for feloniously assaulting **William Rough**, on the King's Highway, on the 4th day of July last, and putting him in fear and danger of his life, and feloniously taking from his person and against his will, 5s. in monies numbered, and two copper half pence, value 1d. his monies.'



Rellions was apprehended the following Wednesday but Abel was not arrested until about six weeks later. Nonetheless, Rough testified they were the two men who had robbed him. While Rellions confessed that 'I am the lad that did the robbery', he exonerated Abel, claiming that Rough 'has sworn to this lad wrongfully'.

In his defence Abel testified 'I know no more of the robbery than the child unborn', but when asked if he had any friends to provide a character witness, he said 'I have nobody living but a brother, and he is just come home from sea'.



Although instructed by the Judge, **Baron Eyre**, to ignore Rellion's testimony as it could be accorded no validity in law, the jury convicted both defendants, and Eyre sentenced both to death.

Both Abel and Rellions were due to be executed on Wednesday 17 November 1784. Two days before, the Recorder of London, **James Adair**, requested a stay of execution as there appeared to be doubt as to Abel's guilt, as it 'depended wholly on the recollection of the prosecutor, Rough, at some distance of time, under circumstances not very favourable to recollection, and confirmed by no circumstances whatever on the trial'.

Midford Young, an undersheriff, reported that Rellions claimed **William Collop**, not Abel, had been concerned with him in the robbery, a fact confirmed by Collop.

After a strict enquiry, the Undersheriff, together with **Rever-**

end Villette, Ordinary of Newgate, confirmed that Rellions and Collop both stated that Abel was innocent, and that 'the prosecutor [Rough] was a common labourer, living in Gravel Lane, the known haunt of the lowest and worst of the people, swearing under the temptation of sharing a reward of £40 for each prisoner, whom he should be able to convict. The case as to Abel rests wholly on his evidence not confirmed by any circumstances whatsoever, swearing to a person, at the distance of 6 weeks whom he had never seen but once, in a sudden in the fields, at 10 o'clock at night [although it was a moonlit night] and when he admits that he was much stunned by the first blow he received from Rellions. He speaks also throughout his evidence, of the persons who robbed him as two men. Rellions and Collop were stout lads of about 20, but Abel is I[m] informed a boy of 17, very slight and low of stature.'

However, the Recorder considered Abel to be 'a bad boy', who had 'connected himself with thieves and pick pockets'. He therefore did 'not wish him to be turned loose upon the public', and suggested that transportation for 7 years would be the best course of action.

On 5 April 1785 Abel was sent to the *Ceres* hulk and later transferred to the *Censor* hulk where he remained until 6 January 1787 when he was transferred to the *Alexander* on which he travelled to Port Jackson.

At Port Jackson, in February 1788, he had fifteen and a half pounds of flour stolen from the hut he shared with **Michael Dennison** and **William Waterhouse**.

On 12 June, 1790 Abel received 200 lashes for stealing sugar from the transport ship *Lady Juliana*.

On 20 February 1794 Abel received a 30 acre land grant at Bulanamming, near Cook River, which he later sold to **Thomas Moore**.

In 1795 Abel left the Colony on the *Endeavour* bound for India. The ship sank off New Zealand. Abel was among those rescued and was taken to Norfolk Island in January 1796. He did not remain on the island and there are no further records of him.



#5129.1 Don Cornford.

References and Sources

Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.0, 11 March 2014), September 1784, trial of ROBERT ABEL WILLIAM RELLIONS (t17840915-18).

Convict Stockade <http://www.historyaustralia.org.au/twconvic/0002>

London Lives <http://www.londonlives.org/browse.jsp?div=t17840915-18&terms=Rellions#highlight>.

JAMES REILEY, NUMBER 192

No, this is not the membership of someone who joined the Fellowship on 'opening day' in 1968, but rather refers to the 192nd First Fleeter for whom a descendant has been found. Mollie Gillen gave us the bare bones (see adjoining panel) and we are hoping to not only introduce you to #8282 **Mervyn John Holmes -Holding**, but also to hear from Mervyn himself. We would like to know more of the story of his ancestors and how he discovered his connection back to James Reiley, marine.

REILEY, James (-1801)

James Reiley (Riley or Reilly), private marine 58th (Plymouth) Company, served at Port Jackson in 1788 in the company of Captain James Meredith (qv). On 4 March 1790 he was sent by Sirius to Norfolk Island, where at 4 February 1792 he was a settler at Creswell Bay on 45 acres. In October 1793 he was working 15 acres, with eight of the 14 ploughable acres cultivated. In June 1794 he was living with Mary Phillips (qv) and three children. He sold part of his land in September 1794 to D'Arcy Wentworth, and in January 1797 purchased 20 acres from John McCarty (qv) for £19. His holdings at the end of November 1794 by grant and lease were Lots No. 73 and 97.

'As Reilly, he died at Norfolk Island on 15 October 1801.

MORNING TEA AT THE HOUSE

Toward the end of each year the Director's look forward to meeting some of the new members at a special morning tea at First Fleet House.

The gathering planned for last November had to be delayed but it is good to report that President **Ian Palmer** and six other directors recently were able to enjoy morning tea with the visiting members on 29th March.

As they arrived, the members were shown over the house, both downstairs and upstairs, by their director guides and were able to appreciate the scope of what goes on to keep the Fellowship on an even keel!



Johan & Jane Van Woerkam, Kevin Tibbey, Directors Jon & Karys Fearon

Some expressed pleasant surprise at the size of the library and were able to delve into books which particularly interested them.. Everyone then gathered in a circle in the main room and Ian, putting on his formal hat, introduced himself and the directors in attendance. The particular roles of each of the latter were outlined.

A brief history of the house was given as well as an invitation to visit the house on days when it would be staffed - Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. As always, it was suggested that members planning a visit should ring and confirm beforehand.

Director **Robin Palmer** had provided a delicious morning tea for the multitude and there was plenty of time to meet, share stories and interact informally. Especially welcome was a couple from Western Australia who just happened to be visiting First Fleet House at the right time.

For those of you who live reasonably close to Sydney and who have joined in the past year, you have not missed out on an invitation. The Board hopes to catch up with everyone new towards the end of 2014.

ARTHUR PHILLIP'S COAT OF ARMS

Looking back at our general ancestral connections it is easy to see that not many of those who arrived on the First Fleet would have been able to claim family ownership of heraldic arms, let alone use them in the new colony.

The life experiences of those living at or below the poverty line in the growing towns of eighteenth century Britain would have been far removed from those who could trace their lineage back to class and privilege.

One such exception, however, was the Governor himself who used a seal of his personal arms in the administration of the early settlement from 1788 to 1792.

Pictured here is part of the hall window at Government House Sydney, the implication being that what are depicted in the window are the arms that Phillip actually used.

This is not so according to **Richard d'Apice AM** the President of the Australian Heraldry Society, who in a forthcoming public lecture entitled *The Elusive Arms of Arthur Phillip, First Governor of New South Wales* will share his research and reveal the design which Phillip was most likely to have used.

Richard has had a long-serving interest in heraldic history and design, having carried out extensive research into the arms used by several state Governors. He has also assisted several Catholic bishops in this country with the design of arms for themselves.

The lecture, the entry to which is by gold coin donation, is to be held on **Saturday 14 June 2014** in the Carmichael Room on Level 1 at the **Sydney Mechanics School of Arts**, 280 Pitt St, starting at 10.20 am. The doors will open at 09.50 when refreshments will be served.

The Society requests an RSVP by Monday 9 June. As you are reading this, the deadline may have passed, but try anyway.

The contact for bookings and inquiries is the Hon Secretary, Stephen Szabo by telephone call or text message on 0431 701 055, by post at the Australian Heraldry Society, PO Box 107, LAWSON NSW 2783, or secretary@heraldryaustralia.org by email.



WHERE IS THIS? NUMBER 7 IN AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

Here is another interesting challenge for you. This plaque is **not** in Australia. For those who know where it is we would like you to be specific as to its location. Even better, if you have been there and seen it yourself send us a little story of the day you saw it. The results of puzzle number 6 may be found on Page 12 in **At the Helm**.

IN HONOUR OF
CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP R.N.
A FORMER RESIDENT OF LYNDHURST
AND SOMETIME FARMER OF GLASSHAYES
COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENARY
OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS
FIRST GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ON
12th OCTOBER, 1786

AND IN MEMORY OF

HENRY EDWARD DODD

A RESPECTED SERVANT OF PHILLIP, WHO HAD WORKED ON THE
LYNDHURST FARMS AND ACCOMPANIED PHILLIP WITH THE FIRST FLEET
TO BOTANY BAY. HE BECAME THE FIRST AGRICULTURIST IN THE
INFANT COLONY AND DIED AT PARRAMATTA, NEW SOUTH WALES
29th JANUARY, 1791



ANDREW FISHBURN - CARPENTER MARINE

The First Fleeter **Andrew Fishburn** arrived in Australia in 1788 and died aged 36 in 1796, which means he was only in the colony for eight years, so this report is extended to include the next generation. It covers Andrew's life pre 1788 (although knowledge is rather limited), his voyage and arrival, his Norfolk experience and the brief period after Norfolk Island. Andrew's wife Sarah Donnelley's story is included as is that of their son, **William Henry Fishburn**.

Andrew was born on 24th August, 1760 in Whitby, North Yorkshire, England. The Fishburns were an important part of that seafaring community. The family of Fishburn was mentioned in Captain **James Cook's** story written by Richard Hough. Cook had sailed a ship built by the Fishburns around the world – *Endeavour* (formerly *Earl of Pembroke*). Because Cook was impressed by the quality of *Endeavour*, when he needed boats for a second voyage, he requested the Fishburns design and build two more ships for the journey.

The Fishburns also built the storeship *Fishburn* which was part of the First Fleet.

Whitby Harbour



Apart from his name there is as yet no proved familial link between Andrew and the Fishburn shipbuilders of Whitby. However the research continues.

Andrew was a Private in the 35th Portsmouth Company before 1788 and was one of 212 marines who departed England on 13th May, 1787. There were only 7 carpenters on the First Fleet. Andrew was listed as an ordinary carpenter. This description was complimentary when compared to the description of others as 'indifferent carpenters' or worse still as 'tolerable sawyer'.

Some cited records indicate that Andrew may have begun the journey aboard the *Friendship*, carrying 76 male and 221 female convicts. When the fleet arrived at Cape Town there were two problems confronting it (apart from the weather). The flagship, *Sirius*, was needing some repairwork, and as this was the last port of call on the journey to Australia, stores and livestock needed to be obtained and housed in pens especially constructed on some vessels for the animals taken on board. It is believed that Andrew was working with the other carpenters to complete these tasks.

David Hill in his book *1788* states that Captain Phillip was given permission, before leaving England, to split the fleet if necessary. One week after leaving Cape Town Phillip decided to allow the faster ships to go ahead in order to prepare the colony for the arrival of the remainder of the fleet and find the best place to land. **Captain Arthur Phillip** transferred to *Supply*, and along with the faster ships *Friendship*, *Alexander* and *Scar-*

borough went ahead taking with them the carpenters and convicts with carpentry or gardening skills. Things did not go to plan and the trio only arrived the day before the main fleet. Andrew Fishburn was on *Alexander* on arrival at Botany Bay.

At the new colony being established at Sydney Cove Andrew worked on a barracks for one of the crew and when that was completed he used his skills on the Commanding Officer's home and the marine barracks. He was attached to the Company of **John Shea** at Port Jackson and from September 1788 to the end of 1789 he received extra pay for his work as a carpenter.

When supplies were running dangerously low in Sydney, Governor Phillip dispatched more convict settlers on the *Sirius* and *Supply* to the already established settlement under **Major Ross** on Norfolk Island together with a sufficient number of marines for guard duty there. So on 4th March, 1790 Andrew, as part of this contingent, arrived on Norfolk Island. Although disaster struck and *Sirius* was lost on the reef trying for landfall in bad weather there was no loss of life, and most of the livestock and stores were delivered ashore intact.

The settlers on the Island had been able to produce some food, but stores often needed to be sent from Sydney to complement their diet. Strict rationing was enforced on both marines and convicts. The marines were particularly disgruntled as not only were they reduced to three quarters of what they had previously received but they alleged the convicts were better off than they were. The convicts grew vegetables and the marines had to buy them and pay for them with flour.

On 9th April, 1791 Andrew was mentioned by Major Ross in a daily report to Governor Phillip as having taken part in a raid on a store where flour was taken. Second Lieutenant **Ralph Clark** was Quartermaster General and Keeper of Public Stores on Norfolk Island at the time. He had become known as an intolerant character, delighting in meting out harsh punishment on the Island. Clark wanted to hang the culprits, naming Andrew as a ringleader, but fortunately did not have the authority to do so. He was not happy when Major Ross was 'lenient' with the officers.

Andrew Fishburn left Norfolk Island for Port Jackson on 23rd April, 1791, and upon arrival worked as a carpenter on the ship *Gorgon*. In 1791 the marines company as such was disbanded and a new company was raised to add to the New South Wales Corps. Andrew offered himself, and in 1792 became a private in Captain Shea's Company – The Marine Garrison for the New South Wales Settlement.

Andrew and **Sarah Donnelly** were married at St. Phillip's Church of England, York St., Sydney on 24th May, 1794, with **Rev Samuel Marsden** officiating. Six months after their marriage, Andrew was allocated a land grant by **Francis Grose**, Lieutenant Governor. It reads: 'to Andrew Fishburn, his heirs and assigns, 25 acres, to be known as *'Fishburn Hill'* in the district of Petersham Hill. This was later named Liberty Plains and then became Croydon. The grant is situated on Parramatta Road, Burwood and is marked on the Concord Parish map in the name of Brackering.



The grant mentioned 'rent one shilling a year, commencing after five years'. Another NSW Corps member, **Joseph Eades** also received 25 acres at Petersham Hill and this was adjacent to Andrew's lot. These two grants were sold to **James Bloodworth** prior to a conveyance being made by them. Both Eades and Andrew died

intestate and insolvent.

An indenture dated 16th May, 1810 between James John Grant and James Wilshire says Andrew Fishburn and James Eades both sold their grants of 25 acres to James Bloodworth. Bloodworth had since died and had made **Sarah Bellamy** sole administrator. She produced the papers for the two grants and by court order disposed of them to liquidate the debts to Bloodworth. The properties (the farms of James Grant and James Wilshire) were sold together for 50 pounds.

Andrew died at Parramatta on Saturday 23rd July, 1796 aged 36. He was buried two days later at St. John's, Parramatta, but his grave is unmarked.

As mentioned, Andrew married Sarah Donnelly in 1794. She was also known as Sarah Williams as she had come to Australia as a convict, single and pregnant. A daughter **Ann** was born on 21st December, 1791 in Sydney. The father was named as **Alexander Williams**, although nothing is known of him. In 1792 she changed her name to Williams.

Sarah and Andrew had two children, **Andrew Fishburn** born in 1793 and **William** born on 28th July, 1795. Ann was also living with them. Family members have been unable to find out what happened to Andrew.

Sarah Donnelly was born at Gosport about 1765. Her trial was held on 18th May, 1789 at Winchester, Bridewell, England. She was found guilty of stealing three pieces of ribbon from the shop of Ann Everett and Rebecca Grant, and was sentenced to 7 years transportation to NSW.

With Andrew's death, Sarah was a widow with two, possibly three, children to care for, four year old Ann, one year old William and possibly Andrew junior. Sarah met **George Melon** (Mellin/Millen) and had the first of their five children on 17th September, 1797. They eventually married on 25th May, 1810.

Later in her life, in 1830, Sarah had an unfortunate experience. While acting as midwife to a **Mrs Slaney**, the baby died, and Sarah was indicted for the slaying of a male child at Windsor on 26th September. She was found not guilty and discharged by proclamation after a caution by the Judge in all future cases.

Sarah died on 15th August 1849 reputedly at the age of 90. In reality, she may have been closer to 85.

William Henry Fishburn, the younger son of Andrew and Sarah was baptised at St. Phillip's Church of England on 6th August, 1795. He was their only known child to survive to adulthood and was one of the colony's original Currency lads. It appears William spent his childhood around Parramatta and Windsor with his mother, elder half sister Ann (who was now known as Ann Fishburn) and his younger half siblings – George,

Mary, Sarah and Edward Millin.

According to the 1810 Muster, William was by now apprenticed to a big landholder, **G. J. Palmer**, at Windsor. He was still employed by Palmer in 1814 when the Muster of that year showed a young convict girl, **Mary Harlow**, as being a servant at the same establishment. Mary Harlow gave birth to a daughter, also called Mary, on 21st September, 1815 and when the child was baptised at Windsor, William Fishburn was named as the father. Mary Harlow married a **Joseph Huff** six months later but the record of the baby's death has not survived.

Rev. Samuel Marsden had married William's parents, and he also married William and **Catherine Ash** on 8th July, 1816 at St. John's Church of England, Parramatta. William and Catherine spent the early part of their marriage at Windsor where the first two children were born. They had thirteen children in all, the eldest being **Elizabeth Fishburn**, the ancestor of the contributor of this story

Sixty acres of land were granted to William on 13th January, 1818 at Castle Hill by Governor **Lachlan Macquarie**. The area is located west of the Old Northern Road, where Fishburn Crescent and Parsonage Road are located today. It appears they did not reside at the farm until the birth of their third child, **Eleanor Fishburn**, in 1820.

On 3rd September, 1821, a letter was sent from the Court magistracy at Parramatta by **Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur**, a nephew of the wool producer John Macarthur, to the Colonial Secretary, Frederick Goulburn recommending: 'William Fishburn, a free man and landholder at Castle Hill to act as Constable for the District of Castle Hill and Pennant Hills in lieu of John Rogan – dismissed from that situation for drunken conduct and neglect of duty'. The recommendation was accepted and five days later the appointment was confirmed in the Sydney Gazette. The previous constable, **John Rogan**, was the father of Jane who was to later marry William and Catherine's eldest son, William. The appointment lasted five years.

According to the first census taken in NSW in November, 1828 William was then aged 33, born in the colony, living at Baulkham Hills and was a publican. His family was listed as Catherine, 32 years old, and eight children. Five more were born before Catherine died in 1839. Four years after Catherine's death, William (with eight unmarried children) married **Elizabeth Bean** (nee Bradley), the widow of William Bean. Elizabeth also had eight children. The Beans, Bradleys and Fishburns had been neighbours for many years.

After 27 years of marriage to William, Elizabeth died on 20th October, 1870 and was buried at St. Paul's Church of England, opposite their Castle Hill farm. She was 74. William died 18 months later after suffering a heart attack. He was buried next to Elizabeth. He left 10 children and 73 grandchildren.

Contributor:
#7407 **Margaret Morrelli**



REVISITING JOSEPH WRIGHT.

- a descendant's continuing search for understanding.

My fourth great grandfather, **Joseph Wright**, ex *Scarborough*, 1788, was emancipated in 1794 as one of the first settlers of the Mulgrave Place District in NSW where he was granted 30 acres on the Hawkesbury. Until now what was known of him has been gleaned from official records or extrapolated from general history.

From official records, Wright was tried at the Old Bailey as a 16 year old thief in 1784; imprisoned on the Hulk, *Censor*; transported to Botany Bay; married **Eleanor Gott** ex *Neptune* in 1790; and was eventually sent to Mulgrave Place with others to farm.

Official records place Joseph Wright in an historical context; they do not reveal the real person.

In this latter respect we may owe much to Jan Barkley-Jack's 2009 publication, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*. This work is a time capsule of the circumstances of the first ten years of Wright's freedom. By either personal mention or by association, we can now understand more about him and those of the other settlers of Mulgrave Place.

Traditionally, as Barkley-Jack reminds us, these settlers had an image of being ordinary and poor ex-convicts, "lazy, lawless drunken and in debt". Barkley-Jack reveals the "myth, and cultural bias" of this image.

What follows is a brief selection from Barkley-Jack's detailed analysis relating to this image.

1. Laziness. Barkley-Jack finds that many of the ex convicts farmed their land to the extent of three to five acres and more. Some did waste the opportunity, but what stands out was their wide general success as farmers. Others managed their own and other farms or were involved with boatbuilding. pp214-15 There is plenty of evidence of small settler activity. p265

2. Lawlessness. Barkley-Jack finds that there was a conflict of cultures in the river territory but this did not constitute lawlessness or crime. p324. There were some reports of crime from which other writers drew implications but Barkley-Jack finds no continuous frenzy of lawlessness by the Hawkesbury settlers up to the beginning of 1803. p326 Indeed, lawlessness like drunkenness, gaming and property disputes in the Hawkesbury are not distinguishable from other areas of the colony. p373.

3. Idleness and Drunkenness. Barkley-Jack reveals that the Hawkesbury settlement's harvest results went far beyond what would be forthcoming if vigour was lacking and that if behaviour across the board was linked with laxity and drinking. p175. She rejects that methods of farming were slovenly, p176 and says that what really stands out is the wide general success of the farmers at Mulgrave Place. p215

4. Debt. Barkley-Jack finds that debt levels were high among the ex-convicts but that this was not due to laziness or drunkenness alone. p265. She finds that they faced problems not of their own making such as inflated prices, fraud, and storage of grain, cartage expenses and recurrent flood damage in spite of years of hard work. p266

son? I think it can.

Joseph Wright's life in the settlement reflected the intentions of **Arthur Phillip's** policy toward convict marriages. To Phillip, marriage produced a sense of responsibility in the convicts toward care for self and for family. Joseph Wright and Eleanor Gott embraced that sense of family care to make life easier for their children than it had been for them. They were caring, loving family people.

This involved taking up 30 acres of land at the margin of the Sydney settlement and the associated challenges of walking overland from Sydney to Mulgrave Place carrying their belongings with them and with Eleanor being pregnant at the time; clearing land when they got there; establishing a home; and the effects of periodic flooding on their farming. They were hard working resilient people, law abiding albeit tainted by the convict stigma.

As Barkley-Jack says, "Aspects of Hawkesbury settlers' lives show that, despite some insufficiencies, there was a genuine attempt by most settlers and their families to cultivate their land, to raise a modest amount of stock and make a reasonable life for their children. Caring relationships, varied roles and responsibilities were relished by many at the early Hawkesbury."

p426. They reached a measure of being self supporting. p426. They were not depraved male dominated convicts. p427. The role of women extended beyond domesticity. p427

Given the circumstances, the personal risks and the ongoing confrontation of problems beyond their control, and debt and loss of property, it's little wonder they might have had 'a drink' sometimes. But to be continuously drunken, lazy and crude is a traditional stereotype that Barkley-Jack finds little evidence to support. She reveals that, "In spite of being poor, they did not have undesirable characteristics. Many of the convict men and women, who were early settlers of the Hawkesbury, had positive expectations and prospects, and used their economic business and managerial skills, along with their rights,

to supplement determined cultivation over many years. In face of hardship and setbacks they nurtured farming and fledgling communication networks that were essential to the entire colony's survival and ability to prosper." p430.

Jan Barkley-Jack presents an account of the ex-convicts who settled the river lands of the Hawkesbury in a way not presented previously. In this, she helps to reveal new personal images of many ancestors of current members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Certainly her work contains a perspective from which I gain a better understanding of my fourth great grandparents, Joseph and Eleanor Wright.

*All page references are from: Barkley-Jack, Jan. **Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed**- a new look at Australia's third mainland settlement 1793-1802. Rosenberg. Dural. 2009.*

Families associated with Mulgrave Place are listed and mapped on pp56 -57. The book is a must read for descendants of these families, and of others interested in early European settlement in Australia.

Tony Negline #7326



Our Sixteen 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 Meeting: 19 July: AGM. **Next Event:** 21 June: Visit to Jindera Museum. **Contact:** Val Heel 03 57282613

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: 20 June: Don Davis, *Francis Greenway*; 18 July: AGM. *No speaker*; 15 August: Instead of meeting, special Arthur Phillip Bicentenary Luncheon at the Roseville Club. **Events:** 10 June: Tour of Sydney Hospital Museum. 19 July: Sydney Commemorative event, Matthew Flinders, details in this issue, q.v. **Contact:** Joy Zamiatin, 9451 8665

CANBERRA – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations to be advised. **Next Meeting:** Saturday 26 July (AGM) at Unit 106, 15 Coranderrk St.

Canberra City. **Next Event:** Saturday 23 August: Annual Lunch 12 midday **Contact:** Geoff Cameron 6251 4095

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

Venue: Wyong RSL Club, Anzac Ave and Margaret St, Wyong - monthly meetings, second Saturday at 10am for 10.45.

Next Meeting: 14 June (8th Birthday): Barbara Scott, *TA Scott and Family*. 12 July (AGM) : Lyn Fergusson, *Governor FitzRoy*; 9 August: Members, *Family Wills*. **Next Event:** TBA, **Contact:** Jon Fearon 4323 1849

DERWENT – *Southern Tasmania*

Venue: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings** 7 June: Alison Alexander, *Norfolk Islanders in Tasmania*. 2 August : AGM and short FF presentation. **Next Event:** . **Contact:** Cecily Dougan 03 6231 1256

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: 7 June: Rob Shipton, *History of Clocks*. 5 July: Peter Mitchell, *Bennelong and James Squire*; 2 August: Yvonne Stewart, *Benevolent Asylum First Fleeters*. **Contact:** Robin Palmer 9871 4102

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

Venue: Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall, 153A Brunner Road, Adamstown - bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am – 12.30pm. **Next Meetings:** 16 June: Terry St George, *History of Sandgate Cemetery*; 11 August: AGM and Soup and Damper Day, Ian Palmer: *FF John Palmer*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Raymond Green 4964 1328

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

Venue: Kinross Wolaroi School Library, Orange - **Next (Quarterly) Meeting:** 17 August: AGM. **Contact:** Judy Dwyer 6365 8234 or 0428 173 213 or dyr.tara@bigpond.com

MORETON – *South East Queensland.*

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton - bi-monthly meetings, on an available Saturday. **Next Meeting:** 7 June: Dr Marion Diamond, *Author and early colonial historian*; 9 August: AGM, George Dean, *Argyrotecologist-Collector of Australiana, old money boxes, numismatica*. **Next Event:** 12 July: Inspection of Fort Lytton and picnic lunch. **Contact:** Don Cornford 04 5746 6020

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

Venue: Various locations - five times per year, **Next Meeting:** at Anglican Parish Centre, Armidale. 2 August: 12 noon, AGM and *special activity*, **Events:** . **Contact:** Wal Whalley 6772 3499

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

Venue: Often Mylestom Hall, Bi-monthly meetings, first Sunday at 11.30am. **Next Meetings:** 1 June, at Mylestom Hall *Speaker: TBA*; 3 August, AGM, at 21 Queen St Woolgoolga. **Next Event:** .**Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 6653 3615

NORTHERN RIVERS – *Lismore and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am; **Next Meeting:** 27 July, AGM and Barbecue at 32 Bottlebrush Crescent, Evans Head, followed by visit to Evans Head Air Museum. **Contact:** Margaret Soward 6686 3597

NORTH WEST – *Tamworth and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm at Tamworth Croquet Club. **Next Meeting:** 7 June: Members: *Bring facts on Arthur Phillip*; 9 August: AGM. **Contact:** Barbara Hodgson 6766 5355

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:** 3 June: Ron Withington, *Dispatched Downunder*. 1 July: AGM; 3 August: Winter Warm Day and 13th Birthday. **Events:** **Contact:** Dorothy Conkey 4261 2337

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

Venue: Mittagong Community Centre - bi-monthly - second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meetings:** 11 June: Lyn Fergusson: *Admiral Arthur Phillip, the Man*; 13 August: AGM and *Members Show and Share Day*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Neville Usher 4869 1406

SWAN RIVER – *Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.*

Next Meeting: 9 August: AGM, 2 pm at 14 Outram Street, West Perth. **Next event:** **Contact:** Jodi Gratton 08 9384 5944

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison officer

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

ANN FORBES/WILLIAM DRING

#8346 Samuel William Hurren

WILLIAM DOUGLAS/MARY GROVES

#8347 Alan Stephen Hitchens

ROBERT FORRESTER

#8349 Cheryl Anne Turner

ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY

#8350 John Anthony Bordiss

JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER

#8351 John Alfred Small

THOMAS ACRES

#8352 James William Woodhouse

#8354 Michael James Woodhouse

#8355 Luke Michael Woodhouse

#8353 Kerry L Zouroudis

NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE

#8356 Paul Anthony Rowland

JAMES SHIERS

#8357 Arnold Henry Keating

WILLIAM BROUGHTON

#8358 Eleanor Amanda McCarthy

Junior Member

THOMAS LUCAS

#8348 Calum Fergus Williams-Rex

Student Members

WILLIAM BROUGHTON

#8359 Alice Catherine McCarthy

#8360 Finbar Robert McCarthy

HENRY HACKING

#8361 Anne Christine Coleman

ANN MARTIN

#8362 Douglas Ronald Upton

JOHN & HANNAH BARRISFORD

#8363 Kenneth Henry Simpson

Associates

#8346.1 Mary Therese Hurren

#8352.1 Robyn Woodhouse

#8076.1 Graeme Woodlands

#8361.1 Stuart Coleman

Additional First Fleeter

JOHN RANDALL

#8076 Mary Ann Woodlands

Friends

Friend141 Ian Stevens

BIRTHS

JAMES WRIGHT

Alexander Joseph Robinson-Dwyer born 16.10.2013, to Jennifer and Daniel Robinson Dwyer in Sydney. 7th generation and third grandchild for #6079 Patricia Robinson of Bowral and Southern Highlands Chapter.

DEATHS

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES

#7304 Aileen Willis, wife of John and member of South Coast Chapter passed away in March 2014

ANN FORBES

#3965 Sylvia Mary Yabsley, mother of #6895 Judy-Ann Yabsley, and long-time member of the Fellowship, and mother of #6895 Judy-Ann Yabsley, died 29.07.2013, aged 86.

WILLIAM BROUGHTON/WILLIAM BOGGIS

#3995 George Richard Garland Johnson, the last ex-POW in the Bathurst District, died on 13.09.2012, aged 93. He was buried in the Holy Trinity lawn cemetery at Kelso where he was a voluntary groundsman for many years.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS/MARY ANNE GROVES

#5374 George Roderick (Rod) Cooper McLeod AM, died 24.04.2014, aged 81, Late of Hamilton, Qld.

Founding member of Moreton Chapter.

JOSEPH HATTON/ANN COLPITTS

#13 Joan Ross, died 16.05.2014, aged 86, Late of West Ryde. Founding member of the Fellowship, formerly Executive Secretary and Editor, Life member since 1989, Instigator of memorial plaques at St Anne's Ryde for Joseph Hatton (2008) and Ann Colpitts (2014).

PLAQUE DEDICATION

We have some exciting news to share this month and are happy to announce the forthcoming dedication of another Fellowship plaque at St Anne's Anglican Church at Ryde in Sydney.

The First Fleeter to be honoured is **Ann Colpitts** who arrived on the *Lady Penrhyn* and became the wife of **FF Joseph Hatton**. On 14 September 2008 the family was able to install its own plaque for Joseph and the Fellowship added the customary memorial.

Now it is Ann's turn and through the combined family efforts spearheaded by **#13 Joan Ross** and her great nephew **#8082 David McGrath** the dedication will take place on Sunday 15 June 2014.

The Fellowship's most recent dedications were two years ago, in 2012, so members may like to support the Colpitts descendants by joining them and the Directors on the day. The service starts in the church at 12.15 pm.

A rather poignant note which will colour the occasion is the fact that Joan Ross, the prime mover of fund-raising and planning has died just four weeks before the ceremony itself.



Since no one provided a solution to Where Is It, No 6, it seems the whole Fellowship must have learnt something new. The most northerly point Arthur Phillip and crew visited in 1788 was on a reach of Brisbane Water, east of Gosford. The plaque may be found at the western end of Orana St, Green Point and was installed in 1988.

As yet no further claimants have emerged to challenge as the oldest tenth generation descendant of a First Fleeter. Incidentally, *Founders* counts the children of the First Fleeter as the first generation, a practice generally agreed on by genealogists.

Speaking of age, we wonder again how many of our current membership have reached their centenaries. Life member **#148, Mary Bailey** (FF William Broughton), who remains an annual donor for the upkeep of First Fleet House, reaches 101 in July.

Founders has had news of First Fleet themes moving beyond history books and into the Arts. Umina Public School, NSW, late last year performed *The First Fleet, the Musical* - a rollicking tale of adventure on the high seas. Written by Jeff Bonnor, a teacher at the school, the show was presented to mark the 225th anniversary of the Fleet's arrival.

And on the big stage, from June to September 2014, Bangarra Dance Theatre will be presenting *Patyegarang*, a study through creative dance of the relationship between Lieutenant **William Dawes** and his aboriginal language helper and friend Patyegarang. Performances will take in five state capitals but will miss Adelaide and Hobart.

Our Plaques Director, Ray Keating, has advised members of a recent update on the website. Several plaques have been photographed and appear on our site, with more to be added in the coming months. The website also features improvements in other sections, too. Take a look.

VALUED DONORS TO THE WORK OF FIRST FLEET HOUSE

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