Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Inc.

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1788 AD

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

PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO

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# CELEBRATING TEN YEARS-WITH PANACHE

The Nattai and Joadja Rooms formed an intimate yet ideal setting for members of the Southern Highlands Chapter to celebrate their tenth anniversary at the Mittagong RSL on 10th December, 2014.

Seven large round tables, each seating eight were gently decorated as befitted the occasion and each named after one of the ships that brought our ancestors to these shores. As is often the case on such occasions, the link between descendants and their ship couldn't be maintained in the seating arrangements. Scarborough dominated as ever, while other ships only had one or two representatives.

Secretary Wendy Selman and her committee are to be congratulated on their months of organisation for the lunch itself and the illustrated programme, personalised for each attendee, was a delight to see and a worthy memento of the occasion. Not only did it list the menu and order of proceedings, it was also a potted chronicle of the chapter's first ten years, that time.

Neville Usher, as Master of Ceremonies, began the proceedings with a welcome to all and an acknowledgement that the celebration lunch was being held in the country of the Gandangara people. A hearty singing of the national anthem, accompanied on the piano by Peter Cook, was followed by Richard Cormick's giving thanks for the meal. In so doing, he thanked the Lord for and honoured our ancestors who brought to this country the blessings of a Christian heritage.

The immediate past President of the chapter, Pat Robertson, led the royal toast and M C Neville followed with the toast to our ancestors. Before calling on all to charge their glasses, he mentioned each ship of

the fleet, in turn asking guests to stand when the roll was called with their ancestor's name. Although not all were able to be present, the chapter database has 110 households and connects to 72 First Fleeters.

Chapter President, Pam Cormick, was then called on to wellavishly illustrated with highlights gathered and archived over come the officially invited guests—Fellowship President lan Palmer and his wife, fellow director Robin, former (to Page 3)



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NEW SERIES on Francis Grose. Page 4

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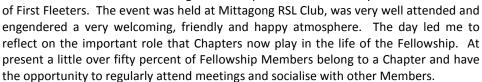
# PRESIDENT'S PEN



Ian Palmer

I trust that all Members have had an enjoyable, safe and healthy break over the Festive Season.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 Robin and I had the privilege and honour of attending a luncheon to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Southern Highlands Chapter of the Fellowship



Your Directors are always looking for opportunities to increase the number of Chapters within the Fellowship and are at present supporting an initiative to establish a Chapter in the Western Suburbs of Sydney. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to the Membership who live in the targeted area.

### **EDITORIAL**

Here we are at the start of another year of Fellowship activities, and as this issue goes to press our country will be celebrating another Australia Day. Founders doesn't know whether you heeded the Australia Day Council's call and stood up and sang the national anthem at midday. You may even have cooked damper and served it with billy tea to your friends and neighbors. We leave you with **two poems** below to suit the occasion.

In this issue we join with Southern Highlands Chapter to celebrate their 10th birthday, discover a grave with Sandra and Robert Crofts, venture into two botanic gardens and go back into history to meet Francis Grose and Joshua Peck and look at a view of Sydney you may not have seen before.

We also draw your attention to and call for your input on our forthcoming focus on the exploits of service personnel descended from our First Fleeters. And for those who live in western Sydney we believe you should mark May 9 in your calendars as the probable starting date for a chapter of your own.

### **OLD BOTANY BAY**

Mary Gilmore

I'm old Botany Bay; Stiff in the joints, Little to say.

I am he

Who paved the way, That you might walk At your ease today;

I was the conscript Sent to Hell To make in the desert The living well;

I bore the heat,
I blazed the track Furrowed and bloody
Upon my back.

I split the rock; I felled the tree; The nation was -Because of me!

Old Botany Bay
Taking the sun
From day to day . . ..
Shame on the mouth
That would deny
The knotted hands
That set us high!

### THE FIRST FLEET ARRIVES - 1788

Harry Knox 1987

The long weary voyage had ended at last
As each convict aboard could attest
For the anchors had plunged to the bed of the bay
While the worn sails were furled and at rest.

The living, the dying in the dark, fetid holds
Were still shackled, still caged and suppressed
For not many that voyage could boast a bare back
That the "cat-o-nine" had not caressed.

But healing and pain were a part of each day As were hunger and unending fears, While their sleep ever fostered the nightmarish dreams That give birth to those home-hungry tears.

The grey, shapely gums and the tall ironbarks

- They could see now that dawn had awoke -Had their own stately beauty but would not replace Their great love of the beechwood or oak.

For ties with their England were forgings of steel Only rich days of Future could break, And we now know how precious those early years were With the birth of our Nation at stake.

Our Heritage then is the fruit of those years For the roots had the strength to suffice To remind us the richness of Freedom we prize Was not won without great sacrifice.



(cont. from page 1) president John Haxton with his fiancée Fay Maloney and directors Jon and Karys Fearon representing Founders and Chapter Liaison. Karys was later called on to draw the lucky door and Christmas hamper prizes.

Before being called to give the occasional address, lan was invited to cut the anniversary cake—a deliciously rich chocolate mudcake that no doubt had all chocaholics present drooling at the thought that this would be the accompaniment to their post-prandial coffee and tea. The cake, iced in yellow, featured a cherry and strawberry motif and the letters FFF SHC 2004-2014.

In his role as guest speaker for the occasion, President Ian took his listeners back to the beginnings of the Fellowship in 1968 and the setting up of the Foundation membership of over 300 under the presiding of John Levett. Ian noted that at meetings that followed soon after, there were references to a Queensland Divisional Council. He said he hadn't been able to find that this group lasted as such for very long and it wasn't until 2009 that the links to Queensland were rekindled with the founding of Moreton Chapter.

In the early days, therefore, the Fellowship remained strongly Sydney based with activities such as picnics and lectures involving the membership in the NSW heartland. The need to spread further was seen from 1987 onward when, with the Bicentenary of the settlement at Sydney Cove fast approaching, chapters were set up in Canberra, Newcastle and in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

Southern Highlands chapter was the eighth to be established nationally and, as lan said, it was pleasing to see so many here at the lunch who have been active members since the beginning ten years ago. The sixteen chapters that are in action today nationwide, involve about 900 members—over half the current membership—and provide the strength of the Fellowship as they share knowledge and establish friendships.

lan's talk concluded with his passing congratulations and commendations to the whole Southern Highlands Chapter and its hard-working committee and wished all well for the next ten years. In his perceptive vote of thanks, committee man **Rod Davis** paid tribute to lan's presentation, mentioning as he did so that represented in the room as he spoke were members who had at one stage belonged to those three pioneering chapters.

The link with the past was well brought out, not just by Rod as he spoke, but also by the memories corner that Secretary Wendy had set up, featuring an album honouring the eight members of the chapter who had passed on to their

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

hern Highlar Chapter

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higher reward over the years. Even this week, members were saddened to lose member and fellow organiser of this anniversary lunch, Faye Smith whose many years service as attendance officer was much appreciated. All guests at the beginning of the celebration had been invited to honour Faye's passing with one minute's silence.

**PHOTOS**, Clockwise from left: Wendy & Colin Selman; Luncheon programme; Presidents present and past - Ian Palmer, Patricia Robinson, Pamela Cormick & John Haxton; Remembrance Corner showing Faye Smith.

# Tellowship First Fleeters Southern Highlands Chapter Founded 25th November, 2004 10th Anniversary Celebratory Luncheon Mittagong RSL Nattai & Joadja Rooms 12 Noon Wednesday 10th December, 2014 Jon & Karus Fearon

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

**Founders** 



# CHAPTER SECRETARIES

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EASTERN FARMS

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HUNTER VALLEY

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Judy Dwyer 02 6365 8234

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**NORTH COAST** 

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**NORTH WEST** 

Barbara Hodgson 02 6766 5355

**SOUTH COAST** 

Warwick Grace 02 4272 7013

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Wendy Selman 02 4862 4849

**SWAN RIVER** 

Jodi Gratton 08 9384 5944

# FRANCIS GROSE - SOLDIER & GOVERNOR

PART 1 in a new series of 5 by Stephen J Cunneen, BA (Hons) the Regiment's funds and there is conjecture that he was PhD (UNE), the full title of which is Francis Grose, Soldier, Com- obliged to take up drawing the Antiquaries of the United Kingmandant of NSW Corps, deputy-Governor and acting Governor dom to cover his indebtedness especially after 1782-3. He was a of NSW, military commandant at Wexford and Gibraltar.

Francis Grose was the Commandant of the NSW Corps and deputy Governor of the colony at Sydney Cove. He took over as acting Governor in late 1792 when Governor Phillip returned home for medical treatment. Phillip had intended to return but was obliged to resign his position once in England and Grose remained as acting governor until December 1794 when he too returned to England also for medical treatment.

In a series of five short essays I will briefly examine the life and times of Francis Grose and show how his style of leadership remained constant throughout his life and how it manifested itself in his various appointments.

Francis Grose's birth date is not known though recent research has disclosed that he was baptised at St Stephen's Catholic Chapel, Hackinton, Kent on 2 Jun 1756. His father was the celebrated English antiquarian, Captain Francis Grose (1731-1791) while his grandfather was Francis

Grosse (1693-1769), a Swiss jeweller. Grosse was said to have been brought to England to do restorative work on the Crown Jewels in the early eighteenth century and details of his life are

not well known. He was obviously a very astute investor and developed an extensive portfolio of real estate and investments as evidenced by his will. At his death in 1769 he left cottages four and four freehold messuages or houses and a wine vault at Canterbury, other property in Kent and Dorset as well as £11 830

in beguests to his wife and other family members. He had already paid off debts for his son

John to the value of £4 335 which indicates his shrewdness and perspicacity as an investor.

financier and did not inherit any of his father's fiscal attributes. His father gifted him the place of Richmond Herald in 1755 (valued at 800 guineas, a small fortune at that time and which he later sold for 600 guineas), but 'Captain' Grose was not interested in heraldry and in-

He was also an enthusiastic soldier in the Surrey Militia and became the adjutant and paymaster delighting in the sobriquet of 'Captain' Grose However he mismanaged

gregarious fellow who loved good company, traversed much of

England during his military life and antiquarian pursuits and was well known in literary circles, Robbie Burns being a friend. In 1791 whilst in Ireland, 'Captain'

> Grose died of a heart attack brought on, no doubt, by his ample girth sustained by an indulgent lifestyle.

Francis Grose III, the first born son of the 'Captain' and the subject of these notes, was educated in Croydon where the extended family resided and, given his family's position and wealth, probably a good education. He would not have accompanied his father on his travels and his choice of a military career was in all probability influenced by the 'Captain's enthusiasm for the Surrey Militia, though a military

career was considered a viable option for the eldest son of those times. His youngest brother, Onslow, joined the Royal Navy and he, too, had a successful career in that service, rising to the rank of post Captain, a very senior

Francis Grose (1758-1814), by unknown engraver, 1790s National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an9597965

position.

Francis Grose III embraced a military career in the regular army as opposed to his father's militia service and the young man

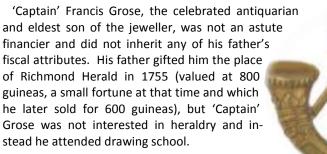
> ioined the 52<sup>nd</sup> regiment as an ensign on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1775. His joining may also have been influenced by the death of his mother in 1774 from which there may have been a financial settlement allowing him (or his father) to purchase his commission for about £450. The 52<sup>nd</sup> regiment had transferred from Canada to Boston in December 1774

St Stephen's, Hackington, Kent which was where Ensign Grose joined it, being

posted to the company commanded by Lt. Colonel Jones in the place of **Ensign Harrison** who had retired the previous day.

> Grose was trained by the regimental adjutant to understand the orders for marching, formation procedure, rifle drill and firing discipline on a parade ground, all of which activities were replicated on the battle field such that every soldier, NCO and officer could execute the manoeuvres without a second's hesitation. His training would have taken several months and thus he would have been ready for his first regimental engagement, the celebrated Battle of Bunker's Hill on 17 Jun 1775 at the commencement of the American War of

Independence. Stephen J. Cunneen BA (Hons) PhD (UNE)



## AN EARLY VIEW OF SYDNEY

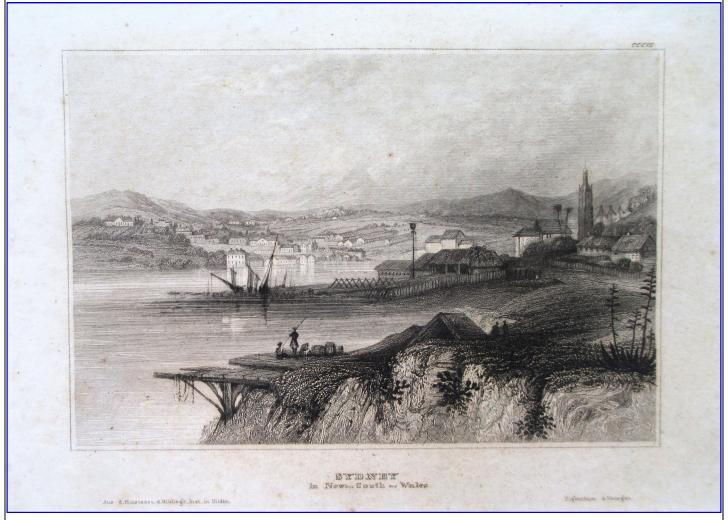
Had you been at school in the 1940s and 1950s you may remember the international penfriends clubs that were popular at an exquisite engraving of early nineteenth century Sydney, the time. We would submit our names, receive our allocated penfriend's address and with much optimism would send off our letters of introduction hoping for a speedy reply.

My successful link was to one, Günther, in Bochum, Germany. I am pleased to say that our friendship, via letter and two visits, remained between us for over thirty years, and until contact was lost due to career and address changes. To be shown around parts of Eastern Europe during that cold war era was a there it has sat for about thirty years. real privilege and a cultural eye-opener for this very Australian antipodean.

At one stage I received in the mail a special gift from Günther -(pictured below). What was its provenance, I wondered? Had he removed it from an encyclopaedia or perhaps bought it from an antiquarian bookseller?

He did not explain its background, but rather thought I, as a teacher of history, would like it as it pictured my home town, albeit belonging to a much earlier period in Sydney's history. Well, I put it aside along with other treasured collectibles and

Having in this last decade discovered my First Fleet connection



I recently found the print again and thought it might be worthpass my findings on to all.

Foundation (or Division) of the Bibliographic Institute, Hild- stitute GmbH. burghausen, a town in Thuringia. Property of the Publisher.

1826. In 1828 it moved to Hildburghausen where it remained until 1874. Meyer found considerable success as a publisher of educational materials, principally by the novel system of serial publication for a base of subscription customers.

the nineteenth century, including encyclopaedias, dictionaries, guide books and atlases. Meyer's Universum (1833-1864), for example, was a series of collected views of the world that eventually comprised 17 volumes published in 12 languages with about 80 000 subscribers across Europe.

In 1874 operations were moved to Leipzig where the facilities while investigating its origin. Of course in this internet era my were destroyed by allied bombing during World War II. The Insearch was quickly rewarded and in sharing it here in Founders I stitute split into two during the years of divided Germany (Mannheim and Leipzig) but since reunification has returned to Engravings in the series were published in Germany by the Art Leipzig. Since 2013 the company's name is Bibliographische In-

Our readers will have quickly realised that the above engraving The company had been founded by Joseph Meyer in Gotha in is a work of art and not of photography, but even so, given its age and fine line work, it provides an interesting insight into early Sydney.

Can anyone suggest, from the buildings and landscape here depicted, a possible date that the artist visited Sydney? As edi-The Institute published a number of popular titles throughout tor I would be pleased to have your thoughts, or, better still, an annotated line sketch to identify landmarks through historic and family connections. We would be happy to publish your suggestion in a future issue, and all the better if you can qualify them with the proven historicity for which our Fellowship is so well known. #7141 Jon Fearon

# GRAVE OF JAMES ARNDELL DISCOVERED

My husband Robert and I have been undertaking a self-funded project photographing and transcribing the headstones of the graves in St Thomas' Church Cemetery, Enfield, NSW, Australia. The methodology was to systematically photograph each grave in each row in the Cemetery in both digital and hard copy formats. Headstone information is transcribed on the back of the hard copy photograph and the digital photographs are filed both alphabetically and in chronological order based on their location in the Cemetery. The information on the headstones is confirmed using the list of burials contained in the appendix of the book 'A Matter of Grave Importance', (Sally Louisa Jackson, 1999) Additional information has been resourced through an internet search of the name on the headstone as well as the valuable online resources of the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; the Ryerson Index, Trove and the Australian Cemeteries Index.

St Thomas' Anglican Church, which is located on Coronation Parade Enfield, was built in 1848 by William Newland from funds donated by Thomas Hydnes, an emancipated convict who arrived in Sydney on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1803 on the *Glattan*. Once he had been given his pardon, Thomas had made his fortune as a timber merchant (Dunlop 1974; Jackson 1999). His wife Charlotte had arrived in Sydney on the same ship and had been sentenced to transportation for stealing among other items, handkerchiefs.

The architect for St Thomas' was John Frederick Hilly who was a prominent Sydney architect at the time, also being responsible for designing Carrara or Strickland House, Vaucluse. For Thomas Hyndes, Hilly designed a typical English church with stained glass windows, a gothic doorway, a Norman tower and a shingled spire (Dunlop 1974). The sandstone used to build the church was quarried from Thomas Hydnes quarry at Enfield (Jackson 1999).

The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Broughton on 1st February 1848 with the building being licensed for divine services

on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1849. The first burial was for Charlotte Hyndes who died in 1849 and is buried in the vault with her husband Thomas near the right hand side of the church. We recently came across a red sandstone headstone for James Arndell which stands almost five feet tall and is located at one of the rows on the left hand side of St Thomas' Church in section E Grave 30A. There is no formal outline of the grave as such, as the headstone stands upright (with a slight lean) over a plot of grass. Coincidentally James Arndell's grave is located near the vaults of both Thomas Hyndes who financed the building of St Thomas' Church and Richard Wynne who was the first mayor of Burwood and the benefactor of the Wynne

art prize for landscape. The inscription, badly weathered. Reads:

**SACRED** TO THE MEMORY OF JAMES ARNDELL ESQ. SECOND SON OF DR ARNDELL R.N. WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 1868 "GOD IS OUR HOPE AND STRENGTH

### A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE"

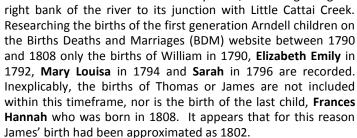
In locating information on Mr James Arndell we were surprised to learn that his father was Dr Thomas Arndell, who arrived in Australia in 1788 on the First Fleet. A very interesting story emerges which we admit has previously been well documented for Dr Arndell but not so for his son James. We would like to preface all the information on James Arndell's parentage on the assertion made by R.M Arndell, author of "Pioneers of Portland Head" (1984) that due to name changes and misspellings in the historical records, finding what is correct is a challenge.

Dr Thomas Arndell was born in 1752 in England. According to the website "Australian Royalty", Thomas Arndell's first marriage was to Susanna about 1772. Our research was unable to locate the surname of Susanna. It is debatable if Thomas actually married Susanna however it appears that Susanna bore seven children to Thomas, of whom John Arndell appears to be the only child to reach adulthood. John apparently died by drowning in Australia in 1805 aged 43 years (Arndell 1984). [Editor's note: In the full account of the life of Thomas Arndell as recorded on the Fellowship's website and in Dispatched Downunder the author Ron Withington indicates that there was no further record of John Arndell after his return to Sydney from Norfolk Island in 1796].

Dr Thomas Arndell's activities while in Sydney have been well documented and these include being appointed as superintendent of the tent hospital at Rose Hill (now known as Parramatta Hospital): a successful pastoralist: Justice of the Peace initially for Parramatta and then for the Territory; the first magistrate of the Hawkesbury and from 1804 to 1809 acting surgeon for the area. Dr Thomas Arndell began a relationship with Elizabeth Burleigh (Burley, Dunlop) who also arrived in Sydney on the first fleet as a convict on the Lady Penrhyn after stealing handkerchiefs.

James was the youngest son of Thomas Arndell and Elizabeth Burleigh and although the headstone states he was the second

> son our research suggests that this is not quite correct. Although they had children together, Dr Arndell and Elizabeth Burleigh were not officially married until 1806 or 1807 at St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor by Reverend Samuel Marsden. Dr Thomas Arndell and Elizabeth Burleigh's first child was a son, William who was born in 1790 and died 1792 when only 19 months old and was buried in St John's Cemetery Parramatta. After William, three daughters were born at Parramatta with two more sons being born at Caddai - Thomas in 1799 and James in 1802. Caddai was a grant of 600 acres, given to Dr Arndell, at the junction of Cattai Creek and the Hawkesbury River, extending along the



There appears to be very little about James' life in the records that we were able to access. On the 28th June 1820, James ap-



St Thomas's, Enfield

grant from Governor Lachlan Macquarie for 100 acres on the from Psalm 46, verse 1. Those who attended church services north bank of the Hunter River in Durham County. It appears have not been recorded apart from the incumbent ministers, that his grazing responsibilities were not too arduous as James was a frequent visitor to Tasmania prior to 1830 (Arndell 1984).

Older sister Elizabeth Emily had married James Gordon who was appointed Naval Officer at Hobart until 1815 and then managed his property Forcett at Sorrell, Tasmania. James Gordon is remembered for the suburb of Gordon in Sydney and the Gordon River in Tasmania. James' second sister Mary Louisa married

John Lakeland, a nephew of James Gordon and also settled in Tasmania (Arndell 1984). As reported in the Sydney Gazette (1823) Master James Arndell, with his mother Mrs Elizabeth Arndell and sisters Mrs Gordon and Miss Frances Arndell sailed to Hobart Town in December 1823. Arndell (1984) has suggested it was during this visit that James' younger sister Frances Hannah met her future husband Lieutenant William Gunn who settled in Tasmania with a grant of 400 acres at Sorrell.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1828, Governor Sir Ralph Darling gave James permission to graze cattle on 960 acres at the Junction of the Goulburn and Hunter Rivers. named this land Yarrawa. The website Free Settler or Felon (2015) has indicated that prior to James building his home which he named Woodlands in 1829, James lived with his older sister Sarah,

wife of Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld at Lake Macquarie. Later, Governor Bourke gave permission for James to graze his stock on the Upper Manilla River.

James married Mary Elizabeth Pike of Pickering on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1833. They had one child **Emily Elizabeth** who was born in 1834. She died in England having had no children. After 1833, James appears to have led a quiet life, being lost to the records

until his retirement. After 1862, James sold all his properties and retired to Burwood where he died, as indicated on his headstone, in 1868. I have been unable to locate where James lived while he was in Burwood or why he chose to move to a location distant from his family on his retirement. The reason for moving to Burwood does not appear to be close to his wife's relatives because after he died, his widow Mary Elizabeth moved to be closer to her relatives at Dunmore House at Woodville on the Paterson River, in the Hunter region.

In the "Harvest of the Years" (1974) the story of Burwood 1794-1974, Eric Dunlop has suggested

that the area in the 1860s was known for the country estates of "gentlemen settlers" including Anthony Hordern who resided at Shubra Hall. Another possible reason for James' choice in retirement location could be the easy access to the city with one of the few railway stations on the new railway line from Sydney to Parramatta being at Burwood. There is also the possibility that James chose to relocate to Burwood due to his friendship or business associations with one or more of the gentlemen who had built their country estates in Burwood at that time.

James and his wife may have worshipped at St Thomas', while

(cont. Page 6) lied for and was successful in receiving a land he was a resident of Burwood, as the quote on his headstone is church wardens and those who fought in WWI and/or WWII.

> There is no indication if James' death was by accident or illness. A search on the BDM website has James' father being incorrectly recorded as George and his mother as Susannah. It is inexplicable why the informant of his death would make such a serious error in his parentage particularly as the headstone correctly nominated James as the son of Dr Thomas Arndell RN.

> > Apart from his widow and daughter, it is unclear which members of James' family may have attended his funeral as his brother Thomas Arndell died in February 1865 also aged 66 years. Interestingly, a letter in the Hobart Mercury dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1934 by Frank Allison indicated that James' brother-in-law William Gunn also died in 1868 in Tasmania.

In any event, the life of James Arndell will continue to be remembered now that his grave has been discovered in St Thomas' Cemetery, Enfield. Importantly, this research contributes to the justification for James to be fully recognised as being a legitimate descendant of Dr Thomas Arndell, member of the First Fleet and Colonial Surgeon and Magistrate.



Allison, F 1934.' Dr. Arndell. The first medical officer.

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from <a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper</a>. Sandra Crofts



Sketch of PLC Croydon, featuring gardens & the Shubra Hall (on left) & Main School towers, c. 1935

### THE CONVICT NUISANCE

### FROM THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 1861.

This was the Herald's response to a Times editorial calling for the resumption of convict transportation:

'[This] recalls the epoch when the British public strangled their prisoners or transported them - in either case getting rid of the sight and of the burden of the individual criminal. The only effect of this scheme is that of turning from your own door a nuisance to cast it upon your neighbour.'

# THE JOSHUA PECK STORY

Peck was charged with stealing from:-

- \* John Scadding one cloth coat, value 30 shillings and other goods value of 17/6.
- \* Robert Turpin three linen shirts, value 16 shillings and other goods value of 12 shillings.
- \* Samuel Thompson two cloth coats, value 20 shillings and other goods value of 32 shillings.

He was also charged with breaking and entering the dwelling of Sarah Mitchell and stealing three silver castors value 58 shillings and other goods to the value of 20 shillings.

Joshua was found guilty on all theft charges, but not guilty of breaking and entering. His sentence was ...'to be transported across the seas for a term of seven years'. (1)

From there Joshua was sent to the prison hulk Dunkirk, in Plymouth harbour. He was embarked on the *Charlotte* on 17<sup>tr</sup> March 1787. He was aged about 30 at this time. There is some conjecture that he was transferred to the Scarborough when this ship, along with the Supply, Alexander and Friendship were sent ahead of the remainder of the fleet in November 1787. (2)

Soon after arriving in New South Wales, Joshua was employed at the hospital. In July 1788 he, along with two others, John Small and Thomas Chadwick, was charged with stealing wine from the hospital tent. Although all three were found in various stages of drunkenness, their general conduct was highly commended by witnesses such as Surgeon John White and Captains John Shea and Watkin Tench of the marines. White stated of Peck, that his conduct appeared so good he took him for his servant; and had an equal confidence and good opinion of prisoner Small. Tench added that both Peck and Small came out on the Charlotte with him and that the two convicts had also been on the *Dunkirk* together. Tench reportedly said of Peck that he had an opportunity of knowing much of and had a good opinion of him.

All three were acquitted of the charges, as Judge Advocate David Collins (subsequently the first Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land) later wrote, '... on the want of sufficient evidence...'.(3) In any case they were all moved on from hospital duties.

In October 1788 Joshua Peck was sent to Norfolk Island, aboard the Golden Grove. In January 1789 a planned mutiny on the island was discovered. Joshua was aware of the plot, but was not among the leaders. (4)

In August 1792, he shared a sow with William Blackhall, Ann **Yeoman** and **Mary Frost**, a second fleeter, whom he married. This could have been as early as the previous year, when Reverend Richard Johnson visited the island. The Reverend states that he married over 100 couples during the visit, but no record has been found of these marriages. (5)

Joshua and Mary left Norfolk Island to settle at Prospect (now Toongabbie) where he was granted 30 acres in 1794. In 1803 Peck's Farm, then 100 acres, was sold and Joshua and Mary returned to Norfolk Island.

With the closure of the Norfolk settlement, Joshua, his wife and six children arrived at Hobart on the *Porpoise* on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1808. He was granted 45 acres at New Norfolk with one boundary on the Derwent River. This grant was confirmed in 1813. His son William Peck, was also granted a lot fronting on

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1786, at the Devon Lent Assizes, Joshua the river just a short distance, but not adjoining, that of his fa-

At some time between the above grant confirmation and the Cornwall Muster of 1819, the family moved to northern Van Diemen's Land. By this time Joshua was renting a farm of 21 acres. He is listed as having a wife and five children.

From the following account of the trial of Joshua Sr. and three sons, from the Hobart town Gazette of 9th June 1821, it would appear the family were living in the Camden Plains, now White Hills, area.

"Joshua Peck, the elder, William Peck, Joshua Peck the younger, and Thomas Peck, were placed on trial charged with having feloniously killed sheep, the property of our Lord the King.

"And having feloniously killed an heifer, the property of one Thomas Daley" (6)

Daley stated in his evidence that he was an overseer of the Government flock including a stock-yard at Camden Plains, about nine miles from Launceston and that the prisoners lived about ¾ of a mile from the yard. They were all found guilty and sentenced to be transported to Newcastle for 14 years. William subsequently escaped, but was recaptured and sent to Macquarie Harbour.

During his time at Newcastle, Joshua Peck, the elder, petitioned Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane on two occasions - once for permission for him and his sons to complete their sentence in Van Diemen's Land and the other to return to Van Diemen's Land (7) to grow tobacco, claiming he had a number of years' experience in America (8). Both requests were rejected.

Joshua died in 1825 and was buried at the Newcastle Church of England on the 25<sup>th</sup> February (9). The remains from this cemetery were subsequently transferred to the Sandgate Cemetery. Mary remained in Van Diemen's Land, living with her daughter Elizabeth (Lette) at White Hills until her death on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1847, aged 96.

There is some confusion how many children Joshua and Mary had. Joshua, in the first of the above petitions, stated he 'and his present wife' had 12 children. Mary, in 1844, declared on oath that she had 'six sons and four daughters' (10). Records have been found for a total of 11 children including John, Mary Ann, Jane, Jeremiah, James, Charles and Sarah (not mentioned previously).

#8252 Graeme Peck

### References:-

(1) Hilton M Peck, As I Sailed out from Plymouth – The Story of Joshua Peck - p7 (2) Hilton M Peck, As I Sailed out from Plymouth - The Story of Joshua Peck - p11 (also queried in a number of sources, including records listed at http:// www.jenwilletts.com/searchaction.php) and http://virtaus4.tripod.com/ volume6/first\_fleet/scarborough/

(3) Hilton M Peck, As I Sailed out from Plymouth - The Story of Joshua Peck - p13 -14 and

(3) Mollie Gillen, The Search for John Small – First Fleeter – p109-110

(4) Hilton M Peck, As I Sailed out from Plymouth – The Story of Joshua Peck - p17

(5) <a href="http://www.australianhistoryresearch.info/marriage-list-of-november-1791-">http://www.australianhistoryresearch.info/marriage-list-of-november-1791-</a> norfolk-island/

(6) http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/123679?zoomLevel=1

(7) NSW AO Reel 1232 (4/1870 p45)

(8) NSW AO Reel 1231 (4/1867 p12)

(9) Church of England Register - Marriages, 1818-1825. Deaths, 1821-1825.

(10) Hilton M Peck, As I Sailed out from Plymouth - The Story of Joshua Peck -

# OUR HONOURED WAR HEROES

### THE BORELLA RIDE Commemorating Albert Chalmers-Borella VC.MM.MID

In 1915, Albert Borella journeyed through 1,000 kilometres of the Northern Territory's Outback from Tennant Creek to Darwin to join up to fight in World War1. He fought at Gallipoli and the Western Front, was wounded, commissioned on the battlefield and was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest honour for valour in combat.

Commencing on 20 February Richard Chalmers-Borella, youngest son of #8034 Rowan Chalmers-Borella, will set out on The Borella Ride, retracing the footsteps of his grandfather, the Northern Territory's only Victoria Cross recipient, Albert Borella, to enlist in World War 1.

Albert Borella's journey to sign up for the Great War paints a picture of a very resilient man.

climate on foot, walking from Tennant Creek to Renner Springs at times swimming swollen creeks. He then rode by horseback to Katherine, hitched a ride to Pine Creek on a horse drawn mail coach, and caught the train from Pine Creek to Darwin. Borella then travelled by ship to Townsville to formally enlist.

### AND SO TO OUR NOMINAL ROLL...

. . .where we would expect to find a hero such as Albert Chalmers- Borella, descendant of FF Thomas Kidner, listed along with his fellow soldiers of World War I. Having won a Victoria Cross surely rates an entry in our own publication. We encourage his family to have him included in the next impression.

A quick survey of the roll shows that just a few have had battle honours listed after their names. Our soldiers have earned four Military Crosses, two Military Medals and one British Empire Medal. Amongst the naval men we have one British Empire Medal and one Distinguished Service Medal. First Fleet descendants in the Air Force have earned two Distinguished Flying Medal and one Distinguished Flying Cross.

This leads us to contemplate if there are any other winners of the Victoria Cross in our ranks. After all, there have been over 100 years ago - in 1915, Borella set off in the harsh Territory 100 awarded over the years, any one of whom may descend from those who arrived on the First Fleet.

> Founders, during this Gallipoli centenary year, invites members to submit for publication stories of these war heroes and what led to their receiving their awards. Please email them to the editor, together with relevant pictures if you have them.

# NEW MEMBERS MORNING TEA

On Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 the Fellowship held the annual New Members Morning Tea.

President lan Palmer and four of the Directors were on hand to officially welcome the new members. This year, nineteen new members attended and were treated to a conducted tour of First Fleet House and learned about the facilities available at Woolloomooloo. Ian explained a little of the history of the Fellowship and members were given an over-

Steve, Larissa & Andrew Blunden, Ian Palmer



Jo Harris, Julie Robinson, Tom Rolfe, Naomi Davies

Rodney Cottrell, Jill Wood, Geoff (pointing to

view of the workings of the organisation and how the Chapters function.

Over a cuppa and a scone (with jam and cream - delicious), members also took the opportunity to ask questions on aspects of Fellowship activities, and many family stories and anecdotes were related and swapped.

This was a very happy event and members expressed their appreciation of the opportunity to attend.

Robin Palmer.



# SYDNEY BOTANIC GARDENS APPRECIATED

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 - Tour of Sydney's Royal Boing its bicentenary in 2016.

On a glorious fine Spring day Arthur Phillip Chapter member, Sally Kalina, former volunteer guide at the Botanic Gardens, led the group of 21 members, describing the various historically significant sites in the Gardens. Our group met at the gates opposite the Mitchell Library, Shakespeare Place, departing at 10.30am.

Our first stop was to view the Horses of the Desert Mounted

This was followed by a ramble through the Gardens to view tanic Gardens & Domain Trust, the oldest in Australia - celebrat- various highlights - the convict bricks in the delightful Fernery; the Macquarie Wall built by Governor Macquarie to enclose the Domain; the Botanic Gardens Creek, essential water for the First Fleeters and the First Farm which exhibits crops that the convicts grew on this site; through the shady Palm Grove; past the ancient Wollemi Pine - called the 'Dinosaur tree' or 'living fossil' and one of the greatest botanical discoveries of recent times. We paused at the sculpture The Wish, where a cricket bat had been place in remembrance of Phillip Hughes, the Australian cricketer who had tragically died a couple of days previously. Corps Memorial, located on the south-west external wall of the Onto First Encounters Garden which features plants that origi-

nally grew here, the traditional home of the Cadigal people. At the conclusion of Sally's splendid tour, our warm applause showed her our appreciation; and then we adjourned for a light lunch and fellowship at the Gardens This was a wonderful day out, enjoying

friendships in the balmy sunshine and appreciating the 64 hectare treasure trove we have right in the centre of Sydney's CBD.

https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/horses-desertmounted-corps-memorial; http://monumentaustralia.org.au

http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Gillian Doyle, President



Royal Botanic Gardens - comprising a cast bronze wall plate depicting an Australian Light Horse Trooper with three horses. The memorial honours the 140,000 horses that served in the WW1 Desert Campaign Sinai Desert and Palestine 1915 - 1918. These gallant Waler Horses suffered wounds, thirst, hunger and weariness - almost beyond endurance. (The Waler is an Australian breed of riding horses that developed from the horses that were brought to the Australian colonies in the 19th century, named for their early breeding origins in New South Wales.) Lamentably only one of their horses returned to Australia. A very poignant moment considering the forthcoming 2015 WW1 anniversaries.

Next Sally led us to First Governor of NSW, Arthur Phillip's impressive statue where we had a group photo. statue is mounted at the top of a rectangular marble pedestal which incorporates three bronze reliefs of Justice, Patriotism and Education, and flanked by reclining bronze figures of Neptune, Agriculture, Cyclops and Commerce. Four marble consoles are embellished with bronze plagues of Aboriginal people; four giant clam shells are surmounted by four bronze prows of ships of his era. The statue was erected in 1897 to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Queen Victoria.



# PLANES NOT WANTED

### From Southern Skies, Aviation Historical Society Newsletter.

For the 1938 sesquicentenary of European settlement the NSW Minister for Labour and Industry, the Hon J M Dunningham MLA was in charge of celebrations. Australia Day was to be the highlight when a water pageant on the harbour would reenact Captain Arthur Phillip's landing followed by a city pageant portraying major events of the preceding 150 years.

Getting in early through an announcement in the Herald under the heading PLANES NOT WANTED, Mr Dunningham 'expressed concern at the possibility of commercial aeroplanes flying over the scene of the re-enactment of the landing of Captain Phillip. The re-enactment of this historic event, Mr Dunningham said,

should not be marred by the intrusion of planes.'

His comments, no doubt, were the result of several aeroplane arrivals onto Sydney Harbour earlier in January. The Grumman G21 Goose, en route to New Guinea, had been practising takeoffs and landings at Rose Bay, Centaurus had arrived from New Zealand, and five Saro London flying boats had arrived from Plymouth to help Sydney celebrate its 150th birthday.

The prospect of Centaurus and the five Saro Londons making a low flypast at the very moment Phillip arrived at Farm Cove probably gave Mr Dunningham his worst nightmare. It is said the stress brought on his sudden death on 26 May 1938. His knighthood was awarded posthumously in the June Birthday Honours.

# Our Sixteen Chapters in Action

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

**Venue:** Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury –bi-monthly meetings, odd months, third Saturday at 10am for 10.30 **Next Meeting: Next Events: Contact**: Val Heel 0357282613

**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 February: Richard Whittaker, *Sydney in the 1800s*; 20 March: John Brock. *William Dawes - star surveyor*; 17 April: Patrick Dodd, *Treasures of the State Library* **Next Events:** 26 February: Riverboat Postman Cruise 10 am from Brooklyn.; 10 April: Big Day Out to Parramatta heritage. **Contact:** Jane Ann Tainsh 9488 5453

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations TBA. Next Events . 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 10.30. Next Meetings: 14 February: Peter Rea, WW 2 Forts and sunken naval ships on Broken Bay. 14 March: Keith and Stephanie Wood, Mental Health; 11 April (in Gosford): Kim Phillips, The Spirits of Gallipoli Project. Next Event: Contact: Jon Fearon 4323 1849 DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. Next Meeting: 7 February: John, Grand Duke of Avram, Origin, Meaning and Use of Heraldry to the current day. 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 **Next Meetings:** 7 February: Patrick Dodd, *The Governor's Travels, Touring with the Macquaries*; 7 March: Leonard Janiszewski, *The Greek-Australian Milk Bar*; 4 April: Ros Maguire of Hunters Hill Historical Society. **Contact:** Robin Palmer 9871 4102

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

**Venue:** Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall, 153A Brunker Road, Adamstown – bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am — 12.30pm. **Next Meetings:** 16 February: Jane van Woerkom, *Owen Cavanough and Susannah Holmes;* 20 April: Brian Boughton, *Anzac Centenary and Children's Gallipoli Visit.* **Next Event:** March Date TBA: Outing to Terry Musgrave's historic house at Portland Reach.**Contact:** Raymond Green 4964 1328

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

**Venue:** Kinross-Wolaroi Library, Orange. **Next Meeting:** 21 February: Topic/Speaker, *TBA* **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 Meetings:** 14 February: Julie Webb, *A Blend of Families;* 11 April: *Anzac Day theme.* **Next Event**: . **Contact:** Don Cornford 04 5746 6020 **NEW ENGLAND** – *Armidale to Glen Innes and surrounds.* 

**Venue:** Various locations – five times per year, **Next Meeting:** 7 February: 12 noon at Anglican Parish Centre, Armidale. Speaker *TBA* BYO Lunch. **Next Event: Contact:** Wal Whalley 6772 3499

NORTH COAST - Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Woolgoolga.

**Venue:** Varies, Bi-monthly meetings, first Sunday at 11.30am. **Next Meetings; 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:** .Sunday 22 March: Speaker and topic TBA.. **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 Meetings:** 7 February: Dr John Fisher, *French Explorers on the East Coast;* 4 April: Suzanne Turner, *World War One Nurses.* **Next Event: Contact:** Diana Harband 6765 2122

**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 February: David Christian & Cath Philp, Uzbekistan and its Archaeological Digs; 3 March: Michael Adams, Lawrence Hargrave; 7 April: Ian Halliday, Topic TBA. Next Event: Contact: Warwick Grace 4272 7013 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – Mittagong, Moss Vale and surrounds. Contact Warwick Grace

**Venue:** Mittagong Community Centre – bi-monthly – second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meetings:** 11 February: Russell Oates, *Refresher Course for Older Drivers*; 8 April: Speaker *TBA*. **Next Event: Contact:** Wendy Selman 4862

**SWAN RIVER** – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

4849

**Next Meeting:** 21 February 2pm at 256 Stirling St, Perth: Speaker *TBA* **Next Event:** 22 March, 2pm Afternoon Tea at Tranby or Woodbridge House, details TBA. **Contact:** Jodi Gratton 08 9384 5944

[Note: Some chapters are still finalising their programmes for the year. Details will be available from the contacts listed above.]

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

### INTO THE WOODS

Twelve months ago Founders announced a plan to hunt for an oak tree. This was not just any old oak but the one planted in about 1990 at Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens in the NSW Blue Mountains. Mem bers may remember that it was seeded from an acorn gathered at Vernals, Arthur Phillip's farm the New Forest.

Well, here it is, and look how well it has grown. Good basaltic soils and a mountain climate suit *quercus robur* just fine, said staff who helped us find it.



Our thanks go to the team on duty at the time of our visit who helped clear the way, and remove some floral debris so that good photos could be taken.

We mentioned to the Curator Manager, **Greg Bourke**, and his Visitor Experience Officer, **Donna Sproule**, that **Frances Jackson**, Manager of the Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney, had suggested a small plaque be added to the Sydney garden memorial wall explaining the fate of the original oak planted there and where its sister tree can be found at Mount Tomah.

All were then of the opinion that a suitable plaque, and a pathway leading to it should also be installed at this Blue Mountains tree to acknowledge its provenance and therefore cultural heritage. The present location is in the middle of a large garden bed featuring flora typical of Eurasian woodlands, a public 'no-go area' where no access path currently exists.

Founders heartily recommends this as a new plaque project to be espoused by the Fellowship so our Vernals tree can be included in future Summer Walks programmes at the Mt Tomah Botanic Garden.

### BIRTHS

### THOMAS KIDNER

**Greyson Wiremu Sutherland,** son of Hayden and Chance Sutherland of Wakefield, Nelson New Zealand, born on 04.19.2014, eighth great grandson to #7797 Fay Biddulph of Nelson, NZ.

### DEATHS

### WILLIAM TYRRELL

**#3759 June Gay Burnett** of Milton NSW died on 11.11.2014. June was a member of South Coast Chapter.

### **ANN MARTIN**

**#7130** Faye Smith of Bowral NSW died, quite suddenly, on 04.12.2014. Faye was a founding member of Southern Highlands Chapter and served on the committee from 2008 to 2014.

### **FELLOWSHIP FRIEND**

**#F72 Helen Foley** of Mittagong NSW died in hospital on 26.12.2014 after a long illness. Helen was a member of Southern Highlands Chapter.

### JAMES BRADLEY/MARY PARKER/JOHN SMALL

**#718 Wendy Swinkels** of Raworth NSW died, quite suddenly, on 23.10.2014. Wendy was a great friend, valued member and assistant treasurer of Hunter Valley Chapter.

# We Got it Wrong, Sorry.

In Founders 45/6 we reported the death of #718 Wendy Swinkels as on 22.10. 2014. The entry has been repeated above with the correct date, 23.10.2014. We do apologise to her husband Dom and family members for our error.

# Donations received for First Fleet House upkeep:

EAST, Andrew; IRWIN, Elaine; ROSEWARNE, Patricia.





**Pictured at left,** and also growing well, is the wattle tree, acacia dealbata, planted by Dame Marie Bashir on 14 July 2014 in Appletree Court, the Lyndhurst Council grounds, Hampshire, England, to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of Arthur Phillip.

In grey tone the growth of the tree after six months is not easily discernible but in colour the dark green shade can be clearly seen.

THIS ACACIA DEALBATA WAS PLANTED ON
14TH JULY 2014 BY DAME MARIE BASHIR,
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES, WITH
REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL TO COMMEMORATE THE
BICENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF
CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP WHO LIVED IN LYNDHURST.
CAPTAIN PHILLIP COMMANDED THE FIRST FLEET
TO FOUND THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND BECAME THE FIRST GOVERNOR

On the right within the timber enclosure is the eucalypt planted by the Lyndhurst District Council on 10 May 1987, the bicentenary of the sailing of the First Fleet.

Photos from Len and Jennifer Cornell