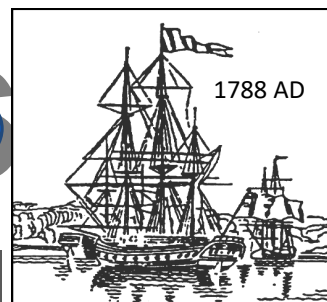


# Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO



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49th Year of Publication

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

## EDWARD BECKFORD PLAQUE DEDICATED AT CAMPERDOWN

Sydney Town's third cemetery, privately set up in 1848 in an English style of some class, is to be found at Newtown in the city's inner west. The area was called Camperdown by **William Bligh** who as governor named his land grant there after a famous battle in which he had taken part.

As its establishment took place some sixty years after the arrival of the First Fleet it was long thought that First Fleeters would not have been interred there.

However, as a result of thorough research by member #7348 **Marilyn Long** it is now known that **Edward Smith aka Beckford**, whose long working life in the colony and much of it as a mariner for the **Kable-Underwood** seafaring ventures, lived into his nineties and after dying at Balmain was buried in Camperdown cemetery in 1851.

In 2015, after a strong recommendation from the then convenor **Ray Keating**, the Fellowship approved the installation of a plaque honouring Beckford, whose unmarked common grave was located not far from where the new plaque has been placed, on the wall that now encloses all the remaining headstones collected together from the previously extensive cemetery.

As the Camperdown Cemetery Trust conducts regular tours of this historic cemetery it was decided to link the dedication of the plaque to one such tour. This happened on Sunday 6 November 2016 when six First Fleet descendants joined the tour group and together with them remembered Edward Beckford and his contribution to the colony.

Proceedings began under the huge historic Moreton Bay fig that is as old as the cemetery itself. Some comments were made about its being the featured tree in the ABC's children's story series *My Place*. Tour leader **Marcelle Rodgers** began as she apparently always does by talking about the First Fleet, its leaders including **Chaplain Richard Johnson**, and the eventual need for Sydney's first two cemeteries.

The group then moved to the nearby wall, where the Beckford plaque had been installed, for the dedication itself. This began with some introductory comments by Fellowship President **Jon Fearon**. He paid tribute to Ray Keating's work as plaques convenor and gave special thanks to **Jenna Weston**, the chair of the Cemetery Trust who was present with her husband **Evan** and young son **Alec**, both of them descendants of First Fleeter **Major George Johnston** and his wife **Esther Abrahams**.

Jon then handed over to Marilyn Long who gave the eulogy, part of which included an outline of her research that led to her identifying and then locating Edward Beckford's burial site, well documented in the parish records of St Stephen's Church, the curators and care keepers of the cemetery since its consecration.

Marilyn pointed out that she knows of no descendants of Beckford in Australia, but indicated that there may well be some in Calcutta, which she visited in the course of her research, and also in England. She is descended

(continued on page 3)



Marilyn Long

## FOUNDERS

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## CONTENTS

1. Edward Beckford Plaque Dedication
2. Directors; President's Pen; Editorial from 1969
3. Edward Beckford Eulogy
4. Christmas Cruise on the Manning; Chapter Secretaries
5. Three Chapters gather; Thanks Lois
- 6-7. Owen Cavanaugh and Margaret Darnell, Part 1
8. Sent to the Mountain
9. Book Review: *Precious Cargo*
10. Edward Humphries; All at Sea
11. Chapters in Action
12. New Members; Run Descendants Run; At the Helm;



## PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon



Those of you with a keen sense of history will have noted that *Founders* has now moved into its 49th year of publication. Not quite as old as the Fellowship itself, the first newsletter, designated as from the 'Fleet Committee' appeared on 1 March 1970. Before that, however, the Fellowship produced several quarterly journals entitled *First-Fleeters*.

The first of these, Vol 1, No 1, appeared in January 1969, ten months after the establishment of the Fellowship. Some of our members may still have a copy in their possession with its blue and black cover drawn by **Arthur Mendel** and featuring two Eora men looking down on a long boat being rowed ashore by a crew from one of the first fleet sailing ships anchored nearby.

That journal contained a foreword by the Prime Minister **John Gorton**, articles by well-known writers such as **Manning Clark**, **Isadore Brodsky** and **Frank Clune**, the Aims and Objects of the Fellowship and a list of Office Bearers that included no less than eleven separate committees, each one named for the ships of the fleet.

As we count down to the Fellowship's 50th Anniversary in March 2018, each issue of *Founders* from now until then will feature items of interest culled from our published archive. To set the scene we have reproduced the Editorial as it appeared in that first journal.

## EDITORIAL (Vol 1, No 1, January 1969)

*THE DATE: 26th January, 1788.*

*THE SCENE: A beach of a small stream running into what is known as Sydney Cove.*

*The Union flag has just been broken from a pole set among tall gum trees. In cocked hat, blue tunic and satin vest and breeches of a captain of the Royal Navy stands Captain Arthur Phillip, a guard of Marine and some convicts. Nearby is a group of aborigines, bewildered, wondering, solemn.*

*That was how Australia began.*

*We are now a proud and important Nation, because from that lowly and inauspicious beginning the pioneers of our country did not remain content. They felled trees, tilled the fields, found ways over the mountains and explored the coastline. They made roads, erected buildings, towns and cities, knowing that the ultimate benefit of their efforts was not for them, but for those who would come after.*

*Life was hard for our forebears. They suffered and made great sacrifices and food was only to be had for the hunting and growing. They were compelled to get on with the job, or they did not survive.*

*Remembrance, however, like this is not enough. We, of this generation, must equally work for our country. No phase of life, public or private, can be free of this duty. For the privileges we now enjoy, Australians (old and new) owe the community a duty and debt of gratitude. We have an obligation to behave in a special way and to render a special service to our country and our fellow citizens. It cannot be a question of take all and give nothing in return. What citizens give to the community is a potent factor in keeping the self-same community healthy, prosperous, sound and fit to build for the future. Many millions of acts of selflessness have gone into building our Nation. Men, and women, have made the supreme sacrifice for it; moral strength, faith and courage have been expended in the National effort. So, as we approach the 181st anniversary of the landing of the original First Fleeters, let us thankfully remember those whose labours opened this land to the uses of mankind, those who bore and reared the children of a new Nation, those who later died in battle for us, bringing splendor and glory to Australian arms, those who worked with mind and muscle for the heritage which, may it please God, we shall hold and enlarge for our children and their children.*

**ADVANCE AUSTRALIA, FAIR!**



(continued from page 1) from Edward's common law wife First Fleeter **Catherine Johnson** and her partner **Tristram Moore** so it was quite fitting that she kindly agreed to do the eulogy itself. Marilyn then unveiled the plaque with due ceremony by removing the Queen Anne flag.

Proceedings concluded with director **Karys Fearon** giving a prayer of thanksgiving for **Arthur Phillip**, Richard Johnson, the resilience of the First Fleeters, Beckford included among them, and for our country and its successful settlement. Photos were taken of those in attendance before the public tour continued.

### EDWARD SMITH/BECKFORD, the EULOGY.

My interest in Edward Beckford arose when I saw that the daughter of my ancestor, Catherine Johnson, from the First Fleet was calling herself Beckford and not Johnson. (on Catherine Johnson's 1810 Memorial to Macquarie). I looked up Beckford in the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence and found an Edward Beckford equated with Edward Smith from the *Scarborough* 1788.

Edward Smith was on Norfolk Island at the same time as Catherine Johnson. She returned to the Colony shortly before him but there are no mentions indicating they were together back in Sydney. There are many mentions in the Sydney Gazette 1802-1831 of Edward Beckford at sea. Edward Smith is mentioned until then. Some Col Sec docs mention Edward Smith otherwise Beckford and v.v.

Eventually I found a document which proved to FFF they were the same person and hence we are here today. I like finding the stories of the small people of history and seeing them remembered if possible. The books are full of the famous, wealthy and powerful.

Edward Beckford was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey in 1784 as Edward Smith and was on the *Ceres* hulk in the Thames for two years before being included in the First Fleet. He was meant to be transported to Africa which was quickly accepted as unsuitable. The exact reason for being tried and transported under the name Smith is not known. His crime was to steal a cambric handkerchief.

I have also explored British newspapers and other sources and believe Edward was the son of an **Elizabeth Beckford** who was tried at the Old Bailey in 1779 and 1784 and seems to have been an habitual criminal. Newspaper reports of her trials refer to "the boy.....E Beckford" also on trial and to her going to meet her son when "he came from the sea" - fits with Edward Beckford's life at sea in the Colony, and Blackburn choosing him to go to Norfolk Island on the *Golden Grove* in Oct 1788 as one of four young men used to the sea.

Beckford is not a common name and other mentions were ruled out as a different family. An Elizabeth Beckford was christened at Downton in Wiltshire in 1719. No subsequent marriage or death has been found for her. In the First Fleet on *Lady Penrhyn* was an Elizabeth Beckford tried at the Old Bailey not long before the First Fleet

sailed. She died at sea between Rio and Cape Town - a 70 year old woman from dropsy. Could this be the Elizabeth Beckford from Wiltshire born in 1719? Could she have deliberately stolen to be able to go with her son?

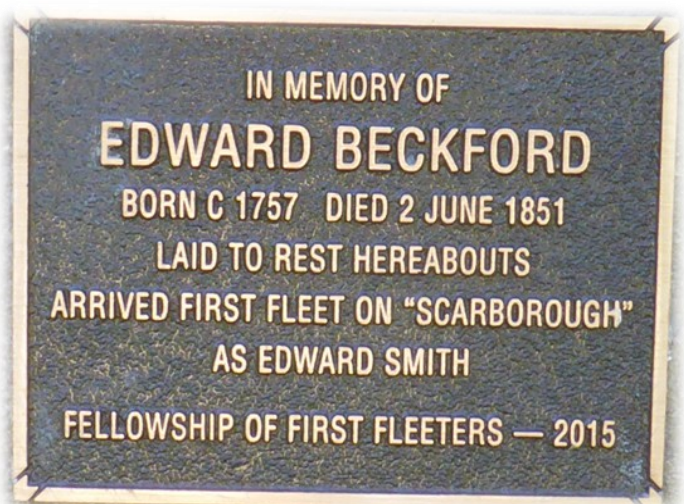
Nothing further is known of Edward's life in England. In the Colony it was full of adventure sailing to Otaheite (Tahiti) and New Zealand, being on Macquarie Island looking after seal skins for Kable and Underwood, and being in the employ of Kable, sailing on the *Hawkesbury*, up the NSW coast, to Port Dalrymple and sailing to other exotic places, mainly as crew but occasionally as master, and possibly also doing some whaling.

His age was probably overstated at 28 when he came to the Colony which would make him 92 when he died in June 1851. Michael Flynn estimates he was likely a few years younger. Still he survived to a very old age considering the life he had. He is possibly the longest surviving male convict of the First Fleet - other non convict males survived longer than he did. And he was buried in a pauper's grave at Camperdown. His abode was Balmain where there was possibly a home or refuge for old men from the sea who needed it.

His daughter, **Elizabeth Beckford**, born on Norfolk Island probably 1790-1791 and before July 1791 was in the Colony in 1851 and likely a wealthy woman. She kept the name Beckford as part of her name till her death which seems to indicate she had some attachment to him though likely not growing up with him, so it seems strange he wasn't given a proper burial.

There was also a son **William Johnson** born on Norfolk Island 1792 but nothing is known of him. There is a William Johnson who was also at sea but the name is too common to positively identify him. Historian Cathy Dunn has included Edward Smith to Catherine Johnson amongst the unrecorded marriages performed on Norfolk Island by Rev Johnson. It might explain why Catherine Johnson didn't marry Tristram Moore the father of 3 of her children and whom she was with from 1802 till death in 1838.

(continued on page 5)



## CHRISTMAS CRUISE ON THE MANNING

### An outing for Mid North Coast Chapter

Fair weather greeted us on Tuesday morning 22 November as 32 descendants, family and friends boarded the Manning Valley River Cruise Boat, *Island Explorer*. Marie and crew greeted us with morning tea and homemade biscuits as we cruised up to Croki.

Our Skipper was very informative with commentary on the Manning River history and some of the old iconic buildings such as the Old Butter Factory on Scotts Creek. Beautiful homesteads, both old and new dotted the waters edge on Manning and Mitchell Islands.

all the presents. A little swapping went on until everyone went away with something they were happy with.

Thanks to Lorraine Ryan for donating some gifts which were later auctioned.

Returning to Taree we were served cheese cake and pavlova for a perfect ending to a memorable day of local history, hearty tucker, great company and delightful cruising weather. Cheers and applause went out for the skipper and crew for their hard work to make it such a wonderful day.



*Mid North Coast Chapter members beside their Cruise Liner*

Arriving at Croki we were greeted by Darren who had been creating a hearty camp oven lunch of either chicken or lamb & vegetables. We stretched our legs and then on our return journey sat down to a Christmas lunch

A bit of fun was ours to enjoy with a Kris Kringle game between main and dessert course. As we boarded the vessel we swapped our present for a raffle ticket and as the latter was drawn out we could choose a present on the table. We could keep it or swap it with a previously chosen present. Of course the lucky last person had the pick of all the already opened gifts and they could take their pick of

We learnt about Christmas Day 1787 when a few original diary transcripts from the First Fleet voyage were read out. These reminded us that we have a lot to be thankful for in our modern world with so many choices and options in food, travel and family connections in our lives.

Our ancestors, on the other hand, were just trying to survive with little knowledge or control over their futures or even destination not knowing whether they would ever see their loved ones again.

**#8480 Heather Bath**

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## THREE CHAPTERS GET TOGETHER AT KIAMA

### A short account of a successful three-day adventure by Arthur Phillip Chapter to Kiama on the South Coast of New South Wales.

Many of our group enjoyed travelling south along the Grand Pacific Drive - Stanwell Park to Thirroul, the spectacular lookout at Bald Hill, and continuing along the road that hangs above the ocean to the 665 metre long Sea Cliff Bridge - a highlight. The drive continues through amazing scenery, quaint coastal villages and uninterrupted views of the ocean.

The Arthur Phillip Chapter members arrived in Kiama on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November and filled the afternoon seeing the local sights – the historic terrace houses, originally built for the local quarry workers in 1886; the Pilot's Cottage for local information and of course the famous Blowhole, first sighted by George Bass when he anchored his whale boat in the sheltered bay, now known as Kiama harbour, in December 1797. Alongside is the Kiama Lighthouse on Blowhole Point which was established in 1887.

On Tuesday 8 November - South Coast & Southern Highlands Chapters joined with the Arthur Phillip Chapter at the Kiama Family History Centre. We were met by **Sue Lark** who led us into the Centre's collection and **Ray Thorburn** gave us an outline of their aims, objectives and successes in research and recording family history from across Australia.

We then gathered in the Auditorium to hear Ray present his talk called *Family History in School Education*. This was a most interesting and enthusiastic presentation, firstly on the early history of the region, and the growth of the centre over time, and how its members developed an innovative, interactive program to engage students in the wider aspects of family and its importance in history and social

history. We all responded with an enthusiastic vote of thanks by acclamation.

Our group then adjourned for luncheon at the Bistro, Kiama Leagues Club, where we were able to further friendships amongst Chapter members. **Gillian Doyle** welcomed everyone. President **Jon Fearon**, who with his wife Karys joined us for lunch, said a few words to the group, and then **Robyn Ford** encouraged several members to describe their First Fleeter, and comments and information was exchanged. All agreed that it was a very successful event.

On Wednesday morning, the Arthur Phillip group visited a local artist, **Paula Gowans**, to view her studio and learn about her theories and perspectives in relation to her painting methods. That afternoon many of us visited the Farmers' Markets at Black Beach before meeting up for a farewell dinner at the Bowling Club, before returning home the following morning.

*Gillian Doyle*



*Bistro lunch at Kiama Leagues Club*

## THANK YOU, LOIS

Our long-serving and much loved membership convenor, **Lois Cook**, was farewelled at the recent Volunteers' Lunch in her honour at Cafe Pranzi.



Lunch in her honour at Cafe Pranzi.

Lois is pictured here receiving her Certificate of Appreciation and a special Quilting gift voucher from the Fellowship.

### (continued from page 3 **EDWARD BECKFORD EULOGY**)

His daughter, Elizabeth, had two children in Sydney in 1808 and 1809 to a **James Ceronio** who was an Italian American sea merchant from Philadelphia. In 1812 she took the children to Calcutta where Ceronio was based. For a reason unknown the two children stayed in Calcutta and Elizabeth by the early 1820s was back in the Hawkesbury (having married a **Patrick Gibb Kelly** in Calcutta and of whom there is no further record discovered).

Edward's grandson, **James**, had a son, also **James**, and this line died out in 1883. His granddaughter, **Adeline**, was renamed Adelaide in Calcutta, married at 15 and had at least 11 children. Through the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the generations some stayed in India and others went to England. I tracked one line to a 1922 marriage in Calcutta. There are likely descendants of Edward Beckford in India and England who don't know their heritage. It is good to commemorate and remember Edward Beckford today and see him acknowledged by the Fellowship.

*Marilyn Long*

## OWEN CAVANOUGH AND MARGARET DARNELL - Part 1

**Owen Cavanough** joined *HMS Sirius* on 23 March 1787 in Gosport, Hampshire, England as an able seaman. Born in Gosport in June of 1762 to parents **Owen and Grace Cavender** Owen was now aged 25 and had recently been discharged from the Portsmouth guard ship *Ganges*. *Sirius*, formerly *HMS Berwick*, had been converted to a sixth rater at the cost estimated by Deptford Yard surveyors at £ 7,072.

Before sailing from the Motherbank the condition of the convicts aboard *Alexander* gave some cause for concern. The ship had begun to embark convicts in early January and by the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month 184 men were on board, some so ill they were "unable to help themselves." Commander Phillip protested to Under Secretary Evan Nepean but his entreaty fell on deaf ears. Nothing was done. Two lighters from Portsmouth dockyards were engaged by Phillip to convey the *Alexander's* prisoners to the hulk *Essex* while the ship was "cleaned, white washed, smoked and sponged with Oil of Tar."

Some of the seamen had now been in employ for more than seven months, during which time they had only received lesser River Pay and one month's advance. More money was needed to fit themselves out for such a long voyage but it was in the Masters' interests to withhold pay, obliging the men to purchase necessities during the voyage at an exorbitant rate. Phillip backed the Masters. The men walked off the ships. Those who did not wish to lose their pay and employ were soon obliged to return. The Masters held the upper hand. On the evening of 12 May *Sirius* made signal to weigh anchor in an attempt to get down channel to St Helens. The wind shifted and for some reason several vessels were not getting under way. *Sirius* abandoned the attempt. **Lieutenant King** rowed out to the recalcitrant vessels to discuss their problems. The delay was found to be due to the crews' intoxicated state rather than nautical causes.

Aboard convict transport *Prince of Wales* sat a female convict whose life would later become entwined with Owen's. **Margaret Darnell**, born in Dublin, Ireland about 1767, was tried by the First Middlesex Jury before Mr Baron Hotham at Justice Hall in the Old Bailey at the sessions commencing Wednesday 18 April 1787. Margaret was indicted for "stealing, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March last, one dozen of dessert knives and forks, value six shillings the property of James White." Mr White, owner of the ironmonger and cutler shop in Holborn near Chancery Lane, had become suspicious "that she does not want anything" although Margaret was there ostensibly to buy

nails. Margaret took flight, the shop assistant in pursuit. Margaret's cloak was pulled off to reveal the stolen goods. Margaret was found guilty of stealing but not privily and sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Margaret embarked at Portsmouth on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1787, along with 100 other female and one male convict, on the *Prince of Wales*. The convicts were to be confined below decks for quite some time before the fleet was victualled and ready for sea. **John Mason** was master of the *Prince of Wales*, a vessel of 333 tons. By 13 May the laden ship was at anchor in the Thames her convicts having been initially assembled at Spithead on 17 March.

The previous day the *Hyaena* under **Captain Michael de Courcey** RN had sailed down the Thames to anchor nearby. The *Hyaena* was to provide protection from Spanish marauders until the Fleet was clear of the Scilly Isles.

So it was that two diverse lives, those of Owen and Margaret, were to be brought together in a distant land. As day-break tinted the Thames fog a light rose, *Sirius* and *Prince of Wales* passed through The Needles bound for Teneriffe. A straggling fleet of decrepit vessels, all owned by separate commercial interests, was undertaking a journey that few thought had any chance of success.



*The Fleet with Hyaena, 13 May 1787, - Wm Bradley*

The actual voyage of the Fleet is well documented elsewhere so will not be included in this shortened account. On arrival at Sydney Cove marines and convicts set up tents, built huts and unloaded their two years provisions. Margaret and the other female convicts remained on board.

It has been said that Owen was the first to step ashore but this seems unlikely. In June of 1827 the Supreme Court of NSW heard the testimony of First Fleeter **James Ruse** who disputed **Colonel Johnston's** claim to be the first ashore. Ruse had carried Johnston on his back from boat to shore hence was the first to set foot in the colony. The Court upheld Ruse's claim (*Sydney Gazette* 20 June 1827).

Margaret stood among the women as they disembarked on a stormy Wednesday 6 February 1788. It was a day of frequent thunder squalls, the wind was from the west-north-west, the temperature was 70 degrees F, and the barometer 29.48. A good description of the women's disembarkation may be read in the journal of **Bowes Smyth**.

**Lt Clark's** account of the day was of a more material nature. "All the officers dined with him on a cold collation; but the mutton which had been killed yesterday morning was full of maggots. Nothing will keep 24 hours in this country, I find."



Before long Margaret came to the attention of **Marine Private Charles Green** and a liaison in March of 1788 resulted in a pregnancy. Owen and the other seamen from *Sirius* were given Garden Island on which to grow vegetables. Food supplies were critically low, crops planted withered and died in the salt air. A second supply vessel from England did not arrive. Governor Philip knew his colonists would surely starve if he did not procure outside aid.

On 2 October 1788 Owen sailed with *Sirius* to the Cape of Good Hope via Cape Horn to get flour and other supplies. The voyage took seven months and six days.

At Port Jackson Margaret bore an illegitimate son, **Charles**, on 22 December 1788. Baby Charles took his mother's surname of Darling. Private Green, of **Captain-Lieutenant Watkin Tench's** Company, was court-martialled in Sydney on 20 February 1789 for consorting with female convicts and sentenced to 100 lashes. *Sirius* arrived back in Sydney Cove on 6 May 1789, **Captain John Hunter** experiencing great difficulty obtaining supplies from the Boers. The food crisis was not at an end.

Lt James Cook had passed and named Norfolk Island on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1774, reporting "*spruce pines which grow in abundance and to a vast size.*" Captain Arthur Philip was instructed by letter to "*send a small establishment thither (Norfolk Island) to secure the same to us and prevent it being occupied by subjects of any other European Power.*" The settlement of Norfolk Island commenced with the departure of HMS *Supply*, under the command of **Lt Lidgebird Ball**, from Port Jackson on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1788. Twenty three persons were aboard including Commandant Lt. **Philip Gidley King**, eight free men, nine male convicts and six females. A second party was soon to follow. Starvation was stalking the mainland settlers and it was hoped Norfolk would provide better opportunities for agriculture and hence survival of both settlements.

Margaret clutched baby Charles, now fourteen months old, as they boarded *Sirius* on 4 March 1790, part of a complement of 101 convict men, 65 women and 23 children bound for Norfolk Island. **Lt Governor Major Robert Ross** and a Company of 31 Marines, four wives and one child were also aboard, travelling to take over command from Governor King. Owen Cavanough was among the ship's crew, the expedition being bound eventually for China to take on urgent supplies.

Contrary winds prevented unloading at Sydney Bay (King's Town/ Kingston) so *Sirius* disembarked most of the passengers at the Cascade landing place on the north-east coast. Few supplies could be unloaded over the great surf-

lashed black rocks. Settlers and convicts from Sydney Bay helped the passengers scale the steep walking path to the top of the cliffs from whence they walked along the dirt track, winding through dense forest, to the main settlement. When *Sirius* finally sailed around to Kingston the seas were still high and she was wrecked on the reef. There was no loss of life for the crew and those still on board but some essential supplies could not be saved.

On Norfolk Island Margaret's weekly rations of 4 ½ lbs flour, 2 ¼ lbs beef, 1 ½ lbs pork, 4 ounces of butter and 2 pints peas (dried or pease meal) were halved, as were everyone's rations. Starvation in the settlement was averted by the seasonal arrival of the Birds of Providence, a brown shearwater, which nested at sunset each day on Mt Pitt. Owen along with the other marines, seamen and convicts collected eggs and slaughtered 2,000 -3,000 birds each night to provision the stores.

Crew members of *Sirius* were sent to Cascade Bay to start a new settlement, later called Phillipsburg, and remained stranded until the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1791 when the Dutch chartered vessel *Waaksamheid* gave them an opportunity to return to England.

Cascade Bay became the centre of the flax industry and also produced grapes, bananas, citrus fruit and sugar cane. Owen chose to stay, was discharged, and had settled on 60 acres (Lot 42) at Cascade Stream, Phillipsburg by 16 May 1791. Cavanough's Farm was situated on the west side of the great cascade stream and bounded on the south side by Stanley Farm.

Owen and Margaret married on Norfolk Island by **Rev. Richard Johnson**, Chaplain to the Colony, on Saturday 5 November 1791 Johnson was on his way home to England from Sydney on board *Atlantic*, and was under orders from Governor Phillip to call at Norfolk Island to marry those wishing to do so and to baptise the children.

Surpliced and gowned, in front of the whole community of about one thousand persons, including convicts, settlers, marines and officers Reverend Richard Johnson conducted a massed marrying and christening service. About 100 children stood staring at the bright display, colours brilliant with parrot feathers, listening to words they couldn't understand.



**Reverend Richard Johnson**

***Sirius and Supply at Sydney Bay, Norfolk Island, 19 March 1790***

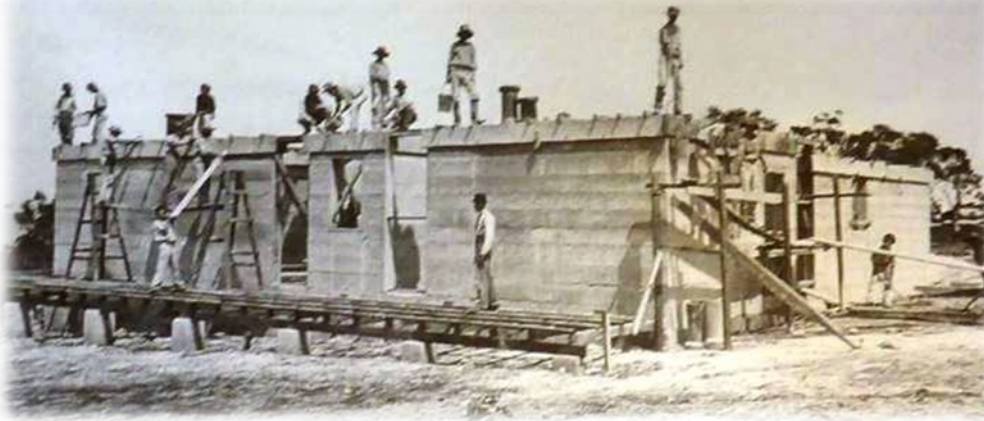


**(continued on page 12)**

## SENT TO THE MOUNTAIN - 'A MOMENT IN TIME'

Most of us, growing through adolescent years, would have become aware of the juvenile justice systems operating in our communities. Our parents may even have threatened to 'send us to a home' to deal with any misbehaviour. Boys in particular always reckoned they knew what they could get away with, out of the eagle eyes of the local police.

*Superintendent's Cottage under construction, 1912.*



Well, there were indeed homes for wayward boys and in New South Wales, the most well known and well patronised was the **Gosford Farm Home for Boys**. This was established in 1912 in the wilderness of Penang Mountain on the plateau above Gosford. The teenage boys who were the pioneers in those early years were formed into work parties and lived in tents while they built their own place of detention.

The government at the time felt that in order to train 'wayward lads' to become upright and useful citizens, it would be best to move them from the detention ship *Sabroan* on Sydney Harbour and put them on the land so they could become well-trained and productive farmers.

For most of the twentieth century, until it closed in 1999, the institution underwent constant change. Reflecting state juvenile justice policies based on correctional and educational theory operating at the time at government level, from a farm home it developed into a training school, a detention centre and finally **Mt Penang Juvenile Justice Centre**.

One constant at Mt Penang was that it was never fenced in all its years of operation. Escapes were quite common over the life of the place but the internal and community systems were usually efficient enough to find the escapees, bring them back and have their *time* extended.

After Mt Penang closed, the site, now considerably reduced from its

original size, has this century been administered by the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation and it is this group's **Mount Penang Gardens Event Park and Parklands**, with its concern for heritage, that conducts guided tours over the property called **A Moment in Time**.

Twelve members of **Central Coast Chapter** took a walking tour on a very warm November day and were amazed to hear about and see evidence of what had taken place over nearly a century of juvenile justice.

We met our guides Colin and Dianne at the Waterfall Cafe just below the big dam that the boys had built in the 1980s and now the starting point of the Botanic Gardens that have been established on site this century.

Our focus was not the gardens, beautiful as they are, but rather a walk up the road to the top of the hill, the site of the dairy and piggery, admiring the heritage buildings and associated grounds reflecting the daily lives of those assigned to the home, both staff and young residents.

There was so much to take in, and listening to the stories recounted by Colin, who served on the staff for over a decade, we gained a good sense of what life was like for those living there. An excellent tour innovation was to issue us with copies of Valerie Rubie's history of the place and as we paused at each building or ground feature, we were directed to a particular page and the relevant picture of what was going on right there 'back then'.

*Pictured below: Tour guide Colin (at right, in cap) directs Central Coast Chapter members to the relevant historic photograph of what was once a staff room.*





We glimpsed pictures of boys living in circular tents, digging dams, drains and swimming pools, pouring concrete walls for the now heritage buildings, taking lessons more practical than academic and everywhere marching, marching, to and fro, a practice that took many years to die out.

Colin's tales were wonderful. In his time he said once the escapee siren had gone off, he and the more loyal senior boys would go down the hill to the edge of Gosford and wait at KFC for the errant miscreants to emerge from the bush before they could get as far as the railway station and *supposed* freedom. While we sat in what was once the parade ground (now a leafy enclosure), Colin referred to the nearby ablution block and the staff's daily afternoon duty to get 100 boys showered in 10 minutes!!

We tourists had many questions to ask and Colin and Dianne were mines of information on what the many dor-

mitories were named and used for over the years. It seems change was constant and even today the Mt Penang site and its buildings are in full use by current tenants, with at least four different schools currently in operation.

Yes, wayward boys are long gone but we with historical interest were encouraged to do our own exploring and particularly to borrow a library copy of Valerie Rubie's excellent book *Sent to the Mountain* and read the full story of nearly a century of service in juvenile justice.

Our chapter members gave hearty thanks to our guides after an excellent morning of history and those not needing to rush off to other appointments were able to enjoy lunch at the Waterfall Cafe.

An excellent outing indeed!

WJF

## BOOK REVIEW: *PRECIOUS CARGO* by CARLENE WINCH-DUMMETT

It is always good to know that our members continue to exercise their writing skills and are adding to the collection of First Fleeter stories.

A new book, *Precious Cargo*, by historian #8433 **Carlene Winch-Dummett**, and based solely on primary sources, tells the story of her ancestor **Mary Turner** who arrived at Sydney Cove with 103 other women convicts on the *Lady Penrhyn*. The author's literary style is pleasant to read, and her text is interspersed with informative anecdotes and back stories about many of Mary Turner's fellow convicts.

The book is divided into two parts - first Mary Turner, and then her third fleet husband **David Batty**. As a fascinating teaser to what is to follow, we meet the mysterious David Batty in the challenging introduction. Several contrasting trials, with which he is involved from 1784 in London to 1810 Sydney, book-end in an intriguing fashion the rest of the story.

Mary Turner was one of the seven Worcestershire women who have featured in other recent publications, but in *Precious Cargo* she takes the main stage. Many of the women are featured in the second chapter where the reader is given an outline of their crimes and court cases, and where the author-historian comments on the well-known range of punishments meted out.

The third chapter gives us **Surgeon Arthur Bowes Smyth's** account of the voyage. This comes across as an in-depth study of the man himself and his changing attitude toward the women in his care. Supportive and positive at first, his opinions gradually alter and eventually become quite vindictive. By the time Sydney Cove is reached and

the women allowed to shore Bowes Smyth has nothing kind to say. Our author puts this final peevishness down to the surgeon's not being invited to the official reception.

Mary's story on Norfolk Island and back in Sydney is eventually told in some detail, especially the interesting anecdote when Mary, possibly unaware of the danger she was in, is caught up in administrative legal politics raging in March 1789 and threatened with execution by **Marine Captain James Campbell**.

Reading history afresh can always reveal incidents we have not come across before. Of note was the fact that 'all children born at sea would be accepted as belonging to the Parish of Stepney' (P 36). Again, in chapter 4, we learn that while exploring the Botany Bay foreshore with **John Palmer** Bowes Smyth became hopelessly lost 'in the woods' when confronted by some aborigines.

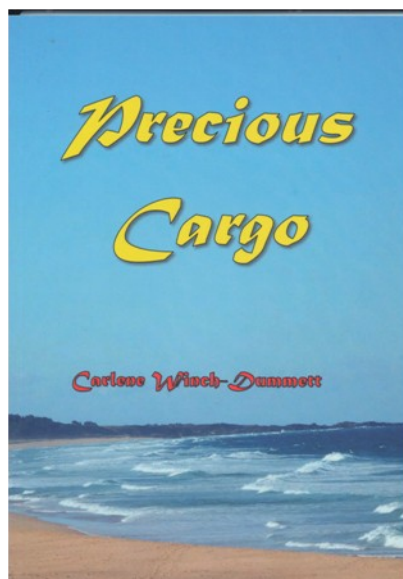
Your reviewer enjoyed this book and recommends it for those who would appreciate a somewhat fresh approach

to Lady Penrhyn convicts. Over 70 of them are mentioned in the text, but alas, there is no index, either to them or to some of the men of the First Fleet as well. Those who like to refer to end notes as they read may also be rather frustrated with some significant errors linking some superscripts with their relevant chapters.

In summary, thank you Carlene for a most rewarding and informative book, a worthy addition to First Fleet libraries.

WJF

**Note: Contact the author on [cawinch@bigpond.com](mailto:cawinch@bigpond.com) about obtaining a printed copy. Otherwise the book may be downloaded from her website: [www.seaspirit.weebly.com](http://www.seaspirit.weebly.com). Her phone number, at Tuross Heads NSW, is (02) 4473 9601.**



## EDWARD HUMPHRIES - DUSTMAN OF KENT

**Edward Humphreys** was born in 1765 at Deptford Kent England and baptised on 6 January 1766. His father was **William Humphrey/Humphries** and mother **Elizabeth Holmes**. He was indicted at the Old Bailey as Edward Humphreys on 11 May 1785. His crime, committed on 8 November 1784, was feloniously stealing, one cloth coat value 30s, one pair of leather boots value 10s, all the property of **Henry Martin Bird** Esquire. At this time his occupation was given as a dustman.

The details of the crime stated, that he was stopped by a man named **Nathan Nathans** who was in possession of a great coat and boots and he asked Edward to carry the items for him. **Sarah Biggs** the house servant, deposed that on 8 November, she let the prisoner into her master's house, as a dustman, but did not miss any things till they were brought back. In his defence Edward stated, that a gentleman asked him to carry the items and that he had a "sack on his head." He called three witnesses who gave him a good character reference.

The judiciary however, decided to make an example of him, stating to him that it was a second such instance that had occurred in the Sessions, of dustmen robbing houses, It was further indicated to the court that it was an offence that was particularly dangerous, because the credulity of servants was challenged as they allowed people into the house under a trust. Found guilty he was sentenced for seven years to Africa.

From the time of his arrest on 8 November 1784 until the time of his trial on 11 May 1785 Edward was held in Newgate Prison. He was transferred to the *Censor* hulk on 23 May 1785 and following a decision to gather up a group of convicts for transportation to New Holland he was transferred from the Hulk to Portsmouth on 24 February

1787. Newspapers of the day recorded that as convicts travelled through many villages on their journey to the hulks they endured abuse on the way. Finally, he was embarked on the *Scarborough* on 27 February 1787 which left with the First Fleet on 13 May 1787 arriving in Port Jackson (Sydney) on 26 January, 1788.

On 14 February 1791 Edward married **Mary Williams**. Some indecision as to which Mary Williams this was exists. A Mary Williams is reported arriving on the First Fleet as well as on the Second Fleet. Other records state that Mary Williams, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleeter, did not arrive in the colony at all but died in England before departure. Whichever is the case Edward and Mary had six children, with Edward and Mary's second son (also called **Edward**) dying on 13 March 1796 at Sydney, aged 2 years and 4 months. All other children reached maturity.

Edward is mentioned in colonial records as having a pumpkin stolen from him by **William Parr** on 12 April 1790 with William Parr receiving 100 lashes for his crime as the theft of food was a serious crime as the supply of food was scarce in the colony and this type of theft was a serious offence.

At a later date Edward became a Constable in The Rocks area on the western side of Sydney Harbour which suggests that prior to becoming a Constable he had worked as an Overseer of convicts. He is recorded on the list of Constables taking their oath on 8 February 1800 - Masculine District (Dawes Point), The Rocks, Sydney. He is also on record as being eligible for victualling as a Constable appointed on the day of 15 December 1798.

Edward died on 4 November 1804 and his wife Mary died on 24 December 1805 leaving their four surviving children as orphans.

**#7976 Jan Halson**

## ALL AT SEA

In October last year the incomparable *Sculptures by the Sea* on Bondi Bay celebrated its 20th Anniversary. For a goodly proportion of that time it has been a tradition for one of the exhibits to be chosen as displaying a relevance to the mystique of First Fleet, and being pictured in *Founders*.

This time the choice fell on the sculpture of New Zealander, **Oliver Stretton-Pow**, entitled **Infrastructure 5**. This is a robust depiction of a wrecked timber sailing ship, constructed from redwood, marine ply and bronze.

Unfortunately the work was sited on the grassy tops of Marks Park, instead of most appropriately on the sandy beach. However this apparent lack of judgment had two offsetting virtues: on the one hand it was not destroyed, as were other sculptures by an unusual rampaging 2016 spring tide, and on the other hand, the work became interactive for youngsters visiting the exhibition.

Our FFF concept of the work is that it comments on the mode of arrival of our First Fleeters by wooden ships, some not very seaworthy and as in the case of *HMS Sirius* and later arrivals, subsequently finding a grave in the southern waters. The con-

-structs from the lego-like pieces show the inventiveness of the later generations in rebuilding from the shaky and humble beginnings to create a new future, one that has pride in the development of new land and new cities. At the same time the insatiable quest for progress says that humanity has spilled over the boundaries: the ship of state looks unstable and is again threatened with destruction.

**(to page 11)**

**Infrastructure 5**





## Our Seventeen Chapters in Action

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

**Venue:** Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 11am for 10:15 **Next Meetings:** 18 February Speaker *TBA*; 18 March: Speaker *TBA*; **Next Event:** *TBA*.

**Contact:** Mary Chalmers-Borella 6025 3283

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

**Venue:** Meeting Room, Old Gordon Public School. 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon – monthly meetings, third Friday at 10.30. **Next Meetings:** 17 February: Dick Whittaker, *A History of Darlinghurst Gaol*; 17 March: Patrick Dodd, *John Macarthur, Visionary or Villain?*; 21 April: Carol Roberts, *Historic Sites in the Hawkesbury Valley*; **Next Events:** 2 March: Outing to Vaucluse House. **Contact:** Jane Ann Tainsh 94885453

### CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations in Canberra. **No Meetings or Events** until mid year. **Contact:** Geoff Cameron 62514095

### CENTRAL COAST – From Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay, highlands to coast.

**Venue:** Point Clare Community Hall – meet monthly, second Saturday at 10 am for 10.30. **Next Meetings:** 11 February: Carl Bliim, *History of NRMA*; 11 March: *TBA*; 8 April: Speaker, *Radio 50 plus*. **Next Event:** 25 February: Hawkesbury 'Governor Phillip' Cruise from Spencer to Wiseman's Ferry, with DLH Historical Society. **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

### DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

**Venue:** Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings:** 4 February: Graeme Broxam, *Norfolk Island Evacuations to Van Diemen's Land*; 1 April: Simon Cocker, *William Cuffay, A Chartist transportee 1849*. **Next Event:** *Contact:* Marilla Lowe 0362437726

### 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:** 4 February: Jon Simpson, *Restoring the James Craig*; 4 March: Don Napper, *James Barnett Colonial Architect*; 1 April: Carol Liston, *Women Convicts 1810-1836*. **Contact:** Jennifer Follers 97991161

### HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN --Western Sydney, Penrith to Windsor, Blue Mountains.

**Venue:** Mainly Tebbutt Room, Public Library, 300 George St, Windsor, but occasionally in Penrith and elsewhere-- monthly, second Saturday, 11 am. **Next Meeting:** 11 February at Springwood Presbyterian Church; Tim Cox, *The Road to Bathurst*; 11 March, at Ebenezer Chapel, Ted Brill, *Church and Locals*; 6 April: Gwen Shackell, *Sydney's St James King St*. **Next Event:** *Contact:* William Hempel 0410950101

### 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:** 20 February: Diane Blisken,

(from page

10) This second photo shows the sculpture in its more favourable location, probably on Cottesloe Beach in W.A.

#5527 Ron Withington



*Maitland & Beyond Family History, Historical mapping project*; 24 April: Ed Tonks: *Newcastle War Memorials*. **Next Event:** 20 March: Tour of Marthaville House and then lunch at Drayton's Winery Cafe. **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 49615083

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

**Venue:** Usually Kinross-Wolaroi Library, Orange; quarterly. **Next Meeting:** 25 February: to be confirmed, Tour of the new Orange Museum, then afternoon tea. **Contact:** Judy Dwyer 63658234 or 0428 173213 or dyr.tara@bigpond.com

### MID NORTH COAST -- Taree and Surrounds, Bulahdelah to Kempsey.

**Venue:** Presbyterian Church, 76 Albert Street, Taree, Bi-monthly on 4th Tuesday at 2pm.. **Next Meeting:** 28 March: Rosemary Roberts, *Convict Clothing*, plus Glenda Smith, *First Fleeters Olivia Gascoigne and Nathaniel Lucas*. **Next Event:** *Contact:* Heather Bath 0458 572 644

### MORETON – South East Queensland.

**Venue:** St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton – bi-monthly meetings, at 10 am on an available 2nd Saturday. **Next Meetings:** 11 February: Julie Webb and Don Cornford, *UTAS Family History Studies*; 1 April: Speaker *TBA*. **Next Event:** 4-11 March: Members Foundation Day Tour of Norfolk Island. **Contact:** Gloria Wallace 07 3371 2551

### NORTH COAST – Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Maclean

**Venue:** Either at Mylestom Hall or at members' homes, Bi-monthly, usually first Sunday at 10.30am. **Next Meetings:** 5 February at Mylestom Hall: Members, *Show and Tell*; 2 April at Coramba Hall: Christine Ingram and Carole Tunks, *Baby Picture Gallery - Guess Who*. **Next Event:** 4 March: Outing to Eungai Creek Buffalo Farm. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

### NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am; **Next Meeting:** 26 March: At Alstonville Bowls Club, Roddy Jordan, *Our family ancestor William Whiting*. **Next Event:** *Contact:* Margaret Soward 66863597

### NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** both at Tamworth Family History Rooms, 4 February. *Betsy Broughton and her NZ Travels*; 1 April: *TBA*. **Next Event:** *Contact:* Diana Harband 67652122

### SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

**Venue:** Laurel Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto – monthly except. Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meetings:** 7 February: Members, *Show and Tell*; 7 March: Lorraine Neate, *Scandals and Gossip in 19th Century Illawarra*; 4 April: Graham Wilcox, *Federation of Australia*. **Next Event:** *Contact:* Kevin McGregor 42713762

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

**Venue:** Mittagong Community Centre – bi-monthly – second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meetings:** 8 February: Lyn Fergusson, *FitzRoy - Beyond the Rumours*; 12 April: Graeme Wilcox, *Federation of Australia* **Next Event:** 22 February: Convict Bonnet Workshop, free. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

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

**Venue:** 256 Stirling St Perth, bi-monthly, first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 4 February: Toni Mahony, *TBA*; 1 April: Julie Aitken, *TBA*. **Next Event:** March, no date yet: Rottnest Island Convict tour, to be confirmed. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

*Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer*

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 20 March 2017**

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members

#### MICHAEL MURPHY

#8713 Bryce Alexander Wilson

#### PATRICK BURN/ANN SMITH

#8714 Stephen Arthur Bennett

#### EDWARD JONES/MARTHA EATON/ BEDDINGFIELD

#8717 Bernard Raymond Toohey

#8718 Elizabeth Gai Martin

#### THOMAS ACRES

#8719 Antony Marcus Mason

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members continued

#### JAMES SHIERS/MARY SMITH

#8720 Kerry James Slavin

### Junior Members

#### JAMES RUSE

#8715 Kate Maree Merkel

#8716 Hailey Lorraine Merkel

#### WILLIAM BUTLER

#8721 Benjamin Mark Pearce

### Friends

Friend179 David Pye

## RUN, DESCENDANTS, RUN

Did you know there is an **Annual Running Festival** held in Tasmania each year to honour the Founders of Australia, our ancestors.

It is held at **Greens Beach** at the mouth of the Tamar River and is on Sunday 17 March.

Dicky knees and metal hips notwithstanding, it is always good to go for outdoor activity. See [www.convictsandwencesmarathon.com](http://www.convictsandwencesmarathon.com) and sign up your grandchildren, if not yourself.

This year's special offer: descendants of First Fleeters have **free entry**. What a bargain!

## SCULPTURE BY THE SEA - 2016

Many thanks to #6740.1 **William Hempel** who kindly submitted his choice for a First Fleet themed exhibit in November's display. You may remember *Founders* was unable to see the most recent show on the Bondi to Tamarama, New South Wales, coastal walk and invited members to contribute their thoughts.

William says: 'In looking over my photos from the day, this one seems to possibly have a remote connection although the artist might not think so. It is titled **Celestial rings I** by **Inge King**. My first thought in viewing it was that it looked like part of an astrolabe or other navigational equipment one may have used on a ship from First Fleet times. Anyway, my opinion is most of the sculptures have little relationship but someone else might have a good alternative suggestion.'

Inge King, the pioneer of contemporary sculpture did not live to see her 6 metre high work installed at Bondi. She died, aged 100, last April in Melbourne, where her sculpture had a permanent place in her outdoor garden. King always maintained that sculpture should be 'large-scale, exuding strength, movement, light and power, yet simple'.



*Celestial Rings 1*



Donations received for upkeep of **First Fleet House** will be but to good use this month when some major structural **repairs** to the back verandah will be undertaken.



The Board thanks all those chapters and individuals who donated funds for the **Arthur Phillip Memorial** seat at Lyndhurst UK. We understand the dedication was to take place on 29 January. Pictures and story next issue.



Next year the Fellowship celebrates its **50th Anniversary**. A major luncheon is planned possibly to coincide with the anniversary of the inauguration date in March 1968. Ideas to the Board please to make the event truly memorable.



Amazing news! We believe we have found a descendant of both the First Fleet and the **Mayflower**. All will be revealed once we have confirmation from the **Mayflower Society** in USA.

(from page 7) A son, named **Owen** for his father and paternal grandfather, was born on 28 May 1792. Sadly this child died on 2 May 1794, just short of his second birthday, and is buried on Norfolk Island. It is unknown whether little Owen was buried on the Cascades farm or in the cemetery at Kingston where many of the early gravestones have been lost to the inroads of the waves. At the time of little Owen's death Margaret was again five months pregnant with her third child, conceived with Owen in December of 1793.

Owen had cultivated 15 of his 50 ploughable acres by 15 October 1793. On 10 March 1794 Owen penned his name to a memorial beseeching **Lt Francis Grose** to reconsider his edict that no arms be borne in the Colony. Settlers on Norfolk Island had been set upon and robbed. Fearing for their safety and property the settlers wished to have their guns restored to them for the protection of themselves and their families.



*Lt Governor Francis Grose*