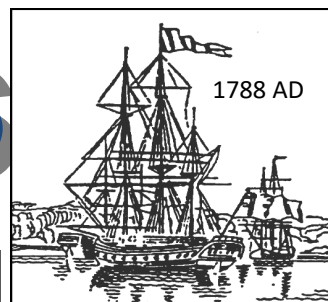


# Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

ACN 003 223 425

PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO



Volume 48, Issue 2

49th Year of Publication

April/May 2017

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

## AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON ADDRESS - 2017

(as given by) **Michael Pembroke Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, (21 January 2017)**

Dame Marie, Sir Nicholas, distinguished guests, Denis Smith and ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for inviting Gillian and me to lunch. And thank you for the privilege of addressing you on this auspicious occasion.

### From Colony to Federation

As some of you may know, my roots go back to the establishment of the colony of New South Wales and the foundation of modern Australia. My mother can trace her lineage to **John Lucas**, seventh child of **Nathaniel Lucas** and **Olivia Gascoigne**, who arrived safely - courtesy of **Arthur Phillip** - in Botany Bay in January 1788. Nathaniel became a favourite of **Philip Gidley King**, Phillip's trusted lieutenant and subsequently a Governor himself. In 1806, King appointed Nathaniel as the colony's Supervisor of Carpenters - a job description that we would probably now call 'Director of Public Works'.

In 1817, Nathaniel's son John married the daughter of **Captain Rowley** of the Marine Corps. Their eldest son, also called **John**, lived from 1818 until 1902, seeing in the new century and the new nation. He had a successful career in politics and business, and was much favoured by **Henry Parkes**, who appointed him to the Legislative Council. Parkes was, of course, the 'father of Federation' and Phillip was, as the plaque laid recently in Westminster Abbey attests, the 'founder of modern Australia'.

My mother can therefore justly claim that her ancestors were 'present at the creation' - at the establishment of the colony of New South Wales in 1788 and at the founding of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. Lucas, by the way, opposed Federation because he thought

it would diminish the revenues available to New South Wales. Some things never change.

### Parkes and Phillip

There is another connection between the visionary Henry Parkes and the inspirational Arthur Phillip. Parkes, more than anyone else, appreciated the significance of Phillip's foundational achievement. It was he who commissioned the colossal statue of Phillip that stands just inside the Royal Botanic gardens opposite the State Library. Phillip is facing towards the Heads at the entrance to Sydney Harbour, the majestic sandstone portal through which he first came in an advance party, in a long-boat rowed by seamen, on 21 January 1788; the same entrance through which so many hundreds of thousands of grateful, sometimes desperate, migrants have since arrived in this wonderful country.

On that summer day in 1788, Phillip's men were the first Europeans in all history to enter what he described as the 'finest harbour in the world'. His civil officers, mostly educated, young, somewhat romantic men of the late Enlightenment, were awed by the sparkling beauty of what lay before them. They believed - like Phillip - that they were serving the cause of humanity and recorded moving descriptions in their journals.

By the time Phillip departed, less than five years later, a new society, built from absolutely nothing, had begun to thrive. Phillip thought the colony would one day become, to use his own words, 'the Empire of the East' and 'the most valuable acquisition Great Britain ever made'. His optimism was justified - and has been amply demonstrated - but the little settlement only pulled through in its first years because of Phillip's leadership and the personal qualities that he demonstrated.

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Michael Pembroke

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Jon Fearon



Australia Day has come and gone and each year the voices for change get louder, and perhaps even more compelling. There is no doubt, even taking into account the current ways we celebrate our 'Australianness', that the day remains divisive in many of our communities.

It seemed quite fitting therefore that our luncheon speaker **Michael Pembroke** was willing to venture into the debate and make some suggestions of his own. Our membership covers a large range of personal views on any manner of subjects and there seems nothing wrong with a good hearty debate on what we hold dear as a Fellowship, be it individually or collectively.

There is much merit in the suggestion by the indigenous leader, **Noel Pearson**, that our nation should be celebrating together not one but three arrivals - Indigenous, British and Migrant, but I doubt if 26 January would be the most suitable date on which to do it.

At the luncheon our MC, **Rod Best**, gave a moving *Acknowledgement of Country* and several have asked for a copy. Rod has kindly allowed us to reproduce it here:

*At the start of today's lunch, let us remember that:*

*Our ancestors were here in 1788.*

*We know of the people who lived here then. Indeed, some of us may be Aboriginal.*

*We have the family stories, over generations, of the tragedies between our families and the Aboriginal peoples.*

*We remember both the good times and the bad. We acknowledge the decimation of a culture and its survival and growth.*

*We acknowledge the elders of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation who first interacted with us. We know that this was their land and still is.*

*We proclaim Australia Day as a day when we honestly recognise our history: as together we forge a nation, acknowledging and respecting what did happen and truthfully and sincerely avoiding future wrongs.*

To take up this theme, several of our members have asked recently if we list those who have both First Fleeter and Aboriginal ancestry. As far as I know, this has never been formally done, but that is no reason why we shouldn't get on with it now. Contact me if you have both strands in your DNA. This could be a worthwhile research project within that elusive subject, 'Australianness'.



**Don't be alarmed.**

This is not a political statement nor is it a symbolic enactment foreshadowing an Australian Republic!

**Page 10** explains all.

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## Humanity and Compassion

Among those personal qualities were humanity and compassion. Phillip was not just the founder of modern Australia, he set the tone for the generous, liberal and fair-minded society that we have inherited – one of which we can be proud, and which we should strive to maintain, notwithstanding the modern-day clamour from some less generous souls.

Phillip demonstrated his humanity in several ways. You all know his attitude to slavery. He had witnessed Portuguese slavery in Brazil and Dutch slavery at the Cape of Good Hope and well knew the dominant role played by British commercial interests in the Atlantic slave trade. From London before departing, at a time when slavery underpinned the prosperity of all of the world's colonial powers, he wrote that 'There can be no slavery in a free land and consequently no slaves'. At the same time, on the other side of the Pacific, in the newly-formed United States of America, some politicians and citizens clung so tenaciously to the institution of slavery that eighty years later it would cause a civil war.

Phillip's treatment of the convicts was another example of his compassion. He was lenient – surprisingly so – while being correspondingly harsh on any marines and seamen who transgressed. Some Englishmen complained about Phillip's egalitarianism. Some found it baffling and unsettling. **Major Ross**, his difficult and irascible deputy, expostulated in a letter home – 'Could I possibly have imagined that I was to be served with no more butter than any of the convicts, I most certainly would not have left England!' It was all part of the absurdly ambitious social experiment that Phillip sought to implement – to improve and reform the convicts; to emancipate them and make them the pillars of a simple rural society; to give them small acreages so they could settle and cultivate the land, raise children and be re-born through physical labour and subsistence farming. Nothing like it had been tried before. But the experiment worked.

Phillip's humanity was also evident in his attitude to the Aborigines. And it deserves to be better understood. The foundational emblem of the early relationship was Phillip's brave and peaceful approach to the frightened and awestruck indigenous men who gathered on the beach at Botany Bay to stare at the eleven strange ships that had entered their world. When he was rowed ashore, Phillip's arms were outstretched, all guns were down. Within a very short time, the sailors were dancing a jig with the Aborigines on the sand – to much hilarity on both sides. Phillip even ordered one of the sailors to show his genitals to demonstrate that the visitors were, in essential respects, like their 'hosts'.

There were other ways in which Phillip saw the Aborigines as equals. He intended to give them the protection of English law, writing once again from London before the fleet sailed, that 'any man who takes the life of a Native,

will be put on his trial as if he had killed one of the Garrison'. And Phillip's official instructions – I should remind you, because they are often overlooked – required him to 'conciliate the affections of the Aborigines'; to encourage everyone to 'live in amity and kindness' with them; and to punish those who should 'wantonly destroy them or give them any unnecessary interruption in the exercise of their several occupations'. Phillip took his instructions seriously. When he was ritually speared at Manly Cove, and expected to die, he directed that there be no retaliation.

Nonetheless, as we all know, the Aborigines were undoubtedly dispossessed, their lands appropriated, their fishing and hunting grounds ruined. Phillip and his officers may have been enlightened, tolerant and chivalrous in accordance with the spirit of the age, but they could not see that they were invaders. Nor could Phillip understand why **Bennelong**, whom he kidnapped and treated like a son, would choose to run away. But one winter's day in 1790, perhaps the penny dropped. Phillip wrote wistfully, and probably insightfully, to **Sir Joseph Banks** saying that 'nothing will make these people amends for the loss of their liberty'.

## Australia Day

This is the conundrum that we face every year. There is no doubt that the symbolism of 26 January is uncomfortable for many Australians. It is not a date that celebrates the unity of the nation. It is not a date that applies with equal force to all its peoples.

Furthermore, it is a somewhat arbitrary date, whose description as 'Australia Day' and celebration as a national holiday, are of relatively recent origin. 26 January is not the day when Phillip first came to Sydney Cove. Nor is it the day when the fleet first arrived. Nor is it the day when the royal proclamation was read in the name of **George III**.

And it was not until 1935 that all the states and territories agreed to use the name 'Australia Day' to mark 26 January; and not until 1994 that they began to celebrate that day uniformly as a public holiday. It is really not difficult to understand why the significance of the date has sometimes had limited appeal outside New South Wales, especially of course in South Australia.

Opposition to the choice of date is not a new phenomenon. By the time of the sesquicentenary in 1938, there were substantial protests. That year the Australian Aborigines Conference declared 26 January to be a 'Day of Mourning and Protest'. Almost 80 years later, it continues. In its current holiday edition, *The Saturday Paper* is running an Australia Day boycott campaign, contacting artists and performers to pull out of Australia day concerts and urging businesses to encourage staff to work the holiday.

I am afraid to say that there is no getting away from the fact that choice of 26 January will always be a focus of resentment and unhappiness for some Australians.

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## Federation Day - 1 January

May I leave you with the thought that a more appropriate day to celebrate the unity, the bounty and the good fortune of this lucky country may well be 1 January - a day which is beyond criticism; one which all Australians can join in without hesitation; one that celebrates our unification; when the independent colonies joined together in one magnificent federation; when the Commonwealth of Australia first came into existence.

There is, of course, every reason to honour and celebrate Phillip's majestic achievement in founding the settlement from which this country has grown and multiplied. It is in a real sense a foundation day. But it is not inclusive. The national day of most countries is one that celebrates - inclusively and unambiguously - the nation's collective harmony, unity and solidarity.

Canada's national day on 1 July celebrates the unification

of the separate colonies into one dominion. India's national day, which coincidentally is 26 January, celebrates its declaration of independence, which took legislative effect on 26 January 1950. New Zealand's national day celebrates the Treaty of Waitangi, which among other things, made an accord with the Maori and guaranteed them rights to their land. The United States national day celebrates the declaration of independence by the thirteen American colonies. These are all unifying events. I could give you many more. The same cannot be said with confidence about our current national day.

Federation Day – 1 January – does achieve that sense of unity. And it has the added advantage of avoiding the antagonism of all those worthy citizens of aboriginal descent whose ancestors resided in this country tens of thousands of years before Phillip arrived to build a new society in the name of Great Britain. **Michael Pembroke, Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.**

## TOAST TO OUR ANCESTORS – AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON

(as proposed by President Jon Fearon): I have been revisiting the excellent and most insightful book, *Australia's Birthstain, the startling legacy of the convict era*, published in 2008 by the historian **Babette Smith**.

Many of you will recall that Babette was the speaker at our annual luncheon in 2009, and that her book had been reviewed in *Founders* some months before. Her main premise in that book was that for the first 60 years of settlement there had been open support by all levels of Australian society for our nation's convict beginnings.

However after **Sir William Molesworth** and his team visited Australia and submitted their Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Transportation in 1838, with its focus on our convict birthstain, there grew a complete change in attitude towards convict ancestry.

In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, for the benefit of their descendants, families began to hide their connections to felons and transgressors and this approach lasted, for some, even as far as the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Newly created family stories began to appear stylising the role of certain family ancestors, perhaps in keeping with **George Bernard Shaw's** oft-quoted aphorism: *If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton you may as well make it dance!*

It was refreshing therefore to read a major shift was on the way back after nearly a century of collective amnesia. In 1921 **Professor George Arnold Wood**, an English academic who had been teaching in Australia for 30 years, in his address to the Royal Australian Historical Society declared, and I quote: *The most important founders of N S W were the convicts!* No doubt most of us here today would heartily agree with Professor Wood.

Our nation was built on the legacy of our ancestors, whether convict or free, and that is why we toast their

memory and honour their contribution today.

Even if your First Fleeter came as a member of a Marine detachment or a ship's crew, or perhaps as a free settler or child, the chances that there are convicts in his or her family are very high. I know there are some sitting in front of me today who can count more than 20 convicts in their lineage. There would be no birthstain lingering there.

In 1912 the Sydney journalist. **Adam McCay** satirised the community's decades of anxiety in his poem, *The Birthstain*:

*If only my great grandsire had been sent  
Out of his country for his country's good  
To help to people some new continent –  
If thus I traced my lineage, I would  
Face all the world with gallant hardihood,  
For my pedigree would be an entry  
Like that of the nobility or gentry.*

*So I'd be glad if a pickpocket smart  
Had captured grandma with his loving smiles:  
I wouldn't go around with careful art  
Expunging records in the public files  
(Criminal records of the British Isles),  
But I would glory in the demonstration  
Of genius in a previous generation.*

*Sometimes I dream myself of that good strain  
Wherein there is no vile suburban smudge,  
See my great-granddad in the dock again,  
Taking his gruel from the thin-lipped judge,  
Thus having dreamed, to work I gaily trudge  
Rich in the ancestry which surely traces  
My breed above the breed of commonplaces.*

*Alas, it is a fond and idle thought;  
My veins contain no fluid so sublime;  
My family always did the things they ought,  
Sold socks, mixed drugs, preached sermons all the time  
And never rose to one immortal crime.  
But oh, if only happy fate could fall so  
I wish I had a birthstain! Don't you also?*

Thank you for bearing with me through what some of you may consider to have been a rather drawn-out preamble to our ancestral toast.

This year we go back to the court assizes and sessions of 18<sup>th</sup> century England to compile and present our list.

Of the 180 of us here today, 101 of us are directly descended from one or more of 77 First Fleeters it is now our duty to honour.

I begin my list with the 25 First Fleeters who did not find their way here via the prosecutors and magistrates of their homeland, and then the remaining 52 by the county jurisdictions that committed them to a long voyage and a new life at the other end of the world.

**Free Settlers:** Hannah Barrisford, Maria Haynes, Henrietta Scriven.

**Ships' Crew:** Thomas Arndell, Henry Hacking, Peter Hibbs, Frederick Meredith, John Palmer, Philip Scriven, John Shortland, Thomas John Shortland, John Winter.

**Marines:** William Baker, John Barrisford, Thomas Chipp, John Gowen, George Johnston, John McCarthy, James McManus, William Nash, Thomas Spencer, William Standley, William Tunks, James Williams, Thomas Williams.

**Derbyshire:** Ann Beardsley (Derby)

**Dorsetshire:** John Morris (Dorchester)

**Durham:** Ann Colpitts (Durham)

**Hampshire:** Hannah Smith (Winchester)

**Hertfordshire:** James Freeman (St Albans)

**Kent:** Edward Whitton (Maidstone)

**Lancashire:** John Randall (Manchester)

**Middlesex:** Caroline Laycock (Guild Hall)

**Oxfordshire:** William Wall (Oxford)

**Yorkshire:** Joseph Hatton (York)

**Cornwall:** William Roberts (Bodmin), James Ruse (Bodmin)

**Devonshire:** Thomas Acres (Exeter), John Small (Exeter)

**Essex:** Philip Devine (Chelmsford), Anthony Rope (Chelmsford)

**Worcestershire:** Olivia Gascoigne (Worcester), Susannah Huffnell (Worcester)

**Gloucestershire:** Richard Morgan (Gloucester), Edward Pugh (Gloucester), Edward Risby (Gloucester)

**Norfolk:** Henry Kable (Norwich), Susannah Holmes (Norwich), Elizabeth Pulley (Thetford)

**Somersetshire:** Thomas Kidner (Bristol), Mary Phillips (Taunton), Jane Poole (Wells)

**Surrey:** William Boggis (Kingston), Mary Dickens (Southwark), William Eggleton (Kingston), Ann Forbes (Kingston), Lydia Munro (Kingston),

Ann Martin (Southwark), James Squire (Kingston)

**London – Old Bailey:** Esther Abrahams, James Bradley, Elizabeth Burley, James Bryan Cullen, Matthew Everingham, Robert Forrester, Andrew Goodwin, Jane Langley, Nathaniel Lucas, John Martin, John Nicholls, Mary Parker, James Peaulet, Ann Sandlin, James Shiers, Mary Smith, Joseph Tuso, Joseph Wright.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with charged glasses, please be upstanding, and by their names: OUR ANCESTORS.

## FROM THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

(Volume 2, Number 9, December 1971.)

*The First Fleeters Co-operative Society are happy to announce that the primary aim of the Society has been achieved by the purchase of portion of the historical land known as 'Australian Farm' at Leeds Vale, 3 miles upstream from Wiseman's Ferry on the Hawkesbury River, 5 acres in all, with 100 yards of river frontage.*

*With this tract of land at our disposal plans for the future development are of immediate importance, and an invitation is extended to all members and Associates of the Fellowship to subscribe towards their own Holiday and Recreation Picnic Area at a minimum cost.*

*Subscriptions are for either \$100 cash or by an easy payment plan over a 12 months period. . . We would also appreciate it if existing shareholders would express their views on development to the directors.*

## CHAPTER SECRETARIES

### ALBURY-WODONGA DIST.

Mary Chalmers-Borella  
02 6025 3283

### ARTHUR PHILLIP

Jane Ann Tainsh 02 9488 5453

### CANBERRA

Brian Mattick 02 6231 8880

### CENTRAL COAST

Jon Fearon 02 4311 6254

### DERWENT

Marilla Lowe 03 6243 7726

### EASTERN FARMS

Jennifer Follers 02 9799 1161

### HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN

William Hempel 0410 950 101

### HUNTER VALLEY

Kerry Neinert 02 4961 5083

### LACHLAN MACQUARIE

Judy Dwyer 02 6365 8234

### MID NORTH COAST

Heather Bath 0458 572 644

### MORETON

Gloria Wallace 07 3371 2551

### NORTH COAST

Christine Ingram 0431 406 312

### NORTHERN RIVERS

Margaret Soward 02 6686 3597

### NORTH WEST

Diana Harband 02 6765 2122

### SOUTH COAST

Kevin McGregor 02 4271 3762

### SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Wendy Selman 02 4862 4849

### SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630

## OWEN CAVANOUGH AND MARGARET DARNELL - Part 2

Ex-convict **Daniel Daniels** was hired to work for Owen for twelve months in May 1794. In June Owen is recorded as living with Margaret Darnell and her son **Charles Green**. Daughter **Grace** was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1794. First son Charles was now a sturdy lad approaching his sixth birthday. This same month marine **Charles Green** made an attempt to gain custody of his son. After a hearing by the Governor, Margaret was allowed to keep little Charles until age seven. No further attempts are recorded as being made by Green to get his son and Charles grew up in the care of Margaret and Owen.

In July 1796 Owen, Margaret and their two children left Norfolk Island for Port Jackson aboard *Francis*, having sold their land. Margaret was again three months pregnant, the child conceived in April. By 1804 Norfolk Island was in decline and plans were made to transfer the population to Van Diemen's Land. In February 1814 the brig *Kangaroo* took off the last of the men and provisions. After 26 years the island was again uninhabited – the only reminder of hardship, suffering and death the mounds in the cemetery. All the buildings were burnt to the ground.

Second daughter, **Elizabeth**, was born to Owen and Margaret in the Hawkesbury on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1797 and baptised in St Philip's Church of England in Sydney on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. Owen was granted 60 acres of land on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1797 with rent of 1/- per year due after five years but had been farming at Bardenerang Creek on the Pitt Town Bottoms since mid 1796.

The journey from Windsor to Sydney by water to sell crops took about a week depending on the weather. Owen obtained a small boat in which to take his produce to market. However this venture almost cost him his life. In October of 1797, 14 convicts escaped by sea to an island in the south, which they reached and landed upon in a very distressed state after being wrecked. They saved enough from the wreckage to build a smaller boat, which seven of them stole, leaving the remaining seven convicts marooned. The runaway convict absconders sailed north to Broken Bay and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1798, captured Owen and his boat off Mullet Island and a smaller boat containing 60 bushels of wheat and sundry other items along with its owner, John Jones, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the same month. Both boats along with their owners were taken out to sea. Owen probably thought, that at 36 years of age, having travelled to the other side of the world, that this would be the end of him. This was not to be Owen's fate, however. Owen, **John Jones** and an

absconder, who had second thoughts about the wisdom of the venture, were placed in a rowboat, set adrift and eventually reached the safety of shore on 10 January. The absconders surrendered in March, two were hanged, and Owen's boat returned. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1798, one of the escapees by the name of **Patrick Clarke**, was tried for stealing from and kidnapping Owen Cavanough and John Jones. He was found guilty as an accessory but not as a principal and was sentenced to fourteen years servitude as a convict in New South Wales, but was recommended to the mercy of the Governor. The court dissolved at 2 p.m. Was Patrick Clarke the escapee set adrift with Owen and John Jones...???..One wonders...???

The 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1799 saw the birth of **Owen Jnr**. Margaret and Owen now had four dependent children: Charles (10), Grace (4), Elizabeth (2) and a new baby. Private Charles Green died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1799 and was interred in the Devonshire Street cemetery ending the threat of Margaret's losing custody of Charles Jnr. In January 1800 Owen petitioned **Governor Hunter** to be allowed to purchase goods from the *Thynne* and the *Minerva* cargos recently arrived from England.

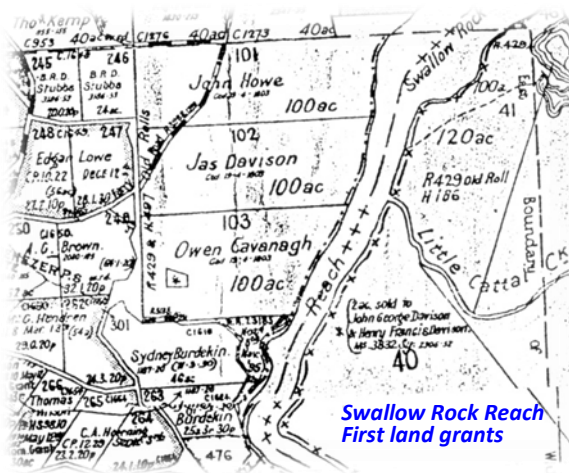
By mid 1800 Owen owned three hogs, had two acres sown in wheat and eight acres ready for planting in maize. Government Stores supplemented the family's food supply. Financial burdens became just one of many of life's hardships for Owen, which ultimately necessitated his raising loans against security of his crops and farms in 1800 and later again in the years 1817 and 1825 to name just a few occasions.

Margaret's sixth child, **Richard** was delivered on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1802. This year Owen had 15 of the 30 acres sown in wheat, barley and maize. Fourteen bushels of maize were in storage. The family along with their free servant, **John Anderson**, were now independent of Government Stores, however Owen was still obliged to provide 14 bushels of maize and 12 bushels of wheat to the store for communal use.

Land holdings expanded. Owen was a proven successful farmer. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1803 Owen

was granted 100 acres at Mulgrave Place "on the left bank of Swallow Rock Reach" by **Philip Gidley King** with a rental of 5/- per year after five years. This would appear to relate to the Ebenezer land.

This parcel of land adjoined *Coromandel* settler and cousin to the Turnbulls, **James Davison**, and was a reward for Owen's and Margaret's industry.



Owen bought a boat, the *Union*, built by **James Webb**, in 1804 by which he carried grain to Sydney. This year Owen had 24 acres sown in grain and three in vegetables and garden. He owned 21 hogs and employed convicts to help him. Margaret was again pregnant. Seventh child **James** was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1804 at Lower Portland Head. There were now six surviving children to provide for.

On 14 August 1806 the officers, civil and military settlers of the Colony along with the free inhabitants tendered a written congratulatory missive to the new naval governor **William Bligh**. The address was signed by **George Johnston** for the military, **Richard Atkins** for the civil servants and **John Macarthur** for the free settlers. Macarthur's gall in representing the free men of the Hawkesbury rankled as for years he had been one of the monopolisers of trade, inflating prices and making life more difficult for the Hawkesburyites.

Owen and many other settlers decided to make their own welcome, choosing **John Bowman**, **Williams Cummings**, **George Crossley**, **Matthew Gibbons** and **Thomas Matcham Pitt** to represent Hawkesbury interests and express indignation at the infringement of their rights and privileges. Pen and ink passed from hand to hand as 244 Hawkesbury settlers signed or added their marks. In Sydney 135 free residents also drew up an address, equally determined that Macarthur would not represent them. The Hawkesbury residents also drew up a bill of rights asking Bligh to restore freedom of trade, allow commodities to be bought and sold in a fair open market and to prevent the monopolisation and extortion currently being practised. The two disastrous floods of February and March 1806 had largely destroyed the Hawkesbury grain crops affecting the whole colony. Acute shortages saw the price of bread rise to 4/6 for a 2lb loaf in Sydney town. Many families in the Windsor district had no bread in their homes for months as they could not afford to pay the asking price.

Bligh toured the Hawkesbury acquainting himself with the settlers and their troubles. Government cattle were slaughtered for the needy and Bligh promised to purchase all excess wheat for the Government stores at 10/- per bushel. By demonstrating such zealous concern for the settlers Bligh became highly respected in the Hawkesbury.

Early in 1807 Bligh became not only a champion of the settlers but also a neighbour and fellow farmer with his purchase of 170 acres at Pitt Town from **Thomas Taylor** for £950. Bligh later extended his holdings by another 110 acres and established a large dairy herd, employing 20-30 local men. Owen and Margaret's final child, **George**, com-

pleted the family with his birth on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 1807.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1808, saw a signed address of loyalty by some 150 of the principal inhabitants of New South Wales presented to Governor William Bligh, and amongst those signatories stating their support was that of Owen Cavanough.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1808 Margaret sold "*a piece of ground and garden*" in Pitt Row, Sydney to a **Mr Ryan** for twenty pounds.

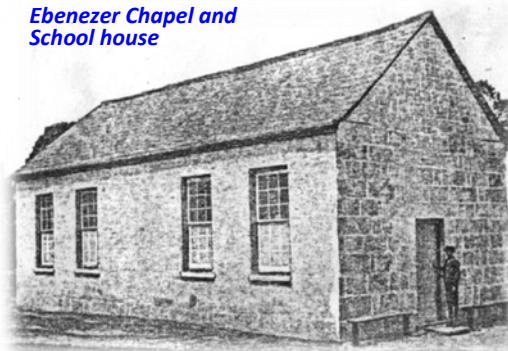
The same year, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 1808, a meeting was held and the Portland Head Society was formed for the propagation of Christian Knowledge and Education of Youth. It was decided to build a Church and School-house, as for the past five years worship had been held in the open air under a tree opposite the present church site or at the homes of **Dr. Thomas Arndell** and Owen Cavanough.

The land on which this Church was to be built was donated as a gift of four acres by Owen Cavanough from his 100 acre land grant and would be situated on his southern boundary. This became the Presbyterian Church [later the Uniting Church] at Ebenezer, and is regarded today as the oldest church building in Australia in continuous use. Plans for the chapel-school got under way. A contract was let for 3,000 ft of timber at 20s. a 100 ft to be paid for in storage

*The Ebenezer Tree*



*Ebenezer Chapel and School house*



wheat at the rate of 10s. a bushel or live pigs at 9d. or fresh pork at 1s. a lb. The group also accepted a tender for building a stone wall at

8s. a sq. yard.

Having left his seafaring years far behind him, farming was to be Owen's main form of occupation, although it is understood that he did work as a stockman for a short period in 1809. Throughout his lifetime in early New South Wales, he had many land grants and bought and sold his farms with a fair amount of regularity.

July of 1810 brought a good harvest to the Hawkesbury but the threat of flood still instilled fear of starvation as the region remained the significant provider of stores for the fledgling colony.

*(to be concluded next issue)*

# 2017 LUNCHEON PICTURE GALLERY





## ARTHUR PHILLIP MEMORIAL UNVEILED IN THE NEW FOREST

'Do you know why the New Forest and Australia have strong connections?' asked local seaman **Bev Major** at Lyndhurst Parish Council's Parish meeting in 2013. A few heads nodded. Bev enlarged on what First Fleeters already know about **Arthur Phillip**, his achievements and the significant contribution he made in laying the solid foundations for modern Australia. What was little-known was that Phillip had very strong connections with Lyndhurst and the New Forest.

Phillip had lived and farmed 32 acres in Lyndhurst for a number of years and he was appointed as Overseer of the Poor by St Michael and All Angels church. He had taken his Lyndhurst farm servant **Henry Edward Dodd**, who established crop and animal husbandry in Australia with him. The **Rev. Richard Johnson**, curate in the neighbouring parish of Boldre, also went with the First Fleet and established Christianity and education in Australia. Later, on his return from Australia, Phillip lived and worked in Lymington, a few miles down the road from Lyndhurst.

Arising from the Arthur Phillip Bicentenary Commemorations in July 2014, people in Lyndhurst resolved that there should be a permanent memorial to Arthur Phillip in the village and set about seeking further funding. We are particularly grateful to **Denis Smith** and the Fellowship of First Fleeters for their support and enthusiasm in encouraging donations from Australia.

The Parish Council had decided that the memorial should take the form of a bench of solid seasoned oak, suitably engraved, set on a brick plinth which incorporated some of the remaining 17th century bricks from Phillip's former home in Lyndhurst at *Vernalls*. The bricks were kindly donated by the Norris family who now own the land containing the remains. In addition, the Rotary Club of New Forest proposed a 'blue plaque' to be placed on the wall bounding the site of *Vernalls* where Phillip had lived and farmed.

**Dan Snow**, the well known TV historian, unveiled the two memorials in Lyndhurst on Sunday 29th January 2017. This followed the annual 'Aussie Sunday' service held at Boldre Church on the Sunday closest to Australia Day to remember their curate Richard Johnson.

Helped by **Phillip Dinn** (Rotary Club president) and attended by **Captain Shane Craig RAN** (the present naval attaché at the High Commission) Dan released the NSW flag and the plaque was revealed. They were supervised by **Janice Williams**, wall owner, and her daughter Natalie.

Dan and Captain Craig then unveiled the oak memorial bench outside the New Forest Centre, drawing back Aus-

tralian and British flags. Dan's and Rob and Louise Norris's children assisted. Dan referred to the skills Phillip had learned and took with him from the New Forest to Australia, 'If you were able to farm in the New Forest with its poor soil you could farm anywhere.'

Captain Warren Bairstow RAN (former naval attaché) had observed last year that Phillip may have learned his seamanship in the Navy but his governorship was learned right here in the New Forest.

Lyndhurst Parish Chairman **Mark Rollé** thanked all those both in the UK and Australia who had been involved in this joint project between Lyndhurst Parish Council and the New Forest Centre and in the funding of the new memorial bench. Mark mentioned particularly the Fellowship of First Fleeters and the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee in Australia, **Colin Read** (New Forest District Council) and **Keith Mans** (Hampshire County Council) for their support in funding the new oak bench and **Jill Colclough** (NFDC) who designed it. **Paul Trend** (project manager) and local historian and Parish Councillor **Angela Trend** were also thanked.

Angela said, 'The support and interest created both here and in Australia has surpassed our expectations. The project has been a great success. Arthur Phillip is no longer an almost forgotten

local hero.'

local hero.'

The many guests and other dignitaries attended a buffet lunch at the New Forest Centre whose manager, **Hilary Marshall**, said, 'We are grateful to all those who have helped with this very successful project over the last few years and we are delighted to have been involved with it.'

The memorials are the final stage of the Heritage Lottery Funded project. This has included talks, three very successful exhibitions, visits by many Australian visitors including a reception at Appletree Court attended by Professor the Hon. Dame Marie Bashir (then governor of New South Wales) in July 2014, leaflets, booklets, trails, involvement with local schools, creation of a permanent archive and permanent displays in both St Michael and All Angels church and the New Forest Centre.

It is sad that Bev Major did not live to see this final recognition of his hero. It is Bev's memorial in that not only do the people of Lyndhurst and the New Forest now recognise the part that Arthur Phillip played in laying the foundation of modern Australia, but that Australians also now see the contribution the New Forest made in shaping Phillip for his daunting task. Thank you Bev.

**Angela Trend**



**Dan Snow**

**Captain Shane Craig RAN**

# 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 10:45 for 11am. **Next Meetings:** 22 April: (date change) Michael Ronald, *Thumbnail*, Rowan Chalmers-Borella, *Anzac*; 20 May: Rev Peter McLeod-Miller, *History of Adamshurst*; 17 June: Ruth Ellis, *Thumbnail*, Mayor Kevin Mack, Speaker. **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:** 21 April: Carol Roberts, *Historic Sites in the Hawkesbury Valley*; 21 May: John Boyd, *My Irish Orphan Girls*; 16 June: John Lanser, *The Sinking of the Dunbar*. **Next Events:** 25 April: Dawn Service at Roseville Memorial Club; 5 May: Bus trip to First Fleeters Memorial at Pioneer Park Botany and the La Perouse Precinct. **Contact:** Jane Ann Tainsh 94885453

## CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations in Canberra. **No Meetings or Events** until mid year. The AGM will be held on 29th July at 2 pm at Unit 106 15 Coranderrk St Reid. **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:** 8 April: Speaker, Robyn Baker, *History of Radio*; 13 May: Garry Renshaw, *Building FF Ship Models*; 10 June: Graham Wilcox, *Federation of Australia*. **Next Event:** in April: tour of Mitchell Library; in June: Walking Tour of The Rocks. **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

## DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

**Venue:** Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings:** 1 April: Simon Cocker, *William Cuffay, A Chartist transportee 1849*; 3 June: Ros Escott *DNA in Family History*. **Next Event:** 15 or 16 April: Cruise on *Windward Bound*, Hobart to Taroona. **Contact:** Marilla Lowe 0362437726 or Judith Wood on 0404807338

## 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:** 1 April: Carol Liston, *Women Convicts 1810-1836*; 6th May: Note change of venue to Macquarie Community College at Carlingford for this meeting only, Frank Olivier, *FF William Walls*; 3 June: Graham Wilcox, *Federation of Australia*. **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:** 6 April: Gwen Shackell, *Sydney's St James King St*; 13 May, at Woodford Academy: *Its History*; 10 June: Linda Emery, *Who do you think you are?* **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:** 24 April: (4th Monday) Ed Tonks: *Newcastle War Memorials*. **Next Event:** 22 May: Soup and Damper Luncheon to celebrate the Sailing of the Fleet. **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 49615083

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

**Venue:** Usually Kinross-Wolaroi Library, Orange; quarterly. **Next Meeting:** 20 May at Old Convict Barracks, O'Connell. **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:** 23 May: 10 minute ancestry-John Dun, *FF Edward Pugh/Hannah Smith*, Main Speaker, TBA. **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:** 8 April: Members: *Norfolk Reflections and Anzac Tributes*; 10 June: Darcy Maddox, *Toowong Cemetery Headstones*. **Next Event:** In May: Visit to Beenleigh Rum Distillery. **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:** 2 April at Coramba Hall: Christine Ingram and Carole Tunks, *Baby Picture Gallery - Guess Who*; 4 June at Margaret and Joe Bass's home at Nana Glen. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

## NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

**Venue:** Alstonville Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 28 May: Speaker, Neil Johnston. **Contact:** Margaret Soward 66863597

## NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** both at Tamworth Family History Rooms, 1 April: Harold McLean, *My Ebenezer family*. **Next Event:** 3 June: 10:30 visit to Moonbi Museum with lunch at Kootingal Hotel. **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:** 4 April: Graham Wilcox, *Federation of Australia*. 3 June: Anne Mobbs, *Bundle, a local aboriginal*. **Next Event:** 13 May: Sailing of the Fleet Luncheon at Dapto Leagues Club. **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:** 12 April: Graham Wilcox, *Federation of Australia*; 14 June: Paul Brunton, *The Portraits of Captain Cook*. **Next Events:** From 19 April: Convict Bonnets at Berrima Museum; 25 April: Anzac Wreath laying at Bowral. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

## SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

**Venue:** 256 Stirling St Perth, bi-monthly, first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 1 April: Julie Aitken. 3 June: TBA. **Next Event:** 20 May: Outing to Blythewood. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 24 April 2017**

*Karys Fearon*, Chapter Liaison Officer

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members

**CHARLES PEAT/HANNAH MULLENS**

#8722 Ronald Joseph Smith

**JAMES RUSE**

#8723 Lauren Michele Badel

**EDWARD PUGH/HANNAH SMITH**

#8726 John William Dun

**JOHN CROSS**

#8727 Stephanie Frances Cross

**WILLIAM THOMPSON/MARIA HAMILTON**

#8728 Wendy Alisa Rejan

**THOMAS SPENCER/MARY PHILLIPS**

#8729 Russell Clive Hadley

**JOHN MCCARTHY/ANN BEARDSLEY**

#8730 Glen William Lambert

**ANDREW FISHBURN**

#8731 Keith Francis Jackson

**ANDREW GOODWIN/LYDIA MUNRO**

#8732 Andrew John Clark

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members continued

**JAMES BLOODWORTH/SARAH BELLAMY**

#8733 Christopher John Rowe

**ELIZABETH COLE**

#8734 William Aitken

**WILLIAM HANDLEY/MARY SPRINGHAM**

#8735 Brent Edward Searle

#8736 Darren Ray Searle

### Junior Members

**JAMES RUSE**

#8724 Mia Badel

#8725 Charlotte Badel

### Associate Members

#8654.1 Terence George Smith

#8734.1 Marlene Edith Aitken

### Additional First Fleeters

**NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE/**

**JOHN ALEXANDER HERBERT**

#1482 Richard Charles Oppenheim

## DEATHS

### FRIEND

**Friend#143 Bob Munro**, of Concord West New South Wales, died in December 2016. He was a member of Eastern Farms Chapter

### Advance Notice

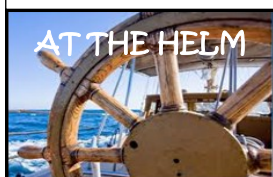
## Fellowship of First Fleeters 50th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Saturday 10 March 2018

Lighthouse Room

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
MARITIME MUSEUM

Darling Harbour NSW



The latest edition of our FFF war service **Nominal Roll** is now on our website in time for Anzac Day.



Several members of the fellowship are descended from **six First Fleeters**. Is there anyone out there who can lay claim to more than six in their ancestry?



Each year on the 3rd of February the Australian Christian Nation Association conducts a service at Richard Johnson Square in Sydney in honour of the **first Christian service on Australian soil**. This year at their invitation the President spoke on behalf of the Fellowship.



Don't forget, **Founders by e-mail** is available in full colour each issue. Contact the Editor to make the switch. Go to [jkfearon@inet.net.au](mailto:jkfearon@inet.net.au) giving your name, membership number and e-mail address.



Many members, including a group from Moreton Chapter are planning to visit Norfolk Island this year with Cathy Dunn's **History Lovers Holiday** starting on 19 May. For details and booking forms contact [office@australiannhistoryresearch.info](mailto:office@australiannhistoryresearch.info)



The Directors are pleased to inform you that it was resolved at the February meeting **not** to increase **membership fees** for the 2017-8 year.



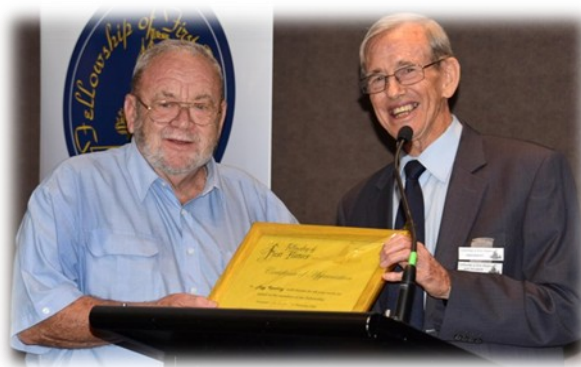
Please note that **Founders 48/3** will not reach you until after the middle of June. The Editorial team will be overseas on holiday during which they hope to attend certain FF sites in England dear to the Fellowship.



At the 2017 Australia Day Luncheon it was great to meet our most distant travellers, #8406 **Charlie and Pauline Devine** from Kerikeri, Northland NZ, a town first established by missionary Rev Samuel Marsden in 1814.

## Thank You Ray Keating

for your three outstanding years as Plaques Director.  
Your Certificate of Appreciation is well deserved.



## TO THE EDITOR

Jon, the **Owen Cavanough Part 1** article (*Founders 47/6*) included a comment that really bugs me. It quotes, "A straggling fleet of decrepit vessels, all owned by separate commercial interests". Really this is totally incorrect.

Those interested in the facts should read *The First Fleet* by **Rob Mundle** and *The First Fleet the Real Story* by **Alan Frost**. These books show in great detail the vessels selected and why, the work that was done to prepare them for the trip, cost of the work, hours involved and time taken.

Frost quotes, "None of the convict or transport ships was more than six years old. All were in good condition at the time of hiring. These were ships to take convicts to their destination on the other side of the world, not to flounder en route. The idea that these were decrepit ships is based on unexamined prejudice or inadequate research". Facts quoted in these books are supported by much detail which dispels some of the incorrect writings of others which over time tend to be treated as factual. Regards

**Ted Westwood #7264**

## VALUED DONATIONS RECEIVED

Central Coast Chapter (for essential maintenance at FF House)