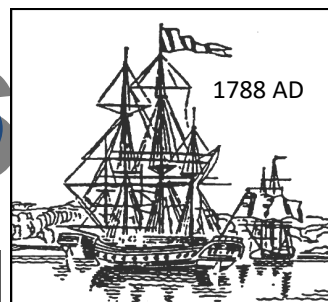


# Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO



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April-May 2018

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

## 26 JANUARY ~ THE DAY WE HONOUR

From ABC website as published for Australia  
Day, 26.01.2018.

The significance of the date, 26<sup>th</sup> January, has been somewhat lost in recent years with the encouragement to our citizenry to get out on Australia Day and enjoy the outdoors in play, sport and celebration of being Australian. Local Councils announce a range of activities with nary a mention of why the date has been chosen, the arrival of all eleven ships of the First Fleet in Sydney Cove in 1788.

Captain Arthur Phillip, soon to be Governor of the settlement, had been commissioned by the British government of the day to organise, supply and command a fleet to bring 1400 people, among them convicted criminals, their Marine minders and overseeing naval officers, and some family members, to fulfil his charge, to establish a new British colony on the other side of the world.

The journey of just over eight months, an amazing navigational feat of its time, deserves to be celebrated in its own right, and its success is in no small measure due to the outstanding skills and expertise of Phillip, his fellow officers and the crews assigned to the task.

Not all those months were at sea, however, with stopovers for supplies and repairs arranged for Spanish Teneriffe, Portuguese Rio De Janeiro and Dutch Cape

Town, each of them with strategic connotations relevant to the geopolitics of the times. And the ostensible purpose, to relieve overcrowding in British gaols exacerbated by the loss of the American colonies, had another lesser-known cause, to consolidate a British presence in the south Pacific in the face of French and other national European colonising interests.

The background to the passage of the fleet, briefly referred to above, may be derived from well-documented accounts from the travelling diarists thereon and these are now widely available on line. New books seem to appear regularly as well.

Even though the entire fleet, having travelled the last leg across the Indian Ocean in two separate flotillas, had assembled by 20 January 1788 in Botany Bay, it was its relocation to the more suitable Port Jackson on the 26<sup>th</sup> that has always been commemorated, right from the outset.

In the early years of settlement due acknowledgement was given annually to this arrival date and diaries and letters of the time refer to officers' drinking to the settlement's health and success and the convicts being given a rest from work on the day. Several names for the day included,

early on, Foundation Day and Anniversary Day amongst others, and it wasn't until 1818, thirty years and one generation after settlement began, that the name Australia Day was first used officially.

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Algernon Talmage, 1938, NSW State Library, public domain

## FOUNDERS

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**Note:** Many other tasks are looked after by our team of faithful volunteers who are at First Fleet House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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## PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon



Every year, come January, the pro-invasion voices get louder, and this year, the 230th Anniversary of our ancestors' arrival, their noise was almost deafening. The Fellowship has been challenged on the issue from many quarters and not only from outside the membership.

'Changing the date' seems to be the populist approach, so it was interesting for the Fellowship to be asked by the ABC to place an opinion piece on their website and **not to enter** the date debate. Their editor felt that a straightforward article on the origins of 26 January was needed to be added to the mix.

This we duly accepted and the article is reprinted and appears in this issue as it did on the net in January. Some of our members posted appreciative comments, as did members of the general public, but even so we were blasted, almost vilified in places, by some in opposition, revealing as they wrote how little they know of Australia's settlement history.

Given the climate of inclusiveness and reconciliation and the unsettling complexity of revisionist history I don't think we should stop up our ears and live in the past. It is time to make changes in our ethos, to be aware of and attune ourselves to current thinking. Looking again at the aims and objectives with which we began 50 years ago and which have given us the drive to succeed as we have, it seems we should be now be working towards **vision and mission statements** that belong to the 21st Century in which we find ourselves.

I have been dwelling on these thoughts for some time and the juxtaposition of our Anniversary celebrations with the chapter concerns on sustainability and viability, along with the earnest discussion thus engendered, have been most encouraging.

The chapters meeting at First Fleet House on Tuesday 13 March, while revisiting some of the issues in forum format, allowed many of us to catch glimpses of the way forward. There were 28 of us in attendance representing nine chapters, and apologies were received from another five chapters.

An ongoing interest in history should be encouraged within our membership and it is widely thought that **Friends of the Fellowship** should be more easily seen as a clear and obvious form of full membership. Chapters were encouraged to develop their own badge systems to involve those arriving on later fleets.

With the increasing ages of our long-standing membership it will be essential to harness the enthusiasm of younger generations. To this end we will be taking another look at using **Facebook** in a more effective forum format. A team of two or three members has volunteered to develop this area of community outreach, making news and views raised and discussed directly linked to our website. It has also been suggested that *Founders* as it is published should go straight to the website, then removed to be replaced by the following issue.

Other matters for future policy decisions include the ramifications of **DNA research**, the fit of 'social' chapters with company requirements, our friendship walk alongside our **indigenous communities**, better outreach to **school students**, and even a strong encouragement of **university research projects** in history. The list seems endless.

Please contact me and the Directors with your thoughts. We need to hear from you so we are all marching together into the next 50 years.

**WJF**



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON ~ 'A TRIUMPH'

Congratulatory wishes have come flooding in after our 10 March Luncheon at the Lighthouse Room of the Australian National Maritime Museum at Sydney's Darling Harbour. An 'outstanding venue' was widely heard.

Members gathered from as far away as Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland to celebrate our 50 years. Over 230 guests sat down to a fine two-course meal, having been welcomed by drinks and canapés. The tables had FF ships' lanterns as their centre pieces and ten different individual place mats featuring a range of historic photos.

Souvenirs for those attending included a history booklet, an anniversary pen and our own prepaid envelope prepared by Australia Post. These gifts were much appreciated. Many thanks to those who worked so hard to have these ready for the big day.

**Roderick Best** was the MC, a role he does so well, and led us through a programme which included reflections from former Presidents and the bestowal of two special historic honours.

included on page 4 where the list of First Fleeters represented at the Luncheon can be found. Honour was also given to the captains and crews who brought the 11 ships safely to our shores.



*Zillah Kable, earliest member*

Jon was able to read the reflections of our long-term president **Peter Christian** who apologised that he couldn't be with us on the day but wished he could be. Another of our presidents, **James Donohoe**, had planned to come and take part but, sadly, his wife **Sandra** was taken ill on the morning of the event and they were not able to join us.

Our speaker, Emeritus Professor **Richard Waterhouse**, gave a challenging and most interesting talk and has kindly allowed us to reproduce this in *Founders*. It starts on page 5 and will conclude next issue.

Although she has recently lost her husband, our much loved Patron, **Dame Marie Bashir**, did not want to miss an opportunity to speak to our members and congratulate us all on reaching and celebrating our 50th anniversary.



*Dame Marie Bashir*

**#38, Zillah Kable**, was presented with flowers as the earliest continuous member of the Fellowship and one who worked tirelessly in many executive roles in the early days. She responded with warmth and deep gratitude.

Our own historian and author **#8147.1, Patricia Kennedy**, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her sterling work in researching and preparing the booklet *50 Years of the Fellowship of First Fleeters 1968-2018*.

President **Jon Fearon** proposed the Royal Toast and the Toast to our Ancestors. The full text of the latter has been



Our photographer was **Tony Holden** and a selection of his table photos will be placed on the Fellowship's website when they are ready. Well done, Tony, many thanks.

**At left: The Anniversary mementoes: Envelope, pen, place mat and History booklet. The prepaid envelopes are available at Australia Post, nationwide.**

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ~ TOAST TO OUR ANCESTORS

### ...as proposed by President Jon Fearon

I wonder how many of you came to the Museum today by ferry. If you did, and you came in one of the very new Emerald Class ferries such as *Catherine Hamlin* or *Bunga-ree*, you would have been on a craft with almost exactly the same horizontal linear dimensions as the largest of the First Fleet transports, *Alexander*.

Then again, if your ferry was one of the now 30 year old First Fleet Class, whose names you will know, it would have been the same length and width as the smallest of the transports, *Friendship*. Pace it out on land some time. You might be amazed.

Of course our present day Sydney Harbour fleet, in the two classes mentioned, are all Tasmanian-built catamarans. They are so light they almost skim across the water, the smaller ones having only one-fifth the displacement of *Alexander* of First Fleet fame.

Since the voyage of the First Fleet in 1787-1788 was such a momentous and successful venture, I thought that for the toast this year, as well as the passengers we would honour the masters and crews of the ships our ancestors arrived on 230 years ago.

Eighty of those who reached these shores in January 1788 are represented today amongst the members of the Fellowship sitting here before me. We will remember them clustered in the seven ships they came in, in order of displacement, from the largest to the smallest.

On *HMS Sirius*, of 540 tonnes and 34 by 10 metres, and captained by Lieutenant John Hunter, were: Owen Cave-naugh, John Gowen, Peter Hibbs, Philip Gidley King, Michael Murphy, John Palmer, Daniel Stanfield, Isaac Tarr and William Tunks.

On the transport *Alexander*, 452 tonnes and 35 by 9 metres, and skippered by Duncan Sinclair, were: John Cross, William Dring, William Eggleton, Andrew Fishburn, James Freeman, John Martin, William Parish, John Randall, Edward Risby, Anthony Rope, John Shortland (Senior), William Wall and John Winter.

The master of *Scarborough*, 430 tonnes and 34 by 9, was John Marshall. He and his crew had the care of: Jacob Bel-

lett, William Boggis, James Bradley, James Bryan Cullen, William Douglas, Matthew Everingham, Robert Forrester, Andrew Goodwin, Joseph Hatton, Nathaniel Lucas, Edward Miles, John Nicholls, James Peaulett, William Roberts, James Shears, Joseph Tuso, Edward Whitton, James Wright and Joseph Wright.

The transport *Prince of Wales*, unrepresented in today's ferry fleet, presumably due to there being a living Prince of that title, was skippered by one, John Mason. His craft was of 350 tonnes (31 by 9 metres), and brought us: Hannah Barrisford, John Barrisford, Margaret Darnell, Deborah Ellam, Ann Forbes, Ellen Fraser (Redchester), Mary Groves, Maria Haynes, Lydia Munro, William Nash, Elizabeth Pulley and Mary Spencer.

Next in size, and named after a titled lady of present day existence, was *Lady Penrhyn*. She was of 338 tonnes, 31 by 8 metres, and, skippered by William Cropton Sever, had on board: Mary Allen, Elizabeth Burley, Ann Colpitts, Mary Dickenson, Olivia Gascoigne, Jane Langley, Henrietta Langley, Ann Martin, Phebe Norton, Mary Parker, Ann Sandlin, Philip Scriven, Hannah Smith and Mary Smith.

The transport *Charlotte*, just slightly smaller at 335 tonnes and with almost the same dimensions as the Lady, had as its master Thomas Gilbert. His passengers included: Thomas Acres, John Herbert, Susannah Holmes, James McManus, Jane Poole, John Small, James Squire and John Stephens (Morris).

And we must not forget *Friendship*. As we said, the smallest of the transports at 274 tonnes and just 23 metres long and 7 metres wide, she was skippered by Francis Walton and was carrying into Port Jackson: Thomas Arndell, Patrick Burn, Thomas Chipp, Henry Kable and Edward Pugh.

While you charge your glasses I pass on to you a spot of trivia. Perhaps you have already noticed that the top two male names in the list are John and William, and of the women the most represented are Mary and Ann. I guess you're not surprised.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Let's rise for a joyous toast, stating their names and living on in our hearts and minds as those never to die, OUR ANCESTORS.

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Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

### EASTERN FARMS

Jennifer Follers 02 9799 1161

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William Hempel 0410 950 101

### HUNTER VALLEY

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### MID NORTH COAST

Heather Bath 0427 018 566

### MORETON

Gloria Wallace 07 3371 2551

### NORTH COAST

Faye Smith 02 6653 1019

### NORTHERN RIVERS

Margaret Soward 02 6686 3597

### NORTH WEST

Diana Harband 02 6765 2122

### SOUTH COAST

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

### SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Wendy Selman 02 4862 4849

### SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630



## CELEBRATING, COMMEMORATING & FORGETTING THE EARLY CONVICTS

**Emeritus Professor Richard Waterhouse, 10.03.2018**

Please forgive me if I begin with what might be called an intellectual selfie – it's not merely self-indulgence but is relevant to the overall argument of this presentation. I am what might be called a generalist historian. During my career I have researched and written on topics covering the period extending from about 1600AD to about 2000AD.

Amongst other things I have written about the seventeenth century Puritan migration from England to Massachusetts, the rise of plantation slavery in colonial South Carolina, the evolution of an Australian theatre, Australian popular culture from 1788 onwards, the role of rural Australia in shaping the Australian economy, society and culture, the causes and consequences of the 1808 coup against Governor Bligh (with **Grace Karstens**), the relationship between liberty and representative government in nineteenth century Australia, and of course, given my surname, the major role of horse racing in shaping Australian leisure from the 1790s through to the 1990s, culminating in that wonderful vaudeville performance known as the Fine Cotton scandal.

As an unreconstructed gadfly historian I have the greatest respect for those historians who devote their professional lives to researching and writing about particular events in particular periods. The depth of their research allows them to glean profound insights and develop multi-layered arguments relating to their very particular subjects.

(Works within this type of history that have left the deepest impression and influence on my historical understandings include **Le Roy Ladurie's**, *Montaillou* a study of the beliefs and behaviour of the villagers of Montaillou in southern France at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, **Rhys Isaacs' The Transformation of Virginia**, an examination of the rise of radical ideology in Revolutionary Virginia, and Grace Karstens' twin studies, *The Rocks: Life in Early Sydney* and *The Colony: a history of early Sydney*. As **Tom Griffiths** has written, these two books have changed the way we think about and understand the early European history of Australia.)

But there is also an advantage, or at least I hope there is, in being a generalist, an historian who is concerned with what the Annales School of French historians call 'la

longue duree'. Taking a long-term view of Australian history allows us to locate specific events within a wider context in a way that adds to their meaning and our understanding of their significance.

My intent here is to measure the long-term influence of early 'convict' society (in the period from 1788 to about 1820) in shaping the social and cultural values of succeeding generations.

What kind of society was early NSW? Well in administrative terms it was quite unique. It was as **W C Wentworth** noted in 1819 the only British colony that lacked even 'the shadow of a free government', in the form of an advisory council, an elected assembly or a legal system of trial by jury. The British government also envisaged it becoming a unique social experiment, with the emancipated convicts practising small-scale agriculture on small lots granted by the governor.

And in part this plan was implemented, for by the mid 1790s small farmers whose crops sustained both their own families and the colony more generally were ubiquitous,

especially in the area around Parramatta and later along the Hawkesbury

But NSW also quickly came to take on the aspect of more traditional British colonies, especially those in the Americas. What underpinned most of these colonies was a ruthless, acquisitive ethos involving the pursuit of wealth. In accord with that ethos the southern colonists established plantation economies producing tobacco, rice and sugar, all of them dependent upon a forced labour system, that is, slavery. For many NSW colonists-officers, government officials and emancipists, this was the model that they believed would bring wealth both to themselves and the colony. They had a labour force in the form of assigned convicts, all they needed was a staple and so they experimented with tobacco and wine grapes and even tried growing rice in the lagoons of the Hawkesbury. And in the end they found it. As early as 1804 **Governor King** argued that wool might one day become the antipodean equivalent of rice, tobacco and sugar, as indeed in the 1820s it would become. It would remain Australia's biggest export commodity, save for a brief period in the gold rush era, through until the late 1960s



*continued on page 6)*

*(from page 5)* And so in the end the early NSW economy consisted of two strands, the first which focussed on the modest production of crops like maize and wheat along with the raising of stock, especially pork. Some of these farmers were merely subsistence; others produced enough to sell modest amounts of agricultural products to the government and later into local markets. Former First Fleeter convicts like **John Merritt** and **William Roberts** were farmers in this category as was former marine **Elias Bishop**.

The second strand was more aggressively entrepreneurial and oriented not just towards staple production but also in the direction of trade. **Henry Kable** epitomised this ethos by dealing in sealskins, sandalwood, whaling, the wholesale and retail trade, and finally brewing, while also maintaining an interest in agriculture.

This second strand became increasingly ascendant in NSW as the colony more and more took on the features of a traditional English colony. And the fact that Sydney was a relatively open society is nowhere in better evidence than in The Rocks. It simply grew up as an unofficial town, occupied by merchants, tradesmen, navvies, labourers and assigned convicts who lived with their masters and mistresses and who when not working either on the government gangs or for the people to whom they were assigned hired themselves out for wages in their own time.

Essentially these early Rocks settlers succeeded in recreating the society of pre-industrial England on the banks of the Harbour, working by the task not the clock, living side by side, merchant and tradesman, navvy and publican. They established their own form of entertainments - a theatre, pubs, games of gambling - and celebrated and commemorated births marriages and deaths in elaborate public ceremonies. The residents, not the governor or the military, shaped the culture of Sydney. And right from the beginning it reflected a culture of opposition - just like popular culture in England. **David Collins** noted that the convicts absented themselves from the musters, hid their tools so they couldn't work, got drunk on alcohol provided by the sailors, wandered through the woods in search of food and were reluctant to work unless provided with incentives, such as extra rations, the promise of the right to work for wages in their own time, and guarantees that they would be granted tickets of leave before their sentences were complete.

(And as the first generation extended settlement to new areas, especially the Hawkesbury they took this oppositional culture with them. The Hawkesbury community soon developed a reputation for drinking, carousing and even rioting. The institutions of pre-industrial culture that they brought with them, bare-knuckle prize fighting, cock fighting and horse racing in its pre-modern form, survived here far longer than in Sydney.)

And not only did Sydney quickly become a town of trade, by no means a place with a primary focus on pun-

ishment, but it also quickly spread, driven by the need to find more arable land. By 1793 about 67 settlers were farming the Parramatta River. A year later, led by James Ruse, and without the Governor's permission, more than 30 men, women and children including at least 14 First Fleeters some with wives, settled on the Hawkesbury and occupied land by what they considered to be by right of 'naked possession'.

The farming success of these settlers soon attracted more newcomers, ex-convicts, former soldiers and even convicts still under sentence. The soil was deep, dark river soil, which was soon yielding two crops a year. Although they occupied only small acreages they could also run stock, because of their access to the much-valued Castlereagh Common. **James Atkinson** would later belittle the farming practices of the ex-convict farmers claiming that they exhausted the soil and failed to introduce improvements by building fences and improving their houses. But their farming practices made sense given that they had limited capital, the soil was so rich that it was not immediately exhausted and that the frequency of floods made improvements a costly waste of resources.

A measure of the success of these early farmers, most of them former convicts, is that by 1795 they were growing sufficient grain to feed the colony and that by 1820 it was the yeoman class who owned most of the land under cultivation, half the colony's cattle and even 1/3 of the sheep. But Atkinson's denigration of their achievement was a harbinger of things to come for increasingly the era between 1788 and about 1820 (excluding the landing by Phillip) came to be regarded as a period marked by cruelty, ignorance, and a lack of progress, its very existence came to be seen as an inconvenience, even an embarrassment, certainly irrelevant to the succeeding eras of colonial and national progress.

It was also in this early period that complex relations between Aborigines and Europeans were established, relations that became precedents for future dealings. What complicated relations with the Indigenous peoples was the fact that the colonists were not encountering one people but a constellation of peoples, all with their own cultures and countries.

Phillip's instructions were to live peacefully with the Aborigines but the convicts stole their tools and weapons and the colonists as a whole appropriated their food supply - native vegetables, mud oysters and the Harbour fish supply quickly diminished. The Europeans could not conceive of the Aborigines as owners and occupiers of the land but saw them as 'savages'. So they saw appropriation of the land and its resources as natural, and desirable.

*(to be continued)*

**[Editor's Note: The text of this talk by Richard Waterhouse at the 50th Anniversary Luncheon will be concluded in the next issue of *Founders*.]**

## EDWARD KIMBERLEY OF CLARENCE PLAINS.

**Edward Kimberley** was born in 1762 the youngest of seven children. At 21 he was tried for stealing several parcels of muslin from a shop in Coventry. On being found guilty he was sentenced to seven years transportation. After spending some time in deplorable conditions in prison and on prison hulks moored in the Thames, he eventually departed with the first fleet on the all male prison ship *Scarborough* arriving in Botany Bay in 1788.

After gaining his freedom, Edward married **Mary Cavenaugh** in Sydney on 20 October 1791. Mary had been sentenced to seven years transportation in April 1788 also for stealing a piece of material. The trial records gave her age at sentencing as 10 although she was said to be 15 when she embarked on the first all female prison ship *Lady Juliana* in March 1789. She signed the marriage register with a mark X obviously not being able to read or write at the time. Of the 244 female prisoners on board 114 were sent to Norfolk Island. Many were to marry or live with men on the island.

Edward and Mary sailed to Norfolk Island a week after their marriage and by early December were settled on 12 acres of land allocated to them near the present Norfolk Island airport. Life was extremely tough in the first couple of years with many settlers facing near starvation. It was only the presence of hundreds of thousands of petrels nesting on the island that saved them. For months these life preserving birds were slaughtered in their thousands each night by the island population.

Despite these difficulties Edward was selling grain to stores within a year. By 1793 he had cultivated 10 of his ploughable acres and had hired a labourer to assist him. In 1796 he is recorded as leasing an adjoining 60 acre block. In 1807 Edward was appointed a Chief Constable. Surprisingly, considering he was once a prisoner himself, some of the treatment he inflicted on prisoners at the time was considered quite brutal.

When the decision was made to abandon Norfolk Island Edward and Mary left behind 35 acres of cleared land and 29 acres of uncleared land. On it were three shingle and boarded two storey houses, a large barn and nine log out-houses for which he was reimbursed 90 pounds. As well he received 87 pounds for stock entitlements. This property had



been their home for 17 years during which they had raised four children.

Edward and Mary and their three youngest children sailed from Norfolk Island on 8 September 1808 on the *City of Edinburgh*, arriving in the Derwent on 2 October.

Initially, the Norfolk Island settlers were allotted land at various sites around Hobart according to their origin or wealth. Edward (now a well-to-do farmer, who was regarded as a first class settler) was granted 140 acres on Clarence Plains and 300 acres at Methven. The property adjoining Clarence Plains was owned by his son-in-law **Daniel Stanfield Jnr.** and is now the site of the Rokeby Police Academy. Interestingly, a windmill built for threshing grain on Stanfield's property was moved to Edward's prop-



*St Matthews Church Rokeby, Tasmania*

erty because of lack of wind. The new site was successful and became known as Windmill Point. Several Gardinelle pear trees dating from the time of the mill are still standing and bearing fruit. They were locally known as "Regatta" pears as their fruit ripened at the time of the local regatta.

In 1814 Edward was appointed a District Constable and his house at York Plains was used as a muster point for general musters held at the time.

By 1817 Edward had added another property of 50 acres at York Plains and together with his son **William** held large contracts with the Government to supply meat and wheat.

Edward died in 1829 at age 67. His wife Mary died in September 1851 aged 78. In his will Edward left Mary the sum of 50 pounds per year, use of the house and garden where they resided with sufficient land to provide her with wood and water. The remainder of his properties were left to his only son William and son-in-law Daniel Stanfield Junior.

**#8815 Graeme Hays**

**Footnote-** Edward Kimberley's headstone, pictured at left, is now in the wall walk at St Matthew's Church Rokeby. It reads:

SACRED  
To The Memory of  
**EDWARD KIMBERLEY**  
Who Departed This Life  
At Clarence Plains  
24 November 1829  
aged 67 years



## EARLY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND ABORIGINES ~ PART 4

### Archival Articles by historian, Ena Harper, continue.

One can only ask, what caused the difference of attitude? There seems to be only one answer. It was the personality of Phillip himself which wrought the change. In the biography *Phillip of Australia* M. Barnard Eldershaw, makes this comment about him:

*In his personal relations with the black people, Philip was very happy. He showed and felt no fear of them. He treated them always as human beings endowed with reason and willing to respond to reason. He seems to have won the affection of those who came into personal contact with him. He respected them and they in some subtle way were aware of it. The austere man who could not unbend to his officers was immediately on easy terms with the natives. He never delegated intercourse with them to others. He was always the first to lay down his arms and go among the. He laughed and talked by sign-language with them, was obviously pleased with his social success in that direction .....*

There seems no doubt then that this was the secret of the Aborigines' different reception to the landing party of Governor Phillip. It is the purpose of this study to discover what were the reactions of each race to the other as time went on.

**Further Meetings with Aborigines.** First the Aborigines were apparently surprised at the appearance of the Europeans. Lieut. King mentions this in the account mentioned before:

*(The Aborigines) seemed astonished at the figure we cut in being clothed. I think it is very easy to conceive the ridiculous figure we must appear to these poor creatures who were completely naked. Two days later King describes what happened in a further meeting with the Aborigines. This is a lengthy description but is full of interest. Note once again that the marines had to fire on the natives, but Governor Phillip had no trouble in mixing with them.*

*..... We perceived a red fox dog and soon after discovered a number of the natives, who hallo'd and made signs for us to return to our boats. Having only three marines with me and Lieut. Dawes, I advanced before them unarmed, presenting some beads and ribands. Two of the natives advanced armed, but would not come close to me. I then dropped the beads and baize which I held out for them and retreated. They took it up and bound the baize around their head. They then, in a very vociferous manner, desired us to be gone and one of them threw a lance wide of us to show how far they could do execution. The distance it was thrown was, as near as I could guess, about forty yards and when*

*he took it out of the ground where it stuck, it required an exertion to pull it out.....*

*On descending the hill, they showed themselves on the top of it and were ten times more vociferous and very soon after a lance was thrown amongst us, on which I ordered one of the marines to fire with powder only when they then ran off with great precipitation. I embarked and Governor Phillip joined me from the south side of the bay where he had found the natives very sociable and friendly.*

*We re-landed on Lance Point and the same body of natives appeared, brandishing their lances and defying us. However, we rowed close in shore and the Governor disembarked with some presents which one of them came and received. This peace was re-established, much to the satisfaction of all parties.*

Europeans and Aborigines then began to fraternise and King gives an amusing account of what followed. Some of the actions are really strange and ironic in view of what happened later.

*They came around the boats and many little things were given them but what they wanted most was the great coats and clothing but hats were more particularised by them, their admiration of what they expressed by very loud shouts whenever one of us pulled our hats off. When they found us so very friendly, they ran up to the man who had thrown the lance and made very significant signs of their displeasure at his conduct by pointing all their lances at him and looking at us, intimating that they only waited our orders to kill him. However, we made signs for them to desist and made the culprit a present of some beads, etc. I gave two of them a glass of wine which then had no sooner tasted than they spit it out.*

This was the Aborigines first reaction to liquor. It was a product of European culture for which they had to acquire a taste. At this point we can ask the question What did the Aborigines drink in their natural state?

A sweet drink was made from lerp scales of native honey steeped in water in plentiful times. Flowers were sometimes added to give flavour, probably obtained mainly from the nectar. It was reported that in the north pandanus nuts, crushed and steeped in water, were sometimes left to ferment. Abbie makes the comment that, if this were so, it was the only alcoholic drink known to the Aborigines and its use must have been very restricted.

**Understanding Each Other's Language.** King tells of attempts made at understanding each other's language. Although Captain Cook had been unable to communicate with these people, we have now seen that these two races could and did make themselves understood to each other.



As in other places that the British colonised, English became the spoken and written language. Remnants of the Aboriginal language were left in place-names scattered all over the continent and a few Aboriginal words such as billabong, kangaroo, koala, wombat, didgeridoo and corroboree were absorbed into the English language. As Abbie says, *some progress was made in compiling a vocabulary* in the early days and this can be verified by reading the journals of some of the officers. However, as the tribes died out, these words became relics of a dead language.

We can obtain a vivid picture of how the two races communicated in the beginning by further reading King's story:

*We asked them the name of a number of articles which they told us and repeated our words and had already learnt so much English as to express their wants for anything by putting their finger on it gently, looking me in the face and saying No? I must do them the justice to say that I believe them to be conscientiously honest.*

*When they found we were not disposed to part with any more things, they entered into conversation with us which was very fully interpreted by very plain signs.*

Once again the Aborigines were mystified by the Europeans in their clothing. King says:

*They wanted to know what sex we were which they explained by pointing where it was distinguishable. As they took us for women, not having our beards grown, I ordered one of the people to undeceive them in this particular when they made a great shout of admiration. Pointing to the shore, which was but ten yards from us, we saw a great number of women and girls with infant children on their shoulders, make their appearance on the beach .... Those natives who were round the boats made signs for us to go to them and make us understand their persons were at our service. However, I declined their mark of hospitality but showed a handkerchief which I offered to one of the women, pointing her out. She immediately put her child down and came alongside the boat and suffered me to apply the handkerchief where Eve did the fig leaf; the natives then set up another very great shout and my female visitor returned to shore.*

This was one of the happier moments of the meeting of the two races. Lieut. William Bradley tells of a less harmonious happening on the same day:

*.... an officer and party of men were sent from the Sirius to clear a way to a run of water on the south side of the bay. The natives were well pleased with our people until they began clearing the ground, at which they were displeased and wanted them to be gone.*

The Europeans could be friendly, but always they were comparing the Aborigines with themselves and feeling that the natives of the country were an inferior race. Surgeon Arthur Bowes tells of an expedition he made next day on the south side of Botany Bay. Accompanied by several other gentlemen, they went to haul the seine (fishing net).

*Upon our landing, 7 or 8 natives came close up to us. They were all provided with lances of a great length, pointed with the bone of a stingray at one end and a piece of oyster shell at the other, ground or rubbed to a fine edge ;;;The live in miserable wigwams near the water, which are nothing more than 2 or 3 pieces of the bark of a tree set up sideways against a ridge pole fastened to an upright stick at each end ... Their principal food consists of fish which they generally eat raw. Sometimes they feast upon the kangaroo but I believe them to be too stupid and indolent a set of people to be able often to catch them ..... The women are quite naked and go in miserably bad canoes to catch fish ... I presented many of them with glass beads and several gentlemen put ribands and glass trinkets about their heads, but they seemed altogether a most stupid and insensible set of beings.*

The Europeans' feeling of superiority was based first and foremost on their superior weapons. Weapons use by the Aborigines were the spear and spear-thrower, the hunting and fighting spears being 12—16 feet long with a single point, of hardwood, bone or stingray spine fastened together with resin. The fishing spear had multiple points and other weapons were a club and wooden shield for defence. With the use of the spear-thrower, the Aborigines were reasonably accurate up to 60 yards.

Mention has already been made of the musket use by the Englishmen. The average musket of the period was a flintlock smoothbore weighing about 12 lbs. The calibre was .75 in England. With such a musket, a well-trained recruit was expected to be able to load and fire in 15 secs. These muskets were not noted for their accuracy. The best that could be expected was to hit the figure of a man at 80—100 yards.

So there was not much difference in the range of the spear and the musket. The difference lay in the velocity with which the spear and the shot travelled. The explosion of the gunpowder was also terrifying to the natives. Two incidents are recounted which show the Aborigines' attitude to the new weapons. Charles Worgan, writing on January 21, states: . . .

*the Governor had ordered that some of the officers and a number of men from the Sirius should be sent to the south shore to clear ground and dig saw pits. Some of the natives came down today both on the south and north sides of the bay and behaved very funny and friendly.* **[continues next issue]**

## BOOK REVIEW ~ JAMES SQUIRE, THE BIOGRAPHY

The author of this engaging and most readable book, journalist **Glen Humphries**, is an authority on Beer. Your reviewer, who knows nothing about beer, still enjoyed immensely this account of the life and times of first fleeter **James Squire**.

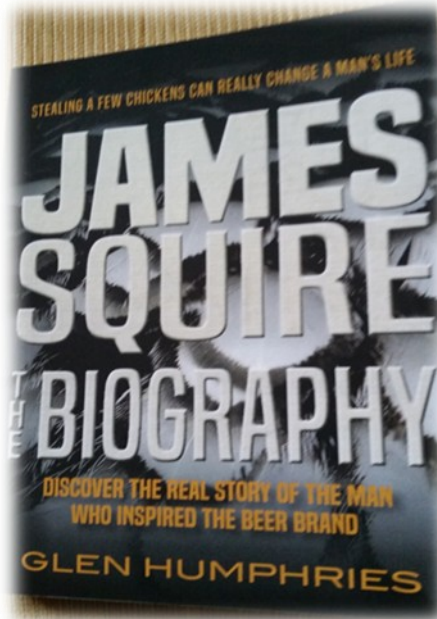
The style of the book is, in the author's own words, 'racy and easy-going', so as can be expected some of the language used may unsettle some readers.

The whole effect, however, is most successful, enhanced by cleverly chosen song titles as chapter headings. The songs even have their own annotated chapter, an inclusion definitely warranted, most of them being unknown to your reviewer, an affirmed octogenarian classical music aficionado.

Another intriguing and effective stylistic device is the author's use of an 18th century literary practice. Under each chapter title is a sentence summary of what follows beginning with the phrase, "In which. . ." Most astute.

The book, of 280 pages, is well indexed and includes an excellent authoritative bibliography which has obviously been used with attentive care during research.

As we read we can see how faithfully the author has kept



to his stated reasons for writing: 'to undo the stuff (lies?) being written about Squire and spread by the brewing company', and 'to give the story of all incidents about James Squire in the records'.

Descendants of Squire should appreciate the facts in the story, acknowledging after reading it that this is a carefully argued and convincing legal refutation. It is therefore easy to understand why the so-called and often much hyped incidents in their forebear's life need not be so.

In summary then, this book will be a very good addition to a First Fleet literary collection, written in a style that this reviewer has not met before in such a genre.

Highly recommended.

**WJF**

*Note: Copies of the book can be obtained from the author's blog, [beerisyourfriend.org](http://beerisyourfriend.org) or the micro-publishing*

*website, [lastdayofschool.net](http://lastdayofschool.net)*

*Glen Humphries' email is [dragster@hotmail.com](mailto:dragster@hotmail.com)*

### THANK YOU EASTERN FARMS CHAPTER

The Directors pass on to you and your teams their congratulations and sincere thanks for organising and manning the FFF Table at the recent **Family History Congress** at Darling Harbour. Indeed a wonderful work of service. Well done!

**(from page 1)** Celebrations of various kinds have probably taken place every year since then, but understandably the focus would have been in New South Wales, where settlement began and where the majority of those who came on the First Fleet and stayed had probably made their homes. Their descendants, who probably now number over one million, are now to be found all over the country and in many other parts of the world.

In keeping with an upsurge of interest in family history those who knew of their descent from those who arrived in 1788 formed the Fellowship of First Fleeters in 1968. One of the objectives was to keep alive Australia Day, more easily achievable, perhaps, when it was not specifically connected to a nationwide public holiday which somehow obscured the reason for the day

Descendants of those resilient and hard-working pioneers remember with pride the contribution their ancestors made to the European beginnings of this nation and will always give 26 January each year the respect and honour that is its due. It will always be First Fleet Day for them, whatever else it may be called.

The older members of the Fellowship have been disappointed to hear the statistics that show nearly 40% of to-

day's Australians do not know the significance of 26 January. Could it be that those represented by these figures have forgotten what they learnt in primary school? After all, the First Fleet and the Convict System have always been taught and remain requisite topics in the national curriculum for years 3 and 4. Then again, the large number of recent arrivals without a background in Australian history may have had a strong bearing on the statistics.

For those with First Fleet ancestry the real hero, the absolute celebrity of the whole venture, has to be Arthur Phillip himself. His superb leadership, his farming and naval background, his fortitude and sense of duty through hardship and famine, his obvious benevolence towards his convict settlers, and above all his friendliness shown to the indigenous people whose clan territory and hunting and fishing grounds would ultimately be under threat, endeared him to all. Without him Australia, as it eventually became known, may not have achieved the great renown by which it is known today.

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

**JON FEARON, President, Fellowship of First Fleeters, January 2018.**

## Our Sixteen Chapters in Action

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

**Venue:** usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.15 Morning Tea. **Next Meetings:** 21 April: Albury Mayor Kevin Mack, *Albury now and in the Future*, Thumbnail, Michael Ronald; 19 May: John Watson, *Wodonga Deputy Mayor*, Thumbnail, Syd Lukins; Luke Merriman, *Family History Research*, Thumbnail, Ruth Ellis. **Next Event:** **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:** 20 April: Australian National Maritime Museum Speaker; 18 May: Paul Brunton, *Portraits of Captain Cook*; 15 June: Dick Whitaker, *Sydney Cruising, Motor Car history*. **Next Events:** 5 April: Victoria Barracks Tour; 25 April: Anzac Dawn Service at Roseville.; 7 June: The Big Dig at Susannah Place. **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

### CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations in Canberra. **Next Events:** Mid year, see next Founders for details. **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:** 14 April: Rachel Scott, *Crime Prevention*; 12 May: Members, *Our First Fleeter Stories*; 9 June: John Boyd, *The Tank Stream*. **Next Events:** Monday 2 June: Wendy Whiteley's Garden and Lunch at Kirribilli Club. **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

### DERWENT – Southern Tasmania

**Venue:** Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings:** 7 April: Nick Brodie, *1787, the Lost Chapters of Australia's Beginning*; 2 June: Colette McAlpine, *My First Fleet Ancestor*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401566080 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 Meeting:** 5 May: Don Napper, *Government Architects, the First 100 Years*; 2 June: David Rosenberg, *The Ethics of Eavesdropping - Whistle Blowers and Leakers*. **Next Event:** 7 April: 10th Anniversary Lunch at Ryde-Eastwood Club. **Contact:** Jennifer Follers 97991161

### HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN --Windsor, Richmond, Penrith, Blue Mountains and the surrounding areas.

**Venue:** Windsor Library, Penrith Library and in Springwood - , monthly, second Saturday, 11 am. **Next Meetings:** 5 May: (1st Saturday at Penrith Library), Susan Boyer, *Author and Historian*; 2 June: (1st Saturday, at Penrith Library), Christine Yeats, *Archivist*. **Next Event:** 14 April: St John's Cemetery Walk with Judith Dunn, \$20. **Contact:** William Hempel 0410950101

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

**Venue:** Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall, 153A Bruncker Road, Adamstown – bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am – 12.30pm. **Next Meetings:** 16 April: Cameron Archer, *Local Historian*; 18 June: Sharon Lamb, *Topic TBA*. **Next Event:** 14 May: Nova Cruise on Newcastle Harbour, from 12 noon. (Numbers to Barbara Gow by 16 April. ) **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 49615083

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

**Venue:** Presb. Church, 76 Albert Street, Taree, Bi-monthly on 4th Tuesday at 2pm.. **Next Meeting:** 27 April: Kevin Carter, *Manning Valley Timber Industry*. **Next Event:** 9-12 May: Weekend visit to Tamworth, First Fleet Memorial Gardens at Wallabadah, and Nundle. **Contact:** Heather Bath 0427 018 566

### 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:** 14 April: Geoff Freak, *Bushrangers*; 9 June: Speaker *TBA*. **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 Meeting:** 3 June, at Coramba Hall, Speaker, *TBA*. **Next Event:** 7-8 April: Weekend of Fellowship at Lawrence, Saturday lunch at Lawrence Hotel, Sunday morning 1100 8 April meeting at Lawrence Hall followed by BYO lunch. Speaker, *TBA*. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

### NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

**Venue:** Ballina Cherry Street Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 27 May: Don Eagleton, *FF Andrew Fishburn*; and Karla Rojo, *Part 2 FF Ann Forbes*. **Contact:** Margaret Soward 66863597

### NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** 7 April, at Family History Centre: Members, *Oxley Bicentenary, Our FF's Lives in 1818*; 2 June: DVD, *Historic Ross, Tasmania*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Diana Harband 67652122

### SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

**Venue:** Scribbly Gum Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto – monthly except. Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meeting:** 3 April: Geoff Sykes, *War Memorials of Australia Documentary*; 5 June: Judy Bull, *My Irish travels, ancestry and orphan girl*. **Next Event:** 5 May: Sailing of the Fleet Lunch at Albion Park Bowling Club. **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

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

**Venue:** Mittagong Community Centre – bi-monthly – second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meeting:** 11 April: Dr Peta Seaton, *Petra, Jordan's ancient city*; 13 June: Cathy Dunn, *Law and Order 1788-1790*. **Next Event:** 25 April: Flower Laying after Anzac March at Mittagong. 2 May: Fort Denison Tour, \$33, all welcome. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

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

**Venue:** 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 7 April: Lorraine Clarke, *Ancestry*; 9 June: 2nd Saturday), Judy Bercene, *Rope/Pulley 230th Wedding Anniversary* **Next Event:** Sunday 6 May, East Perth Cemetery tour with Lorraine Clarke. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

*Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Closing date for this page for the next issue is 21 May 2018



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS		DEATHS
<p><i>Ordinary and Pensioner Members</i></p> <p><b>PETER HIBBS</b> #8826 Christopher Wayne Norvill</p> <p><b>JOHN NICHOLLS</b> #8827 Darrell Jon McCarthy</p> <p><b>FRANCES WILLIAMS</b> <i>New First Fleeter</i> #8828 Leeanne Margaret King</p> <p><b>ELIZABETH HAYWARD</b> #8829 Mary Louise Hume</p> <p><b>GEORGE JOHNSTON/ESTHER ABRAHAMS</b> #8830 Ruth Elizabeth Daw</p> <p><b>JAMES PEAULET</b> #8831 James Robert Holmes</p> <p><b>WILLIAM DOUGLAS/MARY GROVES</b> #8832 David Robert Barron</p> <p><b>PHILIP GIDLEY KING</b> #8833 Judith Mary Carr</p> <p><b>JOSEPH BELLETT</b> #8843 Robert Henry Clark</p>	<p><i>Ordinary and Pensioner Members</i></p> <p><b>JOHN MARTIN/JOHN RANDALL</b> #8834 Barry Charles Angus</p> <p><b>JAMES BLOODWORTH/SARAH BELLAMY</b> #8836 Jayne Dexter</p> <p><b>THOMAS LUCAS</b> #8837 Georgia Anne Kelly</p> <p><b>JAMES WRIGHT</b> #8838 Jesse Bagot-Fitzgerald</p> <p><b>THOMAS ARNDELL/ELIZABETH DALTON/BURLEY/BURLEIGH</b> #8839 Irene Robina Knox</p> <p><b>JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER</b> #8841 Lorraine Heather West</p> <p><i>Junior Members</i></p> <p><b>CAROLINE LAYCOCK</b> #8840 Ashton William Anthony</p> <p><i>Associate Members</i></p> <p>#8830.1 Warwick Daw</p>	<p><b>WILLIAM ROBERTS</b> #7398 Betty Harriman, of Ballina New South Wales, died on 01.03.2018, aged 86. Betty was a proud First Fleeter and had been President of Northern Rivers Chapter for several years. She is sadly missed by her Chapter friends and of course by her family.</p> <p><b>JOHN RANDALL/JOHN MARTIN</b> #8823 Bruce George Hamlin, of North Manly New South Wales, died on 05.03.2018. Bruce had only been a member for a few months and had joined Arthur Phillip Chapter.</p> <p><b>Donation received for First Fleet House upkeep: S and A Hall</b></p>
AUSTRALIA DAY AT HARRINGTON		

It was a day of celebration and acknowledgement for the members of our coastal communities who made Australia a safer place to live. Others are still hard at it volunteering their time and putting personal safety at risk for those who need to be rescued at sea.

Thirty members of **Mid North Coast Chapter** met at Pilot Hill at Harrington, New South Wales for morning tea and to pay tribute to **Joseph Bradley** (1809-1875) the son of first fleeter James Bradley. Joseph's father, **James Bradley**, was a convict who came on the *Scarborough* in 1788. We gave thanks at Joseph's grave for succeeding through hardship to become a Captain of several ships involved in whaling and south sea trading.

Joseph met his wife to be, **Elizabeth Downes**, on one of his trips to San Francisco. They lived in Twofold Bay and Mudgee before Joseph moved back to the coast in 1862 to become Second Pilot of the Manning River Pilot Station. Joseph and Elizabeth had eleven children. Sadly, in 1872, Joseph had a bad accident and was hit on the head by a flying object, perhaps a chain. He died three years later of what was called 'cancer to the brain'.

From Pilot Hill we ventured down to the Crowdy – Harrington Marine Rescue centre for an informative tour, led by Deputy Unit Commander **Kevin Nicholl**, of both the

complex and its working hub training centre. Special thanks were given to Kevin for his great knowledge and we expressed how grateful that we have these facilities along the coast to keep us safe and for the people who volunteer to put their lives on the line in sea rescues. We also shared the day with **Alison Quint** as our guest whose late husband, **Ron Quint**, manned the marine rescue radio for round the clock for 26 years. Boy, what dedication! Ron was awarded the OAM for services to the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol on Australia Day 1993.

We rounded off the day with a delicious lunch at the Harrington Hotel where we had a wonderful view over the Manning River. This was followed with a few celebration drinks for Australia Day and to honour the people who make our country so great to live in.



Mid North Coast Chapter members

## MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

**Moreton Chapter** would love to link up with the over 120 members in Queensland they do not know. Distance is no object. You can keep in touch via their Facebook page. Contact their Secretary on [enufclap@yahoo.com.au](mailto:enufclap@yahoo.com.au)