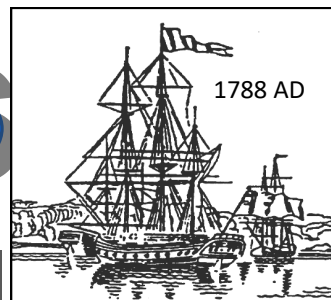


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO



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50th Year of Publication

June-July 2018

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

EASTERN FARMS CHAPTER CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

On the 7th April 2018 the Eastern Farms Chapter celebrated its 10th anniversary with a luncheon at the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club. The very first meeting of our chapter was held on the 5th April 2008 at the same venue with 25 foundation members in attendance - 15 of whom were at the luncheon. In total 63 guests were present - including past Chapter Presidents **Malcolm Squire**, **Neil Menger** and **Glenda Dingwall**.

It was particularly pleasing to have foundation member **Peter Christian OAM** with us and he was given a big round of applause. Peter served as President of the FFF for 22 years. Our guests of honour were the current FFF President **Jon Fearon** and his wife **Karys** – their presence was much appreciated.

Formalities, led by current chapter President **Frank Olivier**, included Acknowledgement of Country, a Toast to the Queen and First Fleeters, followed by Grace. A delicious buffet meal was enjoyed before more formalities followed. The 15 foundation members were

acknowledged and each received a FFF pen from Jon Fearon, followed by two entertaining speeches.

Neil Menger talked about EFC history and activities over the last 10 years attesting to the dedication and efforts of the members. Jon Fearon then spoke about some of the highlights and achievements of the FFF over the past 50 years. He quoted from some very interesting archival material which he brought along - much of which reflected upon Australian social history and past customs. The final formality was the ceremonial cutting of the 10th anniversary cake by our first president – **Malcolm Squire**.

Guests then enjoyed mingling with much animated conversation and reminiscing while we had delicious deserts, cake, tea and coffee. The luncheon having started at 12.30pm concluded at 3.30pm and was deemed to be a wonderful occasion by all those in attendance. The event was well summed up by one of our members as:

“Quite a clannish gathering and a wonderful opportunity to get to know more members personally rather than just a face”.

Our chapter is active and collegial and starting with 25 members 10 years ago now has 73 members. Our meetings regularly attract between 40 to 50 people which is extremely pleasing. We are looking forward to the next decade for our chapter.

#8402.1 Frank Olivier.
President

[Note: More pictures
on page 2]



The Presidents' Table

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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



As our 50th Anniversary Year moves along I trust everyone has been able to find and make use of the commemorative envelopes produced by Australia Post on the Fellowship's behalf. In a world dominated by social media and instant news it does not hurt to communicate in ways so well known to older generations. In so doing, however, we must remember to enthuse our young about their heritage.

This issue of Founders has a decided emphasis on our chapters, the places where fellowship abounds and stories are shared. I do encourage members in Central West NSW to get Lachlan Macquarie Chapter up and running again, and for those who live in the southern parts of Sydney, and elsewhere, to get together and commit to chapter life. It is indeed worth it. What's more, we are moving into the AGM season and need new (younger?) blood to invigorate the Fellowship locally.

In our last issue I asked members to send in ideas on the way ahead for the Fellowship. If what we are doing is correct then we would like you to confirm it. If changes are needed then the Directors are happy to bring them to the table. Of course this can be done in person by your joining the Board yourself.

On a personal note some of you will know that I have had some medical matters to attend to this year. My current treatment for bladder cancer seems to be moving along as it should. Karys and I thank you for your prayers which I believe the Lord will bless by granting me a full recovery.

Donations received for First Fleet House upkeep:

Birch J A, Burke D, Cameron M M, Childs N R, Coleman A C, Coleman S, Cottee L, Davis J E, Edwards J L, Hammond B E, Hammond C J, Hannah N D, Haspell R F, Heldon B K, Hogan D E, Hogan M T, Horsfield B J, Jones W M, Kable G P, Kemsley J T, Legge R M, Manuel J A, Mence M E, Morgan H G, Moss R L, Newell J S, Newman P, Purnell K J, Quick P A, Reed D J, Risby J C, Risby W H L, Shipton R W, Smith P M, Westbrook G, Williams B L.

MORE FROM EASTERN FARMS

Peter Christian enjoying the occasion and eyeing off the cake while Malcolm Squire does the ceremonial cutting



MID NORTH COAST AND NORTH WEST CHAPTERS MEET

The second week in May we had arranged a few days away in Tamworth and I had enquired about the Tamworth Historical Museum and whether we could arrange a tour while we were there – we had 18 people who were on the trip from the Mid North Coast Chapter. **Diana Harband** (Secretary of the North West Chapter) emailed to say could she send any info on the area which she did and from there we arranged to meet up with fourteen of their members for evening drinks and dinner.

This proved to be a wonderful night of good food, lots of laughter, sharing stories and in some cases meeting up with distant cousins who shared the same first fleeter. Here we were, people who had never met before, feeling so comfortable in each other's company. Yes it could have been that country hospitality but I feel it was more than that; it was a feeling of a common interest in history of shared family hardships and being part of the beginning of people colonising a country from the very basics and succeeding into the future with growth into greatness.

The next day we visited the Wallabadah First Fleeter Memorial Gardens and then on to Nundle for lunch, a tour of

a gold mine, a tour of the Wool Mill and the remainder of the afternoon enjoying the quirky shops of Nundle.

Before we departed for home we felt privileged to have a guided tour of the Tamworth Historical Museum which was a real treat, seeing comprehensive displays of historical buildings filled with treasures from the past.

Going west over the great divide also educated us in seeing that not so very far away from our front doors on the coast country people are doing it tough with drought and hardship. Some were saying that it is the worst they have seen it and the country is so dry when a few cows walk in the fields they create a dust storm. Why don't we know this when our country cousins are only 3-4 hours away and the only story we get from the media is how a federal member has an affair. They need help & they need it now.

After our time away I could only feel in our own small chapters we could stay stronger if we met our neighbouring chapters every few years, realising that the common thread of our beginnings in Australia could be reinforced and strengthened as we did so. **#8480 Heather Bath**



Mid North Coast Members at Wallabadah.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

No doubt many of our members have been enjoying the research into family history that this long lasting series on SBS does so well. What a surprise then to have a strong focus on our First Fleeters when **Natalie Imbruglia** delved into her Australian origins in the current season!

Woolloomooloo must have been in lockdown that early morning when the film crew visited First Fleet House in June 2017 and shot scenes of Natalie arriving and then receiving her membership from Research Officer **John Boyd**, one of three Directors sworn to secrecy until the programme went to air nearly a year later.

Alas, such is show business, 'our' sequence didn't

make it through the final editing process. Fortunately some still pictures were taken that morning and one of them has been reproduced for you here.

The development of the story most successfully took another direction with the final scenes played out on the Hawkesbury, with Natalie learning more of her link with her First Fleeter **John Ryan**.

How good it was to see and hear from the Fellowship's good friend, **Professor Grace Karskens** with whom the programme came to fitting and, as usual, erudite conclusion.

If you missed seeing it we understand you can arrange to see it through the SBS streaming system.



ARTHUR PHILLIP CHAPTER VISITS VICTORIA BARRACKS

Date: Thursday 5th April 2018; **Time:** 10.00am

Who: Arthur Phillip Chapter; **Where:** **Victoria Barracks**, Headquarters of Forces Command and considered to be one of the best examples of a military barracks in the world.



On a warm and sunny day our group of 20 rode the peak hour T2 train and then the bus to Albion Street, Paddington, where we alighted and walked to the Barracks to be checked through security. We were met by a volunteer tour guide who worked closely with **Roderick White**, our Vice President and a Retired Major with the Australian Defence Force.

Our first stop was Busby's Bore, Sydney's second water supply. With pollution threatening the Tank Stream, in 1824 Governor Darling appointed **John Busby** to address the problem. Busby decided that the Lachlan Swamp (now part of Centennial Park) was a suitable new source of clean water, to be conveyed to the town through underground tunnels. By 1837, convict labourers had completed a tunnel network stretching 3.6 kms – all by hand!

Our circuitous route took us to many places not normally viewed by regular tours, peeking in at the Sergeants' Mess (very nice!), along a lane to the Mortuary, now a cool place for storage of wine and spirits (always held under lock and key) which was kindly opened to us to view (our pleas for a "tippie" were declined in good spirit).

We walked by the impressive Regency-style Victoria Barracks, designed by **Lieutenant-Colonel George Barney**, who also built Fort Denison and reconstructed Circular Quay.

Most of the Barracks was constructed using locally quarried sandstone between 1841 and 1849. Of prime interest to our group was the *Sirius* cannon, now mounted on a beautiful carriage, and located at the end of the Barracks' long colonnade. The parade ground in front was being vigorously mowed for the cricket match that

commenced a short while later.

We viewed the Wollemi pine recently planted to honour the generations of site guides; onto the grand Officer's quarters and the Chapel of the Holy Cross. We then meandered under huge Moreton Bay Fig trees, their spreading branches providing much appreciated shade from the hot sun.

Sergeant Ryan was our guide at The Army Museum of New South Wales, housed in the original 25-cell District Military Prison which was constructed in 1847. The Museum features many armed force uniforms, ranging from the period of the First Fleet marines through the Boer War, the Great War and World War 2. Medals awarded included Victoria Cross, Military Cross, Distinguished Service Order, Campaign Medal and Royal honours. One historical



Sirius Cannon, mounted on a replica gun carriage

treasure was a calico cloth spread over a large square table onto which soldiers had signed their names which were then over-embroidered to create a very nostalgic reminder of those who had served at the Gallipoli Campaign. Sergeant Ryan was a walking encyclopaedia of the overall history - that of the First Fleet, the role of the Marines, and subsequent navy and army personnel who guarded the colony and their impact on our early history.

We then adjourned to the Functions Room where our Programme Officer **Robbie Ford** had organised with the Canteen supervisor a delicious spread of sandwiches, fresh fruit and cakes and the best coffee ever.

Thanks to the two volunteer guides, and to Robbie and Roderick for covering every meticulous detail to make this a very memorable day out.

See a montage of photos on the Arthur Phillip Chapter website under Meetings/Recent Events & Activities. **GD**

Web: www.arthurphillipchapter.weebly.com



Busby's Bore

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CHAPTER VISITS FORT DENISON



Matte-wan-ye Rock Island

Rock Island. In 1788, a convict named **Thomas Hill** was sentenced to a week on bread and water in irons there. After a time, the island came to be known as *Pinchgut* due to the effect meagre rations had on the convicts sent there as punishment. Marooning convicts on the island continued until a reasonably secure gaol was erected in 1796.

The island offered a convenient location for an effective demonstration of the fate awaiting serious offenders. It was convenient in that the island lay astride the final approach to Sydney Cove taken by all convict ships arriving in the colony. Collins observed that the gibbeted convict **Morgan** was

'an object of much greater terror to the natives, than to the white people, many of whom were more inclined to make a jest of it; but to the natives his appearance was so frightful – his clothes shaking in the wind, and the creaking of his irons.... rendered him such an alarming object to them – that they never trusted themselves near him, nor the spot on which he hung; which, until this time, had ever been with them a favourite place of resort.'

Royal Engineer **Captain George Barney** arrived in December 1835 and after assessing the existing defences of Sydney recommended the building of a fort on Pinchgut Island. Fortification of the island began in 1841 but was not completed until 1857. Bar-

ney began unauthorised work using convict labour to flatten the island to provide a platform on which a fort could be constructed. The Martello Tower, the last of its kind built in the British Empire, was finally finished in November 1857.

The fort was named after **Sir William Thomas Denison**, the Governor of New South Wales from 1855 to 1861 and is now managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

After the First Fleet arrived in 1788, **Governor Phillip** and his Judge Advocate **David Collins** used the name

On a partly overcast but warm day eleven Southern Highlands Chapter members and guests travelled by train to Sydney's Circular Quay on Wednesday 2nd May to join a guided tour of the island Fort. We met at wharf 6 to take the Captain Cook ferry from Circular Quay to Pinchgut Island via Luna Park.

When we disembarked from the ferry we were met by our National Parks guide who took us on a guided tour of the Martello Tower, named after Cape Martello in Corsica where the British first built a tower of this design.



Left to Right: Gwen Herbert, Carol Schillert, Pamela Cormick, Susan Cormick, Helen Anderson, Rod Davis, Denice Mackey, Ian Mackey, Ros Dale and Randolph Barnes—Rob Herbert behind the camera.

At the end of the tower tour we moved to the southern bastion for the firing of the 1:00 pm gun, which was quite spectacular and, either by design or sheer coincidence, gave the gunner (our guide) a target" in the form of a passing square-rigged ship. After the firing of the gun we were at our leisure and free to eat whatever we brought for lunch and visit the museum located in what was the origin bar-

racks for the men and officers manning the fort. We all agreed the outing had been very worthwhile and a tremendous success.

Firing the 1:00 p.m. gun – target - the passing square-rigged ship



CELEBRATING, COMMEMORATING & FORGETTING THE EARLY CONVICTS~2

Professor Richard Waterhouse's talk concludes:

Inevitably, however, Aboriginal resistance followed, usually in the form of killing and wounding those convicts who engaged in theft and violence against the Aborigines, including the theft of their women and children. And Phillip, too, while anxious to promote reconciliation was also determined to demonstrate the power of British justice. The 1790 headhunting expedition mounted in the wake of the murder of Phillip's gamekeeper was less an attempt to secure justice than to demonstrate British power.

Phillip wanted the heads of Aborigines, they didn't have to be those of the murderers. And this pattern of race relations involving the appropriation of Aboriginal land, food and women, the punishment of resistance by sending out armed colonists to attack any Aborigines in the vicinity was to become common as the Europeans pushed across the mountains, west to the Darling, north to the Darling Downs and south to Australia Felix.

The establishment of a society that quickly became economically independent, acquisitive and entrepreneurial, as well as successfully expansionist marked these first 30 years of European settlement. If it was marked by a degree of cruelty and old-fashionedness that was as much because it was a pre-industrial as it was because it was a convict society.

However, it wasn't an exact replica of Home. Because of its original purpose as a convict colony, because its survival depended on its adaptation to a new environment, and because it was also shaped by interaction between Europeans and Aborigines, it also evolved into something that was at least partially unique - marked by a strong egalitarian and anti-authoritarian strand.

And yet, especially from the 1840s onwards this was a period and a society that was largely written out of Australian history. And this happened in two ways. First, the 'starting point' of Australian history was moved forward. Sometimes, this was a short move with the Macquarie era claimed as the period that marked the beginnings of a modern, free society. We can perhaps view this claim with some scepticism since it was first and most vehemently argued by **Lachlan Macquarie** himself.

Late in the nineteenth and especially early in the twentieth century politicians and historians began to argue that 1813 and the crossing of the Blue Mountains marked the real beginning of the trek towards the establishment of a modern, free nation. They claimed that before 1813 NSW was an impoverished convict outpost but with the discovery of the path across the mountains and onto the rich plains of the west, there came a rush of westward migration and the immediate commencement of the long prosperous ride on the back of the big merino. The great articulator of this 'history' was none other than **Banjo Paterson** who in 'The Song of the Future' (1889) compared the

three explorers to a collective Moses and the colonists to the Israelites being led to the Promised Land. Not to be outdone, of course, the Victorians moved the beginnings of Australia to the Victorian Gold Rushes of the 1850s claiming that they brought prosperity, democracy and modernity.

Second, beginning in the 1840s a foundation story about Australia and its history began to gain prominence and influence, which was frequently updated to include contemporary events, and which came to be known as the pioneer legend. This foundation narrative was accepted as the authoritative account of Australia's history and was widely quoted at all major commemorations. As late as 1952 Prime Minister **Robert Menzies** in his Australia Day address referred to the central role of the pioneers in the path to nationhood.

The story at the centre of the pioneer legend can be briefly summarised. First, it focussed on one of the central experiences of nineteenth century European Australians: their conversion of large sections of the landscape into agricultural farms and grazing properties. Second, the legend stressed the common goals, achieved through individual enterprise, of all those who laboured on the frontier-bush workers, squatters, selectors and women as well as men. It was both an inclusive and conservative foundation story, for it celebrated individual achievement, described a society marked by common purpose and promoted reverence for the generations of pioneers, whose labour guaranteed the prosperity of succeeding generations, city dwellers as well as rural inhabitants.

Well, it wasn't completely inclusive because it left out two groups - the convicts and the Aborigines. Actually Aborigines were sometimes mentioned but only as primitive people who necessarily needed to be thrust aside in the march of progress

*And we fought the black, and we blazed the track
That ye might inherit the land*

But how could the convicts be ignored?

Well, when the pioneer legend was first articulated in the 1840s and afterwards, it was the European explorers and squatters who were described as 'civilisation's pioneers. A few colonists pointed out that it was assigned convict servants who discovered and worked the rich pastoral runs illegally occupied by the squatters but their voices were ignored. Around 1860, no doubt in anticipation of the Selection Acts, interpreters of the legend began to include farmers amongst the pioneers. .

There were occasional references to the contribution of the convicts. In 1888 **Henry Parkes** argued that convicts were the first generation of pioneers, whose sufferings in the hulks and on board the first fleet had restored their moral fibre and allowed them to clear the rough ironbarks and found a civilisation.

But the privileging of the 1813 crossing in the centenary celebrations of 1913 allowed politicians and schoolteachers alike to eliminate the convict system as important to the history of Australia's first colony. And the Victorians made the people of NSW even more anxious to obliterate their convict origins by constantly reminding them of their 'criminal' ancestors. When Parkes, in a rush of blood to the head, proposed to rename NSW 'Australia', the Victorian premier, furious at this act of usurpation suggested that NSW should adopt the alternative name of 'convictoriana'.

Perhaps this process of forgetting, oh what the hell let's just call it censorship, reached its apotheosis in the 1938 celebrations. These included a re-enactment of Phillip's landing, the drinking of a loyal toast and the raising of the Union Jack. Apart from the military figures a group of Aborigines from far western NSW were present, the organisers having decided not to invite local Indigenous people from La Perouse to act as the Eora because they had light coloured skin.

In any case there were no actors dressed as convicts present because the President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, **Karl Kramp**, had claimed that the splendid work done by those convicts on the First Fleet only took place after they were emancipated and became free citizens. A pioneer, it seems, could not be a convict, although of course many of those who worked farms at Parramatta and on the Hawkesbury were men and women who were still convicts under sentence. Today, Karl Kramp would fail Australian History 101.

I remember in 1971, as a young Johns Hopkins postgraduate student, sitting in The South Caroliniana Library in Columbia South Carolina and staring at shelf after shelf of books about the family histories of the good European citizens of that state. They had titles like *Little Acorns from the Mighty Oak*.

I found myself wondering if family history would ever become really popular in Australia. At that time I thought it unlikely. But the fact is that since then academic historians in Australia have become more interested in the past of their own country and family history has become an industry in itself. And both academic and family historians have also rediscovered the convict era and its critical role in shaping Australian society.

From the 1820s onwards free colonists and visitors had dismissed this era as marked by moral degeneracy, corruption, and a lack of progress. In fact because the convicts, government officials and those who belonged to the military brought English cultural baggage with them, early NSW in many ways was at least a partial replica of English pre-industrial society.

In this context, as I have already indicated, the early colonists distrusted authority and recreated a popular culture grounded in opposition to authority as their English inher-

itance. They were not particularly religious and were fatalists in their views about life and death. They marked their lives by tasks to be accomplished according to the day, week and season rather than by the clock. The colonists generally also believed that Englishmen overseas possessed the same rights as Englishmen at home and so the movement towards trial by jury and especially representative government began in early NSW. It was more the legacy of agitators like **W C Wentworth**, **Sir John Jamison** and **Edward Eagar** and the convict uprising at Castle Hill (1804) and the so-called Rum Rebellion (1808) than it was of the Eureka Rebellion (1854). For, from the earliest times the colonists believed that they could not be taxed except by the authority of a representative assembly, and that in ignoring this precept, the colonial government was in violation of Magna Charta.

Succeeding generations of colonists and their post Federation successors were haunted by what came to be referred to as the 'convict stain'. In response, the urban middle class, which emerged after 1850, became obsessed with respectability and conformity, reflected in the strength of the temperance and Sabbatarian movements. The former reached its peak with the passing of early or six o'clock closing legislation as a 'temporary' war time measure in NSW, VIC and other states during World War 1. This legislation was repealed in NSW in 1954 and in Victoria in 1967, testimony to the strength of the desire for respectability.

Sabbatarianism manifested itself in the establishment of the English Sunday in which hotels, shops and places of entertainment were all closed on Sundays, public transport only operated on a limited schedule designed to get people to and from church and on Sundays padlocks were placed on children's playgrounds. This legislation was not fully repealed until the 1970s and beyond.

But the older traditions of egalitarianism, anti-authoritarianism and anti-wowserism were maintained - evident in the values and behaviour of urban bohemians, bush workers and those who fought in the First and Second AIF. They became dominant again in the post World War 2 era aided by waves of immigrants from Europe and later from elsewhere, for whom the convict stain was meaningless but who found the fresh air of Australian egalitarianism and freedom liberating and exhilarating.

In the modernising world of post War Australia the values associated with respectability seemed more and more like Victorian anachronisms even to native-born Australians. And so, in recent times, the values and achievements of the first generation of European settlers have been recovered and acknowledged.

The period from 1788 to 1820 is no longer remembered as a prelude to something else but valued as a pivotal period of Australian history, the extraordinary legacy of the first generation and their children.

RW

EARLY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND ABORIGINES ~ PART 5

Archival Articles by historian, Ena Harper, continue.

Two incidents are recounted which show the Aborigines' attitude to the new weapons. **Charles Worgan**, writing on January 21, states that:

... 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. They expressed a little anger at seeing us cut down the trees but it was only by jabbering very fast and loud. They did not like the soldiers and made signs for us to take them away before they would venture to come near us. One of them was bold enough to go up to a soldier and feel his gun and felt the point of the bayonet, looked very serious and gave a significant HUM!

Two days later, surgeon **John White** made this significant entry in his journal:

While we remained at Botany Bay, as I was one morning on board the Supply, we saw 29 of the natives on the beach and looking toward the shipping, upon which Lieuts. Ball and King, Mr Dawes and myself, went on shore, landing at the place where they were. They were friendly and pacific, though each of them was armed with a spear or long dart and had a stick with a shell at the end used by them in throwing their weapons. Besides these, some few had shields made of the bark of the cork tree, of a plain appearance

One of those most friendly and who appeared to be the most confident on signs being made to him, stuck the end of his shield in the sand but could not be prevailed upon to throw his spear at it. Finding he declined it, I fired a pistol ball through it. The explosion frightened him as well as his companions a little but they soon got over it and on my putting the pistol into my pocket, he took up the shield and appeared to be much surprised a finding it perforated. He then, by signs and gestures, seemed to ask if the pistol would make a hole through him and on being made sensible it would, he showed not the smallest signs of fear; on the contrary, he endeavoured, as we construed his motions, to impress us with an idea of the superiority of his own arms which he applied to his breast and by staggering and a show of falling, seemed to wish us to understand that the force and effect of them was mortal and not to be resisted.

However, I am well convinced that they know and dread the superiority of our arms, notwithstanding this show of indifference; as they, on all occasions, have discovered a dislike of a musket and so very

soon did they make themselves acquainted with our military dress that, from the first, they carefully avoided a soldier any person wearing a red coat which they seem to have marked as a fighting gesture. Many of the warriors or distinguished men we observed to be painted in stripes across the breast and back which, at some little distance appears not unlike our soldiers' cross belts.

This concludes the account of the first encounters between the two races at Botany Bay. This has been done in some detail but the intention has been to lay a foundation for understanding later events. One of the notable features of the period was the commanding and complex personality of Phillip. Of course, he was supported by soldiers with more sophisticated weaponry than the Aborigines possessed, but we cannot ignore the fact that his policy was to approach the natives alone and unarmed and the landing at Botany Bay was accomplished without any bloodshed. How can we explain the paradox of Phillip's character? The following viewpoint is put forward by **M. Barnard Eldershaw**:

With his usual tenacity he maintained throughout his Governorship the attitude of mind he brought with him. This was one of justice tempered by expedience and uncoloured by sentiment. Any such scruples in the face of duty would have seemed to him both sentimental and beside the point. The 18th century was so sure of the value of civilisation that it considered the conquest of an uncivilised people by a civilised as the height of good fortune for the former. Phillip accorded to the aboriginal the same justice that he endeavoured to mete out to all sections of the community under him. They were within, not without, his law. In all matters in which their lives came into contact with the settlers, he was their Governor as well as the white man's. He was scrupulous to maintain the peace between black and white along lines of equity.

So Phillip wrote in his first dispatch on May 15, 1788 to **Lord Sydney** these words:

With respect to the natives, it was my determination from the first landing, that nothing less than the most absolute necessity should ever make me fire upon them and though persevering in this resolution has at times been rather difficult, I have hitherto been so fortunate that it has never been necessary.

A small ugly obelisk marks the spot where Governor Phillip landed at Botany Bay and went to meet the aborigines alone and unarmed. It is just above the little beach at Yarra Bay, south of Botany Cemetery. **[Ed:** This area is now known as Yarra Bay Bicentennial Park]

To Cultivate an Acquaintance. As I have just mentioned, the initial confrontation of the Englishmen with the Australian aborigines at Botany Bay has been described in some detail. However, the permanent settlement was made at Sydney Cove in Port Jackson on January 23 (this is the same dispatch mentioned above):

When I first went in the boats to Port Jackson the natives appeared armed near the place at which we landed and were very vociferous but, like others, easily persuaded to accept what was offered them and I persuaded one man who appeared to be the chief or mast of the family to go with me to that part of the beach where the people (Englishmen) were boiling their meat.

Once again Phillip is in command of the situation and for a while all goes well. On Sunday January 27 **Dr Charles Bouchier Worgan** wrote the following:

Early this morning a number of the artificers and convicts were sent on shore with the necessary implements for the clearing the ground, felling trees, in order that the tents might be pitched for the battalion ... The boats that were sent to haul the Seine (fishing net) were very successful. They met with some of the natives who behaved very friendly, even helped them to haul the Seine on shore, for which kind office they were liberally rewarded with a portion of the fish.

Lieut. William Bradley tells of another friendly encounter next day when he went with **Capt. John Hunter** on a survey of the harbour:

.... we saw several of the natives on the upper part of the rocks who made a great noise and waved to us to come on shore; there being a great surf we could not land at the point we wished which they, observing, pointed to the best place to land and came down unarmed to meet us.

It becomes obvious that Phillip's attitude to the aborigines had become known in the Port Jackson area and that is why they were all friendly at the beginning. And, of course, curiosity drew some of the bolder spirits to the encampment right from the start of the settlement. **Capt. David Collins**, however, seems to have been surprised that the camp did not have more visitors. He gives his impressions of the situation:

It was natural to suppose that the curiosity of these people would be attracted by observing that, instead of quitting, we were occupied in works that indicated an intention of remaining in their country; but during the first six weeks we received only one visit, two men strolling into the camp one evening and remaining in it for about half an hour. They appeared to admire whatever they saw and after receiving each a hatchet ... took their leave apparently well pleased with their reception. The fishing-boats also frequently reported their having been visited by

many of these people when hauling the seine at which labour they often assisted with cheerfulness and in return were generally rewarded with part of the fish taken.

At this stage, everything is going very smoothly with no interference from the aborigines. Indeed, from the above account, there is a certain amount of co-operation between the two races. Bradley continues this account of events on January 9 in the same vein:

We were soon joined by a dozen of them and found three amongst them with trinkets, etc, hanging about them that had been given to them a week before by the Governor on his first visit to this place. Our people and these mixed together and were quite sociable, dancing and otherwise amusing them. One of our people combed their hair with which they were much pleased.

Then appear the significant words:

The Governor's plans, with respect to the natives was, if possible, to cultivate an acquaintance with them without their having an idea of our great superiority over them that their confidence and friendship might be more firmly fixed.

They desired friendship but they felt a great inequality. There is no doubt that the Europeans did have superior scientific knowledge and equipment, a complex social fabric and a rich accumulation of the written word. The aborigines seemed poverty-stricken. Men like David Collins were intrigued by the customs and ceremonies of the aborigines but they seem to ignore the fact that the aborigines must also have a vast store of wisdom behind them to have survived for so long on this isolated continent. In a book on early Australia, *The Land that Waited*, we read these words:

From the complex and mysterious tribal life of the aborigines, the inheritors or rather usurpers of the vast continent, could have learned how to survive in almost every corner of a country as big as Europe. The comic tragedies, the grotesque errors, the blind heroism, the waterless agonies could have been mostly avoided if only the conquerors had realised that these people, the aborigines, knew the waiting land.

It is all very well to speak with hindsight, but we must ask the question, Did the aborigines want to pass on their knowledge to the white man? And another point to consider is How was the information to be collected when the aborigines were so elusive?

It was not long before the black man began to covet the more efficient tools and other possessions of the white man and this led to trouble right from the beginning. Reports of other more nasty incidents began to trickle in.

(to be continued in next and following issues)

BOOK REVIEW ~ NO ROOM FOR REGRET

Excellent courses in family history are now being provided at many levels and it is good to see how these are bringing forth some wonderful creativity in those who have made the effort to use their newly-won academic qualifications to breathe life into their research.

No Room for Regret is a just published novel about the life and times of First Fleeter **James Bryan Cullen**, his wife **Elizabeth Bartlett** and their children. The author, **Janeen Ann O'Connell**, is a Cullen descendant who has used her studies to produce a lively tale of the early days of settlement along the Derwent.

The focus of this work, the first in a planned trilogy on the 'Cullen-Bartlett Dynasty', is predominantly on the two men who marry the middle Cullen daughter **Catherine**, from whom the author descends.

James Blay and **James Tedder** are very different characters and yet their time in Newgate, on the hulk *Retribution* and on *HMS Indefatigable* en route to Hobart Town in May 1812 drew them and later their children together in ways that would never have been foreseen. And overseeing them, as their employer during their convict time is another James, the benevolent patriarch Cullen himself, whose own story holds the family together.

The author gives her characters permission to recount their own convict beginnings, the details of each adding depth to their actions and relationships so significant to the plot lines that gradually unfold.

One masterful sub-plot explains the background to the death of James Tedder, Catherine's first husband. We fam-

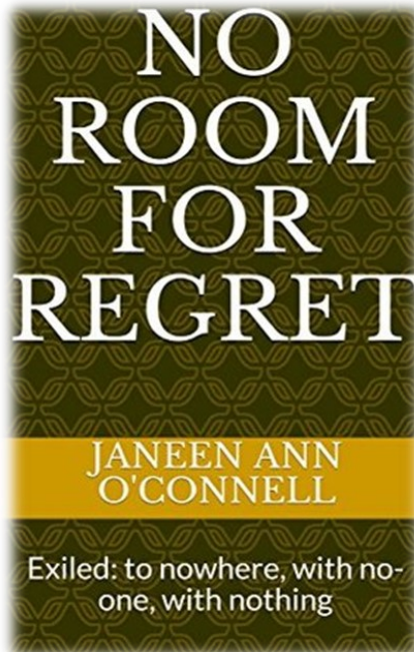
ily researchers have only ever had the cold hard fact of his passing as gleaned from the records. Now we can read how it may have all come about, the writing in of some introduced and rather unsavoury characters making it all so believable.

In Van Diemen's Land the setting is not only early Hobart but its upriver outcentre, New Norfolk, where the ageing James Cullen is endeavouring to finish building his stately mansion for his beloved Elizabeth.

Being a novel about a family the children are naturally painted large. We really get to know the three young sons of **Susan Blay** who closes down her life in Spitalfields to embark on *HMS Kangaroo* and follow her convict husband to the other side of the world. Her boys, we feel sure will loom large as the story proceeds, and their own personalities are artfully drawn in ways that captivate the reader.

No Room for Regret is a book for all interested in our early history to read and enjoy, whether Cullen descendants or not. It was launched on 28 April 2018 in the very mansion that features so

much in its pages, *Glen Derwent*, at New Norfolk. **WJF**



[Note: Your reviewer is also a descendant of FF James B Cullen through the latter's third daughter, Betsy, so his task to read and review was very pleasant indeed. The book is available in bookstores in Victoria and Tasmania and can also be obtained as a kindle reader from Amazon.]

The author, who is a member of the First Fleet Fellowship Victoria, can be contacted at janeeno@bigpond.net.au]

MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

1.FF EDWARD KIMBERLEY

#8815 **Graeme Hays** would like to buy a copy of *The Reluctant Traveller* by Betty Brown. He has been unable to track Betty down herself so would be pleased to hear from any members who could help him find her or a copy of the book. Email him on gandghays@bigpond.com

2. FF PETER HIBBS

This is a message to all members who descend from Peter Hibbs. If you are interested in researching the extended Hibbs family we have had an email from a **Catherine Schmidt** of Jersey (catherineschmidt48@gmail.com) who would like to hear from you. Catherine is a descendant of Peter Hibbs's brother. She visits Australia on holiday each year.

YOUR STORIES

Founders, we must remind you again, is waiting to receive First Fleeter stories for the magazine and web.

The following **guidelines** are suggested:-

1. Include your name as the author.
2. Only one story per FF. A new story could replace that existing with the previous author so informed.
3. The Fellowship deserves the right to edit.
4. Biographies must contain facts.
5. References are definitely preferred.
6. Type in *Calibri*, size 11.

Contact the editor for further information.

If your First Fleeter's name is **not** printed in blue in the ship's list on our web site then we need their story

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 10:30 for 11am. **Next Meetings:** 16 June: Luke Merriman, *Research*, Thumbnail: Ruth Ellis, *John Nichols 1.*; 21 July: Howard Jones, *Albury in the Past*, Thumbnail: Syd Lukins, *John Nichols 2*; 18 August: Chris Pidd, *Lifeline in Action*, Thumbnail: Brigitte Ronald. **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:** 15 June: Dick Whitaker, *Sydney Cruising, Motor Car history*; 21 July: AGM; 17 August: Jennifer Farrer, *Australian Plants used by Early Settlers*. **Next Event:** 7 June: The Big Dig at Susannah Place; 13 August: 8th Anniversary Luncheon at Sydney Rowing Club, Abbotsford. **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Meeting:** 14 July, at 106/15 Coranderrk St Reid, 2 pm: AGM. **Next Event:** 11 August, 12 noon: Annual Luncheon at Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club. **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:** 9 June: John Boyd, *The Tank Stream*; 14 July: AGM, Members, *A Leaf from my Tree*; 11 August: Dennis Roe, *TBA*. **Next Events:** Monday 4 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:** 2 June: Colette McAlpine, *My First Fleet Ancestor*; 4 August: AGM. Speaker, *TBA*. **Next Event:** 16 June: Visit to Anglesea Barracks. **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401566080

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:** 2 June: David Rosenberg; *The Ethics of Eavesdropping - Whistle Blowers and Leakers*; 7 July: Rob Shipton, *Antikythera*; 4 August: AGM, A Reading, *Andrew Goodwin and Lydia Munro*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jennifer Follers 97991161

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

Venue: Windsor Library, Penrith Library and in Springwood. -- monthly, second Saturday, 11 am. **Next Meetings:** 2 June: (1st Saturday, at Penrith Library), Christine Yeats, *Archivist*; 14 July: at Windsor: Gail Davis, *State Records*. 11 August (at Windsor): AGM, Judith Dunn **Next Event:** **Contact:** William Hempel 0410950101

HUNTER VALLEY – Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.

Venue: Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall, 153A Brunner Road, Adamstown – bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am – 12.30pm. **Next Meetings:** 18 June: Sharon Lamb, *Convicts along the Hawkesbury-Nepean*; 20 August: AGM, *Speaker TBA*. **Next Event:** 19 September: Visit to Singleton Infantry Museum. **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 49615083

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:** 25 July: Meryl Bolin, *Graphologist Personalities revealed from old letters*. **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:** 9 June: Peter Lawlor, *Moreton Bay's Mud Island*; 11 August: AGM, Julie Webb et al, *Our Hawkesbury Family Pilgrimage*. **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*; 5 August at Pat and Col Robertson's, Woolgoolga: General Meeting and AGM, Speaker *TBA*. **Next Event:** **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:** 22 July: AGM, Speaker *TBA*. [Note: Check with Marg as venue may be changed.] **Contact:** Margaret Soward 66863597

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** 2 June, at Family History Rooms: Members. *Life in 1818 & DVD of Historic Ross, Tasmania*; 4 August, at St Andrews Uniting Church: AGM and General meeting *TBA*. **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:** 5 June: Judy Bull, *My Irish Travels, Ancestors and Orphan Girl*; 3 July: AGM, Graham and Elizabeth Bevan, *Bromeliads*; 7 August: Winter Warm Day and 16th Birthday, Susan Lewis. **Next Event:** **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:** 13 June: Cathy Dunn, *Law and Order 1788-1790, Colonial Crimes of First Fleeters*; 8 August: AGM with Chapter Chats. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 9 June (2nd Saturday): Judy Bercene, *Rope/Pulley 230th Wedding Anniversary*; 4 August: AGM, Richard Offen, *Heritage WA*. **Next Event:** Thursday 19 July: Tour of State Registry Office and National Archives. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 23 July 2018

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

JOHN RYAN

#8775 Natalie Jane Imbruglia

EDWARD WHITTON

#8842 Gaelyn Margaret Aprea

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES

#8843 Rebecca Anne Ticehurst

#8847 Helen Roberta Adamson

JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER

#8844 Susan Elizabeth Nunn

JAMES PEAULET

#8845 Debra Leanne Holmes

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM

#8846 Janice Bishop

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES

#8848 Susan Elizabeth Woodhill

#8849 Janette Marie Sullivan

#8862 Philippa Jean Glennie Harding

ANN FORBES

#8850 John Albert Lunny

ANDREW GOODWIN/LYDIA MUNRO

#8851 Jacqueline Margaret Beattie

#8853 Christine Anne Frith

DAVID KILLPACK/KILPACK

#8852 Wendy Ann Machon

ANDREW FISHBURN

#8854 Donald Edward Eagleton

JAMES WILLIAMS

#8855 Michael Breen

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

JOHN HERBERT/DEBORAH ELLAM

#8856 Karen Joy Davis

WILLIAM TUNKS/JAMES OGDEN

#8857 Douglas Ronald Davis

JOHN MARTIN/JOHN RANDALL/RICHARD

PARTRIDGE/MARY GREENWOOD

#8858 Lionel Graham Lovell

NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE

#8859 Genevieve Ann Quimbach

ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY

#8860 Gail Christine Travane

#8861 Cheryl Ann Brown

JAMES MORRISBY

#8863 Kevin John Purnell

Additional First Fleeter

ROBERT FORRESTER/PHILLIP DIVINE aka

THOMAS HILTON TENNANT

#8797 Barry Flowers

Associates

#8855.1 Catherine Breen

#8859.1 Keith Clayton Quimbach

#8863.1 Jillian Roma Talbot

Friends

#F186 Anne Gilles

BIRTHS

JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER

Ryker Jack Manton, born 07.05.2018 at Byron Bay, New South Wales. A son to Tim and Claire, a brother for Saskia May and a grandson for #4305 Colin and Ellen Manton. Ninth generation.

DEATHS

JOHN GRIFFITHS

#6912 Lawrence A P Troode of Busselton Western Australia died on 12.10.2017, aged 81. He had been a member of the Fellowship for 16 years and belonged to Swan River Chapter.

JOHN HERBERT

#7927 Selwyn J Clark of Macarthur, New South Wales, died on 14.03.2018. Selwyn and his wife Jessie joined the Fellowship in February 2011.

FRIEND

Friend 176 Dawn Camille Riddiford of Gladstone, Queensland, died on 23.04.2018, aged 86. Dawn joined the Fellowship as a Friend in 2016 in honour of her late husband #4671 Brian Riddiford, a descendant of FF James Sheers and Mary Smith.

AT THE HELM



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



Newer members have asked about buying the official FFF shirts. These can be obtained from **Clever Products**, Unit 5/119 Prospect Highway SEVEN HILLS 2147. The best time to order **by phone** 1300 797979 is Mon-Tue-Wed, 9:30 to 5. Go to www.cleverclubproducts.com.au where you can log in and create an account using the Fellowship's own activation code which is fff1788.



Advance notice: Before this year's AGM which will be held at Tradies, Gympie on 27.10.2018, members in **southern Sydney** are invited to gather at 10:00 to consider forming a new **chapter** in the area. Mark the date and time.



We have some good news for members and prospective members of **Lachlan Macquarie Chapter**. **#8060 Wendy-lou Tisdell**, who lives near Bathurst, has offered to get things going again after the year in recess but she will need three or four others to join her and form a committee. Many have expressed deep concern that the chapter might die so please consider joining Wendy-lou in this -(gandwtisdell@bigpond.com). The Central-West area of NSW needs many new members.



Position Vacant: **Founders** is seeking expressions of interest from the membership to take up an **apprenticeship** in preparing and publishing our bi-monthly magazine. Your current editorial team would be happy to hear from you.



Have you sent an **article to Founders** and are wondering why it has never appeared? It might be best to send it again. In February this year **Founders** lost all its email files and addresses due to computer issues. Thanks for understanding.

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

ALBURY-WODONGA DIST.

Mary Chalmers-Borella
02 6025 3283

ARTHUR PHILLIP

Judith O'Shea 02 9797 0240

CANBERRA

Brian Mattick 02 6231 8880

CENTRAL COAST

Jon Fearon 02 4311 6254

DERWENT

Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

EASTERN FARMS

Jennifer Follers 02 9799 1161

HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN

William Hempel 0410 950 101

HUNTER VALLEY

Kerry Neinert 02 4961 5083

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