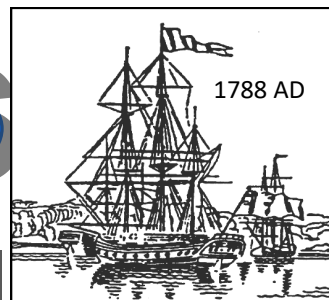


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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50th Year of Publication

October-November 2018

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

EORA NATION HONOURED AT ST JAMES

St James is the oldest church building in the city of Sydney and its second parish. At the end of 2019 it will commence the celebrations of its bicentenary, being the 200th anniversary of the laying of its foundation stone by Governor Macquarie. In preparation for this the church has commemorated people of significance in the history of the land on which the church is built.

Three of our nation builders, **Arthur Phillip**, **Lachlan Macquarie** and **James Cook** are already honoured by plaques adorning the northern wall of the nave, each memorial having been unveiled by the NSW State Governor of the day. Past issues of *Founders* have highlighted these events along with the associated St James Day Festival Evensong celebrating each occasion.

On Sunday 29th July 2018, the fourth and final dedication took place. The Rector, **Reverend Andrew Sempell**, in his introduction, referred to this year's focus as 'the most important memorial of them all'. The plaque, which was unveiled by the State Governor, **His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)**, commemorates the Eora Nation, the custodians of the land on which the church is built.



For many years, St James has taken a progressive view of the church and its responsibilities in the wider community. As part of this, a reconciliation plaque was placed at the entrance in 2001 as a reminder to those entering and leaving the building to acknowledge and pray for the aboriginal people,

along with the builders and pioneers of the church, and the current community that gathers there.

This year's service, therefore, was a fitting confirmation that St James continues to uphold its inclusive tradition. Within a

feast of wonderful music presented by the regular choir and chosen to suit the occasion were the now familiar indigenous inclusions such as a Smoking Ceremony, by **Brendan Kerin**, and the Welcome to Country, by **Uncle Ray Davison**. Those of us in the congregation, *Founders* included, chuckled at the contrasting pungency of smouldering gum leaves and waving censers, both representing age-old traditions.

The entire service, - its prayers, its hymns, its psalm, its readings and its sermon, - was infused with a sense of hope, healing and togetherness, a shared love now outliving past dispossession and racial divides. **Lenore Parker's** prayer of reconciliation, meaningfully led by **Pastor Ray Minniecon**, corroborated the theme:

*God of holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
from the dawn of creation you have given your children
the good things of Mother Earth.
You spoke and the gum tree grew.
In the vast desert and dense forest, and in the cities at the
water's edge,
creation sings your praise.
Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.
When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cry of all your
people and became one with the wounded ones:
the convicts, the hunted and the dispossessed.
The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew,
and bathed it in glorious hope.
In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, to each other and
to your whole creation.*

(to page 2)

FOUNDERS

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Fellowship of First Fleeters
Editor, Layout and Artwork
Jon & Karys Fearon
Ph. 02 4311 6254
E-mail: jkfearon@iinet.net.au

DIRECTORS 2017-2018

President/Chapter Development

Jon **FEARON**, BA, Dip Ed. Stud (TESOL),

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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.

CONTENTS

1. Eora Nation Honoured at St James
2. Directors; President's Pen; Eora Nation at St James
3. New Fellowship Facebook Group; Apology; Donations
- 4-5. William Whiting of Gloucestershire
6. Congratulations Isabella; Bonnets on the Road
7. John Oxley Bicentenary
- 8-9 Encounters between Europeans and Aborigines in NSW, Part 7 (Archives)
10. First Fleet Coins; Message Board; Chapter Office Bearers 2018-9
11. Chapters in Action
12. New Members; Deaths; Two Significant Meetings; Vale Moreton Members

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon

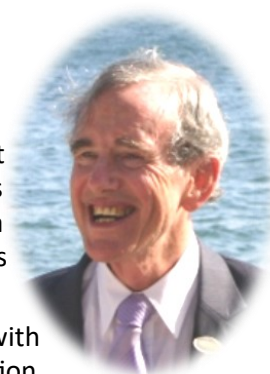


It is always good to be reminded about our nation's beginnings and as this issue goes to press our Prime Minister has started a conversation about a possible annual day to celebrate our indigenous citizens and their long custodianship of this land.

James Cook and *HMB Endeavour* are also hot topics with events in Rhode Island USA capturing the media's attention.

This focus has come too late for this issue but will no doubt gain more significance as we move towards the 250th Cook commemorations in 2020. That year coincides with the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower at which some of our members will be taking part.

It is 'business as usual' for me again after successful cancer treatment, and also for the Fellowship with our AGM this month at Gynea and our Australia Day luncheon on 19 January next. Your booking form comes with this issue.



from page 1)

*Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
Enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt of the past into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The music of the service, as mentioned already, reflected the significance of the occasion and the stirring anthem, *Look up my People* by Joe Twist, featured the juxtaposition of the Jewish lament, *How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?* (Psalm 137) with text taken from *A Song of Hope* by Oodgerie of the tribe Noonuccal. In part were her words:

*Look up, my people, the dawn is breaking,
The world is waking to a bright new day.
To our fathers' fathers the pain the sorrow,
To our children's children the glad tomorrow.*

The address was given by **Nyunggai Warren Mundine AO**, who has given permission for its publication in a future issue of Founders. Mr Mundine spoke of his own family background, both indigenous and Irish, describing how the richness of the two cultures entitles him to call for reconciliation and forgiveness for all Australians. He maintains that there has been too much emphasis on 'sorry' and not enough 'I forgive'.

The plaque ceremony was led by **The Right Reverend Richard Hurford, OAM, KSt** with a prayer of dedication: 'To the greater glory of God, and with thanksgiving for Australia's First Peoples, the Eora Nation and the Gadigal people on whose land this church is built'.

The memorial names several Eora people who were significant in the engagement between the aboriginal people and the newcomers, namely: Bungaree, Warreweer, Nanbarry, Patyegarang, Arabanoo, Benelong, Barangaroo, Boorong, Colebee, Daringa and Pemulwuy.

The Gadigal country names refer to places within the Parish of St James - Warrane (Sydney Cove), Dubbagullee (Benelong Point) and Wogganmagule (Farm Cove).

Nyunggai Warren Mundine AO



THE FELLOWSHIP HAS A NEW FACEBOOK GROUP

The Fellowship of First Fleeters has proactively commenced using social media to promote the organisation as many of you may have already noticed. This is being driven by **Kerrie Anne Christian**, South Coast Chapter and **Julie Webb**, Moreton Chapter. This renewed approach of using Facebook was conceived at the joint Chapter morning tea following the 50th Anniversary Luncheon.

Our FFF group on Facebook offers the opportunity for Chapters to include contact details and information about their meetings and events.

From the activity generated by this move on Facebook, (front page depicted) it would seem there are many First Fleeters out there who may not have been FFF members, but whose interest has been aroused and hopefully may give consideration to joining.

Some might not be so interested and may in fact be dismissive of Facebook. However many historical groups or family history groups have been able to utilise Facebook as a tool in engaging with their members.

The Fellowship has had a presence on Facebook since about 2012. Although it was called a 'Facebook Page' it was not as active as many would have desired. Following some brainstorming by Julie Webb and Kerrie Anne Christian it was proposed to the Fellowship Board that a 'Facebook Group' be established, and that this would be linked to the original Facebook Page. The Directors approved this development and the FFF Facebook Group was established in early July 2018. What's the difference



The Beginning, 6pm 26 January 1788. Prized painting at FF House by member Tom Silk

you might ask? Well with a Facebook Page, there is a lot more required of the Administrator.

Why is this so? Well, only the Administrator's posts are seen on the main area of a Facebook Page. Of course it is actually possible to find posts by others. However the user needs to click through several more links on various screens of the FFF Facebook page. However, most users of Facebook merely scroll down their "newsfeed" of posts and will not necessarily click through a few more links just in case one of their feeds might possibly have a post by someone else. Those less familiar with Facebook might shake their heads at all of this. Now with a Facebook Group, all posts by group members are seen by members when they scroll down their Facebook newsfeed. They do not need to go looking

to see if there has been an update on the FFF presence on Facebook. This might sound a bit technical, but it really does matter.

Within three months, we now have over 170 members, including some who had not joined the Fellowship but were interested in their FF ancestry. We also found it helpful to coopt **Jane Van Woerkom** from the Hunter Valley Chapter, who administers the Henry Kable Susannah Holmes Facebook presence. Already we have been able to sort out some confusion that some members have had about their First Fleet ancestors. Please consider sharing your chapter's news, upcoming events and photos.

Kerrie Anne Christian and Julie Webb



We Got it Wrong, Sorry.

In Founders 49/4, the author of the article on the *City of Edinburgh*, Cathy Dunn, advises that the first entry on page 5 should read: 2. **BELLETT, Jacob**: Class 2 landholder with wife **Ann nee Harper** and 8 children.

On the same page, under 3. **BERESFORD, John**. Member Pamela Hempel, a relative, advises; 'another daughter **Esther** was also on board. . . She married **Robert Kingston** and was listed on the shipping record as well. This marriage was also formalised later in Hobart.

'We have met descendants of Robert and Esther (Barrisford) Kingston and can assure you this information is correct. Also, in Hobart there is a memorial to those arriving on the *City of Edinburgh* with the names listed.

'The two children listed with John and Hannah were **Dorothy** who married **George Oakley** in Hobart the same day as her brother Joseph and her other sister **Sarah** Barrisford. As Cathy Dunn would probably not have known that the Barrisfords had one son and four daughters, she wouldn't have recognised that Esther Kingston in the Records was another of their children'.

Donations received for First Fleet House upkeep:

Bercene J H; Condon W L; Dingwall G; Francis M L; Leech R T; Northern Rivers Chapter; Squire M J; Symington M D.

The Board acknowledges with thanks these contributions, and those listed in earlier issues, particularly as the First Fleet House refurbishment has now been completed.

WILLIAM WHITING of ALMONDSBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

William Whiting (Whiteing in indictment) was a convict who arrived in Australia in 1788 on the convict ship *Alexander* that was part of the First Fleet from England to Australia. This vessel (along with ten others) arrived in Botany Bay from the 18th to the 20th January 1788. All the ships then moved from Botany Bay to Port Jackson, now known as Sydney Harbour, on the 26.1.1788 and it was here that **Captain Philip** went ashore and raised the English flag proclaiming the land to be part of the colonies of Great Britain. This day is now called 'Australia Day'. It is highly desirable now that you announce to the world that your ancestors were part of this journey but in the past things were very different as it was considered shameful and nobody spoke of it.

For stealing livestock (a wether sheep) with a value of ten shillings and the goods of a **Thomas Pearce**, Whiting was arrested on the 16.9.1774 at Almondsbury in Gloucestershire. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to death on the 23.8.1775. In December 1775 he was given a reprieve if he took transportation for seven years and so he boarded the *Alexander* on the 6.1.1787. For a few years the English government was looking around to settle their convicts elsewhere as their avenue to the colony in the Americas had been closed due and prior to the war in 1776. It was decided in late 1776 that the new land **Captain Cook** had discovered in 1770, would be a perfect choice so a decision was made to settle and, at the same time, transport the convicts overflowing the gaols to help settle the land by working as unpaid labour.

The First Fleet was the name given to the eleven ships that sailed from Portsmouth England on the 13th May 1787 with about 1,487 people, including 778 convicts (192 women and 586 men), to establish the first European colony in New South Wales. This fleet was led by Captain Arthur Phillip. The ships arrived at Botany Bay between 18th and 20th January 1788. HMS *Supply* arrived on 18th January, *Alexander*, *Scarborough* and *Friendship* on 19th January and the remaining ships the 20th January.

The exact number of people directly associated with the First Fleet will likely never be established as all accounts of the event vary slightly. A total of 1,420 people has been identified as embarking on the First Fleet in 1787 and 1,373 are believed to have landed at Sydney Cove in January 1788.

While the names of all crew members of *Sirius* and *Supply* are known, the six transports and three store ships may have carried as many as 110 more seamen than have been identified – no complete musters have survived for these ships. The total number of persons embarking on the First Fleet could, therefore, be approximately 1,530 with about 1,483 reaching Sydney Cove so the additional 100 people are constant.

Conditions on the journey varied with the weather and the latitude. With fine weather the convicts were allowed

on deck and on 3rd June 1787 the fleet anchored at Santa Cruz at Tenerife. Here fresh water, vegetables, fruit and meat were taken on board for all concerned to make sure no scurvy became present. Phillip and the chief officers were entertained by the local governor, while one convict tried unsuccessfully to escape.

The weather became increasingly hot and humid as the fleet sailed through the tropics. Vermin, such as rats, parasites, bedbugs, lice, cockroaches and fleas, tormented the convicts, officers and marines. Bilges became foul and the smell, especially below the closed hatches, was overpowering. On the *Alexander* several convicts fell sick and died. Tropical rainstorms meant that the convicts could not exercise on deck, and were kept below in the foul, cramped holds. On the female transports, promiscuity between the convicts and the crew and marines was rampant. In the doldrums, Phillip was forced to ration the water to three pints a day.

On 10th June they set sail to cross the Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro, taking advantage of favourable trade winds and ocean currents, but this still took eight weeks. This was followed by a five and a half week voyage to the Cape of Good Hope – their last link with home. On 12.11.1787 the Fleet set sail for Botany Bay which took nearly twelve weeks to be completed.

There had been significant issues with the ship even before the Fleet sailed, and there was not a name more suited to an all-male convict transport vessel than the *Alexander*. Built at Hull in 1783 with three masts and two decks with a quarter deck but no galleries or figure-head it was the largest transport vessel in the fleet. The *Alexander* was owned by Southwark master mariner **William Walton** whose company Walton & Co, decided there was money to be made transporting convicts to Botany Bay. The transport was fitted out at Deptford under the supervision, firstly of **Captain Stephen Teer**, the Agent for Transports in the Thames, and later, of **Lieutenant John Shortland**, who on returning with troops from Halifax, was appointed naval agent in the First Fleet. The first of the 192 male convicts who had been sent from the prison hulks at Woolwich moved to the *Alexander* on 6th January 1787. William Whiting was one of those prisoners.

William Bradley noted in his journal on the 4th January, orders were received at Woolwich for the convicts to be embarked on the *Alexander* but some of the convicts were in such a deplorable situation from disease they could not be received. In February 1787 *Alexander* came to anchor on the Mother Bank

With sickness aboard, all hands were employed washing and smoking the vessel between decks. They removed the convicts, whitewashed the ship before reloading the convicts but deaths still occurred before sailing. During the voyage to Botany Bay sickness and mortality rates aboard the *Alexander* were the highest among the transports.

The Principal Surgeon of the new colony was **John White**, who had received his first warrant in the navy in 1780, and had charge of the medical arrangements during the voyage. He embarked in the *Charlotte* and one of his three assistants, **William Balmain**, embarked in the *Alexander*, with the ship's Master, Duncan Sinclair.

The Agent for the Botany Bay transports John Shortland, arrived on board with his son, 2nd Mate **Thomas George Shortland**, and the other Shortland son John was 2nd Mate aboard *Friendship*. John snr and Thomas George returned to England on the outward voyage of *Alexander*.

The Log book of the *Alexander* shows the final days of their long voyage and on the *24th January 1788, it said: Two ships appeared in the offing with French colours that endeavoured to beat us into the bay, but could not.* With the discovery of Sydney Cove as the preferred site for the new settlement, the entire fleet departed Botany Bay for Port Jackson.

Records confirm that William Whiting was on the *Alexander* and after he arrived in Sydney he went to work on the land to assist in commencing this convict settlement. At the time of this happening he was twenty-eight years of age and must have been wondering what in the world had made him steal a sheep to deserve all this!

We have already discussed how William came to Australia so we can now go back to his roots for a short while. William Whiting was born in Almondsbury Gloucestershire England C1760. As far as can be ascertained, his father was a **Stephen Thomas Whiting** (11.6.1725-4.4.1790) and his mother **Sarah** with no further information available. Stephen Whiting was born in Avening also in Gloucestershire. It can be established that



Whiting Family Arms

William had a sister named **Mary** who married a James Speck on 26.12.1774. Stephen Whiting's parents were **John** (1674) and **Mary** (1681) Whiting (nee Sanders) both born in Avening.

For the first two years after his arrival at Sydney Cove William's job was serving salt provisions from the stores. However, on the 29th December 1788

he was charged (with three others) for being up late and disturbing the peace and lost three weeks flour ration as punishment. There are no further records of his misbehaving before he was released in 1790.

When he left England for Australia he was serving a sentence of seven years of which he had already served three. The actual date of his release is unknown but we do know he was given permission to marry **Mary Williams** on the 28th June 1790. At the time convicts and ex-convicts were encouraged to marry and have children to increase the population of the settlement. The marriage took place at the original wattle and daub St Phillip's Church, officiated

by **Chaplain Richard Johnson**.

Mary Williams, also a First Fleeter, had arrived on the *Lady Penrhyn* and was some twenty years older than William. A needleworker and a native of Middlesex, she had been transported for seven years after an Old Bailey trial for stealing clothing to the value of twenty shillings. There were no children born to the couple. Mary Whiting's burial is registered both at St Philip's and at St John's Parramatta as having taken place on 13 July 1801. Some researchers believe that her remains were interred in the Old Sydney Burial Ground.

By 12 May 1792 Whiting had settled on fifty acres at the Northern Boundary Farms and the grant was dated 10.7.1792.

By 1795 he and Mary Williams had parted ways and he was living with a **Mary Smith** with whom he had two daughters, **Jane** and **Sarah**. Mary Smith, also a convict, had arrived in the colony onboard the *Pitt* on 14 February 1792. No marriage is recorded for the couple.

By mid-1800 he was still on his grant with a woman and child, presumably Mary and Jane. Jane had been born in 1796 and Sarah two years later. Sarah lived just less than a year and is buried at Parramatta where a headstone records her passing. By then Whiting owned ten hogs and had sown twenty acres in wheat with eight more ready for planting maize.

In 1803 this land availability had nearly doubled in sowing for wheat and maize, assisted at the time by one free servant who was self-supporting.

On the 13 April 1805 he leased his land to a **Samuel Hadlam** (Haslam?) for two years at twelve pound a year.

By mid 1805 he was a self-employed Butcher, his licence having been granted to him on the 28.10.1804 (Sydney Gazette). He continued in this trade until his death on the 8th March 1808, the latter recorded at St Philips Church in Sydney where he is buried in the grounds of that church.

What we have then is a young man who, although apparently coming from a decent family, decided at around twenty-five years of age to steal one sheep and a few belongings of another man and ended up being sentenced to death, served some time in England and then given a reprieve and transported

As indicated above, when William Whiting died in 1808 in Parramatta Sydney he was not an old man, just forty-eight years of age. He left one de facto wife (Mary Smith) and a twelve year old daughter (Jane). There is no confirming death certificate for Mary but it is believed she died in 1810 or 1811 which would leave her daughter Jane all by herself at the age of fifteen or just under. It is through Jane and her marriage to Thomas Barrett in 1811 that the family line of descendant members of William Whiting can be traced.

[ED Note: This article has been researched and presented by #8469.1 Roddy Jordan on behalf of his wife Christine, descendant of FF William Whiting].

CONGRATULATIONS, ISABELLA ~ a true First Fleeter CENTENARIAN

This month, #7695 **Isabella Clair Smith**, you are celebrating your 100th birthday with your family and friends at Minnamurra Aged Care Hostel at Drummoyne. *Founders* and your Eastern Farms Chapter friends wish you well and thank you for being a loyal Fellowship member.

From your birth at Collarenebri 100 years ago you have lived life to the full, whether in your working years in retail and even to cleaning typewriters in bush and city, or rather as a mother and grandmother in the family home on Lookes Avenue at Balmain East.

As your daughter Heather says: 'Born 130 years after your ancestors **Esther Abrahams** and **George Johnston** landed at Sydney Cove in 1788, you have carried on their pioneering spirit that forged the Australia we know today'.



Not many of us have the privilege of meeting our great great grandchildren but you have been so blessed. We wonder what memories you were sharing last year while in conversation with the youngsters in your line, great great grandchildren Ben and Isla.

Did you talk of life overlooking Sydney Harbour and the working city across Tumbalong Bay? Or perhaps it was of your retirement years serving your local Presbyterian Church as an Elder, or working with the Dorcas Society to provide food and clothing to the poor - especially homeless Sydney men. You enjoyed this activity and engaged in it with passion and energy.

We salute you Isabella, and wish you a truly happy birthday celebration, filled with life love and laughter.

With thanks to Isabella's daughters, Carol and Heather, for information & pictures

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CONVICT BONNETS ON THE ROAD

Gwen & Rob Herbert and Wendy & Colin Selman travelled to the Old Courthouse Museum Batemans Bay on Saturday 1st September to deliver the Chapters' **"Stitched With Love" Memorial Convict Bonnet Collection** and set up the display of 27 bonnets which was to be on exhibition until the end of September unless visitor numbers were high enough for it to continue into October.

The invitation came from Myf Thompson, the Curator of the museum, on behalf of the Clyde River & Batemans Bay Historical Society. The bonnet display coincided with the Family History conference at Batemans Bay between 14 and 16 September.

The display includes information about the convict women they are dedicated to, the origins of the bonnet project, led by Gwen Herbert, about the Southern Highlands Chapter and the Fellowship of First Fleeters. The Bonnets were first exhibited in the Berrima Museum in 2017 then again in May 2018 in Foyer Gallery of the Wingecarribee

Shire Council Chambers in Moss vale.

If you are in the area it is well worth visiting the Old Courthouse Museum, 3 Museum Place, Batemans Bay and the delightful watergardens just behind the museum.



Robert and Gwen Herbert with Colin and Wendy Selman

JOHN OXLEY~ SURVEYOR GENERAL and EXPLORER

As settlement spread from the Sydney basin in the early years of the nineteenth century keen interest was shown by governors and settlers alike to find out what lay beyond the known. Thus began the age of the explorers.

Those into family history will know the joy of finding out ('discovering') about the past as it related to their own forebears. The official explorers were no different and as our century proceeds we are able to bi-centennially relive and celebrate their findings.

John Oxley and George Evans' second search to solve the 'riddle of the rivers' in 1818 has seen re-enactments all along the routes they traversed. North-West Chapter has been involved in official events of remembrance earlier this year and now it is time for Mid North Coast Chapter to take similar action.

Founders has received two separate articles on John Oxley and rather than holding them over your editor has had the task of selecting, from a combination of the two, a relevant coverage in time for the celebrations along the NSW coast this October.

We take up **#7787 Malcolm Tompson's** account of Oxley's journey from Mount Seaview to Port Stephens, adding into it the dated detail from **#7055 Pauline Walker's** more extensive coverage of the same expedition.

Oxley's party had intended to reach the coast at Smoky Cape but precipitous gorges blocked their way and they were forced southward. Oxley and Evans reached 'Sea View Mount' on 24 September and their journal records their elation: *'Bilbous ecstasy at the first site of the south seas could not have been greater than ours. When gaining the summit of this mountain, we beheld old ocean at our feet. It inspired us with new life. Every difficulty vanished and in imagination we were already home'.*

Below them lay a large river which they named the Hastings, and this they followed over the next two weeks, crossing it several times and naming tributaries as they went. On 3 October they heard the surf rolling onto the beach for the first time and by 8 October the party arrived at the entrance to the Hastings.

He records: *'A deep channel provides access to the harbour and the river. The harbour is abundant with fish and large sharks. In the nearby hills there are many large kangaroos and the surrounding swamps are home to many wild fowl... I name this inlet Port Macquarie in honour of his excellency, the governor, the original promotor of this expedition. I propose to remain here for three days to check the equipment'.*

Matthew Flinders had charted the NSW north coast in

1799 and 1802 but failed to see any rivers. Oxley, a former naval officer, used these charts expecting an easy passage to Port Stephens along the beaches and behind headlands. His first obstacle was the Camden Haven waterway near what is now Laurieton. He thought it was a lagoon and tried to walk around but was forced back to the entrance. On 18 October they used a newly built canoe to take their provisions across and swam the horses, one of which drowned due to its poor condition.

At Kyllies Beach south of Diamond Head they noticed a boat on the beach filled with sand. Oxley recognised it as a boat from the *Jane*, which had disappeared with a total loss of crew. The *Jane* itself was discovered some days later on the beach south of Old Bar.

At Harrington, which they reached on 19 October they were confronted with the Manning River and no possibility of getting the horses across safely. Twelve men were sent back 20 km to dig out the *Jane's* 3.6 m boat and return it to Harrington. It needed caulking but was otherwise in good condition. Oars had to be made. Three days later they transferred all the provisions to the southern shore then towed the horses across.

Continuing down the beach six miles they found another distributary of the Manning at Old Bar and had to fetch the boat to cross it. This time they resolved to carry the boat all the way to Port Stephens, a total of 145 km.

On reaching the site of Tuncurry on the 26th the boat was used again to cross the entrance to what is now Forster. While doing so, **William Blake** was speared by an aborigine from behind, the spear stopping at his breastbone. On turning to face his attacker, he received another spear to his abdomen. He was carried 70 km to Port Stephens and survived.

Another attack on 31 October involved a shower of spears at Big Gibber Headland between Sugarloaf Point and Port Stephens. Fortunately, no one was injured.

The five and a half months' expedition finished at Port Stephens on 5 November 1818, with Evans and three men rowing the boat to Newcastle the next day to get assistance and fresh food.

Twelve of Oxley's men were convicts so in December 1818 **Governor Macquarie** pardoned all and extended land grants to them in appreciation of their efforts.

[Editor's Note: More Oxley stories will appear in the next issue if space allows. Oxley celebrations and a parade will take place at Harrington on 20 October. Members of Mid North Coast Chapter plan to take part.]



John Oxley

EARLY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND ABORIGINES ~ PART 7

Archival Articles by historian, Ena Harper, continue.

David Collins continues his assertion that the convicts were the aggressors:

There was, however, too much reason to believe that our people had been the aggressors as the Governor on his return from his excursion to Broken Bay, on landing at Camp Cove, found that the natives there who had before frequently come up to him with confidence, to be unusually shy and seemingly afraid of him and his party. One native who, after much invitation, did venture to approach, pointed to some marks upon his shoulders, making signs they were caused by blows given with a stick. This and their running away, whereas they had always before remained on the beach until the people landed from the boats, were strong indications that the man had been beaten by some of our stragglers.

At this point of time it is rather difficult to say who caused most trouble. It is certain that there can hardly have been a more diverse set of individuals cast together in the history of mankind. In the bitter struggle to survive, Phillip's dream of friendship between the two races became more and more difficult to achieve.

This Savage Race of Men. To the invaders of a land who wish to settle there themselves, the native inhabitants are invariably a nuisance. If the natives are industrious and docile, they can be enslaved or forced to work for their conquerors. If they are proud and defiant, they can be exterminated. Or if that solution is thought to be a little crude, they can either be driven across the frontiers or moved bodily to some remote part of the interior, preferably a bog or desert which the invaders do not want themselves.

So wrote John Pringle (Sydney Morning Herald January 22, 1977) when reviewing *The Trail of Tears* by Gloria Jahoda, a book relating to the American Indians. What happened in Australia? According to John Pringle,

White Australians have experimented with all three methods in dealing with the Aborigines, though admittedly in a half-hearted, bumbling kind of way.

That may be so. Yet, as one reads through the wealth of material relating to early encounters between the two races, no clear picture is seen. In the general confusion, light flashes for a fleeting moment on a man or woman or may reveal groups of people. Personalities emerge. They are living human beings and it matters not whether they are Europeans or Aborigines.

In the great mass of material available, for these present articles, it is only possible to present happenings of most importance to our study. The journals have been quoted to show how friction developed between the two races. We have seen how the theft of tools and weapons was the

initial cause of conflict. But, as time went on, a more vicious trouble made itself felt. With the coming of the Europeans there was less fish caught by the aborigines and, as farms were established, the natives found other kinds of food even more scarce.

David Collins writes in July 1788: *The cold weather which we had at this time of the year was observed to affect our fishing and the natives themselves appeared to be in great want. An old man belonging to them was found on the beach of one of the coves, almost starved to death.*

Phillip had done everything in his power to cultivate and acquaintance with the aborigines of Port Jackson. He had done everything he could to bring harmony between the two races but he had failed. In an age of great brutality he had shown restraint and unusual humanity in his dealings with the native people, but he was driven to desperate measures in the end. He wanted to be able to communicate with the aborigines. But they were very elusive. Meanwhile, acts of violence increased.

Capture of Arabanoo. On December 30, 1788, two armed boats set out to capture some of the natives. They managed to secure one they called **Manly** because he came from the Manly Bay area. Another made his escape after they had caught hold of him.

The prisoner was now fastened by rope to the thwarts of the boat and when he saw himself irretrievably disported from his countrymen, set up the most piercing and lamentable cries of distress. His grief soon diminished, however, he accepted and ate of some broiled fish which was given to him and sullenly submitted to his destiny. Tench.

His hair was closely cut, his head combed and his beard shaved. He was put in a tub of water and scrubbed from head to foot, after which a shirt, jacket and pair of trousers was put upon him.

That night the Governor made him dine with him. However, he was led about with a rope and a manacle was put upon his wrist. At first, this highly delighted him and he called it an ornament but when he discovered its real use, he showed rage and hatred. A trusty convict was his keeper and a house was build for them to live in.

On January 1 Manly dined heartily on fish and roast pork. Later the Governor took him in a boat and on the beach spoke to some of his friends. Manly was greatly affected and shed tears. Then they asked him why he did not jump overboard and rejoin them and he sighed and pointed to the fetter on his leg.

Captain Watkin Tench speaks of the *gentleness and Humility of Manly's disposition*. By February he became more confident and told the officers his name was **Arabanoo**. He began to relish bread and drank tea avidly but turned in

disgust from strong liquors. After the meal was over, one of the chief amusements was to get Arabanoo to name objects in his language and tell of the customs of his race. The Englishmen also showed him some of their customs, including the hanging of a man which greatly distressed him. His own people would now have nothing to do with him when he went near and tried to talk to them.

Arabanoo did not live long among his white captors. There was an outbreak of smallpox among the Aborigines and some were brought into the hospital. Arabanoo went there to help with the care of the patients, caught the disease and died in May 1789. So ended the first attempt to civilise an aborigine.

After Arabanoo died, Governor Phillip persisted in his determination to procure another native but it was not till November 25, 1789 that the first lieutenant of the *Sirius* was able to secure two men. One of them escaped due to the negligence of his keeper, still wearing the fetter which had been riveted to his ankle. This was **Colebe**, the friend of Bennelong and later he became very attached to **Mr White**, the principal surgeon. Later he became a familiar part of the Sydney scene.

This is not the place to tell the full story of **Bennelong** but it is well known that he became the companion of Governor Phillip and actually travelled to England and back with him. This friendship did open up better communication with the aborigines but Collins makes it only too plain that Bennelong was at times aggressive and unstable in his actions, being unattractive to the females of his own race and often involved in violence with his own people.

Bennelong asked Governor Phillip to build him a hut at *the extremity of the eastern point of the cove* where the Opera House now stands. For a time he would live there, clothed in European dress, then he would feel a longing for the old ways, strip off his clothes and make for the bush. When he had enough of this life he would return, don formal attire and dine with the Governor.

In April 1789 many bodies of natives were found on the shores of the harbour. The cause of their death was not known until a family was brought in found to be suffering from smallpox.

We should not omit Collins' comment on this happening:

It was not a desirable circumstance to introduce a disorder into the colony which was raging with such fatal violence among the natives; but the saving of the lives of any of these people was an object of no small importance as the knowledge of our humanity and the benefits which we might render them, would it was hoped, do away the evil impressions they had received from us.

Collins believed that the disease had not been introduced by the white man, but that it was already known to the aborigines as they had a word in their language for it. Two of the patients were elderly men and and they died

but two children, a boy and a girl, began to recover as soon as they were treated in the hospital. The children remained with the Englishmen and seemed perfectly contented to be with them.

Boorong, the girl, went to live in the house of the **Rev Richard Johnson**. It seems evident that in time she was employed as a servant by **Mrs Johnson**. Indeed, it has been suggested that this was the reason she was given a home by the Johnsons. We hear of Boorong a year later. After the wounding of Governor Phillip by one of the natives called **Willemerring** in September 1790, Collins reports the following incident:

*A few days after the accident, Bennelong, who certainly had not any culpable share in the transaction, came with his wife and some of his companions to a cove on the north shore not far from the settlement where, by means of Boorong, the female who lived in the Clergyman's house, an interview was effected between the natives and some officers, Mr White, **Mr Palmer** and others, who at some personal risk went over with her.*

There are two observations to be made here, the first being that as the settlement of Sydney became more established, Collins records that aborigines came to live in the homes of Europeans. The second is that in general the aborigines did not make up a servant population for the Europeans.

Why was this? In the first place there were male and female convicts who could be employed and were used to European ways. Secondly, the aborigines were never settled in their habits and liked to return to the bush as was the case with Bennelong.

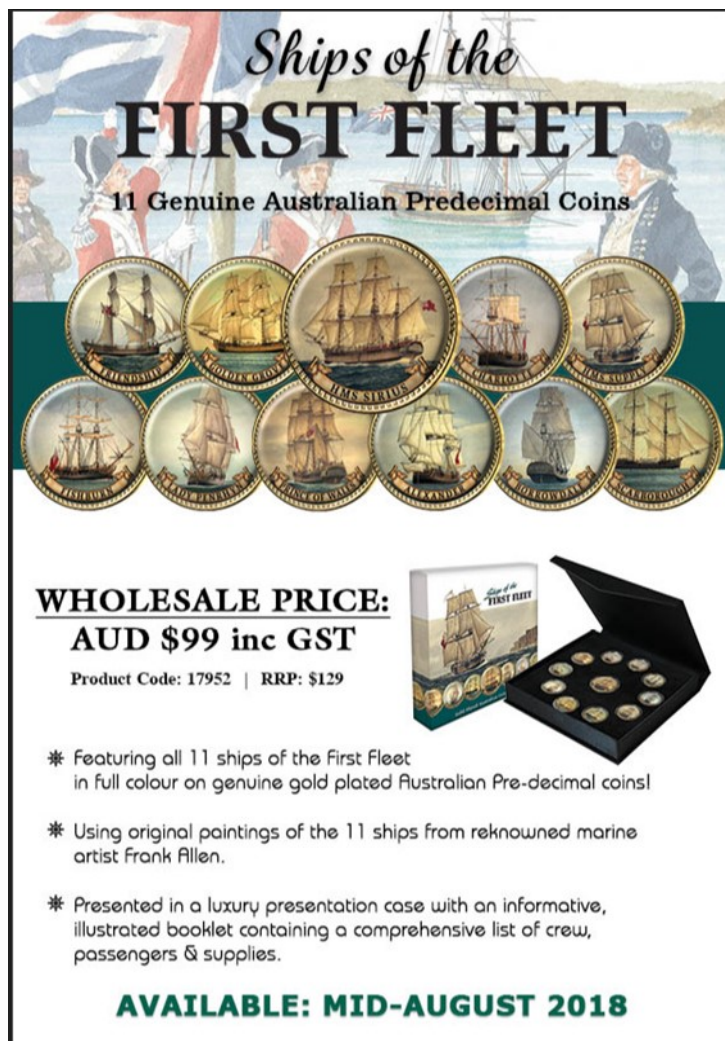
The Rebel Called Pemulwy. There were some aborigines who preferred the wild life of the woods and would have nothing to do with the white man. One man in particular showed violent resistance to the Europeans. Pemulwy is first heard of in December 1790 when he dangerously wounded **John McIntire**, the game keeper of the Governor.

McIntire and others who were with him said that the attack was utterly unprovoked. He was in the woods hunting at some distance from the settlement when he was confronted by Pemulwy. Although McIntire quitted his arms to show his friendship, Pemulwy threw his spear at a distance of 10 yards. This entered McIntire's body under the left arm to a depth of 7 inches and eventually he died of the wound.

Pemulwy lived with his tribe near the head of Botany Bay. Governor Phillip sent out an armed party from the garrison with instructions to destroy or take prisoner six persons from that tribe, avoiding injury to women or children. This was strong action on the part of the Governor who had always tried to avoid bloodshed.

(to be continued in next and following issues)

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FAMILY REUNIONS

- 1. JAMES RUSE FAMILY.** Sunday 28 October, Old Government House, Parramatta. NSW
Lunch at *Lachlans Restaurant* \$60pp/\$30children
RSVP deadline 18 October, to Janice at:
huntingtonjoja@hotmail.com or Ph 0410 538 013
- 2. CAVANOUGH FAMILY.** Saturday 20 October
At Ebenezer Church Hall, NSW, 10am to 4pm
Bring a picnic lunch and family updates
Cost \$5 per family. Details: alan.woods1@bigpond.com
Phone 02 4324 7504

MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

- 1. JOHN RANDALL DESCENDANTS**
#8484 Terry Flowers would like to hear from other descendants who may have recently-found information about their forebear. (thflowers@optusnet.com.au)
- 2. JAMES RUSE DESCENDANTS**
#Janice Huntington is keen to contact other members who descend from First Fleeter James Ruse. Contact her on huntingtonjoja@hotmail.com
- 3. MEMBERS WHO GET FOUNDERS BY EMAIL**
Your embarrassed Editor apologises that over 150 of you were targeted by the computer gremlins so you did not get the last two issues. Thanks for letting us know and we trust this one reaches your inbox on time.
- 4. ALL MEMBERS**
The History Booklet given out to those who attended the 50th Anniversary Luncheon is now available on our website. On *Home Page* click *50 Years Anniversary Booklet*.

CHAPTER OFFICE BEARERS 2018-2019

NAME	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
ALBURY/WODONGA DISTRICT	Paul Gooding #8089	Michael Ronald #8037, Gaye Merkel #8095,	Mary Chalmers-Borella #8034.1	Mary Chalmers-Borella #8034.1
ARTHUR PHILLIP	Roderick White #6815		Judith O'Shea #8563	James Kemsley #7895
CANBERRA	Geoff Cameron #2000	Gina Pinkas #6743	Brian Mattick #6077	Toni Pike #6981
CENTRAL COAST	John Haxton #7058	Wendy Condon #7123	Jon Fearon #7141	Margaret Black #8544
DERWENT	Dianne Snowden #2862	Howard Reeves #8285.1	Paul Dobber #8462.1	Greg Bell #8277
EASTERN FARMS	Frank Olivier #8402.1	Judith Newell #7599	Jennifer Follers #7889	Rob Shipton #7981
HAWKESBURY NEPEAN	Pamela Hempel #6740	Heather Threlfall #8286	William Hempel #6740.1	Theresa Ewan #8486
HUNTER VALLEY	Barbara Gow #8275		Kerry Neinert #8578	Philip Aubin #5685
MID NORTH COAST	Malcolm Tompson #7787		Heather Bath #8480	Margaret Pople #8517
MORETON	Don Cornford #5129.1	Julie Webb #7007	Julia Cornford #5129	Barry Lack #8001
NORTH COAST	Pat Davis #7397.1	Margaret Bass #7374	Faye Smith #8654	Graeme Hays #8815
NORTHERN RIVERS	Roderick Jordan #8469.1	Karin Brown #7962	Karla Rojo #8875	Enid Taylor #F190
NORTH WEST	Jennifer Porter #7416	Sybil Small #218.1 Harold McLean #7439	Diana Harband #7414	Colin Worrad #F42
SOUTH COAST	KerrieAnne Christian #4858	Fae McGregor #7161	Robert Ratcliffe #7628	Anne Mobbs #F147
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS	Pamela Cormick #1894	Rod Davis #6139	Wendy Selman #6558	John Kirkby #7137
SWAN RIVER	Alex Aitken #7766.1	Bill Cutler #8024	Toni Mahony #5525	Lynton Symington #7947

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:** for Dates, Thumbnails and Speakers... **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:** 19 October: Arthur Phillip's Birthday Morning Tea; 16 November: Jenny Joyce, *Understanding DNA for Family Historians*; 21 December: General Meeting & Christmas Party **Next Event:** 20-28 October: Convict Heritage Tour of Tasmania; 11 November: Remembrance Day at Roseville RSL. **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** 9 December: Christmas Barbecue, 12 noon at 7 Portus Place, Bruce. **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:** 13 October: Two Members to share: Janelle Craig *Thomas Huxley*; and One other, TBA; 10 November: Gavin Plunkett, *FF Thomas Chipp/Jane Langley*. **Next Events:** Monday 19 November: Tour of Norah Head Lighthouse and (picnic?) lunch; Saturday 8th December: Tour of Alison Homestead/History Museum followed by Christmas Lunch. **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

DERWENT – Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings:** 6 October: Speaker TBA. **Next Event:** 1 December: Christmas barbecue at Nubeena (President Dianne's farm), from 11 am, followed by optional visit to Port Arthur. **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:** 6 October: Bob Maynard, *The 1842 Royal Commission into Employment of Women and Children*; 3 November: Dr Catherine Bishop, *Colonial Businesswomen of Sydney*; 1 December: Meeting, *Christmas Morning Tea*. **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 Meeting:** 10 November (Windsor): Patrick Dodd, TBA; **Next Events:** 13 October: Tour of Windsor Cemeteries with Rebecca Turnbull, (start time and place TBA.) 15 December (Windsor): Christmas Social Function. **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 Meeting:** 15 October: Paul Turton, *Newcastle ABC History*. **Next Event:** 10 December: Christmas Lunch 11:30 at *The Gates*, Adamstown. **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 Events:** 20 October: John Oxley Celebrations and Parade at Harrington; 27 November: Christmas Outing. **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 Meeting:** 13 October: Members, *A Leaf off my Tree*. **Next Events:** 26 October: Visit to Commissariat Store, lunch then *Life in Irons* at the Museum of Brisbane; 8 December: End of Year and Christmas Lunch. **Contact:** Julia Cornford 0418747891

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 Event:** 1 December: Chapter Christmas Party at Golden Dog Hotel, Glenreagh, 11.45 am for 12 noon. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

Venue: Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 18 November (3rd Sunday): Christmas Meeting, Jennifer Sonego, *John Small/Mary Parker*. **Contact:** Karla Rojo 66884306

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** : 6 October at Family History Rooms: Susan Circuit, *General Sir William Throsby-Bridges*. **Next Event:** 1 December: Christmas Lunch, Venue TBA. **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 Meetings:** 2 October: Barbara Cattunar, *History of Australian Architecture*; 6 November: Stuart Traynor, *History of Alice Springs*; 1 December: Saturday noon Christmas Lunch, Woonona RSL. **Next Event:** 14 November: Underbelly Walk, Redfern-Chippendale. **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 Meetings:** 10 October: Kerrie Anne Christian, *FF WW1 Soldiers*; 12 December: (at Mittagong RSL) *Christmas Lunch*. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 13 October: Lionel Lovell, *Brickwalls*; 1 December: Christmas Wind-up with *Show and Tell*, plus Wine and Cheese. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 19 November 2018

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

FREDERICK MEREDITH
 #8881 Lesley Robin Nash
 #8882 Kel Thomas Nash
ANNFORBES/THOMAS CHIPP/JANE LANGLEY
 #8883 Eric Sidney Broome
JAMES SQUIRE
 #8884 Penelope Ann Sohler
ANN FORBES
 #8885 Melody Gay Radburn
 #8896 Kerrin Margaret Hancock
JAMES PEAULET
 #8887 Peter John Holmes
WILLIAM DOUGLAS/MARY GROVES
 #8888 Louise Maree Stuart
 #8889 Angela Loise Stuart
JOSEPH WRIGHT
 #8890 Katherine Josephine Phyllis Millen

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

ANDREW FISHBURN
 #8893 Phillip Wayne Dingeldei
 #8894 Kelly Elise Dingeldei
 #8895 Robert William Dingeldei
JAMES McMANUS/Jane POOLE/JAMES BRADLEY
 #8897 Sonnia Olga Ryan
Junior Members
THOMAS HARMSWORTH/Alice HARMSWORTH
 #8886 Kane Aiden Marsden
JOSEPH WRIGHT
 #8891 Paige Janice Maree Millen
 #8892 April Robyn Kathleen Millen
Associates
 #8893.1 Sharon Dingeldei
Friends
 #F191 June Devine

DEATHS

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES

7672 Gwendoline R Caskey, of Corrimal, New South Wales, died on 10.06.2018, aged 88. Gwen joined the Fellowship in 2009 and was a keen member of South Coast Chapter.

THOMAS ARNDELL

#8069 Carolyn Ross Trabant, of Wodonga, Victoria, died on 18.07.2018. Carolyn had been a member of Albury-Wodonga District Chapter since its inauguration in 2012

ASSOCIATE

#7710.1 Maisie Ida McDougall, of Cherrybrook, New South Wales, died on 22.08.2018. Maisie joined the Fellowship along with her husband, the late Ken McDougall, (FF James Squire) in 2009 and was a keen member of Eastern Farms Chapter.

ASSOCIATE

#6658.1 Bruce Alan Brown, of Hurstville, New South Wales, died on 30.07.2018, aged 86. Bruce, along with his wife Viva A Brown (FF James Bradley), joined the Fellowship in 1998

JOSEPH WRIGHT

#3454 Betty J Bellingham, of Kurrajong Hills, New South Wales, died on 10.03.2018. Betty first joined the Fellowship in 1986 and was a member of Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter.

NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE/MICHAEL MURPHY

#2038 Jeffrey Malcolm Thomsett, who lived at Woolloongabba, Queensland, died on 26.08.2018, aged 74. Jeffrey was a member of the Fellowship for 37 years and belonged to Moreton Chapter.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM

#8555 David Ross M Michel, of Mount Colah, New South Wales, died on 13.05.2018, aged 75.

TWO SIGNIFICANT MEETINGS SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2018

in the Kai-Mea Room at

TRADIES CLUB

57 Manchester Road GYMEA NSW

10 am A NEW CHAPTER FOR SOUTHERN SYDNEY?

Come and decide if this is for you. Offer to get it going.

Then stay on for MORNING TEA and join other members at

11 am for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

R\$VP by 19 October~ phone or email ~ will help for catering

VALE Moreton Chapter Members JOHN MOORE & JEFF THOMPSETT

Recently two faithful members of Moreton Chapter passed away, John H Moore # 3411 on 2 June 2018, age 89, and Jeffrey Malcolm Thomsett #2038, on 26 August 2018, aged 74 years.

Over their lifetimes both John and Jeff made significant contributions to the communities in which they lived and worked.

John E C Moore # 3411 FF Edward Goodwin, was a school teacher and served the Australian Army Reserve for 29 years while teaching in various schools. He retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1984 as special officer in military history for the regular and reserve army.

A member of the Australian College of Education, the Royal Australian Historical Society and the Society of Genealogists, he had a Master of Arts in Australian History. His thesis was on the Militia in Papua New Guinea 1940-1945.

Other publications included a biography of Lieutenant Governor Sir Leslie Morehead, 1976. We, descendants of First Fleeters, remember him most fondly for his book published in 1987, *The First Fleet Marines 1786 – 1792*, a story which he brought to us in several presentations.

Jeffrey Malcolm Thomsett #2038, FF Nathaniel Lucas, Olivia Gascoigne and Michael Murphy passed away on 26 August 2018, aged 74.

After medical training at University of Queensland and Ipswich Hospital, Jeff was posted to Mareeba and Dalby. He then went to Christmas Island where he was Medical Superintendent at the local hospital. This was followed by twenty-three years' practice in Oakey. Often, he was required to carry out procedures with little assistance that today would require a fully equipped and staffed operating theatre.

Jeff was passionate and dedicated to rural medicine and spent a number of years in Toowoomba mostly involved with the training of rural doctors. In 2007, the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, RDAQ, awarded Jeff the "Legend of the Bush" award for providing long-standing and meritorious service to rural medicine and rural communities.

In 2010 Jeff was made an Honorary Life Member of the RDAQ for demonstrating an exemplary commitment to rural health and the work of the Association.

Vale John and Jeff.