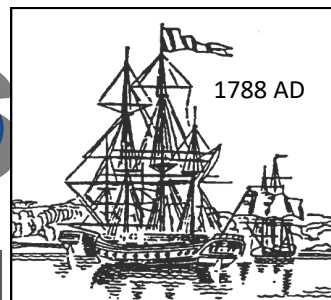


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

ACN 003 223 425

PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO



Volume 50 Issue 2

51st Year of Publication

April-May 2019

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY~ MC Rod Best at the Australia Day Luncheon:

The noted historian **Geoffrey Blainey** said:

"Nothing in the short history of white men in Australia can be compared with the ancient rising of the seas, the shaping of thousands of new harbours, the swamping of scores of tribal territories and the wiping out of the evidence of the Aboriginal life once lived on those drowned lands."

As we join together today on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the people who witnessed the flooding of what we now call Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour, we acknowledge their elders from the Dreamtime forward. We acknowledge the traumatic changes that have happened to these people from 1788 until now. We think back on our own family histories, families who have proudly been in Australia since 1788,

and can (as I can) identify those ancestors who inflicted terrible things on Aboriginal people, those ancestors who were terrified of the Aboriginal people, and those ancestors who walked beside Aboriginal brothers and sisters. In our families we can number the eleventh, twelfth or even thirteenth or more generations in our beautiful land, and so with the maturity that comes from time passing,

- we acknowledge that this is the land of Aboriginal people, it has ever been and always will be thus,
- we acknowledge their welcome to their lands
- we acknowledge this is our common wealth comprising all Australian peoples who, like any family, with wisdom and justice seek to live together sharing a rich and tragic history that contains droughts and flooding rains - just like our land.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM BRADLEY'S LOG

Luncheon Speaker, Dr Nigel Erskine, Curator and Head of Research, Australian Maritime Museum:

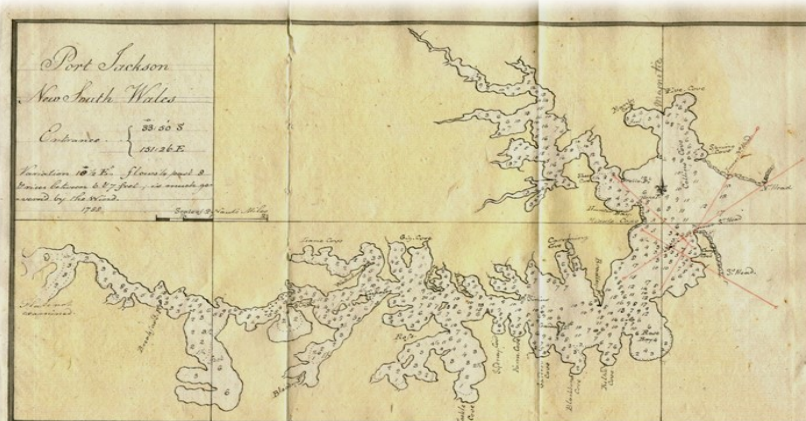
Late last year my interest in matters relating to the *Sirius* was aroused by an email from an Australian couple in England saying that an acquaintance of theirs had the log of HMS *Sirius* kept by **Lieutenant William Bradley** and was looking for a suitable home for it.

Earlier in my career I was Director of the Norfolk Island Museum, and as a maritime archaeologist led the 2002 project that recovered and conserved a number of objects from the wreck. It is one of the great privileges of people in my line of work to occasionally come into contact with objects that have the power to transport you back to an earlier place and time. Unsurprisingly however, such treasures are extremely rare and offers that generally sound 'too good to be true', usually are!

Thus it was that I began my email exchange with the owner of William Bradley's

log with a fair measure of scepticism and caution. I knew of William Bradley's manuscript journal held by the Mitchell Library and thought that we might be talking about one of the facsimile versions produced by the library in 1969. I asked to see digital images of the log and gradually over a period of several months realised that I had to actually see the log for myself and meet the owner in the flesh.

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FOUNDERS

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



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon



It is indeed a great pleasure to share in Chapter celebrations when they come up. Karys and I have just returned from Brisbane where we were the guests at **Moreton Chapter's 10th Anniversary**. Membership Officer **Beverley Fox** had put in a huge amount of work in preparation.

The event was held on 16 March at the Royal Queensland Golf Club, and as we chatted with members we could see how revitalised the chapter has become. Beverley was disappointed that she missed the celebrations, having had urgent surgery three days before. The Fellowship wishes her well on the road to recovery.

Sunday 3 February was the 231st Anniversary of the **first Christian Service** under the great tree at Sydney Cove. Once again we represented the Fellowship at the 08:30 Communion service at St Philips where Rev Richard Johnson's own prayer book was used and on display. An added touch was that former Board member **#6254 Peter Meyer** was the organist.

Later that day the Australian Christian Nation held their annual Thanksgiving Service at Richard Johnson Square to honour our Christian heritage. The focus this year was on Mary Johnson and the **faith and courage of pioneering women**. The main speaker was historian **Associate Professor Stuart Piggin** who cleverly took on the differing personas of the three women he chose to honour.

Many thanks to those who have taken up the cause to save heritage-endowed **Yarra Bay** from being chosen as the site for a cruise terminal. I had been told that the proposal had been officially withdrawn, but now I am not so sure as the Save the Bay Coalition remains very active. Perhaps the NSW state election has allowed politics to take over the rightful concerns.

The **Bennelong Putney Project Committee** is working to decide how best to preserve and protect the site of Bennelong's grave at the now government-purchased 25 Watson St Putney. **Wollarawarre Bennelong** was our first foreign envoy and deserves a fitting monument in his honour. The Fellowship hopes to be included in this development which will also honour colonial horticulturist and brewer **James Squire** who buried Bennelong, his wife **Boorong** and his protégé **Nanberry** there two centuries ago.

Those of you who descend from private marine **James Williams** may have noticed the error in the last issue where in the Presidents' Toast to Ancestors it was stated that Williams was a convict on the hulk *Justitia*. *Founders* apologises for the error.

Author of the **Cullen/Bartlett Dynasty trilogy**, Janeen Ann O'Connell, has advised us that the final two books, *Love, Lies and Legacies*, and *Time Tells All*, have now been published. The first in the series, *No Room for Regrets*, was reviewed in *Founders* 49/3, and a copy is held in the Fellowship's Library. Contact the author on janeeno@bigpond.net.au to find out how to purchase the new titles.

Unlike most others **Arthur Phillip Chapter** does not publish a newsletter. They do however have an active website and Fellowship members are invited to read there the chapter's reviews of their meetings and activities. *Founders* regrets that we cannot always find space for their many excellent stories. Go to their website - www.arthurphillipchapter.weebly.com, click on Meetings and go to their sub-menu Events and Activities to find the reports.

This month I close with two items of good news. First, there are moves afoot to form a chapter on the **Central Queensland Coast** between Rockhampton & Maryborough, and secondly, my cancer update remains 'all clear'. **JON**

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(from page 1) Each time I asked a question, the answer I received intensified my excitement and after convincing my Director of the potential importance of the log, found myself on a flight to London in January last year to examine the previously unknown log of *HMS Sirius*, written by First Lieutenant William Bradley, covering the period from the departure of the First Fleet from Portsmouth in May 1787 to the return of the ship's crew to England in April 1792 aboard the Dutch vessel *Waakzaamheydt*.

The log had been in the owner's family for many years, passing down through several generations of his family, including Vice-Admirals Harry Edmund Edgell (CB) and Sir John Augustine Edgell (KBE, CB, FRS), Hydrographer of the Navy (1932-1945).

The present owner's ancestor **Henry Folkes Edgell** was Captain of the 14 gun sloop *HMS Pluto* that served off the north American east coast (Newfoundland Station) at the same time that William Bradley was Captain of *HMS Cambrian* on the same station. *HMS Pluto* was a sister ship to *HMS Comet* - Bradley's first command, and it is possible that the log came into the Edgell family through this connection.

Much of what we know about William Bradley is based on his journal in the Mitchell Library. Like it, William Bradley's log is a 'fair copy' made at some time after the events it describes. The two works complement each other, the one providing a flowing description, while the log is a precise record of the *Sirius*' course, speed and position, weather conditions, wind direction and matters relating to sailing the ship, with additional remarks about anchorages or uncharted dangers encountered during the voyage of the *Sirius* and subsequently the *Supply* and *Waakzaamheydt*.

Amongst the entries are some surprising details – for example the following which refers to *Sirius*' battle to round southern Tasmania on 22 April 1789 returning to Port Jackson from the Cape of Good Hope:

AM. At 2 weathered the land to the eastward at 1½ or 2 miles distant; from the land trending away N [north] we knew this to be Tasman Head and the point of land we

were at 7 AM, the South Cape. The ship was so pressed with sail to get her round the land that the pumps were kept going all night and all hands upon deck. The sea washed away the figurehead.

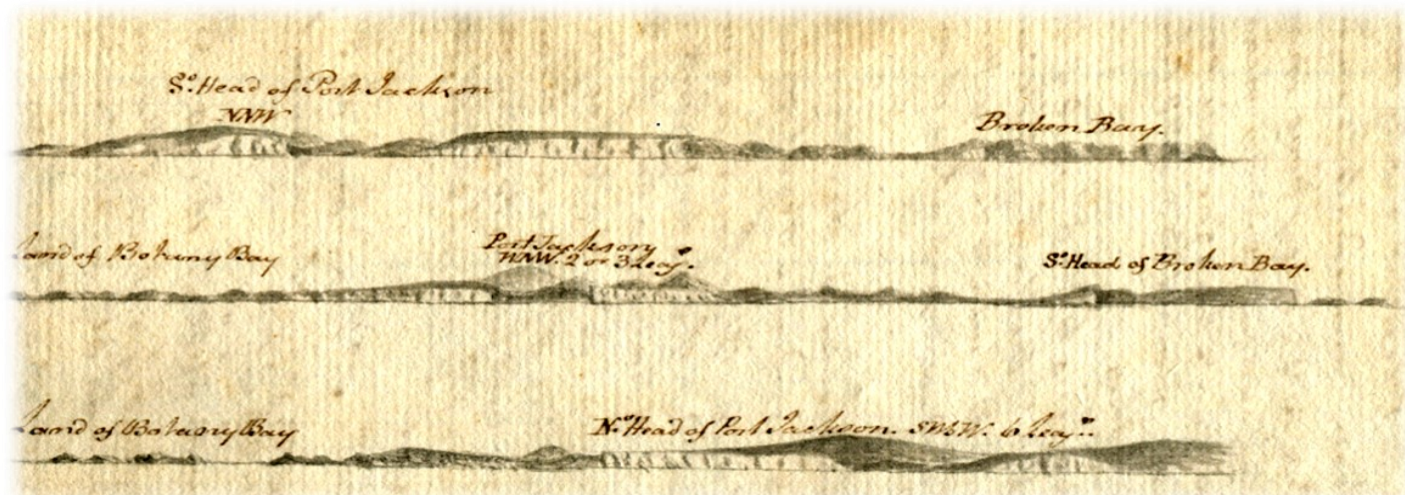
Two days later the damage to the ship's stem was so serious that the jib boom and spritsail yard had to be removed, and the bowsprit was jury-rigged with ropes to each cathead! Little wonder that when the ship finally arrived safely back at Port Jackson it needed major repairs to strengthen the hull, before it was again ready for sea.

Bradley's log includes charts of Rio de Janeiro, Table Bay (Cape of Good Hope), Botany Bay, Port Jackson as well as the *Waakzaamheydt*'s route and anchorages on the voyage to England.

Additionally the log includes exquisite coastal profiles of the Canary Islands, Rio de Janeiro, the coast of southern Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) and the entrances to Botany Bay and Port Jackson – these last being some of the earliest depictions of the coastal cliffs around Sydney.

The place where the repairs to the *Sirius* were made is named *Careening Cove* on Bradley's chart of Port Jackson inserted in the log. Bradley surveyed the harbour under **Captain John Hunter** who sent a large and beautifully coloured version back to England where it can now be seen at the National Archives in Kew. Compared with the chart in Bradley's log, it is clearly a more accurate version, and as intended, became the basis for the first published chart of the harbour. A wonderful aspect of Bradley's chart of the harbour in his log however, is his inclusion of names given to many of the bays and headlands.

Some of these, such as *Sydney Cove*, *Rose Bay*, *Farm Cove*, *Hunter Bay* and *Bradley's Point* are still used today, but Bradley's chart includes other names that haven't survived. *Keltie Cove* [Double Bay], *Waterhouse Point* [Woolwich], and *Collins Cove* [North Harbour] refer to **James Keltie**, Master of the *Sirius*; **Henry Waterhouse**, a midshipman on the *Sirius*, and **David Collins**, Deputy Judge Advocate of the colony – while *Bloody Point* [Dobroyd Point (Iron Cove)] probably refers to the murder of two convicts.



CONVICTS, CASTAWAYS and the LONG VOYAGE to NSW

Professor Dame Marie Bashir, ladies and gentlemen - good afternoon. Let me say that I am honoured to be here today as the guest speaker of the Fellowship of First Fleet-ers on the 231st anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet in Botany Bay in January 1788. Thank you President **Jon Fearon**, Vice President **Denis Smith** and other members of the organising committee.

While my talk – ‘Convicts, castaways and the long voyage to New South Wales’ will eventually get to Botany Bay, we need first to start a decade earlier with the departure of the *Endeavour* from England in 1768 under the command of **James Cook** on an expedition to the island of Tahiti to observe the much anticipated transit of the planet Venus across the face of the Sun in early June the following year.

Accompanying Cook on the voyage was the wealthy young gentleman **Joseph Banks** and his party of naturalists and artists intent on recording the lands, people, culture and natural history of Tahiti and any other new lands that the expedition might discover.

On the outward voyage Cook's main concern was to get to Tahiti as quickly as possible, to allow enough time to properly prepare for the transit of Venus and during the seven and a half months *Endeavour* took to reach Tahiti, Cook stopped only three times, at Madeira, Rio de Janeiro and Tierra del Fuego, to replenish water and stores. Banks and **Solander** were deeply frustrated that the Portuguese Viceroy at Rio de Janeiro restricted all access to land, so curtailing their botanical collecting, but otherwise they remained in good spirits, recording fish, birds and other marine life.

Captain Samuel Wallis, the first European to discover Tahiti, had found a protected anchorage at the north end of the island (Matavai Bay) and it was there that Cook anchored *Endeavour* and Banks was finally able to go ashore. After months of confinement at sea, he was immediately captivated by all he saw, and over the four months that *Endeavour* spent in and around Tahiti, he was deeply impressed by the Polynesian culture, recording observations in his journal and collecting a vocabulary of Tahitian words, plus artefacts, plants and other specimens.

One plant in particular – the Bread fruit, impressed Banks so much that he wrote of it in his journal:

In the article of food these happy people may almost be said to be exempt from the curse of our forefathers, scarcely can it be said that they earn their bread with the sweat of their brow when the chiefest substance Breadfruit is procured with no more trouble than that

of climbing a tree and pulling it down, not that the trees grow here spontaneously. But if a man should in the course of his lifetime plant 10 such trees which well-done might take the labour of an hour or thereabouts, he would completely fulfil his duty to his own as well as future generations.

The potential of the plant was not lost on Banks and was to loom large in his future plans. Another of Banks' experiences during the voyage that was to influence our own history was his time spent in Botany Bay and more generally on the east coast of Australia in the course of 1770.

The *Endeavour* voyage was a huge success for Joseph Banks that established his credentials as an expert on the new lands discovered in the Pacific and although frustrated in his attempts to join Cook's second voyage of exploration to the southern hemisphere, during the rest of his life he influenced British political policies relating to Australasia and the Pacific profoundly – never more so perhaps than in 1779 when he recommended Botany Bay to a House of Commons committee as a suitable place for a penal settlement.

Prior to the declaration of Independence by its 13 colonies in 1776, England had transported around 69,000 convicts to north America, but with the war intensifying, all trade and the associated transportation of convicts to America ceased abruptly, quickly creating a crisis in English gaols as they struggled to deal with the mounting number of prisoners.

One solution to the problem of overcrowding was to establish floating prisons by fitting out redundant and worn-out vessels to accommodate convicts.

With their masts and rigging pared back and strange appendages added, the convict hulks were to become an increasingly familiar sight in rivers and harbours around England, particularly after the Treaty of Paris finally brought an end to the war with the United States.

With peace came a reduction in Britain's naval and military forces and as many men returned to civilian life not everyone could find legitimate means of survival. The war had also created sharp divisions in America between American-born loyalists supporting **King George** and those who fought for independence from the monarchy. As a result of England's defeat, many loyalists were unable to stay in America and were forced to look for new places to establish themselves. One of these was **James Matra**, whose experiences while sailing with Cook on the *Endeavour* voyage, prompted him to put forward the idea of establishing a colony for American loyalists in NSW.



Breadfruit, Costa Rica
By © Hans Hillewaert / CC BY-SA 3.0
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/>

In 1785 Joseph Banks was again called before a parliamentary committee considering potential locations for the establishment of a penal colony. Initially the committee favoured a location on the south-west coast of Africa (now Namibia) but following further investigation and an unfavourable report, finally came down in favour of Botany Bay.

By 1786 the government had accepted the recommendation and appointed **Arthur Phillip** to lead an expedition to establish a colony made up of approximately 750 convicts with a garrison of just over 200 marines, as well as administrative officers and families.

The ships selected to transport convicts were the *Alexander*, *Lady Penrhyn*, *Charlotte*, *Friendship*, *Prince of Wales* and *Scarborough*, with the *Fishburn*, *Golden Grove* and *Borrowdale* contracted as dedicated storeships. The Admiralty selected *HMS Sirius* to lead the fleet with support from *HMS Supply* and after months of hectic preparation the fleet of 11 ships assembled together at Portsmouth, weighing anchor on 13th May 1787 at the beginning of what would be an 8 month voyage sailing half way around the world.

In supporting the proposal to send the fleet to Botany Bay, Joseph Banks also had botanical aims in mind. The American War of Independence had not only interrupted trade between England and its former colonies in America, it had also impacted the English colonies in the West Indies with the Americans' French allies sending ships to threaten the islands and disrupt markets and communications.

The major export from the English colonies in Jamaica and the other smaller islands – sugar, was based on the use of slave labour to cultivate and process the sugar cane. America had traditionally provided salt-fish as a supplement to food grown on the plantations but as a result of the war, the British government stopped all trade between America and the West Indies. At the same time many of the islands were badly affected by a succession of severe hurricane seasons that destroyed food crops intended to feed plantation workers.

As a result of these impacts, West Indian plantation owners renewed their interest in breadfruit, a plant lauded as far back as **William Dampier's** voyages in the late 17th century, but most recently by Joseph Banks, who, in the period following the *Endeavour* voyage, had become an influential adviser to the King on the development of Kew gardens for the cultivation of commercially important plants.

In 1779 he had also become President of the Royal Society and was knighted in 1781.

With the government decision to send a fleet to Botany Bay, Banks saw an opportunity to repurpose one of the contracted ships after they had transported the colonists to New South Wales, to sail on to Tahiti to collect young breadfruit plants and transport them to the West Indies. As part of this plan Banks had employed **David Nelson**, botanist on Cook's third voyage and sent him detailed instructions on how to tend the plants during the voyage. However, considering the specific needs of the plants and the necessary alterations required to fit a vessel for botanical purposes, Banks decided it would be far better to fit out a ship in England where he could oversee the changes to his satisfaction. As with his choice of David Nelson, Banks looked for someone with existing experience of Tahiti, its language and people and after **William Bligh's** name was put forward, and after a meeting with him in London, Banks supported his appointment to command the vessel *Bounty* on the breadfruit voyage.

The *Bounty* was fitted out in the Thames but by early November 1787 Bligh and the *Bounty* were at Portsmouth, finally getting away on the voyage on the 27 December, seven months after the departure of Commodore Phillip and the First Fleet who by this time were in the Southern Ocean getting close to Van Diemen's Land.

The details of the *Bounty's* voyage are well-known and there is no need to go into much detail here. Like Cook on the *Endeavour* voyage, Bligh intended sailing to Tahiti via Cape Horn but his late departure from England

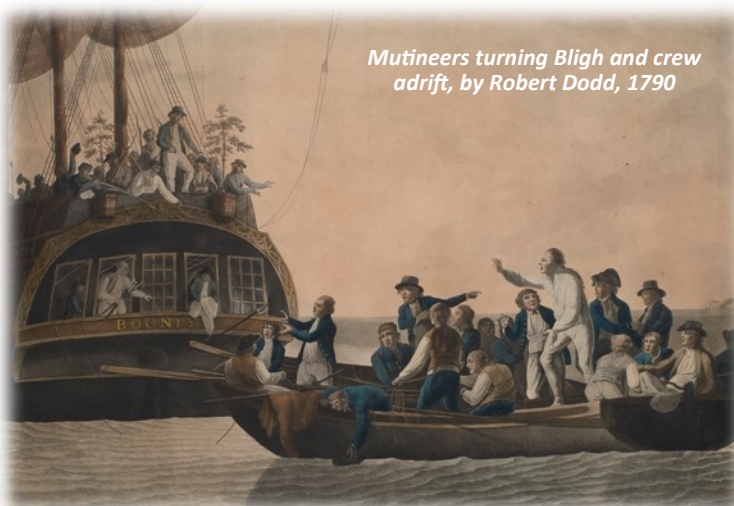
resulted in him making the attempt at a time when late winter storms predominated, and after battling unsuccessfully for a month, he turned the ship east and ran for the Cape of Good Hope.

The *Bounty* anchored off Simonstown at the Cape in late May 1788 and remained there for five and a half weeks replenishing stores and repairing damage before continuing east on the voyage.

In August Bligh reached Van Diemen's Land and anchored at Adventure Bay which he and David Nelson had last visited on Cook's third voyage just over a decade earlier.

While the *Bounty* lay at anchor, just over 600 nautical miles north, in Sydney Cove, most of the First Fleet had departed. The arrival of **la Perouse's** French expedition in

(to page 6)



Mutineers turning Bligh and crew adrift, by Robert Dodd, 1790

(from page 5) Botany Bay as Phillip moved north to Port Jackson underlined the importance of securing Norfolk Island and its resources of pine trees and flax, and six weeks after raising the flag, the Governor had sent **Lieutenant Philip Gidley King** (2nd Lieutenant aboard HMS *Sirius*) to Norfolk Island with a small party of settlers. In May the *Charlotte*, *Lady Penrhyn* and *Scarborough* had departed for China, and in July *Borrowdale*, *Alexander*, *Friendship* and *Prince of Wales* had sailed for England – leaving just the *Fishburn*, *Golden Grove* and *Sirius* and *Supply* at Port Jackson.

The *Bounty* finally reached Tahiti in late October 1788 anchoring in Matavai Bay where it was to stay for five and a half months while the gardeners David Nelson and William Brown collected and propagated breadfruit and other plants to a point of maturity that they were ready for the long voyage to the West Indies. The tropical plants were particularly vulnerable to the cold and Sir Joseph Banks's instructions were that the return voyage should be westward via the East Indies, collecting other tropical species along the way before rounding the Cape of Good Hope and sailing for the Caribbean.

Thus it was that three weeks after finally leaving Tahiti in early April 1789, the *Bounty* was sailing west across the Pacific when the mutiny occurred. Again, the details of Bligh's open boat voyage are well-known.

On the 28th April, Bligh and 18 loyal members of the *Bounty*'s crew were set adrift in the ship's 23 foot launch in sight of the volcanic Tongan island of Tofua. With limited supplies, Bligh initially made for the island expecting to collect coconuts but after a narrow escape and the murder of one of his men during a surprise attack by the inhabitants, Bligh determined to sail to the Dutch settlement at Coupang on the island of Timor in the East Indies.

The question has sometimes been asked – why didn't Bligh sail to Port Jackson? Certainly the distance from Tofua to Port Jackson (around 3600 km) is much less than the distance to Timor (6700 km). However, with the boat so overcrowded and low in the water Bligh had to be very careful how he sailed. The course to Port Jackson would have meant reaching with the prevailing south-easterly wind on the beam and the constant threat that a sudden stronger gust of wind would capsize the boat. The navigation to Port Jackson also required a much better idea of longitude, the calculation of which Bligh was incapable of given he had only been able to take very basic instruments with him in the boat.

By contrast Bligh's intended route to Timor was to sail westward with the prevailing wind behind, until reaching the Great Barrier reef some 3900 km away, before heading north within its protected waters and passing through Endeavour Strait and on to Timor. Using the sextant that **Fletcher Christian** had given him as he got into the boat, Bligh was easily able to work out his latitude and from his knowledge of the latitude of the place where Cook had

entered the Great Barrier Reef (Providential Channel) in the *Endeavour*, he was confident that he could find a way through the reef. It is a measure of Bligh's skill that the passage he found (now Bligh's passage) is just 12 miles south of Providential Channel.

Of course Bligh did make it successfully to Timor using this strategy, and after recuperating there, purchased a small vessel to take the crew on to Batavia. From there he sailed with his servant and clerk back to England via the Cape of Good Hope where he wrote to Governor Phillip outlining the mutiny aboard the *Bounty* and providing a description of each of the mutineers. Bligh landed at Portsmouth in March 1790.

On the other side of the world March 1790 proved to be a disastrous month for the colony.

The initial hopes of the colony's soon becoming self-sufficient through its farming activities had proved unrealistic and with supplies running low, Governor Phillip had despatched the *Sirius* to the Cape of Good Hope in early October 1788 to purchase stores for the settlement. Seven months later in May 1789, the *Sirius* returned, providing temporary relief to the government stores. However, by 1790 the situation had again become critical and Governor Phillip determined to transfer a large part of the population to Norfolk Island where farming had been much more successful. And it was during this that the *Sirius* was wrecked at Norfolk Island on 19 March.

With the population spread between two settlements 1600 kilometres apart, Governor Phillip dispatched the colonies' single remaining vessel *Supply* to Batavia to purchase emergency relief supplies. As a result of the wrecking, the *Sirius*'s crew remained on Norfolk Island for 11 months until brought back to Port Jackson on the *Supply* in February 1791. There they found the Dutch vessel *Waakzaamheydt* which having brought supplies from Batavia, was now contracted to carry the *Sirius*'s crew back to England.

The *Waakzaamheydt* sailed via the Philippines, Batavia and the Cape of Good Hope – finally anchoring and discharging the crew of the *Sirius* back at Portsmouth which they had left almost 5 years earlier.

And what of Captain Bligh?

Sailing into Table Bay on its return trip, the *Waakzaamheydt* had discovered two British ships, the *Providence* and *Assistant* commanded by Captain Bligh on a return voyage to Tahiti to collect and transport breadfruit plants to the West Indies. They too had left from Portsmouth and later returned to England in 1793 after finally succeeding in the transplanting the breadfruit plant to the islands of Jamaica and St Vincent in the West Indies.

Nigel Erskine

Ed Note: In his talk, transcribed above, Dr Erskine outlined Lt William Bradley's later career. This will be held over until our next issue, along with details of a forthcoming William Bligh exhibition at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON ~ PICTURE GALLERY



Top Left: President Jon Fearon and his wife Karys welcome our Patron, Dame Marie Bashir.

Top Right: Val Counter and Karen Lovett at the Registration Table.

Centre Left: Master of Ceremonies Rod Best.

Centre: Friends together, Dorothy Miller and Coral Cleary, with sisters Sharon Lamb and Elaine Snowball.

Centre Right: Vice Patron Paul Kable.

Bottom Left: Vice President Denis Smith presents Guest Speaker Nigel Erskine with a gift copy of *Dispatched Downunder*.

With thanks to our official photographer **Tony Holden**

1828 CENSUS JOINS UNESCO'S GLOBAL MEMORY BANK

Many of us researching our family history will have made use of the **1828 Census**, now available on NSW State Records website.

On 27 February 2019 the six volumes of the Census, detailing the 36 500 Europeans who lived in NSW, convict and free, were inscribed in the **UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register**. The census was introduced because musters, the previous method of counting the population, were ruled illegal because the government couldn't compel free men to come to a muster.

The 1828 Census is said to be the first and most detailed in the English-speaking world. It is one of eleven items newly included in the UNESCO's register, which assesses their cultural importance and encourages their preservation. In other words, if there was a fire, these would be rescued first.

During April and May this year the original volumes will be on tour at several NSW regional libraries.

Amongst the new inclusions are the original manuscript for Ethel Turner's *Seven Little Australians*, the *Veness Letter Book* which holds the entire record of the introduction of electric street lighting to Tamworth, the first in the Southern Hemisphere, and an oral history of migrants.

As well as State Records and the Australian Museum, the **NSW State Library** also holds many of the items that have joined the Register in earlier years.

The current display at the Library, **UNESCO SIX**, is well worth a visit if you are visiting Sydney before the exhibition closes on 5 May. As well as the Holtermann Collection, Dorothea Mackellar's poem *Core of my Heart*, WW1 Diaries and Internee Papers, the highlight for Fellowship members would be the 2009 inscription, **First Fleet Journals**, ten of which came to the Library between 1898 and 1955.

All ten are there on display - Smyth, Bradley (2), Clark, Easty, King, Hunter, Nagle, Scott and Worgan.

WALKING IN MY FIRST FLEETER OLIVIA'S FOOTSTEPS

A Traveller's Tale from #8024 Bill Cutler – Swan River Chapter

While my wife **Cathy** and I were holidaying recently in England we arranged to visit longstanding friends in Worcester for a couple of days. As coincidence would have it Worcester was also the home of one of my First Fleeters **Olivia Gascoigne**, and following the release of a book a few years ago titled *Sentenced to Beyond the Seas* by Worcester author **David Clark** I became much better informed on the early story of Olivia, and seven other women who committed crimes in the area, each being sentenced to 7 or 14 years transportation 'beyond the seas', in other words, New South Wales.

A further fortunate coincidence was that our friends knew the author of the book, David Clark. In advance of our arrival in Worcester, **Roger and Sheila** set up a full day's outing with David who was interested in meeting a bloodline descendant of Olivia with whom he had formed an affinity after months of research into her family roots and early working life leading to crime.

We could scarcely believe the events that unfolded during our day with David. Firstly we drove about 3 miles out of Worcester City to the very small village of Severn Stoke. There in the main street we pulled up outside a very well maintained, and preserved, 400 year old house. This is the home where Olivia worked as the family maid and also lived in with the **Griffith** family.



David had arranged with the current owners of the house to allow us in, but to our surprise the relatively young family had the kettle boiling and a delightful morning tea prepared. The family had a large box stuffed with historical papers relating to the origins of the property which had been handed down over many years from owner to new owner. Thus the family knew a little bit about Olivia's time in the house and her fate. They were anxious to learn more about the crime and her new life as a convict and subsequently successful colonist, wife and mother.

We accepted that the house had had numerous additions and renovations over the years since the crime on August 10, 1784; however the ground floor area was largely unchanged from that time. We stood in the small room where the crime of 'stealing by the force of arms, with others, of 13 pieces of silver' took place.

Olivia was held in Worcester prison, which no longer exists, but we were able to stand on the gaol site which is now a carpark. She appeared before the Worcester Assizes (Court) - part of the Guild Hall - on March 5, 1785, found guilty of armed robbery which carried a mandatory sentence of hanging. Due to pressure to reform sentencing outcomes, Olivia's sentence was commuted to 14 years transportation. She was initially held at Gloucester Newgate Gaol until March 1787 when she joined the *Lady Penrhyn* at Portsmouth.



Worcester Guild Hall is a beautiful building and dates back to 1721. It still houses the Worcester City Council, mayoral rooms and county justice department. So the court room still dispenses justice from the same room that judged Olivia in 1785. We were able to enter the court room and imagine the misery that was dispensed all those years ago. More fascinating was the narrow spiral brick staircase which led from the witness box to the holding cells below the Guild Hall.





*Bill Cutler,
below court*

In the 1990s author David Clark was the Mayor of Worcester, and during this period the cells were 'rediscovered' after being sealed off for around 175 years. Mayor Clark was responsible for the reopening of the cells to the public. From available Guild Hall records we were able to step inside the

cell which housed Olivia and her (to be) long term close friend **Ann Inett**. They subsequently travelled together on the *Lady Penhryn* and were two of the six female convicts selected by **Arthur Philip** to establish the new colony on Norfolk Island. Olivia met convict **Nathaniel Lucas** on this journey, and shortly after their arrival at Norfolk Island married him. Ann became the housekeeper/girlfriend of Norfolk Island Governor **Philip Gidley King**. She bore him two children.

To be in the actual cell that Olivia occupied was an emotional experience for me, and rounded out a very special day. As I walked up those narrow spiral steps from the cells to the courtroom I can only imagine the thoughts going through her head, and more particularly on her way back down, after the sentence was swiftly delivered.

I am very grateful for the way such coincidences played out, and to be able to literally walk in Olivia's footsteps

FIRST FLEETERS LAND IN GLOUCESTER

As reported in the Gloucester Advocate 30 January 2019.

A group of descendants of those who first came to Australia as part of the First Fleet spent Australia Day 2019 in Gloucester.

The Mid North Coast Chapter of the Fellowship plan an annual outing to celebrate January 26 and this year their first stop was morning tea in the Gloucester Museum archive room before taking part in a tour of the facility where they learnt the history of the region.

The group, which included three Gloucester members, **Liz**

Martin, Barbara and Louise Smart, enjoyed the amazing spread served by several of the museum's volunteers.

After their tour the group made plans to take part in a walking/driving tour of the region before heading to the Gloucester Country Club for lunch.

The Mid North Coast Chapter has members from Bulahdelah to Kempsey. The Fellowship is comprised of descendants of those who arrived in Sydney Cove with the First Fleet on 26 January 1788.

Anne Keen



The Fellowship of First Fleeters enjoy morning tea presented by volunteers from the Gloucester Museum

OUR 19th CHAPTER LAUNCHED in a BLAZE of PUBLICITY

The committee had been working hard and some excellent press publicity across a wide area of southern Sydney meant that all were ready for the launch of the **Botany Bay Chapter** at Gardens on Forest, Peakhurst, on Tuesday 19 February.

Secretary **Carol Macklin's** advert in the RSVP section of the Sydney Morning Herald was the catalyst for an amazing start for our 19th Chapter.

Amongst the early arrivals were SMH journalist **Tim Barlass** and photographer **Louise Kennerley**, with their plan to feature the launch in a double page spread in the next day's paper.

The agenda was set aside as Tim and Louise took over proceedings with prospective chapter members all ushered downstairs for a carefully managed photo shoot and notetaking which in the follow up article identified all present by name, their ancestors and the event or crime that brought their First Fleeters to our shores.

Perhaps it was the name of the Chapter that engendered

such interest by the Herald, with Tim stating his surprise when he learnt that not all arrivals and stayers in 1788 were actually convicts.



New President Kevin Snowball receives the official scroll

There were 32 present at the gathering, all intent to share their stories informally and find out how the new chapter would get going along with their membership.

As well as the press team other visitors included 5 members of the Fellowship's Board, keen to see the chapter off to a great start.

Once the formalities resumed, President **Jon Fearon** welcomed all, conducted the election of the Committee, oversaw the presentation of some books to start a library and made some general comments about the Fellowship and how to join.

The newly elected President, **Kevin Snowball** took the chair, gave some of his own Fellowship background, and then thanked all for attendance, encouraging them to return in a month's time to share their stories and join in decision making for the way ahead.



OUR CHAPTERS IN ACTION

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

Venue: usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.30 am. **Next Event:** . **Next Meetings:** 20 April: Ray Gear, *Local History*; 18 May: Guest Speaker TBA, then Lunch and walk through the Pioneer Cemetery. **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:** 12 April Ann Howard, *The Kindness of Strangers*; 17 May: Denis Smith, *WW2 Australian airmen in the Russian Airforce*; (& Coffee and Cake for the Fleet Departure); 21 June: Catherine Bishop, *Minding her own Business*. **Next Events:** 25 April: ANZAC service at Roseville Memorial Club; 8 May: Walking Tour of Hunters Hill & Lunch at the Bowling Club; 26 June: Group Tour of Rookwood Cemetery. **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

BOTANY BAY - Southern Sydney, from Cooks River to Waterfall and west to Liverpool

Venue: For the next bi-monthly meeting, The Gardens on Forest Function Centre, 764 Forest Road Peakhurst. 10:30 am. **Next Meeting & Event:** 21 May: Regular meeting followed by Chapter lunch at the venue to celebrate the Sailing of the Fleet. **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415376434

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **No Events** planned for this quarter. **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 April: Stephen McCombie, *Cyber Crime*; 11 May: Presentation, Wendy Condon's *FF Joseph Wright*; 8 June: Graham Keating, *Town Crier*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings:** 6 April: Nick Brodie *TBA*. **Next Event:** 14 April: 11.30 Conducted Tour of Hobart Police Museum, followed by lunch at a venue yet to be decided. **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 Meetings:** 6 April: Mark Dunn, *Pre 1830 Newcastle*; 4 May: Anne Henderson, *Enid Lyons -Leading Lady to a Nation*; 1 June: Geoff Davidson: *Australia The Great South Land - Where Is It?* **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** 13 April (at Windsor): Heidi Brown, *The Female Factory*; 11 May (at Penrith): Kerry Farmer, *DNA Research*; 8 June (at Penrith): Lorraine Stacker, *200 Years of Penrith City* **Next Event:** **Contact:** William Hempel 0410950101

HUNTER VALLEY – Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.

Venue: Teralba Community Hall Supper Room, 15 Anzac Pde Teralba – bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am – 12.30pm. **Next Meetings:** 15 April: Louise Stafford, *The Three Stafford Brothers and WW1*; 17 June: Charles Keys, *Floods in NSW*. **Next Event:** 13 May: Sailing of the Fleet Cruise on Port Stephens. **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:** Instead of a meeting in May there will be an outing. **Contact:** Heather Bath 0427018566

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:** 13 April: Mervyn Cobcroft, *The Maritime Adventures of Joseph Bradley*; 8 June: Robert McAllister, *Brisbane historian*. **Next Event:** . **Contact:** Julia Cornford 0418747891

NORTH COAST – Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Maclean

Venue: Either at Mylestom Hall, Coramba Hall or at members' homes, Bi-monthly , usually first Sunday at 10.30am. **Next Meetings:** 7 April: At Joe and Margaret Bass's Nana Glen; 2 June: at Coramba Hall. **Next Event:** **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:** 26 May: Rhonda Lee, *TBA*. **Contact:** Karla Rojo 66884306

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** 6 April at FH Rooms: Melinda Gill, *Historical Significance of Local Newspapers*; 1 June at FH Rooms, Speaker *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 April: Kerrie Anne Christian, *DNA What's the Goods?*; 4 June: Ann Sneddon Mobbs. *TBA*. **Next Event:** 13 May: Sailing of the Fleet Luncheon, 12 noon at Illawarra Yacht Club. **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – Mittagong, Moss Vale and surrounds.

Venue: Mittagong Community Centre – bi-monthly – second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meetings:** 10 April: Rod Davis: *FF Philip Gidley King*; 12 June: Neil Hughes, *Lighthorsemen and their Horses*. **Next Events:** 13 April: FFF Stall at Irish Festival, Berrima Public School.; 20 April: Convict Bonnets at Australian Heritage Festival, Harpers Mansion., Berrima; 25 April: ANZAC Wreath Laying at Mittagong. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 6 April: Peter Miles, *Topic TBA*; 8 June: Speaker, *TBA* **Next Event:** 18 May: Day trip to York. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 20 May 2019

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

BIRTHS

*Ordinary and Pensioner Members***JAMES BRYAN CULLEN**

#8930 John Patrick Anthony Goodwin
#8931 Roderick Glenn Fearon

ELIZABETH THOMAS

#8932 Deanne Sherrie Goard

ANDREW FISHBURN

#8935 Glenn Thomas John Farley

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM/ANN FORBES

#8936 Judith M Tunningley

STEPHEN MARTIN

#8937 Adam James Grabsch

WILLIAM NASH/MARIA HAYNES

#8938 Clare Elizabeth Malone

WILLIAM DOUGLAS/MARY GROVES

#8939 Eric John Williams

#8940 Vivienne Smith

#8949 Shane Colin Smith

#8952 Mitchell Dean Smith

THOMAS EDDINGTON

#8942 Gillian Mary Roberts

#8943 Elizabeth Anne Cooper

THOMAS ARNDELL/ELIZABETH DALTON

#8944 Beverley Abdulla

*Ordinary and Pensioner Members***JOHN GOWEN**

#8946 Michael Ainslie Craft

#8947 Lawrence Albert Craft

THOMAS SPENCER/MARY PHILLIPS

#8948 Vanessa Hicks

*Junior Members***ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY**

#8933 Paris Elektra Chamos

HENRY PARSONS

#8934 Jacob Westcott Ludlow

CAROLINE LAYCOCK

#8945 Kai William Bentley

WILLIAM DOUGLAS/MARY GROVES

#8950 Jai Gregory Smith

#8951 Max Colin Smith

#8953 Georgia Addison Smith

#8954 Harry Dean Smith

Associates

#8927.1 Jasmin Anne Bleeks

#8536.1 Michael J Baker

#8689.1 Barrie Frederick Childs

*Additional First Fleeter***JOHN ROWE**

#7648 Roslyn Earthrowl

SAMUEL PIGOTT

Joshua Ian Bushell, first son of Damon Bushell and Tia McCann of Annandale New South Wales was born on 29.01.2019 at Camperdown. Joshua is a brother to Scarlett and the fourth grandchild of Ken and #8461 Kate Bushell of Banora Point, New South Wales.

DEATHS

DANIEL BARNETT

#4071 Dorothy Joan McLaggan, of Miranda New South Wales, died on 06.07.2018, aged 94. Dorothy had been a member of the Fellowship for 32 years.

JOSEPH TRIMBY

#2915 Sister Andrea Myers, of Beresfield, lately of Sandgate New South Wales, died on 19.12.2018, aged 83. She was a much loved member of Hunter Valley Chapter and had belonged to the Fellowship for 34 years. Sister Andrea organised the plaque dedication service and presented the eulogy for her ancestor Joseph at East Maitland in 2011.

ASSOCIATE

#7013.1 William M Price, of Bangalee, New South Wales, died on 26.12.2018, aged 82. Bill was the husband of #7013 Joan Price and together they have been members of South Coast Chapter for 16 years.

Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee

invites you and your guests to celebrate the

232nd Anniversary of the Sailing of the First Fleet from Portsmouth

in the

Lord Mayor's Reception Room - Sydney Town Hall Friday 17 May 6:00-7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Councillor Lee Mason

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of the City of Portsmouth

"Portsmouth and the First Fleet, 1786-87"

\$35, Bookings by 10 May: Kieran Tonge, ph(02)42855685, kjsptonge@bigpond.com

FROM THE MAILBAG

Hello, Jon, I enjoyed your article from the Australia Day lunch about how convicts to Australia might have known each other and formed friendships and the situation of some prior to departure of the First Fleet.

It prompted me to check my ancestor **Catherine Johnson** of *Prince of Wales* in **Mollie Gillen**. Catherine was sentenced at the Old Bailey on 18 April 1787 and on 30 April was sent by wagon to Portsmouth for embarkation on 03 May - so not long in gaol, probably Newgate.

Edward Smith of *Scarborough* - of interest to me as **Edward Beckford** - was sentenced at the Old Bailey on 15 Sept 1784 and was sent to the Ceres hulk on 5 April 1785. He was on it until 24 Feb 1787 when sent to Portsmouth to embark on

Scarborough on 27 Feb. So his hardiness combined with his sea skills was likely perceived that he was a useful and valuable convict to send to Australia - rather ironic as these convicted people in general were the lowest of the low.

The main point of my email is that my Catherine Johnson was on *Prince of Wales* with **Ann Forbes**. Both were on Norfolk Island and both ended up in the Hawkesbury. So they probably knew each other well.

A few years ago I was chatting with an office colleague and discovered she was descended from Ann Forbes. So over 200 years later descendants from these two convicts were working together - an enjoyable quirk of history.

Regards,

Marilyn Long

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

ALBURY-WODONGA DIST.

Mary Chalmers-Borella
02 6025 3283

ARTHUR PHILLIP

Judith O'Shea 02 9797 0240

BOTANY BAY

Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

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

Julia Cornford 0418 747 891

NORTH COAST

Faye Smith 02 6653 1019

NORTHERN RIVERS

Karla Rojo 02 6688 4306

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