

FIRST FLEETER, LT WILLIAM BRADLEY ~ 1757-1833

was said to be the great-nephew of James Bradley (1693 as may be seen from his descriptions of animals, birds -1762), Astronomer Royal from 1742 until his death. One and local timbers. of his brothers, James, was on the staff of the Royal Naval Academy, Portsmouth, and his wife, Sarah Witchell, Hope with Hunter in the Sirius to collect provisions for whom he married some time before May 1787, was a daughter of one of the masters there.

He entered the navy on 10 April 1772 and served suc- May 1789. cessively as captain's servant, A.B., midshipman, and master's mate until 31 October 1778 when he was pro-

Aldborough, Mermaid, Ripon, Prothée, Phaeton and Ariadne before being appointed first lieutenant in the Sirius on 25 October 1786 and sailing with the First Fleet the following May.

After reaching Port Jackson in January 1788 John Hunter. second captain of Sirius, immediately began with Bradley a series



William Bradley (1757-1833), naval officer and diarist, in his journal. Natural history also engaged his attention,

On 2 October 1788 he left Sydney for the Cape of Good the settlement; sailing via New Zealand and Cape Horn and circumnavigating the globe, they arrived back on 9

For the rest of the year Bradley was occupied taking observations, supervising the repair of the Sirius and conmoted lieutenant. He served in H.M.S. Lennox, tinuing his study of the Aboriginals, his comments show-

> ing how the general opinion of them became less favourable as time went on. In November 1789 he was in the party who captured Colebe and Bennelong, 'by far the most unpleasant service I ever was order'd to Execute'.

> Because the problem of victualling the settlement remained unsolved, on 6 March

of surveys. They had completed that of Sydney Harbour by 6 February, Bradley's Head, on the northern shore of the harbour, first known as Bradley's Point, being named after the lieutenant.

During his stay at Sydney Bradley lived on the Sirius and interest him there. appears to have taken little part in the social life of the new colony, though he recorded in his diary the more striking day-to-day events and, in the course of duty, sat on the Court of Criminal Judicature.

took, usually with Hunter, his main interest was the Abo- martial held over the loss of the Sirius, all were riginals, whose appearance and behaviour he describes 'Honorably Acquitted' and paid off on 4 May.

1790 Sirius and Supply were sent with marines and convicts to Norfolk Island. On 19 March the Sirius was wrecked, a disaster which kept Bradley for eleven months on the island. He surveyed it but found little to

On 12 February 1791 Hunter and the officers and crew of the Sirius left Norfolk Island in the Supply for Port Jackson, which they left in turn on 28 March in the chartered Dutch ship *Waaksamheyd* for the Philippines. They finally On the various short surveying expeditions he under- reached Portsmouth on 23 April 1792, where at a court

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Founders

June-July 2019

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.

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PRESIDENT'S PEN Jon Fearon

The focus on **Lt William Bradley** of *HMS Sirius* has continued in this issue and members can read about his life before and after his time at Sydney Cove. An interesting outcome from publicity about the Bradley log was a published claim by a Sydney historian that the site of the murder of two young convicts in 1788 is now confirmed.



In May of that year the bodies of the two, **William Okey** and **Samuel Davis**, were found 'murdered by the natives in a shocking manner'. They had been sent to collect rushes 'up the harbour' and it had long been thought that this was at what became known as Rushcutters Bay. Maritime Museum Curator, historian **Dr Stephen Gapps**, is convinced that the site of this incident is at what Bradley's Log shows as Bloody Point, a piece of land jutting out at the end of Iron Cove, where the UTS [Haberfield] rowers club stands today. Gapps feels heritage listing could well result from further investigation.

First Fleet House, with its colourful window display often attracts interested visitors. One day recently as we were concluding a meeting, a newly moved in local resident breezed in to tell us she was a descendant of Lt William Bradley! We haven't seen her since and don't know who she is, but if ever she were to join she would be our first link to that illustrious family.

The restoration of the Worgan piano has also received some extra media coverage recently, with another Sydney family claiming that they still have in their possession the 'First Fleet piano', having bought it, fully credentialled from the same dealer as the 'real' one now being worked on in Bath by **Lucy Coad**.

Footnote: The AGM season for our chapters is quite close. Will you serve?

DIGGING UP OUR FIRST FLEETERS

Members whose First Fleeters were buried in the old Devonshire St Cemetery may have heard of two construction projects at Sydney's Central Station which have been delayed by occasional finds of human bones in the area.

Workers on the **Light Rail Project** unearthed the remains when tracks were being laid along Chalmers St last year. (See picture at right.)

More recently, a major infrastructure, the **Sydney Metro Project**, has found similar graveyard remains on the site of former platforms 14/15, just off to the left of our picture.

If your family did not arrange to have your First Fleeter's grave exhumed back in 1901 then we guess some of these bones might belong to you. Our records show that 46 First Fleeters were buried in what was then known as Sandhills Cemetery, and only 10 of these had headstones removed to Bunnerong Cemetery, now in the *First Fleet Memorial Garden* at Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Botany.



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NEWS FROM THE WEST

Founders is always delighted when members submit items considered to be of interest to the whole Fellowship.

Recently this article about the First Fleet piano appeared in a Perth newspaper and member **#8865 Carol Macklin** sent it to us. Her sister-in-law passed it to her as an item of interest.

We have recently heard that Edith Cowan University, in association with its Founding Pianos Project, is now offering a world first, a PhD programme devoted to keyboard instrument restoration.

Although the gala reception at Australia House in London did occur as planned on 26 March, we are excited to announce that the Fellowship was represented at the event.

South Coast Chapter Treasurer, **#F147 Anne Mobbs** let us know that her brother Dr Andrew Snedden would be there on our behalf. You can read her report of the event on page 8 of this issue.

Historic piano bound for repair

ONE of the nation's greatest musical treasures, the first piano to reach Australia with the First Fleet, was flown into the UK last week to be restored to its original playing condition.

Known as the First Fleet piano, the keyboard left Britain more than 230 years ago bound for Australia, arriving at Botany Bay in 1788 after eight months at sea.

The piano was returned to the 'motherland' on an Emirates SkyCargo flight in mid-March to access British expertise for the critical restoration required to allow it to be played again.

The English square piano was built in London in 1786 and over its lifetime has survived fires, many different owners and a journey across the Nullarbor to where it was housed as part of the Founding Pianos collection at Edith Cowan University (ECU).

"The First Fleet piano is not just the first piano in Australia; it is also the first piano upon which lessons were given," ECU Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Chapman said.

"As such, this is a signif-



The First Fleet piano (above) and (below) the instrument as it was loaded into the Emirate SkyCargo bound for the UK.



icant and important cultural project that connects Australia and the UK through both heritage and music."

Bath-based master restorer Lucy Coad will carry out the restoration work over about 10 months.

Last month, Joondalup MLA Emily Hamilton presented a \$91,800 Lotterywest cheque to Professor Chapman for the restoration costs.

The WA Agent General to the UK Mike Deeks, Australian Deputy High Commissioner Matt Anderson and the WA Governor Kim Beazley will host a gala reception to welcome the restored instrument at Australia House on March 26.

The piano is expected to return to Australia for a year of celebration, including the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven and the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's arrival in Australia.

A POTTED PORTSMOUTH POTPOURRI

In May each year **Richard Tanner**, the Chairman of the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee invites our members and other guests to join him and the Committee at a Reception at Sydney Town Hall to celebrate the anniversary of the departure of the fleet on 13 May 1787.

This year's speaker, **Councillor Lee Mason** had, just a few days before, completed his term as Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, a city whose royal charter dates back over 825 years when **Richard 1** endowed the town with the coat of arms of the ruler of Cyprus whom he had just defeated in the Third Crusade.

Cr Lee's talk highlighted some of the major events in the city's history, especially the involvement of royalty and the navy over the centuries. The permanent naval base was established there in 1212 by **King John.**

Portsmouth has been the scene of many destructive attacks over the centuries from foreign incursions such as Danish pirates, French fleets and German bombardments,



In May each year **Richard Tanner**, the Chairman of the and also from within, during the English Civil War.

The Port itself has seen the departure and return of significant shipping, both exploratory, as in the case of **Arthur Phillip** and **William Bligh,** and military, such as **Horatio Nelson** in the 19th Century and the D-Day landings in June 1944.

Many Australian soldiers, repatriated to the city in WW1, died from their injuries and are buried there. Each year the city holds an ANZAC service in their honour.

Cr Lee was asked how significant for the city today is the

historical role of the First Fleet and he said it was one of 10 major events that are part of their annual calendar.

After the exchange of gifts and the showing of a short film shot recently on board the *Soren Larson* on the 30th anniversary of the Re-enactment Fleet, the leader of the latter, **Jona-than King**, paid tribute to Portsmouth City for its 7 years of solid support for the project. Without that zeal for it, the re-enactment would never have happened.

LT WILLIAM BRADLEY'S LATER CAREER

Dr Nigel Erskine concludes his address at the 2019 Australia Day Luncheon

Many details of **William Bradley's** life remain a mystery, but the basic details of his later naval service are clear.

After returning to England in April 1792 he was promoted Commander and placed in charge of the 14 gun *Comet*, seeing action in the Battle of Ushant off the coast of France. Following that battle he was promoted Captain to the 74 gun ship *Ajax* (1794-1802) and subsequently commanded the 40 gun *Cambrian* on the Newfoundland Station (1802-1805). He returned to England in 1805 and was appointed captain of the 74 gun *Plantagenet* as part of the Channel Fleet until 1809 when he departed the ship.

The exact details of his departure remain unclear but in January 1809 Bradley informed the Admiralty that he had received a writ to appear before His Majesty's Court of Common Pleas. Bradley attributed the writ to a sentence passed by a court martial, of which he was President, upon **Captain Christopher Laroche** of the 38 gun frigate HMS *Uranie* [*Urania*].

Convened at Portsmouth in July 1807, Laroche was charged with failing to do his utmost to bring about an engagement with an enemy frigate. Found guilty, he was dismissed from his command.

While the exact nature of the writ brought against William Bradley is unknown, it effectively brought an end to his sea-going career. Taking an extended leave of absence to attend the Court in London, and with the stress of the situation weighing heavily on him, Bradley's health declined to a point where he was forced to relinquish command of the *Plantagenet*. However, by the following year he had been appointed to the shore-based Impress Service at Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

Finding men to crew the ships of the Royal Navy during the long war with France and its allies was a constant problem. While the government attempted to attract volunteers by offering the 'King's Bounty' to men who freely entered the service, in times of need it was also empowered to take British seamen from merchant ships in home waters and to round up suitable men on shore through the press gang.



By its nature, the activities of the Impress Service were unpopular and its members regularly liable to verbal or even physical abuse. Whether made in retribution, a genuine observation, or simply a mistake, Bradley's career was rocked in 1812 by an anonymous letter sent to the Admiralty claiming that he had been seen intoxicated in the street at Cowes. The complaint came at a critical moment in Bradley's career.

By 1812 Bradley was a post captain of 18 years and, having advanced in seniority to the top of the list of captains serving in the navy, by convention expected to be promoted to the rank of Admiral when the next vacancy occurred. In 1812 there were 191 flag officers on active service and another 31 'superannuated' Rear-Admirals. In effect, a superannuated officer was a retired officer holding honorary rank but receiving a pension equal to the half pay of a Rear-Admiral.

Bradley seems to have first become aware of the threat to his expected promotion when a panel of three captains was tasked with investigating the complaint against him, and he quickly went about securing character references which he sent to the Admiralty Board. At this stage, the seven member Board appears to have been against awarding Bradley his flag, but following Bradley successfully appealing his case directly to the **Prince Regent**, it reversed its earlier decision, placing him on the list of superannuated Rear-Admirals on 22 September 1812.

The victory should have been enough to support Bradley, his wife **Sarah** and their five children (**James 24**, **Louisa 18**, **Eliza 16**, **Maria 12** and **Angus 6**) in relative comfort, but events were soon to prove otherwise.

In 1814 William Bradley was found guilty of defrauding the postal system as outlined in *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal* on the 25 July:

It appeared on the trial that Admiral Bradley carried to the post-office, at Gosport, a parcel containing 411 letters, which he pretended to have brought by the vessel *William and Jane*, from Lisbon, upon which he claimed (in the name of **Wm. Johnstone)** and obtained a premium of 2d. per letter (amounting to about £3:8 s) which is given by a statute of George II to masters of

> vessels bringing letters from foreign parts. The letters were all written in his own hand on half sheets of paper, and addressed to different Members of Parliament. He had previously obtained premiums at the same post-office for the delivery of great numbers of letters under exactly similar circumstances, and suspicion of fraud was first entertained at the general post-office in London, by order of which enquiry was set on foot at Gosport.

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Guilty.

A singular circumstance is related respecting the nothing.

The circumstances of Bradley's fraud suggest a mental breakdown which, as his defence argued, may have been linked to incidents in 1809. Whatever the reason, it was a and charts, though his name is so frequently coupled with sad end to a long and dutiful career.

In October, the same newspaper announced that Bradley was to be transported for life, but within weeks he received a pardon on condition that he leave Britain and never return again. As a result, William Bradley crossed the Channel to France where he lived at Le Havre until his death in March 1833.

With the Bradley log now finally in Sydney, museum Director Kevin Sumption recently commented -"This is without doubt the most significant early colonial acquisition made in my time and I dare say one of the most significant documents ever donated to an Australian cultural institution. We are indeed privileged to be entrusted with this national treasure."

On the 231st anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet at Botany Bay, the logbook has now made its own long voyage to New South Wales and I think you will agree it is an extraordinarily generous gift to our nation.

Further Notes from Janet D Hine, (ABD 1966)

In August 1816 while at Le Havre he wrote a letter detailing a method of calculating longitude with the use of an hour-glass and addressing it to the Admiralty by medium

MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

#1621 Bessie Meek of 26 Olive St, Asquith 2077 NSW, is researching Elizabeth Rimes, the wife of her First Fleeter, Matthew Everingham. She would love to hear from members who may be able to help her, She is not on email but you can ring her on 02 9490 3906 after 5 pm.

Donations received for House Upkeep:

Adams J L, Binder K J, Binder K B, Binder M J, Burke D, Cantwell D, Cheffins C M, Coombes B J, Cuthel J M, Davis R A, Dobbs L, Fardell M E, Forte ME, Gillan MK, Grace PM, Hannah ND, Hellyer LE, Hogan D E, Hogan M T, Jones W M, Kable G P, Kable N, Keough S N, Lemcke R K, Mence M E, Meredith M P, Meredith S R, Moore R C, Newell J S, Newman P, Patterson F J, Punter B H, Ratcliffe B A, Risby W H L, Robinson P E, Ross C S, Ryan G I, Shipton R W, Shipton R L, Smith J G, Tassone J S, Turner J L, Watson E R.

... Evidence was given on the prisoner's behalf, of his of his brother James Bradley However, the authorities intellects having been in a disordered state in the year seem to have made no response, and Bradley remained in 1809; testimony to the honesty of his character was dishonoured exile, possibly until a free pardon was grantalso adduced; the Jury however, returned a verdict of ed, on petition of his daughters and their husbands, in January 1822.

He had three daughters and a son who was born in 1806. above prisoner; it is positively asserted that he incurred His eldest son James, born while Bradley was on duty in an expense of £2 for the chaise hire, to carry the letters New South Wales apparently died in 1816 while serving to Gosport; which expense, with the cost of the materi- with the East India Company. William Bradley's wife deals of 411 letters, must have reduced his gain to almost scribed him as 'a kind husband and affectionate father', but he appears to have been of a retiring and even unfriendly disposition. He died on 13 March 1833.

> Bradley's professional reputation rests on his surveys Hunter's that it is difficult to distinguish their work. However, a number of separate manuscript maps of Port Jackson, Broken Bay, Botany Bay, Norfolk Island, and of the routes of the Sirius and Waaksamheyd and islands discovered in the latter, exist in different versions, by or attributed to him, but many unsigned and undated, are held by the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries, Sydney.

> The bibliography of printed maps by or attributed to Bradley is equally complicated. Two that were issued separately are his charts of Norfolk Island (published by Bradley in 1794 and later by the Hydrographical Office) and of Port Hunter, Duke of York Island (published in 1794 by Alexander Dalrymple). Charts of Norfolk Island by him were included in The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay (1789) and one or more of the charts in Hunter's An Historical Journal of the Transactions at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island (1793) are his.

> Bradley's virtues as an independent cartographer may be debatable, for neither charts nor diaries by him recording experiences before 1786 and after 1792 are known, but his continuing importance to historians lies in the very full and precise journal he kept between those years, with its extensive text, many tables, a number of water-colour drawings of great historical interest, and manuscript charts.

Circular Quay Re-envisaged - See page 7



ISAAC TARR and the BENNELONG PUTNEY PROJECT

A First Fleeter Story and some personal remembrances from #7279 Geoffrey Lamb

Isaac Tarr, my 4x great grandfather, was born at Brassington, Derbyshire about 1750 and was by trade a tailor. He arrived on the *Sirius* as a Private, Marines, 26th (Portsmouth) Company

Isaac's life's journey, **Bennelong**'s newly proved gravesite and my childhood home would eventually intersect at Putney.

Upon his arrival at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788, Isaac remained as a marine until he was discharged on 2 July 1788 to join the Sydney Cove Headquarters at the Port Jackson Garrison under the command of **Captain John O'Shea.**

On 5 March 1790, Isaac departed Port Jackson aboard the *Supply* bound for Norfolk Island where he disembarked at Cascade on 13 March 1790. The *Sirius* accompanied it and was subsequently wrecked on the outer reef at Kingston Town, Norfolk Island, six days later.

In March 1791 Isaac requested to remain on Norfolk Island as a Settler. He left Norfolk Island aboard the *Queen* in December 1791, and was discharged from the marines upon his arrival in Sydney on 10 December 1791.

Isaac was a witness in Sydney of fellow marine **Johnathon Woodman** when he married **Sarah McGennis** on 29 December 1791, at St Phillips Sydney. Isaac Tarr travelled back to Norfolk Island aboard the *Queen* as a settler in January 1792, along with **James Kirby** and Johnathon Woodman.

Isaac then remained on Norfolk Island and in 1792, was granted 60 acres of land as Lot 83 at Morgan's Run in the Queenborough area where he lived with **Mary Watkins**. Mary had arrived as a First Fleet convict aboard the *Charlotte;* her sentence was for seven years for stealing linen caps. Mary had arrived on Norfolk Island in December 1789. Isaac farmed this land in 1793 with 16 acres under cultivation while Mary kept hogs.

In 1794, Isaac sold the land to **Charles Grimes**, the Deputy Surveyor of Roads on Norfolk Island, and, with Mary, they returned to Port Jackson aboard the *Daedalus* where Isaac joined the NSW Corps. After arriving back at Sydney Cove, Mary disappeared from all records.

On 10 April 1797, Isaac married **Elizabeth Crook** at St John's Church of England at Parramatta. Elizabeth was a convict who had arrived aboard the *Indispensible.* On 6 January 1799 a daughter, Elizabeth, was born; their only child.

In November 1799, Isaac was granted 40 acres by Governor Hunter in the Field of Mars district. Isaac established first, *Watkins Farm*, that later became known as *Tarr's Farm* on the banks of the Parramatta River. By this time the Tarr family was self-sufficient and off stores.

After many years of working the farm in 1814 Isaac's health began to deteriorate and although he had **William Monks**, a convict assigned to him, conditions became extremely difficult. Monks had arrived in Sydney in 1813 aboard the *Earl Spencer*.

In 1818, Isaac's only daughter Elizabeth married William Monks; the couple lived with her ageing parents to help support them. By early 1820, Isaac became a paralyzed invalid and was unable to support himself or the family.

In the Sydney Gazette dated 26 July 1822 Isaac's farm was advertised for sale: 'Farm for sale, by private contract 40 acres in the Field of Mars known as *Tarr's Farm*, frontage to the Parramatta river and in a superior state of cultivation and delightfully situated.'

In early 1828, Elizabeth wrote to **Governor Brisbane** requesting assistance stating Isaac could no longer walk and needed full time care and she wished to go onto stores at Parramatta. Isaac died on 16 June 1828 aged 78 and is bur-



An early watercolour of Squires Brewery at Kissing Point, unknown artist, no date. A boatshed is visible on the rocky foreshore. Source: State Library of NSW. V1A/Ryde/5, Digital Order No 928850

ied in an unmarked grave at St John's Parramatta, though his name is inscribed on a commemorative stone dedicated to First Fleeters who are buried there.

Isaac's former land, now in the suburb of Rydalmere close to Johns Street, includes part of the Eric Primrose Reserve. The river, in those early years, was the common means of transport; I feel sure that he would have passed by my future home many times. My backyard was once part of the **James Squire's** estate, which provided Sydney with hops and ultimately a fine drop for the colony.

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In 1949, my parents purchased 75 Waterview Street Ryde, a 2-bedroom fibro cottage with frontage to the Parramatta River and with rear access to Cleves' Park. Our house was opposite the Dame Edith Walker's Home and adjacent to Halvorsen & Sons boat building yards. A wonderful old Moreton Bay fig tree stood in the area opposite our house on the river's edge together with a sandstone rock shelter. On the riverbank further sandstone shelves and thick mangroves grew all the way towards Kissing Point at the end of Charles Street.

The river and its banks were our playground and provided endless adventures for a young boy and his friends. We played crickcelebrated Empire day with large bonfires

water into the holes under that wonderful large tree enticing the cicadas out of their slumber to watch them change, however at times an angry trap door spider would emerge.

My childhood home and Isaac's land are situated only 5 kilometres apart, linked by the Parramatta River, and our playground was about 50 metres from Bennelong's newly proved gravesite. My mother mentioned that Bennelong Street at what is now number 25 where the tennis courts published) 1997. were situated, together with the tennis clubhouse, in the front garden was a large mulberry tree that provided us



No 25 Watson St, at Putney, a Sydney suburb. The house and land was recently purchased by the state government and is to become the site of the proposed Bennelong Putney Project. Wollarawarre Bennelong, our first foreign et on the concrete pitch in Cleves' Park and envoy, was buried in this location by his friend James Squire.

and fireworks. During the cicada season we would pour with an ample supply of leaves to feed our silk worms forever consuming the leaves and spinning their cocoons and providing hours of enjoyment for all of us kids.

> And ultimately, as we gathered mulberry leaves and searched for cicadas in the front of the tennis club in Watson street, Bennelong, his wife Boorong and his protégé Nanberry lay peacefully beneath undisturbed for some 150 years.

Grateful acknowledgments to Yvonnie Arnall, a 7th genwas buried close to our house and now the exact location eration descendant of Isaac Tarr and Elizabeth Crook, Deis known and soon to be commemorated. In Watson scendants of Isaac Tarr; a marine with the First Fleet, (self

Geoffrey Lamb First Fleet member #7279

PLANS ANNOUNCED TO RENEW SYDNEY'S CIRCULAR QUAY

the ground floor support piers at each end of Circular Quay state and national themes, flora and fauna. with mosaic themes telling the unique Sydney story, the First Fleet, settlement and convict history.

his ideas, encouraging First Fleeters to support the cause cal gardens; using columns supporting the railway as a canpics without being listened to by decision-makers.

Now he has spotted another opportunity to see it implemented as the state government has set aside \$200 million to upgrade the ageing ferry wharves which date back to the 1940s.

Transport for NSW has also called for expressions of interest from the private sector to redevelop the entire precinct: ferry wharves, southern promenade, public transport interchange and First Fleet Park. The Renewal project is estimated to be worth up to \$2 billion.

Tim wants to use the Quay, the place where the First

Back in 2013, Issue 44.3 of Founders announced the pro- Fleet met the Gadigal people, to display stories about Ausposed commencement of the SydneyWay Project, a new tralian history, from narratives about Indigenous heritage vision by professional photographer **Tim Cole** to transform to accounts of European settlement, incorporating local,

The SydneyWay plan has been much further developed to encompass the whole of the exterior of the station pre-Tim visited our Director's meeting at the time and shared cinct. The infrastructure would be transformed with vertiwhich he had been espousing since before the 2000 Olym- vas for interchangeable art and digital video screens; a Reconciliation Bridge; cultural tours for schoolchildren and smartphone apps to guide visitors around the historic story of the precinct.

> On advice from the head of the Renew Circular Quay Proiect Tim was to wait for the final two shortlisted construction companies to be announced and then approach them to see if they will take on the SydneyWay concept. In the meantime he is crowdfunding the development of a professional proposal, which will need input from architects, artists, engineers and vertical garden companies.

Go to www.pozible.com/project/sydneyway-circular-quay-1

HISTORIC PIANO WELCOMED IN LONDON

THE FIRST FLEET PIANO

front and centre again for reinterpreting European settle- prosperity. Symonds had collected the pianos from the ment in 1788, causing celebrations on several fronts. The Australian newspaper proudly continued the celebra- scattered the instruments in sheds, storage, garages and tions of an important find when it reported on 15 May on a verandah throughout NSW. 2019,

It has been on quite a journey over the past two centuries, but the most significant musical instrument of Australian modern history – a piano that arrived on the First Fleet – has returned to England for a year-long restoration project.

It is indeed amazing that the First Fleet piano has survived two long journeys over 231 years and is still a viable instrument to repair for future early piano performance and research. What is even more amazing is its historical significance, of how it survived on Australian shores in uncertain conditions to become the forefront of modern Australian culture.

musical instrument encouraged the echelons of society of both England and Australia together with representatives adventures during the past 233 years. of Edith Cowan University to celebrate the Piano's arrival in London at Australia House on 26 March 2019.

uty Commissioner to the United Kingdom; Kim Beazley, Governor of Western Australia; Steve Chapman, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Edith Cowan University of Western Australia; and Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts discovered the piano in a large collection of early pianos of the world, to New South Wales to begin a penal settlethe 18th and 19th centuries.

Gleaming glasses clinked as Australian wine and finger food was passed around. Chandeliers sparkled overhead under marble ceilings as the reception in the grand Edwardian building buzzed with excitement around the guest of honour - centre stage -- a small square piano, which was constructed of mahogany and ivy with cabriolet legs which fold away when required for storage purposes. The piano was in fact built as a special piece of drawing room furniture of the social upper classes. The piano was built a year before the departure of the First Fleet in 1786 by London Piano maker Frederick Beck - it was celebrating its two hundred and thirty third birthday, which is guite an achievement and worth another reason to celebrate.

Approximately 200 guests attended the reception at Australia House, and amongst those present was my brother Dr Andrew Snedden, who accompanied Professor Geoffrey Lancaster, the man responsible for finding the piano in a collection of approximately 130 early like instruments. It was Geoffrey's insatiable appetite for early piano performance and enthusiasm for keeping the collection

intact, that encouraged the Edith Cowan University to convince the private Sydney Collector Stewart Symonds to An unexpected find places Australia's First Fleet history donate his collection to the university for safe keeping for 1960s and having run out of room to house them had



So what of the historical significance of the piano? As a historian and Friend of the Fellowship of First Fleeters The arrival back in the United Kingdom of this significant South Coast Chapter, I cannot describe the evening's programme without providing a brief resume of the piano's

Frederick Beck inscribed on his pianos his name, location and year of creation ie FREDERICUS BECK/LONDINI Those present included Matt Anderson, Australia's Dep- FECIT 1786 / NR 4 AND 10 BROAD STREET, SO-HO, providing authentic provenance line of ownership from beginning to end. In the world of fine arts, it's a miracle to find something so significant and intact.

In 1786-1787 the British Government planned an exprofessor of Music, Geoffrey Lancaster who unexpectedly traordinary journey of 11 sailing ships to the other end of ment for convicts and begin a resettlement of prisoners from overcrowded prisons throughout the United Kingdom, known as the transportation system. The ships would be manned by the officers and crew and guarded by a contingent of marines. It was from the officers on board the Supply and flag ship Sirius, that Beck's piano was included amongst the cargo. The first point of sale had been to Naval Surgeon George Worgan, who himself was the son of John Worgan a Doctor of Music, still recognised as a music master and composer. In the 18th Century drawing room music making was an essential part of culture for those who could afford the leisure time to play or to listen.

> There would have been few circumstances available during the sailing of the fleet, due to intemperate weather, including menacing storms to take the piano out of confinement and the boats were little more than leaky tubs! The situation changed considerably when moored off the coast of Rio De Janeiro. Accompanying Worgan in his duties of attending the medical needs of the fleet was Surgeon Arthur Bowes Smythe, who wrote in his journals that Worgan issued invitations to hear him play his piano.

gan would have had time to practise and tune the instru- (1922-2009) in his home. Over many years their acquaintment, whilst the ship was relatively still.

The audience attending the concerts with Smythe included Lt George William Maxwell, Lt John Long, Purser John Palmer and Lt John Watts. Smythe records that a number of dinners after which recitals were given oc- imagine how the importance of the event would be curred during the latter part of August 1787 of which Ma- stressed with the welcome by the Deputy High Commisjor Ross and Surgeon-General White also attended. There sioner, followed by the introduction to the Edith Cowan was a real attempt to keep some social presence on board University Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor explained the fleet, to counter the rough living conditions and bore- how fund raising was now top priority in which to raise dom throughout the journey.

The First Fleet at last made land, at Botany Bay and after exploring the immediate surrounds transferred to Sydney Cove at Port Jackson to put down the anchors and organise the male convicts to start erecting tents and the governor's hut before the finalising disembarkation of the vovagers. On 7th February 1788 a small group of instrumen-

Geoffrey Lancaster explains in his commentary that Wor- collection of antiques dealer William Frederick Bradshaw ance became friendship and Geoffrey obtained an introduction to Stewart Symonds and the rest as they say 'is history'.

> Back in the reception room at Australia House, one can funds to build a suitable building to house the early musical instruments, including the First Fleet Piano. When the piano is restored it will again be played at Australia House but also at Buckingham Palace. It was a cause again for celebration that the restoration will coincide with the 250th anniversaries of both Ludwig Van Beethoven, and the discovery of the Australian East Coast by James Cook.

talists which included George Worgan and his piano played 'God Save the Queen' at Sydney Cove, thereby becoming one of the first nonindigenous musicians in Australia. The piano continued to reside in unpalatable conditions whilst living in tents, then huts, the odd gentleman's home then back into the forgotten farmers huts. It lived in both humid and dry climatic conditions, it's



The highlight of the night surely would have been Geoffrey Lancaster when opened the Beck piano showing the audience its style and beauty, explaining that major restoration was required before it could be played again as amongst its defects the soundboard was cracked and the mahogany casework was inhabited by woodworm. He explained that what was so amazing was the piano's historical significance and how on Aus-

Australia House, London

a wonder the wooden casing didn't crack.

Although constant, George Worgan's work load still gave him opportunities to play for and teach the free settlers of thur who arrived on the Second Fleet as Lieutenant to the like piano's sound and the style of music which was com-New South Wales Corp. Upon his departure back to England, Worgan sold the piano to Elizabeth, and it remained in her family's possession until 1898. The piano passed through numerous hands until 1938 when it was located outside Windsor (possibly at Box Hill or Rouse Hill where mansions of early colonial pastoralists are celebrated and now restored), by eminent antiques dealer William Bradshaw who added it to his collection. Bradshaw onsold the piano to Stewart Symonds. It was during the ownership of Press-files.anu.edu.au/download/press/P3192811/html Symonds that as a young undergraduate student and player of fortepianos and advocate of historically inspired performance and practice, Geoffrey Lancaster discovered the Andrew Snedden, emails 20 March, 2019; 30 March 2019.

(Photo: Wei-Te Wong)

tralian Shores, existing in uncertain conditions it remains the forefront of modern Australian Culture.

There was more to this remarkable evening to come: the First, Second and Third Fleet arrivals. During that time, Added to the décor of the room were too additional modhe also sailed on the Sirius to Norfolk Island and was ma- ern versions of fortepianos, at which Geoffrey Lancaster rooned there for twelve months when the Sirius was sat and played Beethoven's Fur Elise. He was then joined wrecked. His tour of duty was completed in 1791. One of by a masters student and a two piano sonata by W F Bach his pupils was Elizabeth McArthur the wife of John McAr- was performed. The audience heard an example of the posed for the instrument.

> The evening coming to the end, final drinks were consumed and the Deputy High Commission to the United Kingdom, thanked all for their interest and attendance and formalities closed. AM

References

www.abc.net.au/news/2016.5.26/australiasfirstfleetpiano wwwportstephens examiner.com.au/story/5976! Geoffrey Lancaster The First Fleet Piano, vol 1 'A Musicians Story' (2015) En.wikipedia.org/wiki/George Bouchier Worgan

Founders

MORETON CHAPTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Edited from the report in Moreton Chronicle

A wonderful afternoon of fellowship and fun accompanied by a most enjoyable lunch in a very pleasant and suitable venue is probably the briefest way to summarise Moreton Chapter's Tenth Anniversary function held on Saturday 16 March

Thirty nine people, including Fellowship Of First Fleeters current President **Jon Fearon** and his wife **Karys**, were in attendance, as well as **Jean Stewart**, a past Chapter President who now resides in Canberra. The Chapter's inaugural Treasurer, **Ken Quinton**, and his wife **Dawn** were also in attendance, and it

was wonderful to be able to re-kindle our acquaintances with them.

Those who were apologies for the occasion we know would rather have been able to join us, but unfortunately circumstances dictated otherwise. Chapter Membership Officer, **Beverley Fox** was denied the opportunity to attend at the eleventh hour due to medical reasons, however we can report she has recovered now and is progressing well.

To be expected at such an anniversary, given the membership demographic common to all First Fleet Chapters, there were tributes to a number of inaugural members who were staunch Chapter supporters but have since gone to join their ancestors.

The Royal Brisbane Golf Club proved to be an ideal setting for the function,

with plenty of parking available, a spacious function room with a magnificent view out over the golf course, and staff who provided efficient and friendly service. The Chapter banner together with the National Flag and the Queen Anne Jack were prominently placed to provide a fitting backdrop to the podium, and a table supporting the Chapter's folding display board was located adjacent to the entry.

The display board featured on one side coloured pictures of the First Fleet ships, and the reverse side large photos depicting various Moreton Chapter happenings in which members have partaken during the ten years since the Chapter's foundation. This was quite a trip down memory lane for many in attendance.



The programme for the luncheon was ably led by Chapter President, **Don Cornford**, and began with a friendly welcome and a ship's muster. As often happens on such occasions *Scarborough* seemed to have produced the most attendees. Jon gave the Loyal toast and gave thanks for the meal after which all present tucked in to a delicious lamb fillet main course.

Captains Phillip and Hunter (alias **Chris Mitchelson** and **Barry Lack)** then appeared, having made the long journey from ages past to entertain guests with an amusing account of the difficulties they would likely face in 2019 where they were again tasked

to successfully accomplish the great logistical undertaking that the First Fleet was back in 1787. Things would certainly have to be approached differently!

Dessert was served and then came **Gloria Wallace's** excellent history , entitled The First Ten Years. Gloria covered both speaker and social highlights of the ten years past, her presentation starting with the inaugural meeting which attracted 24 member and 12 prospective members. Included were five directors of the Fellowship. A handsome coloured booklet outlining the history was distributed to all in attendance and was excitedly received.

In his presentation Fellowship President Jon shared some insights on convict life and indigenous issues gained from three books he has been reading recently, one of which was reviewed in Founders. He felt that books such as these could be of

interest to all First Fleeter members.

The books were: In for the Long Haul, by Annegret Hall. ESH Publication (self-published) (The Convicts' perspective on the FF voyage and Life in the Colony); Hidden in Plain View, by Paul Irish. UNSW (The Aboriginal people of Coastal Sydney) and The Bible in Australia, by Meredith Lake. UNSW (A Cultural history of Christian Australia).

The luncheon concluded with a warm vote of thanks given by Vice President **Julie Webb.** Fellowship continued a little longer with reminiscences and informal sharing of stories together as the late summer rain showers swept across the course below.

All in all, this was an occasion to be remembered by all and a fitting way to celebrate the Chapter's first ten years.



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 TBA, then lunch and Pioneer Cemetery walk; 17 August: AGM and Speaker, TBA. 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 MORETON – South East Queensland. Highway, Gordon - monthly meetings, third Friday at 10.30 . Next Meetings: 21 June: Catherine Bishop, Minding her own Business. 19 July: AGM. Members, Show and Tell; 16 August: Mary Small, Lennies' Ride. Next Events: 26 June: Group Tour of Rookwood Cemetery; 6 August: 9th Anniversary Luncheon at White Rock Café, Long Reef Golf Club. 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: 16 July: AGM, Speaker TBA. Next Event: 11 June, Chapter Visit and Morning Tea at First Fleet House Contact: Carol Macklin 0415376434

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. Next Meeting: AGM to be held at Unit 106, 15 Coranderrk St Reid, at 2 pm on Saturday 20 July. Contact: Geoff Cameron 62514095

CENTRAL COAST – From Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay, highlands to coast.

Venue: Point Clare Community Hall - meet monthly, second Saturday at 10 am for 10.30. Next Meetings: 8 June: Graham Keating, Town Crier: 13 July: AGM, Members, Bring and Brag -Historical Item; 10 August: Mark Bundy, Rookwood Cemetery. 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: 1 June: David Boon, Bellet DNA - What can be learnt; 3 August: AGM, Speaker TBA. Next Event: 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: 1 June: Geoff Davidson: Australia The Great South Land - Where Is It? 6 July: Patrick Dodd, Captain Cook's Discovery of the East Coast; 3 August: Jennifer Farrer, Australian Plants used by Early Settlers. 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 8 June (at Penrith): Lorraine Stacker, 200 Years of Penrith City; 13 July (at Windsor): Heather Garnsey, SAG TBA; 10 August (at Windsor): Judith Dunn, TBA. 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: 17 June: Charles Keys, Floods in

NSW; 19 August: AGM, Roger Heading, Convict Escapees, Mary and William Bryant. Next Event: 16 September: Visit to Alison Homestead, Wyong. Contact: Kerry Neinert 49615083

Meetings: 15 June, at Retro Café, Speaker TBA; 20 July Speaker, MID NORTH COAST -- Taree and Surrounds, Bulahdelah to Kempsev.

> Venue: Presbyterian Church, 76 Albert Street, Taree, Bi-monthly on 4th Tuesday at 2pm.. Next Meeting: AGM, Kevin Carter, Alum Mountain, Bulahdelah. Contact: Heather Bath 0427018566

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton - bimonthly meetings, at 10 am on an available 2nd Saturday. Next Meetings: 8 June: Robert McAllister, Brisbane historian; 10 August: AGM, Members, A Leaf from my Tree. Next Event: 7 July: 10:30am, Visit to Miegunyah House. 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: 2 June: at Coramba Hall, Speaker TBA; 4 August, at Col and Pat Robertson's: Speaker TBA. 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: 28 July: AGM, Speaker, TBA. Contact: Karla Rojo 66884306

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm Next Meetings: 1 June at FH Rooms, Ian Austin, Sound and Film Archives; 3 August at Tamworth Hospital Museum: AGM and Museum Visit. 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: 4 June: Ann Sneddon Mobbs, Convicts on the Berkeley Estate; 2 July: AGM, Cathy Dunn, Myths Mysteries and Facts, Truths of the First Fleet; 6 August: Winter Warm Day, Dawn Crowther, Clifton School of Arts. Next Event: Contact: Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – Mittagong, Moss Vale and surrounds.

Venue: Mittagong Community Centre - bi-monthly - second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. Next Meetings: 12 June: Neil Hughes, The Lighthorse and their Horses; 14 August: AGM and Chapter Chats. Next Events: Contact: Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. Next Meetings: 8 June: Speaker, Toni Mahony; 3 August: AGM, Speaker Richard Offen; Next Event: In July: Tour of Law Museum and Supreme Court. Contact: Toni Mahony 0892717630

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 22 July 2019

Founders	June-July 2019	
WELCOME TO	DEATHS	
Ordinary and Pensioner Members JOHN FOLLY #8941 Sue-Ellen Hazel McGrath JOHN RANDALL #8955 Kevin Barry Binder SAMUEL PIGOTT #8956 Terence Alexander Cameron #8957 Jannece Frain MATTHEW EVERINGHAM/WILLIAM ROBERTS #8958 Brian Roger Harris JAMES RUSE/JOHN GOWEN #8959 Kyle Craft #8960 Glenn Craft WILLIAM NASH/MARIA HAYNES #8961 Raelene Ann Beazley ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY #8962 Brian John Parker MARY TURNER #8965 Christine Mary Sunderland #8966 Ian Joseph Sunderland JOSEPH TUSO #8969 Peter Edward Hills	Ordinary and Pensioner Members NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE #8970 Shane Daniel Miller #8971 Mark Lucas Miller PHILIP DIVINE aka THOMAS HILTON TENNANT #8972 Rhonda Gail Lee Student Members DANIEL STANFIELD/ALICE HARMS- WORTH #8963 Jillian Ruth Roberts #8964 Hamish Alan Roberts Junior Members MARY TURNER #8967 Alice Sunderland #8968 Finn Wesley James Sunderland <i>Associates</i> #8961.1 David John Beazley <i>Friend</i> F193 Christopher Golden Additional First Fleeter THOMAS ARNDELL #8008 Matthew William Hogan	HUGH HUGHES/WILLIAM TUNKS #1829 Valerie Collyer, of Mittagong New South Wales, died on 24.03.2019, aged 77. Valerie had been a founding member of the Southern Highlands Chapter, hosting, with her husband Peter, the inaugural meeting in their home. Both served on the chapter Com- mittee for several years. ASSOCIATE #7013.1 William Michael Price, of Cambe- warra and formerly Capertee, New South Wales, died on 26.12.2018, aged 82. Bill had been a member of South Coast Chapter since joining the Fellowship in 2003. ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY #5709 Norma Blanche Wood, of Bankstown, New South Wales, died on 08.10.2018, aged 93. Norma had been a member of the Fel- lowship for nearly 30 years. WILLIAM TUNKS

HOUSE VISIT by INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

It is always good to welcome our members at First Fleet House, even more so when they travel some distance to get here. Descendants of FF Marine Captain James Meredith, brothers **#8790 Simon Meredith** of Chicago, Illinois and **#8811 Martin Meredith** of Katy, Texas, along with Martin's wife **Sue**, called in and met the Board at their February meeting.

They are pictured here with Director **Chris Counter** and Volunteer **Ian Palmer**, just before leaving with Jon and Karys for lunch at the State Library, with its FF Diaries on display, and then on to Circular Quay for a personal guided walking tour of our FF heritage sites.

Simon will be visiting England later this year and is hoping to facilitate the installation of our plaque on **Captain James Meredith's** gravesite in St Mary the Virgin Church at Welsh Newton in Herefordshire.



#3835 Bruce Liebau, of St Ives, New South Wales, died on 15 April, aged 72. Bruce had been a member for 32 years and belonged to Arthur Phillip Chapter.

THOMAS CHIPP/JANE LANGLEY

#6536 Yvonne Shirley Taranto, of Leppington, New South Wales, died on 15.04.2019, aged 91. Shirl had been a member of the Fellowship for 23 years and had hoped to be part of the Botany Bay Chapter.

JOHN MUNDAY/ANN MUNDAY

#8117 Leonard George Munday, of Goulburn, New South Wales, died on 01.11.2018, aged 73. Leonard had belonged to Canberra Chapter since joining the Fellowship in 2012.

Advert from Cathy Dunn. Tours of Norfolk island with a First Fleet Focus

Oct 2019: Andrew Goodwin and Lydia Munro Family Muster (limited places) Mar 2020: Family Muster of Nathaniel Lucas and associated families Mar 2020: Norfolk Island History Lovers Tour Mar 2020: 230th anniversary of HMS Sirius Shipwreck

Info: https://heritagetourismau.rezdy.com/index

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

CANBERKA Brian Mattick 02 6231 8880

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

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