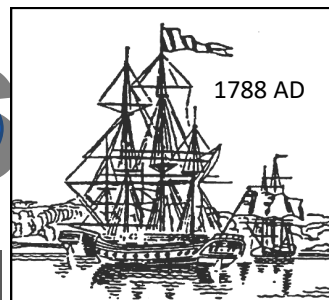


# Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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

## DR PAUL IRISH ~ HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW

'We are here today because of the arrival of your ancestors in Sydney 232 years ago, on a day we now commemorate as Australia Day. Often this day, and particularly the year of 1788, is seen as a historical fault line for Australia - a time when black history ended, or at least faded, and white history began. But when you investigate the history of any place in Australia, even the colonial ground zero of Sydney, you find that history is not an either/or scenario - things are much more complex. There is the death and destruction of Aboriginal people, but also the continuity of the survivors. There has never

been a time in the history of Sydney when Aboriginal people have been absent. Your first fleet ancestors and their children and grandchildren, along with many other arrivals in Sydney, were participants and witnesses to an Aboriginal continuity in Sydney. This story was subsequently written out of history books in favour of a simple linear story of progress from convicts to gold rushes to harbour bridges - a story that had no place for Aboriginal people.

'Let's pretend this room is a time machine and we can take ourselves back a modest 250 years to 1770 (still several months before Cook and the Endeavour will arrive and before the voyage of the first fleet has even been conceived). We'd step out of here and into a forest of gums and perhaps some paperbarks around the swamp later to be known as Hyde Park. This swamp drains into a

creek (later known as the Tank Stream) which flows down to the mudflats of Warrane (today's Sydney Cove).

'But let's go much further back still - another 20,000 years when the world was in the middle of an ice age. There was no ice in Sydney but temperatures were lower and sea levels were lower still. If we step outside our time machine now, it is cooler and the forest looks different. Keen to orient ourselves we bravely venture north a couple of kilometres along the ridge we are on, to Bennelong Point (actually called Dubbagullee). When we get there, we can see a view that more closely resembles the

Blue Mountains or Royal National Park. Sydney Harbour doesn't exist. Instead there is a deep forested river valley with creeks (the Tank Stream is one of them) feeding into it through their own small forested gullies. Bennelong Point is at the end of a ridge - a bit like the Three Sisters Lookout in the Blue Mountains.

'We are in a time 1000 generations before your ancestors arrived in Sydney, but Aboriginal people are already here. In fact they have already been in the Sydney region for a long time. While we return to our time machine, the Aboriginal residents of Sydney could have walked further east around the harbour through the forests of what we now call the Botanical Gardens and the Domain and Woolloomooloo. They could stop and walk out to Garden Island - which is not an island but a small hill dividing the creek gullies of Woolloomooloo and Rushcutters Bay.

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*Port Jackson NSW. View in Double Bay South Side. Middle Head in the distance. 1847.  
Painted by G.E. Peacock [State Library NSW DG 37]*



## FOUNDERS

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our team of faithful volunteers who are  
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Wednesdays and Thursdays.*



## PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon



I began my 'Pen' last issue with these words: 'A Happy New Year to all, and what a year it is going to be'. That surely was prophetic and within days the corona virus had overtaken bushfires and floods as the defining issue of our times. The Fellowship and its members will all be affected into an unforeseeable future so I pass on my greetings as you weather the storms and show forth that resilience our FF ancestors were known for.

In this issue we report further, with table pictures, on the excellent Australia Day Luncheon and outline the Directors' principles and recommendations for 'acknowledging country'. Again we put out an earnest call for more ancestral stories to publish and so we list by name those yet to appear.

Jon

## BUSHFIRE REVIVES ANCESTRAL MEMORIES

### #7526 Tony Negline writes:

It's a badge of honour to be related to a member of the First Fleet and more especially if it was a convict. Mine was **Joseph Wright**, and the honour relates to admiration for his resilience given the appalling circumstances of his life on the Hulk *Censor*, on the *Scarborough*, and at Sydney Cove prior to emancipation in 1794. After that the esteem relates to the struggles with his grant of 30 acres on the Hawkesbury at Mulgrave Place (Pitt Town) and raising his family there. It is not my intention to recount those times here.

My purpose is to record a 2019 reference to the Wrights that emerged from the catastrophic bush fires in New South Wales. The Sydney Morning Herald on Saturday 7th December, published a map of the scorched areas in the state of New South Wales showing active fires - one in the emergency area of Wrights Creek in the Wollemi National Park. The newspaper reported, 'The Wrights Creek fire swept through Kulnura yesterday afternoon'; 'Emergency warnings were in place for Wrights Creek'. The Guardian also reported, 'Erratic wind changes had sent the fire at Wrights Creek one way, only to drive it back the other way...Fire emergency level fires merged into a mega blaze...of a three mile front. By midnight Wrights Creek would also join.'

I've been to Wrights Creek in better times. It's a locality of the City of Hawkesbury, north-east of Central Macdonald. Paramount to the locality is the creek itself that winds through thick forest covering mountain ranges, gullies and ridges. It's not a notable creek because of any marked geomorphological features. It's an ordinary creek in fact, flowing through ordinary bush land, with an ordinary wooden bridge crossing it. But its name memorialises more than ordinary circumstances relating to Joseph Wright's son, **Robert**.

When Joseph Wright received his freedom and his grant of land at Mulgrave Place in 1794 he walked the forty miles or so from Sydney to Pitt Town Bottoms with his wife **Eleanor** (née Ellen Gott; Second Fleet; *Neptune*). Eleanor was pregnant at the time with Robert. As a consequence according to Jan Barkley-Jack in, *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed*, Robert Wright was, 'The first European child likely to have come into the world beside the Hawkesbury River when he arrived 15 June, 1794', page 381. And he was born free.

In later life Robert took up property in the ranges east of Pitt Town with a little creek running through it. It was this creek, 'Robert' Wright's Creek, and subsequently the Wrights Creek Locality, postal code 2775, about which our ancestral memories were revived in December 2019 because of media reports on the catastrophic bushfires in NSW.

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*(continued from Page 1)* 'From here, over hundreds of generations, Aboriginal people watched the harbour valley slowly fill up like a gigantic bathtub as the ice age ended and sea levels rose about 100 metres. Along the way new environments were created. Archaeological evidence shows us that Aboriginal people moved with the change – adapting to changing climate, shrinking lands, new foods and resources and creating new types of tools.

'What your ancestors saw when they sailed into Sydney Harbour in 1788 was not a timeless land or an unchanging people. Aboriginal responses to the arrival of Europeans have often been framed as a 'deer in the headlights' scenario of a people utterly unused to change and unable to cope with it. But nothing could be further from the truth.

'You are all no doubt aware of the violence, the disease and the death toll in the early years of the colony. The effect was catastrophic on Aboriginal people. But there were survivors. And these people continued to live around the shores of the harbour, further south around Botany Bay and elsewhere across Sydney. They found new ways to live that drew on their existing connections and skills. Their world changed rapidly around them, but they found ways to engage with that change – for example setting up fishing and tour businesses – in a way that allowed them to remain living in areas to which they were connected. Some of your ancestors would have known these people by name, and perhaps interacted with them (no doubt in both good and bad ways).

'Sydney's Aboriginal history is not just a thing of the past. It is ancient, to be sure, but it is also continuing. And it intermingles with the histories of your ancestors, often in surprising ways. Hopefully their names will one day be as familiar to you and others as **Bennelong** and **Bungaree**.

'In telling this to you I would like to acknowledge my colleagues in the La Perouse Aboriginal community who are the keepers of these stories, and who have been instrumental in uncovering many of the details I will have shared with you today.'

And this introduction, in Dr Paul Irish's words as recounted above, took us, his audience at this year's **Australia Day Luncheon**, right into the world of Sydney's indigenous community in their 1788 homeland. What happened to that specific community in the years that followed was clearly explained as Paul's talk unfolded, and we had the

Dr Paul Irish



benefit this year of an illustrated presentation utilising the excellent facilities available at the venue, the Ibis Room at the Pullman Hotel on Sydney's College Street.

There was so much to learn about the folk whose culture preceded the one brought into the area by our First Fleet ancestors and the generations that followed.

Paul's talk, which was mostly chronological, was undergirded by two main themes; first, that the 'coastal Sydney people' did not just fade away under the onslaught of a stronger and more dominant culture, and secondly they lived on by focussing on their ancient fishing expertise to adapt and share it with their many friends amongst the newcomers.

Referring to the text of his 2017 book, *Hidden in Plain View*, Paul introduced us to some of the significant coastal people whose lives were closely entwined with the growing population of the Sydney area. Well known were **Bennelong** and **Colebee** in the early days of settlement but we were soon to meet **Mahroot** (1790s-1850), **Thomas Tamarra** (1800-ca1846) and **William Annan**, amongst others.

Mahroot was particularly significant. As an entrepreneur with two decades of experience as a whaler he became a much sought-after boatman and fishing guide based at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel and Zoological gardens at Botany. He was followed in these endeavours in later years by others such as **Johnny Malone** (1820s-1880s) and **Billy and Biddy Giles** who led guided tours around the Georges and Hacking rivers.

Life changed dramatically for the aboriginal people with government intervention in the 1870s and 1880s, much of it brought about through the writings of **George Thornton** who considered that the inhabitants of all the aboriginal 'settlements' around coastal Sydney including the Government Boat Shed at Circular Quay were from other places.

Paul's topic was so enthralling that many of his listeners felt it had finished too soon. One of our members later had this to say: 'I want it on record that the decision to host Dr Paul Irish as historian-speaker was the best decision for this modern age of awareness and truth telling. It

was indeed timely to discuss our true strong links to the wonderful Aboriginal people, the true owners of this land.'

Well, Paul's book is available, and he encouraged us all to read it and learn more about those whose lives and lands were so linked to those of our FF ancestors.

The story is ongoing, and the descendants of those we heard about are with us yet, and as ready to share their family stories as we are.





**AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON ~ PICTURE GALLERY**

Many thanks once again to **Tony Holden** for his excellent photography.



# AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON ~ PICTURE GALLERY



Eight tables are pictured on these two pages; the remaining seven will appear next issue.



## JOHN RYAN 1761-1800? ~ FIRST FLEETER on *FRIENDSHIP*

**John Bryant**, aged 17, (occupation silkweaver) and **Jonathon Darlington** were indicted for feloniously stealing, on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1784, one woollen cloth coat, value 10s. and one man's hat, value 3s. the property of **Richard Price**.

They were seen acting suspiciously in Basinghall Street opposite the White Bear, walking up and down several times, "and I saw one point to the other to go into the house", reported a witness who said he saw them go in. They were tried before **Mr. Justice Ashurst** at Justice Hall in the Old Bailey. Each to be transported for 7 years. [*The Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts* p 243] On 30 March both were sent to the *Mercury* transport (hulk) from Newgate.

Ryan (recorded as such henceforth) escaped at Torbay after the convict mutiny on the *Mercury*. There is no evidence that he was involved as a mutineer. He was retaken on 13 April, committed to gaol at Exeter, remanded to former orders on 24 May and sent to the *Dunkirk* hulk at the end of June, aged 19. He was "in general tolerably well behaved, but troublesome at times". He was discharged to the *Friendship* on 11 March 1787, then aged 20. [*The Founders of Australia* p320] The name John Ryan has been accepted because of references in Ralph Clark's Journal p.8.

The *Friendship* was one of the smaller ships being 276 tons. Her master was **Captain Francis Walton**, Surgeon **Thomas Arndell** and Marines Captain James Meredith, **Lieutenant Ralph Clark** (whose journals have provided much information), **Lieutenant William Faddy** and **First Mate Robert Laurance**. She carried 97 convicts, 76 males and 21 females. The ships were infested with rats, cockroaches and other vermin. William Faddy, who slept in a "small place", spent Sunday morning of 22 July in killing "above 100 bugs with oil and tar" [*Convict Ships* p.102] If such were the conditions in the officers Quarters, how much worse must it have been in overcrowded prisons?

Some of the women on the *Friendship* caused so much trouble that some were exchanged into the *Charlotte* while at Rio and later the lot transferred to *Lady Penrhyn*, *Charlotte*, and *Prince of Wales* to make way for livestock and fodder. This was much to the relief of Clark who wrote "I am very glad of it, for they were a great trouble,

much more so than the men."

On January 26, as a result of **Arthur Phillip's** wise selection of Sydney Cove as the site for the new settlement, the entire fleet went around to Port Jackson from Botany Bay. Disaster was narrowly averted. In getting out of the narrow entrance to Botany Bay with the wind against them, the *Prince of Wales* and the *Friendship* fouled one another, and the latter lost her jib-boom. Soon after, the *Charlotte* ran foul of the *Friendship* frightening those on board, fearing being on the rocks and all gone to pieces in less than half an hour.

At Port Jackson, according to Ralph Clark's Journal, on 27 February 1788 **John Ryan**, along with **Thomas Barrit**, **Henry Lovell** and **Josh Hall** were tried in a Criminal court. "There Centance was read the charge being clearly proven of their Stealing Butter, Pease and Pork ." John Ryan to receive 300 lashes the others "centance" of death. Barrit was hung the same day; the others being fortunate to wait until the next day when the Governor pardoned them on the condition that they were banished. John Ryan's irons were removed and he was dismissed to his work.

In November 1788 he was accused of "feloniously and burglariously break and enter and steal

a pair of trousers, two shirts, two aprons, one bedgown, one silk handkerchief and one pair of stockings" from **Ann Warburton (Ann Daly)**. The charge was dismissed when **Francis Fowkes**, with whom he was sharing a hut, spoke up for his honesty.

In November 1789 John Ryan was reported as living near fellow convict **Robert Sidaway** (Sedaway), who employed him to care for his house and to bring in water.

On 4 March 1790 John Ryan was sent to Norfolk Island on the *Sirius*. On 1 August 1790 **Sarah Woolley** was sent to Norfolk Island on the *Surprize*. They were later married by the **Rev. Richard Johnson** when he visited the island in November 1791.

Sarah Woolley was a Second Fleet convict arriving on the *Neptune* on the 28 June 1790 in company with the *Surprize* and the *Scarborough*. She was lucky to survive this voyage in which a total of 267 died, the *Neptune* losing 147 men and 11 women out of a total of 502.

*Charlotte Field, (Queenborough) Norfolk Island, an 1804 watercolour by John Eyre based on a 1796 sketch by the storekeeper William Neat Chapman*



Aboard all three ships, but particularly the *Neptune*, the prisoners were treated with savage brutality. They were shamefully starved, kept heavily ironed, and except in inadequate numbers and at long intervals, refused access to the deck, by the master, the avaricious and unscrupulous **Donald Trail**. There was no excuse for this callousness, as at no stage of the voyage was there any suspicion of mutiny. [*The Convict Ships* p128]

Sarah Woolley (1768?-1809) and **Ann White** were sentenced to seven years transportation on 28 October 1789 at the Old Bailey Sessions for theft of a four yard piece of printed cotton valued at 8 shillings from a city of London linen draper's shop.

They came into the shop fussing and quibbling over the price of a small piece of cotton asking one another which pattern they liked. The shopman called out R.F. (a code warning of suspected shoplifters) to his employer in the back room. The draper said in court that he sold it to them at cost *in order to get rid of them; I did not like them*. As they left he noticed White had her hand in her right pocket and a bulge under her clothing near her hip. He sent the assistant out after them and the bolt of cotton was found on the floor under White's petticoats, dirty from the mud on her shoes from the wet street outside.

On 11 November both women were sent from Newgate prison for embarkation on the *Neptune* transport. [*The Second Fleet - Britain's Grim Convict Armada of 1790* p.629]

John Ryan and Sarah Woolley were probably living together on Norfolk Island by February 1791 when each was issued with a pig under **Major Ross's** scheme designed to encourage convicts to become self sufficient. The couple lived on a 10 acre farm at Charlotte Field (Queenborough) Norfolk Island where a daughter **Elizabeth** was born in November 1792. Ryan sailed for Sydney in March 1793, followed by Sarah and daughter Elizabeth in March 1794 aboard the *Francis*. They were granted 30 acres of land at Mulgrave Place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1794 by **William Pater-son**.

Two more children were born; **Mary** on 1 February 1796 at Parramatta (my link with this couple) and **John** in 1798. Ryan was almost certainly the man of this name receiving a 30 acre land grant on the banks of the Hawkesbury River in March 1795. In 1797, **Governor Hunter** made a grant to Sarah Ryan of 30 acres of land at Mulgrave Place on the Hawkesbury near Windsor. Their fourth child **Sarah Ryan** was born on November 1 1800.

By 1800 John Ryan had either died, with no record of his burial surviving, or left the colony. In a list of Debtors to the Crown, June 1796 to January 26, 1808, he was listed as "dead". This list of money owing to the Crown was made up for presentation to the Bigge Inquiry. Most of the names on it were landholders from whom the small

amount of debt could have been recovered had the government pursued the matter.

In that year, 1800, Sarah was listed as a landholder in her own right, a status usually accorded to widows. She owned 7 hogs and had 14 acres sown in wheat and 5 in maize. She was self-supporting, with 3 children maintained by government rations. By 1802 she was fully supporting her four children, owned 30 hogs, and had 20 acres sown in wheat, 10 bushels of wheat and 20 of maize in store.

In the 1806 muster, Sarah Woolley was shown as Sarah Ryan, free by servitude, wife to **William Mason** with three male and three female children.

On 12 April 1809, Sarah asked local businessman **Henry Kable Senior** to take her for a drive from Green Hills (Windsor) to Richmond *for the sake of her health*. Accompanied by her eldest daughter Elizabeth they set off by the riverside road. The chaise struck a concealed stump near Mackellars Creek throwing Kable to the ground. The women screamed, causing the horse to bolt throwing them as well. Sarah died in her daughter's arms within half an hour. She was 41.

Her death was reported in the Sydney Gazette on 16 April 1809.

"A Coroners Inquest was taken at 5 o'clock the same evening, whose verdict was Accidental Death; after which the body was taken home, and interred on Thursday evening. The funeral was numerously and respectably attended, many persons travelling from ten to twenty miles to pay this last tribute of respect to a departed much lamented friend, whose kindness of disposition and obliging manners have been the admiration of all who were acquainted with her; as a mother and wife her conduct was exemplary; and her loss will for ever be sincerely regretted by a disconsolate husband and family of six children."

Fortunately for Sarah's children, William Mason became their guardian, receiving grants in trust for them. It is thought he educated them himself, as there is a remarkable similarity in their handwriting and his own.

**#7228 Margaret Soward**

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*The Founders of Australia – a biographical dictionary of the First Fleet* by Mollie Gillen.

*The First Fleeters a comprehensive listing of convicts, marines, seamen, officers, wives, children and ships.*

*Women of the 1790 Neptune. The Second Fleet Convicts – a comprehensive listing of convicts who sailed in HMS Guardian, Lady Juliana, Neptune, Scarborough and Surprise.*

*The Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts* by John Copley.

*Journal and Letters of Lieutenant Ralph Clark 1787-1792.*

*The Convict Ships 1787-1868* by Charles Bateson.

*Sydney Cove 1788 – in the words of Australia's First Settlers: the true story of a nation's birth* compiled by John Copley.

## Welcomes to, and Acknowledgement of, Country

### Foundational principles

It is accepted that:

Aboriginal people were at Port Jackson when the First Fleet arrived on 26 January 1788

Those travelling on the First Fleet did not leave England with the intent to destroy Aboriginal people or their heritage and culture.

The instructions to the Governor were that the First Fleeters were to live with amity and kindness to the Aborigines.

As per our constituting document of the Fellowship, we are to strengthen the bonds between all Australians.

We acknowledge that it is not easy, but we wish to achieve a balance between the interests of Aboriginal people who were here first and have a particular connection to this land and our families, who are the families who have lived beside Aboriginal people for longer than any other families. Our families are Australians who also have a special connection to this land.

In doing this when our events include a welcome to, or an acknowledgement of, Country we are making an important start to achieving this balance.

### Welcome to Country

Welcoming visitors to Country has been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. This event was linked to concepts of safe passage, respect for the local people and protection of spiritual beings. Making a welcome as a formal commencement of non-Aboriginal events, on the other hand, only dates back to 1976.

The original purposes based on personal inter relationship have adapted over time but still retain the essential elements of safe passage (even if symbolic), respect for heritage and culture and an openness to accept others who conduct their affairs respectfully within the domain.

A Welcome does not deny that others are Australians who are proud of their land.

A Welcome can only be offered by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait person of the Country on which the Welcome takes place.

Because of its importance we will only invite a person to provide a Welcome at significant and important events of the Fellowship. It is not a form of tokenism and should not be used if this could be implied. It will be a matter for each Chapter to decide (or the Directors for an event of the Fellowship as a whole) when an event is sufficiently significant to invite a Welcome to Country.

### Acknowledgement of Country

Where a Welcome does not take place then a senior or

respected person can make an Acknowledgement of Country. Again, this should only occur at important and significant events of the Fellowship. It should not be a form of tokenism and should not be used if this could be implied. Again, it will be a matter for each Chapter to decide (or the Directors for an event of the Fellowship as a whole) when, and the manner, of making an Acknowledgement. Some Chapters include an Acknowledgement of the mast head of their publication whereas other Chapters consider that the Acknowledgement should be reserved for events of the Fellowship as a whole.

When an Acknowledgement is delivered then it acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples to their Country; which predates the arrival of the First Fleet, and has not been surrendered or lost by them. Its purpose is to show respect and recognise that our families have lived beside Aboriginal families longer than anyone else in Australia. Its purpose is not to make our families strangers in their own land but to be a start in recognition that each has jointly lived in this land since 26 January 1788.

The form of the Acknowledgment should acknowledge:

the local Aboriginal people by name

that they were custodians of the land before other peoples came and that this connection remains

that respect is continuous and so is proffered to Elders past, present and those of the future

our connection as First Fleeters as having the longest connection as being an especial reason why this acknowledgement is being given.

The wording is a matter for the individual or Chapter but, in the spirit in which it is given, should be:

respectful

demonstrating amity and kindness

truthful

consistent with the objects of the Fellowship

Without in any way being prescriptive an example of an Acknowledgement could be:

“I note that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. As a descendant of those who arrived on the First Fleet I acknowledge that the Gadigal people were here when my ancestors arrived. This was their land and they have never surrendered it. In response to the Welcome that they have given to us, we acknowledge respect to all of their Elders, both past and present, and seek to respect those who will come. This acknowledgement is particularly important to come from us, because our families have lived in this land of Australia, alongside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, longer than anyone else”.

*Approved by the Fellowship's Directors, 27.02.2020*



## *Lying for the Admiralty`* A READER'S RESPONSE

**#6139 Rod Davis, of Southern Highlands Chapter, writes:**

I was interested to read the review of Margaret Cameron-Ash's book *Lying for the Admiralty*. I took particular note of the section of the review which commented on the author's claim in relation to Cook's activities whilst in Botany Bay. Her claim was that he (Cook) may have walked inland on an Aboriginal path and observed what became known as Sydney Harbour from high ground (?Bellevue Hill).

Even though no record of such a trek is contained in Cook's journal nor is it in Admiralty records of conversations with Cook after his return to England, the author suggests that this could be attributed to a desire to keep such information secret from England's adversaries who may have taken advantage of this knowledge.

Because there is no specific information available to substantiate this the author appears to have based her assumptions that information about Port Jackson was provided by Cook, on a statement made by **Arthur Phillip** before the Fleet left England 17 years after Cook's visit. Phillip said that if Botany Bay proved unsuitable for the intended settlement he would "go to a Port a few Leagues to the Northward, where there appear'd to be a good Harbour, and several islands." Cameron-Ash apparently claims this to be a credible description of Sydney Harbour.

It would seem, though, from available evidence, Phillip was not referring to Port Jackson which, on Cook's chart was shown only as a small indentation on the coast, but rather to Broken Bay which was shown as a larger and more expansive waterway. (Doubt has been expressed as to whether the "bay" named Broken Bay by Cook was, in fact, the one known by that name today. There is a suggestion that, from the coordinates provided by Cook, that his Broken Bay was in the vicinity of today's Narrabeen and that he could not have seen the bay now with that name as he sailed past it at night.)

In further support of Broken Bay being Phillip's intended destination, I am mindful of an entry in **Captain John Hunter's** journal which records the historic trip he made with Phillip to find a more suitable place for the settlement after Botany Bay was ruled out. Hunter wrote this: "The day after my arrival, the governor, accompanied by me and two other officers, embarked in three boats, and proceeded along the coast to the northward, intending, if we could, to reach what Captain Cook has called Broken-bay, with a hope of discovering a better harbour, as well as better country".

Hunter then goes on to say that en route they decided to look into a bay just up the coast from Botany Bay. From the seaward Hunter says that it had "a rather unpromising appearance" but, on entering it was immediately realised that they had stumbled upon something very special. Broken Bay was then forgotten at that time – Phillip had

found his settlement site!

Further evidence comes from the journal of Marine Private **John Easty** who wrote on 21 January 1788 "this morning the Commander with Captain Hunter went in longboats to Broken Bay." His journal shows, though, that he subsequently crossed out "Broken Bay" and wrote "Port Jackson" and I wonder if this alteration was done after Phillip's party returned a few days later.

From both of these entries it seems that, as far as this venture was concerned, Port Jackson was an afterthought and not, as Cameron-Ash seems to suggest, Phillip's principal destination based on secret information provided by Cook but withheld from official records for security reasons.

**References:** *An Historical Journal of Events at Sydney and at Sea 1787-1792* by Capt John Hunter

*Memorandum of the transactions of a voyage from England to Botany Bay 1787-1793* by John Easty

*Historical Records of New South Wales Vol 1 Part 1 – Cook 1762-1780*

### **Further notes from Rod as follow up:**

Today I received in the mail a copy of the book and have now read the chapter relating to the comments I have made. As a result I see no reason to modify them in any way except, perhaps, by the inclusion of my comments below. My reading has served to confirm my original thoughts that her contentions are nothing but pure speculation (convincing but speculation nevertheless). There is, in fact, no available proof of anything that she claims 'might' have happened. She has contended that Cook not only viewed Sydney harbour from high ground at Bellevue Hill but, on two occasions from different directions, actually stood on the harbour shores.

It seems inconceivable that if Cook and, ultimately, the Admiralty wanted to keep the discovery secret, why did the authorities wait another 15 odd years before deciding to settle the area when it was strategically so important to England. **Alan Frost** in his book *Botany Bay – the Real Story* cites the strategic importance as one of the catalysts for making the decision for Botany Bay. Further, **Joseph Banks** suggested Botany Bay for a place to send convicts to ease the pressure on the prisons as early as 1779/80 yet it was still to be another 6 years before any action was taken. So, for such a valuable piece of international real estate to be left vulnerable to the discovery and possible occupation by a foreign power for so long, is, as I said, inconceivable.

**Rod D**

### **from the Editor.**

Thanks Rod for your contribution. *Founders* loves hearing from our readers, especially when they are responding to our articles. Others are welcome to join the forum.

## OUR STORIES ~ PLEASE READ THIS PAGE CAREFULLY

### A plea from your Editor.

Over the years many of us have appreciated and enjoyed reading the stories about our First Fleeters. As you know the stories go into Founders and then to the FFF Website under 'Ships', where the link then appears in blue.

It is so disappointing that after all this time there are still nearly 100 of our First Fleet ancestors whose stories are yet to grace our pages and website and whose descendant members have not yet put pen to paper, or better still, fingers to keyboard.

Is your First Fleeter on the list below? If so. How about making amends this year and get writing! Too many would be far better than none at all.

ABRAHAMS Esther - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 ABRAHAMS Rosanna - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 ANDERSON John - *Charlotte*  
 BARRISFORD Hannah - *Prince of Wales*  
 BARRISFORD John - *Prince of Wales*  
 BEARDSLEY Ann - *Charlotte*  
 BELLETT Jacob - *Scarborough*  
 BROUGHTON William - *Charlotte*  
 BURN Patrick - *Friendship*  
 BUTLER William - *Scarborough*  
 CLARK Zachariah - *Alexander*  
 COLE Elizabeth - *Prince of Wales*  
 COLLEY Elizabeth - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 COLLINS David - *HMS Sirius*  
 CROWDER Thomas - *Alexander*  
 DAVEY Thomas - *Prince of Wales*  
 DOUGLAS William - *Alexander*  
 EARLY Rachel - *Prince of Wales*  
 EATONBEDDINGFIELD Martha - *L Pen*  
 ELLIS William - *Friendship*  
 FLARTY Phebe - *Prince of Wales*  
 FRASER William - *Charlotte*  
 FRASER/REDCHESTER Ellen - *P of W*  
 GILBERT Stephen - *Alexander*  
 GOODIN Edward - *Scarborough*  
 GOODWIN Andrew - *Scarborough*  
 GREEN Mary - *Prince of Wales*  
 GRIFFITHS John - *Friendship*  
 GUEST George - *Alexander*  
 HACKING Henry - *HMS Sirius*  
 HAMBLY William - *HMS Sirius*

HAMILTON Maria - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 HARMSWORTH Alice - *Prince of Wales*  
 HARMSWORTH Ann - *Prince of Wales*  
 HARMSWORTH Thomas - *Pr. of Wales*  
 HARRIS John - *Scarborough*  
 HARRISON Mary - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 HATTON Joseph - *Scarborough*  
 HAYNES Maria - *Prince of Wales*  
 HAYWARD Elizabeth - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 HEADINGTON Thomas - *Alexander*  
 HIBBS Peter - *HMS Sirius*  
 INETT Ann - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 IRVING John - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 JOHNSTON George - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 JONES Edward - *Alexander*  
 KENNEDY Martha - *Prince of Wales*  
 KIDNER Thomas - *Alexander*  
 KING Philip Gidley - *HMS Sirius*  
 KING William - *Charlotte*  
 LAYCOCK Caroline - *Prince of Wales*  
 LEWIS Sophia - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 LONG John - *Scarborough*  
 LUCAS Thomas - *Scarborough*  
 MARTIN Stephen - *Alexander*  
 MCCARTHY John - *Friendship*  
 MILES Edward - *Scarborough*  
 MITCHELL William - *Charlotte*  
 MORRISBY James - *Scarborough*  
 MUNDAY Ann - *Alexander*  
 MUNDAY John - *Alexander*  
 MUNRO Lydia - *Prince of Wales*  
 NASH William - *Prince of Wales*  
 NEAL James - *Friendship*  
 O'BRIEN Thomas - *Scarborough*  
 OGDEN James - *Alexander*  
 PARSONS Henry - *HMS Sirius*  
 PIGOTT Samuel - *Charlotte*  
 RAMSAY John - *Scarborough*  
 REARDON Bartholomew - *Scarb'rough*  
 REILEY James - *HMS Supply*  
 ROWE John - *Scarborough*  
 RUSE James - *Scarborough*  
 SALTMARSH William - *Alexander*  
 SCRIVEN Philip - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 SHEERS James - *Scarborough*  
 SMITH Ann - *Charlotte*  
 SMITH Mary - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 SMITH Thomas - *Scarborough*

SPENCER Mary - *Prince of Wales*  
 SPRINGHAM Mary - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 STANFIELD Daniel - *HMS Sirius*  
 STEPHENS/MORRIS John - *Charlotte*  
 SUMMERS John - *Alexander*  
 THOMAS Elizabeth - *Prince of Wales*  
 THOMPSON William - *Scarborough*  
 TUNKS William - *HMS Sirius*  
 TURNER (WILKES) Mary - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 TUSO Joseph - *Scarborough*  
 WALBOURNE James - *Scarborough*  
 WESTLAKE Edward - *Charlotte*  
 WILLIAMS Francis - *Prince of Wales*  
 WOOD George - *Alexander*  
 YEATES Nancy - *Lady Penrhyn*  
 YOUNGSON Elizabeth - *Pr of Wales*

### Further information

The policy of stories to *Founders* and then to the website has only been in place over the last 8 years.

If you know that any of the First Fleeters listed on this page have had their stories featured in *Founders* and FFF Newsletters **in earlier years** then we would like to hear from you with the details. We can re-type them for future publication but better still would be to have you email the text to us to speed up the process.

*Founders* does have a full collection of issues on file but not necessarily in retrievable digital form. Letting us know the issue where the story may be found will be most helpful.

We notice that many of those listed have had whole books and family histories written about them. Perhaps this is why descendants are reticent to contribute their own shorter versions, feeling their writing skills would not be up to scratch.

Please don't be afraid to submit shorter stories based on the research you may have done from longer publications. We are happy to edit your contributions for publication.

Our regular **guidelines** for story writing, modified for our present campaign, appear again on page 12 of this issue



# 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 Meetings:** 18 April: Greg Ryan, *Hume Dam Centenary*, FFF Paul Gooding; 16 May: Ros Walls, *Albury City Events*; 20 June: Georgina Hill, *Live Better*. **Next Event:** 19 April: Pioneer Cemetery Walk. **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:** 17 April: Cancelled; 15 May: Patrick Dodd, *Captain Cook and the Endeavour*; 19 June: John Jeremy, *Australia's Amphibious Ships, Gallipoli to today*. **Next Events:** 15 May: Coffee and Cake for two departures, Cook and First Fleet; 4 June: Tour of ANMM Pyrmont. **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

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

**Venue:** Our Lady of Fatima Church, 825 Forest Rd, Peakhurst. Bi-monthly on third Tuesday 10.30am **Next Meeting:** 21 April: Cancelled. **Next Event:** TBA. **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415376434

## CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** No events planned due to the current concerns. **Contact:** Toni Pike 0410412778

## 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:** 11 April: Cancelled ; 9 May: Greg Powell, *Australia's Bushrangers*. **Next Event:** 13 June: Members, *A Leaf from my Tree* followed by 14th Birthday Lunch at West Gosford RSL., **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

## DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

**Venue:** Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meeting:** 4 April: Cancelled. **Next Event:** Cancelled. **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:** 4 April: Cancelled 2 May: Greg De Moore, *Finding Sanity*; 6 June: John Oakes, ARHS—Earliest Days of Railway. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jennifer Follers 97991161

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

**Venue:** Windsor Library, Penrith Library and Springwood. Presbyterian Church --Bi-monthly, third Saturday, 11 am. **Next Meetings:** 18 April (Windsor): Meeting cancelled; 20 June (Penrith) Might be cancelled, TBA. **Next Events:** **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:** 20 April: Cancelled; 15 June: Rod Bathgate, *Local Artist*. **Next Event:** **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:** 28 July, AGM. **Next Event:** Postponed until Spring, Three Day Outing to Maitland and the Hunter Valley. **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:** 4 April: FF Segment, Cherie Lamb, Members, Robin McCarthy, *Convict Food*, Guest, Diana Hacker TBA; 13 June: Prof Lynne Hume TBA, Members, Don Cornford, Other speakers TBA. **Next Events:** In May, date TBA: Redcliffe Museum; in July, date TBA: Caboolture Historical Society. **Contact:** Robin McCarthy 0412305501

## 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:** 5 April: Cancelled; 7 June: at Coramba Hall, Speaker TBA. **Next Events:** **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:** 24 May, 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:** 4 April, Cancelled; 13 June, at Family History Rooms: TBA. **Next Events:** **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438465529 for details.

## 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:** 7 April: Cancelled; 2 June: Jim Powell. *Camellias, in the Colony and after Bushfires*. **Next Events:** 9 May: at DL Mill Room, 12 noon, Sailing of the Fleet Luncheon. **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

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

**Venue:** Mittagong Community Centre – bi-monthly – second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meeting:** 8 April: Meeting cancelled; 10 June: Babette Smith OAM, *The Making of the Working Class*. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

## SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

**Venue:** 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 4 April: Cancelled. **Next Event:** in April (date TBC unless it is cancelled): Government House Open Day. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to ever-changing virus updates and announcements by health and government authorities and the length of the emergency, there is every chance that most of the events on this page will be deferred or cancelled. Please check with your committee contacts for the latest news.**

*Karys Fearon*, Chapter Liaison Officer

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 25 May 2020**

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

## BIRTHS

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members

**JOSHUA PECK**

#9026 Ronald Earle Roberts

**WILLIAM EGGLETON/MARY DICKENSON**

#9027 Anthony Regis Nash

#9028 Matthew Scott Nash

#9029 Mikalie Robyn Nash

**ROBERT FORRESTER/ANN MARTIN/**

**WILLIAM ROBERTS**

#9030 Susan Jane Sacchero

#9031 Kathryn Sarah Hoftsee

#9032 Annabel Rose Hoftsee

**PETER HIBBS**

#9036 Robyn Marion Doubleday

#9040 Mark Gerard Burns

**JAMES SQUIRE/JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER**

#9037 Judith Kathleen Gissing

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members

**ISAAC TARR**

#9038 Ian Charles Bott

**JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER**

#9039 Pamela Elaine Miller

**ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY**

#9041 Margaret Rose Rivett

**WILLIAM NASH**

#9042 Geoffrey Ian Lett

**ANN FORBES**

#9034 Nola May Sargent

### Junior Members

**ROBERT FORRESTER/ANN MARTIN/**

**WILLIAM ROBERTS**

#9033 Meg Lillian Hoftsee

**JOHN CROSS**

#9035 Amber Nicole Cameron

### Associates

#9034.1 Allan Leslie Sargent

#9037.1 Peter Morris Gissing

**JOHN HERBERT/DEBORAH ELLEM**

**Thorin Vaughan Viebock**, second son to Brittine and Jaymie, and a brother to Marshall, was born 12.02.20 at Nepean Hospital. Great grandson to Bob and #6211 Glenda Burns of Penrith, NSW.

## DEATHS

**HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES**

**#8817 Lindsay Peter Robin Davis** of Bongaree, Queensland, died on 10.02.2020 on Bribie Island. Lindsay was a member for a little over two years, his membership the first to be accepted by the Fellowship using DNA evidence.

**ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY**

**#5826 Lola Marjorie Hall** of Narraween, New South Wales died 09.11.2019, aged 90. Lola had been a member of the Fellowship for over 30 years.

**MICHAEL MURPHY**

**#7546 Shirley A Atto**, of Newstead, Tasmania, died on 14.10.2019, aged 84. Shirley had been a member of the Fellowship for over ten years.

**ASSOCIATE**

**#7752.1 Claire Wood**, of Nambucca Heads, New South Wales, died peacefully on 04.03.2020 after battling ill-health. She was the wife of #7752 Paul Wood, former North Coast Chapter secretary.

Claire was a much loved member of the chapter and will be greatly missed by all.

## YOUR STORIES

*Founders is always ready to receive First Fleeter stories for the magazine and web.*

*The following guidelines are suggested:-*

1. Include your name as the author.
2. Only one story per FF. unless you are including later years when as a couple they are leading joint lives.
3. Suggested length is 1000-2000 words with stories longer than that able to be carried over two issues.
4. The Fellowship deserves the right to edit and the Editor may add illustrative material where relevant.
5. Biographies must contain facts.
6. References are definitely preferred.
7. Type in *Calibri*, size 11, if possible.

Contact the editor for further information.

## APRIL EVENT at COOK'S LANDING, KURNELL

From 10 am to 2 pm on **29 April, 2020**, Sutherland Shire Council will hold its annual commemoration of the arrival of *Endeavour* on the date of James Cook's landing at Kurnell in Botany Bay. This will be the 250th anniversary. The program for this year's event '**The Meeting Of Two Cultures**', at Kamay National Park, Kurnell, will include a Welcome to Country, corroboree and smoking ceremony conducted by members of the Gweagal, Dharawal and La Perouse Aboriginal community prior to official proceedings. There will also be cultural workshops and experiences and the unveiling of commemorative sculptures. This is a free event. **It may be postponed or cancelled.**

Check the link: [sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/meetingoftwocultures](http://sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/meetingoftwocultures)

Johnny Malone, Botany Bay Boatman

## TUNKS ASSOCIATION

Many of our members who are also descendants of **William Tunks** were looking forward to their 40th Anniversary Lunch in East Balmain on 26 April. The virus emergency has of course intervened and the Lunch has been **postponed** until later in the year or early next year.

**DISCLAIMER:** Whilst every effort is made to check the accuracy of articles published in this Newsletter, the Fellowship accepts no responsibility for errors, and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Fellowship.

See Page 3

## 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**

Robin McCarthy 0412 305 501

**NORTH COAST**

Robyn Condliffe 02 6653 3615

**NORTHERN RIVERS**

Karla Rojo 02 6688 4306

**NORTH WEST**

Janet McLean 02 6746 5529

**SOUTH COAST**

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

Wendy Selman 02 4862 4849

**SWAN RIVER**

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630