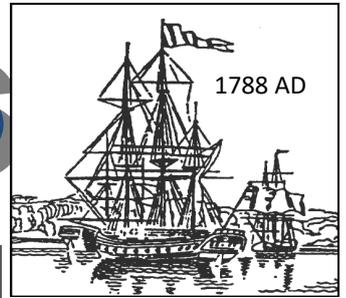


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO

Volume 51 Issue 3

52nd Year of Publication

June-July 2020

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

HMS SIRIUS ~ WHY THE FUSS?

In March 2020 the *HMS Sirius* 230th Shipwreck Anniversary Week on Norfolk Island was hosted by public historian a **Cathy Dunn** of Australian History Research.

During the week all attendees, pictured below, discovered more about their ancestor's life on Norfolk Island, the First Fleet journals, the convicts and marines. Many in the group were walking on their ancestral land for the first time. It was good finding new cousins and discovering the primary historical records relating to the ancestors and Norfolk Island. In addition to attending the Family History Research Zone and welcome, the First Settlement Heritage dinner hosted by Governor King and his convict mistress Ann Inett and his wife Mrs King was much enjoyed. Included for the visitors were tours of 'Shadows of the Past', 'Old Sydney Town' and even 'Cyclone Gretel'.

Attendees of the week included members of the Fellowship and the William Tunks Descendants Association, as well as individual descendants of crew, marines, ships' marines, civil personnel and convicts from *HMS Sirius*. Some Norfolk Island History Lovers also joined the group. Back in 2015 Cathy launched her publication *HMS Sirius: her Final Voyage* on Norfolk Island. Afterwards her husband Arthur (FF **John Small** and **Mary Parker**) suggested that for 2020 there could be a luncheon at the shipwreck site exactly where the crew came ashore at Sydney Town on 19 March 1790.

Five years later in 2020 this occurred on the special **HMS Sirius Day**, with the welcome given by **Martin Purslow**, Commonwealth Heritage Manager, Norfolk Island and the presentation of the new *HMS Sirius* Shipwreck commemoration plaque. Public historian and author **Carol Baxter's** talk, 'Shipwrecked' included her own ancestor marine **William Nash** and his wife **Maria** who were both on the ship at the time of the wreck.

At the special luncheon Cathy Dunn presented her talk - *Why the Fuss?* which she had written the old fashioned way with pen and paper by the glow of a lantern – after 'what a day!' with the bushfires on the South Coast NSW. Her talk follows:

'The First Fleet convicts consisted of hardened criminals to petty thieves, some of whom were ex-marines. Due to the starving settlement at Sydney Cove. NSW Governor **Arthur Phillip** decided to send a number of convicts and convict children, 209 to be exact, along with 70 marines and civil personnel to Norfolk Island aboard *HMS Sirius* and *HMS Supply*.

'Why Norfolk Island? Its Commandant Philip Gidley King had written some glowing reports of crops growing on Norfolk along with an abundant supply of fish. Arthur Phillip felt that by sending people to Norfolk Island conditions would also be better off at Sydney Cove too.

(continued on page 3)



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HMS Sirius
Shipwreck
Issue

FOUNDERS

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



PRESIDENT'S PEN



This is our *HMS Sirius* issue, commemorating the 230th anniversary of the sinking of the vessel on the reef at Norfolk Island on 19 March 1790. Cathy Dunn tell of this year's History Lovers Tour that honoured that event and we have stories of FF Bartholomew Reardon and Edward Risby both of whom travelled on the ship and disembarked just before its demise.

Many of our members will be familiar with the *HMS Sirius* bronze sculptures at Mosman Bay, NSW and Norfolk island but may not have known that a third one was installed at Ryde on the Isle of Wight, just opposite the Portsmouth 1787 departure point for the Fleet. The plaque at the site outlines the history of the bas-reliefs and the cutting shows the ongoing link with Mosman Council.

HISTORY BY PLAQUE ~ HMS SIRIUS

H M S SIRIUS

ON 13 MAY 1787 THE FIRST FLEET SAILED TO AUSTRALIA FROM THE MOTHERBANK, JUST OFF THIS SHORE. H.M.S. SIRIUS WAS THE PRINCIPAL NAVAL CONSORT FOR THE FIRST FLEET WHICH ARRIVED IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, ON 26 JANUARY, 1788.

ON A VOYAGE TO OBTAIN PROVISIONS FROM CAPE TOWN TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SAVE THE FLEDGLING COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES FROM STARVATION, H.M.S. SIRIUS CIRCUMNAVIGATED THE GLOBE. WHEN SHE RETURNED TO SYDNEY SHE WAS IN DIRE NEED OF REPAIR AND SO ON 19 JUNE, 1789 SHE WAS TAKEN TO WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS MOSMAN BAY, MOSMAN, TO BE CAREENED, REPAIRED AND REFITTED. SHE REMAINED IN MOSMAN BAY UNTIL 12 NOVEMBER, 1789. H.M.S. SIRIUS THEN SAILED FROM SYDNEY TO NORFOLK ISLAND WITH PERSONNEL AND PROVISIONS. THERE SHE RAN AGROUND AND WAS WRECKED ON 19 MARCH, 1790.

MOSMAN COUNCIL, N.S.W, AUSTRALIA, COMMISSIONED THREE IDENTICAL BAS-RELIEFS OF H.M.S. SIRIUS FROM THE SCULPTOR, ALEX KOLOZSY, TO COMMEMORATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMING OF EUROPEANS TO MOSMAN. THE MOSMAN COMMUNITY PRESENTED THIS BAS-RELIEF TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE BOROUGH OF MEDINA. THE OTHER RELIEFS ARE SITED AT MOSMAN BAY AND NORFOLK ISLAND.

THE MAYOR OF MOSMAN, ALDERMAN P.C. CLIVE, TOGETHER WITH ALDERMEN B.S.J. O'KEEFE, A.M., Q.C. AND D.C. BROCKHOFF AND THE TOWN CLERK MR. V.H.R. MAY, TRAVELLED FROM AUSTRALIA FOR THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.

THIS GIFT FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOSMAN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE BOROUGH OF MEDINA WAS UNVEILED BY THE LORD MOTTISTONE, C.B.E. LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT ON 29 JUNE 1991

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(from page 1)

The crew and passengers of marines and convicts who had travelled to Norfolk Island aboard *HMS Sirius* nearly did not make it here. Not only did the ship just miss the rocks at South Head as they left Port Jackson she also sailed too close to shore in the first instance at Sydney Town. For the latter the safe land flag was flying yet Hunter still blamed the ship sails.

The convicts and marines would still have found themselves living here on Norfolk Island regardless of the shipwreck, so the sinking of the *Sirius* did not change the course of their history. Many crew and ships marines of *HMS Sirius*, such as **John Gowen** and **Thomas Jamison**, were already on Norfolk Island having arrived here aboard *HMS Supply* and the *Golden Grove*.

The misconception is still around, 230 years later, that the convicts were banished to Norfolk Island for misbehaving at the Sydney Cove settlement. We still hear or read today 'my convict ancestor was shipwrecked on Norfolk Island' however only one convict, **James Bryan Cullen**, was still on board at the time of the wreck.

Norfolk Island's population after the shipwreck stood at 498 leaving a similar number back on the NSW mainland at the time. The fuss that was made about *HMS Sirius* and her 230th anniversary is due to the arrival and stranding of her people themselves. They were:

The stranded **crew** who had fallen in love with convict women and requested to return to Norfolk Island to be with their partners as settlers rather than return to England.

The **convicts** who had earlier made Norfolk Island their home, who had toiled on the land and were then to be forcibly banished with their families, sometimes under arms. They did not want to leave.

The **temptation and desire of the marines** who eventually were re-united with their convict partners in November 1791 after their separation as the women had come to Norfolk Island aboard *HMS Sirius* in March 1790.

The **marines** who had become settlers on the Island after hearing favourable reports about conditions here on Norfolk Island and simply the wish to stay in the colony with the promise of land.

The **convict children** of *HMS Sirius* and the next generation growing up here on Norfolk Island

The **women convicts** who raised their children here on Norfolk Island, supporting themselves, plus their changing relationships.

The marine and convict **settlers** who left Norfolk Island due to the mix up of land sizes and boundaries and **failure to be paid** for crops. And the **convicts** who were **out of their time** simply just wanted to leave.

And we must not forget those from *HMS Sirius* and the next generation who are buried at **Turtle Bay Burial ground** and the **Norfolk Island cemetery**, and who have become today's tourist attraction'.

At the special luncheon three cheers were given, just as every person had done on 20 March 1790 as they passed under the Union Flag, doffing their hats as an oath of submission to the newly declared martial law due to the shipwreck.



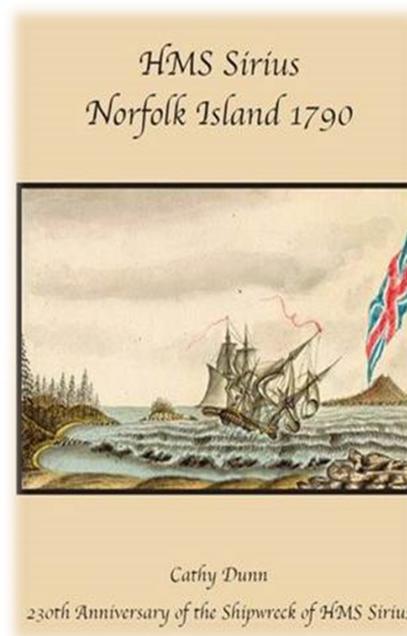
Historian, Cathy Dunn

Cathy also launched her new publication at the luncheon - *HMS Sirius Norfolk Island 1790* booklet and the *HMS Sirius Norfolk Island 2020* medallion. This set is available to purchase from the website

www.hmssirius.com.au

Next March Cathy will be again hosting the Norfolk island History Lovers Tours with details to be announced <https://heritagetourism.au.rezdy.com/>

Also join *HMS Sirius* on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HMSSirius1786to1790/>



Editor's Note, In a separate promotional email Cathy has advised that the booklet and medallion, as a set, is priced at \$30 online and includes postage. The medallion is in a limited edition of 300 with numbering tag and gift bag.

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON ~ PICTURE GALLERY PART 2



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

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON ~ PICTURE GALLERY PART 2



Seven more tables are pictured on these two pages to complete the gallery.

A MESSAGE FOR OUR VICTORIAN MEMBERS

About 70 of our current members live in Victoria, 90% of them in Melbourne suburbs.

For some time now the Directors have been keen to establish a Melbourne based Chapter. Should there be sufficient interest among our members in the area then a Melbourne meeting can be convened to form the chapter.

Many members have been contacted in the last month by **Mr Paul Gooding** (Chapter Establishment Director) either by phone or email to gauge interest in the proposal. Paul will continue to make contact with all members living in Victoria over the next month or so.

Members' interest and commitment to a new chapter will be critical in establishing a viable group. Some members I have spoken to have said 'I am interested, however I am old and so I couldn't do much'. Let me say to everyone, that is who we are. We are an older persons organisation, and most of our members are retirees.

Paul can be contacted on 0428656023, or on pdgooding@bigpond.com. This process will take a few months to get through as we come out of isolation. I look forward to talking to all those I have not yet contacted.

Best regards,

Paul Gooding, Director.

FIRST FLEETER BARTHOLOMEW REARDON and FAMILY

#8100 Tony Coulter writes of his First Fleeter, Bartholomew Reardon Senior,

This is to distinguish him from his son. My direct line to my First Fleeter is as follows: Bartholomew Reardon/ Frances Williams/ Richard Williams/ Susannah Williams/ George Biggs/ Elsie Biggs/Sydney Featherstone/ Jean Coulter/ Tony Coulter.



Pictured at left is **Bartholomew Senior** who was born at Winchester, Hampshire, England in 1724 and was the son of Daniel and Mary Reardon, nee Harrington. He worked as a shoemaker at Gosport near Portsmouth, England. He married **Katherine Wood** on 20 July 1781 at Gosport. In view of his age, 57, at this wedding it may not have been his first marriage. Katherine did not accompany him to Australia.

Bartholomew Snr was convicted of stealing a hair trunk and sentenced to seven years transportation on the *Scarborough*, one of the ships of the First Fleet. Two years later with the colony facing severe food shortages, he was sent on the *Sirius* to Norfolk Island where he met Hannah Rowney. They were married in November 1791 and produced five children between 1791 and 1799.

Bart Snr's role on the Island was as a servant to **Captain Piper** (at right) the Commandant of Norfolk Island, for whom he managed a piggery. He was also bell ringer, i.e. more like a town crier. He became a free settler in 1790. Bart Snr died on Norfolk Island on 1 May 1807 aged 83.



His grave site is unknown so the the First Fleeters Plaque was placed on its own memorial stone on the cemetery boundary in 1987.



Hannah Rowney (pictured at left) was born in 1755 in London, England to John and Mary Flinger. Hannah was charged with stealing a bible and prayer book and sentenced to seven years transportation. She came out to Australia on the *Lady Juliana*, part of the Second Fleet. Her husband, **Patrick Rowney**, escaped capture and remained in England.

On arrival in Sydney she was shipped off almost immediately to Norfolk Island in the ship *Surprize*, arriving in 1791, 15 months after Bart Snr. She left Norfolk Island on

9 November 1807, arriving in Hobart twenty days later.

The seven-sided monument (at right) at St. David's Park Hobart lists the passengers arriving from Norfolk Island to Hobart on the *Lady Nelson* in September 1807 including Hannah and her daughter **Frances** but not her other daughter, **Ann**. Her son Bart Junior remained there until 1810. Son-in-law to be, **Thomas Williams**, is shown in a different place. The third side shows the dedication of the memorial by the Very Reverend Kenneth N Reardon, Dean of Hobart, who was also a descendant of Bart Snr and a Fellowship member for a number of years.



On 20 September Hannah was given twenty acres at Queensborough, elsewhere identified as Sandy Bay and nowadays a very desirable part of Hobart. No evidence has been uncovered as to what happened to it. Her second marriage was to **William Horne**, another convict, on 20 May 1809 and they farmed at Pittwater near Hobart. She died on 4 November 1829 at St Georges Pittwater above Sorell.



Bartholomew Reardon Junior (at left) was born on 15 December 1791. He showed such considerable aptitude for farming in his youth working his father's land that Captain Piper asked him to stay on Norfolk after his family left. Captain Piper went on to accumulate considerable wealth and Sydney's exclusive suburb, Point Piper, bears his name. Bart Jnr arrived in Hobart in 1810. His talents led to his being granted substantial land



grants: 600 acres at Macquarie River, 23 acres at Green Hills, and a one quarter share of 11 000 acres at Emu Point north-west of Campbell Town.

He married **Elizabeth Nash**, also born on Norfolk Island, on 1 January 1812. She died in Hobart in 1878. One of their nine children was named **Edward Lord Reardon** after

his father's friend and benefactor Edward Lord. One hundred years later the *Hobart Mercury* dated 19 January 1911 quoted Bart Jnr as saying that his father had gained land grants through the good offices of Lieutenant Governor Edward Lord.

Author, **Robert Hughes**, includes in his book *The Fatal Shore*, page 227, the following assessment of Edward Lord.

Edward Lord (1781-1859)
at left, a Welsh marine officer who in 1803 built the first private house in Hobart, was the most powerful man in the early settlement next to Collins, and its largest stock owner. An arrogant land-grabbing troublemaker, he burned all the Government House papers when Collins died in 1810 in order

received a 14 year sentence but we have yet to discover what his crime was to get double the usual term. On the St. David's memorial in Hobart, Williams is mentioned as a later arrival in 1808 – perhaps Thomas and Frances had met before Hobart. It was a bountiful union as the couple produced ten children. Frances died on 3 September 1862, Thomas on 10 January 1853.

Ann Reardon, was the second eldest daughter of Bart Snr and Hannah. Ann was born on 12 May 1796 and died on Norfolk Island in 1807, aged 11, not long before her mother and sister sailed for Hobart. Her fallen headstone is pictured right, the inscription reading: HERE LYETH THE BODY OF REDON.

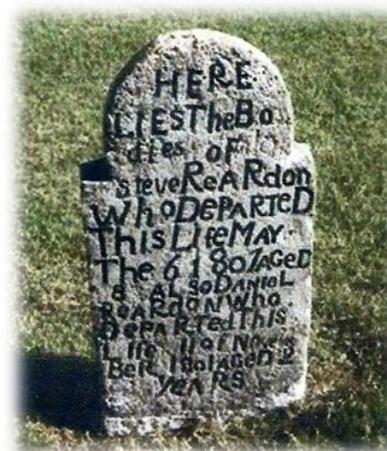


to cover his business tracks.

David Collins was the first Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania and Edward Lord succeeded him for a short but fateful period. Lord was seen as using and abandoning his protégé as Bart Jnr's business was failing. Bart Jnr quarrelled with his neighbour, he was drinking to excess and he stole a cow worth three pounds for which he was given seven years in gaol at Macquarie Harbour.

During the Arthur Phillip Chapter tour of Tasmania in 2018 I visited Port Arthur where a video presentation of prominent Tasmanian criminals included Bart Jnr. In a rather unusual conversation afterwards, one of the staff told me that things such as the questionable deals done by Lord and others were not exactly as they had been portrayed. A particular mention in the video was that Bart Jnr had dinner with Governor Macquarie. Bart Jr. died on 1 January 1849.

Francis Reardon, eldest daughter of Bart Snr, was born on 12 October 1794. She travelled to Hobart with her mother on the *Lady Nelson* arriving on 29 November 1807. Shortly after, on 8 August 1808, she married the convict, **Thomas Whellan Williams**.— She was still only 13! I hold a copy of the Marriage Certificate which both participants signed with a cross, meaning that they were probably illiterate. At right is a picture of the happy couple in their older years.



Steven and Daniel Reardon were sons of Bart Senior:

Steven was born in 1798 and died on 8 May 1801. Daniel was born in 1799 and died on 11 January 1801. The two boys are buried in Norfolk Island cemetery near their father, Bartholomew Senior. Their graves share a unique head-

stone with their names carved on. How very sad to lose both young boys in such a short time. Above is a photo of their headstone.

Compiled by Anthony Coulter, FFF member #8100 - Editorial Assistance by Gillian Doyle was greatly appreciated. 8/12/19

SOURCES

Family archives and Internet links:

<https://www.geni.com/people/Bartholomew-Reardon-Convict-Scarborough-1788/6000000020186099801>

<http://hmssirius.com.au/bartholomew-reardon-convict-scarborough-1788/>

<https://firstfleetfellowship.org.au/convicts/bartholomew-reardon/>

<https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/reardon/bartholomew/130899>

My sister's research revealed that Thomas Williams had

THE ENDEAVOUR REACHES BOTANY BAY

Beverley Earnshaw, President of Kogarah Historical Society, has kindly allowed us to use this article first published in the society's Newsletter Vol 12 No 1, April-May 2020.

With the observation of the Transit of Venus now accomplished, the time had come for **James Cook** to open the sealed orders given to him by the Admiralty before the ship sailed.

He found that his brief was to explore the south Pacific in search of 'The Great South Land', a vast continent which was believed to exist south of the equator. In reality, he was being sent to find something that did not exist.

The *Endeavour* left Tahiti on Thursday 13 July 1769 and after exploring previously unknown islands headed south in search of the mysterious continent. At the beginning of September in latitude 40° S they encountered violent storms, and having found no land, turned north and then west. Safety was paramount as there was no hope of rescue if an accident happened to the ship.

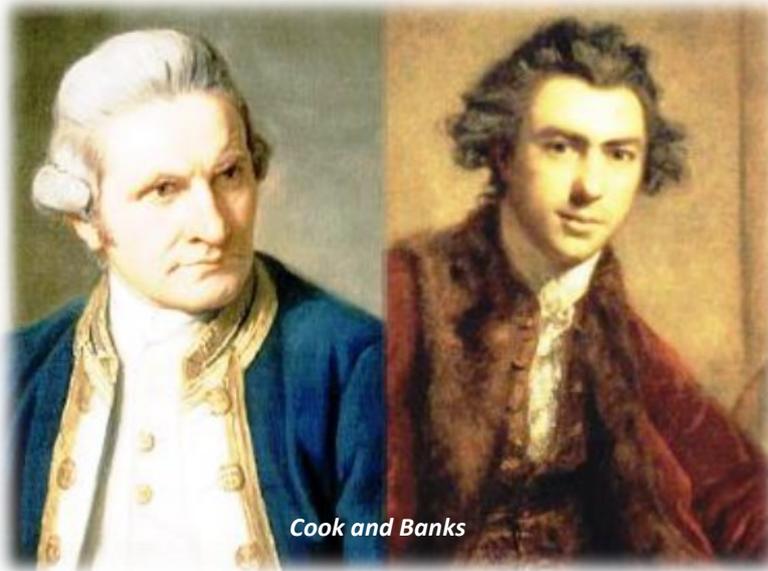
On Saturday, 7 October 1769 they sighted the coast of New Zealand which had previously been visited by Abel Tasman in 1642. They remained there for four months, circumnavigated both islands and thus proving it was not part of a great south continent¹. In March 1770 the ship's officers met to decide a route home to Britain. The ship had been at sea for 19 months without routine service and they felt it was perhaps too fragile to withstand the stormy passage around Cape Horn. Therefore it was decided to return via the East Indies, seeking to fall in with the east coast of New Holland which had never before been explored or charted.

At daylight on 1 April they left New Zealand, sailed west and in the next 16 days covered 1200 miles. On 19 April came an excited shout from **Zachary Hicks**, "Land ahead!". It was the eastern extreme of the Australian continent which Cook named *Cape Hicks*.

At 1.30 pm on 29 April the *Endeavour* glided into Botany Bay under a gentle breeze and in fair weather. The unpolluted waters of the bay revealed schools of fish

and an extraordinary number of stingrays, which led Cook to initially name the bay *Stingray Harbour*. The seascape was framed by a backdrop of the Australian bush with its forests of ancient trees stretching skyward. Cook was very anxious to make contact with those he referred to as 'the natives' and records in his journal that as the ship came in there were men, women and children watching from the shore. Cook launched the small boat in the hope of speaking to them but as the boat approached they all ran away except for two men who seemed resolved to oppose their landing.

Richard Pickersgill, Master's Mate on the *Endeavour* describes this first encounter:-



Cook and Banks

The captain went on shore in the pinnace to where we had seen some Indians and huts, two of whom opposed their landing, armed with targets and lances² but upon two or three muskets being fired, one of which was fired at and wounded one of them with small shot he dropped his lance and run (sic) away into ye woods as did all the

rest³.

The Aboriginal people were confronted with a new sight. About 1833, Father John McEncroe asked an Aboriginal man if he had any recollection of Cook's landing at Botany Bay. He said no because he was not born then but his father had been there. The priest then asked "What did your father and the Botany Bay tribe think about Cook's ship and its crew?"

He said they thought at first it was a big bird... and saw something like opossums running up and down the legs and wings... but on viewing them closer they thought them to be people⁴. In the next few days there was a frenzy of activity aboard the *Endeavour*. Parties went ashore to gather firewood. Waterers began filling the ship's casks with 80 tons of water needed for the next leg of the voyage. Fishing parties went out. With a plentiful supply of firewood the blacksmiths and the armourers cranked up the forges to repair items. Sailmakers spread their canvas on deck to service the sails while a party of seamen were assigned to scrape the ship's bottom.

Cook and his 'gentlemen' set out to explore the bay in the pinnace as the larger boats were needed by the wooders and waterers. The chart Cook made of Botany Bay is now in the British Museum. It records the shoreline of the bay until they rounded a 'rocky point' and entered a small inlet believed to be Kogarah Bay⁵. Richard Pickersgill, Master's Mate on the *Endeavour*, recorded his impressions of the country –

The bay is about 4 miles broad and has a regular tide.... We saw a large tree which grows alone and yields a sap like dragon's blood ... besides we saw a wood which has a grain like oak and would be very durable if used for building; the leaves are like pine leaf. The soil is a light sandy, black earth mixed, but is very shallow...

*The inhabitants are so shy we had no kind of intercourse with them. They used to come down every evening armed with lances and wooden swords. They appeared very thin and had their faces daubed over with something white... This was all we saw of them except when they were fishing off in their canoes, which are very small and made of bark; they carry one man, who paddles with two small pieces of wood; they use them in striking fish on ye flats...the people have nothing to cover themselves, but go quite naked, men and women...*⁶

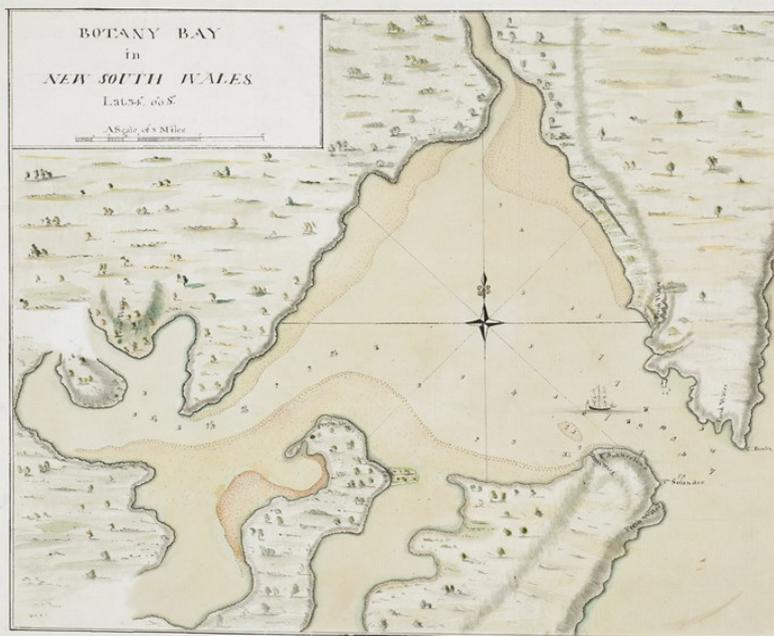
The tree which Pickersgill describes as having pine-like leaves is the Casuarina, or She-oak, which is still the dominant species on the flat land behind Carss Park beach. The species with 'gum like dragon's blood' would be the red bloodwood (*Eucalyptus gummifera*) which is still present at Carss Park today⁷. Cook also mentions the mangroves at the head of the bay.

On 30 April Able Seaman **Forby Sutherland** died of tuberculosis and was buried the next day, the first white man to be buried in Australian soil. He had been ailing ever since the ship left Tahiti. Cook named the area **Sutherland**.

The botanists, **Joseph Banks** and **Daniel Solander**, were out every day, excited with the large number of new species, both flora and fauna, they discovered. They marvelled at brightly coloured Cockatoos, Loryquets (sic) and Parrots, never before seen by white

men. Water Fowl of a new and unknown species were abundant on the mud flats. There were pelicans. Black crows identical to those in England circled overhead. Shellfish abounded on the rocks and the huge quantity of oyster shells in the middens indicated that oysters had been a staple food for the indigenous people for centuries. The proliferation of specimens brought back to the ship caused Cook to write in his log – '*The great number of new plants &c Mr Banks & Dr Solander collected in this place occasioned my giving it the name of Botany Bay.*'

Cook's great disappointment was that he had not been able to communicate with the Aboriginal people. Each day he had approached them but they usually fled into the bush. The *Endeavour* stayed in Botany Bay only until Sunday May 6th and Cook wrote - *having seen everything that this place afforded, we at daylight ... put to sea*. By noon that day they were two or three miles from the land and abreast of a bay or harbor where there appeared to be safe anchorage, and which Cook called **Port Jackson**. **BE**



James Cook's Chart of Botany Bay 1770—British Library, public domain

References

1. For an account of Cook's sojourn in New Zealand see *The Journals of Captain Cook prepared from the original manuscripts by J.C. Beaglehole, Penguin Classics 1999, p.68-125.*
- 2 *Shields and spears*
- 3 *Historical Records of NSW Vol.1 part 1 p.214*
- 4 C.H. Bertie quotes Fr. John McEncroe to Dr Douglass MD: *Captain Cook and Botany Bay, RAHS Journal Vol X 1924 Part V p.237*
- 5 C.H. Bertie, *Fellow of the RAHS identifies the inlet as Shipwrights Bay. See RAHS Journal Vol.X op.cit.p.273.*
- 6 *HRNSW op.cit. p.215*
7. *National Trust 1996 Native Species Vegetation Survey—Carss Bush Park*

BOOK REVIEW: RISBY ANCESTORS ~ FROM CONVICT BEGINNINGS

Visitors to First Fleet House often make a beeline for the excellent collection of family histories in the Borrowdale Room. On the shelves can be found works of many styles and approaches, from simple booklets to encyclopaedic compendiums, with some volumes standing out through their beauty of presentation.

This new hard-bound book by #4608 **Warwick H L Risby** is one such, and just to browse in its glossy 300 pages is a delight. Carefully chosen images of people, places and records highlight its thorough text and add immediacy and interest throughout. Even readers without connection to the Risby Australians of Tasmania and elsewhere will find anecdotes and longer stories that graphically portray the eras represented.

As the author advises, the already published book by **Alex Graeme-Evans**, *Against the Odds, Risbys, Tasmanian Timber Pioneers 1826-1995*, should be read as a companion to this new family history.

Risby has had plenty of time to gather and organise relevant material, starting first as an 11 year-old asking family questions and by his teenage years gathering copies of certificates and wills of those whose names appeared on the Risby grave obelisk at Cornelian Bay Cemetery in Hobart. A visit to Gloucestershire back in 1971 produced relevant information on **Edward Risby** the First Fleet convict, and the author's sixty years of research has taken him right up to the present DNA era.

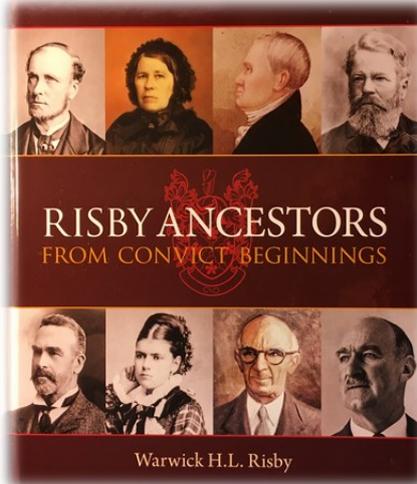
This reviewer enjoyed reading the early chapters giving the cultural background of the family of weavers and young Edward's many brushes with the law that eventually sent him on his way to the other side of the world via Port Jackson and Norfolk Island. On the way we meet his Second Fleeter wife **Ann Gibson** and read of the growing family and their life at Humphrey's Rivulet, New Town, now the Hobart suburb of Glenorchy.

Two stories stand out in this section; first the sheep-thieving Risby brothers and secondly the vivid extracts of Rev **Robbie Knopwood's** diary recounting the marriage of his adopted daughter Elizabeth into the **James Morrisby** line.

Most of the book is a compilation of stories and readable family lists of 'Risby Australians' set out by chapter generations. The focus is on the lives and times of thirty-two individuals over nearly 200 years, mostly in Tasmania but occasionally interstate and overseas.

The book concludes with end notes and an index, half of the latter devoted, understandably, to Risbys by name, place and organisation.

WJF



GRAVE NEWS FROM PARRAMATTA

1 Camellia

One of the **oldest known** European graves in Australia is to be 'protected' during Light Rail construction says the NSW Government. It has a 'historically significant' heritage listing.

During the first few months of 2020, the rail line that connected Clyde with Carlingford was removed to allow for the construction of a tram service that will travel from Carlingford to Clyde, Parramatta and Westmead. The Parramatta Light Rail is expected to be opened by 2023.

In 1788 **Eleanor McCabe** married fellow-First Fleet convict **Christopher Magee** and lived on a property that was granted to him on the 30th March 1791. Also known as Charles Williams and Elinor Magee, they were early settlers in the Camellia region.

On the 18th January 1793, Eleanor, her infant and another woman drowned after the boat they were travelling in from Sydney over-turned on the Parramatta River, not far from her family's cottage. .

Christopher buried his wife and son on their property at Camellia. Over the last 227 years, the gravesite has been recorded and preserved by various historical interest groups including the Fellowship. The Fellowship plaque was dedicated in 1982.

Brenden Wood, from medium.com, 19 April 2020

2 St John's.

In these days of a seemingly mad scramble to develop any conceivable space, the importance of our heritage is sometimes being overlooked by developers. **St John's Cemetery** at Parramatta is the oldest remaining European cemetery in Australia, the first burial recorded on 31.01.1790. Heritage listed in 1999, it neatly encapsulates & reflects the early growing town revealing local **(to p 11)**



McGee Grave, April 2020



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:** 20 June: Georgina Hill, *Live Better*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Mary Chalmers-Borella 6025 3283

ARTHUR PHILLIP – Milsons Point to Brooklyn and across to all northern beaches.

Venue: Meeting Room, Old Gordon Public School. 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon – monthly meetings, third Friday at 10.30 . **Next Meetings:** 19 June: **Cancelled**. 17 July: AGM, *Cook Video*; 21 August Carole Roussel, *La Perouse* **Next Events:** 21 August; Coffee and Cake for Phillip and Cook. **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 Meetings:** 21 July: AGM; 18 August: TBA. **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415376434

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Meeting:** 1 August: AGM at Unit 106 15 Coranderrk Canberra. **No other 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 July: AGM, Geoff Potter, *The Milligan Family of Woy Woy*; 8 August: Karys Fearon, *In for the Long Haul, Rope and Pulley*. **Next Event:** 13 June: **Birthdays Lunch Cancelled** **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings and Events.** **Nothing planned until restrictions lifted** **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401566080

EASTERN FARMS – Ryde, Eastwood, Parramatta, Kings Langley, Pennant Hills and surrounds.

Venue: The Hall at Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St. Eastwood – monthly meetings, first Saturday from 10am **Next Meetings:** 6 June: **Cancelled**; 4 July: Kate Whittaker, *Elizabeth Fry*; 1 August: AGM, Russell Workman, *Sydney in the 1960s and 1970s*. **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:** 20 June: **Cancelled**, 15 August (Windsor) AGM, TBC. **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 Meeting:** 15 June: **Cancelled**. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 49615083

(from Page 10) work trends, prosperity and poverty, how the people were living, population growth and migration patterns of an ethnically diverse population of Chinese, Indian, German, Danish, Aboriginal, African American, British and Muslim people.

Established as a non-denominational cemetery, Christian and non-Christian, convicts and wealthy, **82 First Fleeters** and hopeful free settlers lie side by side. It is enclosed by a noteworthy, convict-built brick wall which helps to block out traffic noise and lessen the impact of ever larger developments, the latest of which, immediately across the road, is proposed to be over 60 storeys high. Unfortunately,

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:** 13 June: **Cancelled**; 8 August: AGM. **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 Meeting:** 2 August: Venue TBA; AGM. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

Venue: Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 26 July: AGM, **depending on venue availability.** **Contact:** Karla Rojo 66884306

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** 13 June, at Family History Rooms: *Birthdays meeting* ; 8 August: AGM. **Next Events:** **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438465529 for details.

SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

Venue: Scribbled Gum Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto – monthly except Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meetings:** 2 June: **Cancelled**. **Next Events:** **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:** 10 June: **Cancelled**; 12 August: AGM **Possibly postponed** **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 6 June: **Cancelled**; 1 August: AGM **Next Event:** **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the events on this page may 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 20 July 2020

ly, the sight line to St John's Church (now Cathedral) has already been lost to the high rise.

It is significant for its **aesthetic value**, the colour and texture of material and fabric and **scientific value**, the research, rarity and quality of available data. Its **social value** lies in its focus of spiritual and cultural sentiment and its **historic value** embraces the stories of all those buried there. Cemeteries such as this contribute to an understanding of our cultural history, not just NSW but Australia and the world. Overshadowing from a 60-storey development is very worrying.

Judith Dunn, from RAHS eNewsletter 14 May 2020

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DEATHS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members
JAMES SQUIRE/JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER
 #9037 Judith Kathleen Gissing
WILLIAM FRAZER/ELLEN REDCHESTER
 #9043 Bruce Alexander Frazer
EDWARD PUGH/HANNAH SMITH
 #9044 Peter Evan John Londregan
WILLIAM NASH
 #9045 Cheryl Bermingham
 #9046 Ian Williams Bermingham

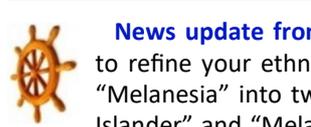
Ordinary and Pensioner Members
RICHARD MORGAN
 #9048 Lynette Vera Burr
 #9049 Leanne Cherie Burr
WILLIAM NASH/MARIA HAYNES
 #9050 Robin Barbara
 #9051 Bronwyn Williams
 #9052 Lauren Williams
Junior Members
EDWARD GOODIN
 #9047 Aubrey Rose Goodin
Associates
 #9044.1 Annette Londregan

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES
#386 Mark Jeffrey Wilkinson, of Lindfield, New South Wales, died on 10.11.2019 at Aspen, Colorado, aged 55. Mark was a founding member of the Fellowship, first joined at the age of 3
EDWARD MILES
#8583 Geoffrey Frederick Piggott, of Bowral, NSW, died on 10.04.2020, aged 92. Geoff was a member of Southern Highlands Chapter. He served in WW2 and Vietnam and then as a Qantas Pilot. He will be missed by his wife Mary and family and his Highlands community.
ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY
#8264 Rodney Leonard Frazer, of Garran, ACT, died on 06.02.2020, aged 84. A 'proud First Fleeter', Rodney first joined the Fellowship in 2013 and was a member of Canberra Chapter.
WILLIAM ROBERTS
#7984 Kenneth Russell Harriott, of Killarney Vale, NSW, died on 27.03.2020 after losing his battle with multiple melanomas. Ken and his wife Heather joined the Fellowship in 2011 and belonged to Central Coast Chapter.
OWEN CAVANOUGH/MARGARET DARNELL
#8318 Neryl Olwyn James, late of Canberra, ACT, formerly of Pymble, New South Wales, died on 18.04.2020, aged 89. Neryl joined the Fellowship in 2014 and had been a member of Arthur Phillip Chapter.
JAMES WILLIAMS
#6549 Robert E Harvey, of Albion Park Rail, NSW, died on 07.05.2020, aged 89, after a long illness. Bob was a founding member of South Coast Chapter and joined the Fellowship in 1996. He is sadly missed by his wife Pam and daughters and also his chapter friends.
HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES
#7350 Gregory John Stephenson, of Murrumba Downs, Qld, and formerly of Newcastle and Papua New Guinea, died on 11.05.2020, aged 77. 'Stevy' had been a member of the Fellowship since 2007.
SAMUEL PIGOTT
#3535 June V Stokes, of Charlestown, formerly Toronto, NSW, died on 14.05.2020, aged 100. June had been a loyal member of the Fellowship since first joining in 1986.
JOHN NICHOLLS
#3705 Shirley Joan Doherty, of Kogarah Bay, NSW, died on 06.11.2019, aged 84. Shirley has been a member of the Fellowship since 1986.

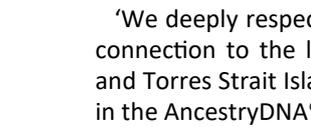
BIRTHS



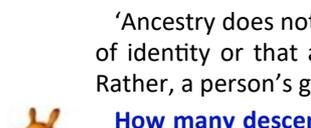
JAMES BRYAN CULLEN
Ryan Coda Atanacio, born on 05.04.2020 at Caringbah to Mymys and Jason Atanacio of Engadine New South Wales, their third child and first son. Ryan is the tenth grandchild and second grandson of #7141/.1 Jon and Karys Fearon of Tascott New South Wales.



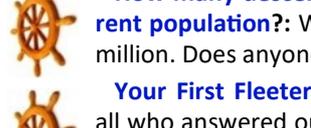
News update from Ancestry.com: 'In this update, we are now able to refine your ethnicity estimate by segmenting the single region of "Melanesia" into two separate regions: "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander" and "Melanesia." For the first time, Ancestry customers will have the ability to see a possible genetic connection with the Indigenous communities of Australia.



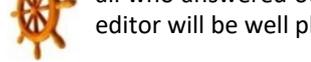
'We deeply respect Indigenous Australians' long, historical, and first connection to the land and we want to help ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage is included, but not misrepresented in the AncestryDNA® product experience.



'Ancestry does not believe that a DNA test is any kind of prescription of identity or that a result should subtract from a person's identity. Rather, a person's genetic makeup is only one part of their story.'



How many descendants of FF Convicts are there in Australia's current population?: We are often asked this and usually suggest about a million. Does anyone have verifiable statistics?



Your First Fleeter stories are being happily received. Thank you to all who answered our call in the last issue. Keep them coming and the editor will be well pleased.

Donations received for First Fleet House Upkeep:
 Arndell C L, Blogg C J, Butler N W, McLean B Y, Moore R C, Morgan H G, Williams, B L.
Thank you for your welcome contributions.

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.

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 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
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 Robin McCarthy 0412 305 501
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 Robyn Condliffe 02 6653 3615
NORTHERN RIVERS
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