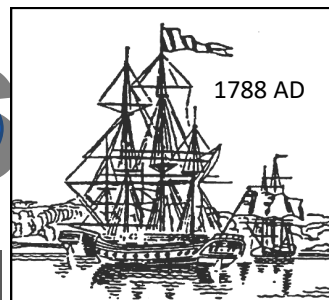


Founders

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

BICENTENNIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED AT LIVERPOOL, NSW.

Although not the earliest of Sydney's burial grounds, **St Lukes, Liverpool** was the focus of the Fellowship's early endeavours to identify the burial sites of First Fleeters and then conduct plaque installation ceremonies. In August 1977 in company with descendants, the Fellowship dedicated headstone plaques there honouring First Fleet-ers **Nathaniel Lucas, Frederick Meredith, William Broughton** and **Ellen Redchestar**.



Details of these ceremonies and the lives commemorated can be found in *Despatched Downunder*, by **Ron Withington**, and on the Fellowship's website under *Gravesite Plaques*.

A new burial ground was established in 1821, known as the 'Old Liverpool Cemetery' and it was operational until 1894. After extensive landscaping in the 1970s it is now known as **Liverpool Pioneers' Memorial Park** and has been carefully tended by the Council ever since.

President **Jon Fearon** and **Karys** were honoured to be invited to represent the Fellowship at the park on Tuesday 27 April when **Mayor Wendy Waller** unveiled a new plaque to commemorate the cemetery's 200th Anniversary.

The ceremony was ably conducted by **Major Simon Stanton** who called on **Uncle Tony Scholes** (Dharug-

Cabrigal clan) to acknowledge country. Tony Scholes also commented that many servicemen and indigenous community members are part of the park's cultural heritage.

President Jon was called on to briefly explain the significance of the park to the Fellowship. He mentioned the four other First Fleet-ers also buried there but for whom there are no head stones: **John and Ann (nee Read) Drummond, Elizabeth Hall** and **James Price**.

Mayor Waller gave the opening address, outlining the history of the park, its first burial, a Casula farmer, and mentioned other notables buried there, including pioneer **James Badgery**. She said Council's heritage team is currently searching for the sites of 44 servicemen buried there in unmarked graves. She welcomed descendants of early pioneers present at the ceremony, and then called on **Pastor Stuart Pearson** (St Lukes) to lead in prayer. He did so, thanking God that the park, a vital link to our past, would always remain a place of rest. **(to page 3)**



Major Stanton lays a white rose and gives a military salute in honour of Frederick and Sarah Meredith

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.*

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PRESIDENT'S PEN



Welcome to the Cruise Issue. As well as the account of the short cruise on the tall ship *Soren Larsen* organised by the Sydney-Portsmouth Committee we have included reports from two chapters, Hawkesbury-Nepean and Central Coast celebrating the departure of the Fleet back in 1787. We know that Hunter Valley and Botany Bay chapters were also out cruising and South Coast lunched together at a Yacht Club.

It's good to know that many chapters are including the 13 May Sailing of the Fleet in their annual programmes and this is to be recommended. After all, such a commemoration really belongs to us all as First Fleeters and should remain safe from those who want to cancel culture in the name of political correctness.

Keep warm, and don't forget to have your vaccinations.

Jon



POSITIONS VACANT~ FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

1. TREASURER and 2. FINANCIAL BOOKKEEPER

After 14 years of amazing volunteer service our treasurer **Kevin Thomas** will be retiring from this important role in October 2021. He has offered to train his successor(s) between now and then, so the Directors are keen to see the positions filled to allow a smooth changeover. Kevin has held both roles concurrently but the skills needed would ideally best be shared, the Treasurer as an experienced **Chartered Accountant** to prepare monthly and annual financial statements, and an experienced **Bookkeeper** to look after day to day finances.

Kevin's email is kevthomas_ranger@hotmail.com and he is keen to hear from you and explain the roles.

BABY THOMAS DAVENEY'S HEADSTONE

This headstone is one of the very earliest to be found in St John's Cemetery, Parramatta. Its small size is shown below, where it adjoins the gravestone of FF Henry Dodd, who was buried in 1791.

It reads: **In Memory
of
Thos Daveny
Who died Decebr 1791
In infancy**

*Go to page 8 in this issue where you can
read the full story of First Fleeter, Able
Seaman Thomas Daveny, HMS Sirius.*



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(from page 1) Major Stanton then gave a short keynote address, his topic *Frederick Merideth, his Life and Times*, chosen because Major Stanton's wife descends from FF Frederick. The research for the talk was not specifically based on the Fellowship's resources but the Major mentioned the heights reached in local office by Meredith as Senior Constable despite his somewhat chequered earlier career.

The Mayor then unveiled the anniversary plaque to a musical accompaniment of guitar-led colonial songs and Rev Pearson gave a prayer of dedication. The formal ceremony ended with the singing of the national anthem led by a small choir from



Liverpool Public School, (pictured below).

The public was then invited to take a white rose and place it on their ancestor's grave while all shared in a delicious midday repast provided by Council. Karys and Jon, after putting roses on the Redchester and Broughton headstones, showed Major Stanton the Meredith grave and he was pleased to lay the rose there on his wife's behalf.

Karys was very pleased to lay a rose at the obelisk on her great grandfather's Thomas Hall's grave. He wasn't a first Fleeter, but his older brother William married one, a **Rope and Pulley** descendant. A fitting conclusion to a successful event.

WJF

HAWKESBURY~NEPEAN and CENTRAL COAST CHAPTERS GO A~CRUISING

1 ON THE NEPEAN

On 20/5/21 we (**Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter**) celebrated a double event with a cruise aboard the *Nepean Belle* on the Nepean River at Penrith. Of course, the main reason was the sailing of the First Fleet from Portsmouth on 13th May 1787. We also noted that on the 20th May of that year, the *HMS Hyæna* left the fleet off the Scilly Islands with dispatches, the last contact with England. We also celebrated our 6th Anniversary as a Chapter (9th May 2015) and had 26 in attendance.

Our first President, **Sharon Lamb** was in attendance along with other foundation officers and committee members, namely, **Pamela Hempel**, **William Hempel**, and **Heather Threlfall**. We had a beautiful day with a lovely luncheon provided by the *Nepean Belle* staff a special recognition of the day by William Hempel, a trivia quiz

by **David Moore** and a poem by **Suzanne Shaw**. An entertaining day with lovely fellowship enjoyed by all on a beautiful sunny afternoon aboard the *Belle*.

WH

2 ON BRISBANE WATER

Six members of **Central Coast Chapter** took the 'cruising -lite' option on 12 May and took the Woy Woy ferry to Davistown Central wharf on yet another beautiful autumn day. Our ancestors would have appreciated such still waters back in 1787, and a journey of 25 minutes instead of eight months.

A short walk took us to Davistown RSL, a well-known mecca for its lunchtime menu and picturesque setting, where the food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

WJF

They've had their lunch...



So have they...



But where's ours?



FROM FARM COVE TO PORTSMOUTH ON THE SOREN LARSEN

Is this another cruise? Well, not quite! The medium was Zoom, and not the open seas. This is how it happened:

For many years, on or near 13 May, the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee has hosted a reception at Sydney Town Hall to commemorate the Sailing of the First Fleet in 1787. With the Town Hall closed due to Covid-19, both last year and this, the Committee put on their creative thinking caps, and decided to honour the day on board the tall ship *Soren Larsen* with a short cruise on Sydney Harbour.

Because the vessel had been the flagship of the 1988 Re-enactment of the First Fleet Journey, those who had sailed on her or one of the other ships back in our Bicentennial year were encouraged to take part on 13 May this year. Of course, as usual, Fellowship members were there in numbers to celebrate their ancestors and enjoy the festivities with our reuniting modern sailors.

Full credit must go to the chief organiser of the event, **Roger Fyfe**, who had himself sailed on *Bounty* in 1988. The whole evening, from boarding at Campbells Cove at 15:00 to the post-cruise coffee and cake at the adjoining café, *6 Head-1788* at 2030, was apparently the brainchild of Roger, who under the guidance of the crew, ran a tight ship for the event and endeavoured to keep proceedings moving along as close to schedule as possible.

The formal part of the evening took place nearby at anchor in Farm Cove after a short 5 minute voyage. En route the guests mingled happily and were served champagne and delicious nibbles. The Cove had been chosen as it was the spot where the re-enactment fleet anchored after their 1987-1988 voyage.

A time of reminiscence, anecdotes and speechifying on the foredeck in the calm was introduced by the Committee's **Richard Tanner** who called on **Peter Manthorpe** to acknowledge country and **Peter Poland** who spoke of his time in Portsmouth before sailing to Sydney in 1987. The whole evening was 'zoomed' online across the world and included a message from the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth.

The theme chosen this year was "The lessons/relevance of First Fleet Re-enactment and First

Fleeter Resilience in times of Pandemic', and the two guest speakers kept to the theme. **Jonathan King**, whose foresight and persistence led to the successful voyage, spoke meaningfully about the issues that had to be overcome before sailing and at sea thirty years ago. Particularly significant for him was coping with the loss of one of his sailors in an Indian Ocean storm.

As well as showing meaningful articles that he had gathered at the time of his voyage and since, such as the badge of the current HMS *Sirius*, Jonathan called on **Helen Pochojka** who was the nursing director for the re-enactment and together they shared their memories of the voyage. Their need for resilience at the time was very much apparent in the items and activities chosen to talk about. We listeners were encouraged to deal with the outcomes of the pandemic for ourselves just as Australia's aboriginal leaders had done in 1988 when throwing their support behind Jonathan's whole venture.

Richard Tanner then briefly outlined the ongoing Sydney-Portsmouth connection before calling on the second speaker, Fellowship President **Jon Fearon**, to continue the evening's theme with his prepared address. [Note, the full text of this talk, which was well received, can be found on Page 6 of this issue].

The two Jonathans then thanked each other for their part in proceedings and Roger Fyfe read the warm greetings from the Sydney Lord Mayor, **Clover Moore**.

All on board were then invited to enjoy the appetising meal served from the ship's galley and share fellowship both above and below decks as the crew raised the anchor and prepared for cruising on the picturesque harbour by night. The square-rigged sails were unfurled, but alas were no match for the dead calm, so we happily motored down and up the harbour and returned to the Cove to gather for coffee and cake to conclude a wonderful occasion. **WJF**

[Ed: Roger has apologised to our readers and would-be viewers that the Zoom connection for Australian observers was incorrect and the planned link lost. However he has advised that the full video of the event will soon be available and that a transcript of all addresses is being prepared]

President Jon Fearon addressing his cruising companions. [Photo, Jennifer Lees]



PORT PHILLIP CHAPTER HOLDS ITS SECOND MEMBERS' MEETING

Secretary Geoff Rundell reporting:

Members of the Port Phillip Chapter were invited to a luncheon held on 17 April at the Waverley RSL. The luncheon was attended by twenty members, its purpose to give members the opportunity to meet the Port Phillip committee and other members.

Each Member was welcomed by a committee member. There was a short period for members to mix and meet each other. Members were then invited to sit at tables that accommodated six to 10 people.



Following lodging food and drink orders, all were formally welcomed by the Chapter President Chapter, **Mr Chris Norton** who then introduced the members of the Committee. He noted that the Port Phillip Chapter is new and the committee welcomes ideas for activities and events of interest to members.

Each of those present was invited to describe their ancestors to the meeting, and some members found their ancestors shared the same ships in the First Fleet. Members described their interest in the First Fleet as being re-

cent, discovering their heritage as a surprise, but being proud of their First Fleet ancestors.

The members requested that some meetings be held in the Kew/Ivanhoe area where a number of older members reside. Another request was to hear from speakers who



are knowledgeable tracing their ancestors, particularly using genealogy websites and libraries. The Port Phillip Chapter notes these requests and is actively investigating new venues and guest speakers for later this year.

Members enjoyed participating in a door prize and buying tickets for prizes that included a scented candle and bottles of wine with labels that were reminiscent of the First Fleet and the hard times when being transported.

The Port Phillip Chapter thanks the members for their attendance and looks forward to another good turnout at the next members meeting at midday 17 July 2021 at the Mail Exchange Hotel, 688 Bourke Street, Melbourne. The guest speaker at that meeting will be **Ms Tarina Fanning**, a proud Larrakia/Tiwi who will speak about a perspective from a First Nations descendent. Tarina is Principal Consultant of the Aboriginal Consultancy Training Services.

OFF TO WAGGA WITH ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT CHAPTER

Albury-Wodonga Chapter has members living in Wagga Wagga and as a promotion for the FFF we decided to conduct our regular monthly meeting in that city.

Geoff Burch as President of WWHS was approached to attend as guest speaker. Geoff's slide presentation covered the history of Wagga from the time the first settlement 1837 appeared on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. He told of the super large runs that were quickly formed by squatters, some properties today are still owned by relatives of the first settlers.

Seven members from Albury Wodonga travelled to Wagga early Saturday morning for a 10.30 coffee and start up. Seventeen persons were in attendance, two of whom were first fleet descendants, and one then gave a short presentation of his family history. Meeting concluded at 12.00 noon, lunch was taken in the Wagga Rules Club by most of the attendees. We were then attended by both Reporter & photographer from the Wagga



Daily Advertiser. Three of our members were interviewed concerning their family history.

A big thank you goes to Wagga members **Denis and Jeannette Adams** for their work in setting up the meeting.

The AW group finished the day by visiting a National glass display at

the local museum and also the *Huthwaits General Store* display in the old council chambers, and then went on to visit to the Annual Rotary Book Fair at the showgrounds.

Since the published article I have been forwarded information of two people claiming to be descended from first fleet arrivals, which we will follow up. I have also had a request from a local school to attend, so the FFF slide presentation will be shown.

Our chapter is looking at the feasibility of conducting a meeting in Wangaratta some time in the future.

PG

[ED: Congratulations AWD on some excellent PR]

FIRST FLEETER RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

An Address given by President Jon Fearon on the occasion of the 234th Anniversary of the Sailing of the First Fleet, organised by the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee on Board *Soren Larsen*, Sydney Harbour, 12.05.2021.

I have always been interested in words and when I saw *resile* in the newspaper a year or two ago I realised it was new to me, so I looked it up! Of course, a word from science, 'to bounce back' and the root of resilience, the latter now applied more commonly to the human kind. As one dictionary puts it: 'people and things that are resilient are able to recover easily and quickly from unpleasant or damaging events'.

The Fellowship's former patron, **Dame Marie Bashir**, always talked of the resilience of the First Fleeters, so this led to some deeper investigation, not only in general terms but specifically for this address, some reflections on our ancestors and how they coped with their somewhat unpleasant and even damaging years in their new settlement and beyond.

The scope is enormous, given that there would be nearly 1500 case studies to draw on, so I limited myself to a focus on some of the first settlers in the Hawkesbury-Nepean area of New South Wales, *Dyarubbin*, *The River* as it was known by its original inhabitants. I can recommend three excellent histories that I used for background reading: 1) *Hawkesbury Settlement Revealed* by **Jan Barkley-Jack** (2009), 2) *In for the Long Haul* by **Annegret Hall** (2018) and 3) *People of the River* by **Grace Karskens** (2020).

In looking back, I was greatly encouraged to read how those early families were able to bounce back with their lives, something that the late **Duke of Edinburgh** is known to have termed 'getting back into it, no matter what'. And moving down through the generations, to our present-day descendants, we 'first fleeters' are still showing resilience, coping with pandemic restrictions (both individually and collectively) with zeal and creativity.

I have identified seven areas in those early years, each of which shows significant forms of resilience. They are families, farming, friendship, fellowship, flood-mindedness, faith and finances. The highlights of each will be outlined in that order.

Families are, first and foremost, based on intimacy and warmth. They were the backbone of colonial society and not a representation of a cold and barren criminal subculture. The children amazed visitors in those early years and reports were full of stories about children – their flourishing numbers, sturdiness and good health. The name 'cornstalks' was given to the currency children who were so much taller than their ex-convict parents. Large families, an indicator of fertility, were a matter of great pride and showed optimism for the future and no shortage of

farm workers from within. First Fleeters **James Ruse** and **Matthew Everingham** are on record crediting their farming success to their much loved yet hard-working wives.

That leads me into the second aspect, **Farming**, the mainstay of local livelihood in those early years and the success of which, despite setbacks from flood and famine, lay within the rich soils of the area and some of which no doubt discovered by trial and error through the first seasons. Colonial Secretary **David Collins** had foreseen only failure from Hawkesbury agriculture but in this he was wrong. Often, on holdings as small as thirty acres, the land yielded well through hard work, and descendants of many of those early farming families still continued on farming into the 20th century. First Fleeters **Anthony** and **Elizabeth Rope** often chose to relocate their agricultural skills onto better land, on occasion preferring to rent, rather than purchasing more property for themselves. With the help of their children and hired labourers they became the 'quintessential pioneering settlers who saved the colony from starvation and abandonment'. Wise decisions by those in authority also made for farming success. This could be seen for example when **Governor King** allocated higher ground as common land so that more animal husbandry could lead to diversification and therefore improved quality of life for farming families.

Friendship and friendliness were the hallmarks of early Hawkesbury communities. Many families, as well as being linked by the marriages of their offspring, enjoyed personal links back to their months on the Fleet itself and during convict work duties before gaining their tickets of leave. Hospitality was widely practised and visitors remarked at the unstinting friendliness and generosity shown to all. Food, drink and conversation were always there for sharing. The poor and needy were made welcome when times were hard and this benevolence reached out to the indigenous community whose lands and hunting grounds had been swallowed up by farms.

Linked to this friendliness was the sense of **Fellowship**. This could be seen throughout the communities, particularly in their collective enjoyment of everyday pleasures. As well as regular convivial gatherings in the many small pubs in the area, there were also entertainments of a more official nature. The Emu Plains Theatre, 'a convict theatre in the wilds' according to **Sir John Jamison** of Regentville, was a great drawcard for about ten years and productions were semi-professional, with the theatre equipped with stage machinery, curtains, painted scenery and lighting. Gambling was very popular and many were willing to risk their finances in order to cancel out losses from flood and poor harvests. First Fleeters **James** and **Elizabeth Ruse's** house at the Green Hills was a favourite gambling site in the 1790s.

Horse racing was popular and while it was usually organised by 'officers and gentlemen', the race days at the Killarney Course brought out all classes. They enjoyed not only the races but also the refreshment booths, Punch and Judy, the conjurors and other attractions – all the fun of the fair.

Flood-mindedness loomed large in all parts of Dyarubbin, the river and valley. After all, to farm on a flood plain with its rich soils is always a risky business. There were about forty floods in the space of about forty years and some of them came in quick succession. In fact there were four in one year, 1806, a real test of resilience for those prepared to stay! The indigenous people were long accustomed to floods, telling Governor King about a great flood that swept people out of the tops of trees in 1780 and another in 1788. La Nina was doing her work in those days as well, although to the locals their flooded homelands were the work of Gurangatty, the Eel Serpent. Early colonists were environmentally observant and they learnt fast, having ignored the early warnings of their aboriginal friends that the floods were coming. Settlers lived with the floods and often needed to be rescued under magisterial guidance from their rooftops by friends and neighbours in boats. At times stream overflows carried away animals, people, houses and crops. Women and children were particularly vulnerable in some of the more remote areas, but survive they did and returned to their land with their families to re-sow, rebuild and get on with their lives. Anthony and Elizabeth Rope, after the 1795 flood and rooftop rescue at South Creek in which they lost crops and pigs, set about recovering as much as they could, rebuilding their slab hut, the whole family pitching in and keeping alert for snakes and they worked. The new silt would be perfect for replanting. This was resilience writ large. So too was the quaintly named Windsor Pub, *'the Dove with the Olive Leaf after the Flood'*.

Despite widespread early criticism of the community's wild and godless living, it was their **Faith**, the mainstay of many of the early settler families, that held them to their land and the community itself. Family burial grounds were sacred in the days before churches appeared. Parsons preached in public buildings and private houses and priests baptised babies in farmhouses. The tradition of religious rites, well known in the old country, came with the settlers and adhering to them gave them a sense of belonging and the assurance of God's approval. Visits by missionaries strengthened the faith of many families and particularly in the aftermath of floods their meetings in the earliest chapels and churches set the standard for the following generations. The aboriginal communities continued to maintain their spiritual connection to land throughout the early colonial period. Their songs from before 1788 continued to be sung, their rock art was constantly maintained and embellished and male and female initiation ceremonies relating to traditional law continued well into the 19th century. The spiritual places were maintained and

eventually were dedicated as national parks and those who practised their own faith rituals gave continuity to families who went on living in those areas until today.

The final area of resilience is in **Finances**. The early settlers knew that kind of hardship when floods carried away their harvestable crop and all hope of payment since they needed funds to plant again. Many of them had to cope with permanent debt and the likelihood of losing their holdings. It was good that the government gave flood victims financial support but not so when offers to purchase produce by military men were insufficient or even denied. Anthony Rope kept a close eye on his family finances and led other settlers to strike better deals when selling much needed farm produce. Benevolent societies were able to assist those whose holdings were barely enough for subsistence. The buying and selling of land usually enabled more lasting stability and although most farms remained small, some emancipists such as First Fleeter **John Stockdale** extended his holdings by purchasing neighbouring allotments up to 22 in all, thus allowing his produce to be transported by road as well as river. Not all, however, like First Fleeter **Samuel Piggott** were willing to sell, even to counteract flood losses, and Pickett himself held out against all offers until his death.

That was then, and so it is still! There are definite pandemic equivalents of our seven chosen areas of resilience that can be found in our societies today and that parity could be the subject of discussion to follow on from this paper. We don't have time on this occasion to take these ideas further, but I would suggest that they would certainly be worth doing.

In my own First Fleeter family, I see that resilience all the time – perhaps something passed down through the generations. Two of our sons have had to face serious lockdown and/or quarantine and have come up with strategies to make them manageable. Throughout months of lockdown in Europe one son is desperately missing the social interaction that is an essential part of his persona. So, what has he been doing as he says to bolster his mental health? – cooking and gardening and sharing his successes, on-line only, with all the family. His older brother, a pilot and fleet manager has had to adapt to months of quarantine both in his work country, Papua New Guinea, and his home country, Australia. His regular weekly commute to work in PNG and home to Cairns each weekend has been scuttled. Now it's three weeks work in PNG, back to Cairns for two weeks hotel quarantine for a fortnight and then one week at home. Then off to PNG to quarantine for a fortnight before another three weeks work. For an active outdoorsman and extreme sports aficionado, running around a tiny hotel balcony to keep fit certainly has its challenges. Yet, while isolated, he can still keep his happy disposition and he humours his own and the wider family on-line. In a pandemic technology, it would seem, brings out the needed resilience.

(to page 12)

THE TRAGIC LIFE OF THOMAS DAVENY

Thomas Daveny, also known as Thomas Daveney was baptised 25 July 1760 at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England, his parents being **Martha Willet** and **James Daveny** who had married 16 October 1758 at High Wycombe.

Thomas Daveny was an able seaman on *HMS Sirius* in the First Fleet. He joined the crew on 30 December 1786, aged 27. After the fleet arrived in New South Wales in 1788, he was appointed superintendent of artificers.

Thomas made his will on 10 March 1791: beneficiaries were his 'beloved sisters **Sarah, Martha, Ann** and **Susanah Daveny** late of High Wycombe in the county of Bucks'. The will was witnessed by **Captain John Hunter** and purser **John Palmer**. He was appointed superintendent of convicts at Toongabbie in April 1791.

On 17 July 1791 he married convict **Catherine Hounsum** (Second Fleet, *Lady Juliana*) at Parramatta. Thomas signed 'Thomas Daveny' in the register with a clear and confident signature. Thomas and Catherine's son **Thomas** was born in November 1791, but died two weeks later. He was buried 25 November and his headstone is in St John's Cemetery, Parramatta. The death of her baby may have affected Catherine's mind (Judge-Advocate **David Collins** later described her as becoming 'deranged in her intellects'). There is no record of their having other children. The death of his son may have affected Thomas as well. He was a heavy drinker, possibly made worse from the moral compromise he had to face when having to force the men to work under harsh conditions.

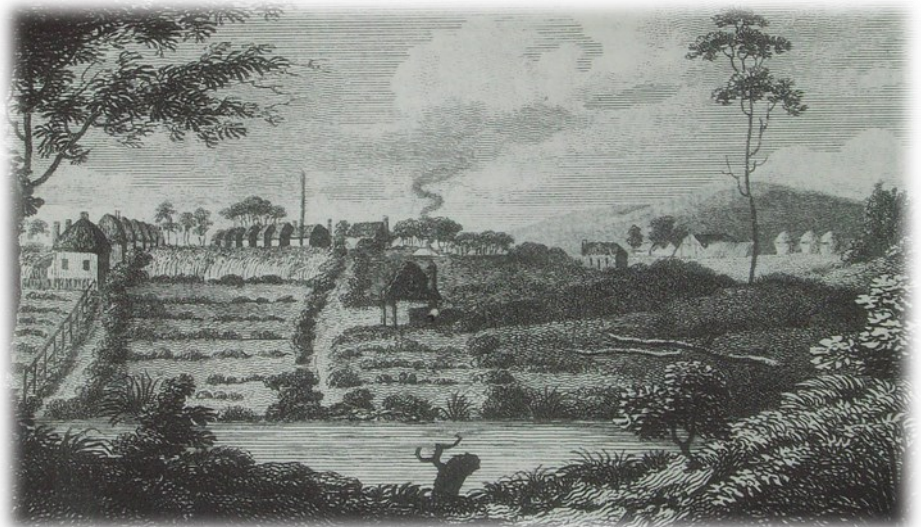
Captain Watkin Tench wrote that 200 acres of forest at Toongabbie had been cleared in six weeks, the convicts working thirty days during that time. On 5 December 1791, Thomas Daveny was visited by Tench. Daveny told him that as it was too late to plant maize on the newly cleared ground, he would plant turnips 'which would help to meliorate and prepare it for next year'. He said that of the five hundred men employed there, forty of them 'are either sick, and removed to the hospital, or are run away in the woods'.

Daveny said that each labourer was expected to work seven rods daily, 'it was eight; but on their representing to the governor that it was beyond their strength to execute, he took off one' - this demonstrated that the convicts were able to communicate with **Governor Phillip**. Tench wrote that 'thirteen large huts ... contain all the people there. To every hut are appointed two men, as hut-keepers, whose only employment is to

watch the huts in working hours, to prevent them from being robbed. This has somewhat prevented depredations, and those endless complaints of the convicts, that they could not work, because they had nothing to eat, their allowance being stolen. - The working hours at this season (summer) are from five o'clock in the morning until ten; rest from ten to two; return to work at two, and continue till sunset. This surely cannot be called very severe toil: but on the other hand must be remembered the inadequacy of a ration of salt provisions, with few vegetables, and unassisted by any liquor but water'.

Punishments for stealing food were severe, with Judge-Advocate David Collins and the bench of magistrates sentencing miscreants to floggings of 100 lashes or more. In January 1792 Judge-Advocate David Collins, **Reverend Mr Johnson**, and **Mr Alt**, the surveyor-general were sitting on the bench when **John Davis** was charged with stealing corn from the Government farm and a melon from Thomas Daveny's garden. Davis was sentenced to 100 lashes for stealing, and another convict 100 lashes for suppressing evidence.

By the end of 1792, 700 acres were cleared at Toongabbie: over 500 planted with maize, seventeen with wheat, and fourteen with barley. Governor Phillip was pleased with superintendent Thomas Daveny's work at Toongabbie and in October 1792 wrote to London that he was 'a most useful man' and asked for permission to grant



Toongabbie seen from the east across the creek: Convict settlement is on the left; Superintendent Daveny's house, stores and stooked wheat are on the right.

to Daveny 'a greater quantity of land than he is empowered to grant to the non-commissioned officers, and some of the land to be cleared for him at the public expense'. Phillip left soon after writing the letter, and **Major Grose** became Lieutenant-Governor at the end of December. He appointed **John Macarthur** director of public works at Parramatta and Toongabbie.

However, two years later, in 1794 the colony still relied on imported food. Thomas Daveny wrote to a friend in England:

‘On the 8th of March, at eleven o'clock in the morning, the last ounce of animal food then in store was actually issued to all ranks and descriptions of people alike, and nothing but absolute famine stared us in the face; the labour of the convicts was remitted, and everyone seemed to despond, when, in the evening of the same day, the *William* arrived from London, and a ship from Bengal, loaded with provisions.

One morning in April 1794 the watchmen (‘constables’) who were tasked with guarding the cornfields drove off about twelve ‘natives’ who were raiding the corn, but a greater number, about twenty, returned in the evening, and began filling their bags. When the constables endeavoured to drive them away, ‘they turned on them, threw some spears’, and were pursued by the watchmen who killed two or three of them. The watchmen had probably overextended their roles in pursuing them, and it is not known how Daveny reacted to their behaviour. In a macabre postscript the watchmen bought back one of the heads of the Aboriginal warriors, apparently because their stories of being raided had been doubted previously.

Thomas Daveny had received a land grant of 100 acres at Toongabbie, registered in April 1794. He wrote in his letter on 1 July:

‘This place is situated eighteen miles inland from Sydney Cove. I thank God we live at present in a state of ease and tranquillity, having a plentiful supply of every necessary from England, the East Indies, and America. ... At present everything bears the appearance of plenty, there being about 2,000 acres of wheat. I am now a farmer in my own right, having a grant of 100 acres of fine land well watered and in good cultivation. I have 100 head of fine goats, and am hopeful by Christmas to have both horses, cows and sheep. I have this season returned to His Majesty's stores 1514 bushels of Indian corn at 5s. per bushel, and have now upwards of 1000 bushels on the farm, in order to pay for men's labour in building a dwelling house, barns, out-houses, etc. I have likewise purchased a farm called Egleton's containing sixty acres of land, felled and cleared, for which I paid sixty guineas and am going to sow the whole with millet. Upwards of 4,000 acres of land being cleared, thunder and lightning are by no means as violent as before. There are nearly 300 convicts whose term of transportation is expired, and who live by their labour. I have six of these men employed on my farm at taskwork, who earn from 18s. to a guinea per week, so that no settler is at loss for men to perform his work. I am well persuaded that trade will soon be established between America, Batavia, Bengal, and the Cape of Good Hope, as this place will at all times take off the

entire cargoes of provisions and liquors. Goats thrive better than sheep here and fetch seven to ten pounds each”.

Daveny had to appear in court on 25 October 1794 when **William Joyce** the Chief Watchman at Toongabbie tried to sue him for damages when Joyce's jaw was broken, during a fracas triggered by a brawl with **John Love** a private in the NSW Corps. Daveny had intervened on behalf of the Corps. Joyce and Daveny ‘entered into a compromise’ out of court.

About 1795 Daveny was dismissed from his position as superintendent. The only reason for this is in a footnote in a list of superintendents: ‘Thomas Daveney has been removed from his situation for drunken and irregular behaviour, and on suspicion of having stolen the wheat belonging to Government.’ David Collins wrote in his book, that he ‘had been suspected of having improperly and tyrannically abused the confidence which he had enjoyed under Governor Phillip’.

The positive outlook in the previous year's letter was now replaced by despondency, as Daveny went on a drinking binge. As it happens, Judge-Advocate Collins became involved as a witness to Daveny's plight. Collins wrote;

‘[His] conduct was represented to the lieutenant-governor in such a light, that he dismissed him from his situation, and he retired to a farm which he had at Toongabbie. He had been always addicted to the use of spirituous liquors; but he now applied himself more closely to them, to drown the recollection of his disgrace. In this vice he continued until the 3rd of May last, on which day he came to Sydney in a state of insanity. He went to the house of a friend in the town, determined, it seemed, to destroy himself; for he there drank, unknown to the people of the house, as fast as he could swallow, nearly half a gallon of Cape brandy. He fell directly upon the floor of the room he was in (which happened to be of brick) where the people, thinking nothing worse than intoxication had ailed him, suffered him to lie for ten or twelve hours; in consequence he was seized with a violent inflammation which broke out on the arm, and that part of the body which lay next to the ground; to this, after suppuration had taken place, and several operations had been performed to remove the pus, a mortification succeeded, and at last carried him off on the 3rd of July. A few hours before his death he requested to see the judge-advocate [Collins], to whom he declared, that it had been told him that he had been suspected of having improperly and tyrannically abused the confidence which he had enjoyed under Governor Phillip; but that he could safely declare as he was shortly to appear the last tribunal, that nothing lay on his conscience which would make the last moments in this life painful’.

(to page 10)

(from page 9) Thomas Daveny was buried at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta on 11 July 1795. There is no surviving gravestone, and he is probably buried near his son Thomas's grave which is next to the grave of Superintendent **Henry Dodd** (*HMS Sirius*, First Fleet).

After he died, Daveny's 'flock of goats, consisting of eighty-six males and females, [was] sold by public auction for three hundred and fifty-seven pounds fifteen shillings'. Collins wrote that Daveny's widow Catherine 'had for several years been deranged in her intellects'. However, Catherine continued to run the farm after her husband's death, and four years later Collins gave her as an example of a successful Parramatta farmer in 1799, with fifty acres in wheat and twenty-three in maize.

As superintendent of convicts at Toongabbie, Thomas Daveny had a difficult job to do at a time when food was short, and land had to be cleared and planted as quickly as possible. An educated man, his letter shows that he had compassion when he allowed his convict labourers to stop working when the last of the meat stores had been used early in 1794. He was proud of his achievements in the production of agriculture both at the Government land

and his own farm at Toongabbie. Governor Phillip had been pleased with Thomas Daveny and had told him he would get approval from London to clear some of his land 'at the public expense'. Phillip left soon after making this request and it is not known if it was granted. He was accused of stealing wheat from the Government Farm - was it a misunderstanding stemming from Daveny's perceived special privilege? David Collins showed some sympathy towards Daveny after his drinking bout and resultant infection which eventually killed him. In his book, Collins wrote in detail about Daveny's death and his death-bed assertion that he had done no wrong.

Written by #Friend 194, Heather Stevens, who states: My ancestor, John O'Hara/ O'Harra, a Second Fleet convict (Neptune 1790) was a witness at the trial of John Davis in 1792. In 1797 Catherine Daveny was a witness to the marriage of John O'Hara and Third Fleet convict Mary Jones (Mary Ann 1791). Thomas and Catherine Daveny's baby Thomas is buried near John O'Hara's grave in St John's Cemetery, Parramatta.

Sources can be seen at: WikiTree contributors, "Thomas Daveny (c. 1760 - 1795)", manager Heather Stevens, WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Daveny-4&public=1> (accessed September 2020)

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVE ~ A BOOK REVIEW FROM 1937

The Pioneers of Sydney Cove

The SAG's first President, Herbert John Rumsey, self-published *The Pioneers of Sydney Cove*, a list and biographical notes of all the First Fleeters.

Below is a condensed review.

Interesting Record Published

....His object, he says, was to preserve in a more permanent way 'the names of those who were really responsible by their labors for laying the foundation of what is now the great city of Sydney.'

And a very interesting list it is. Mr. Rumsey, in addition to the mere roll call of the First Fleet, has supplemented the names with biographical notes, some very brief, some fuller

It is fascinating to discover one's own name among the list, and to speculate whether the person named might have been a relative or an ancestor.

Some of the biographical information supplied is distinctly novel. There is the marine, who, for neglect of duty, had his rum allowance stopped for some days; the licensed gamekeeper, who was 'entitled to go out into the woods with arms,' and the man, who, after having been confined on Pinchgut¹ was 'not in a fit state of mind to stand his trial on a charge of having stolen provisions.'

The book has been beautifully printed by Ernest H. Shea, at Sunnybrook, Mosman, from special type, handset, and on special paper. It is a splendid specimen of the printer's art. There are drawings of the Fleet entering Sydney Harbor, and Sydney Cove in 1788, by James Emery, and vignettes illustrating the infant colony, by Miss Elva Jones, done from contemporary prints.¹

THE PIONEERS OF SYDNEY COVE

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INGRAM, Benjamin.—*Scarborough*, London. Went to Norfolk Island by the *Kitty*. Sent there for housebreaking in September, 1792. Collins says "A convict named Benjamin Ingraham put an end to his life in March, 1795."

IRVING (or Irvine), John.—*Scarborough*, Lincoln. During the ship's voyage out he was transferred to the *Lady Penrhyn*. He was emancipated for his meritorious behaviour, and sent to Norfolk Island to work under the surgeon. "He was bred to surgery, and I hope" (writes Governor Phillip) "will be thought to merit the moiety of an assistant-surgeon's appointment from his emancipation." He was at Parramatta, and had 11 acres under cultivation, in 1792. His grant was next to Webb's. A house was built for him at Parramatta in 1792. Irving died on 3rd September, 1795, two days before Hunter's arrival. Was also known as Anderson and Law.



JACKSON, Hannah.—*Charlotte*, Bristol. Born 1758. Married Joseph Dunnage, living at Richmond, 1828.

JACKSON, Jane.—*Lady Penrhyn*, London, Middlesex. Also known as Esther Roberts.

JACKSON, Mary.—*Lady Penrhyn*, London, Middlesex.

JACKSON, Thomas.—*Sirius*, Marine. He was later a file-cutter on Public Works. Had his rum ration stopped for neglect of duty, 7th-8th December, 1787.

JACOBS, David.—*Scarborough*, London. Off the Government Stores, 20th October, 1795.

JACOBS, John.—*Scarborough*, Middlesex.

JAMIESON, James.—*Friendship*. Was the Superintendent of Stores at Parramatta and Toongabbie in 1798.

Above and below pages from The Pioneers of Sydney Cove

OUR CHAPTERS IN ACTION

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

Venue: usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, (Covid conditions apply), monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.30 am. **Next Meeting:** 19 June: Speaker. *TBA*. **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:** 18 June: Judith Dunn, *Then and There, Lying Dead*; 16 July: AGM; 20 August: Greg de Moore, *Finding Sanity*. **Next Events:** **10 June:** Tour of Hyde Park Barracks; 13 August: 11th Birthday Luncheon at Hornsby RSL. **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:** 15 June: Sharon Lamb, *Topic TBA*; 17 August: AGM. **Next Event:** 20 July: Outing, *TBA*. **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415376434

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. . Ken and Jan Heldon and Paul Kable represented the Canberra Chapter at the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee event on 13th May. **Next Meeting:** The AGM and afternoon tea will be held at 2pm on Saturday 17th July at Unit 1222, 240 Bunda Street, Canberra City ACT 2601 - please contact Toni for further details. **Contact:** Toni Pike 041 041 2778

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 Meeting:** 12 June: Members, *A Leaf from my Tree*, and 15th Birthday Lunch at Gosford RSL; 10 July: AGM, Geoff Potter, *The Milligan family of Woy Woy* (TBC); 14 August, Speaker and *Topic TBA*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meeting:** **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:** 5 June: Rob Shipton, *Navigation Part 2*; 3 July: John Oakes, *Earliest Days of Railways*; 7 August: Cate Whittaker, *Elizabeth Fry*. **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:** 19 June, at Windsor: Geoff Stuart, *Secrets in Stone*; 21 August, at Windsor: AGM, John Lanser, *The Sinking of the Dunbar*. **Next Event:** September: Possible tour to Medlow Bath and Katoomba, date and details TBC. **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:** 21 June: Trudi Musgrave Edwards, *Life as a Professional Tennis Player* (Lunch to follow, venue TBA); 16 August: Lawrie Henderson, *The Cutty Sark*. **Next Event:** *TBA*. **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:** **Next Event:** **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. **Covid-19 restrictions will be strictly monitored and implemented.** **Next Meetings:** 12 June: Robert McCallister, *QWHA*; 14 August: AGM. **Next Events:** **Contact:** Robin McCarthy 0412305501

NORTH COAST – Nambucca Heads, Dorrigo, Boambee, Coffs Harbour to McLean.

Venue: Either Mylestom Hall or Coramba Hall, or at members' homes, Bi-monthly, usually first Sunday at 10.30am. **Next Meetings:** 6 June at Coramba Hall : Speaker, *TBA*; 1 August at Mylestom Hall AGM, Speaker, *TBA*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

Venue: Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meetings:** 25 July: AGM and General Meeting; 26 September: *TBA*. **Contact:** Roddy Jordan 6687 5339

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** (in Family History Rooms) 5 June: Sybil Small, *Life in Postwar Darwin*; 14 August: AGM followed by regular meeting. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438465529

PORT PHILLIP – Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

Venue: Various; quarterly meetings, third Saturday, times vary. **Next Meeting:** 12 midday, 17 July at Mail Exchange Hotel, 688 Bourke St, Melbourne: Tarina Fanning, *A Larrakia-Tiwi Perspective on First Nations descent*. **Contact:** Geoff Rundell 0429528502

SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

Venue: Café Function Room at St Luke's Anglican Church, Moomba St, Dapto – monthly except Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meetings** 1 June: Jim Powell, *Camellias in our History*, 6 July: AGM, Ken Mascord, *Australian Lighthouses*; 3 August: Winter Soup and Fellowship Day and 20th Birthday. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 12 June: Speaker, *TBA*; 7 August: AGM; **Next Event:** 24 September, Outing to Whiteman Park. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 26 July 2021

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DEATHS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

JOHN GOWEN

#9098 Geoffrey Payne

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM

#9099 Carollyn May Nolan

JAMES RUSE

#9100 Benjamin Patrick Macauley

#9101 Simon Peter Macauley

Additional First Fleeter

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM

#9036 Robyn Marion Doubleday

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

THOMAS ACRES/AKERS

#9103 Brendan Russell McCarthy Butt

#9104 Sonya Harriet McCarthy Hunter

#9105 Tara Marie Butt

#9106 Keira Grace Butt

#9107 Rorie John Butt

#9108 Emily Elizabeth McCarthy Hunter

#9109 Hamish Miles Herbert Hunter

Junior Members

THOMAS ACRES/AKERS

#9097 Ollie James Wall

#9102 Josie Carolyn Michaela Millen



Thank you, members, for your vigilance in reporting the well-being or otherwise of our Fellowship plaques nationwide. Two members, on the way to the Sailing of the Fleet commemoration on the *Soren Larsen* shared their great concern that our **FFF plaque** on the wall beside the sandstone steps leading up from First Fleet Park to Lower George Street in The Rocks, Sydney **has been removed**. There is now a bronze handrail installed right across the spot where it was. It would have been nice if Sydney City Council had warned us of their plans and sought our opinion before proceeding with their 'improvements'. The Directors are seeking the plaque's current whereabouts, trusting that its removal is due to duty of care and not political correctness.

(FIRST FLEETER RESILIENCE from page 7) And collectively, how has the Fellowship of First Fleeters been faring? Nationwide, our chapters could not hold their regular meetings, so they adapted. Some gathered in parks to fellowship together, their newsletters continuing unabated. Others enjoyed small regional coffee mornings or even took part in unofficial outings within Covid-safe guidelines, and everywhere Zoom was the link of choice. We have been getting back into it with outstanding success, all longing for a return to the good old days, if ever they are able to return.

I conclude by passing the Fellowship's good wishes right across the globe to Portsmouth where it all began, and in particular to the Monkton Arts Society of Ryde on the Isle of Wight. They have invited our members to join them there in May 2022 where they hope to celebrate the end of Covid with a grand fiesta honouring the 235th anniversary of the Sailing of the Fleet up the Solent. To those of you here tonight, you might like to be there, wearing your well-worn resilient hat, to commemorate the occasion together.

WJF

ASSOCIATE

8135.1 Kenneth Edward Goodworth of Point Clare, New South Wales, died in April 2021. Ken had been a member of the Fellowship for 9 years, having joined with his wife, #8135 Laraine (FF Mary Phillips and Thomas Spencer) in 2012. Ken was a much loved member of Central Coast Chapter.

FREDERICK MEREDITH

#7885 David F E Swinfield of Davistown, formerly of Umina Beach, New South Wales, died on 23.04.2021, aged 93. David joined the Fellowship in 2010 and is lovingly remembered by his Central Coast Chapter friends for his entertaining talks about his ancestor Frederick Meredith.

JOSEPH TRIMBY

#7853 Barry Edward Chaff of Kotara South, New South Wales, died on 14.04.2021, aged 79. Barry, 'a polio survivor who lived life to the fullest', and his wife Wendy joined the Fellowship in 2010 and have been keen members of Hunter Valley Chapter.

ASSOCIATE

7275.1 Marion June Squire of Castle Hill, New South Wales, died on 28.04.2021, aged 84. Marion had been a member of the Fellowship for 15 years having joined with her husband #7275 Malcolm (FF Patrick Burn/Ann Smith) in 2006. Marion belonged to Eastern Farms Chapter and was a fine support for her husband while he served as the inaugural Chapter President.

HENRY HACKING

#7045 Enid Isobel Moss of Guildford West, New South Wales, died on 28.01.2021, aged 96. Enid joined the Fellowship in 2004. She is greatly missed by her daughter Elizabeth Graham of Eastern Farms Chapter.

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

Roddy Jordan 02 6687 5339

NORTH WEST

Janet McLean 0438 465 529

PORT PHILLIP

Geoff Rundell 0429 528 502

SOUTH COAST

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630