

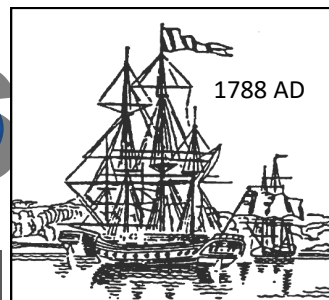
# Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC



Volume 54 Issue 1

55th Year of Publication

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

## FF WILLIAM THOMPSON Convict 'Scarborough' (C1756-1836)

**WILLIAM THOMPSON** was indicted for stealing, on the 7th of May, one shift, value 2 s. and one table cloth, value 3 s. the property of **John Kelly**. **John Orange** saw the prisoner running with some things, near the prosecutor's house, and stopped him; and Mr. Kelly deposed to the things.

Prisoner: *I bought the things in Back-lane of a person who is not here.*

GUILTY: Transported for seven years at the Old Bailey on 26 May 1784

Tried by the first Middlesex Jury before Mr. Rose.

William was received on the *Censor* hulk, age 28, on 6 September 1784. Some three years later on 24 February 1787 he was sent by wagon to Portsmouth to



*Prison Hulk. National Maritime Museum. London.*

embark on the *Scarborough* on 27 February 1787.

From Port Jackson William was sent by the *Golden Grove* to Norfolk Island on 2 September 1788, as part of the second group of settlers to Norfolk Island where, as the first of the name on the island he was recorded as William Thompson 1st.

Extract from the Journal of **John White**, General Surgeon (*Charlotte*) to the Settlement: 2 October 1788 – *The Golden Grove sailed for Norfolk Island, with a*

*reinforcement of 21 male and 11 female convicts; four free men, as gardeners; a midshipman from the Sirius to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr Cunningham; a sergeant, corporal, and six privates; and a supply of necessities for eighteen months.* On Thursday 2 October 1788 **Daniel Southwell** able seaman *HMS Sirius* entered in his diary: *the Golden Grove stood out at day break. At 6, weighed with a fine breeze. We now took our depart from the entrance to Port Jackson.*

At the end of January 1789 William earned 50 lashes for stealing corn from gardens and in July 1791 he was subsisting two persons on a one-acre Sydney Town lot, with 149 rods cleared. Six months later on 11 February 1792 he was listed as working for various settlers.

Settled himself on ten acres by July 1792, William had cultivated all of them at October 1793 and was elected as a member of the Norfolk Island Settlers Society.

In May 1794 he rented four acres to **William Shore** (Convict *Alexander*), and as William Thompson 1<sup>st</sup> he was living with **Mary Carroll** (Convict *Lady Penrhyn*) who had married **John Nicholls** (Convict *Scarborough*) on 24 March 1788 with both signing the register. Mary was sent to Norfolk Island on the *Golden Grove* in October 1788, as did William, but Nicholls did not go with her. Mary was ordered to return to Port Jackson on 26 June and left by *Francis* in July 1794.

There were several land transactions at Norfolk Island that could have applied to William 1<sup>st</sup> or **William Thomason** (Convict *Alexander*). One lease of 72 acres on 30 October 1796 'as from 1 September'; One bought [part of a 24 acre grant] from **James Bryan Cullen** (Convict *Scarborough*) in 1798; One in September 1804 bought for 160 pounds as part of **Joseph McCalden's** (Marine Private *Alexander*) grant **William Redfern** (Convict *Minorca*).

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## FOUNDERS

The magazine of the  
Fellowship of First Fleeters

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## PRESIDENT'S PEN

There are many 1788 dates of interest to our community of First Fleeters and three of them are being commemorated over the first three months of this year. They are the arrival of *HMAT Supply* at **Botany Bay** on 18 January, the move of the entire **Fleet into Port Jackson** on 26 January, and Governor Arthur Phillip's **Proclamation of the NSW Colony** on 7 February.



Many of us enjoyed fellowship with Botany Bay Chapter at their annual commemorative luncheon for the arrival of *HMAT Supply* in what is now known as Yarra Bay. This was a wonderful start for our 55th year, and with it came an opportunity to revisit the nearby **First Fleeters Memorial Garden** at Botany Cemetery. It was pleasing to see that First Fleeter plaques are starting to appear under the relevant ships' memorial stones.

Recently two development projects have been announced in Sydney. The Fellowship, as stakeholders, have a concerning and watchful interest in both and will keep our members informed.

*Transport for NSW* has appointed CQC Partners to 'drive forward the next phase in the revitalisation of Australia's waterfront to the world, **Circular Quay**'. The consortium will work with award-winning Australian and international designers and First Nations advisors, the plans having 'a strong cultural connection with Circular Quay's rich history and heritage'.

Just one block south, the **Museum of Sydney**, recently legislated as an integral part of *Museums of History NSW*, is to be progressively transformed into a First Nations cultural space. In an official statement the change is to be part of the government's 'philosophy of history (by) presenting multiple perspectives...This isn't about erasing the colonial from the site (of the first Government House): it's about adding First Nations perspectives to address history more comprehensively, in all its complexity.

It is always good to hear of new research into the lives of our First Fleet ancestors. In this issue read Gary Sturgess's article on the **Convict Messes on the First Fleet** and perhaps learn which group of six your ancestor belonged to for cooking and dining together. This is amazing new information that I haven't seen before.

This month **German Radio** aired a programme on the First Fleet. For this I was interviewed by their Singapore correspondent who was heading it up. Her questions were fascinating and wide ranging, revealing a keen interest and the need for accurate reporting.

I hope to catch up with some of you when we meet our **Patron at NSW Government House** in February, so until then, best wishes to all.

Jon

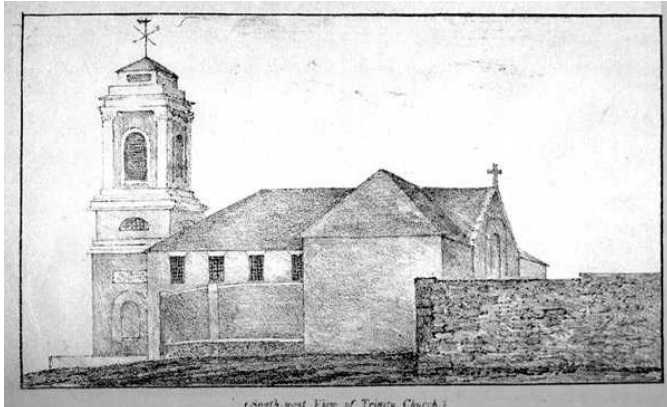
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William seemed to have prospered on Norfolk Island.

As a single man, on 3 September 1808, William was aboard the *City of Edinburgh* for Van Diemen's Land. In the 1811 Muster it shows that his place of trial was



Henry Melville, 'South-west View of Trinity Church', 1834  
(W.L. Crowther Library, SLT)

'Denham' (Dunham?).

He left buildings valued at forty pounds and took up just over 100 acres at Argyle.

A William Thompson also held 600 acres at Lennox.

William Thompson, a farmer, died at Argyle St Hobart and his burial was recorded on 25 April 1836 in the Holy Trinity Parish Register. His age was noted as 94 years, although his actual age was around 80 years.

**Compiled by John Boyd 2020**

**Sources:** -*The Founders of Australia* by Mollie Gillen p357, 65, 66

*Sydney Cove 1788 to 1800* in 5 Volumes by John Cobley

-*The Crimes of the First Fleet* Convicts by John Cobley

-*Norfolk Island Settlement* by Cheryl Timbury January 4, 2012

- [www.firstfleetfellowship.org.au/convicts/norfolk-island-settlement](http://www.firstfleetfellowship.org.au/convicts/norfolk-island-settlement)

## THE LIVES OF WILLIAM TUNKS and SARAH LYONS ~Part 2 (final)

**William Tunks** eventually was allowed to go to Norfolk Island to be with his wife, Sarah. **Governor Arthur Phillip** allowed him to exchange his 60acre block (the amount of land assigned to privates of the military with a wife but no children) (*Journal David Collins*) for 60 acres on Norfolk Island but the particular block of land was to be chosen by **Major Robert Ross**. Major Ross gave William Tunks a steep, difficult block to work, Lot 49. He worked building his house with the help of **Nathaniel Lucas** and others getting his garden beds underway. The land, despite its steepness, was fertile and soon crops appeared. No doubt it was Sarah's job, though pregnant, to pick off the many and varied grubs and other insects, to carry the water and try to keep the dirt on the gardens that were being terraced as they went.

In August their daughter, Rebekkah Ann, was born, exactly nine months following William's arrival on the island.

The **Reverend Richard Johnson** arrived on Norfolk Island in 1791 on the *Atlantic*, the same ship that brought William. Reverend Johnson immediately began conducting weddings, funerals and baptisms and made the offer to William and Sarah to marry. (Reports that say William and Sarah first met on Norfolk Island are incorrect.) They refused as they were already married but such was the bigotry of the time that in the manner of Christian religion tenets, if there were no Christian marriage then the couple were not regarded as married when in NSW.

William and Sarah continued making their own life, despite the fact that there were few Jews on Norfolk Island other than **Amelia Levy**, **Esther Abrahams** and perhaps several others.

At one stage Sarah was living close to Amelia Levy - one

of her friends from London days - in Sydney, and later came to be close neighbours of Esther Abrahams.

Life on Norfolk Island was pleasant for most at this time (its extreme brutality came later) but the politics were not as easy to abide. For some reason Sarah was noted by **Lt Ralph Clark** as being "a d.....b...." (damn bitch) that could be read as code for 'spirited female'. Clearly he harboured an intense dislike of her, ordering her to be whipped three times. (Sarah received a total of five whippings.) The cause of one such punishment was for being rude to **D'arcy Wentworth**, another for refusing to give him, Clark, an answer. Sarah survived her floggings and as soon as William arrived on the Island, Clark ignored her.

Major Ross left the Island but **Philip Gidley King** returned to it as its governor and he was less driven by discipline than Ross. Troubles soon magnified, particularly through the number of soldiers that came to the Island. King did little to temper their incessant demands, including taking women convicts as their own property, even those who were in relationships with other men and had given birth to their children. Convicts and soldiers were stealing the crops of the settlers. Soon problems increased. Their complaints were ignored by King and the disgruntlement led to many moving back to the mainland, including William and Sarah with baby Rebekkah Ann, on the *Kitty*. In addition to the problems on the island, **Governor Grose** in NSW had refused to honour the promises of Governor Arthur Phillip to pay settlers who produced food and wished to sell it to the government. Many settlers on Norfolk Island and the mainland became impoverished and unable to trade for extra supplies.

(continued on page 4)



## *THE LIVES OF WILLIAM TUNKS and SARAH LYONS PT 2*

(continued from page 3)

They found life on the mainland not greatly improved. William was given more land but he had difficulty improving them. He started his own 'cottage industry' of awl and gimlet making but it could not support them in the beginning so he enlisted in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, remaining in it until 1810 when it was disbanded. His duties as a soldier took precedence so his farming attempts were not enough to support the family until he was given fertile land on the banks of the Nepean River of 140 acres and he received help. One hundred and forty

to prevent bloodshed. He obliged, even though they still continued with their abuse of each other.

Court records do not state or imply that William was in any danger though it is easy to imagine that he could not have been comfortable. The unstable Macarthur was taken into custody along with another officer and at the trial William was obliged to give evidence. The transcript points to the fact that William knew the dangers of giving evidence against Macarthur as his replies to the prosecutors and defendants show a surprising amount of tact, (*Court Proceedings of the Early Colony, in Governors Dispatches to Britain.*) particularly as later events show he disliked Macarthur.

William and Sarah had at least six children, with the last *known* child born at the time of the floods of 1806 that destroyed their farm of 140 acres. The only report of its presence comes from Reverend Samuel Marsden and **Surgeon Thomas Arndell** who reported that 'Jewish concubine' (meaning she had not married in a Christian ceremony) 'Sarah Lyons, friend of Amelia Levy, was near her time.' There are no records of this child's birth or burial nor any later record of a child with either the name of Lyons or Tunks or Tonks or any variation.

At the time of the insurrection of 26 January 1808, less than two years after Bligh's arrival, **Captain George Johnston**, acting under John Macarthur's influence, overthrew **Governor William Bligh**. Shortly before this coup a group calling themselves The Loyalists was formed. They supported Governor Bligh as during the floods of 1806 that occurred just *before* his arrival, he was the only one of the governing men that offered the devastated settlers assistance. Things between Bligh and Macarthur became so bad that in a short time weapons were issued to those who signed up to the Loyalists and William Tunks is recorded as receiving firearms. (There is no record of him handing them back.) In any event, it did not come to open warfare and Bligh was deposed without bloodshed but the Loyalists continued for some time while Captain George Johnston was leading the colony (heavily influenced by Macarthur). (*Evatt, 1938*) Surgeon Thomas Arndell is also listed as one of the Loyalists, opposing Macarthur and Captain George Johnston.

On 3 September, 1809 William, walking with a friend along a path surrounded by bushland, (*Cowell, 1977*) was confronted by three First Nations men brandishing spears and threatening to run William through, thus killing him. This group was led by the guerilla warrior Tedbury, reputed to be either the son or grandson of Pemulwuy, a famed earlier warrior who was trying, in vain, to stop the white people settling here, particularly as they were making no conciliatory efforts, instead taking whatever they wanted.



*The settlement on the Green Hills, Hawksburgh  
[Hawkesbury] River N.S.Wales, 1809 George William Evans  
(possibly) Watercolour*

*This village in the district of the Green Hills was incorporated  
into the new town of Windsor, proclaimed by Macquarie  
during his first tour of inspection in 1810.  
SLNSW*

acres was a most significant grant as most blocks were much less. (*McIntyre, 2008*)

William, as far as Governor King was concerned, had provided valuable contributions to the colony. But while frequent floods added to soil fertility it was disastrous to those trying to live and make a living from these acres. It may never be known why William was so favoured as names of rank and file were rarely mentioned in despatches to Britain. The one exception to his name shown in Government Despatches is when a court case was held over a feud between several officers while William was on picquet duty. This occurred not long after he joined this Corp.

The dispute between the officers was, unsurprisingly, instigated by **John Macarthur** and swords were drawn with much unofficer-like language thrown. Caught in the middle was William Tonks. (*sic*) William was ordered by Macarthur to take the swords of two of the men in order

Two other warriors with Tedbury at the time were Bundel, a young man whose parents had both been killed, his mother by a shark and his father in one of the many conflicts with European settlers. The other man's identity is unknown. Bundel had been adopted as a young boy and raised by **Captain William Hill** of the NSW Corps but as a young man Bundel rejoined his own people.



*Detail from James Wallis' c1816 engraving of the Hawkesbury at Windsor showing a group of Darug people at Dowlaba, on South Creek/ Wianamatta (ML, SLNSW)*

William and his friend were saved only by the appearance of other men appearing on the path behind them with the three warriors disappearing into the surrounding bush. Whether William was targeted personally or whether because he was a 'red-shirt' (member of the military that wore red jackets) is not known. Almost certainly William will have taken part in at least some of the raids. As part of the military he would have considered it his job to obey orders but how well he obeyed is an open question. Following this particular confrontation he lodged a complaint with the magistrates court but the magistrate, while noting it for future reference, exhorted him and his family as well as other settlers to take no retaliatory action. (*Court Records of the Colony*) It seems they heeded his advice as there are no other records to suggest otherwise.

Following the disasters of the many floods that all the colonists endured, (*Gill, J.C.J. 1969*) particularly those along the banks of Nepean/Hawkesbury Rivers, William Tunks turned to depending more on the trade that had he arrived here with - that of awl and gimlet making, backed up by the timber trade and in this latter he was helped by his young son John who at the time was married to Esther Arndell. William had acquired some properties by sale, trade, and by being paid for his services by blocks of land. William and John collected the timber from these properties, selling the timber to the boat-builders then

selling and trading the cleared land for farming. (*Lands Department Records*)

With his awl and gimlet making skills William was deeply immersed in the ship-building industry though it seems he himself did not embark on the building of ships other than for his own use. Much of the traffic along the rivers depended on small craft as it was much quicker, and probably safer, to travel the waterways than the roadways.

In any case there was more than enough work for William without becoming a boat-builder. It seems that almost from the beginning of his settlement here he was reliant on his own resources rather than government resources. He also embarked in a small way on wine-growing but this seems to have been for their own use rather than any commercial interest. All in all, William and Sarah seem to have made a relative success of their lives to some degree, apart from the tragedies of the loss of so many of their children.

William died on 6 August 1821, just weeks before the loss of his son Charles, leaving Sarah to deal with the double loss.

While only two of William Tunks and Sarah Lyons' children themselves having children, descendants of these two people have increased to many thousands.

It took fortitude and strength of character for those early people to survive the rigours they found on arrival. Nevertheless both William and Sarah displayed courage and fortitude in dealing with the conditions. William died at age 67, cause unknown, and Sarah lived until she was 76, dying accidentally by drowning after reputedly (but not confirmed) returning from visiting her only remaining child, John. He did not attend her inquest to confirm or deny it.

#### #8793 Elizabeth Warren



*A view of the River Hawkesbury N.S. Wales Lewin, J. W.*



## ‘A Fine Passage’: Insights into Early Australian Convict Transportation-Part 1

### Issue 1: Part 1 Convict Messes on the First Fleet–

Gary L. Sturgess

#### Summary

On the passage to New South Wales, convicts were organised into ‘messes’, usually the naval mess of six, to be issued with rations and utensils, and for the purpose of cooking and eating meals. On some ships, the messes were also used to regulate which men were allowed on the weather deck at different times for exercise, and to organise the cleaning of the lower deck where the prisoners were housed.

The victualling lists for the First Fleet enable us to reconstruct the messes for the male convicts on that voyage. From this we learn that men with trade skills such as carpentry, that would be useful on board the ship, and those who were ‘used to the sea’, were assigned to common messes so they could be released to work with the crew throughout the voyage. Middle class convicts seem to have been able to choose their own mess, probably for a fee. It is more difficult to identify the messes among the female convicts, because significant numbers of them were moved between ships in the course of the voyage. But there is evidence that young women were messed together under the supervision of older women, and mothers with young children were placed together.

#### Convict Messes

When they were first brought on board the ships that would carry them to Australia, convicts were organised into messes of six men or women for issuing, cooking and eating the rations, and sometimes for other purposes, such as cleaning the prison.

The log of the *Alexander* records that on the 6 January 1787, the day that 184 convicts were brought across from the hulks, each prisoner was issued with bedding and each mess was provided with a water keg and a bowl. By the time of the *Hillsborough* (1798), the mess utensils included water kegs, large round tins and smaller pots, spoons, bread bags and pudding bags (in which to boil meat and pudding), and each group of six was issued with soap, scotch barley, mustard, ginger, pepper, and portable soup.

Practices varied somewhat from ship to ship, but the mess captains would generally collect their rations from the steward, tag the meat with a tin tally to identify the mess, and deliver them to the cooks. The cooked meal would later be collected by one of their number, and eaten by the messmates from a common bowl placed on the floor. On some ships, the male convicts would be released on deck for exercise, or called up for inspection, according to their messes. And in some cases,

responsibility for cleaning the prison or washing their clothes was also determined in this way.

There is no evidence that, in the early years, the convicts were permitted to choose their own messmates, but by the 1820s, some surgeon superintendents would allow them to do so.

#### The First Fleet Victualling Lists

Almost nothing is known about convict messes on the First Fleet: they were one of those quotidian details which the various journal keepers did not think to describe. However, it is possible to learn something about them from the victualling lists, which identify by name and ship, the convicts who were issued with fresh provisions at Tenerife, Rio de Janeiro and the Cape. (There was another victualling list used for issuing the provisions in their first year in the colony, which is not relevant for this paper.)

The lists for the male convicts were drawn up at Tenerife, the first point of call on the outward voyage, and they remained stable thereafter because there was almost no movement of men between ships. **Philip Farrell** and **Thomas Griffiths**, the two *Scarborough* mutineers, are listed on the *Prince of Wales*, where they were sent on 20 May 1787 after being flogged. This was before the fleet arrived at Tenerife. **Thomas Kelly**, a man sent onto the *Lady Penrhyn* at the Cape to look after the Governor’s horses, is listed on the *Alexander*, where he had first been embarked.

The women’s lists are more complex because there was a great deal of movement between ships, and the person who compiled them was not consistent in his approach. Some women are recorded under the ship to which they were transferred at Rio de Janeiro, but **Mary Coombs** is listed among the *Charlotte* women in the victualling lists – she left England in that vessel, but was moved to the *Friendship* at Rio de Janeiro and then the *Prince of Wales* at the Cape. The very next entry is for **Eleanor Frazier** or Fraser. She was embarked on the *Prince of Wales* but is listed among the *Charlotte* women, where she was apparently moved at Rio de Janeiro.

It seems likely that the original lists were based on rolls drawn up on the individual ships, and the question for this research project was whether they might provide us with insight into the structure and composition of the convict messes. Each list was divided into groups of six, and a profile of each convict in these groups was developed to ascertain their ages, social backgrounds, trades or work experience, to identify any commonalities. While we cannot be certain about every mess, this hypothesis was broadly confirmed in the patterns discussed below.

### Assignment to a Mess

There is no apparent consistency in the way that (most) men were assigned to a mess. In some cases, the ship's officers seem to have relied on an existing alphabetical list; in others, men were allocated in turn based on the hulk or prison from which they had come. Men from counties in the west of England were added to existing messes on the *Charlotte* and *Friendship* when they called at Plymouth, rather than being assigned to new ones. The messes on the *Scarborough* seem to have been reorganised at Portsmouth when the *Charlotte* arrived there and some of her convicts were shipped across.

On the *Alexander*, the messes must have been reconstructed in the early stages of the voyage, since a number of men died prior to sailing and in the first few weeks at sea. Only deaths after Tenerife can be identified in these lists.

The ship's officers on the *Friendship* put a great deal of effort into grouping the men by trade, much more than was required for the management of the ship. By comparison, there is little evidence of trade groups on the *Charlotte*, although some men from the same town or region were often found in the same messes.

### The Working Messes

From the First Fleet onward, it was conventional for the ships' officers to employ convicts with suitable skills to work alongside their crews on the outward voyage. Prisoners could not be compelled to perform these duties, so they were compensated with greater freedom, spirits and additional provisions, and in some cases, money.

Until now, there has only been evidence of two First Fleet convicts being so employed – **John Power**, who was working with the crew of the *Alexander* in watering the ship at Tenerife when he took advantage of his freedom and escaped; and an unnamed man who fell overboard from that ship in the mid-Atlantic and drowned whilst working on deck. But a close study of the victualling lists confirms that this practice was widespread. The *Scarborough* had at least 21 men 'used to the sea' who were allocated to these working messes, the *Alexander* at least 22, and the *Charlotte* at least 10 – much larger numbers than previously understood.

But a close study of the victualling lists confirms that this practice was widespread. The *Scarborough* had at least 21 men 'used to the sea' who were allocated to these working messes, the *Alexander* at least 22, and the *Charlotte* at least 10 – much larger numbers than previously understood.

Keeping such men together in common messes made it easier to release them at different times of the day and night for work. Not all of these men were sailors –

some were watermen, some were carpenters, others had been labourers who worked loading and unloading ships while they were in port.

Thus, one of the working messes on the *Scarborough* was composed of the following: **John Neal**, who had been working on a ship at Wapping when he was convicted; **Thomas Hylids**, a ship's carpenter; **John Boyle** and **Joseph Paget**, both seamen; **George Lisk**, possibly a seaman. The sixth was **Francis Carty**, about whom very little is known, except that he left the colony early, probably as a crew member of a visiting ship. His prayer book was found in a shark in the mid-Atlantic in 1792. With so many convict seamen enjoying the freedom of the ship, it is easier to understand why Farrell and Griffiths thought that they would be able to navigate the *Scarborough* if they succeeded in seizing control.

Some of these working messes also included men with organisational or accounting skills who could assist in managing the ship and its convicts. One mess on the *Alexander* had two men who were 'used to the sea' – **Samuel Bird**, a waterman, and **James Richards**, who had stolen 15 casks of spirits from a Customs warehouse and was later involved with boats in the colony; and two with a commercial background – **William Parr**, who had been a merchant's clerk, and **John Henry Palmer**, who had operated a labour exchange and employed staff himself. The trades of the other two men are unknown.

On the *Alexander*, there was a butcher's mess which included a master butcher, a kosher butcher, and three men who had separately been convicted of stealing sheep and hogs (and thus apparently had some experience in the meat trade). Ships carried livestock for the officers and free passengers, and the convicts would be supplied with fresh meat while they were in port.

Another mess on the *Alexander* had two men with hairdressing skills, of obvious value in managing a convict ship. A third man had been a gentleman's servant and possibly a valet, but the others had no noticeable connection to hairdressing.

It is difficult to understand the need for some of the groupings on the *Friendship*. One mess had four carpenters and cabinet-makers, a shipwright and a blacksmith, clearly of value in working the ship. But there was a mess with brickmakers, bricklayers and a plasterer; another with gardeners, millers and a baker; another with shoemakers, another with weavers; yet another with a jeweller, a silversmith and a watchcase maker.

An occasional newsletter on new research into early Australian convict transportation Gary L. Sturgess, Sydney, Australia. +61 (0)419 734180. [gary@sturgess.org](mailto:gary@sturgess.org)

**This article will conclude in the next issue of Founders**

## THE BOARD OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS 2022-2023 (Current Directors, Board Operations and Liaison with Chapters)

The Board of Directors of the Fellowship of First Fleeters is at full strength following the 2022 AGM.

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*William Tunks#, Thomas Arndell+*

*Jane Langley\*, Edward Pugh\*, Thomas Chipp#, Hannah Smith\**

**PATRON:** Her Excellency the Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW

Members: **Suzanne Cattell** (*Samuel Pigott\**), **Phil Mitchell** (*Peter Hibbs~*), **Jeanette Johnson** and **Tony Holden** support board committees.

+The *Assistant Surgeon* of the First Fleet. #*Marine* of the First Fleet. \**Convict* of the First Fleet. ~*Able Seaman* of the First Fleet.

- 6 Directors are from Sydney; 4 are from regional NSW; 3 are from interstate.
- 5 Directors have been board members for five years or more; 8 for five years or less.
- ◆ 9 Directors are actively involved with their respective Chapters—4 holding executive positions.

◆

### BOARD OPERATIONS

- Board meetings are chaired by the President. The board meets 11 times a year at First Fleet House with provisions for attendance via zoom.
- Directors write their portfolio reports and circulate them prior to meetings. Reports are discussed at meetings and minuted. Comments and suggestions are followed up between meetings. ● Decisions made between meetings are minuted for ratification at the next meeting.
- Meeting agenda are provided for general business.
- Sometimes issues arise between meetings and are considered online.
- A Financial Report is presented and discussed at each meeting to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet the Fellowship's operations.
- Committees are in operation, with their reports considered at meetings or online.
- Progressive records of meetings are filed at First Fleet House.

**LIAISON WITH CHAPTERS** - *Albury-Wodonga District, Arthur Phillip, Botany Bay, Canberra, Central Coast, Derwent, Eastern Farms, Gold Coast, Hawkesbury-Nepean, Hunter Valley, Mid North Coast, Moreton, North Coast, Northern Rivers, North West, Port Phillip, South Coast, Swan River.*



- **Chapter Annual Reports** provide a measure of the strength of the Fellowship and are collated and presented as part of the President's Report at AGMs.
- **A summary of board meetings** is communicated to Chapters. Correspondence from Chapters is discussed at board meetings.
- **Chapter newsletters** are received by the board and are circulated within the Fellowship and with kindred Associations.
- **Board and Chapter events** are publicised in *Founders* to ensure members have opportunities to participate in Fellowship activities.
- **The Fellowship maintains a website** accessible by members and non-members.
- **A publication, 'The First 50 Years of the Fellowship'** is available from the website as is a complete record of *Founders*.
- **First Fleet House** provides research and membership assistance for Chapters and members.



## 105 Cathedral St Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

Phone: 02 9360 3788

Email: [fffaus@optusnet.com.au](mailto:fffaus@optusnet.com.au)

If visiting FFH please telephone beforehand and make an appointment

## THE HAWKESBURY MAYOR JOINS THE FELLOWSHIP

In November **Sarah McMahon**, Mayor of the City of Hawkesbury, a local government area of New South Wales, joined President **Sharon Lamb** and other members of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, to meet & greet, as well as to obtain a copy of the forms to officially join the Fellowship.

She wrote:

"Through my mother's side, I am a descendant of **James Peaulet**, a Convict on board the ship *Scarborough*. He lived his adult life around the Hawkesbury and is buried in an unmarked grave at Pitt Town. My grandfather **Des Burke** has researched this history and contributed his article to the Fellowship, which can be found here:

<http://www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au/jamespeaulet.htm>

As I get older, I am increasingly fascinated by this connection to the pioneering Hawkesbury families. It is almost ironic that despite being born elsewhere, I ended up living in the Hawkesbury and now, representing our beautiful community. I wonder what my long lost relative, Convict James Peaulet, would have thought about that!

We have such a rich history here, both Indigenous and European, and all stories from all perspectives should be shared, as part of a history that cannot be changed, but for a future that we can all embrace"

#9213 Sarah Ann McMahon



FFF Director and Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter President Sharon Lamb with Hawkesbury Mayor and First Fleet descendant Sarah McMahon

## MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

Hello Gillian,

Through **Ian Palmer**, I was privileged to view your PowerPoint on the First Fleet. May I heartily congratulate you on such a fine effort, and the research you have done is nothing short of exemplary!

I have done presentations in the past (within my work environment, UTS lectures, Training courses and Workshops, and later as a "pleasure thing" more than anything else), and still do for concerns like our FFF Chapter, as well as a local Probus Club or two. My specialty is Clocks or a subject related to this (such as "Navigation" and the like). So I do have some idea of the time you must have taken to cover the ground that you have so comprehensively – not just in the PowerPoint but in the accompanying material as well.

Again, thank you for this effort, and the obvious pleasure many will get from it over the years to come. On that note, do you have a restriction on the presentation of this PowerPoint? We would like to air it at our local FFF Chapter (Eastern Farms), and I would like to take it one step further if you permitted – and that is at a local Probus Club if that opportunity was to come up. Of course, full acknowledgment would be given to you as the Author, and the whole matter would be done in the spirit of a Representative of our Fellowship of First Fleeters, and who knows – maybe a recruitment or two could result.

A wonderful effort that deserves all credit, and thank you for that.

**Rob Shipton #7981**

**Gillian Doyle** wrote:

I prepared the PPT on the First Fleet for the FFF Board for the purpose of it being used for presentations as a public service and promotion of the FFF. I assume you retrieved it from the FFF website? I am happy for you to use it as a presentation to Eastern Farms Chapter and to your Probus club. I will report your plans to the Board and would appreciate you sending a short email to say when and to whom you have made future presentations - with a view to keeping a record of the recipients of your presentation/s and how the information was received by the audience. Your efforts to increase interest and knowledge of the First Fleet is very much appreciated.

**Gillian Doyle**  
**Director**

Dear First Fleeters' Library-Archives,

My name is **Jana Vytrhlik**, a historian interested in pre-1900 Jewish art in Australia. I would like to ask for your help:

I am looking for the whereabouts of the **original portrait of Esther Abrahams/Julian/Johnston**, c. 1830, shown (in reproduction?) on the wall in your home office (attached).

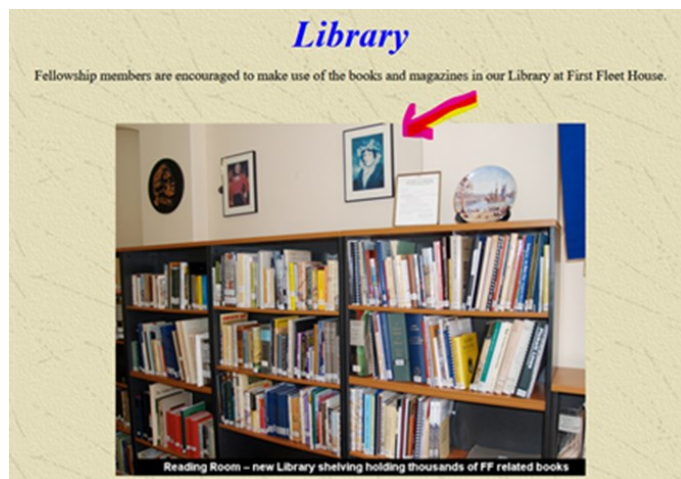
I have already searched widely, including the State Library of NSW – there is only an original 1900 photo of the painting, the Australian Jewish Historical Society, and various art galleries and museums, yet with no results.

I would be most grateful if you could share any information you have about the original painting, or forward this enquiry to the relevant person/organisation.

Thank you in advance, I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr Jana Vytrhlik Curator

AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum  
The Great Synagogue Sydney



**Roderick Best** wrote:

The portrait of Esther in the meeting room of the Fellowship is (like that of her husband next to it) is a reproduction.

According to Alan Roberts, *Marine Officer, Convict Wife* (Annandale Urban Research Association, Paddington, 2008) p 68 the original was painted by Richard Reid Snr around 1824 and, in 2008, was in a private collection.

Unfortunately we do not have any further information.

**Roderick Best**  
**Director**

Do any of our members have further information? If so, contact us at :fffaus@optusnet.com.au

## OUR CHAPTERS IN ACTION

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

**Venue:** Usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.30 am. **Next Meetings:** 18 February: Speaker TBA, 18 March, 15 April: meeting at Chiltern Athenaeum **Next Event:** 15 April: Chiltern Athenaeum Museum visit **Contact:** Ian Anderson 0426 147 365

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

**Venue:** Meeting Room, Old Gordon Public School. 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon – monthly meetings, third Friday at 10.30 . **Next Meetings:** 17 February: Stewart Reed *Historic Houses of Sydney Part 1*, 17 March: Stewart Reed *Historic Houses of Sydney Part 2*, 21 April: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** **Contact:** Judith O'Shea (02)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 February: Kerrie Anne Christian *Dr C J Smees Database*, 21 March: Gregory Ross *Cemetery by the Sea –The Waverley Cemetery*, 18 April: TBA **Next Event:** **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

### CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Toni Pike 0410 412 778

### 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:** 10 February, 12 March **Next Event:** **Contact:** Gavin Plunkett (02)4340 4435

### DERWENT - Southern Tasmania NB: New Venue

**Venue:** Bi-monthly, 11am, Lindsfarne Community Activities Centre, 37A Lincoln St. **Next Meetings:** 4 February: *18th Century French Navigators and Explorers in Australia*, 1 April: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

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

**Venue:** The Hall at Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St. Eastwood – monthly meetings, first Saturday from 10am **Next Meetings:** 4 February: Janice Eastman and Kevin Shaw *The Churchyard on the Hill: St. Anne's at Ryde*, 4 March: Chris Counter *First Fleet House*, 1 April: Carol Roussel *La Perouse* **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jennifer Follers (02) 9799 1161

### GOLD COAST – Gold Coast and immediate hinterland.

**Venue:** Ashmore Rotary Community Centre, 133 Currumburra Rd Ashmore (Men's Shed)—Bi-monthly meetings, usually 3rd Saturday, 3 pm. **Next Meeting:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Robyn Porter 0407 223 600

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

**Venue:** Windsor Library, Penrith Library and Springwood. **Next Meetings:** 11 February: Hawkesbury Central Library: Lauren Jones *North Sackville Church*, 8 April: Old Schoolhouse, Great western Hwy, Emu Plains: John Lanser *A special flag related to Windsor* **Next Event:** 11 March: 10:15: Tour of St Matthew's Church and Cemetery: RSVP fffhnc2015@gmail.com **Contact:** William Hempel 0410 950 101

### HUNTER VALLEY – Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.

**Venue:** Teralba Community Hall Supper Room. 15 Anzac Pde Teralba—bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am-12.30pm. **Next Meetings:** 20 February: General Meeting commencing 10:15am, 17 April: General Meeting commencing 10:15am, **Next Event:** 23 February: NOVA Cruise to Morpeth **Contact:** Kerry Neinert (02)49615083.

### MID NORTH COAST -- Taree and Surrounds, Bulahdelah to Kempsey. NB: New Starting Time

**Venue:** Presbyterian Church, 76 Albert Street, Taree, Bi-monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1pm. **Next Meeting:** March 28 **Next Event:** **Contact:** Heather Bath 427 018 566

### MORETON – Brisbane and South East Queensland.

**Venue:** St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton – bi-monthly meetings, at 10 am on an available 2nd Saturday. **Next Meeting:** 11 February: Hilda Maclean *Mourning customs in the Victorian Era/Cemeteries Part 2* **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jan Grant (07)54911891

### 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:** 5 February: at Mylestom Hall, 18-20 River St, Mylestom: Speaker TBA, 2 April: at Woolgoolga Seniors Centre, 8 Boundary St, Woolgoolga: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 0420 923 140 or (02)6653 6315

### NORTHERN RIVERS – Ballina and surrounding districts

**Venue:** Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 26 March: 10:30am: There will be a guest speaker **Contact:** Roddy Jordan (02)6687 5339

### NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

**Venue:** Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** 11 February: in the Family History Rooms **Next Event:** April 1: 22nd Birthday outing to Bendemeer Pub **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438 465 529

### PORT PHILLIP—Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

**Venue:** Various; quarterly meetings, days and times vary **Next Meeting:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Peter Yates 0414 955487

### SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake. NB: New Venue

**Venue:** Artisan Room, Wests Illawarra Club, Unanderra – monthly except. Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm **Next Meetings:** 7 February: Members' Show and Tell, March 7: Robyn Menghi *Aussie Larrikins*, April 4: John Stewart *Walking the Kokoda Track* **Next Event:** **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe (02) 4232 1842

### SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

**Venue:** 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meeting:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Toni Mahony (08)9271 7630

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#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Closing date for this page for the next issue is **20 March 2023.**



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members

#### JAMES RUSE

#9214 David John Bolton

#### ANDREW GOODWIN/LYDIA MUNRO

#9215 Maxina Verona Elizabeth Kern

### Associate Members

#9214.1 Christine Mary Bolton

#9215.1 Peter Leopold Kern

## Notes from the November Board

**GRANT RECEIVED TO UPDATE FFF WEBSITE** The Board has been successful in attracting a grant of \$1000 to update its website. Where necessary Fellowship funds will also be added to this grant to achieve the efficiency of outcomes intended.

**POWER POINT: "Journey of the First Fleet".** Produced with photos and script by Gillian Doyle. Appropriate for school use or for a Chapter presentation. Download from the Fellowship's website.



## JANUARY 26—Private Member's Bill

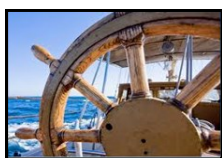
Federal MP for Bowman, Henry Pike, son of Canberra President Toni Pike, plans to introduce a private member's bill to enshrine Australia Day in Australian law. An article appeared in the Courier Mail on January 17. He wrote: In this morning's Courier Mail I have outlined my plan to seek to protect 26 January as Australia Day by enshrining it in Commonwealth legislation.

Our flag and ANZAC Day are both protected in federal legislation, but Australia's national day can be changed at the whim of the government of the day. Establishing an Australia Day Act would prevent governments putting the ideological obsessions of the commentariat above the overwhelming opinion of Australian citizens.

Every year we get the same old debate, but public opinion remains steadfastly in favour of maintaining our current national day. A recent Ipsos poll found that only 28% of Australians support the campaign to change the date of Australia Day away from 26 January.

I have drafted a Bill to enshrine the 26 of January as a National Day that will ensure it can only be changed by a majority of voters supporting an alternate proposal in a nationwide plebiscite that includes the option of retaining the current date. This is based on the protections in the Flags Act 1953 which ensure that the Australian flag can only be changed through a national vote. By putting this old debate to bed we can let the national conversation move on to celebrating what Australia has achieved, reflecting on the lessons of the past, and determining how we are going to achieve our fullest potential.

**#6983 Henry Pike**



or a First Fleeter



Have you recently read a book about the First Fleet or book about our colonial history and heritage? Would you like to share your experience with other members by writing a short review of the book to be published in Founders? An image of the book would be welcome but not necessary. Please send your review to :  
firstfleetfounders@optusnet.com.au

## AT THE HELM



On Thursday 9 February members of the Fellowship will attend an afternoon tea at Government House hosted by our Patron, the Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC. This is to celebrate the 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Australia Day and the reading of Governor Arthur Phillip's Commission. Her Excellency is a descendant of First Fleeters John Small and Mary Parker.

## CHAPTER SECRETARIES

### ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT

Ian Anderson 0426 147 365

### ARTHUR PHILLIP

Judith O'Shea 02 9797 0240

### BOTANY BAY

Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

### CANBERRA

Geoff Lamb 02 6231 5548

### CENTRAL COAST

(Act) Gavin Plunkett  
(02)4340 4435

### DERWENT

Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

### EASTERN FARMS

Jennifer Follers 02 9799 1161

### GOLD COAST

Robyn Porter 0407 223 600

### HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN

William Hempel 0410 950 101

### HUNTER VALLEY

Kerry Neinert 02 4961 5083

### MID NORTH COAST

Heather Bath 0427 018 566

### MORETON

Jan Grant 07 5491 1891

### NORTH COAST

Robyn Condliffe 02 6653 3615

### NORTHERN RIVERS

Roddy Jordan 02 6687 5339

### NORTH WEST

Janet McLean 0438 465 529

### PORT PHILLIP

Peter Yates 0414 518 609

### SOUTH COAST

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

### SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630