

Founders

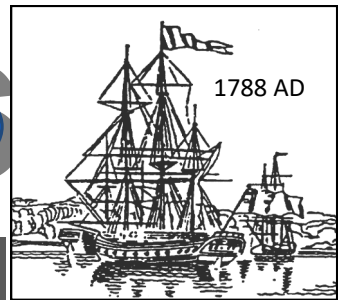
Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

VICE PATRON: Paul Kable AM RAN Retd



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

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55th Year of Publication

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AFTERNOON TEA RECEPTION AT NSW GOVERNMENT HOUSE

To commemorate the 235th anniversary of the Reading of Governor Arthur Phillip's Commission at Sydney Cove on 7th February 1788.

Nearly one year ago, the Events Committee, on behalf of the Board of the Fellowship of First Fleeters (FFF), approached Government House to arrange an Afternoon Tea to celebrate the 235th anniversary of (a belated)



Australia Day and the Reading of **Arthur Phillip's** Commission (this is one of three) from the British Government and signed by **King George III**, dated 1786.

FFF Members on the veranda, taken after the first thunderstorm had passed over

In the November *Founders*, we invited FF members to join a gathering of fellow

descendants and to meet the Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable **Margaret Beazley AC KC**. FFF sent reminders to Chapters highlighting the tight schedule to register for the event.

On Thursday 9th February 2023, 85 guests were warmly welcomed and encouraged to wander throughout the building and gardens while sipping a champagne or soft drink. Unfortunately a major thunderstorm and torrential rain prevented a few people from travelling to the event.



First Government House, demolished. At the Museum of Sydney an external plaque marks its replacement

Three of the FFF Executive Officers, President **Jon Fearon**, Secretary **Rod Best** and Vice President **Gillian Doyle** were met by the Governor's Deputy Official Secretary, Mr **Christopher Sullivan** and Aide-de-Camp in Waiting, Lieutenant Commander **Rob Valler**, RAN, who introduced them to the Governor. In a private room, they had the honour of sharing some cheerful conversation – and a chance for her to get to know us.



Members circulating in the Ballroom



Chris Counter, Elaine Bennett, Val Counter, Rod Best (Secretary), Gillian Doyle

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FOUNDERS

The magazine of the
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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 Fridays.

PRESIDENT'S PEN



It was to my great delight, and to that of the Directors and our members, to be welcomed by our Patron, Her Excellency the honourable **Margaret Beazley AC KC** at afternoon tea at NSW Government House on 9 February.

The Ballroom was the perfect setting for rich fellowship as at long last we were able, at her kind invitation to officially meet our Patron. Her welcome speech referred to the legal background to the official proclamation of the settlement which **Governor Phillip** delivered at Sydney Cove on 7 February 1788. Her Excellency explained how this led to the institution of the rule of law, enabling the new settlement to move forward under wise leadership.

The speech concluded as an object lesson. The metal-lined red leather case used to transmit documents to and from Government House and the Executive Council was set before us. It is identical to the two brought out on the Fleet and opened by Phillip himself so he could read the proclamation before the assembled gathering at Sydney Cove.

Those of you who were unable to attend the Afternoon Tea can read the full text of the Governor's speech together with the excellent account of the event by our Vice President, **Gillian Doyle**, in this issue.

At Meetings this year the Directors have been considering various new policies and updates to our constitution which will be put before our members in the coming months. One such is the Draft Indigenous Policy which has already been forwarded to Chapters for discussion and feedback. As we were concerned that those not in Chapter Membership will not have seen the policy it is also included in this issue. Comments are therefore invited and may be submitted to the Fellowship either by email or post.

Early in the life of the fellowship, the identification of the burial sites of First Fleeters and the subsequent installation of commemorative plaques have been important aspects. Accordingly, it is exciting to let you know that a plaque dedication is planned for early next year in Canton, Ohio, the burial site of the seaman-diarist First Fleeter, **Jacob Nagle**. No doubt many of you will have referred to Jacob's excellent account of the Voyage in your own FF research. My thanks go especially to our FFF Member, **William Hempel** who, after a visit to Canton some years ago has taken Jacob 'under his wing' and pressed the Fellowship to have a plaque installed. Plaques Directors have since then taken up the cause and at long last, with the growing enthusiasm of the *Daughters of the Revolution*, Jacob Nagle will be doubly honoured both as a First Fleeter and a US Patriot.

Jon

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The Governor's address

The Governor welcomed our members and commenced her address with recognition of the Gadigal People.



“ Welcome to Government House, Sydney, an historic site of State and national significance, which is the link between the Governors of New South Wales, the First Fleet, and almost everyone here today.

I will turn to the events that are the purpose for us gathering today in a moment. I should also add that having a love of history I took today as an opportunity to look into, or I should probably say, re-look, albeit briefly, into why history is important as opposed to being merely fascinating, as I find it to be.

Needless to say, the answer as to why history is important lies very much in the purpose for which any historical research is being undertaken. **Marcus Garvey**, the Jamaican activist of the black nationalist Pan-African movement in the early 20th century said that ‘a people without knowledge of their past, history, origins and culture is like a tree without roots’. At the heart of that view is identity and connectedness. I would also suggest it points to the fundamental societal value of understanding of others, without which identity and connectedness are distorted or ignored entirely.

The 86-year-old American historian Professor **Peter Stearns** from George Mason University, in a number of recent articles reviewing why history is important and how to teach history, emphasises the bases of historical analysis: understanding change and continuity. And, I would add, impact, something of which we have become increasingly conscious as the history of pre-colonial and colonial Australia is more widely known and understood. That history is fundamental to our development as a nation.

Two days ago was the 235th anniversary of the reading of Captain Arthur Phillip’s Commission in the Colony of New South Wales. However, matters commenced a little earlier. On the 31st August 1786, Lord Sydney had written to the Lords of the Admiralty notifying them that His Majesty had been pleased to signify his royal command that 750 convicts then under sentence of transportation and lying in the various gaols throughout Great Britain “should be sent to Botany Bay, on the coast of New South Wales, in the latitude of 33° south, at which place it is intended that the said convicts should form a settlement.”

Six weeks later, Captain Arthur Phillip was appointed Governor of the proposed penal colony by Commission dated 12 October 1786, signed by King George III delivered by Lord Sydney to Phillip at St James’s Palace.

This Commission began:

“We, reposing especial trust and confidence in your loyalty, courage and experience in military affairs, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be Governor of our territory called New South Wales, extending from the northern cape or extremity of the coast called Cape York, in the latitude of 10 degrees 37' south, to the southern extremity of the said territory of New South Wales or South Cape, in the latitude 43 degrees 39' south, and all the country inland and westward as far as the one hundred and thirty-fifth degree of longitude, reckoning from the meridian of Greenwich, including all the islands adjacent in the Pacific Ocean, within the latitude aforesaid of 10 degrees 37' south and 43 degrees 39' south, and of all towns, garrisons, castles, forts and all other fortifications or other military works, which now are or may be hereafter erected upon this said territory. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Governor in and over our said territory...”

Letters Patent were issued on 2nd April 1787, authorised by the *New South Wales Act* of that year, establishing a court system, which, in reality, was a military tribunal. On 25 April 1787, Phillip received his *Draught Instructions*, prepared for the King by Lord Sydney, ‘with the advice of the Privy Council’. That lengthy document, the original of which is lost, included instructions about managing the convicts, officers, ships, stores and animals, the granting and cultivation of land, exploration, and advice to ‘conciliate the affections’ of the Aboriginal inhabitants. It also requested that Phillip “with all due solemnity cause our said Commission ... to be read and published.”

Phillip set sail from Portsmouth on 13 May 1787, having been delayed for some days by a strike on the *Fishburn*, whose crew refused to unmoor the ship until they had received payment of 3 guineas apiece. At Cape Town, Phillip split the fleet into two, which gradually arrived at Botany Bay over the days of 18 to 20 January 1788, after an 8-month voyage.

Before Captain Phillip set sail from England, the case of *Fabrigas v Mostyn* had been heard in the English courts. In that case, **Lord Chief Justice De Grey** gave judgment in favour of Mr Fabrigas, leaving no ambiguity as to his opinion on the governor's role. He wrote that:

"...to maintain ... that every governor in every place can act absolutely... is a doctrine not to be maintained; for if he is not accountable in this court, he is accountable nowhere".

Despite, the compelling terms of the judgment in *Fabrigas*, not only the terms of the Governors' commissions but also the geographic isolation of the new Colony meant that the early Governors retained significant personal legal authority over the day-to-day life of the colony and were often unquestioned as to the legality of their actions.

Phillip planted the British flag at *Warrane* or *Werong*, two of the Aboriginal names for the place, which Phillip called Sydney Cove, on 26 January 1788, having considered Botany Bay for a settlement to be unsuitable due to its sandy soil and lack of fresh water. Twelve days later, on 7 February 1788, the day after the female convicts were disembarked at Sydney Cove, Judge-Advocate **David Collins** read Phillip's commission to a motley assembly of 'hungover convicts', who had, it seems, got exceedingly drunk the night before.

Lieutenant Ralph Clark of the Marines recorded the occasion in his diary, as follows:

"This morning at 11 o'clock all who could leave the ships were summoned on shore, to hear the Governor's Commission read and also the Commission constituting the Court of Judicature. The marines were all under arms and received the Governor with flying colours and a band of music. He was accompanied by the judge Advocate, Lieutenant Governor, Clergiman, Surveyor General, Surgeon General etc ... The convicts were all ordered to sit down on the ground; all gentlemen present were desired to come into the centre ... A camp table was fixt before them, and 2 red leather cases laid thereon, containing the Commissions etc. which were opened and unsealed in the sight of all present and read by the judge Advocate (Captain Collins)."

A red leather case, lined with metal, is part of that continuity of history of which I have made mention. It is used each week here at Government House to transmit the documents to and from the Executive Council. As a side note, a red leather case also featured in *The Crown*.

Following the reading of Phillip's Commission, Phillip then addressed the convicts - it is reported, sternly - before inviting selected members of his Corps to a celebratory gathering at the first Government House at Sydney Cove - then no more than a 'lean-to' of timber and canvas.

The colony was formally established.

Phillip left the colony due to ill health on 11 December 1792, intending to return but that was not to be. Returning to active duty in 1798, he was appointed commander of the Hampshire Sea Fencibles, established to protect the county against an invasion by **Napoleon**. He died on 31 August 1814, having risen to the rank of Admiral, his death following a fall from the window of his home in Bath. He had, it seemed, suffered a stroke sometime earlier. He is buried in St Nicholas' Church in Bath, where we attended a commemorative service in June 2022, on which occasion the Church flew the NSW



The Governor holding the FFF book and Scroll of Loyalty, alongside the Red Dispatch Box

Governor's standard to honour our attendance.

A portrait of Captain Arthur Phillip hangs in the Main Hall at Government House Sydney. This 1938 portrait is based on an original 1776 portrait of Phillip, undertaken before the First Fleet's voyage. Therein, lies another story.

In 1938, Governor Lord Wakehurst, in preparing for the Sesquicentenary or 150th anniversary of British settlement, noticed the House did not possess a portrait of the first Governor. He contacted the Royal Empire Society and requested a copy after the 1776 original by **Francis Wheatley**. The portrait was duly commissioned and shipped to Sydney and personally presented to Government House by members of the Society.

235 years hence, Phillip's proclamation, under (I quote) the "Great Seal of Great Britain" of "our Territory called New South Wales", has had a profound impact on this land; its original inhabitants, First Nations peoples; its laws and institutions, and on State and Commonwealth jurisdictions.

After several delays, I am pleased to welcome you - the descendants of First Fleeters, as I am - to Government House for afternoon tea to enjoy the freshest and finest produce of New South Wales. " END



Portrait of Governor Arthur Phillip which hangs in the entry hall

This gave Phillip the authority to govern alone over the eastern half of the continent, according to British Law.

The enactment of the Charter of Justice and the Courts of Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction.

The commencement of trial of all criminal offences under the laws of England.

The emancipation of convicts.

Granting of land for good behaviour and industry.

Established the 135° meridian as the western boundary of New South Wales (dividing the continent to avoid upsetting the Dutch who had explored continent’s western shores). The boundary extended from Cape York (Queensland) to South Cape (Tasmania), westward inland to 135° longitude and all the islands adjacent in the Pacific Ocean.

Her Excellency referred to the Red Box (positioned on the Governor’s right in the picture on the previous page) in which are held the important government dispatches. For centuries, the Red Box has been heavily weighted - if a ship was under threat, it was thrown overboard to prevent the enemy taking possession.

FFF President’s reply



Also on display were two treasured claspsticks, presented to the Governor by a local Aboriginal Council to promote a warm, ongoing relationship between the two societies.

On behalf of Fellowship of First Fleeter members, FFF President, Jon Fearon, extended warm wishes to Her Excellency the Governor and presented a book produced by the Fellowship, *Dispatched Downunder*, with the pages marked where her First Fleeter ancestors **John Small** and **Mary Parker** are listed. Jon also presented the Governor with a Scroll addressed to our **King Charles III**:

FFF Pledge of Loyalty

To commemorate the 235th Anniversary of the formal proclamation by Governor Arthur Phillip of the establishment of the British Colony in Australia, the President and Members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters ask its Patron, the Governor of New South Wales, to send their allegiance of loyalty to His Majesty King Charles III, Australia’s Head of State.

Fellowship members, who consist of those who descend from the pioneers who arrived at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788 on the First Fleet along with their family members and friends, pledge their respect for the democratic beliefs, rights, liberties and laws of Australia.

Members invite their Majesties to visit First Fleet House during their next visit to Australia.

Signed on behalf of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

W Jon Fearon

President of Fellowship of First Fleeters

7 February 2023



King Charles III – official photo

Jon presented FFF Vice Patron Commodore Paul Kable to the Governor while members from various Chapters chatted, or wandered through magnificently decorated rooms, admiring portraits of previous Governors, the current Governor-General, and of course Governor Arthur Phillip. Her Excellency circulated amongst our members, sharing good wishes and conversation.



The Governor with the Vice President



Wait staff, wearing the **ERII** insignia, circulated with offers of champagne, soft drinks, coffee and tea and platters of finger food while the Police Band played light music on the veranda.

On Monday 13 February 2023 I emailed a 'thank you' note to the Communications and Protocol Officers expressing our appreciation of a very special event and the opportunity to meet our Patron, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC.



King Charles III Insignia with Tudor Crown replacing Queen Elizabeth II Insignia with King Edward Crown



Post from Vice Regal Program for Friday, 10 February 2023 (from Government House)

Thursday, 9 February 2023

In the afternoon, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, as Patron, hosted an Afternoon Tea for the Fellowship of First Fleeters, at Government House. For further information visit: fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au

Photos are courtesy of members, Julia Smith, Petrea Doyle, Robbie Ford, Josie Kennedy.

Collated by **Gillian Doyle**

Vice President and Chair of Events

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17 February 2023

EDITOR'S NOTE: References available on request .

GLENLEE IN LUGARNO

Those who read the Sydney press might have spotted an article on a historic property called *Glenlee*, 80 Boronia Parade Lugano. What made me curious was that the article in the *Sun-Herald* said that the property was linked to the First Fleet. Details of this link were not however set out.

The property seems to be linked, post the Aboriginal people living along the Georges River, to the Heinrich, Matthei and Chislett families. None of these names seem connected with descendants of those who arrived on the First Fleet.

What does seem to be a link is that on 20 January

1788. Arthur Philip and Philip Gidley King, leading a party of seamen from the First Fleet rowing two open boats, explored the 'South-West Arm of Botany Bay' (now Georges River). Their journals seem to show that they made it as far as what we would call Lime Kiln Bay or near this property. Here they landed at two locations. Firstly, possibly at modern-day Gertrude Point, Lugarno—where a dispute with Aboriginal people broke out and secondly, a peaceful meeting at the head of Lime Kiln Bay. As fresh water was not found they turned around and determined to move the Fleet to Port Jackson.

Does anyone know of any further connection of this property with the First Fleet?

Roderick Best Director

The MUSEUM OF SYDNEY

THREE VOLUNTEERS RETIRE

A number of members have inquired as to what is happening with the *Museum of Sydney on the site of First Government House*. New legislation governing NSW State Government heritage properties and the State Archives commenced on 22 December 2022. The new objectives for these museums is now to promote a knowledge and appreciation of history and the “stories that shape the social, historical, political and cultural identity of New South Wales.”

The first CEO of the newly established Museums of History said that for the Museum of History this meant that it would ‘progressively transform into a First Nations cultural space....This isn’t about erasing the colonial from the site; it’s about adding First Nations perspectives to address history more comprehensively, in all its complexity.”

The Museum of Sydney is important to the Fellowship because it is the site where **Arthur Phillip** established the administrative centre for the new Colony – the hub of life for our ancestors. The site contains the earliest building remains and the only European ones dating to 1788.

Because of the relevance of this particular museum, and this site, to the Fellowship we wrote to the relevant Minister



and to the Acting CEO to clarify what the proposals actually meant. A copy of the Minister’s letter is reproduced. The Acting CEO agreed to meet with us and said that this was a critical time if we wanted our views heard because recruitment action was happening for a new CEO, the new Board for Museums of History was about to meet for the first time and a State Government election was about to be held.

As you will be aware the Board of the Fellowship has been seeking to make it clear that the Fellowship, in furthering its objectives of promoting knowledge about who were our First Fleet ancestors and what they did is wanting to make sure that this is done while understanding that they did this within a context of the country and the First Nations people that were both here when they arrived and who continued to live here and have an impact on the lives of our ancestors – as they did on the lives of the First Nations people. We consider that it is only possible to understand what happened in 1788, and since, by understanding both and neither to the detriment of understanding the other and certainly, on this of all sites, to understand what our ancestors went through in getting here and establishing a new life and a new nation, is essential. **Roderick Best Director**

Val and Chris Counter

I have been a Board member and volunteer at First Fleet House leaving two years ago after twenty plus years. During that time, I have worked with some wonderful volunteers the last being **Val & Chris Counter**. Val and Chris have now also moved on to enjoy more family time. They have both been wonderful assets to the Fellowship. Val joined Lois Cook and me on the Membership Team some twelve years ago and Chris joined us five years ago helping not only with Membership but filling in and helping in all areas. They have both contributed so much on the Board and in the office. They will be greatly missed. A great friendship has arisen since working with them – there have been lots of interesting and fun times at the office. I know that all who have had contact with them will want to wish them all the best for the future..

I know the Fellowship is in need of more volunteers and I would encourage members if possible to volunteer a few hours of their time each week. I can guarantee you will receive a lot more than you give.

Elaine Bennett #1364



Chris and Karys



Elaine and Val

Karys Fearon

In 2012 Karys was elected to the Board as Chapter Liaison. For many years she has also taken her place alongside husband Jon, representing the Fellowship at many events. She joined the Membership team about 7 years ago, along with Chris Counter, learning the role from Elaine and Val, whom she valued for their office expertise. She was grateful for a well-run, friendly office and found the role interesting, working with applicants and learning from each other. Karys left the Board in 2021 after 9 years but continued her role in Membership, travelling from the Central Coast to Woolloomooloo every Wednesday. She will miss her days in the office with Val and Chris. Her knowledge of DNA will continue to assist with membership applications after her move to Queensland.

We acknowledge the contribution all three have made to the Fellowship. The Fellowship only continues to operate through the dedication of our volunteers. We wish them all the very best for the future.

DRAFT POLICY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR HERITAGE*

A new chapter is currently being written on Aboriginal and other cultural relationships. The Fellowship is planning to be part of the writing of that chapter. At its Board meeting on 25 January Directors comprehensively discussed and endorsed a draft policy statement on its relationship with Indigenous People. The policy is to be discussed with the local Aboriginal Land Council and is attached for your consideration.

While the name 'Indigenous People' is used in this policy, we recognise that other names are also used by others viz: Aboriginal People, Aborigines, First Nation People, First People, and First Australians. We support using whatever name is respectful when this policy is applied in a particular place, so that the name preferred by the people of that place is inserted within this policy.

1. REASON FOR THE POLICY

1.1 Among the objectives of the Fellowship of First Fleeters are:

- The accurate and authentic dissemination of the events of the First Fleet.
- To ensure the accurate and authentic recording of the people of the First Fleet and their descendants.

1.2 These objectives cannot be fulfilled without recognising that Indigenous people were already present on 26 January 1788 in what is now called Australia and that they had been present for many thousands of years before then. They were part of this land and the land has never been ceded.

1.3 As descendants of those who arrived with the First Fleet, we have the longest continuous connection with Indigenous people and the longest continuous link to this land other than the Indigenous people themselves.

1.4 Therefore, for the Fellowship to fulfil its objectives it should present a policy relating to this unique connection with Indigenous people and their heritage.

2. POLICY

In relation to its unique connection with Indigenous people and their heritage the Fellowship of First Fleeters has a commitment to:

2.1 The statement of 'Acknowledgement of Country' on its website and its use where appropriate and respectful.

2.2 The recognition of the heritage of Indigenous people

2.3 Respect, Reconciliation, Unity and Truth-telling.

2.4 Building relationships with Indigenous people for a better future through shared learning and the dissemination of a shared knowledge of past harm and

trauma with reference to the interactions of both indigenous people and First Fleeters and their descendants.

2.5 Meaningful engagement and building an understanding for our mutual benefit.

2.6 The establishment of an advocate within the Executive of the Fellowship to be known as the Indigenous Persons Liaison Officer. This role to be supported by a committee and other people where needed.

2.7 While individual members will have a wide range of opinions as a Fellowship the organisation is an apolitical, familial and historical research society engaged in shared learning opportunities for those seeking to better understand the history of their own family, the First Fleet and the Indigenous communities with whom the First Fleeters and their descendants interacted.

2.8 Regard for specific cultural traditions and customs of Indigenous people, especially in relation with connection with the land where the Fellowship operates.

3. WHAT THE FELLOWSHIP HAS ALREADY DONE IN IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY

3.1 The members of the Fellowship have already endorsed wording for an 'Acknowledgement of Country'.

3.2 As descendants of First Fleeters we have already acknowledged that our families have lived in this land alongside Indigenous people longer than anyone else.

3.3 We display the Aboriginal flag at First Fleet House alongside the Australian flag and the Queen Anne Jack.

3.4 We are seeking to participate with Indigenous people at Australia Day Ceremonies and other relevant events.

4. WHAT THE FELLOWSHIP NEEDS TO DO FURTHER TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY

4.1 Establish the role of an Indigenous Persons Liaison Officer including writing a role statement.

4.2 Support our members, including Indigenous members and prospective Indigenous members, in understanding our shared heritage.

4.3 Continue to seek engagement with Indigenous peoples' organisations and communities to respectfully understand Australia's National Day.

4.4 Advocate for the flying of the Aboriginal flag wherever the Australian flag and the Queen Anne Jack flag are flown to recognise the First Fleet for example at First Fleet Park, Circular Quay Sydney.

4.5 Seek further suggestions from the Board and Chapters to be incorporated as part of a review of this policy by the Board at least once every 3 years.

4.6 Place this policy on the FFF website under the already existing ‘Acknowledgement of Country’.

4.7 Formulate a plan to implement, monitor and assess this policy. Report on the effectiveness of this plan at Board and at Annual General Meetings.

4.8 Position for display the following plaque at First Fleet House to be placed inside First Fleet House near

**THIS PLAQUE RECOGNISES THAT THE SITE OF
FIRST FLEET HOUSE
IS PART OF TRADITIONAL GADIGAL LANDS OF
THE EORA PEOPLE

THE FELLOWSHIP, COMPRISING
DESCENDANTS OF FIRST FLEETERS,
ACKNOWLEDGES AND RESPECTS INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE**

the Aboriginal flag that is already on display:

CLOSING COMMENT

It is important to recognise that a relationship between Indigenous peoples’ groups and the Fellowship has the potential to be mutually beneficial, especially as each is concerned with truth-telling and the accurate and authentic recording of Australian history. To gain a better understanding of the Fellowship and to avoid unnecessary acrimony it is similarly important that, on its part, the Fellowship works towards an open and accepting discussion with Indigenous people at individual and community levels.

Version: 1.0, 30 January 2023.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Please send your comments to fffaus@optusnet.com.au
Comments will close on May 1.



**OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED
BY THE BOARD**

JACOB NAGLE FIRST FLEETER

The interesting story of American, **Jacob Nagle**, being a member of the First Fleet continues to challenge the Fellowship’s policy of placing a plaque on the graves of First Fleeters. Director Brooke Smith has negotiated a part for the Fellowship to play in a dedication ceremony later in the year.

Nagle who was born and who died in America after a lifetime of world travel in various navies that included service on *HMS Sirius*, has finally received support from the Daughters of the American Revolution to have a plaque installed in Ohio with an international dedication ceremony to honour the event.

Secretary **Rod Best** will represent the Fellowship at the dedication ceremony in Canton, Ohio, tentatively set for the US summer this year

BOTANY BAY CHAPTER’S COMMEMORATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF HMAT SUPPLY AT BOTANY BAY 1788.

Magnificent event- an initiative of the Botany Bay Chapter, has potential for the annual involvement of local Chapters coming together for celebration and social enjoyment. The venue’s glorious location at Yarra Bay Sail Club overlooking a sparkling Bay enhanced an enjoyable lunch, getting to know other First Fleeters, their Chapters, and sharing stories.

This is a good example of inter-chapter involvement that is an aspect of the Board’s priority for strengthening the ongoing involvement of Chapter interactions. The Hunter Valley Chapter is another example is linking with Central Coast for a joint activity on the Hawkesbury to Barr Island later in the year to continue its Chapter link in this way.

The Board would like to be informed of other joint Chapter activities.

Power Point presentation for Primary and Secondary Schools

Available for the start of Term 1, 2023 after script, references and image Sources are cross-referenced and amended. For more information and access contact

Gillian Doyle, Vice President at www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au

Flags proudly displayed at First Fleet House

**The Australian Aboriginal Flag, the
Australian Flag and the Queen Anne Jack**

MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

I was under the impression the FFF was non political, non partisan, independent association of people who have an interest in history via their links to those mostly unfortunate souls on the First Fleet. All of the people on the First Fleet are immigrants to this country now known as Australia. This "new" country, Australia, was occupied for quite a few years before the First Fleet landed. Some estimates are around 60,000 years. It is no surprise to me, or any other thinking Australian, that the date January 26 is a day of mourning for a large number of our indigenous population. Pick a day, any day other than January 26. The first landing point for the First Fleet was on January 10 at Botany Bay courtesy of some rather inaccurate descriptions of the geography and potential use for agriculture. That seems a very appropriate day to me. The fact that the Federal MP for Bowman wants to enshrine January 26 as "Australia Day" forever is of little interest to large portion of the Australian population. He quoted one poll. There are other polls I suggest he chose not to quote. In the interests of bipartisanship in the Founders Magazine, you may like to publish this letter and note that if the FF actively supports "enshrining" Jan 26 then I and quite a few others would no longer be members.

Ross Humphreys #4680

I noted in the President's Pen column in the last Founders that Jon referred to HMAT Supply as the first ship of the First Fleet to enter Botany Bay in January 1788. From research I have done the prefix HMAT (His Majesty's Australian Transport) was first used by the Australian Navy on troop transport ships taking Australian service personnel overseas during WW1, it certainly was not used by the British Admiralty in 1788. A Google search of the internet has many references to the HMS Supply. described as an armed tender, a two masted brig of 170 tons, the smallest and fastest ship in the First Fleet. A search of the web site – Records of the Admiralty, Naval Forces, Royal Marines at

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk> has references to the HMS Supply and her **Captain Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball**. If the British Admiralty refer to their own ship as HMS Supply I feel that we should follow the same convention

Ian Palmer #295

Jon Fearon wrote:

I know HMAT is controversial because it relates to WWI troop transports. However, I used the other widely known abbreviation for HMAT, His Majesty's Armed Tender. In future I should use the name many of the naval officers

and diarists used in the early years of settlement; They sometimes wrote, *His Majesty's Brig, the Armed Tender, Supply*, or more often *The Brig, Supply*. Of course, in popular parlance *Supply* was one of the ships of the first fleet and because it was a naval vessel it belonged to His Majesty, hence HMS, even by the Admiralty. I was researching vessel nomenclature for a chapter talk a couple of years ago and discovered that by the late eighteenth century a true ship had to have three masts all of which were square rigged.

Have a look at this site:

<https://classicsailor.com/2019/11/the-fully-rigged-ship/>

Jon Fearon President

Greetings to all members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

All FFF Members are probably aware of the situation surrounding the provision of ongoing funding to the National Archives to enable them to continue their digitization program for Trove, that national asset we all value so highly for our family history research. At the meeting of Moreton Chapter FFF on Saturday, 11 February 2023, the guest speaker, herself a First Fleet descendant and a professional historian, stressed again to our members the importance of doing all possible to ensure this funding continues. Apart from how many people sign petitions, etc., relating to this issue, the funding decision makers will always look at Trove's usage as the deciding factor when making the funding allocation. To this end, advice to members was to spend ANY spare time researching SOMETHING/ANYTHING on Trove, even if you don't have any specific research requiring your attention. The higher the number of research hits Trove records, the more likely its funding is favourably considered. Sixty thousand 'hits' may not cut it for the bean counters, whereas 100,000 probably would. This message is a plea to all fellow First Fleeters to start using Trove as much as possible over the next few months and encourage any friends who may be occasional users to do likewise. Nationally we can provide massive support for this cause as there are many of us, so don't hesitate – start researching SOMETHING/ANYTHING on Trove now!

Moreton Chapter FFF

I have received my Founders Magazine (Vol 54 Issue!) and noted on page 8 where Board Member ancestors were listed that **John Small** has a # after his name indicating he was a marine on the First Fleet. Please note that he was an ex-marine who served on the HMS Lively but that he was a convict on the First Fleet. He should have an * after his name.

Bill Hepp # 6990.1

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: 15 April: Speaker TBA, 20 May: Speaker TBA, 17 June: Speaker TBA
Next Event: Chiltern Court House visit and town tour
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: 21 April: Paul Ashton *Centennial Park History*, 19 May: Ian Hoskins *Barangaroo*, 16 June: Speaker TBA
Next Event: 25 April: ANZAC Day Dawn Service 19 May: Coffee and Cake- 235th Anniversary of the departure of the First Fleet
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: April 18: Speaker TBA, 16 May: Ian Burnet *The Tasman Map*, 20 June: Speaker TBA
Next Event: 4 April: Outing to St Phillips Church, York St, Sydney
Contact: Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

CANBERRA – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** 20 May: Lunch to celebrate the departure of the First Fleet 12:30pm D’Browes, 59 Boolimba Crescent, Narrabundah
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: May 13: Speaker TBA, June 10: Members talking about an item of memorabilia
Next Event: 15 May: Lunch Cruise with Hunter Valley Chapter to celebrate the launching of the First Fleet
Contact: Margaret Morelli (02)4362 2042

DERWENT - *Southern Tasmania NB: New Venue*

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37A Lincoln St.
Next Meeting: 1 April: *Two Historical King Island Wrecks-in prose and in verse*, 3 June, 5 August
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 Meeting: 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:** 20 May – details on their facebook page
Contact: Robyn Porter 0407 223 600

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

Venues: Windsor Library, Penrith Library and Springwood.
Next Meetings: 8 April: Old Schoolhouse, Gt Western Hwy Emu Plains: John Lanser *The Bowman Flag*, June 10: Hawkesbury Central Library: Lorraine Stacker *Combewood House*
Next Event: 13 May: Tall Ship Cruise Sydney Harbour

commemorating the First Fleet departure

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: 17 April: 5 minute speaker Terry Musgrave, Guest speaker Phil Aubin, June 19: Show and Tell
Next Event: 15 May: Cruise to Bar Island with CC Chapter
Contact: Kerry Neinert (02) 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 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: 15 April: Three Presentations on Bushrangers, 10 June: Col Sutcliffe *The Old Curiosity Shop*
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: 2 April: at Woolgoolga Seniors Centre, 8 Boundary St, Woolgoolga, 4 June: at the home of Margaret and Joe Bass, 95 Ferretts Rd, Nana Glen
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: 28 May: 10:30am
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: June 3 at the Family History room: Local Aboriginal Studies teacher
First Nations History & the First Fleet
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: **Contact:** Peter Yates pyatesfff@gmail.com

SOUTH COAST – *Engadine to Burrill Lake.*

NB: New Venue: Artisan Room, Wests Illawarra Club, Unanderra – monthly except. Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm
Next Meetings: April 4: John Stewart *Walking the Kokoda Track* June: Alan Collis *My Second Fleet Ancestor-Christopher Cross*
Next Event: 20 May: 12:00 Annual May Luncheon at Figtree Bowling Club
Contact: Fae McGregor 02 4271 3762

SWAN RIVER – *Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.*

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm.
Next Meetings: 3 or 10 June TBD
Next Event: **Contact:** Toni Mahony (08)9271 7630

EDITOR’S NOTES: Thank you to the Chapters who submitted details of their upcoming meetings and events. Closing date for this page for the next issue is **22 May 2023.**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DEATHS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

JOHN NICHOLLS

#9216 Robyn Dawn Lyons

JAMES SQUIRE

#9217 Cynthia May Orchard

WAINWRIGHT/ECCLES Ellen/Esther

#9218 Saul Ivor Baker

JAMES SHEERS/MARY SMITH

#9219 Elizabeth Jane Ainsworth

#9220 Sally Anne Ainsworth

JOHN RYAN

#9223 Roslyn Joan Sergi

MATTHEW JAMES EVERINGHAM

#9224 David Edward Love

Junior Members

THOMAS ACRES

#9221 Elle Rose Wall

PHILLIP SCRIVEN/JANE LANGLEY

#9222 Elyse Henrietta Vatanika Chapman

JAMES BLOODWORTH/SARAH BELLAMY

#74 **Elsie Ruth Watson** of Helensburgh, NSW died on 16.8.22 aged 96. Elsie was a founding member of the Fellowship. Even though husband's stroke in 2014 took her away from participation in the Fellowship she was often approached to share her knowledge of her Bloodworth lineage.

WILLIAM THOMPSON/MARIA HAMILTON

#7056 **Margaret Verne Watts (née Hamilton)** of Monash, ACT died on 7.12.22.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM

#8912 **Florence Mary McKILLOP-DAVIES** of Wyong, NSW died on 5.2.2023. She was a member of the Central Coast Chapter.

JOHN MARTIN/ANN MARTIN

#8570 **Gordon Charles Martin** of Eastwood, Vic. died on 10.2.23 aged 94. Gordon was a proud member of the FFF, being a descendent of John Martin who arrived on the "Alexander." He really enjoyed the Founders Newsletter he received bi-monthly reading all the great stories of yesteryear. He was a member of the Port Phillip Chapter. His health condition made it difficult to attend meetings but he enjoyed receiving regular information from the Chapter.



Trove, hosted by the National Library of Australia, is a free online portal containing many digitised

resources vital for researching the past, including a collection of Australian newspapers. The National Library will not have sufficient funding to maintain the current online Trove service after June 2023 and will need to cease offering the Trove service entirely.

In January, the Government's *Revive* National Cultural Policy for Australia's arts, entertainment and cultural sector for the next five years was released. *Revive* failed to address funding for Trove. Can we expect a decision

about funding to be announced in the upcoming Federal Budget?

How can you help? Letters or emails in support of Trove to Tony Burke, MP, Minister for the Arts Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au <https://www.tonyburke.com.au/contact>



Is your Chapter interested in hosting the 2023 Annual General Meeting? Now is the perfect time for you to put your hand up. As usual it will be much more than a formal meeting. It will be a chance for your members to engage with the Board and other FFF members. It will also provide an opportunity to showcase your local area.

Contact us at fffaus@optusnet.com.au

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

Margaret Morelli

02 4362 2042

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 pyatesfff@gmail.com

SOUTH COAST

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630