

Founders

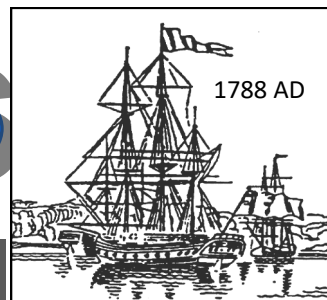
Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

VICE PATRON: Paul Kable AM RAN Retd



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

FF JOHN RAMSAY *Convict 'Scarborough' (C1762-1836)*

According to his Certificate of Freedom, granted on 30 October 1824, **John Ramsay's** native place was County Donegal, Ireland. A former seaman, late of Battersea, Ramsay was tried at the Surrey Lent Assizes which began at Kingston upon Thames on 24 Mar 1784. At the trial it was stated '*..that John Ramsay late of the parish of Battersea in the county of Surrey Labourer and William Johnson late of the same...on the 16th day of November... with force and arms in the parish aforesaid...in the King's Highway...upon William Edwards feloniously did make an assault and...him in corporal fear and danger of his life did put and...one pair of Silver Shoe Buckles of the value of 15s. one pair of Silver Knee Buckles of the value of 6s. one silk Handkerchief of the value of 3s. one linen Handkerchief of the value of 1s. two Muslin Stocks of the value of 2s. and two shillings of the proper silver coin of the realm of the goods and chattels of said William Edwards ...violently and feloniously did steal...'*. They were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, then reprieved to transportation to America for seven years, and sent to the hulks on 24 October 1785. John was aged 22 years. Following nearly two years on the hulk *Justitia*, John was dispatched by wagon on 24 February 1787 to Portsmouth to embark on the *Scarborough* three days later.

At Sydney Cove on Monday 24 March 1788 Ramsay was one of five witnesses at a quadruple wedding of First Fleet couples conducted by the chaplain **Rev Richard Johnson**. Over two years later, on Sunday 19 December 1790, at a triple wedding service at Rosehill John Ramsay married **Mary Leary** (Convict, *Neptune*, 1790), with Mary making her mark and John signing the register. Mary had been tried by the London Jury before Mr **Baron Langham**, indicted for stealing clothing to the value of over £28, the property of **William Langham**, found guilty and sentenced to transportation for seven years. She was held at Newgate until 12 November 1789, when she was embarked on the *Neptune* Transport.

In November 1789 the London Times noted that the



Buckle shoes with buckles (part of Joseph Box collection) maker unknown, England, 1720-1799 - Powerhouse Museum

ships bound for Botany Bay were planning to depart on 26 December. The captains of the ships had received strict orders from the Secretary of State's Office to have everything on board by that time. It was noted on 10 December that the *Neptune* remained in Causand Bay awaiting further orders. The Second Fleet ships *Neptune*, *Surprize* and *Scarborough* and store ship *Justinian* sailed from England on 19 January 1790, six months after the departure of the *Lady Juliana*. The *Neptune* arrived in Port Jackson on 28 June 1790

Six couples, John and Mary Ramsay among them, were each granted 50 acres on 18 July 1791 at The Ponds (at Rydalmere, about 2 miles north east of Parramatta) and three other single convicts 30 acres.

A daughter **Elizabeth** was born to Mary Ramsay in September and baptised at St John's Parramatta on 2 October 1791. Just on six months after settling on their grant, on 6 December 1791, John and Mary were visited by **Watkin Tench** who reported that 'He deserves a good spot, for he is a civil, sober, industrious man. He has a well laid out little garden (3½ acres), in which I found he and his wife, busily at work. He praised her industry to me and said he had no doubt of succeeding. It is not often seen that sailors make good farmers; but this man I think bids fair to contradict that observation'. (continued on page 5)

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FOUNDERS

The magazine of the
Fellowship of First Fleeters
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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

Greetings to all our keen historians. I trust those of you who live in southern climes are keeping warm and healthy.

Many of you who belong to chapters will know that we are just moving out of the current AGM window and your Presidents are presenting their annual reports and arranging elections for the year ahead (2023-4). Your Secretaries will no doubt be busy emailing to our Chapter Liaison Officer the reports together with the list of newly elected committees and their contact details.

As President I look forward to reading the chapter reports as I will be using them to prepare my own report for our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 26 October at Unanderra. This is kindly being hosted by South Coast Chapter. We invite you to join us there on the day. Details are on pages 3 and 4.

Eight years ago Karys and I appreciated South Coast hospitality when immediate Past President Ian Palmer handed the steering wheel on to me and together we have thoroughly enjoyed the voyage. In October I will be handing the Presidency on to my successor and a new Board, praying as always for calm seas and prosperous journeys ahead. Nominations are now open for all positions.

Our Fellowship has links to many other historical and family history societies and we have been pleased to encourage the recently formed Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, some of whose members are also First Fleeters. I was unable to accept their invitation to join them at their recent AGM in Brisbane, and to meet their Governor General, Jane Hurt, who was their guest for the occasion.

Jane, however, came on to visit Cairns and the Reef before returning to USA. Local Queensland Mayflower

members invited us to join them at dinner with Jane. Gifts were exchanged between the two societies to strengthen our mutual connections.



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PRESIDENT'S PEN (cont.)

Some of our members have been hoping the Fellowship would declare a 'position' on the forthcoming Voice Referendum. As you would expect our views range right across the spectrum so the Board has wisely resolved not to officially enter the debate which has unfortunately taken on a strong political undertone. To maintain the peace our FaceBook pages and *Founders* will not be accepting any material advocating a specific vote. We do encourage you to monitor the official information and carefully submit your response when the time arrives. After all, as we have said so often, as settlers we First Fleeters have the longest continuous connection with the First Nations of this land.

I look forward to exchanging our farewells together in October at the AGM or at the Plaque Dedication for Owen Cavanough at North Sackville if it can be arranged for that time. Jon.



This plate was donated by the late Orel Lea and given to the Fellowship in her memory by the Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants.



EDITOR'S NOTE: It has been noted that the article published in *Founders* 54.3 on John Rowe contains some inaccurate information. The article shows his date of birth as September 7 1757 and his baptism as June 5 1757. His baptism has been confirmed using Parish Records.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

ACN 003 223 425

Patron: Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales

Vice Patron: Commodore Paul Kable AM RAN Rtd

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at Wests Illawarra Club,
Hargreaves Street, Unanderra 2526
on Saturday, 28 October 2023 commencing at 1100.

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Apologies and Acknowledgement
 2. Receive and confirm the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 October 2022
 3. Receive the President's report
 4. Receive and consider the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2023
 5. Approve the appointment of Commodore Paul Kable as Vice Patron
 6. Approval of Life Membership(s)
 7. Election of Officers
 - Appointment of Returning Officer and vacation of Chair to Returning Officer
 - Declaration of vacancy of current positions
 - Election of President, not more than two Vice Presidents, Treasurer and not more than 10 Committee Members (who have been nominated at least 42 days prior)
 - Declaration by the Returning Officer as to the incoming officers and the vacation of the Chair to the incoming President
 8. General business
- Roderick Best, Company Secretary
6 July 2023

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Fellowship of First Fleeters with LUNCH on Saturday 28 October

Hosted by the South Coast Chapter
at West Illawarra Sports Club
1 Hargreaves Street, Unanderra NSW 2526
<https://www.westsillawarra.com.au/>

Schedule:

In the Artisan Event Space - Morning Tea at 10am;
Annual General Meeting at 11am;
In the Artisan Dining Area - Lunch at 12 midday;
In the Artisan Event Space - A general meeting for the FFF Board at 1.00pm;



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL to confirm catering numbers.

Morning Tea, Lunch & Meeting venue costs will be funded by the Fellowship.

Beverages to be paid for by individuals.

Register by Wednesday 18th OCTOBER, by one of the following:

EMAIL to: fffaus@optusnet.com.au (preferred option) or by

TELEPHONE: First Fleet House on (02) 9360 3788

We look forward to welcoming you to this important annual event.

BOOK REVIEW

WHERE FIRST FLEETERS LIE

Joyce Cowell, Rodney Best

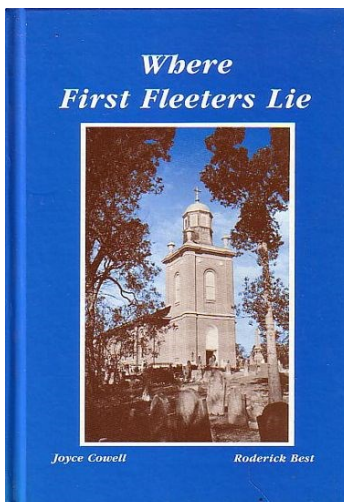
(No publication date is given but the Foreword of President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters at the time, Peter G. Christian, is dated 1989 and is compiled from the records of The Fellowship of First Fleeters.)

This book, compiled from the records of The Fellowship of First Fleeters, (FFF) attempts to trace the places of burials of First Fleet people. Its authors had an interest in the earliest European settlement with both holding a number of positions with the FFF organisation, making them qualified to write this work.

It was a heroic attempt at the time as so little was known of many of the early European settlers due to the lack of adequate record-keeping during this stage. Hence Cowell and Best's attempt to collate and publish this book to help overcome the difficulties of finding accurate information for descendants. As years elapsed following settlement data-recording improved but it wasn't until the 1850s that any real attempt was made to develop official and accurate records.

Thus the book provides only fully verified details of a mere 76 of the approximately 1500 people that arrived on the First Fleet. It is two hundred and twenty pages, with its chapters well listed. The 76 people given, convicts and military, have received as comprehensive an account of their lives and burial places as possible, with the style of writing and language easy to follow. The lack of more information on others is understandable as the difficulties these early people encountered were many and varied and record-keeping was not high on the list of priorities. It is a book well worth the read however as the authors provide a brief history of the area of settlement the early settlers lived in, along with their crimes or professions, followed by a brief account of their lives before coming here.

There are some provisos however. For example, on page 33, the authors state that **Richard Ridge**, partner of First Fleeter **Jane (Poole) McManus**, arrived in the Second Fleet aboard the *Atlantic*. The *Atlantic* was not part of the Second Fleet but was part of the Third Fleet. On page 121, it is stated that **James Ruse** was born in 1759 with his mother dying in 1766, but gives his age at the time of her death as seventeen. There is enough information on James Ruse elsewhere to know that it should have read that he was born in 1759, his mother died in 1766, which makes James seven and not seventeen at the time of her death as stated in the book. Notwithstanding these anomalies, the book is well worth a read for those with both an amateur and a professional interest.



FF JOHN RAMSAY *Convict 'Scarborough' (c1762-1836) (Cont.)*

Their second child, a son John, was born 25 August 1793 and baptised on 15 September 1793 at St John's. The next year, on 1 April 1794, a further grant of 20 acres at The Ponds, called 'Betsey Farm' or 'Ramsay's wife farm', was added to their holding. This adjoined Ramsay's Farm so John and Mary now had 70 acres.

A third child, a son **John Thomas**, was born on 4 August 1795 and baptised five weeks later, also at St Johns. He was about three months old when his father joined an expedition on 30 October to find a way over the Blue Mountains with **Matthew Everingham** and **William Reed**. This attempt was totally unknown until the finding in the 1980s of what has become known as the *Everingham Letter Book*.

On the journey they later reported that they had sighted two 'chasms', supposing that the Hawkesbury flowed through one and through the other, a stream they called the Macarthur River, (now called Bowens Creek) which they reasoned flowed into Port Stephens. They reached a point where they could see good country to the west but did not proceed any further as food supplies were running short. In fact, by the time they reached Parramatta, they had been without food for three days and Matthew's shoes had worn out. *That, he said, was worse than the lack of food.* They had started out each carrying a knapsack with 40lbs of supplies, plus ropes, other equipment and a gun.

Their hope of returning for a further attempt never eventuated. To help prevent the escape of convicts, the Government did not publicise the possibility of land to the west and discouraged exploration. Working from Matthew's description of their journey, local experts have determined that they reached either Mt. Wilson, Mt. Tomah or Mt. Irvine. In any case, they were not more than one day's trek from crossing the Blue Mountains when they turned back. This journey is described in one of several letters that have survived, from Matthew to his mentor **Samuel Shepherd**, the man he defrauded and that resulted in Matthew's conviction and transportation. This was 18 years before **Blaxland**, Lawson and **Wentworth** finally made their crossing in 1813. Throughout the first decade of the new century John Ramsay's name appears in newspaper reports, muster lists, court hearings, land and farm transactions, and community affairs. Some of these are outlined below.

In January 1800 he was the victim of an assault. Criminal Court records mention a case: 'John Ramsay against **Thomas Hodgetts**, insulting language'. Ramsay told the court Hodgetts had insisted on his telling him if he, the complainant, was an Irishman or an Englishman then afterwards he would knock him down.

Three years later John was in court again, this time at the Parramatta bench. He was accused of murdering his servant who had disappeared. Reported in *Sydney Gazette: the rumour was started by his neighbour, but several witnesses came forward and it appears that the servant left in an American ship to escape debts.* The neighbour circulated a story about him which resulted in his brief wrongful imprisonment in 1804.

At that time, the *Gazette* went out of its way to speak of the 'uniform propriety' of his conduct 'during a residence of fifteen years in the Colony'.

Ramsay was back in court on 28 September 1806, the *Gazette* detailing a theft: *a mast, sail, and blanket were stolen from Ramsay, a settler at the Ponds.* A convict,

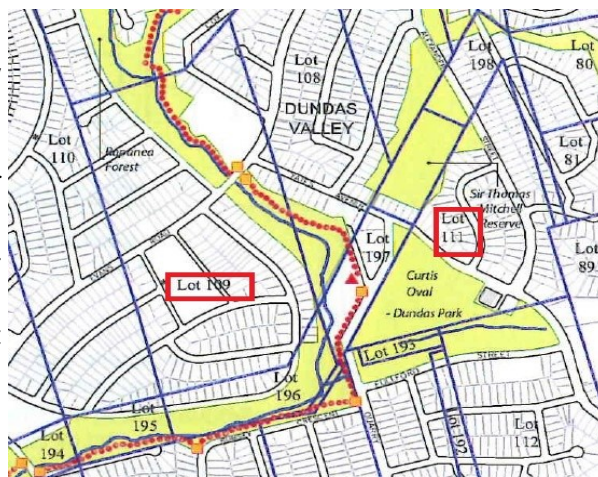
John McCannon, was sentenced to 100 lashes for the theft although Ramsay '*spoke highly as to the prisoners conduct for 14 years*'.

In civic activism John was one of the signatories to an 1800 petition from residents of The Ponds protesting at the high cost of living. Eight years later, on 1 January 1808, he signed the settlers' address supporting **Governor Bligh**, just 26 days before the latter was deposed in the Rum rebellion.

Muster records indicate that Ramsay was often involved in purchasing and selling various properties to get the best returns. In 1801 he acquired William Reid's second 60 acre grant on the riverbank several kilometres to the south on the north shore of the Parramatta River called 'Industry Farm', with nearly 18 acres sown in wheat and 17 ready for maize. He also had 4 goats and 15 pigs. From here his sailing boat was used to take produce to market for him and his ex-marine neighbour **Alexander Macdonald**.

In 1802 at The Ponds he had 12 acres wheat, 20 acres maize to be planted, 20 pigs, 3 goats.

John also held at the same time a grant at Field of Mars. 25 cleared, 17½ in wheat, 12 maize to be planted, 60 acres held, 1 male goat, 3 females; 5 male pigs, 10 females, 30 bushels maize in hand. Recording, he and his family as 1 male off stores, wife and 3 children off stores, 3 servants.



Ramsay Grant Lot 109 (Ramsay's farm) and Lot 111 (Betsey farm) -Ponds Walk brochure

In April 1804 Simeon Lord auctioned Ramsay's original 50 acres (with 40 acres cleared) at The Ponds bringing a price of 37 guineas. Ramsay's wife's farm of 30 acres of standing timber was sold for 23 guineas. **Joseph Holt**, (ex-convict *Minerva*) purchased both farms for **William Cox** (Lieutenant NSW Corps *Minerva*), who had succeeded **John Macarthur** (Lieutenant NSW Corps *Neptune*) as paymaster for the NSW Corps and both these properties became part of Brush Farm.

The 1806 Muster listed the following: *John Ramsay, Scarborough, FBS, Held by purchase 60 acres ex Reid at Field of Mars.—17 acres wheat, 16 maize, ¾ acre peas/beans, 4 acres potatoes, 4½ acres orchard, 17¾ acres pasture. (60 acres held) Stock: 7 male hogs, 8 female, 15 bushels barley in stock. Self, wife, and convict labourer off stores.* Ramsay also had an acre of flax, whose value he would have known as a seaman, for ropes and sail cloth and the cultivation of which **Governor King** had encouraged.

On 23rd February 1806 Ramsay advertised his farm of 60 acres for sale at Field of Mars, in the Sydney Gazette, 20 acres in cultivation, several acres cleared. Movement of the property must have been slow as in April 1809 he once again tried to let his 'farm and extensive orchard of fruit trees'. However, the following land transaction was listed in the same year: 'Assignment from John Ramsay to **Thomas Green**, on a Farm at Field of Mars, to secure the sum of 40 pounds in 6 weeks from 22 July. The farm had 27 pigs, corn, potatoes, wheat and poultry'. Ramsay's interests were widening that year as well. In January he was buying a horse, Capicis, from a **William Evans** for £44.10.0, and the next month he and James Squire had a Wine and Spirit Licence approved for the Field of Mars.

On 13 January 1810 John was sworn in as constable for Field of Mars, at the beginning of **Governor Lachlan Macquarie's** reforming campaign after the Rum Rebellion. At the end of the year, Macquarie visited Ramsay's Farm, Macdonald's and others, and noted it was '*prettily situated...on the banks of the river*'. Two years later Ramsay was appointed Pound Keeper for the area.

Sometime in the previous year, 1809, his daughter Elizabeth Ramsay, aged 18, married James O'Hara, who was born in Sydney in 1792. His father John O'Hara had been a convict arrival on the *Neptune* in 1790 and his mother Mary Jones, on the *Mary Ann* in 1791. The young couple, Elizabeth and James, had three children John (1809-1838), James (1812-1871) and Mary (1814-1891). In 1820 John's daughter Elizabeth O'Hara died with her husband James issuing a Memorial of James O'Hara dated 1 Jun 1820, in which he states: '*...memorialist is a freeborn subject of this colony, married a free subject of this colony (now deceased) by which he has three children...*'

In March 1811 Mary Ramsay (formerly O'Leary)

advertised her imminent departure for Europe in the *Sydney Gazette*. She was contemplating a return to England, as she and John had become so successful in their farming ventures. Sadly, Mary never made the voyage, dying, aged 41, on 7 February 1813 and was buried two days later in St John's Cemetery Parramatta.

Earlier that year, on 4 January 1813, Ramsay had subscribed to the cost of walling the St John's burial ground. This work, according to family stories, was occasioned by another settler's wife's grave having been disturbed by **Rev Samuel Marsden's** pigs, one of which the settler had shot.

Over the next two decades John Ramsay's family seemed to receive more publicity than that of John's land and farm activities, the latter a relocation to the Narrabeen area on Sydney's northern beaches.

The 1814 Muster showed: 'John Ramsay, *Scarborough*, Landholder - although his residence was shown as Kissing Point. He supplied around 2000 pounds of fresh meat to Government Stores from a property at Long Reef on the southern side of Narrabeen Lagoon. In 1815, on 24 February, he sold his holding on the north shore of the Parramatta River called Industry Farm to **Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur** and it became incorporated into the Vineyard Estate. John advertised for a mare lost from his farm at Long Reef, on 14th October 1815, for '*a considerable time since and warned that trespassing stock would be impounded*'.

Press mentions over the next three years mainly concerned family matters. In 1816 Ramsey, of Long Reef, stood surety for his son in law **James O'Hara** who had to appear at the Governor's Court for the non-payment of debt. The next year his son, John Ramsay, 'aged 24, free by birth in NSW', was a passenger on the ship *Fame* to Batavia and eventually to England. However, the *Fame* was wrecked in May in the Torres Strait.

There was a second marriage. Widower John Ramsay of Sydney married **Mary /Mary Ann Armstrong**, (*Mary Ann* 1816) of Parramatta Female Factory, 25 November 1817 at St Johns Church Parramatta, both signing with a cross in the register. Mary Ann died a year later, on 12 November 1818 at Sydney without children.

Land grants and transactions at Narrabeen dominated in 1818. A grant of 410 acres called Mount Ramsay between Narabang Lagoon and the sea, was given on condition that 45 acres be cultivated.

John Ramsay supplied several thousand pounds of meat from this property, which was described as '*the best run for cattle in the country*' with its streams of fresh water that never failed even in the driest season. The same year other transactions occurred when **Alfred Thrupp's** 300 acre farm at Long Reef was sold to a **Matthew Bacon** in July and then assigned to John Ramsay in September.

John wasted no time in 'marrying' a third time in 1818, his 'bride', no record found, being **Elizabeth Moore** who arrived in the colony on the *Maria* earlier that year. Elizabeth was described as a servant aged 38 years when convicted at Lancaster Assizes on 4 August 1817 of larceny, sentenced to 7 years transportation, and said to have been a Manxwoman. A previously healthy woman, she contracted typhoid on the voyage through nursing her messmate **Elizabeth Hely**.

John and Elizabeth had two children, **Elizabeth Harriet**, born on 27 December 1819 at a residence on the corner of King and Kent Streets in Sydney and baptised at St Phillips on 15 July 1821, and **John Thomas Ramsay** b.1823. It seems that John and Elizabeth separated about 1825. Elizabeth Ramsay nee Moore died in 1832 and was buried on 18 June at Parramatta.

In the 1820s John Ramsay's name appears in several official and colonial records. The minute book of Antiquity Lodge (Australian Social Lodge No 260) shows the following entry for 12 August 1820: Member, Masonic Lodge: *'John Ramsay, Tyler, late of No 1 Ireland'*.

He is also recorded as present on three other occasions in 1822 and 1823. This civilian lodge was formed in 1820.

As to his farm activities: The Sydney Herald (9.1.1823) listed 'wheat received at the station at Sydney, Commissariat Office: John Ramsay Long Reef 60 bushels'. Others at Long Reef were **James Miller** 200, **Robt. Simpson** 400 bushels. Just a few weeks later there was an advertisement published: Sale of Mount Ramsay. *The Bank of NSW v Ramsay: A FARM, containing 400 Acres of Land, in the District of North Harbour bounded on the south side by Cossar's Farm, & a continued s line of 32 chains; on the west and north sides, by a n line to Narra-bang Lagoon; & by that Lagoon, & on the e side by the sea.*

On 13 October 1824, some 33 years after it really should have been his, John was granted his Certificate of Freedom: *John Ramsay Scarborough (1) 1788. Where convicted Kingston 24 March 1784 seven years. Native Place Co Donegal. Calling: seaman age 73 5' 6 1/2" ruddy, grey hair, Hazel (inflamed)*

John's increasing age made it difficult for him to care for his two young children. On 17 January 1825 his daughter Elizabeth Harriet, aged 7, was admitted into the Female Orphan School, and was there in the 1828 Census. In February 1830, his daughter Elizabeth now 11, left the orphanage and was apprenticed to **Thomas Farrell**. Then (according to her reminiscences) she and her father moved to Seven Hills where they lived at an orchard. (This would probably be early in 1831 when the O'Hara family were arrested for harbouring bushrangers. They would have needed help with their farms at Seven Hills and Little Dural).

In the colony's first census, in 1828, the listing read: John Ramsay, 77, free by servitude, Scarborough, 1788, 7 years,

Protestant, gardener, **Mr Thomas Charles Farnell**, Kissing Point. The next year, on 29 April, a petition to the Male Orphan School was received from John Ramsay stating that he had arrived in the colony in the year 1788 and at seventy eight years of age was now in the service of Mr Thomas Charles Farnell of Kissing Point and at his advanced years was very infirm in health, *'Your Memorialist has a son John Thomas Ramsay near seven years of age, and he having no mother to look after his Morals, neither any home save trespassing upon a few of my acquaintances'*. John reported that his son John Thomas had been baptised privately when in danger of death as an infant by the **Rev'd Mr Therry**. The petition has the added notation: *'John Ramsay is in service to Mr T C Farnell at Kissing Point - has a wife living - but an abandoned woman living with another man - has a little girl about 8 years of age in the Female Orphan Institution'*.

The Sydney Gazette of 14 February 1833 ran this public notice: *'Caution. My Daughter, Elizabeth Harriet Ramsay, aged about 13 years, having been enticed to leave my House clandestinely; all Persons are hereby cautioned and prohibited from harbouring her, as they will be prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the law. JOHN RAMSAY. Dooral, Castle-hill, 12th February, 1833'*. She must have made her way home as on 22 Sep 1834 John Ramsay of Mangrove Creek, was a witness to his 15 year-old daughter's marriage to ex-convict 40 year-old **John White, (Fame)**. They had no children.

Elizabeth would leave John White, who died in 1840, and she had a de-facto relationship at 17, with **Richard Hibbs** who was the son of First Fleeter **Peter Hibbs** and his wife **Mary Pardoe**. There were two children. After Richard's death in 1839, Elizabeth aged 21, married **Roger Wallbank** in 1840. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters. Elizabeth Wallbank died in 1914 aged 95 years.

John Ramsay was admitted into the Benevolent Asylum in Sydney on 20 October 1835, *'he being destitute & greatly reduced by jaundice'*. He died at the Asylum a few months later, on 20 January 1836, noted as *'John Ramsey aged 85'* but he was more likely nearer 73.

His burial on 21 Jan 1836 from St Phillips by **Rev William Cowper** would have been at Devonshire Street Cemetery, which was closed in 1901 when Central Railway was built.

Compiled by #7163 John Boyd 2020.



Toll Gate and Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, 1836 - Robert Russell - NLA

St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta, NSW, 3D laser scanning

3D laser scanning of historic St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta, including its headstones and highly significant convict-built sandstock wall, is underway.

Mitchell George, an Honours Surveying student at the University of Newcastle, is producing the laser scans and a complete 3D model of the cemetery as part of his final Honours thesis, while **Will Andrews** of *Heritage Spatial* (<https://www.heritagespatial.com.au/>) was on site to capture precise GIS data for the 3D model. The University of Newcastle's School of Engineering has endorsed Mitchell George's 3D laser scanning and loaned the equipment and software required to produce and process the data. The laser scans are being carried out with the permission of St. John's Anglican Cathedral churchwardens, senior minister, Parish Council, and the Anglican Church Property Trust, thanks to St. John's Anglican Cathedral's administrative assistant **Susanna Dumbrell**, who assisted with the licence.

As it is Mitchell's wish that the public should benefit from and utilise his 3D scans, he is very generously licensing the resulting data and interactive 3D model of the cemetery so it can be published on **Dr. Michaela Ann Cameron's** open access platform *St. John's Online* (<https://stjohnsonline.org/>).



Mitchell George, a Surveying Honours student from the University of Newcastle, is pictured left; 3D spatial expert Will Andrews of Heritage Spatial is pictured right.

"It's fantastic to meet people like Mitch and Will who share my vision and therefore want to contribute their expertise to the making of an open access, non-commercial online resource that digitises this important heritage site's assets for a diverse public audience. There are multiple benefits associated with this work," says Dr. Cameron. "The complete 3D model of the site and its structures, which digitally preserves the site as it is in 2023, will become an historical record of the site in its own right. Aside from the obvious advantages of digital preservation, the model will be a reference point for ongoing conservation management, as it will allow us to monitor any deterioration of built structures in what is a fragile site exposed to the elements since the scanning was performed. The 3D model can also serve as a virtual tour of the heritage site, so for the many people who are no longer local but have ancestral connections to the cemetery, or anyone who lives remotely with an interest in the cemetery and/or the people

interred there, they will be able to virtually experience Australia's oldest surviving European cemetery from anywhere in the world. Such virtual engagement can also stimulate greater interest in the heritage site that can potentially convert into physical tourism as well. With the free 'virtual tour' in mind, the laser scanning data and 3D model will provide a strong foundation for further 3D photogrammetry and GIS work proposed for *St. John's Online*, and will be fully integrated with the existing burial data and biographies already available on the website."

A total of 16 extant First Fleet headstones and a 17th headstone bearing the Fellowship of First Fleeters' memorial plaque for **John Martin** are among the 720+ surviving memorials that will be captured during the laser-scanning process. But the parish burial register, which has also recently been transcribed and digitised by Dr. Cameron and is currently available on the website for the years between 1790 and 1860, reveals there are over 50 First Fleeters whose burials were registered within the broader parish, most of which are likely to have occurred within the cemetery grounds, precise locations unknown. (Browse the dataset, which is a work in progress, here: <https://stjohnsonline.org/burials/dataset/first-fleet/>). A total of 27 of those 50+ First Fleeters are also the subjects of biographies written by a number of Australian historians for the digital project's "St. John's First Fleeters" collection between 2015 and 2021 (<https://stjohnsonline.org/first-fleet/>), with support from the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), City of Parramatta and the NSW Government through Create NSW.

Dr. Michaela Ann Cameron is Founder and Director of St. John's Cemetery Project

JOHN GOWEN – MARINE CORPORAL – HMS SIRIUS Part 1

John Gowen was born in 1763 in Ribbesford, near Bewdley, Worcestershire, England. According to his service record, he enlisted in the Marines in 1778. On 13 May 1787, 9 years later as a Corporal of Marines and 25 years of age, he sailed from Portsmouth, England, on board *Sirius*.

On 2 October 1788, on board the *Golden Grove* John sailed to Norfolk Island as a Corporal of a Marine detachment. This was the second detachment to arrive on Norfolk Island in 1788. John stayed on Norfolk Island until 1791 when he departed for Sydney Cove on board the *Atlantic* and requested permission to resign from the Marines and was honourably discharged. John returned to Norfolk Island the following year and settled as a marine-settler and was given a land grant of 60 acres on the Cascade Stream at Phillippsburg Town. This land was later listed as returned to the Government. He farmed on Norfolk Island for a further 2 years.

In November 1794 he returned to Sydney and joined the NSW Corps (the Rum Corps) or 102nd Regiment with the rank of Sergeant, where he served for 5 years. During 1799 he resigned from the Army and accepted the position as the Official Government Storekeeper with



Sydney - Capital New South Wales, c.1800 artist unknown -This panorama shows an easterly view across Sydney Cove 12 years after settlement. The Government Wharf and Dry Store are clearly visible SLNSW DG 56

effect from 1 January 1800 in Sydney with a salary of £50. The Government Storekeeper of that time was a position of trust and ability with the Store controlling all kinds of supplies including convicts, which were needed to keep the colony alive. At the same time, he received a grant of 200 acres at Liberty Plains, County Cumberland and this would have been where Sydney Olympic Park now stands. In 1803 John was living near what is now Macquarie Place, Sydney and his dwelling house was of faced stone, 50 feet in length and 20 feet high allowing for a 'principal and an attic storey'. Behind this building were two very good houses meant as granaries and out-offices. His neighbours were **Thomas and Mary Reibey**.

The *Earl of Cornwallis*, a convict transport arrived in Sydney Harbour in 1801 with a young convict girl on board, **Ordery Appleyard**. Ordery, born in 1778 in Lincolnshire, England, was sentenced to 7 years transportation at the Lincoln Quarter Sessions in 1798. When she first arrived in Australia she was initially engaged as a servant at Windsor. John and Ordery were married on 1 June 1805 at St Phillips Church Sydney. Ordery was 27 years old and John 42. John leased 31 rods of land at the corner of O'Connell and Bent Street Sydney at 10 shillings for a period of 14 years. It is now opposite the Royal Exchange. In the 1805-1806 Muster, John and Ordery were living in Sydney and had two servants, **Abraham Whittaker** and **Sarah Gould** or Gilbert.

In 1806 John Gowen was granted 100 acres at Banks Town which the next year was recorded as being entirely under pasture with 6 cows and 1 sheep. This land is now situated at the junction of the Prospect Creek and the Orphan School Creek near the site of what is now the Carramar Railway Station, the current Artie Street being in the middle of John's land. This property was known as *Bewdley Farm* – John's home town of Ribbesford in Worcestershire was just outside Bewdley.

John obtained more land on 8 August 1809. 208 acres in the parish of Camden at what is now Minto. In 1810 he was granted an additional 160 acres at Banks Town, adjacent to his other property and on 1 January 1815 he was granted another 208 acres at Banks Town, adjacent to his existing land (also described as Parramatta). On 8 October he was granted an additional 260 acres at Banks Town.

From 1803 to 1810 John Gowen was on a salary of £75 per annum in his position as Government Storekeeper.

John and Ordery had 5 daughters, one of whom died in infancy and one son between May 1806 and April 1816. **Mary Gowen** was born 17 May 1806, **Ann Gowen** born 12 October 1807, **John Gowen** (Junior) born 23 January 1810, **Frances Gowen** (1st) died in infancy in 1808, **Frances Gowen** (2nd) born 17 September 1813 and **Elizabeth Gowen** born 24 April 1816.

John resigned from the Office of Storekeeper at Sydney in 1810 and became a farmer. On 25 March 1815 was appointed Government Storekeeper at Liverpool on a salary of £50 and was granted 11 rods at Liverpool.

(continued on page 10)

John sold all of his land at Banks Town to enable him to build a house on this land situated at what is now the south west corner of Elizabeth and George Streets, Liverpool. The property was described as having a small garden in front with a frontage of 138 feet to George Street, by a depth of 189 feet. The half-acre at the back is enclosed in cultivation well stocked with Vines, Mulberry, Apple and Peach Trees etc, a pond and well of excellent water in the yard. The house consists of 2 sitting rooms, a kitchen with oven and stoves, 2 bedrooms above and all neatly finished. 2 Store rooms are adjoining. There is also a detached building containing 2 servants' rooms. In 1815 John Gowen was listed as having **John McKeag**, convict assigned to him.

In 1819 Orderly Gowen aged 41 years died and is buried in the Old Pioneer Cemetery, Liverpool. Two years later in 1821 John Gowen married a second time to **Mary Wood** nee White, who had been convicted and sentenced to 7 years at the Middlesex Quarter Sessions and arrived in New South Wales on the *Surprise* from Cork on 25 October 1794 and by 1822 was free by servitude. Mary was born in 1774 and died in Liverpool in 1827 and is buried at the Pioneer Cemetery Liverpool. Her first husband was **Archibald Balfour Wood** (convicted of being an

Irish Rebel) and was married to him on 20 August 1817. The couple lived at 90 George Street Sydney which was owned by Mary. Archibald was in trouble with the law one week after their wedding and was charged with assault and battery of his wife Mary on 8 February. It is clear that within 6 months of their wedding it was not a success and Mary divorced Mr Wood between 1818 and 1821.

In 1821 John and Mary Gowen lived in Sydney near O'Connell Street, 'near the fountain'. The fountain referred to was the drinking fountain designed by Francis Greenway in 1818 but demolished in 1883 and replaced by a statue of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, which is still standing in Macquarie Place Park.



Sandstone Doric fountain designed by Francis Greenway and Mrs. Macquarie.

This article will conclude in the next issue of Founders



AT THE HELM



Did you know that at end of June 2023 the Fellowship had 1416 financial members?



The *FFF NOMINAL ROLL 2019*, recognising the Service of Descendants of our First Fleeters from the Crimea War (1854-1856) to the present day Iraq and Afghanistan Conflicts, is free to download from the FFF website under the Shop tab.



Have you saved the date for next year's annual Fellowship event, a Captain Cook Harbour Cruise on 10 February 2024? The booking form will be with Founders 54.6.

MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

Last Anzac Day I attended the local Anzac service in my suburb, which is attended by approximately 700 people. A number of organisations, such as local council, politicians, schools, country women's association and private people etc lay a wreath, and the organisation is called out. I thought it may be a prudent move that FFF members lay wreaths on behalf of the Fellowship, which may provide publicity and attract members and awareness to the fellowship?

I did raise this at my chapter (Central Coast) and all were in agreement that it was a worthwhile idea, and members intend laying a wreath on behalf of the First Fleet, the founders of the country the soldiers fought for. **#9127 Catherine Argat**

A Question for Members

In the last issue of Founders, 54.3, we published an article on **Elizabeth Thackeray**, the last known female survivor of the First Fleet, who died in 1856.

John Harmsworth, Marine's child, was one of the last, if not the last, First Fleeters to die in the colony. He was born on the Prince of Wales in December 1787 and died 21 July 1860 at Clarence Plains, Tasmania, aged 73 years.

Elizabeth Thackeray died aged nearly 90.

Some of the other longest lived First Fleeters are reported to be:

John Howard, convict per *Scarborough*. **John Limeburner**, convict per *Charlotte*. **John McCarty**, First Fleet Marine. **John Small**, convict per *Charlotte*. **Edward Smith: aka Beckford**, convict per *Scarborough*. **Roger Twyfield**, convict per *Friendship*.

Q: Which First Fleeter had the longest lifespan?

Founders would love to hear from you.

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: 19 August: AGM, 16 September: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** **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:** 18 August: Ron Bedansky *History of North Shore Trams*, 15 September: Judith Dunn *Any Old Iron*, 20 October: Stuart Read *Early Sydney and Hunter Vineyards* **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:** 15 August: AGM, 19 September: Sue Williams *That Bligh Girl* 17 October: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** 29 September: Rookwood Cemetery History Tour **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

CANBERRA – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** September: Annual Lunch—details TBC **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:** a **Next Event:** **Contact:** Margaret Morelli (02)4362 2042

DERWENT – *Southern Tasmania NB: New Venue*

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37A Lincoln St. **Next Meetings:** 5 August: AGM-Show and Tell, 7 October **Next Event:** 13 August: 10th Anniversary - Runnymede, Newtown - book with secretary **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:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jennifer Follers (02) 9799 1161

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

Venues: Windsor Library, Penrith Library and Springwood. **Next Meetings:** 12 August: Old Schoolhouse, Lawson St, Emu Plains: AGM. Speaker Judith Dunn RSVP 14 October: Tebbutt Room, Windsor Central Library: Speaker Laurie Turtle RSVP **Next Events:** September: outing - to be confirmed, 18 November: Visit to RAAF, Richmond, RSVP—numbers are limited. **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 9:45am for 10am start. **Next Meetings:** 20 August: AGM—Guest speaker Gavin Plunkett, *His McManus/Pool family tree*, 16 October: Guest speaker Bob Bush *A Bush Poet*, **Next Event:** 18 September: University of Newcastle Library **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 Meetings:** 12 August: AGM - Guest Speaker Keith Boulton *History of the South Brisbane Dry Dock and QMM Involvement*, 14 October: TBA

Next Event: 5 September: Queensland Government House Guided Tour 10:30am **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:** 6 August: at Mylestom Hall 18-20 River Rd, AGM 24 September: at Redrock Bowling Club, 1 Rudder St **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:** 24 September: 10:15am for 10:30 am, Lunch served at 12:30pm **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:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438 465 529

PORT PHILLIP—*Melbourne and Regional Victoria.*

Venue: Hawthorn Library at 11am. **Next Meetings:** 12 August, 28 October: AGM **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:** August: Winter Birthday Cake and Fellowship Day, September: Phil Draper *NSW Rural Fire Service* October: Alan Collis *Christopher Cross* **Next Event:** **Contact:** Tony Burns scoastcfff@gmail.com

SWAN RIVER – *Perth, Fremantle and surrounds*

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 5 August: AGM—Speaker Lorraine Clarke, 7 October: Guest Speaker Jon Carpenter **Next Event:** **Contact:** Toni Mahony (08)9271 7630

EDITOR’S NOTE: Thank you to the Chapters who submitted details of their upcoming meetings and events. Closing date for this page for the next issue is **18 Sept 2023.**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

ANN FORBES

#9246 John Reginald Ellem

JOHN BARRISFORD/HANNAH BARRISFORD

#9247 Stuart Alisdair Hodgson

WILLIAM BUTLER

#9251 Jeffrey Wayne Mc Keown

Associate Member

#9246.1 Christine Mary Ahern

Student Member

**WILLIAM DRING/ANN FORBES/OWEN CAVENAUGH/
MARGARET DARNELL**

#9250 Jesse Daniel John Stubbs

Junior Members

JOHN BARRISFORD/HANNAH BARRISFORD

#9248 Oliver Theodore Hodgson

#9249 Edward John Hodgson

JANE LANGLEY/PHILLIP SCRIVEN

#9243 Reagan Cash Chapman

#9244 Harrison Scott Chapman

#9245 Capri Adele-Margaret Chapman

Donations Received for First Fleet House

Adams D; Adams J E; Arch M L; Bannigan Peter J; Battersby B D; Baur L A; Bennett E D R; Breuillaud-Limondin S; Brown V; Butler H E; Cislawski D; Clark R W; Coleman A C; Cooling H L; Cridland S; D'Apice R J W; Davis R N; Davis R A; Dean B G; Dobbs L; Duignan P R; Eddington G O; Eggleton M J; Eldershaw R J; Entwistle R J; Francis M L; Freeman J J; Gooding P M; Grace P M; Grace W H; Hammond B C; Hammond C J; Hannah N D; Harding P J G; Harris J; Haspell R F; Haswell J; Heldon B K; Hellyer L E; Hitchcock B; Hodgson B D; Hodgson S A; Hogan M T; Huxley P S; Jewell C; Kable G P; Kable N; Kell M I; Keough S N; Legge R; Leo R E; Lewis H; Little I E; Lucas P A; Mann K A; Manuel J; McKee I; McKee I; McPherson E A; Meppem S M; Meredith M P; Miles P J; Moore R C; Morgan R V; Mortimer D J; Nelson M L; Newell J S; Newman P; Northern Rivers Chapter; Norton G S; Olivier C; Olivier F; O'Neill B; Osborne J A; Palmer I A; Paul H; Podolska L C; Quick P A; Ratcliffe B A; Reed D J; Robinson N O; Robinson P E; Ross C S; Saltmarsh D G; Santa Maria C M; Scott D A; Searchfield C N; Searchfield M M D; Shaw S; Sibraa K J; Small G A; Small G W; Smith James G; Smith M A; Soward M A; Spurway N D; Strachan D L; Strange J R; Thatcher J; Theobald M C; Tunningley J M; Tymoc K M; Vonwiller J A; Walker P E; Walsh L M; Webb P J; West L M; Williams B L; Williamson H T; Windress M T; Withington R W; Yeomans D J; Young R.

Thank you all for your welcome contributions which have been put to good use for upkeep and refurbishments at First Fleet House.

DEATHS

CHARLES PEAT

3095 Pamela King of Bargo.

EDWARD WHITTON

#5621 Kenneth Sibraa of Bowral, NSW, died on 28.5.2023.

Kenneth had been a member of the Fellowship since 1988.

ABORIGINAL POLICY

Members' responses are being considered with a view to another draft of the policy being considered after the Voice Referendum. The Board wants to avoid the policy being confused with the referendum because the policy relates solely to the Board's attempt at contact with its Local Aboriginal Council (LAC) to seek participation in Australia Day activities. This is similar to Chapters contacting their own LAC where such contact occurs.

The Board has made its position clear in relation to the Voice Referendum with the following resolution following an enquiry about the matter from a member:

'The Board's Policy Statement on the Voice

Referendum is that it is a personal issue for members.

We advise that FFF is apolitical and as such will not comment'.

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

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

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