

# Founders

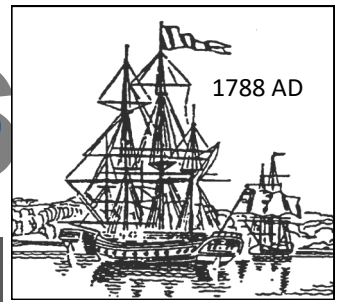
Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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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

Volume 54 Issue 5

55th Year of Publication

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## JOHN GOWEN Marine Corporal 'HMS Sirius' Part 2

**John Gowen** was appointed to the position of Storekeeper at Parramatta October 26 1822. In the 1822 General Muster, John Gowen owned 2 horses and 5 hogs at his property near Liverpool and was listed as holding the position of Government Storekeeper at Parramatta. A convict, **William Currey** was listed as being assigned to him.

John and **Ordery's** six children all married. **Mary Gowen** married **William Henry Jones** in 1821, when she was 15 years old. William Jones later served in India and Gibraltar before finally settling in New Zealand. **Ann Gowen** married **George Taber** on September 22 1824 in Sydney. **John Gowen, junior**, married **Mary Smith**, granddaughter of another First Fleeter, **Thomas Acres** and they had 10 children, John dying in 1885 in Braidwood. **Frances Gowen** at the age of 16 married **William Sutherland**, a Baptist Minister with no children. **Elizabeth Gowen** was 34 years old when she married **Joseph Hush**, a widower from the Braidwood area with 5 children all under the age of 6. After 1 year of marriage Joseph Hush died leaving Elizabeth expecting a child born 2 months after his death.

**John Gowen, senior**, retired on a pension of £52.50 per annum on January 23 1823 assisted by references from **John Macarthur** and **Rev. Samuel Marsden**. As a Liverpool landholder John applied to Governor **Thomas Brisbane** for more land and was granted 280 acres in that town on July 15 1824. He took up the position of Pound keeper at Liverpool in 1827, the year his wife Mary died. She is buried at the Liverpool Pioneer Cemetery. The next year, in the 1828 Census, John Gowen is shown as aged 65 years, a farmer at Upper Minto with 10 acres, all cleared and cultivated with 2 horses and 13 cattle.

On July 1 1830 William Sutherland, Frances Gowen's husband, is listed as holding a licence for the retail of wine and malt and spiritous liquor for the Hope Inn situated in Bigge Street, Liverpool. His father-in-law, John Gowen, was surety for him. William and Frances

Sutherland moved from the Hope Inn to their own home, also in Liverpool. Back in 1815, William's father-in-law, John Gowen, had also been granted land there but in 1834 John transferred the land to William. However, 7 months later, William had put John Gowen's property on the market to sell. The reason that William sold this property was that he and Frances had decided to move to Kiama. In 1834, John was receiving an annual pension of £50 and in the same year he sold his land at Minto to **Charles Throsby**. In 1835, William and Frances moved to Kiama, living on a farm 13 kilometres from Wollongong with her father John and her twenty-year-old unmarried sister, Elizabeth living with them. In 1836 William Sutherland was officially appointed to the position of Police Constable in the Kiama area. John died in 1837 while living with the Sutherlands at Kiama.



*Liverpool's Three Old Inns. Courtesy NSW State Library*

Just prior to his death John received a further grant of 280 acres of land at Bong Bong, near Moss Vale in 1837 but died before he could take possession. His son John applied for the transfer of the property to him but was informed that it had already been transferred to Dr Charles Throsby.

John's life was very quiet in the latter part and he died at Kiama on April 28 1837. He had spent nearly 50 years in Australia. He is buried at the Protestant Cemetery which pre-dated the church. The first church in the valley was the Church of England which opened on March 6 1842 and was built near the Protestant burial ground. This burial ground is now known as Christ Church Anglican Cemetery and John's headstone mentions that he arrived in the *Sirius*.

#7220 Barbara Turner

## FOUNDERS

The magazine of the  
Fellowship of First Fleeters  
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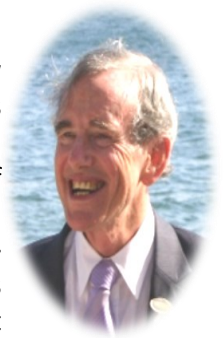
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Note: Other tasks are looked after by our team of faithful volunteers who are usually at First Fleet House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## PRESIDENT'S PEN

It is always exciting when new information about our First Fleeters comes to light. On Page 12 in this issue you can read about the identification of the family farm in Fermanagh County, Ireland, where First Fleeter, **Surgeon-General John White**, lived as a boy. It is still a working farm and the current farmer had expressed surprise that Australian visitors to Ireland had never been there when exploring their Irish roots.



I did thank Dr McNulty for letting us know of White's Irish beginnings and the plan to include White's boyhood farm in the cultural history trail. I pointed out that we 'family historians' of the Fellowship often make pilgrimage to known life locations of our ancestors.

In Surgeon-General John White's case, however, we have no knowledge of his living descendants. Sadly, his Australian son, Andrew, whose life story we do know including the fact that he was our first and only returned serviceman from the Napoleonic wars, did not have any children. I mentioned that should any descendants of White's UK-born children, Richard, Clara and Augusta make themselves known to us we would of course welcome them as members of the Fellowship. Perhaps they themselves have been back to the family farm and would value being included in the planning of the Trail. In his reply Dr McNulty said that he would keep the Fellowship updated on progress.

It has been good to see the first responses in *Founders* about the 'longest-lived' First Fleeters. No doubt there will be more. I recall that a child born in Rio in 1787 was considered the one who was still alive well into the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but his name and life details escape me. We are always on the lookout for new FF families and I am pleased to hear that the descendants of Henry Roach (Charlotte) are gathering their credentials for membership.

In now signing off for the last time I thank all for your friendliness and loyal support throughout my time as President. Interesting times are ahead for the Fellowship should recommendations for our 'future' be implemented. Members' acceptance and support will be essential.

**Jon.**

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## Tunks Descendants Association Inc.

The August edition of this association has arrived at First Fleet House. It mentions that, as with many volunteer based associations (including the FFF) it is looking to enlist new members for its committee. Unlike the Fellowship, this association advises that without new committee members it is looking to wind up. That would be a great pity as this association has served a great need and support for the descendants of **William Tunks** and **Sarah Lyon** since it was founded in 1980. The Fellowship encourages everyone to see whether they can assist by volunteering with their family association or with the Fellowship.



William Tunks memorial fountain, St Leonards Park, NSW

## The Draft Aboriginal Policy

The status is that the policy is now **unnecessary**. It is unnecessary for two reasons:

Because the Board's attempts at contacting the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council in relation to achieving its constitutional objective 3.3 *"To encourage the celebration of the Country's National Day, being the 26<sup>th</sup> January..."* has been unproductive. Hence, the Board's action in this regard has stopped. So with no further action, there is no need for the policy.

Because Members' comments from the recent Members' survey about the policy came with advice that fundamentally said, "That the policy is not necessary, and not necessary now". The Board wishes to thank Members who responded to the survey.

Subsequently, the Board will consider other ways of achieving objective 3.3.

## Captain Cook Harbour Cruise

Included with this issue of Founders is the booking form for the FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS – AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON, a Captain Cook Harbour Cruise on 10 February 2024. Bookings close on Friday 19 January 2024.

## 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](mailto:fffaus@optusnet.com.au) (preferred option) or by

**TELEPHONE:** First Fleet House on (02) 9360 3788



## FF JOHN GRIFFITHS Marine 'Friendship' (C1762-1844)

**John Griffiths** was born c1758. He joined the Plymouth division (27<sup>th</sup> Company) in January 1783, a former labourer, aged 24, with a fair complexion, hazel eyes and nearly 5ft 10ins tall.

John was a private marine 51st Plymouth Company when he arrived in Sydney Cove on January 26 1788 on the *Friendship*. At Port Jackson he served in the company of **Captain James Meredith**.

He then worked as a carpenter (a tolerable sawyer) until June 6 1789 when he was sent to Norfolk Island on the *Supply*. Here, in February 1792, he was a settler by lease, on lot No 74 at Creswell Bay. In October 1793 he had 50 to 60 acres ploughable and 8 cultivated.

In June 1794 he was living with **Jane Thompson** (*Neptune* 1790) and two children and selling grain to stores. Jane had been sent on the *Surprize* on August 7 1790 with her small son **Robert**, aged 6 years, who was born in England and had survived the voyage on the *Neptune*.

Victualling records show at least two children: **John** (January 15 1792) and **Elizabeth** (1794) however the muster of the *Supply*, sailing for Port Jackson in April 1796, shows Griffiths sailing with Jane and three children as **James, Jane and George**.

By 1796 Griffiths was sharing a 75 acre grant with two others at Mulgrave Place.

At the end of 1802 he was a Sergeant in the Sydney Loyal Association.

In the 1806 Muster Jane Thompson is with John Griffiths, and in Marsden's list as a concubine with three male and two female children- Robert 1784, John 1792, Elizabeth 1794, George, birth date not known and **Mary** 1803.

On December 30 1809 he leased a town lot of 78 rods at the Rocks near Cockle Bay where he operated as a sawyer; he had been granted 100 acres a month earlier in St George's parish. The 100 grant had been made by **Col. Patterson**, Administrator of the Colony, after the overthrow of **Governor Bligh**. This grant was revoked when **Governor Macquarie** arrived as Governor in 1810 and the grantees had to make petitions setting out reasons why they should have their land re-granted.

John, in his petition to Macquarie, stated that he had arrived in the Colony as a Marine at its First settlement and had conducted himself in a manner becoming a soldier and citizen. He had been appointed a Sergeant in the Loyal Association by **Governor King**, and had been a Sergeant Major. He had a wife and five children to support and in view of the long time he had been in the Colony and his conduct during that time, he humbly transmitted the grants to the Governor in accordance with general orders and ardently craved the honour of the Governor's illustrious notice.

Jane Thompson died in February 1812, her age given as 44 years, which would make her 19 at the date of her conviction in 1787, and 16 when Robert Thompson was born. Her death, as Jane Griffiths, was mentioned in the *Sydney Gazette*-*aged 44 years, from Manchester, Ship Neptune* FBS Funeral February 5 1812. John was recorded as a sawyer in Sydney 1814.



From "Illustrations of useful arts, manufactures and trades" Charles Tomlinson 1808-1897-Caroline Simpson Library

On February 1 1819 he married **Bridget Ann HOLLAND** (aka Bridget Ann MOORE- *Indispensable*) at Castlereagh.

He continued to live in NSW and in 1822 and again in 1828 he was working as a sawyer. Aged 67 years in 1829 he was a dairyman at Evan to **Sir John Jamison**, son of **Thomas Jamison**, assistant surgeon on *HMS Sirius*.

With him were his wife Ann Bridget, Mary (his daughter with Jane Thompson) who became Sir John Jamison's mistress then wife and two small children **James** and **Mary**, probably his grandchildren.

Thomas Jamison had acquired extensive property in NSW and when he died in 1811 appointed his son, **Sir John**, a naval surgeon, who had been knighted by the **King of Sweden**, his principal heir and executor.

Sir John arrived in the Colony in 1814 and added considerably to the family property. When he died in 1844 he was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in the colony.

In the early 1820s he built a mansion which he named Regentville on the banks of the Nepean River. It was a large two storied building with a veranda across the front and a single story wing on each side. Built before other large houses, such as **Captain Piper's** Henrietta Villa, Regentville was the pride of the Colony.



*Regentville, the seat of Sir John Jamison c1832*

His hostess at Regentville was his mistress, 22 year old Mary Griffiths, John Griffiths and Jane Thompson's daughter.

She had his seven children and Sir John married her in 1844 not long before his death. By then his fortunes had suffered a reverse due to the failure of a bank and the depressed economy. Mary died in 1874.

First Fleeter John Griffiths died May 5 1844 at his son-in-law's home in Hobart.

Obituary Notice:

*DIED. At Hobart Town, on the 5th instant, at the residence of his son, Richard John Griffiths, formerly of the Royal marines, and one of the first settlers in New South Wales, aged 82 years and three months.*

Sydney Morning Herald Tue May 21 1844 p. 3



*John Griffith's headstone in one of the memorial walls, St David's Park, Hobart, Tasmania. The memorial walls are made up of many of the original headstones from the park's previous life as the Hobart colony's first cemetery. Photo: Australian Cemeteries Index*

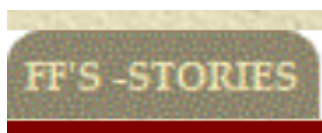
Compiled by #7163 John Boyd 2020.

## We want your stories

Have you found the story of your First Fleeter Ancestor on our website? If not, why not write a story for your First Fleeter(s)? The Fellowship of First Fleeters welcomes submissions. These stories are published in Founders before being put on our website.

<http://www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au/ffstories.html>

Stories are found under the FF'S STORIES tab



Our regular guidelines for story writing:

1. Include your name as the author.
2. Only one story per FF. unless you are including later years when as a couple they are leading joint lives.
3. Suggested length is 1000-2000 words with stories longer than that able to be carried over two issues.
4. The Fellowship deserves the right to edit and the Editor may add illustrative material where relevant.
5. Biographies must contain facts.
6. References are definitely preferred.
7. Type in *Calibri*, size 11, if possible.

## The Search for First Fleeter Burials in the State of Victoria

Statistics are a dry subject and hardly make for exciting reading. We hope that this tale of discovery holds some surprises and goes some way to answer the questions posed.

Almost 20% of modern Australians, in addition to two million Britons, have some convict ancestry; and they were long hard roads that our ancestors travelled in the days when all the east coast of Australia was New South Wales.

The boundary of New South Wales, our first colony, was set in 1787, in London, as a line through the continent at 135 degrees of longitude. In 1825 the boundary was moved across to 129 degrees of longitude and the west became Western Australia.

That is, everything east of 129 degrees longitude was New South Wales. In 1836 the boundary between New South Wales and South Australia moved to 141 degrees longitude. When Victoria was established in 1851 this became their border with South Australia.

Earlier this year, we were asked by the Fellowship to provide answers to two questions.

Find the exact burial place of First Fleeter **JOHN McCARTY** (aka: McCarthy). He the only First Fleeter that can be verified to have been buried in the area now known as Victoria.

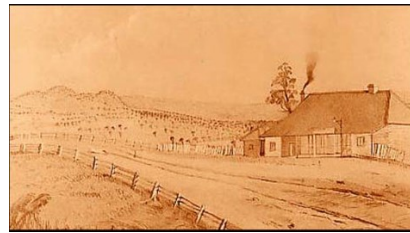
Find the names and burial places of any First Fleeters buried in what is now the State of Victoria.

We accepted the challenge and began looking for answers, as narrated by voices of the past.

**PART ONE:** John McCarty was buried with Catholic Burial Rites by the first priest in the region, Franciscan Priest **Father Patrick Geoghan** who landed at Williamstown on May 15, 1839, and was the first Catholic priest in the Port Phillip district of New South Wales (not to be confused with the Port Phillip District established in 1994 in Victoria). His parish was St. Francis', a Roman Catholic church, located on the corner of Lonsdale and Elizabeth Streets in Melbourne. It is the oldest Catholic church in Victoria, and its foundation stone was laid on 4 October 1841.

McCarty was given a Catholic burial which would indicate that either Fr Geoghan was in the vicinity of the Kinlochewe Inn visiting parishioners, or he was summoned to the area because family knew that McCarty was close to death; the area where McCarty died being over half a day's ride away from Fr Geoghan's parish church. McCarty was, by accounts given by family members, buried near the long since gone Kinlochewe Inn in the locality now named Kalkallo. But even his EXACT burial location is uncertain. Some reports say just outside the inn, other accounts say he was buried by the roadside near the inn. The cemetery in this region – the

DONNYBROOK/KALKALLO region - was established in 1860 some 14 years after the passing of John McCarty, and nine years after the State of Victoria came into existence.



*Kinlochewe Inn  
(near Donnybrook)  
on the Merri  
Creek. Source:  
unknown*

According to the City of Whittlesea Heritage Study the township reserve of Kal Kallo was first surveyed in 1852 and given the name Donnybrook. Before 1852, the area had been known as the Rocky Water Holes. Land for a cemetery was reserved east of Hunter Street, between Pearson and Stawell Streets. The cemetery was presumably established in 1860. Before that date, and before roads and bridges became general, a number of Kal Kallo residents were buried privately in now unmarked graves.

We are hoping that further information will be forthcoming from a source we have in the area, but at the present time the above information is all that we have been able to establish.

**PART TWO:** The second part of our investigation was to ascertain the number and names of any other First Fleeters buried in what is now known as Victoria.

A list was prepared, initially using **Mollie Gillen's** tome **THE FOUNDERS OF AUSTRALIA**. The dry numbers are that some 1,420 individuals are identified as having embarked on the First Fleet.

Sixty-nine persons died or left the Fleet enroute to their destination, and 22 children were born during the journey. Making 1,373 as the number identified as having landed at Sydney Cove in January 1788.

As Mollie points out these numbers are necessarily tentative: probably 110 seamen on various ships have not been identified by name. In all the First Fleet would have included at least 1,530 persons, with about 1,483 reaching Sydney Cove.

These figures were checked against a number of other sources, including the websites of PEOPLE AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE OF AUSTRALIA, the spreadsheets of the UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, the AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY and THE FIRST FLEET FELLOWSHIP OF VICTORIA. Where a First Fleeters burial location (other than present day Victoria) was found, their names were not included.

The list necessarily included all whose burial details were unknown. Some of those unknowns were found to



have left the colony.

Of the 692 whose burial places were unknown, 464 left the colony, so it is possible that some of the remaining 228 may well be buried in "Victoria".

As all burials prior to 1851 would have been registered (if registered at all) as deaths in NSW, we would need anecdotal evidence of First Fleeters being buried in what is, since 1851, known as the State of Victoria.

However, because all evidence will be hearsay or anecdotal, (in absence of hard evidence eg: Gravestones or

Death Certificates) all we can say for sure is that there are no **KNOWN** graves of First Fleeters in the state of Victoria.

No doubt this will be refuted by family members who may maintain that their First Fleet ancestor/s are buried in that State.

We welcome any proof that can be provided of the existence of First Fleeter graves in Victoria or the Port Phillip District of NSW as it was known in those days (and not to be confused with the Port Phillip area in Victoria established in 1994).

**EDITOR'S NOTE** From the 1830s until the colony of Victoria was established in 1851, a large area around Port Phillip Bay was referred to as the Port Phillip District. Links to a spreadsheet listing all persons on the First Fleet whose deaths and burial places remain unknown can be found on our website under FFF-Stories and also Gravesite Plaques. [www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au](http://www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au)

## Canberra Chapter's AGM and Afternoon Tea

On July 29 2023, the Canberra Chapter held their AGM and afternoon tea at **Toni Pike's** apartment.



*Descendants of First Fleeters settlers on Norfolk Island: Geoff Lamb, Paul Wylks, Joy Angel, Helen Styles and Rhonda Kroehnert.*

After the formalities of the meeting, new member **Margaret Fleming** introduced our guest speaker, her cousin **Helen Styles**, and also **Rhonda Kroehnert**. They all talked to us about their First Fleet ancestors, **Olivia Gascoigne** and **Nathaniel Lucas** – and it was a fascinating afternoon.

Helen Styles is the author of *Olivia Gascoigne and the Last Baronet*. Her book develops the claim that Olivia was born out of wedlock to young aristocrats in the north of England. It is however broadly focused and, for example, covers connections between Olivia and female convicts she met at Worcester Goal, on the *Lady Penrhyn* and as a settler on Norfolk Island, as well as the establishment of the settlement itself.

Here is a link to Helen's book:

<https://www.openbookhowden.com.au/product/olivia-gascoigne-and-the-last-baronet/>



*Descendants of Olivia Gascoigne and Nathaniel Lucas: Joy Angel, Margaret Fleming, Helen Styles and Rhonda Kroehnert.*

Our second guest, Rhonda Kroehnert, researched and co-wrote with **Betty Taber** the first family tree history of their First Fleeters, published in 1987, and talked about the early days of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.



*Some of those attending including Paul Wylks, Toni Pike, Geoff Lamb, Joy Angel, Helen Styles, Rhonda Kroehnert, Rebecca Lamb and Brian and Helen Mattick.*

**# 6981 Toni Pike and Margaret Fleming**

## Ray Morgan-a proud First Fleeter

I recently visited one of the older members of our Botany Bay Chapter, **Ray Morgan**, at his home in Engadine.

### Ray's First Fleet History

Ray was born in February 1929, the eldest of three children, and is the only one still surviving.



One of Ray's earliest memories is of being taken by his father to visit his uncle and then going for a walk around the fence of a property at Concord.

When Ray asked why they were there, his father explained that their ancestor,

**Eleanor Fraser**,

had arrived on the First Fleet in 1788 and that she had owned and farmed on this land for over fifty years.

A grandson had lived in her old house at 5 Wunda Street, Concord, until the 1900s and her descendants, including his uncle, were still living in the area well into the twentieth century.



Eleanor Fraser was born with the exotic name Redchester- and was transported on the First Fleet with her first husband, **William Fraser**, after they were

tried at Manchester for stealing a piece of yellow fustian (canvas) and half a gross of white ribbon. Their son, John, born on June 7 1789, was the second white child born in the new Colony.

Whilst, apparently very charming, and appreciated by **Governor Phillip** for his quality work as a blacksmith,

William Fraser would generally only accept heavy spirits in payment for any extra work done and perhaps as a consequence he passed away in 1791.

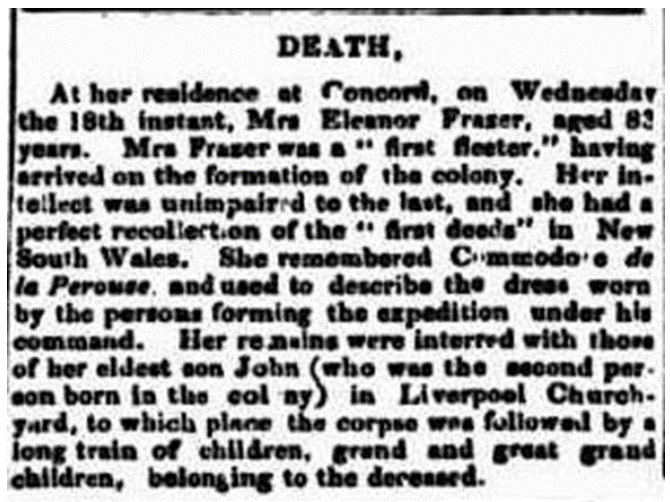
Our Member, Ray Morgan, was descended from Eleanor and her defacto husband, William Morgan, who arrived in 1790 as a private on the *Neptune* with the Second Fleet.

In 1794, **William Morgan**, Eleanor Fraser and **Charles Westney** were each granted 20 acres of land at Concord and in 1795 both Eleanor and William received further grants. Eleanor was the first woman to be granted land.

It is probable that Eleanor and her neighbour William were living together, as a daughter, **Ann**, was born in 1797 followed by another four children, including Ray's ancestor, the fifth child, **Richard Fraser Morgan**. However, William Morgan failed to work his land and he was eventually declared bankrupt and his land was sold. With the aid of convict labour Eleanor had cleared her land and planted maize and wheat. By 1812 she had cultivated 15 of 45 acres in maize and other grains and she ran some pigs.

Both of Eleanor's "husbands" died of alcohol related illness, so we may see Eleanor as the sober one who worked hard to keep the family and the land together. When she died she merited a very positive article in the newspaper.

### Ray and his Family



*The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser 25 November 1840.*

Ray's more recent family history, over almost 150 years has been associated with mining. His grandfather left the Concord area in the late 1800s to go gold panning and ended up around Yalwal, a town about 26 miles east of Nowra in the Shoalhaven area.

If, like me, you haven't heard of Yalwal, most of the town was destroyed by bushfires in 1939 and 1953 and what was left was flooded by the new Daneira Dam in 1971. It is still possible to visit the remains of the mines and town.



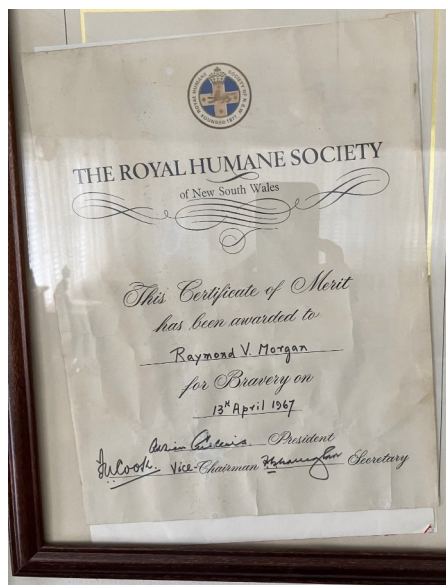
Fortunately, Ray's family were able to move from Yalwal after his grandfather struck it rich by finding a gold nugget "the size of an axe head." This led the family to move to the south coast of New South Wales and buy five acres of land and build a house on the Bulli slopes.

One day a truck driver coming down the Bulli Pass missed his gear change and hit the Morgan home turning it around and onto the next door house, killing their neighbour who was asleep in bed. Showing resilience, the Morgans built a new house, but further from the road.

Ray's father, who was born in 1900, was a mining engineer and the family moved around various mining towns such as, Lithgow, Wallerawang and Gunnedah. As a boy of fifteen and of small stature Ray had wanted to be a jockey, but lacking the opportunity, at the age of fifteen Ray insisted on going to work in the mine at Bulli, where he was apprenticed as a fitter.

In 1960, when the Coal Cliff Mine changed from hand to mechanical mining, Ray took his opportunity to move to more pleasant work. At that time Bulli filled a five-ton container with coal each day, whereas the Coal Cliff Mine filled one every five minutes!

In April 1967 there was a mine shaft collapse and Ray was the first to enter the area to rescue a miner trapped



under a rock. For this he was given a Bravery Award by the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales.

Ray has also been recognised for his work over 70 years as a Justice of the Peace and was also the initial President of the Australian Terrier Club.

Like Eleanor Fraser, Ray was one to take his opportunities

and when redundancies were offered in 1985, because of his skills as a leading hand and first aid officer, the mine management did not want to let him go. However, Ray insisted on retiring and used the redundancy money to buy a caravan in which he and his wife, Elaine, then crossed the Nullarbor Plain to Western Australia several times, along with many other trips.

Ray and his family also moved from Bulli and built their home on a 1000 metre block at Engadine where they bred Australian terrier dogs for sixty years.

Ray has always been proud of his First Fleet heritage and had an extensive library of books and memorabilia. He has passed most of them on to the Botany Bay Chapter and to

the Fellowship.

Like many of our older members he completed his research of the family history back to Eleanor by visiting Government offices and the Sutherland Shire Library to search the original documents/ records and he originally drew up all the relevant family trees by hand.



Early this year Ray was given a diagnosis by doctors of only a few months to live. He has already passed that prediction by several months and has stated that he plans to make it to Christmas. He currently does not take any drugs and has never drunk alcohol.

In her book, *Concord-A Centenary History*, **Sheena Coupe** wrote that Eleanor Fraser was "a woman of remarkable resilience and fortitude". I can now say that her descendant, great, great, great grandson, Ray Morgan, continues to show the same qualities. In his mid-nineties, Ray is a man of quiet strength, dignity, and determination. He shares Eleanor's resilience and fortitude---and her excellent memory!

#### #8865 Carol Macklin

Carol has suggested we feature articles about current ageing members, their memories of being a First Fleeter and about their own life and achievements. In this way we can capture some of these histories before they are gone. Reasons for the suggestion:

- Capture the "old" stories/memories/family connections of current older members before they are lost
- Help provide more connections between members and Chapters through seeing new links
- Add a human interest factor to editions of Founders
- Help highlight the personal characteristics/contributions through the generations
- Focus on/record the achievements/personal characteristics of current descendants
- Foster even more pride in our ancestors down the line
- Record a chain of achievements of families where this does not exist

Send your article and images to: [firstfleetfounders1788@gmail.com](mailto:firstfleetfounders1788@gmail.com) or post to FFF, 105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo, NSW 2011

## Which First Fleeter had the longest lifespan?

In the last issue of Founders, 54.4, we asked to hear from you about the longest lived First Fleeters.

### #9199 Jenny Stout wrote:

In response to the question asked in the latest magazine. **James Sheers** lived a long life, somewhere between 92 to 103 years, depending on the source! <https://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/biography/sheers-james-30986/text38354>

### #7348 Marilyn Long wrote:

Hello, under "A Question for Members" on page 10 regarding "Which First Fleeter had the longest life span?" an **Edward Beckford** is named (*Scarborough* 1788).

I did the research for his entry on the FFF site and over a couple of years of research I didn't find a record of his birth.

I have extracted some statements from his entry on FFF which refer to his age and give the source of the references. If he was 28 in 1785 then he was born c.1756. He was buried June 3 1851, so about 95 years. There is no discovered record of his birth so no absolute proof of his age. I note from the biography of **John Limeburner** (*Charlotte* 1788) that he was possibly b.c.1755 and was claimed to be 104 when he died in 1847, but more likely was about 92.

Edward Beckford and John Limeburner may have been born near each other - Beckford at Downton in Wiltshire and Limeburner also near Salisbury, Wiltshire (where he was tried).

EDWARD BECKFORD ....from FFF site.

Edward Smith was a convict on *Scarborough* in the First Fleet. He was tried and sentenced to seven years transportation at the Old Bailey on September 15 1784, his crime being the Theft and Grand Larceny of a cambric handkerchief and which happened at Bow Church door.

Smith was ordered to be transported to Africa but aged 28 years (*b. c. 1756?*) was sent to *Ceres* hulk on 5 April 1785, and dispatched February 24 1787 by wagon to Portsmouth to embark on *Scarborough* on 27 February.

There was an **Elizabeth Beckford** in the First Fleet on *Lady Penrhyn*, recorded as 70 years of age on boarding so born c.1718. She died at sea en route on July 12 1787 from dropsy. There is some circumstantial indication she may have been Edward's mother. England and Wales Christening Records 1530-1906 from [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) show an Elizabeth Beckford christened on July 11 1719 at Downton, Wiltshire, to **Gabrill (Gabriel)** and **Elizabeth**

**Beckford**. (A *Gabrill* was christened 01 Jan 1717 at Downton (*Find My Past*), and a **Gabriel** and **Catherine Beckford** of Downton started having children in 1838 - their first was named Elizabeth - a family name?)

**Mollie Gillen** in *Founders of Australia*, p 514, has Smith, Edward. *Scarborough*. Age 31 on arrival (in 1788, so born c.1757).

An affidavit in 1823 re the loss of his (Beckford's) Certificate of Freedom 59/983 at Port Dalrymple shows Edward Smith alias Beckford, mariner, his mark (so he couldn't write). (*If born c. 1756 he was still going to sea aged 67 (1823).*)

NSW BDM V1851 243 37B has for June 3 1851: Burial of an Edward Beckford, Parish of Camperdown, Beckford Edward Age 97 Abode Balmain. The Burial Butt #1187 shows he was buried in a common grave at Camperdown Cemetery at 4pm on 3 June by **Curtis**, Undertaker.

With First Fleeter **Catherine Johnson** he likely had a daughter Elizabeth c. 1790 on Norfolk Island.

In Oct 1874 (this) Elizabeth Beckford Vickery died on Jersey aged 82 (lived to a good age) and was still using the name Beckford. (If Edward's mother was Elizabeth Beckford on *Lady Penrhyn* (FF) was his daughter named for her?)

I couldn't find biographies on the FFF site for some of the others named. Records of birth dates would be needed for proof of longest life span. If **John Small** was born in 1761 then at death in 1850 he'd have been c. 89.

For the life these people had they certainly lived to a good age.

## The Board's Strategic Plan

The Board is comprehensively considering improvement plans that centre on the following six areas of the Fellowship's operations.

Supporting Chapters

Attracting new Members

Keeping Members informed

Giving back to Members

Better use of resources

Its website

Suggestions to the Board from Chapters or Members for improvements to these or other areas of the Fellowship's operations are always welcome. Simply send by email to [fffaus@optusnet.com.au](mailto:fffaus@optusnet.com.au)



## Our Chapters in Action

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

**Venue:** Usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.30 am. **Next Meetings:** 21 October, 18 November: Justin Clancy MP, 16 December **Next Event:** 21 October: Cumbaroona Yarrowonga Lake Cruise, 16 December: Christmas lunch **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:** 20 October: Stuart *Early Sydney and Hunter Vineyards*, 17 November: Con O'Donnell *Museums of History*, 15 December **Next Event:** 15 December: Christmas Party **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 0448 252 167

**BOTANY BAY** – *Southern Sydney, from Cooks River to Waterfall and west to Liverpool*

**Venue:** Our Lady of Fatima Church, 825 Forest Rd, Peakhurst. Monthly on third Tuesday 10.30am. **Next Meetings:** 17 October: Christopher Holcroft *The History of Scouting*, 21 November: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** 12 December: Christmas Lunch, Grandview Club, Peakhurst **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

**CANBERRA** – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

**Venue:** Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** 30 September: Annual Lunch – D'Browes, 59 Boolimba Cres, Narrabundah—RSVP **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 Meeting:** 14 October: Kerrie Anne Christian *Dr Smee's Database*, 11 November: Stephanie Wood *The French Influence on Early Settlement* **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 Meeting:** 7 October: Alison Alexander *Tasmania v. British Empire: The Battle to End Convict Transportation* **Next Event:** Christmas BBQ **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

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

**Venue:** The Hall at Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St. Eastwood –monthly meetings, first Saturday from 10am **Next Meetings:** 7 October: Angel Phippen *The Letters of Rachel Henning*, 4 November: Professor Paul Ashton *The Accidental City: Planning Sydney Since 1788*, 2 December: Christmas Morning Tea—no speaker **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 Meeting:** 14 October: Laurie Turtle **Next Event:** 18 November: Visit to RAAF, Richmond – RSVP **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 –9:45 for 10am start -12.30pm. **Next Meeting:** 16 October: Bob Bush—a bush poet **Next Event:** 20 November: A tour of Tocal Homestead with morning tea and lunch **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:** 18 November **Next Event:** 2 December: Christmas Lunch, Charming Squire, Grey St, South Brisbane, 12 noon **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 Meeting:** **Next Event:** 2 December: Annual Christmas Party—11:50am seating—Coramba Hotel, Coramba **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 0420 923 140 or (02)6653 6315

**NORTHERN RIVERS** – *Ballina and surrounding districts*

**Venue:** Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 26 November: 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:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438 465 529

**PORT PHILLIP**—*Melbourne and Regional Victoria.*

**Venue:** Various; quarterly meetings, days and times vary **Next Meeting:** 28 October—11am—Hawthorn Library **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:** 3 October: David & Marion Orames *Salvation Army Fundraising (from Jams, Chutneys, Pickles for an Indian Hospital)*, 7 November: Alan Collis *My Second Fleet Ancestor*, Christopher Cross or Pamela Baxter *Snippets of Life as an Aid Worker* **Next Event:** 5 December: Christmas Luncheon **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:** 7 October: Jon Carpenter, 2 December: *Show & Tell, Wine & Cheese Tasting* **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. The closing date for this page for the next issue is **November 20.**

The Purpose of our **Chapters** is to provide present members and potential members the opportunity to become active in various locations throughout Australia. Many of the chapters conduct regular meetings and produce publications of interest as well as arranging various tours and excursions. We invite you to contact any of the above mentioned Chapters. FFF does not impose stringent boundaries on Chapter membership. Chapter members: When did you last visit another chapter? Perhaps you went to hear a particular guest speaker's presentation.

## Welcome to New Members

### Ordinary and Pensioner Members

#### ANN FORBES

#9252 Julie Marguerite Fallins

#### JOHN RYAN

#9254 Bronwyn Carina Walters

#### NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE

#9255 Peter Michael Jacobs

### Associate Members

#9021.1 Robert Beer

#9252.1 John Robert Fallin

#9255.1 Karen Jacqueline Jacobs

### Student Member

#### JAMES BRYAN CULLEN

#9253 Siobhan Lucy Fearon

## Death

### FREDERICK MEREDITH

# 6851 Barence Troy of Wynnum West, Queensland, died on 13/1/2023.

## A Letter from Fermanagh

Dear Mr Fearon,

Whose early study of NSW plants and animals is used by CSIRO to benchmark species loss between 1788 - 2023?

Who opened the first hospital in Australia?

Who was responsible for keeping alive the passengers and crew on board the first fleet?

Who was the first Surgeon-General of NSW?

Whose travel journal was snapped up by King George 111 and is now in the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace?

You guessed correctly: **Dr John White** (RN).

We in County Fermanagh are planning a cultural history Trail across the county, so we visited the farm

where Dr John grew up. He was Ireland's first naturalist. He also fought NSW's first duel.

The present farmer told us that no Australians had visited the farmstead. We know that many Australians visit Fermanagh because they come to our Centre to trace their roots. We also have FGC Members in our Charitable Society who are included in our monthly Zoom-mediated meetings. We are due to present data on Dr John at our February 2024 Meeting.

This letter is simply to acquaint you with this unexpected link between a working Irish farm, and Botany Bay. The farm is close to Holywell near Belcoo.

Sincerely

Dr David McNulty



## Members' Message Board

Dear Mr Boyd,

May I begin by saying what a wonderful lot of research you have done to flesh out the life of **John Ramsay** and I enjoyed your article very much.

However I have a query for you, do you know the fate of John's three sons - all called John?

Presumably the first John died in infancy some time before 1795, and since the third John was born in 1823,

presumably the second John died at some time before that. Do you have any leads on what actually happened to the three of them?

PS. I should like to thank the staff at Founders for forwarding this email on for me

# F15 Craig Smee

Re: **Gordon Martin** - Member #8570

I've just opened my Newsletter and seen the lovely tribute to Dad. Very much appreciated.

# 8571 Jennifer Colla

## Chapter Secretaries

### ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT

Ian Anderson 0426 147 365

### ARTHUR PHILLIP

Judith O'Shea 0448 252 167

### 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

### NORTH WEST

Janet McLean 0438 465 529

### PORT PHILLIP

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### SOUTH COAST

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### SWAN RIVER

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