

Founders

Newsletter of Fellowship of First Fleeters



From the President's Desk

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Date to Remember

**Wednesday
18 July**

*Soup and
Damper Day*

Daytime Fellowship
11am speaker tba
12 noon Luncheon.

What a picturesque time of year with all the autumn colours; driving around the countryside even on a cold brisk day, sure brings back memories of times with family going for an outing or a picnic.

Family is very important to all of us and especially to us in the Fellowship a sense of family and belonging is important. Our history is wrapped up in the past and our memories of those who have served the Fellowship in the past, those who have given voluntarily of their time to keep the ship afloat as it were.

We honour them and seek contact with those of you who are able to give some time to the Fellowship by coming to First Fleet House, answering the phone, filing, cataloguing and researching, etc. We would love to hear from you if you are able to help in any way.

We have been fortunate to receive a donation of a library of books (150 in all) from Marilyn Long whose father, Frederick Roy Long (1920-1991) was a keen researcher of First Fleeters. The books are donated in memory of Mr Long and relate to early Australian History.

In mid-April, the North West, New England and North Coast Chapters gathered together at the McCrossin's Mill Museum at Uralla, which houses an exhibition of Captain Thunderbolt memorabilia among other local artifacts. 60 folk attended, we enjoyed morning tea and a tour of the museum, lunch at Salisbury Court Homestead, with a tour conducted by owner, Sir Owen Croft.

Whilst on the New England Highway I called in at Wallabadah to see The First Fleet Park. What a wonderful display of memorials to our ancestors. It is a long way to go but well worth the trip.

North West Chapter President, Aussie Pratt, is moving to Queensland. The Chapter will miss his guiding hand. Thank you, Aussie, for the dedication and leadership of the Chapter.

The Sutherland Shire Celebration of Captain Cook's landing at Botany Bay was a very memorable event, a flag raising ceremony and the replica of the barque Endeavour moored alongside.

Early May saw me back in the schoolroom, where I spoke to two primary classes at Our Lady of the Star of the Sea, Terrigal, and also presented a Founders Chart. Then an invitation was extended to speak at the West Gosford Rotary Club later in the month.

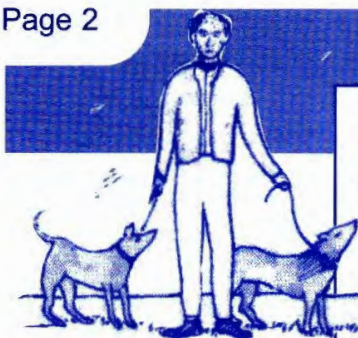
During May Peter Christian spoke at the Pymble Uniting Church Seniors Group, and also the Central Coast Chapter at Wyong. He attended the Portsmouth Sister function celebrating the 220th anniversary of the sailing of The Fleet, guest of honour was Her Excellency, Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW. Peter proposed the vote of thanks to Her Excellency.

Members who wish to provide information in our Birth, Death and Marriage column will be required to submit information in writing to FF House. The receiving of phone message information is not adequate for this type of data.

May I remind you all that membership subscriptions are due by 1 July, 2007.

Approximately 30% of our members have already sent in their subscriptions and a large number have given donations as well.

In Fellowship, John



News of Members

*Membership Report
for period April-May 2007*



FFF Office Bearers 2007

President
HAXTON John, JP, Dip Chem Eng;
Dip Corp Mgmt; Dip R.E Mgmt

Vice-Presidents
BEST Roderick: BA, LLM
CHRISTIAN Peter OAM, JP, Ph.C

Secretary
HEMPEL William: BA MA

Treasurer
MORRIS Roy AO, JP, B Com
(Melb), FCIS, FCPA, Brigadier
(Ret'd)

Directors
ARNETT Bruce, Mech Eng
Certificate; Electronics & Comms
Certificate.

BENNETT Elaine, Membership
Convenor

BOYD John, JP, PR Officer

GRIFFITHS George, JP, IT
Manager

MAGUIRE Ronald, JP, Editor
'Founders'

MAGUIRE Zona

MORTIMER Jean, Chapter Liaison
Officer

PALMER Ian, FF House
Maintenance

PANKHURST Joyce

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to new
members joined during this period:
18 Adults, 7 Associate Spouse, 3 Juniors

JOHN CROSS Helen Fergus

WILLIAM BOGGIS
Julia Elizabeth Smith (Associate Spouse:
Ian Crosland Smith); Chloe Elizabeth Smith
(Junior)

PATRICK BURN / ANN SMITH
Edith Mary Burgess

OWEN CAVANOUGH / MARGARET DAR-
NELL / ANN FORBES
Margaret Carolyn Bass
(Associate Spouse: Joseph John Bass)

MARY DAVIS / SAMUEL DAY
Neville Hunter
(Associate Spouse: Kay A. Hunter)

ANN FORBES
James John Macgregor (Junior)
Shirley Joan Barnett (Associate Spouse:
George Edward Barnett)

PETER HIBBS
Lynette Ruth Graham (Associate Spouse:
Robert T.F. Graham)

THOMAS JAMISON
John Frederick Duffy

HENRY KABLE / SUSANNAH HOLMES
Wendy Harris; Shirley Harris

MICHAEL MURPHY
Peter Alexandrou; Elizabeth Ann Cummins

SAMUEL PICKETT/PIGGOTT
David Joseph Raymond; James Edward

Raymond; Ruth Jessica Dolman (Associate
Spouse: Bruce Dolman)

JANE POOLE / JAMES McMANUS
Cynthia Margaret Huggup
(Associate Spouse: Robert Donald
Huggup)

ANTHONY ROPE / ELIZABETH PULLEY
Stephen James Foster; Emily May Foster
(Junior)

JAMES WILLIAMS
Margaret Anne Tomlinson
WRIGHT: Joseph Reuben Wheeler
(Junior)

Births

Welcome to additional First Fleeters:

JOSHUA LYNsay HARGRAVE (FF
Benjamin Cusley, Friendship, and Ann
Martin, Lady Penrhyn), born 24 April 2007
First child to Matthew Lynsay and Carolyn
Antionette Hargrave. First great -grandchild
to Ronald Hildyard Hargrave (deceased).

Deaths

Deepest sympathy is extended to the fami-
lies of the following:

RONALD HILDYARD HARGRAVE (#5971),
died 17 May 2007, formerly of South
Penrith, NSW. Descendant of First Fleeter
Benjamin Cusley, Friendship.

MARION STUART #2880. Died 19 March
2007. Descendant of FF Patrick Burn and
Ann Smith. Brother to Kieran #6970 and
Maddison #6971
Grandson to Kevin Stanfield #6109

Maintain-a-Brick Donations

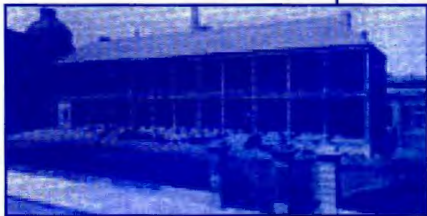
We have gratefully received donations from the following people:



Elsie Watson; A&R Keating; Claire Jewell; Joyce Adams; June Burnett; Joan Thomas; Marie
Fardell; Enid Slade; BJ & H Lewis; WHL Risby; BJ & ML Benoit; James & Joan Edwards;
Richard McKenzie; Marion Cameron; K & D Stanfield; Louise Baur & Rod Best; Judith E
Woods; HG Morgan; SG Steele; Shirley Bramich; CA & VA Lewis; Paul Kable; VM Joyce; M
Clifford; BJ Cox; CO Torbett; DJ Graham; VI Knight; RA Benjamin; Shirley Harris; MW
Keough; M Wheeler; M Kell; Dennis Hunt; T Mahony; JH Mayson; KJ Sibraa; WE Richards; T
Lück; HW Pitt; HD Causer; L Cottee; DC Smith; ER Edwards; D Matschoss; S Taranto; W & J
Manuel; L Weekes; A Austin; A Jenkins; CS Ross; J Daniell; A Moen; J Ritchie; N Avis; I
Anderson; RA Aiken; J Martin; RM Glass; TD Upfold; LA Scrimshaw; LA Goodwill; HC Crees;
A Montgomery; WE Graham; K Finlay; VB Hurditch; VS Littler; J & B Haxton; P & W Hempel;
JG Smith; SG Smith; WJ Crane; D Reed; C Curry; B Donaghey; JB Fogarty; JF Tarlington;
JE Davis; B Bellingham; MT Cook; M Bailey; W Brown; S Clark; R Young.

Tour Sydney Hospital, Sydney Eye Hospital and the Lucy Osborne-Nightingale Museum

On Tuesday 20th March, 12 members of the South Coast Chapter travelled to Sydney for a Tour of the 'Old' Rum Hospital and Nursing Museum.



Above: Constructed between 1811-1816, the building now known as The Mint was built as the southern wing of a three wing General Hospital and Dispensary. Initiated by Governor Lachlan Macquarie, the new hospital replaced the portable canvas building that had served the colony since 1789. To finance the construction of the General Hospital the authority to import 45 000 gallons of rum was granted to the contractors – Garnham Blaxcell, Alexander Riley and D'arcy Wentworth (the Principal Surgeon) – and as a result the buildings became known as the Rum Hospital.

We meet up with six members of the Central Coast Chapter (including FF President John Haxton and his wife Beryl) at 9.30am at the top of the stairs of the now Administration Building facing Macquarie St.

The party of 18 were then ushered into the magnificent original 1894 Hospital Boardroom, for the introduction and commencement of the tour.

Our Volunteer Guide, Mrs Caroline Wilkinson, welcomed the party and gave us an insight into the many historical features of the site which has been part of Macquarie St precinct since 1811. We learnt that the hospital actually dates from the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and of the strong links with many early colonial figures including Governor Lachlan Macquarie and Premier Sir Henry Parkes.

Using several models displayed in the Boardroom she showed us how both the current Parliament House and the Mint Buildings are both former Sydney Hospital wings and she noted the unique link with Florence Nightingale.

Upon noting the FF badges of members Stan (FF James Cullen) and John (FF Edward Whitton) whose First Fleeters both arrived on the Scarborough, she informed us that her late husband was a descendant of Capt John Marshall, who was skipper of the Scarborough in 1788. Amazing connections!

We then moved off with Caroline to see and hear about the buildings and their history noting the grand entrance, marble floor, lists of contributions and contributors to the building of the hospital, the timber staircase and stained glass windows.

Outside we were told about the sandstone used in construction, the many 'special' features including the gargoyles. Then we moved to the Worrall Lecture Theatre and the chapel of St Luke the physician, which featured around the walls many plaques dedicated to some of the nurses who trained and worked at the hospital including a special one dedicated to Anita Cobby.

Many members took the opportunity of purchase the publication "Australia's First Hospital- The First 100 Years"

At that point, after more than 1.5 hours, Caroline left us and we moved to the historic Nightingale building, which dated from 1869, to commence a tour of the Museum.

The Museum is located on Level 1 of the historic building where we were warmly greeted by the Curator and her staff of volunteers. She noted that we were members of the First Fleeters and recognised Jean Mortimer. She expressed her thanks to Jean for the research Jean did on the early Convict Nurses, which assisted greatly in advancing research into the history of nursing in the Colony enabling publication of their recent book 'From Tents to Stone.'

We then embarked on a walk in time, experiencing life in Sydney Hospital from 1860 onwards.

Highlights were: Florence Nightingale's sewing basket from the Crimean War; Lucy Osborne's original "walking out" costume (c1868) and her nurses register, which contained many details of her probationer nurses; many historical photographs and artefacts relating to another era in medical and nursing care; and a favourite of many, the Specimen Room, including the intriguing 'Ball of Fur' extracted from a patient's stomach.

The Museum Volunteers, who all trained in Sydney Hospital from the 1950s, gladly answered our many questions. The tour finished approximately one hour later at 12.15pm.

The party then moved into the courtyard for a great lunch 'alfresco' with DACAPO and their mini United Nations wait staff- A GREAT DAY!

In Fellowship John Boyd.

Peter's Trip to Portsmouth December 2006

Christmas 2006 was a time when our family did not descend upon us for the festivities of the season. Every second year we look forward to having our immediate family and friends to celebrate a very special day. We usually have about 18 of our immediate family sleeping overnight on Christmas Eve and some 40 for Christmas Day Lunch. A wonderful time as we have two birthdays on the 25th - Joy, the matriarch of our family and our youngest son Nicholas.

We both decided that this year we would take a holiday overseas to the UK and it was also an opportunity to again pay a visit to Portsmouth.

The President of the Sydney/Portsmouth Sister City Committee, of which I happen to be a member, organised a meeting with the Lord Mayor of that city, and also put me in touch with Mr Brian Hall, his opposite number in Portsmouth, and a member of the Britain/ Australia Society.

We arrived in London on the 17th December and spent some five days reorientating ourselves in this city from whence many of our forebears originated. It was extremely cold, foggy and very expensive but we both were quite taken with the beautiful Christmas decorations and ambience of the city.

What a joy it was to stand in Trafalgar Square at 9 pm at night, well rugged up from the freezing temperatures, listening to beautiful Christmas Carols, sung by various choirs chosen from the realm, at the base of the magnificent towering Christmas Tree donated annually by the people of Norway.

Also, in that city, we took the opportunity to seek out a memorial to one of Joy's forebears in Westminster Abbey which we missed in 1986 on our previous visit. This would be another story in the heritage of our first arrivals to our country.

Our side trip to Portsmouth began on the 22nd December when we met Brian and his lovely wife, Mo, at Portsmouth. Brian had organised an itinerary which had left us completely bewildered. We were taken to all of the sites in that city where our forebears had trod. Portsea Castle was one of the first stops in our itinerary where my third great grandfather Antoine L'André, with his cousin, had been incarcerated as

Napoleonic Prisoners of War. They were later sent, in 1800, to the Colony to grow grapes for wine at Parramatta, yet another story in the history of our Nation.

On the 23rd December we had an appointment to meet with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Cr. Fred Charlton. Arriving at the rather imposing Guildhall we were ushered into the Lord Mayor's rooms for the introductions. He was attired in full morning suit with his magnificent gold chain of office and indeed, made us very welcome. We talked about our two cities, the First Fleet, my involvement with the Sister City Committee, and also with the Fellowship of First Fleeters. By coincidence he had welcomed, the previous week, a group from Sydney, The Welsh Choir, led by a good friend of ours, Mr Clive Woosman.

The formal part of our visit was next on the agenda. We were ushered into the meeting chamber of the Council where a number of

members of the Britain/Australia Committee and members of the City Council were gathered. It was a rather large room in the form of an amphitheatre, the Lord Mayor's imposing chair looked over the three or four tiers of Councillor's seats to the rear of the room, the wall of which was inscribed with the history of Portsmouth over the ages. The date 1787 had been, for some reason or other, left blank, but prior to my



Above: Peter and Joy, at the Bonds of Friendship Memorial, Portsmouth.

arrival an inscription had been made. This was to be unveiled by Cr. Charlton and myself.

Again, a suitable welcome was given to myself and Joy, both by the Lord Mayor and Brian Hall, responded, suitably [I hoped!], by myself, and His Worship requested that I join him in unveiling the memorial which had been left blank for so many years. This was completed to the acclamation of the Guests present.

Now, for posterity, in the annals of the history of Portsmouth, the year 1787 proclaimed, that on May 13th, of that year, the First Fleet sailed from that city under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip for Botany Bay.

I felt that I did this on behalf of the many thousands of descendants for whom I had represented for so many years. I assure you it was a most emotional period of my long life. I thought of those members of the Fellowship that, at last a recognition had been made that from the old ways a new start could be made. It also came to my mind that in the words that said it all -

"whatever the circumstances of their arrival, the First Fleeters planted a seed of

the native born which was quite different from their origins in England, but similar to each other in their newly adopted land. Characteristics such as self-reliance, initiative and a sense of fair play."

I was then requested to address the gathering from the Lord Mayor's podium on the First Fleet, which took some 25 minutes and gave a run-down on the First Fleet and its arrival at Botany Bay and Sydney Cove. I felt sure that my words did not fall on deaf ears.

We were then requested to partake of a rather sumptuous morning tea where I was able to enlarge on my talk of the First Fleet and, not only of those both bonded and free, but their contribution to the foundation of our Nation.

We then took our leaving to the Lord Mayor, thanking him for his welcome and also for the opportunity in putting forward the vital links that we had with the city of Portsmouth. Long may those links prevail!

Brian and Mo then took Joy and myself to a delightful pre Christmas Luncheon to a delightful restaurant near Portsmouth.

They then drove us to our destination at the small village of Boxgrove where we spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We both attended a Midnight Service at the beautiful Parish Church, what a joy it was!!!

On Boxing Day we traveled to London for another five days. I spent time in tracing the steps of some of my convict forebears. Meanwhile Joy spent time in looking for post Christmas bargains in Oxford Street.

We then took a few days respite in Bangkok and then home. It was certainly a privilege and an enduring pleasure to have participated in this whole exercise. As said, previously, that date in the history of the city of Portsmouth is for ever engraved for posterity.

Peter G Christian



Above: Mr Brian Hall, Joy, the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth Cr. Fred Charlton, Peter and Mo Hall.





Roses from the Heart

Artist, Christina Henri

Christina Henri is a regular exhibitor at the Female Factory Historic Site. She is a University Postgraduate student in Fine Arts studying at the Tasmanian School of Art, Hobart. At present her work is looking at various projects that reflect the way convict women dealt with grief and loss.

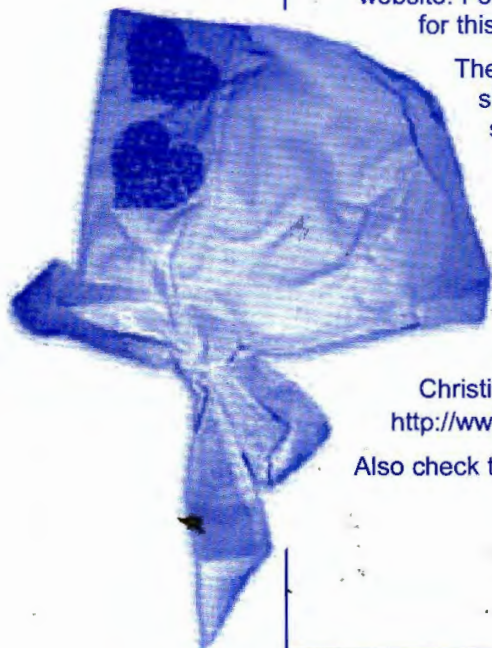
Roses from the Heart is a tribute to women, especially the approximately 25,000 convict women who were shipped to 'parts unknown' and became the backbone of contemporary Australian society.

Christina Henri plans to create four installations to be exhibited on International Women's Day. Each installation will be similar and will be placed at sites relevant to the convict women's departure from the United Kingdom and arrival in Australia. For the bonnets installation possible sites are being explored and at present it is anticipated Yard 1 at Cascades Female Factory, South Hobart will be the Tasmanian site. A site in Parramatta is being investigated and sites in London and Dublin will be pursued. International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March and therefore this date seemed to be an appropriate time to reflect on the lives of the many women who have been shrouded in 'a veil of amnesia' for far too long.

The rose installation was created in Yard 1 at Cascades Female Factory on 8 March 2006. It took the form of the symbol of women with the cross at the base of the circle being slightly larger than normal. This gave emphasis to the cross, a symbol normally placed above a grave that was denied many convict women at burial. A mass of roses were placed to form this symbol.

For the bonnets installation to be shown on 8 March 2008, Christina would like 25,000 women to make a woman's cloth bonnet decorated with hearts and roses. These bonnets will be displayed as part of the exhibition in each of the four venues. Sewers of bonnets can incorporate convict women's names on their work, especially female convict ancestors. She would be very grateful if bonnet makers who have female convict ancestry would send information relating to their relatives to her. Bonnets Must be received by November 2007 at the very latest.

Participants who do not have female convict ancestry can adopt a convict. This website (<http://www.femalefactory.com.au>) provides lists of convict women who lived in Tasmania—those listed in the Female Family Founders Database. Also Phillip Tardiff's book *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls* (also available on a CD) is full of details of convict women. Check local libraries or bookshops for this and other works to find a convict to 'adopt'. A list of some relevant books is provided on this website. Female convicts transported to New South Wales can also be adopted for this project.



The work will be displayed in perspex boxes equalling the number of ships the women were sent out on. Each perspex box will have a ship's name and contain the number of bonnets representing the number of women sent out in that vessel. The names on the bonnets will not necessarily correspond to the exact names of the women on the ship. Christina's aim is to use the bonnets to accent how vast a number is 25,000 women. She is hoping to attract the involvement of 25,000 women globally in this project.

If you wish to participate in this project, please contact Christina on 0407 575 018 or email her at cjhenri@iinet.net.au.

Christina Henri, PO Box 1020, Sandy Bay TAS 7006,
<http://www.christinahenri.com.au>

Also check the Female Factory website <http://www.femalefactory.com.au>

Gina Troy

From the Chapters

Canberra Chapter: (ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounding areas)

Sat. 7 July at 2pm for the AGM. Venue: The home of Brian & Helen Mattick, 14 Lawrence Cres, Kambah. **Sat. 28 July** The Annual Dinner will commence at 7.00pm Venue: Café Cosmo, Canberra Southern Cross Club. If you wish to attend either function please contact President Geoff Cameron (02) 6251 4095 so that catering for the AGM & bookings for the dinner can be arranged.

Central Coast Chapter: (Gosford, Tuggerah Lake, Wyong, Budgewoi)

Meetings are held at Wyong RSL on the second Saturday of each month starting at 10.30am. **14 July** AGM. Guest Speaker Pam Williams, her topic "Gosford Old Primary & High Schools." **11 Aug**, CCC Member Bruce Donaldson will speak on the life of his FF James Squires. ph (02) 4353 2524.

Hunter Valley Chapter: (Hunter regions, Newcastle, & surrounding areas)

The first meeting of this revised chapter will be held on **Mon. 18 June**, 10-30am to 12-30pm. Venue: St. Johns Hall on the corner of Parry & Dawson Sts. Cooks Hill. For more details contact John & Beth Brooker (02) 4926 5535. See *Liaison News* below.

New England Chapter: (Armidale and surrounding areas)

Sat. 30th June will see our 6th AGM. Venue: Family History Centre Armidale. Time 12-30pm. For more details, phone (02) 6772 3140.

See *North Coast Chapter* for another combined Chapter event.

North Coast Chapter: (Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga, Leigh and nearby regions)

Sun 5 Aug will see a visit from the Northwest & New England Chapters. Venue: The home of Colin & Pat Robertson, 21 Queen St. Woolgoolga. 10-30am morning tea. 11am AGM. 12 noon lunch; 1pm Guest Speaker Warren Hellwig will present the "King of the Coast" 2pm Tour of Guru Nanak Sikh Temple. For transport & further details contact President Robyn Condliffe. Phone (02) 6653 3615.

Northern Rivers Chapter: (Lismore and surrounding regions)

Meetings are held bi-monthly. Venue: 16 Atlas street, Lismore. Time: 11-30 for a BBQ lunch cost \$8 members \$9 visitors. Next meeting **27 July**. The AGM. The activity following TBA. Phone (02) 6686 3597.

Northwest Chapter: (Tamworth and surrounding areas)

AGM, **4 August** Venue: Tamworth Regional Art Gallery, Esther Halliday Studio, Time 1-30pm. For further information, ph (02) 6766 8255.

See *North Coast Chapter* for another combined Chapter event.

South Coast Chapter: (from Engadine to Burrill Lake)

Meetings are held in the Old Court House Wollongong, corner of Cliff Rd & Harbour St. W/gong. Time 10am to 12 noon, sometimes to 1pm. **Tues, 3 July** - A video about Rev. Richard Johnson & St Philip's Church from an English penal settlement to modern day. Our Traditional Winter Warm Day will follow with the choice of 2 home made soups and Jeanette McBeath's popular home made plum puddings & hot custard. **Tues, 7 August** AGM & 6th Birthday. Stan Keough will present the story of his First Fleet Convict, James Bryan Cullen. For further information, phone (02) 4232 1060.

Southern Highlands Chapter: (Moss Vale, Mittagong and surrounding areas)

Meetings are held at Mittagong Community Centre, Cnr, Albert Lane & Queen St, Mittagong. Wednesdays 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm. The AGM will be held, **Wed 8 August**. Guest Speaker William Coupland will speak on Early Colonial Art. For further details, phone Valerie Collyer (02) 4872 1238

Chapter Liaison News: At Newcastle 19 May, several members attended a meeting chaired by President John Haxton when a decision was made to move forward and promote the rebuilding of the Hunter Valley Chapter. A steering committee was formed with John Brooker at the helm ably assisted by his wife Beth. Our thanks to Past President Ray Meredith who has passed the Chapter's history to Bruce Donaldson. Bruce is a keen member willing to participate in the growth of the Hunter Valley Chapter. We encourage all members living in the region to experience chapter membership. The future will see varied guest speakers & interesting activities. The wealth of convict & early history in the area will provide many places of interest for group outings. The venue is listed above and meetings will be held bi-monthly on the **3rd Monday 18 June, 20 Aug, 15 Oct, 17 Dec**. 10.30am to 12.30am.

For more information phone (02) 4926 5535. For information about chapters contact Jean Mortimer (02) 4257 5575 email: terryjeanmort@yahoo.com.au In Fellowship, Jean Mortimer, Chapter Liaison Officer





TO LIVE ON IN THE
HEARTS AND MINDS OF
DESCENDANTS IS
NEVER TO DIE

*Closing Date
for
Next Issue:
July 28*

Chapters

ACT

Geoff Cameron
6251 4095

CENTRAL COAST

Beryl Haxton
43532524

HUNTER VALLEY

Jean Mortimer
4257 5575

NEW ENGLAND

David Newling
6771 5099

NORTH COAST

Colin Robertson
6654 1528

NORTHERN RIVERS

Betty Pherson
6624 1085

NORTH WEST

Jo Crossing
6766 8255

SOUTH COAST

Jean Mortimer
4257 5575

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Valerie Collyer
4872 1238

Fellowship of First Fleeters

105 Cathedral St Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

Phone: (02) 9360 3788

Fax: (02) 9360 3988

Email: fffaus@ol.com.au or fffaus@yahoo.com.au

www: geocities.com/fellowship_of_first_fleeters

Advance notices: 2007

Sunday 16 September 1pm Peter's History Walk thru the Rocks and around Sydney. Finish up at FFHouse for afternoon Tea

Wednesday 17 October 11am Daytime Fellowship, speaker tba.

Saturday 24 November 11am Annual General Meeting

Saturday 15 December 11am Volunteers Christmas Party.

2008

**Saturday 19
January 2008**

Celebrate the 220th Anniversary of the landing of the First Fleet. Luncheon. Venue to be advised.

**Saturday 29
March 2008**

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the commencement of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Luncheon. Venue to be advised.

8 May 2007

Admiral Arthur Phillip

Dear Sir,

A couple of weeks ago I drove from London to Bathampton to see the burial site of Admiral Arthur Phillip. I wanted to see for myself this site of the man who led the First Fleet along with a number of my direct ancestors to Sydney 220 years ago. This anniversary will be next week, on 13th May.

But I was extremely disappointed at the site in the small church there. Whilst there is a wall tablet in the Australian Chapel, I stepped over the grey stone plaque in the floor near the entrance without seeing it. When I did see it, I had trouble making out the lettering. The nearby small wooden plaque commemorates Phillip as the 'Founder of Australia'. In fact, he was the Founder and Governor of the first colony. James Cook and other explorers from France and Holland were really the true 'Founders' of the continent, long occupied by the aboriginal people.

There has been much discussion of late over this site and debate as to whether the late Admiral's remains are indeed there. Dr Litten of London has confirmed that they are. Geoffrey Robertson, who also lives here in London, has raised the important and much neglected issue of the treatment given to Phillip since his death as well as the consideration of transferring the remains to Sydney.

What this tells us I believe, is that Admiral Phillip's memory has not been served well for what he and the members of the First and Second Fleets did in those early days years ago. The governments of Australia and NSW should do more to establish the formidable role of Phillip and those who went with him to the new land.

It would be appropriate, if with the 220th anniversary of that arrival next January, something was done to establish a more concrete reminder of the Australian people of this forgotten naval leader and governor. Why has he been so forgotten?

Sincerely, Anthony Griffith #7246
London.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the article authors and correspondents and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, nor the views of the editor. The editor reserves the right to omit any material considered unsuitable for publication. Space limitations may result in some material being held over to another issue.

RON MAGUIRE, Hon. Editor