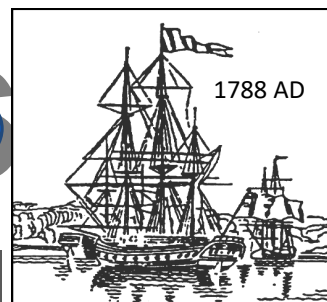


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

ACN 003 223 425

PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO



Volume 48, Issue 5

49th Year of Publication

October-November 2017

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

5th PRESIDENT BERYL LEWIS HONOURED IN MEMORIAM

The Southern Highland Chapter's June Meeting was very special indeed. **Mr Howard Lewis** humbly engifted the Chapter with a beautiful eternal memorial to his much beloved wife, our Past Patron, **Mrs Beryl Lewis**.

Howard lovingly related Beryl's fervent involvement with the Fellowship over 44 years. Beryl became **Vice President** at the 1973 AGM. She was elected **President** at the 1975 AGM having acted in that capacity for a few weeks after the death of **Edgar Kable**. Beryl resigned her Presidency at the Executive Committee meeting in June 1983.

A highlight of Beryl's Presidency was representing the Fellowship in May 1980 as an honoured guest of the City of Portsmouth for the unveiling of the *Bonds of Friendship*. As Beryl recalled

"Portsmouth really celebrated – the Royal Yacht was dressed and anchored in the Solent and the streets were lined with flags, with bands playing in most streets. Her Majesty was coming to Portsmouth! Following a Formal State Luncheon

in the Guildhall, we were taken by coach to the Sally Port for the unveiling of the *Bonds of Friendship* by **Her Majesty the Queen**, who chose to dismiss her car and walked, to the delight of the thousands who lined the streets. I and approximately 9 or 10 dignitaries were in the front row to be presented to the Queen, how proud I was and how impressive it was to see the First Fleet so honoured in that beautiful old city. Sydney has so much to learn! At night, there was a formal Private Dinner to attend and I was transported in the Lord Mayor's beautiful car to an evening

I will never forget – just 12 guests in right royal company – a magnificent dinner, served by attendants in formal costume in honour of the occasion."

Beryl and Howard attended the Inaugural Meeting of our Chapter in November 2004. Beryl was the proud **Patron of the Southern Highlands Chapter** from June 2007 until her passing in July 2013.

The memorial was a very treasured possession of Beryl's. The framed miniatures of the Ships of the First Fleet were in her study close to her desk where she could see it as she worked (along with portraits of her heroes **Captain Cook & Governor Phillip**). Howard had the framing updated to include Beryl's Fellowship Badge along with three brass plaques outlining her involvement in the Fellowship.

Our Guest Speaker **Paul Brunton** (OAM, FAHA Emeritus Curator of the State Library of New South Wales) a long-standing friend of Beryl and Howard, was invited to unveil the memorial – he considered it a great honour to do so. Paul recalled Beryl's

involvement in the Bankstown Historical Society and her dedicated work as a volunteer in the State Library, of how she brought so much history to so many people. He eulogised her as a woman of integrity, vision, warmth, a woman of charm. An astute business woman. A gentlewoman in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

President **Pamela Cormick** warmly accepted the gift on behalf of the Chapter and the memorial will be displayed at all our meetings.

WS



FOUNDERS

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon



As *Founders* has been in preparation our citizenry once again has had to endure another bout of historical, seemingly hysterical, revisionism by media. The annual **Australia Day** debate has surfaced early and with seemingly more venom than usual. We of the Fellowship are not bowed. We continue to honour our ancestors and are grateful for the roles they played in founding the nation we know today. It has been good to see that both our Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer have recently acknowledged in public their First Fleeter ancestry.

It is fitting therefore, in our archival tribute in this issue, to revisit Ena Harper's articles on *European and Aboriginal Encounters* that appeared in the newsletter over two years from April 1978. And on this theme we are excited to announce that in the next issue you will be able to read a significant article by one of our members with **aboriginal ancestry**.

Investigating historic cemeteries and the finding of First Fleeter headstones have always been our forte, so members will be pleased to know of some forthcoming developments. At St Peters church in Petersham, England, our plaque honouring **Lt Henry Lidgbird Ball** will be unveiled and dedicated on 22 October. Taking part will be some members of the Fellowship so we will be looking for a full report in due course.

In Tasmania moves are at a standstill to have our plaque installed at the old town cemetery at Sorell where FF **William Hambly** is buried. Many of his descendants live in that state and are eager honour him with a dedication ceremony. Others of us plan to be at the 200th Anniversary celebrations of St Matthews, Windsor, in the second week of October, starting with a commemorative service on the 8th. Best wishes to family groups who have organised activities to coincide with the Windsor celebrations.

My call is still out for **historic photos** of the early days of the Fellowship. In preparation for next year's anniversary we need a big selection, particularly of the first twenty years. Black and white copies are fine and even if they need to remain in albums we can still photograph them for our purpose.

Don't forget the Fellowship's **Annual General Meeting** to be hosted this year by Hunter Valley Chapter. Details are listed below and the Directors are hoping there will be a good roll-up on the day from far and wide. Two directors will be retiring so there will be up to three vacancies to fill. Please consider offering for service. Note that due to **track work** buses will be replacing trains that weekend on the Central Coast, Newcastle and Hunter lines.

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FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

ACN 003 223 425

Patron: Professor The Honorable Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO

Vice-Patron: Commodore Paul Kable AM, RAN, Rtd.

Vice-Patron: Peter Christian OAM

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting

Will be held on

Saturday 28th October 2017

Commencing at 11.00am

**At: Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall
153A Brunker Road Adamstown NSW**

BLOWING UP OUR HERITAGE

Member #7643.1 Paul Miskelly responds to our Woronora Watermills story

Thank you for featuring in the June/July 2017 Issue of *Founders* the story on the nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register of the two Lucas Watermills built on tributaries of the Georges River, and in particular, the Woronora River Watermill.

There is, however, a bitter-sweet aspect in being reminded of the profound significance of this site, a site with which I was very familiar, being as they are in the vicinity of the Lucas Heights Research Establishment at which I was employed for several years.

On the one hand, it is very pleasing indeed to learn that the local Council is supporting a State Heritage listing of what is one of the important sites of our First Fleet Heritage, going back as it does to 1825. On the other, the bitter aspect, it is well to be reminded that, but for an act that is best described as a misguided initiative by Sutherland Shire Council, there might well have been preserved significantly more of the mill's remnants.

It might be helpful that I provide some of the more recent history of the Woronora River. **G.Duncan** (2008), for example, reports on the history of the Woronora Weir. This was built in the late 1930s several kilometres upstream of the Lucas Watermill site, (immediately upstream of the present Heathcote road bridge crossing of the Woronora River). It was used initially as an interim water supply for Engadine residents, then, on completion of the much larger Woronora Dam further upstream, it was made available as a swimming pool to residents from 18 May 1943, being finally formally handed over to Sutherland Shire Council for this purpose, on 20 November 1959.

The Woronora Weir was demolished by the Army in 1984, at the request of Sutherland Shire Council. What is less well known is that, as an adjunct to that demolition, and during subsequent months, Sutherland Shire Council also had the Army blow up sites further downstream along

the Woronora River, including the Lucas Watermill site. This site's demolition may have been part of a more extensive program to demolish what Council regarded as sub-standard squatters' dwellings along the river on the neighbouring "Shackles Estate".

The Lucas Watermill site is situated downstream of the causeway which forms the Woronora River crossing of Major **Thomas Mitchell's** original road from Sydney to the top of Bulli Pass, constructed in the years 1843-44 (Anon. 1947).

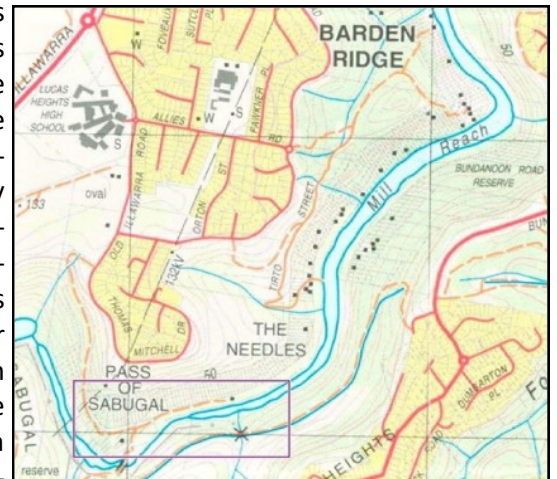
(This causeway was given the name the Pass of Senegal by Mitchell, perhaps in memory of his time under Wellington during the Peninsula Wars in Portugal.)

This line of road, now known as Old Illawarra Road, is characterised by very steep grades on both sides of the river. These days it is a dirt road, with barriers well back from the river crossing to prevent private vehicle access. Immediately downstream of the causeway is a feature known as The Needles, presumably so named as it is a rocky part of the river bed that is impassable by boat. **John Lucas** built his mill immediately downstream of this feature, and at what would have been the head of navigation of the Woronora River in those days. That he chose this particular site for the watermill shows a great deal of planning and foresight by John Lucas.

First Fleeter convicts **Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne** showed great entrepreneurial drive and business acumen in establishing family enterprises in the early years of the Colony. A useful compilation of the flour milling business activities of both John Lucas and the Lucas family may be found at, for example, the Morawa District Historical Society website links below.

As demonstrated in the June/July 2017 *Founders* article, the building and the milling enterprises of the Lucas family had a profound impact on both the Colony's very survival from its earliest period and its subsequent industrial development. Therefore considerable significance ought to be given to any surviving artifacts from the early colonial period generally, and in this case, of the Lucas family in particular.

[continued page 5]



Woronora River: mill site (small inset); navigable reach (large inset). Location shown on insert in map above.

JAMES SQUIRE'S FIRST TRANSPORTATION

#2626 James Donohoe reports on some recent findings in US military records.

It is well-known that several convicts had been transported to the Americas before embarking on the First Fleet ships in 1787. One of these was **James Squire**, whose records for his North American excursion have now been found.

A family myth exists that when James was transported as a convict to North America following his first conviction in 1774 he elected on his arrival to serve in the military. This was an alternative option to servile assignment usually expected of transported male convicts. Citations were supposedly found that James served in West Florida, focused on the area now called Pensacola.

This myth has been checked and James was located on an Ancestry.com Index to British Convicts Transported to North America. He is shown as James "Squires", who arrived in Maryland in May 1774 on the convict transport *Thornton*.

The British Army had two Regiments stationed in West Florida at the time, the 22nd and 32nd. but James Squire's name is not on their Musters, nor is he listed as a British Soldier in any unit of the time. The British Administration did support the formation of Militias or Rangers for local self defence and this was long thought his most likely sphere of service. James is however listed in the general Index of British soldiers of that era but not indexed to any unit. That service could only have been in North America.

This view is reinforced by his appointment as **Captain Arthur Phillip's** bodyguard. Marine Commander, **Major Robert Ross**, protested but Phillip responded that he trusted Squire before any of Ross's marines. Squire must have had a military record for a person of Phillip's stature to have placed such trust in him.

James Squire had considerable respect for and understanding of indigenous people. He befriended one, **Nanbaree** the adopted son of **Surgeon White** and it was at the Squire brewery that Nanbaree died after ritual tribal combat and was buried there. A number of settlers were attacked by Aborigines in Kissing Point but none of James's family was ever attacked or threatened. James also befriended other Aborigines, including **Bennelong** and his

wife **Barangaroo**. James must have had considerable experience on the North American frontier to have exercised the tolerance and respect that secured his family while living in harmony with the Aborigines in Kissing Point.

A second myth handed down through the family was that James commanded a penal colony which survived for several years and preceded the New South Wales experience as a success. No transported convicts were ever sent to the Floridas so any inmates in such a colony must have been local prisoners.

These myths have further foundation in an episode published in the "New Chum" column of the *Daily Telegraph* issued at the turn of the 20th Century (See State Library of New South Wales, newspapers on microfilm). The article on James Squire mentions that he was a "time-expired soldier". Author **Jean Feughelman**, in her article published in *Descent* in about 1982, cites James's military service.

Another point that supports this story is the enlistment of son **Francis Spencer** in the NSW Corps as a Drummer at the age of 20 months. The NSW Corps Payroll shows him from his seventh birthday, which was the youngest date for a soldier to be paid. There are several records of young Francis's recruitment at such an early age. **Major Johnston** diarised the event too in the Corps' muster.



Maryland Militia

Each unit of the British Army had a Training Sergeant who presumably must have had a wife who was literate. The wife usually acted as the unit's school teacher who taught the children of the unit's families and of local ex-servicemen. She also looked after the infants of these people. The school also taught illiterate soldiers to the level where they could better understand orders. Later regiments cited the school teacher, other than the training sergeant's wife, on the unit's payroll and such women were paid at the same rate as a sergeant.

One regiment, in the 1840s, stationed in Sydney, actually listed a woman as the Training Sergeant and that was before the appointment of Florence Nightingale, officially accredited as the first female to serve in the British Army.



The boy Nanbaree, pencil sketch by Francis Watling. Nat. Hist. Museum

Returning to James Squire, records show that he actually served not in the Floridas but in Maryland in that colony's Militia. This unit had been raised by the colonial government to defend Maryland against French aggression and local unfriendly Indians. Such colonial militias were endorsed by the British Government's North American Administration and the British Army.

Tensions intensified shortly after James's arrival in North America between the colonials and the British Administration over the issue of local control over local matters. Warlike incidents occurred and increased, spreading through the north-eastern part of what was eventually to become the United States of America.

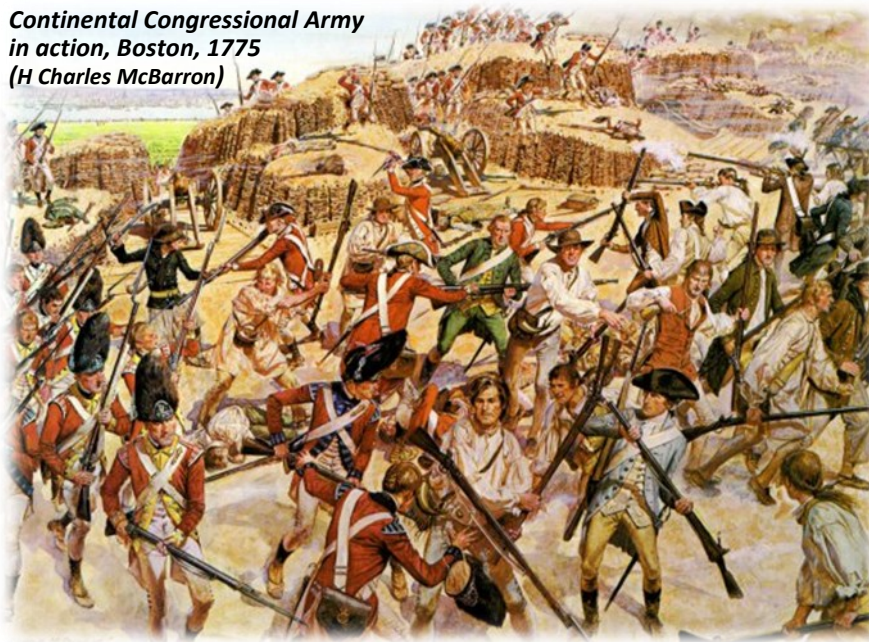
Thirteen governments of the British North American Colonies formed the Continental Congress in order to strengthen their political resolve over local issues and their voice in the British Parliament on matters that were exclusively their local issues. The British Government remained negligent and stubborn forcing the colonials to look to Independence as the solution to this impasse.

As violence intensified, the Continental Congress authorised the creation of the *New England Army*, the foundation units of which were comprised of the colonial Militias. James Squire was absorbed into the New England Army on 2 August 1775 at a time when this army was being officially recognised as a *Revolutionary Army*.

At first the colonies, the colonials and the servicemen were loyal to the crown despite their Independence objectives but by late 1775, the relationship between the London government and the colonies had deteriorated to the

point where planning was advanced towards formal Independence. The Continental Congress authorised the creation of a *Continental Army* that was proposed to be loyal to a new independent nation.

**Continental Congressional Army
in action, Boston, 1775
(H Charles McBarron)**



As the remaining Militias and the New England Army were being absorbed into the Continental Army those who wished to remain loyal to the British Crown were deemed *time expired* and allowed to leave their units. James Squire left the New England Army on 31st December 1775. Holding a military discharge exempted James from further transported convict servitude and he went

straight home.

Incidentally, there were actually twenty-one British colonies and territories in North America in 1776. Those colonies that did not seek independence were East Florida, Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Oregon, Upper Canada and West Florida. An effort was made to draw Upper Canada into the Congress and force was even tried but the British Army blocked it. The Upper Canadians did not support the invasion by the Continental Army.

Returning to the penal colony myth it is possible that James could have served in such a colony but it does not seem logical that a militiaman stationed with a Maryland unit would have been sent to West Florida. It is more likely that James was stationed only in Maryland as that colony did have an aggressive Indian frontier at the time. The prison colony mentioned in the myths may have referred to a holding place for captured Indians.

#2626 James Donohoe

[Heritage Watermills Letter, from page 3:]

I hope that both State and Local Government, might be persuaded to consult closely with the Fellowship in the Heritage Listing of the Lucas Woronora Watermill site, plans for its continued preservation and the design and content of such as permanent display panels to be erected for viewing by the general public at the site.

PM

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EDWARD RISBY 1755 - 1823

Present day descendants have been able to trace Edward Risby's family back into history and, though it cannot be officially confirmed, from what information has come to light it is probable that his ancestors originated in Norway and as Vikings probably settled in England in the 10th century. The town of Risby in Suffolk celebrated its 1000 year anniversary in 1975.

Edward Risby was born in 1755 into a family who had lived in Uley in the Cotwolds area of Gloucestershire for at least 30 years, an important town with Cottage Industry, weaving, as its main industry. Edward married **Hannah Manning** in 1777 and they had three children, **Ephraim, James and Hannah**.

This was at the very beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Britain when machines powered by steam replaced the Cottage Industries in the weaving of cotton and wool. Edward was arrested in 1780 for "stealing and carrying away by force of arms, three yards of broadcloth valued at 30 shillings".

He was arrested again in 1783 and at his trial in 1784 was sentenced to seven years with transportation to Botany Bay. Perhaps these misdemeanours were a result of his family's being robbed of its source of income. He did not see his wife Hannah and his children again.

He was imprisoned in the hulk *Censor* on the Thames and deported in 1788 to complete his sentence in 1791. He survived the First Fleet voyage on the convict transport *Alexander*, the largest and unhealthiest ship in the fleet. Eleven convicts died of scurvy in the first stage of the voyage from the Thames to Portsmouth. The ship had to be cleaned, limed and creosoted before continuing the voyage.

From Tenerife to Rio de Janeiro a further sixteen convicts died, including eleven on the *Alexander*. The ship was inspected and the Master was replaced because the bilges had been pumped only once a week instead of daily and the stench was almost unbearable even on the deck.

He had also survived two mutinies; the first, by the crew on the day they sailed from England, then a second, by some of the convicts before the ship reached Cape Town. The leader of this mutiny was hanged when the fleet reached Port Jackson.

In Port Jackson, Edward worked as a sawyer on HMS *Sirius* until he was among the first group of convicts sent to Norfolk Island. He became a free man in 1791 and was granted 12 acres of land to grow maize, wheat and raise pigs. He married **Ann Gibson**, a second fleet convict. They had five children [one stillborn] and developed their farm to the extent they could exist without Government stores. The surviving children were **Thomas, Susannah, Joseph and Benjamin**.

In **Colleen McCullough's** novel "Morgan's Run" Ed Risby was mentioned as a friend of Richard Morgan, also a survivor of the *Alexander* problems.

When the British Government decided that Norfolk Island would be closed the family was resettled in Van Diemen's Land where they were given 30 acres of land for farming. They built their new home and developed their land grant to grow beans, 2 acres of potatoes, had pigs and a small flock of sheep and again became self sufficient, as they has been on Norfolk Island.

Edward's eldest son **Thomas Risby** married in 1815 and had two children before Edward died in 1823. Edward had been in poor health for a few years before his death and the property was worked by Thomas's brothers **Benjamin and Joseph**.

Edward had lived a life of misery, survived a terrible sea voyage between decks on a very unhealthy ship also a lot of very hard work, so to live to an age of 67 was almost unbelievable. Unfortunately he did not live long enough to see the beginning of the very outstanding Tasmanian Company, *Risby Timber Industries*. The history of this great company in Tasmania is documented fully in the Limited Edition Book *Above The Odds*.

Joseph Risby, Edward's second eldest son moved away from Tasmania when the farm was sold and settled in Maitland in 1826. He built a small brickmaking plant and built a two storey home in Sempill Street near the Hunter River which he called the *The Falls*. This later became the first hotel in Maitland and continued to operate as such until 1923. Joseph married **Mary Robson** in 1838. They had eleven children, three of whom died in infancy. This branch of the family has lived in Maitland and Newcastle ever since.

Mary made a christening robe for her children. The robe has been used over the generations for many Risby children up to the present day. The robe is still in excellent condition and will be used in the future.

It was only very recently that a kind relative returned two very old photos of Risby ancestors, Mary and Joseph Risby taken probably in about 1860.

from Hunter Valley Chapter website, with permission.



*The Falls, Joseph Risby's home in Maitland NSW
2004 photo by John G.*

from *The Companion to Tasmanian History*

Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, University of Tasmania.

The Risby Timber Company until its demise in the mid-1990s was one of Australia's oldest family-run firms. Boat builders Thomas and Joseph Risby established a sawmill in Hobart in the mid-1840s. Thomas left, but Joseph had the business on a sound footing when his three sons took control in 1885, trading as Risby Brothers. By 1900 Risbys had ten vessels and their enterprises extended from the south-east to the west, with a depot and mill at Strahan (1897), followed by numerous bush mills in the Derwent Valley. They sold timber and timber-related products, and moved to different sites in Hobart as business expanded, particularly during the do-it-yourself boom of the 1970s. After the main Westerway mill burnt down in 1957, Risbys developed a state-of-the-art sawmill at Austins Ferry. Among numerous timber-based ventures, the company became embroiled in the conservation-

forestry confrontation at Farmhouse Creek in 1986. The company closed in 1994.

Kim Pearce

Further reading: *J Dargavel (ed), Sawing, selling and sons, Canberra, 1988; D Brownlow, 'Risby Bros Pty Limited', Honours thesis, UT, 1968; K Pearce, manuscript on the Risby Timber Company and family, AOT.*



Risby's Timber Yard in Battery Point 1900

GENEALOGY - RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE

The University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland offer a **FREE**, online, six week course titled Researching Your Family Tree. The course is very popular and the one just concluded had over 5500 participants worldwide. Whether you are an experienced researcher or just starting out on your Family History journey, everyone will gain something from this program. There are no assessments or compulsory assignments. However there are suggested tasks to be undertaken each week to reinforce the reading and visual presentations. Provision is also made for you to make a comment and to share experiences with other students by joining a study group, if you so choose.

As well as outlining the family research process, each week an update is provided on a particular person's family history journey and details problems encountered and overcome. DNA testing and its place as an adjunct to more conventional research is explained. Putting your research into context and documenting and communicating your research results and sources of data are also touched upon. Finally a comprehensive list of useful web sites for research material is provided.

Details and a starting date for a future course may be found at www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy **IAP**

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR FIRST FLEET HOUSE MAINTENANCE

Adams J L, Anderson D I, Arch M L, Baird J H, Bannigan P J, Bassett R L, Baur L A, Baxter A J, Benjamin R A, Bercene J H, Binder K J, Binder M J, Birch J A, Brown V A, Brown W F, Butler M W, Cantwell D, Childs N R, Christian P G, Christopher V, Coleman B N, Coleman S, Coombes B J, Cottee L, Cridland S M, Davis B, Davis J E, Davis R A, Davis R N, Dean B G, Dingwall M I, Dobbs L, Donaldson B J, Doyle G E, Doyle J, Duignan P R, Earl C O, Eastern Farms Chapter, Eaton E M, Eddington G O, Edwards J L, Eggleton M J, Entwistle R K, Facer L, Favell W, Finch D M, Ford W A, Francis M L, Freeman J J, Geldard E M, Gillan M K, Grace P M, Grace W H, Hammond B E, Hammond C J, Hannah N D, Harper L E, Haspell R F, Haswell J, Haxton F L, Haxton J D, Heldon B K, Hellyer L E, Hitchcock B, Hogan D E, Hogan M T, Huggup R D, Hughes D, Huntley A, Jenkins S V, Jewell C, Johnson P B, Johnson P W, Johnson P W, Jones T T, Jones W M, Jorgensen J K, Kable G

P, Kemsley J T, Keough S K, Knight M K, Knight V I, Leech R T, Legge R M, Lemcke R K, Lewis H, Low J, Manuel J A, Marsden F, Martin J M, McBeath J, McLean B Y, McPherson E A, Medhurst J M, Mence M E, Menger S, Merkel G, Middleton B, Middleton E, Miles P J W, Morgan R V, Mortimer D J, Mortimer J I, Nelson M L, Newell J S, Newman P, O'Neill B, Phipps J, Pople M L, Power C J, Quick P A, Ratcliffe B A, Reed D J, Roberts J, Roberts L M, Robinson P E, Ross C S, Rowe C J, Searchfield C N, Searchfield M M D, Sewell E U, Shaw M, Shipton R L, Small D, Small V M, Smith J G, Smith M A, Smith S, Solanov J P, Stone M L, Strange M, Symington M DE, Taranto Y S, Tassone J S, Thepbald M C, Thompson S F, Tracey S, Turner J L, Tweedie M J, Upfold T D, Walker P D, Walsh L M, Webb P J, Westbrook G, Westwood E C, White R D, Williams B L, Wood S R, Woodbury A J, Yeomans D J, Young M, Young R, Zamiatin J D.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES ~ Volume 9 Number 3 April 1978

EARLY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN EUROPEANS
AND ABORIGINES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Article by Ena Harper, Ashfield Historical Society

How much does the average Australian know about the first encounters between Europeans and Aborigines in the early days of the colony? Speaking for myself, I must admit I know little of what really happened and found it of great interest to discover the varied reactions of each race to the other. These have been recorded in the journals of explorers and settlers.

Before commencing this record, it might be as well to give a brief and simple account of the life style and beliefs of the Aborigines in Australia as they existed before the Europeans arrived (or as much as is known from modern research and tribes still existing in their natural state).

Systematic field-work into Aboriginal life and customs did not begin until 1926. Apart from the writings of missionaries or other investigators of tribal remnants in settled regions, the most important anthropological study of the Aborigines was done by **Baldwin Spencer** and **F J Gillon** in Central Australia and northern Australia in the 1890s and carried into the 20th century. This was already late in the day.

It is noteworthy that **Adolphus Peter Elkin**, the Australian who was to become the foremost authority on the Aborigines, did not commence his work until 1918. In that year in his holidays as an Anglican divine he set off with a Bush Brother to look at country beyond Bourke. It was here for the first time that he saw Aboriginal stone implements and old burial sites.

This started him on a career of investigation into Aboriginal life which was to make him a world authority. But it was not till 1927 that planned research began. By this time the Sydney tribes were extinct. After pioneer research work in the Kimberleys, Professor Elkin succeeded to the chair of Anthropology in the University of Sydney at the end of 1933. These facts are noted to emphasise how long it was before there was any realisation that the Aboriginal culture and knowledge was worth studying.

The fact that their artefacts were perishable made archaeological finds rather scarce. Professor Elkin describes the Aborigines as belonging to the Australoid group of humanity. This group is still to be found in small remnants in lands from Australia to Southern India. Professor Elkin believed that very early types of man lived in Java, and that Australoid man became differentiated, spreading north to India and Malaya and south to New Guinea and Australia.

These people were food-gatherers and hunters and probably moved on from time to time in search of better hunting grounds. Also pressure of population, especially from people of a higher culture, may have forced them to

fresh pastures. At any rate, some Australoids eventually reached Australia and for a long time remained completely undisturbed. They adjusted to the environment without explaining it and lived in almost a perfect balance with the land, its plants and creatures. We should also remember there were droughts, bushfires and floods then, as now.

There is one fact that people of European stock should recognise as of great importance. Just stop and consider. This primitive race survived, carried out its affairs and was going quietly about its business when Europeans arrived. They had survived without benefit of psychiatrists, electricians, agronomists, mechanics, dieticians or chiropodists.

The Aborigines lived on, one generation after another, without our vast store of specialised knowledge. It is a great pity that investigation of their own peculiar and wonderful wisdom was not carried out in the Sydney area before they became detribalised. In fact, in-depth research should be speeded up in tribes which are still living in their natural state.

It is hard for a modern city-dweller to realise the intimacy with which the Australian Aborigine knew his own particular area of country. Professor Elkin writes:

The Aborigine, living off the land and with nothing between himself and the natural features of his environment, knows them with a photographic familiarity that we, in our sophistication, can hardly realise. The Aborigine's familiarity with nature, however, is not only photographic; it is also spiritual; it is one of personal relationship.

Before investigating what happened when contact was made with Europeans at the time of **Captain James Cook's** expedition, it would be wise to study in brief their special customs. In 1788 there were about 500 tribes in the whole of Australia. What is a Tribe? Speaking generally:-

- 1 It is a group of people related by actual or implied genealogy who:
- 2 Occupy and own a definite area of territory;
- 3 Use a language or dialect peculiar to themselves;
- 4 Are known by a distinct name though it is sometimes difficult to discover what that was;
- 5 Have customs and laws which may differ in some ways from those of the neighbouring tribe;
- 6 Have their own rites and beliefs.

We have noted that a tribe has its own particular territory for food-gathering, but it is most important to note that there were no wars for territorial aggrandisement (according to Prof. Elkin). Like individual persons, races seem to develop a specific personality and it seems that they were of a peaceable nature.

In his journal, Cook describes the Aborigines as far from being disagreeable, with voices soft and tuneable, a timorous and inoffensive race, no ways inclinable to cruelty.

Alan Moorehead makes the comment:

If there was any fighting it was usually caused by some tribe trespassing upon the hunting grounds of another. However, hatreds did not last for very long and after they had spent their anger in a furious skirmish, peace was made and then both sides would usually make camp and carouse together.

One of the most important aspects of the Aborigines' philosophy and way of life was the belief in what is called the eternal dreamtime by Professor Elkin. In this mythical far distant time lived the tribal heroes or ancestors; they performed great deeds in this part of the country, the tribal home. This may be compared with the stories of Abraham and Moses as preserved by the Hebrews.

Spirit - or life - centres are usually situated along the routes followed by the heroes and ancestors. Here is the spirit home of the tribe and the well-being and future of the tribe is only assured while they remain in this tribal territory. To leave is death or, for some, deteriorating health.

The tribal heroes also initiated ritual which was carried out to ensure the well-being of the tribe. Once again this is like the Passover Feast of the Jews or certain Christian ritual such as the Eucharist or sacrament of the Last Supper. In other words, the myth is lived out and Professor Elkin makes this emphatic comment *the myth is life-giving*, because by this means present-day men are thus linked to the sacred past, the source of life. He makes this interesting comment:

We may, of course, give explanations of the life-giving significance of these acted myths, which differ from those given by the Aborigines. We may claim that, while individual and social benefits are derived from the rites and while general well-being is established by them, the source of such virtue is not in the dreamtime or the mythical age, but in the very nature of the ceremonies themselves. The contemplation in unison of symbols, myths and rites which are surrounded by a halo of sanctity, the sacred and tense atmosphere of the proceedings and the great intensity of emotion reached by the singing, dancing and infliction of pain—all contribute to an experience of exaltation, courage and well-being and also to an accession of strength arising from the experience of common purpose, action and feeling which characterises all those taking part. All this is true and remains true whether we accept or reject the Aborigines' traditional interpretation that strength and life are derived from contact with the dreamtime.

Linked with all this was the aboriginal belief in totemism, the philosophy that man and natural species share a common life. The totem, which may be a kangaroo or a cockatoo, not only symbolises as a guardian or helper, so they never injure it unless in dire attempt to control nature by

magical means but a way of co-operating with nature.

It was also a door back into the eternal dreamtime linking the past and the present to that time when there were no limitations of time and space. As well as the primary totem of the group there were subsidiary totems such as grasses, water, stones or stars, the mutual dependence of one on the other. We could perhaps compare this with the oneness with nature experienced by European mystics and poets like **William Wordsworth** and **Gerard Manley Hopkins**.

Directly connected with this mystic closeness to nature was the fact that the Aborigines had very few possessions. Usually they wore no clothing, had the flimsiest of dwellings, the most primitive weapons and boats and very few artefacts. This made a deep impression on the Europeans.

Both **James Cook** and **Joseph Banks** felt that these people had a happiness which Europeans had lost. Cook wrote:

They may appear to some to be the most wretched people on earth but in reality they are far happier than we Europeans the earth and the sea of their own accord furnish them with all things necessary for life they live in a warm and fine climate and enjoy a very wholesome air so that they have very little need for clothing ... they seem to set no value upon anything we give them, nor would they ever part with anything of their own.

Banks was of much the same opinion. After clothes they had given the natives were found abandoned in the bush he wrote: *'thus live these I had almost said happy people, content with little, nay almost nothing'*. And he went on to speak of the worries of civilisation.

In his book *The Fatal Impact*, Alan Moorehead makes this comment: *There was some confusion of thought here. Where was the happy life? The natives they had met on Tahiti had every natural luxury and seemed to be happy. The Australian Aborigines, with the barest subsistence, were apparently happy too. But the Europeans with their complicated civilisation were unhappy. That was the dilemma: civilisation had failed because it had abandoned nature. And yet you could not turn your back on civilisation; once it was known there was no choice but to continue with it.*

It is only stating the obvious to say that the coming of the Europeans to the tribal lands meant the breakdown of the communion of the Aborigines with their total environment. To flee into alien territory meant the complete loss of the spirit life and thus power over the physical world, but to stay? We shall see.

We know from many diaries and journals what the Englishman felt when they came to the shores of New South Wales. What of the Aborigines? We can only judge their reaction from the accounts of the white men.

[to be continued in the next and following issues]

BOOK 2 of the GARTH TRILOGY: *PERSEVERANCE*

Those of you who have been eagerly awaiting the next instalment of **#8782 Lynette McDermott's** story of the **Garth and Bellett** families will not be disappointed. In this, the second of the series of three novels, the author takes us, and the families, to Van Diemen's Land where there is a wonderful blend of history, landscape, romance, tribulation and success.

The first book, *Of Angels and Eagles*, (reviewed in Founders 47/5), featured the two First Fleet families through the eyes of **Susannah Garth**, optimist and encourager of both her husband **Edward** and his friend **Jacob Bellett**, and a great role model whose resilience strengthened family and community bonds and played no small part in the successful development of the new settlement.

In *Perseverance*, a perfect title for the families as they face 'hardships and challenges in starting again in an untamed land', the focus is on the second generation, young **Mary Bellett** and her love for **James Garth**, the sea-loving boat builder with an eye to adventure.

Early days at Sandy Bay and across the Derwent estuary at Pittwater near Midway Point, are clearly delineated as the families work to re-start their farming lives. Quite early on, however, we can detect that maritime endeavours will

form a major part of young James's life through courtship, marriage and the raising of a large family.

Even though there is a shift in location to Port Cygnet and the Huon for James and Mary, their parents and siblings are not forgotten in the narrative. Travel is a significant factor in their lives and the family links are maintained whether facing geographic hurdles such as roads and tempest or, more tellingly, social constraints brought about by colonial government policies demeaning and injurious to both incoming convicts and the aboriginal inhabitants of the island.

It seems that most aspects of well documented early Tasmanian history, from 1807 through to the middle of the century, impact on the families' day-to-day lives and ultimate well-being. They survive through ever changing colonial policies, the ravages of bushfires and bushrangers, the uncertainty of good health outcomes for their children, the vagaries of the southern climate, and above all officialdom's disapproval of

their friendship with the aborigines whose hunting lands were gradually disappearing.

However in all this it is the family members and their resolute and interesting lives that linger in our memories. Read the book, you will be glad you did.

WJF



CHAPTER OFFICE BEARERS 2017-2018

NAME	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
ALBURY/WODONGA DISTRICT	Paul Gooding #8089	Michael Ronald #8037, Gaye Merkel #8095,	Mary Chalmers-Borella #8034.1	Mary Chalmers-Borella #8034.1
ARTHUR PHILLIP	Gillian Doyle #3152	Roderick White #6815	Judith O'Shea #8563	James Kemsley #7895
CANBERRA	Geoff Cameron #2000	Gina Pinkas #6743	Brian Mattick #6077	Toni Pike #6981
CENTRAL COAST	John Haxton #7058	Wendy Condon #7123	Jon Fearon #7141	Margaret Black #8544
DERWENT	Dianne Snowden #2862	Diane Golden #7778	Paul Dobber #8462.1	Greg Bell #8277
EASTERN FARMS	Frank Olivier #8402.1	Judith Newell #7599	Jennifer Follers #7889	Rob Shipton #7981
HAWKESBURY NEPEAN	Pamela Hempel #6740	Heather Threlfall #8286	William Hempel #6740.1	Theresa Ewan #8486
HUNTER VALLEY	Barbara Gow #8275		Kerry Neinert #8578	Philip Aubin #5685
MID NORTH COAST	Malcolm Tompson #7787		Heather Bath #8480	Helen Hanson #8464
MORETON	Julie Webb #7007	Don Cornford #5129.1	Gloria Wallace #7701	Barry Lack #8001
NORTH COAST	Margaret Bass #7374	Pat Davis #7397.1	Faye Smith #8654	Pat Robertson #6948.1
NORTHERN RIVERS	Roderick Jordan #8469.1	Karin Brown #7962	Margaret Soward #7228	Stan Jenkins #7352
NORTH WEST	Barbara Hodgson #7424	Harold McLean #7439, Jennifer Porter #7416	Diana Harband #7414	Colin Worrada #F42
SOUTH COAST	KerrieAnne Christian #4858	Fae McGregor #7161	Robert Ratcliffe #7628	Anne Mobbs #F147
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS	Pamela Cormick #1894	Rod Davis #6139	Wendy Selman #6558	John Kirkby #7137
SWAN RIVER	Alex Aitken #7766.1	Bill Cutler #8024	Toni Mahony #5525	Lynton Symington #7947

Our Sixteen Chapters in Action

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

Venue: Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:45 for 11am. **Next Meeting:** Next **Events:** 28 October: Excursion to Corryong, Speaker, Stewart Ross. **Contact:** Mary Chalmers-Borella 6025 3283

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: Wayne Johnson, *The Big Dig*; 17 November: Ian Hoskins, *The Coast of New South Wales*; 15 December: Meeting and Christmas Party. **Next Events:** 2 November: Ships and Shore Cruise; 11 November: Remembrance Day Service at Roseville RSL. **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Meeting:** Sunday 10 December, Christmas Barbecue at 7 Portus Place, Bruce, 12 noon. **Contact:** Geoff Cameron 62514095

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:** 14 October: Pauline Walker, *The Blue Mountains*; 11 November: TBA. **Next Events:** 16 October: Wendy Whitely's Garden and Lunch at Kirribilli; 9 December: Christmas Lunch at Point Clare Hall. **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings:** 7 October: Speaker, TBA. **Next Event:** Mark the date for the Christmas Picnic. 2 December at Hut 5 Tolosa Park, Glenorchy. **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0404566080 or Judith Wood on 0404807338

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: Bert Meyer, *REPLAS an Australian Company*; 4 November: Julian Leatherdale, *Mark Foy and the Hydro Majestic*; 2 December: Christmas Lunch. **Contact:** Jennifer Follers 97991161

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

Venue: Mainly Tebbutt Room, Public Library, 300 George St, Windsor, but occasionally in Penrith and elsewhere-- monthly, second Saturday, 11 am. **Next Meeting:** 14 October: Graham Wilcox, *Federation of Australia*. **Contact:** William Hempel 0410950101

HUNTER VALLEY – Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.

Venue: Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall, 153A Brunner Road, Adamstown – bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am – 12.30pm. **Next Meeting:** 16 October: TBA. **Next Event:** Saturday 28 October, 11 am, Hosting AGM of the Fellowship **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 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:** 28 November, Christmas Party, *Venue and time to be advised*. **Contact:** Heather Bath 0458572644

MORETON – South East Queensland.

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton – bi-monthly meetings, at 10 am on an available 2nd Saturday. **Next Meetings:** 14 October: Gloria Wallace, *Irish Ancestry through DNA*; 9 December: Christmas Theme, Speaker, TBA **Contact:** Gloria Wallace 07 3371 2551

NORTH COAST – Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Maclean

Venue: Either at Mylestom Hall or at members' homes, Bi-monthly, usually first Sunday at 10.30am. **Next Meeting:** Saturday 2 December: Christmas Party at Golden Dog Hotel, Glenreagh, from 11:50 **Next Event:** 29 October: Seafood Chinese Buffet at Urunga Bowling Club, 12:00. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

Venue: Alstonville Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 26 November: 30th Anniversary Celebration **Contact:** Margaret Soward 66863597

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** **Next Event:** 7 October: Bus trip to Manila Museum and Lunch at Manila; 2 December: Meeting and Christmas Luncheon. **Contact:** Diana Harband 67652122

SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

Venue: Laurel Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto – monthly except Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meetings:** 3 October: Leigh Baxter: *Hearing Health*; 7 November: D and E Winterbottom, *Growing up in and returning to Africa*; . **Next Events:** 26 October: Wendy Whitely's Garden; 2 December: Christmas Luncheon. **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – Mittagong, Moss Vale and surrounds.

Venue: Mittagong Community Centre – bi-monthly – second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meeting:** 11 October: Rodney Davis, *John Hunter, The Captain's Captain*. **Next Event:** 13 December, at Mittagong RSL, 13th Anniversary and Christmas Buffet Lunch, Speaker, Robert Griffin. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 7 October: TBA; 2 December: Christmas Cheese and Wine. **Next Event:** 20 October: First Fleet Day at St Hilda's Girls' School. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

A Special Note from the Directors. It is always a joyful occasion when a new chapter comes into being, and for the past 30 years this has been the norm across the Fellowship. Sadly there are times when there is no one to continue the momentum and a chapter must close. We trust this will not happen to **Lachlan Macquarie Chapter** which has decided to go into recess for a year due to a lack of nominations for office 2017-8. A new team will be needed from July next year for the chapter to continue.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 20 November 2017

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

WILLIAM NASH/MARIA HAYNES

#8779 Susan Mary Allingham

JOHN RANDALL/JOHN MARTIN

#8780 Paulene Anne Ross

EDWARD GARTH/SUSANNAH GOUGH/

JACOB BELLETT

#8781 Coralie Garth Scott

#8782 Lynette McDermott

JOHN RANDALL

#8784 Ian Craig Stuart

JAMES BRADLEY

#8785 Simon Anthony Francis

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES

#8786 Vanessa Vale

WILLIAM BROUGHTON

#8787 Hugh Olivey

FREDERICK MEREDITH/ELLEN/ELEANOR

FRASER/REDCHESTER

#8788 David Dare Parker

JAMES MEREDITH **New First Fleeter**

#8790 Simon Robin Meredith

JACOB BELLETT/THOMAS KIDNER

#8791 Basil George Dean

THOMAS KIDNER

#8792 Arthur David Lennox Powell

WILLIAM TUNKS/THOMAS ARNDELL

#8793 Elizabeth Anne Warren

Ordinary and Pensioner Members continued

ELIZABETH FITZGERALD/WILLIAM MITCHELL

#8794 Salli Claire Higgins

ROBERT FORRESTER

#8797 Barry Flowers

JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER

#8798 Joanne Merryl Hambrett

WILLIAM ROBERTS

#8799 John Roberts Cowan

FREDERICK MEREDITH

#8800 Thomas Gary Gamack

JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER/JAMES SQUIRE

#8801 Brian Gilbert Wright

#8802 Anne-Marie Frances Wright

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM

#8803 Janet Louise Chaseling

Student Members

THOMAS ACRES

#8783 Cherie Suzanne Lamb

Junior Members

FREDERICK MEREDITH/ELLEN/ELEANOR

FRASER/REDCHESTER

#8789 Luke Dare Parker

ELIZABETH FITZGERALD/WILLIAM MITCHELL

#8795 William Lance Higgins

#8796 Jack Christopher Higgins

Associate Members

#7874.1 Patricia Ann Taber

#8037.1 Brigitte Lidie Ronald

#8285.1 Howard Reeves

Friends

#Friend185 Dorothy Lincoln

BIRTHS

EDWARD WHITTON

Evelyn (Evie) Patricia Boyd, born 7 April 2017 at Wollongong New South Wales, second daughter of Ben and Laura Boyd of Horsley and thirteenth grandchild of #7163 John and Patricia Boyd of Kanahooka NSW; ninth generation descendant of FF Edward Whitton and his wife Third Fleeter Anne Slater.

JOHN NICHOLLS

Evie Rose Chamberlain, born 17 August 2016 at Kingswood, New South Wales, daughter and first child of Jeffrey and Emily Chamberlain of Cambridge Gardens; first great granddaughter of #7571 Richard Cook of Ermington.

JOHN HERBERT/DEBORAH ELLAM

Marshall Raynor Viehbock, born 10 September 2017 at Kingswood, New South Wales, son of Jaymie Viehbock and Brittine Schevenhoven, first great grandson of #6211 Glenda and Bob Burns.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATE

#6992.1 John McArthur Tainsh, of Turrumurra New South Wales, died on 17.08.2017, aged 77. John had been a keen member of the Fellowship for 14 years and until July 2017 was the Vice-President of Arthur Phillip Chapter.

PETER HIBBS/JOHN RAMSAY

#6412 Nell Florence Jordens, of Wyee, formerly Springfield, New South Wales, died in 2017, aged 90. Nell had been a member of the Fellowship for 21 years.

ELLEN/ELEANOR FRASER/REDCHESTER

#6466 Thelma Lillian Collins, of Lavington New South Wales, died on 13.08.2017, aged 80. Thelma was a member of Albury-Wodonga District Chapter and had belonged to the Fellowship for 21 years.

JAMES McMANUS/JANE POOLE

#6905 Yvonne S Newell, of Fairlight New South Wales, died in 2017. Yvonne was a member of Arthur Phillip Chapter and had belonged to the Fellowship for 16 years.

Book today as places will be limited.

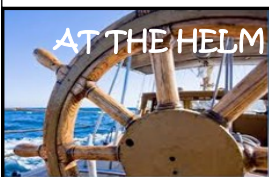
50th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Saturday 10 March 2018

Lighthouse Gallery

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Darling Harbour NSW



James Meredith, captain lieutenant of marines, has now been added to our growing list of First Fleeters with known descendants as members, (see new member #8790, above). *Founders* is looking forward to receiving a story for publication and then for the website. His church plaque photo will be in our next issue.



If you know of **Junior or Student members** who do not receive or have access to a copy of *Founders*, the editor is quite happy to email each issue to them if requested. Please contact jfearon@iinet.net.au with details - name, number and email.



This is a reminder to those who have not renewed your **membership for 2017-8**. We thank you for your support, but are sorry to see you go and wish you well. We trust you will enjoy reading this, your final copy of *Founders*.



Great news, just to hand: **The Lucas Watermills** sites have officially been added to the NSW State Heritage Register. See Page 3.

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

ALBURY-WODONGA DIST.

Mary Chalmers-Borella
02 6025 3283

ARTHUR PHILLIP

Judith O'Shea 02 9797 0240

CANBERRA

Brian Mattick 02 6231 8880

CENTRAL COAST

Jon Fearon 02 4311 6254

DERWENT

Paul Dobber 0404 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 0458 572 644

MORETON

Gloria Wallace 07 3371 2551

NORTH COAST

Faye Smith 02 6653 1019

NORTHERN RIVERS

Margaret Soward 02 6686 3597

NORTH WEST

Diana Harband 02 6765 2122

SOUTH COAST

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Wendy Selman 02 4862 4849

SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630