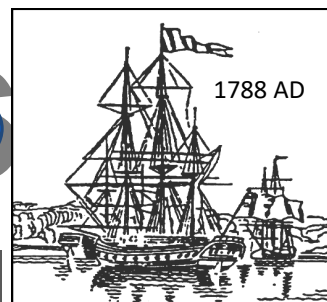


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO



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

CONFRONTING THE PAST

#7701 Gloria Wallace reveals her Indigenous Ancestry

My paternal line traces to **Private James Williams**, marine blacksmith, who arrived on the First Fleet ship *Sirius*, in 1788 and his wife, second fleet convict per *Neptune*, **Rachel Watkins**. My maternal line traces to Third Fleet convict, **Thomas Francis**, convicted in Warwickshire Assizes in 1789 for receiving stolen bills of exchange and transported to Australia on the ship, *Admiral Barrington*.

Due to the excellent records available that provide the evidence of these lines, neither was particularly difficult to trace, however in researching my maternal lines, I found a mystery that took a great deal more time and effort to unravel.

Early photos of my grandmother's parents aroused the suspicion that we might have aboriginal ancestry, however this was not openly acknowledged. When questioned, my grandmother told me vague stories of associations with the exploration of the Blue Mountains. In her tale, a convict ancestor played a prominent role in this expedition and he had a history of escapes and 'living with the aborigines'.

When I sought the truth of this story, I found that my convict ancestor **James Butler**, who married the daughter of Thomas Francis, had made application for a land grant on the basis of his work 'on the mountain road' i.e. he was a member of a convict road party. **William**

Cox supported his grant application.

It also became apparent that another of my maternal ancestors, convict **Cornelius Sullivan**, who had been assigned to William Lawson, had made numerous escape attempts and had been rewarded with several floggings. Both James Butler and Cornelius Sullivan were great grandfathers of my grandmother and it appeared that there was some confusion of their stories in the handed down oral history.

Cornelius Sullivan and his wife, bounty immigrant **Mary Farrell**, were parents of **Hanora Sullivan**, my grandmother's grandmother. Hanora had married a man called **John Rowland Harpur** at Orange in 1865 and he proved more difficult to track. It was this line, to which those early, telling photographs related. I was not the only descendant trying to ascertain his family history and I came across numerous references to John and to the dearth of information about the circumstances of his birth, in online forums.

Ultimately a baptism record surfaced, which stated that *John Rowland Harpur, aboriginal boy, son of Sarah Medley of Sydney*, had been baptised on 15 December 1854 by the **Reverend Frederick Lewis**, Wesleyan Sydney North Circuit. Interestingly, the only other children baptised in that ceremony, were those of **Henry Kidd Harpur** and his wife, **Henrietta nee Walker**.

(continued on page 4)



Gloria's great grandmother, Mary Harpur, granddaughter of Jeremin, here with her husband

FOUNDERS

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Note: Many other tasks are looked after by our team of faithful volunteers who are at First Fleet House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon



Those of you who belong to chapters will know about the survey on chapter viability and sustainability that has been conducted over the past few months. My sincere thanks go to all those who organised and took part in this survey. The thoroughness of chapter responses has been outstanding and relevant follow-up is now proceeding.

Reading through the chapter submissions reminded me how important it is that we remain clearly within our ethos. We are a fellowship, a community who share together for the good of all. Seeking that good for each other, whatever different personality styles are involved in the mix, is the regular challenge. Remember that we are all volunteers, with other lives to lead, and there is no 'head office' as such, instantly answerable to everyone's beck and call. We do our best but it may take time. Thanks for your patience.

Excitement is building as we approach our 50th Anniversary year. I hope you are planning to join your fellow members at the Australian National Maritime Museum luncheon on 10 March. Do contact *Founders* if you need another booking form and we will get it out to you.

My call is still out for **historic photos** of the early days of the Fellowship. For the anniversary we really 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.

Jon

ANOTHER PLAQUE FOUND IN ENGLAND

Thanks to some excellent research commissioned by his descendant, our member **#8790 Simon Meredith**, who lives in the USA, the grave site of **FF Marine Capt Lt James Meredith** has been located in the United Kingdom. Our book, *Dispatched Downunder*, noted that Meredith died in Monmouth in 1841.

The plaque, pictured below, is in the nave of St Mary the Virgin Church in Welsh Newton, in the adjoining county of Herefordshire. It reads, in part:

NEAR THIS SPOT ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF
JAMES MEREDITH ESQ
A GENERAL IN THE ARMY AND A COLONEL OF ROYAL MARINES
WHO DIED AT MONMOUTH JULY 9TH 1841
IN THE 88TH YEAR OF HIS AGE
HAVING HELD A COMMISSION IN HIS COUNTRY'S SERVICE 70 YEARS
50 OF WHICH HE WAS IN ACTIVE EMPLOYMENT
IN ALMOST EVERY PART OF THE GLOBE
DURING THE MOST EVENTFUL PERIOD OF ITS HISTORY



Now comes the challenge of getting permission for our plaque to be added, to acknowledge Meredith's role in the establishment of the settlement at Sydney Cove.

Thanks Simon.

WELCOME MORNING TEA FOR 2016~2017 NEW MEMBERS

This year's morning tea was held at First Fleet House on Saturday 30 September hosted, as is our custom, by President **Jon Fearon**, his wife **Karys** and several Directors.

On arrival, in the Sirius Room, the 20 guests were treated to scrumptious sandwiches prepared by our neighbouring café Colliers, along with dips and cakes and a selection of coffees and teas. It is to be noted that Colliers graciously came in especially to cater to our needs even though they weren't opening for business that day due to the long weekend.

Formalities included the usual introduction by the President to the Fellowship and to the House and a quick time of sharing soon revealed that 18 different First Fleeters were represented by their ancestors on the day.

No shared links were found by descent but there was a strong representation by those who live in the southern parts of Sydney and the nearby Sutherland Shire. The idea of a new chapter somewhere in that area was readily talked about and directors expressed a fervent hope that

some of those present would put up their hand and lead the way on this.

Tours of both floors of the house were kindly led by the directors present and happy conversations echoed around the premises. It was particularly good to welcome four members of one family, **Gil and Anne-Marie Wright** and their children **Emily** and **Brian**, and to hear of their own research into the lives of their ancestors **James Squire**, **John Small** and **Mary Parker**.

Vice President **Denis Smith**, a marine descendent, was seen happily ensconced in earnest dialogue with new member **Glen Lambert** who counts marine **John McCarthy** (and **Ann Beardsley**) in his ancestry. Glen is actively researching all FF marines and informed our plaques director **Chris Counter** that his research group has located the cemetery where one of them, marine **Thomas Rowden**, is buried. The Fellowship had not known of this so there may be an expedition to Kelso, NSW and another plaque ceremony to be planned and carried out. Thanks Glen for your amazing research skills. Keep up the good work. **WJF**



THE BOARD MEETS AT THE COAL RIVER SETTLEMENT

As has been their custom for some years now to hold the Fellowship's **Annual General Meeting** in different parts of the country, the Directors were happy to accept the invitation to meet at Adamstown Senior Citizens Hall by Hunter Valley Chapter, the hosts of this year's gathering.

Once again State Rail decided to do track work on 'our' weekend, so travel on 28 October had to be by car or bus. Chapter President **Barbara Gow** gave the welcome to country and all 30 attendees gave a hearty rendition of the national anthem, guided by a fine on-screen presentation featuring Australia and its history.

Judy Aubin then presented a potted history of the Coal River settlement which eventually grew into what is now the city of Newcastle. This led on to the story of the chapter from its beginnings and redevelopment 11 years ago.

President Jon chaired the meeting proper and the usual business matters were attended to - the approval of last year's minutes and the presentation of the President's

report and the Financial statements. Once again our Patron, Professor The Honourable **Dame Marie Bashir**, was reappointed, as were the two Vice Patrons, **Commodore Paul Kable** and **Peter Christian**.

Paul was then called on to conduct the Election of Officers for 2017-2018 and of the thirteen possible positions ten were nominated and declared elected unopposed. They are listed on page 2.

Jon then paid tribute to the fine work done by retiring directors **Therese Luck** and **Tony Holden** wishing them well in all their endeavours. Tony had advised that he will continue with voluntary duties at First Fleet House.

To close the meeting the President congratulated the chapter team on their excellent organisation for the day. Before the members departed and the directors adjourned for the delicious sandwich lunch prepared by our hosts, Vice-Patron Paul Kable thanked the President and Directors for their sterling work for the Fellowship.

(from page 1) Henrietta was the daughter of the **Reverend William Walker** and his wife **Eliza Cordelia, nee Hassell**. Reverend Walker was appointed by the Wesleyan Mission Society 'to the black natives of Australia' and held subsequent colonial appointments. He and Eliza were for a time in charge of the Native Institution at Blacktown. Walker had even adopted the son of **Bennelong**, in 1822 and was known to take aboriginal children into his home.

Eliza's father was **Rowland Hassell**, who arrived in Sydney aboard the ship *Nautilus*, after a failed attempt to establish a mission in Tahiti. Given that John Medley was baptised John Rowland Harpur in 1854, it was becoming evident that he had had some association with this missionary family.

In 1855 Cornelius Sullivan, then conditionally pardoned, bought land at O'Connell Plains. That land had a common border with the Brisbane Grove property of William Walker and was surrounded by grants belonging to various members of the Hassell family. At the death of William Walker, this land was divided up among his children, with two plots going to his daughter Henrietta and her husband, Henry Kidd Harpur.

Cornelius' daughter, Hanora, was aged fourteen when the family moved to their O'Connell property, from nearby Wiseman's Creek. Ten years later, in 1865, she married the aboriginal man, John Rowland Harpur.

The next stage of this quest was to track records pertaining to John's birth mother, Sarah Medley. There are few records relating to aboriginal people of the period, but one of the richest record sources is the Blanket Lists.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie had commenced the practice of distributing blankets to aboriginal people in 1814. These records are available in the State Library of NSW where the entry says that Macquarie *hoped the adoption of blankets would encourage civilised habits and cooperation with the settlers.*

The earliest record of a blanket being provided to Sarah Medley was in the Bathurst lists of 1833, where a blanket was given to Sally Medley, orphan, aged seven years, in 1833. Sarah is variously called Sarah/Sally throughout these distributions. This record establishes that Sarah was born around 1826, two years after the 'Bathurst War' of

1824, when there had been open warfare between the local **Wiradjuri** people and the settlers, resulting in Governor Brisbane establishing martial law. Many Wiradjuri died in that period, but Sarah's parents must have survived. In 1830, many more Wiradjuri died in a smallpox epidemic and this may explain why in 1833, Sarah was an orphan.

In 1834, a little more information was provided, in that Sarah was recorded as being from the Warwick tribe. Warwick was the name of a village on the Parkes Road at Cowra, on the Lachlan River. The Lachlan River was Wiradjuri land, pre settlement.

The birth of John Medley, son of Sarah is recorded in Bathurst in 1840 when she was at most, aged 14 years.

It is difficult to establish how Sarah received her name. Later Blanket List records establish that her 'native name' was **Jerimin**, but at that time anglicised aboriginal names were often related to the people who had been granted land on which they lived, or for whom they worked. The most likely contender seems to be **Joseph Medley**, blacksmith to **Colonel Stewart** at Mount Pleasant, who had arrived in the colony on the ship *Morley* in 1823. He and his wife **Mary** had a small land holding at Crooked Corner and they are the only people of the name Medley living west of the Blue Mountains in the early 1830s. Sarah's parents may have been in some way, associated with this couple.

After these 2 blanket list entries of the 1830s, Sarah does not reappear in the lists until the 1860s and from then she is consistently recorded as being from **Killongbutta**, a property originally granted to **John Piper junior** but later acquired by the **Anderson** family.

It is uncertain what Sarah did, in those intervening years. She may be the Sarah Medley, servant to **James Reid** in Sydney who stole money from Reid's strongbox and absconded, in 1847. Certainly, she was 'of Sydney' according to John's baptism record in 1858.

She is most certainly the Sally Medley of Winburndale Creek, whose horse was reported as being stolen in the Police Gazette in 1867, the year that she recommenced her presence on the Blanket Lists of Bathurst. Winburndale Creek at that time, was being mined for gold.



Gloria Russell inspects Killongbutta Homestead

*Last week word was brought to the police that a black gin named "Sally Medley" had died at Killongbutta. Until about twelve months ago "Sally" who was upwards of 70 years of age, was living with a man named **Coutts**, who was engaged in mining near Killongbutta. Coutts had died about 12 months ago and as the old woman was left alone the Anderson family took compassion on her, and had her taken to the homestead at Killongbutta where she has since been cared for. Latterly she has been suffering from bronchitis, and early last week, she died. The coroner did not deem it necessary to hold an enquiry, as the doctor's certificate was procured and the police went to Killongbutta and saw the body interred. "Sally" is said to be the last of the Aboriginal tribe connected with the Bathurst District".*

Discovering this line of my family history was confronting. I was proud of having a deep connection to an Australia and a people that pre-dated colonial settlement. At the same time I was saddened by the role my ancestors had played in the destruction of that pre-existing people and their culture. My ancestors arrived with the first, second and third fleets. My ancestors participated in the construction of the road over the mountains that spelled doom for Wiradjuri culture and for many of the people, themselves. My ancestor James Butler, not only worked on that road, but he accompanied **George Evans** on his exploration of the Lachlan River, the very area where my own Wiradjuri ancestors originated, opening up that area for settlement. How could I reconcile these histories in my own life?

I became aware of how little I knew, or understood of aboriginal history, let alone the specific history of my own Wiradjuri ancestors. I determined to research and read all that I could find, to educate myself.

I found that there are many stories recorded but not widely known. The resistance to settlement led by the warrior **Windradyne** of Bathurst became just as much my history as were all the celebrated achievements of white society. I realised that our history needs to be told, honestly and at times, with sorrow and regret.

I found that as we settled those western slopes and plains, we destroyed a culture that deserved to be preserved. We built on bora grounds, we chopped down the beautiful engraved trees that marked burial sites, 5,000 of them, so that those that remain are largely preserved only in museums.

My quest led me to visit the places of relevance to my

Wiradjuri ancestry and to explore, as much as possible, this rich history that is hidden in our records. I visited Killongbutta, where the homestead at which my Jerimin died still exists. I visited the Suttor property on which Windradyne was buried. I went on a Wiradjuri cultural tour and learned a great deal about original food sources, medicine and oral histories that are preserved by those Wiradjuri people proudly trying to conserve and restore their culture and language. In doing so, I found wonderful, hospitable people, who were as interested as I was, in learning about my own family history.

I find myself agreeing with **Stan Grant** and **Dan Sultan**, who have made statements in recent times, about the nature of our history. We cannot change the past, but we can confront it, honestly. While we First Fleeters naturally

have an affinity with the arrival of the First Fleet and have the right to celebrate that, we need to recognise that for indigenous people, our arrival is not something to be celebrated.

What should our role, as an organisation be, in all of this? I am sure that opinions are many and varied. Sometimes it feels as though we are under attack, for the part our ancestors have played in Australian history. How should we respond to that? I know that our members will hold strong views.

I think that it is something we should be discussing.

Perhaps we could support the campaign to change the date of Australia Day to some date that we

can all celebrate, such as the date of Federation. Perhaps we could support the re-captioning of the statues of our colonial ancestors; not remove those statues that mean so much to us, but ensure that the wording is truthful in terms of who discovered what, and what exactly was their role in the making of what is present day Australia. Perhaps we could support the re-naming of our rivers and relevant geographic features to echo the beautiful names given to them, before we arrived.

As a proud First Fleet descendant, my view is that our organisation should be actively discussing what role we can play in reconciling our past and our future. We could be leaders of reconciliation efforts to forge an inclusive Australian society for future generations, while preserving our history and all that it means to us.

I thank the many descendants of Sarah Medley and John Rowland Harpur for sharing their research with me over the years in our mutual family history quest.

GJW



OUR PLAQUE HONOURS LT HENRY LIDGBIRD BALL

The Background as recorded by Ron Withington in his 2014 journal *Peerless Pilgrimage*

At the Matthew Flinders Statue unveiling ceremony by **William Duke of Cambridge** at Euston Station in London in 2014 **Denis Smith** fortuitously met up with **Lt. Cmdr Ted Bourn RN (Rtd)** of Hampshire, who had been to Australia in the 1980s as one of the officers on loan to the RAN and had been sailing on *HMAS Supply*. This had aroused his interest in Australian Colonial Naval history and in particular **Henry Lidgbird Ball** who captained *HMS Supply* in the First Fleet.

Ted later began a long process of looking for the gravesite of Ball and in October 2011 had found it at St Peter's Church, Petersham, in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. What's more the tomb was still intact.

At Ted's invitation, Denis subsequently visited St Peter's and met with Church historian, **Jean Allsopp**. Jean, with a team of three others had located the tomb in the churchyard after several weeks of research, made more difficult because in the church records Ball was buried under the name of his father-in-law. Jean took a wax impression of the badly-corroded inscription on the vault. This confirmed that Ball was buried there along with three others, **Gabriella Martha Johnston**, **Georgetta Feliaine Maria Johnston** and **Lt. General Gabriel Johnston**.

As recently as 20 October 2013 a Church dedication service was held at the tomb, the accompanying stone plaque being inscribed as follows:

Within this vault lie the remains of
HENRY LIDGBIRD BALL
7 Dec 1756 – 22 Oct 1818
Rear Admiral of the Blue
Commanding Officer of HMS Supply
and a Founding Father of Australia

The plaque, adorned with the Australian Coat of Arms, was unveiled by the vicar of St Peter's, the **Reverend Canon Tim Marwood**, and the Australian High Commissioner, the **Honourable Mike Rann**. Ted later provided Denis with documentation and photographs covering the event.

And now the Fellowship's Unveiling Ceremony

It has taken three years for the Fellowship to gain permission to install and unveil our own plaque at the site

and the ceremony took place on 22 October 2017. Jean Allsopp's recent letter to Denis tells the story.

The service at St. Peter's Church this morning went very well, it was a happy occasion, well attended by members of our congregation. The weather - which has been awful in the last few days due to Storm Brian - changed so that we had a sunny day for venturing into the churchyard. There the Vicar dedicated the Fellowship of the First Fleeters plaque, which is on the churchyard wall above the grave of Rear Admiral of the Blue, Henry Lidgbird Ball, RN.

It was our normal service but the Vicar included references to sea farers, explorers that changed the world, and the Armed Forces that patrol the oceans today, and we finished the service with the sailors' hymn *Eternal Father Strong To Save*.

Wreaths were laid by **Commander Geoffrey Fielder**, Australia House, (for the Royal Australian Navy)

Mr Brian Hall, President Portsmouth Branch Britain-Australia Society, (for the Fellowship of First Fleeters)

Lt. Commander Ted Bourn (for the British Royal Navy) who also represented you as requested.

I have attached a photograph of the Fellowship of First Fleeters' wreath which I hope you like. The brief to the florist was to create something that reflected the overseas connection, hence the choice of subtropical flowers which excited much interest.

It has been a pleasure to organise this event on behalf of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, and we do hope that one day we will welcome you and your wife back to St. Peter's again.

With kindest regards,

Jean

The Fellowship's Plaque





The newly dedicated Fellowship plaque, pictured on Page 6, reads as follows:

LT HENRY LIDGBIRD BALL
sailed with the First Fleet
to establish the new settlement of
New South Wales in 1788
Fellowship of First Fleeters 2017

Pictured above left: The three wreath layers - Commander Geoffrey Fielder RAN, Lt-Commander Ted Bourn RN Ret and Mr Brian Hall. Above right: The Royal Navy plaque affixed to the vault and dedicated in 2013

Editor's Note: Recommended reading on First Fleet connections in England: Go to our website's home page, click on **Arthur Phillip** and then the link to **Peerless Pilgrimage**



Our readers may be wondering why the above heading would be appearing in our magazine, which, after all, is devoted to Australia and its history.

Well, the reason is simple. After discovering that his ancestor, **FF James Squire**, served in the US military forces [See Founders 48/5] **#2626 James Donohoe** has found that any female descendants of Squire, wherever they live, may be eligible to become members of that rather venerable body, the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Founded nearly 125 years ago the DAR is a women's service organisation dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honouring the patriots of the American War. It has its own headquarters in Washington DC and its members are actively engaged in millions of service hours throughout the world.

There are two chapters in Australia, one in Melbourne and one in Sydney, both of them involved in active community service nationwide. Lineal descent would of course be needed to join, with proof of James Squire's service.

Ladies, if you are interested in joining, look up the DAR website and then contact *Founders* for further details.

We Got it Wrong, Sorry.

#4608 Warwick Risby, of Derwent Chapter, writes

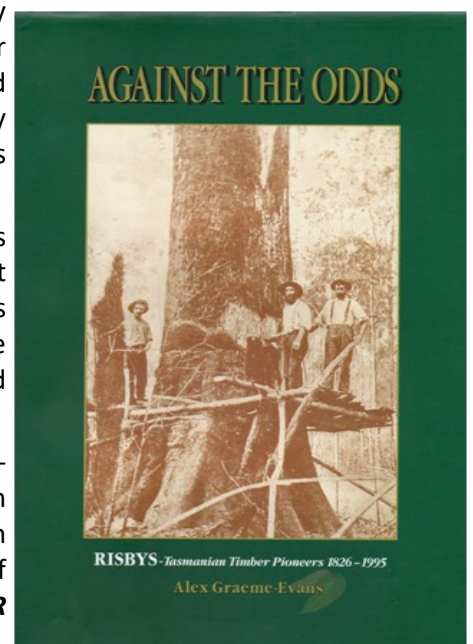
I happily received Founders Volume 48, Issue 5 and note the article on Page 6 **Edward Risby** and wish to point out the correct name of the book mentioned in the second column on page 6 is "**Against the Odds Risbys-Tasmanian Timber Pioneers 1826-1995**" by Alex Graeme-Evans.

Our family company, Risby Forest Industries Pty Ltd of which I was a director, contracted the author to write this book as a record of our involvement in the Tasmanian Timber Industry for over 150 years.

I had family history input regarding our First Fleeter Edward Risby and his family when the book was written.

Interested Readers should note that *Above the Odds* is incorrect as can be seen in the attached photo.

I respectfully, request this correction to be mentioned in the next issue of Founders. **WR**



EARLY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND ABORIGINES ~ PART 2

Archival Articles by historian, Ena Harper, continue.

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. The encounters fell into two phases:

1 The brief and superficial meeting with the exploring party of Englishmen in the *Endeavour* under **Captain James Cook**.

2 The permanent and continuing relationship between the incoming settlers and the Australian Aborigines. These newcomers followed in the wake of the explorers and were spearheaded by the marines and convicts of the First Fleet under **Governor Arthur Phillip**.

First we shall consider the shock encounter at Botany Bay.

The *Endeavour*, a ship of 370 tons, came to the sandstone heads of Botany Bay at daybreak on the morning of 28th April, 1770. With sails billowing before a southerly breeze, it must have been an impressive sight. The ship passed in through the mouth of the bay until Captain Cook found an anchorage sufficiently sheltered from the winds. As they passed along the peninsula, the English sailors could see people on the waterfront.

In their long voyage half way round the world, Cook and his men had encountered many native people in the islands and lands they had visited. They had spent months living with the Tahitians on very intimate terms. There had been an exchange of gifts, the sailors had sexual relations with the women and when the ship came to leave, many of the Tahitian men begged to be allowed to come aboard and continue the voyage with the Englishmen. Cook took with him **Tupia**, a priest and chieftain and a young boy to serve him. Tupia was to act as an interpreter with other native races.

No such friendly welcome was given the crew of the *Endeavour* by the warlike Maoris of New Zealand. At their first encounter with the Maoris in Poverty Bay the coxswain of a small boat was forced to kill one of the natives. Next day two or three more were killed and one wounded when they attacked Cook and his men from a canoe.

When Cook sailed north and passed the Bay of Plenty and Mercury Bay, he was greatly impressed with the fortified Maori villages. These natives were a different people from the easygoing, indolent people of Tahiti. Although muskets and even cannon were needed to subdue the Maoris, there was a little trading done with some of them. In Queen Charlotte Sound, from being hostile and stone-throwing, the Maoris showed a lukewarm friendliness. Then the Englishmen were horrified to discover that they were cannibals.

As he came into Botany Bay at that early hour in the morning, Cook looked through the glasses at the natives of New Holland as this land was then called. He wondered what they were like. Would they be fierce or friendly? He could see that these people were not golden skinned, curly haired and graceful like the Polynesians of the South Sea Islands. In his journal he wrote:

The natives do not seem to be numerous nor do they seem to live in large bodies but disposed in small parties along by the waterside; those I saw were about as tall as Europeans, of a very dark brown colour but not black nor had they woolly frizzled hair but black and lank much like ours ... Some we saw that had their faces and bodies painted with a sort of white paint or pigment.

They were a totally different people from any they had met. The Englishmen stared and stared at them with eager curiosity. Cook wanted only friendship with these people for he was an explorer, not a conqueror.

It seems to me that the coming of the *Endeavour* into that quiet harbour could only be compared with the landing of a flying saucer at Cabarita. If Sydneysiders were spending a quiet Sunday afternoon there, what would they do? Some would flee in terror, others hardier souls would gather around to stare.

The striking feature of the Aborigines' reaction to the coming of the *Endeavour* was their indifference. Some may have stood and gazed at the ship, but **Joseph Banks**, the botanist, records his amazement at their lack of interest.

The people seemed to be totally engaged in what they were about; the ship passed within a quarter of a mile of them and yet they scarce lifted their eyes from their employment; I was almost inclined to think that attentive to their business and deafened by the noise of the surf, they neither saw nor heard her go past them. At 1.00 we came to an anchor abreast of a small village consisting of about six or eight houses. Soon after this an old woman followed by three children came out of the wood. She carried several piece(s) of stick and the children also had their little burthens; when she came to the houses, three more younger children came out of one of them to meet her. She often looked at the ship but expressed neither surprise nor concern. Soon after this she lighted a fire and the four canoes came in from fishing; the people landed, hauled up their boats and began to dress their dinner to all appearance totally unmoved at us, tho we were within a little more than half a mile of them.

One explanation for this odd behaviour is given by **Alan Moorehead** in *The Fatal Impact*:

The sight of the Endeavour had apparently meant nothing to these primitives because it was too strange, too monstrous, to be comprehended. It had appeared out of nowhere like some menacing phenomenon of nature, a waterspout or a roll of thunder and by ignoring it or pretending to ignore it no doubt they had hoped it would go away.

To prove his theory, he quotes the natural history artist on board the *Endeavour*, **Sydney Parkinson**: *The natives were so abashed at first they took little notice of us.*

Is Parkinson's explanation satisfying? It seems to me that awe can hardly have been the reason for ignoring the ship and this does not seem to be the reaction described in the passage quoted from Banks's Journal. No, the impression given by Banks is that the general feeling was one of apathy rather than awe.

I searched for an explanation that would satisfy my mind. One thought that occurred to me was that the Aborigines' minds were so steeped in fantasy by reason of their Dreamtime legends that they regarded the outlandish ship as part of that dream-world and therefore to be accepted casually.

The objection to this is that the *Endeavour* was something outside the field of experience embraced by the totemic myths, something completely new. It had broken in on them from another world. I could not forget Banks's astonishment at their lack of interest. He did not indicate that they regarded the ship as *strange* or *monstrous*.

To me, the explanation is that their culture had been static for thousands of years. Their social and religious beliefs and customs had been handed down by word of mouth, unchanged for hundreds of generations. The world around them remained the same and they had the explanations for natural phenomena given them by the elders' sacred legends. The elders' authority was completely unchallenged. They were all in a groove. Scientific curiosity was never stimulated and remained completely undeveloped. So when the Aborigines looked at the *Endeavour*, it was outside their range of knowledge. So it just did not register.

This seems to be borne out by and incident in a book called *My Crowded Solitude* by **Jack McLaren**. The book was written in 1911 when McLaren lived among the Aborigines near the tip of Cape York. In a chapter entitled *The People Who Stood Still* occur these words:

I had a lugger-captain who occasionally came my way bring me an acetylene gas outfit and piping so that when all the jets were lit the place was one white blaze of light.

I had thought that at least this light would surprise the natives out of the nonchalance with which they accepted unusual things. But after a gasp of astonishment at the first quick flaring of the jets, they made neither remark nor comment but regarded the light as

idly as though this turning of night into day was the most ordinary circumstance of their lives. The fact was that they considered the thing inexplicable and it was not their fashion to attempt solving the inexplicable. They merely accepted it as something beyond their understanding and let it go at that.

How immeasurably wide was the chasm dividing these people and men like Cook who lived for the discovery and charting of new seas and lands, and the scientific team under Banks collecting, sketching and classifying new specimens of plant and animal life, eager to enlarge scientific knowledge.

And the Europeans felt themselves to be superior. Banks thought that the Aborigines were *but one degree removed from the brutes*.

But Banks did not know all there was to be known about them. If their minds were primitive and undeveloped in one direction, they were very acute and knowledgeable in another. Here is another passage from *My Crowded Solitude*

They had a remarkably intimate knowledge and understanding of the bush and the ways and life of the bush. Indeed, they were more conversant with their environment than any natives I had seen. These Cape York people all knew all there was to know of their surroundings—a circumstance due to the fact that being nomads who lived on what they could catch or find, there was need to know where these things could be found, and be informed of their edible or non-edible qualities, for in the matter of food-hunting, it was mainly a case of each man for himself. Though in some ways they lived communally, in this way they were strongly individualistic.

But this wide knowledge of theirs was in no wise ragged or untidy. It was systematised and regulated. For each department of animate and inanimate nature, they had a system of nomenclature as comprehensively complete as that which any trained scientist could have devised; and they knew the relationships of the various departments and the significance of the relationships one to another. All this information they carried in their heads, having no means of writing whatever, and so indelibly was it impressed upon their memories that any one of them, even the children, could at any time deliver an impromptu and most enlightening dissertation regarding, say, a weed plucked haphazardly, telling of its flowering and seeding times, its habitats and habits, of its preference for one kind of soil and aversion from another kind of soil with the reasons for this preference and aversion, and so on through a multitude of details, all told with a simple matter-of-factness tinged with wonder that I should need to be told these things at all. I think they thought me a most ignorant person.

(to be continued in next and following issues)

THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE AT BEER SHEVA 1917

A Talk by by Hon Julian Leaser, MP, Federal Member for Berowra to Arthur Phillip Chapter

Julian opened his talk with a word of congratulation to the descendants of First Fleeters, 2nd Fleeters and subsequent early pioneers whose ancestors were the foundation of our nation. "Be proud", he said, and invited any one of us as "indisputably Australian" to stand for Federal Parliament!

Julian then gave some background details leading up to the Battle of Beersheva and vividly described the strategies employed by the commander of the Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade, **General Harry Chauvel**, to overcome the many obstacles that lay ahead. There had been two failed attempts to take Gaza in the south. This third attempt involved a flanking manoeuvre to capture the water supply of the heavily fortified town of Beersheva, situated in the Negev Desert in today's southern Israel.

The issue of water supply (or lack thereof) dictated General Chauvel's actions – the wells of Beersheva were the key to the allies' eventual advancement north through Palestine. The soldiers and horses had to sustain a long march without water and Chauvel well understood the capabilities of his mounted troops and their sturdy Waler horses.

Late in the afternoon of 31 October, the Australian Mounted Division's 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments (4th Light Horse Brigade) conducted a mounted infantry charge galloping at full stride with bayonets gripped in one hand (their only weapon for attack) and the reins in the other - their rifles were slung across their backs. While part of the two regiments dismounted to attack defending entrenchments on Tel es Saba, the remainder of the light horsemen continued their charge into the town, saving the water supply from possible destruction by the Turks in order to foil the allies' objectives. The fall of the Beersheva garrison opened the way for a general outflanking of the Gaza-Beersheba Line, ensuring that the Suez Canal remained open for the delivery of relief troops and essential supplies for the war effort in Europe. Over 1,000 Turkish prisoners were taken. The Light Horse Brigade's victorious charge at Beersheva on 31 October 1917, wrote their names into Australian military history.



Re-enacting the Charge

The Australians, who had mainly enlisted in rural regions, were excellent horsemen and could competently aim and shoot a rifle. Many had brought their own horses – they were responsible for their care and wellbeing while on board the ships sailing to the Middle East and every day beyond. Together they suffered wounds, thirst, hunger and weariness – their bond remained strong and true. It is reported that, lamentably, only one of these gallant Waler horses returned to Australia.

The Waler is an Australian breed of riding horse that developed from the horses brought to the Australian colonies in the 19th century, named for their early breeding origins in New South Wales. Julian indicated that the Waler is still being bred at Mt White NSW.

Members reacted quite emotionally to the story of the sacrifice of these brave young men and their horses and their determi-

nation to fearlessly achieve their objectives. In desert warfare, it is all about water for horse and rider and many horses had been without water for 48 hours and some up to 60 hours – which may explain the story that the horses smelled water ahead, and nothing was going to stop them!

Julian proudly read from letters from his great grandfather which described in detail his experiences during this campaign and emotions he felt as a Jewish-Australian soldier; and in particular the welcome the Australians received after they had assured Jerusalem's freedom, the fact of which the people of Israel have not forgotten.

Julian's enlightening talk was very warmly received and members responded with a most enthusiastic ovation. An extraordinary story, well recounted.

Gillian Doyle



The Horses of the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, located on the south-west external wall of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, honouring the 140,000 horses that served in the WW1 Desert Campaign Sinai Desert and Palestine 1915 - 1918. The memorial was unveiled on Anzac Day April 25 1950 by Lady Chauvel whose husband General Sir Harry Chauvel CCMC KCB commanded the Desert Mounted Corps.

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 10:30 for 11am. **Next Meeting:** 17 February: Speaker, TBA. **Next Events:** **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:** : 15 December: Meeting and Christmas Party; 16 February: John Lanser, *Sculling Champion Dick Green*. **Next Event:** 23 January at Manly 16s Skiffs Sailing Club, Chapter Social for Fleet Arrival, Bookings essential **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Events:** Sunday 10 December, Christmas Barbecue at 7 Portus Place, Bruce, 12 noon. 26 January: Australia Day Lunch, 12 noon at Canberra Yacht Club **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 Meeting:** 10 February: Noel Phelan, *Japanese Submarines in Sydney Harbour*. **Next Events:** 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:** . **Next Event:** 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 Meeting:** 3 February: Gillian Lewis, *Melbourne/Voyager Collision*. **Next Event:** 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 Meetings:** 9 December: Terry Ewan, *Putting Flesh on the Skeletons' Bones*; 10 February: Patrick Dodd, *State Library Treasures*. **Next Event:** 26 January: Australia Day, *FF Table at Australiana Village*. **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:** **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 Event:** 26 January: An Australia Day outing is planned, possibly to Harrington. **Contact:** Heather Bath 0427 018 566

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:** 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:** at Mylestom Hall, 4 February, Graeme Hays, *My Four First Fleeters*. **Next Event:** Saturday 2 December: Christmas Party at Golden Dog Hotel, Glenreagh, from 11:50. **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 Event:** Friday 26 January Australia Day Lunch, Bring a snippet of First Fleet arrival. **Contact:** Margaret Soward 66863597

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** 2 December: Meeting and Christmas Luncheon. at Carmen's: 3 February: Morning FF table at Information Day at Tamworth Library, afternoon talk by Dr Steve Cunneen, *Life at Sydney Cove 1808*. **Next Event:** 26 January: Australia Day service, breakfast and citizenship ceremony in Tamworth, followed by lunch at First Fleet Gardens, Wallabadah. **Contact:** Diana Harband 67652122

SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

Venue: Scribbly Gum Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto – monthly except Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meeting:** 6 February: Members' Show and Tell: . **Next Events:** 2 December: Christmas Luncheon at Dapto Leagues Club. **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:** 14 February: Speaker TBA. **Next Event:** 13 December, at Mittagong RSL, 13th Anniversary and Christmas Buffet Lunch, Speaker, Robert Griffin, *Millers Point*. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 2 December: *Christmas Cheese and Wine*; 3 February: Topic and venue TBA.. **Next Event:** 26 January: Australia Day at Burswood foreshore. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

CHAPTERS MORNING AT FIRST FLEET HOUSE

Rather than a full conference suggested by several chapters to follow on from the 2017 Sustainability Survey, the Board has decided, instead, to open **First Fleet House on Tuesday morning 13 March** to allow representatives from chapters near and far to meet and informally discuss chapter matters.

For those coming from afar for the 50th Anniversary Luncheon and perhaps the nearby Bridging the Gap conference you might like to factor this into your travel plans. Please let us know likely attendees.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 22 January 2018

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS		BIRTHS
Ordinary and Pensioner Members FREDERICK MEREDITH #8804 Jennifer Jean Johnston #8810 Walter Edward Elliott JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER #8805 Robyn Ann Bogart JAMES SHEARS/MARY SMITH #8806 Sarah Andrewina Reynolds WILLIAM MITCHELL/ELIZABETH FITZGERALD #8807 Brian Frank Smith #8814 Margaret Alice Freitag JOSEPH TUZO #8809 Sharon Jean Saliba JAMES MEREDITH #8811 Martin Patrick Meredith DANIEL STANFIELD/ALICE HARMSWORTH/ JAMES MORRISBY/RACHEL EARLY #8812 Roger Douglas Stanfield	ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY #8813 Angela Clare Silvy DANIEL STANFIELD/ALICE HARMSWORTH/ EDWARD KIMBERLEY/WILLIAM STANDLEY #8815 Graeme Maxwell Hays JOSEPH HATTON/ANN COLPITTS #8816 Robert Harrop HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES #8817 Lindsay Peter Robin Davis ELLEN WAINWRIGHT #8818 Tania Wheeler Student Members JAMES BRYAN CULLEN #8808 Lorien Paige Fearon Associate Members #3902.1 Cathleen Dunn #6413.1 Audrey Wood #8815.1 Gale Frances Hays	JOSEPH WRIGHT Sadie Mary Hayes , born 8 August 2017, at Caringbah, New South Wales, daughter and first child of Jonathan and Chloe Hayes of Gympie; first great granddaughter of #8689 Norene and Barrie Childs of Sylvania.
		DEATHS JOSEPH WRIGHT #4864 John B Fogarty , of Berala, New South Wales, died on 25.07.2017. John had been a member of the Fellowship for 28 years. NANCY YEATES/YATES #7020 John M Brooker , of Newcastle, New South Wales, died on 29.09.2017, aged 83. John had been a member since 2003 and was the prime mover in restarting the Hunter Valley Chapter in 2007. John served as their much loved President from 2007 to 2009 and is greatly missed.



In 2018 two services will be held to commemorate the **230th Anniversary of the first Christian service** held in Australia. On Saturday 3 February the Australian Christian Nation Association will conduct their annual open air service at Richard Johnson Square in Sydney at 2 pm. On Sunday 4 February the event will be commemorated at the 8:30 am Communion service at St Philips Church Hill Sydney.



Founders has a copy of a fine article written in September 2017 for *The Australian* newspaper by the Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison entitled **Why I cherish Jan 26 in all its complexity**. In the article Mr Morrison, a descendant of First Fleeter William Roberts, mentions the fact that Australia Day was first officially celebrated under that name on January 26 1818. so in 2018 we have a most important bicentenary in our calendar.



Our volunteers need a break too. **First Fleet House will be closed** from 7th December, reopening on Monday 22nd January. Of course emails and Anniversary bookings will be dealt with throughout the break.



Remember the Fellowship's **Nominal Roll** of those descendants of First Fleeters who served their country in the military forces. Contact us if you wish to add names to the list in time for Anzac Day. You'll find it on our website under SHOP. Click the link for a free download.

Donations received for First Fleet House upkeep:

Bellette P F, Blogg C J, Bracey N L, Brooker E, Brooker J M, Chapter Northern Rivers, Donohoe J H, Fardell M E, Henry A D, Irwin E L, Marshall ML, Matthews J T, Potter N K, Riddiford D C, Sloan E S, Squire M J, Squire R M, Stanfield R D, Strudwick W, Toohey M T, Williamson H T.

JOHN NICHOLLS
#3723 Aileen D Fergusson, of Tamworth, New South Wales, died on 23.09.2017 after a long battle with cancer.. She was a member of the Fellowship for over 30 years and is sadly missed by her friends at North West Chapter.

MESSAGE BOARD

1. Help with Research

#7854 Judith Wood has kindly offered to assist any prospective members in Tasmania who are having issues with their application process and need to track down paperwork. Some may like to further their FF links and extend their trees.

If you know of any get them to contact: her at fleeters1788@outlook.com or on 0404 807 338.

2. First Fleet Showcase

#3902.1 Cathy Dunn is conducting a *First Fleet Showcase and Research Day*, at the Dunn Lewis Centre, Ulladulla NSW on Saturday 27 January 2018, from 10 am. There will be FF themed presentations, family tables, trading tables and displays.

To book contact Cathy on 02 4455 4780 or email office@australianhistoryresearch.info

3. Mary Phillips Descendants

#8774 Ayya Esika at ayyaesika@gmail.com would love to be in touch with other members of Mary's family.

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 0427 018 566

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

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