

Founders

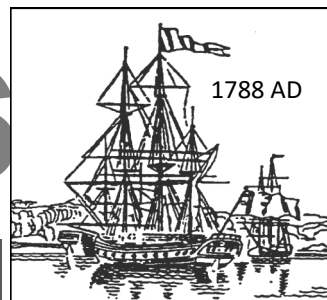
Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

VICE PATRON: Commodore Paul Kable AM RAN Retd

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

Volume 55 Issue 6

56th Year of Publication

December 2024—January 2025

Life Membership Award Testimonial for WILLIAM JON FEARON

Presented at the FFF Annual General Meeting 24 October 2024.

Jon has been a dedicated and esteemed member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters (FFF) since joining on 1 May 2005, with membership #7141, soon after joining the Central Coast Chapter. His commitment has been exemplified through a series of impactful roles:

Chapter Secretary since 2010, where he enhanced their quarterly newsletter, *Boora Boora*.

Appointed FFF Director on 27 November 2010, while serving as Chapter Liaison Officer.

Presidency tenure, during which Jon edited *Founders*, our main communication channel producing six editions annually for a decade.

He reinvigorated the annual Australia Day Luncheon celebration at the Pullman Hotel, Sydney – a tradition that continued strongly until 2020, when Covid caused a hiatus. The event was brilliantly adapted to a Sydney Harbour cruise in 2023.



Jon's leadership extended beyond the President's organisational duties to significant community engagements. He represented the Fellowship at the annual Meeting of Two Cultures in Kurnell and played a pivotal role in the creation of the First Fleet Memorial Garden at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park in 2016. His initiative in 2018 marked our 50th anniversary with a memorable luncheon at Darling Harbour. Jon strengthened our ties with similar historical organisations, e.g. he addressed the conference held by the Australian Chapter of the United States Mayflower Association in Sydney in 2022. Though not all endeavours met with success, such as his outreach to the Sydney's Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, his efforts to foster inclusivity and community engagement were unwavering.

Building on the initial work of First Fleeter William Hempel, Jon supported the work of ex-Board member Brooke Smith in the culmination of the joint Australian-US memorial plaques honouring American Patriot and First Fleeter, Jacob Nagle, a unique figure in both American and Australian history. Its unveiling was held on 18 May 2024 with the support of various bodies in the United States, including the Sons of the American Revolution. With the blessing of Jon and the Board, the Fellowship of First Fleeters was represented at the event by our Company Secretary, Roderick Best.

Under Jon's leadership, we embraced technological advancements that modernised our operations, from introducing Zoom for maintaining continuity during the pandemic, and which now connects remote Board members at monthly meetings; to the development of educational resources such as PowerPoint presentations for the general public and for schools. These efforts culminated in the significant digital transformation of our communications and outreach potentials.

Jon is more than just a leader; he is a person of warmth and genuine connection, always approachable and tirelessly supportive. His journeys from the Central Coast to Sydney for Board meetings and events speak volumes of his dedication. Accompanied by his wife, Karys, who served alongside him as Chapter Liaison Officer, they formed an influential pair within our community.

It is with profound respect and admiration that, as the current President of the Fellowship, I endorse Jon's award of Life Membership. His contributions are not just noteworthy—they are foundational to the future we continue to build. It is my privilege to recommend Jon for this distinguished recognition at our Annual General Meeting.

Congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the Board of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Gillian Doyle, President, Fellowship of First Fleeters

DIRECTORS 2024-2025

President/Digital Publications
GILLIAN DOYLE

Vice President/Web Site/ Social Media
KERRIEANNE CHRISTIAN

Company Secretary
WILLIAM CUTLER

Treasurer/Assets
WARREN O'SHEA

Plaques
ALEX AITKEN

Chapters
PAUL GOODING

Minutes
PAUL KABLE

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SHARON LAMB

Office Manager/Events
THERESE LUCK

Founders/Library
JUDITH O'SHEA

Research
ELIZABETH WARREN

DNA/Research/Social Media
JULIE WEBB

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

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AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON



FFF AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON

LAST REMINDER

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2025

Harbour Cruise/Luncheon on Captain Cook III.

Departs Sydney, Circular Quay, Wharf 6

All aboard by 11:45 am

**ADL Cruise Bookings close on Wednesday
15th January 2025**

**Please complete the Booking Form which
was included with *Founders 55.5* and return to FFF
with payment details.**

Visiting First Fleet House

First Fleet House - Office Address: 105 Cathedral St.
Woolloomooloo Sydney, 2011

Phone: 02 9360 3788

Email: fffaus@optusnet.com.au

OFFICE HOURS Monday & Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00pm
and Friday 10am to 3.00pm. When planning a visit to First
Fleet House: please telephone, preferably at least a week in
advance, to make an appointment. Leave a message clearly
stating your name, phone number and date of planned visit.
This is so a FF House Volunteer can organise a mutually
agreeable date and time. We will be happy to welcome you
and discuss your enquiries, either on the telephone, or during
an onsite visit.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Annual General Meeting on 24 October at 10am:

Hosted by North Coast Chapter at the Coffs Harbour Surf Club. A very successful AGM attended by 28. The Board welcomed the election of two new Directors, **Bill Cutler** and **Paul Kable**, whose contribution to FFF operations will be invaluable. Paul was also elected as Vice Patron of the FFF. **David Christian** ably acted as the AGM Returning Officer. The group re-gathered for a delicious luncheon served in an atmosphere of happy camaraderie. Afterwards 6 members of the Board met to appoint director portfolios and discuss forward plans for 2025.

Scholarship and Essay Prize:

We encourage students who have been accepted into Australian universities to apply for the FFF scholarship or an essay prize. Note that both awards will remain open until taken up by an applicant.

Direct enquiries to: fffaus@optusnet.com.au

Australia Day Luncheon 2025 on Saturday 1st February: We anticipate an enthusiastic response to the Captain Cook 3 cruise which will concentrate to the west of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The booking form was included with Founders 55.5. Book early if you want to organise your own table of 8. If emailing First Fleet House include your contact details: fffaus@optusnet.com.au

Applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) to historical research: A most interesting article was published in the November edition of 2024 Australian History Research Newsletter called *Ghosts and the machine: testing the use of Artificial Intelligence to deliver historical life course biographies from big data*, by authors: Mark A. McLean, David Andrew Roberts and Martin Gibbs. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01615440.2024.2398455>

The article demonstrates that AI has the potential to change the way historians utilise tabular data and other primary resources but throughout the process manual input remains vital. Cross-checks are required as AI tends to summarise and discard information that is critical to historical narratives and to occasionally misinterpret context. Over a decade ago users were warned that technology may never entirely remove researchers from applying traditional forms to written research. The article is an enlightening read.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01615440.2024.2398455>

Gillian Doyle President

Photos from the 2024 AGM



Hosted by the
North Coast
Chapter



Paul Kable and Bill Cutler elected to the Board

COMMODORE GARVON PAUL KABLE AM RAN (Rtd)



Commodore Paul Kable AM joined the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay in January 1963 from Avalon Beach, New South Wales. After graduating in July 1964, he undertook training on board HMA Ships *Sydney* and *Parramatta*. HMAS *Parramatta* was then involved in patrolling Malaysian waters against Indonesian confrontation. He proceeded to the United Kingdom for two years' academic and professional training in late 1965. On return to Australia in 1967, he joined HMAS *Sydney*, then a troop transport on Vietnam service, as Landing Craft Officer and Sub Lieutenant of the Gunroom. Commodore Kable served as the Navigating and Operations Officer in HMAS *Stuart* from December 1968 until 1971, when he proceeded to HMS *Dryad* in Britain for the Long Navigation and Air Direction course.

From April 1972 to May 1974 he was Staff Navigation Officer to Captain Mine Counter measures and Fishery Protection, based in Scotland. On return to Australia, he taught at the Navigation School, HMAS *Watson*, before joining HMAS *Perth* as Navigating and Operations Officer.

In January 1978, he commenced two years as Head of Professional Training at the Naval College at Jervis Bay and was involved in the centralisation of all new entry officers training at the College. On promotion to Commander in December 1979, he served for 18 months as the Head, Operational Design Group, Combat Data Systems Centre in Canberra before attending the Australian Joint Services Staff College. He commanded HMAS *Sydney* (FFG 03) from commissioning in Seattle in January 1983 until her return to Australia. In June 1984 he took up a posting in the Naval Manpower Branch in Canberra and in November 1985, was promoted to Captain and joined the Military Staff Branch of the Strategic and International Policy Division in the Department of Defence.

From January 1988 until October 1989 he was Captain of HMAS *Darwin* (FFG 04) and was then appointed the Director of Naval (Budget) Programs on the Naval Staff in Canberra.

Promoted Commodore in July 1991, he assumed the appointment of Head Australian Defence Staff and Defence Adviser, London, in January 1992 for three years and then returned to Australia to become Director General Maritime Development at Defence Headquarters in Canberra February 1995 until January 1998.

His last position in the Navy was as Commodore Fleet Bases, with headquarters at HMAS *Stirling* in Western Australia and Senior Defence Officer in WA. He became a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 1999 for his services in London and as DGMD.

Commodore Kable joined Tenix Defence Systems on 31 January 2000 as Manager Naval Requirements and transferred to the RANR. With Tenix he has played a leading role in winning the NZ Project Protector, five ANZAC Alliance tasks and the RAN tanker project *Sirius* for Tenix. He retired in March 2007.

He married **Anne Kingston** of Rosyth, Scotland in 1973. They made their home at Sutton NSW in 1986. Paul is descended from **Henry Kable** and **Susannah Holmes**, both convicts in the First Fleet of 1788. Paul has been the Vice-Patron of the Fellowship of First Fleeters since 1985. Paul and Anne have a son, **Andrew**, and a daughter, **Susannah** and four grandchildren.

BILL CUTLER

Bill's First Fleet ancestors are **Nathaniel Lucas** and **Olivia Gascoigne**. He joined the Swan River Chapter in early 2011 at the time of its formation, and since then has served several terms as President and Vice-President.

He was born in 1941 at Gilgai, Western Australia on one of the isolated steam powered Pumping Stations which supplied water to the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie goldfields via engineer **CY O'Connor's** 560km pipeline. His father was a fireman and greaser.

Bill joined the Bank of New South Wales in early 1957 and served in the Bank's WA Division and later Fiji Division before joining the Bank's Sydney based Corporate Banking Division in 1982. This included offshore postings to Hong Kong and Singapore branches in the Bank's Asian Division.

In 1991 Bill joined BankWest as Deputy Chief Manager London Office for three years before returning to Perth Head Office as Head of Banking Operations (Australia) prior to retiring in 1999.

He then joined Palandri Wines, in a mid sized start-up wine growing Company in the Margaret River region, as General Manager Finance. Later, Bill took on various consultancy work with a number of Companies.

He joined the National Trust WA as a volunteer tour guide and external guest speaker for the Trust and these roles continue today. He also joined the Board of non-profit group Senses Australia in 2005 and served as President for three years from 2014, earning life membership.

Bill has been married to **Cathy** for nearly 59 years and they have three adult children and three grandchildren. He lives in East Perth, enjoys cycling and is a dedicated, and necessarily patient, Fremantle Dockers supporter.

He is looking forward to joining the Fellowship of First Fleeter's Board, and contributing to the solid work it is doing.

Lady Juliana and its Women Part 2

On the journey to Australia how laden the ship of *Lady Juliana* was from Portsmouth is not certain. What is certain is that after Cape Town she was so heavily laden that **John Nicol** in his memoirs records that she was sluggish and slow to respond. In addition they were sailing from Cape Town with the Roaring Forties behind them, pushing into them almost continually. It was in these waters that the ship *Guardian* had been wrecked by an iceberg. Conditions at this time would have been close to freezing.

In Cape Town Captain Aiken, now aware of the terrible need of those already in Australia, tried to load as much as could be squeezed into his ship, *Lady Juliana*. Nicol does not record any complaints from the women, almost all of whom were now aware of the problems faced by the new gaol they were to arrive at shortly. When conditions worsened from storms, many of the women fronted up to help save the ship. But little of these problems remain in the legends of our first European settlers. The women were not indolent whores merely looking for a good time and a bit of ready cash. They were prepared to put their shoulders to the wheel and in looking at the records of the women who arrived on this ship, most later did relatively well from respectable pursuits. Even small **Elizabeth Schaeffer**, the ten year old daughter of victualler **Phillip Schaeffer** who was purportedly commissioned by **Governor Arthur Phillip** to oversee his vineyards, were some of the few passengers on the ill-fated *Guardian* and who now were hitching a ride in *Lady Juliana*, is recorded by Nicol as helping by making hot drinks for the women and crew during extreme times of stress. It should be noted that it was probably due to the care the women convicts received on the journey here that they were able to assist the crew as much as they could.

Under the care of Surgeon **Richard Alley** the women of *Lady Juliana* fared well as almost all arrived in good health – much better than many of the convicts from other fleets, including the First Fleet. With only five known deaths, Alley's letters to his employers and later to his family in Ireland reflect this care. He was a man ahead of his time and seemed cognizant of the relationship between good health, good personal care and good food. His care is again reflected when he is later appointed to another ship, *Royal Admiral* with the death rate on this ship a little above 3%, well below average for the period. *Royal Admiral* took almost exactly 4 months to reach here as opposed to *Lady Juliana's* 12 months.

Mary Wade is another noteworthy woman of *Lady Juliana*. At the age of 10 she was sentenced to death for stealing a frock from another child. Her friend **Jane Whiting**, age given as 13, was also sentenced to death for her role in this. There is nothing to suggest that either of these girls were prostituting themselves before or after

coming to Australia. Mary was merely 12 or so when she was sent to Norfolk Island, where, within a few years, she had given birth to two children. There are no records of whether she was in a voluntary relationship but she left the Island to move to Sydney where she began a relationship with a man from the ship *Salamander* who had also been on Norfolk Island and returned to Sydney. It is possible he fathered these two children. Mary gave birth to another child following their return to the mainland. This relationship ended and she began another, subsequently giving birth to a number of other children. Her descendants number in the thousands. Her friend Jane married while on Norfolk Island, giving birth to 2 children by **Thomas Kidner**. Mary had several more relationships, having a number of children and becoming the matriarch of one of the largest number of descendants here.

Maria Israel, convicted of shoplifting, was one of possibly ten Jewish women on board *Lady Juliana*. At her trial she had no defence counsel and this may indicate the poverty that led her to steal. She was a forthright woman who spoke her mind and was nobody's fool, trying to discredit the prosecutor's evidence against her. She also chided the court and judge for not giving her more time to supply character witnesses. Thus she was not easily intimidated. The name of Israel seems to come from the man to whom she was married to or living with at the time of her arrest but what happened to him remains unknown. As a Jewish woman or at least a woman who was familiar with Jewish customs, she almost certainly was one of the women who took part in the parades along the esplanades of three of the four ports they came to, in a pretence of penitency in the hope of getting money to survive in the new gaol. After her arrival in 1790 she was one of the many women sent to Norfolk Island. She was one of the few independent women who was issued with a pig that shortly after had piglets. She began living with convict **Thomas Chaffey**. In 1807 they were sent to Van Diemens Land where they remained for the rest of their lives together. Maria had a number of children, with several dying but the couple remained together until Thomas' death, with Maria dying only two weeks later. They had lived a respectable life and are buried with their children. There is little to suggest prostitution in this woman's life.

Catherine Heyland partnered a Jewish man named **William Levi** but it is doubtful that Catherine was Jewish. William was known to the authorities as **William James**, the alias he used for his crimes. Catherine begged Levi, whom she referred to as Mr James, to tell the court of her innocence. He refused to support her and she became disillusioned. She was one of the very few single women granted land on Norfolk Island, clearing and sowing grain and food on about 101 rods or about 2/3 of an acre in a relatively short time. In 1792 and still on the Island she partnered with **John Foley**, First Fleet Marine and

stonemason. John Foley was also an industrious person who received several grants of land. In 1805 they were assigned a convict **John Grant**, an educated man who kept a diary of his employers and their achievements. By this time Catherine had two young sons of 10 and 13 years, he records that he took over their education. The Foleys moved to Van Diemen's Land where they again prospered until their deaths, Catherine's in 1824 and John Foley's in 1830.

Elizabeth Farrell, aka **Nance**, appears not to have sold favours to men. While no doubt insubordinate and with seemingly little respect for the crew of *Lady Juliana* she led her friends in several escapades that included stealing their liquor. The crew, usually tolerant, punished her to little effect, finally putting a barrel on her to limit her movements. She soon realised how constricted she was, unable to even use the toilet the men had rigged on the bow for the women. She was eventually released with this having the desired effect for a few days before she was back to stealing. She was then given a flogging of 12 lashes with a cat-o'-nine tails despite its use being banned on this ship for the women, according to Nicol. She was also threatened with keel-hauling but whether this was an empty threat is not known. Nance decided not to test it and became better behaved for the rest of the journey. She partnered with First Fleet convict **John Hall**, and while they had no children they did seem to prosper while on Norfolk Island but did less well when moved to Van Diemen's Land. They remained together until John's death in 1817. An article in The Hobart Town Gazette records him as honest and industrious. Nance died ten years later.

Ann Marsh, though tried under this name, when in the colony signed her name as Ann Mash. This could have been a deliberate ploy to distance herself from her past in England as she was a literate woman and would know the difference. Ann formed an alliance with the ship's surgeon, Richard Alley, giving birth to his daughter who died shortly after arrival here. She later formed an alliance with another surgeon, **John Irving** who also arrived here as a convict, but he died in 1796. His son with Ann was born shortly after his death. Ann had a number of children but she was also enterprising, successfully operating a passenger and goods boat service between Sydney and Parramatta and later, following her then husband's death, **William Chapman**, less successfully a tavern. Between them they ran a general store, butchery and bakery. She died at 54 with a number of children but had achieved a lot into her short life.

Ann Brooks was arrested and convicted of stealing a pair of sheets from the house of a shopkeeper. She was a single mother and was, unusually, given permission to bring her child with her. She partnered **James Morrisby**, staying together and raising a number of children, until their deaths.

Susannah Mortimore was convicted of sheep stealing. She appears to have been either one of the women who came aboard *Lady Juliana* already pregnant or who paired with one of the mariners of this ship as she brought a baby

ashore. The baby's age is not noted so its father is not known. On Norfolk Island she partnered with First Fleet Marine **Thomas O'Brien**. The couple had a number of children and lived productively with sheep, hogs, and growing grain. Pressured to go to Van Diemens Land as were most of the settlers on Norfolk Island, they again established a productive farm until in later life, Thomas hit problems. No further records survive for him but Susannah lived until she was 86.

Ann Gibson was almost certainly one of the women who paraded along the esplanades at three of the four ports they came to on the 12 month journey from England in a show of repented Christian piety. She was not Jewish as surmised by John Nicol but she was the friend of the enigmatic Jewish **Sarah Sabolah** – real name **Sabol**. Both women had been convicted of shop theft though in the first theft Ann Gibson was found not guilty and in the second together Sarah Lyon (Sarah Sabolah) was let go. The first clumsy attempt at shoplifting coincided with news that Sarah's partner was to go to New Holland as a marine on *Sirius* and failing permission to sail with him, tried again when news of *Lady Juliana* preparation was underway. On arrival here both women were sent to Norfolk Island where Ann met First Fleet convict **Edward Risby**. They married and had a large number of children and established a productive farm. Then in 1807 they were sent to Van Diemens Land where their farming practices was not as productive. They died in poverty. Sarah Lyon had returned from Norfolk Island to Sydney with her partner.

Mary Goulding (**Atkinson**) was most likely another woman parading on the esplanades of the ports they came to. Her name of Goulding and later her recording of the name **Golderin** (which may have been a misunderstanding on the part of the muster-taker) would suggest Jewish origins. Mary partnered First Fleet convict **William Hubbard** and they were granted 50 acres at The Ponds, the farming of which attracted the favourable attention of Watkin Tench. By 1802 the pair had 100 acres with 40 acres cleared and in production. By 1806 they had 70 acres at Mulgrave Place when they were overtaken by the Hawkesbury Flood of 1806. They were recorded as having 4 children. Mary died in 1820 while William died in 1843 in poverty.

Elizabeth Warren #8793

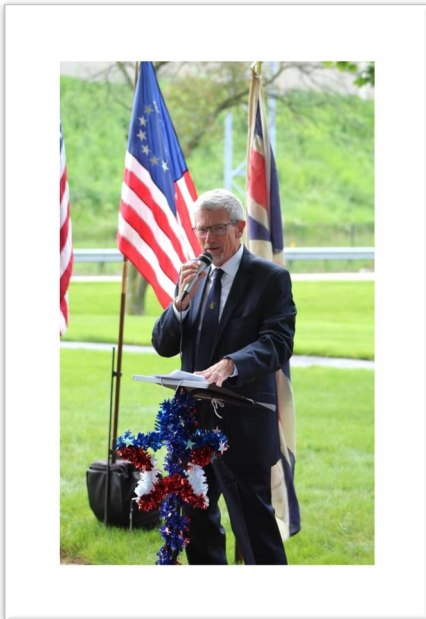
Footnote on spelling

At the time of the First Fleet there was little consistency in spelling your own name let alone that of others. For the purposes of certificates of membership, the FFF has a protocol of adopting the spelling of the surname by Mollie Gillen. In this article it is noted that John Nicholl is one example where the family association accept one spelling whereas records left by the First Fleeter sometimes adopt another. In this case the spelling used by the author of the article has been left uncorrected.

Roderick Best #1116

Other residents of the USA who travelled on the First Fleet in 1788.

The second of two talks presented at the unveiling of the FFF plaque for Jacob Nagle on May 18 2024. Canton, Ohio.



The First Fleet comprised 11 ships carrying officers, convicts and marines to what is now Sydney, in the state of New South Wales, country of the Commonwealth of Australia. This fleet left England in 1787 and arrived in 1788. The number of people on the Fleet is unknown as there are no known complete musters of those who sailed

as crew on at least 9 of the 11 ships. As well, there were also those who died, were born, absconded or stowed away (James Smith). Taking all of this into account it is estimated that some 1,530 sailed.

It is known as the First Fleet because while there have been a number of flotillas bringing people to Australia both before and after 1788 this was the first identified groups of vessels intentionally landing, intentionally settling on the lands of the pre-existing First Nations people and the first to change the country into what became Australia.

The fleet was needed from a British perspective for (as is usually the case with any major endeavour) a range of reasons including the need to decrease the criminal population in Britain as well as to further the cause of empire by having a British naval presence in the Pacific.

The British problem of what to do with its convict population arose from a refusal by the former American colonies to accept any British convicts from 1776 and in particular the American rejection of the last of the originally 179 convicts aboard the *Mercury* in 1784. The US therefore has a long and influential with that first colony and the subsequent nation of Australia.

Nor was this rejection of convicts the only factor behind sending convicts. There were also economic drivers. The American War of Independence led not just to less income (by way of trade) to Britain but there was also a loss of jobs – Britain's navy was reduced from 107,000 sailors to just under 23,000 by 1785 and its marines from 20,000 to below 5,000. A common feature of the convicts was that they were primarily a class of victims who were suffering because of economic circumstances and who faced a criminal justice system that excessively punished

by death. Transportation was offered as an alternative to death but as an offer, not all took it up.

The Fellowship, of which I am a director and past President, was established in 1968 as primarily an organisation comprising proven descendants of those who sailed on the Fleet – not just of convicts but also the officers, marines, sailors and even the stowaways. Almost 10,000 people have so far established this link in the subsequent half century since the Fellowship was founded. Some of these people also have family links with First Nation peoples as well as peoples of many countries of the world. Some members, some indeed present today, now live in North America.

One project of the Fellowship is to place an identifying plaque on the grave site of everyone known to have sailed on the fleet, no matter how long (if at all) they settled in Australia and no matter where they died. The plaque for **Jacob Nagle** is the first plaque unveiled in North America.

With that background, I want to briefly look at those who were the First Fleeters, accompanying Jacob Nagle, and who were also born in what is now the United States of America. There are also others who lived for a time in what is now the United States but I want to consider only those born and raised here. Apart from Nagle, there were 12 such men. Of these 7 were engaged in sailing the fleet and 5 were convicts. Of the convicts, 3 were African American. This high percentage of African Americans is not surprising as during the American War of Independence the British army offered freedom to any slave who fought with the British. This promise was honoured by taking those who wanted to go to Britain at the conclusion of the war. Those men had limited skills that could gain them employment in Britain and so they rapidly fell amongst the British poor.

I have included one convict, **John Martin**, within this group even though we cannot presently identify his place of birth. We know that he was African American and was a friend of another African American who was born in the US. In addition to Martin, there were also 12 men described as 'black' on the Fleet but who were not identified as African Americans. Some came from the Caribbean and one from Madagascar. 8 (not including Martin) had an unknown birthplace.

Of those 7 Americans who were engaged on ships, all but 1 had left the Colony by 1791. All 7 were either dead (or in the case of **James Wilson** untraceable, due to his desertion in South Africa) by 1801. These figures show how remarkable Jacob Nagle, dying in 1841, truly was. Of the ones who settled, **James Proctor** married **Mary Allen** and took up land – but was the one who died in 1801. Proctor and Allen do not appear to have children who survived infancy.

Botany Bay Chapter Luncheon

THE BOTANY BAY CHAPTER OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

invites you to our

2025 BOTANY BAY LUNCH MONDAY JANUARY 20

WE ARE CELEBRATING THE 237th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARRIVAL OF THE LAST SHIP OF THE FIRST FLEET
INTO BOTANY BAY

AND THE START OF THE VOYAGE OF
CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP AND COMPANY
FROM BOTANY BAY

TO

PORT JACKSON

TO FIND A SUITABLE PLACE FOR SETTLEMENT

VENUE: YARRA BAY SAILING CLUB

ADDRESS: 67-69 Yarra Road, Phillip Bay NSW 2036

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 - 11:30 FOR MID-DAY LUNCH

COST: \$40.00 P/P - 3 COURSE SET MENU (+ TICKET IN 2 DOOR PRIZES)

DRINKS: BEER, WINE, SPIRITS, SOFT DRINKS AT CLUB PRICES AT BAR

GUEST SPEAKER: AUTHOR AND PRESENTER MICHAEL ADAMS

NB: ONLY 60 PLACES AVAILABLE.

BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE ASAP BY EMAIL / PAYMENT DUE BY DECEMBER 10, 2024

EMAIL BOOKING REQUEST TO: rokkette@hotmail.com

NB: BOOKINGS WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL PAYMENT RECEIVED.

BANK DETAILS: FFF BOTANY BAY CHAPTER - BSB 032260 A/C 419904

REFERENCE: YOUR NAME/YARRA 2025

ANY ENQUIRES OR DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: PLEASE CALL JEANETTE ON 0424 371 027

Unlike those working the ships, the convicts all settled in the Colony. All received land although **Joseph Mosely** later went into trade and **James Walbourne** joined the army, after leaving the land.

Of those who farmed their land, **Jacob Massias** held land on Norfolk Island and then 43 acres in what is now the state of Tasmania. He died in 1819 being about 49 years old.

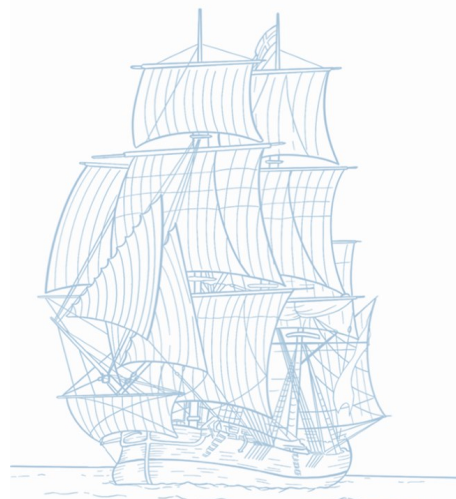
John Randall had a number of relationships in the Colony from which he had at least 3 and possibly 5 children. Early on, he was charged with disobeying orders and thieving from the Governor. In both cases the charges were dismissed. He sold his initial landholding and joined the army until his discharge in 1810. He had been involved in the Rum Rebellion leading to the overthrow of the **Governor William Bligh**. He acquired further land and appears to have been dead by 1822. In 1788 he shared a hut with another African American, John Mosely; his house was invaded in 1793 by men with blackened faces while he was away; one of his daughters married the probable African American John Martin who held a neighbouring land grant and, Randall was friends with **Richard Partridge** (one of the floggers in the Colony) who, while Anglo, was not generally accepted into the social life of the Colony.

John Martin received land near his friend Randall. His first wife died in 1806. He later started having children with **Mary**, the daughter of Randall, in 1807. She was 14 years old and he was 50. They subsequently married. When he died in 1837, he left his widow 1 shilling and his land (valued at 25 pounds) to 5 children i.e., not recognising Mary's later children as his own. He farmed his land and was described as sober, industrious and very poor. Again, he had been friends with both Randall and Partridge. He was 88 when he died.

What then can we conclude about these men born in the United States.

Mostly they had hard lives, died before they were 50 and few left surviving children. Those who were African American show signs of social isolation. Like most of the sailors and convicts who arrived in the next 20 or so years, those who settled in the Colony remained poor and certainly did not make their fortune. Unlike Nagle, none left a known written memoir. Unlike Nagle, few had noteworthy lives before their arrival in Sydney and none appear to have lived a full and exciting life in their life after Sydney. Unlike Nagle, few died supported by their family. None— have been identified as living beyond 1841. Their experiences show just how unusual Jacob Nagle was.

Roderick Best #1116



David Collins PT3

A man of “no sense of shame” or having “a disposition most humane”.

Throughout, **Collins** sought to pursue an administrative role rather than progress in the Marines. Accordingly, when the Marines went home in 1791, despite his wife and father both forcefully recommending that he return with the Corps, he elected to stay. His father called NSW “a country that is nothing better than a Place of Banishment for the Outcasts of Society” and his wife “that Infernal place.” **Maria** added that remaining would not advance his career: “and as for your part David, you are lost, you are not heard of ... I am afraid that you have given up all your hours to serve the governor. I wish he may reward you for it, but I am mistaken if he does....Come home then my dearest love and resume your place in the world and no longer be buried in oblivion.” Later, in 1792, **Maria** wrote “For God’s sake my dearest love what can have prevailed on you to stay in a place where you have suffered so many hardships.”

By remaining, he also lost his military position as judge advocate and so this decision was not just a loss of career prospects and status but also a loss of income and the right to a military pension.

When he did return to England, **Collins** in 1800 lobbied **Nepean** (the friend of **Ross**) and other public servants to not only separate the War and Colonial Offices but also to appoint him as the new under Secretary of the latter office. This did not happen for instead he was offered a new administrative role as Lieutenant Governor of what became Victoria and Tasmania.

His underpinning beliefs

If **Collins** was not motivated by a loyalty, like his great grandfather or to a sense of esprit do corps with the Marines like his father, can other motivations be identified?

In the Colony he considered that the ‘Scottish Martyrs’ had “misconceived ideas” about independence, liberty and rights of man but notwithstanding he thoroughly enjoyed socialising with them. One noted how these nights were “cemented by the circling glass, even to a state of inebriation.”

As a boy, with his father absent, he read the Bible and said prayers with his mother each evening. But neither this, nor his comments to his father about seeking to be a parish priest demonstrate a personal faith. The latter appears to be little more than seeing the personal pleasure in having a respected administrative role in English society.

When visiting Rio on the day of *Corpus Christi* he noted in his journal that “when it is considered that the same great Creator of the universe was worshipped alike by Protestant and Catholic, what difficulty could the mind have in divesting their pageant of its tinsel, its trappings, and its censers, and joining with sincerity in offering the pure incense, that of a grateful heart.” In Cape Town he commented favourably on a Calvinist church having installed an hour glass to ensure that the sermon was not too long.

In the Colony he did not personally intervene to support the **Rev Richard Johnston** in his disputes with **Grose**.

These examples demonstrate little more than a standard Tory response to Protestant Christianity. The fact that his 1803 will bequeathed his soul to his Creator ‘hoping for a remission of my sins’ is little different to the wills of many others on the First Fleet and does not change this conclusion.

His views of the Aborigines.

Collins, out of all of the published First Fleet authors, gives the most comprehensive accounts of Aborigines in the early Colony.

Before leaving England in 1787 he wrote to his brother **William**, of his fears that the garrison would not be able to manage the native population. He was, however, reassured by the view of **Cook** that the natives were only few in number. Like **Phillip**, he later noted the error in their briefing prior to departure.

On entry to Port Jackson, it is **Collins** who recorded that the Aborigines repeating yelled “Warra, Warra” and he could tell that this could neither be interpreted as an invitation to land nor as an expression of welcome.

Collins formed friendly relations with a number of Aboriginal people. One of the very few times that he is critical of **Phillip** was when **Phillip** was speared at Manly.

As early as 1798 he noted that: “While they entertained the idea of us having dispossessed them of their residences, they must always consider us as enemies; and upon this principle they made a point of attacking white people whenever opportunity and safety concurred.” He returned to this question of land ownership when talking about **Bennelong** owning Goat Island in Port Jackson. He then stated that his understanding was that Aborigines had a version of hereditary property rights concerning land.

As the Sydney Wars, as they are now called, commenced he wrote that “it was improbable that these murders should be committed without provocation.” Later in Tasmania, in 1807 he made similar remarks about his lack of surprise at Aboriginal retaliation when the once abundant kangaroos and emus were killed by the Colonists.

However, the traditional means of retribution left him puzzled: “What rendered this sort of contest as unaccountable as it was extraordinary was that friendship and alliance were known to subsist between several that were opposed to each other.”

Once again, he returns to first principles to determine an appropriate response irrespective of the people being outside of his class, professional colleagues or even race. In this case, however, it is not clear that his views swayed anyone else.

His views of the convicts

Professor Brian Fletcher in his introduction to *Collins Account* said that “In general, [Collins] regarded the convicts as the scouring of society. The whole tone of his book was coloured by the gloomy picture he painted of a colony, most of whose convict inhabitants lived dissolute lives and showed little prospect of improving”. To give one example, **Collins** opined of the need for trial by jury but then added that this could not happen with jury’s being formed from the poor quality of convicts.

Yet, he did give praise to individual convicts, like First Fleeter **Edward Elliott**, who worked hard. As we have seen, **Collins** made court and administrative decisions that dealt equitably with convicts and drew favourable comment from the likes of **Joseph Holt** and the Scottish Martyrs.

His relationship with women

It is clear from his life that Collins not only sought the company of women, for he was certainly not celibate when away from his wife, but also sought to treat them fairly according to his judgment. This was, it must be admitted, often a prejudiced judgment. For example, in 1789 he generalised that women convicts had a very easy chastity while as we will soon see, he was forming a liaison with a woman convict.

One of the few remarks of personal judgment he makes in his *Account* was that he had a convivial time in Santa Cruz because "If frozen Chastity be not always found among the children of ice or snow, can she be looked for among the inhabitants where frost was never felt?"

While he was a friend of Bennelong, he also both noted, and to some extent intervened, when **Bar-rang-aroo** was the victim of domestic violence. He had good relations with her, as well as her husband and this even though others, like Tench, considered her a "scold and a vixen."

On a more intimate level, we know that, at least by late 1789, he had formed a relationship with the convict **Ann Yeats** - their daughter, **Marianne Letitia Collins**, being born in September 1790. **Ralph Clark**, who was not noted for his kind remarks of convict women, said of Ann that she was "uniformly behaved well during the whole of the voyage." She also had some literacy as she signed her marriage certificate. This relationship continued, despite him living in Government House because in 1793 they had a second child, their son **George Reynolds Collins**. He was recorded as the father when they were born and he acknowledged these two children in a letter to his mother in 1793. When he returned to England in 1796, he took Ann and their two children with him. It appears that Ann and the two children visited her family in Yorkshire, rather than staying with Maria but this must still have been difficult for Maria and why Collins created this tension for Maria are unknown. The fact that Collins had called his surviving daughter Marianne (combining the name of both his wife and mistress) seems unduly unkind to Maria. We do know that Maria suggested that Collins should not visit certain acquaintances because they were people of "strict principle" and might not understand Collins "unhappy connection." Ann Yeats and children returned separately on the *Albion* in July 1799. When Collins was in Tasmania his children came to stay with him - with Ann now being married to the convict James John Grant. Indeed, he had already transferred to Ann and John the 100 acres that had been granted to him on the Hawkesbury. As an aside, Grant had arrived aboard the same vessel as the Scottish Martyrs - whom Collins had befriended.

In Tasmania in 1803, the convict **Hannah Power** who was living with her convict husband, **Morgan**, effectively became Collins consort. The Missionary **William Pascoe Crook**, who had previously been the tutor for my convict ancestors in Seven Hills and so presumably familiar with a wide range of Colonial life, said of Collins that his "life is immoral."

Then in 1806, the 16 year old Margaret Headington arrived with the convicts and settlers transferring from Norfolk Island. Margaret was the daughter of First Fleeter **Thomas Headington** who died on Norfolk Island. Margaret's father was 7 years younger than Collins. Margaret was almost 40 years younger. Margaret arrived with her one year old son, **John**. Despite some accounts to the contrary, John could not have been Collins' son. Margaret and John almost immediately assumed residence in Government House. Margaret and Collins had a daughter, **Eliza**,

who was born in 1810.

Marianne, George and Eliza all appear to have had children and their descendants continue to live in Australia and some of their descendants are members of the Fellowship of First Fleeter.

By way of digression, his son George joined the Royal Navy and served on the *Porpoise* which brought **Bligh** to Tasmania.

His final years in Hobart

Collins was commissioned as Lieutenant Governor of the new settlement, originally in Port Phillip but soon thereafter relocated to Hobart.

In this role Collins sought to avoid the turmoil that was happening in Sydney by seeking instructions directly from London. His requests were met with silence in London, until London reiterated that he was required to send his reports and requests to Sydney. He felt abandoned by this silence.

He sought to have his wife, Maria, join him, but she declined so that she could care for her sick and dying mother. He did appoint his brother-in-law **Benjamin Barbauld**, as deputy Judge Advocate, but Benjamin did not remain long in the role and nor did he provide the same level of support as Collins had previously provided Phillip. Collins managed to shock a convict colony by his relations with Hannah Power and Margaret Headington. Then, into this mix, he had for many months Governor Bligh and entourage, occupying Government House and intermeddling in his decision-making and being openly critical of his personal life. In return, Collins described Bligh (in shades of his earlier opinion of Robert Ross) as "this detestable brute."

The missionary, William Pascoe Crook, damned Collins as immoral. **John Pascoe Fawlkner**, a leading pioneer settler noted that Collins often showed leniency and forgiveness in his sentencing, similar to his practice in Sydney, but was also "accustomed to, and rather given to flogging."

Collins, with a history of distinguishing a colony from a penal establishment, strove to establish a sperm whale fishery and a herd of cattle from the Cape. Neither of these commercial activities was supported by London or Sydney and each led to him being castigated rather than praised for his initiative. Spending 13,000 pounds on the cattle was definitely beyond the pale for London.

Collins dies 1810 after being diagnosed with a bad cold. If highly regarded for his integrity on Proclamation Day, at the time of his death opinion on his character was at its nadir. Maria said that he died insolvent. A public subscription had to be raised in Hobart to support his very young daughter, Eliza. He was buried in the full military uniform of a Colonel of the Marines. Medals and decorations were pinned to his breast and his ceremonial sword at his side. His coffin scented with a collection of native herbs. In 1925 his hair did not show signs of greying. The native herbs had enveloped this son of England in the best of the preservative qualities of our Bush.

Why was his grave opened in 1925? Because the Tasmanian government felt that there were too many complexities unresolved. They were right, even though by opening his grave and looking upon the corpse of Collins, they did not resolve them.

With thanks to biographers of David Collins especially Professor Brian Fletcher and John Currey.

Roderick Best #1116

Our Chapters in Action

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

Venue: Usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.30 am.

Next Meetings: Late November: early Christmas lunch, 26 January: Breakfast, 12 February: Speaker TBA

Contact: Ian Anderson 0426 147 365

ARTHUR PHILLIP – *Milsons Point to Brooklyn and across to all northern beaches.*

Venue: Meeting Room, Old Gordon Public School. 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon, monthly except January, third Friday at 10.30 am. **Next Meetings:** 20

December: Members Meeting and Christmas Function, January: No meeting, 21 February: Speaker TBA

Contact: Michael Noonan 0411 198 089

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

Venue: Our Lady of Fatima Church, 825 Forest Rd, Peakhurst, monthly, third Tuesday at 10.30am. **Next Events:** 10 December: Kris Kringle and Christmas Lunch at Grandviews Club, 20 January: Lunch, Yarra Bay Sailing Club **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

CANBERRA – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Events:** 15 December: Christmas BBQ, 12pm. 7 Portus Place, Bruce, contact Toni Pike for more details including catering requirements, January: Australia Day Lunch, details TBA **Contact:** Toni Pike 0410 412 778

CENTRAL COAST – *From Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay, highlands to coast.*

Venue: Point Clare Community Hall (opposite the railway station), monthly, second Saturday at 10 for 10.30am. **Next Event:** 14 December: Christmas Luncheon **Contact:** Margaret Morelli 0409 467 710

DERWENT - *Southern Tasmania*

Venue: The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marievilla Esplanade, Sandy Bay, bi-monthly, first Saturday 11am. **Next Meeting:** 1 February: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** 1 December: Christmas Celebration, Jacqui's family farm, Margate **Contact:** Lorraine Polglase 0415 558 256

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

Venue: The Hall at Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St. Eastwood, monthly, first Saturday at 10am. **Next Meetings:** 7 December: no Speaker, Christmas Morning Tea, 4 January: No meeting **Contact:** Jennifer Follers (02) 9799 1161

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

Venue: Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor, bi-monthly, second Saturday. 10:30 for 11am. **Next Meeting:** 8 February: Mark Bundy Rookwood Cemetery RSVP **Next Event:** 5 December: Annual Christmas Lunch, Nepean Rowing Club Penrith, RSVP has passed

Contact: William Hempel 0410 950 101

HUNTER VALLEY – *Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.*

Venue: Teralba Community Hall Supper Room. 15 Anzac Pde Teralba, bi-monthly, usually third Monday at 9:45 for 10am. **Next Events:** 2 December: Christmas Function **Contact:** Kerry Neinert (02)49615083.

MORETON – *Brisbane and South East Queensland.*

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton, bi-monthly, second Saturday at 10 am unless otherwise advised. **Next Meeting:** 8 February: Elizabeth Ainsworth *Captain John Piper* **Next Event:** 8 December: Christmas Function, Ship Inn, South Brisbane

Contact: Jan Grant 0403 193 647

NORTH COAST – *Nambucca Valley, Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Woolgoolga, Clarence Valley and surrounding areas.*

Venue: Either at various Halls or Members' Homes, bi-monthly, usually first Sunday at 10.30am. **Next Event:** 7 December: Chapter Christmas, Coramba Hotel **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 0420 923 140 or (02) 6653 6315

NORTHERN RIVERS – *Ballina and surrounding districts*

Venue: Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling, bi-monthly, fourth Sunday at 10.15 am for 10.30am followed by lunch. **Next Meeting:** 26 January **Contact:** Roddy Jordan (02)6687 5339

NORTH WEST – *Tamworth and surrounds.*

Venue: Family History Rooms, 64 North St, North Tamworth, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm. **Next Event:** 7 December: Christmas Outing **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438 465 529

PORT PHILLIP—*Melbourne and Regional Victoria.*

Venue: Glenferrie Room, Hawthorn Library, 564 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, quarterly, 11am or by Zoom **Contact:** Chris Norton c.norton555@outlook.com

SOUTH COAST – *Engadine to Burrill Lake.*

Artisan Room, Wests Illawarra Club, Unanderra, monthly except January, May and December, first Tuesday at 10am. **Next Meetings:** 4 February: Show and Tell Annual Meeting, 4 March: Review of FF presentation, Gillian Doyle **Next Event:** 3 December: Christmas Luncheon—Corrimal RSL **Contact:** Tony Burns scoastcfff@gmail.com

SWAN RIVER – *Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.*

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday at 2pm. **Next Meeting:** 7 December: End of year "Show and Tell", wine and cheese afternoon tea

Contact: Lionel Lovell beech1788@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you to the Chapters who submitted details of their upcoming meetings and events. Closing date for this page for the next issue is **20 January 2025**

An important auction of books

On 23 November Peter Arnold conducted the auction of one of the most important collection of books on the early colonial settlement. The auction comprised part of the collection of John Alexander a former editor in chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Relevant to the First Fleet were first editions of journals by Collins (1798); Hunter (1793); Phillip (1789), White (1790) and Rev Johnston (1792). There were also works such as Blaxland's tour across the Blue Mountains (1823), the court martial of George Johnston (1811) and the journal of John Nicol (1822). It is to be hoped that many of these works were acquired by public libraries.

Roderick Best #1116

Merry Christmas



Christmas bell (Blandfordia flammea)

Joseph Lycett, 1820, National Library of Australia,
nla.obj-134642087

Don't forget, **Founders by e-mail** is available in full colour each issue. Contact the Editor to make the switch. Go to

firstfleetfounders1788@gmail.com giving your name, membership number and e-mail address.

Welcome to New Members

First Fleet Descendants

THOMAS CHIPP/JANE LANGLEY

#9321 Cheryl Anne Beggs

JOHN NICHOLLS

#9326 David Victor Jensz

WILLIAM WHITING

#9327 Gwenneth Lavina Bairstow

ELIZABETH FITZGERALD

#9329 Linda Maree McALLISTER

Junior First Fleet Descendants

JOHN SMALL/MARY PARKER/MICHAEL MURPHY

#9322 Louis Try Hannibal

#9323 Margot Blake Hannibal

#9324 Eleanor Try Hannibal

#9325 Chloe James Hannibal

First Fleet Associates

#9321.1 Donald Beggs

#9327.1 Warren James Bairstow

Correction

First Fleet Descendant Correction:

PHILLIP DEVINE/MARY DICKENSON/WILLIAM EGGLETON/ROBERT FORRESTER

#9301 Vicki Ailsa Roberts

Deaths

First Fleet Descendant

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES

#9256 John Edward Thompson died 26.6.2024.

First Fleet Associate

#8457.1 Peter David Binny died on 25.9.2024. Wife of Ruth Binny who is the Derwent Chapter Vice President.

The Purpose of our **Chapters** is to provide present members and potential members the opportunity to become active in various locations throughout Australia. Many of the chapters conduct regular meetings and produce publications of interest as well as arranging various tours and excursions. On page 11 you will find details of the upcoming meetings and events for each Chapter. We invite you to contact any of the mentioned Chapters for further details.