

Fellowship of First Fleeters

Hunter Valley Chapter

"To live on in the hearts and minds of Descendants is never to die."

All correspondence to: 76 Fletcher St. Adamstown 2289

www.firstfleetershunter.com.au

President:
Barbara Turner
Ph. 49439105

Vice President/Membership:
Cynthia Huggup
Ph. 49558045

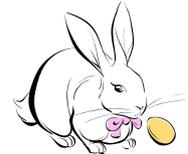
Secretary:
Yvonne Bradley
Ph. 49574758

Treasurer:
Helen Pacey
Ph: 49691406



The Coal River Bulletin

Newsletter No: 20 - May 2011



Did you all have a good Easter break? The year is slipping away too quickly once again!

Our meeting on April 18th was another interesting get-together. Membership officer, Cynthia, reported our Chapter now has 45 full First Fleet members, 15 Associate members and 5 friends – we feel we are now a very viable Chapter of the Fellowship!

Cynthia was also our Guest Speaker, her chosen topic – John Shortland and his family. We were also delighted to have with us **John Willoughby Shortland** who had travelled from Sydney to share with us some personal insights of his Naval family. An edited version of Cynthia's presentation follows:

When researching the First Fleet and finding information on the preparations carried out in England, the voyage out to Sydney and the first months of settlement, the name John Shortland was prominent in all the diaries and reference books. At first I believed this to refer to the John Shortland of Newcastle fame then found out that it referred to his father and that the father and his 2 sons, John junior and Thomas George, were all part of the First Fleet and this made me very interested in all the family.



Cynthia with John W Shortland

Lt John Shortland (Senior,) after a distinguished career in the Royal Navy in the wars against the French, was appointed Agent to the transports of the First Fleet.



John Shortland (Junior) was born on the 5th September 1769, the eldest son of John Shortland senior and his wife Margaret. In 1781, aged 12, he took his first voyage to Quebec with his father who was employed as Agent for Transports, providing

services between England and North America. From 1783 to 1787 he served in West Indian waters and when he returned to England in 1787 was appointed to the First Fleet expedition to NSW, first as 2nd mate on the Friendship. He was transferred to the Sirius on the 1st September 1787 as an Able Seaman, then as Midshipman and finally as Master's Mate just before the Sirius arrived in Botany Bay.

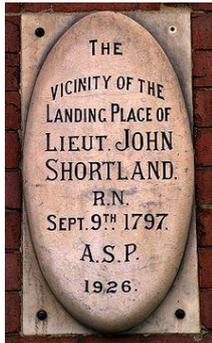
He was in the Sirius when it was wrecked off Norfolk Island in March 1790 and spent eleven months 'exiled' on the island until the Supply returned to Norfolk Island. He arrived back in Sydney in February 1791 and accompanied Captain John Hunter back to England in the Waaksamheid on 27th March 1791. He returned to Sydney in 1795 as 1st Lieutenant in HMS Reliance under Captain Hunter who returned as Governor of the colony – on board also were Matthew Flinders and George Bass.

Sailing along the coast and returning from Port Stephens after searching unsuccessfully for escaped convicts Shortland made a decision to seek shelter from a southerly gale and his ship passed through a narrow passage between Nobbys and the mainland expecting to find a sheltered bay. However he had actually discovered the mouth of the Hunter River.

He sailed around the waterways and landed five times and camped at the end of what is now Market Street.

He returned to Sydney on the 19th September with news of abundant coal and vast amounts of valuable timbers, particularly cedar growing along the river banks. Shortland predicted it would be a great acquisition for the settlement. This news was received with considerable enthusiasm by the Governor and traders.

John Shortland Jnr returned to England in 1800 and after receiving various commands was promoted to Captain of the Squirrel in 1805. In December 1809, while captain of the Junon, he was injured in action against the French and died of his injuries 6 weeks later on the 31st January 1810.



He certainly achieved much in his short life of 41 years and as discoverer of our city is remembered in Newcastle by a memorial plaque (left) on the old Air Force Club opposite the Railway Station in Scott Street, Newcastle

There are also many locations around the city named after him such as

The Shortland Esplanade, The Shortland Wetlands in the suburb of Shortland and the Federal Electorate of Shortland.



Our guest, John Willoughby Shortland presented our Chapter with a framed photograph of an oval watercolour miniature of John Shortland Jnr held in the National Maritime Museum Greenwich, London. The glazed back of the miniature contains a spray of his sandy straight hair.

Many thanks to Cynthia and John for such an enlightening presentation.

As we receive a subsidy from First Fleet House for every paid up member don't forget to pay your fees before August 31st!!

A few interesting, humorous and/or surprising brain teasers:

**** Firstly - rearranging letters in a word, to make another or other words, known as ANAGRAMS:**

ASTRONOMER: moon starrer.

THE EYES: they see

THE MORSE CODE: here come dots

DORMITORY: dirty room

SLOT MACHINES: cash lost in me

ELECTION RESULTS: lies - let's recount

SNOOZE ALARMS: Alas! No more Z's

A DECIMAL POINT: I'm a dot in place

and the grand finale:

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Woman Hitler

****Secondly – just interesting stuff:**

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented and its rule stated:

Gentlemen only ... Ladies Forbidden.

Thus the word **GOLF** entered into English language.

What do bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?

They were all invented by women!



Greetings & Birthday Wishes to:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Bruce Donaldson | May 5 th |
| Phil Aubin | May 17 th |
| Phillip Alexander | June 6 th |
| June Paul | June 14 th |
| Shirley Appleyard | June 15 th |
| Fletcher Pacey | June 10 th |

Car Tour: Monday 21st March

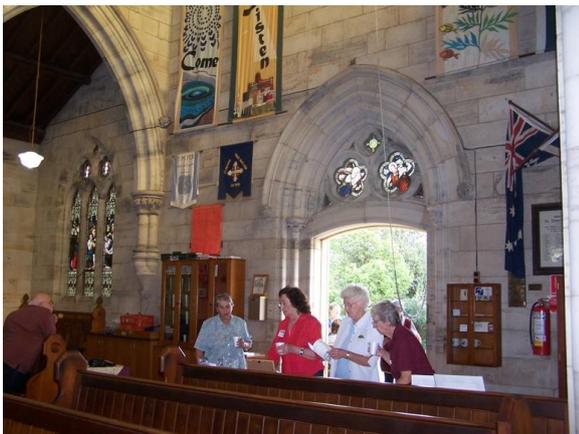
Many thanks to Wendy Chaff for this report and also for the accompanying photos.



The weather was once again kind as 19 members drove to our first stop, the historic Anglican Church, St. Peter's in William Street, East Maitland.

After the welcoming morning tea, a comprehensive talk revealed the history of the church.

This Anglican Parish is one of the oldest in Australia, going back to **1834**. There is much to admire on a tour of inspection of the decorative gothic church, which was dedicated in 1886. It is in excellent condition, and well worth a visit. The lovely organ recital alone was well worth it!



The next destination was over the hill, at the dead end of George Street, with a distant view of the old Glebe Cemetery.

This is the site of the grave of First Fleeter Joseph Trimby, who died in 1836 at the age of 72. He was buried with his son James and grandson James. A commemorative FFF plaque is to be placed there.



Old Glebe Cemetery

Wendy's husband, Barry Chaff, is a descendant of Joseph Trimby so when the plaque is dedicated it will not only be a significant moment for Barry but for our Chapter, especially for Ray Meredith who has spent much time on research for this project.

As it had been a wet week the group decided not to venture down the sloping track for a closer look at the old neglected graves. The Cemetery is isolated and fenced off in the middle of a large paddock.

Guided by the maps provided, the drivers travelled through the heritage towns of Morpeth, Hinton and Woodville, with occasional stops. The group met up again at picturesque Paterson. After touring the old town's notable sites, they converged on the historic Paterson Tavern for a hearty lunch.



The return journey was directed through Tocal, Bolwarra, Lorn and Maitland, before heading homewards. Fine weather, lush green countryside, historic scenery and pleasant company combined for an interesting and memorable excursion.

Friday 13th May:

A celebration of the 224th anniversary of the sailing of the FF from England on the 13th May 1777 will be held aboard a **Tall Ship Cruise** on Sydney Harbour which includes a BBQ lunch. Cruise departs Campbell's Cove, Circular Quay at 1.30pm sharp. Meet at the Cove at 1pm. Train departs Newcastle at 9:24am, Broadmeadow 9:33am, Fassifern 9:50am, Wyong 10:26am.

This outing has been well supported not only by our Chapter but by others from around the State. Let's hope the weather will be kind! Noelene reminds you to wear flat non-skid shoes and to wear name badges!

Other outings to look forward to:

Monday 18th July

A fully guided Tour of **Fort Scratchley** – they celebrate their 100 year anniversary in June.

Cost - \$8 (seniors). We will meet at the Fort at 10am for the 10:30am tour, for coffee and afterwards enjoy lunch on the Newcastle Foreshore. Pay at the June 20th meeting.

Sunday-Monday 28th/29th August

First Fleet Memorial Wallabadah.

A two day visit staying at Quirindi which is 16kms from Wallabadah. Motel "Henry's Guest House" is new and the cost is \$110 per room. Other points of interest include Quirindi Rural Heritage Village and an Australian Railway Monument and Rail Journeys Museum at Werris Creek. More details and final cost to be advised.

Thursday 15th September

A two hour historic guided tour of **Garden Island** in Sydney Harbour.

Note this a Thursday outing as it's the only day available for guided tours.

Cost \$15 includes morning tea. Tour departs rain, hail or shine and we are advised to take with us a hat, sunblock, jacket and umbrella, and to wear good walking shoes. Again all welcome. Lunch is available at Garden Island Café but must be booked.

Train departs: Newcastle 6:12 am, Broadmeadow 6:20, Cardiff 6:27, Fassifern 6:38 and Wyong 7:10am. City circle train to Circular Quay – should have time for a comfort stop and take-away coffee. Catch ferry at 10:05am from Wharf 4.

Monday 21st November

Our last outing for 2011

A guided tour of **Hyde Park Barracks Museum** with three exhibitions on display:

The Irish Orphans
World Heritage Australia
Convict Sydney

Cost \$5 seniors – pay at October meeting. We will meet at 10am at the Barracks and can enjoy lunch at the Barracks or close by.

At 2:15pm we can join a two hour cruise of Middle Harbour and under the Spit Bridge on a **Captain Cook Coffee Cruise**. Cost \$39 for seniors.

Hope you can join us for either or both!

Monday 12th December

Christmas Meeting and Lunch at Monet's Café. Lucky Door prizes, raffle, Christmas cake, etc.

Once again please contact Noelene for any additional information and to book your place or to organize payments on 49593702.

Your Invitation

You are cordially invited to our next meeting:

WHEN: Monday, 20th June

TIME: 10am for 10:30 start

WHERE: Senior Citizens Hall

153A Brunner Rd Adamstown

Parking also available at the rear of the Hall in Narara Road.

Guest Speaker: Suzanne Martin

Topic: The Story of Newcastle

Meeting Fee: \$5 p.p.

It would be appreciated if you could bring along a small plate to share as we enjoy fellowship over a light lunch.