



Fellowship of First Fleeters

Hunter Valley Chapter

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

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The Coal River Bulletin

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It seems hard to believe it was the time of year again for our Annual General Meeting to be held. Congratulations to the following elected Committee Members for the coming year:

President:	Barbara Turner
Vice President:	Cynthia Huggup
Treasurer:	Helen Pacey
Membership:	Cynthia Huggup
Publicity:	Lee de Bono
Librarian:	Don Huggup
Programmes:	Noelene Snowden
Web Master:	Phil Aubin
Newsletter Editor:	Judy Aubin



Our Chapter is once again in capable hands and we look forward to another interesting year with our fellow First Fleeters and friends. It was also great to see so many new faces at this meeting:

A very warm welcome to :

- Margaret Annan - who is already a member of the Fellowship - her FF ancestors are: Owen Cavenaugh and Margaret Darnell
- Terry Knowles - First Fleeters: Frederick Meredith, Thomas Acres and Eleanor Register
- Raquel Cameron - First Fleeters: Fredrick Meredith, Thomas Acres and Eleanor Register
- Chris Cooper - First Fleeter: Thomas Acres
- Peter Smith - First Fleeter: Thomas Acres
- Verna Lumby - Vera was Secretary of the previous HV Chapter with Ray Meredith and now will be a Friend of our Chapter as she has 2nd Fleet connections.

Our President and her sister stood alone in our Chapter as descendants of Thomas Acres but must now be thrilled to have found lots of new local "cousins" !!



Before our 'traditional' AGM Soup & Damper Lunch Phil Aubin presented a short power point account of his and Judy's two recent FF experiences in the UK. On the waterfront in Portsmouth they visited the site of the sculpture "Bonds of Friendship" – a memorial to the sailing of the First Fleet on 13th May 1787 unveiled by the Queen in 1980. A twin sculpture is found in Loftus Street, Sydney.

Phil & Judy's second FF experience was further north at the church of St. Nicholas in Bathampton. The 13th century church is typical of those found in villages scattered around England, with a side porch and square Bell tower with a clock.



Entering through the side porch there is a lovely timber railing of Tasmanian oak in front of you. Beneath this railing is the gravestone of Arthur Phillip and his wife Isabella. On the railing there is a F.F. plaque from 1985.

To the right is the Australian Chapel. Its two stained glass windows show the National Emblem of Australia plus the emblems of our 6 States. At the rear of the church, under the Bell Tower, is a display featuring a short history of the First Fleet. It shows the story of some of the convicts, the route taken by the eleven ships and the founding and early days of the new colony of NSW. The display is in its early stages of development and a church member who wandered in at the same time was delighted when Phil was able to pass on details of our FFF website for them to access. Hopefully visitors in the future will be able to see a greatly improved and more comprehensive display!



The Naval hierarchy in Arthur Phillip's Time:

Naval squadrons were ranked in order Red, White and Blue.
The Pecking order was:

Admiral of the Fleet

Admiral of the Red, Admiral of the White, Admiral of the Blue

Vice Admiral of the Red, Vice Admiral of the White, Vice Admiral of the Blue

Rear Admiral of the Red, Rear Admiral of the White, Rear Admiral of the Blue

So the final promotion of Arthur Phillip in June 1814 to Admiral of the Blue at that time placed him at Number four in the Royal Navy, quite an Honour.

Courtesy_Southern Highlands Chapter



There are two more outings for us to enjoy before the end of the year, in September and November:

Thursday 15th September

GARDEN ISLAND - Sydney Harbour

Cost: \$15 pp which includes morning tea on the island.

The tour goes ahead rain, hail or shine and we are requested to wear flat non-slip walking shoes and come prepared with a hat, jacket and umbrella!

Please note this is on a Thursday – the only day available for a Guided Tour!

Train departs Newcastle 6.12am, Broadmeadow 6.20, Cardiff 6.20, Fassifern 6.38am

We arrive Central 8.50am and catch the City Circle train to Circular Quay.

There will be time for a comfort stop and a quick take away coffee if desired!

We depart **Circular Quay Wharf 4** 10.05am and our guide will be waiting at the Garden Island Wharf. Lunch will also be available at the Island Café at our own expense.

Monday 21st November

HYDE PARK BARRACKS MUSEUM

There are 3 exhibitions on display:

Irish Orphans

World Heritage, Australia

Convict Sydney

Tour begins at the Barracks at 10.30am

Cost: \$5 seniors

Lunch is optional at the Barracks Cafe or close by.

After lunch there is also the opportunity to enjoy a two hour Captain Cook Coffee Cruise across Sydney Harbour to Middle Harbour via the Spit Bridge.

Meet at the Captain Cook Wharf at 2pm.

Cost: \$39 Seniors – Pay October meeting.

Visit to Fort Scratchley 18th July 2011



We gathered for a quick coffee at the Fort before meeting our guide who gave us a comprehensive tour of the buildings and fortifications before heading into the maze of tunnels. We were presented with so much history and information it is hard to know what to include.



The weather was again kind and the views of the city, beaches and Newcastle Harbour were amazing.



The hill on which the Fort stands began its maritime use in 1821 when a coal fired beacon guided ships safely into the harbour. The Fort itself was built in 1881 and James Barnett oversaw the project under the direction of Maj. Gen Sir William Jervois and Lt. Col. Peter Scratchley. Initially it was to protect the estuary of the Hunter River from any invasions by the Russians who were at odds with England at the time and later to maintain profits for the new Colony from the export of coal. A battery was established in 1822 but was regarded as being quite insignificant and earned the nickname 'Fort Fiddlesticks'.



Technology improved throughout the 20th century and the guns and emplacements were up-graded.



During WWII Newcastle came under attack from a Japanese submarine and the Fort's massive guns opened fire. Originally it was thought the Japanese were attacking BHP but their target was actually a shipyard on the opposite side of the Harbour. The Fort has the honour of being the only one in Australia to have been involved in a Maritime attack.

When entering the tunnels they seemed like an endless white and lime-washed maze. Our guide explained that it was quite a logical layout based on the movement of explosives from the magazine to the gun emplacements above. The passages were also strategically designed to hinder the results of an unforeseen explosion or fire.



The Military vacated in 1972 and in 1977 Newcastle City Council entered into a lease with the Commonwealth and it became home to the Maritime Museum.

In 2004 the Fort was closed for renovations but progress stalled for a number of reasons. The Federal Government increased its funding to almost \$10 million in 2007 and the Fort was re-opened to visitors in 2008.





Several of our members are recovering from surgery:

Special thoughts go to Judith Pepper and Don Huggup.

Also to those of us who are suffering from the winter ills and chills especially George Wilson

We hope all are up and about soon and feeling fit and well!



As I was out of the country at the time of the last meeting our birthday greetings in this Newsletter cover quite a few months!

Greetings and many happy returns to the following!

July

- 2nd Judith Sphiros
- 4th Dom Swinkles
- 9th Beth Brooker
- 10th Joy Pinkerton
- 23rd Elizabeth Guildford

August

- 5th Robert Carter
- 13th Raquel Cameron
- 26th Lee DeBono

September

- 3rd Andrew Pacey
- 7th Malcolm Burns
- 11th Nancy Carter
- 12th Daphne Hughes
- 15th George Pinkerton
- 20th Judy Aubin
- 30th Garry Ballhouse

Your Editor, Judy Aubin

Your Invitation

You are cordially invited to our next meeting:

WHEN: Monday, 17th October

TIME: 10am for 10:30 start

WHERE: Senior Citizens Hall
153A Bruncker Rd Adamstown

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

Guest Speaker: Sister Andrea Myers

TOPIC: F.F. Joseph Trimby

Meeting Fee: \$5 p.p.

Please bring along a small plate to share as we enjoy fellowship over a light lunch.

We will also celebrate Arthur Phillip's October birthday



It would also be appreciated if you could bring along a donation or two for our Christmas Hampers which will be raffled at Monet's during our luncheon.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

Monday 12th December

Once again we will enjoy our final meeting for the year at "Monets" Café in the grounds of James Fletcher Hospital, Watt St. Newcastle. There will be lucky door prizes, and a raffle. Why not enjoy a piece of Christmas cake and a chocolate or two with coffee to complete our Lunch.

BYO. Bookings are open but there are more details to come as to the Menu etc.

We have received an invitation to join the Central Coast Chapter who are visiting Cockatoo Island on Wednesday 9th November. There is no entry fee and if you are interested please bring a picnic lunch. They are catching the 6.35 am train.

For details of this or any other outing please ring Noelene on 49 593702

Many years ago in England, pub patrons had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get service Hence the phrase "Wet your Whistle".