

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

Newsletter No: 28 - October 2012

At our October meeting we were sorry to announce several of our Committee members were having on-going health problems including President Barbara who, while being able to attend this meeting for a short while, requested to sit quietly in the background.

Our Vice President Cynthia was in Sydney with Librarian Don who is having on-going care there. Several others are also in line for treatments and operations so our best wishes go to all during their on-going health issues.

Our Publicity officer, Lee, is overseas so as a result I found myself, as your Newsletter Editor, at the helm just for today!

It was a pleasure to note that Athol and Bettye Searston had been given badges with their membership numbers. We also welcomed Val Davies to the meeting - her FF being Jane Poole. Also great to hear of a new little First Fleeter, Ruby Copelin - congratulations to the family - especially to proud granddad Bruce Agland.

Our new catering system began today under the guidance of Helen & Beth. Many thanks to those on the roster as all went very smoothly.

As usual at our October meeting we once again recognised the birth date of our first Governor, Arthur Phillip.



Today Phil Aubin centred his Power Point presentation on Arthur Phillip's early life and Naval career before and after his involvement with the First Fleet.

A brief summary follows later in the newsletter.

Of course the main topic for discussion today was the dedication of the FF plaque at the Glebe Cemetery for Joseph Trimby on the 12th of November.

After lots of time and effort everything is falling into place and sincere thanks must go to both Ray Meredith and our secretary Yvonne Bradley. These events just don't happen without such dedicated people working behind the scenes.

A quick reminder to meet at the Maher Street gate at 10.30am where you will be escorted to the seating area. Light refreshments will be served at St. Stephens Church, William Street in East Maitland after the dedication service. See your previous invitation for details and map.



Here is a summary of Phil's presentation.

Arthur Phillip **11th October 1738 - 31st August 1814**

Phil began with Arthur Phillip's childhood years. From age 13 he was educated at the Greenwich Hospital School for poor boys and sons of seamen. (He was accepted there as a student due to his mother's family connections.)



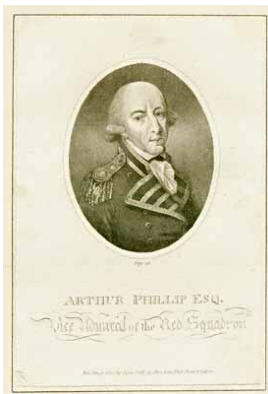
At 15 he was apprenticed to the merchant Navy but after 2 years was released to enter the Royal Navy as a captain's servant. He was an Able Seaman at 17 years of age and saw action in the Seven Years War during which time he was promoted to Lieutenant. In 1763 he married Margaret, widow of a wealthy merchant John Denison, but the marriage was not a happy one - they had separated by 1769.

He transferred to the Portuguese Navy and served there with distinction but by 1778 Britain was again at war and Phillip returned to the English Navy. Two years later he obtained his first command, going to India, but saw no action. He spent a year in France before being appointed the first governor of NSW.

As we all know well the story of the First Fleet and Arthur's time as Governor, Phil took up Arthur's story when he returned to England in poor health, in 1793. He resigned as Governor soon after. His first wife had died in 1792 and in 1794 Arthur re-married, to Isabella Whitehead, and they lived in retirement at 19 Bennett Street, Bath.

By 1796 Arthur had sufficiently recovered his health to resume active naval duties and steadily advanced in the naval hierarchy until in January 1799 he became a Rear-Admiral of the Blue. He retired from the Navy in 1805, aged 67 and spent most of his later life at Bath.

He died on 31st August 1814, three months after receiving his last promotion to Admiral of the Blue. He left an estate worth about £25,000 and is buried in St. Nicholas Anglican Church, Bathampton.

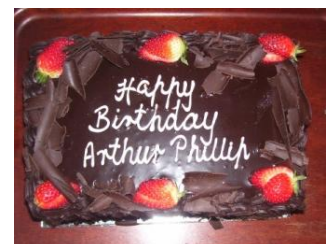


Percival Searle wrote:

'Steadfast in mind, modest, without self-seeking, Phillip had imagination enough to conceive what the settlement might become and the good sense to realize what at the moment was possible and expedient. When almost everyone was complaining he never himself complained, when all feared disaster he could still hopefully go on with his work. He was sent out to found a convict settlement; he laid the foundations of a great dominion.'

Of course no birthday celebration is complete without cutting a cake. Guest Speaker Phil did the honours!

Jokes about German sausage are the worst.
I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool!



Your Editor, Judy Aubin

Our outing on Friday 21st September was a very busy one with visits to both the Newcastle Museum and the Maritime Museum. Fortunately they are close by to each other!

We began with a cuppa at the Newcastle Museum followed by an entertaining tour and brief explanation of the layout. We then “experienced” the BHP exhibition – it was **loud**, visual and really put us inside a steel-making furnace house. A great display! John Risby then shared more of his inside knowledge of BHP over the years - we were really impressed to hear that at the Newcastle plant, with the introduction of oxygen to the steel making process in the early 1960s, they were producing 200 tons of pure steel every 45 mins compared with 8 hours from the old open hearth furnaces.



John really gave us food for thought when he asked:



“What if BHP had never come to Newcastle?”

There would have been no associated industries such as Comm Steel, Lysaghts, Rylands, Tubemakers, Newbolds, or Brambles all of which provided employment to many thousands. The support businesses which serviced these industries wouldn’t exist and logically no Technical College would have been required to train apprentices – and it follows on that there would be no university or hospitals such as we have today. Also there would be no Air Force base at Williamtown as this was established to protect the steel making industry during the war. We must certainly thank BHP for the city of Newcastle which we know and love today!

After enjoying lunch at the Museum Café it was time to visit the Maritime Museum located nearby, and appropriately right on the Harbour. Newcastle port and harbour has so much history as Newcastle was the second settlement in the new Colony of NSW providing coal, lime and cedar to Sydney. Coal from our port was the first commercial export, even if it was only for a profit of £2/4/6!

We were particularly interested in the huge number of sailing ships that regularly used the port in the early days – however until Nobbys was joined to the mainland to provide a safe entrance to the harbour hundreds of ships founded off the coast. Even in modern times, with an extreme weather pattern, shipping can be in danger - we all remember the Pasha Bulker!



The 1:50 model of the “*Sirius*” had us all thinking of the skills and bravery of its sailors as they found their way to establish a penal colony on the other side of the world.

There was also a piece of iron ballast from the “*Endeavour*” on display.

By this stage we were beginning to wilt – so with many thanks to volunteer Iain for his interesting tour we called an end to this very informative day.



Christmas Luncheon

17th December 2012



Central Charlestown Leagues Club

\$31.50 pp

**Includes 2 course Christmas Dinner plus 2 drinks per person
The menu is Turkey or Pork, Christmas Pudding or pavlova**

Meeting 10.30 am followed by lunch

Tea/coffee on arrival

There will also be a Tombola

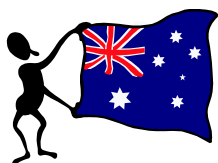
It is not too late to let us know you are able to come along!

The deadline is 1st December

Please send your payment to our Treasurer Helen Pacey
1 Melbourne Road, Broadmeadow. 2292



..... *Up-coming events for 2013*



**FIRST IN THE NEW YEAR WILL BE OUR AUSTRALIA DAY INFORMATION
STALL AT THE NEWCASTLE FORESHORE**

Details later !!

*In the planning is an outing for March 2013 - a visit to the heritage listed
Cockatoo Island, the largest island in Sydney Harbour.*



There are weekday tours available but we plan to join the Tour
"Convicts of Cockatoo"
which is run only on Sundays. Again details at a later date.



Birthday greetings and very best wishes to:

Bruce Agland	12 th October	Brittany Pacey	22 nd October
Judith Pepper	28 th October	Rhondda Glass	29 th October
Neil Pacey	29 th October	Colleen Simpson	2 nd November
Noelene Snowden	5 th November	Athol Searston	8 th November
John Brooker	9 th November	Albert Burgman	21 st November
Brian Appleyard	26 th November	Robert Fraser	27 th November
Ray Meredith	30 th November	Barbara Turner	1 st December
Helen Pacey	1 st December	Mary Woodlands	1 st December
Sam Pacey	2 nd December	Bettye Searston	4 th December
Barbara Trigg	5 th December	Helen Moore	10 th December
Shirley Anderson	20 th December	Cynthia Huggup	22 nd December
John Turner	24 th December	Don Huggup	26 th December

