



# Fellowship of First Fleeters Hunter Valley Chapter

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

All correspondence to: 1 Higham Rd. Hillsborough 2290

[www.firstfleetershunter.com.au](http://www.firstfleetershunter.com.au)

President:  
Jane van Woerkom  
Ph: 49676332

Vice President  
Barbara Gow  
Ph: 042730140

Membership:  
Cynthia Huggup  
Ph: 49558045

Secretary:  
Barbara Turner  
Ph: 49439105

Treasurer:  
Helen Pacey  
Ph: 40234979



## The Coal River Bulletin

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ANZAC MEETING - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016



Following our general business meeting the Last Post was played and the ODE repeated. In keeping with the ANZAC spirit our special Guest Speaker was Brian Boughton who has a most impressive background in the Military and service to the RSL - as recorded in our Newsletter of May 2015.

Brian returned to our Chapter to give us a follow-up of the Hunter School Children's Tour to Centenary Services in Gallipoli in 2015. The goal was to take 20 children and 4 teachers representing 20 schools from Beresfield to Murrurundi. No other district in NSW took part. There were 104 applicants - 5 children from each school were selected to participate in a further selection process which resulted in one student from each of the 20 schools being selected – not an easy task!



Prior to the trip one of the "bonding" events was a 4 day trip to Canberra visiting the War Memorial and Military Archives. Each student was given a task to follow the history of a specific WW1 soldier who died at Gallipoli. When in Gallipoli the students were to find the grave of the soldier they had researched and then share his history with everyone. Other visitors present were amazed at the group's knowledge resulting in the children having quite a following as they moved from cemetery to cemetery. They were indeed impressive ambassadors for Australia.

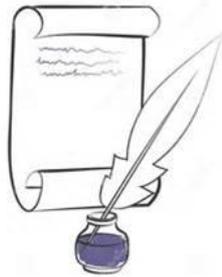
Brian is also the Chief Marshall of the ANZAC Parade in Sydney this year. A major problem developed as George Street is now being dug up for the new light rail system. The parade had to be re-routed to a street wide enough for the 8-abreast-marchers plus their banners and for those in wheelchairs - as well as having pavements wide enough to accommodate the crowds. Elizabeth Street was chosen. The Marshalls always march at the rear of the Parade.

Brian reminded us that the RSL is a Community Welfare Organisation assisting all veterans and their families in need. When sold the RSL Clubs retained the RSL name, but have no monitory connection to the RSL itself. Some clubs already have changed their name to 'Digger' Clubs. The year 2016 is the Australian RSL Centenary - except in NSW - who didn't participate until 1917.



Vice President Barbara thanks Brian for his presentation

From the President's pen,



Hello to all Hunter Valley Chapter members, associates and friends, As we approach the month of May and the 229<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Fleet sailing from Portsmouth on May 13<sup>th</sup> we at the Hunter Valley Chapter of FFF'ers, look to the end of the first quarter of the 2016 year and like all good historians take stock of the events of the Chapter over the past four months. Having passed the earlier Australia Day period which for some it was celebrated the FFF lunch at the Hyde Park Pullman. Fittingly, on this subject we acknowledge the commitment of our outgoing Australia Day organisers and committee members, Delma and Malcolm Burns and again express our thanks for their work over the past several years.

The month of February saw us presented with the wondrous world of convict clothing through the presentation given to us by our guest speaker Rosemary "Rope" Roberts. Rosemary brought to life, materially, the topic of "the clothing of the convicts". This event was in this in turn followed up by the chapter's Outing to Wollombi and the Historic Home Mulla Villa. The township name Wollombi, is derived from the Aboriginal word meaning "meeting place and/or meeting of the waters" and was appropriate as our gathering place for lunch at Mulla Villa. We enjoyed the benefits of a well organised and planned day by Beverly Pace on the lands of the Darkinjung people, with the local cemetery the resting place for connected family of several of the chapter's members. Mulla Villa, was once the home of poet Eliza Dunlop, noted friend of the Darkinjung indigenous inhabitants. Eliza was also wife to the longstanding magistrate of the area. For this reintroduction to this community we owe thanks to Beverley Pace and to Barbara Gow herself a Rope-Pulley descendant.

With the passing of the Easter period many acknowledged the season of peace and rebirth as we moved forward to another remembrance through the April meeting's guest speaker Brian Boughton. Brian, CSM, OAM and decorated Conspicuous Service Cross, presented a report of the local RSL initiative to send a group of students to Centenary memorial at Gallipoli. This was achieved in 2015. Accompanying Brian's talk was a simple HVC ANZAC ceremony enhanced by sprigs of Rosemary and a wonderful audio visual presentation by Don. An added treat was coffee with ANZAC biscuits provided by our members Cynthia and Delma. Fittingly at this time we remember several members who have passed away, Pat Meredith wife of a former President in the chapter's first incarnation, Ray Meredith and member Eric Trigg.

As the HV Chapter moves towards the next quarter of 2016 we look forward to supporting "Aunty" with our trip to the ABC Studio at Ultimo and participating in the dedication service of a First Fleeters, Memorial Garden at Eastern Sydney Memorial Park. As well plans are underway to acknowledge our June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and 9th Anniversary of Chapter formation. Cake to be shared!

Finally, the June meeting will bring the Chapter's year almost full circle and we ask all members who may be interested in taking up an executive position, as a member of committee, to consider nominating for any positions that may become vacant and will be advertised at the by the June meeting. Special wishes of good health are sent to several of our members who have been a little indisposed and for some unable to attend events or several meetings, including Yvonne, Helen, John and Beth, Bert, and our Barbara's (1 and 2)

Until the next edition may you all enjoy the last rays of Autumn and rug up for the winter ahead.

Jane van Woerkom  
President 2014-16

## Newcastle Obelisk

In 1819 the Commandant at Newcastle, Colonel Morisset, appealed to Governor Lachlan Macquarie for permission to erect a windmill to grind flour for the settlement. By the end of 1820, the mill was completed and was known as the Government Flour Mill. During strong winds it would grind 10 bushels of wheat per hour.



Painting of Newcastle in the 1800's showing the windmill

As it was situated upon a prominent knoll the windmill was visible for many miles along the coast, and became a guiding mark for the masters of sailing crafts approaching the port of Newcastle. In 1847 it was decommissioned being superseded by new mills at Maitland and Morpeth. It was submitted to auction to be demolished and was purchased by a Newcastle resident.

The action roused a storm of protest in shipping quarters where it was claimed that the old windmill was an important guiding mark for mariners entering the harbour. Petitions were at once forwarded to the Governor but the purchaser speeded up his demolishing work and had the building down before the Government could cancel the sale. However, continued agitation by the ship owners compelled the Government to act and, and in 1850 the **Obelisk** was erected on the spot where the old windmill stood.



The Hill and Obelisk.

The hill of the obelisk also hides a water reservoir. Plaques around the site today share a lot of information about the history of water supply to Newcastle.

In 1906 pillars of old mine workings collapsed leading to a land creep across the hill. A commission of enquiry led to the establishment of what we now call the Mine Subsidence Board.

Obelisk hill is now a popular park and lookout with expansive 360° views over the lower Hunter area.

The Obelisk has suffered damage at various times in its history from lightning strikes and was also seriously damaged during the earthquake in 1989 but has been authentically restored after each event.





## Up-coming dates

**\*\*May 16<sup>th</sup>**

### Outing to the ABC Ultimo.

Only one change from our original plan: Due to a fire in the eating area at Central Station there are no suitable facilities for us to enjoy morning tea there. When we arrive at Central, after a quick comfort stop, we will take the underground walkway directly to the ABC and have morning tea in their Café.

Train details are the same: 2<sup>nd</sup> carriage from the rear: leaving Hamilton at 8.25am, Broadmeadow 8.28 and Cardiff 8.36 arriving Central at 10.56am.

Please contact President Jane if you have any queries.

**There will be no outing in July as the weather is usually cold and unpleasant.**

**\*\* General Meeting - August 15<sup>th</sup>**

The well known Newcastle Historian ED TONKS is our Guest Speaker.

Topic: "Beneath Tidal Waters"

**\*\* Outing – 12<sup>th</sup> September**

Visit to First Fleet House Sydney  
We will again travel to Central by train.  
Details at a later date.



### **April**

9<sup>th</sup> Nola Field & Bob Walker

10<sup>th</sup> Dianne Stepa & Carolyn Watson

13<sup>th</sup> Barry Chaff, 16<sup>th</sup> Isabella Pacey

26<sup>th</sup> Ian Smith, 30<sup>th</sup> Sister Andrea Myers

### **May**

5<sup>th</sup> Bruce Donaldson & Ray Green

14<sup>th</sup> Terry Musgrave, 17<sup>th</sup> Gail Jacobs

17<sup>th</sup> Phil Aubin, 26<sup>th</sup> Jeanette Green,

27<sup>th</sup> Margaret Moulson, 28<sup>th</sup> Beverley Pace

29<sup>th</sup> Carl Rose & Jim Kable

*You are cordially invited to  
Our next general meeting*

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**We will be celebrating our**

**9<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!**

**Where:**

Senior Citizens Hall  
Brunker Rd. Adamstown

**Time:**

10 for 10.30am

**Guest Speaker:**

Christine Bramble

**Topic:**

"Great War Nurses from the Hunter"

Tea & coffee on arrival

**Cost:** \$5 pp. Please bring a small plate of finger food to share as we celebrate our 9<sup>th</sup> birthday lunch.

**There will also be a 9<sup>th</sup> birthday cake for us to enjoy too!**

Kitchen Roster:

Morning Tea: Margaret Green

Lunch: Cynthia Huggup & Jan Halson

A Pommy bloke fronts up to Australia House in London to get a visa to visit his family in Australia.

One of the questions asked:  
"Do you have a criminal record?"



He sighs and asks:  
"Is that STILL a requirement?"