

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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HEAR YE !! HEAR YE !!

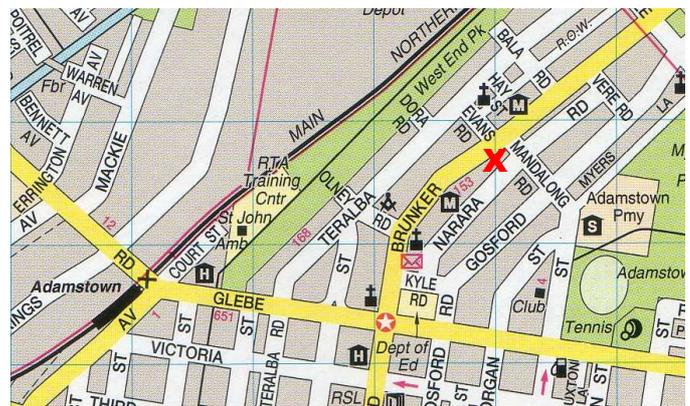


Our Hunter Chapter has a New Home!

WHERE?

**The Adamstown Senior Citizens Hall
153A Bruncker Road, Adamstown**

Considerable time and effort put in by our Executive Committee (following up your suggestions and visiting prospective new venues) has resulted in us going from not having an alternate venue but to having two that suited us quite well. It was agreed that the most suitable was the Adamstown Senior Citizens Hall which was purpose built for gatherings and meetings such as ours. It is a light airy room with an excellent kitchen and facilities but most importantly easier parking.



It is planned to hold our next meeting on 19th April at the new venue.

The meeting format will remain the same – only the venue is changed!

The Hall is opposite MGH Packaging and can be accessed from either the front of the building in Bruncker Road or from the rear in Narara Road (the nearest cross street is Mandalong Road). Our Guest Speaker will be Sue Ryan, History Research Librarian, Newcastle City Library.



Our year certainly began on a high note! Our plans to become involved in the Australia Day celebrations on the Newcastle Foreshore fell into place and we all agreed it was a great success.

Many thanks to all members who gave their time to make this venture work - those who put so much time and effort into the planning stage - those who helped set up and decorate our stall early in the morning and those who gave their time to chat with interested passers by during the day. Our presence certainly created a lot of interest!



It was a lovely day and our Council allocated site was in a perfect position with the lovely Newcastle Harbour behind us and the Ceremony for those becoming Australian Citizens in front of us.

It was also the first time our new Hunter Chapter banner was on display!



As with any new venture we learnt a great deal to carry forward for next year!!

Family and friends of members also joined us throughout the day making it a relaxed and most enjoyable social occasion as well.

GENERAL MEETING 15TH FEBRUARY

In keeping with our policy to celebrate important "first events" of the new settlement as close to the original date as possible, John Brooker, at our meeting today, remembered the first Church Service held in the colony. The first Church Service was conducted by the Rev. Richard Johnson on the 3rd February, 1788 under a tree in what is today Memorial Park. John read the Lords Prayer, the Prayer for Peace and the Prayer for Grace from an old copy of the *Common Book of Prayer* which would have been similar to the one used by Rev Johnson on that occasion.

Rev. Johnson and his wife Mary sailed with the First Fleet aboard one of the three store ships, the "Golden Grove". Among the books he brought with him were 100 Bibles and Prayer Books and 400 copies of the New Testament and hundreds of miscellaneous writings for good conduct and behaviour as well as writings for children. He was Chaplain in the Colony for 12 years.

John also mentioned that the first simple buildings were begun in Sydney Cove on January 27th but unfortunately these huts were destroyed during a wild storm on February 2nd! Apparently not much has changed in our unpredictable summer weather!

The first seeds planted in the colony (limes, lemons, etc) were unfortunately eaten by rats. This led to a planting on Garden Island to supply the Sirius. At a later date a Colony vegetable garden was established on Clark Island as well.

Among the goods brought on the three Store Ships were the following:

- 135 Tierces of beef
- 165 Tierces of pork
- 50 Puncheons of bread
- 5 Puncheons of rum
- 110 Frinkins of butter
- 8 Bram of rice

Any suggestions as to what these measures mean in today's terms?

Our Guest Speaker on the 15th was, Jenny Myers, President of the Lake Macquarie Family History Group. This Group is around 10 years old and has 80 members. They offer help with research at the Marmong Point Community Hall on the first Wednesday of each month and also at the Speers Point Library on Fridays between 9.30am and 1pm.



The Lake Macquarie Family History Group has completed Transcriptions of both the Charlestown and Belmont Cemeteries - but their biggest project so far has been the Publication of Transcripts (many resourced from information on old paper scraps) of St. Matthews Church, Windsor. Windsor became a Parish in its own right in 1813 when it was separated from the Hawkesbury Parish. It took the Group six years to produce the four volumes - 5 books in all. These books can be found in most Libraries.

Jenny was a font of information concerning family history, giving us many hints on Web sites and contacts that could prove interesting or useful when tracing our ancestors.

She also recommends typing the word "thesis", plus your ancestors name, on Google – she was amazed to find new information on a family convict which had been included in a Thesis (on another topic) by a student at Newcastle University.

Another interesting Thesis she recommended reading was from Edinburgh University: "The Left Behind" This is a history of families left behind in the UK when relatives were transported to the Colonies.

The Group has also produced a book on the Pioneers of Lake Macquarie. We were all very interested in her wealth of information and continued talking informally over lunch.

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OUTINGS FOR YOUR DIARY

March 15th: Our next social outing will go ahead as planned even though our hostess, Irma, has recently broken her arm! We are all looking forward to meeting at our hostess's home at 10am for morning tea. This will be about an hour's drive for most of us. If you would like to join us but have no transport please contact Barbara as there will be members going with seats to spare.

After morning tea, at approximately 11am, we will drive to the Port Stephens Historical Museum to watch a video on early aboriginal life in the area. From the Museum it's a short walk to the Port Stephens Coastal Patrol where, after an inspection, we will enjoy a sandwich lunch (\$6.50 – tea/coffee extra). Around 2pm we will visit the local Library to hear from the President of the Tomaree Family History Group.

Contact the President for details.

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Monday 17th May:

A four hour "Postman Cruise" on the Historic Postman Ferry on the Hawkesbury River.

(Details over)

The Ferry departs from Brooklyn at 9.30am and returns about 1.15pm. Cost is \$40 Pensioners, \$50 adults including morning tea. Lunch on our return is at own expense.

There is a train to Brooklyn departing Broadmeadow 6.57am, Cardiff 7.07am and Fassifern 7.21am, arriving Brooklyn 8.46am. There is also plenty of free parking in Brooklyn. There are stairs at Brooklyn station. Return train from Brooklyn is at 2.45pm - changing at Gosford at 3.53pm.

In 1790 the Hawkesbury became the lifeline of trade between the farming communities and the struggling Colony of Sydney. The skipper will provide a unique knowledgeable commentary while we glide of the glassy waters (??) of the river in a traditional timber frame ferry boat.

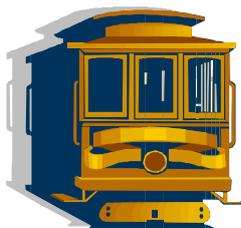
The Hawkesbury is the longest river on the east coast of Australia – this historic riverboat Postman has been running since 1910 providing an essential service to the river communities, delivering daily mail, milk, groceries, newspapers, etc.

If you haven't already done so, please contact Noelene to confirm your attendance – she is happy to receive SMS messages!

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Monday 20th July:

Newcastle's famous "TRAM" tour of the inner City – departs Newcastle Railway Station 11am. Cost \$15.00 pp.



We will enjoy lunch on the Newcastle Foreshore followed by a visit to the Newcastle Maritime Museum.

Monday 20th September:

Historic Victoria Barracks
Oxford Street, Sydney. Free entry.
Train to Central Station and return bus from the Eddy Avenue entrance.

Monday 15th November:

As November is such a lovely time to be on Sydney Harbour, Noelene is trying to organise a tour of Historic Goat Island. This Island has been closed to the Public now for 3 years and if still closed perhaps a visit to Fort Denison.

Details closer to the dates.

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Noelene has put a lot of time and effort into organising our social outings which are always interesting! We really do appreciate it - thank you Noelene for working so hard on our behalf.



Another special date for your Diary:

Friday 28th May :

The new window display at Fellowship House in Sydney will be unveiled – all are welcome to be there for this special occasion.



Birthdays



Greetings & best wishes to:

Yvonne
Carole
Irma

21st January
23rd February
12th March