

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:
Cynthia Huggup
Ph. 49558045

Secretary:
Yvonne Bradley
Ph. 49574758

Treasurer:
Judith Pepper
Ph. 49584043



The Coal River Bulletin

April 2010



Our meeting on April 19th was the first held in our new venue at the Adamstown Senior Citizens Hall.

It really became a new beginning (as suggested on our celebration cake) with new faces as well as a new home. A very warm welcome to :

Brian Appleyard and his wife
F.F. William Douglas - *Alexander*

Jean & Kurt Beck
F.F. Owen Cavanagh (Seaman) - *Sirius*
F.F. Margaret Darling - *Prince of Wales*

Lee De Bono
F.F. Phebe Flarty - *Prince of Wales*

Robert Fraser
F.F. Ann Forbes - *Prince of Wales*

George & Joy Pinkerton
F.F. Owen Cavanagh - *Sirius*
F.F. Mary Groves - *Prince of Wales*

Pat Smith
F.F. Susannah Huffnel - *Lady Penrhyn*
F.F. SG William Baker - *Charlotte*

Bob Stevens & Glenys Palmer
F.F. John Nicholls – *Scarborough*

Dom & Wendy Swinkels
F.F. John Small - *Charlotte*
F.F. Mary Parker - *Lady Penrhyn*

Wilga & George Wilson
F.F. Frederick Meredith – *Scarborough*

We look forward to you joining us at our future meetings and outings.

At our last meeting we also had the pleasure of welcoming two visitors:

John Risby
F.F. Edward Risby - *Alexander*

Kevin Myers.
F.F. William Douglas - *Alexander*
F.F. Mary Groves – *Prince of Wales*

We were so pleased you both came along to the meeting at our previous venue and look forward to seeing you again at Adamstown.

*** If anyone would like help in confirming their F.F. ancestry, or if your family tree is complete and you need assistance with the necessary documentation to register as a member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, please contact our Membership Officer, Cynthia, at the next meeting or call her on 4955 8045.

While we were all enjoying a light lunch after the meeting, Cynthia Huggup shared with us some of the “firsts” that occurred during March, April and May of 1788.

6th March: Lieutenant Philip Gidley King takes formal possession of Norfolk Island and takes convicts and marines with him to set up the settlement.

In March, brick making also began under the instruction of James Bloodsworth. The site was to become known as the Brickfield. The approximate area is at the lower end of George Street, now known as Haymarket. Bloodsworth was placed in charge of a gang of labourers who were responsible for the erection of the first brick huts built by May 1788.

1st April: Neutral Bay was named.
From David Collins diary:

“The governor thinking it probable that foreign ships might again visit this coast, and perhaps run into this harbour for the purpose of procuring refreshments, directed Mr. Blackburn to survey a large bay on the north shore, contiguous to this cove, and a sufficient depth of water being found, His Excellency inserted in the port orders that all foreign ships coming into this harbour should anchor in this bay, which he named Neutral Bay.”

15th April: Governor Phillip explores northwards to Manly and sights the Blue Mountains.

16th April: The first map of Sydney is drawn. This map is believed to have been drawn by First Fleet convict Francis Fowkes.

23rd April: Governor Phillip explores the site of Parramatta that he called Rose Hill.

23rd May: Two convicts were the first people killed by Aboriginal people. This occurred at Rushcutters Bay.

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Thank you also to those who made contact re the old weights and measures challenge – those who responded agreed as follows:

TIERCE = one third of a pipe or 159 litres

PUNCHEON = large cask about 500 litres

FRINKIN ?? thought it should read

FIRKIN = 9 gallons or 41 litres

*But no suggestions surfaced for a **BRAM***

Your Editor, Judy



OUTINGS FOR YOUR DIARY

At 4.00am on Sunday 13th May 1787 the First Fleet set sail from Portsmouth to establish a British Colony on the far side of the world, an 8 month voyage. There was no ceremony or fanfare as it was still two hours to daybreak.



We will meet at the Kotara Bowling Club for lunch Thursday May 13th at 12.30pm to acknowledge this important date in our First Fleet history. Ring Yvonne 49574758. All welcome. Hope to see you there !!

Monday May 17th

Historic Hawkesbury Postman Ferry

Four hour cruise includes morning tea and commentary by the Captain. Cost: \$40pp
Departs Brooklyn 9.30am sharp – plenty of parking available if travelling there by car.
Train departs Newcastle at 6.47am, Broadmeadow 6.57am, Fassifern 7.21am.
Arrives Brooklyn 8.46am - time for a coffee!
Lunch at own expense on return ?fish & chips which are apparently excellent there.

Monday July 19th

Newcastle Tram & Maritime Museum

Tram Departs Newcastle Station - 11am
Cost \$15pp – 1 hour tour with Commentary.
Lunch in a café on the Harbour Foreshore followed by a visit to the Maritime Museum.

Thursday September 9th

Guided Tour Victoria Barracks

Oxford Street, Sydney


Tour starts 10.30am sharp

Tea & Coffee available

We will enjoy lunch together in the area.

Bookings for any of the above are essential. Please contact Noelene on 49593702

Mobile 0403668563

	<h3>Birthdays</h3> <p>Greetings & best wishes to:</p> <table><tr><td>Bruce D</td><td>May 5th</td></tr><tr><td>Phil A</td><td>May 17th</td></tr><tr><td>Phillip A</td><td>June 6th</td></tr><tr><td>Jacqueline B</td><td>June 15th</td></tr><tr><td>Yvonne B</td><td>June 19th</td></tr></table>	Bruce D	May 5 th	Phil A	May 17 th	Phillip A	June 6 th	Jacqueline B	June 15 th	Yvonne B	June 19 th
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We were also pleasantly surprised to have Paul Lobb from our local TV Station NBN call in with a cameraman. He interviewed President Barbara, our Guest Speaker (yours truly by default) and a *first time visitor* Joyce Pinkerton. I hope you all caught it on the news that evening. We were delighted with the way the segment was put together with graphics of some of the FF ships plus our comments and Paul's narrative - very informative - and there has been excellent feedback.

Our planned Guest Speaker for this meeting was unable to attend because of illness so I had happily agreed to bring my First Fleeter, Ann Forbes, into the spotlight. She has been waiting in the wings for just such an opportunity! Probably not so far into the spotlight as she (and I) envisaged with the arrival of NBN !! The following is an abbreviated account of my presentation on F.F. Ann Forbes



Ann Forbes story begins in London in the late 18th Century when Ann appeared in court at Kingston-on-Thames with Lydia Munro on a charge of stealing 10 yards of printed cotton valued at 60 shillings. Any theft over the value of £1 or 20 shillings

was a hanging offence, so when the two were found guilty they were sentenced to hang and left languishing in a London prison.

At that time prisoners were being sought for the expedition to found the new colony in New South Wales and there was also considerable concern about the lack of females assigned to take part in this voyage. Ann and Lydia were selected as two of the 183 females to make this first journey and accordingly their sentences were commuted to transportation – Lydia for 14 years and Ann for 7 – implying Ann was the Junior partner in crime.

They were assigned to the only all-female convict ship of the fleet the "Prince of Wales" As with all female convicts Ann had no rights and no protection and probably in company with most female convicts, decided she needed the protection of a "relationship".

Her first association was with George Bannister, occupation listed as Sawyer, who was transported on the "Charlotte". They had a daughter, Sarah who possibly died in infancy as she was not listed as a passenger when Ann was transferred to Norfolk Island in March 1790.

Her next known association was some 3 years later with fellow convict William Dring who had arrived on Norfolk two years prior to Ann. About 6 days after Ann arrived on Norfolk the "Sirius" was wrecked on the reef.

William Dring and another convict volunteered to swim out to the wreck to assist with the salvage which they accomplished well but then distinguished themselves by drinking too much of the rum on board and accidentally set fire to the wreck.

The next we hear of Ann she was married to William Dring in a mass ceremony conducted by Rev. Johnson in November 1791. Their first child was a daughter Ann, followed by a second, Elizabeth, and 2 years later a son Charles.

The family returned to Sydney in November 1794 – their elder daughter Ann had died and both William and their son Charles disappeared from the records without explanation.

Ann's third association was with Thomas (Jones) Huxley who was transported with the 3rd fleet on the "Salamander". Due to the desperate shortage of food and supplies in Sydney the ship was ordered directly to Norfolk Island. We know nothing of what happened to Thomas there but given the size of the settlement it is likely Thomas and Ann became acquainted during this period.

Thomas didn't return to Sydney until two 2 years after Ann by which time he had served out his sentence and was granted land at Mulgrave Place (near Windsor) in 1798..... Subsequently in the 1806 Muster Ann is recorded as housekeeper to Thomas Huxley and clearly was more than a housekeeper as five children were listed with the surname Huxley at that time.

In the 1821 Census they are listed as being married and had had 10 children. They later also farmed 70 acres at Paradise Point at the junction of the Hawkesbury and Colo Rivers and possibly also held land in the Sutherland area.



Kronheim C. 1875

*From the 10 known surviving children of Ann Forbes there were at least **115 known grandchildren**. In this regard she was one of the treasures of the new colony, bringing strong and healthy genes to pass onto future generations.*

Ann nearly, but not quite, took the honour of being the last of the First Fleeters to pass away. She died in 1851 at the age of 80 – but her colleague in crime back in London, Lydia Munro, who had settled in Tasmania, survived Ann by a further 5 years. This is quite amazing as the average life expectancy for the 1st generation was 44 years.

Ann is buried in the St. Thomas CofE graveyard at Sackville Reach on the Hawkesbury. There is a First Fleeter's plaque on her tombstone.

President Barbara reports on our last Chapter outing on 15th March.

An outstanding visit to Port Stephens was organized by our member Irma Foster.

On Monday 15th March we met at Irma's home for a very lavish morning tea with glorious views over the Bay.



Irma & Web Master Phil enjoying a coffee on Irma's deck

Irma then whisked us off to the Coast Guard Patrol now named "Marine Rescue" where we watched a video on early aboriginal life and early history of the area. We learned that Port Stephens is the drowned estuary of the Karuah and Myall Rivers.

Captain Cook sighted the entrance to the Bay on 11th May 1770 and named the Bay after the Secretary of the Admiralty. It was first entered in 1791 by the "Salamander" from the third fleet.

The Brig "Lady Nelson" visited with Governor Macquarie on January 1st 1812.

In 1875 Captain Broughton was forced into Port by a storm and found 4 escaped convicts from Parramatta living happily with the aborigines.

The outer lighthouse on Fingal Island has operated since 1862. The first inner light beamed from a wooden tower in 1872. It was replaced by a cottage and octagonal light room in 1876.



Marine Rescue Station with the Inner Light

There were 14 resident Light Keepers from 1869 to 1986. Red and white sector lights guided shipping into port.

A solar-powered version shone across the Bay from the old WW2 bunker until early 2003 when it was deemed unnecessary and removed.



Over a tasty lunch at the Coastal Patrol Tea Rooms we enjoyed the magnificent view of the Yacabaah and Tomaree Heads.

We could have stayed there for the rest of the day just relaxing and feeding the beautiful parrots, except Irma had other interesting things in store for us.



We then travelled to the Tomaree Library at Salamander Bay, to visit the Port Stephens Historical Society meeting.

The Society was very pleased to have us as their guests and requested we meet at other times and perhaps join together for future excursions. We swapped email addresses so we could exchange Newsletters. Perhaps we can persuade their President Lloyd Peak to give us a talk on further history of Port Stephens where I am sure at some stage we have all spent leisure hours.

Our thanks Irma for a really enjoyable and informative day!



This is a very special tribute to several "shakers & movers" of our Chapter who have recently retired from holding office.

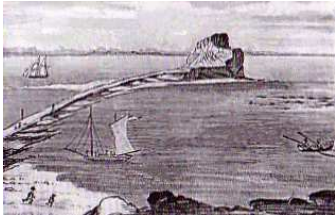
Firstly, to the Brookers:

Beth & John were given the responsibility of resurrecting the Hunter Chapter of the Fellowship in June 2007. Their hard work and enthusiasm gave us a sound base on which to grow. Thank you to John for taking on the role of President and for Beth as Secretary in this re-establishment phase. Beth also helped guide many of our early outings as well as supervising us in the kitchen at St. John's. We are so pleased to still have their input and happy faces at our meetings.

Secondly, to Bruce Donaldson:

Bruce has also been the Publicity Officer since June 2007. Bruce has wide experience and a vast local Network of contacts who he kept up to date with our activities. We know this can seem to be a very thankless job at times Bruce but your efforts were greatly appreciated by us all. Again without your initial input and hard work where would we be! We look forward to Bruce and Daphne joining us at our meetings and on our outings whenever they can.





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Your Invitation

You are cordially invited to our next meeting

to help celebrate the 3rd birthday

of the



Hunter Chapter



Fellowship of First Fleeters

WHEN: June 21st, 2010

WHERE: Senior Citizens Hall
153a Brunner Rd. Adamstown

Please note the new starting time

9.30 for 10am start

Tea & Coffee on arrival

Special Guest Speaker: Sue Ryan

Family Research Librarian

Newcastle City Library

Light lunch will be served

Cost \$4.00 pp

It would be appreciated if you could bring along a small plate of finger food to share