



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:
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Cynthia Huggup
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Treasurer:
Judith Pepper
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The Coal River Bulletin Newsletter 16 - September 2010

Our meeting on 16th August was lively and informative and commenced with our Annual General Meeting. President Barbara read her very comprehensive report covering our Chapter's activities over the past year and this is attached. The minutes of the last AGM were read and accepted, as was the Treasurer's audited statement. John Brooker then took the Chair and all executive positions were declared vacant. Nominations for all positions were unanimously accepted and accompanied by much applause!

Congratulations to our incoming committee for 2010-2011:

President:	Barbara Turner
Vice President:	Cynthia Huggup
Secretary:	Yvonne Bradley
Minutes Secretary:	Helen Pacey
Treasurer:	Judith Pepper
Membership Officer:	Cynthia Huggup
Publicity Officer:	Lee de Bono
Librarian:	Don Huggup
News Letter Editor:	Judy Aubin
Web Master:	Phil Aubin



The General Meeting followed and a copy of the minutes is also enclosed. Please read them carefully and note any items you wish to be discussed at the next meeting.

A delicious **Soup and Damper Lunch** was enjoyed by us all, as was the lively discussions around the table. Several members contributed information on Governor Lachlan Macquarie's impressive contribution to the growing colony in NSW. Special thanks to Warren, Judy and Helen. There were very interesting displays on Governor Macquarie and on the early history of the penal colony in Newcastle as well as other early history of our City. I am sure our knowledge on all of the above has greatly increased and given us a thirst to know even more!



PRESIDENTS REPORT AGM 16.8.2010

After our AGM last August we had a committee meeting to discuss where we could improve and increase our membership. This we have achieved.

Christmas at Monet's proved to be a successful venue as it is Newcastle's second oldest home. We held our first raffle which proved to be a great money earner and have continued with another during this year and next year instead of having one big raffle we plan to have smaller raffles drawn at each meeting.

Australia Day was our first public display with a new banner, 2 First Fleet manifests on stands, Queen Ann Flag, Australian flag, FF information and membership forms, photos etc and plenty of willing helpers ready to spread the word. We had a great family fun day as well. We let Newcastle know that the Fellowship of First Fleeters were around. From that time our membership has increased. We changed our advertising campaign thanks to the leadership of Bruce Donaldson, our past publicity officer. My reports went out to all the local and interstate newspapers and we continued this advertising with great results. Our secretary Yvonne Bradley was in touch with our local TV station NBN and they came along to a meeting and did a segment on us which went up and down the coast. I am still getting feedback from that. Our attendance figures increased from 11 at our very first meeting to 34 at our last. The total annual attendance figure from our first year was 79 to 133 this past year, nearly double. This is a great outcome and we look forward to welcoming many more members in the months to come. Cynthia Huggup took over the Membership Officer's position from Beth Brooker in March of this year and tells me she has enjoyed this position as it gives her a chance to get to know all the Chapter members. She states that we have grown considerably this year starting with 26 paid up financial members in 2009 and that has now reached a total of 42 full members, 14 associate members and 3 friends with most of the new members joining in the first half of 2010.

February was a big month as we changed our Venue. We enjoyed the big hall at St Johns with all its history but the parking was impossible and becoming worse. After much discussion this hall here at Adamstown has proved a suitable venue and has everything we need.

Noelene, our Activities officer has arranged some interesting outings and speakers for us this year. We have been to St James Church, The Garrison Church, the Mitchell library, Port Stephens and the Hawkesbury River Postman, the Newcastle Tram and still have Victoria Barracks and Goat Island to look forward to. These last 2 outings we will be sharing with other chapters. We have enjoyed information from our guest speakers Jenni Myers from Lake Macquarie Family Research and Sue Ryan from the Newcastle City Library, plus our own members bringing their forebears into the limelight. The Anniversary of the sailing of the First Fleet was celebrated with a special lunch at Kotara Bowling Club on 13th May. We also enjoyed a trip to Newcastle Uni to sit with Johnny Di Gravio and listen to his passion on Newcastle and Gov. Macquarie, we also had a look at some very old books of which the Uni library is very proud. It has been a very active year.

Phil's webmaster's report is that our Newsletters, ancestor information and photographs of our outings have been progressively added to the website. The calendar of coming events is also up-dated progressively. In the near future the ship manifests on our website will be upgraded to reflect the new information recorded on the head office website of Fellowship of First Fleeters who have identified the ships of all but three people who were previously listed as 'ship unknown'.

Our Newsletter Editor Judy reported that circulation of our bi-monthly Chapter Newsletter has increased over the past 12 months. This is due in part to our increased membership and in part to an increase in contact with other chapters. At present 46 newsletters are sent out, 27 electronically and 19 by post.

Cynthia is very enthusiastic with her 'firsts' and has a printed sheet for us at each meeting. During May, Yvonne and myself attended the Fellowships Conference in Sydney and were very pleased with the results of that.

We are becoming a very active chapter as just recently we have held 2 history talks, one at a local Nursing Home which Cynthia Huggup and myself attended and one at a Primary school at Hint on with Judy Pepper, Cynthia Huggup, Bruce Donaldson and myself. Both were very enjoyable and we have another two booked to do next week for Healthy Living for Seniors, a very active group at the Uniting Church in Charlestown and Toronto which Cynthia, Judy and I will do.

We have a great committee at the Hunter Valley Chapter and I would like to thank our committee: Vice President and Membership Officer, Cynthia, Secretary Yvonne, Minutes secretary Helen, Treasurer Judy P, Activities Officer Noelene, Newsletter editor Judy and Webmaster Phil, and our newest committee member, Publicity officer Lee. And to all our members I would like to thank you for your support over the last twelve months.

Barbara Turner



Our 'Tram' Ride

Monday, July 19th 2010



On the last day of the school holidays 14 members, plus 5 grandchildren, boarded the *Newcastle Famous Tram* for a tour around the inner city. The tram is actually a bus transformed into a replica of an old tram. The first thing we noticed was the wooden seats, just like those in the good old days when trams still ran in the city. The tram left opposite our lovely Customs House built in 1876. For just over an hour we drove around enjoying the lovely old buildings and history of our city. The driver shared the commentary with work experience student, Chloe.



We had several stops – the first at Nobby’s Beach – not only to enjoy the view but to have a closer look at the memorial of the *MV Pasha Bulka* that ran aground during the major storm of June 2007. A section of its red rudder is now on permanent display as a reminder of that drastic event.



As an industrial city Newcastle was important to the Australian war effort during World War II and had quite heavy coastal fortifications, the main one of course being Fort Scratchley. A Japanese submarine actually shelled the coast on one occasion but fortunately there were no casualties and only minimal damage done. Our driver pointed out some of the cement structures that still dot the area and we stopped for a closer look at a gun emplacement under the Strzelecki Lookout.



Newcastle was established in 1801 to open a coal mine, withdrawn in 1802 but re-established in 1804 as a secondary convict settlement, 27 years before Port Arthur. The conditions under which coal was mined, timber cut and hauled and lime produced were horrific. The settlement then known as *Coal River*, then *Newcastle* became “a hell-hole”. Military rule ended in 1823.



We passed by the Bogey-Hole, a natural rock pool which had been enlarged in about 1820 by convicts as a private bath for Major James Morisset while he was Commandant here. Enlarged yet again in later years it is still a popular swimming spot.

We continued past the Newcastle Christ Church Cathedral - the Cathedral Park was Newcastle’s first burial ground having been proclaimed a churchyard in 1817. Hundreds were buried here in the 19th century, the first being convicts and their gaolers. It was the main burial site until cemeteries were opened at Cottage Creek (1840’s) and at Sandgate (1882). 100 headstones survive on the eastern end of the Park.



There are numerous lovely old restored buildings in the City dating back to the 1800’s- perhaps these can be included in a later Newsletter. After an enjoyable lunch on the foreshore some of us took a ferry across the harbour to Stockton for a look back at the city sky line.



Dates for your Diary



Thursday, September 9th:

Victoria Barracks

Guided Tour of historic Victoria Barracks
Oxford Street, Sydney
Tour starts 10.30 am sharp – meet there at
10.15am – tea and coffee available.

Train departs Newcastle 6.35am and from
Broadmeadow, 6.45am, Fassifern 7.03am,
Wyong 7.30am. Train arrives Central Station
9.20am. Bus 378 from Eddy Avenue every
10 mins. Lunch in area and return on
3.15pm train

Monday November 15th:

Historic Goat Island Tour Sydney Harbour

A fully guided tour by National Parks and
Wildlife Rangers. Cost \$24 pp
Tour departs Circular Quay at 10.15am from
the Commissioners Steps (almost opposite
Cadman's Cottage).
Train departs Newcastle 6.35am as above,
then catch the City Circle Train to Circular
Quay. Tour returns 12.45pm.
Lunch in a Quay Café and we will return on
the 3.15pm train from Central Station

BOOKINGS are ESSENTIAL

PLEASE CONTACT NOELENE: 49593702
MOBILE 0403668563. SMS WELCOME.

A reminder: Please wear your FFF name
badge on all outings !!

We are looking forward to meeting
members of the Central and South Coast
Chapters who will be joining us at the
above outings!



It seems to be too early to be thinking
about Christmas doesn't it? Where
has the year gone!! Preliminary
details for our December meeting are
as follows:

WHEN: December 13th 2010

WHERE: Monet's Restaurant
Historic Commandant's Cottage
James Fletcher Hospital grounds

TIME: Meeting 10.30am start
Lunch 12.30pm

COST: \$20 or \$25 pp for 2 courses
Menu and details at our October Meeting

Monet's require full payment 30 days prior
to our booking date. We can book and pay
at the October meeting or post it to our
Chapter Treasurer before 13th November.

YOUR INVITATION

You are cordially invited to our next
Hunter Chapter meeting:

**Monday 18th October
10 for 10.30am
Senior Citizens Hall Adamstown**

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Guilford
One time Librarian at Newcastle Uni

Topic: A Colonial Lad: George Furber
(who is connected with our region)

**We will also celebrate the birthday of
Governor Arthur Phillip and pay
tribute to all sailors of that period.**

A reminder to bring with you:

A small plate to share for lunch and
a small Chrissy gift for the hamper
which we will raffle in December.

Meeting cost: \$5.00 pp

Special Birthday wishes to:



*Daphne Hughes 12th September
Judy Aubin 20th September
Patricia Sheriff 23rd September
Robert Richards 1st October*

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Judy Aubin - Editor