

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:	Vice President/Membership:	Secretary:	Treasurer:	Minutes Secretary:
Barbara Turner	Cynthia Huggup	Yvonne Bradley	Judith Pepper	Helen Pacey
Ph. 49439105	Ph. 49558045	Ph. 49574758	Ph. 49584043	Ph. 49691406



The Coal River Bulletin

Newsletter No: 19 – March 2011

Once again we began the New Year making our mark in the city of Newcastle on Australia Day, but first we would like to welcome several new folk who came along to our general meeting on February 21st.

Ian & Lynne Jurd
Hope Smith
Lorraine Valent

It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces - we hope you enjoyed meeting others who share your interest in family history, especially as First Fleeters.



Australia Day
Australia Day
Australia Day

It was an early 7am start for committee members who had volunteered to set up our information stall on the Newcastle Foreshore to celebrate Australia Day on Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 and especially for President Barbara who had several radio interviews beforehand, organised by our Publicity Officer, Lee.

Roads along the Harbour Foreshore were closed but with our special event passes we were able to park almost beside our selected 'possie' and begin putting together our stall. After the great success of last year we took on board suggestions as to how we could improve our presentation and with several changes we were finally satisfied and were ready for business for the 9am start.

The forecast temperature was 38°C but in our shady area and with a sea breeze we were comfortable. A heavy fog blanketed the city till 10am - an eerie start to the day.



Our FF Stall ready for business, and right, the hard workers relaxing before the crowd arrived.



This year the Australia Day event was a joint venture with the Newcastle City Council and The National Maritime Festival. A series of displays and competitions on the Harbour and in the skies were organised throughout the day. The high temperature didn't keep the crowds away and we were kept busy chatting with interested passers-by.

Again we were surprised at how many folk, of all ages, were really interested in what we represented.



All in all, another successful day for our Chapter - no doubt more interesting ideas will surface for next year!

Our Guest Speaker today was our own Secretary, Helen Pacey. Helen's son Andrew came along to give moral support. Following is a very brief summary of Helen's presentation.



Helen is descended from the well known First Fleet duo of Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley. Helen said she is proudly a 6th generation Australian and began by reading this poem:

*If you could see your ancestors standing in a row
Would you be proud of them, or not, or don't you
really know?
Some strange discoveries are made when climbing
family trees
But some of them perhaps do not particularly please.*

*If you could see your ancestors standing in a row
There might be some of them you wouldn't care to
know
But there's a different question which requires a
different view,
If you could meet your ancestors – would they be
proud of you? Anon*

Elizabeth Pulley was charged with stealing wearing apparel in July 1779 when she was 16 yrs of age. She was tried and acquitted. A year later she was again committed for stealing diverse goods to which she confessed. She was found guilty, publicly whipped and spent 3 weeks in goal at Wymondham Brideswell. Because the prison was not secure she would have been kept in irons. The following year she was again convicted for stealing clothing goods and was sentenced to 12 months hard labour in Ayleshaw Prison.

Four months after being released she broke into Mrs. Minn's shop at Hethersett and stole food weighing 19.5 kilos and 2 rolls of worsted cloth. **These goods were very weighty and Helen wondered if Elizabeth had invented the first shopping trolley to carry it all away!**

Elizabeth was tried at Thetford Court within the goal and sentenced to death but this was commuted to transportation. (While in the UK in 1988 Helen visited Thetford Gaol– the cells on the top floor are now flats and retain their iron bars and heavy studded doors. The lower floors are kept as a Museum.)

In November 1786 Elizabeth was conveyed to Plymouth to await transportation aboard the *Dunkirk* and eventually sailed to Botany Bay aboard the *Friendship*. After many disruptive incidents Lt Ralph Clark reported how unhappy he was with the behaviour of the women on board (including Elizabeth) and they were transferred to the *Prince of Wales* to complete the voyage.

Anthony Rope was charged with burglary by breaking and entering in March 1785. He was found not guilty of breaking and entering but guilty of stealing goods to the value of 35 shillings. Sentenced to transportation for 7 years, he was forced to wait in the hulks on the Thames for 2 years.

He sailed for Botany Bay aboard the *Alexander* with no mention of any trouble on the voyage.

Anthony and Elizabeth probably met on the infamous night of debauchery when the women finally landed at Port Jackson. They were married by Rev Richard Johnson on the 19th May 1788 – both were 26 years of age. A few days later a celebration supper was held in their tent and they dined on sea pie which also contained fresh meat!

It was alleged the goat was stolen from George Johnston but the marriage party claimed they found the animal, a deer, with its entrails torn out and mangled, so they took the liberty of cutting some of the meat off for their wedding supper. They were acquitted – signed off by Capt Collins.

This was the last time Elizabeth was before the courts. A son, Robert, was born on 30th October and is said to be the first white child conceived and born in the colony. The fact that he survived shows that his mother Elizabeth can't have been as black as some people painted her. Anthony & Elizabeth had eight children.

In the heat of February 1789 Anthony received 25 lashes for neglecting work. In March 1791 he again received 25 lashes for buying a pair of shoes from John Merriot but which apparently belonged to a John Beazley who had lost them 3 weeks earlier.

Gov Phillip gave Anthony & Elizabeth 70 acres at the Ponds and they were given the title of 'Settlers' in 1792. This land was sold in 1804 for 50 guineas. In the 1806 Muster they were renting 48 acres at Badgery Nepean and were still in the district in 1820.

Elizabeth died 9th August 1837 aged 77 yrs. Anthony died on 20th April 1843 aged 84 years. Both are buried at Castlereagh. They are remembered by the suburb of Rope's Creek in Mount Drutt and Anthony and Rope Sts in Ryde.



Inside Thetford Goal



Our busy Activities Officer, Noelene, has been working overtime once again and has organized our outings for the rest of the year!

Monday 21st March:

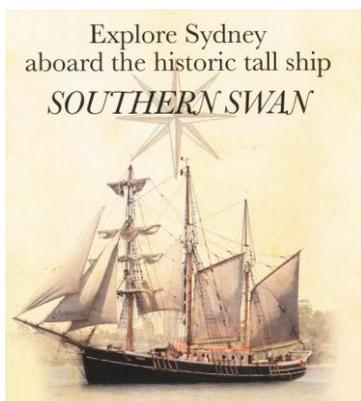
Car tour of Historic East Maitland and surrounding areas. Our first stop will be at **St.Peters Church**, East Maitland. A cost of \$10 covers a tour of the church, an organ recital and morning tea. To be paid on arrival at the church.



Following this we will visit the site of the grave of F.F. Joseph Trimby at the old Glebe cemetery. Then a drive around the small heritage towns of Hinton and Woodville where the small general store is apparently the oldest serving Store in the country. We will stop at Patterson for lunch returning via Tocal Road, Bolwarra, Lorn and Maitland. A car pool will be organized and there are maps and itineraries for all drivers. Ring Noelene for details.

Friday 13th May:

A celebration of the 224th anniversary of the sailing of the FF from England on the 13th May 1787 will be held aboard a **Tall Ship** cruising on Sydney Harbour which includes a BBQ lunch. Cruise departs Campbell's Cove, Circular Quay at 1.30pm sharp. Meet at the Cove at 1pm. Family and members from other Chapters are most welcome.



Cost \$66 to \$75 depending on numbers. Deposit to Noelene by March 21st and full payment by April 18th. Phone Noelene asap if you are interested on 49593702.

Train departs Newcastle at 9.24am, Broadmeadow 9.33am, Cardiff 9.40am, Fassifern 9.50am, Wyong 10.26am.

Monday 18th July:

A fully guided Tour of **Fort Scratchley**.



Cost - \$8 (seniors). We will meet at the Fort at 10am for the 10.30am tour and afterwards enjoy lunch on the Newcastle Foreshore. Pay at the June 20th meeting.

Sunday-Monday 28th/29th August:

First Fleet Memorial, Wallabadah.

Preliminary notice of a two day visit staying at Quirindi which is 16kms from Wallabadah. Motel "Henry's Guest House" is new and the cost is \$110 per room. Other points of interest include Quirindi Rural Heritage Village and an Australian Railway Monument and Rail Journeys Museum at Werris Creek. We will travel by a hired minibus which will cost about \$65 per person. More details and final cost to be advised.

Thursday 15th September:

Historic guided tour of **Garden Island** in Sydney Harbour. Cost \$15 includes morning tea. Tour departs rain, hail or shine and we are advised to take with us a hat, sunblock, jacket, umbrella and wear good walking shoes. Again all welcome.

Train departs: Newcastle 6.12 am, Broadmeadow 6.20, Cardiff 6.27, Fassifern 6.38 and Wyong 7.10am. City circle train to Circular Quay – should have time for a comfort stop and take-away coffee. Catch ferry at 10.05am from Wharf 4.

Monday 21st November:

Captain Cook Coffee Cruise – 2 hours. Cruises Middle Harbour and under the Spit Bridge. Cost to be advised but is expected to be around \$40. Departs 2.15pm.

Monday 12th December:

Christmas Meeting and Lunch at Monet's Café. Lucky Door prizes, raffle, Christmas cake, etc.

Please book all tours and outings as soon as possible. Payments should be made at least one month prior to the date.

Once again please contact Noelene for any additional information and to book your place or to organize payments on 49593702.

And there's still more over!

Looking further ahead Noelene has made enquiries for us to possibly travel to Norfolk Island to join in the Heritage celebrations being held there in March 2013.

225th anniversary of settlement on the island.

223rd anniversary of the wrecking of the "Sirius".

200th anniversary of the Islanders migrating to Van Dieman's Land

Prices will be revised in June 2012 but the following gives us a rough idea of cost:

Option 1: Scenic tours have an 8-day fully escorted, all inclusive tour staying at the 4 star Governor's Lodge which is in the centre of town set amid lovely gardens for \$2465 with free cars available. Need to add the best air fare.

Option 2: Oxley Tours include 7 nights accommodation with return flights and taxes. Airport pick-up and return. 3 nights dinner tour shows. Full breakfast each day. Cost \$2249 – add some meals and tour costs.

Both have discounts for 15-20 or more passengers. This would also be a combined Chapter Tour with friends and family also welcome.

Many thanks to Noelene for all her time and effort researching the above!



Many happy birthday

wishes to:

Irma Foster March 12th

Bob Walker April 9th

SADLY, IF YOU HAVE BEEN AN UNFINANCIAL MEMBER FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS, WE SAY FAREWELL TO YOU WITH THIS ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

HOWEVER, IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE IN THE FUTURE, WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN OR RE-JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS BY CONTACTING OUR MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: CYNTHIA HUGGUP, ON 49558045

NB – There will be a special morning tea for recently retired Vice Chairman of FFF, Peter Christian at First Fleet House on Saturday 16th April – 10.3-12.30!

Your invitation

You are cordially invited to our next meeting:

When: Monday, 18th April

Time: 10am for 10.30 start

Where: Senior Citizens Hall
153A Brunner Rd Adamstown

Parking also available at the rear in Narara Rd.

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Huggup

Topic: Lt. John Shortland

Meeting Fee: \$5 p.p.

It would be appreciated if you could bring along a small plate to share as we enjoy fellowship over a light lunch.

JUST HOW BAD IS THE ECONOMY?



AND Cats are just SO dramatic...

Now that I am Older

- *I started out with nothing & I still have most of it.
- *My wild oats have turned into prunes and bran.
- *I finally got my head together and now my body is falling apart.
- *If all is not lost where is it?
- *I wish the buck stopped here, I could sure use a few.
- *When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone decide to play chess?
- *It's not hard to meet expenses ... they're everywhere.

Your Editor, Judy Aubin