



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

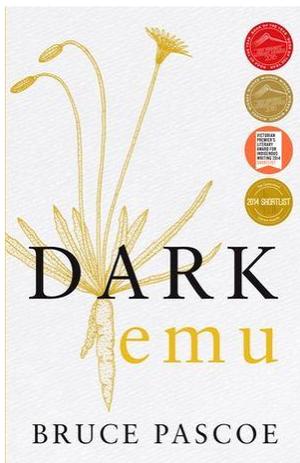
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This was the first General Meeting with AP Terry in the chair – both Terry and Secretary Kerry looked right at home and very relaxed and all went smoothly and cheerfully.

It was a pleasure to welcome back two keen prospective members who both have very interesting First Fleet stories. Margaret (Maggie) has 4 first fleet ancestors: Richard Partridge, Mary Greenwood, John Randall and John Martin. Suzanne is a descendant of Matthew Everingham but from a different branch to our 3 members of Everingham descent - she also has an ancestor who rode with the bushranger Captain Thunderbolt. Their membership applications will be on their way to Sydney shortly.

Five minutes of History: Thanks to Past President Barbara for introducing us to a book she recently discovered: "Dark Emu" by Bruce Pascoe. This book proved to her that generations of the written history taught of the indigenous inhabitants of our continent needs rewriting.



A quote from the judges of the NSW Premier's Literary awards states: "Pascoe demonstrates with compelling evidence, often from early explorers' journals, that the Aboriginal peoples lived settled and sophisticated lives here millennia before Cook."

The following are just a few examples of the insights of this book into the Aboriginal traditional way of life; of their established villages some of which had holding pens, of how their crops were cultivated and managed, some being irrigated by expressly built dams and wells, and of how they stored and preserved foods. Hunting was not left to chance either. Pascoe finishes his book with 2 chapters devoted to acceptance of this well documented native history and the use of their knowledge for the future of our country.



Good news from Newcastle Council Heritage that recognition of the burial site of F.F. Joshua Peck has reached Stage 3 and that signage should be in place in about 6 months time. First Fleet House and his descendant Graham Peck will lobby vigorously for a First Fleet plaque to also be installed.



Our Guest Speaker today was Janece McDonald who was introduced by her cousin PP Barbara Gow. Janece is also a F.F. Rope/Pulley descendant! She is very interested in earth sciences and is co-author of several books. Today her topic was:

Bee Keeping in the Hunter.



In 1810 Samuel Marsden introduced the first bees into the NSW Colony but unfortunately they didn't survive. Among those who influenced bee keeping into the Hunter Valley was Captain Wallace in 1822 and later Mr. Edward Capper, a Maitland storekeeper and the Pender Brothers local manufacturers. Janece referred to the Cappers Maitland store as a 19th Century combination of Bunnings and D.J.s. selling anything and everything. Cappers exported the first commercial honey in 1840 and the store in High Street had the first lift in the area. The Pender's Manufacturing Factory became the largest in the southern hemisphere and produced a variety of products including all necessities for bee keeping. Interestingly a beehive was worth £5 even then.



Another who had a great influence on the Hunter Valley Bee Keeping story was Mr James Munday, Headmaster of the Ionian Public School. His pride and delight was his large Ionian Apiary. This became a casualty of the great Maitland flood of March 1893. The loss was a heavy one with bee boxes, honeycombs, 9 brood bees and wrecked frames uncontrollably floating about. Out of 150 colonies of purebred Italian bees he only succeeded in saving about twenty.



James Munday's Ionian Apiary before the 1893 flood

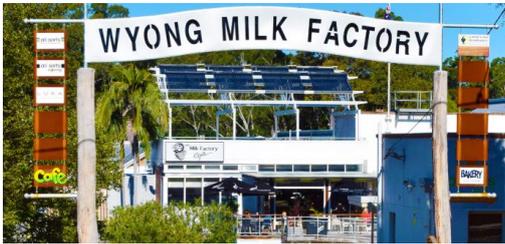
Importing bees successfully from Italy had required special small wooden boxes with gauze-covered holes – one for the queen bee and the others for worker bees who fed her on the 6 weeks journey. James Mundy also established the Hunter Valley Bee Keepers Association – the first such Association outside Sydney.

AP Terry thanked Janece not only for her information on bee keeping in the Hunter but also for the stories of some early movers and shakers in the early history of Maitland.



Outing to Alison Homestead, Cape Rd. Wyong - September 16th, 2019

Again our FFF outing was another great day. The weather was kind - the extreme heat predicted didn't eventuate and by the time the southerly change arrived we were long home.



We met as planned at the Wyong Milk Factory Café and twenty members and friends enjoyed a quick morning tea. The Milk Factory, established in 1906, has been saved, salvaged and lovingly restored. The Café has been operating since 2014 and is located in what was previously the laboratory area of the main milk factory.

We then headed across the road to visit Alison Homestead which stands on the first land grants in the Wyong area. Three lots of land were originally granted to William Cape and his family in 1825 and 1828. In 1875 William Alison purchased the Cape properties and renovated the accommodation. The original land now encompasses 10 suburbs with 36,000 residents.

As was the case for such properties, it changed hands many times and in 1974 part of the land was acquired by the DMR for the construction of the Sydney to Newcastle freeway. Unfortunately the homestead remained empty and neglected until 1988 when the Wyong District Museum and Historical Society began conservation and restoration.



Alison Homestead



Yarralong School and Classroom



In December 2011 the Homestead was the target of an arson attack which destroyed most of the main building and museum exhibits. Other buildings on the site were undamaged. Part of the original home was salvaged and the damaged sections have been replaced using original materials where possible.

We all thoroughly enjoyed walking back in time and viewing the extensive and wide variety of exhibits in the Homestead and strolling through the grounds to see the out buildings and the original Yarralong School dating from 1875. Nostalgia reigned as we remembered many items on display from our parents and grandparents time. The Museum volunteers catered with a light lunch of sandwiches (fresh and delicious) and Pavlova with fruit salad.





October

- 10th Logan Cherry
- 22nd Brittany Pacey
- 29th Neil Pacey
- 29th John Green

November

- 2nd Colleen Simpson
- 5th Noelene Snowden
- 8th Athol Searston
- 10th Bill Gow
- 14th Saffron Bartley



We are looking forward to Our Christmas Luncheon on Monday 9th December at the Teralba Community Hall commencing at 11.00 am. Cost \$25.

If you have any queries from the flyer you received or if you wish to come along and have not already added your name to the attendance list please contact Secretary Kerry or Treasurer Phil no later than the 5th December.

******* For your 2020 Diary *******

To commemorate the First Fleet departure from England in May 1787 our First Fleet Chapter look forward each year to an outing associated in some way with sailing, boats and water. On **11th May, 2020** we have a booking to cruise Newcastle Harbour aboard the replica steamship **William the Fourth**.



Another unique experience to enjoy! More details in the New Year.

Your Editor: Judith Aubin



Sometimes cats, dogs and husbands can make us smile!



Hiding in plain sight

Wife: "How would you describe me?"

Husband: "A B C D E F G H I J K."

Wife: "What does that mean?"

Husband: "Adorable, Beautiful, Cute, Delightful, Elegant, Fashionable, Gorgeous and Hot."

Wife: "Aw, thank you, but what about I J K?"

Husband: "I'm Just Kidding!"

