
Fellowship of First Fleeters

South Coast Chapter Est. 7/8/2001.



Newsletter No 87

“To live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die!” **February 2021**

COLONY

Newsletter of the South Coast Chapter

The Hungry Years

This article describes one family's survival in the time of near starvation in the very early years of the colony of New South Wales. Harvests were poor and the population was often desperate for food.

FOREWARD

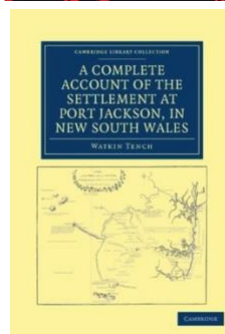
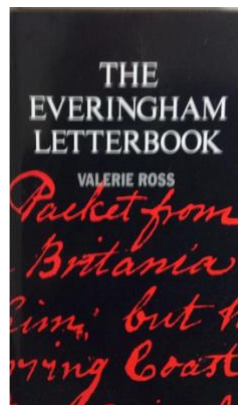
I have used two primary sources– the diaries of [Captain Watkin Tench](#) and letters written by my 4 x great grandfather Matthew James Everingham, a fluently literate convict on the First Fleet - to write this article. These letters, written to Samuel Shepherd, (later [Sir Samuel Shepherd](#), Attorney-General for England and Wales), have been edited by Valerie Ross and published as *The Everingham Letterbook*. The letters were. Samuel Shepherd had been Matthew's former employer in London.

Tench makes direct references to Matthew Everingham in Chapter XVI of his book '*A Complete Account Of the Settlement At Port Jackson, In New South Wales*' and both men's records describe similar events, particularly when describing the difficulties faced by the colony's first farmers. However, there are striking differences. Together, the two sources provide valuable insights into the "Hungry Years".

MATTHEW JAMES EVERINGHAM THE FIRST YEARS

Matthew Everingham arrived in Australia on 26 January 1788 as a convict on the *Scarborough*, part of the first Fleet. On 7 July 1784 the 15 year old boy had been sentenced to seven years transportation 'o'er the seas'. Allegedly 'in great distress' he had obtained two books by false pretences from the servant of another attorney, and he had tried to sell these.

By the time Matthew arrived in New South Wales he had served over half his sentence. On the 13 March 1791 he married Elizabeth Rymes, a convict who arrived on the *Neptune*, the '[Hell Ship](#)' of the [Second Fleet](#). Matthew received his pardon on 7 July 1791.



In Matthew's own words:

On 7th July last my time expired I went to his Excellency myself & acquainted him...he offered me to settle or continue as I was for my provisions till an opportunity should offer for me to leave the Country. I chose the last and turned settler at the Ponds on condition of him supporting me for 18 months in provisions and clothing and for the first year implements for the agriculture. 50 acres of land were measured for me accordingly. Having youth on my side and pretty well inured to hard work and having an agreeable partner I thought, if it pleased God I lived 4 or 5 years in the country would not hurt me especially if I should be successful in my undertaking.

Matthew Everingham, October 1792

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Highlights:

The Hungry Years
President's Report
The Australian Cattle Dog
Exhibition: *Endeavour Voyage*
News & Birthdays
Dates for 2021

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Already 2021 is in its second month, and our South Coast Chapter has held its first face to face meeting of the year at The Café, St Lukes, Moomba St Dapto. It was so nice to be together again after so many months of Zoom on line meetings – though the Board of the Fellowship is still meeting via Zoom at this stage. Continuing the entries in the Chapter's Meeting Minutes book revealed how much we had covered via Zoom. I'd like to thank those who were able to persevere with this technology and I understand that for many it was not possible to participate. Nevertheless Joan Phipps kept providing me with comments and feedback via email which I greatly appreciated.

So many family associations have cancelled or deferred get togethers eg my John Small Mary Parker event cancelled in October 2020, and now the Ann Forbes event just rescheduled to April 2022. Also cancelled in the second week of February 2021 was my high school year group's annual get together at the Thirroul Beaches Hotel. We had been hopeful it might have been possible. However the covid-19 cases affecting Illawarra residents in December 2020 and February 2021 remind us that this terrible saga is not yet gone. Throughout 2020 I often reflected on how our forbears must have felt about Pneumonic Influenza in 1919 immediately following the horror years of WW1. Back then in Australia it was known as Pneumonic Influenza rather than the Spanish Flu as we think of it today.

Our Chapter February 2021 meeting featured the Annual Show and Tell session, which was quite diverse as usual – from historic books and paintings to the history of the bass guitar. I also enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with my cousins Rob Herbert and Brian Harris. We are each descended from several First Fleeters, however we are related on other lines. There is so much inter-connectedness amongst those early European families, plus also some Aboriginal connections.



*l-r Gwen and Rob Herbert with
Kerrie Ann Christian*

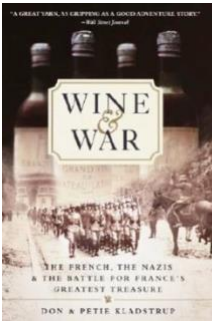
Well 2021 has rolled around and we have not yet shed the insidious covid-19 virus from our world – hopefully by the end of 2021 there may be some sort of return to the normality which we previously knew. However David Roach, a local Northern Illawarra filmmaker behind projects such as “Beneath Hill 60”, shared a different perspective at the local Wollongong U3A in early February. I found his presentation on “Finding Meaning in a Covid Year” quite moving. David had planned to be in Southern Africa researching for a film on the plight of the Rhino – poached for their horns for use in questionable cancer

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treatments. Instead he was confined to home – but it gave him time to slow down and connect in with local people in his community at the Clifton School of Arts. He and his wife really appreciated the slower pace and found that “boring” wasn’t quite so bad.

David Roach also shared about evocative music in films and cited “Beneath Hill 60” and “Red Obsession” as examples. Of course I knew of “Beneath Hill 60” set in WW1, but I didn’t really know of “Red Obsession”. It is set in Bordeaux, a noted wine growing region in France for centuries, and how its wines have been bought up by hedge funds and begun to be traded as commodities, becoming too expensive to drink. It’s a quite different story to the 2001 book “Wine and War” by Don and Petie Kladstrup. The book, a birthday or Christmas gift



for David Christian, starts with the 1945 opening of Hitler’s Cave of plundered wine – Chateau Lafite – Rothschild, Chateau Mouton Rothschild, Chateau Latour and more – some from the 19th Century. It had been stored in a cellar high up in the Eagles Nest at Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps. And from there the history of how French

wines were saved and some stolen in WW2. It’s a very different tale of times in WW2.

David Christian is President of Wollongong U3A, and for 2021 he has roped me into being a Programme Coordinator for Speakers on Thursday sessions. Another hat to be added to those I already wear. Currently I am preparing several talks to deliver in Term 2 – on American writers in the 20th Century, Herman Wouk and Phillip Roth, as well as one on Illawarra in the 1940’s. I have shed one hat however, late December 2020 I ended a nine year stint on Australia’s national Nuclear Safety Committee, an advisory committee to Australia’s Nuclear regulatory body ARPANSA. And even in that role there was so much history to be across, viz in the global nuclear industry.

Each year on March 23, as part of the Black Diamond District Heritage Centre Museum in Bulli, I have been involved in coordinating the annual commemoration of the 1887 Bulli Mine Disaster that claimed the lives of 81 men and boys. In 2020, the planned event at St Augustines Anglican Church Bulli, was one was one of the first events to fall victim to covid-19. So far it appears we may be able to commemorate the tragedy in 2021, but with reduced numbers and sadly we would be unlikely to have the LampLighters Mens Choir who add so much to the occasion. Two of our Chapter

members, Dorothy and Linden Conkey are descendants of one of the victims William Williams, while some members have been part of the LampLighters Choir.



SCCFFF members Warwick Grace and Dorothy Conkey at Bulli Mine Disaster commemoration in 2018. Warwick was in the LampLighters Choir at the commemoration and Dorothy is a descendant of one of the victims William Williams

The Black Diamond District Heritage Centre Museum, like many museums, closed during much of 2020 and to re-open I had to develop and register a Covid Safety Management Plan, with QR codes, sanitising and masks. My thanks to our Chapter member Brian Harris who volunteers with the Moruya Museum, and who provided me with some guidance in developing our plan. Now I am working towards an exhibition on the history of Rixons Pass and its people in Woonona. Rixons Pass was the first road down the Escarpment to the Northern Illawarra in the 1850’s before Bulli Pass etc.

Of course the exhibition will feature Benjamin Rixon, a European Illawarra Pioneer and noted Tracker, who developed the pass. He is better associated with the Figtree Unanderra Mt Kembla Charcoal areas. However I was quite taken aback to discover that he had also been buried in an unmarked



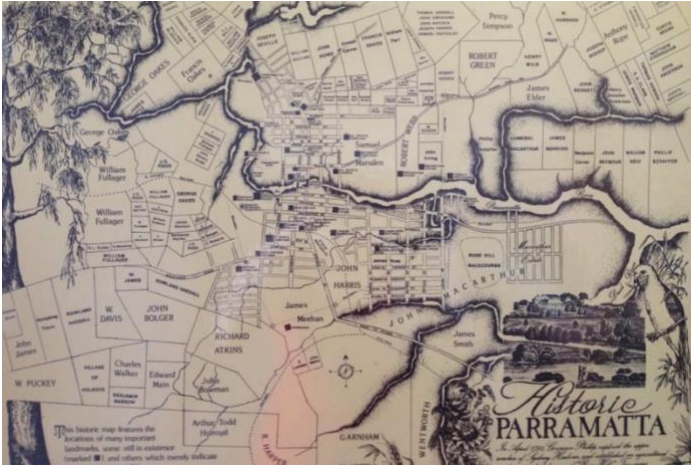
Benjamin Rixon

grave in 1886 in St Augustines Anglican Cemetery Bulli, a year before most of the miners were buried there in 1887. I’ve been in touch with descendants of Benjamin Rixon who have done so much on the family. Ben was born in 1806, beings one of the first European Triplets born in the NSW Colony. He and brother James survived. Sadly the third triplet, an unnamed male, did not survive

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On 18 July 1791 Matthew and Elizabeth settled on their 50 acres of land, Matthew's first farm. It was two miles northeast of Parramatta at what was called The Ponds, (now known as Rydalmere) near the Field of Mars, (known today as Marsfield).



TWO PERSPECTIVES

In December of 1791, prior to his departure from the colony, Captain Watkin Tench visited settlers in the vicinity of Rose Hill (Parramatta). and recorded his impressions. One of his initial impressions was of the new settlers' housing, describing most of them as 'wretched hovels'.

Tench recorded that the settlement's early farmers found life extremely difficult. Farmers in the area had to plant up to three times in a season to get a crop. Harvests were generally very poor because of very dry weather and a grub that destroyed the young maize plants.



Captain Watkin Tench

On 6 December 1791, just five months after Matthew and Elizabeth began working their land, Captain Tench visited the settlement of The Ponds. He wrote about Matthew. In his entry he doesn't seem to have taken this time frame or the settlers' difficulties into account when forming his opinions.

In one of his few direct references to individuals he wrote:

The attorney's clerk I also thought out of his province; I dare believe that he finds cultivating his own land not half so easy a task as he formerly found that of stringing together volumes of tautology to encumber or convey away that of his neighbour.

Captain Watkin Tench, 1791

Despite this, we know from Tench's detailed records that Matthew had managed to clear and cultivate 2 acres in the first 6 months, which was better than the average. We are lucky to have Matthew's own account of this extremely difficult time. In his second letter to Samuel Shepherd, Matthew recalled that

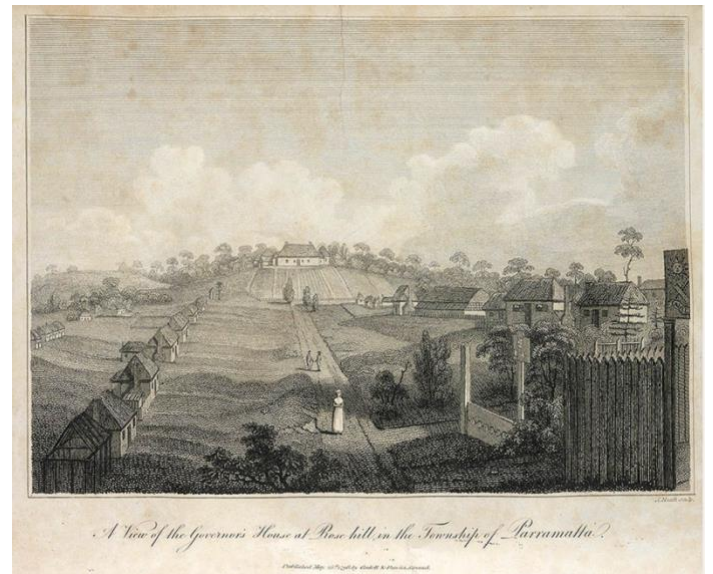
The first six months everything seemed to run against me my crop failed my Daughter died and my wife hung on my hands very ill and not having any supply in time from England the whole colony was almost starving
Matthew James Everingham, 12 October 1792

In fact, the colony was experiencing what would be called the "Hungry Years". Despite the extremes of weather and the foreign nature of the country, food supplies grown in the colony would be just enough to sustain the existing population when another fleet of convicts would arrive without adequate stores or clothing and rationing would again be introduced. During this time many workers were seen working naked in the fields.

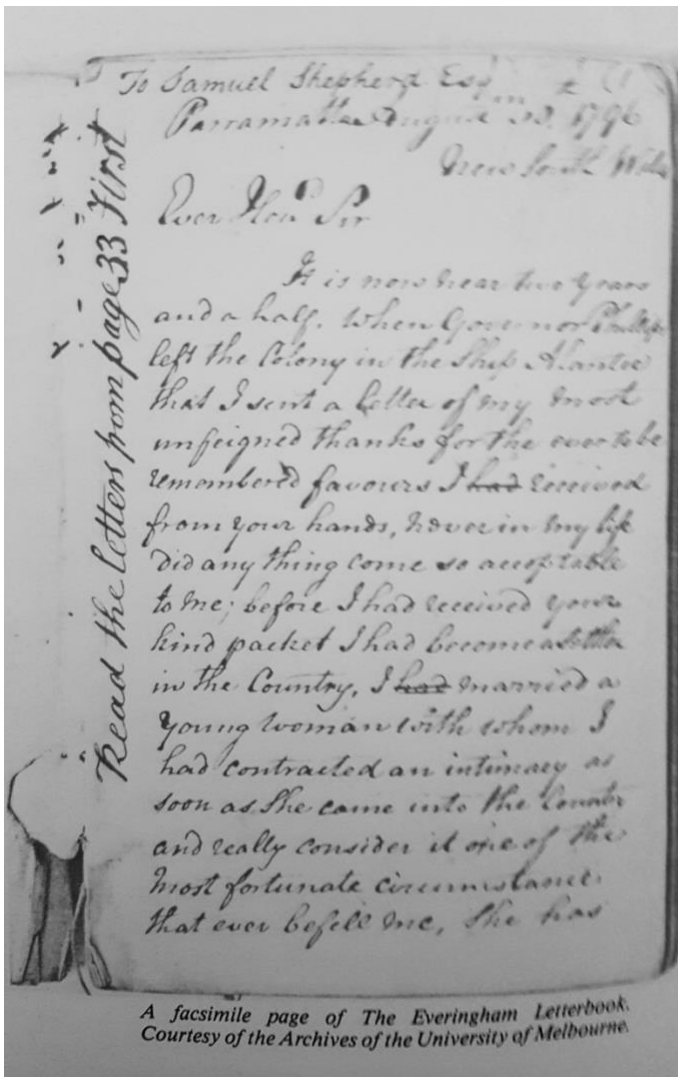
Despite Tench's opinions about Matthew Everingham's ability as a farmer, in October 1792, eighteen months after taking up his land grant Matthew was able to write that he had

5½ acres in India Corn, one of English wheat, about half an acre of Barley Pumpkins, Melons, and Ccllavans are in abundance, all seems to thrive well. I have a two sows big with piggs some poultry. and a hive of this Country's bees...

Matthew James Everingham, October, 1792



A View of the Governor's House at Rose hill, in the Township of Parramatta.



He faced many hardships over the next 10 years. Settlers endured severe bushfires and extremes of temperature with winter frosts and summer temperatures up to 46 degrees. By then he had an assigned convict servant to help work the farm.

There were frequent native attacks on the crops, grub plagues and snakes. Matthew and the fellow settlers also had to deal with convicts who had escaped and were heading for China which was rumoured to be just north of the Hawkesbury River.

In the letter of October 1792 Matthew predicted that in three months (January 1793) he would be fully independent and able "to maintain myself and family Independent of the public store".

We do know from the 1802 Census that Mathew's persistence had paid off. Of his 50 acres at The Ponds he had 17 acres under cultivation, 13 in wheat and maize; He owned 14 hogs, and held 20 bushels of maize. Only two people in his growing family needed to be 'publicly

victualled' (Government Stores). In April of that year he was recorded as owning a gun and a pistol.

Even though the Hungry Years period was over and his land was yielding larger and better harvests, Matthew was dissatisfied with life at The Ponds. In 1800 he signed the address to Governor John Hunter setting out 'the grievous and intolerable burdens' under which the settlers at the Field of Mars had long laboured.



Governor John Hunter

In 1802 he applied for a grant of land at Sackville in the District of Portland Head. The Ponds property was sold to Andrew Hume. By then Matthew and Elizabeth had five living children. The family's move to the new 50 acre grant at Portland Head in 1803 marked the beginning of the next chapter in Matthew's life.

That Matthew and Elizabeth Everingham, two former convicts from the highly urbanised late 1700s London, survived and flourished by farming in the infant colony throughout the 'Hungry Years' is truly remarkable. Matthew had been optimistic in his letter of October 1792, when he wrote that "Having youth on my side and pretty well inured to hard work and having an agreeable partner" he would be successful. That confidence was not misplaced.

Matthew And Elizabeth Everingham left a family of 85 grandchildren to begin the Everingham 'dynasty', one that was to span all sections of Australian society. Perhaps that is their largest, most productive legacy.

I am leaving the last word to prominent Australian author Thomas Keneally. In Volume 1 of *Australians-Origins to Eureka* where he comments on Watkin Tench's damning comment about Matthew's potential

"The attorneys clerk, Matthew Everingham, I also thought out of his province, and likely to return, like Bishop, when victualling from the stores ceased, to drag a timber or brick cart for his maintenance...I dare believe he finds cultivating his own land not half so heavy a task, as he formerly found that of stringing together volumes of tautology to encumber, or convey away that of his neighbour".

I say "How wrong he was!"

by Brian Harris

THE AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG

George Hall and his wife Mary (nee Smith) arrived in Sydney on 16th June, 1802 on the "Coromandel". They were free settlers and settled on the Hawkesbury at Portland Head. They had a family of 7 sons and 3 daughters and all received a good education and the boys became experienced farmers and stockmen. In 1825 four of George's sons received from Governor Darling grants of land in the Upper Hunter Valley and George obtained the right to purchase 3,000 acres. The grants adjoined each other and were situated on the Dartbrook Rivulet and Kingdon Ponds and they named the property Dartbrook. They were among the first settlers in the Upper Hunter.

The Halls continued to search for new grazing lands and soon had a pastoral empire of nearly one million acres in Northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland. At Dartbrook Thomas Simpson the fifth son, controlled the breeding programme for the stocking of the estate's high northern runs with Durham cattle, Merino sheep and station horses. The need for good working dogs was imperative. Early settlers had used a bob-tailed dog called the Smithfield and other working breeds which were imported from England but the foreign environment of vast unfenced distances, summer heat and rough terrain proved beyond their capacity. About 1830 a drover from Bathurst named Timmins mated the dingo with the Smithfield. Timmins had studied the dingo and he knew that the dingo was a barkless dog with the useful characteristic of herding its prey and then coming from behind and biting, but this cross was not successful. It was Thomas Simpson Hall of Dartbrook who did a good job for Australia when in 1840 he imported from Scotland a pair of smooth haired blue merles (a cross between a Scottish collie and an Italian greyhound). These dogs were good workers but barked and headed, so Hall crossed the progeny from this pair with the dingo which produced silent workers and became known as Hall's Heelers. The colour from this cross was either red or blue merle, they had pricked ears, brown eyes, a dingo shaped head and were generally of the dingo type. These dogs became famous and were much in demand for station work. Hall continued his breeding experiments until his death on 28th May 1870 at Dartbrook House.



Thomas Simpson Hall

It was then that a butcher named Alex Davis took a pair of these dingo-blue merle collie crosses to the cattle saleyards at Canterbury in Sydney, and cattlemen were impressed with their working ability and purchased pups when they became available. Two brothers, Jack and Harry Bagust of Canterbury purchased some of the pups and set about improving on them. The first step was to cross a bitch with a fine Dalmatian dog owned by a solicitor Mr. Stephen of Ashfield. Some of these pups were crossed with a black and tan kelpie *but* no other infusion of breeds was practised and only pups closest to the ideal were kept, and, by selective breeding the Bagust brothers bred a lot and drowned a lot until by 1890 the cattle dog bred true. These cattle dogs became indispensable to the owners of huge cattle runs in Queensland where they were given the name tag of Queensland Heelers or Queensland Blue Heelers. A landowner in Queensland named George Elliott in 1873 also experimented with the dingo-blue merle cross.

In 1893 Robert Kaleski with Alex Davis also took up breeding Heelers and in 1902 drew up his standards for the cattle dog and had his standards endorsed by the leading breeders of the time. He then submitted these standards to the Cattle and Sheep Dog Club of Australia and the original Kennel Club of Australia and the original Kennel Club of New South Wales for their approval which they endorsed in 1903 and the Agricultural Department of Sydney assisted by printing it in pamphlet form and widely distributing it. The breed became known as the Australian Heeler and later the Australian Cattle Dog, the name which is now accepted throughout Australia as the official name for the breed, although, even today, some people can be heard calling them Blue Heelers or Queensland Heelers. Mr. Kaleski was the main person who kept records on the producing of the Australian Cattle Dog and he wrote the now very scarce book "Australian Barkers and Biters".

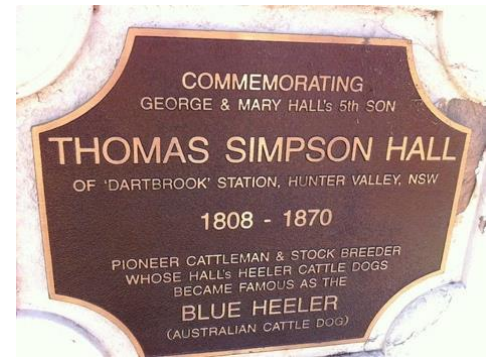


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The Australian Cattle Dog is sturdy, compact and symmetrically built. It has small pricked ears, the skull is broad and the cheek well developed. The feet are small and shaped like those of a cat, the toes are short, strong and well arched and held close together, the pads are hard and thick to absorb shock and to protect the feet and the nails are short and strong. The eyes are oval shaped of medium size and dark brown. The colour of the coat can be either blue and blue mottled or red speckle but, whatever the colour, the nose is black. The coat is a double coat, the outer coat helping to ward off the elements and the undercoat helps to keep the dog warm in winter and cool in summer. The general appearance is that of a thickset dingo.

Another of this dog's attributes is its loyalty to its master. It is so intelligent that it is easy to train and, as a family pet the cattle dog stands supreme, and if ever Australia needed a dog of courage, loyalty and intelligence she has one at her fingertips. Most city dwellers do not realise or appreciate the debt that they owe to the Australian Cattle Dog, for without this remarkable dog the beef industry of Australia would have had great difficulty in developing into the important industry that it is today. This dog is the greatest worker of cattle known, and its ability to carry out any task in a willing and tireless manner has proven it to be irreplaceable to man or machine, for the working of cattle. As it has the ability to adapt to working conditions of other countries it is now one of Australia's more unusual exports. It can now be seen working in U.S.A., Canada, New Guinea, New Zealand, Switzerland, New Caledonia, Sweden, South Africa, Holland and U.K. But other countries will not be able to take the

Australian Cattle Dog as one of their own breed for the Australian Cattle Dog Society is on the alert to prevent this. The popularity of this wonderful dog is increasing rapidly in Australia and overseas.



Commemorative plaque



The church at Ebenezer where TS Hall married Ann McGinnis in 1835

In 1980 the Australian Cattle Dog made it onto an exclusive Social Register when it was the 125th breed of dog to be recognised by the American Kennel Club. In 1981 at Crufts Dog Show in England the first Australian Cattle Dog was shown. The dog, already an Australian Champion, was taken to England in 1980 by Mary and John Holmes of Dorset and is enjoying heaps of publicity. In recent years a new concrete bridge was built across Kingdon Ponds between Muswellbrook and Scone and it was officially opened by the then Minister for Local Government and Planning, Mr Harry Jensen on 14th day of August 1976 and was named the Blue Heeler Bridge. In 1979 a bronze plaque on this bridge was unveiled at a ceremony that was attended by a large crowd of people with their cattle dogs. The plaque reads: -

“This plaque presented by the Australian Cattle Dog Society of N.S.W. commemorates Thomas S. Hall of Dartbrook who in 1840 in this area carried out his breeding experiments with the native dog, the dingo, and a pair of smooth coated blue merle collies. These dogs known as Hall's Heelers became the foundation of today's breed – The Australian Cattle Dog.”

L. DUNCAN ROSS
(Thomas Simpson Hall was my great grandfather)

This article has been reprinted with the kind permission of the Royal Australian Historical Society

ENDEAVOUR VOYAGE

The untold stories of Cook and the First Australians



Full disclosure: I visited this exhibition fully prepared not to like it, and perhaps to really disagree with the notion of ‘untold stories’. From the moment I walked through the dramatic waterspout installation that introduces visitors to the exhibition my beliefs were challenged. This is the role of any museum. - *Brian Harris*

The story of James Cook and the HMB *Endeavour*'s 1770 voyage lies at the core of the Australian nation as it marks the first moment of British contact with the east coast of the continent we now know as Australia. It is one of our nation's origin stories, although remembered very differently by Anglo-Australians and by Indigenous Australians.

This exhibition, at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra, honours both Cook's great voyage of scientific and geographic exploration, particularly of the east coast of Australia, and the rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture that has thrived in Australia for at least 65,000 years. Cook is celebrated as a peerless seaman and a remarkable captain. His meticulous maps of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, and the botanical work of Joseph Banks and others, reshaped understandings of the world.

Significant historical objects include James Cook's journal (1768-1771) which provides his account of the *Endeavour*'s voyage, a number of Sydney Parkinson's 1770 natural history drawings - including the first European depictions of the kangaroo and the spotted quoll, Nathaniel Dance's iconic portrait of Cook, and one of *Endeavour*'s cannons thrown overboard on the Great Barrier Reef in 1770.

The exhibition also features a stunning array of Indigenous artworks created by artists from along the east coast of Australia. Highlights include the Hopevale community artists' illuminated lightboxes telling the story of what happened at Endeavour River and a collection of children's artworks from up and down the coast, that give their perspectives on this epic story.

The exhibition takes the visitor along Cook's voyage up the coast from Munda Bubul (Point Hicks) in eastern Victoria all the way to Possession Island at the tip of Cape York. Visitors to the exhibition are continually reminded this land — strange and ‘new’ to European eyes — was an ancient continent, home to First Peoples.

As Shona Coyne, the exhibition's curator says, "This exhibition tells a really epic story".

Visitor essentials

Where	National Museum of Australia
When	Until 26 April 2021
Hours	9am-5pm
Cost	Free

Website/ virtual exhibition (outstanding):

<https://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/endeavour-voyage>

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As you are aware the Fellowship held its 2020 AGM via Zoom and its annual Australia Day Luncheon at the Portman Hotel in Sydney did not eventuate in January 2021. And now its May 2021 luncheon, planned to commemorate the departure of the First Fleet from Portsmouth England on May 13, 1787, which was to be held at Parliament House has had to be cancelled. Our hardworking and incoming Fellowship Vice President Gillian Doyle put great effort in organising this event, but alas it was not to be. However, the Fellowship is encouraging local Chapters to hold smaller events in their own regions to commemorate the Departure. Our Chapter had to cancel our annual May event in 2020, but our Chapter Committee is working on plans for an event to be held on Saturday May 15 2021. Various venues have been suggested so far – including Illawarra Yacht Club, Passionate Palate, Corrimal RSL Club. As for the Chapter’s activities in 2021, most speakers planned for 2020 have been rebooked for 2021 and I am only to hear back from a speaker planned for June 2021.



BC or Before Covid - the South Coast Chapter Members Table at the FFF Australia Day Luncheon in January 2020

Once again a thank you to Brian Harris our Chapter member from Moruya who has stepped up to help out on Colony as Val O’Shea and Michael Baldwin battle their respective health challenges.

In Fellowship – Kerrie Anne Christian, President South Coast Chapter of FFF.

‘SHOW AND TELL’, FEBRUARY 2021

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Happy Birthday!

Feb: David Christian, Anthony Francis Burns, Bruce Benoit, Fae McGregor, Margot Benoit, Lawrie Craft, Katrina Christian

March: Joan Price, Joan Phipps, Judy Bull, Norah Woollett, Kay North, Laurie Hellyer,

Aprli: Jenny Wilton, Lindsay Causer, Ken McCubbin, Wendy Nunan,



NEWS

NEW RELEASE - KATE KELLY: THE TRUE STORY OF NED KELLY'S LITTLE SISTER

We have all had a lot of time to read lately so this just released book should appeal to lovers of Australian history, of biographies. The book certainly adds a fresh perspective to the legendary Ned Kelly story, one that is integral to the development of the Australia psyche.

'Thoroughly recommended not only to those who have an interest in bushranging and the Kelly dynasty but anyone who enjoys a well-written and riveting yarn, based on fact.'

- Rob Willis OAM, National Library of Australia Oral History and Folklore Collections

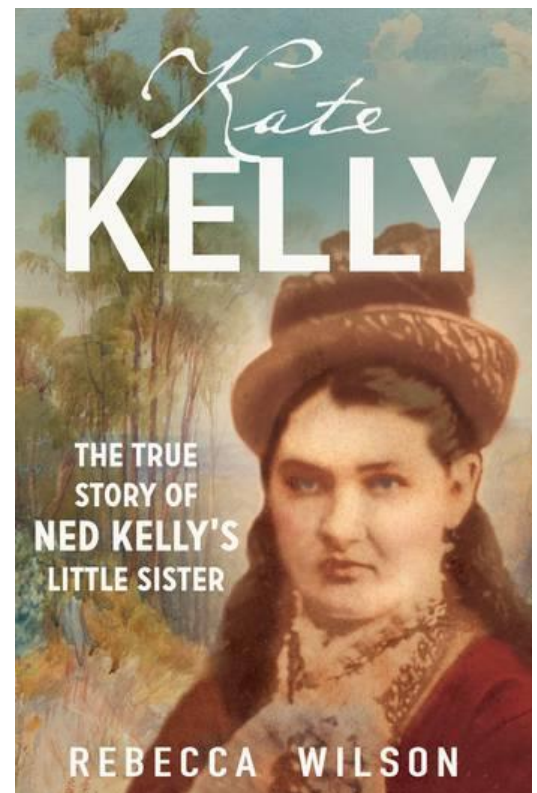
Kate Kelly has always been overshadowed by her famous brother Ned, but the talented young woman was a popular public figure in her own right. This moving biography tells her astonishing story in full for the first time.

Kate Kelly, the daring sister of legendary bushranger Ned Kelly, was mysteriously found dead in a lagoon outside the NSW town of Forbes in 1898. At the inquest, Kate's husband Brickly Foster claimed that she was addicted to drink and frequently spoke of suicide. However, a neighbour testified that she had only known Kate to drink since the recent birth of her baby and that she never spoke of suicide. Was it suicide, accident or murder, and why had she changed her name to Ada?

While only a teenager, Kate rode as a messenger and decoy for the Kelly Gang, and was present at the gruesome Glenrowan siege. After Ned's execution, she appeared at public gatherings around Australia. Huge crowds came to see her talk and ride, and she helped to popularise the Ned Kelly story as a celebrity in her own right. Then she disappeared from the public eye.

Rebecca Wilson is the first to uncover the full story of Kate Kelly's tumultuous life. It will surprise anyone who thought they already knew the story of Australia's most famous outlaw.

Released	16 February 2021
Publisher	Allen and Unwin
Cost	\$32.99



Meeting Venue: Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, Scribbly Gum Room (normally)

93-109 Princes Hwy Dapto and the entrance is via the Moombara St carpark

9 meetings annually on the first Tuesday of Feb, March, April, June, July Aug, Sep, Oct & Nov. Saturday luncheons are held in May and December.

Committee Members Only set up the Scribbly Gum Room at **9.30 am**.

Members and visitors are welcomed into the Scribbly Gum Room from **9.45 am**.

The meetings start at 10.00 am and end at 1.00 pm. Refreshments are included.

Attendance Fee: Guest speakers, children & students under 18 are free.

Members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters are \$2.00 All others are \$3.00.

Meeting Dates for 2021



- Mar 2 - *Preparing for Emergencies* - Valerie Hussain, Red Cross - venue TBA
- Apr 6 - *Experiences with Walking the Kokoda Track/Trail* John Stewart - venue TBA
- May - *Noon lunch to commemorate sailing of First Fleet in 1787* - venue TBA
- June 1 - *Camellias in Australian History* - Jim Powell - venue TBA
- July 6 - *AGM* and Ken Mascord - topic TBA - venue TBA
- Aug 3 - *Winter Soup & Fellowship Day* & chapter's 20th birthday
- Sept 7 - *Captain Cook* - Doug White Stanwell Park U3A - venue TBA
- Oct 6 - *Our Experiences at a Wedding in India* - Jacqui Price - venue TBA
- Nov 3 - *The Byrnes of Ireland - History & DNA* - Tony Burns - venue TBA
- Dec - *Noon Christmas Luncheon* - venue TBA

Outings: TBA



Committee Meetings (held in the Scribbly Gum Room 10am - 12 noon)

March 23

May 25

July 27

September 28

November 23 - then lunch after



Please keep the articles coming in to:
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 PO Box 729 Moruya NSW 2537
 From editor (relieving) Brian Harris