

Image Courtesy of the SLNSW

Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

COMMITTEE

Acting President
Kathleen Forrest

Acting Vice President
Pamela Hempel

Secretary & Membership Officer
William Hempel

Treasurer
Suzanne Shaw

Newsletter Editor
Kathleen Forrest

Schools Project
Vacant

Catering Officer
Rae Moore

Technical Officer
Webmaster
William Hempel

Committee Members
Heather Threlfall
Pamela Hempel
Judith O'Donohue
Joy Jorgenson
Jason Prior
David Moore

KATHLEEN'S CORNER

We thank Sharon Lamb for her contributions over previous months as Chapter President. With Sharon's resignation I have agreed to step up as Acting Chapter President until the AGM.

On Saturday 11th March the Chapter will group at St Matthews Church for a tour of the cemetery that is resting place to numerous First Fleeters. The tour will be guided by the very knowledgeable Rebecca McRae who is curator at the Museum in Windsor.

The April meeting will be held at Emu Plains where speaker John Lanser will discuss the interesting story of the Bowman flag that was flown at Richmond. The flag was the basis for the Australian Coat of Arms.

As the sun starts its journey back towards the North of the world, we in the South tip towards winter. What better way to remember our forefathers than by joining together to sail on a tall ship for a luncheon on Saturday 13th May 2023. This will be 236 years since the Fleet sailed away from Plymouth on 13th May 1787 to start a penal colony on the other side of the world. Hopefully we will have some great photos to share of the day in our next newsletter.

By coincidence two of the stories in this month's newsletter each make a small mention of the 1867 floods that devastated parts of the Hawkesbury.

The committee wishes all members and their families a Happy Easter for the coming April.

Kathleen Forrest

Acting President

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH TOUR OF ST MATTHEWS

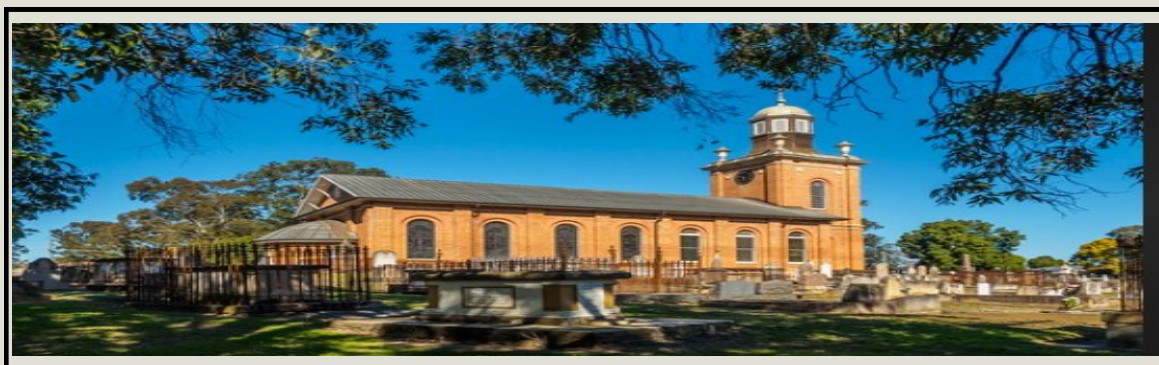
Date: Saturday 11th March

Venue: St Matthews Cemetery

5 Moses Street, Windsor

Time: Meet at St Matthews at 10:15am for a 10:30 start.

The tour will be conducted by Rebecca McRae, local historian and curator of the museum in Windsor. The cemetery is over 200 years old and is resting place to multiple First Fleeters as well as other notable inhabitants of the colonial era.



APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

Date: Saturday 8th April

Speaker: John Lanser– researcher and historian

Topic: The Bowman Flag

Venue: Old School House, Emu Plains

(4 Lawson Street, Emu Plains)

Time: 10.30am

EMU PLAINS VENUE



MAY OUTING – TALL SHIP CRUISE & LUNCHEON

Date: Saturday 13th May

Venue: Sydney Harbour

Time: 12 to 12.30pm

Location to Meet: Campbell's Cove Wharf
(just past Overseas Terminal)



QUOTES FROM THE COLONY

Thursday 24th March, 1788

I had Bradley organise Lt. Dawes of the marines, a corporal and 8 privates to be loaned from SIRIUS to do duty on shore, as the battalion is sadly weakened by scurvy and other sickness. Ground is still being cleared but it is a slow task.

Captain Phillip

Saturday 2nd April, 1788

I find the great labour in clearing the ground will not permit more than eight acres to be sown this year with wheat and barley. At the same time the immense number of ants and field mice will render our crops very uncertain.

Captain Phillip

Saturday 20th April, 1788

Convict Peter Hopley was charged with the suspicion of stealing a quart tin pot, the property of Margaret Stewart. Hopley said he found it on the beach and admitted he did wrong in not finding an owner for it. He was found guilty and sentenced to 100 lashes. This I approved of.

Captain Phillip

Australia's First Chief Constable— Henry Kable

There is a fascinating insight into a particular part of early policing within the NSW colony. Marines of the First Fleet were keepers of law and order upon the original colony at Port Jackson In 1788. However, only 6 years later Henry Kable was appointed to the position of Chief Constable of the colony. Henry created a number of "firsts" which included his marriage with fellow convict Susannah Holmes alongside four other couples in the first marriage ceremony in Australia conducted by Rev. Richard Johnson on 10 February 1788.

Henry and Susannah arrived as First Fleet convicts. Henry was sentenced in March 1783 to be "hanged until dead" for burglary. This was later reduced to 7 years transportation. Susannah was also sentenced to death but this was later reduced to 14 years transportation. Both commenced their sentences at Norwich Castle Gaol, Norfolk and despite the primitive conditions, a union was formed which resulted in the arrival of Henry Jr. When the First Fleet was assembling for Botany Bay, Susannah and Henry Jr were assigned to the convict transport "Charlotte". Henry was left behind as he was sentenced to "transportation to America". (a technical hitch).

When Susannah arrived at Plymouth, the Captain refused to take Henry Jr aboard. The gaol turnkey Simpson travelled to London where he tried to see Lord Sydney to get papers for the child. Eventually Sydney arranged papers for Henry Jr and father Henry to join the fleet. Sydney re-assigned the mother and child, with father Henry Kable to the "Friendship" because he intended that ship to be a sort of hospital ship suitable for mothers with children. When the fleet reached the Cape of Good Hope, Susannah and Henry Jr were transferred to the "Charlotte". Cramped and unbearably hot or cold due to their geographical location it is a wonder little Henry survived. A number of babies and an old female prisoner died on the voyage.

Upon embarkation, Susannah and Henry found their chest of "goods" has disappeared. This led to a successful suit months later in Australia's first civil action against the Captain of the *Alexander* who was ordered to pay the Kables 15 pounds in compensation. The significance of this case was that as a convict in England, the Kables would never have been allowed to bring a case to court. This case created precedent in law that was used down the line by convicts and emancipists to win court cases and accrue political freedoms that would have been otherwise denied to them. Remarkably, in 1981 Judge Staples successfully used the precedent set by Kable to allow prisoners at Bathurst Gaol including the infamous Darcy Dugan to bring a case to court.

By the end of the first year of settlement the Kables' second child Diana was born. The settlement continued to progress including having some stone houses built for Governor Phillip and Major Ross. Phillip requested a detachment of marines to stand watch over the gardens at night to protect the growing vegetables. Major Ross deemed this unworthy of Marines and eventually twelve convicts were appointed to patrol the settlement including Kable. On his third night on patrol Kable arrested a convict for being "unlawfully about". The lawful determination of Kable gained the attention of Governor Phillip who appointed him as an overseer of one of the convict gangs responsible for clearing land for the new town of Sydney. Kable enjoyed his new found responsibility and was renowned for his forthright attitude and "forceful" method of ensuring other convicts complied with his instructions.

The colony continued to grow with huts. A commercial centre was also growing with wharves and dockyards, stores, granary, a market place, a small hospital and a gaol. In 1791 Acting Governor Francis appointed Kable as a Constable with particular duties as night watcher for the town and to act as a jailer. This appointment saw Kable receive a land grant at Petersham Hill. Kable distinguished himself, arresting and jailing a number of convicts intent on stealing from the Governors store. After three years of serving in this position, the Governor decided to appoint Kable as the first ever Chief Constable of the colony. At the time Constables were of a very low social standing and Phillip was desperate to fill the positions seeing that free men thought the job was beneath them. Kable was provided with a shack beside the gaol. Kable was able to buy the land and rebuild a formidable dwelling that was demolished in 1926. Interestingly, before the site was later developed as a hotel, it was a Police Station serving the Rocks and waterfront for many years.

Kable proved himself effective at his work and managed the Police Gaol well. His powerful size and strength meant he was successful when called upon to arrest drunken citizens. There were complaints from marines and their wives regarding the inefficiency of constables, whom they could not tolerate due to them being convicts and emancipists.

Kables work included searching ships, counting supplies and checking boats to ensure oars were removed overnight to deter convict escapes. It was difficult to keep law and order in the town with its itinerant population of convicts, assignees and seamen. There was also the constant issue of dealing with the marine corpsmen who paid no heed to his authority whilst engaging in as much drunkenness and lawlessness as the convicts.

There was a constant need for the gaol with a steady stream of inhabitants made more so by the entrepreneurial Chief Constable opening a licensed alehouse, Ramping Horse not far from the gaol. Its location "a publick house jacent to the prison" is identified by the Irish convict Joseph Holt in his memoirs published after his return to Ireland in 1814. He wrote, "my friend Mr Smyth and I went to the jailer's and he was Chief Constable,

but kept a public house joining the prison, and Mr Smyth called for a bottle of rum, and we drank it, and left orders for Henry Kable to let me come over and take refreshment whenever I liked". This early NSW ale-house displayed a sign board of a snorting black horse with the inscription –Licensee: Henry Kable. Its location allowed Henry to not only conduct his business close to home but to also evict, arrest and gaol troublesome customers of the Ramping Horse. There were from time to time serious arrests and these were dealt with by the military tribunal or court. One such occasion saw a convict overseer by the name of Issac Nichol (who later opened the first Post Office in the colony around 1810) receive an additional 14 years sentence for receiving stolen goods. However he had little time for hounding petty thieves and would be escapees as he found them more stupid than criminal.

The Ramping Horse kept Kable busy and was generally prosperous even though Kable was often made to pay the Corps officers as much as 2 pounds a gallon for rum. By this time Susannah Kable had borne three more children and Henry was looking for more opportunities to boost his income. With another ex-convict James Underwood, Kable bought, built or chartered many vessels and pioneered the sealing industry in Bass Strait. Underwood building the ships and Kable taking the role of ships husband, provisioned the voyages, employed the crews etc. Simeon Lord joined this enterprise some years later, when Kable and Underwood wanted to sell the skins to London for the hat trade. They were able to use Lord's London agent Plummer, when Lord joined the partnership. At one point they were among the wealthiest men in the colony with Lord being extremely wealthy in his own right due to other business ventures. This was fortuitous as Governor King saw fit to dismiss Kable from his position of Chief Constable for breeches of port regulations and illegally buying and importing pigs from a visiting ship.

The three partners at one time offended Governor Bligh when they sent him an abusive letter complaining about port regulations. Bligh fined each of them one hundred pounds and put them into the town gaol for a month. After Bligh was deposed, the three took revenge by backing the rebels of the Rum Corps and offering help in defraying the costs of George Johnston going to London to put the rebels case to the Home Government although there is doubt as to whether they actually paid up.

Kable continued on with his innovative businesses, opening the first Sydney-Parramatta coach, establishing land, buildings, a store and a brewery in Windsor. Whilst he had several land holdings they were mostly not held at the same time. He sold his houses and store houses and Sydney when he moved to Pitt Town in 1811 and probably used this money to buy the Windsor store and brewery. He bought a number of other small holdings. By the 1820's Kable was a prosperous grandfather and along with several others of the district a committeeman of the Windsor Bible Society. His wife Susannah died in 1825 and Henry lived until 1846 reaching the age of 84. Together he and his wife Susannah had 11 children and today there are thousands of descendants of the first Chief Constable of Australia, including several who have been or are serving members of the New South Wales Police Force.



Author: Steve Pierce-President of Australian Branch of Police Association.

Article submitted by Sharon Lamb

First Fleet leaving Portsmouth with Henry, Susannah and Henry Junior onboard.

Courtesy of NSW State Library

Windsor: Gas Lamp Capital of Australia? -submitted by Kathleen Forrest

You may have known that Windsor is the 3rd oldest settlement in Australia. But did you know that Windsor has 25 gas lamps in the Mall? For the first time in ten years, some of the gas lamps are glowing beautifully just as a new season is about to begin. These gas lamps are currently being restored as part of the Windsor Mall rejuvenation. All 25 of the lamps will be refurbished and running on gas once again. When all lamps are restored in the Mall, it will have an essence of what was seen in the late 1800's when Main Street was lit up with very similar lamps. Many of the same buildings still stand today. Windsor is on it's way to being the GAS LAMP capital of Australia. The light emitted by the lamps is very "old charm".



Photos used with kind permission of Windsor, NSW Gas Lamp Capital-Facebook Group

A Snippet of the Toll House-Windsor

When driving north along Windsor Road you may notice a small cream coloured house that appears to be situated right alongside the north end of the Fitzroy Bridge at South Creek. The tin roof can be clearly seen. This was the little house where tolls were collected for using the road during the nineteenth century. What remains is one of two original tollhouses in NSW. There is one more in the Blue Mountains.

Paying a toll to use roads was practiced widely in Europe. Governor King first introduced road tolls into NSW in 1802 and permission was granted to Andrew Thompson who was able to charge people for using his "bridge" over South Creek close to Green Hills (which is now Windsor) in 1802. As there are no surviving records, it is not known if more buildings existed on the site.

The Toll House was finished being built in 1835. In the flood of 1864, Bridge Street and the Fitzroy Bridge were completely under water. The little Toll House as well as nearby houses were also inundated with flood water. After the waters subsided, the building was just about demolished due to the building having shifted from its foundations. Shortly after this time, the Toll House was rebuilt.

The building is small and includes three rooms. There is also a bay style window which allowed the toll collector to see the road from both angles.

In 1886 a delegation for the Minister of Works, encouraged abolishment of the toll. At that time, other tolls throughout the country had been removed. Eventually, the toll was abolished in 1887 by the Windsor Road Trust.

A new high level bridge was built in 1975. The newer bridge almost conceals the old Toll House. Over the years, the Toll House has been damaged again not only by floods but also by vandals. The exterior of the building was restored in 1997 and the public are free to view the house from the outside. Walking from Court Street there is a pathway that leads down beside the Fitzroy Bridge.

The Toll House is another little Hawkesbury treasure which has stood the test of time.

Toll House 1947. Courtesy of the State Library.



1867 Flood. Source: Illustrated Sydney News 16 July 1867, p. 8.



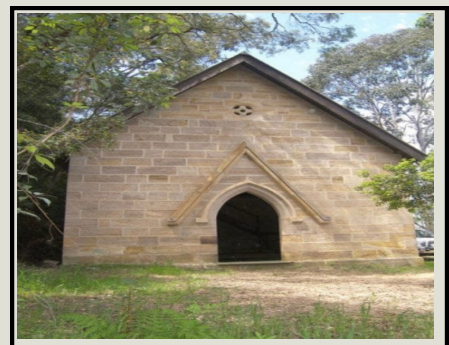
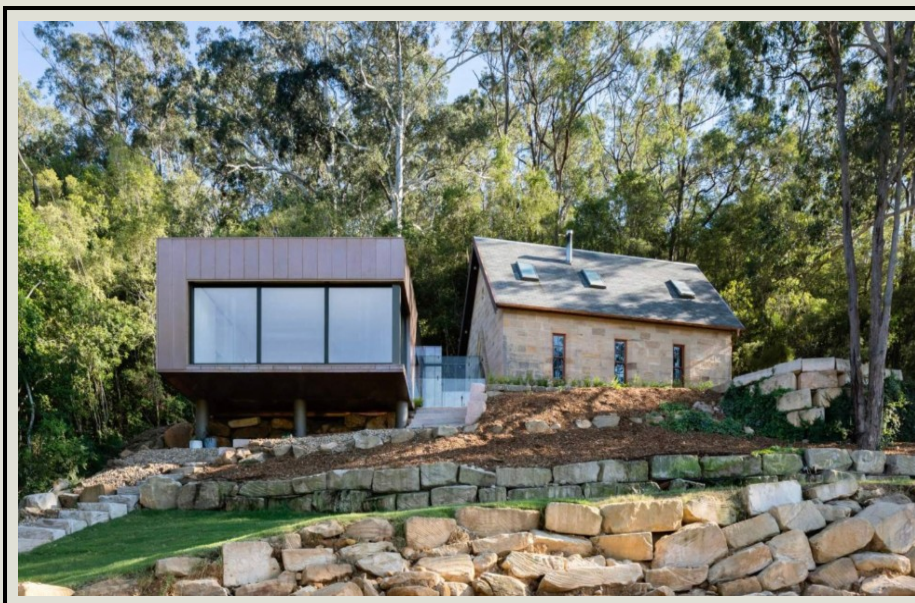
Reference: Sydney Gazette & Sydney Morning Herald newspapers on Trove <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> .

Article submitted by Kathleen Forrest

Methodist Church: Sackville North

The Hawkesbury Chapter was lucky to have guest speaker Lauren Jones at their February meeting. This was Lauren's first time as a guest speaker and she delivered an excellent presentation. Lauren and husband Simon purchased the land housing the old church which includes a graveyard which is resting place to numerous early inhabitants of the region. It is believed the land is also the final resting place to at least one First Fleeter, Owen Cavanaugh. The first Methodist Church service at Sackville was conducted in February 1824 by the Reverend William Horton from Windsor Parish. A smaller timber chapel was constructed immediately and opened in April 1825. The chapel was used as a church on Sunday and a school during the week. The small building became inadequate as the congregation grew in size and another building was erected in 1845 on 15 acres of land granted to the church by the Crown on 7 February that year. This chapel was destroyed in the great flood of 1867. A solid sandstone church was constructed overlooking the river in 1869 at a cost of 360 pounds which was opened on 23 September by Rev Joseph Horner Fletcher. A memorial tablet inside the church commemorated the contribution of Rev James Sommerville during his period of ministry from 1874 to 1884.

Lauren now considers herself as a kind of guardian of the church and of the graveyard. After purchasing the property the couple renovated the more than 150 year old church beautifully. When their family expanded they decided to build another residence but did not want to spoil the beauty of the older building. Plans were drawn up and what eventuated was a building that sits beside the church which continues to capture the charm of the old church and surrounding land. If you would like to watch their story, it is available to view on Foxtel on Grand Designs Australia Season 9, episode 5 and is well worth the watch.



Methodist Cemetery, Sackville North by Cathy Mc Hardy September 2003

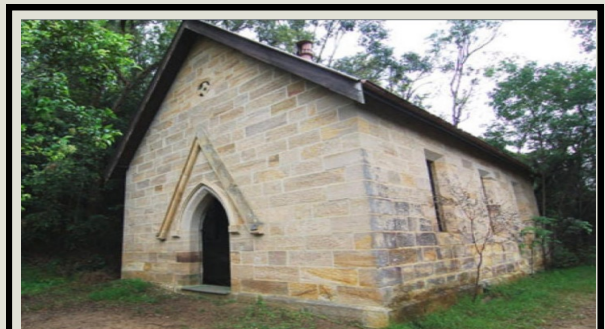
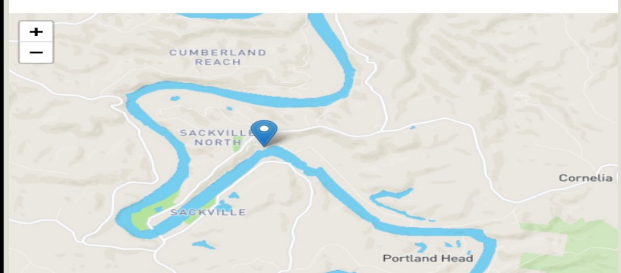
Below the church on the riverbank is a small cemetery which includes members of the Cavanough, Everingham, Chaseling, Mitchell and Douglass families. There is a listing for the cemetery on the Find A Grave website which includes 64 burials.

In October 1982, the Burial Register was transcribed by Dr & Mrs Rex P Stubbs as part of their "Gravestones in the Hawkesbury" series.

Some of the names recorded in the cemetery include:

Chaseling Iris Esther	D: 1912	Mitchell, Edward Henry	D: 1926
Coten Rowland	D: 1889	Manning Amy Jane	D: 1903
Everingham Mary Ann	D: 1879	Manning Arthur Clarence	D: 1950
Everingham Henry	D: 1883	Mitchell Owen John	D: 1938
Everingham Edgar	D: 1865	Mitchell Mabel Agnes	D: 1950
Everingham Albert	D: 1866	Copps George	D:1901
Cook Thomas	D: 1869	Copps Mary Ann	D:1897
Deanes Mary Jane	D: 1871	Jones Herbert Howard	D:1916
Deanes Mary Ann	D:1879	Law Mary	D:1922
Mitchell Ursula	D: 1919	Law James	D:1916
Mitchell Jane Emma	D: 1944	Brown William	D:1892
Mitchell Thomas	D: 1881	Herps Agnes	
Mitchell Thomas Edgar	D: 1881	Herps John Joshua	D: 1922
Mitchell Annie Ursula	D:1891	Mitchell Max	D:1929
Mitchell Percy Lloyd	D:1942	Kaiser Charles Edward	D:1945
Mitchell Eva	D: 1978	Kaiser Frederick William	D:1899
Mitchell Frederick Newton	D :1939	Kaiser Frances Victoria	D:1915
Mitchell John Newton	D: 1888	Manning Charles	D:1944
Mitchell Emma	D: 1911	Manning Arthur	D:1950
Law Clara	D: 1885	Manning Arthur	D:1913
Cavanough Emma	D: 1887	Manning Francis	D:1938
Cavanough Owen	D: 1885	Symes Olive Macquarie	D:1903
Cavanough Celia	D: 1890	Watkins Sarah	D:1920
Buckland Ada May	D: 1947	Watkins Francis	D:1920
Buckland Alfred	D: 1950	Douglas Amos	D: 1935
Everingham Napoleon	D:1880	Douglas George	D:1930
Smith William	D: 1857	Douglas Emily	D:1936
Mitchell Frederick	D: 1909	Everingham Andrew	D:1924
Mitchell Celia Kemp	D: 1918	Everingham Mary Ann	D:1906
Mitchell Francis Lenora	D: 1904	Hastwell George	D:1943
Mitchell Everline May	D: 1964	Mitchell John Wesley	D: 1951

Location of Sackville Methodist Church



Australia's First Woollens

The first woollens produced in Australia were made on two hand looms at PARRAMATTA in 1801. Later PARRAMATTA TWEEDS became so famous that Yorkshire manufacturers produced a tweed which they called Parramatta Tweed. Later, the manufacturer of woollen materials was carried on at SYDNEY WOOLLEN MILLS LIMITED using more modern machinery.



Richard Walley– submitted by William Hempel

Richard Walley OAM (b:1953) is a performer, artist, writer and Indigenous rights advocate. A Nyoongar man, he became involved in aboriginal politics at a young age working with bodies such as the Aboriginal Housing Board and the Aboriginal Legal Service in Western Australia in the 1970's. In 1978, he cofounded the Middar Aboriginal Theatre with friends including Ernie Dingo, with whom he devised and performed the very first Welcome To Country in 1976. During the 1980's, Walley acted in and wrote a number of stage and television productions, among Two Tribes (2003) which blends traditional sounds with hip hop. In 1991, NAIDOC Aboriginal artist of the year, Walley is a former chair of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts board of the Australia Council, and in 1993 he was awarded an OAM for his contribution to the arts and his promotion of Nyoongar culture. He is the founder and director of Aboriginal Productions and Promotions and in recent years has worked as a cultural awareness advisor to BHP and other organisations in both the private and public sectors.



The Way We Were



Photos: Courtesy of NSW State Library

A SNIPPET OF THE TANK STREAM-submitted by Judith O'Donohue

The Tank Stream was named for the "Tanks" or reservoirs cut into its sides to save water, the Tank Stream which wound its way through the colony before emptying into Sydney Cove was Sydney's original fresh water supply. The building and shaping of it reflects the experience of the British Soldiers, some whom had been in India. The First Fleet had arrived in Botany Bay to find little fresh water, so officers were delighted when they reached Bennelong Point finding a cove deep enough to accommodate ships of some size and a stream flowing into the Western corner of the cove, they soon discovered the stream was fresh water. By 1792 the colony was in drought and the water supply had declined. The sandstone was excavated to create 3 storage tanks one at the corner of Pitt and Spring Street and two more in Bond Street. The British Officer who conceived the idea of Tanks would have learnt it in India where it was frequently used.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters Gold Coast Chapter is looking for new members. If you have family or friends currently living on the Gold Coast who may be interested in joining the Chapter please contact: 1stFleeters.goldcoast@gmail.com

Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter Newsletter takes all care but accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter Newsletter holds copyright to all content unless otherwise stated. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information in this publication, the publisher, Fellowship of First Fleeters Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter accepts no responsibility or liability for any errors, omissions or resultant consequences including any loss or damages arising from reliance on information in this publication. The views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the editor or publisher.

For contributions to the Newsletter please email to

ffhnc2015@gmail.com

Website: www.ffhnc.com