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Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

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P A M E L A ' S C O R N E R

I am sure we are all looking forward to welcoming springtime 2021 with the gardens beginning to come back to life. It is always a pleasure at this time to see the flowering fruit trees with their brilliant displays along with the many bulbs, azaleas, rhododendrons and magnolias. The sight and smell of wattles are still around as well, and present another welcome to spring.

It is with pleasure that we have held our 2021 AGM by email in August and have welcomed a few new officers and Committee Members. Thank you to all that agreed to stand for a position and were elected. The new officer bearers are listed separately in this newsletter.

We had hoped to have a day out to tour the Hydro Majestic Hotel at Medlow Bath along with a visit to the Katoomba Visitor's Centre in September. However, with the increased number of cases in the latest delta variant of COVID 19, it has been placed on the 'back burner'.

The October Meeting which is normally held at the Springwood Presbyterian Church, has been cancelled.

At this stage, plans for a Christmas function will depend on how our area of New South Wales fares in the coming months. Information about the Christmas event will be sent via email.

Since the AGM, our grandson Trent Hempel has offered to assist in relation to our website. Many of you will have met him and remember how he had originally set the site up and helped with the audio/visuals at our meetings. Due to his work commitments on Saturdays, he can only take on the website at this point.

Hoping this newsletter finds you all keeping well and enjoying the season.

Pamela Hempel
Acting President

Quotes from the Colony

Sunday 4th September 1788

The fish begin to return with the warm weather. The rainy season is, I hope over and it is pleasing to see that plants and fruit trees that did not die in the passage out thrive exceedingly well.

Captain Phillip

Sunday 18th September 1788

The detachment has now enclosed ground for their gardens which is about six acres of wheat, eight of barley and six acres of other grain, all of which promise well.

Captain Phillip

Wednesday 2nd November

A party led by Lt Johnston and accompanied by the Governor and Mr Alt went up the harbour to Rose Hill to establish the second settlement.

Private John Easty

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2021

Date: Saturday 18th December 2021

Venue: Stan Stevens Room, Hawkesbury Central Library

300 George Street, Windsor

Time: 11:00am



Clips To Watch In Lockdown

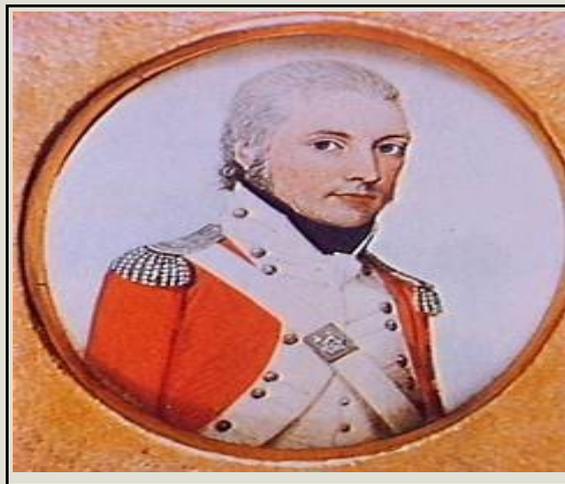
The following You Tube links allow users to watch two interesting presentations for those interested. They were recommended by Suzanne Shaw. If you have not previously watched the clips, make yourself a cuppa and your favourite snack, get yourself comfy then copy and paste the link into your internet search bar and hit enter. Enjoy!

Australian Literature 101: Watkin Tench– A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay

<https://youtu.be/HdixH56ujE0>.

Lycett & Wallis: Unlikely Preservers of Aboriginal Knowledge

<https://youtu.be/Ktcu06sy3b0>.



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Ernie Walker-his continuing story: submitted by Joy Jorgensen

Having celebrated his 105th birthday on 22 April this year Ernie is now in his 106th year on Earth. With his advancing years age is wearying him physically but he certainly still has his wits about him. He now needs a walker to mobilize.

Ernie is from the generation where many had their educational aspirations dashed due to the Great Depression. Their lives were then disrupted with the onset of WWII.

As a member of the Australian Infantry Force in WWII Ernie served for a total of 1,478 days with 932 days serving outside Australia. In the early days of his 18 months in the Middle East & North Africa, when he also spent 8 months being under siege at Tobruk, his first born child entered the world. Thus it would be 18 months before father & son met for the first time. The family wasn't together for very long when Ernie was re-deployed to New Guinea when he and many other AIF personnel returning from being trained in desert warfare, were to combat a new enemy in the NG jungles & on the infamous Kokoda Track. Despite experiencing such 'hard times' his philosophy on life is that *the World doesn't owe him anything & that one just gets on with life & does the best with what one has*. He is grateful to have survived those black days & expand his family to include a daughter & live a long & eventful life and make many, many true friends.

He & Bev are most fortunate to reside at Penrose in the Southern Highlands of NSW. This sleepy hamlet is very community minded & their fellow 'Penrosians' consider it an honour to help out their senior citizens when it is needed. Friends are most happy to put additional items in their shopping trolleys when purchasing their own needs & then dropping them off on the way home. Thanks for these kind deeds comes by way of a hot cuppa or nip of whiskey, depending on preferences & the weather, and a good 'chin wag'. Since the onset of the COVID pandemic 'trips to town' have been non-existent with the only time they leave their 11 hectare property is for health related appointments. Again the local Good Samaritans are happy to help out on these rare occasions but only accepted by Ernie & Bev on the proviso that they don't use their own vehicles but that of Ernie & Bev.

Ironically when the initial COVID 'lock down' was put in place it almost coincided with the 241 days he experienced at Tobruk in 1941 during WWII when under siege by the Nazi General Erwin Rommel & his forces. But, of course, conditions were vastly different. The freezing night & scorching day temperatures, scarcity of water, continual barrage of artillery fire, flies & contending with Dysentery were experienced daily during the Siege of Tobruk where as life at Penrose was 'curbed' but certainly not 'life threatening'.

Gone are the days of hopping onto his ride on mover to trim the extensive lawns & putting his shoulder into swinging the mattock to remove any weed from the gardens as he now requires a walker for his mobility. Some of the youthful locals are able to 'earn a few bucks' with these chores when required. To 'lessen the load' with tending his flock of laying hens Ernie fox proofed the fowl yards with electric fencing so they don't have to be locked in their pens over night. Other 'locals' have organized a roster of a daily visit to feed them & collect the eggs for Ernie & Bev.

Ernie is still capable of preparing an Irish Stew, but Bev usually 'draws the short straw' with cleaning up his 'mess'. With his advancing years he is finding that his appetite is diminishing and that 3 raw eggs whisked up with a schooner of unpasteurised milk in the morning suffices him until dinner. But if a friend drops in with a cream sponge he doesn't decline a slice or two. Partaking of morning tea is still a favored past time for Ernie & Bev but with the out door mid morning temperatures still being in the single digits, at Penrose at the moment, it isn't happening on the verandah of their home, but rather indoors whilst soaking up the cosy warmth.

On Ernie's mother's side of his family all his forbears came free to the shores of Australia. They arrived between 1827 & the early 1850s from the Counties of Chester, Sussex & Stafford in England. These families brought with them the knowledge of blacksmithing, wheel wrighting, agriculture, dressmaking & printing. But on his father's side he has many that arrived at the pleasure of his Majesty King George III.

The first to arrive was Ernie's 3 x great grand father John Morris Stevens aka John Morris, from Co. Hertford, on the *Charlotte* of the First Fleet. John partnered with one Sarah Bird, a convict from Co. Surry, who arrived on the *Indispensible* in 1796. She earned the reputation of being very enterprising & was the first female in the Colony to be granted a publican's license. It was via this couple's eldest daughter Sarah that Ernie descends. Sarah jnr married fellow Colonial born George Terry Howe, one of the sons of convict George Howe who arrived on the *Royal Admiral* in 1800 & became the printer & publisher of *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, and his convict partner

Elizabeth Hastings/Easton who also arrived in 1800, on the *Speedy*. Gov. King referred to George as *an ingenious man*. At the age of 19 Ernie's 2 x great grandfather George Terry Howe became the youngest printer and publisher in the Colony when he established the *Tasmanian & Port Dalrymple Advertiser*.

It was with George Terry & Sarah jnr's youngest child, Emily that Ernie's pedigree progresses. Emily's husband was the Colonial born son of convict John Morris, a watch motion maker from London who arrived in 1817 on the *Almorrah* & his second wife who had arrived free as a 2 year old with her convict mother Sarah Thornton on the *Broxbornebury* in 1814. This Sarah jnr's father arrived free 3 months later on the *Somersetshire*. One of Sarah jnr's Colonial born brothers (thus Ernie's 1st cousin 4 times removed) George Augustus went on to be a Mayor of Sydney on 2 occasions. Ernie's only other 'came free' fore bear arrived in 1827 from Co. Chester, who also happen to be fore bears of Ernie's mother.

Ernie's family was very pleased to be able to organize celebrations for his 100th birthday but, although he didn't 'look or act his age', were wondering if they would be helping him celebrate future birthdays. With him still being here we are hopeful that we will be helping him celebrate more to come. He will surely leave a giant depression when he does depart this mortal world.



Ernie leaving for ANZAC DAY service at Moss Vale 2021. Daughter Joy, granddaughter Kylie, Great granddaughters Alyssa & Laura (Kylie's daughters).

The following is a link with media commentator Alan Jones. Although Alan is talking about Ernie Walker he obviously is lauding any person that has put their 'life on the line', not just the Rats of Tobruk. In the group photo (taken at the 'official' Commemoration of the "75th Anniversary of The Siege of Tobruk" at Canberra in 2016, just before Dad's 100th birthday) in the YouTube, Dad is the 'gent' in the back row, right hand side wearing the cream hat with a navy coloured band.

<https://youtu.be/zKYJzI3DiM8>

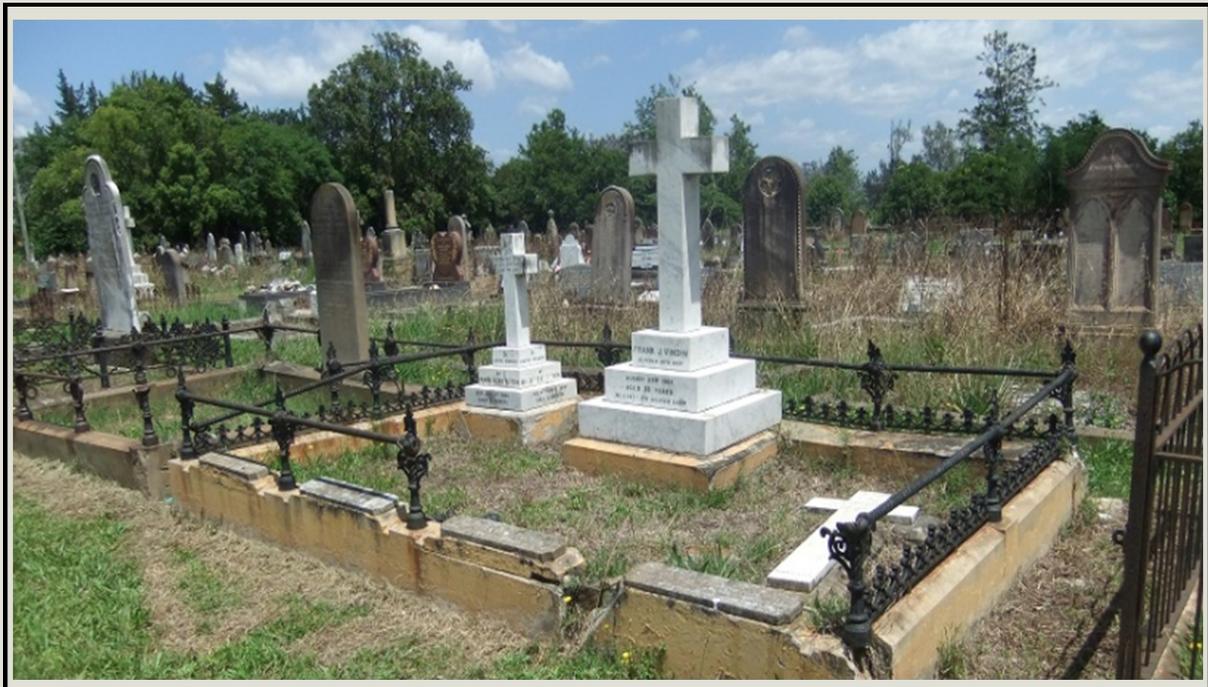
St Peters Anglican Church Group Richmond: submitted by Judith O'Donohue

It was Governor Lachlan Macquarie who nominated the site of St Peter's Church in Richmond. Macquarie envisioned a church, burial ground and schoolhouse on elevated land above Pugh's Lagoon which was a basin of fresh water. The burial ground, then 2.5 acres was surveyed by James Meehan and was consecrated by Reverend Samuel Marsden. William Cox fenced the area.

It was 1810 when the school and church opened. When the building became too small for the congregation a meeting chaired by Reverend Samuel Marsden was held 26 November 1835. The people of Richmond decided to erect a church for divine worship.

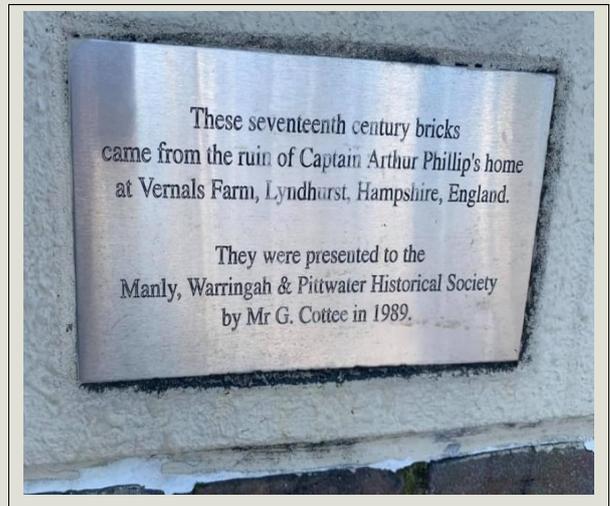
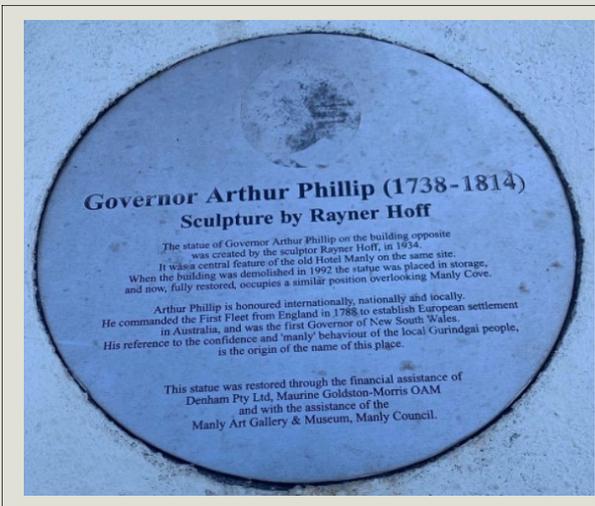
A notice called for tenders 18 October 1836. Built under the Church Act of 1840, St Peter's Church was one of four churches consecrated in 1841. It was agreed 400 acres of common be given as Glebe land for the church. The church was designed by Francis Clark, built by James Atkinson (who also built St Bartholomew's at Prospect) and opened by Bishop William Broughton 15 July 1841.

There are many early settlers of the Hawkesbury buried in the burial ground. Some of the earlier burials include Roger Twyfield aged five weeks, the son of Roger Twyfield and Leticia Green, buried 25 March 1810. George Rouse, son of Richard Rouse and Elizabeth Adams was buried 23 September 1809 aged nine years. Other notable citizens interred there include members of the Cox, Bowman, Pitt, Onus, Town, Sly and Boughton families. Margaret Catchpole is also buried within the grounds in an unmarked grave. Another early burial was that of Isaac Cornwell (snr) who was murdered at North Richmond on the 3rd of January 1811. Other early graves include those of pioneers including John Bowman, Thomas Matcham Pitt and Lt Thomas Hobby of the NSW Corps, the Chief Officer at Hawkesbury in 1800 who was supporter of Macquarie.



Referenced from a Wikipedia story

Photos From Lost Manly and Northern Beaches submitted by William Hempel



This statue of the first Governor of NSW, Captain Arthur Phillip was sculpted by Rayner Hoff in 1934. It was a feature of the old Hotel Manly, formerly on this site. When the building was demolished in 1992, the statue was restored to occupy a similar position overlooking Manly Cove. Rayner Hoff was born in England in 1894 and moved to Sydney to accept the role of teacher at East Sydney Technical College. He was head of the art school from 1931-1937 and created sculptures for Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney and the South Australian War Memorial in Adelaide. He also completed busts of Norman Lindsay and Dame Mary Gilmore which are in the Art Gallery of NSW collection. He is also represented in many regional gallery collections in Australia.

Photography by Pastor de Lasala.

A Snippet of Margaret Dawson– submitted by Judith O’Donohue

Margaret Dawson Margaret Dawson (c.1770 – 16 February 1816) was a convict who arrived in Sydney Cove on the First Fleet New South Wales in 1788. Margaret was in a long-term relationship with the William Balmain (surgeon). Margaret is considered one of Australia's 'founding mothers', whose descendants continue live in both Australia and Britain.

Margaret Charing Cross and was told that a girl of her description had boarded the coach for Chester at 7pm. Shetley took a post chaise with a Mr Lowe, and overtook the coach at St Albans. When Margaret was found on the roof of the coach, she was apprehended and taken to a local Inn where she handed over the stolen goods from her pockets and two boxes. The goods were identified by Shetley, the only item missing being a guinea coin which she had used to pay for the coach. Margaret denied that she been travelling with an accomplice. Dawson was then taken back to London where Mrs Shetley identified the stolen clothing.

Margaret Dawson's trial records no motive for the theft. The reason can only be speculated. Was it due to ill treatment of her employer, a family crisis, a threat from some unknown person and just the temptation. At her trial in the Old Bailey on 22 February 1786 for "feloniously stealing" goods to the value of £12 4s 1d, Dawson said "I have nothing to say, I have no witnesses." She was found guilty and sentenced to the mandatory sentence of death. The prosecutor and jury recommended mercy on account of her youth, being only fifteen, and it being her first offence. After ten months in Newgate Prison, in conditions where malnutrition, filth, and violence were common, Dawson was returned to court. Here, on 4 January 1787, her death sentence was commuted on condition of being transported for seven years to New South Wales. On 26 January, she was moved from Newgate to the *Lady Penrhyn*, then moored in the River Thames. Conditions here were no better than in prison, with the women on board described as "almost naked and so very filthy" and "where there are very many venereal complaints". She sailed with the Fleet for New South Wales from Portsmouth on 13 May 1787, arriving after a cramped and insanitary voyage of seven months at Sydney Cove in Port Jackson on 26 January 1788.

In August 1789 convict John Hayes received fifty lashes in a flogging ordered for his "infamous behaviour" towards Dawson. Perhaps it was this event that brought her to the attention of the assistant surgeon, William Balmain. It is not known whether she assisted Balmain in tending to the large number of sick convicts who arrived in mid-1790 in the Second Fleet. In November 1791, Dawson and Balmain travelled together, with Philip Gidley King, to Norfolk Island where Balmain was going to take up the post of Lieutenant Governor. Dawson's penal sentence expired in January 1793, and soon after she signed a receipt for payment for some grain sold to the government stores, indicating she was literate, free, and farming land. Her first daughter was born on Norfolk Island in May 1794. Dawson and Balmain returned to Sydney in August 1795. There, Dawson had two more children, a girl and a boy, with Balmain. Their older daughter died on 4 September 1797. In August 1801, the family left Sydney and arrived in London in March 1802. In May 1803 Dawson, now pregnant again with their fourth child, and the children, were sent to Ormskirk, near Liverpool. On 17 November 1803 William Balmain died. In his will, dated four days before his death, he left a yearly sum of £50 to "my dear friend Margaret Dawson, otherwise Henderson ... whose tenderness to me, while in ill health, claims my warmest gratitude and by whom I have had two natural children ... and who is now ensient". No doubt due to her convict status, in contrast to Balmain's professional position, he felt unable to marry her. She and her children had taken the surname 'Henderson', which was Balmain's mother's maiden name. Dawson left Ormskirk and gave birth to the fourth child in London. Little is known of this baby, except that it was a girl, and still living with the family at Clement's Inn in January 1807. With a settled income of £50 a year, and rent from properties in New South Wales, it is unlikely that Dawson would have had to earn a living after Balmain's death. With the help of his friends she continued to encourage her son John William Henderson's education, and he eventually returned to New South Wales in January 1829 as a surgeon, like his father. On 16 February 1816, while living at St James's, Westminster, Dawson died, and was buried in the churchyard of St-Giles-in-the-Fields, where Balmain had also been buried. Following her death, Balmain's executors paid £12 10s for her "last sickness and funeral expenses".

Reference: "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Margaret_Dawson&oldid=918947975"