



Image Courtesy of the SLNSW

# Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

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

The words I share with you will be both happy and not so happy.

Happiness is Springtime and what it gives us to look forward to when we wake each day. Flowers like wattle, jasmine & many more with a special perfume that can bring back pleasant memories. Warm and longer days entice you to come outdoors and look up at the blue sky.

Missing, yes what I am really missing – each of you, when we are able to hold our Meetings. I am so grateful for the friendships I have made with each of you.

When the time is right, we will see one another again & I pray that you are keeping well?

A couple of “Thank You’s”! Joy Jorgensen served time on our Committee, and I would like to thank her so much for what she has given in support. Unfortunately, Joy has stepped down due to her health.

Suzanne Shaw has offered to join the Committee and we are so appreciative in relation to her decision.

Again, I miss you all and remember I am only a phone call – 0407 660 579 – away if you would like to chat.

*Pamela Hempel*  
Acting President

## Sydney weather:

### Winter of 1836 remembered, the day it snowed in the Harbour City

New South Wales' central west this morning woke to a dusting of snow — the first of 2018 — and while the white stuff seldom falls in Sydney, it has happened once before. As the Harbour City shivered through its first taste of the cold weather last night and this morning, newspaper clippings from more than 180 years ago reveal today is, well, nothing.

Sunny Sydney and the sands of Bondi Beach have, in fact, once — and only once — been covered in snow. During the "icy winter" of 1836, the thousands of convicts held in Hyde Park — and the British settlers in the then 48-year-old colonial outpost called Sydney — awoke to snow "nearly an inch deep" on June 28.

"About seven o'clock in the morning a drifting fall covered the streets," The Sydney Herald reported at the time.

"A razor-keen wind from the west blew pretty strongly at the time and altogether, it was the most English-like winter morning ever experienced". The meteorological table in The Sydney Herald recorded that on the morning of the snow (June 28, 1836) revealed the temperature dropped to 3 degrees Celsius (or 38 degrees Fahrenheit).

Sydney was visited by a fall of snow, yesterday morning. We believe a snow was never seen in Sydney before. The previous night, the weather was cold, but not more so than we have often felt before.

**METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.**

The Weather, and variation of the Thermometer since last day's publication, in Sydney, at 6 in the morning, at noon, and at 6 o'clock in the evening.

	6 a. m.	12 noon.	6 p. m.
<b>MONDAY ....</b>	Cloudy 46 S W	Cloudy 50 NW	Cloudy 48 S W
<b>TUESDAY ...</b>	Snow 38 S W	Windy 50 S W	Cloudy 47 S W
	Clear	Fine	Clear

For contributions to the Newsletter please email to

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## Spanish Influenza Pandemic-Sydney 1919



Hunter and O'Connell Streets, 1919. When this corner building was captured by the camera on 19 February 1919, Sydney was in the midst of an outbreak of the deadly Spanish influenza pandemic. The requirement to wear a mask in public was enforced by police. Not all obeyed. The Spanish flu pandemic in 1919 killed 6387 people in NSW and infected up to 290,000 in Sydney, according to the NSW State Archives. It transformed the city. "So, for eight months, the people of Sydney lived in a nightmare city, with masked faces in quiet streets, the theatres and concert halls empty, the church bells calling more often to burials than to worship," *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported in 1954. Photo Courtesy Sydney Morning Herald

### Quotes from the Colony

**Friday 23 September 1788**

*The good behaviour and industry of two convicts, both at Norfolk Island have induced me to request to the under secretary that their families may be sent to them from England as they do not wish to leave after the time for which they have been transported expires*

**Captain Phillip**

**Monday 26 September 1788**

*The children's allowance is, I think too little and I have been obliged in several instances recently to order children half the main allowance, or two thirds as the women are allowed.*

**Judge Advocate Collins**

**Thursday 6 October 1788**

*The first settlers have now been ashore for thirty six weeks or nine months, children conceived on shore were now being born in the colony.*

**Judge Advocate Collins**

## **The Sirius Letters OF Newton Fowell Part 3- by Rae Moore**

Newton continues his letter writing and completes an 18 page letter to his father, covering his experiences from early November 1787 until he reached Sydney Cove in July 1788. This letter was sent from Sydney Cove on returning transport to England.

He begins by saying he is very well, then Newtown commences to list some of the cargo they purchased in the Cape of Good Hope: Oxen, 6 coves (sic), several sheep and several hogs; these were distributed on board the different transports. Newtown then wrote on the 12 November 1787 "We weighted and stood for sea with all the Convoy in Company". *For us today, this must have been a magnificent sight.*

All the people thoroughly clear of scurvy as the Dutch supplied us with mutton, vegetables and all other things for the preservation of men's lives on so long a voyage". Prior to leaving they "spoke" (acknowledged each other from ship to ship, through loud hailers) a Spermi-cetti Whaler 4 months from England.

13 November the water allowance was reduced to 2 quarts (2L) of water a day for officers and men and on 20th November the allowance was further reduced to 3 pints (1.5L) for the long journey ahead.

Due to the northwind, the Main T Gallant Yard sail on the Supply was split and carried away. They "got up another yard and a new sail". Several artificers (skilled tradesmen in the Navy) were sent along with several" sets of tools.

### **The Fleet splits into two**

The Governor accompanied by Lt King and Lt Dawes of the Marines went on board the Supply, Major Ross went onboard the Scarborough. At noon they parted company with the fleet along with the Alexander & Friendship transports. The Governor took the "Time Keeper" in the Supply, where it was in charge of Lt Dawes. Normally kept on the Sirius, the clock was transferred to the Supply. (Used for accurate navigation, it needed to be regularly wound up, but not during heavy weather was allowed to be run down, much to the annoyance of Captain Hunter).

On January 1, 1788 Newton sends New Year greetings to his family, but expects they will not receive them until 1789. "Tempestuous" weather greeted them and blew any weather since they left England. On 5th Newton describes seeing Albatross and Blue Petrel. That same evening he saw the "Southern Lights shining very bright".

### **Land HO!**

They were overjoyed to hear the land was in sight, however, joy turned to disappointment when it was only a fogbank which appeared like land. Joy returned when at 2pm, the Prince of Wales signaled seeing land and shortly after they too had the pleasure of seeing it themselves. Newton gives a description of the sighting of Van Diemens Land; barren in parts and wooded in others. He gives a reading that at South Cape N40E they saw several smokes on the shore. At night they sighted several smokes on the shore. At night they sighted several fires on shore too.

Bad weather on the 8th was against them and they lost sight of land. The 9th January was squall with thunder & lightening. Bad weather continued and on th10th they needed to take in all their sails. Newton noted that he never saw it “blow so hard” and was all over in quarter of an hour. Some of the convoy lost their sails and one without her main yard, but all were soon replaced.

Newton gives more details of their position. The sea is calm and the sight of land is now their constant companion.

Their voyage of nearly 9 months is almost over and at 6am the entrance to Botany Bay was sighted. They were reunited with the Supply and transports which they were separated from since 25 November. The Supply’s boat came on board and told them they were all well and that the Supply had been only 2 days and the transports only one day.

“We arrived in Botany Bay 20 January after a passage of 10 weeks from Cape of Good Hope”.

“The clock featured again in Newtons’ letter, when it was taken on the Sirius to Norfolk Island. After the wrecking of the Sirius on the reef, the important Time Keeper was sent ashore on the first boat, “but in the hurry and confusion was forgot to be wound up”, the second time since leaving England.



The Sirius Letters  
The Complete Letters of Newton Fowell  
Midshipman & Lieutenant aboard the Sirius Flagship of the First Fleet  
Edited and with commentary by  
Nance Irvine 1988

Concluding  
episode next  
edition

## FFF Plaque Dedication 7 March 1999

There is a good description of this event in Dispatched Downunder by Ron Withington on pages 150-155. It took place at the Green Hills Cemetery with Plaque Convenor Douglas Oakes among other dignitaries including Peter Christian. Two of the pics are very similar to two black & white ones in the book.

