

Image Courtesy of the SLNSW

# Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

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## KATHLEEN'S CORNER

Already three months into 2025 and the chapter has had a great start to the year. February saw a great presentation by Mark Bundy who had a vast knowledge about the history of Rookwood Cemetery after having worked there for 30+ years.

In March twelve members visited Belmont House which was a great experience. More a mansion than a house our guides Neil and Joy from the Friends of Belmont House did a wonderful job in sharing the history of this special place. I believe all members present on the day would highly recommend a visit to Belmont. There are a number of photos in this newsletter as we wanted to share our day out at Belmont.

In April we have the Kelsey Mc Morrow who will tell stories of little known or forgotten people from the Hawkesbury.

It is hard to believe that in May this year, the FFFHNC will celebrate 10 years since our inaugural meeting. We hope to get a good number of members to celebrate this special anniversary with us. Further information will be forthcoming.

If anyone would like to submit an article, story, poem or advert about upcoming ancestor reunions, please contact us at the email mentioned on page 11.

*Kathleen Forrest*

President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

**Date:** Saturday 12th April 2025

**Venue:** Tebbutt Room, Windsor Library

**Speaker:** Kelsey Mc Morrow

**Topic:** Imprints: stories from the archives

**Time:** 11:00am



### MAY- 10TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

**Date:** Saturday 8th May 2025

**Venue:** Nepean Rowing Club

**Time:** 11:30am



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE CHAPTER MEETING

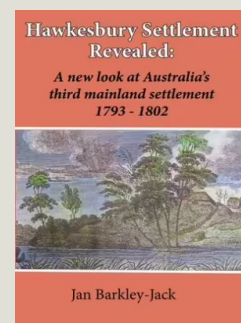
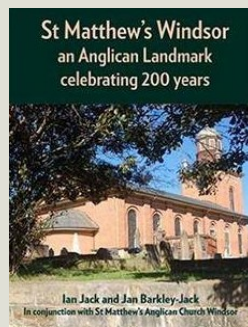
**Date:** Saturday 14th June 2025

**Venue:** Tebbutt Room, Windsor Library

**Speaker:** Dr Jan Barkley-Jack

**Topic:** 'A Colonial Conundrum: how did those from humble backgrounds access change with few resources?'

**Time:** 10:45am



### THE HISTORY OF WINDSOR BRIDGE

The Hawkesbury Museum has a new exhibition on display featuring the history of Windsor Bridge. Windsor Bridge was the oldest existing bridge crossing the Hawkesbury and opened in 1874. The new exhibition explores the history and significance of the bridge, and the community's fight to save it.

The exhibition also features never before seen images and original objects from the bridge shown for the first time.

Visit The Hawkesbury Museum today to see the exhibition.



## FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING MARK BUNDY- HISTORY OF ROOKWOOD CEMETERY



**CHAPTER  
IN  
ACTION**



## MARCH- VISIT TO BELMONT HOUSE







## BELMONT HOUSE

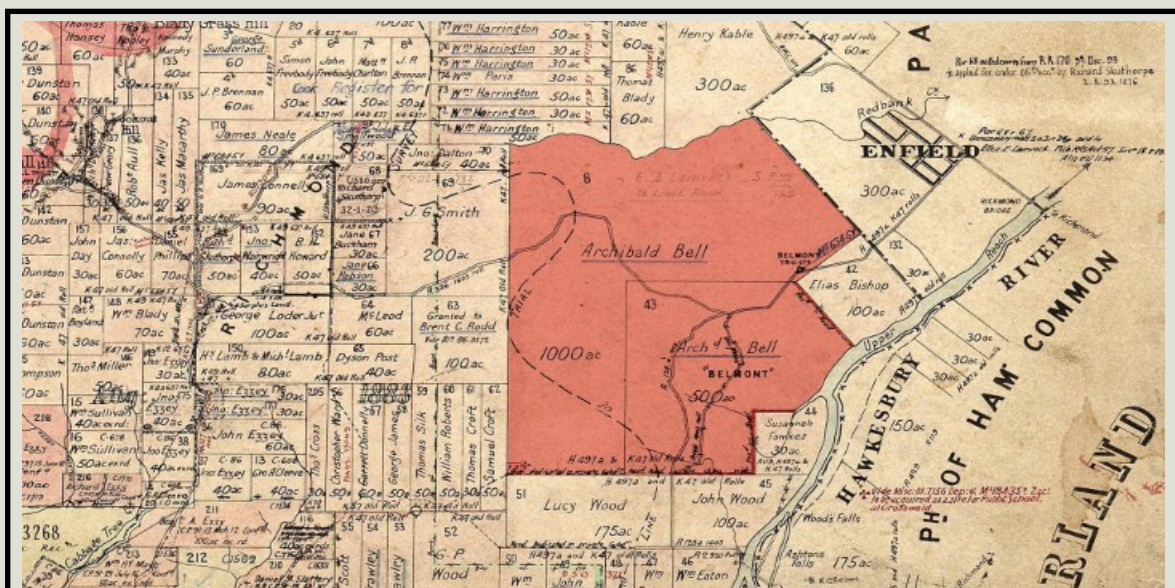
Belmont House was built by Philip Charley in 1892, and although time has weathered the building, it remains a grand mansion of yesteryear even by today's standards. Although some rooms are fitted with modern coms which are used as office space and meeting rooms, it feels as though time has stood still in this once bustling house.

The surrounding gardens are tranquil and offer glorious views as far as the eye can see. The building sits within the grounds of the St John of God Hospital in North Richmond.

Lieutenant Archibald Bell sailed into Sydney in July 1807 aboard "Young William". It was 1808 when Bell was granted 500 acres at Richmond Hill. He was later granted another 1000 acres and became a powerful land owner. Archibald Bell built a home at Richmond Hill which took in wide views of the entire district. Bell's original home was demolished and replaced with a stone one which replaced the former timber structure on Belmont Hill in 1834. The only evidence of that structure is the foundation stone. Archibald Bell died in April of 1837 and was buried in a tomb on his property close to Grose Vale Road. Wife Maria and a granddaughter are also buried in the tomb which is today looked after by the National Trust.

Eventually the family became insolvent and land parcels from the original grants were split and sold. Henry Newcomen purchased the remaining part of Bell's land in 1860 for 7,500 pounds. Henry had Bell's home demolished and a new home was erected nearby about 1868. The new building was also demolished to make way for the current mansion which sits on the site. After Henry died, the home was bought by Phillip Charley who built the current home. Charley and wife Clara had 8 children. During the Great Depression years, Charley lost it all. Charley died in 1937 and is buried at Richmond.

It was 1951 when the "Oder of St John of God" purchased the land which became a psychiatric hospital for men. By 1992 another wing opened and today the hospital has a reputation for being one of the best psychiatric hospitals in the world.



1893 land titles indicating the 500-acre land parcel granted to Archibald Bell. Source: Historical Land Records NSW.



## CHARLES STONE

Charles Stone was sentenced to 7 years transportation at the Old Bailey after being convicted of stealing 5 pairs of silk and cotton stockings from a hosier's shop at Covent Garden in July 1784. The value of the stockings was 30 shillings. After spending time aboard the hulk "Ceres", he embarked on the Alexander on January 6, 1787.

John stone died at Port Jackson and buried around 14 January 1789. He was about 22 years old when he died.

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## PATRICK VALLANCE

Patrick Vallance was 40 years old when he joined Sirius as Quartermaster. Patrick was born in Leith, Scotland. Patrick was discharged to join Friendship as a second mate.

Sometime on 29 October whilst the First Fleet was anchored in the Cape of Good Hope, Vallance fell overboard and drowned. Three men jumped overboard to try to save Patrick but it was too late. It is believed Patrick was drunk at the time of his death.

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## JOHN WARD

John Ward was sentenced tin Louth to 7 years transportation. After being Ceres, he embarked on Alexander on 6th January 1787. About 3 weeks after the First Fleet left Terenife John died. He was aged about 16 years.

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## HUGH SANDLIN

Hugh Sandlin was baptised in London. Hugh was the child of Ann Sandlin. Hugh died aboard the Lady Penrhyn on 24 April 1787. Hugh was a little more than 2 years old.

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## ANN SANDLIN (C.1754-1809)

Ann Sandlin was a needleworker and the wife of Hugh Sandlin. Ann was found guilty at the Old Bailey for stealing and then pawning a saucepan, a kettle and a flat iron from the premises she was lodging. Ann was delivered to Lady Penrhyn on 9th January 1787 with her young son Hugh who later died whilst the Fleet were still at Portsmouth.

Ann had a son named Richard with sailor Richard Floan in 1788. Richard was baptised on 17th September 1788.

Daughter Elizabeth was baptised 15th August 1790. Elizabeth's father was another sailor John Winter.

Ann worked at the Sydney Orphanage as a cook and was paid 8 pound and 8s.

Ann was buried at Sydney on 2nd January 1809 after falling out of a boat and drowning at Cockle Bay. The newspaper reporting on the inquest listed her name as Ann Battan.

On Sunday last Ann Battan fell out of a boat in Cockle Bay, and was unfortunately drowned.— The body was found the same afternoon; and on Monday an inquest was taken.—Verdict: Accidental Death.

Elizabeth Sandlin married Thomas Boulton on 10th August 1806 at St Phillips church in Sydney. The marriage produced 14 children. Elizabeth died 19th June 1866. The cause of death was listed as "decay of nature" and age was listed as 75 years. There were 3 sons and 3 daughters still living.

**FUNERAL.**—The Friends of Mr. JOHN BOULTON are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of his late departed MOTHER; the procession to move from her late residence, 90, Prince-street, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock. JAMES CURTIS, Undertaker.

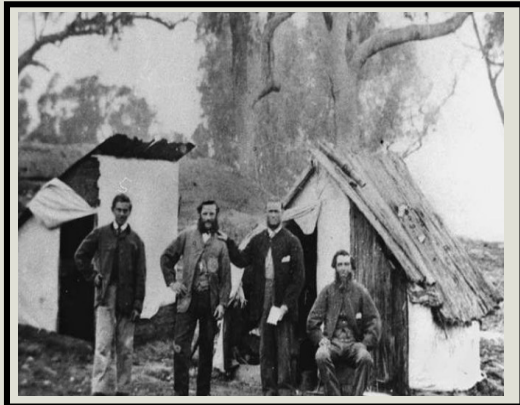
### References:

[08 Jan 1809 - SYDNEY. - Trove](#) (Sydney Gazette) 8th January 1809, Page 1

'Boulton, Elizabeth (c. 1790–1866)', People Australia, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/biography/boulton-elizabeth-30976/text38345>,

Mollie Gillen, *The Founders of Australia: A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet* (1989), pp 322-23

## The Way We Were



## QUOTES FROM THE COLONY

**Thursday 3rd March 1788**

*A very large alligator said to be seen near the tents 14ft long...shot a remarkably large bird today-as big as an ostrich. Worgan made a notation about the bird, which answers the description given by Dr Goldsmith of the "Emew". It resembles an ostrich. It's flesh proved very good eating and four of us dined off it from one of the sidebones.*

**Captain Phillip**

**Tuesday 8th March 1788**

*I am suffering a pain in my side, I think it has come about by the combination of extreme fatigue and having to remain in wet clothes for so long. The Lieutenant-Governor, back at the cove is reported as referring to my expedition as a party of pleasure.*

**Captain Phillip**

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