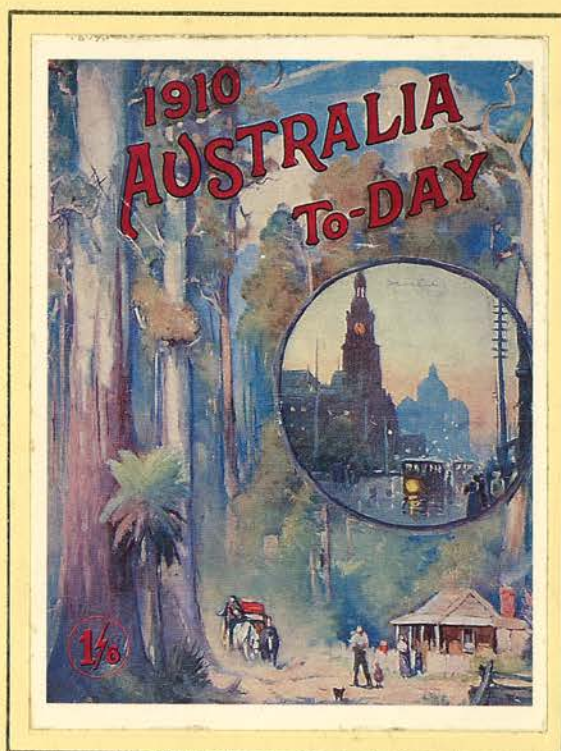


AUSTRALIANS EVENTS AND PLACES



AUSTRALIANS

EVENTS AND PLACES



The Duke of York opens the first parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in the Melbourne Exhibition Building, on 9 May 1901. Tom Roberts, who attended the ceremony, painted this Sketch for the opening of federal parliament 1901 in preparation for painting the larger and more detailed work that now hangs in the high court, Canberra.

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EVENTS AND PLACES

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COVER ILLUSTRATION

*The 1910 edition of Australia today, published by
the United Commercial Travellers' Association of
Australasia, contrasts a busy Sydney street scene with
the picturesque serenity of rural life.*

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FOREWORD

THIS BOOK and its ten companions have been ten years in the making. They have been created to mark the bicentenary of European settlement in this country, and they are the outcome of collaboration on a scale never before attempted in the writing of Australian history. Hundreds of people in and beyond universities have joined together to re-create the experience of people living in Australia since 1788 and to place that experience in the wider context of a human occupation that began tens of thousands of years ago.

The editors and contributors have worked in a variety of modes: from slicing into the past at fifty-year intervals (*Australians 1838, 1888 and 1938*) to laying out, in terse chronology, events as they happened year by year (*Events and places*), and from portraying processes and movements on maps of the country (*A historical atlas*) to briefing readers for explorations of their own (*A guide to sources*). The authors represent diverse approaches, in terms both of occupation—historian, economist, archaeologist, geographer, librarian, journalist—and of outlook. We have sought the best person for each part of the job, and not altered or muffled anybody's voice. We have also tried to make the work of scholars readily accessible to general readers.

In this aspiration we have been strengthened by a close working relationship with the publishers. From early days the project has benefited from continuous consultation with representatives of Fairfax, Syme & Weldon about its form and presentation. Their confidence in our enterprise has heartened us throughout the long journey.

Together, we and they present *Australians: a historical library* to the people of Australia as an offering for 1988 and beyond.

OLIVER MACDONAGH

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD *v*

PREFACE *xi*

INTRODUCTION *xiv*

ABBREVIATIONS *xvi*



EVENTS

2 — 203

A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY FROM 1788

1788	<i>2</i>	1850	<i>62</i>	1920	<i>133</i>
1790	<i>4</i>	1860	<i>73</i>	1930	<i>141</i>
1800	<i>13</i>	1870	<i>85</i>	1940	<i>154</i>
1810	<i>21</i>	1880	<i>95</i>	1950	<i>167</i>
1820	<i>28</i>	1890	<i>107</i>	1960	<i>181</i>
1830	<i>40</i>	1900	<i>114</i>	1970	<i>192</i>
1840	<i>50</i>	1910	<i>122</i>	1980	<i>203</i>

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA: TIMELINE TO 1788 *170*

AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD: TIMELINE TO 1788 *172*



PLACES

214 — 462

A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF AUSTRALIAN PLACES

NEW SOUTH WALES

The Central West *214*

The Darling and Far West *222*

The Hunter Valley and North Coast *227*

New England and the Northwest Slopes *239*

The Riverina *247*

The South Coast and Southern Tablelands	255
The Sydney Region	266

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Alice Springs and the Centre	276
Darwin and the North Coast	281

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane and the Southeast	288
The Central Coast	298
The Darling Downs	302
The Gulf Country and Cape York Peninsula	313
The North Coast	319
The West Central Region	329

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide and the Southeast	334
Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas	344
The Northern Region	349

TASMANIA

Hobart and the Southeast	356
Launceston and the Northeast	363
The Northwest and West Coast	370

VICTORIA

The Central Highlands	378
Gippsland	387
The Melbourne Region	395
The Northeastern and North Central Region	406
The Western District	418
The Wimmera and Mallee	426

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Kimberleys	431
Murchison and the Eastern Goldfields	436
Perth and the Southwest	444
The Pilbara and Gascoyne	455
The Wheatbelt and Central Coast	462



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 468

NOTES ON ILLUSTRATIONS 468

NAME INDEX 470

PLACE INDEX 474

PREFACE

HISTORIANS are professionally interested in the passing of time, and in 1977 a few historians in Canberra began to think about 1988 as a year offering a special opportunity to their craft. That year, we guessed, would inspire a larger and more general commemoration than Australians had organised at the end of any previous half-century. The coming occasion was sure to be more *national* than those others, for advances in central government, transport and communication had accelerated the transformation of states that had once been separate colonies into provinces of a single polity, whose people travelled about as never before, talked to each other on STD, watched all over the continent the same prime ministerial news conference and the same cricket match. Moreover, Australian history itself was gaining a new popularity, as Stuart Macintyre comments at the end of the first chapter in *Australians: a guide to sources*. The names of Manning Clark and Geoffrey Blainey were better known than those of any scholarly historian in earlier times; historical and genealogical societies were burgeoning, and tourists flocked to Ballarat to see gold-rush days reconstructed at Sovereign Hill and to Old Sydney Town to see convict floggings re-enacted. Television viewers switched on to Australian costume dramas; and cinema audiences were offered, in 1977 alone, eight feature films based on life in the remote and recent Australian past.

All in all, it appeared likely that public and private enterprise would make 1988 a year for intense consciousness of Australian history. What might historians contribute? Individually, of course, whatever scholarly article or biography or general history an author was moved to attempt. Collectively? The Canberra group, consulting widely, found some antipathy towards the very idea of collaborative enterprise — ‘history by committee’ — and some particular doubts about proposed approaches. But it also found much interest and enthusiasm, and eventually enough support to embark on the project that has become *Australians: a historical library*.

The makers of these books do not see them as official history in any sense. The project has had no money from the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

Money for general administration and for research on different volumes has been provided from universities (especially the Australian National University and the University of New South Wales), and from the Australian Research Grants Scheme. General and volume editors have taken on the job as part of their work in universities and colleges of advanced education. With few exceptions, contributors are also unpaid. Royalties will go into a fund to support Australian studies. Some advance royalties paid years ahead of publication, have been ploughed into research for the books.

That was a source of funds unforeseen when we began. Some potential publishers told us that they would need a subsidy; Fairfax, Syme & Weldon asked for no subsidy, anticipated larger sales than any other publisher we approached, and encouraged us to plan without any inhibitions the size of the books and the quantity and quality of illustrations. The scale on which the publishers have been willing to undertake the project has helped us keep two early resolutions: to write for general readers, addressing them with respect but without assuming prior knowledge and to illustrate the books richly, not for mere decorative effect but to integrate visual material with text.

Historians had long lamented the absence of a set of reference books that would deliver essential information about Australian history to students, authors and browsers. The *Australian encyclopaedia*, first published in 1925 and revised three times since, included much information about Australia's past, but its focus was not primarily historical. Many reference works were devoted to particular subject areas, from A. McCulloch's *Encyclopaedia of Australian art* and E. M. Miller and F. T. Macartney's *Australian literature* to C. A. Hughes and B. D. Graham's *A handbook of Australian government and politics* and the official histories of Australia's part in two world wars.

Taken together, such books made up a valuable reference library. Few people, however, possessed them all; and those who did still found large gaps in their library's historical coverage. The committee planning this project had an impressive precedent in the *Australian dictionary of biography*, a multi-volume enterprise which draws on scholars throughout the nation.

Australians lacked an atlas of their history and a convenient compilation of historical statistics. Information about other aspects of the past was scattered and hard to come by. We decided, therefore, that the series should include five reference volumes, presenting our past in an accessible and inviting format. This is the purpose of *Australians: a historical atlas*, *Australians: events and places*, *Australians: a historical dictionary*, *Australians: a guide to sources* and *Australians: historical statistics*.

These five volumes build on earlier generations of reference works, including encyclopaedias, colonial, state and commonwealth yearbooks, census reports, *Who's who*, the *Australian dictionary of biography* and atlases. Our editors, writers and researchers have also used many books published about aspects of Australian life and unpublished material in libraries, government and private archives and museums. We have drawn on the expertise of the staff of such institutions and of individual researchers across the nation.

Each reference book approaches the past in different ways. *Events and places* combines a chronology and a gazetteer, providing a reference that is both historical and geographical in approach. In the *Events* section we set out what we consider to be the most important and interesting happenings in Australian history. We intend *Events* to have many uses: for example, to settle arguments about who was the first to do what; to help a reader imagine Australia in the year in which he or she was born or when a parent, grandparent or greatgrand-

parent first arrived. The *Places* section provides a summary history of more than seven hundred cities, towns and geographical features. Some of the towns, especially those founded near goldfields, now scarcely exist. There are 32 regional essays in *Places* which put the localities in a wider historical and economic framework.

Australians: a historical dictionary has over 1000 entries on people, movements, ideas and institutions which have shaped Australia's past. Readers will find short biographies on such prominent Australians as Dame Nellie Melba, Jack Lang, Judith Wright and Rupert Murdoch. Historical developments including land settlement schemes and the spread of the railway system are explained, as are terms such as 'peacocking' and 'cabbage tree hat'. Readers can discover information on such diverse topics as the creation of Vegemite and the invention of the combine harvester.

Like every work of reference published, these volumes draw on original sources and the knowledge of researchers and specialists. Often original sources that might confirm a detail no longer survive, and often those that do survive cannot be relied on. There will be experts on particular topics, localities and events who will dispute our knowledge, unearth new facts and disprove old ones. We are keen to receive such information for additions or corrections to future printings.

Together, these five books provide the most extensive reference library ever produced on Australian history.

PETER SPEARRITT

INTRODUCTION

THIS BOOK is in two parts. *Events* is a chronology of Australian history from 1788, when Europeans first settled on the continent, to 1984. It is accompanied by timelines of Aboriginal Australia and European exploration to 1788. *Places* is a historical gazetteer, a descriptive account of places that centres on their historical significance. Both parts are intended to enrich the study of Australian history by making key information readily accessible. They should provide answers to the sort of questions that a wide range of readers are likely to ask.

CHRONOLOGIES offer historians the most straightforward means of creating order from the chaos of the past. They are the basis of narrative history, the oldest and still the most familiar form of historical writing. Though seemingly objective, chronologies are invariably works of interpretation. From the vast mass of information about the past, historians select events that reflect their own assumptions about what history is or ought to be about. Hence the makers of Australian chronologies in the late nineteenth century emphasised political events, landmarks in the exploration of the continent, natural disasters and the birth and death of famous men. This chronology, compiled in the mid-1980s, mentions many of the events that earlier chroniclers considered important; but it also includes incidents that interest a new generation of historians, relating, for example to the position of women in Australian society and issues in Australian cultural life.

Chronologies can serve several purposes. Most obviously, they provide specific details about important historical events. They can also evoke the mood of a period: when a sequence of events conveys, for example, impressions of economic hardship or political turmoil. Chronologies have some limitations. First, they do not explain how events came about. The fact that one event follows another in chronological sequence does not necessarily imply that one caused the other. Establishing the sequence of events that precedes an incident is only one step towards understanding how it came about, and readers should be

wary when exploring, for example, the lead-up to such incidents as the Rum Rebellion or the dismissal of Prime Minister Whitlam.

Chronologies are also restricted in the information they can convey. They include only events that can be dated to a precise day, month or year. Gradual trends and long-term movements tend to escape the chronicler's net.

Whenever possible in this chronology, incidents have been dated precisely. Sometimes, for convenience and economy, we have grouped a series of events together: as, for example, with industrial conflicts, the extension of the franchise and journeys of exploration. Such events can be located through the index, as can events whose dates are unknown.

Some chronological tables, for example of the terms of office of premiers and prime ministers, can be found in the guide and index to *Australians: a historical library*.

GAZETTEERS, like chronologies, have a long history. One of the best Australian gazetteers was published in Sydney in 1848. *A geographic dictionary or gazetteer of the Australian colonies* was compiled by W.H. Wells, to provide the British government and public with geographical and other information about the antipodes, and also to present colonists with a means of locating places 'which could not previously be ascertained without some difficulty and loss of time', a function now performed by atlases.

Our gazetteer differs from Wells' gazetteer in many ways. Above all, *Places* is a *historical* gazetteer, as his was not. On the basis of geographical and historical criteria, we have divided Australia into 32 regions. The **essays** that precede each section provide a broad regional context for the specific **locality entries** that follow, in alphabetical order and accompanied by a map of the region. When seeking information about a particular place, readers should consult the regional essay, as well as entries for nearby relevant localities in the same or adjacent regions.

Each entry includes standard information, including **latitude and longitude**, followed by **population figures**, derived from official censuses. For each place, we have given the first and last available figures, together with those for selected intermediate years. They highlight general trends, and ignore short-term or minor fluctuations. In addition, the entries include a wide variety of information relating, for example, to exploration, settlement, municipal government and economic conditions.

Places that have entries in the gazetteer are identified by bold type when they are mentioned in other entries or in the regional essays. Many other places are referred to throughout the gazetteer. All significant references to a particular place can be found in the index.

Each regional essay is accompanied by a list of key **references** that are readily available in major libraries. Further references, to events as well as places, may be found in *Australians: a guide to sources* and in the guide and index.

EVENTS AND PLACES is intended to be a companion for travellers, film and theatre-goers, students and readers of *Australians: a historical library* in their exploration of Australia's past.

GRAEME APLIN

S. G. FOSTER

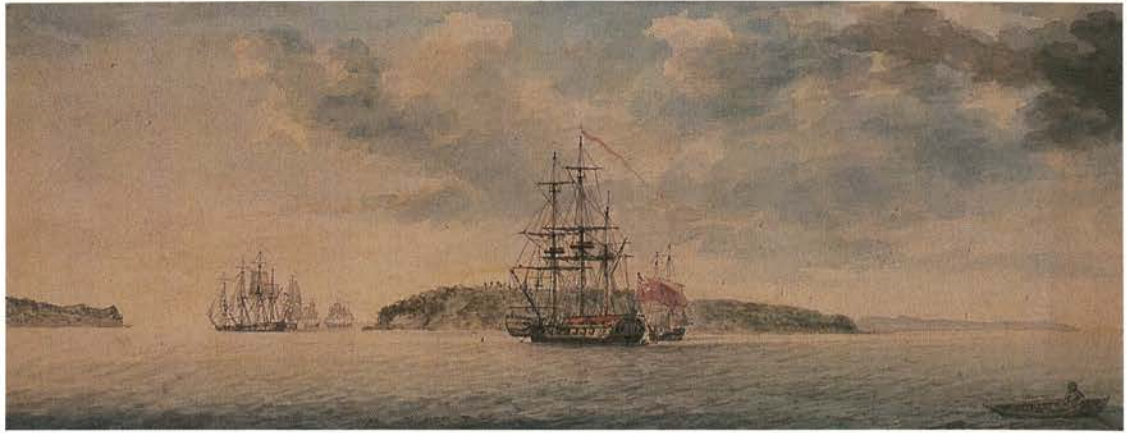
MICHAEL MCKERNAN

ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Commission (now Corporation)	d	pence	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Aborig(s)	Aborigine(s), Aboriginal	discov	discovered	OTC	Overseas Telecommunications Commission
ACI	Australian Consolidated Industries	DLP	Democratic Labor Party		
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	Dr	Doctor		
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions	EEC	European Economic Community	PI	Place
agric	agriculture (-al)	estab	established	popn	population
AIDC	Australian Industry Development Corporation	Fr	Father	POW	Prisoner(s) of War
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome	g	gram(s)	Pt	Point
AIF	Australian Imperial Force	Gen	General	Qld	Queensland
AIM	Australian Inland Mission	GMH	General Motors-Holden	R	River
ALCOA	Aluminium Company of Australia	Gov	Governor	Ra	Range
ALP	Australian Labor Party	Gov-gen	Governor-general	RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
AMP	Australian Mutual Provident	govt	government	Rd	Road
AMS	Aboriginal Medical Service	GPO	General Post Office	rediscov	rediscovered
ANA	Australian National Airways	ha	hectare(s)	Rev	Reverend
ANZAC	Australia and New Zealand Army Corps	HQ	Headquarters	RNE	Register of the National Estate
ANZUS	Australia-New Zealand-United States Treaty	hr	hour	RSL	Returned Services League
approx	approximately	IBM	International Business Machines	rlwy(s)	railway(s)
ASIO	Australian Security Intelligence Organization	Inst	Institute	s	shilling(s)
Assoc	Association	Is	Island	SA	South Australia
Aust	Australia(n)	jr	junior	SEATO	South-East Asia Treaty Organization
Aust Agric Co	Australian Agricultural Company	km	kilometre(s)	Soc	Society
		km/h	kilometres per hour	sq km	square kilometres
BHP	Broken Hill Proprietary Company			Sr	Sister
BOAC	British Overseas Airways Corporation	Lieut	Lieutenant	St	Street or Saint
Brev-Maj	Brevet-Major	Lieut-Col	Lieutenant-Colonel	STD	Subscriber Trunk Dialling
c	circa	m	million or metre(s)	TAA	Trans-Australia Airlines
Capt	Captain	Maj	Major	TAB	Totalisator Agency Board
Cdr	Commander	Maj-Gen	Major-General	Tas	Tasmania
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting	MCG	Melbourne Cricket Ground	Tce	Terrace
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency	mg	milligram(s)	UAP	United Australia Party
co	company	MIA	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area	UK	United Kingdom
Col	Colonel	MIM	Mount Isa Mines Company	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
Corp	Corporation	MLC	Mutual Life Corporation		
CRA	Conzinc Riotinto of Australia Limited	MP	Member of Parliament	v	versus
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization	Mt(s)	Mount (Mountains)	Vic	Victoria
CSR	Colonial Sugar Refining Company	NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (USA)	WA	Western Australia
		Nat Pk(s)	National Park(s)	WEL	Women's Electoral Lobby
		Nat T	National Trust		
		NCC	National Civic Council	yr(s)	year(s)
		NSW	New South Wales	£	pound(s)
		NT	Northern Territory		

EVENTS

A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY FROM 1788



January 1788 *The first fleet in Botany Bay. Watercolour by the marine artist Charles Gore, who sailed with the fleet.*

DIXSON GALLERIES

1788

3 January Capt Arthur Phillip, having decided to sail ahead of the rest of the first fleet to prepare for the new settlement, sighted the coast of Van Diemen's Land.

18 January At 2.15 pm Phillip's brig *HMS Supply* anchored on the northern side of Botany Bay. He began exploring the surrounding countryside and made first contact with the Aborigines.

19 January In the morning the transports *Alexander*, *Friendship* and *Scarborough* arrived at Botany Bay, watched by a large number of Aborigines who gathered on Point Solander.

20 January The remaining seven ships of the fleet, led by the flagship *HMS Sirius*, anchored in Botany Bay.

21 January Deciding that Botany Bay was unsuitable for settlement, Phillip set out with a party in three open boats to seek another site. He later reported to Lord Sydney, secretary of state for the home department: 'We got into Port Jackson early in the Afternoon, and had the satisfaction of finding the finest Harbour in the World, in which a thousand Sail of the line may ride in the most perfect security.' He selected a cove with a stream and named it Sydney Cove.

24 January The French ships *La Boussole* and *L'Astrolabe*, commanded by the Comte de la Pérouse, appeared off Botany Bay.

25 January Phillip sailed out of Botany Bay aboard the *Supply* and reached Sydney Cove in the evening.

26 January Early in the morning, Phillip took a party ashore, raised the British colours and took possession of NSW. In a ceremony at sunset Phillip and the officers drank the health of the King and the royal family, and success to the new colony. In the meantime, La Pérouse entered Botany Bay as the remaining British ships prepared to leave.

27 January Convicts disembarked at Sydney Cove and helped clear the ground.

28 January Seventeen wives of marines and fourteen children disembarked from the *Prince of Wales*. They were the first women and children to land. The first of the livestock was brought ashore.

3 February Rev Richard Johnson held the colony's first religious service 'on the grass'.

6 February The women convicts came ashore. There followed a 'scene of debauchery and riot', accompanied by a violent thunderstorm.

7 February The whole party assembled on the west side of Sydney Cove, where the deputy judge-advocate, David Collins, read the King's commission establishing Phillip's governorship over the colony, and the letters patent establishing civil and criminal courts. Phillip addressed the convicts, wishing them 'reformation, happiness, and prosperity, in this new country'.

11 February At the first criminal court, Samuel Barnsley was sentenced to 150 lashes for assault and Thomas Hill to confinement in irons on a small rocky island at the head of the cove for stealing bread.

14 February Lieut Philip Gidley King sailed with a party of 23, including 15 convicts, in the *Supply* to found a settlement on Norfolk Island, where native flax was to be harvested and other crops were to be grown.

17 February Rev Richard Johnson celebrated holy communion for the first time in the colony, according to the rites of the Church of England. The ritual took place in the tent of Lieut Ralph Clark.

17 February Lieut Henry Ball, commander of the *Supply*, on its way to Norfolk Island, discovered an island that he named after Admiral Lord Howe.

27 February Thomas Barratt was hanged for stealing stores—the first execution.

29 February James Freeman was pardoned for stealing flour, on the condition that he became public executioner.

2 March Phillip set out to explore Broken Bay. On this trip he discovered and named Pittwater.

6 March Lieut King took possession of Norfolk Island.

10 March The two French ships left Botany Bay. They were later wrecked near Santa Cruz, north of the New Hebrides.

March Phillip issued the first government conservation order: that no trees should be cut down within 50 feet (15 metres) of the stream that ran into Sydney Cove.

26 April An exploring party led by Phillip sighted and named the Blue Mountains.

6 May Following an outbreak of scurvy, the *Supply* sailed for Lord Howe Island to catch turtle to supplement the settlement's meat supply. Having failed to catch any, it returned on 25 May.

21 May A convict was killed and another seriously wounded by Aborigines.

30 May The bodies of two rushcutters, William Okey and Samuel Davis, were found pierced with spears and beaten, evidently in reprisal for stealing a canoe belonging to the Aborigines. The next day Phillip led a party to apprehend the murderers, but he was unable to identify them.

June Owing to the neglect of the convict who was supposed to look after them, two bulls and four cows strayed from the settlement and were lost.

5 July In a despatch to the under-secretary of state, Evan Nepean, Phillip recorded the rations for marines and male convicts. For seven days each received 7 pounds of bread or in lieu thereof 7 pounds of flour, 7 pounds of beef or in lieu thereof pork, 3 pints of pease, 6 ounces of butter, 1 pound of flour or in lieu thereof 12 pounds of rice. The women received two-thirds of this amount and the children generally had one-third although some received as much as the women.

20 August Lieut William Bligh in *HMS Bounty*, en route to Tahiti, anchored at Adventure Bay, Van Diemen's Land. The party planted apple trees, fruit

stones and various vegetables before departing on 4 September.

28 September Phillip decided to send the *Sirius* to Cape Town for urgently needed food supplies.

September The last remaining cow was killed.

2 November A party of marines with ten convicts left to establish a farming settlement at Rose Hill (later called Parramatta).

19 November The last two ships of the first fleet, *Golden Grove* and *Fishburn*, sailed for England with despatches and reports.

11 December Phillip set out to explore Botany Bay, where he examined the Cook's, George's and Woronora rivers.

31 December Because the Aborigines could not be coaxed into the settlement, one named Arabanoo was captured and held in confinement. Phillip hoped to learn his language and so to promote good relations between Aborigines and Europeans.

1789

26 March Six marines were hanged for robbing the stores.

13 April Phillip moved into the newly completed Government House.

April An outbreak of smallpox was discovered among the Aborigines. It soon reached epidemic proportions.

8 May The *Sirius* anchored in Sydney Cove, having completed the circumnavigation of the world from west to east in the 'roaring forties' latitudes. Its cargo included 6.5 tonnes of flour.

18 May Arabanoo, the Aborigine brought to live at Government House, died of smallpox. He was buried in the governor's garden.

24 May Following a mutiny aboard *HMS Bounty*, Lieut William Bligh, in an open boat, reached the Great Barrier Reef. He then skirted the northern coastline of Australia.

4 June On the evening of the King's birthday, some of the convicts performed George Farquhar's comedy *The recruiting officer*. This was Australia's first theatrical performance.

13 June A party exploring Broken Bay discovered a large river that Phillip named the Hawkesbury, after the head of the Privy Council's Committee of Trade and Plantations.

25 June Elizabeth Fowles, convicted of stealing clothes and provisions, was sentenced to have her head shaved and to wear a canvas cap with the word 'thief' upon it.

17 August Because of the high crime rate, a night watch of trusted convicts was established.

5 October The first locally built boat was launched. It was a lighter of shallow draught, specially designed to carry cargo between Sydney and Rose Hill.



1788 A sailor, possibly Frederick Martin, a member of the crew of *HMS Sirius*, left his signature on a rock at Garden Island, now a naval dockyard, on Sydney Harbour.

BILL PAYNE

1 November The men's ration was reduced to two-thirds. The women's ration, already two-thirds of the male allowance, remained the same.

21 November A convict, James Ruse, was given provisional possession of a farm at Rose Hill, comprising a small hut on two acres (0.8 hectares) of cleared ground. Phillip provided him with seed, livestock and the implements necessary for cultivation, hoping that other convicts would be encouraged to adopt industrious and honest habits.

23 November Ann Davis, alias Judith Jones, was the first woman to be executed, having been found guilty of theft.

25 November Two Aborigines, Colbey and Benalton (later called Bennelong), were captured and brought to Government House. There they were washed, shaved and clothed. With an iron shackle on one leg, each was put in the care of a convict keeper. On 12 December Colbey escaped by loosening his rope from the shackle. Bennelong escaped the following May.

December The first successful harvest at Rose Hill produced 200 bushels (7.3 cubic metres) of wheat, 60 bushels (2.1 cubic metres) of barley and small quantities of flax, Indian corn and oats.

1790

January As an expected supply ship from England failed to appear, the settlers became more anxious about diminishing food supplies. Capt John Hunter, who was then chiefly engaged in surveying duties, supervised the erection of a lookout station on South Head. Food was so scarce that everyone was put on half rations.

27 March The ration was reduced to less than half the original allowance for males. Working hours were shortened to give people time to tend their gardens and to allow for their weakened condition.

March Phillip sent Lieut Philip Gidley King, formerly in charge of Norfolk Island, to England to report on the difficulties facing NSW. Shortage of provisions forced Phillip to transfer two companies of marines with their families and 183 convicts with their 28 children to Norfolk Island. Perhaps to avoid an open quarrel with his truculent second-in-command, Lieut-Gov Robert Ross, Phillip sent Ross to take charge on the island during King's absence.

5 April The *Supply* returned from Norfolk Island with news that the *Sirius* had been wrecked there. That evening, Phillip assembled the military and civil officers to inform them that the colony faced starvation as only six weeks' supply of food was left. This was the first council assembled by executive government in Australia. The ration was further reduced. All private boats were appropriated for fishing, and gamekeepers were sent out to kill kangaroos.

12 April William Lane was sentenced to 2000 lashes for stealing biscuit, Thomas Halford to 2000 lashes for stealing three pounds (1.4 kilograms) of potatoes and William Parr to 500 lashes for stealing a pumpkin. The last of the pease was issued.

17 April The *Supply* left for the Dutch colony of Batavia (now Jakarta) to obtain food.

13 May Joseph Owen, an elderly convict, died of hunger.

3 June The signal from South Head indicated a ship in sight. People thronged to vantage points to watch a large vessel 'with English colours flying' working into the harbour. The *Lady Juliana* carried 225 female



19 March 1790 Captain John Hunter uses a hawser to save the crew and the provisions of HMS *Sirius* after it foundered on a reef at Norfolk Island.
Watercolour by the midshipman George Raper.

BRITISH MUSEUM



7 September 1790 Lieutenant Henry Waterhouse attempts to break a spear that penetrated Phillip's shoulder. Watercolour by an unknown artist.

BRITISH MUSEUM

convicts and news of a revolution in France, of the loss of the storeship *Guardian*, which had struck an iceberg east of the Cape of Good Hope, and of the imminent arrival of the other four ships, one store ship and three transports, of a second fleet carrying over a thousand convicts. The *Lady Juliana* brought instructions empowering the governor to grant land to any soldiers wishing to take their discharge in the colony, and to emancipated convicts.

20 June The *Justinian*, store ship of the second fleet, arrived with a large cargo of food.

26 June The transport *Surprise* arrived, bringing the first members of the NSW Corps, a regiment raised especially for service in the colony. Most of the 218 male prisoners landed were unhealthy; 36 had died.

28 June Two transports, the *Scarborough* and *Nep-tune*, completed the arrival of the second fleet, bringing the rest of the NSW Corps and 530 convicts, many of them very ill. Over 230 had died on these two ships during the voyage. Tents to receive the convicts were pitched in front of the hospital, and there the sick were laid, without beds and with only one blanket among four people.

June Capt Aitken of the *Lady Juliana* opened the settlement's first shop.

13 July Phillip reported that of 930 male convicts sent aboard the second fleet, 267 had died on the passage and 50 after landing, and 450 others were landed sick. Many more were to die in the following weeks. He estimated that over one hundred of the new convicts would never be able to work, owing to old age and chronic disease.

7 September Hearing that Bennelong and Colbey were at Manly Cove, Phillip rowed across hoping to establish a friendlier relationship with the Aborigines. During the visit, he was seriously wounded with a

spear by a man named Wileemarin. Surgeon William Balmain safely extracted the spear.

19 October The *Supply*, commanded by Lieut Henry Ball, returned from Batavia, its route making it the first vessel to circumnavigate the continent.

October James Bloodsworth, the builder of Government House and other government buildings, became the first convict to receive a free pardon.

9 December M'Entire, Phillip's gamekeeper, was speared while hunting at Botany Bay. Phillip decided to retaliate against the Bidjigal people who lived in that area. He ordered any six men to be taken and brought to the settlement, where some would be executed and the rest, having witnessed their fate, released. If six could not be captured, the same number was to be shot. The punitive party returned on 16 December, having been unable to capture or shoot any Aborigines.

22 December Phillip launched a second expedition against the Botany Bay Aborigines, but their camp was found abandoned.

1791

19 February The secretary of state for the home department, Lord Grenville, wrote in a despatch to Phillip that 'every reasonable indulgence should be held out' to marines and convicts whose terms of imprisonment had expired to induce them to remain in NSW.

25 February James Ruse, a former convict, announced that he was able to maintain himself on his farm at Rose Hill, but would continue to draw rations for his wife. This was British Australia's first example of self-sufficiency on the land.

27 February Capt John Hunter and the officers of the wrecked *Sirius* returned to Sydney from Norfolk Island, bringing a piece of poor-quality canvas which disappointed the high expectations held for the native flax.

13 March The first land grant of 30 acres (12 hectares) was recorded in favour of James Ruse, confirming the provisional possession of his farm at Rose Hill.

28 March Towards midnight convict expirée William Bryant, with his wife, Mary Braund, their two infant children and eight convicts escaped from the settlement in a six-oared ketch. Bryant had obtained a compass and quadrant and instructions on how to reach Batavia. They took provisions, arms and fishing tackle; they became the first Europeans to enter the Hunter River, Port Stephens and Moreton Bay, and to discover coal in Australia. They later reached Timor.

4 June Phillip announced that the settlement around Rose Hill would henceforth be known by its Aboriginal name of Parramatta.

9 July The first of ten ships making up the third fleet arrived in Sydney.

18 July Twenty-three settlers were allocated farms of between 20 and 50 acres (8 and 20 hectares) in the districts of Parramatta, the Ponds and Prospect Hill.

21 September HMS *Gorgon* arrived from England with livestock and provisions, including agricultural seed and about two hundred trees and plants. Also aboard were the Great Seal of the colony and letters patent empowering the governor to emancipate convicts.

26 September The first convicts from Ireland arrived aboard the *Queen*.

28 September King George Sound in WA was discovered and named after the monarch by Cdr George Vancouver during a voyage of exploration and survey from England to the South Seas.

24 and 25 October Three transports from the third fleet left on the first whaling voyage off the Australian coast.

26 October Cdr Philip Gidley King sailed from Sydney to Norfolk Island, where he was to take command as lieutenant-governor. Maj Robert Ross, lieutenant-governor of NSW, had administered the settlement during King's absence.

1 November Twenty male convicts and one female from the *Queen's* Irish prisoners took to the bush with the aim of walking to China, which they believed to be about six weeks away.

10 November One of the ships sent on a whaling expedition returned with its captain jubilant that he had seen more sperm whales off the coast than he had 'in all his former life'.

November Eighteen Irish runaways were brought in, exhausted, naked and starving. Three others had perished in the bush. Four were sent to hospital with wounds inflicted by the Aborigines. Some later absconded a second time.

November Because of the dry weather, Phillip ordered the masons to cut tanks in the bed of the stream at Sydney Cove to save its waters.

31 December The convicts gathered noisily outside Phillip's house at Parramatta to protest at the new regulations by which rations would be issued daily rather than weekly. This was to counter the convict practice of eating their whole ration within three or four days and stealing for the rest of the week. Phillip sent the protesters away without acceding to their demands.

1792

29 February Rev Richard Johnson wrote to Phillip, demanding that a church should be built.

March There were now schools at Sydney, Parramatta and Norfolk Island, each run by a convict teacher.

9 to 13 April Heavy storms caused minor flooding at Parramatta, where crops and gardens were beaten down and the wattle-and-daub houses severely damaged.

13 April As in 1790, the food ration had to be reduced, while the colony awaited the return of a supply ship from Calcutta.

23 April The French navigator Rear-Admiral Bruny d'Entrecasteaux, in command of *La Recherche* and *L'Espérance*, anchored in Recherche Bay, Van Diemen's Land. The expedition had been sent by the French government to search for the missing ships commanded by the Comte de la Pérouse. They conducted the first systematic survey of Tasmanian waters.

18 May A party of fifteen or sixteen Aborigines seen robbing a hut at Parramatta were fired on.

27 May Aborigines murdered a convict well-digger on the road between Parramatta and Prospect. The body bore at least thirty spear wounds and the head had been beaten with a stick until most of the teeth were knocked out. The killing was thought to be in retaliation for the shots fired during the robbery on 18 May.

May The ration was now reduced to less than it had been during the famine of 1790.

May In the stream running through the settlement, a large tank with a well in the centre nearly five metres deep and cut out of solid sandstone was completed. At this time the town's water supply became known as the Tank Stream.

29 June The store ship *Atlantic* arrived from Calcutta. The provisions on board were of poor quality and weevil-infested, and the sheep and goats were undersized. The only Bengal cow on board had died and the bulls, being of the buffalo breed, had refused to mate with European cows.

3 October Eleven officers of the NSW Corps formed a syndicate to import cattle from the Cape of Good Hope. They commissioned a ship for the purpose at a cost of £2000. Phillip disapproved of the venture but, uncertain of his legal position, he did not forbid it.



February 1792 *HMS Providence and HMS Assistant under Captain William Bligh, take on wood and water at Adventure Bay, Van Diemen's Land.*

This was Bligh's second attempt to transfer breadfruit from Tahiti to the West Indies, the first having been thwarted by a mutiny on his ship HMS Bounty. Watercolour by Lieutenant George Tobin from his journal, 1792.

MITCHELL LIBRARY

22 October In a letter home, Lieut-Gov Francis Grose set out the grievances of the NSW Corps. The officers' chief complaint was that, whenever supplies ran short, the soldiers were forced to take the same cut in rations as the convicts. They also felt they ought to be entitled to grants of land.

1 November The brig *Philadelphia* from the USA was the first overseas vessel to arrive in Sydney with goods to trade. Its cargo included barrels of American cured beef, wines, gin, rum, tobacco and tar. Phillip directed the commissary to buy part of the cargo for stores. Individual officers also purchased goods and equipment.

24 November The first play making reference to Australia, *Les Emigrés aux Terres Australes*, was performed in Paris.

30 November Five Catholic convicts at Parramatta petitioned Phillip for a priest.

10 December At 6 pm Phillip, exhausted and unwell, boarded the *Atlantic* to return to England. With him were two Aborigines, Bennelong and Yemmerrawanyea, who were said to have embarked 'voluntarily' and 'cheerfully'. Phillip also took some dingoes and four kangaroos. The ship sailed the following morning.

12 December Lieut-Gov Francis Grose assumed command of the colony and immediately imposed military rule, replacing the civil magistrates with military ones. For the first time a distinction was made in the male ration when an additional 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms) of flour was issued weekly to all civil and military personnel, constables, watchmen and overseers.

24 December A ship arrived from Rhode Island, USA, with a cargo of spirits and provisions for sale. Grose authorised the purchase of a large quantity of spirits and issued it to the military and civil officers.

1793

16 January The first free settlers arrived from England aboard the *Bellona*, which also brought the long-awaited authorisation for commissioned officers to receive grants of land. The ship also contained stores of flour, rum, wine, molasses, hammocks, brown cloth and raven duck which, although damaged by a wet passage, eased anxiety about provisions.

22 January An expedition commanded by Rear-Admiral Bruny d'Entrecasteaux returned to

Recherche Bay, Van Diemen's Land, and spent five weeks exploring and surveying.

12 February Seven officers of the NSW Corps were granted land, including Lieut John Macarthur, who received 100 acres (40.5 hectares) which he named Elizabeth Farm.

24 February The ship *Shah Hormuzear* arrived at Port Jackson with a cargo of livestock, grain, sugar, salt beef and liquors imported from Calcutta. Among the livestock were 100 Bengal sheep, a strain which bred much faster than European varieties and helped augment the number of sheep in the colony.

February The free settlers took up land grants varying from 60 to 120 acres (24 to 48 hectares). The government supplied them with tools and agricultural equipment, two years' provisions and convict labour. As they were all free people, the settlers named the district Liberty Plains (now Homebush and Strathfield).

13 March Two Spanish ships, commanded by Don Alessandro Malaspina di Mulazzo, anchored in Port Jackson. They made scientific observations and gathered zoological and botanical specimens before leaving Sydney on 11 April.

10 June The government's failure to provide the colony with a church prompted Rev Richard Johnson to start building one at his own expense. It was of wood and plaster with a thatched roof and the capacity to hold 500 people. Johnson later received government reimbursement.

7 August The transport *Boddingtons* arrived from Ireland with 144 convicts in good health and a cargo entirely free from damage.

25 August Johnson held the first service in the new church.

2 September For the first time settlers were able to sell surplus grain to the public store.

17 September The transport *Sugar Cane* arrived with 160 convicts aboard. During the voyage, plans for a convict mutiny had been exposed. The ringleader had been immediately executed and other offenders flogged. After the arrival of the *Boddingtons* and the *Sugar Cane*, crime and rioting in the colony increased.

23 November The ration was reduced. The convicts received no flour or biscuit but, in its place, 5 pounds (2.2 kilograms) of Indian corn and 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms) of wheat (the first local grain to be issued).

November Lieut-Gov Philip Gidley King visited New Zealand from Norfolk Island to take back two Maoris whom he had kidnapped for their supposed skill as flax dressers; he undertook the journey when he discovered they knew nothing about flax dressing. He was later reprimanded by both Lieut-Gov Grose and the secretary of state, the Duke of Portland, for leaving his post without permission.

9 December The last of the English flour was issued and the colony was now entirely dependent on locally produced grain.

December 'Passage boats' were introduced between Sydney and Parramatta. They were worked by ex-convicts who charged 1s per person and 1s per hundredweight of luggage or, alternatively, 6s to hire the boat.

December The erection of new barracks kept three brickmaking gangs, comprising 80 men with three overseers, working constantly. Carts with a capacity of 350 bricks were drawn by 12 men between the brickfields and the building site. Timber waggons were drawn by 24 men.

1794

18 January On Norfolk Island a brawl broke out between the military and the settlers. Attempts to win the favours of women (who were greatly outnumbered by the men) led to intense rivalry and resulted in strained relations between the two groups. Order was not restored until 23 January.

February Aborigines at Parramatta attacked, robbed and beat some of the female settlers.

20 February A court of inquiry decided that the conduct of the Norfolk Island mutineers had been reprehensible, but nevertheless recommended clemency.

8 March The last allowance of salt meat was issued to the convicts.

10 March The ship *William* arrived from London carrying four months' supply of beef and pork. It also brought Rev Samuel Marsden with his wife and eight-day-old daughter, and specific instructions from the secretary of state, Henry Dundas, relating to three areas of administration. Land grants were made conditional upon the grantee residing on the property and cultivating it for a term of five years before it could be sold. Prisoners assigned to civil and military officers were to be victualled for only two years, after which they were to be maintained by their masters. Lieut-Gov Grose was told to prevent the sale of spirits to the convicts.

17 March Although the last of the wheat was distributed, the position was less acute than in previous famines because a good corn crop was nearly ripe.

March At Parramatta, a good potato harvest yielded over six tonnes from only three-quarters of an acre (0.3 hectares) of ground.

12 April A party of Irish convicts absconded in a small boat, believing they could reach China. The following day, a heavy gale blew up and they were lost at sea.

24 May The store ship *Indispensable* arrived from England with a cargo of provisions, allowing the full ration to be restored. Four more store ships arrived in quick succession.

5 July The *Hope* arrived from the USA with a cargo of salted meats and spirits for sale, but due to plentiful provisions in the colony no buyers could be found for the meat.

20 August Henry Hacking, a sailor, set out with one or two companions intending to find a passage across the Blue Mountains. They returned on 27 August defeated, but they claimed to have ventured further inland than any other European.

17 September At Parramatta, the public granary was destroyed by fire, along with over 2400 bushels (87.3 cubic metres) of corn and some hogs.

September Relations between Aborigines and settlers on the Hawkesbury continued to deteriorate. Often the Aborigines had been wantonly fired upon and their children had been forcibly detained in settlers' huts. Now Aborigines made several attacks on farms, wounding two settlers and stealing clothes, provisions and other goods. An armed party pursued the Aborigines and killed seven or eight of them.

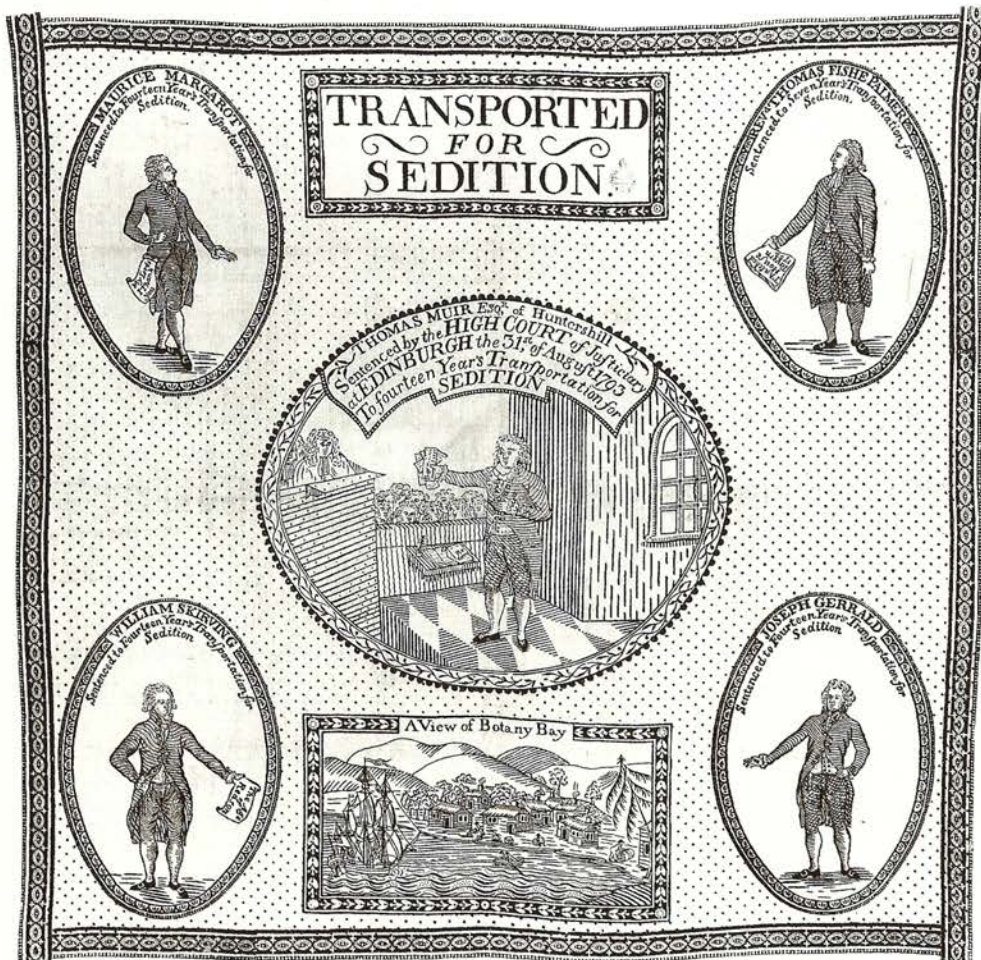
17 October An Aboriginal boy who was thought to be spying on the settlers' arms supply was murdered

on the Hawkesbury. Although evidence was conflicting, witnesses agreed that the boy had been shot while trying to swim across the river with his hands tied behind his back.

25 October The *Surprise* arrived from England with male and female convicts, among whom were four of the five men known as the 'Scottish martyrs', who had been convicted in Edinburgh of sedition. Mainly because they were educated men, Lieut-Gov Grose allowed them their freedom so long as they refrained from political activity. Each was allocated a brick hut on the eastern side of Sydney Cove.

15 December Grose left for England because of ill health.

25 December Capt William Paterson took the oaths of administration. As he expected the new governor to arrive at any hour, he did not alter the policies of his predecessor.



25 October 1794 Political reformers Thomas Muir, William Skirving, Thomas Fyshe Palmer and Maurice Margarot, four of the five 'Scottish martyrs', arrived in New South Wales, transported for sedition. The fifth, Joseph Gerrald, arrived the following year. Woodcut on linen by an unknown artist.

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1795

10 to 14 January Heavy rain caused damage at Sydney, Parramatta and Toongabbie and minor flooding on the Hawkesbury.

15 February A night watchman shot dead a convict runaway named Suffini, who was plundering a garden. He was one of several convicts who had taken to the bush and were subsisting by theft.

4 March The *Britannia*, which had been sent to the Cape of Good Hope by some of the civil and military officers, returned with spirits and sugar which they intended to offer for sale.

23 March The trading vessel *Experiment* sailed for India, taking a cargo of 60 large cedar logs and some mahogany.

May Open warfare erupted between settlers and Aborigines on the Hawkesbury. Large parties of Aborigines used blankets and nets to carry off corn, defending themselves with spears and clubs. The acting governor, Capt William Paterson, retaliated by sending a party of the NSW Corps from Parramatta with orders to destroy any member of the Bidjigal tribe they met. Some Aborigines were killed.

26 August Four runaway convicts who had fled the colony almost five years before were found in a wretched state at Port Stephens north of the Hunter River.

August Constant heavy rain inundated farms on the Hawkesbury and caused extensive damage at Sydney, Parramatta and Toongabbie.

7 September Capt John Hunter arrived in Sydney and was sworn in as governor on 11 September. By the same ship *Bennelong*, one of the Aborigines who had accompanied Phillip to England, returned home. The other Aborigine, Yemmerrawanyea, had died in England, his lungs affected by cold weather.

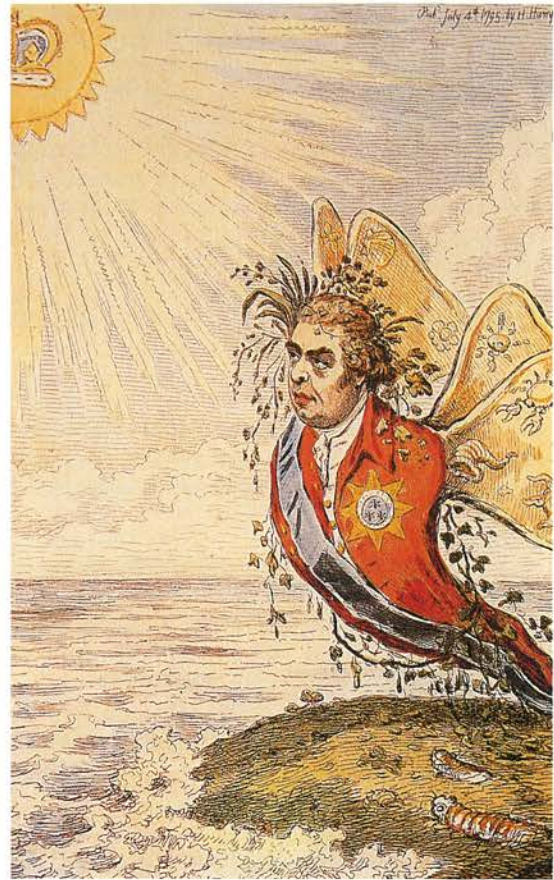
2 October Hunter introduced a system of passports for convicts going unescorted from one settlement to another. Convicts found at large without a pass were to be imprisoned.

22 October A government order forbade pollution of the Tank Stream. The order particularly applied to those living near the stream who took water with dirty vessels, stirred up the silt above the tanks, or built pigsties near its banks.

October Hunter restored the power of the civil magistrates which Lieut-Gov Grose had suspended in 1792.

October George Bass, a naval surgeon, Matthew Flinders, a master's mate, and a boy, William Martin, spent nine days exploring Botany Bay and the George's River in a small boat, the *Tom Thumb*.

18 November A party, including Hunter, located more than 60 head of cattle grazing beyond the Nepean River. They were progeny of cattle that had escaped from captivity in 1788. This fertile area was subsequently designated the 'Cowpastures'.



1795 The great South Sea Caterpillar, transformed into a Bath Butterfly. At the time this caricature was drawn, Sir Joseph Banks, the naturalist on Cook's first voyage to Australia, was president of the Royal Society and had just been made a knight of Bath. The artist alludes to Banks being a favourite of King George III, and satirises the fashionable nature of natural history. Hand-coloured etching by James Gillray, 1795.

November A small hand-operated printing press, which had arrived aboard the first fleet, was put into service when a convict, George Hughes, was found who knew how to use it. The first words printed by George Hughes, who was made government printer, were instructions issued by Hunter.

November As harvest time approached, convict agricultural workers combined in an effort to raise the price of a day's reaping. This was the colony's first recorded instance of workers organising themselves to secure higher wages (though in 1791 convicts had protested against a decrease in their rations). After considering labour costs in England, Hunter directed that no more than 10s should be demanded or given for reaping an acre of wheat.

21 December Hunter told his superiors in London that there was not an article of clothing in the stores and that the people were nearly naked.

1796

16 January An ex-convict, Robert Sidaway, opened Sydney's first theatre in Bell Row (now Bligh St). It held about 120 people and among the first plays performed were Edward Young's *The revenge* and Nicholas Rowe's *The fair penitent*.

23 January Hunter prohibited the distillation of spirits in the colony, as the settlers were using great quantities of grain to produce liquor.

January Marauding bands of escapees, Australia's first bushrangers, were infesting the countryside and plundering settlers' farms.

4 February Players performed a farce for the benefit of Mrs Eades, the widow of a soldier who had been killed several days before, leaving her with five small children. The proceeds amounted to £12.

5 February Off-duty soldiers attacked and destroyed the home of a civilian, John Baughan, who had caused one of their number to be arrested. Hunter issued warrants for the arrest of the ringleaders, declaring their conduct to be 'the most violent and outrageous that was ever heard of by any British regiment whatever'. Before the men could be brought to court martial, Capt John Macarthur, an officer of the NSW Corps, interceded on their behalf and Hunter withdrew the charges.

11 March The *Marquis Cornwallis* arrived in Sydney from Cork. During the voyage, plans for a mutiny had been discovered. Instigators of the plot included convicts and soldiers of the NSW Corps, who were supposed to guard them. A riot that occurred later in the voyage resulted in the death of seven prisoners from gunshot wounds.

25 March George Bass, Matthew Flinders and William Martin set out in a second *Tom Thumb* to explore the coastline south of Botany Bay. On this trip they travelled to Lake Illawarra and explored Port Hacking.

April To reduce the indiscriminate sale of spirits and the high level of drunkenness that was evidently contributing to an upsurge in crime, the government introduced licences to operate public houses.

18 June Hunter prohibited the longstanding practice of purchasing a settler's crop for the manufacture of spirits.

June Coal was discovered near Port Stephens north of the settlement, just as accessible supplies of timber were running low.

4 September At Parramatta, Rev Samuel Marsden opened a temporary church built from materials salvaged from two old huts. The first service was attended by a congregation of twelve.

September John Boston opened the first brewery.

9 November A government order divided Sydney into four districts to assist in maintaining law and order. For the first time, houses were numbered and their occupants recorded. The residents of each division elected from among themselves three reliable

people to act as watchmen, with power to apprehend 'night-walkers', gamblers and drunkards, and to interrogate idlers, strangers and all disorderly and suspicious persons. The watchmen received extra benefits from the government stores.

1797

14 January In response to complaints about the cost of free labour, Hunter proposed that employers in each district should hold quarterly meetings to set rates of pay, which he would then approve.

8 February The ship *Sydney Cove*, bringing a cargo from Bengal, was wrecked on Preservation Island in what was later known as Bass Strait. Seventeen crewmen took the longboat in an attempt to get assistance, leaving 30 people still on the island. After the longboat had been wrecked about 350 kilometres south of Port Jackson, the survivors continued their journey on foot, becoming the first Europeans to travel along the coast by land and the first to make a long overland journey in Australia.

March A pitched battle of muskets against spears took place at Parramatta. Five Aborigines were killed.

16 May HMS *Supply* returned from the Cape of Good Hope and landed the first consignment of 33 Spanish merino ewes. A further shipment of merino ewes and rams arrived on 26 June. Capt John Macarthur offered to take all the sheep at 15 guineas per head, but the flock was sold among civil and military officials including Macarthur and Rev Samuel Marsden, who already had large flocks derived from various strains, including the fast-breeding Bengal sheep.

27 May A schooner and a longboat left Port Jackson to rescue survivors of the wrecked *Sydney Cove* who were stranded on Preservation Island in Bass Strait. On 21 June they left the island bringing away all but six of the crew who were staying to guard the cargo. The longboat *Eliza* disappeared without trace on the return voyage to Sydney.

1 August The only successful mutiny aboard an Australia-bound convict ship occurred when the *Lady Shore* was seized by members of the military guard and sailed to South America.

August George Bass discovered an extensive coal seam about 65 kilometres south of the settlement in an area now known as Coalcliff.

19 September Lieut John Shortland entered and named the Hunter River and discovered a useful deposit of coal in a convenient harbour. For some years, the Hunter was known as the Coal River.

31 October An open boat returning from the Hawkesbury with a cargo of corn was boarded by a party of Aborigines. In the ensuing fight, several Aborigines were killed.

3 December George Bass, with six seamen and six weeks' supplies, set out in a whaleboat to explore the coast. They proceeded south, making intensive investigations of all bays and inlets.

1798

14 January Hunter took steps to dispel a persistent belief among the Irish convicts that a colony of white people existed three to four hundred miles away. He asked them to elect four hardy convicts who would join an exploration party. After ten days of trudging through rugged country, the Irish decided to abandon their pursuit and turn back. Their party was the first to examine the area around the present towns of Mittagong, Bowral, Moss Vale and Berrima.

31 January Sydney's first public clock, which Hunter had brought out on the *Reliance*, was installed in a tower on Church Hill.

January After observing the strong westerly run of the tides around Wilson's Promontory and Western Port, George Bass concluded that a strait must exist between Van Diemen's Land and the southern shore of NSW. He returned to Sydney on 25 February.

19 February Aborigines plundered the maize fields, which were almost ready to harvest, and murdered three Europeans. Hunter sent out armed parties to attack the Aborigines and drive them away.

February Lieut Matthew Flinders confirmed George Bass's discovery of a strait between NSW and Van Diemen's Land and carried out hydrographic work there. On 9 March, Hunter named the strait after Bass.

April As storage space in the government granaries was being monopolised by a few wealthy officers, Hunter directed the storekeeper to give preference to the men who cultivated their own crops.

11 June To assist small settlers, Hunter prohibited any individual from boarding any ship to make purchases until its captain had received his port orders. This was intended to give everyone an equal opportunity to purchase their needs.

18 June A group of officers and wealthy settlers formed a trading cartel. Their policy was to send two representatives aboard incoming ships to negotiate for the cargoes at the lowest possible price. As they were the only monied men in the colony, the captains had no choice but to sell to them. The goods were then offered to the settlers at four or five times the purchase price.

12 July Hunter noted disapprovingly that the farmers on Norfolk Island had combined to establish a 'Fraternal Society' to protect their financial interests against monopolies. They intended to withhold the produce of their farms from the government until they received justice.

27 August Attendance at church was made compulsory for all convicts. Many officers, however, continued to absent themselves.

1 October The Sydney church built by Rev Richard Johnson was burned to the ground. The fire was believed to have been lit by convicts who resented being compelled to attend the services.

7 October Lieut Matthew Flinders, in command of the sloop *Norfolk*, set out with George Bass and eight men to explore the northern coastline of Van Diemen's Land and circumnavigate the island. During the voyage they explored the Tamar and Derwent rivers. The *Norfolk* returned to Port Jackson on 12 January 1799.

1799

11 February The log prison built at Sydney was deliberately set alight and burned to the ground.

March Heavy rains caused the Hawkesbury River to rise by 15 metres in the course of a few hours. It carried all before it, including livestock, crops and the government granary. This was the first major flood since the colony had been formed and the colonists were quite unprepared for its magnitude, though some residents believed the Aborigines tried to warn them of the impending disaster.

April Andrew Cunningham, an Irish convict, raised the first crop of flax from wild seed. He made looms and wove the first fabric manufactured in NSW: linen and wool.

29 June The *Albion* arrived in Port Jackson on its maiden voyage, having been at sea only three months and fifteen days, the shortest passage from England to that date.

8 July The sloop *Norfolk*, commanded by Lieut Matthew Flinders, sailed north to examine some of the landmarks noted by Capt James Cook and to search for large rivers. After charting part of the coastline, the party returned to Port Jackson on 20 August. The expedition had come close to both the Clarence and Brisbane rivers, but had failed to find them.

26 July The *Hillsborough* berthed in Port Jackson, having lost 95 of its 300 male convicts with typhoid. Hunter described the survivors as 'the most wretched and miserable convicts I ever beheld'.

9 October A government order directed that any seaman found assisting a convict to escape should be taken from his ship and punished.

October When two Hawkesbury farmers were killed by Aborigines, several settlers swore revenge. They seized three Aboriginal boys who were discovered carrying a musket belonging to a settler who had been murdered in his sleep. Two of the boys were stabbed to death, but one escaped. On 14 October five settlers were charged with murdering the two boys. Although they were found guilty, they were released on bail, pending a decision from London about their punishment. On 30 January 1802 the secretary of state, Lord Hobart, authorised their pardons.

November Severe storms accompanied by hail destroyed the gardens and fruit crops around Sydney and laid flat much of the Hawkesbury wheat.

24 December The log prison at Parramatta was set on fire. Several of the prisoners confined there suffered severe burns and one later died.

1800

11 and 16 January Two transports arrived bringing convicts from Ireland, including political prisoners who had taken part in the Irish rebellion of 1798.

January To help pay for a new gaol, Hunter imposed a tax of 6d a bushel on wheat sold to the government store. When settlers in several districts refused to bring their wheat in, he imposed a tax on the importation of spirits.

1 February Settlers at Parramatta appealed to the home government for a store to be set up, through which they could purchase their needs and avoid the monopolies created by the officers. They argued that goods bought by the officers from ships in the harbour were being retailed at up to eight or ten times the purchase price.

16 April Lieut-Gov Philip Gidley King returned from England with his family to replace Hunter as governor, bearing the despatch that notified Hunter of his recall. Hunter's opposition to the rum traffic had won him many enemies in the colony and anonymous letters sent to England undermined the government's confidence in him. The small settlers had petitioned the home government for relief from monopolies. Hunter, indignant at his recall, did not step aside for over five months.

June Robert Campbell opened a warehouse and import business in Sydney that did much to break the officers' monopolies and provide the settlers with essential commodities at reasonable prices. Campbell was the colony's first merchant who was not a member of the officer class.

6 September Amid persistent rumours that the Irish convicts were manufacturing pikes and planning an uprising, Hunter raised two divisions of civilian volunteers. This civil militia, known as the Sydney and Parramatta Loyal Associations, was modelled on volunteer companies in England.

28 September Lieut-Gov King was sworn in as governor.

21 October Capt William Kent sailed to England in the *Buffalo*, carrying a box of wool from Capt John Macarthur's sheep that King was sending to Sir Joseph Banks. Also travelling on the *Buffalo* were Hunter and Rev Richard Johnson, whose departure made Samuel Marsden the senior chaplain.

October King set about reasserting the authority of government, weakened during Hunter's administration. Seeking to restrain the officers, he tried to reduce the exorbitant profit margin on goods bought from trading vessels. He prohibited the importation and unlicensed retailing of spirits. He directed that any person wandering the streets during divine service should be imprisoned and ordered that any convict neglecting or absenting himself from work or otherwise giving his master cause for complaint was to be brought before the magistrates for punishment.

19 November The first copper coins were circulated in NSW. In order to prevent their being taken out of

the colony, they were issued at double their face value: a coin valued at one penny in England was deemed to represent twopence in NSW.

14 December A plot was discovered among convicts on Norfolk Island to murder the officers and set themselves free. Two ringleaders were executed.

16 December The *Lady Nelson* arrived in Sydney, the first vessel to have passed through Bass Strait from west to east.

26 December King issued instructions forbidding masters to beat or horsewhip their convict servants.

31 December An ex-convict, John Harris, had his publican's licence revoked for giving spirits to two convicts in return for their weekly ration of salt meat. While Harris was in prison, King ordered a wall of his home to be demolished and his liquor casks staved in.

1800 There were now about 6000 sheep in the colony. Merinos represented only a small proportion of the total and, having been interbred with many other strains, they were far from pure stock.

1801

18 January The first practice alarm was held to test the preparedness of the military regiment and civil militia in case of an emergency.

21 February A ship from Ireland brought the total number of Irish political prisoners to six hundred. During the voyage the convicts had mutinied. The crew regained control after a fierce fight, in which one prisoner was killed and three were wounded.

February George Howe, who had been transported for shoplifting in November 1800, was appointed government printer.

2 and 3 March The Hawkesbury River burst its banks for the third time in four months, causing enormous losses of stacked wheat, corn and livestock. The flood deprived the colony of sixteen months' supply of grain.

1 May Following the murder of a stockkeeper, Daniel Conroy, and the killing of sheep from the government flock by Aborigines, a government order directed that Aborigines in the districts of Parramatta, Prospect Hill and George's River should be driven out of these areas by being fired upon. The parties of soldiers sent to carry out the order did not encounter any Aborigines.

27 May A French cartographic expedition under Nicholas Baudin sighted Cape Leeuwin and three days later anchored at Geographe Bay on the southwest of the continent. Two ships, *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste*, spent about two years in Australian waters, surveying the coast and making scientific observations.

4 June On the King's birthday, the Royal Proclamation of Union between Great Britain and Ireland was formally read and the new British flag (the Union Flag) was displayed for the first time.



10 January 1802 *The Investigator*, captained by Commander Matthew Flinders, finds safe anchorage in Lucky Bay after leaving King George Sound and making its way through the islands of the Recherche Archipelago, which can be seen in the distance. Pencil and wash drawing by William Westall, landscape draughtsman on the expedition.

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14 June A party led by Lieut-Col William Paterson and Lieut James Grant began exploring the Hunter River, which they traced as far as the present site of Maitland. They also examined the soil, timber supplies and coal deposits around Port Stephens.

3 June King decided to establish on the Hunter a small settlement of convicts and soldiers to mine the rich coal seam discovered there in 1797.

3 July King declared all coal and timber deposits at the Hunter River to be the property of the crown.

August A 'female orphan school' was opened in Sydney with an initial intake of 31 girls, who received 'learning, clothing, bed, and board'. According to King, the orphans were thus 'removed from the scenes of prostitution and iniquity that disgraces the major part of the inhabitants of this colony'.

14 September Lieut-Col Paterson was wounded in a duel with Capt John Macarthur. At issue were the contents of some personal letters and larger questions relating to Macarthur's loyalty to the government. For some time, Macarthur had embarked on a campaign to discredit King, but Paterson had refused to take his side. Immediately after the duel, King had Macarthur arrested.

4 October A ship sailed for Bengal carrying the colony's first cargo of coal for export. The enterprise was initiated by an emancipist, Simeon Lord.

9 October The first book ever printed and published in Australia, an abridgment of the government and general orders issued since King's appointment, was distributed.

15 November On the orders of King, Capt John Macarthur sailed to England to account to the British government for his attempts to sow discord between his commanding officer, Lieut-Col Paterson, and the governor. He took with him samples of wool from his flocks to show to British manufacturers.

21 November The official in charge of coal production at the Hunter River reported enthusiastically that with three miners and three carriers he was producing nine tons of coal in a five-hour working day.

6 December Cdr Matthew Flinders, aboard the *Investigator*, sighted Cape Leeuwin at the southwest of the continent and began a survey of Australia's southern coastline. Sailing east, he charted the coast as far as the present SA-Vic border. After visiting King Island and Port Phillip, the *Investigator* reached Port Jackson on 9 May 1802.

1801 King introduced a pass system by which well-behaved convicts were excused from compulsory labour and allowed to work for themselves, thereby relieving the government of the cost of maintaining them. Tickets of leave, as the passes were later called, became a central feature of the convict system.

1802

1 January King set the price of spirits at 20s per gallon and ordered all retailers to bring their weights, measures and scales to the courthouse for inspection. Those found correct were embossed with the government stamp, while any person detected using light weights or short measures was fined.

4 January Acting Lieut John Murray, commander of the *Lady Nelson*, explored and described 'a most noble sheet of water' which he named Port King, but which the governor renamed Port Phillip.

13 January Nicholas Baudin's party arrived off Van Diemen's Land and surveyed D'Entrecasteaux Channel for over a month.

8 April The *Investigator*, captained by Cdr Matthew Flinders, fell in with the two ships of the French cartographic expedition captained by Nicholas Baudin. Although they believed that their two governments were still at war, their meeting was friendly. It was commemorated in the name Encounter Bay.

12 April Responding to reports of likely trouble and fearing insurrection, King authorised a search of dwellings and other buildings throughout the colony. All offensive weapons were confiscated but the settlers were allowed to retain one musket each. The barracks and officers' houses were exempt from the search.

21 May King, suspicious of the objectives of Nicholas Baudin's expedition, suggested that a colony be founded at Port Phillip to prevent the French taking over the southern part of the continent.

26 June The ship *Hercules* arrived at Port Jackson. During the voyage from Cork, the convicts had mutinied and fourteen had been killed.

22 July Cdr Matthew Flinders sailed north to make a detailed examination of the coastline charted by Capt James Cook and to survey Torres Strait. His ship, the *Investigator*, passed through the Barrier Reef and on 3 November entered the Gulf of Carpentaria. As the vessel was in poor condition, Flinders decided it would be safer to avoid the reef, and returned by sailing around Australia. He reached Port Jackson on 9 June 1803.

6 November In an attempt to cross the Blue Mountains, Ensign Francis Barrallier set out from Parramatta with thirteen or fourteen men. By 28 November, he had advanced more than 160 kilometres but as the morale of the party was low and provisions were almost exhausted, he decided to turn back.

1803

14 January In England, Lieut-Col David Collins, formerly deputy judge-advocate in NSW, was commissioned to found a new settlement on Bass Strait, preferably at Port Phillip.

2 February The surveyor-general, Charles Grimes, who had been examining King Island and Port Phillip

Bay while on an expedition led by Lieut Robbins, discovered the Yarra River. He sailed up it to Dight's Falls but was unimpressed and reported unfavourably on both places as sites for settlement.

5 February George Bass, in command of the brig *Venus*, sailed for South America on a trading voyage. He was never heard of again.

12 February The *Castle of Good Hope*, owned by the merchant Robert Campbell, arrived from Calcutta with merchandise and livestock, including over 300 Bengal cows. At over 1000 tonnes it was the largest vessel yet to come to Australia.

15 February Fifteen convicts escaped from Castle Hill near Parramatta. After robbing two settlers' huts of arms and food, they were apprehended at the foot of the mountains. Two were hanged and the garrison at Castle Hill was strengthened.

5 March The first issue of the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* appeared. A convict, George Howe, who had succeeded George Hughes as government printer, was its editor. He published the newspaper under the censorship of the governor's secretary; he received no salary.

10 April St John's Church Parramatta was consecrated by Rev Samuel Marsden, senior chaplain of the colony.

20 April A government order required all Catholics in the colony to register their names with Fr James Dixon, a convict who had been transported in 1800 for his part in the Irish rebellion of 1798. On 24 April Dixon was given a conditional pardon and permitted to perform services at Sydney, Parramatta and the Hawkesbury. He signed an undertaking to see to it that no seditious conversations would take place during worship.

March–April A plea for the constitution by the political writer and jurist Jeremy Bentham was printed in London for private circulation. In it Bentham argued that the governor had no legal authority over the free people of NSW, including former convicts.

15 May The first authorised Catholic mass was celebrated in Sydney by Fr Dixon.

7 August Pasture improvement began when King, foreseeing a scarcity of natural pastures owing to the increasing number of cattle, had several 40-acre (16-hectare) tracts of land sown with imported grass.

10 August Cdr Matthew Flinders left Sydney for England as a passenger aboard the *Porpoise*. The ship ran aground on Wreck Reef about 1200 kilometres north-northeast of Sydney. After securing the survivors in a makeshift camp on the reef, Flinders navigated the ship's cutter back to Sydney, which he reached on 8 September.

28 and 30 August Two ships sailed from Sydney to found the first settlement in Van Diemen's Land. They arrived on 7 and 12 September at Risdon Cove on the Derwent. On 13 September Lieut John Bowen named the campsite Hobart after Lord Hobart, then secretary of state.

7 October Cdr Matthew Flinders returned to Wreck Reef to rescue the men stranded there.

7 October The transport *Ocean* anchored in Port Phillip from England. Two days later, the *Calcutta* entered the bay, having on board Lieut-Col Collins, lieutenant-governor of the proposed colony, and Rev Robert Knopwood, chaplain. The ships had on board 308 male convicts and eighteen free settlers, with a number of married women, including convicts' wives, and their children. Exploration parties immediately began to examine the foreshores in search of a suitable site for a settlement.

23 October A party of about seventy Aborigines menaced a work detail at Port Phillip and began pilfering from the boat. Shots were fired, but the Aborigines regrouped and returned. The convicts, who feared the Aborigines were cannibals, killed one and wounded another.

5 November Lieut-Col Collins wrote to King to express his unfavourable impression of Port Phillip. He reported that there was a lack of fresh water, little timber for building and poor soil for agricultural purposes.

17 November Lieut-Col Collins's commission as lieutenant-governor of the new settlement at Port Phillip was read by the chaplain before the whole party.

12 December In response to Lieut-Gov Collins's letter to King, two ships arrived at Port Phillip from Sydney with orders to transfer the entire camp to Van Diemen's Land.

16 December Lieut-Gov Collins assembled all the free settlers and offered them the choice of going with

him to an undecided destination, moving to Port Jackson or remaining at Port Phillip. All elected to go with Collins, except one man, who went to Sydney.

31 December While preparing to leave Port Phillip for Van Diemen's Land, the settlers discovered that five convicts were missing from the camp. These included William Buckley, who lived for the next 32 years with the Aborigines.

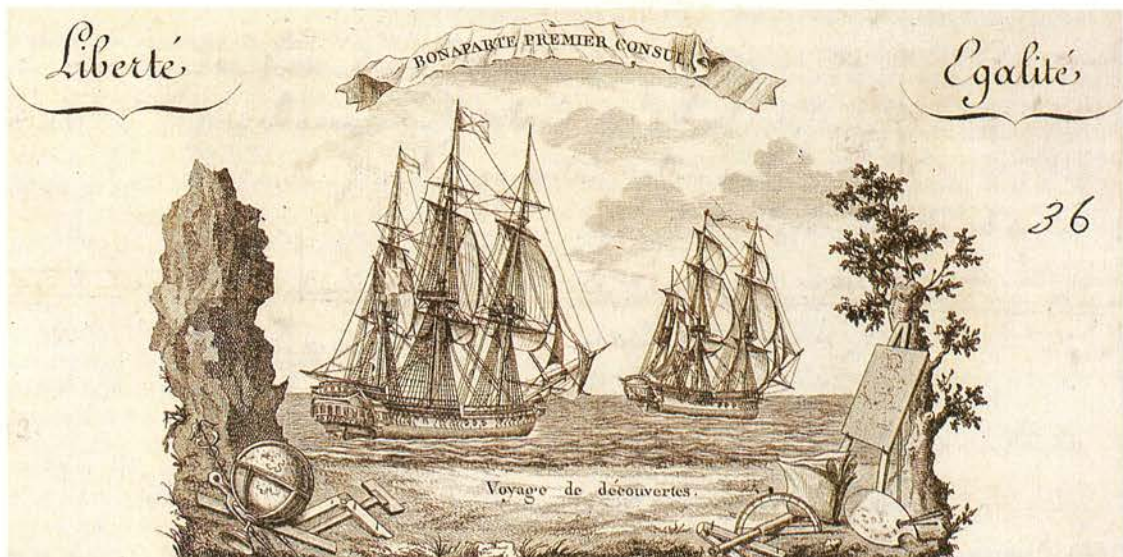
1803 Dr John Harris imported to NSW the colony's first game animals, deer from England.

1804

15 February Lieut-Gov David Collins and his party arrived from Port Phillip at the River Derwent. Collins decided that Lieut John Bowen's settlement was unsuitable for a town and established his camp at Sullivan's Cove, some eight kilometres south, where there was a well-watered plain.

4 March At 8 pm, 200 Irish convicts at the government farm at Castle Hill near Parramatta broke out of their quarters, set fire to a house and attacked the settlers. Armed with reaping hooks, cutlasses, bayonets, pikes, pitchforks and guns, they rallied to the leadership of Philip Cunningham, an ex-soldier. Their cry was 'death or liberty'. Cunningham's plan was to march to the Hawkesbury and raise a rebel force strong enough to take Parramatta, thence to converge on Sydney and escape in captured ships.

News of the uprising reached Sydney at midnight. The military and Loyal Association were called out, together with 150 naval personnel from HMS *Calcutta*.



18 August 1803 Nicholas Baudin, commander of a French cartographic and scientific expedition, wrote from Mauritius to Governor King about his voyage since leaving Sydney nine months earlier. The expedition letterhead depicts Baudin's two ships, *Le Naturaliste* and *Le Géographe*.

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5 March At daybreak, King and his bodyguard reached Parramatta on horseback, followed soon after by Lieut-Col William Paterson and Brevet-Maj George Johnston with their troops, who had marched 25 kilometres in darkness. After attempts to negotiate, shooting erupted and the convicts broke and fled, leaving fifteen dead. The force pursued them to the Hawkesbury and altogether more than three hundred convicts under arms were taken. King proclaimed martial law.

6 March The leader of the rebellion, Philip Cunningham, was brought in and hanged. Eight more insurgents were subsequently executed, nine received floggings of between 200 and 500 lashes and 50 were transported to the Hunter River. Following the uprising, King suspended all Catholic worship in the colony.

24 March The settlement at the Hunter (Coal) River was officially named Newcastle.

3 May The acting commandant at Risdon Cove, north of Hobart, led an attack on a group of Aborigines, who threatened the settlement. At least three Aborigines were killed.

6 May A program to vaccinate the colony's children against smallpox began.

19 May Lieut-Col Paterson left Sydney to examine Port Dalrymple in Van Diemen's Land as a possible site for a new colony.

11 July Capt John Macarthur, appearing before a committee of the Privy Council at Whitehall, made suggestions for encouraging the breeding of fine-wool sheep in NSW. He argued that the growth of the local wool industry would make the settlers less dependent on the British Treasury. His specimens of NSW wool were applauded in England as being equal to the Spanish product, supplies of which had become both scarce and dear. Spanish merchants were no longer able to supply the whole of British requirements and war with France was placing supplies in jeopardy.

August At Kew, England, prime Spanish ewes and rams from the King's own stud were sold at auction. Capt Macarthur purchased eight, seven of which arrived safely in NSW.

30 September As a means of controlling the consumption of spirits, a government brewery was opened at Parramatta.

31 October After making two applications for a land grant of 10 000 acres (4046 hectares), Capt Macarthur was promised 5000 acres (2023 hectares) in NSW, suitable for raising sheep.

2 November George Caley set out from the junction of the Grose, Nepean and Hawkesbury rivers with four of the strongest men in the colony in an attempt to cross the Blue Mountains. They turned back after twelve days.

4 November Lieut-Col Paterson arrived at Port Dalrymple, Van Diemen's Land, with an advance party of convicts and soldiers to prepare a new settlement.

1805

26 April In England, the King approved the appointment of Capt William Bligh as the next governor of NSW.

27 April After five settlers at the Hawkesbury were brutally murdered by the Aborigines, a government order forbade any Aborigine from approaching a white dwelling until the murderers had been given up. On 5 May the alleged murderers were taken with the help of several Aboriginal families, who were subsequently offered special government protection.

8 June John Macarthur returned to NSW as a civilian settler after the British government had accepted his resignation from the army and approved his return. The case against him had been dismissed owing to the vagueness of King's charges and the lack of witnesses.

18 June The first sighting of a Tasmanian tiger was reported by five escaped convicts who had spent almost two months in the bush.

25 July The Colonial Office entered into an agreement with John Blaxland, offering him a land grant of 8000 acres (3237 hectares) with 80 convicts to work it, and free passages for himself, his family and servants to NSW, in return for his promise to invest £6000 in the colony. From that time onwards, the Colonial Office was seen to encourage emigrants who had capital.

1 August Lieut-Gov William Paterson reported that a boat had arrived at Port Dalrymple from Cape Barren, bringing between 20 and 30 sealers who had been left without provisions for some weeks. On 21 August it was discovered that another gang had been without rations for ten weeks.

7 September Tenders were called for ten bridges to be constructed along the Sydney to Parramatta road. They were to be 16 feet (4.8 metres) wide and constructed of ironbark or blue gum.

September In Hobart, supplies of all grain ran low and the people were on short rations. The pigs were fed on scraps of whale meat, which made the pork taste like lamp oil.

13 October King reluctantly instructed a surveyor to measure 5000 acres for John Macarthur at the Cowpastures, where he had been promised land by the secretary of state. King had hoped to keep this choice land for the wild cattle grazing there.

1806

15 February The transport *Tellicherry* arrived in Sydney from Cork. Aboard were five political exiles who had elected to be banished for life to NSW instead of being tried for treason. King allowed them to become settlers.

21 March After days of continuous heavy rain along the Hawkesbury, the river rose suddenly and burst its banks, sweeping all before it — wheat stacks, barns, livestock, furniture and every movable object.



5 March 1804 Major George Johnston leads his soldiers against the Irish rebels at Castle Hill. Watercolour by an unknown contemporary artist.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

26 March As the floodwaters of the Hawkesbury receded, many found they had lost everything. Most animals in the district had been swept away. The stored grain had been destroyed and 6000 bushels (218 cubic metres) of maize in the field had been lost. However, only seven people were drowned.

7 April To alleviate the crisis resulting from the Hawkesbury floods, King engaged the whaler *Sydney* to proceed to Calcutta for a cargo of seed wheat and the transport *Tellicherry* to bring 350 tons of rice from China. Both ships were later lost at sea.

20 April Residents of Sydney observed a day of thanksgiving for the British victory in the battle of Trafalgar which had occurred six months earlier.

14 June The government prohibited the use of grain in distilling spirits.

25 July Three unidentified arsonists set fire to the Hobart hospital, intending to incinerate John Boothman, the convict commissariat clerk. The building (but not Boothman) was destroyed.

5 August Capt William Bligh arrived in Sydney to take over the governorship of NSW.

6 August In a report on the colony, King observed that only one quarter of all convict women were married and that many of the unmarried women 'cohabit openly with one man'.

12 August King boarded HMS *Buffalo* for his return to England. At Government House, Bligh's commission was formally read. Soon afterwards the Hawkesbury settlers petitioned Bligh to institute a bill of rights to relieve them of the distress inflicted on them by the trading monopolies.

7 September A violent hailstorm on the Hawkesbury damaged new crops.

September Supplies of cereal food in the Hobart stores were completely exhausted.

26 October More floods devastated 300 acres (121 hectares) of land at the Hawkesbury sown with wheat and barley, and a labourer was drowned.

4 December This being harvest time in NSW, the government imposed penalties on any persons demanding or paying higher wages than those prescribed by law.

1806 According to King's estimate, the number of men employed in sealing and fishing along the Australian coast was two hundred and eighty.

1807

1 January An order issued by Gov Bligh required that all cheques and promissory notes issued in the colony should be drawn in sterling currency rather than commodities, which were often used in such transactions.

3 February Shortage of food at Port Dalrymple forced Lieut Thomas Laycock and four men to set out for Hobart. They reached the settlement in eight days, only to find the population there on starvation rations and living off the land. On the return journey they discovered large deposits of limestone.

7 February Bligh prohibited the barter of spirits in exchange for other goods. This measure was intended to weaken the control exercised by the Sydney trading network, made up of ex-convicts, soldiers and officers of the NSW Corps, over the colony's internal trade and finances.

13 February The *General Wellesley* arrived at Port Jackson with a cargo of much-needed grain, and the full ration was restored.

9 April In defiance of government orders, John Macarthur and Capt Edward Abbott, an officer of the NSW Corps landed two stills from the *Dart*. Bligh ordered the stills to be seized and sent back to the customs house in London.

25 July Bligh suspended Surgeon D'Arcy Wentworth for using convicts admitted to hospital as private labourers while continuing to have them victualled as hospital patients.

July John Macarthur sought repayment of a promissory note that Andrew Thompson, a supporter of Bligh, had drawn as redeemable in wheat or money. Macarthur sued Thompson for repayment in wheat, which had increased sharply in value since the Hawkesbury floods. He lost the case and Bligh dismissed his appeal. The incident marked the beginning of open conflict between Bligh and Macarthur.

23 August The first dry-cleaning business opened in Sydney when Robert Davidson advertised that, being acquainted with the business of 'dry scowering', he would clean all types of wearing apparel.

30 August Bligh suspended publication of the *Sydney Gazette*, alleging a lack of paper. The government printer, George Howe, later revealed that the government stores had large stocks of paper.

30 August Fourteen men aboard the whaler *Elizabeth* refused to work because they lacked provisions. A party of marines brought the mutineers ashore at Hobart, where they were confined in irons.

10 October Bligh recommended to the Colonial Office that the colony's civil and criminal courts should more closely resemble those of Great Britain. He argued that the colonial legal system would profit from the appointment of a judge, a solicitor and an attorney-general. The colony's judge-advocate, Richard Atkins, was often drunk and Bligh believed he had an unsatisfactory understanding of the law.

11 October John Macarthur wrote to his friend Capt John Piper, acting commandant of Norfolk Island, that NSW had now become 'a perfect hell' and that 'the Corps is galloping into a state of warfare with the Governor' over Bligh's interference in the rum trade.

24 October John Macarthur sued Robert Campbell for illegal seizure of property when Campbell, acting for the government, confiscated two stills that Macarthur and Capt Abbott had illegally imported. The court, which included a number of Macarthur's supporters, decided in his favour.

15 November The trading vessel *Parramatta*, which was part-owned by John Macarthur, returned to Port Jackson. It was placed under arrest and the owners' bond was confiscated, because a convict had escaped from the colony when it had last sailed.

28 November A party of 34 persons arrived at the Derwent from Norfolk Island aboard the brig *Lady Nelson*.

7 December John Macarthur abandoned possession of the *Parramatta*.

14 December As Macarthur would no longer provision the ship, the crew of the *Parramatta* were forced to go ashore for supplies. This constituted an unauthorised landing and another breach of regulations by its owners.

15 December A warrant was issued for Macarthur's arrest on the grounds of his breach of local naval regulations. He imputed 'horrid tyranny' to the civil authorities and declared he would never submit to arrest until blood was shed. The next day a second warrant was issued and Macarthur was arrested.

17 December Macarthur was committed for trial on a charge of sedition. The date of the trial was set for 25 January 1808. He was then released on bail.

1808

1 January Bligh received an address of gratitude signed by nearly nine hundred settlers, praising him for his work in suppressing the monopolists.

12 January The *City of Edinburgh* brought 100 000 litres of spirits from the Cape of Good Hope.

13 January Bligh questioned the validity of John Macarthur's lease in Sydney, and issued an order to stop him building on it.

25 January The criminal court assembled to try Macarthur. Macarthur objected to the judge-advocate, Richard Atkins, sitting as president, one of his grounds being that Atkins was his creditor. The other members of the court — six officers of the NSW

Corps — upheld his objection and released him on his previous bail.

26 January The colony celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its foundation. The order for bail for Macarthur was revoked and at 9 am two constables came to arrest him. The court reconvened, with the six officers still demanding Atkins' replacement as judge-advocate. Atkins submitted that the officers had committed treason and Bligh summoned them to appear at Government House at 9 am the following morning. At 6 pm Maj Johnston had Macarthur released from gaol. He then went to the barracks and called the NSW Corps to arms. The soldiers, accompanied by Macarthur and some other civilians, marched to Government House and placed Bligh under arrest. Johnston declared martial law and assumed authority as lieutenant-governor. Many townspeople celebrated with bonfires, burning effigies and roasting sheep. The events became known as the 'Rum Rebellion'.

6 February A newly constituted criminal court acquitted Macarthur, who was then borne jubilantly around town on a stage chair by men of the NSW Corps.

8 February A meeting was held in Sydney at which a number of leading townspeople made a formal commitment to Macarthur as their agent who would carry an account of their grievances against Bligh to London.

9 February Surgeon D'Arcy Wentworth was retried by a court martial for offences concerning convict labour of which he had been convicted the previous year. He was acquitted and restored to his former situation.

16 May The brig *Harrington* was seized in Port Jackson by about forty convicts and put to sea.

28 July Lieut-Col Joseph Foveaux arrived in Sydney from England and took over the colony's administration from Maj Johnston and John Macarthur. Foveaux decided to keep Bligh under house arrest, refusing to reinstate him, on the grounds that he had no authority to do so.

11 October News of the rebellion having reached England, the secretary of state, Viscount Castlereagh, recommended that the NSW Corps should be recalled immediately.

4 November A group of settlers petitioned Viscount Castlereagh to reinstate Bligh.

1809

1 January Lieut-Gov William Paterson arrived in Sydney from Port Dalrymple and on 9 January took over the administration from Lieut-Col Joseph Foveaux. Although Paterson and Foveaux dissociated themselves from the rebels, neither made a determined effort to divest them of power.

27 January Lieut-Gov Paterson ordered that no person should be allowed to see Bligh under house arrest at Government House without his written permission.



26 January 1808 Governor Bligh is arrested in a compromising position. This undated watercolour by an unknown artist helped sustain charges of cowardice against Bligh.

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30 January When Bligh refused to obey Paterson's orders to sail to England under supervision and to stop giving orders to ships in the harbour, he was taken by Maj George Johnston and Maj Edward Abbott from Government House to the subalterns' barracks. His daughter, Mary Putland, demanded to see him and the two were held in close confinement for six days.

4 February Bligh returned to Government House, having agreed to sail directly to London on the *Porpoise* without stopping at any of the colony's outer settlements.

17 February Fourteen settlers from the Hawkesbury complained in a petition to the secretary of state, Viscount Castlereagh, of the injustices of the rebel government, the trade in spirits, the corruption in land transactions and the persecution of all who supported Bligh.

12 March Bligh issued a proclamation to ships in harbour declaring the NSW Corps to be in a state of rebellion and forbidding them to take any persons connected with the rebellion out of the colony.

17 March Bligh left Sydney and sailed to Hobart aboard the *Porpoise*.

28 March Maj Johnston and John Macarthur sailed for England on the *Admiral Gambier*.

29 March Bligh arrived at the Derwent. He occupied Government House on 8 April but after an altercation with Lieut-Gov David Collins he returned to his ship to avoid being confined once again.

23 April A ship arrived in Hobart from Sydney with a proclamation from Lieut-Gov Paterson forbidding anyone to communicate with Bligh, his family or known confidants.

25 April The first post office in Sydney was established at the house of Isaac Nichols, who was appointed postmaster.

24 May Lieut-Col Lachlan Macquarie received his instructions in England as the next governor of NSW. On his arrival in the colony he was to reinstate Bligh temporarily, arrest Maj Johnston and John Macarthur and cancel the rebel administration's civil appointments. All members of the NSW Corps were to return to England; they were to be replaced by the 73rd Regiment.

25 May The Hawkesbury River again flooded at a time when the ground was ready for sowing.

14 August The *Boyd* arrived with a detachment of the 73rd Regiment to replace the NSW Corps and news that Lieut-Col Macquarie would be the next governor.

12 September T.G. Harris, a barrister and legal adviser to the British crown, released his report on the

available evidence of the rebellion against Bligh. He concluded that Maj Johnston had been involved to 'the highest degree of criminal responsibility'. However, there was no British law applicable to John Macarthur's actions in inciting the soldiers to mutiny or in orchestrating the arrest of Bligh.

9 October John Macarthur and Maj Johnston arrived in England.

8 November The *Boyd* sailed from Sydney with a cargo of timber, coal, sealskins and sperm oil. In early December it called at Whangaroa Harbour in New Zealand, where a surprise attack by the Maoris resulted in the deaths of 60 to 70 Europeans and five Maoris. Four European survivors were later rescued.

28 December At 9.30 am the *Hindustan* and *Dromedary* arrived with Lieut-Col Macquarie and his family, and the 73rd Regiment, comprising about 700 men. Another arrival was Ellis Bent, who was to succeed Richard Atkins as deputy judge-advocate.

31 December Lieut-Col Macquarie stepped ashore and marched ahead of his regiment from the wharf to Government House, with the NSW Corps under arms providing a guard of honour.

1809 The Presbyterian settlers at Portland Head on the Hawkesbury set about building a stone chapel and schoolhouse on four acres (1.6 hectares) of land they called 'Ebenezer Mount'. The building, which was completed in 1817, still stands and is the oldest church in Australia.

1810

1 January Macquarie was sworn in as governor of NSW.

2 January Believing the new governor to be near his destination, Bligh set sail for Sydney. He arrived on 17 January to find Macquarie's administration already established.

7 January Macquarie reinstated four of Bligh's supporters to the positions they had held before the rebellion.

8 January The first newspaper in Van Diemen's Land and the second in Australia, the *Derwent Star* and the *Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*, appeared in Hobart. A total of twelve issues were published fortnightly.

20 January Macquarie ordered that a guard of honour from the 73rd Regiment should be mounted over Bligh's quarters while he was resident in Sydney.

27 January Macquarie issued an order forbidding any person to work on the sabbath day. Thenceforth the *Sydney Gazette* was to be published on Saturday instead of Sunday.

15 February Convicts who had been granted pardons by the rebel administration were required to surrender them.

31 March Macquarie established a police fund that drew its revenue from customs and excise duties and was to be used to carry out local public works.

24 March Lieut-Gov David Collins died suddenly in Hobart.

22 March John Eyre, a missionary who had recently arrived from the Society Islands, was placed in charge of a charity school at Parramatta.

14 April John Davies was appointed master of the charity school at Sydney.

23 April Macquarie gave a farewell fete in honour of Bligh and his daughter.

30 April Macquarie asked the British government for permission to establish a bank.

30 April A veteran company was formed from men of the NSW Corps who had at least twenty years' military service. Many had become attached to convict women and now had children. Other convict women married to men of the Corps were given free pardons so that they could return with their husbands to England.

April Rev Samuel Marsden refused to serve in an official capacity with two emancipists, Simeon Lord and Andrew Thompson, whom Macquarie had appointed justices of the peace.

12 May Bligh, in command of a squadron comprising three ships, sailed for England.

9 June Macquarie disbanded the voluntary Sydney and Parramatta Loyal Associations.

6 July Capt John Murray of the 73rd Regiment arrived at the Derwent to assume command of the Hobart settlement.

15 September One of the first horse races in the colony was run between two geldings from Sydney to Parramatta, a distance of some 25 kilometres, for a purse of 50 guineas.

6 October A town plan of Sydney was published, on which the streets were given new and permanent names, such as George, Market, Barrack, Park.

15 October Settlers from every village and outpost in the county of Cumberland flocked to Sydney to witness a week-long sports carnival. Activities included Sydney's first recorded race meeting, footraces, cockfights, and a seven-round boxing match.

3 November A proclamation introduced courts of quarter sessions.

6 November Macquarie gave Surgeon D'Arcy Wentworth, Alexander Riley and Garnham Blaxcell a contract to build a new hospital in Sydney. The building was to have a capacity of 200 patients and was to be finished in three years. During this time the contractors were given a near-monopoly on the importation of spirits to pay for the hospital.

6 November The governor, Mrs Macquarie and a large entourage of officials and servants set out on a tour of the outlying settlements. During the excursion, which lasted 37 days, the governor tried to visit every settler's farm. He selected the sites for five townships on high ground in the Hawkesbury district, which he named Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, Wilberforce

and Castlereagh. A similar town marked out on the George's River, he called Liverpool.

25 December Rev Samuel Marsden consecrated St Philip's Church in Sydney.

1811

1 January Macquarie issued a series of regulations for the reorganisation of the Sydney police force, and named D'Arcy Wentworth superintendent of police.

5 April The death in Sydney of Thomas Reibey, followed by that of his partner Edward Wills on 14 May, left his wife Mary Reibey in control of large colonial business enterprises.

7 May The court martial of George Johnston, now a lieutenant-colonel, began in Chelsea, London. On 5 June he was found guilty of mutiny and sentenced to be cashiered. No others who took part in the rebellion against Bligh were prosecuted, but instructions from the secretary of state, Viscount Castlereagh, that Macarthur should be tried in NSW if there was sufficient evidence for his arrest, kept him in England until 1817.

8 June Macquarie reformed the system for granting tickets of leave and pardons. According to new regulations, tickets of leave were to be issued to convicts only after three years of assigned or government service. Conditional pardons were to be granted after seven years of a life sentence had been served or half of a limited period sentence, and only to those of good conduct.

1 December During a tour of inspection of Van Diemen's Land, Macquarie gave directions for the layout of Hobart. He divided the town into a central square and seven streets, which he named Macquarie, Liverpool, Argyle, Elizabeth, Murray, Harrington and Collins.

2 December Rev Samuel Marsden sent the first commercial shipment of wool from NSW to England, comprising between 1800 and 2300 kilograms.

1811 The first mental asylum opened at Castle Hill.

1812

6 March Two Wesleyan Methodist classes were established in Sydney by Thomas Bowden and John Hosking, marking the beginnings of Methodism in Australia.

14 March Macquarie publicly reprimanded the military following the execution of Pte John Gould of the 73rd Regiment for murdering another soldier's wife. The killing had occurred after a night of riotous drinking involving many members of the military.

10 July A House of Commons select committee on transportation expressed qualified satisfaction with the administration and liberal views of Macquarie, but regretted that his powers were so extensive. The committee proposed the formation of a council to share responsibility with the governor.

19 October The *Indefatigable*, the first transport to bring convicts direct from England to Van Diemen's Land, arrived at Hobart with 200 prisoners aboard.

25 October Macquarie received a letter of censure from the secretary of state, the Earl of Liverpool, for the heavy increase in expenditure since he had assumed the governorship of the colony.

11 November The armed brig *Emu*, fitted out especially for the colonial service, sailed from England for Van Diemen's Land with 49 female convicts, the first women to be transported there. On 30 November the ship was captured by an American privateer. It was the only convict ship to be taken by enemy action. On 17 January 1813, the women were landed on the island of St Vincent in the Atlantic Ocean. Their ultimate fate is unknown.

17 November Macquarie, writing to the secretary of state, defended the contract he had entered into for the building of the 'Rum Hospital' on the grounds that it would be erected free of expense to the crown and would realise £6750 in revenue from import duties on spirits. In the same letter he suggested that the number of free settlers should be kept to a minimum as the expense incurred in establishing settlers in the colony was unproductive in comparison to establishing settlers from the emancipist and expirée class, who were grateful for their land grants as well as industrious. He criticised the practice of many English families who, when wanting to rid themselves of problem relations, applied for permission to send them to NSW.

26 November HMS *Samarang* arrived in Sydney from Madras, carrying 10 000 Spanish dollars. To prevent the coins being carried out of the colony, Macquarie ordered that a disc be cut from the centre of each and circulated as a separate coin. The outer circle became known as the 'holey dollar' and was valued at five shillings. The disc, which was called the 'dump', was valued at fifteen pence.

12 December Mary Reibey opened a new warehouse with a large range of goods for sale.

1812 NSW suffered a liquidity crisis when overseas suppliers withdrew credit because of a commercial crisis in Britain.

1812 John Beamont was appointed first postmaster-general of Van Diemen's Land.

1813

4 February Maj Thomas Davey took office as lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land, succeeding David Collins.

March Subscriptions opened for the construction of a carriage road between Sydney and Botany Bay. £150 was subscribed within a few days.

10 April The firm of Lord, Williams and Hutchinson advertised for twenty apprentices for the weaving, spinning, dyeing and pottery trades. They promised that, when a sufficient number was indentured, a Sunday

school would be opened to instruct them in reading and writing.

2 May Macquarie issued an order forbidding passenger boats from operating on the Parramatta River on Sundays.

8 May The New South Wales Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and Benevolence in these Territories and Neighbouring Islands was founded by Edward Smith Hall and a committee of five. Its object was to 'relieve the distressed and to enforce the sacred duties of religion and virtue in New South Wales'.

11 May Gregory Blaxland, William Wentworth and Lieut William Lawson set out from South Creek with four servants, five dogs and four horses to explore the interior between the Western and Grose rivers. They hoped to discover a passage over the Blue Mountains. Following the ridges between the valleys, they sometimes managed to travel no more than a few kilometres per day. On 28 May they pitched camp 'on the edge of a precipice' (Mt York) and gazed down on a valley covered with trees and good grass. On 31 May their journey terminated at Mt Blaxland, where they looked out on land 'sufficient to feed all the stock in the colony for 30 years'. The expedition a success, they returned by the same route, arriving home on 6 June.

May Australia's first Sunday school was started by Thomas Hassall with six or seven children, in his father's house in Parramatta.

3 July The silver dollar and dump were proclaimed the official currency and from 30 September they were to be the only local legal tender in the colony.

6 July John Macarthur's first commercial consignment of over 8000 pounds of wool was despatched from Sydney.

31 July The acquittal of two soldiers on murder charges and their subsequent conviction for manslaughter was widely criticised by colonists who argued that 'little justice could be expected towards the poor whilst the court consists of fellow officers of the prisoner at the bar'.

31 July Macquarie recommended that the 73rd Regiment be removed from the colony and that no future land grants be made to military or naval officers or their wives and children.

5 August News arrived that the 46th Regiment was to relieve the 73rd, which would be transferred to Ceylon.

2 October William Pascoe Crook opened an evening school for working boys and apprentices who were employed during the day.

19 November George William Evans, an assistant surveyor, set out with instructions from Macquarie to confirm and extend the discoveries of Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. His party later reached and named the Macquarie River.

27 November The *Sydney Gazette* announced that the new road from Parramatta to Windsor was complete and that toll bars at Parramatta and Rouse Hill would operate from 1 January 1814.

1814

13 January A vessel arrived from Bass Strait bringing 4100 seal skins.

4 February The second charter of justice was created by letters patent issued in England. It established three new courts of civil judicature in NSW — the Governor's Court, the Lieutenant-Governor's Court and the Supreme Court.

7 February The transport *General Hewitt* arrived in Sydney with many of its convicts sick with dysentery. During the voyage, 34 convicts had died. On 24 March a court of inquiry found that the conduct of the ship's officers was highly culpable and recommended that the transport board take steps to punish the commander.

28 February Norfolk Island was finally evacuated and abandoned. Macquarie had long considered it too expensive and of no strategic or commercial value. A superintendent and 35 men had slaughtered and salted down the government cattle. Buildings of all descriptions were gutted and a number of dogs left behind to eradicate wild pigs and goats which could not be rounded up.

26 March Two soldiers of the 73rd Regiment who had been sentenced to death for felony were pardoned on condition that they re-enlist in the regiment for the terms of their natural lives.

20 May The *Three Bees* caught fire at its anchorage in Sydney Cove. Being unable to contain the fire, the crew cut it loose and abandoned ship. After three hours it ran aground on Bennelong Point and fifteen minutes later its magazine exploded. The ship burned throughout the night and by morning was levelled to its waterline.

18 July Matthew Flinders' book *A voyage to Terra Australis* was published in London, the day before he died. In the book Flinders referred to the continent as 'Australia'.

A party of 40 or 50 men superintended by William Cox, principal magistrate at Windsor, commenced clearing work to build a road over the Blue Mountains.

28 July The fever ship *Surrey* arrived with the crew and convicts suffering from typhus. The death toll comprised 10 of the crew including the captain, 36 convicts, the surgeon and 4 soldiers. With no officer capable of navigating her to port, the ship was brought into Sydney Harbour by volunteer crewmen from a passing vessel.

12 August The second charter of justice was proclaimed in NSW. Jeffery Hart Bent, the deputy judge-advocate's brother, was sworn in as first judge of the Supreme Court of NSW.

31 December Ellis Bent, the deputy judge-advocate, declined to assist Macquarie in redrafting the governor's port regulations as he considered them illegal. Macquarie subsequently accused him of insubordination.



April–May 1815 Governor Macquarie and his party camp at Springwood on their journey over the newly completed road across the Blue Mountains.
Watercolour by J.W. Lewin, 1815.

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1815

18 January A 'native institution' or school for the Aborigines opened at Parramatta, with Macquarie as patron and a former missionary, William Shelley, as superintendent. The school was to admit six boys and six girls between the ages of four and seven years for instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic; boys were to be trained in agriculture and mechanics and girls in needlework. Shelley died in July and his work was continued by his wife Elizabeth.

January William Cox and his party completed a carriage road over the mountains to the present site of Bathurst.

February A group of Aborigines was persuaded to settle on small farms on the north side of Port Jackson. The Aborigine Bungaree was to lead the group in this experiment, which Macquarie hoped would encourage other Aborigines to cultivate the land and abandon 'the Wild and precarious pursuits of the Woods'. The farms soon failed, but Macquarie presented Bungaree with a brass plate inscribed 'Bungaree, King of the Blacks'.

25 April In an attempt to curtail bushranging, Lieut-Gov Thomas Davey proclaimed martial law throughout Van Diemen's Land. Macquarie later condemned

the measure as illegal and disrespectful to his own authority. The order was revoked on 18 September.

25 April Macquarie set out along the new road to inspect the country west of the Blue Mountains.

1 May Judge Jeffery Hart Bent opened the supreme court after months of delay caused by a quarrel with Macquarie over Bent's refusal to have the ex-convict lawyers George Crossley and Edward Eagar appear before him.

7 May On the banks of the Macquarie River, Macquarie chose the site for a new town which he named Bathurst after Earl Bathurst, principal secretary of state for war and the colonies.

11 May Faced with the prospect of being overruled by magistrates William Broughton and Alexander Riley, his lay colleagues on the supreme court bench, Jeffery Hart Bent adjourned the court. Despite later attempts by Broughton and Riley to reopen it, the court remained closed until 1817.

13 May George William Evans set out on an exploration journey, proceeding from Bathurst southward to within sight of the Abercrombie River. On 27 May the party reached the Lachlan River. They returned to Bathurst on 12 June.

15 May Ellis Bent, the deputy judge-advocate, refused to allow convict attorneys to appear before the

governor's court, over which he presided. The governor's court had jurisdiction in civil matters involving property worth less than £50.

29 May The colony's first steam engine, owned by John Dickson, was put into motion at Cockle Bay near Sydney. It was initially used for grinding wheat and corn.

1 July Macquarie advised Earl Bathurst that if Ellis and Jeffery Hart Bent were not removed, he would resign.

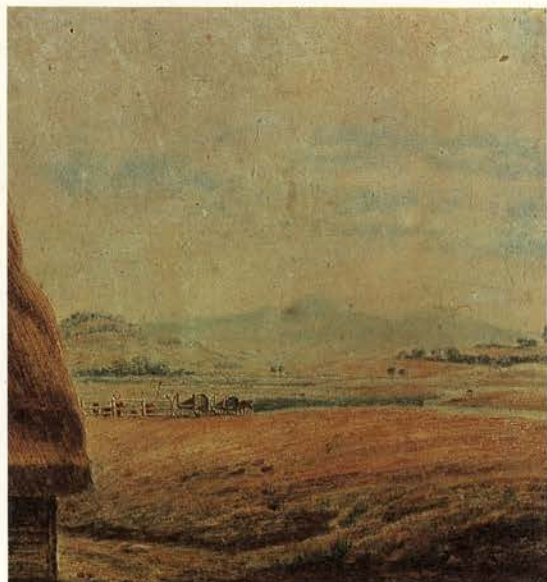
21 July To escape a three-year drought in the coastal area, Lieut William Lawson set out to drive 100 head of cattle to the newly discovered country west of the mountains. The first herd of fat cattle was driven east for slaughter the following October.

8 August Frederick Garling, a free attorney from London, arrived in Sydney. His presence, along with that of the free solicitor William Henry Moore, who had arrived seven months earlier, removed the need for convict lawyers to appear before the supreme court. Nevertheless, the court remained closed.

10 August Samuel Leigh, Australia's first Methodist minister, arrived aboard the *Hebe*.

21 October The merchant Simeon Lord advertised that he was willing to buy washed fleeces from local woolgrowers. His woollen mill at Botany Bay was now manufacturing blankets, coarse cloth and flannel of a quality equal to any imported.

10 November Ellis Bent died. On 12 November Frederick Garling was commissioned as acting deputy judge-advocate.



1815 J.W. Lewin painted the site for a new town, named Bathurst by Governor Macquarie. Lewin, a member of Macquarie's party, was the first to portray the Australian landscape with a naturalist's eye. Watercolour.

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12 December James Kelly set out from Hobart with four men in a whaleboat to sail around Van Diemen's Land. They reached Port Davey on 17 December and Macquarie Harbour on 28 December.

1816

18 January On the Queen's birthday, news reached Sydney of the Duke of Wellington's victory of the previous June at Waterloo. Decorations in keeping with the theme of a glorious military triumph were hastily added to the room in the new general hospital where the Queen's birthday ball was to be held. The entire floor was painted with emblems of martial glory with the figure of 'Fame' sounding her trumpet at the centre.

19 January The *Mary Ann* arrived from England with 101 female convicts and fifteen free women who were coming to join their husbands in the colony.

February Benjamin Vale seized an American schooner, the *Traveller*, under the Navigation Acts, contending that trade with America was illegal. Macquarie interpreted the action as a defiance of his authority and had him court-martialled. Macquarie's illegal proceedings were later condemned by the secretary of state, Earl Bathurst.

March Open hostility again broke out between Aborigines and settlers living along the Nepean River. Five Europeans were killed defending their property and many settlers abandoned their farms.

10 April Macquarie sent military detachments to drive the Aborigines out of what he called the 'infested' districts. Fourteen Aborigines were killed and five taken prisoner.

12 April Earl Bathurst recalled Ellis Bent (who by this time had died) and Jeffery Hart Bent and censured them for obstructing the colony's government and judicial proceedings.

19 April Macquarie ordered the flogging of three free men who had trespassed in the government domain. The action was later cited by his enemies as an example of his autocratic behaviour.

4 May Macquarie published a set of regulations to be observed by the Aborigines. They were not to appear armed within a mile of a settlement; no more than six were to 'lurk or loiter' about any farm; ritual punishments among themselves were forbidden and peaceful Aborigines were to be given passports for their own protection. Aborigines who wished to become settlers were to be given small portions of land. The regulations also empowered settlers to use force against Aborigines who appeared to be hostile.

11 July Macquarie laid the foundation stone of the new lighthouse at South Head, naming the building 'Macquarie Tower'.

20 July Macquarie declared ten well-known Aborigines to be outlaws because they were considered responsible for the murder of settlers in the out-

lying districts. He promised a reward of £10 to any person offering proof that he had killed one of the outlawed Aborigines and authorised settlers to use arms against any future attacks. At the same time, he issued a strict warning that no act of aggression was to be initiated by Europeans against the Aborigines.

26 August The body of a shepherd was discovered speared to death at Mulgoa. His entire flock of 200 sheep had been slaughtered.

7 September The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge revealed that it was in debt to the extent of £60 owing to the many poor and distressed persons in Sydney needing relief. Since 1 January 1816, by its own account, 101 needy persons had been helped by the Society.

16 September The colonial vessel *Trial* was seized by convicts. It was later discovered wrecked north of Port Stephens, with the apparent loss of all on board.

5 October The new deputy judge-advocate, John Wylde, arrived in Sydney and took office soon afterwards.

20 November A meeting of a select group of magistrates and merchants at the deputy judge-advocate's chambers considered the establishment of a colonial bank. The proposal was for a subscription bank with a capital of £20 000 divided into £100 shares. At a public meeting on 5 December 46 names were placed on a subscription list for the Bank of NSW.

11 December Because Jeffery Hart Bent refused to make way for his successor, Macquarie removed him as a judge of the supreme court.

28 December Macquarie gave a feast for 179 Aborigines at Parramatta. To the 'tribal chiefs' he awarded badges inscribed with their names and those of their 'tribes'; he also presented badges of merit to several individuals who had assisted the military in their search for Aboriginal 'outlaws'. Mrs Macquarie brought fifteen children from the Native Institution to the gathering, where they demonstrated their ability to read English and were publicly examined in their schoolwork.

1817

4 January The *Sydney Gazette* published an anonymous letter, signed by 'Philo Free', attacking Rev Samuel Marsden and linking his missionary and pecuniary interests. Marsden subsequently brought a successful action against the governor's secretary, John Thomas Campbell.

19 February The foundation stone of St David's, the first permanent church in Hobart, was laid by Lieut-Gov Thomas Davey.

24 February The new judge of the supreme court, Barron Field, arrived in Sydney and took office on 1 May.

10 March In London a petition initiated by Rev Benjamin Vale and William Henry Moore, two of

Macquarie's opponents, was presented to the House of Commons. It complained of Macquarie's unjust and oppressive conduct and sought free trade and trial by jury. Macquarie later denied the accusations it contained and declared that many of the signatures had been forged.

1 April Macquarie suggested the establishment of a small British settlement in New Zealand.

4 April Macquarie reported to the secretary of state that a large band of Aborigines threatened the township of Bathurst.

8 April The Bank of NSW opened for business in a house leased from Mary Reibey in Macquarie Place. The first deposit of £50 had been accepted three days earlier from Sgt Jeremiah Murphy and the first loan, of £25, was made to Owen Connor from Minto.

9 April Lieut-Col William Sorell succeeded Lieut-Col Thomas Davey as lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land.

9 April Thomas Hassall sailed for England to become the first Australian candidate to study for the Christian ministry. He was ordained deacon on 14 April 1821.

23 April The secretary of state, Earl Bathurst, in a letter to his colleague Viscount Sidmouth, secretary of state at the Home Office, expressed doubts that the settlement in NSW was fulfilling the penal role for which it had been established and proposed the appointment of a commission of inquiry.

28 April A party led by John Oxley left Bathurst with instructions to ascertain the course of the Lachlan River. They followed the river for more than two months until halted by marshes. Oxley then proceeded northward to the Macquarie River which he traced back to Bathurst, arriving there on 29 August.

28 June A subscription list was opened at the Bank of NSW to relieve those suffering distress owing to recent flooding of the Hawkesbury.

5 July In Hobart, a public meeting convened by Lieut-Gov Sorell discussed ways to suppress roving gangs of bushrangers that were terrorising the settlements. Rewards of up to 100 guineas were offered for the capture of various individuals and by 6 September only one, Michael Howe, was thought to be still at large.

25 July Macquarie complained to the home government that a number of military officers were insubordinate. They had opposed his policy towards ex-convicts and had ridiculed their commanding officer and the governor himself. He recommended the 'Speedy Removal' of the 46th Regiment of which they were members.

26 July The transport *Chapman* anchored in Port Jackson carrying male prisoners from Ireland. Two alleged mutinies had been put down during the voyage, resulting in the deaths of twelve prisoners and two crewmen. The convicts were suffering from starvation and had been cruelly treated. An inquiry in NSW resulted in three officers, three mates and three



12 September 1818 *The crew of L'Uranie, commanded by Louis-Claude de Freycinet, set up an observatory at Shark Bay in Western Australia. The French expedition surveyed inland and coastal waters. Watercolour by J. Alphonse Pellion, one of the two topographical draughtsmen on the voyage.*

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soldiers being sent to England for trial. On 11 January 1819 they were acquitted at the Old Bailey.

30 September John Macarthur returned to Australia after an absence of over eight years.

7 October The first Methodist chapel in Australia was opened at Castlereagh, west of Sydney.

1 December After receiving critical despatches from the Colonial Office, Macquarie tendered his resignation. Bathurst wrote a mollifying reply, but through some mischance the governor never received it.

22 December Lieut Phillip Parker King, son of the former governor, began a series of hydrographic surveys of the Australian coastline to complete the work started by Matthew Flinders.

December The stonework for a lighthouse at South Head, designed by a convict architect, Francis Greenway, was completed. Macquarie rewarded Greenway with a conditional pardon.

1818

30 January Michael Massey Robinson received two cows from the government herd in recognition of his services as 'Poet Laureate of the Colony'. This was the first literary award given by a government in Australia.

31 January The Great Western Road between Paramatta and Emu Ford, a distance of over 30 kilometres, was completed. Two toll bars provided revenue for its maintenance.

3 March Charles Throsby set out from Liverpool to find an overland route to Jervis Bay. He accomplished this by following the Kangaroo and lower Shoalhaven rivers.

15 May Macquarie refused permission for Rev Samuel Marsden to visit England, on the grounds that there were so few clergy in the colony.

15 May In a letter to the secretary of state, Earl Bathurst, Macquarie stressed the need for schoolmasters in the colony, recommending they should be of the established church and 'untainted with Methodism or other Sectarian opinions'.

20 May Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn, a Catholic priest who had come to Sydney without the British government's permission, was deported under arrest for continuing to conduct services.

28 May John Oxley set out on an expedition that followed the Macquarie River westwards until it disappeared in 'an ocean of reeds'. To the north, the party reached the Castlereagh and Peel rivers and the rich Liverpool Plains. They crossed the New England range near the present site of Walcha to the Hastings River, following the latter to its estuary, which Oxley named Port Macquarie. Turning south, they reached Newcastle six months after leaving Bathurst and returned to Sydney on 27 November.

5 June The Benevolent Society of NSW was formed, under Macquarie's patronage. It was to administer relief to those whom it regarded as 'the real objects of charity'.

30 June The girls of the orphan school were moved from their Sydney premises to a new building at Parramatta.

21 October The Van Diemen's Land bushranger, Michael Howe, was cornered and clubbed to death. His head was exhibited in Hobart.

21 November To remove any doubts about whether the equivalent British law was valid in the colony, Macquarie proclaimed that magistrates should have jurisdiction in wage disputes between employers and employees.

30 November A lantern with revolving lights was lit for the first time at the new Macquarie lighthouse at South Head.

28 December Two hundred and eighty-four Aborigines attended the annual meeting of the Native Institution at Parramatta. Macquarie decided that all who came should be issued with a suit of red clothing, as red was understood to be the Aborigines' preferred colour.

1818 Capt Thomas Raine established at Twofold Bay the first whaling station on the Australian mainland.

1819

1 January The Male Orphan School opened with 50 boys in newly renovated premises in George Street formerly used as the Female Orphan School.

5 January In London John Thomas Bigge was appointed a special commissioner to determine how far the expanding colony could be 'made adequate to the Objects of its original Institution', which were understood to be purely penal. He was to come to Australia to investigate all aspects of the colony's government, including its finances, the church and judiciary, and the convict system.

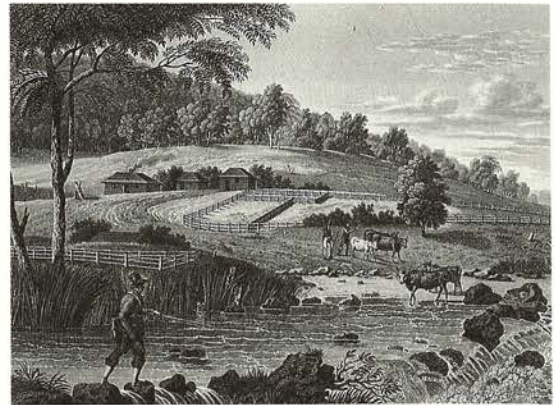
2 February Judge Barron Field of the supreme court arrived in Hobart to conduct the first circuit of the supreme court of Van Diemen's Land.

11 May The surveyor-general of NSW, John Oxley, aboard the *Lady Nelson*, accompanied by Lieut Phillip Parker King in command of the *Mermaid*, reached the entrance to Port Macquarie, where they spent ten days sounding and examining the harbour and the Hastings River. They discovered large forests of rosewood and flooded gum and deposits of coal.

21 May Having completed an examination of Port Macquarie, Lieut King left to resume the northern survey. He returned to Sydney the following January, having circumnavigated Australia.

4 June All the male convicts in government employ in Sydney, numbering more than 600, took up residence in the new convict barracks at Hyde Park.

17 July Australia's first savings bank, the NSW Savings Bank, opened for business. It was also known as 'Campbell's Bank' after its secretary Robert Campbell.



November–December 1819 Members of Louis-Claude de Freycinet's expedition from L'Uranie made the journey across the Blue Mountains at the invitation of Governor Macquarie, and visited a settler's farm at Cox's River on their way to Bathurst. Lithograph by Schroeder and Marchais after J. Alphonse Pellion, 1825.

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26 September Commissioner Bigge and his secretary, Thomas Hobbes Scott, arrived in Sydney to investigate the colony.

25 October James Bowman succeeded D'Arcy Wentworth as principal surgeon of the colony, the home government having ignored Macquarie's nomination of the emancipist William Redfern.

30 November Macquarie appointed an emancipist, Dr William Redfern, as magistrate, despite Commissioner Bigge's protests that appointing emancipists was unwise.

1819 John Howe, chief constable at Windsor, became the first European to travel overland from the Windsor district to the Hunter River.

1819 The Emu Plains penal farm was established, the first of its kind, to provide employment for convicts who arrived in large numbers after the Napoleonic wars.

1819 Judge Barron Field's *First fruits of Australian verse*, Australia's first book of poems, was published in Sydney by George Howe, the government printer. *A statistical, historical and political description of the colony of New South Wales and its dependent settlements in Van Diemen's Land* by William Charles Wentworth was published in London.

1820

10 January The surveyor-general, John Oxley, reported unfavourably on his explorations in the Illawarra district from Jervis Bay to the Shoalhaven: the soil was barren, there was a lack of water and there was no safe anchorage.

6 February Commissioner John Thomas Bigge sailed for Van Diemen's Land. He returned to Sydney on 4 June.

24 February Macquarie submitted a proposal to the secretary of state, Earl Bathurst, to set up native reserves where the Aborigines could live undisturbed by European vagrants and with sufficient space to erect a village and teach them agriculture.

28 February Macquarie reported that he had purchased 300 merino rams from John Macarthur's flock, the only pure merino stock in the colony, for shipment to Van Diemen's Land.

2 March Two Russian exploration ships, *Otkrictie* and *Blakonamerenoy*, arrived in Sydney for repairs and supplies. In April two more, the *Vostock* and *Mirnyi*, visited the port. Members of the expedition established a temporary observatory at Russian Cape now Kirribilli Point.

17 March On an overland journey, John Howe reached the vicinity of Singleton. It being St Patrick's Day, he named the area Patrick's Plains.

20 March Macquarie laid the foundation stone of the 'School for the Education of Children of the Poor' at Hyde Park, where it was intended to educate 500 children.

3 May Two Catholic priests, Fr Philip Conolly and Fr John Joseph Therry, arrived in Sydney — the first Catholic priests to come with the approval of the British government. Regular celebration of the mass, which had been suspended since James Dixon returned to Ireland in 1808, was now resumed.

15 June A subscription list was opened for the building of a Catholic chapel.

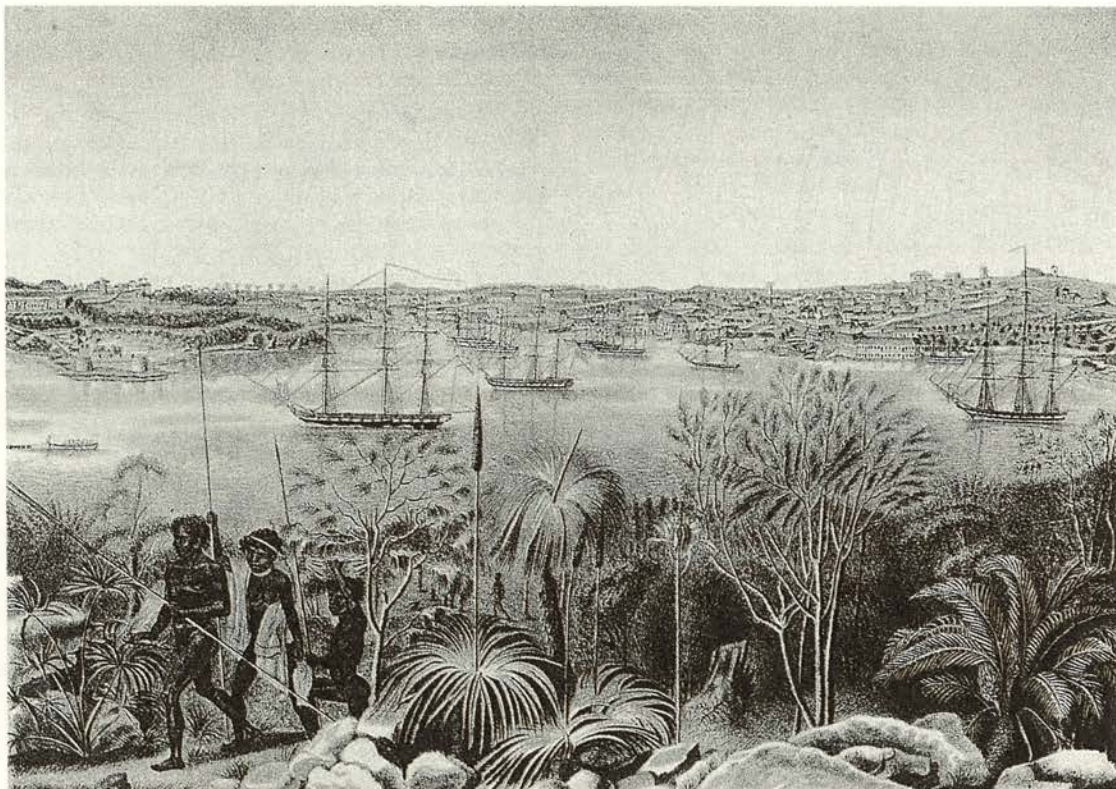
10 July Earl Bathurst instructed Macquarie to exclude Dr William Redfern's name from the commission of the peace, arguing that the appointment of ex-convicts to such positions should be avoided if possible.

12 August At the Golden Lion tavern in Sydney, a meeting established the first permanent Masonic lodge in Australia.

August An influenza epidemic swept the colony, taking a severe toll of Aborigines.

1 December Macquarie fixed the site for a new town, to be called Campbelltown.

31 December A letter arrived from Earl Bathurst, accepting Macquarie's resignation as governor of



March–April 1820 The Russian exploration ships *Vostock* and *Mirnyi*, commanded by Captain Bellinghausen, stayed in Sydney on their way to Antarctica. Paul Mikhailov, the official artist on the voyage, sketched the settlement at Port Jackson from which this lithograph was taken. It was published in Bellinghausen's account of the expedition, *The voyage of Captain Bellingshausen to the Antarctic seas 1819–1821*, 1945 edition.

NSW, which he had tendered on 1 December 1817, and ordering the removal of Dr Redfern from the magistracy.

December John Oxley made a second survey of Port Macquarie and reported in favour of establishing a penal settlement there.

December St Matthew's Church at Windsor, perhaps Francis Greenway's finest work, was completed.

1821

23 January A meeting of emancipated convicts expressed concern that recent court judgments threatened to deprive them of their assets and remove their civil rights. The meeting agreed to prepare a petition to the King, subsequently signed by 1368 emancipists.

1 February The female convicts were transferred to a new prison-factory at Parramatta.

3 February Commissioner John Thomas Bigge finished gathering evidence in the colony and on 14 February he sailed for England.

8 March A stagecoach between Parramatta and the Hawkesbury River ran for the first time.

21 March Three ships sailed for Port Macquarie with a contingent of 40 troops and 60 convict craftsmen commanded by Capt Francis Allman to establish a new penal settlement. The settlement was intended as a place of secondary punishment for those convicted of crimes after their arrival in the colony.

April Charles Throsby reached the Murrumbidgee River, somewhere near the present site of Canberra.

10 May On a visit to Van Diemen's Land, Macquarie inspected Launceston and Georgetown. On the return

journey he named the sites of four townships, Perth, Campbell Town, Oatlands and Brighton.

20 October The *Sydney Gazette* reported that a large number of children had now been inoculated against smallpox and the vaccine was being sent to the southern settlements.

29 October Macquarie laid the foundation stone of St Mary's, the first Catholic church in Australia.

7 November Maj-Gen Sir Thomas Brisbane arrived at Port Jackson. On 1 December he assumed office as governor of NSW.

11 December A detachment of troops under the direction of Lieut Cuthbertson of the 48th Regiment, together with stores, craftsmen and convicts, embarked on two brigs which took them to settle at Macquarie Harbour in Van Diemen's Land.

15 December Brisbane proclaimed an amnesty for any escaped convict or bushranger who would give himself up to the magistrates before 30 January 1822.

1822

2 January An agricultural society was founded in Hobart.

12 February Large crowds gathered to bid farewell to Maj-Gen and Mrs Macquarie.

20 March Brisbane and members of the newly formed Philosophical Society of Australasia (later the Royal Society of NSW) went to Botany Bay to commemorate the first landing of Capt James Cook and Sir Joseph Banks. A brass plaque was affixed to a rock 8 metres above sea level, after which the whole company drank a toast to the 'immortal fame' of Cook and Banks.

10 April Brisbane told the secretary of state, Earl Bathurst, that to discourage speculation in land, he would thenceforth require recipients of land grants to support one convict labourer for each 100 acres (40.5 hectares). He also introduced title deeds to reduce disputes over land occupation.

19 June The first of Commissioner Bigge's reports, *The state of the colony of New South Wales*, was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons. Bigge's subsequent reports, *The judicial establishments of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land* and *The state of agriculture and trade in the colony of New South Wales* were ordered to be printed on 21 February and 13 March 1823 respectively. The reports recommended reforms of the legal system, constitutional changes, a reduction in public works and a more extensive use of convicts in private enterprise.

5 July A meeting at Sydney founded the Agricultural Society of NSW.

12 July A schoolmaster Dr Laurence Halloran who held a ticket of leave issued a challenge with a purse of 50 guineas to any two boys who could match two of his pupils aged eleven and twelve in an examination in the English and Latin classics.



June–December 1820 The cutter *Mermaid* being repaired at Bowen (northern Queensland), having run aground during Phillip Parker King's third surveying voyage. The ship was frequently in need of extensive repairs and on King's return to Sydney in December he was given a new ship for his fourth voyage. Watercolour by Phillip Parker King.

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31 December 1821 Phillip Parker King and some of his crew meet Aborigines at the entrance to Oyster Harbour in King George Sound. King, in command of the *Bathurst*, was on his fourth and final surveying expedition in Australian waters. This pen and ink and watercolour sketch by King was later published in his journal.

ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

24 July George Allen, having been articled to Frederick Garling, was admitted to practise as a solicitor. He was the first solicitor to receive his legal training in Australia.

July In England, Macquarie submitted to Earl Bathurst a spirited defence against the criticisms of his administration by Commissioner Bigge. Bigge had called Macquarie's emancipist policy too lenient, his public works policy extravagant and his management of the convicts misdirected.

2 August The NSW government announced a new policy of sending 'irreclaimable' convicts and habitual escapees to Macquarie Harbour, Van Diemen's Land.

6 September Brisbane reported to Earl Bathurst that he had removed five members of the Parramatta bench from the magistracy for refusing to sit with their fellow magistrate, Dr Henry Grattan Douglass. Brisbane suspected 'a deep laid and foul conspiracy' against Douglass and accused the bench of the illegal arrest of Douglass's convict servant, Ann Rumsby. Bathurst later endorsed Brisbane's action. Several more conflicts between Douglass and his opponents were to follow.

1 November The *Sydney Gazette* observed that a new punishment was sometimes taking the place of flogging. Convicts were said to be punished by having a chain attached to one leg, to which was fixed a log in the shape of a sugar loaf. The log and chain varied in weight according to the crime.

December Rev Archibald Macarthur, the first Presbyterian minister in Australia, arrived at Hobart.

1823

January A large party of convicts was sent to establish an agricultural depot in the Wellington valley in the central west of NSW.

15 February James McBrien, a government surveyor, reported that he had found gold on the Fish River near Bathurst. This is thought to have been the first discovery of gold in Australia.

23 May Rev John Dunmore Lang, a minister of the Church of Scotland, arrived in Sydney. On 8 June, he commenced services.

18 June Brisbane proposed establishing a cavalry troop to combat Aboriginal attacks on stockkeepers in the Bathurst district, where seven Europeans had been murdered.

19 July The NSW Judicature Act (4 Geo IV c.96) to provide for 'the better administration of justice' in NSW and Van Diemen's Land received royal assent. It incorporated many of Commissioner Bigge's recommendations and was the first attempt to legislate for the colony's government and judicial system, the former constitution having depended on executive orders. It included provisions for a legislative council of five to seven members, all appointed by the King on the recommendation of the British government; for supreme courts in NSW and Van Diemen's Land; and for trial by jury of twelve colonists where both plaintiff and defendant agreed to the procedure. It also empowered the British government to establish a separate administration in Van Diemen's Land.