



TALLONG NEWS

Construction is beginning again in Tallong Memorial Park. The new toilets are nearly finished and Council will provide paved wheelchair access to them from Memorial Drive. Planning is underway for a skate board ramp and half basketball court to be erected before the end of the year.

The latest sculpture for the Jim Watling Walkway by Shannon Hobbs of Hoon Art, Marulan will soon be installed and what a piece it is! The life-sized metal horse led by a figure pushing a surveyor's perambulator acknowledges the passage of the first European explorers through the area in 1818.

Thirteen men set out from Camden on Tuesday 3 March 1818. The party was led by James Meehan, Deputy Surveyor of Lands and Dr Charles Throsby and consisted of Joseph Wild, Hamilton Hume, George Grimes, William Sly, Thomas Waters, John Glynn, Robert Cooling, John Thomas, Charles Gulliver as well as two Aboriginal men Bundle and Broughton.

James Meehan was an ex-convict, having been sentenced to transportation for taking part in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. He arrived on the "Friendship" in 1800 and was assigned to Charles Grimes who was then Surveyor-General. When Grimes was forced to return to England after supporting John Macarthur against Governor William Bligh, Meehan became Acting Surveyor-General. Although he had been granted an absolute pardon in 1806, Meehan's ex-convict status worked against him when the permanent appointment was made and in 1812 he was appointed Deputy Surveyor of Lands under John Oxley.

Charles Throsby had arrived in NSW in 1802 as surgeon on the convict transport "Coromandel". After serving in various posts in the Sydney and Newcastle areas, he returned to Sydney and resigned from the colonial administration on the grounds of ill-health in 1809. He received a land grant at Upper Minto that he named "Glenfield" and thereafter concentrated on pastoral activities and exploration.

Joseph Wild was also an ex-convict having been sentenced to life in 1793 for burglary. He arrived in Sydney Cove in 1797 and earned an abso-

lute pardon in 1813. He began working for Charles Throsby about 1814 and became a trusted companion on many of his explorations. Wilds Meadow is named after land owned by him and after his death in 1847 he was the first person to be buried in Bong Bong Cemetery.

Hamilton Hume and George Grimes, however, were both born in the colony. Hume, born in 1797, was a great bushman even at a young age and went on to become a noted explorer. His sister, Isabella, later married Dr Charles Throsby's stepson, George Barber, and they settled on a land grant given to Barber at Marulan that he named "Glenrock", hence Barber's Creek. George Grimes, born in 1800, was an illegitimate son of Charles Grimes and Elizabeth Allen, a convict. Elizabeth married John Bolger in 1805 but her two sons with Grimes remained in the colony when Grimes returned to England.

All the rest of the Europeans were convicts. William Sly and Thomas Waters were on private assignment to Throsby. Sly, who arrived in the colony in 1812, was granted a conditional pardon in 1834 and Waters, who had been sentenced to life for horse stealing in 1814, was given a conditional pardon in 1835. Records suggest that in England his trade was that of "baker" so perhaps on our expedition he served as cook. John Glynn, in Meehan's report is noted as "shoe maker and my servant" so James Meehan obviously had a clear idea of one of the necessities of an explorer's life!

Robert Cooling (transported for life for burglary in 1815), John Thomas, and Charles Gulliver (transported for 7 years in arriving in 1817) were all registered as being "in Govt. employ" or "in the town gang" and were sent by the authorities to help with physical work.

Two Aboriginal men accompanied the party. Bundle, born about 1781, had trained as a sailor and had already accompanied Surveyor George William Evans, sent to explore Jervis Bay by boat and find a route back overland to Appin. Broughton was born in 1798 at Berry, NSW and by 1818 he was working for Charles Throsby who probably gave him his English name. They acted as guides for the expedition and interpreters between the Europeans and the Gundungurra people.

