

## FOUNDATION DAY – THANK YOU!

Last week we celebrated the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the commencement of the First British Settlement and the landing of Philip Gidley King on 6 March 1788 at what is now Kingston, Norfolk Island. Each year Norfolk Island welcomes many visitors for a week of activities surrounding Foundation Day. Many come to celebrate the lives and learn of the stories of their ancestors, connect with this historic landmark, and immerse themselves in our history. Travel wholesalers and tour operators create specialized itineraries and themed events encouraging visitors to the island every year. The Norfolk Island Museum and Research Centre provide assistance with family research and personalized tours to many of the visiting groups and individuals.

The highlight of Foundation week is of course the re-enactment event on the morning of 6 March. This year, (despite tsunami and cyclone warnings) the day showcased beautiful weather with extremely large crowds gathering to watch the re-enactment of boats bringing to shore the first twenty-three people from the *HMAT Supply* to establish the First British Settlement on Norfolk Island.

Local adults and children acted out the scene and portrayed the lives of these first settlers. Among them were six female convicts, nine male convicts, three seamen, two marines, a surgeon and a surgeon's mate, together with their appointed Commandant, Lieutenant Philip Gidley King. The event began with words of welcome by Eric Hutchinson, the Administrator of Norfolk Island, followed by the re-enactment. Don Christian-Reynolds and Ryan Dixon entertained the crowds with old English songs, and food was provided by various stalls. It was a wonderful commemoration and day of celebration that came together seamlessly through the professional management of Lou Tavener and the team at Go Norfolk Island.



The Norfolk Island Regional Council offers sincere thanks to Go Norfolk Island for the project management and delivery of such a wonderful community event again this year – the eighth year in a row for Lou and her team.

Together with Go Norfolk Island, the Norfolk Island Regional Council wish to convey a thank you to all involved:

- Lou's support team, Jimbo Tavener and Lindsay Robbie who set up, packed up, and also delivered & returned the boat *Rhonda*;
- The re-enactment cast: Sarah, Kevin, Tiana, Kyran & Mitch Randall, Tanya & Daniella Randall, Brooke Watson, Theo Watson, Jasmine Watson, Caine Henderson, Mickey McCoy (Hook), Glen Williams (Snoop), Malcolm Dowling, Max Dowling, Pete Quintal, Rob Rowston, Adam Marshman, Croyden Snell, Dylan Christian-Quintal, Ben Elliott, Dustin Menzies, Cherie Nobbs, Steven Baker, Helen Jackson
- Don Christian-Reynolds for the sound, MC, lectern and entertainment;
- Ryan Dixon for entertainment;
- Louci Reynolds as Narrator and assisting to coach the NICS speakers;
- Ngaire Sheridan for coaching the NICS speakers;
- The NICS speakers - Nate Christian-Bailey, Lucas Andrew, Layla Dixon, Keeley Brown, Taylah Chambers, Tyla Schmitz, Noah Marshman;
- Boat Providers – Charles Christian-Bailey for boat *Rhonda*, Kevin & Sarah Randall for readying, delivering and collecting the boat *Resolution*;
- Caine Henderson (Mammy) for getting the boats in and out of the water;
- KAVHA & NIRC Works Teams;
- Norfolk Island Rotary Club, Norfolk Island Lions Club, Rush In-Rush Out, and the Norfolk Island Pistol Club for providing food stalls;
- And finally to everyone who supported the event by helping behind the scenes to ensure the day went off smoothly! Our apologies if we have missed anyone!

It was a fabulous day with very positive feedback received from visitors, and we look forward to celebrating it again next year!



Rose Evans

**TEAM LEADER TOURISM & HERITAGE**

12 March 2021