Bricks from Arthur Phillip's Lyndhurst home are used in a memorial wall and for the base of his bronze bust in Sydney.

His achievements are recorded there as a ‘Feat without parallel in history at that time.’

We thank the State Library of New South Wales for permission to use the following images used in this leaflet.

Front Page: Capt. Arthur Phillip RN
Francis Wheatley, 1786 ML 124

Page 3: Founding of Australia.
Algernon Talmage RA 1937.
ML 1222

The Route of the First Fleet May 1787 - January 1788

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Do you know why a Lyndhurst man is an Australian hero?
Captains Arthur Phillip and James Cook are both celebrated in Australia as national heroes. Australia Day on 26th January marks the anniversary of Captain Phillip’s arrival in Sydney Cove in 1788.

In 1786 Phillip became Captain Commodore of the First Fleet. He sailed from the Solent on 13th May 1787 with 11 ships and 1530 men and women, including 736 convicts. His orders were to set up an agricultural colony for convicts at Botany Bay in New South Wales. Botany Bay’s poor soil, lack of fresh water and exposed anchorage made it unsuitable so Phillip decided on nearby Port Jackson, later named Sydney Cove in honour of Lord Sydney.

At first there were limited provisions and difficult growing conditions in the new colony. The experience Phillip gained from farming at Vernalls in Lyndhurst and the expertise of his farm worker, Henry Edward Dodd, helped him overcome the many challenges he faced.

The grape vines Phillip bought when restocking at Cape Town began the Australian wine industry.

Other local connections are with Richard Johnson, a Boldre curate, who also sailed with the First Fleet, and George Rose, owner of Cuffnells Park in Lyndhurst. Rose Hill (now Parramatta) was named as a tribute to George Rose, Senior Secretary to the Treasury and later Treasurer of the Navy.

Phillip established a sound stable colony despite serious hardship and illness. He returned to England in 1792 suffering from poor health. By 1798 Phillip was living at Lymington and in command of the Hampshire, and later National, Sea Fencibles, who protected the coastal waters from the French, and organised the Press Gangs. He retired to Bath where he gained promotion to Admiral of the Blue shortly before his death in 1814.