What a busy week it has been for students, staff and parents/carers at school this week! Students have been busy with all their usual lessons as well as choir rehearsals, sport and preparing for the excursion. Staff have been very busy with lessons, finalising of all excursion details, the Parents & Friends meeting and Mr G also had a meeting with Mr Harvey. Parents and carers have been busy getting students ready for the excursion and also attending the P&F meeting. Phew! We hope everyone can have a relaxing weekend in preparation for our major excursion next week. To help everyone do this, including all our readers, we have some wonderful historical fiction stories written by the children for you to enjoy.

Convicted

My name is George Kitson, I’ll tell you my story. I lived in London. I worked as a bricklayers labourer. I was very poor. One day I broke in to steal some ducks to feed my family. I got caught and was sentenced to seven years as a convict. I got sent to Australia on a ship called Georgiana. The trip was dark and scary. When I got to Australia I was told to stay at a place called Hyde Park Barracks. It was very crowded at the place. And it was very dark and cold too. You couldn’t look out of the windows. There was not much to eat. There were mice running everywhere and I missed my family.

Claire Y2

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Claire Y2

Thank you to David Thompson for his donation of two fence posts for the Memorial Play Centre at the school. We’d also like to thank Brad Sibley and Tass for installing them and Mr Shanahan for the painting. The gate and sign have been sandblasted and painted and Mr Shanahan will pick these up from Mudgee next week. It is all looking good for the lone pine tree planting on Remembrance Day. Although the playground is no longer in use, being part of the school grounds, it is still part of the history of Hill End. The War Memorial committee is pleased to see another project nearing completion. Many thanks to everyone involved.
Historical Fiction

Living Life as a Convict
My name is Mark Jackson and I live in the Hyde Park Barracks, but I wasn’t always in this miserable place. This is how I ended up here………

I was born in London 1810. When I grew up I became a brick maker and a boatman. One day I was running low on money so I decided to rob King William the 4th. I got my flintlock gun and went off to rob him. When he came around the corner I shot his horse. Then one of the guards shot me in the leg. I was unconscious for a while. When I woke up I was in court and the judge has just sentenced me to transportation to Australia for life. I was loaded on a ship called the Portland by the marines. On board the ship they put us all below deck.

Two weeks into the voyage one person had already died. I guess that was because of the food they fed us, which was dry biscuits and bread, not to mention the diseases which had been going around the ship.

After seven months we arrived in Botany Bay. I could hear the guards saying “It was time to get the convicts out of the box that they’ve been living in”.

By box they meant below deck. They took me to the Hyde Park Barracks where I would live out the rest of my life as a convict. Ronald Y5

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Farewell to Mr Harvey

On Monday, Mr Peter Harvey, Director Public Schools Bathurst visited Hill End Public School for a meeting with Mr Grossett. This was Mr Harvey’s last visit to HEPS as Director, as he will be retiring this year. Mr Harvey has been a strong supporter of our school, staff and students over the past years. We wish him all the best for the future.
Historical Fiction continued

Life as a Convict

My name is Matthew Triggs and I am a convict. I was born on the 15th of September, 1794 and lived in Wales. Thirty four years ago I was transported to Botany Bay. Before I was transported my life was better than what my life is now. I could read, but not write and my parents could not afford much so life was hard. When I grew up I became a bricklayer for twenty years or so. I was married to Kelly Triggs, we had five children - James, Molly, Cody, Henry and the youngest Mark. I loved them all. In my spare time I wove wool in my home but five years later machines came and took my job away. One day I was trying figure how to weave wool without the wool machines doing it. Then I came up with a do or die situation. At dawn the next morning I went into the factory where the machines were. I had a sledge hammer and I started to smash the weaving machines. Over two hours later every machine in the factory was broken. I was about to leave when two police officers saw me and arrested me. The next day I went to court at Winchester. The judge sentenced me for transportation to the coast of Botany Bay (Australia) for life. The guards shackled me up and I was bound for Botany Bay. The date was the eighteenth of December, 1830. I was on the ship called the Eleanor assigned to Hyde Park Barracks. It took seven months; the food was terrible, our beds were mouldy old clothes with cockroaches crawling around. I got seasickness all the time. Our clothes were just shredded old rags as the guards would call them. The other convicts were kids just like mine back in Wales and their crimes were just stealing a loaf of bread. There were mothers with their young. I shared my food with the others who didn’t get as much as me. We were only allowed to go on the deck for only short period of time then back to the hull. For seven months we convicts were trapped down here. Then the ship stopped, we heard thumping up on deck and the door opened. The guards came under and would kick us to get up. We were all chained up again and we all walked up the creaky stairs. I squinted my eyes as the sun blinded me because we didn’t see much of the sunlight when on the ship. When we were off the ship we all shuffled up the rocky track to Hyde Park Barracks. When we were inside the barracks we were sent to our cells. In the morning for breakfast we were fed salted meat. It was disgusting I guess it was better than nothing. I was sent to clean the barracks and fix all the doors. I was up on a ladder, I slipped off and broke my left leg and right arm. It took a long time to heal. Here I am, sixty five years of age in Hyde Park Barracks and that’s my story. Harrison Y6
History Snippet October 1963

The Ramsgate Cup continued …….

Garry Flynn clearly won his heat of the 9 year olds to go into the final. The boys' and girls' relay teams finished third — a very commendable effort when you think that we had such young runners.

Rosemary Fraser tried hard all day and finished third in the Broad Jump. Later in the day Rosemary ran second in the Junior Hurdles.

Eddie Byrne ran one of his hardest races to finish second in the 220 yds. This was a very good effort.

The afternoon saw the real thrills when the finals came up. Julie and Julie represented us in the 9 year old final. What a race! Julie had a hard struggle for the first 30 yards but then she began to draw away to win narrowly but convincingly with Julie in fourth place.

Garry Flynn supplied us with a thrill. Garry started off in the final of the 9 year olds but he thought it was a false start, stopped, realised his mistake and took off after the rest. This surely must have been Garry's greatest race. He never looked like running so determinedly to win this race.

Esther Auld who earlier had finished 4th — inches away from third in the Junior Championship, came out to face the final of the 10 year olds. Esther ran beautifully and was unlucky not to have won. She finished second. Well done Esther! I am sure Esther will be trying even harder next time if possible.

This means that Garry and Julie will be going to Sydney in early November, for the 1963 State Championships. This is great honour to them both, their parents and their school. I think that this is the first time this honour has come to Hill End.

The cup for small schools has been held for six years by Macleay Auld. These achievements are more noteworthy considering the boys and girls were competing against the Champions of Bathurst, Lithgow, Oberon, and other schools in those districts.

Now the Sports are over, let us try to win honours in the classrooms.

Quote for the Week

Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive that is you-er than you!