

# European Settlement of Australia

On January 18th, 1788, the First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay in New South Wales. The Governor in charge of the fleet, Captain Arthur Phillip, decided that Botany Bay was not suitable for settlement. It was open to the sea and the soil was poor for growing crops.

Almost a week later in Sydney Harbour, Captain Arthur Phillip raised the British flag to signify the start of a new colony. The penal settlement consisted of approximately 700 convicts and 200 sailors. There were a few women and children on board the ship too. The convicts were instructed to build temporary buildings for settlers of the colony.

From the very beginning, there were problems in the new colony. The convicts and colonisers thought the land would be lush and fertile, but instead it was dry, barren and infertile.

Shelter was also a problem. The colony had few building materials and many of the tools on board the ships were quickly damaged. Extra clothing had not been loaded on the First Fleet before it embarked from Portsmouth. The convicts and sailors from England and Ireland dressed in dirty and threadbare clothing until the Second Fleet arrived.

In November 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip started another settlement at Rose Hill, near Parramatta. With strict and careful management, the colony there survived and grew.

