



20 May 2010

## ***The Story of Bungaree*** **NSW Governor launches new book**

A book on the life of one of early Sydney's most significant Aborigines was launched today by the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir.

*The Story of Bungaree* was produced and published by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Geoff Bailey, executive director of the Trust, said the book's publication happily coincided with events to commemorate the bicentenary of Lachlan Macquarie's first year as Governor of New South Wales in 1810.

'Bungaree is one of very few Aborigines whose exploits have come down to us through the newspapers, journals and books of early colonial Sydney. He stands with Bennelong and Pemulwuy as a remarkable indigenous figure of the Sydney region,' Bailey said.

'His life epitomises the resilience and character of Aboriginal clans in Sydney as they faced the wholesale upheaval of their way of life when British colonists established a settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788.'

As a member of Matthew Flinders' historic journey of exploration in 1802-03, Bungaree was the first Aborigine to circumnavigate the continent. In 1815, Governor Macquarie placed him in charge of a farm on Georges Heights, an attempt to introduce Aboriginal people to the settled life of agriculture. In 1817, Bungaree accompanied Lieutenant Phillip Parker King's survey expedition to the north western coast of Australia.

'These achievements must be set against the hardships of a life in which Aboriginal people were deprived of traditional lands and their ancient culture was devastated by disease, hostility and indifference,' Bailey said.

Bungaree died in 1830 and was buried at Rose Bay.

### **Launch Details:**

**Where:** The Tearoom, Gunners' Barracks, Suakin Drive (off Middle Head Road), Mosman

**When:** 10.30am Thursday 20 May

**Who:** Professor Marie Bashir, NSW Governor and Kevin McCann AM, Chairman of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

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