

F.F.F.

NEWSLETTER

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Hello Everyone:

Income tax time and thoughts turn to more serious things. We have had a lot of successful and enjoyable functions during the last year or two. We have welded together a firm foundation based on these "getting to know you" activities. Is it not time now that we give thought to the future of the Fellowship and what we want it to be? Ask yourself, "why did I join?" In many cases the answer will contain a curiosity about the other members and their First Fleet ancestor. More than likely most of us, being somewhat ignorant of our own ancestor, wanted to know more about him or her.

Our social contact has enabled us to become better informed simply because we have had opportunity to discuss our families with people better informed than ourselves. There are many of our members able and willing to guide others in research. Then, a little research on one's own behalf soon whets the appetite until, in the end, one's past becomes more interesting than a good book and one reads and probes in the search for accurate information.

What we would like to do is have a special section in the Newsletter entitled, perhaps, "History Corner" or "Did you Know" or something like that, and this section will contain factual information concerning a member or facet of the First Fleet. We hope you enjoy it. To start with, did you know that we had some "odd bods" on the First Fleet who were neither marine, sailor or convict. One such was James Smith whose presence was not even discovered on board until after the Fleet had sailed. James Smith became one of the first persons to be settled on shore and was assigned two servants. We are very interested in what happened to Mr Smith subsequently but so far have been unable to do so.

We are very pleased to hear of the recent engagement of Miss Margaret Vivian, daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Vivian, of Canberra to Mr. Neil Williams, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Kel Williams of Albury. Neil and Margaret plan to be married later this year, after which they will be making their home in the United States where Neil will be studying for his PhD (Geology) at Yale. We wish them every happiness and success for their future. Both, by the way, are descended from William Nash.

Another engagement which has delighted us is that of Miss Karen Ross, Daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Ross of West Ryde to Mr John Lovett, younger son of Mr and Mrs G. Lovett of Ryde. John and Karen plan to be married next year in March. Many of you will know Karen is the daughter of our Minute Secretary, Mrs. Joan Ross, who is now blossoming after major surgery. We are thrilled to see her looking so well and hope she continues in full health. Both Joan and Karen of course are descended from Joseph Hatton.

You may remember some months ago I requested all the Smalls to contact Mrs. Beth Hooke who was organising a Small reunion. After much active work and organising Mrs Hooke reports that a large reunion of the Small clan will take place at St Annes, Ryde at 2.30 p.m. on 9th October. Let us hope that this reunion will be the forerunner of many more family reunions organised by members of the F.F.F..

Accounts for annual subscriptions are attached. You will see that the annual subscription has been raised in line with the decision taken at the Annual Meeting. Members are requested to renew as early as possible to avoid transfer to the retired list. Should a member be placed on the retired list, he or she does not receive Newsletters

and without the newsletter one doesn't know what is going on within the Fellowship. I'm sure you would not want this to happen, so we shall look forward to receiving subs early in the new financial year.

We have discovered that many members are failing to advise change of address. In a subsequent Newsletter we shall publish names &c of those we do not know. Perhaps readers will be able to help us find out some of them.

Another item for congratulation is that of the appointment of one of our Executive Members, Mr. W.L. (Bill) Evans as a Commissioner of the Rural Bank. Congratulations and every good wish for future success in your appointment, Bill. I'll be over for a loan shortly!!

Despite the wet weather, the barbecue on 22nd May at the Montgomery's was a howling success. There were almost 60 people there. Someone we know arrived home at 4 a.m. Our sincere thanks to Mr and Mrs Montgomery and son, Rob. The food was excellent, the music great for all and the talk &c flowed along.

The Queen's Birthday Picnic at Chinaman's Beach was again a huge success again, in spite of inclement weather.. We managed to eat before the showers came. These were only light and did not mar the day for the 100 people who attended. This is one of the best days in the year for the children, so see you there next year.

Our next functions will be:

Friday, 23/7/71: Dinner at the Mandarin Club. Bookings have now closed. Could those people attending please send their money in to Mr. Blair who is organising it. (telephone 29 5827 business hours)

Friday, 13/8/71: Annual Supper Dance, 8pm. to 1am. All arrangements in hand. Could members please advise through "Forward Bookings".

Sunday, 26/9/71, 10 a.m. Annual General Meeting - all arrangements in hand. Anyone wanting information please contact the President or Secretary.

Saturday, 26th June - 1pm - Cemetery Working Bee at St Thomas's, Gore Hill. See you all there with picks, shovels, rakes & brooms.

Transport Pool: Don't forget Mrs. Markwell (telephone 95 5571) if you have transport available or want transport to functions.

30/10/71 - about mid-afternoon: Another monster barbecue to be held at the Montgomery's, at Sans Souci. This one is to be called a SALAMAGUNDY NIGHT. Now, if you want to know what that means, please ring George at 529-6431.

Also in October we are organising an Observation and Navigation Car Trial. Please indicate attendance in "Forward Bookings". More details next Newsletter.

Many members have been very disturbed at the use by advertisers of the National Flag in such advertisements as margarine &c. on T.V.. As true Australians we must be aware of such breaches of good taste where our National Flag is concerned.

Next Meetings:

Executive at Dartford Road, Tuesday 6/7/71

Fleet - 13/7/71.

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Forward Bookings:

Friday, 13/8/71 - 8pm - Supper Dance

I shall be coming and bringing.....friends. I should like a table for

I should like to go on the Car Trial. I Have/Have Not a car. I have.....number of seats available for others.

30/10/71: Salamagundy Night:

I shall be coming and bringing.....friends.