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Hello All Members:

We have been hibernating for the autumn and I'd say I have not been alone in this judging by the lack of attendances at functions during the past months. Is it possible the following little poem entitled "Membership" applies to the F.F.F.?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
 Or are you just contented your name is on the list;
 Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock,
 Or do you stay at home and criticise and knock,
 Or do you take an active part to help the work along,
 Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?
 Do you push the cause along and make things really tick,
 Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?
 Think this over, member, you know right from wrong,
 Are you an active member or do you just belong?

I hope that I shall be able to say soon that the majority of the F.F.F. members is active!!!

Hats off to members and would-be members at Port Macquarie who, under the aegis of the executive, organised a very successful inaugural meeting on 22nd April when the Port Macquarie Branch of the F.F. was formed with Mrs. Carita Naylor being appointed President, Mr. Geoff Taylor, Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Cec Everingham, Hon Secretary (pro-tem). The meeting was very well attended by over 150 interested people from Port Macquarie and environs with some members travelling from as far afield as Inverell and Queensland. Sydney was represented by the President, Mr. F.J. Everingham who spoke briefly on the part played by the Pioneers of Australia; the search for truth by the F.F.F. concerning these first settlers and the constant battle against historians who belittle their characters, morals, abilities &c even to-day. His speech was well-received as was that of Vice-President Edgar Kable and also that of Publicity Officer, Vince Parker. Mr. Everingham was accompanied by Mrs. Everingham and the other Sydney members who braved the 400 plus mile journey to show the flag as it were included Mrs. Edna Kable, Des and Thelma Guy, Eugene and Colleen Bernath, Val and Betty Loneragan, Dudley and Mavis Everingham, George and Bob Montgomery and Mrs. Thelma Kable. I do hope I have not forgotten anyone and my apologies in advance if I have because everyone is commended for making the effort to attend. Certainly the Port Macquarie Branch entertained their visitors with typical country hospitality. Much thanks is due to Mrs. Naylor, to the R.S.L. Club for making services available and to all those who participated in any way towards making the weekend the success it undoubtedly was. The offer, Mr. C.C. (Mac) Adams delighted us all with his speech of welcome and the fact that he wishes to become the Branch Vice-President is an honour indeed and an appointment the Port Macquarie Committee is pleased to make. Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Naylor, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Everingham on their appointment to the Port Macquarie Branch executive and the very best of good wishes to them and all local members for the success and growth of their Branch. We shall, of course, hear more about this in their report to the Annual Meeting in September.

The F.F.F. stall at the Argyle Celebrations Day on 15th April was a great financial success and congratulations go to our willing band of helpers with a special thanks to Miss Beryl Bridle for her donation of a beautiful doll, beautifully dressed by a friend. The stall was raffled to raise funds and was won by Mr. D. Jurd, ticket No. E71.

First Fleeters Farm

Members will be pleased to know that the First Fleeters Co-operative Society's Hawkesbury River farm purchase has been made final. In addition an extra three acres of adjoining property has been granted on a Colo Shire Council Licence for a nominal rental per year. The value of the land has doubled its purchase price over the last 12 months, and I am sure you will agree that the Society has made a wise investment, not only for to-day but for all those who will come after.

The ultimate aim of this project is to provide a Clubhouse in a rural setting surrounded by one of the most historic portions of Australia. Fund-raising activities envisaged include a film evening, a visit to Belmont Park, Richmond, and a barbecue.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Chinaman's Beach on Monday 12th June in conjunction with the F.F.F. Annual Picnic. The election of Directors for the ensuing year took place. Mrs. Joan Ross and Mr. Frank Everingham retired, and being eligible offered themselves for re-election and were duly re-elected. Mr. John Chaseling was elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Douglas Haig who, together with his wife, Elaine, and family have moved to Queensland to live. Elaine is remembered with particular affection as an active member of the executive and secretary of the Membership Committee. She will be sadly missed but our very best wishes go to the Haig family for success and pleasure in their new life. The position of Hon Secretary/Treasurer was vacated by Mr. Eric Blair during the year and these positions were filled by Vince Parker and Dr. Dudley O'Sullivan respectively. Dr. O'Sullivan is also Chairman of the Board.

The rules of the Society were changed under a directive from the Registrar of Friendly & Co-operative Societies, to allow the Society to borrow monies in excess of \$2000.00. The Hon. Auditors were re-elected

The long-awaited bridge across Webb's Creek (the tributary of the Hawkesbury River nearest to the Society's land) has been completed and will be opened by the Commissioner of Main Roads on 24th June. Everyone wishing to attend the picnic which has been organised for that date are requested to contact Vincent Parker, 648.1072, and advise the number of persons who will be attending. This day is not to be confused with the "Official Land Warming" which is to be held at the Farm at a later date.

The attendance at the picnic on 12th June was disappointing - it was a beautiful day weatherwise - and the few who did attend had a most enjoyable outing.

The Music Hall Theatre Party was cancelled through lack of support and now, some really bad news - the Supper Dance set down for 18th August has been cancelled also. The Fleet (Social) Committee feels it just does not have the strength to cope with this function and I know a lot of members will be disappointed at this decision. However, it is not too late should there be someone in Sydney who feels that to organise this sort of evening would be something they would like to do. Organisers of any type of function are always eagerly sought and the Hon Sec (Mrs. Loneragan) would be pleased to hear from those willing and able to do something to provide fellowship and fund-raising for the Fellowship. Please remember that as our subscriptions are so low we must have fund-raising functions in order to pay for the day to day running expenses of postage &c. we need during the year.

Certainly the John Small descendents are good organisers. You will remember the successful reunion they held last October. They're at it again!!! Because of the large crowd at last year's gathering they have decided to hold the family gathering over two days with a picnic at Lane Cove National Park on Saturday, 7th October and the Church Service at St. Anne's Ryde on Sunday afternoon, 8th October followed by afternoon tea at Addington. The Small descendents are also looking into the possibility of raising funds for the restoration of John Small's grave in St. Anne's Churchyard.

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

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Everyone with TV keep Sunday 25th June in mind. Our Vice-Patron, Mr. Dudley Oakes has submitted an excerpt with particular reference to Rebecca Small to the ABN Channel 2 Programme "Would You Believe?" This segment appears on 25th June at 7.30 p.m..

Congratulations to Jane Bailey who celebrated her twenty-first birthday in May with a party at the Music Hall Theatre Restaurant. Happy holiday to her parents, Fred and Mary, who fly off soon for a few weeks in Malaysia. Mary I hope you return with great energy - our Newsletter would never go out without your great help in typing the envelopes.

Would all members please note that we have had a number of newsletters and journals returned address unknown. PLEASE advise changes of address as soon as possible.

Calling all descendents of William Douglas! Did you know that William is buried at St. Albans in the old cemetery between the Ferry and the town (the cemetery is there not William - or perhaps he is).

The Braidwood and District Historical Society asks if we would be interested in a day tour of the area. The morning would include a coverage of Braidwood, houses, churches, Court House, flour mill, and shops 1840-1880. Follows barbecue lunch at a country property, house built 1840. Thence another property built 1840, at Jembiacumbene, and flour mill 1850-1860, Majors Creek church 1880 and old stone buildings.

Alternately, after lunch to Araluen (old gold mining area) and old gaol, some 16 miles from Braidwood. Cost \$3.00 per head.

All money collected from these visits will go towards the buying and furnishing of a Museum in Braidwood.

We have also received a letter from the Bank of N.S.W. Travel Department advising of their "Group Travel" scheme. The actual type of travel could involve anything from a Round World trip to a holiday on the Queensland Gold Coast all at a substantial reduction in fares. Groups may comprise of as few as 15 persons and savings of a considerable percentage on normal fares may apply although this is dependent upon the number of persons in the Group and the destination of the tour. This could be a good idea for members of family groups perhaps.

The 1788-1820 Association held their General Meeting on 4th April with Mr. Stanley Lipscombe talking to them about antique china, porcelain and furniture. The 1788-1820 Association has arranged an interesting calendar of talks for the year and I am sure the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Joan Provis would be glad to hear from those interested in attending - telephone No. is 98.6828.

For those members travelling to Western Australia we have received news from the Western Australian Museum concerning their maritime museum in Fremantle. It is situated at the junction of James, Ord and Minnerty Streets, opposite the Aquatic Centre (closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day - admission free).

Would members please note that the next Fleet (General) Meeting will be held in the R.S.L. Hall, Northbridge at 8p.m. on Tuesday, 11th July. Please let's see all those organisers!!!

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Normanhurst at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 27th June.