

F.F.F.

NEWSLETTER

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Hon. Secretary,
14 Chisholm Street,
Turramurra. 2074.

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Hello Fleeter,

As this is the first Newsletter under a new editor, it is now following a new format. I would like to take this opportunity to invite members to submit contributions on any subject which would be of any interest to members.

Fleet Activities.

1. ~~A Christmas~~ party will be held at the R.S.L. Hall, Northbridge, on Friday 8th December, commencing from 7 p.m. Bring food and drink and enjoy an evening of social fellowship for the festive season.

Large fridge available at Hall.

2. Anniversary Day Dinner, on Friday 26th January, 1973, at the Anzac Memorial Club, North Sydney. Tickets \$5.50 single, \$11.00 double. For information phone Mrs. Mary Bailey (43-4075) or Mrs. Margaret Markwell (95-5571). Send money for tickets to Mrs. M. Markwell, 81 Barringa Road, Northbridge 2063. All cheques to be made out to Fellowship of First Fleeters, Fleet Committee.

3. Instead of a supper dance for 1973, a Colonial Night will be held at Addington, Ryde. Date etc. to be announced in the future.

4. All members are invited to the monthly meetings of the Fleet Committee, which is the regular meeting of the fellowship. In 1973 we are going to introduce a quarterly lecture night, so that historic information of interest to members will be made available.

Meetings are the second Tuesday in the month, December excepted.

Next meeting - 14th November, R.S.L. Hall Northbridge.

Extraordinary General Meeting as per notice on Sunday 26th November, at R.S.L. Hall Northbridge.

Hawkesbury Land -- Drive for New Members.

The First Fleeters' Co-operative Society is currently making a drive to expand the list of shareholders.

~~The road~~ from the new Webb's Creek bridge to our land is rapidly approaching completion, and accordingly we propose to hold a picnic on your land in the near future.

Within a reasonable period of time we propose to build facilities on your land so that all can enjoy the delights of the Hawkesbury River. While very handy to the city, your land is set in a Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, among tall natural Australian trees on the banks of the Hawkesbury River in the Lower Half Moon Reach region. Incidentally, in the olden times, a person could embark from this region on a sailing vessel, sail around the world and return to his home there (as did T. Chaseling in 1830).

New shareholders are needed to help us develop your land in the way in which it should be developed.

Membership Committee

During 1973 the Membership Committee are hoping to add to their records considerably, and for this your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Some of the facts which we hope to gain include "Who was the last First Fleeter?"; "Where is your First Fleeter buried?" and "Are there any possessions still in existence which were used or owned by a First Fleeter?"

For the next few months we want to concentrate on "The last First Fleeter" and ask your help in advising the Membership Committee of any

First Fleeter who died in 1850 or later. John Small died in October 1850, but there may be others who lived longer.

There were a number of children who set sail in the First Fleet and others were born on the voyage, so if they lived longer than 62 years they could well be the last. If you know any of these people, please write to Mrs W. Thompson, 1/11 Esther Road, Balmoral Beach 2088.

It is hoped that Family Trees showing at least the first couple of generations of Australian-born children will be compiled by the various families, and further information concerning this will be included in a Newsletter early in the New Year.

Recently Mr Harkness, of Strathfield, who is a descendant of Anthony Rope, drew our attention to the deplorable condition of the old Castlereagh Cemetery. On investigating, we were horrified to find that the tombstones (that is, those which had not been confiscated by some of the local residents) were broken and left scattered about. The greater part of the cemetery was so overgrown by bushes and brambles that identifying the various tombstones was difficult. The Rev Henry Fulton, who was responsible for the education of some of our ancestors, lies in this cemetery without even a headstone. However, many headstones for various members of the Rope family could be identified. The question of neglected cemeteries is one in which we should be involved.

Please let us know if you think your ancestor could qualify as being the last First Fleeter.

Weekend for Descendants of John and Mary Small

The weekend doings for the descendants of John and Mary Small proved highly successful.

Hold in fine Spring weather, the picnic at Lane Cove River Park on Saturday 7th October was most enjoyable. There was a good roll-up for the occasion.

On the Sunday, another fine day, a Family Service was held at historic St Anne's Church, Ryde, at 2.30 p.m., and was also well attended. After the service we followed the Parramatta Police Citizens Boys' Club Pipe Band and the Brownies to Addington for afternoon tea.

We had Press coverage on both days, and we saw ourselves at news-time on Sunday night on Channel 2 (at both St Anne's and Addington). I suppose it is because we are such a large family that reports become sized. As the TV report ended, we were amazed to hear that Rebecca Small, the eldest child, was born at Addington. Small's descendants did not live at Addington till 1900, and Rebecca was born in Sydney on 22nd September 1789 and registered at St Philip's.

Such information was collected by Miss Beryl Bridle and Mrs Flo Denning, also by Miss Priscilla Deck and Miss Betty Willis. We had on display their large album of photographs taken recently. They have been searching for headstones of our ancestors. The family cannot thank them enough for this time-consuming work. We welcome any information concerning the Small family, as there are still many gaps to be filled before the vast third-generation listing is complete. It is interesting that from our first generation of seven children there were 71 descendants to form the second generation, and most of those who married had large families also. We are anxious to find descendants of William Moorhouse Richardson Byrnes, Walter Lawry Byrnes, Samuel St Quentin Byrnes, Mrs Australia Kate Dawson (Byrnes) and Mrs Ida Knox (Byrnes). Contact Mrs J. Hooke or Miss B. Bridle, 6 Kitchener Road, Artarmon 2064 (phone 41-7495).

Settlement Day at Addington, 3 p.m. Sunday 26th November.

First Fleeters are invited to celebrate the day the first settler came to Kissing Point, now Ryde, which was the third settlement in the colony.

Addington is open each Sunday between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., address Victoria Road, Ryde, opposite Ryde Court House.

For Younger Folk.

A Games Night is being held on Saturday evening 25th November, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Quinlan at 15 Rugby Street, Eastwood.

Fleeters in the news.

Eric Blair and Ruth Craig are to be married on 1st December, joining together a Frederick Meredith and a William Broughton descendant. John Higginbotham received his M Sc. from the University of N.S.W. earlier this year and is to leave to take up a scholarship to do his PhD at Toronto University, Canada, next month and we wish him the best of luck. (Joseph Hatton). Mrs. Karen Lovett celebrated her 21st birthday on 31st October (Joseph Hatton). Mrs. Colleen Barnath has been in the Poplars Hospital, and we hope she is now feeling her old self again (Everingham). Douglas Oakes is off for another overseas trip. Lucky fellow! (John Small). Suzanne Higginbotham married Brian Wheatley in historic St. Anne's Church, Ryde on Saturday, 4th November and are now enjoying a honeymoon in New Zealand. (Joseph Hatton).