

F.F.F.

NEWSLETTER

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Hon. Secretary,
14 Chisholm Street,
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Hullo Fleeters,

As this is the last Newsletter for 1972, we wish to take this opportunity to extend to Fleeters and their families the Compliments of the Season.

Message from the President

I desire to extend to the members and associates of the Fellowship of the First Fleet warm greetings for Christmas and the coming years.

We are a body of people bound together by common association of our ancestors, and we, like our ancestors, are faced with the same problems of working together for the common good.

The organisation has had many difficulties, such as occur in most newly-formed groups, and we look forward to much hard work before we can enjoy the comfort and pleasures of a healthy and vigorous organisation.

The new committee elected at the last annual meeting has many plans for the Fellowship in the New Year. We trust that these ideas and thoughts will have your undivided support, and will help to provide a viable society worthy of our forebears.

The Executive at its first meeting desired me to convey to Mr Frank Everingham their appreciation of the hard work and effort put into his years as President, and to Mrs Everingham our thanks for her gracious hospitality and enthusiasm.

I also desire to express our thanks to former honorary secretary Mrs Betty Lonergan for her not inconsiderable work during the time she held office.

Anniversary Day Dinner

The 1973 Anniversary Dinner -- our fourth Anniversary Day Dinner -- will be held at the North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club, Bellevue Street, Cammeray, on Friday 26th January from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The President and Executive Committee invite you to attend this our most important function, on the 135th anniversary of the foundation of Australia. A feature of the evening will be appropriate music and entertainment from the excellent Bush Music Club. For reservations, at \$5-50 per ticket, contact either Mrs Margaret Markwell, 81 Baringa Road, Northbridge 2063 (phone 95 5571), or Mrs Mary Bailey, 25 Carlyle Street, Wollstonecraft 2065 (phone 43 4075).

Commemoration Service

The Interdenominational Service commemorating the first Christian service held in Australia will be held at the Church of St Philip's, Church Hill, Sydney, at 3 p.m. on Sunday 4th February. At this service the museum to house articles of historical interest will be officially opened, and will thus be open for inspection. Members of the Fellowship are invited to attend.

Colonial Night

A Colonial Night is to be held at the historic cottage of Addington, in Victoria Road, Ryde. Tentative date is 5th May 1973. More information in later Newsletters.

Festival of the Rocks

The Festival of the Rocks is a fascinating festival dealing with an important part of early Australian history, the Rocks area. The Fellowship intends to take part in the procession -- well worth seeing, if nothing else -- and to operate a stall. This will be our fifth participation in this Festival, and we hope to make it bigger and more successful than our successful efforts in the past four years.

Addington Fair

At the Village Fair at Addington in March, to be organised by our benefactor, Miss Betty Willis, the Small Family have elected to have the Junk Stall, and hope others may be persuaded to do something similar, or at least let us have some junk???

Membership Committee

(From Mary Thompson)

Our search for the last First Fleeter brought one reply from Mrs A. E. Dawson, of Kingsgrove, who is a descendant of Henry and Susannah Kable. Henry and Susannah were accompanied on the First Fleet by their infant son Henry, who died in 1852 and is buried at Wild Oaks, near The Oaks via Camden. We were sorry to learn that his grave and that of his sister Susannah Milehan were in urgent need of restoration. Is Henry Kable II the "last" of the originals?

Last month I spoke of the Old Castlerough Cemetery where many Rope descendants are buried. The Rector of St Anne's, Ryde, also reports that vandalism is rife in his area. In fact, all the old cemeteries, have this problem. If we wish to preserve the graves of First Fleeters, I think we should do something about it now, while they are still there. A committee which would undertake this task in a permanent way would be of tremendous value.

Recently I was holidaying in Singapore and Malaysia, and, although I loved Penang, which is so beautiful, I found Malacca the most interesting. This old town on the west coast, 100 miles south of Kuala Lumpur, was the capital of an ancient Malay kingdom. It contains an interesting jumble of early Portuguese, Dutch and British architecture. The Town Hall is believed to be the oldest example of Dutch architecture in Asia (1641-60), and the

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remains of the Portuguese-built St Paul's Church are what is left of the oldest church built by Europeans in that part of the world (they are the last resting-place of St Francis Xavier).

As I stood beside the Old Fort, built in 1511, and strolled through the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, part of which was built in 1704, I was impressed with the atmosphere of these old structures. The Temple is still being used, and the incense wafted over the fresh offerings below. The cooked duck still retained its heat, a fact which did not please my sensitive mid-section, and its baleful eye seemed to condemn our intrusion.

I hope that in the years to come, we in Australia will have ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ preserved sufficient evidence of our early settlers and their work to give the same pleasure to interested inquirers.

By the way, please let us know your views regarding the preservation of F.F. graves!

Lighter Side

A correspondent -- not a Small descendant, of course -- has included this quotation in a letter to the "John and Mary Small Descendants":

"Think naught a trifle tho' it small appear;
Small sands make mountains, moments make the year,
And trifles life."

--- Young.

St. Bartholomew's, Prospect, Preservation Committee.

A working bee will be held on Saturday, 16th December from 9 am.m. An appeal has been made for members interested in the preservation of this very historical graveyard to be restored and maintained in a fitting manner. Please make every effort to attend whenever possible. Also at this church will be a Carols Festival on Tuesday, 19th December. One of Sydney's leading choirs, The Linnet Girls' Choir, will lead the singing at this year's Carols Festival in the grounds of the historic St. Bartholomew's from 7-30 p.m. Last year's Festival attracted over 1,000 people and the Committee hopes for an even greater number this year.

In July this year, the Linnets completed in The International Eisteddfod, Llangollen, Wales in Youth Choirs, Female Choirs and Folk sections. Although not gaining awards, The girls represented Australia very creditably amongst the 32 competing nations and look forward to trying again, probably in 1974.

The N.S.W. Ladies Highland Pipe Band will play from 7-30 to 8 p.m.

Restoration Appeal.

As the lease between Blacktown Municipal Council and Church of England Property Trust has not been finalised, St Bartholomew's (Prospect) Preservation Committee is planning a special open-air service on Sunday 25th February to launch an appeal for the restoration of the historic church and cemetery and their preservation for the benefit of the community as a whole. For some time Committee members have assisted schools and individuals with information on local history. This non-denominational Committee was set up under the auspices of Blacktown Municipal Council.
