

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

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Mrs Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
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December, 1973

From the President

I have much pleasure in announcing that we have finally obtained permanent office premises for the Fellowship. These premises are in the Kembla Building in Margaret Street. As I write, we are in the process of signing the lease for the above premises. I wish to thank the hard-working committee who spent much time and effort in assisting me in this project. As obtaining these premises represents an important step forward for the Fellowship, one which will greatly assist us in our organisation but one which will cost money to maintain, we would be grateful for assistance from anyone wishing to make a donation towards the rental.

Since we began our meetings in the city, we have been gratified by the spiralling attendances. Fleet meetings will continue to be held on the 4th Floor of the Assembly Hall in Jamieson Street, but we will be able to hold Executive meetings in our own premises and our office equipment can now be kept in one central location.

On Friday 16th November I addressed the pupils of the Sherwood Road Public School, Merrylands, at the general assembly of the school by request of the Headmaster. I spoke on the First Fleet and on early Australian history. My speech was very well received, and I have since had a very appreciative letter from the school thanking me for the effort. The children really surprised the staff by their interest in the First Fleet. This is very good, and I feel it gives us a lead to some future activities.

The Fellowship has decided to assist in sponsoring the Marathon Surf Boat Race from Fairy Bower to Harbord Beach on Anniversary Weekend next. This Marathon race is part of a carnival to commemorate the sailing of the First Fleet from Botany Bay to Port Jackson. The Fellowship is making a donation of \$50 to this commemoration.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Executive, to wish all members and associates a Merry Christmas and very happy New Year.

Anniversary Dinner

Plans are progressing well for our Anniversary Day dinner to be held at the Benzie's Hotel Banquet Room on Saturday 26th January 1974.

Please order your tickets for yourself and party as soon as possible. Tickets are \$8 each, available from the Hon. Ticket Secretary, Mrs J. Hooke, 14 Chisholm Street, Turramurra 2074.

This is the first time since the Fellowship began holding its Anniversary Dinner that the 26th of January has fallen on a Saturday. All our Anniversary Dinners to date have been particularly successful, and next year's should be even more so. It should also enable people from much farther afield to attend, being held on a Saturday. We want this night to be really memorable, and be attended by as many First Fleeters as possible and their friends.

Membership Committee
(From Mary Thompson)

Since our last Newsletter we have welcomed the following new members to the Fellowship:--

Joseph Hatton

Master Michael Morzyk, 42 Greene Ave., Ryde.
Miss Janet Morzyk, 42 Greene Ave., Ryde.

John Small - Mary Parker

Mrs Faith Godfrey, 5 Turphy Street, Merrylands.
Mrs Valerie Sanson, 5 Mons Road, North Balgowlah.

James Bloodworth - Sarah Bellamy

Mr Wentworth Lee-Brown, 10 Lunan Ave., Drumcondra, Geelong, Vic.
Mr Malcolm D. Lee-Brown, 10 Lunan Ave., Drumcondra, Geelong, Vic.

William Nash

Mr Walter R. Edwards, 31 Compton Street, Lambton North.

Matthew Everingham

Mrs May Annabelle Meade, 57 Good Street, Westmead.

Andrew Fishburn

Mr Raymond Tier, 24 Marshall Road, Mount Riverview.

Phillip Devine

Mrs I. Duns, Pte Bag 7, Port Lincoln, South Australia.

Mary Turner

Mr John Batty, 92 Rowland Ave., Wollongong.

President in Hospital

Our respected President, Edgar Kable, is due to enter the Repatriation General Hospital, Concord, on 8th December for medical treatment. We wish him well.

Marriage

Rowena Sanson (James Bloodworth - Sarah Bellamy) was married to Ross Meldrum, of Taree, at historic St James Church of England, King Street, on 13th October. The reception was held at the Regyle Cellars. Incidentally, the original bond stores were built by James Bloodworth. Rowena is the daughter of First Fleeters Eric and Nellie Sanson.

"Remembering Our Founders"

Under this heading our President, Edgar Kable, had the following item published in the Letters columns of the "Sydney Morning Herald" of 15th November 1973:--

Sir -- On behalf of the members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, I wish to protest against the proposal by the Geographical Names Board to alter the name of Dawes Point.

This particular point of land was named after Lieutenant William Dawes, an officer among the personnel of the First Fleet, and, as there is very little of anything in Sydney named after any of the people who founded the Colony of New South Wales and the town of Sydney, we of the Fellowship feel that the name should be retained to commemorate that historic event.

We are amazed, considering the expense and effort being made at this time to preserve some of our heritage, that the board would even consider such a thing.

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"Living on Original Grant"

Following news-items which appeared in the August and October "Newsletters," and which were also mentioned in the Sydney evening papers, these two letters were received (quoted in part):-

Mr. A. R. Meredith, 371 Hume Highway, Bankstown, 2200: I am a descendant of Frederick Meredith, and I live on a block that is portion of an original grant to him. Frederick Meredith received several grants, and the one I live on was made in 1831. This particular land has always been in the hands of the Meredith family.

Mr. Bert E. Weston, 13/7 Telopea Street, Wollstonecraft, 2065: My nephew Mr Eddie Weston still lives on part of the original grant of 1500 acres at Albion Park known as "Macquarie Gift" and made by Governor Macquarie to Major George Johnston of the Army Corps.

Johnston's youngest daughter Blanche married Captain Edward George Nicholas Weston, and they built and lived at "Horsley," near Prospect. Their eldest son Edward married his cousin Esther Emily Johnston, and they were given "Macquarie Gift" and lived there until moving to Penman in 1900.

One of their two sons, Alick, who was my father, remained at Albion Park in occupation and supervision of the various farms into which the property had been subdivided and leased to tenants. One of my brothers, Bruce, farmed one of these all his life until his death four years ago. As stated, his only son Eddie continues to live on that particular portion of Macquarie's grant to our ancestor and First Fleet.

Old Recipes

Carol Odelle, Editor, The Discovery Press Pty Ltd, of Penrith, has written to the Secretary of the Fellowship stating that she was compiling a collection of old recipes and cooking hints for publication by Discovery Press. She is particularly looking for recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation in Australia, some of which may have a historical story attached to them. Descriptions of a fondly-remembered great-grandmother's favourite recipe, or of her kitchen, would be welcome.

Carol Odelle, a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society, states that the Discovery Press has published "Great Australian Classics," "Famous Stories of the Pioneers," and other such books, and it is anxious to preserve as much Australian history and tradition as possible.

Carol Odelle, in her letter, asks that members writing to her include their full name and address with all recipes, cooking hints (or old cures). She will be delighted to hear from members, and will reply personally.

Address: Discovery Press Pty Limited, P.O. Box 339, Penrith 2750.

Vice-President Stands for Election

Ken Cavanaugh, Vice-President of the Fellowship, stood as an Independent candidate at the recent State elections. Mr Cavanaugh's standing for election was mainly as a protest against current excessively high rates.

Rocks Festival

The very interesting and very popular Rocks Festival will be held next year on Saturday 30th March. Keep this date in mind. More information in later Newsletters.

Election of Executive

At the Annual General Meeting the following members were voted on to the Executive:--

President: Mr E. A. Kable, P.O. Box 13, Wentworthville, 2145. (Phone 635-0427).

Vice-Presidents: Mr K. Cavanough, 12 Forster Street, Balkehurst, 2221. (Phone 546-4158). Mrs B. Lewis, 88 Avoca Street, Yagoona, 2199. (Phone 709-8974).

Secretary: Mrs C. Bernath, 81 Abuklea Road, Eastwood, 2122. (Phone 88-3089).

Treasurer: Mrs J. Wallman, 23 Shellcove Road, Neutral Bay, 2089. (Phone 90-5370).

Executive Committee: Mrs T. Guy, 3 Cocinda Close, Eastwood, 2122. (Phone 869-7917). Mrs J. Crook, 3 Finlay Avenue, Beecroft, 2119. (Phone 869-7631).

Mrs B. Lonoragan, 11 King's Road, Eastwood, 2122 (Phone 85-3349). Mrs F. Markwell, 81 Baringa Road, Northbridge, 2063 (Phone 95-5571).

Mr D. Oakes, 47 McClelland Street, Milloughby, 2068 (Phone 95-1918). Mr V. Parker, 27 Melton Street, Auburn, 2144 (Phone 648-1072).

Country Members: Mrs C. Naylor, 18 Hilltop Crescent, Port Macquarie, 2444. Mr R. C. Faunder, R.F.B. 250, Appleby Street, Tamworth, 2340.

Fleet Meeting

The next meeting of the Fleet Committee will be held at 7.30 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Assembly Hall (Jamieson Street entrance) on Tuesday 11th December.

At the last Fleet meeting a very interesting talk was given by Mrs Val Ross and Mrs Mary Thompson on how to trace one's ancestors and on how to compile a family tree. Several members brought along their family trees for the perusal of those present. Members were greatly impressed with the detailed work involved in preparing these comprehensive documents.

Our next lecture night will be at the meeting in March. Dr Parsons, of Macquarie University, will give a lecture on the New South Wales Corps.

Thomas Holt

Thomas Holt, one of Australia's pioneer businessmen and Parliamentarians, was not, of course, a descendant of a First Fleet, but members of the Fellowship may be interested in some details about him.

Thomas Holt is often blamed for having been responsible for importing the rabbit into Australia. While he did bring out rabbits, for the sport of gun-shooting friends on his Cooks River property, a grandson, Judge Henry Holt, in a biography "An Energetic Colonist" (Hawthorn, 36-95) claims that rabbits had spread from ones that had come out with the First Fleet.

Judge Holt, a retired District Court judge, has written a fascinating, fact-packed biography of Thomas Holt. In the bustling 1850's Holt figured in almost every public enterprise going, invested heavily in colonial development, and made a fortune in a little over a decade.

His interests ranged from politics and speculation in vast Queensland pastoral holdings to a founding role in the A.F.P. Society, fire insurance, railways, sheep-breeding, even oyster culture. And he was a Minister (Colonial Treasurer) in the first Parliament in Australia under responsible government.

An interesting point is that, in 1870 at his own expense, Holt erected on his Kurnell estate the sandstone obelisk which still stands at Captain Cook's landing place. This was in commemoration of the centenary of Cook's landing at Botany Bay.