

Vol. 5 No. 3
March 1974

Mrs Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
F.F.F. Newsletter,
G.P.O. Box 4441,
SYDNEY. 2001.

From the President

I wish to draw the attention of members to several amendments to the Fellowship's Constitution with regard to fees and subscriptions:

Rule 6A, covering associates, now reads: Being husbands and/or wives of members, such associates, while being allowed to participate in all activities of the Fellowship, shall have no vote nor are they eligible for election to any office on the executive committee. A subscription of 50 per cent of members' subscriptions shall be deemed appropriate and payable on 1st July annually.

Rule 7: Members' subscriptions shall be due on 1st July each year and shall be: Members, \$5 per annum; junior members, \$1-50 per annum; members possessing pension entitlement cards, \$1 per annum.

Rule 8: Members and junior members whose subscriptions are in arrears for six months shall be placed on a retired list and shall not receive newsletters, journals nor any communications. Any member on the retired list may be placed on the active list by paying the prescribed joining fee. No member shall lose their membership other than by expulsion.

I particularly wish to draw unfinancial members' attention to Rule 8. The joining fee is \$5, commencing from 1st July this year. The increase in membership fees to \$5 commenced as from the annual general meeting.

The only other matter I would like to mention at this point is that our office, Room 25 on the seventh floor of the Kerbla Building in Margaret Street, is now beginning to function. We have to thank Mary Thompson and Mary Bailey for their work here. Anyone willing to assist should please get in touch with either Mrs Thompson (phone 969 2084) or myself (635 0427).

Edgar Kable.

Membership Committee

(From Mary Thompson)

We are all delighted that we have at last an office where we can keep our records together, and we are going to be very busy. However, it is necessary to realise that this organization can only run smoothly and efficiently, and expand with the years, if we have sufficient supporters for our various activities. All the work at present is done voluntarily by a very small number of dedicated members. I am hoping that we can increase this number in order that we may speed up our efforts in compiling records of the First Fleet families.

Archives. We hope to gather as much information as possible about your First Fleet ancestors. This would include copies of certificates of birth, death and marriage of their children, petitions to the Governor, parish maps which show the location of their grants, in fact

Membership Committee (Continued)

everything concerning the family and their occupations. Photographs or copies of portraits are especially welcome. (We intend to include information concerning the first generation born in the colony, and maybe the second).

Some historians have said that it will never be known what type of people came out in the First Fleet or what became of their descendants, if they had any. The convicts are all put together under the heading of small petty thieves. So, while the historians do their sampling and write their comments, let us get on with the job and find out what sort of people they became, and how did they contribute towards the progress of the infant colony. For instance, we know that Philip Gidley King, Thomas Jamison, Nathaniel Lucas, James Squires and John Small had either sons or grandsons who became members of the early Parliament. Were there any others? Some of our ancestors became successful businessmen, while others did battle with the soil, opening up new districts.

These are the sort of facts which we hope to gather with your help. Please send any information of this nature to G.F.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001, or else bring them in to the office. If you wish to discuss anything along these lines with me, please ring me at 969 2084 so that I can arrange to be there at the office when you call.

First Fleeter Graves. We wish to thank Mr Des Jurd for starting this important work, and regret that he is unable to continue the project. I would be glad to hear from any member, male or female, who would be willing to take over this work. It would not be difficult. In next month's Newsletter we shall list those who have kindly offered to act as custodian of one of the graves, and in the meantime we would be glad to hear from any members who would be able to check a grave twice a year and report on its condition. A First Fleeter is buried in the Kiana Cemetery, so I would be glad to hear from someone who lives in that district.

Pageant Committee. We have been approached by the Rocks Redevelopment Committee, which will be organizing another Anniversary celebration on Australia Day next year, to present a tableau or pageant at the 1975 celebration. This would mean having sufficient costumes for, say, 1788, 1810 and 1820. These costumes could also be used at the Annual Argyle Celebrations, held at The Rocks in March or April, and at other functions. It would also be a marvellous opportunity to bring the name of our First Fleeters before the public. However, at this stage we do not know if we can undertake to do this. We would need a little band of people who could help with the costumes, and I am most anxious to hear from any members who would be willing to help. This includes associate members or friends who enjoy creating. If we have sufficient response, we shall be able to go ahead with the project which could grow to be one of our most colourful and important activities. My telephone number is 969 2084.

Monthly Meetings. Mrs Val Ross is in charge of the arrangements for these lectures on the early days in the colony, and I can assure you that we shall all find them extremely informative. We are hoping to meet many new members now that we are coming together regularly in the city. One of the committee will be at the door, and we will be very glad to meet any members coming for the first time. All members are, of course, eligible to attend monthly meetings. Your friends are also very welcome to attend.

Incidentally, because of this lengthy report of mine, I am not listing new members this month. Recent new members will be listed in next month's Newsletter.

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Coming Events

Rocks Festival. Don't forget the Annual Argyle Celebrations (to give the "Rocks Festival" its official name) on Saturday 30th March. The Fellowship will be running a stall, as usual, and donations of jams, pickles, cakes and other saleable goods would be appreciated. Donations should be left as early as possible on the day; the stall will be manned from 9 am onwards. Look for the stall opposite the Garrison Church near the steps. The stall is an important source of income for the Fellowship.

We would also like as many members as possible to march with the First Fleeters group in the procession. Members should be in period costume.

Lecture Night. An interesting lecture on First Fleeter Frederick Meredith will be given at the June monthly meeting (11th June). Further details next month.

Don't forget the dates of monthly meetings -- 23rd April; 21st May; 11th June; 9th July; 13th August; 10th September; 8th October; 19th November.

People to Contact

If members wish to seek information on aspects of Fellowship activities, the following people are the ones who should be contacted:

Membership Committee and Australia Day -- Mrs Mary Thompson (phone 969 2084).

Representatives to Rocks Committee and Social Activities -- Mrs Beryl Lewis (phone 709 8974).

Argyle Day (Rocks Festival) -- Mrs Margaret Parkwell (phone 95 5571).

Newsletter -- Mrs Joan Ross (phone 80 2953).

Visit to Norfolk Island

(From Dudley Gakes)

On Friday 8th February a party of 24 souls arrived on Norfolk Island for the Queen's visit. The party consisted of members and friends of the Women's Pioneer Society, the Fellowship of First Fleeters (myself) and the St George Historical Society. We should have gone on the Wednesday, but a cyclone hovering around the island decided otherwise. The trip across was somewhat doubtful. The Captain of the plane told me, when we were about 100 miles from Norfolk, that he thought the chances of landing were minimal, and that we would have to go on to Auckland. However, the sun shone through and the island was clear of cloud, so we landed. We proceeded to the South Pacific Hotel, our headquarters for the trip.

Through our late arrival, our itinerary was upset, but apart from the time factor we missed little. Our President gave me a letter to the Administrator, Air-Commodore ~~Liddell~~, O.B.E., which I handed to Mr David Buffett, co-ordinator of the Royal Tour, who promised to hand it to His Honour. Mr Buffett seemed upset that the F.F.F. had not been invited formally. It was an oversight.

On the Saturday night we attended an Island dinner which was very fascinating with the exotic foods on the menu. On the Sunday we toured the island, visiting the most interesting parts and learning a lot about its history.

(Continued overleaf)

Visit to Norfolk Island (Continued)

Of course on Monday the 11th came the highlight of the trip -- the adventurous arrival of Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, her husband Captain Phillips, and Lord Louis Mountbatten. They were accompanied by aides-de-camp, ladies-in-waiting, etc. Plenty of secret police were on the island, but they were not needed, as everyone was very friendly and proud of their Queen.

The Royal party caused a stir by landing half-an-hour early, almost literally catching some of the island's heads with their pants down. One Councillor finished dressing in his car on the way to the welcome. After the Royal welcome, the Royal party split up and moved informally among the people, stopping and talking here and there. I happened to be one of the lucky ones to whom the Queen spoke. I found her a very charming lady, very easy to talk to.

The official party then adjourned to Government House, and we returned to the hotel. Word came through that a picnic arranged for a property at Steele's Point had been transferred to the oval at Kingston, as Steele's Point was very boggy after the rain. We were all invited to the picnic, but as I had been on my feet for about three hours I decided not to go, as I was told we would have to stand for another couple of hours. I was sorry afterwards that I did not go, as the ground dried up and I could have sat down. The Royal party moved among the groups quite informally, so I missed something.

I must hand it to Her Majesty, she is very game to have landed from the Britannia in a small launch, as the sea was quite rough, with huge breakers. When the Queen landed, the rest of the party had no option but to follow in what must have been an ordeal. I dips me lid to them.

Another highlight was a cocktail party that we threw at the hotel. Among our guests were Councillor Randall, President of the N.I. Council, Mr David Buffett, and the Hon. Mr Justice T. E. Joske, Judge of the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island, and Mrs Joske. Mrs Joske, incidentally, is a First Elector, being an Everingham.

Personal Greetings

Sisters Mrs Naida Jackson and Miss Hazel Liebau (descendants of William Turks) are at present on a "Women's Weekly" world tour. They'll be back at the end of June Doug and Elaine Haig escaped flood damage to their home on the Isle of Capri, Surfers Paradise Jean and Keith Ross celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on 26th March The State women's rowing four of which Christine Higginbotham, daughter of P.F.F. member Arthur Higginbotham, was a member, won the N.Z. championship in Auckland, and the crew now competes in the Australian Championships in Adelaide in April.

The Two Battles of Vinegar Hill (Continued)

(Information supplied by Mr Bert E. Weston, researched and put together by Mr C. D. Neil, of Castle Hill. The first instalment was published in the February 1974 Newsletter)

Three days after he expressed this opinion, however, events proved that either he had misread the signs or that the convicts had successfully kept secret their plans for an uprising. On 4th March, 1804, a convict outbreak commenced at the Government Farm at Castle Hill. Convict labourers from the settlers' farms in the surrounding district joined those who left the Government Farm.

(To Be Continued)