

Vol. 5 No. 5
June 1974

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

From the President

The annual subscriptions are now due, and we would like them to be in by the end of this month (June), so that the Treasurer can get her balance-sheets prepared.

The Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Thursday 26th September. It will be held in the same place as last year -- the No. 1 Board Room of the Assembly Hall Building in Margaret Street.

The only business which will be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting will be that on the agenda, so any business for the agenda must reach the Secretary by no later than 15th August.

All nominations for office on the Executive Committee must reach the Secretary by 12th September, to comply with the Constitution, which states that nominations must be in 14 days before the Annual Meeting. (The question of business on the agenda also complies with the Constitution).

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the annual reunion of the Gosper family, which will be held at Windsor on Sunday 6th October, commencing at 10 a.m.

Edgar Kable.

Annual Picnic

The annual picnic will be held as usual at Chinaman's Beach. It will be held this year on Monday of the Queen's Birthday weekend (17th June). Bring your family and friends and enjoy a day at this beautiful spot on Middle Harbour. It is necessary to bring your own food and barbecue facilities (barbecues are permissible only if you have a contained fire).

To reach Chinaman's Beach, turn off Spit Road past Spit Junction into Farriwi Road, then into Cyprian Street and Maclean Crescent. You can get "bushed" there if you don't know the area.

Australia Day 1975

As Australia Day 1975 falls on a Sunday, the Executive has decided to hold its annual dinner next year as a luncheon. It has already booked the Weinkeller, 72 Pitt Street, for this luncheon.

As there has to be a limit of 200 tickets for the function, it will be necessary to obtain your tickets as early as possible "to avoid disappointment". (And, on the evidence of past annual dinners, those who are too late will be missing something special).

More details in the next Newsletter.

First Fleet Exhibition

(From Mary Thompson)

The Australia Day Festival in the Rocks area will be held again next year on the Monday of the Australia Day weekend, 27th January, and we have been again invited to participate. (All our ancestors lived at least for a short time in the Rocks area).

At this exhibition we are hoping to depict the first few years of the colony. The accent will be on people. What they wore, what they did, what they ate, in fact how they survived during those rugged years.

By the next Lecture Night (11th June) we hope to have photocopies which will show the style of clothing our ancestors wore, together with information concerning materials, etc. The styles should be quite easy to copy.

Regarding the men's costumes, these can be quite varied because we have marines, sailors and convicts. Just for the record, there was one free man with the fleet, who held no civil or military position because he had stowed away. His name was James Smith. So we can allow one member to dress as an ordinary civilian! In addition there was, of course, the Rev. Richard Johnson (and his wife).

If you are unable to be present at the next lecture night to see the photocopies, please ring Mrs Markwell at 95-5571 or Mrs Bailey at 43-4075, who will be happy to tell you all about them.

Country members inquiring about costumes could write to me at 1/11 Esther Road, Balmoral Beach 2088, stating whether the costume is for males or females or both.

We are hoping to have all our members' ancestors represented by a Family Exhibit. It is envisaged that each exhibit will give the public some idea of what that particular First Fleeter did after his arrival -- where he lived, and any highlights of his life.

If you can contribute anything at all in this respect, please let us know. One person will be selected from each family to be in charge of the presentation of their Exhibit. Where the information concerning the First Fleeter is scanty, a number of First Fleeters could be combined on the one sheet -- e.g., "The Hawkesbury Settlers" or "The Kissing Point Settlers."

We are hoping that our younger members, as well as coming on costume, may be able to help with the exhibits and make them more colourful and imaginative.

This is the first time that we have had an opportunity of introducing our ancestors to the public. With your co-operation, we hope to make it a great success.

Photographs of First Fleeter Graves

Would members please let us have a photograph of their First Fleeter's grave if it is still intact. We would be glad if you would include on a separate sheet the information concerning date of death, cemetery, etc. There are many graves of First Fleeters who left no descendants, so would you help by photographing any of these. These photographs will be included in the Family Exhibits, mentioned above, and we do want the exhibits to be as complete as possible. (Contact Mrs Mary Thompson, 1/11 Esther Road, Balmoral Beach 2088).

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

--- 3 ---

Subscriptions

Treasurer Mrs Joy Wallman wishes to add her voice to that of the President's in reminding members that subscriptions are due on 1st July.

Fees are as follows: Members, \$5 per annum; junior members, \$1-50 per annum; members possessing pension entitlement cards, \$1 per annum; associate members, \$2-50.

Bene Lecture Nights

The next lecture night is on 11th June, when, once again, a descendant will speak about his own First Fleeter, "Frederick Meredith and the Meredith Family." The talk will be given by Mr R. J. Meredith, B.A., a lecturer at Sydney Teachers' College, who should have much of interest to say on the subject. The lecture night will be held in the No. 1 Board Room in the Assembly Hall Building, beginning at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

The last address, given on 21st May, was by Mr John Ryan, M.A., a Senior Lecturer in History at Macquarie University, who gave a very interesting and thought-provoking address on "The Irish." Mr Ryan is an authority on the Irish, and the role they played in the early days of the colony. A vote of thanks was moved by your Editor.

Of interest in particular to members of the Hatton family is a talk on First Fleeter Joseph Hatton, to be given at the next meeting of the Ryde Historical Society at Ryde by Mr Paul Coghlan, B. Ec., a descendant of Joseph Hatton. This will also be on 11th June.

Informal Historical Evening

(From Val Ross)

On Tuesday 9th July, instead of the usual lecture, we are having an Informal Historical Evening.

At this time we hope to get Members' impressions on the talks we have had so far, their ideas of the directions in which we should go in the future and any suggestions you may like to put forward will be welcomed.

Our own archivist, Mary Thompson, will be present, and has agreed to deal with any questions that members might have about their own First Fleeter or about the early days of Sydney Town and the colony. It would facilitate the answers if notice in writing could be given beforehand; so, if you already have a "poser" in mind, please write to Mary (Mrs Mary Thompson, 1/11 Esther Road, Balmoral Beach 2088).

This informal evening will be held at our usual meeting-place on the fourth floor of the Assembly Building in York Street at 8 p.m. Enter by the Jamieson Street entrance and take lift to the fourth floor.

Remember, these nights are your nights, arranged specially for you. Coffee and biscuits and chit-chat afterwards. Looking forward to seeing you on 9th July.

Change of Address

When people move there's always plenty of important things to worry about, we all know. But could members shifting home please try to remember to notify the Secretary of their new address. We are always getting letters returned from the Dead Letter Office. (Please write Secretary, c/- G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001).

New Members

The following are new members we wish to welcome into the Fellowship:--

Miss Margaret Daniell, 123 Macquarie Street, Sydney; and Mrs Joan Hall, 90 Cromorne Road, Cromorne Point (both William Tunks).
Mrs Norma Corrick, 5 Arthur Street, Mascot; and Mr Norman Hughes, 139 Bridges Road, New Lambton South (both Andrew Fishburn).
Mrs June Whittaker, 154 Warringah Road, Dee Why (Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes).
Mrs Joan Robb, Flat 1, 28 Hoskins Avenue, Kemblawarra; and Mrs Nancy Lees, Flat 3, 8 Kitchener Street, Hughes, A.C.T. (both Mary Turner).
Mrs Lorraine Houghton, c/- Department of Public Works, Boroko, Port Moresby, F.M.G. (John Bayliss).
Mrs Constance Auld, 5 Paul Street, North Ryde (Natanuel Lucas and Olive Gascoigne).
Mr John Keeler and Mrs Dawn Strauss, 290 Old Canterbury Road, Sumner Hill; Mrs Jacqueline Herps, Miss Joanne Herps and Iaster John Herps, all of 8 Yabsley Avenue, Ashbury; and Mrs Rose Meir and Miss Rhonda May Meir, also of 290 Old Canterbury Road, Sumner Hill (all Matthew Everingham).
Mr Douglas Noel Clark, 69 Booralie Road, Terrey Hills (John Small and Mary Parker).
Mrs Kathleen Ellen Buchanan, "Killarney," P.O. Box 115, Narrabri (William Broughton).
Miss Monica Perry, 5 Excelsior Street, Concord (Ellen Frazer).
Mrs Marjorie Phyllis Raven, 7 Griffin Avenue, Boxley; and Mrs Joan Craster Stear, 12 Henry Street, Carlton (both Dr Thomas Arndell).

Annual Meeting

Just another reminder of the date of the Annual General Meeting, already given in the President's Report on Page 1 -- Thursday 26th September. Place -- No. 1 Board Room of the Assembly Hall Building in Margaret Street (Janieson Street entrance).

Personal Jottings

Mrs Mary Thompson and Mrs Ruth Holt, both unfortunately suffering from broken arms following falls . . . Mrs Barbara Townsend has been in Farraratta Hospital, but is now at home convalescing . . . On a brighter note, Dr Dudley O'Sullivan enjoyed his "working holiday" in the United States.

"John Grant's Journey"

A theatre party is being organised by Mrs Colleen Bernath for the play "John Grant's Journey" being staged by the New Theatre at its theatre, 542 King Street, Newtown.

The play, based on the book of the same by W. S. Hill-Reid and adapted for the stage by Kevin McGrath, tells the story of the convict John Grant.

John Grant was a real person, but there was little known of his exploits until about 20 years ago when a trunk was discovered in the vault of a London bank. In it there were many letters and diaries telling of how he had been sentenced to transportation to New South Wales in 1802 for a "crime of passion."

"John Grant's Journey" sweeps from Georgian London to the convict ship; from Government House, Farramatta, to the grog shanties of The Rocks; from the whipping triangles of Hyde Park to the hell of Norfolk Island.

Those interested in a booking please ring Mrs Bernath at 88-3089 after 6 p.m. Party booking rates for 10 people are \$2-30 Fridays and Sundays; \$2-60 Saturdays; student concessions, \$1-50.