

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

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Mrs Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
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From the President

I would like to draw to members' attention that tickets are still available for next year's Australia Day Luncheon from Mrs Beryl Lewis, 88 Avoca Street, Yagoona (telephone 709 8974). Tickets are \$9 each (wines included). As most members would already know, the 1975 luncheon will take the form of a smorgasbord luncheon at the Weinkeller in Pitt Street.

Many members are failing to notify the Fellowship of their change of address, and some later ring-up and complain that they have not been getting their Newsletters. If changing your address, could you please remember to notify the Fellowship (G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001) straight away?

n I would like to remind members that the Fellowship's room in the Assembly Building is now open three days a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members visiting the city should make use of this facility.

Lastly, I wish to extend Christmas and New Year greetings to all our members and associates, in this the last Newsletter for 1974. I wish to thank members for their support throughout the year, for their attendance at meetings and lecture nights, and for their support for other functions and events held by the Fellowship or with which the Fellowship was associated.

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Lecture Night

ld The first lecture night for 1975 will feature an address by Mr Ron Arndell, of Macquarie Retreat, Cattai, who will speak on Dr Thomas Arndell, second assistant surgeon with the First Fleet.

Mr Ron Arndell is President of the Presbyterian Historical Society, and has done considerable research on Ebenezer Church and the Coromandel settlers.

The lecture night will be held on Wednesday 19th February.

ANNUAL AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON TICKETS

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!

Have you bought your tickets yet for the Australia Day Luncheon? There are still a few tickets available for the Luncheon. \$9 each (incl. wines)

Lecture Nights -- Wednesdays

Lecture Nights throughout 1975 will be on the third Wednesday of each month. Please make a note of this change -- third Wednesdays. Meetings will not be on Tuesdays as in the past.

Memorial to Captain Arthur Phillip

By letter dated 22nd October 1974, the Rev. G. C. C. Spencer, vicar of Bathampton Church, Bath, England, has advised the Fellowship that the Memorial to Captain Arthur Phillip was now in place, and the Australia Chapel was nearly complete.

"The Bishop of Bath and Wells has agreed to dedicate the Chapel and Memorial on Sunday 26th January 1975 at 3 p.m.

"As a representative of the Fellowship of First Fleeters is required to take a speaking part in the service I shall be grateful if you will decide who is to do this and to let me know as soon as you can. When the invitations and orders of service are printed I can then send him/her copies.

"You will also be pleased to know that the workmanship and design of the Memorial are quite first-class."

As members know, the Phillip Memorial is the gift of the Fellowship following an appeal for funds in 1969-70. (For further details of the Memorial, see the August 1974 F.F.F. Newsletter).

For the representative of the Fellowship to participate in the service, will any member be in England at that time who will be happy to represent the Fellowship? Or, failing that, does anyone know of any member who will be over there at the time, either visiting or residing, who would be prepared to take part?

If so, please contact the President, Mr Tible, as soon as possible, either c/- G.F.C. Box 4441, Sydney 2001 (telephone 635 0427).

Annual Pilgrimage to St Philip's

To mark the 187th anniversary of the first Christian Service in Australia, the Rector and churchwardens of St Philip's, York Street, Sydney, have invited all members of the Fellowship to attend the Annual Pilgrimage to St Philip's on Sunday 2nd February 1975 at 3 p.m.

The preacher at the Pilgrimage will be the Very Rev. L. Shilton, Dean of St Andrews Cathedral.

All members welcome to attend.

St Thomas', Port Macquarie

The foundation stone of Port Macquarie's convict-built historic St Thomas' Church was laid on 8th December, 1824. To mark the 150th anniversary this year, a range of celebrations and functions took place over the weekend of 6th-8th December.

This information is published for the record, as it is realised that this Newsletter will unavoidably be received by members too late for anyone to make arrangements to attend these historic celebrations.

"Old Sydney Town"

Just a brief note drawing members' attention to the fact that Old Sydney Town, near Gosford, is now open to the public, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Should be well worth visiting.

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

--- 3 ---

Personal Jottings

Vice-Patron Dudley Oakes celebrated a fit and well 84th birthday on 8th October. Members who attended the October lecture night, held the same day, celebrated his birthday with a delicious cake made by Margaret Markwell, after the lecture. (Sorry we missed out on mentioning your birthday in the last Newsletter, Dudley).

Virginia Oakes, daughter of John and Phyllis Oakes and granddaughter of Dudley Oakes, celebrated her 21st birthday on 27th October. A birthday party was held at the Ensemble Theatre, North Sydney, in honour of the birthday. (The Oakes family are descended from John Small).

Australia Day Holiday Festival

(From Mary Bailey, Maida Jackson and Mary Thompson)

This year the Festival held by the Rocks Redevelopment Committee was a great success. Next year it will certainly be an even greater success, particularly as more groups are participating and there will be more publicity given it.

As you know, an Exhibition on the First Fleeters is our contribution, and we hope for co-operation from all our members. We will be having sketches of Sydney 1788, exhibits by members on the lives of their First Fleet ancestors, the surgeon's medical chest, and Thea Rowe will be singing songs which were sung in England by both adults and children in the 1700's. Also, we decided on another display stand For Junior Members.

We shall be happy to have a letter or note from even the youngest children to mention that they are descended from First Fleeters (his/her name), the ship they arrived in, and any other information (or drawing) concerning them. The contributor's name and age should be given. Any inquiries regarding this can be made by phoning Mrs Bailey (telephone 43 4075) or Mrs Jackson (telephone 982 8014). Otherwise please send these contributions to the Fellowship of First Fleeters, G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

Period Costumes. As we have mentioned before, we hope you will dress in a costume similar in style to that worn in the 1788 period. If you require any information on, or a drawing of, the dress worn at that time, please ring Thea Rowe (telephone 92 1567). Some really delightful drawings have been obtained for the costumes of children, so we are hoping to have our young members (and their friends) representing that period.

Rosters. As we shall need to have a number of members looking after the Exhibition, we sincerely hope to have enough offers from you all in order to have a roster, so that part of your time can be free to see other activities at the Festival. If you are able to help the Fellowship in this way, please write to Mrs Bailey at the Fellowship's box-number or ring her or Mrs Jackson (telephone numbers given above).

Site of Exhibition. We are greatly appreciative that the Rocks Redevelopment Committee has offered us accommodation at 80 George Street (next to the Spaghetti Factory), and the Sydney City Council is lending us stands on which to mount our exhibits.

Anniversary Day is of very special interest to us all in the Fellowship, so please give your assistance.

Use of Fellowship's Room

As mentioned in the President's Report, members do not appear to be making enough use of the Fellowship's room, Room 312, on the third floor of the Assembly Building in Margaret Street.

The room is open three days a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Journals are on sale, also spoons and badges. Members are also welcome to discuss Fellowship matters.

A cup of tee or coffee will be provided to visitors. In fact, it can truthfully be said that hospitality at Room 312 is "overwhelming."

Lucky Door Prize

Mrs Lola Wilkinson has donated the lucky door prize for the Australia Day Luncheon.

This prize is a framed print of old Sydney, and if for no other reason than the chance to win this prize members should make a New Year resolution that they must attend the luncheon.

Many thanks to Mrs Wilkinson for donating this valuable prize.

Raffle for Teapot

Speaking of prizes, the raffle for a teapot held on the November lecture night was won by Mrs Val Ross, the Fellowship's energetic lecture-night organiser.

Australia Day Holiday Festival

Just a further brief reminder that we will need the assistance of all members at the Exhibition on the First Fleeters, as our contribution to the Australia Day Holiday Festival at The Rocks. (See Page 2 of this Newsletter).

Anniversary Day, of course, is of very special interest to us all in the Fellowship, and we are hoping that the part we play will bring before the notice of the average Australian the names of some of the first arrivals in this country and interesting information concerning their lives.

Ino Mr E. A. Mobbs

Mrs Beryl Lewis wishes to thank all those members who extended to her expressions of sympathy and condolence on the death of her father, Mr E. A. Mobbs, M.B.E., J.P.

"Historic Houses of Australia"

Recently reviewed in various daily newspapers and given good notices is "Historic Houses of Australia," produced by the Australian Council of National Trusts (Cassell Australia, \$19-50). This is the third major publication of the Australian Council of National Trusts. The first of the two earlier volumes was concerned with the nation's homesteads, the second with its public buildings. The 37 houses in this third volume were all designed for living-in, and most of them are still occupied. Those which are not are under the preservation of one or other of the Trusts.

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