

Mrs Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
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From the President

Australia Day 1975 has been a memorable one for the Fellowship.

On Sunday 26th January the restored St Nicholas' Church at Bathampton, near Bath, England, the resting-place of the Founder and first Governor of the Colony of New South Wales, Arthur Phillip, R.N., was dedicated with a special service attended by many dignitaries. Mrs Jean Mitchell and Mr Arthur Ingham-Hyers represented the Fellowship on this important occasion, and at present we are awaiting a report from them.

The Memorial Screen and plaque at the head of the grave within the church was paid for by the money raised by the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

The Fellowship's midday luncheon, held at the Weinkeller in Pitt Street, Sydney, to celebrate the landing of our forebears on Sydney Cove, was the happiest and best we have ever had. Sir John and Lady Fuller represented the Government of New South Wales, and Alderman John and Mrs Harris represented the Lord Mayor of Sydney.

After the formalities of the occasion, our special guests got around and met and talked with all those who came, and they have assured me that it was the most enjoyable Australia Day they had experienced. I pass on to you their sincere thanks and congratulations for the day.

At Somersby, near Gosford, Old Sydney Town was officially opened by the Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whitlam, the Fellowship being ably represented by our Hon. Secretary, Mrs Colleen Bernath, and family. Colleen herself has a report in the Newsletter.

The Australia Day Holiday saw a big day in the Rocks area for the occasion. The Historical Exhibition by the Fellowship was a success beyond all our expectations. How many thousand people crowded through it and asked as many or more questions we don't know, but the interest shown in the Fellowship and the exhibits leaves us with no doubts as to what people want to see, and should give us much encouragement to continue and to make a very worthwhile contribution to Australiana. Mr Owen Magee, of the Sydney Rocks Redevelopment Authority, and Mr Eric Willis, M.L.A., Minister for Education, both complimented us on the standard of the exhibit and our presentation of it.

You all realise that this is the result of an awful lot of hard work by a group of dedicated people over a period of 12 months, and demonstrates what can be achieved with teamwork and co-operation. To those whose forebear was not represented in the exhibit, come and join us for next year.

(From the President, Continued)

co-operation given to us by the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority and the Sydney City Council, but I would like to specially mention Mary Bailey, Mary Thompson and Naida Jackson for a dedication and effort which contributed in no small way to the success of the whole thing. Also, I would like to thank Mrs Beryl Lewis and her hard-working social committee for the success of the luncheon.

At the Australia Day Surf Carnival, held at Harbord Beach, the Marathon Boat Race was again rowed from Shelly Beach to Harbord Beach to commemorate the fact that the First Fleet sailed from Botany Bay to Sydney Cove. The winning boat this year was from Bronte. His Honour Judge Sir Adrian Curlewis and the Surf Life Saving Association have advised me that the race will be rowed each year for this reason unless the Fellowship ever tell them otherwise.

The Fellowship has had a lot of very good publicity recently, on the radio particularly, and I think you must all agree that it has been a most wonderful Australia Day Weekend.

Let us remember, however, that from now on people are going to expect a good standard from the Fellowship and a continuity of these things, and no matter how small you may think your contribution may be, it is always appreciated. So support your Fellowship and make it a success for the future.

Finally I wish to announce with regret the passing of Mrs Alma Myrtle Lavett, wife of the Fellowship's founder and first President, Mr John Lavett. Sympathy cards were sent on behalf of myself and Mrs Kable, the executive and members of the Fellowship.

Edgar Kable.

LECTURE NIGHTS

Please make a note that Lecture Evenings
this year will be on WEDNESDAYS

Lecture Programme for 1975

Lectures organised by the Fellowship vary in form from papers delivered by scholars of Australian History to very informal talks given by one of the members. The programme so far for 1975 is as follows:--

February 19.	Mr R. M. Arndell.	"Dr Thomas Arndell."
March 19.	Dr Bryan Gandevia.	"Medical Aspects of New South Wales 1788- 1793."
April 16.	Mr Stanley Lipscombe.	"Early Australian Wares and Antiques."
May 21.	Mr Stephen Shortus.	"The Australian Novel Between the Wars."
June 18.	To be advised.	
July 16.	Dr Peter Reynolds.	"Dr William Balmain and th Architecture of Balmain."
August 20.	Mr E. J. G. Buckham.	"Dr Thomas Jamison."

(Continued Page 3)

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

--- 3 ---

Lecture Programme for 1975 (Continued)

September 17.	Mr G. B. Gidley King.	"The Governor, Philip Gidley King."
October 15.	Mr David Jones.	"The Mitchell Library and Archives of New South Wales."
November 19.	Mrs B. Goodger.	"Sir Joseph Banks."

The lectures are held in the Fourth Floor Board Room of the Assembly Building, York Street, Sydney, entered by the Jamison Street entrance. They are, as from this year, held on a Wednesday night at 8 pm, and afterwards we adjourn for coffee, tea and chit-chat in our Room 312, on the Third Floor below.

Everyone interested is welcome to attend, and friends may be brought along. There is a small donation for supper. Inquiries to the Convenor, Mrs Valerie Ross (telephone 44 5941).

Our First Two Lecture Nights

(From Val Ross)

Our first speaker this year will be Mr R. M. Arndell, of "Macquarie Retreat," Cattai, President of the Presbyterian Historical Society and an authority on the Hawkesbury River district, having done most valuable work in preparing indexed typescripts of the registers of most of the churches in this region.

Mr Arndell will speak on his ancestor Dr Thomas Arndell, First Fleeter, who came to Australia as surgeon on the Friendship and then was second assistant surgeon on Phillip's staff. Dr Arndell became a magistrate at Parramatta and then at the Hawkesbury in 1803, when he was granted "Caddie," near Pitt Town. He was also involved in the building of Ebenezer Church, the oldest church in Australia where service is still held.

March 19 lecture. All those who have heard Dr Bryan Gandevia on the rostrum at History House and elsewhere will be delighted to hear that he has agreed to address us on "Medical Aspects of New South Wales 1788-1793."

Dr Gandevia, head of the Department of Thoracic Medicine at Prince Henry Hospital, has worked with Dr John Copley, of "Sydney Cove" fame, on an analysis of the health of our forefathers regarding infant mortality, malnutrition, fertility, etc., and concludes that the First Fleeters were remarkably healthy and long-lived, considering their experiences. Many interesting facets of life in Sydney Cove will be discussed.

(Board)

As usual we shall meet in the Seminar/Room on the Fourth Floor of the Assembly Building. The lectures begin at 8 pm, but the room is booked from 7.30 pm. After the lecture we adjourn to Room 312 for light supper and conversation.

Remember, Mr Arndell's lecture is on Wednesday night, 19th February.

Social Committee

"Old Sydney Town"

(From Colleen Bernath)

This year the Fellowship was invited to attend the Official Opening at Old Sydney Town, Somersby (near Gosford). My husband and I went as the Fellowship's representatives.

It was a very special day apart from being Australia's National Day, as Old Sydney Town was officially opened by the Prime Minister, Mr E. G. Whitlam, M.L.A.

We were members of the official guests (300 in all) who were transported by rail to Gosford, and then by passenger coach to Old Sydney Town, where hosts and hostesses greeted the guests, and programmes and name-tags were distributed. We were also guests at the official luncheon provided for Mr Whitlam and other distinguished personalities such as Dr Cairns, Mr Wentworth, M.H.R., Mr Fife, M.L.A., the Minister of Transport, and Mr Russel Prowse, of the Bank of New South Wales. There were also many other guests from noteworthy Historical Societies and Associations.

The weather was extremely good on this Australia Day, adding to the splendour of the occasion, and the official party was able to proceed around Old Sydney Town with much ease to watch re-enactments of the floggings in the Market Place and a very realistic hanging in the Square. There were demonstrations of rock cutting, wall daubing and roof thatching being performed.

A replica, with flags flying, of the ship Perseverance was afloat in the man-made lake which was a copy of the Old Sydney Cove itself. There were several buildings and old rum stores already built in the same style as they were originally built when Sydney first began.

Our thanks go to the organisers, Fox & Associates, of this particular day, and we wish Old Sydney Town great success with what it offers for the heritage of all Australians as well as other nationalities who may be interested in our history.

Wedding

The wedding took place at St Mark's Church, Northbridge, on 10th January of Merri Weston Craig and Lawrence John Bolton, of Killara. Merri is a descendant of William Broughton and is the daughter of Ruth Blair. She was given away by her stepfather, Eric Blair. Merri followed a tradition by wearing a gold cross lent by her aunt, Margaret Markwell and which belonged to her great-great-grandfather, Reverend Wilson.

Rocks Festival

This year's Annual Argyle Celebrations in The Rocks area will be held on Saturday 12th April.

As usual the Fellowship will be running a stall, and donations of jams, pickles, cakes, magazines and other saleable goods would be appreciated. Donations should be left, either at the Fellowship's room, in the Assembly Building, or as early as possible at the stall on the day; the stall will be manned from about 9 am onwards. The stall will again be located opposite the Garrison Church near the steps; it is, of course, an important source of income for the Fellowship, but it must have members' support.

We would also like as many members as possible to march with the First Fleeters group in the procession -- if possible, in period costume.

Photograph in the Papers

Finally a pat on the back to John Ross, Val's husband, realistically garbed as an 18th-century naval captain at the Australia Day celebration at The Rocks, as the result of which he had his photograph on the front page of next day's "Telegraph" and also in the "Herald."
