

Mrs Joan Ross,  
 Non. Editor,  
 F.F.F. Newsletter,  
 G.P.O. Box 44441,  
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 August 1975

from the President

I would like members to take note of the time and place of the Annual General Meeting, and ask them to consider carefully the agenda (attached to this Newsletter).

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the No. 1 Board Room in the Assembly Building in Margaret Street (use Jamison Street entrance) on Tuesday 23rd September, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

I would point out once again that only matters on the agenda can be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting.

I hope to see as many as possible at the Annual Meeting. My full Report is attached to this Newsletter.

Edgar Kable.

Life Members

At this year's Annual General Meeting two people who have been members of the Committee since the inception of the Fellowship have been nominated for life membership. They are Mr Edgar Kable and Mrs Mary Thompson.

Edgar Kable was appointed to the Committee at the inaugural meeting in 1968, and was later made the convener of the Fleet Committee when all the Fleet Committees were amalgamated. He was later made a Vice-President of the Executive Committee, and following the sudden death of our former President, Mr Frederick Daniell, in February 1973 Edgar was appointed President of the Fellowship.

During the year Edgar Kable advised the Executive Committee that he would not seek election due to ill health, but would like to stay connected with the activities of the Fellowship.

Doug Oakes and Mrs Margaret Markwell, both members of the Executive Committee, have nominated Edgar Kable for life membership.

Mrs Mary Thompson is an expert on the study of genealogy, and has been the convener of the Membership Committee from the first meeting in 1968. Without this committee and the research done by its members the Fellowship could not survive.

Mrs Thompson was a Vice-President in 1972, but stood down in 1973 from the main committee so that she could devote more time on membership research.

In appreciation of her continued service to the Fellowship the Executive Committee conferred honorary life membership on Mary Thompson during the year pending ratification of their action at the Annual Meeting.

The Fellowship owes both these members a debt for their untiring efforts on our behalf over the years.

## Australia Day Activities 1976

(From June Whittaker)

I wish to thank all the members at the July meeting who offered to help arrange the various activities of the Fellowship for the next Australia Day:--

Memorial to Governor of New South Wales: Mary Thompson, Bryan Thomas.

Group in Costume: Val Ross (supervisor), Cherie Cumming, Thelma Guy, Naida Jackson, Margaret Markwell, Karen Lovett, Joan Ross, Edgar Kable.

Media Coverage and Preparation of Pamphlets: Austin Woodbury, Bryan Thomas (design).

Family Histories Exhibition: Val Ross, Roy Kable (overall supervision).

Wall Map of Early Sydney: Bryan Thomas, Dudley Everingham.

Carousel (slides and narration): Joan Hall.

Wall Frieze of First Five Years: Margaret Markwell and Naida Jackson (1788); Roy Kable (1789); Cherie Cumming (1790); Joan Sowell (1791); June Whittaker (1792).

Schoolchildren's Competition: (Judges) Miss Woodbury, Mr Hosking, Barton Turner, Karen Lovett, Joan Ross.

Awards: Nature of awards to be decided by the Fellowship upon recommendations from Joy Wallman.

Award Certificates: Bryan Thomas, Austin Woodbury.

Circulation of Information to Schools: Warren Pennell, Joan Ross, June Whittaker (with co-operation of all members).

Quiz: Mary Thompson, Roy Kable.

Signwriting: Bryan Thomas.

Much of the arrangements for the above are already under way, but some of them have to be co-ordinated before a lot of headway can be made. I would be very pleased if all members already involved, and those who would like to become involved, including those who intend to contribute to the Family Histories display, would come to the next General Meeting on Wednesday 17th September at 7 p.m. in Room 312, so that we might spend an hour on these concerns before the main meeting.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

No. 1 Board Room  
Assembly Building, Margaret Street, Sydney  
(entrance Jamison Street)

Tuesday 23rd September 1975

at 7.30 p.m.

### Governor Phillip's Birthday

The anniversary of Governor Arthur Phillip's birthday (11th October) falls this year on a Saturday.

It has been suggested that as many members as possible assemble at his statue in the Royal Botanic Gardens at 10.30 a.m., to be present when a simple wreath is laid. Afterwards it is suggested there be a picnic lunch in the Gardens. We hope this idea appeals, as Captain Phillip was our founding Governor.

The statue is situated between the entrance, opposite the State Library of New South Wales and the Conservatorium.

Australia Day Dinner

Details are now finalised for the annual Australia Day Dinner, as follows:

Date: Saturday 24th January 1976.

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Elizabethan Room, Carlton Rex Hotel, Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Price: \$10 each.

Parking: Carlton Centre next door (enter from Elizabeth Street).

Tickets: From Beryl Lewis, 88 Avoca Street, Yagoona 2199.

This promises to be a wonderful night, so do start planning your parties now, as numbers are strictly limited.

Obituary

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr John Batty, of Wollongong (F.F. Mary Turner). The late Mr Batty was of particular help to the Membership Committee, and contributed much to the Exhibition at The Rocks last Australia Day. He will be sadly missed, and to his family we extend our sincere sympathy.

We also record with regret the passing of Mrs J. I. Borham, of East Maitland. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Fees

A further reminder to members that fees for 1975/76 are now due!!

New Members

(From the Membership Committee)

John Tasman Hughes, 15 Grace Rd., Darlington, S.A. 5047. (Andrew Fishburn).

William James Janrock, 152 Burns Rd., Turrumurra, N.S.W. 2074. (James Bloodworth/Sarah Bellamy).

Resignation of Secretary

We regret to announce that Mrs Colleen Bernath has resigned for personal reasons from the position of Secretary of the Fellowship. We wish to take this opportunity to thank her for all the work she has done for the Fellowship. Mrs Bernath will be remaining a member of the Fellowship.

"Crimes of the First Fleet"

The Membership Committee would like to get hold of a copy of Dr John Cobley's "Crimes of the First Fleet." Dr Cobley himself has been contacted, but is unable to assist. The book is, of course, long out of print. Can any member please donate a copy, or, if necessary, we will be prepared to buy a copy.

Replicas of the First Fleet

In case anyone missed seeing it, Here is an item which appeared in Column 8 of the "Sydney Morning Herald" of 14th August:--

Tom Lewis ducked nicely when John Jackett, the Liberal MDA for Burwood, posed a curly question in the House yesterday. Mr Jackett wondered if the State Government would be "truly farsighted" and sponsor the formation of 11 shipbuilding clubs to build replicas of the First Fleet in time for Australia's bicentenary in 1988. The Premier replied: "I'll certainly give some consideration to the suggestion . . . But I have doubts whether private or public enterprise should bear the expense." Here's a new opportunity for Gough.

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Patron: His Excellency the Governor of N.S.W.  
Sir Roden Cutler V.C., M.C., C.B., C.M.G., C.D.

Kindly note that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters will be held in No. 1 Social Room of the Assembly Hall Building, Jamison St., Murrumbidgee, Sydney. (Please take lift to 4th floor) on Tuesday, 23rd September, 1975 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
3. Business arising out of minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet
6. Constitutional Amendments:-
  - "That Rule 34 be amended by adding the words:-  
Notwithstanding that there is no other nomination, an Officer or Member of the Executive Committee shall only be declared elected on the approval of a majority of members present.  
If a nomination is not sustained by the meeting further nominations shall be called for from those members present."
  - "That Rule 25 be amended by adding the following words:-  
The Executive Officers shall be ex-officio members of all Special Committee."
  - "That Rule 28 be amended to read:-  
The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:-  
(a) The Election of Officers and the Executive Committee.  
(b) The appointment of an Auditor.  
(c) Consideration of the Executive Committee Report and the Financial Statement of the Fellowship for the year preceding the date of the Meeting.  
(d) The transaction of any other business provided for in the Rules."
  - "That Rule 6A be amended to read:-  
Any person interested in the aims and objects of the Fellowship but not entitled to membership under Rule 6 shall be eligible to become an Associate without payment of a joining fee.  
Associates shall be allowed to participate in all the activities of the Fellowship, shall have no vote nor are they eligible for election to any office.  
A subscription of 50% of the Members' subscription shall be deemed appropriate except when the Associate is the spouse of a Member when the subscription shall be 50% of the respective members subscription."  
Moved R. Meredith - Seconded B. Cokes.
  - "Where a member (especially interstate) cannot possibly attend meetings or outings, but wishes to keep in contact with the Fellowship through the Newsletter, that a special subscription fee should be fixed."  
Moved I. T. Duns - Seconded R. Hable.

8. Election of Officers:-

Vice Patrons  
President  
Vice Presidents (Two)  
Hon. Secretary  
Hon. Treasurer  
Executive Committee  
Hon. Solicitor  
Hon. Auditor

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has seen a good foundation laid for the future of the Fellowship, which now has the potential to become a very worthwhile organisation making a contribution to Australia's social and cultural activities.

Firstly, our regular monthly meetings and lecture nights have proved most interesting and successful. The continued support of members and their friends has been most gratifying, and I find in the course of conversation with people around Sydney that at the moment we have the largest attendance of any similar body. Our thanks go to Mrs Val Ross, whose work in organising the evenings and providing a regular succession of good speakers has in no small way contributed to the success of the venture.

Australia Day this year was celebrated by a luncheon which was a successful and happy occasion. Though numbers were down on the previous year, all who came thoroughly enjoyed it. The Premier of New South Wales was represented by the Hon. Sir John Fuller, MLC, Minister for Planning and Environment, while the Lord Mayor of Sydney was represented by Ald. John Harris, MLC. Both Sir John and Ald. Harris and their good ladies complimented us on the standard of our function. The work for the success of the Australia Day celebration was carried out in a most efficient manner by Mrs Earyl Lewis and her social committee, and we are indebted to them for their effort.

After a survey of all these Australia Day functions since we first commenced them, the Executive has decided that the best evening seems to be the Saturday of the Australia Day weekend. Saturday evening seems to give all those from the country and even interstate a chance to attend and doesn't infringe upon Sunday activities. Unless the Annual General Meeting decides otherwise, we will in future hold this function on the particular Saturday evening.

This year the Anniversary Day Holiday, Monday, saw our first Public Historical Exhibition. The Sydney Cove Development Authority provided us with some good floor-space, and the Council of the City of Sydney loaned us equipment and gave us all the assistance we could possibly wish for.

The result was an exhibition the standard of which the Hon. Sir Eric Willis, MLC, Minister for Education, together with Col. Owen Magee and other dignitaries, complimented us on. The interest shown by the public was overwhelming. It emphasised the interest people are taking in the First Fleet and our forebears, and gives us a lead for future activities.

Mrs June Whittaker's ability to organise such a display was responsible for its success, and it was heartening to see the response she received to arrange another for 1976. Remember, while the authorities provide the facilities, we have to put on the exhibition. Even though Mrs Whittaker is a very capable person, it is an impossible task for her to do it alone, so please give her all the support the project deserves.

Also, on the holiday weekend, on your behalf I went to Harbord Beach to present a \$25 prize from the Fellowship to the winners of the Australia Day Marathon Boat Race from Fairy Bower to Harbord Beach. This race is now officially listed as commemorating the First Fleet, and His Honour Judge Sir Adrian Curlewis and the Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club told me that it will be rowed each year for this purpose unless we say otherwise. They thanked us for our support, and as surf life saving is a very worthy cause, I feel that we should continue to donate a prize each year for this event.

Argyle Day again proved another successful day with Mrs Margaret Maxwell and Mrs Mary Bailey, together with a good band of helpers,

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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giving us our most profitable stall yet, while Mrs Colleen Bernath again organised a float with the courtesy of Bergers Paints, which proved a lot of fun and got us a good mention in the parade.

It was pleasing to see the Fellowship well represented at two Church Services to which we were officially invited. One was at St Philip's in Sydney and the other at St John's, Parramatta. At both services our Patron, His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, VC, KCMG, KCVO, CBE, read one of the lessons.

Our Membership and Research Committee still continues to work very hard and efficiently, and our records, which are steadily becoming a priceless record of the First Fleet, are the result of Mrs Mary Thompson's genius as a researcher, ably supported by Mrs Mary Bailey, Mrs Naida Jackson and Mrs Hazel Leibau. During the year the Executive Committee conferred Honorary Life Membership on Mrs Mary Thompson for her wonderful work for the Fellowship over the years in accordance with Rule 6C. Here is the financial membership at the time of my report: Members, 273; pensioners, senior, 33; junior, 61; associates, 57; life members, 30.

The Newsletters are still published most successfully, and Mrs Joan Ray is to be complimented on her efforts as Editor. The publishing is looked after by Mr Doug Oakes, an energetic young man who applies himself to a multitude of tasks and contributes greatly to the success of our ventures.

As our finances are in a little more sound position, a committee has been formed to publish another Journal, which we hope to do in the near future.

We were sorry to lose the services of Mrs Colleen Bernath as our Hon. Secretary, who carried out her duties very well. Other commitments forced her to resign, which we received with regret. The Fellowship owes her a lot for her loyal services over the past several years.

Finally I wish to thank all members of the Executive Committee, the subordinate committees and the members generally for the support given to me and the Fellowship since I assumed the office of President. It has been wonderful to have been associated with such a lot of fine people, and I feel very privileged to have been one of you.

The job of President is to help formulate policy and to co-ordinate the activities of all the various committees and people. Because of the loyalty and the time and work given willingly by everyone, this has not been a hard task. You have had a very good Executive Committee this last year, and I am sure the experience gained will help the Fellowship in the future.

My failing health will not allow me to continue in any office, but I hope to see a lot of you all in the future and wish the Fellowship every success in the years to come.

Edgar Kable, J.F.

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