

Mrs Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
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From the President

It was pleasing to see so many new faces as well as regulars at the Annual General Meeting, though disappointing that so many were absent due to ill health and other reasons.

I deem it a great honour to have been elected your first lady President, especially in this International Women's Year.

At the outset I wish to say I am aware of the vast amount of work to be done, and hope the various Committees will continue to work happily together, particularly in their efforts to amass a meaningful, accurate record of the First Fleet and those who arrived with it in 1788. I feel privileged that I will preside over such an enthusiastic committee, and confidently believe our efforts will be fruitful.

In an endeavour to promote "fellowship" I appeal to members to participate in the various activities, particularly those on Australia Day weekend. Paramount among these, of course, are the Annual Dinner on Saturday 24th January 1976 and the Historical Exhibition at The Rocks on Monday 26th January 1976.

I look forward to a year of co-operation, and if members have any suggestions for furthering our aims they are invited to submit them to the Executive for consideration.

Beryl Lewis.

Election of Officers

Patron: Sir Roden Cutler.

Vice Patrons: Mr Dudley Oakes, Mr J. H. Luscombe, Ald John Harris.

President: Mrs Beryl Lewis.

Vice Presidents: Mr Doug Oakes, Miss R. Harrison.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Joan Ross.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Ray Meredith.

Executive Committee: Mrs T. Guy, Mr E. A. Kable, Mr Roy Kable, Mrs M. Markwell, Mrs P. Cairns, Mr Eric Blair, Mrs M. Jackson, Mrs M. Bailey, Mrs C. Bernath.

Hon. Solicitor: Mr Paul Jurd.

Hon. Auditor: Mr R. Rope. (Appointed subject to his acceptance. If not available, to be left to the Executive).

We thank the above people for accepting office in the Fellowship for the coming year.

Lecture Nights

(From Val Ross)

On Wednesday 20th August 1975 Mr E. J. Buchan, one of our members, spoke to the Fellowship on Dr Thomas Jamison. The talk, which was particularly interesting, was heard by a group of about 40 people. It is gratifying to see a constant number of Fleeters and friends coming along to reassure the organisers that they want to know more about the early days.

On Wednesday 17th September Mr George B. Gidley King read a paper on his ancestress Anna Josepha King, the Governor's Lady. The paper was so fascinating that Mr Gidley King was asked to give us a copy from which we hope to print excerpts at a later date.

Anna Josepha Gidley was a first cousin to Lieutenant Philip Gidley King, when she married him and travelled to the colony, to be his helpmeet in the task of governing Norfolk Island. We are fortunate that she left a diary telling of her experiences. Mrs King found the stormy voyage particularly terrifying, and indeed never got over her fear of the sea, though she crossed the world three times. She called herself a "coward," but it is clear that she was anything but that.

As the years went by, life in the colony meant separation from her children and other loved ones, and physical danger in many forms, while the trying years when her husband was Governor of the whole colony necessitated much womanly tact. The most practical demonstration of her quiet but determinedly good nature was the Orphan School, which she initiated and in which she worked herself. Mrs King lived to a great age and died in the colony, a remarkable woman to the end.

Though our speakers are always thanked on Lecture Nights and by letter, we would like them to know that we are continually grateful for the time and trouble they exert to entertain us and extend our knowledge.

Next Lecture. Mr David Jones, a Cornishman and a graduate of Oxford University, who is at present in the Reading Room of the Mitchell Library, will give a general talk on the Mitchell Library and the Archives. The talk will be of general interest and should be helpful to all those wanting to do research on their First Fleeter. This is on Wednesday 15th October 1975, and our place of meeting is, as usual, the Seminar Room, Fourth Floor, Assembly Building (Jamison St. entrance) from 7.30 pm onwards, Lecture to commence at 8 pm.

Last One for the Year. Mrs Betty Goodger, also from the Mitchell Library, will be coming to speak and to show slides on Sir Joseph Banks, that remarkable man who not only sailed with Captain James Cook on his exploratory voyage during which the first landing was made at Botany Bay but who recommended the site for the settlement of 1788, by reason of which fact we are here today. Banks took a continuing interest in the colony and was responsible for the choice of Governor Bligh as a man capable of stopping the rum traffic. We will hear and see about all of this on Wednesday 19th November 1975, the arrangements being the same as those for October.

Next Year's programme. The programme for lectures for next year has to be prepared well in advance. This is already in hand, but we would still like to hear from anyone who has any suggestions regarding possible speakers and topics. (Val Ross, telephone 44 5941).

Granite Slabs for Portsmouth

The following item appeared in Column 8, "S. M. Herald," 22/9/1975--
"Two man-sized granite slabs from NSW are being shipped to England at the request of Portsmouth City Council. On 13th May next year they will be unveiled by Sir John Bunting, Australia's High Commissioner, and Sir Davis Hughes, NSW Agent-General, on the site from which Australia's first settlers sailed on 13th May 1787. NSW residents will be asked to design a statue or memorial structure to adorn the plinths."

Life Memberships

Life membership of the Fellowship has been conferred on Mrs Mary Thompson and Mr Edgar Kable. The Annual General Meeting on 23rd September ratified life membership for Mrs Thompson while Mr Kable occupied the chair, and later in the meeting a resolution was carried unanimously approving life membership for Mr Kable. Mrs Mary Thompson has been the main stalwart of the Fellowship's Membership Committee, while Mr Kable was a foundation member of the Fellowship and has held office of some sort, including President, since its inception.

Governor Phillip's Birthday

A slight alteration in arrangements for the wreath-laying ceremony to honour Governor Phillip from what was given in the August Newsletter. Meeting-place is not now his statue, but on the lawn near the kiosk. The wreath will be laid at his statue at 11.30 am.

The date is Saturday 11th October. The statue is situated in the Royal Botanic Gardens between the entrance, opposite the State Library of New South Wales and the Conservatorium. Bring along a picnic lunch.

Bookcase Required

The Fellowship urgently needs a bookcase capable of being locked, for use in its room in the Assembly Building. Could anyone help, please? Anyone who can assist please contact Mrs Beryl Lewis (telephone 709 8974)

Annual Dinner

Tickets are now available for the Annual Australia Day Dinner, to be held in the Elizabethan Room at the Carlton Rex Hotel in Castlereagh Street on Saturday 24th January 1976, starting at 7 pm. Tickets available from the President, Mrs Beryl Lewis, or on Lecture Nights. Tickets are \$10 each, and it's sure to be a wonderful night.

Small Family Gathering

The Small Family 5th Annual Service and Gathering will be held at historic St Anne's Church, Ryde, on Sunday 19th October. Service commences at 2.30 pm, followed by a gathering in the Church Hall. Hosts are descendants of Thomas Small and Friscilla Devlin (nee Squire). Tea and coffee will be provided. Families of all other lines are invited to attend (and please bring a plate). The hall will be open before the service. Further information: Mrs J. Hooke, 14 Chisholm Street, Turramurra (telephone 44 6675).

Notice to Frieze Workers

People doing the frieze for the Australia Day celebrations please note that the cardboard will be ready to be picked up at the next Lecture Night (15th October). See Mrs June Whittaker.

Personal Jottings

Miss Berra Cowell is in the Scottish Hospital following an operation. The husband of member Mrs I. G. Collins, of North Ryde, recently passed away. The Fellowship extends deepest sympathy to Mrs Collins.

Main Roads Brochures

It may be of interest to members to know that two brochures have been produced by the Department of Main Roads to mark the recent opening of the Waterfall to Bulli Pass Tollwork, a section of the Southern Freeway. The brochures ("Waterfall-Bulli Pass Tollwork" and "Driver Aid System") are available free from the Department of Main Roads.

Australia Day Activities, 1976

(From Val Ross)

As mentioned before, in addition to the projected mural map of Sydney, the frieze depicting the early years and the display of entries in the children's competitions, we are also once again having what proved such a source of interest last time, Family Exhibits.

We have been guaranteed double the space we had last time, so there will be plenty of room, and we are counting on those people involved last year to bring along the same exhibits -- or new ones if they feel inspired. Will you please confirm your willingness to do this by ringing me at 44 5941 so that we know for sure that we will have the same good showing as last year.

For those families that are exhibiting for the first time, the exhibit takes the form of a child's project on a piece of cardboard and can be on the simplest lines, so long as it tells the story of your own First Fleeter in the early days of the colony. You can see a sample on display in our Room 312.

Group in Costume. The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust has agreed to hire us costumes at the rate of \$10 each, provided we can hire 20 costumes. (Normal rate is \$15.) The costumes are absolutely complete and can be tried on now and reserved for you for Australia Day next year. This rate is cheaper than the cost of making even the simplest costume.

Would those interested in either the hiring arrangement, in having a simple costume made to keep by an inexpensive dressmaker, or in making their own costume, please contact me (44 5941)?

There will be no point in presenting a Loyal Address to the Governor from the Fellowship of First Fleeters unless a reasonably large number of families are involved. At the present moment 16 people are definitely going in costume to present the Address. But they come from only nine families -- the Broughton, Everingham, Hatton, Cavanaugh, Kable, Ruse, Small, Tunks and Bloodworth families, while at the last count there were 59 families represented in the Fellowship. There are only four men -- one Kable, one Cavanaugh, two Everinghams. Come on, you Arndells, Merediths, Jamisons, Ropes, Kings, Squires and others! I really need your participation to make a moving and meaningful ceremony of "The Presentation of a Loyal Address to the Governor of New South Wales."

Dudley Oakes Overseas

(An earlier section of Dudley Oakes' report of his overseas travels on the pilgrimage "Anzac Cove 60 Years Later" appeared in the July Newsletter).

27 April. Left Conakkale at 7 am for Istanbul via Terkidac, the same route on which we had come up. A mile or so before reaching the town of Galipuli a military jeep pulled us up and indicated to follow them, which we did. They were armed. But all was well, as they took us to Military Headquarters, where there was a Military Guard of Honour waiting for us, together with a band. All the officers were waiting on the steps. We were taken into a large hall and given cigarettes and morning tea and addresses of welcome, and altogether we were made to feel that we were appreciated. Then to cap it all, just before boarding the coaches the General Commanding the South of Turkey came along, shook hands with each one of us, and in English wished us God Speed. It was quite a nice interlude. Continued on our way feeling good; lunch on the way and arrived at Hotel Taralya for dinner.

(More to Come)
