

Mrs Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
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A Message from the President

It was very gratifying to see increased numbers at the ceremony to commemorate Captain Arthur Phillip's Birthday on 11th October 1975. After the wreath-laying, a very friendly gathering enjoyed a picnic lunch in our beautiful Botanical Gardens. I do hope this will become an even more important day in our calendar as the years go by.

I recently spent a very interesting week in Canberra and was very graciously received at the National Library, where I felt very honoured to be shown the Manuscript Room and the information they have on the First Fleet. Their most treasured possession, on this subject, is a Journal written by Arthur Bowes-Smythe (known as Bowes) which was purchased in the 1920's for £20,000 by the Federal Government. Also, it was fascinating to see an Order issued by Pitt in 1786 to one "Andrew Miller (Gentleman) as Commisary of Stores, with a payment of 10/- to arrange for the settlement of New South Wales" (sic).

As a result of this visit a liaison will be set up between the Fellowship and the National Library (subject to Executive approval). Our Journals, a Membership Certificate and a Badge will be placed in their collection, and a copy of anything they receive, on the First Fleet, will be forwarded to us. At least we now have recognition in the National Library in our Capital City.

Beryl Lewis.

From the Social Committee

A Wine Tasting is to be held at Johnny Walker's Bistro, Angel Place, Sydney, on Tuesday 18th November. Tickets, \$6 each for tasting eight wines, one hot dish and a $\frac{1}{2}$ bottle of wine served with it, cheese and coffee. This is our last social event of the year, so do come along and join in the "Fellowship."

Australia Day Dinner --

Date: 24th January 1976.
Place: Carlton Rex Hotel, Sydney.
Time: 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 each.

Tickets are available at the next Lecture Night (19th November 1975) or by sending money and stamped addressed envelope as soon as possible, as numbers are strictly limited. Postal address: Mrs Beryl Lewis, 88 Avoca Street, Yagoona, N.S.W. 2199.

Convalescence

Very pleased to hear that Ruth Blair and Berra Cowell, who have been ill, are both now out of hospital and are progressing well. Everyone in the Fellowship send their best wishes.

Reunion for Descendants of Governor King

The King reunion was held on Sunday 12th November at the historic home of Mr John King Lethbridge and family at Werrington, New South Wales. This home, Werrington House, is more than 150 years old, and was first built by convict labour for Robert Copland Lethbridge. Lethbridge's wife Mary was the daughter of Governor Philip Gidley King and the sister of Admiral Phillip Parker King. The land is all that remains of an original grant given to Mary by Governor Bligh.

There were about 200 descendants of Governor and Anna Josepha King at the reunion, many coming from interstate especially for the occasion, the first reunion for 37 years. A barbecue was served in the beautiful grounds of this magnificent old home, while everyone sat around in large family groups or wandered around the grounds talking and getting to know one another.

It was really very exciting meeting relations for the first time after many years. There was also a continual cluster of guests around the enormous family tree which had been drawn up by Mr Philip Lethbridge King, with every branch of the tree represented and later brought up-to-date by the descendants who were present. People were all very busy with pencils adding the latest members to their respective lines.

Group photographs were taken during the afternoon on the lawns at the front of the home; quite a job to get all the clan into one photo, but I believe it was done quite successfully.

Mr Lethbridge welcomed everyone to his home and gave us a very interesting talk on the old homestead. Later in the afternoon many of the clan gathered in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene Church on the Western Highway at St Marys, where many of the Kings are buried, including the Governor's lady, Anna Josepha.

A committee has been formed recently to raise funds for the upkeep of the King graves that are at St Marys. The money raised with future donations will be invested and, it is hoped, will earn enough interest to be able to maintain these graves in the condition they should be maintained.

The gathering brought to light news of various relics of Governor King. These included the uniform he wore on the First Fleet, his writing-desk, candelabras, spoons and sketches of him, all of which it is hoped to collect for an exhibition at the Mitchell Library.

The day apparently proved fruitful for Mr Jonathon King, who is researching a book on Governor King titled King of Australia. Mr Jonathon King says that the book will try to set the record straight.

"It has been fashionable to portray King as a weak and arrogant man, unable to deal with the problems of the colony. But the records do not show this. In fact, he did a lot of good things. He backed the wool industry, cut back the rum trade, quelled the Irish revolt and kept the military at bay."

Barbara Townsend.

Death of Mrs Marcia Lorraine Graham

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Marcia Lorraine Graham, in Adelaide on 6th October.

Formerly resident in Sydney, Mrs Graham was a descendant of John and Mary Small. She was a long-standing member of the Fellowship, and participated in many of its activities.

The Fellowship extends its sincere condolences to her family.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed into the Fellowship:--

Ronald M. Arndell, "Macquarie Retreat," Pitt Town 2756.

Glen T. Ryce, Walker Street, Clunes, via Lismore 2480.

Mrs Adele Swenson, 75 Messon Street, Gayndah, Queensland 4625.

Mrs Margaret H. Dunk, Warroo Station, Bourke 2840.

Mrs Joan R. Peak, 25 Baker Crescent, Baulkham Hills 2153.

Journal Not to Be Printed

Following a recommendation from the Journal Feasibility Committee, which went into the matter thoroughly, the Executive has decided, at this stage, to abandon the projected publication of another Journal. This was because of the costs involved.

Those members who have already paid in advance for a Journal have paid only 25c per copy, while a Journal today would cost a little over \$1 per copy to publish, and would have to sell at \$1-50.

Therefore the Executive has decided instead to publish one-page articles, to be assembled by the purchaser. They will be printed on one side of the paper only.

The Fellowship is endeavouring to set up a library for the use of members, and it is proposed to transfer the money advanced for the purchase of the proposed Journal to the library fund, unless members wish to get a refund.

Lecture Night

Just a reminder that the November Lecture Night is the last one for 1975. Mrs Betty Goodger, from the Mitchell Library, will speak and show slides on Sir Joseph Banks, who sailed with Captain Cook on his 1770 voyage and who recommended Botany Bay as a site for a settlement. 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.

Date: Wednesday 19th November. Place: The Seminar Room, Fourth Floor, Assembly Building (Jamison Street entrance). Time: From 7.30 p.m. onwards, with lecture to commence at 8 p.m.

Australia Day Exhibition

A meeting for all interested and taking part in the Australia Day Exhibition will be held at Mr and Mrs John Ross's home, 75 Douglas Street, St Ives, at 1 p.m. on Sunday 23rd November, to make final arrangements for the displays.

We would appreciate it if all who are contributing could make a special effort to be there.

Telephone number for Mrs Val Ross: 44 5941.

New Tourist Centre

Of interest possibly for those visiting the Shoalhaven district is the new Shoalhaven Tourist Centre, on the Princes Highway at Bomaderry near Nowra. The centre, open from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. seven days a week, can assist visitors with information on local tourist attractions. The building, of an unusual design, also houses a food sales centre providing takeaway food.

Dudley Oakes Overseas

PRICE

(Parts of Dudley Oakes' report of his overseas travels on the pilgrimage "Anzac Cove 60 Years Later" have appeared in earlier Newsletters. This section deals with his visit to Israel)

Flew in to Ben Gurion Airport at Tel Aviv at 2 p.m. 13th April, to be met by the War Veterans League. Passports and landing certificates stamped, then on to the Towers Hotel. Quite good, about 30 storeys high.

14th April. 9.30 a.m. for tour of the City, passing Deringoff Creek and Cultural Circle with Mann Auditorium, Habana National Theatre and Helen Rubenstein Pavilion. Walked through the Markets, unhygienic, meat and food sold in the open; very crowded. Then on to the old city of Jaffa, pictured where St Peter had his vision, then the old Port Clock Square, old buildings (some over 2,000 years old, fascinating).

After lunch went through Afeko and Beit Halochem, suburbs of Tel Aviv, to disabled soldiers' Veterans Home. Terrific place, just like a Country Club, with every imaginable thing for the care of disabled soldiers. Their families may also join in. There is an Olympic swimming-pool, etc. Have never seen anything like it in Australia. We were addressed by Gen. (Res.) Chaim Lask of Israel on the project. Returned to hotel to bed.

15th April. Left Tel Aviv 9.30 a.m. via Judean Hills for Jerusalem. Went to Mt Zion, saw site of the Last Supper and Mt Zion Convent, next the Valley of the Cross to Hebrew University and toured campus. Had lunch. Visited the Shrine of the Book which houses the Dead Sea Scroll in underground vaults, preserved at an even temperature and humidity. They were discovered in 1948 in Nathan wilderness of Judah, east of Jerusalem -- ancient MSS in excavations at Mount Mezada, on the shore of the Dead Sea, over 5,000 years old.

2 p.m. same day. Left for Yad Vashon, short service and laid a wreath, then to Mt Herzl. Visit to Anata (Memorial for fallen Israel soldiers of World War II, whose place of burial is on foreign soil) and laid a wreath, then to Shalom Hotel. Quite modern, Room 1124, good view of Jerusalem. (New City.)

5.30 p.m. To Mt Herzl as guests of Government for Independence Day Opening Ceremony. Very impressive ceremony, including Changing of the Flag. The authorities half-expected that there might be some disturbance from the Arabs, but nothing happened. We were protected by two girl soldiers about 18 years old, so felt quite safe. They have armed forces everywhere, taking no chances of being surprised.

16th April. Morning tour of the Old City of Jerusalem, entered by the Western Gate to the Wailing or Western Wall of King Solomon's Temple, then on to the Temple where the Last Supper was held. We entered the room (nothing left). Then on to the Dome of the Rock (Mosque of Omar), very sacred place, next to Mecca. Continued along to the Christian quarters to the Via Dolorosa, passing the stations of the Cross where Jesus rested while carrying His cross. Then on to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and left by the Joffa Gate. The Old City surrounded by walls which have been destroyed and rebuilt several times. One gate is sealed off by trees and gardens, etc, where Jesus is expected to return and enter Jerusalem. He may have to perform a small miracle to enable Himself to get in by opening the gate.

(More on Israel in next Newsletter)

Coming Events (in Brief)

18th November: Wine-tasting, Johnny Walker's Bistro.

19th November: Lecture Night, 4th Floor, Assembly Building.

23rd November: Australia Day meeting, Mr & Mrs John Ross's, St Ives.

24th January, 1976: Australia Day Dinner, Carlton Rex Hotel, Sydney.

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