

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

The Wine Tasting Evening at Johnny Walker's Bistro was a great success. A very happy group enjoyed the fine wines and food, and being our last social event of the year, the compliments of the season were wished one to the other. Our thanks go to Mr Walker for his donation of two bottles of wine to be raffled -- the lucky winner, Cherie Cumming.

Unfortunately the next day I entered hospital for major surgery and missed the lecture by Mrs Betty Goodger. I'm sure it was a real joy, and feel the poorer for not having heard her words of wisdom.

A report on the Australia Day Meeting on Sunday 23rd November appears later in this Newsletter, and I extend my thanks to John and Val Ross for making their home available.

I do appeal to all Members and Associates to really support this Australia Day weekend of festivities -- after all, it is our birthday. Do get your tickets for the Dinner, they are very strictly limited and I'm very pleased to report to you that we have now truly received recognition in Government circles, as two of our guests will be the Premier and Mrs Lewis. We are indeed honoured by this. It will be a full weekend, with the exhibition on the Monday, and I do look forward to meeting many Members throughout the weekend.

I take this opportunity to thank all Members for flowers, good wishes and visits, during my hospitalisation, and will reply to all as soon as I return home.

This being our last Newsletter for the year, I extend my heartfelt Good Wishes to you all for a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and the hope that the New Year will bring joy and happiness to each and every one of my fellow Members. May we join together in 1976 and rise to even greater heights in our aims at "Fellowship" and in honouring our wonderful forebears.

Beryl Lewis.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now becoming overdue. If you have not paid yours, please do so immediately. Unfinancial Members at the end of December will be removed from the Newsletter mailing list.

Australia Day Activities

Presentation of the Loyal Address to the Governor of New South Wales.
As many Fleeters are aware, our activities on Australia Day (Monday, 26th January 1976) commence with a visit to Government House for this purpose. As the project was not organised until mid-1975, by which time plans had been made for His Excellency Sir Roden Cutler to spend his vacation at Moss Vale in January, the 1976 Address will be received by his Private Secretary, Brigadier Howard, who will present it to the Governor upon his return that week.

Before dealing with the actual arrangements for the presentation, and because Fleeters have not hitherto been told very much about it in the Newsletter, a few words about the background of this idea would seem to be appropriate at this time.

The custom of groups of free citizens or their deputies and of the civil and military officers presenting Addresses to the Governor developed in the 1790s as the settlement grew, and particularly as First Fleeters and others became landholders or tenant farmers. The arrival of a new Governor, New Year's Day or the visit of the Governor to a particular town or district occasioned testimonies of loyalty and greeting, while colonial crises prompted appeals for the redress of wrongs.

The early petitions or memorials, as they were called, contain not only the copperplate writing of the educated but the laboriously executed signatures of humbler folk and their servants, with a goodly sprinkle of crosses and splodges. Indeed, many of our ancestors' signatures were recognised by the Governor, who knew many First Fleeters by sight if not personally. Because of this, it is particularly appropriate that the Address is being presented to the Governor of New South Wales, whose early predecessors knew our people and that he should be Patron of the Fellowship.

The 1976 Australia Day Address, though written in the language of the Eighteenth Century, sends greetings to His Excellency on behalf of the descendants of all those who arrived in the First Fleet, to whom this day means so much. It has been prepared by Mr Brian Thomas, whose wife, Zillah, is a descendant of Henry Kable. Brian has done considerable research in order to render the document as similar as possible to those of the early days. The day may come when it, too, may be regarded as a historical document.

The second page of the Address contains signatures of descendants and their families under the name of their particular First Fleeter. It is at present on view at Room 312, our office, in the Assembly Building York Street, so that those not actually participating in the ceremony can sign it.

At the meeting held on 23rd November it was decided that the most appropriate person to present the first of the new annual Addresses would be a representative of the family of Governor Philip Gidley King (Governor 1800-1805), Governor Phillip's closest friend and support.

Subsequently Mrs Ken Townsend, formerly Miss Barbara Lethbridge King, has accepted an invitation to do this. At the same meeting it was determined that Mr Bert Weston, a descendant of Lieutenant Colonel George Johnstone, would make the presentation in 1977, and that in succeeding years a representative of every family participating would in turn present the Address.

To this date more than 50 people representing 24 First Fleeters have indicated their intention of taking part in the ceremony in 1976:

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Australia Day Activities (Continued)

JAMES BLOODWORTH-SARAH BELLAMY: Mr & Mrs W. Lamrock. WILLIAM BROUGHTON: Mrs R. Markwell, Mrs E. Blair. OWEN CAVANOUGH - MARGARET DOWLING: Mr & Mrs K. Thompson. MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Mrs D. Rouse, Mr & Mrs E. Bernath, Dr & Mrs D. O'Sullivan, Mr G. & Miss G. Hampton, Catharine Benson and Andrew Hayward, Mr & Mrs J. Ross, Miss J. Ross, Mr & Mrs A. Woodbury, Misses E. & R. Woodbury. ELEANOR FRAZER: Mrs M. Larden. EDWARD GOODWIN-JAMES SQUIRE: Miss R. Harrison. JOSEPH HATTON: Mrs K. Ross, Mrs K. Lovett. DR THOMAS JAMIESON: Mr E. Buchan. LT-COL GEORGE JOHNSTONE-ESTHER ABRAHAMS: Mr & Mrs Bert Weston. HENRY KABLE-SUSANNAH HOLMES: Mrs M. Whittaker, Mr & Mrs B. Thomas, Mr E. Kable, Mr R. Kable, Mrs L. Wilkinson, Scott Cairnes, Mr W. Pennell, Mrs T. Guy. DAVID KILPACK: Mrs J. Wallman. GOVERNOR PHILIP GIDLEY KING: Mrs K. Townsend, Mr P. & Miss J. Townsend, Miss Wendy King. FREDERICK MEREDITH: Mr E. Blair. JAMES RUSE: Mrs J. Kauffman. JOHN SMALL-MARY PARKER: Mr & Mrs H. Lewis, Mr Doug Oakes. WILLIAM TUNKS: Mrs N. Jackson, Miss H. Liebeau. MARY TURNER: Miss T. Rowe. ELLEN WAINWRIGHT: Mrs C. Cumming.

For the benefit of those who are hiring costumes, the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust has agreed, since 20 people have indicated that they would be hiring, to supply costumes at the rate of \$10 per hiring. They may be tried on now any time between 8.30 am and 5 pm during the week or from 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday mornings, at 153 Dowling Street, Potts Point. (Turn left off William Street. Mr James and Mr Simms, telephone 357 1200). For those who would like to have a simple costume made, Miss Wendy Trembath, 23 Napier Street, Lindfield (tel. 46 1438), will do this during December only.

The Presentation at Government House is scheduled for 9 am precisely, so would all those taking part assemble at the gates at 8.30 am. In the event of rain, there is some shelter there. We will then walk to Government House itself, where Brigadier Howard will receive us in the portico, after which we will be invited inside. As Brigadier Howard will be informed in advance of the names of First Fleeters represented, would all those who have them please wear their name-badges.

After our reception at Government House, weather permitting, we will stroll down around Sydney Cove to The Rocks, where in the garage of the Seamen's Mission our Exhibition as part of the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority's Australia Day celebrations is located. Incidentally, this is the coolest place in Sydney on a hot day. The Seamen's Mission fronts on to George Street North and backs on Hickson Street. There is a lane running alongside the building from one street to the other, but the actual entrance to our Exhibition is from Hickson Street only.

My personal thanks go to all those who have agreed to come in costume on Australia Day. To those who are doing so for the first time, as Margaret says: "It's fun!" You will find that people will show a tremendous interest in who you are and what you are doing. You will thus be ambassadors for the Fellowship and in the interests of Australian history, conservation and education generally.

As a result of this interest last year, we are having our own leaflet printed this year, and we would ask you to distribute copies of this on the walk and during the day. Exhibition at The Rocks in the garage of the Seamen's Mission, Hickson Street.

Family Exhibits. If your exhibit is still in the office from last year, we will take it down to The Rocks and put it up. If you are bringing in your own exhibit, please bring it in on Sunday morning, 25th January.

Although there are innovations in our Australia Day activities this year the Family Stands are still the heart of the Exhibition. To this date

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Australia Day Activities (Continued)

the families known to be exhibiting are: WILLIAM BROUGHTON, OWEN CAVANOUGH-MARGARET DOWLING, DR THOMAS ARNDELL, PETER HIBBS, JAMES SQUIRE, EDWARD GOODWIN, ELEANOR FRAZER, JAMES RUSE, MATTHEW EVERINGHAM, JOHN PALMER, THOMAS LUCAS, WILLIAM TUNKS, DAVID KILPACK, ANDREW FISHBURN, JOHN SMALL-MARY PARKER, NATHANIEL LUCAS, GOVERNOR PHILIP GIDLEY KING, JOSEPH HATTON, ELLEN WAINRIGHT, DR THOMAS JAMIESON, COL. GEORGE JOHNSTONE-ESTHER ABRAHAMS, and the organisers would like to thank all families for their participation. If anyone has any queries about either the Presentation or the Family Exhibits, please ring me at 44 5941.

Now let us hope for one of those perfect days on Australia Day 1976!

Val Ross.

Bookcase Required

A further reminder that the Fellowship still urgently needs a bookcase capable of being locked, for use in its room in the Assembly Building. No response to our previous appeal. Either as a donation, or the Fellowship will be happy to pay a reasonable price. Anyone who can assist please contact Mrs Beryl Lewis (telephone 709 8974).

Books by John Cobley

The Fellowship also requires a copy of John Cobley's "Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts." Either as a donation, or price to be negotiated. (Telephone Mrs Beryl Lewis, 709 8974).

The Fellowship wishes to thank Cherie Cumming's son for advising us where to obtain John Cobley's "Sydney Cove" series.

Personal Jottings

Jack Meredith, son of our Treasurer, Ray Meredith, is in hospital and is to be operated on, on 18th December, for a heart condition. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Jack Meredith is a history lecturer at Sydney Teachers College.

Mrs Ruth Blair has been back in hospital for the second time in only a few weeks. We hope this time it's a full recovery for her.

New Member

The following new member has been welcomed into the Fellowship:
Mrs Beryl Faye Ritchie, 220 Old Bar Road, Taree. (Matthew Everingham).

Wrong Date

Sometimes said to be too far behind the times, this Newsletter was instead ahead of itself with respect to the date of the Gidley King reunion. In the October issue the reunion was said to have taken place on Sunday 12th November. The reunion was actually held on 12th October.

Longest-surviving First Fleeter

First Fleeter Ann Forbes died on 29th December, 1851. Did any other actual First Fleeter live beyond this date? Or was she the longest-surviving (though not necessarily longest-living) First Fleeter?

Some Dates to Remember

24th January: Australia Day Dinner at Carlton Rex Hotel.
26th January: Exhibition at The Rocks, and Presentation of Loyal Address at Government House.
Lecture Dates (details to come) for 1976: 17th February; 17th March; 21st April; 19th May; 16th June; 21st July; 18th August; 15th Sept.; 20th October; 17th November. *****