

Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

February has seen most of our members back on deck after the holidays. On the 3rd of February I represented the Fellowship at a reception at the Mitchell Library. This was to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Library Council, and I was made most welcome by the President, Mr Justice Else-Mitchell.

On this same night the first Executive Committee meeting for the year was held, and much business was handled.

On Sunday the 8th I attended St Philips, Church Hill, as your representative to commemorate the first Christian service in Australia.

Wednesday the 18th was our first lecture for the year, and it was a delight to see so many attend on such a very hot evening. The subject, "The Beginnings of the Police Force," was very interesting as presented by our guest, Sgt Kerr from the Police Public Relations Department.

Please keep in mind the ceremony at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, on the 21st March, details of which appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. I look forward to seeing a good attendance on that day.

Deryl Lewis.

FIRST FLEETER PLAQUE FOR DODD'S GRAVE

As mentioned in the President's Message above, a ceremony will be performed to unveil a plaque donated by the Fellowship on the grave of original First Fleeter Henry Edward Dodd.

The plaque will be unveiled at 3 pm on 21st March on Dodd's grave in St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, by Mr Justice Else-Mitchell, President of the Royal Historical Society.

The unveiling will be followed by a Prayer of Thanksgiving by Canon Loane, Rector of St John's Church of England, Parramatta.

As part of the ceremony a short history of the life of Henry Edward Dodd will be given by a member of the Fellowship.

Many historians believe that Dodd has never been given his rightful due for his work in initiating successful farming in Australia.

This is the first of many plaques which the Fellowship hopes to place on the graves of original First Fleeters, and the ceremony is quite an historical occasion for the Fellowship.

RADIO PROGRAMME ON FIRST FLEETERS

On the morning of Sunday 1st February, Edgar Kable gave a talk on his ancestors Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes over the A.B.C. country regional stations. The talk aroused quite a bit of interest.

HISTORY OF FLAG

Here is a brief history of the flag used by Governor Phillip at the original flag-raising ceremony on 26th January, 1788:-

The flag used was the Union Flag, known also as the Jack of Queen Anne. A limited use of it dated back to 1606 when, after James VI of Scotland became James I of England, he decreed that all English and Scottish ships should fly a flag consisting of the Red Cross of St George superimposed on the Scottish flag of St Andrew (a diagonal white cross on a blue ground).

In 1707, after the accession of Queen Anne, the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland was signed, and the flag was officially adopted and became known as the Union Flag. It was used until the red diagonal cross of St Patrick was added in 1801, which brought the flag to its present form. At the Australia Day flag-raising ceremony at Circular Quay this year, the Union Flag of the time of Queen Anne was flown.

(This information is from the address given by the Chief Secretary, Mr Coleman, at the 1976 Australia Day flag-raising ceremony).

PLINTH AT PORTSMOUTH

Much correspondence has been passing between the Fellowship and the Portsmouth (England) Council about the granite plinth which has been transported from Australia and will be put in place on 13th May this year. This plinth commemorates the sailing of the First Fleet from Portsmouth on 13th May 1787.

Originally a plaque from the Fellowship was to have been placed on the plinth at the ceremony this year, but the Portsmouth Council have requested that the plaque be part of Stage II of the project, to be completed in two years' time.

Any member of the Fellowship likely to be in England in May this year and who can attend the ceremony on 13th May is asked to contact the Hon. Editor of the Newsletter.

As for the placing of the plaque in two years' time, we are sure that some members of the Fellowship will be in England at the time and will represent the Fellowship on this historic occasion.

Sydney City Council has played a very important role in organising this project, and the Fellowship would like to take this opportunity to thank the City Council for its interest and its efforts in this commemoration.

Incidentally, a letter has also been received recently from the Friends of Old Portsmouth (a group in Portsmouth itself) stating that they would like to know of Fellowship members whose ancestor came from Portsmouth, and also asking to keep in touch with the Fellowship. In this latter regard, it is proposed to forward a copy of each month's Newsletter to the Friends, and request them to send out any material which might be of interest to the Fellowship.

RESEARCH ON CHESHIRE

Interesting recent visitor to the Fellowship's room was Colonel Day, of Cheshire, England, who was trying to trace whether an ancestor of his was a First Fleeter. Colonel Day is a member of the Genealogical Society in Cheshire, and has offered to do any research in connection with any First Fleeter from Cheshire County. His address is available at Room 312.

The Fellowship is getting more and more correspondence from England of people who write seeking information on the Fellowship (some feel they would be eligible to join). It is pleasing to note that our fame has spread so far away.

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

Here is a list of award winners of the 1976 Australia Day Schoolchildrens Competition:--

Poetry Awards

10 Years (Rigby Ltd Prize): Megan Speers, Neutral Bay Primary School.
10 Years (Rigby Ltd Prize): Ngairé Hosking, Lane Cove West Primary School.
11 Years (Rigby Ltd Prize): Jennifer McAdan, Artarmon Primary School.
11 Years (John Small First Fleeter Prize, donated by Mrs B. Lewis): Jillian Haddock, Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School, Tenterfield.
Primary Schools (Philip Gidley King First Fleeter Prize, donated by Mrs Barbara Townsend): Susan Dunning, Ingleburn Primary School.
Secondary Schools (The Macmillan Prize): Rowena Bate, Abbotsleigh College.
Special Prize, 9 Years (Rigby Ltd Prize): Tracy Witherby, Wakehurst Primary School.

Prose Awards

9 Years (Eleanor Wainwright First Fleeter Prize, donated by Mrs Cherie Cummin): Winsome Reeves, Gloucester Primary School.
11 Years (Henry Kable First Fleeter Prize, donated by Mrs J. Whittaker): Samantha Holden, St Ives North Primary School.

Art Awards

Primary Schools (The Macmillan Prize): Susan Dunning, Ingleburn Primary.
Abstract Art (William Collins Prize & The Pergamon Press Prize): Adam Grenot, Newport Primary School.
Abstract Art (The Paul Hamlyn Prize): Grant Head, Newport Primary School.
Originality in Concept (The William Collins Prize): Dionne Lyon and Lisa Sloan, Greenwich Primary School.
Potential for Development (The Judges' Prize, donated by Mrs Joy Wallman and Messrs D. Everingham and R. Whaley): Christopher Newton, Wakehurst Primary School.
Best Class Effort (The Macmillan Prize): Third Class, King Park Primary.
Best Group Effort (Rigby Ltd Prize): Tracy Watson and Suzy Sourdin, Greenwich Primary School.

Diorama Awards

Diorama, 8-9 Years (The Philip Gidley King First Fleeter Prize, donated by Mrs Gwen King): Virginia Bear, Gordon Primary School.
Diorama, 10 Years (The William Collins Prize): Lisa Perkins and Rachel Deaker, Gordon Primary School.
Model, Originality in Design (The John Fairfax Ltd Prize): Henry Bourke, Greenwich Primary School.

Dolls in Period Costume

Primary Schools, Dressed Doll (The William Collins Prize): Liz Bragg and Fenella Cochrane, Neutral Bay Primary School.
Secondary Schools, Dressed Doll Family (The Reader's Digest Prize): Third Form Sewing Class, Narrandera High School.

Special Awards for School Effort

The Matthew Everingham First Fleeter Prize, donated by Mrs V. Ross: Panania North Primary School.
The Jacaranda Press Prize: Excelsior Primary School, Castle Hill.

History Quiz Award

The William Broughton First Fleeter Prize, donated by Mrs M. Markwell and Mrs M. Bailey: Wendy King, Artarmon Primary School.

"THE BEGINNINGS OF THE POLICE FORCE"

Under the above title, a very interesting address was given by Sgt Keith Kerr, of the Police Public Relations Branch, in our first lecture for 1976.

The first Police Force in Australia were the nightwatchmen who were selected from the convicts, and from these beginnings our present-day Police Force has evolved.

Sgt Kerr brought along the first "Black Book," Vol. 1, which was handed around to all present to peruse. He also brought along a leg chain and a "clacker" which was carried by the police in 1875.

The nightwatch had the power to stop, search and detain anyone except the military and seamen on shore leave from ships. Payment for these men was a suit of clothing per year and a pint of rum every Saturday night, which had to be reduced to half-a-pint because they were found to be acting in a riotous manner.

In 1796 Governor Hunter appointed the first Chief Constable. Many present-day regulations are still on the Statute Book from Governor Macquarie's time. (Some, of course, have been updated).

From these beginnings we now have a police force of 8,259 in New South Wales. There are 2,500 motorised units on the road at any one time, 29 seagoing vessels, 300 motor-cyclists and five aircraft. There are 38 police divisions in the Sydney metropolitan area and eight super-intendent areas in the State.

Next lecture will be on 17th March, and will be given by Mr John Barclay, of the New South Wales Department of Education Library Services, who has recently returned from a visit to China. He will speak on China.

Patricia Cairns.

Argyle Day

Members are reminded that the Annual Argyle Celebrations will be held in The Rocks district on Saturday 1st May. As this is a real fun day for members, and also the only day of the year when we sell goods to help both the charities in The Rocks area and our own finances, we are again asking members to donate anything saleable -- cakes, jams, white clophant goods, etc. (More on Argyle Day in the next Newsletter).

Subscriptions -- Last Reminder

Subscriptions to the Fellowship were due on 1st July last year for 1975-76. Despite our constant reminders there are still some unfinancial members. It has now been decided that anyone not financial by the time the next Newsletter is issued will not receive a copy. Subscription of \$5 should be forwarded to The Treasurer, Fellowship of First Fleeters, c/- GPO Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

Historical Society Lectures

The Royal Australian Historical Society has invited members of the Fellowship to attend R.A.H.S. lectures held at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

In particular, the Society has invited members to attend Meetings on Maritime History, held on Tuesday evenings at 6.15 pm. Three such meetings are set down for 1976 (apart from one already held early in February): On 11th May, "David Collins as a maritime historian," given by Brian Fletcher; 10th August, "Huddart Parker's Centenary," by George Hardwick; and 9th November, "Yacht Clubs on the East Coast of Australia," by Lindsay Roberts. The Society points out that members of the Fellowship are entitled to attend these -- and other meetings of the Society -- as the Fellowship is an affiliated Society.

Coming Events Reminder -- 17th March, lecture, Mr John Barclay, "China"; 21st April, lecture Mr Dudley Oakes, "Anzac Day 1975"; 1st May, Argyle Day, The Rocks.

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