

Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
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From the President:

It was with great pleasure that I learned of the honour bestowed on one of our members. Thea Rowe (Mrs Hosking) in the Queen's Birthday Honours. She was awarded the M.B.E. It was very well deserved, and I'm sure all members join me in sending sincere congratulations. Thea is one of our very keen and active members.

What a wonderful lecture we had this month. Mrs Graham, from North Sydney Historical Society, really made North Sydney come alive for us. I, for one, had no idea of the old and beautiful architecture in this part of our City. It was well worth venturing out in the cold to see the slides and hear this dedicated lady.

Since the last Newsletter it was my privilege to address Ashfield Historical Society. I was made very welcome, and the members showed great interest in the Fellowship.

On 4th June we joined with Sydney Rotary at The Rocks in an effort to raise money for the Children's Medical Research Foundation. To the enthusiastic helpers I had I say a sincere thank-you. It was an extremely cold day, but nevertheless our exhibition caused much interest and was financially successful, both for the Fellowship and for Rotary.

The first function for July was the Bus Picnic to Kendall's and Dobell's Cottages. I will report on the outing next month.

Quite a few of our members are on the sick list at the moment, and I do wish them a speedy recovery. We do miss them all.

Deryl Lewis.

Family Trees:

Family Trees of the first two generations of "First Fleeters" are still needed for a number of members.

The Membership Committee will welcome any calls from members either at the office on Tuesdays (10 am to 4 pm) or by telephoning Mrs Jackson (932 8014) or Mrs Bailey (45 4075).

A number of very interesting visitors have called at the office recently, with a variety of new and helpful pieces of information -- always happily received.

It is very pleasing to see Mrs Mary Thompson recovering from her foot fracture, and cheerfully tolerating weeks in hospital. Mr Bill Fishburn is back home after his two trips to Repat. Hospital and is busy researching family history again.

Mr Fishburn has passed on to the Membership Committee a press clipping referring to Stainfield of the Sirius. This was posted to him with no sender's name. Was this from an F.F. member?

Mary Bailey.
Naida Jackson.

Old Colonial Home Folk Museum

Likely visitors to Queensland's Gold Coast might be interested in this account of the Old Colonial Home Folk Museum, situated at the corner of the Gold Coast Highway and Aubrey Street, Surfers Paradise. The story of this Museum was submitted to the Newsletter for publication: -

The Old Colonial Home is an authentic re-creation of an Australian home of the 1870's. It is typical of the homes owned by well-to-do town dwellers of the late Victorian era: merchants, doctors, lawyers, high government officials, etc. Most of the pieces of furniture are colonially built. Many of them are made from timbers which are now practically extinct, such as Queensland cedar and Tasmanian Huon pine.

The kitchen, with its great open fireplace for cooking and its massive pine dresser, was the hub of family living; even the wealthier settlers had to bathe in the sit-bath, by the kitchen fire. The cedar base of the pine table is pit-sawn. The dining room contains a 14ft. Duncan Phyffe mahogany dining table set for 12. The Baccarat candlestick lustres are from France. The epergne, a typical table centrepiece, and the good-quality table silver and crockery would have been brought out from England by the family.

The main bedroom pieces are late Victorian reproductions of the earlier Adam style of furniture, made in olive-wood. The brass and iron bed is typically early Queensland.

The father of Victorian times was indeed "the master of the household. Nobody dared to enter his library-study without his permission. Here

1976 Annual General Meeting

Notice of Motion

Any Notice of Motion must be in writing and in the hands of the Secretary not later than 15th August 1976. Nominations for office-bearers not later than 10th August 1976.

Annual General Meeting - 7.30 p.m. Friday 10th September in No.1 Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Building. (Use Jamison Street entrance)

he did his accounts, smoking his cigars, drinking his port and reading his books in peace. The very large cedar and mahogany bookcase was colonially built. The desk, made of New South Wales cedar, was used by the Commandant of Port Arthur, Tasmania, the infamous Captain O'Hara Booth.

The drawing room was used for entertaining people of equal social status and for "at homes" in the afternoons. The serpentine edged walnut table would have been brought out from England, but the ebonised display cabinet, a colonially built copy of a European "citrine", is from Melbourne of the 1870's.

The young girls' bedroom is notable for the early Queensland narrow iron beds, and the beautiful Huon pine chest of drawers made in Tasmania in the 1840's.

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Old Colonial Home (Continued)

In the mornings, before they dressed for receiving visitors, the ladies performed their chores of sewing, writing, spinning and lacemaking. The sewing machine is an 1870 model of German make. The lacemaking machine on the ebonised table was a painstaking method of making lace by hand. Morning cocoa with thin bread and butter was served here for "elevenses." The needlework on display is all handmade.

The laundry contains an antique mangle, the primitive equipment used on washdays, and a "linen press" where the table linen for the week was kept pressed.

The quarters of the live-in maid were cramped, bare and uncomfortable. The lives of ex-convicts and poorer people were in strong contrast to the people who lived in The Old Colonial Home.

Lectures

On Wednesday 16th June Mrs Beryl Graham, from the North Sydney Historical Society, presented an interesting talk about places of historical interest in the North Sydney area. She accompanied her talk with a series of slides showing many interesting homes, many now demolished, to make way for home units and office blocks.

The next lecture will be given by Mr Vaughan Evans on 21st July. His topic will be "Early Colonial Craft."

Tric Cairns,

Information on Philip Gidley King

Mr Jonathan King, who is doing research on Governor Philip Gidley King, would appreciate it if members could let him have any relevant letters, papers, journals or illustrations. Any material loaned will be returned. Please contact Mr King on 82 2405.

Canadian Holiday

Hard-working F.F.F. members Margaret Markwell and Joy Wallman left Sydney for a holiday in Canada on Saturday 26th June amid much confusion and changed flights, etc., because of a strike by Canadian pilots. However, they finally got away, farewelled at Mascot by a band of First Fleeters.

Margaret will be visiting her son Peter and family in Edmonton, but she and Joy will also be taking tours and trips around the place. They will be away for six weeks. We hope to publish a report of their holiday in a coming Newsletter.

Lebanon

Members will no doubt recall the extracts published from time to time in the Newsletter from the lengthy report written by our Vice-Patron Dudley Oakes following his going on the "Anzac Cove 60 Years Later" pilgrimage in 1975. With Lebanon constantly in the news today with the bloody fighting going on there, members may be interested to read some of Dudley's comments on his visit to that war-torn land (made before the fighting erupted to its present intensity):-

29th April. 4.20 pm arrived Beirut Airport. Reception at airport, then checked that our luggage was OK, no examination by Customs. Passports stamped, then on to Hotel Rodin. Escorted by soldiers and police.

30th April. Cocktail party by Ministry of Defence. Entertained by

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Lebanon (Continued)

General Ghanem. Very interesting buildings, but no photos allowed (understandably).

From there proceeded to the private home of Mr Henry Phaeron. One of the most fabulous homes imaginable. Full of treasures. Like something out of the Arabian Nights. Priceless treasures everywhere; 25 rooms, each one a museum in itself. 17th-century Persian carpets by the score. Also one of the finest collections of Ming porcelain ware in the world. Never thought to see a private home like it. An sure that \$100,000,000 would not buy it!

Mr Phaeron had five retainers pouring drinks -- champagne and other goodies, and lovely eats set out on a long table with marvellous cut-glass chandeliers, each looking to be worth a fortune. Many beautiful paintings and tapestries. The gardens are in keeping with the house. He was a wonderful host and treated us famously.

From there we went to our third cocktail party for the day at the Australian Ambassador's private home. A lovely place, and there were about 250 distinguished guests to meet us. The English-speaking paper reporting the affair described it as a real fun party, and that's exactly what it was.

Everywhere we went we reminded of war. Lebanon is living on the edge of a sword. Machinegun emplacements on many main roads, with an occasional manned tank for good measure. Our convoy consisted of at least two motor-cycle police, two to three cars, two coaches and two to four jeeps of soldiers bringing up the rear. We were taken through the towns at full speed; at times the police had their sirens going, diverting the traffic out of our way. Red lights were ignored -- we were certainly given the VIP treatment.

1st May. 8 am start of full day tour to Dog River site of a plaque commemorating the completion of Beirut-Tripoli railway by the Australian Railway Construction Corps. Then to Byblos to inspect the Crusader Palace. Parts over 6000 years old, quite awesome.

2nd May. 8 am start of a full day tour to Jezzine and Damour Bridge, where Sir Roden Cutler won his VC. Sir Roden gave us a talk about the battle, which was very interesting. Then on to Deir el Kanan.

At Sidon the Australian Ambassador entertained us to a very nice lunch. The Lebanese must think that we are very important. One of the Ambassador's staff told me they had not seen anyone receive the treatment we were getting, with military and police escorts and other privileges. At any rate things seemed quiet enough. We were led to believe there was an unofficial truce on while we were about. Incredible really. Fity it can't be for always.

3rd May. At 7.30 am off to Baalbek through the Jordan Valley, with Mt Neron in the background. At Baalbek we inspected the most marvellous ruins so far seen. The Roman Ruins, the Temple of Jupiter and Bacchus. The pillars and stone so heavy I can't imagine how they were ever moved and erected. There is one stone there, the largest ever cut by man it is said, weighing 1500 tonnes. Quite a pebble. The whole thing is immense, the carvings out of this world -- so great yet so delicate. One is impressed by the skill of the ancient sculptors with their primitive tools, etc. The whole thing is beyond describing by my humble pen.

Sir Roden said it was his third visit, and he was still awed by it all ... The carvings, the pillars, the architecture have to be seen to be believed.

In general we found the Lebanese to be quite as lovely a people as we found the Israelites. What a pit they can't be friends!

Dudley Oakes.

Coming Events

21st July -- Lecture, Mr Vaughan Evans, "Early Colonial Craft."
10th September -- Annual General Meeting.
