



NEWSLETTER

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F.F.F. Newsletter,
G.P.O. Box 4441,
SYDNEY. 2004.

From the President

The most important event since the last Newsletter was the Annual General Meeting. It was good to see so many Members attend on such a wintry night, and also to welcome some new Members.

One important matter passed at this meeting was the provision for admittance of Associates (Friends) to our Fellowship. (Details appear in the Amendment). We hope to be able to welcome some of our Friends who share our interests but not our Forebears.

Constitutional Amendments will be circulated as soon as possible to enable Members to update their Constitutions.

A list of Officers and Committee Members appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. I thank all most sincerely for the confidence shown by my re-election, and I hope that 1976-77 will be a happy, successful year.

On Saturday 18th September a group of Members and Friends formed a Theatre Party to the Nimrod Theatre to see "The Recruiting Officer," and what a fascinating experience this proved to be. It was a reproduction of the first play produced in the Colony (on 4th June 1789) at Government House, to celebrate the Birthday of King George III. On that occasion the play was acted by convicts.

Much research had obviously been done to ensure authenticity, even down to the swords and guns being made of wood, as they were in that first performance. No names were mentioned, either by the Theatre or in Watkin Tench's account of the performance, but it was wonderful to think our forebears had the heart and tenacity to perform such a function.

Also, I might add, rather eerie, in its own way, to sit there and watch something our ancestors had done almost 190 years ago!

I also paid a visit to the State Library with a party from the Royal Australian Historical Society, but I have written a separate article about this visit which appears later in this Newsletter.

Beryl Lewis.

Annual Australia Day Dinner

Arrangements have now been finalised for our Annual Dinner next year. It will be held at the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney, on Saturday night 29th January. Tickets will be \$11 each, and are available from Beryl Lewis (phone 709 8974) or c/- the Fellowship, G.P.O. Box 4441. Please start making up your parties, as there is a limit to the numbers who can attend.

This is the first time our Annual Dinner has been held at the Wentworth. The Annual Dinner is always very successful, and one of the main functions of the year.

Book early to avoid disappointment!!

Election of Officers

Patron: Sir Roden Cutler, V.C., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E.

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 Marjorie Raven.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Ray Meredith.

Executive Committee: Mrs Naida Jackson, Mrs Mary Bailey, Mrs Colleen Bennett, Mrs Patricia Cairns, Mrs Thelma Guy, Mrs Margaret Markwell, Mrs Joan Ross, Mrs Joan Stear, Mrs Barbara Townsend, Mr Eric Blair, Mr Edgar Kable, Mr Roy Kable.

Hon. Solicitor: Mr Paul Jurd.

Hon. Auditor: Mrs Patricia Kable.

Film and Videotapes

A film and videotape of the last Australia Day activities will be shown at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20th October in the No. 1 Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Hall. Should be a really interesting evening.

Presentation of Memorial

Members are requested to come to Government House in period costume on the Monday of the next Australia Day Weekend for the re-enactment of the Presentation of the Memorial to Government House. This event promises to be even more successful than the very successful 1976 ceremony.

A Visit "Behind the Scenes" at the State Library

I joined a party from the Royal Australian Historical Society on Saturday 21st August 1976 to inspect the State Library, including the Mitchell and Dixon Wings and the Shakespeare Room. What a gem this latter room is! This room was opened in 1942, and the carving and woodwork must be seen to be believed. The Staff are justly proud of the collection housed in this room, including Shakespeare's First Folios of 1623 and the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Folios, which date back pre-1700. As well as conventional books, they have miniature sets, so very tiny and arranged in their own bookshelves. Every inch is used, including storage in the window seat! But what an indictment on human nature to see our guide of necessity lock securely this fascinating room.

The Tasman Map in the Foyer, of Wombeyan Marble, is priceless. It was drawn for Tasman in 1644 and shows all the Dutch knew of Australia and it is amazing how accurate it is. The print was in the possession of Prince Roland Bonaparte, and his daughter Princess George of Greece gave it to the Library. The Marble copy is really a work of art, and it is reputed to be capable of lasting at least 100 years.

The beautiful stained-glass windows above the front entrance represent old manuscripts from the Book of Kells, dating back to the ninth century and housed in the Library in Dublin. Typical

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A Visit "Behind the Scenes" (Continued)

of the environment is the quotation on one, "In the beginning was the Word."

The Mitchell. Through this section we proceeded behind the scenes to what are called "the stacks." Here the floors are of glass and the fixtures of metal for fire protection. The glass is surprisingly resilient, and they had not had a breakage until last year, when a serviceman dropped a hammer and caused a crack. Here we saw the first copy of the Sydney Herald (1831) and an original Gould Book (birds) -- it is a proof copy with beautiful hand-painted plates of glorious birds. In this section they plan to set up a Genealogical Room. In the reading room of the Mitchell is a portrait of George Johnston (a First Fleeter) above some original bookcases with unique fireproof doors. In another section of the "stacks" we were shown a "concertina" book making up an illuminated address presented to Governor Beauchamp by Marrickville Council in 1889 -- the art work was really beautiful.

We then proceeded to a lower level dating to 1928. This was marble-floored, and housed their collection of pictures, hung on wire and kept at a constant temperature of 72° with a humidity of 55%.

From here we ascended to the general reading room with its 500,000 books and beautiful stained-glass Caxton Window which was presented by the Sydney Morning Herald.

After taking in the beautiful view from all sides of the roof, we left with a quote from the walls of the Library ringing in our ears: "In Books flows the Fountain of Wisdom."

Beryl Lewis.

Membership Committee

The Fellowship is pleased to welcome the following new members:--

Mr G. W. Rose, Wahroonga (Matthew Everingham).
Mrs Heather Farrell (Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes).
Mrs Marjorie Watkins (Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes).
Mr Clement Edwards (William Tunks).
Mr William J. Broughton (Wm. Broughton).
Mr George L. Corkill (Charles Peat and Ann Mullen).
Mrs Sarah Kalina (Eleanor Fraser).
Mrs V. Riley, of Coledale (Eleanor Fraser).
Mrs Ruth Shaw, of Willoughby (John Barrisford).
Mrs Adeline Jollie, of Wahroonga (Anthony Rope & Elizabeth Pullen).
Mr Charles Allison, of Narraweena (Thomas Arndell & Elizabeth Burleigh).
Mr Harvey Williams, of Eden (William Nash and Maria Haynes).
Warren Williams and Miss Raelene Williams, also of Eden (William Nash and Maria Haynes).
Mr Gerald Lee, of Balgowlah (William Nash and Maria Haynes).
Mr Robert Waller, of Castle Hill (Nathaniel Lucas & Olivia Gascoigne).
Mrs Margaret Smith, Miss Alison Smith and Lindsay Smith (Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne).

Our thanks to members who have responded to pleas for family trees. We find them a great help to us when checking has to be done. As requested, Membership Committee has visited Mrs Thompson re suitable reference books for the Fellowship. Mrs Thompson has given Membership a comprehensive list for future purchase.

Mary Bailey. Naida Jackson.

Obley and Yeoval

(The following item was submitted for publication by Janet Morzyk, aged 16, of Ryde, one of our Junior Members):-

"Shut the bloody window!" roared my father from the driver's seat. But I left it open because I couldn't resist such a beautiful place as Obley. Everything was what we expected. The sky was a blazing blue, the air was clean and the grass was light green. Everything we expected except there were a few shacks instead of a township.

Obley is about 300 km north-west of Sydney. The reason for my family to visit this remote and uninhabited town is because one of my grandfathers was born there. His father was a drover and was away for long periods. Times were hard, money was short, and with other mouths to feed my grandfather left home at the age of 14. Later he married Anice Hatton, a great-granddaughter of the First Fleeter Joseph Hatton.

Evidence that Obley was once a thriving town is printed on a war memorial. About 15 men from Obley died in World War I. Our curiosity was hungry for an explanation.

While stopping at Yeoval, a neighbouring township 11 km from Obley and slightly bigger, we noticed a true-blue "Aussie" heading for the pub. We could tell he was an Aussie old-timer because of his wrinkled red-brown face, felt hat and a love for beer. At the bar he told Dad about the vanished township.

Apparently Obley was once a goldmining town that didn't really have much gold in the first place. There were once three pubs there, none of which are standing today. When the gold resources were depleted, most folk had no way of supporting themselves. When a railway was built at Yeoval, people moved there and elsewhere.

Satisfied with his explanation we ventured around Yeoval. To me it seemed to be decreasing in population. Those who are born and bred on the land, and who learn to live with the harshness and insecurity, will carry out the necessary work to be done. But those are slightly fewer each generation.

Old Sydney Town, Small Family

Owing to this Newsletter being produced a week later than intended, no publicity can be given to the Old Sydney Town trip on 9th October or to the Small Family gathering at St Anne's, Ryde, for which material for publication was submitted.

Personal Jottings

Mrs Barbara Townsend is recovering from an operation in the Wentworthville Community Hospital ... Mrs L. A. Neal, who donated the crocheted baby set to the Fellowship to raise funds, will be pleased to know that the raffle was very successful. It was won by Alice Clark ... The Fellowship regrets to announce the death of Mr Jim McKey, of Port Macquarie, husband of Member Nina McKey, also the death of the widow of the late Frank Kable, former Vice Patron of the Queensland branch ... Mr Arthur Inghan-Myers, of Toowoomba, a member of the Fellowship, who was visiting Sydney, spent a day at the office last Friday.

Reminder

Mr Eric Blair, of the Graves Committee, would like to remind members that information and photographs, where possible, of First Fleeter graves are needed urgently to build up a comprehensive record.

Note: The Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery wish to remind members that a working bee is held at the Cemetery on the first Sunday of each month. Joining fee for the Friends: \$10. For further information, contact Frank Everingham (telephone 84 2794).
