

Vol. 8 No. 8
September 1977

Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
F.F.F. Newsletter,
G.P.O. Box 4441,
SYDNEY. 2001.

From the President

What a wonderful afternoon we had at Liverpool on the 14th August 1977! The weather was perfect, and approximately 130 people gathered to see the Administrator of Liverpool, Mr Allen Henderson, unveil the plaques on First Fleeters tombstones.

The ceremony started at St Luke's Church, Liverpool, by the tombstone of Nathaniel Lucas, when Mrs Anderson, representing the Lucas family, presented a short address on the life of her forebear and, the Administrator being late, the unveiling was performed by our Vice Patron Mr Dudley Oakes.

Then on to the Memorial Cemetery, where short addresses were given by Mrs Mary Bailey (William Broughton), Mrs Muriel Larden (Eleanor Frazer) and Mr Arthur Maunder (Frederick Meredith). (Each of these addresses will be printed in the Newsletter in the next few editions). The Administrator performed the unveiling on these three stones and congratulated the Fellowship on its endeavours.

Also present were the President and Secretary of Liverpool Historical Society and the President and Secretary of Bankstown Historical Society. A very happy afternoon culminated with afternoon tea in the C.W.A. rooms and arranged by the ladies of Liverpool Historical Society. We hope to have many more functions of this nature, and your Committee are always anxious to hear of the whereabouts of any First Fleeter's grave. So it's up to you, Members.

On Wednesday 24th August a very well-attended meeting was held in our Office to make arrangements for the celebration of Australia Day 1978. Our Annual Dinner will again be held at the Wentworth Hotel, and the Social Committee are pleased that the price has only risen by \$1 (details elsewhere). The Exhibition on the Sunday is in the capable hands of Mrs Mary Bailey and Mrs Naida Jackson. Do contact them and have your "First Fleeter" represented. On the Monday we will again be going to Government House with our Address of Loyalty, so get your costumes ready, as this is one necessity for admittance to the grounds.

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 28th September at 7.30 pm -- I do hope to see as many as possible there.

Beryl Lewis.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 28th September 1977.
Time: 7.30 pm.
Place: Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly
Building, City. (Usual lecture
meeting-place)

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members -

Mr Bob Palmer, Lalor Park. (John Palmer)

Mrs Margaret A. Gardner, Miranda. (Frederick Meredith)

Peter J. Gardner, Mark A. Gardner, David W. Gardner, Miranda --
three junior Members. (Frederick Meredith)

Mr Cecil J. Beresford, South Grafton. (John Barrisford)

Revd. Alan R. Patrick, Camden. (Thomas Acres)

Mrs Anderson (Nathaniel Lucas) would like to know if any Member knows of the birthplace of either Nathaniel Lucas or Thomas Lucas.

Naida Jackson, Mary Bailey.

Grave Plaques

The following Members have made donations towards the cost of plaques to be placed on their First Fleeter ancestor's tombstone (an earlier list of such Members appeared in the August Newsletter) -

Mrs A. McLachlan	Mrs M. Whiley
Mrs B. Lewis	Mrs F. M. Pratt
Mrs W. C. Anderson	Mr R. J. Meredith
Mrs V. Willcocks	Mr A. R. Meredith
Mrs B. G. Harris-Walker	Mr W. J. S. Broughton

Nathaniel Lucas

(This is the address given by Mrs Anderson at the tombstone of Nathaniel Lucas at St Luke's Church, Liverpool, on Sunday 14th August, as mentioned in the President's Report on Page 1 of this Newsletter) --

Nathaniel Lucas was born in 1764, probably in Surrey. At the age of 20 he was sentenced to seven years transportation for the taking of six aprons and six handkerchiefs from the clothes-line of his next-door neighbour, a spinster.

He served half of his term in England, arriving in the Scarborough on 26th January 1788. On arrival here he was transferred because of his good character with 14 other convicts to Norfolk Island under Lt. Gidley King. There he completed his sentence and married Olivia Gascoigne, another First Fleeter, and they had 11 children, two of them twin girls who were killed, crushed by a falling pine-tree. There also he was made Chief Constable, and later Master of Carpenters, as this was his trade.

In 1805 Nathaniel Lucas returned to Sydney bringing with him the materials for making two windmills, one for the Government and one for himself. So he built the first windmill in New South Wales.

He had two other children in Sydney, making the eleven mentioned on his tombstone.

After the Bligh rebellion in 1808 he was appointed Superintendent of Carpenters at a salary of £50 per annum. In 1813 he was appointed Superintendent of the Government Lumber Yard and had

(Continued on Page 3)

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Nathaniel Lucas (Continued)

61 men working under him. He gradually increased his interest in building contracts and was associated with the building of the Rum Hospital in Sydney. In 1818 he gained the contract for building St. Luke's Church in Liverpool, so it's fitting that his headstone should be here near the only remaining monument of his work in the colony.

When Nathaniel Lucas returned to Sydney from Norfolk Island he was given a grant of land right in Sydney, but later exchanged it for a grant of 500 acres in Liverpool. He had also relinquished 75 acres granted to him on Norfolk Island, where he had grown many crops. He died at Liverpool in 1818.

I would like to correct two misconceptions concerning Nathaniel Lucas.

First, his eldest son was not John, as many people have thought, because John wasn't born for two months after he wrote to his father, stating he had two boys and two girls, and also stating about the loss of his twin girls.

Secondly, he and Olivia were still married at the time of his death. It was his son William who married Sarah Squires in 1812, and this is confirmed by their marriage certificate, which is in the files of the Registrar-General's.

Nathaniel Lucas' wife Olivia and some of their children went to Tasmania and settled there. Some returned to Sydney, others stayed, and their descendants are still living in Tasmania today.

Many of his descendants have held high positions in the State, and his name will always be remembered, for it is perpetuated in the Lucas Cave at Jenolan and in the Lucas Heights Atomic Energy Commission, as well as in numerous streets and places.

Australia Day Exhibition

Part of our Rocks Day Exhibition in January next year will take the form of mobile tableaux depicting life in the new settlement. We propose having sections for convicts, marines and civil officers.

Anyone wishing to participate will be happily welcomed, from toddlers to adults, even for just a short period of the day.

Join the fun of dressing the part and spending a short time re-living the lives of your ancestors.

For further details, please ring either Mrs Naida Jackson (telephone 982 8014) or Mrs Mary Bailey (43 4075).

ANNUAL DINNER 1978

Date: Saturday 28th January 1978.

Place: Wentworth Hotel, Sydney.

Price: \$12 each.

Make up your party now and avoid disappointment, as numbers are limited. Applications must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and your remittance. Remember -- "No Money, No Ticket"!

Concord Historical Society's Anniversary Day

I have been asked by the Concord Historical Society to attend their Anniversary Day on Sunday 25th September, to be held in the lovely grounds of the Thomas Walker Hospital. They have a nice Museum and a good programme of entertainment starting at 12 noon. It is easy to find -- in Hospital Road, past the Concord Repatriation Hospital. Parking is available and refreshments. I myself go early and have a picnic lunch.

Would any ladies or gentlemen interested to attend in period costume please come and be made welcome. I hope to see some Members on the day.

Muriel Larden.

Writings from the First Fleet

(Under the above heading the President, Mrs Beryl Lewis, had the following letter published in the Letters Columns of the Sydney Morning Herald, 2nd September 1977) -

Sir, The National Library is reported to have "no plans at present" to acquire a rare collection of letters and documents relating to the First Fleet and early settlement of Australia. When will it have plans? When it is too late?

What has happened to all the pious talk of "saving our heritage"? Our Australian Government should act; this is part of our heritage and should be preserved for coming generations. The asking price is \$50,000 -- a lot of money, but so little to pay for genuine historical articles.

We are a young country, and every effort must be made to preserve our early beginnings. May I suggest that our Prime Minister put his words into action and acquire these precious documents on behalf of all Australians.

Death of Mrs Lilian Watts

The death occurred on 18th August last of Mrs Lilian Watts (Henry Kable), aged 89 years. The late Mrs Watts was the aunt of Mr Roy Kable and Mrs Thelma Guy, members of the Executive Committee. The Fellowship extends condolences to the family.

At Portsmouth

(Extract from a recent letter from the Hon. Editor, at present in the concluding stages of a 10-weeks overseas tour) -

In the morning we had coffee with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and found out where the Plinth was and also the steps which were used by the First Fleet. As soon as we left him, we found our way to the Plinth and then walked through the archway in the wall and down the steps with the sea literally lapping my shoes. It really felt something walking down the same steps that Joseph Hatton had walked down nearly 190 years ago, and it did not take much imagination to picture the boats there and the men walking down the steps in their chains. That was really the highlight of the trip, and the thing that has stirred me most and made the trip really worthwhile.

Coming Events

Sept. 28 (7.30 pm): Annual General Meeting.
Sept. 25: Concord Historical Society's Anniversary Day.
Oct. 5: Lecture on Henry Lawson by Mr B. Hosking.
Jan. 28, 1978: Annual Dinner 1978 (Wentworth Hotel).

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FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS.

Patron: His Excellency the Governor of N.S.W.
Sir Roden Cutler V.C., K.V.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E.

Kindly note that the 9th Annual General Meeting of members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters will be held in No.1 Board Room of the Assembly Building, Jamison St. Entrance, Sydney. (Please take lift to the 4th Floor) on Wednesday, 28th September, 1977 commencing at 7.30sharp.

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
3. Business arising from Minutes.
4. President's Report. (see attached.)
5. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet.
6. Constitutional Amendments.

In accordance with Rule 35, I hereby give notice that I intend to move at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 28th September, 1977.

"That a position of Assistant Secretary be created, as an ex-officio and that Rules 2,3 and 4 respectively, be amended to read as follows:-

- Rule 2.
- (a) a Patron
 - (b) up to 10 Vice Patrons
 - (c) a President
 - (d) 2 Vice Presidents
 - (e) a Secretary
 - (f) an Assistant Secretary
 - (g) a Treasurer
 - (h) an Executive Committee
 - (i) an Auditor
 - (j) an unlimited number of Members
- Rule 3.
- (a) add the words "Assistant Secretary" following the word "secretary"

- Rule 4.
- add the words "assistant Secretary" following the word "secretary"

Signed.....Joan Stear.....Membership No.1080
Seconded...Marjorie Raven.....Membership No.1079

7. Election of Officers

The following Officers retire but are eligible for re-election, and offer themselves accordingly:-

Vice Patrons. (3 to be elected) Mr. D.S.M. Oakes.
Mr. J.H. Luscombe
Mr. J. Harris.
President. Mrs Beryl Lewis.
Vice President Mr. Douglas Oakes.

Hon. Treasurer.
Secretary.

Mr. Ray Meredith.
Mrs. Marjorie Raven

Executive Committee.

-Mrs Mary Bailey	Mrs Joan Ross
Mrs Colleen Bernath	Mrs Patricia Cairns
Mrs Thelma Guy	Mrs Naida Jackson
Mrs Margaret Markwell	Mrs Barbara Townsend
Mrs Joan Stear	
Mr. Eric Blair.	Mr. Roy Kable

8. If time permits, a general discussion may follow, with suggestions to be placed before the incoming Committee.

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - 1977.

Once again we have had a most successful and exciting year. Membership continues to increase, with 64 new members (No.1165 - 1228 incl.) being admitted in the last financial year. Our Office continues to be a hive of industry with the following equipment purchased - 1 large storage cupboard, 1 large cabinet of storage shelves, and an electric copying machine. All are now fully insured.

Executive Committee: Since taking office, 10 Executive Committee Meetings have been held with the following attendance:-

		<u>Apologies.</u>	<u>Leave of Absence.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Lewis	B.			10
Oakes	D.			10
Harrison	R.	6		3
Raven	M.		2	8
Meredith	R.		3	7
Ross	J.	5	2	3
Bailey	M.	3		7
Blair	E.			10
Bernath	C.	3		7
Cairns	P.	3	4	3
Guy	T.	1	1	8
Jackson	N.	2		8
Kable	E.	Deceased		
Markwell	M.		1	9
Kable	R.		3	7
Townsend	B.	3		7
Stear	J.	2		8

Being Her Majesty's Jubilee Year, several of our Executive Members made extensive overseas trips, which explains the number of Leaves of Absence.

Australia Day Week. : This quite properly continues to be the highlight of our year. At the invitation of the Lord Mayor of Sydney, a group, in costume, attended the Flag Raising Ceremony, this year held in the refurbished Macquarie Place on 26th Jan. 1977. The guest of honour was the Prime Minister of Australia, The Right Hon. Malcolm Frazer and our group were among those singled out to be presented to him. Our Annual Dinner was held at the Wentworth Hotel, on 29th January, 1977 and we were very honoured to have as distinguished guests, our Patron, His Excellency, the Governor of N.S.W. and Lady Cutler. This, therefore, was our first Vice-Regal Dinner. Our other guests were the Hon. L.J. Ferguson M.L.A. Deputy Premier of N.S.W. representing the Premier of N.S.W., Mr. Maurice Neil M.H.R. representing the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of Australia (our first Federal representation), Ald. B. Lewis, Deputy Lord Mayor and Ald. Nanette Rudge, representing the Lord Mayor of Sydney. This was a wonderful evening; an outstanding success with a capacity attendance. On the Sunday an Exhibition was held at the Rocks all day, and this also was again a great success. The day was exceptionally hot and thanks go to all the helpers who worked so long and hard on that day. On the holiday Monday, we again started the day by visiting Government House and were gratified that His Excellency received our group personally. Mr. Bert Weston, on behalf of the Fellowship presented to his Excellency the Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, an address of loyalty. Approximately 70 members and associates attended in Period Costume. My sincere thanks go to all who took the trouble of dressing in costume and special thank you to Shane Guy who was our junior drummer and led us down the driveway. Thanks also to Mrs Lola Wilkinson, who entertained us at her home following this ceremony.

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Page 2.

REPRESENTATIONS.- I was honoured to attend the following functions.-
The State Reception for Australia Day at the Wentworth Hotel.
The Australia Day Service at the Garrison Church.
(Mrs Lola Wilkinson represented me at the Australia Day Service at St. Patrick's Church)
The St. James Evening Group Art Exhibition.
First Fleet to Federation Exhibition at Lindesay Darling Point (Nation Trust.)
Official Opening of re-constructed Walker Bridge, Kangaroo Valley.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.- Quite a large group of members and I again attended this Annual Service to Commemorate the first Christian Service in Australia. I was very honoured to read the First Lesson - being the first President of the Fellowship and the first woman ever to do so.

ARGYLE DAY - This was again a most successful day, both financially and socially. Mrs. Margaret Markwell and her group of helpers are tendered sincere thanks, as is Mrs. Colleen Bernath for great work in arranging the float.

PORTSMOUTH. ENGLAND.- A Ceremony was held in this City in May this year to mark the 190th Anniversary of the sailing of the First Fleet and your Executive sent a greeting to the Lord Mayor on this occasion.

NEWSLETTER - This has continued its high standard and many letters are received from far distant members expressing their appreciation and thanks for this monthly publication. It is a wonderful improvement to have the copying machine in our office and special thanks go to Mrs. Joan Ross and her husband Keith who have continued as Editors this year. Thanks are also extended to the group of women who print, collate, fold and post this newsletter.

MEMBERS COMMITTEE.- Words seem inadequate to thank Mrs Mary Bailey and Mrs Naida Jackson and their helpers for the wonderful work they are doing. Without this Committee we would be nothing.

ARCHIVES - Your Executive were very pleased to have Mrs. Mary Thompson take over the filing of the Archives, this is most important work and thanks are extended to Mrs Thompson.

GRAVE IDENTIFICATION - The first complete Cemetery, that at Liverpool, had its First Fleeter graves identified on Sunday 14th August, when plaques were unveiled by the Administrator of Liverpool, on the tombstones of Nathaniel Lucas, William Broughton, Eleanor Frazer, and Frederick Meredith. Well over 100 people attended and thanks are extended to Mr. Eric Blair, Mr. Douglas Oakes, and Mr. Roy Kable for their efforts on this project and to all who contributed to the costs involved.

LECTURES - Lectures have been held each month and have been well attended. Our knowledge has been enriched by excellent speakers, particularly on the early history of this Country. I sincerely thank Mrs. Joan Stear, who has organised these lectures.

ADDRESSES - During the year it was my privilege to address:-
The pupils of Mt. Pritchard School
The School for Seniors, Balgowlah.
Hornsby Historical Society.
Blacktown Historical Society.
Also an interview with the ABC Rural Dept.

EXHIBITION.- On 23rd October 1976 we co-operated with Peakhurst School in mounting an Exhibition.

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Page 3

SOCIAL OUTINGS - During the year the following functions were held:-

Mon. 11th Oct. 1976 a wreath was laid on the Phillip Memorial in the Botanical Gardens to mark Gov. Phillip's Birthday.

A coach Picnic to "Old Sydney Town" 9th October, 1976 and to Kangaroo Valley, 31st July 1977.

Nimrod Theatre Party to see a modern version of the first play produced in the Colony.

A Wine tasting at Johnny Walker's Bistro, pre Xmas.

A group were the guests of the ABC at a taping of "Monday Conference" at the Tom Mann Theatre, Sydney, on the 9th June 1977.

It is good to report that once again all social functions were financially profitable and most enjoyable

GIFTS - I was delighted, at the invitation of Brisbane Water Historical Society, to travel to Gosford and receive a most generous donation of an old picture of the First Fleet in Sydney Cove. It is now reframed and hanging in our Office.

On the 20th September 1976, I was received by His Worship the Mayor of Warramatta and presented with a book "The Cradle City of Australia" for the Fellowships Library.

QUEENS JUBILEE - On behalf of all Officers and Members I forwarded greetings to Her Majesty on this occasion

GENERAL - I am indebted to Mr. Owen Magee, who, following a letter from the Fellowship regarding the preservation of the Rocks area, personally devoted a morning to escorting me around the various historic spots at the Rocks and explaining future plans.

OBITUARY - The Fellowship suffered a great loss with the sudden death of our immediate past President, Mr. Edgar Kable. Men of his calibre are few and he is gravely missed. Vale Edgar Kable.

CONCLUSION - I thank:- All my fellow Officers for their loyalty and hard work, the Membership Committee who work so constantly and such long hours, Mrs Mary Thompson for her work with the Archives, the Social Committee for their unstinting work, the group of women who man and clean the Office, and also prepare the Supper on Lecture Nights, the group who print and despatch the Newsletter. Also my husband for his ready co-operation. Finally I thank all Members for their continuing support and interest and hope 1977-78 will prove even more successful than the one just closed.

BERYL LEWIS.

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30-6-77

<u>INCOME.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	
Subscriptions.	1687.00	Rent.	893.04
Joining Fees	206.50	Stationery.	807.23
Donations	10.50	Postage	358.24
Sundry Sales	99.90	Badges	196.76
Donations Grave Plates	29.00	Library Books	58.80
Argyle Day Exhibition	273.78	Office Equipment	1015.70
The Rocks Exhibition	155.24	P.O.Box Rental.	72.00
Bank Interest	27.97	Floral Tributes.	53.00
Annual Dinner	1870.00	Insurances	97.35
Wine Tasting Evening	206.00	Electricity	36.61
Exhibition	25.45	Donation, Cultural Council	50.00
Excursion, Old Syd. Town	202.15	Donation Lady Mayoress.	30.00
Theatre Party.	109.50	Annual Dinner.	1610.79
Raffle	11.50	Excursions	371.95
Transfer Q'ld Division.	223.60	Theatre Party.	85.50
Excursion.	193.80	Repairs to Typewriter.	35.00
		Wine Tasting Evening.	208.00
		Memorial Scroll.	60.00
		Subscriptions.	27.50
		Telephone.	15.10
	<u>5331.89</u>		<u>6082.57</u>
Balance B/f. 1.7.76	<u>2526.12</u>	Balance C/f. 30.6.77	<u>1775.44</u>
	<u>\$7858.01</u>		<u>\$7858.01</u>

On the information supplied, the books of the Fellowship of First Fleeters appear to reflect Income and Expenditure as transacted for the period 1st July, 1976 to 30th June, 1977.

Signed....Patricia D. Kable

AUDITOR.