

# F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

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Please address all correspondence to the Fellowship of First Fleeters,  
G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

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February 1980

## From the President

I do hope all members had a very happy holiday season and that the New Year will bring all your dreams to reality.

As usual we had a very busy Australia Day weekend. A group from the Fellowship, in costume, took part in the official Flag Raising Ceremony in Macquarie Place at midday on Saturday 26th. Saturday evening saw a record crowd at the Wentworth Ballroom for our 11th Annual Dinner. It was very pleasing to have a group with us from the Women's Pioneer Society and also representatives from the R.A.H.S. Mr Philip Geeves was a very popular guest speaker and made several suggestions which gave us food for thought. My sincere thanks to the Social Committee for a job very well done.

On Sunday our Exhibition at The Rocks was a great success, and I extend sincere thanks to Mrs Mary Bailey, her committee and band of workers for all the time and work devoted to this display. At midday I attended the official opening of The Rocks Australia Day Celebrations.

It was very gratifying, on Monday morning, to have His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady Cutler, personally accept our Memorial as well as our Scroll of Loyalty to be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen. The whole weekend was a wonderful success.

Also during January it was my pleasure to address the Rydalmere Rotary Club.

There is much to be done this coming year, and I hope quite a few grave plaques will be placed. The first will be on Norfolk Island on 6th March, that of Thomas Headington.

Amongst those at the Dinner were Mr and Mrs R. Round, of 248 Tranmere Road, Howrah, Tasmania 7018, who have requested that Tasmanian members contact them with a view to forming a Tasmanian branch.

In these days of such high and rising costs it occurs to me that we must have members who could assist us in keeping our costs down. I refer to people in business in such callings as printing, paper supplies, florists, etc. I am not asking for donations, merely consideration in our needs. Do let us hear from you.

I look forward to seeing many members at our first lecture night for the year on Wednesday 20th February, when Mr Ken Tye, a Life Member of the R.A.H.S., will speak on "Dorothea Mackellar, Her Life and Her Work".

Beryl Lewis.

## 1980 Lectures

Here is the list of lectures for 1980:—

Feb. 20: Mr Ken Tye, of Mosman, Life Member of the Royal Australian Historical Society, who for many years has been active in the field of Australian history: "Dorothea Mackellar, Her Life and Her Work."

Mar. 19: Mrs Daphne Dobbins, Church Archivist: "St Thomas's, North Sydney, Its Early History and the Men Who Have Ministered There."

April 16: Mr Noel Thorpe, from the Water Board: "Streets of Sydney."

May 21: Mrs Betty Goodger, Field Librarian for the Mitchell Library: "David Scott Mitchell, the Man and His Library."

June 18: Mr Robert Irving, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture University of New South Wales: "The Lost Windmills of Old Sydney."

July 16: Mr John M. Bennett, Legal Historian and author: "Sydney's Early Magistrates."

Aug. 20: Mr John Harris, Sydney solicitor and son of the Fellowship's former Vice Patron, the late Mr John Harris: "History of the Ultimo District."

September: No lecture; month of Annual General Meeting.

Oct. 15: A special lecture on Governor Phillip. The speaker will be from Sydney University.

Nov. 19: Mr James Broadbent, consultant from the National Trust: "Early Colonial Gardens."

Unless otherwise stated, these lectures are held in the Board Room on the 4th Floor of the Assembly Building, Margaret Street, Sydney, entered by the Jamison Street entrance. Afterwards members and guests adjourn for supper in the Fellowship's office, Room 312. Lectures usually commence at 7.45 pm.

## November Lecture

We had a change of venue for the November lecture, the last lecture for 1979 — Victoria Barracks, Paddington, New South Wales.

Our guide was Major J. F. Miller, M.B.E., Army historian. It was a glorious evening for our tour of the Barracks, and Major Miller a most helpful and interesting speaker.

We were shown around the historic Barracks and grounds, and at the end of the tour the museum was specially opened for us, and we had unlimited time to see this most interesting display of armory and uniforms. We had many members from our Society, and it was a very happy evening.

Victoria Barracks history began in 1836 with the planning to replace the then existing Barracks, sited on 16½ acres fronting George Street, Sydney. The Board of Officers appointed by Governor Sir Richard Bourke selected the site for the new Barracks, which was rough scrubland with sand dunes. Its location on a high ridge provided a commanding view to the south-eastwards to Botany Bay and north to Port Jackson.

Work began on the new Barracks on 8th February 1841 with labour supplied mainly by convicts, and sandstone for the buildings was quarried on the site. Now over 100 years old, Victoria Barracks is a fine example of Early Colonial architecture, and is one of Australia's greatest historic establishments.

We thank Major Miller for giving us the opportunity to visit this historic Barracks and for giving us so much time to enable us to see everything at leisure.

Sally Kalina.

# P.F.F. NEWSLETTER

## Membership Report

We have pleasure in welcoming the following members to the Fellowship:—

Miss Jennifer A. Holt, West Pymble. (Joseph Hatton)  
Mr Maxwell G. Perry, Sean Maxwell Perry (jnr), Miss Jane M. Perry  
(jnr). (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne)  
Mrs Olive J. O'Reilly, Beacon Hill. (Owen Cavanough - Margaret Darnell)  
Mrs Pamela M. Tracey, Narraweena. (Owen Cavanough - Margaret Darnell)  
Mrs Alison S. Wilson, Winston Hills. (Matthew Everingham)  
Dr Edward A. Freeman, Gosford. (William Tunks)  
Mrs Maxine Large, Belmont North. (Samuel Pigott)  
Mrs Raie E. McLean, Miss Jodine R. McLean, (jnr), Forest Hill, Vic.  
(Samuel Pigott)  
Miss Lesley Allington, Miss Toni G. Allington, Charlestown.  
(Samuel Pigott)  
Mr Douglas V. Webster, Seville, Vic. (Daniel Stanfield)  
Master Philip Tunks (jnr), Miss Rebecca L. Tunks (jnr), Master Derryn  
J. K. Tunks (jnr), Alawa, N.T. (William Tunks, Henry  
Kable and Susannah Holmes)  
Mrs Suzanne M. Lester, Triabunna, Tas. (Daniel Stanfield)  
Master Dean R. Goodchild (jnr), Galston. (Joseph Hatton)  
Mrs Daphne H. Ryce, East Ballina. (Matthew Everingham)  
Mrs Nancy E. Devlin, Blacktown. (James Bloodworth - Sarah Bellamy)  
Mrs Janette M. Grass, Cotes du Nord, France. (Dr Thomas Arndell,  
Ann Forbes)  
Mrs Dorothy A. Evans, Washington, U.S.A. (Dr Thomas Arndell, Ann  
Forbes)  
Mr Albert E. Killick, Miss Carolyn M. Killick, Yowie Bay. (Dr  
Thomas Arndell, Ann Forbes)

We welcome another First Fleeter name — Daniel Stanfield, Corporal  
in the Marines.

Membership Committee.

## Delay with Badges

Mrs Thelma Guy has reported that the last batch of badges ordered,  
received early in December, were not acceptable and had to be returned  
to the manufacturer. The new supply is expected in mid-February.

Mrs Guy wishes to apologise to the following for this delay in  
supplying them with badges: Mrs Perry, Queensland; Mrs Christensen,  
Mt Colah; Mrs McGrath, Queensland; Mrs Ryce, East Ballina; Mrs M.  
Jones, Penrith; Mrs P. Noble, Victoria; the Misses Allington,  
Charlestown.

Badges will be dispatched to the above immediately upon receipt.

## Australia Day Coverage

Newspapers which mentioned the Fellowship's Annual Dinner included the  
"Sun Herald" and the Goulburn "Evening Post." Channel 2 in its 7 pm  
news bulletin that night covered the Flag Raising Ceremony in Macquarie  
Place (Jan. 26); possibly the other Sydney Channels did, too. Several  
First Fleetters were present at a naturalisation ceremony at Ryde Civic  
Centre on Friday evening, Jan. 25.

We would be interested to hear of such publicity or activities by  
members, with respect either to this year's Australia Day ceremonies  
or in future years, so that a more comprehensive report can be made.

### Tasmanian Branch

As mentioned in the President's Report, members of the Fellowship who are interested in forming a Tasmanian Branch of the Fellowship are asked to contact Mrs R. Round, 248 Tranmere Road, Howrah, Tasmania 7018. Tel. (004) 47 9110.

Mr and Mrs Round also extend an invitation to any visitors to the island to contact them for information on scenic spots.

### Journal of Arthur Bowes Smyth

"The Journal of Arthur Bowes Smyth: Surgeon, Lady Penrhyn 1787-1789," edited by Paul G. Fidlon, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed. (N.S.W.), Ph. D. (Lond.), and R. J. Ryan, B.A., may be obtained from Paul Fidlon. Tel. 818 1526.

If there are orders for 20 at a time, the price will be \$13-50 for Fellowship members.

The books otherwise are obtainable at Margaret Waterhouse's bookshop in Macquarie Street and also in The Heritage Bookshop, Lower George Street, for \$19-50 retail price.

### Grandson for Membership Committee Member

Born on 30th January, David Benjamin Jackson, son of Paul and Faye Jackson, grandson of Naida Jackson, of the Membership Committee. Congratulations all round.

### Marriage of Member of Tunks Family

The marriage took place in Tumut on 5th January of Deborah Skinner (Wm. Tunks) and Warwick Haid. The young couple have made Tumut their home.

### Obituary

The death has occurred of Mrs A. M. Broderick, mother of Mrs Mary Thompson, Life Member of the Fellowship. The Fellowship extends sympathy to Mrs Thompson and family.

### Controlling the Commissariat

Of all the tasks that faced the First Fleeters, both before sailing and on arrival in N.S.W., that of managing the commissariat must have been "mind-blowing." What to take? There were literally thousands of items that were quite basic. The list included such items as axes, shovels, hoes, iron pots, wooden platters, fishing nets and hooks, candles, bedding and clothes. And how to issue the stores? What they brought with them were virtually the only supplies in the colony. The officer in charge of the stores was the commissary.

The first man to hold this important position was Andrew Miller. He came out on the "Sirius" with Phillip, and for a short time he was his secretary. Miller found the job fraught with problems, even when he was given a trustworthy assistant, Zachariah Clark. There was no coinage, and assigned servants had to be paid in rum, tobacco, tea, sugar, clothing, flour, salt pork or rice. Free workmen were paid in notes on the British Treasury. Miller's health broke down under the strain, and he resigned in 1790. He died on the return journey to England.

Another First Fleeter, John Palmer, took up the task of handling the stores. He had had experience at handling and issuing stores as the purser on the "Sirius." He became the commissary in June 1791. The job had become more complicated now, for, besides issuing Government stores, Palmer was responsible for negotiating with merchants to buy in new stores. He arranged the deals, fixed the prices and drew up Treasury bills for payments. He had to keep accounts and virtually act as banker to the colony.

(To Be Concluded)

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## Early Encounters Between Europeans and Aborigines in New South Wales

(Continuing Ena Harper's papers on the subject, reprinted by kind permission of Ashfield Historical Society and Ena Harper. The previous instalment concluded with the beginning of the story of Pemulwy, one of the Aborigines who "would have nothing to do with the white man." Pemulwy first came under notice in December 1790, when he dangerously wounded John McIntire, the gamekeeper of the Governor. McIntire eventually died from the wound)

Pemulwy lived with his tribe near the head of Botany Bay. Governor Phillip sent out an armed party from the garrison with instructions to destroy or take prisoner six persons from that tribe, avoiding injury to women or children. This was strong action on the part of the Governor, who had always tried to avoid bloodshed. After three days the party returned without having wounded a native or taken a prisoner.

We hear of Pemulwy again in December 1795, when Collins tells of a negro convict named Negro who had fled to the woods to avoid honest labour, and lived by robbing settlers. Collins comments:

"It was, however, reported that he had done one meritorious action, killing Pemulwy, who had just before wounded Collins (the native) so dangerously, that his recovery was a matter of very great doubt ...."

A barbed spear had been driven into his loins near the vertebrae of the spine and the surgeons were unable to remove it. Collins left the hospital deciding to trust to nature. For several weeks he was seen walking about with the spear unmoved, but at last they heard that his wife or one of his male friends had fixed their teeth in the wood and drawn it out. After that he recovered.

(Collins had taken the surname of Captain David Collins and the latter says that he was much esteemed by every white man who knew him because of his personal bravery and the gentleness of his manners.)

Pemulwy did not die. He is next heard of in March 1797. The people from the Northern Boundary Farms about one mile north of Parramatta had been repeatedly plundered of their provisions and clothing by a large body of natives. Also a white man and woman had recently been killed.

So they armed themselves and, after pursuing the natives all night, came upon them at sunrise. Seeing that the settlers were armed, the natives fled leaving a quantity of Indian corn, some musket ball and other articles. They followed them to the outskirts of Parramatta and entered the town.

Collins tells the story:

"....about an hour after were followed by Pemulwy, a riotous and troublesome savage. These were known by the settlers to be the same who had so frequently annoyed them; and they intended, if possible, to seize upon Pemulwy; who in a great rage threatened to spear the first man that dared to approach him, and actually did throw a spear at one of the soldiers."

Immediately a musket was fired and Pemulwy was wounded. Many spears were thrown, but the muskets were more deadly and five natives were killed. Collins says that this was unpleasant to the Governor, but no other course could be taken.

"....for it was their custom, when they found themselves more numerous and better armed than the white people, to demand with insolence whatever they wanted; and, if refused, to have recourse to murder."

Pemulwy had received seven buckshot in his head and body, and was taken seriously ill to hospital.

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In May 1797 Governor Phillip went to Parramatta to see land between Duck River and George's River. Collins reports as follows:

"Having proceeded down the River (George's) they stopped at a point near Botany Bay, where they met with several parties of natives, among whom was Pemulwy, who, having perfectly recovered from his wounds, had escaped from the hospital with an iron about his leg. He saw and spoke with one of the gentlemen of the party; enquiring of him whether the Governor was angry and seemed pleased at being told that he was not; notwithstanding which, there could be but little doubt that his savage brutal disposition would manifest itself whenever excited by the appearance of an unarmed man."

A year later, in March 1798, Collins writes again about Pemulwy.

"A strange idea was found to prevail among the natives respecting the savage Pemulwy, which was very likely to prove fatal to him in the end. Both he and they entertained an opinion that, from his having been frequently wounded, he could not be killed by our firearms. Through this fancied security, he was said to be at the head of every party that attacked the maize grounds; and it certainly became expedient to convince them both that he was not endowed with any such extraordinary exemption."

However, a year later Pemulwy is still alive and as venomous as ever. In May, Collins reports the death of a marine settler at George's River speared to death by hostile Aborigines. He notes that the natives belonged to the tribe of which Pemulwy was the leader, and makes this comment:

"It might be supposed that in this exercise (dancing), and the company of their females, their angry and turbulent passions would be at rest, and that the idea of murder could not enter their minds; yet they have been known to start away, in search of some unsuspecting object of their revenge or hatred, who before the morning has received a dozen spears through his body; and this man in his uncultivated state!"

In the end Pemulwy was killed or died, though I am not sure how or when. The "Sydney Gazette" Vol. I 2 October 1803 has these words:

"By an unconquerable attachment to these barbarous usages, and an utter dislike to civilized customs, this savage race of men are principally intent on the work of depopulation, which has not, since the fate of Pemulwy, extended beyond their own wild haunts."

Ballooderry. "A Fine Young Man". Somewhat different to the wild, strange story of Pemulwy is the account given by Collins of a happening at Parramatta:

"Since the establishment of that familiar intercourse which now subsisted between us and the natives, several of them had found it to their interest to sell or exchange fish among the people at Parramatta, they being contented to receive a small quantity of either bread or salt meat in barter for mullet, bream and other fish. To the officers who resided there this proved a great convenience, and they encouraged the natives to visit them as often as they could bring them fish. There were, however, among the convicts some who were so unthinking or so depraved as wantonly to destroy a canoe belonging to a fine young man, a native, who had left it at some little distance from the settlement, and as he hoped out of the way of observation, while he went with some fish to the huts. His rage at finding his canoe destroyed was inconceivable, and he threatened to take his own revenge, and in his own way, upon all white people."

(To Be Continued)

#### Coming Event

Feb. 20: First lecture for 1980, Mr Ken Tye, "Dorothea Mackellar, Her Life and Her Work."

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