

**F.F.F.****NEWSLETTER**

PRICE: 50¢ p.a.

Registered for posting as a periodical Category "B"

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

Vol. 11      No. 10  
November 1980

From the President

The open meeting on 15th October proved to be quite a success (report elsewhere in this Newsletter). Many Members took the opportunity to make suggestions for the consideration of the Executive Committee. The next such night will be in May next year. As a result of one suggestion that we publish a book on First Fleeters, your Executive have appointed Vice President Roderick East as Convenor of a Committee to investigate and plan such a project. This is something that every Member can be involved in and contribute to.

For many months now great interest has been aroused by the proposed alienation of Parramatta Park for a sporting complex. As this Park is so historically important, your Committee have given support to the efforts of the Trust to save it. This Trust has now formulated what appears to be a very good alternative in the Clyde-Granville area, and we have again added our support. This Park is truly part of our heritage and we feel should be saved at all costs.

On Wednesday 15th October it gave me great pleasure to attend the Women's Pioneers Luncheon in honour of Governor Arthur Phillip's birthday. It is good to see such groups joining together in social activities -- we all have similar aims, and there is no reason why we cannot co-exist on friendly terms. I look forward to even more co-operation in the future.

I was very honoured to be Guest Speaker for the Reserve Bank Wives Association on 16th October at the Reserve Bank Headquarters in Martin Place, Sydney. They were a most appreciative audience and asked many questions regarding the Fellowship. The view from the top floor of this beautiful building was magnificent. There are few places indeed, right in our City, with such a full-circle panorama -- from the Mountains to the Sea. We really are very fortunate to have such a beautiful city emerge after less than 200 years -- what a contrast to the virgin land our ancestors found here.

It was my privilege also to address the Earlwood Adult Leisure Learning Group -- these groups are a wonderful idea, keeping many retired folk active in mind as well as body. Tuesday 4th November saw me at Bexley Rotary Club; it is really quite an honour to be a guest speaker in these all-male preserves. I found the President of this Club was a prospective member of the Fellowship, and indeed was confirmed as such at our meeting the following night.

I hope you have all organised your family and friends to attend the Australia Day Dinner. It has now been confirmed that our Guest Speaker on that occasion will be Dr David Armstrong, General Manager of the Australian Bi-Centennial Authority. Don't forget to send a stamped addressed envelope with your cheques.

Beryl Lewis.

## Membership Report

We welcome the following new Members into the Fellowship:

Mrs Joy Usher, Rivett, A.C.T. (Anne Forbes)  
Mr Thomas Silk, Longueville. (Thomas Chipp)  
Mrs Gwen Edmondson, Gosford. (Andrew Fishburn)  
Mr Mark Edmondson, Cremorne. (Andrew Fishburn)  
Master Nathan Russell, Rosebery. (Andrew Fishburn)  
Mrs Diane Baker, Tascott. (Thomas Lucas)  
Mrs Norma Crossc, Taringa, Q. (John Small - Mary Parker)  
Mr Richard Hogg, Mitcham, Tas. (David Collins - Ann Yeates)  
Mr Peter Hamilton, Penshurst. (William Douglas - Mary Groves)  
Mr John Morton, South Strathfield. (Thomas Spencer - Mary Phillips)  
Miss Kathryn Arnold (Jnr), Engadine. (Thomas Arndell - Elizabeth Dalton (Burleigh) )  
Mrs Kathleen Lenthall, Pennant Hills. (Eleanor Fraser)

Note: There are two new First Fleeters this month -- Thomas Chipp, Private of Marines, "Sirius", and Thomas Spencer, Private of Marines, "Scarborough".

Membership Committee.

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### AUSTRALIA DAY DINNER

Date: Saturday 24th January 1981

Place: Ballroom, Wentworth Hotel, Sydney

Price: \$16 each

Tickets: Miss Alice Clarke, P.O. Box 328,  
Lane Cove, NSW. 2066

Note: Money and a stamped addressed envelope  
must accompany bookings

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### Open Meeting. 15th October

Instead of the usual Lecture Night on 15th October an open meeting was held (as mentioned by the President in her Report).

The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss ideas for the Bi-Centenary in 1988, and to allow Members to discuss any general matters for consideration by the Executive Committee. Several ideas were suggested for 1988, the most popular of which centred around publishing a book on First Fleeters. It was decided that, in future, every fourth month, an open meeting will be held instead of a Lecture, commencing in the New Year.

Another suggestion was that the Office be open one extra day a week for the purpose of Members wishing to use the Library. As there were no volunteers to man the extra day, for the moment the only day that books are available is Friday between 10 am and 2 pm.

### Kroehnert Family Reunion

Miss Rhonda Kroehnert (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne) recently arranged a family reunion of her father's family at Woronora Dam. Rudolf Kroehnert arrived in Australia in 1854 and the following year married Matilda Davis at St Peter's, Richmond. Matilda's grandmother, Clara Palmer, then aged 3 years, arrived here in 1802 with her parents, Charles Palmer and Mary Ann Sharp. Rhonda managed to trace 900 living descendants of Rudolf and Matilda Kroehnert. Surely a record!

Joan Cox.

### Christmas Gift Idea

An original idea for a Christmas gift could be the Fellowship's souvenirs -- key ring, spoons (tea and sugar), cake fork, tea caddy.

Prices for these souvenirs, available from the office, Room 312, 3rd Floor, Assembly Building, Margaret and York Streets, Sydney, are: Key ring \$2-50; spoons \$2; cake fork \$2; tea-caddy \$2-25. If posted, please add 40c for each item.

### Lists of First Fleeters

A further reminder that lists of the original First Fleeters are available from the Fellowship at \$2 per list (\$2-50 if posted).

### Addresses at Unveiling Ceremony, "Bonds of Friendship" First Fleet Memorial

Below are the three addresses given at the unveiling ceremony of "Bonds of Friendship", the First Fleet Memorial, Sydney, on Wednesday 17th September 1980.

(By Sir Noel Foley)

Your Excellencies, my Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Cr Spraggs, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The creation of the "Bonds of Friendship" Memorial to the First Fleet is a commemoration of an event of basic importance in Australia's heritage.

It is a link with the start of our history which opened with the landing of Captain Arthur Phillip and his contingent, and it is a link with the city of Portsmouth, from which city in England the Fleet departed.

I find it difficult to imagine and comprehend the extraordinary hardships faced by that First Fleet of eleven quite small ships journeying for almost nine months towards a future of uncertainty which, to the crew members and passengers, both willing and unwilling, must have appeared considerably less than glorious.

But I have no difficulty in conceiving a tremendous admiration for the fortitude of those First Fleeters and for the manner in which they faced the dangers of the journey and the almost insurmountable problems of the early days of the new settlement.

The handsome memorial to be unveiled here today is to commemorate their arrival -- two large chain links in polished bronze alloy set on a block of Dartmoor granite surmounting a plinth. Its companion piece stands in Portsmouth to commemorate the departure of the Fleet -- two large chain links in a patinated bronze alloy, but resting on a block of New South Wales granite -- and that sculpture was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 11th July this year.

For the concept and execution of the Memorials we pay a tribute to the sculptor, Mr John Robinson, an Australian of international eminence in his field, who has demonstrated an excellence of design and a quality of production worthy of his high art.

To the people who have worked so diligently for the erection of the Memorial I offer congratulations and warm appreciation -- to Mrs Beryl Lewis, President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, whose organisation contributed the plinth, and to the City of Portsmouth and its citizens for providing the Dartmoor granite which is the base for this sculpture.

My Lord Mayor, to you and the Council of the City of Sydney, may we offer congratulations for your imagination, initiative and industry in creating this whole development around us, including the "Bonds of Friendship".

The Bank of New South Wales is proud to be associated with this historic Memorial, as is fitting for an organisation which was the first bank and

Addresses at Unveiling Ceremony, First Fleet Memorial (Continued)

the first public corporation in this country, and we are indeed honoured that His Excellency should accept an invitation to perform the unveiling ceremony.

My Lord Mayor, it is our great pleasure to present this sculpture through you to the people of the City of Sydney. We hope that it will long remain here as an attractive and fitting memorial to the First Fleet and all who sailed in it, and to the strong and vital bonds which have now existed between England and our own great country of Australia for almost 200 years.

(By the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Ald. Nelson Meers)

Your Excellencies, Cr Spraggs, Sir Noel Foley, Mrs Beryl Lewis, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to accept this generous gift by the Bank of New South Wales to the citizens of the City of Sydney.

In July this year a similar "Bonds of Friendship" sculpture was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at Portsmouth in England, to mark the departure of the First Fleet.

Since that epic voyage, countless Britons and Australians have made the journey between Australia and Great Britain. Throughout almost two centuries Britain and Australia have remained staunch and loyal friends and allies, in times of peace and during war. Although we are now one of the most multicultural societies in the world, our cultural heritage and many of our traditions remain essentially British.

The "Bonds of Friendship" sculpture, therefore, stands as a testimony to the links between the cities of Portsmouth and Sydney, between the Old and New Worlds, and to the common bonds of goodwill and understanding which unite Britain and Australia.

The sculpture, which completes the city's First Fleet Memorial, stands also as a reminder of the courage and service of the colony's first Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip. A man of integrity and vision, Phillip would be happy to know that his work is remembered in a country which, almost alone, he predicted, almost 200 years ago, would become a great nation.

It is now my very great pleasure to invite His Excellency the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Sir Zelman Cowen, A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.St.J., Q.C., to officially unveil the "Bonds of Friendship" sculpture.

(By His Excellency Sir Zelman Cowen, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia)

On 11th July last, Her Majesty the Queen unveiled a sculpture entitled the "Bonds of Friendship" at Portsmouth, and I am pleased to participate in the counterpart ceremony here at Circular Quay today and to unveil a second casting of "Bonds of Friendship". You, Lord Mayor, were present with the Lady Mayoress at the ceremony at Portsmouth, and it is at your invitation that I am here today.

We meet in the first year of the eighties, and towards the end of this decade we shall commemorate an Australian bi-centennial marked by the year 1788, the year of the First Fleet and of first British settlement in Australia. That commemoration will take into account many things; it will certainly involve the contemplation of our evolution as a people and a nation. The date, 1788, however, is the year of the arrival of the First Fleet, and this occasion relates specifically to that.

Let me recount the events briefly; I do not mean the history of the First Fleet; I speak of the events leading to today's occasion.

In 1977 the Fellowship of First Fleeters, all direct descendants of those who arrived with the First Fleet, approached your Council for

Addresses at Unveiling Ceremony, First Fleet Memorial (Continued)

approval in principle of a proposal to establish a memorial to the First Fleet. Earlier in the 1970's the Lord Mayor's Australian Settlers Commemoration Committee at Portsmouth resolved to commemorate the departure of the First Fleet from that historic port, and the Portsmouth City Council provided a site for a memorial in old Portsmouth near the Sally Port, which has historic associations with the departure. Sir Nicholas Shehadie, as Lord Mayor of Sydney, visited Portsmouth, and in 1975 the City of Sydney presented to the City of Portsmouth a fine slab of New South Wales granite which was set on a stone plinth and was unveiled by Sir Davis Hughes, then Agent-General for New South Wales, in May 1976.

Reciprocally, the City of Portsmouth presented a similar block of English granite quarried at Dartmoor, which was accepted by the Sydney City Council. This is the base of the Australian memorial, sited here in front of the Sydney Customs House, and this granite base was set in place here a short time ago.

In Portsmouth the Committee acquired a piece of sculpture to mount on the English memorial. It is known as "Bonds of Friendship", and it is done by John Robinson, an Australian sculptor who has lived in the United Kingdom for some years. Not long ago I saw an exhibition of his work in Canberra. As I said earlier, the Queen unveiled the "Bonds of Friendship" in Portsmouth on 11th July last.

The Bank of New South Wales has presented a second casting of this sculpture to the City of Sydney, and it is now positioned here. It is polished and golden, symbolising a new country, and I have the pleasure of unveiling it today. I do so to commemorate a historic event important to this city, this State and this nation. It comes early in this decade of the bi-centennial; it has special significance to the Committee which took the initiative to have it established, and it has significance for us all, not least as an early event in celebrations which will culminate in the programme for 1988. I hope that it will focus your minds on the appropriate celebration and definition of the bi-centennial. Plans are being made by a national committee which is already in place, and I am sure that citizens who direct their thoughts to the appropriate themes of the bi-centennial can make a worthwhile input into that planning.

I now unveil the "Bonds of Friendship".

"A Beautiful Fairytale"

After the October meeting our President told us about her wonderful visit to Portsmouth to represent the Fellowship at the unveiling of the Australian Settlers Memorial by Her Majesty the Queen.

Mrs Lewis told us about the special itinerary the official guests were given, and they were asked to read in depth pages of minute-by-minute details prior to the ceremony, reaching to the finale. However, the schedule was disrupted by the Queen, who stepped from her car and decided to walk the last part of the journey to the memorial. The itinerary was upside down, being 20 minutes late!

The weather was glorious for the occasion, and the English pageantry magnificent. Jets zoomed above to the split second, and guns gave an impressive salute from the harbour. Later a formal lunch was held at the Guildhall, and Mrs Lewis was a guest at the official table. At night there was a formal dinner with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sydney and our President as guests of honour. Mrs Lewis was asked to pass the gold keys of the city and found she could not lift them an inch. They were solid gold, and impossible to move. She enjoyed the joke.

Not one person, said Mrs Lewis, with whom she spoke in Portsmouth would agree to state or agree that Australia started as a convict colony. They liked to think of the people arriving on the ships as early settlers. Settlers, yes we agree, but forced settlers.

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### "A Beautiful Fairytale" (Continued)

Mrs Lewis said she was sure everyone was tired of her account of Portsmouth, but we all heartily disagreed. We are very fortunate indeed to have such an ambassadress for our Fellowship, dedicates as she is, and we are proud of her.

Mrs Lewis described the visit to Portsmouth as a beautiful fairytale, and we were enabled to share the experience with her that evening.

Sally Kalina.

### Tranter Museum of Australiana

The Tranter Museum of Australiana is now open to the public at 7 Rupert Street, Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains. The Museum contains one of the finest collections of Australian colonial cedar furniture, paintings, children's items, engraved firearms, parian and bric-a-brac in the country, according to Museum Director Edgar F. Penzig. Hours of opening are 10.30 am to 5 pm Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and school holidays. Parties of 10 or more during the week by appointment only. Entrance fees: \$2 adults, \$1 children, if parties are under 10 people; \$1-50 adults, 80c children, if the group numbers more than 10 people. Directors of the museum are Edgar and Megan Penzig, who can be contacted at 7 Rupert Street, Katoomba 2780, or by phone at (047) 82 2552.

### First Names of "First Fleeters"

From Mrs Joyce Cowell's lists of First Fleeters it emerges that the 1078 males had 83 different first names, and the 244 females had 42 different such names.

The most common male names were: John (21.4%); William (16%); James (10.8%) and Thomas (9.9%) together making up 58.1% of the total.

Eight more names occupied collectively 24% of the total, and individually ranged from 4% to 2%. They are: Joseph, Edward, Robert, Richard, George, Henry, Samuel and Charles.

The followed: Peter (1.5%); Daniel (1.2%); Francis (1.1%); David (0.9%); Stephen (0.8%); Benjamin (0.7%); Andrew, Patrick and Michael (0.6% each).

The remaining 107 males (9.9% of the total) had 62 different names -- from Aaron to Zachariah -- between them, no name relating to more than five people and most to only one person.

Among the females the five most common names were: Mary (24.6%); Elizabeth (17.6%); Ann(e) (13.5%); Jane (6.6%); Sarah (5.8%) -- collectively 68.1% of the total.

Four more names related to 2% or more up to 3.7%, as follows -- Margaret (3.7%); Susannah (2.9%); Catharine (2.5%) and Hannah (2%). Then came Charlotte (1.6%); Frances, Maria and Martha (1.2% each).

The remaining names related to 38 persons (15.6% of total), each name to only one or two persons.

Len Chalmers (Membership Committee).

### Manly Colonial Day

A new event, a special Colonial Fashion Competition exclusively for members of a historical society, has been introduced for the 1981 Manly Colonial Day, to be held at St Patrick's College, Manly, on Saturday 24th January. This event will be open to any individual member competing on behalf of his or her society and appearing in the appropriate costume of a well-known colonial (1788-1901) personage -- e.g., Captain Arthur Phillip, Governor Macquarie, etc. The personage must have a close identification with Australia. The best costume will win for his or her society a Challenge Trophy to be held for one year, plus a replica which the society will retain. (The Fellowship is, of course, eligible to compete).

Coming Event: 19th November. Lecture by Mr James Broadbent, consultant from the National Trust: "Early Colonial Gardens".

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