

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

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From the President

Since last reporting to you I have been very busy. On Wednesday 27th August I travelled to Nowra to speak to 94 ladies of Shoalhaven View Club. It is so good to see the growing interest in our pioneers and the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

As you will have noticed, our Membership is ever increasing, and our Membership Committee are working very long hours to research and check each one.

On Friday 5th September, together with Vice President Roderick Best, I attended the official opening of the Circular Quay Project by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Ald. Nelson Meers. For the benefit of interstate Members this project is one to beautify our City with a pedestrian plaza, beautifully paved with Italian porphyry cobblestones, surrounding a bus/rail interchange. It is in a section of this precinct that the "Bonds of Friendship" memorial to the First Fleet will be unveiled on Wednesday 17th September at 12.30 pm by His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen. I hope many Members may be able to go along and witness this ceremony.

On the afternoon of 5th September I flew to Armidale, where I was joined by Mrs Beatrice Bradley, to be your delegates at the Royal Australian Historical Society Conference of Affiliated Societies. This is an annual event and of great benefit to all groups who participate.

Once again we are approaching our Annual General Meeting. This year it is to be held on Wednesday 24th September at 7.30 pm sharp. One of our greatest difficulties is our scattered membership. With Members throughout Australia -- indeed, throughout the world -- it is difficult to come together, but I do hope as many as possible will come along and support their hard-working Committee. Following this meeting Mr Geoff Squires has agreed to speak to us on the trip to Norfolk Island earlier this year. This promises to be a very interesting conclusion to our evening.

All Members are asked to make a special effort to come to the October Lecture Night (Wednesday 15th at 7.45 pm), which is to take the form of a discussion night on the Bi-Centennial Celebrations. Do come along and bring some ideas, and don't leave it to the mythical "They".

I hope to see as many as possible at these various occasions.

Beryl Lewis.

Surgery for Mrs Thelma Guy

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Thelma Guy, of the Executive Committee (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes), is making a good recovery after major heart surgery. All Members of the Fellowship wish her well.

Also recently undergoing surgery was Mr Ken Jollie, husband of hard-working Newsletter Committee Member Mrs Lou Jollie. We are pleased to hear he is making satisfactory progress.

Elizabeth Farm

Elizabeth Farm is the oldest dwelling in Australia and the place where the first sheepbreeding experiments were carried out. Mr Nigel Ashton, as an architect working on the restoration of Elizabeth Farm, came to tell us at our August Lecture Night something of the people who built this house, of its history and importance, and of the plans for its future.

John Macarthur was brought up in Devon by his Scottish parents, and chose the Army for his career. He was just too young to go to the war in America, but was able to join the corps being prepared to go to New South Wales. In 1788 he became a Lieutenant in the N.S.W. Corps.

In the same year Macarthur married Elizabeth Veale. This proved to be a very happy choice, as Elizabeth was well educated and intelligent and had great beauty, strength of character and commonsense.

The young couple, with their infant son Edward, sailed for New South Wales in the notorious ship Neptune of the Second Fleet. Macarthur quarrelled with the Captain and fought a duel with him, and Elizabeth bore a daughter on the journey who did not survive. However, when they arrived in Sydney on 28th June 1790 they were among the very few who could walk ashore.

In June 1791 John Macarthur went to Parramatta and saw the opportunities the rich and fertile land there offered. On 17th February 1793 he received a grant of 100 acres, and built and occupied his home -- Elizabeth Farm, appropriately named after his wife, for it was she who turned it into the elegant home it became, and it was she who managed it and the surrounding orchards, vineyards and pasturelands during her husband's long absences in England.

After this introductory talk Mr Ashton showed us some very interesting slides of the house itself. The first structure was a long, narrow building, 68ft by 18ft, consisting of four rooms with a kitchen at the back. The bricks were burnt on the site, and the ironbark roof shingles and floorboards were also cut on the site. We saw on the slides the original trusses and beams, and the original shingled roof, now covered by galvanized iron. We saw the additions made to the house by Cooper, and later by Verge -- a new bedroom wing, a kitchen and laundry, servants' quarters, a verandah, a courtyard and a small conservatory. By the time of Macarthur's death in 1834, it was one of the most elegant homes in the colony.

Elizabeth stayed on in the house till her death in 1850. But her sons were not interested in living there and the house was rented to various tenants, and then sold to a Mr Cliff, who used it as a glue factory. Later it was a boarding house, and finally it was bought in 1904 by a Mr Swann, who lived there with his four daughters and one son. We owe it to the Misses Swann that we have the house -- they lived in it almost all their lives, until 1968. They appreciated the charm and interest of the house, and kept it, with considerable difficulty to themselves.

Elizabeth Farm is now being repaired -- but the 180-year-old structure will not be changed. It is to be kept as an historical monument to illustrate how architectural styles have changed. When the repairs are completed, it will become a museum. The garden will be restored with plants similar to those in the original garden. It is even hoped to connect Elizabeth Farm to Hambledon and Experiment Farm by a walking track of about one mile -- truly a walk back into the earliest history of Australia.

We thank Mr Ashton for his interesting address.

J. C. Cowell.

Ceremony at Governor Phillip's Monument

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Governor Phillip's birthday will be celebrated again this year, with a wreath-laying ceremony at Phillip's monument in the Royal Botanic Gardens on Saturday 11th October.

Members to meet at 11 am at the memorial, in the Gardens opposite the State Library building.

Guest speaker will be Mr Max Goeswinkle, who paints early Australian pictures and is an authority on Phillip.

Following the wreath-laying, luncheon will be held in the kiosk in the Botanic Gardens -- \$5-50 per head.

Bookings for the luncheon to be made with Mrs Barbara Townsend (telephone 631 5339).

Annual General Meeting

final reminder that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th September at 7.30 pm sharp in the Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Building, York Street, Sydney.

Delay with Badges

Members should note that, because of the recent serious operation undergone by Mrs Thelma Guy, there has been a delay in processing requests for badges. Miss Alice Clarke is now attending to the matter, and will fulfil orders as soon as possible.

Another Grandson for Mrs Naida Jackson

To Mrs Penelope Murray, daughter of Executive Committee and Membership Committee member Mrs Naida Jackson (William Tunks), a second son, Brent Stuart, born on 12th August. Congratulations.

Three "First Fleeter" Ancestors

Members of the Fellowship Mrs Thais Mason, of East Bentleigh, Victoria, and her daughter Mrs M. G. Barkla, recently discovered that they have three First Fleeters -- Edward and Susannah Garth and Jacob Billett (Bellett).

Mrs Beverley Hancock, of Morley, W.A., and Mrs Daphne Hunter, of Attadale, W.A. (listed among new Members in the July Newsletter), also have the same three ancestors.

Founding Member Attends World Conference in U.S.

A founding Member of the Fellowship, Mrs Walter Bailey, of Kingsgrove, has been attending, with her husband, a world conference on genealogical research, held in Salt Lake City, U.S.A.

The conference was organised by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latterday Saints.

Mrs Bailey's ancestors came from Cornwall, while Mr Bailey's were from Kent and Ireland.

Lists of First Fleeters

Lists of the original First Fleeters are now available from the Fellowship at \$2 per list.

Return from Overseas Visit

Mrs Karen Lovett (Joseph Hatton), daughter of Newsletter Editor Mrs Joan Ross, and her husband John have recently returned from a six-month trip to the U.K. and continental Europe.

Membership Report

The following new Members are welcomed into the Fellowship:

Ryan R. Guy, Pendle Hill. (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes)
Mrs Noelene I. Reynolds, Albury. (John Small - Mary Parker)
Mrs Irene M. Staines, Manildra. (Matthew Everingham)
Malcolm B. Tunks, Graeme J. Tunks jnr and Miss Janelle R. Tunks, jnr,
Coonabarabran. (William Tunks)
Miss Lorraine J. Turtle, Miss Simone F. Turtle and Miss Julia M. Turtle,
Emu Plains. (Joseph Hatton)
Gregory W. Smyth, Five Dock. (Joseph Hatton)
Phil W. Hanson, Ermington. (Joseph Hatton)
Mrs Joy V. Hanson, Bexley. (Joseph Hatton)
Miss Susan M. Meek, jnr, and Charles A. Meek, jnr, Eugowra.
(Matthew Everingham)
Robert L. Harman, Chatswood. (Catherine Johnson and John Cross)
John T. Greenhalgh, Ackland, Q. (Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley)
Mrs Kathleen W. Greenhalgh, Ackland, Q. (George Johnston and
Esther Abrahams)
Miss Sue A. Bellamy, jnr, Miss Lisa Bellamy and Timothy Bellamy,
Mangerton. (John Small - Mary Parker)
Mrs Kerry Benson, Casula. (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne)
Peter D. Kable, jnr, Wavell Heights, Q. (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes)
Darcy P. Clayton, Townsville, Q. (William Broughton)
Mrs Henry Rundell, Ormond, Vic. (John Small - Mary Parker)
Thomas F. Hanson, Mooroolbark, Vic. (Joseph Hatton)
Mrs Grace E. Penman, Macquarie Fields. (Joseph Hatton)
Miss Amy E. Campbell Smith, jnr, Gladesville. (Joseph Hatton)

Membership Committee.

"A Library of Personal Memories"

(From Mrs M. E. Boyd, Kingsgrove)

I have recently been assisting a university lecturer researching the history of trade-unionism in this country. I feel that his way of obtaining much of his information could be applied to the Fellowship's interest in historical matters of all kinds. He has been interviewing elderly people who had taken part in the various aspects of trade-unionism and placing the interviews on tape. They consist of memories which really flow when a pertinent question is put to them.

It occurred to me that most families have an elderly relative, and if their memories of their childhood and what they can remember being told by their parents and grandparents could be put on tape they would be there for all time. They could be typed as the university lecturer is having done, or the tapes themselves could be stored until perhaps they become useful to someone wanting to write a book or just for personal interest.

It is unfortunate but true that when the last member of a generation dies, perhaps 80-100 years of recollections can be lost forever.

Perhaps through the F.F.F. Newsletter, Members could be encouraged to help compile a library of personal memories of their families whether they have achieved notable deeds or indeed led lives which may seem mundane now but which to future generations would be a fund of great interest. Together with the information for Family Trees which you are collecting, I am sure such additions would be greatly valued in time to come, and such an exercise would be quite inexpensive.

Coming Events

Oct. 11 - 11 am (Sat.): Wreath-laying Governor Phillip's monument, plus luncheon. For bookings, phone Barbara Townsend (631 5339)

Oct. 15 - 7.45 pm (Wed.): Discussion on Bi-Centennial Celebrations, etc.

Jan. 24, 1981: Colonial Day, Manly (including, for the first time, a special Colonial Fashion Competition exclusively for members of an historical society. More details next Newsletter).
