

Reg. No. NBH 1271
CAT. B.

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Wednesday, 10 am - 2 pm.
Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm.
Friday, 10 am - 2 pm.

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The following letter has been received.

Buckingham Palace.
27th October, 1981

Dear All,

The Prince and Princess of Wales have asked me to write and thank you for your very kind thought in writing to them on the occasion of their marriage.

Their Royal Highnesses were most touched by the good wishes you have expressed and have asked me to send you their very sincere thanks.

Yours sincerely,
John Kirby.

The Members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

From the President

Since last reporting to you I have been half way around the world again, and much has happened in the Fellowship.

Firstly the Annual General Meeting was held and I thank all Members for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me your President for a seventh term. I welcome one new committee member, Mr Keith Lehané, and look forward to another happy and successful year with re-elected Executive Committee Members.

Following the usual Executive Meeting on Wednesday 4th November I can now report on our efforts to mark Australia's Bicentennial. We have all been very quiet, but certainly not idle. Negotiations were commenced many months ago, following what we considered an excellent suggestion by a Member, that we place "something" in the Mitchell Library. Approaches were made to Mr Doust, Chief Librarian, who was delighted and referred us to the Government Architect. After many hours of consultation with this gentleman, a trip by me to Melbourne, much discussion by your Committee, and a detailed submission by the weavers concerned, we have decided, in principle, to reserve time for the commission of a handwoven 100% wool tapestry to hang in the State Library. This

venue is particularly appropriate, as without the services of this Library, especially in the early days of our inception, we could not have survived. After my inspection of some of these tapestries I am convinced this proposed tapestry will become part of our national heritage, will be a true work of art and will be worthy of the event it will commemorate. Whilst your Committee are unanimous in their decision, we would like to know we have your approval and support in our endeavours.

Consequently Mrs Sue Walker, Director of the Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne, will travel to Sydney to speak to Members on our regular Lecture Night, Wednesday 17th February 1982. Mrs Walker will bring slides and samples for all to see. Do come along and thereby let us know how you feel about these plans. The design will be decided at a later stage, but will be of a historical nature, in keeping with the Fellowship.

Arrangements for Australia Day celebrations appear elsewhere in this Newsletter, and I look forward to seeing many Members over the holiday weekend and on the actual day at the Flag Raising ceremony.

I have available colour postcards of St Nicholas Church, Bathampton (the church in which Governor Arthur Phillip was buried) showing the exterior, the Australia Chapel, the gravestone and Memorial Rails (which the Fellowship of First Fleeters donated some years ago). Any Member may obtain one by sending 20c and a stamped addressed envelope to me at Box 4441, G.P.O. Sydney 2001.

Beryl Lewis.

'First Fleeter' Pays Homage

Under the above heading the "Bath and West Evening Chronicle" published an article by David Symington in its issue of Tuesday 13th October, 1981, on the President's visit to St Nicholas' Church, Bathampton. The article was illustrated with a photograph of the President, with the caption: Mrs Beryl Lewis lays her bouquet on the admiral's grave. Picture by Kevin Bates. The article is reproduced below by courtesy of the newspaper:

Mrs Beryl Lewis has flown half way around the world to lay a bunch of flowers on the Bathampton grave of the founder of Australia.

Mrs Lewis, from Sydney, New South Wales, is president of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Founded in 1968, the fellowship consists of 2,000 Australians who can trace their ancestry back to a member of the first fleet of colonisers commanded by Admiral Arthur Phillip, RN.

Bath and district branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society held the 35th commemoration of Phillip of Australia Day yesterday.

After a short service at St Nicholas' Church, Bathampton, conducted by the new vicar, the Rev Michael Hayes, a wreath was laid on Admiral Phillip's grave by Acting High Commissioner for Australia, Mr Robert Robertson.

Mrs Lewis laid a bouquet on behalf of the fellowship.

Record

At a luncheon attended by a record number of guests in the Assembly Rooms Mrs Lewis brought out a new aspect of Admiral Phillip.

"Sydney is a beautiful city but it would be even more beautiful if it had grown up along the lines laid down by Governor Phillip, the first town planner," Mrs Lewis told the 100 guests.

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"He planned very wide streets but unfortunately the plan never came to fruition and the old tracks were used instead."

Bi-centenary

Mrs Lewis noted that 1988 would be the bi-centenary of Phillip's landing and said it would be wonderful to see his former home at 19 Bennet Street preserved to mark the occasion.

"There is so much potential in that building. Something should be done in it, perhaps setting it up as a meeting place for Australians who come to Bath."

The toast to the Queen was proposed by the Very Rev Fenton Morley, president of the Bath and district branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

The Mayor of Bath, Mr Leslie Ridd, replied to a toast to the guests.

After an afternoon service at the Phillip Memorial in Bath Abbey, Australian guests and branch members were entertained at the Guildhall by the Mayor and Mayoress.

A Pilgrimage to Bath

(By Beryl Lewis)

On the 6th September 1981 I set off, for a second time, to visit Britain, my main objective to attend the 35th Commemoration of Phillip of Australia Day, at Bath on Monday 12th October.

After touring Scotland, Ireland and England (from Lands End to John O'Groats!) my husband and I went to Portsmouth to revisit the Bonds of Friendship Memorial, the unveiling of which I attended last year. It was in marked contrast to my last visit, when the streets were lined with thousands of happy, cheering people, as this time it was a weekend, and all was peaceful and quiet. To me there is a special feeling about the Sally Port at Portsmouth -- the shoreline with its tiny "beach" of pebbles, all worn so smooth by the constant ebb and flow of the water. Did my First Fleeters walk on those very stones? Who knows? The old stone wall is so beautiful to us today, but to those First Fleeters must have been reminiscent of a prison and perhaps was one of their last sights of Britain. In Portsmouth we were also received by the Lord Mayor and chatted over morning tea of the bonds that exist between his City and our Fellowship.

From Portsmouth we travelled to Hove, near Brighton, where we were guests of Brian Brooks and Michael Davies at a luncheon party arranged in our honour. Those who attended the Australia Day Dinner this year will remember these gentlemen, who are professional genealogists.

Then we moved on to our main goal -- Bath. Monday 12th October dawned fine but dull, clearing to sunshine in the afternoon; we couldn't have wished for a nicer autumn day. First we journeyed to Bathampton and the picturesque stone church of St Nicholas, the last resting place of Arthur Phillip, who led the First Fleet which brought my ancestors and yours to Australia. We were welcomed by the Vicar and then escorted across the road to the local "Pub" for morning coffee. Here we met other official guests, notably the Acting Australian High Commissioner, Mr Robert Robertson; the New South Wales Agent General, Mr J. B. Renshaw, and Mrs Renshaw; the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath, Cr Leslie Ridd, and Mrs Ridd; and the Very Reverend Fenton Morley, President of Bath and District Royal Commonwealth Society. We moved in procession to a simple short service in St Nicholas, at the conclusion of which Mr Robertson placed a wreath on Phillip's

grave on behalf of Australia and I laid a bouquet on behalf of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. We travelled back to Bath in a very impressive cavalcade of official black limousines, each flying its own standard. Here we attended a formal luncheon in the Assembly Rooms -- a beautiful old building, which suffered bombing during the war, but now beautifully restored and its glorious chandeliers still intact thanks to safe storage during that conflict. The Toasts were as follows: "The Queen", proposed by the Very Reverend W. Fenton-Morley, C.B.E., Dean Emeritus, Salisbury Cathedral, and President of Bath and District Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society. "Phillip of Australia" was proposed by the Hon. J. B. Renshaw, A.C., A.G., Agent General for New South Wales, who invited me to speak to the Toast, which I felt very honoured to do. "The Commonwealth" was very ably proposed by Mr Robert Robertson, Acting High Commissioner for Australia. "Our Guests" was proposed by the Very Rev. W. Fenton Morley, C.B.E., with a reply by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Leslie Ridd.

Following a delightful lunch we moved on to the Phillip Memorial in Bath Abbey. Here a memorial service was held by the Bishop of the Abbey, and another wreath was laid on behalf of Australia by Mr Robertson. We were then entertained to afternoon tea, at the Guildhall, by the Mayor and Mayoress. Councillor Ridd escorted us around the Guildhall, with its magnificent staircase leading to the Council Chamber, with its beautiful green leather furnishings and breathtaking chandeliers all with a long history of tradition. The Public Gallery (the equivalent of our Town Hall) was breathtakingly beautiful and still contains a small minstrel gallery half way along its length, a relic of long ago. The chandeliers in this vast hall are said to be priceless. It was then very pleasant to relax with the inevitable cup of tea.

Our day came to a conclusion with an escorted tour of Bath, thanks to the generosity of Mr John Vivian, my architect friend who designed and built the Australia Chapel. Apart from the scenes of unsurpassed beauty we were taken to No. 19 Bennett St., the home of Arthur Phillip. Still in excellent condition, it is owned by the Bath City Council, with the two top floors let as flats, but the ground level is largely as Phillip left it. I endeavoured, in my address, to support the idea of its acquisition, perhaps as a meeting place for such groups as the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Britain-Australia Society, and as a haven for Australians visiting Bath.

Bath is a truly beautiful and quite unique city. It is almost like an immense amphitheatre with streets, circles and circuses all terraced down and around the civic, church and shopping areas. A very few modern buildings were erroneously built after the war, but now regulations exist which make it mandatory for new buildings to be designed in keeping with the old style, thus preserving the glorious architecture of Bath.

It was very heart-warming to see the interest and involvement of the people of Bath in celebrating this day, for, sad to say, Australians generally pay very little heed to anything of this nature.

All told, we spent three very happy days in Bath and it will always occupy a very special place in my memories.

Tunks Family "Get-together"

This event, advertised in the October Newsletter, was held at Parramatta Park, as scheduled, on Sunday 8th November. Against all predictions the weather was perfect for the picnic luncheon.

About 120 people turned up, ranging in age from 87 years down to 6 weeks. About 35 were members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, the remainder were either families of members not yet joined or those who responded to newspaper advertisements

or Mr Geeves' radio broadcast. People came from as far afield as Nyngan, Condobolin, Newcastle, Bargo and Gosford, as well as from throughout the Sydney metropolitan area.

It was unanimously agreed that this should be an annual event, with Parramatta Park the most favoured venue.

Membership Report --- November 1981

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new Members:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SUBURB/TOWN</u>	<u>ANCESTOR(S)</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
Mr Robert L. COLHOUN	Brighton-Le-Sands	James Squire	Full
Mrs Edna M. COLHOUN	"	-----	Assoc./ spouse
Mr Peter J. DUNK	West Wyalong	Ann Forbes + Robert Forrester	Full
Miss Sarah A. DUNK	"	"	Junior
Mr James P. DUNK	"	"	"
Mrs Phyllis L. FROST	Queanbeyan	James Squire	Full
Mrs Janet L. GORDON	Cattai	"	Full
Mrs Eileen E. GOULDING	Gosford	Thomas Spencer- Mary Phillips	Full
Mrs Maureen A. MASON	Mt Pleasant, W.A.	Ann Forbes + Robert Forrester	Full
Mr George W. PHILP	Grafton	John Nichols	Full
Mr William L. PHILP	"	"	Full
Mr William E. RICHARDS	Baan Baa	Robert Forrester	Full
Mrs Susan L. SHAW	Tamarama	"	Full
Mrs Catherine M. THACKERAY	Fairy Meadow	Thomas Arndell	Full
Mr William J. WATT	West Ryde	Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes	Full
Mr William P. WATT	"	"	Junior
Mr Terence J. WHITFIELD	Newfoundland, Canada	"	Full
Miss Caroline WHITFIELD	"	"	Junior
Mr Roy G. WHITTAKER	Killarney Heights	"	Full

Membership Committee.

Celebrations for Australia Day 1982

Tuesday 26th Jan. Members are invited to the Flag Raising in Macquarie Place. Those in costume are to arrive "as a formed body" at 11.42 am (Ceremony at 12 noon) to be seated in official enclosure. We will depart the Fellowship office at 11.30 am sharp. The office will be open from 10 am for those wishing to change into costume. Do come along -- this is a most impressive ceremony.

Saturday 30th Jan. Celebration Dinner at the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney, at 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Tickets \$20 each. Dress, Black Tie or Lounge Suits. Our Guest of Honour this year will be Sir John Mason, High Commissioner for Britain. Numbers are strictly limited, so organise a table and book early by sending remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Miss Alice Clarke, P.O. Box 328, Lane Cove 2066.

Sunday 31st Jan. Exhibition at The Rocks. If Members have copies of their Family Tree, would they please lend it for the Exhibition? Any Members able to help on that day (on a roster basis) will be most welcome. Further information from Mrs Bailey (43 4075), Mrs Jackson (982 8014) or Mrs Hope Caten (407 1042).

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Monday 1st February. Presentation of Memorial (Address of Loyalty) to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales at Government House at 9.30 am. Assemble outside the main gates (in costume, if possible) at 9.15 am. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult, so make this a family occasion.

October Lecture

The title for the October lecture night was "Elizabeth and John Macarthur, the Story of a Marriage", the speaker Dr Hazel King, historian and author.

Dr King gave us not only an interesting history of the times but an insight into the characters of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, the darker side of John's personality and the strength of Elizabeth which enabled her to carry on in his absence the work on the farm and to continue the task of establishing the Merino sheep breed which was developed during his absence from the colony.

The Macarthurs started farming at Parramatta ploughing with oxen, and in 1796 they were able to procure a few Merino sheep that had been imported from the Cape. Keeping the strain pure, John Macarthur succeeded in producing wool equal to that of the famous Spanish flocks, and he showed samples of this wool to English manufacturers when over in Europe at the turn of the century. They guaranteed him large orders if he could produce enough of it, as fine wool in those days came only from Spain.

Macarthur sold his commission in the Army and, along with the sheep, embarked in his own ship, the Argo, armed with a letter ordering Governor King to grant him 500 acres of land of his own selection.

Near Mt Taurus he chose what was known as The Cowpastures, the district in which a straying herd had been found. Macarthur was astute, as he conceived that cattle, being the best judge of their own feed, would naturally graze upon land which produced it in greatest abundance.

Macarthur's contemporaries thought him crazy -- 50 miles from Sydney, no neighbours! Some pitied him and laughed, but not for long. The wool industry flourished where beautiful Camden Park now stands, so named by Macarthur in gratitude to the man who had set the seal of approval for his plans.

Dr King showed how strong a character Elizabeth was, surviving the terrible voyage to Australia, losing her premature child on the voyage over, and caring for her sick husband and her little boy on the harrowing journey.

Her love of flowers, especially native flowers, led her to study botany, and she even tried astronomy, although she found it too difficult. She was friendly with the Aborigines, and one Aboriginal woman in particular was a regular visitor to her home. Elizabeth was an adaptable woman, "a woman for all seasons".

In middle age John Macarthur suffered sickness and depression, and Elizabeth carried on the farm throughout all upheavals, political and physical. Eventually Macarthur in 1832 was declared insane, and died in 1834. Elizabeth's three surviving sons inherited the properties, as she considered herself more a manager of the properties than the owner.

Dr King considers Elizabeth as an essentially happy woman and contented with her lot. She died in 1850 aged 83.

Dr King made John and Elizabeth real, full-blooded people, and we feel we understand them far better on hearing her lecture.

Next lecture, this Wednesday, 18th November, to be given by Armidale historian Beatrice Bradley on the Milford Diary, saved at the last moment from destruction in a "cleaning-up" fire:

Sally Kalina.

Christmas Party

The Fellowship's 1981 Christmas Party will be held at the Weinkeller, Pitt Street, Sydney, at 6 pm on Friday 4th December. Numbers strictly limited. Bookings with Mrs Barbara Townsend (tel. 631 5339).

Noteletts. T-shirts Available

The Fellowship now has Noteletts with matching envelopes for sale, 10 for \$2 (50c postage). They are deep cream with our ship emblem on the front in blue. Should be excellent as small Christmas gifts. As, of course, are our spoons, etc.

Actually, at date of printing, the T-shirts are not yet available, but they should be delivered well in time for Christmas. The T-shirts will have the Fellowship's emblem in front, and will be priced at \$6-50. Enquiries from our office.

Souvenir spoons, sugar spoons, cake forks, \$2-50 each. Tea caddies (spoons) and key rings, \$2-50 each. Car stickers, 75c each. Packing and postage charge of 50c for each order.

Name Bars are available from Mrs Thelma Guy, Lot 14, Wallgrove Road, Horsley Park 2164, at the following rates: Member's name and one First Fleeter's name, \$2-75 each; Member's name and two First Fleeters' names, \$3-25 each; Member's name and three First Fleeters' names, \$3-75 each. On blue or black background. Please add 50c for packing and postage.

Publications Available

Journals (4 editions only), 50c each plus postage. Four sets, postage 80c in N.S.W., 90c interstate. First Fleet Book, \$4-50 (\$5 posted). Compiling Your Family History, \$3 (50c postage). First Fleet Lists, \$2 each (50c postage). The Mills Brothers of Port Fairy (2 copies only). "They Came by a Road", by Viv. Kable. (Of special interest to the Kable family; \$5-50, posted).

"Reminiscences of Australia"

A limited Facsimile Edition of "Reminiscences of Australia," by James T. Ryan, has been published by the Nepean Family History Society. It is the story of Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley and family written by a grandson and originally published in the 1880's. Copies available for \$12-50 (including packaging and postage throughout Australia) from the Nepean Family History Society, 125 Maxwell Street, Penrith 2750.

Jews on the Land Project

The Australian Jewish Historical Society is researching the subject of Jewish families which have been engaged, in the past or at the present time, in some kind of primary production in Australia. The aim is to prepare an illustrated written history of Jews on the land in Australia in the 19th and 20th centuries for publication in the Society's Journal. If sufficient material is available, an exhibition will be mounted later. Anyone who can help should contact Mrs Marcelle Marks, Hon. Secretary, Jews on the Land Sub-committee, 32 Central Avenue, Mosman, N.S.W. 2088.

Coming Events

Nov. 18: Lecture, Mrs Beatrice Bradley, "The Milford Diary," 4th Floor Board Room, Assembly Building, Sydney.
Dec. 4: Christmas Party, Weinkeller, Pitt Street, Sydney.
Late Jan.: Various Australia Day functions (see Pp. 5, 6).
Feb. 17: Address re proposed wool tapestry (President's Report).
