



F.F.F.

NEWSLETTER

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Tuesday, 10 am-4 pm
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Thursday, 10 am-2 pm
Friday, 10 am-2 pm

Volume 13 No. 3
June/July 1982

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

On Saturday, 29th May, a group of members and their friends enjoyed a conducted tour of Sydney University. These glorious old buildings really come alive when one is escorted by such a knowledgeable guide. Climbing the clock tower proved to be worth the aching leg muscles we experienced, to see the glorious view of the City of Sydney and the eastern coastline.

Since last reporting to you I have been a guest speaker for Georges River Leisure Learning Group and Neutral Bay View Club.

Country members may perhaps hear an interview I taped on 2nd June for the A.B.C. Rural Department radio programme.

I was privileged to attend the launching, by His Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, of a book "Philip Gidley King" — a biography of the third Governor of New South Wales — by Jonathan King and John King, at Vaucluse House on Thursday, 27th May, 1982. We are indebted to Jonathan King for the donation of a copy of this book for our Library.

In this Newsletter you will find 5 raffle tickets. If you wish to participate in this raffle, the tickets are 50c each or the 5 for \$2. The prize is the 1792 twopenny piece donated by member Thea Rowe. Proceeds will help swell our Bicentenary Funds. Please forward your money and butts to reach our Office no later than 19th July (marking your envelope "Competition"). The winning ticket will be drawn at the July Lecture on Wednesday, 21st July, 1982.

I look forward to seeing many members and their friends at some of the outings listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Beryl Lewis

BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

It has been very interesting to receive various ideas from members regarding our proposed tapestry.

To enable all to understand a little better, your Executive Committee point out the following facts:-

- (a) The tapestry will be a **WALL HANGING** — **NOT** a framed picture as some imagine.
- (b) **THE SIZE** envisaged is 9ft x 6ft, this is considered ideal by the Architect.
- (c) The tapestry is **HAND WOVEN**.
- (d) The cost cannot be estimated until the design is agreed upon. Tapestries from the workshop cost from approximately \$1,000 a square metre to \$4,000 a square metre, according to the intricacy of the design. Therefore our Bicentennial Tapestry could cost in the vicinity of \$20,000.

Those who have seen the glorious tapestries in Britain and Europe will realise what we have in mind. There are beautiful examples of the work from the Victorian Tapestry Workshops throughout the world. Here in Australia they can be seen in the Parliament Houses of Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia, the Victorian Arts Centre, Bank of New South Wales; Melbourne, National Bank; Melbourne, A.N.Z. Bank; Melbourne and the High Court of Australia in Canberra, to name just a few.

All plans have been discussed with the Government Architect and he has given his whole-hearted co-operation and advice.

As time is passing all too quickly and we need to decide on a design, we now appeal to you to please let us have your ideas — both on design and fund raising — before 30th June, 1982.

A page is attached for your reply and please address to the writer at our **NEW** postal address, P.O. Box N283, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, 2000.

Beryl Lewis, President

13th - 16th MAY, 1983 — HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND

Hosted by New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

Patron: His Excellency the Governor-General the Honourable Sir David Beattie, G.C.M.G. G.C.V.O., Q.C.

Organising Committee of The Third Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry

Dates: Commencing 9.00 a.m. Friday, 13th May, 1982
Closing Monday afternoon 16th May, 1983
Venue: The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.
Hosts: The New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.
Information from: Congress Secretary, P.O. Box 169, Cambridge, New Zealand.
Official Airline: Air New Zealand.

The theme "UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS" has been chosen to incorporate New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific. The programme will cover as many aspects of these areas as possible, including origins of their early settlers.

Because a limit of 350 participants has been set, a provisional registration date has been set for 31st October, 1982. Booking forms and the initial registration fee of \$NZ25.00 should be in by this date. Final registration fee and all other payments (for live-in accommodation and Congress Dinner) must be paid by 28th February, 1983.

Individuals may request a brochure and booking form to be sent direct to them, from July, 1982 onwards, by writing to the Congress Secretary — two international reply coupons to cover postage would be appreciated.

Please indicate you are a member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1982-83

Subscriptions for 1982 - 1983 are due for payment on 1st July, 1982. The rates are the same as for 1981 - 1982.

MEMBER (Not otherwise specified)	\$10 per annum
MEMBER (Holding Pensioner card)	\$ 5 per annum
ASSOCIATE — Friend	\$10 per annum
ASSOCIATE — Spouse	\$ 3 per annum
JUNIOR MEMBER (under 18 years of age)	\$ 2 per annum

Please complete the Subscription form and forward with payment to Honorary Treasurer.

"BACK IN THEM THAR HILLS"

Descendants of people who arrived in N.S.W. in the First Fleet and during the ensuing forty years and who now in general live comfortable suburban or city lives naturally have no personal knowledge of the life style of their early colonial forebears except as passed down in writing and by legend.

I am possibly one of the few who, much earlier this century, lived in close contact with a community possessing a way of life little changed from that of the 1820's, this was located in the valleys and foothills of the Illawarra Range west of Albion Park, on the N.S.W. South Coast.

To inject a snippet of N.S.W. history into the story in explanation of my presence on the scene, I might explain that the first twenty five years of my life was lived on the 1500 acre property at Albion Park known as the "Macquarie Gift", it being a grant from Governor Macquarie to his friend Major George Johnston of the First Fleet.

Johnston's youngest daughter Blanche married Captain G.E. Weston of "Horsley" at Prospect, N.S.W. His youngest son David of George's Hall near Liverpool married Selina Willey.

The eldest Weston son married David's daughter, Esther — cousins — and were given the "Macquarie Gift" property as a dowry and here over a residence of forty five years Major Ned Weston bred race and show horses, dairy farmed and cultivated crops.

Eventually their son Alick came into possession hence my existence there as the eldest of his family. It was on this land that the first clover grown in Australia came from a bag of seed given to George Johnston by his lifelong sponsor the Duke of Northumberland.

There has existed a family rumour that the Duke was in fact Johnston's father. Certainly, he was instrumental in obtaining for him a commission, at age twelve, in the 45th company of marines in 1776. In later years George Johnston was twice sent back to England to face court martial and stayed there for periods of two and four years respectively, living for much of the time with the ducal family, and on each return to N.S.W. brought back livestock, farm implements and seed given to him by the Duke.

The abovementioned slopes of the Illawarra Range in what is now the Macquarie Pass area possessed originally large stands of cedar which in the early 1800's attracted numbers of escaped convicts, emancipées and adventurers who worked at felling, pit-sawing the cedar logs into planks and shipping the timber to Sydney.

Eventually the trees were cut out and the cutters turned to other pursuits, many took up smallholdings in the same area, acquired female partners and eked out a living by subsistence farming, splitting fence timber and in operation of illicit whisky stills with maize and potatoes as the base material.

They lived as a very withdrawn community, married within the group and raised large families who in turn lived in much the same way as did their succeeding generations up into the 1900's when I came to know them.

Their mode of speech was probably little removed from that of the first arrivals except that regional differences from various areas of Great Britain had over the years been merged into a more or less common form, and which at times was hard to follow.

One of their popular community activities was the annual corn husking bees. The cobs were snapped off the stalks in the paddock and carted into a barn. Some time later the husking would be an evening event to which I was invited on several occasions.

After some hours of steady work there would be a great pile of husks which became the scene of much horseplay as girls and young men wrestled in its depths. This was one phase of early courtship among those mountain folk.

continued next page

The husking would be followed by an enormous supper of farm cooking and a dance in the kitchen from which the furniture had been hurled out into the yard. Music was provided by an "orchestra" consisting of a fiddle, concertina and mouth organ, belting out tunes of songs such as "My Lassie from Lancashire", "The Miner's Dream of Home", and "We Parted on the Shore", all bearing relation to their ancestors' forced departure from the Old Dart.

The girls and women possessed Amazon qualities and could swing an axe, handle a plough and dig postholes as competently as the men. It was no trouble for one of them to pick up a struggling, squealing hundred pound pig and heave it up into a cart. Their dances were noisy boisterous romps, and a few twirls with one of those muscular damsels was somewhat akin to being partnered by a combination threshing machine and a woolpress.

On one occasion, it was the first day of the Albion Park Agricultural Show, I visited one of the families to arrange for a fencing job. Riding up to the front of the house I was met by the man and his wife. Seeing none of their numerous brood of teenagers about, I enquired as to their whereabouts and was told by the mother that "Our uns be gorn t'show the day, us'uns be goin amorry".

Eventually blackberries and rabbits drove them off their holdings, education stepped in and later generations were absorbed in the outside community in ways far removed from those of their grandfathers.

Bert E. Weston
19th May, 1982

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM THE F.F.F. OFFICE

T. SHIRTS (navy with gold emblem) — most sizes (packaged and post \$1 extra) \$6.50 each.
Tea Towels — lines. 4 designs - old Sydney, modern Sydney,
Australian birds, Australian wildflowers \$2.50 each
NOTELETTs with matching envelopes, packet of 10 - Postage 50c extra \$2.00 each
SOUVENIR TEASPOONS Sugar Spoons, Fluted Spoons, and Cake Forks,
Tea Caddie Spoons, Key Rings \$2.50 each
PAPER KNIFE \$2.85 each
CAR STICKERS \$0.50 each
(Package and Post of each of above, 50c each)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Journals (4 Editions) 50c each plus postage — set of 4 in N.S.W. 80c, interstate 90c.
First Fleet Book \$4.50 — (50c pack and post).
Compiling your Family History — \$3.00 (50c pack and post).
First Fleet Lists — \$2.00 (50c pack and post).
They Came by Road — By Viv Kable (special interest to Kable family) — \$5.00 (50c pack and post).

REPORT ON THE MARCH LECTURE EVENING

Mr. John McClymont was the speaker for the March Lecture Night. Mr. McClymont and his wife, Bev, gave us an interesting lecture on Edmund Blackett the year before, and we were delighted to have him back as our guest speaker, though unfortunately his wife could not be with him this time as she was lecturing elsewhere.

The Topic: "Springtime Brings on the Shearing" was a delightful one. Mr. McClymont sang and talked about the origins of shearing ballads, mentioning many familiar places, people and stations, which many of us recognised.

He accompanied his songs with a banjo which is a perfect instrument for ballads. His songs were typical of the shearing days and their men, with catchy tunes and rhythms.

Some songs were familiar, others rare and very hard to find in folk song books. Mr. McClymont obviously spent many hours in his research for the shearing ballads. We enjoyed singing along to the songs and we found the history of the shearing days most informative.

Thank you Mr. McClymont for giving us a delightful evening.

SALLY KALINA

REPORT ON THE APRIL LECTURE EVENING

This was a special evening for the Fellowship. Mr. Kevin Piggott, President of the Antique Sound Society, came with many wonderful old sound machines, music boxes, gramophones, speakers and records for us to see and hear. We were given an interesting history on the music boxes and how they worked. Some were very complicated with many tunes.

We were told of the different external horn speakers on gramophones to amplify the sound. Some speakers were huge, these were for outside entertainment. Other gramophones were tiny and compact, so one could fold them up and put them in the pocket. The sound was regulated by the size of the horn speaker. If it was too loud, a piece of material was put down the horn to mute the sound. Hence the term "putting a sock in it".

Mr. Piggott played us old records, some priceless originals and wonderful to hear.

Australia had rare originals in Edison machines as certain Edison lines in America were only exported to Australia. Many radios and gramophones through the years were thrown out or traded in for television sets during the fifties — lost forever.

We thank Mr. Piggott and his wife for bringing all the machines and records all that distance for us and for a most enjoyable and fascinating lecture night.

SALLY KALINA

DATES TO REMEMBER – DO COME ALONG AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

The following trips have been organised:-

- Sunday 4th July –** Inspection of the Great Synagogue, Elizabeth St., Sydney. 1.30 p.m. \$2.00. Bookings Anne Campbell, Phone: 437-6656
- Wednesday, 11th August –** Conducted Tour of Sydney Town Hall, 2 p.m., Bookings Beryl Lewis. Phone: 709-8974
- Saturday, 18th September –** Coach trip to the Hunter Valley. Cost \$12.00 each, Bookings Mary Bailey. Phone: 43-4075
- Saturday, 16th October –** Coach trip to "Yestergrange" and Zig Zag Railway. Bring Picnic Lunch. \$10 per head. Time and pick up point to be advised. Bookings, Anne Campbell. Phone: 437-6656

PLEASE NOTE –

All bookings **MUST** be accompanied by payment and a **STAMPED** self addressed envelope for return postage of tickets.

COPIES OF THE 1788 - 1820 PIONEER REGISTRAR are available now from P.O. BOX 307, Spit Junction 2088.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – APRIL/MAY, 1982

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:-

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2033 NELSON, Mrs Marie Lorraine | FF Samuel Piggott (Pickett) |
| 2034 EGGLETON, Mr Henry George | FF W. Eggleton - M. Dickenson |
| 2035 WHITFORD, Mrs Elizabeth Doreen | FF N. Lucas - O. Gascoigne |
| 2036 Mac GILLICUDDY, M/s Kerry Rae | FF Robert Forrester |
| 2037 POWELL, Miss Robin | FF William Tunks |
| 2038 THOMSETT, Dr Jeffrey Malcolm | FF N. Lucas - O. Gascoigne |
| 2039 CUMMINS, Miss Ivy Kathleen | FF W. Eggleton - M. Dickenson |
| 2040 GOWEN, Mr James Henry | FF John Gowen |
| 2041 COWAN-LUNN, Mr Peter | FF William Roberts |
| 2042 BUCHHOLZ, Mrs Rita Ellen Louisa | FF Wm Douglas - Mary Groves |
| 2043 WEIR, Mrs Julianne | FF Wm Douglas - Mary Groves |
| 2044 PAGLIARO, Mrs Mavis Helen | FF Peter Hibbs - M. Everingham |
| 2045 LETHBRIDGE, Mr Arthur Minter | FF Philip Gidley King |
| 2046 TOMPSON, Mr Hugh Maxwell | FF William Boggis |
| 2047 GREENWAY, Mrs Valma Margaret | FF N. Lucas - O. Gascoigne |
| 2048 CAREY, Mrs Etheline Grace | FF J. McManus - J. Poole & J. Bradley |
| 2049 CARLSON, Mrs Robin Ann | FF Thomas Spencer - Mary Phillips |
| 2050 KELLY, Mr John Adrian | FF Andrew Fishburn |
| 2051 KELLY, Miss Vicki Maree | FF Andrew Fishburn |
| 2052 KELLY, Mr Roger John | FF Andrew Fishburn |
| 2053 KELLY, Miss Roslyn Anne (Jnr.) | FF Andrew Fishburn |
| 2054 CONNELL, Mrs Karen Annette | FF William Tunks |
| 2055 CONNELL, Brett Daniel (Jnr.) | FF William Tunks |
| 2056 ADSETT, Mrs Joyce Marion | FF Daniel Stanfield - A. Harmsworth |
| 2057 WHITE, Mr Alan Raymond | FF Daniel Stanfield - Alice Harmsworth |
| 2058 COCHRANE, Mrs Gwendoline Margaret | FF N. Lucas - O. Gascoigne |
| 2059 GIVNEY, Mr Edwin Charles | FF Frederick Meredith |
| 2060 McDONNELL, Mr Glen | FF W. Eggleton - M. Dickenson |
| 2061 McDONNELL, Mr Owen Lesley | FF W. Eggleton - M. Dickenson |
| 2062 THOMSETT, Alice Elizabeth (Jnr.) | FF N. Lucas - O. Gascoigne |
| 2063 THOMSETT, Laura Caroline (Jnr.) | FF N. Lucas - O. Gascoigne |
| 2064 THOMSETT, Richard D. Lucas (Jnr.) | FF N. Lucas - O. Gascoigne |
| 2065 MOLONEY, Mrs Dora Dorothy | FF H. Kable - Susannah Holmes |
| 2066 MAMMEN, Tracey Maree (Jnr.) | FF H. Kable - Susannah Holmes |
| 2067 COOK, Mr Ian Grant | FF James Wright |
| 2068 COOK, Mr Robert Ian Cameron | FF James Wright |
| 2069 COOK, Miss Alison Julia (Jnr.) | FF James Wright |
| 2070 GIPE, Mrs Nellie Georgina | FF James Wright |
| 2071 STEARMAN, Andrew John (Jnr.) | FF Wm Douglas - Mary Groves |

ASSOCIATE SPOUSE MEMBERS

- CANAVAN, Mrs June — wife of 2018, James Herbert Canavan
- PAGLIARO, Mr Arthur — husband of 2044, Mrs Mavis Helen Pagliaro
- THOMSETT, Mrs Gayle Elizabeth — wife of 2038 Dr Jeffrey M. Thomsett
- COCHRANE, Mr Andrew Keith — husband of 2058 Mrs Gwendoline M. Cochrane
- GIVNEY, Mrs Eileen Joan — wife of 2059, Charles Edwin Givney
- COWAN-LUNN, Mrs Margaret Ellen — wife of 2041 Peter Cowan-Lunn
- TOMPSON, Mrs Caryl Josephine — wife of 2046 Hugh Maxwell Tompson
- GREENWAY, Mr Capel Alexander — husband of 2047 Mrs Valma Margaret Greenway

James Lee sailed for Norfolk Island, October, 1788. In April 1792 he transferred to the New South Wales Corps and with others was discharged April, 1797. Sarah Smith 1st, arrived at Norfolk Island 1790, and remained there till her death. She was buried 10th October, 1804.

Next year, William accompanied William Pantoney to Port Dalrymple and Maria was taken to Port Jackson.
Reference:- Mitchell Library - reel 367, PRO reel 417, Mutch Index.
State Archives Office - PRO Reel 3551 and Reel 762.
Church of Saint Philip - Old Marriage Register.

N.B. SANSON, A descendant.

MEMBERS ARE INVITED to attend the Annual Ward Havard Memorial Lecture to be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday 14th August, 1982, in St. Luke's Church Hall, Northumberland St., Liverpool. The Lecturer will be Mr Don Ian McDonald and his subject "Australian History - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". R.S.V.P. To City of Liverpool and District Historical Society, P.O. Box 90, Liverpool 2170.

TUNKS FAMILY GATHERING

An invitation is extended to all descendants of **WILLIAM TUNKS**, First Fleeter Marine "*Sirius*" 1788, to attend the second annual picnic lunch gathering to be held on **Sunday, 10th October, 1982** commencing at 11 a.m. in the "Pavilion Area" of **Parramatta Park**. (The venue is reached by entering through the main gate at the end of George Street and turning right towards the river when inside the park). Please bring your own lunches.

Further information may be obtained by telephoning or writing to :-

Mrs. Joyce Cowell
16 Algernon Street,
OATLEY 2223
Tel.: 57-3059

Mrs Naida Jackson
67 Lynwood Avenue,
DEE WHY 2099
Tel.: 982-8014

Mr Len Chalmers
57 Park Avenue,
ROSEVILLE 2069
Tel.: 406-5534

ROBERT FORRESTER

Robert **FORRESTER** arrived in New South Wales on 26th January, 1788 aboard "*Scarborough*" of the First Fleet having been convicted of stealing at the Old Bailey in 1783 and having been sentenced first to death and then to transportation. He probably married Mary **FROST** on 19th October, 1791 at Sydney and he probably went to Norfolk Island later in 1791 returning in early 1793.

Isabella **RAMSAY** arrived in New South Wales on 9th July, 1791 aboard "*Mary Anne*" of the Third Fleet having been convicted of stealing at Carlisle in Cumberland in 1790 and having been sentenced to transportation. She married James **MANNING** a First Fleet marine on 10th June, 1792 at Parramatta.

Isabella **RAMSAY** became Robert **FORRESTER**'s housekeeper according to the 1806 muster, they had eight children as follows:-

NAME	DATE BORN	MARRIED	DATE MARRIED
Elizabeth	16th March, 1794	James CHAPMAN	
Margaret	2nd April, 1795	Richard RIDGE	7th November, 1809
John	26th May, 1797	(1) Margaret NORMAN (2) Hannah BEASLEY (nee NEEDHAM)	10th August, 1818
		(3) Sarah MORTLEY (nee PIPER)	23rd August, 1842
Henry	24th March, 1799	(1) Lucy UPTON	9th July, 1857
		(2) Maria ROBERTS	15th February, 1819
Robert	Circa 1801	(1) Susannah HAMMOND	25th October, 1826
		(2) Ellen NIXON	22nd March, 1831
William	circa 1803	(1) Maria CARROL	15th March, 1858
		(2) Sarah Jane BLANCHARD (nee BOOTLE)	9th March, 1837
Ann	circa 1804	Charles MARTIN	9th September, 1852
Isabella Jane	circa 1805	Thomas LOVELL	8th April, 1822
			3rd June, 1822

(This information is of course subject to correction.)

Elizabeth **CHAPMAN** died shortly after her marriage and there were no children to the marriage. John **FORRESTER** might not have had children in any of his three marriages. The remaining six children and their respective spouses all had children and there are now in 1982 ancestors of all six children who are researching their families back to First Fleeter Robert **FORRESTER**.

A preliminary meeting of about a dozen **FORRESTER** descendants was held at The Rectory at Cobbitty in January, 1982. A further meeting of all interested **FORRESTER** descendants is to be held at The Rectory Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty, on Saturday, 28th August, 1982 from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The main purposes of this meeting are to enable **FORRESTER** descendants to meet and to exchange information. Further details can be obtained by writing to The Reverend Barry Marsh at Cobbitty or by telephoning him at (046) 51-2226.

Mr Geoffrey Steer of 18 Gumblossom Drive Westleigh New South Wales 2120, (02) 848-8769, is documenting every known descendant of Robert **FORRESTER** and he will be glad to hear from anyone who has details of such descendants.

At present something like thirty-five persons are researching the **FORRESTER** family and by 1988 it is hoped that the life and times of another First Fleeter and his family will have been well documented.

Rev. B.G. Marsh,
The Rectory,
Cobbitty Road,
Cobbitty N.S.W.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, 15th September, 1982
TIME: 7.30 p.m. Sharp
VENUE: N.S.W. Leagues Club — 165 Phillip St., City
NOMINATIONS: (In writing) must be in our Office no later than 15th August, 1982. (Rule 32)
Notices of Motion: (In writing) must be in our Office not later than 1st August, 1982 (Rule 35)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

In the twelve months to the end of April 1982, 229 new members were enrolled; 80% were adults and 20% juniors (under 18 years of age). Sixty percent of adults and 68% of juniors were females; overall, 62% were females and 38% males.

Also, 37 spouses of members (19 males and 18 females) became associate members.

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE: Proposed by Mrs Beryl Lewis, J.P., President Fellowship of First Fleeters. 30th January, 1982

Once again we gather here to celebrate the birth of this country, and acknowledge the part played by our pioneer ancestors.

On Saturday, 26th January, 1788, on a glorious summer day, with the temperature at 70° Fahrenheit, and a pleasant S - SE breeze to accompany them, the First Fleet entered Port Jackson and subsequently anchored off Sydney Cove.

On board were my ancestors and those of each and every member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, and with the arrival of the 11 ships comprising the First Fleet, the evolution of a city and a nation began.

In command, was our first Governor — Arthur Phillip, a man of vision, confidence and I believe, a man of humanity. It was my pleasure, last October, to celebrate the anniversary of his birth at a function in Bath, in South Western England, and I felt very proud to see so many Englishmen paying homage to the man who brought the first British people to my country.

On the other hand it was rather ironic, as the majority of Australians would have no idea when his birthday is — and yet we owe him and his followers so much. We live in a very beautiful city as a trip to the top of the Centrepont Tower brought home to me a few days ago, but it would be even more beautiful if the plans of Arthur Phillip had been carried out.

He planned streets 65 metres wide and how we need them today. Phillip arrived here to create a penal settlement and went on to lay the foundations of a nation. Aristotle said "Men come together in cities in order to live; they remain in order to live the good life". This is so true today. I sometimes despair of my fellow Australians, they are so hell bent on rushing around living the good life that they seldom pause to think of the heritage that is rightfully theirs.

This weekend the great masses will have a holiday on Monday, the majority won't know why, but it is to celebrate Australia's birthday. How stupid can we get? Australia's birthday was last Tuesday! and Australians for the most part celebrated in the traditional Australian way — they ignored it! Can you imagine Americans celebrating on any day but 4th July? I suggest very strongly to you we should celebrate on the 26th January, irrespective of the day of the week.

For our bicentennial in 1988 we will have exactly the same set of circumstances — the 26th January is a Tuesday, are we again going to celebrate that Australia Day on the 1st February? I certainly hope not.

We have developed into a very apathetic race — in this city, the very birthplace of this nation, there is not one public ceremony organised by our Government, and to the best of my knowledge the same conditions apply in Canberra.

The Flag Raising last Tuesday was arranged by the City Council and the Festival of Sydney. It is very sad when we have so much worthy of celebrating that our Governments do not see fit to acknowledge it with public ceremonies. January the 26th is a miraculous anniversary, with all its historical implication. From a mere thousand or so souls of dubious origin, the most meagre supplies and very limited equipment, a nation developed in a span of 194 years. A shabby, isolated penal colony became a beautiful land of untold wealth and opportunity, its lifestyle the envy of many nations. If this is not a miracle, what is?

The way in which we celebrate Australia Day in the future depends on Australians' attitude today. I think it needs to be said that Australians, as a people, do very little to acknowledge just what Australia Day is all about and I include in that statement all who are gathered here tonight.

There is no patriotism without education and example. There is no future without a past. We need to do more than just reside here. The immortal words of John F. Kennedy — "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" — are extremely applicable to this country of which I and my fellow members are so proud.

The toast I propose tonight is "The Day We Celebrate", one may well ask, what is this day we celebrate for the emphasis certainly is on the word "we" for to most people it is just a day off. We certainly are proud of our heritage, of our First Fleet ancestors and of the country they helped to build and with these thoughts in mind, I ask you to join me in drinking to the Day We Celebrate — Australia Day.

OBITUARY — Sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

- BOSSLEY, Ion Thomas** May 18th, 1982, of West Ryde, Husband of Nell. F.F.F. Member No. 1330, descended from Anthony Rope/Elizabeth Pulley and John Summers.
- McLEAN, Miss Beatrice B.** April 3rd, 1982, of Cremorne. F.F.F. Member No. 1283, Miss McLean was a descendant of William Tunks II, a grandson of First Fleeter William Tunks, Marine on "Sirius" 1788.
- HIGINBOTHAM, Philip Noel** May 23rd, 1982. Mr. Higinbotham, descended from Joseph Hatton, was a brother of Mrs Joan Ross, popular Editor of the Newsletter for some years.
- PRIOR, Mrs Neta** F.F.F. Member No. 1880, and Mr Tom Prior, Associate, on 2nd April, 1982, both of Western Australia, were killed in a car accident on Bells Line of Road, descendant of F.F. Matthew Everingham.