

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS NEWSLETTER

PRICE: 50c

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 1271

OFFICE ADDRESS: Room 324, 3rd Floor, Assembly Building, Cnr. Margaret, York & Jamison Streets
Please Note: Enter by Jamison Street at night

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY: 10.00 a.m. — 4.00 p.m. WEDNESDAY to FRIDAY: 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

TELEPHONE: (02) 29 8007 (After hours answering and message recording service)

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box N283, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

February/March 1986
Volume 17 No. 2

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Australia Day celebrations went off well for the Fellowship. The Annual Dinner was held at the Australasian Pioneers' Club, and the President and a number of members attended the Flag Raising Ceremony at Macquarie Place, whilst at the same time a group of Fellowship members attended the Annual Church Service at The Rocks.

On Monday 27 January quite a crowd attended the ceremony at Government House to present a memorial to Sir James Rowland, the Governor of New South Wales and Patron of the Fellowship. Three former Presidents were in attendance, and an historic photo is printed in this issue to commemorate the occasion. Mr Frank Everingham prepared an eminently suitable "potted history" of Matthew James Everingham FF, to the delight of those assembled.

Unfortunately, the Australia Day Festival at The Rocks was abandoned by the organisers. It seems absolutely ridiculous that the efforts and enjoyment of so many could be dashed by the bungling of some government authority. No-one seems to know at whose door the blame should be placed. Representations and protests were made by the Fellowship to Federal and State authorities. It seems that the apathy to Australia Day is possibly more widespread than imagined. Even the Flag Raising Ceremony clashed with the church service!

The Fellowship will man a stall in Macquarie Street for Heritage Week celebrations, commencing June 13 next. Those members who had so kindly offered assistance at the proposed and aborted Australia Day stalls will be contacted re help on Sunday 13 June — please keep this date in mind.

Fellowship member Tom Silk (No. 1726 — FF Thomas Chipp and Jane Langey) has kindly offered to donate a painting of the arrival of the

First Fleet. It will be an exciting new concept of that event, and the Executive has tentatively proposed that a function will be held on Wednesday, September 10 for the unveiling of this watercolour. Prints will be available for sale. The Executive is indebted to Mr Silk for his most generous offer and will accept the gift on behalf of all members of the Fellowship, with grateful thanks.

A number of members have asked about the "St Anne's Flag", which reference incorrectly appeared in our last Newsletter. We intended to say that we use the Queen Anne Jack at our ceremonies. Anne reigned over Britain from 1702 to 1714, and during this time the flag under which the First Fleet sailed, evolved. Later the diagonal red cross of St Patrick was added to give the present day Union Jack.

At the February meeting of the Executive, the following motion was passed unanimously: "As the criteria for the establishment of the Victorian Divisional Council has not been satisfied, no such Council presently exists".

The Fellowship was well represented at the funeral of Lola Wilkinson, who passed away on Christmas Eve. A fitting obituary, to one who was so highly regarded, is aptly penned in this issue by one of our former Presidents, Beryl Lewis.

At the Australia Day Dinner, Mrs Beryl Lewis was invested Life Member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, in recognition of the time and effort put in on behalf of our organisation.

It is with regret that we announce that our secretary, Anne Campbell, stepped down from the Executive in December. Anne has given valuable service to the Fellowship over the years, and we wish her well in her retirement. A former Executive member and secretary, Betty Loneregan, has been elected by the Executive as Secretary to the Fellowship.

Continued overleaf

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President:** Peter Christian (William Tunks)
161 Beecroft Road
Cheltenham 2119
868 3063 (home)
- Vice Presidents:** Douglas Oakes (John Small, Mary Parker)
1/15 Stokes Street
Lane Cove 2066
428 2806 (home) 211 2366 (business)
- Geoff Squires (Mary Phillips,
Wm. Saltmarsh)
"Longacre"
Mittagong Road
Bowral 2576
(048) 61 2085 (home)
- Hon. Treasurer** Roderick Best (John Small, Mary Parker,
James Bradley)
25 Glenayr Avenue
West Ryde 2114
85 3914 (home) 267 6733 (business)
- Hon. Secretary** Betty Loneragan (John Palmer)
1 Welby Street
Eastwood 2122
85 3349 (home)
- Committee** Naida Jackson (William Tunks)
2/67 Lynwood Avenue
Dee Why 2099
982 8014 (home)
- Alice Clarke (James Bloodworth,
James Lee)
P.O. Box 328
Lane Cove 2066
428 4530 (home)
- Joyce Cowell (William Tunks)
16 Algernon Street
Oatley 2223
57 3059 (home)
- Frank Everingham (Mathew Everingham,
also James)
36 Dartford Road
Thornleigh 2120
84 2794 (home)
- Ian Johnston (Frederick Meredith)
44 Mary Street
Longueville 2066
427 1316 (home) 232 5870 (business)
- Hugh Morgan (Ann Sandlyn)
9 Hampden Avenue
Darling Point 2027
32 9722 (home)
- Rev. John McKnight (James Shears)
St John's Church
120 Darlinghurst Road
Darlinghurst 2010
357 6844
- Suzanne Stanton (Thos Arndell, Owen
Cavanaugh, Margaret Darnell)
17 Archibald Street
Padstow 2211
771 1490 (home)
- Auditor:** Eric Blair
- Newsletter Editor** Anne Davison (William Broughton)
C/- P.O. Box 9
Artarmon 2064
439 1611 (business) 90 6731 (home)

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We welcome to the Executive Miss Suzanne Stanton (No. 2556 — FF Thos. Arndell — Owen Cavanaugh — Margaret Darnell). Suzanne has recently completed her law degree and we look forward to her contribution on the Executive.

Janette Beard (No. 2597 — FF John Nicholls), a trained librarian, has volunteered to look at our library and offer suggestions. We are indeed grateful to Janette.

For three months from March through to June, my wife and I will be overseas. I know your good wishes go with us. We shall be in Egypt for eight days, spend Easter in London, six weeks on the continent including a two-week stint in Brittany and Normandy on a genealogical jaunt, then back to the UK for a month or so, and home in June.

Peter Christian

LECTURE EVENINGS

At the November lecture evening, we were fortunate to have the Rev. Seton Arndell to speak on the subject of his First Fleet ancestor, Thomas Arndell. His talk was an interesting exposition of the Arndell Family as written in the book "Pioneers of Portland Head", and we are indeed grateful to have had him as our guest speaker on that evening.

The February and March Lecture Evenings will take the form of a President's Reception Evening when we welcome new members into our Fellowship. New members are welcome, and "old" members are requested to bring a plate (sandwiches, cakes or biscuits).

The dates are Wednesday 19 February and Wednesday 19 March, at 7 pm. Please advise the office by telephone if you intend to be present.

It is hoped that the April 16 meeting will be a "Computer in Genealogy" evening led by John McKnight.

NORFOLK ISLAND BICENTENARY

Don't forget — all those interested in the tour to Norfolk Island, on or about 6 March 1988, please let us know by 28 February 1986, as we must arrange the tour as soon as possible. All we want to know now is whether you are interested. We have had enquiries from some members of the Fellowship who aren't descendants of the original settlers, so we have decided to open the tour to all members and relatives of the First Fleeters. As before, all enquiries to Wynne Anderson at the Office (02) 29 8007 or at home 871 4118, or to Rhonda Kroehnert 602 4657.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR DECEMBER, '85, JAN/FEB '86

We extend a warm welcome to the following 66 new members, 21 junior members and 18 spouse associate members.

Jacob Bellett: Mr Ian Geoffery HUNT; Andrew Peter HUNT (Jnr)

Patrick Burn — Ann Smith: Mr Herbert Charles William SMITH

Thomas Chipp — Jane Langley: Mr Graeme Charles WRAY; Mr Jeffrey Robert RUE (sp. Mrs Katherine Dale RUE); William Douglas RUE (Jnr); Samantha Louise RUE (Jnr)

Phillip Devine: Mr Phillip John DEVINE (sp. Mrs Penelope Elizabeth DEVINE); Lucy Elizabeth DEVINE (Jnr); Mrs Gwenyth June SIMON (sp. Mr John SIMON)

Phillip Devine & Robert Forrester & William Eggleton — Mary Dickinson: Mr George Joseph Pierce (sp. Mrs Ellen Joan PIERCE)

William Douglas — Mary Groves: Mrs Carola Leslie MURPHY (sp. Mr Jack MURPHY)

William Eggleton — Mary Dickinson: Mr Peter Anthony COWLED; Mrs Betty June CHIVERS; Mrs Helen Edith PATERNOSTER; Jarrod Phillip PATERNOSTER (Jnr); Drew William George PATERNOSTER (Jnr)

Matthew Everingham: Mr Jeffrey Stephen KEEGAN; Miss Jackie KEEGAN; Miss Kristie KEEGAN; Mrs Helen Therese WILLIAMSON; Carolee Anne WILLIAMSON; (Jnr); David Bernard WILLIAMSON (Jnr)

Matthew Everingham & William Tunks: Hugh William CHAMPION (Jnr)

Andrew Fishburn: Mr Harold Farrar MOORE; Sandra Anne MOORE (Jnr); Katherine Annette MOORE (Jnr); Mr Ronald Mervyn JAMES; Mrs Margaret Ethel DELANEY

Phoebe Flarty: Mr Theodore William RAVENSCROFT

Ann Forbes: Mr Edward Charles JONES; Mr Keith Victor SELBY (sp. Mrs Phyllis Lillian SELBY); Mrs Grace Lorraine FERGUSON

Ann Forbes & Robert Forrester: Mr Keith Brian FEAR

Robert Forrester: Mrs Elva Clare IRWIN

Edward Goodin: Mr Charles Harwood MOORE

John Gowen: Penelope Catherine CORMICK

Henry Kable — Susannah Holmes: Miss Karen Anne GRONO; Mrs Virginia Anne ANDREWS (sp. Mr Kenneth Robert ANDREWS); Miss Kim Suzanne ANDREWS; Mr Peter Geoffrey ANDREWS; Mrs Margaret Mary Glennie JAMIESON (sp. Mr Donald Graham JAMIESON); Quentin Hugh Fleetwood JAMIESON (Jnr); Lydia Nicole DANIS-COX (Jnr); Mrs Grace Ida COSTELLO

Joseph Hatton: Alysha Simone LOVETT (Jnr)

Edward Kimberley: Mr John Terrence GOOLD

Caroline Laycock: Mrs Mary Ethel SHEPHARD

Nathaniel Lucas — Olivia Gascoigne: Mr Stephen John TURNER; Lindsay John TURNER (Jnr); Scott Arthur TURNER (Jnr); Peter Stephen TURNER (Jnr)

James Morrisby: Mr John Brian DEVLIN

John Nicolls: Mr Leslie Paul ROY (sp. Mrs Joyce Olive ROY); Jane Frances ROY (Jnr); Mrs Simon Paul ROY; Mrs Margaret Elizabeth DEANE; Mrs Joyce Alma BIRD (sp. Mr Maxwell Hector BIRD); Mr Neil William FINDLAY (sp. Mrs FINDLAY); Mr Jeffery Clive FINDLAY (sp. Mrs Lesley Jane FINDLAY)

James McManus — Jane Poole: Mrs Joan McManis ELKINGTON; (sp. Mr Colin A. ELKINGTON)

James Ogden: Mr William Ernest PEARCE

Samuel Pigott: Mrs Mary Cora EVES

John Ramsay: Mr William Franklin CHESWORTH

Anthony Rope — Elizabeth Pulley: Mr Henry Stuart STRICKLAND; (sp. Mrs Judith Ann STRICKLAND); Craig Alan STRICKLAND (Jnr); Mark Albert STRICKLAND (Jnr); Mr Laurence Edward HARKNESS; Mrs Gladys Marion STARR; Andre Nicholas ILIJIC (Jnr); Matthew Linden ILIJIC (Jnr); Mr Stephen James GAY

John Scott: Mr Rodney Allan COOK; Mr Alan George COOK; Miss Roslyn May COOK; Colleen Faye COOK (Jnr)

John Small — Mary Parker: Mrs Judith Damaris BRIDGEMAN; Mr Erick Lyle BRIDGEMAN; Katherine Ruth JOHNSTONE (Jnr); Mrs Phyllis Iris FRENCH; Mrs Gladys Esme COOMBES; Mrs Cheryl May DENNISON

Thomas Spencer — Mary Phillips: Miss Patricia JENKINS; Mrs Helen Josephine CRAWLEY

William Tyrrell: Mr Leslie Raymond BAXTER

Mary Wilkes, Turner: Miss Marcia Florence ANDERSON

NEW FIRST FLEET ANCESTORS:

Edward Kimberley, convict "Scarborough"

William Tyrrell, convict "Alexander"

John Scott, seaman "Supply"

John Ramsay, convict "Scarborough"

ADDITIONAL FIRST FLEETER ANCESTOR:

Mrs Dorothy I. Booth, adds Matthew Everingham to Peter Hibbs

Correction: Apologies to Miss Betty Margaret Parsons (No. 3251) whose name in last issue was inadvertently prefaced by 'Mrs' instead of 'Miss'.

OBITUARY

We sadly report the following deaths, and offer our sympathy to the families:

Ernest Albert Dix (died 4/12/85) — husband of member Muriel Dix (No. 280 — FF James Bloodworth, James Lee, Sarah Bellamy) of Booragul.

Edward McAlister (died Sept. 1985) — husband of member Betty McAlister (No. 1398 — FF William Nash/Maria Haynes) of Goulburn.

THE WEDNESDAY AUXILIARY

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 March, in the Fellowship Rooms at 2 pm. The business of the meeting will be to form the afternoon participants into an FFF Auxiliary and to elect office bearers. We do need a large gathering to do this, so please come along and have your say about the arrangements.

After completing the election, we will have a speaker — Geoff Squires — who is the Vice President of the Fellowship and a member of the Executive.

J. C. Cowell

GOVERNOR ARTHUR PHILLIP

On 11 October last, the Australian flag flew proudly from the tower of Bath Abbey (England) to commemorate the birthday of Admiral Arthur Phillip RN. That morning, three members of FFF, with other members of the Royal Aust. Historical Society Tour, attended a wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of Governor Arthur Phillip, which is enshrined in the beautifully restored chapel of St Nicholas' Church at Bathampton.

The wreath was laid by the High Commissioner of Australia, in the presence of the Agents General of the States, many dignitaries, townsfolk and children from the local school who had mounted a display of their drawings of Australian animals and birds.

Our FFF Archivist, Mrs Joyce Cowell, presented to the Rev. Harris, Vicar of St Nicholas, a small brass graves plaque which will be affixed to Arthur Phillip's memorial plate.

After an official luncheon in the Assembly Rooms, Bath, we went to the beautiful and historic Abbey for a Service of Commemoration to Admiral Arthur Phillip RN. The Agent General for NSW laid a wreath above the memorial tablet which bears the inscription:

In memory of
Admiral Arthur Phillip RN
Founder & First Governor of Australia
Born, London 11 October 1738
Died, 19 Bennett St., Bath, 31 August 1814

"To his indomitable courage, prophetic vision, forbearance, faith, inspiration and wisdom was due the success of the first settlement in Australia, at Sydney, 26.1.1788".

The south west region of England plans to purchase, and preserve as a memorial, the house at 19 Bennett St., Bath, the last home of Governor Arthur Phillip, to celebrate the bicentenary of the foundation of Australia.

What are we doing in Australia to honour this great man?

A. C.

NEW FIRST FLEETERS

Descendants of two new First Fleeters joined the Fellowship in December.

First Fleeters concerned are John Scott, a seaman on the "Supply", and John Ramsay, convict on "Scarborough".

A warm welcome to Alan Cook (FF John Scott) and his family, of Kingston Qld., and Alan Wallbank of Blacktown, NSW (FF John Ramsay).

GOLD MEDALLIST

Congratulations for a wonderful effort to Robert Waldon, son of Peter Hibbs descendant Mrs Zena Waldon (No. 2398). Robert won four Gold Medals for swimming at the 1984 Disabled Games at Long Island, New York, USA. These were for the 25m, 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle events. He passed the Bronze Medal for lifesaving last summer (1985), and is now a member of Queenscliff Life Savers. All this despite the dual handicaps of a spastic condition and deafness! Well done, Robert!

Lola Wilkinson

On Christmas Eve 1985 the Fellowship of First Fleeters lost one of the brightest jewels from its crown with the very sudden death of Lola Wilkinson.

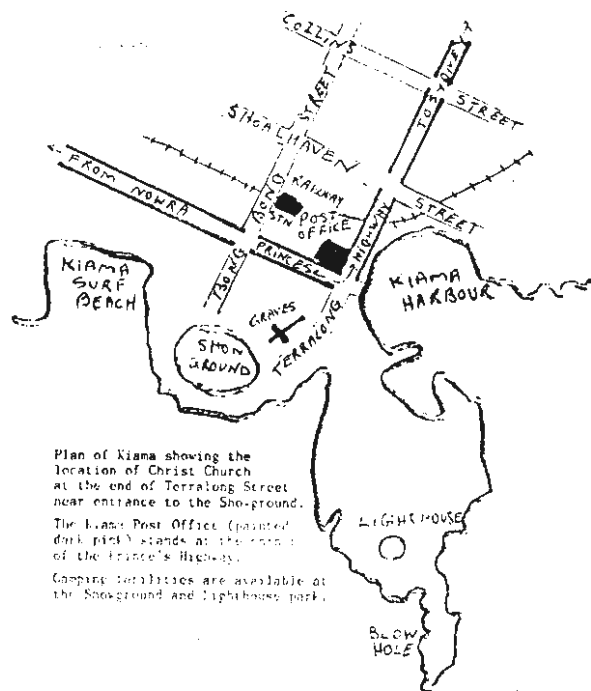
Lola was a Foundation Member with membership number 376. But this grand old lady of ninety years was far more than that; she didn't just "belong", she lived our Aims and Objects, and worked to achieve them for all. She was a very happy member of the Newsletter team and her presence in the Fellowship Office on Newsletter day was always eagerly anticipated. Over the lifetime of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Lola attended almost every function, be it social, fund-raising or just plain work. She was very proud of the Honorary Life Membership bestowed on her in 1983 in recognition of her contribution to the Fellowship. A descendant of Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes, she was always conscious of her ancestry and a justifiably proud "First Fleeter".

Lola Wilkinson did harm to no one, but helped many, in a quiet unassuming way. I acknowledge a debt of gratitude for help in many ways during my term as your President. All who knew her, loved her, all who were privileged to call her friend, had a true friend indeed. Lola was a lady in the true sense of the word.

A true Australian, a good citizen and a wonderful friend has gone from our midst — she will be sadly missed, but not forgotten. For we all know that "To live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die". To that motto I add the category "Friends".

Vale Lola Wilkinson

Beryl Lewis



THE DAY WE CELEBRATE

Speech given by the President at the Australia Day Dinner
24/1/86.

AUSTRALIA — WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Ladies and gentlemen — in proposing this toast may I leave a few thoughts with you? May I quote from a poem — author perhaps unknown to you, but nevertheless a true patriot — Merrick Webb, an ordained minister of the Uniting Church.

"Whither my sunburnt country?
Whither my golden land?
Whence have we come?
Whither do we go?
Do we quite understand?
Far from the plough and horses
Far from the untamed track
Far from the falling timber
Gone from the bark-roofed shack
Scarcely a conscious moment spent on pioneers.
Dim is the tossing slipper, parting and chain and
tears,
Gone is the fence of brushwood
Sketchy our faith once strong
Seldom a prayer breathed out in thankfulness by
our throng"

"Scarcely a conscious moment spent on pioneers" — as we speed headlong into our bicentenary year (and we are assured by the powers that be that things will gel by then) it is to be hoped that some form of maturity will come upon the citizens of this land. There are those who appear to be vociferous minority who with monotonous regularity, rush into print — denigrating the role played by our ancestors of the First Fleet. Recently in the columns of the Sydney Morning Herald, one mindless ignoramus equated Governor Phillip and his Marines with Hitler and his hoards invading Bland.

It is not a sign of immaturity to declare a public holiday on the Monday closest to our National Day? It is not a sign of immaturity to have feelings of guilt over our beginnings?

Let us hope by 1988 we will have sorted this out, and that our national pride will not have to rely solely upon the outcome of a yacht race!

In her book, "The Hatch and Brood of Time", Dr Portia Robinson, a lecturer of history at Macquarie University, has made an in-depth study of the first generation of native-born Australians — all of the hitherto old accounts of "depraved convict background" are shown to have been grossly distorted. Society in the first forty years of the colony was, in the main, well ordered, and the currency lads and lasses well adjusted. Many examples of our forebears are illustrated in this book. The only jarring note to me was in the preface written by Manning Clark, where he describes the first settlement as "the invasion of the Country by the Europeans in 1788"!

The First Fleeters were the first to put stone upon stone and dig the ground for crops, and from these humble beginnings to this day —

"Sure we have seen grim moments
Wars have disturbed our peace
Echoes of conflict rock us
Arguments never cease.
Part of our growing nationhood, learning
To play our part, caught in a world
Of progress, wooing a neighbour's heart,

Stretching our hand in succour, studying stark
Distress, seeking to share our savings,
How could we dare do less?
Grow then in love, my country,
Gain your identity
Dwell with the world's big family
Deeply involved — but free!
— Advance Australia Fair!

Ladies and gentlemen — I give you the toast
"The Day we Celebrate!"



GRAVES REPORT

Sunday 20 April 1986: We will be dedicating a plaque on the headstone of First Fleeter John Gowen.

John Gowen came out on the 'Sirius' with the First Fleet and died on 28 April 1837. His headstone is in the cemetery adjacent to the Christ Church of England, Terralong Street, Kiama, NSW.

The dedication will follow the 10 am service at the church, with the Rev. Stephen Gabbott officiating. That Sunday is part of the Heritage Week celebrations organised by the Kiama Municipal Council in co-operation with the Kiama Historical Society. A map of the area is printed in this Newsletter.

Please join us on this day and have a picnic lunch in the adjacent park.

Douglas Oakes

“THE THINK TANK MEETING”

As announced in the October/November 1985 issue of the Newsletter, a ‘think-tank’ meeting was held in the Parish Hall of St John’s Church Darlinghurst on Saturday, 23 November 1985 at 2 pm. The attendance was small, about that of the monthly meetings of the Fellowship, but what was remarkable was the distances some members had travelled; from Gosford, Hornsby Heights, Londonderry and Bowral.

After a “cuppa” provided by the Rector’s wife, Peter Christian opened the meeting and gave a brief history of the Fellowship’s involvement with the Bicentenary project, and outlined the subjects to be discussed. The Executive Committee was well represented and its members were able to give background information and point out disadvantages and difficulties associated with some ideas put forward. Subjects discussed were: children and schools and their role in the Bicentenary celebrations; a permanent home for the Fellowship; publicity for the Fellowship; the Fellowship’s role in the Bicentenary year; and how the Fellowship could be improved.

Follow up action has been swift. On the Wednesday following the ‘think-tank’ a Working Party met in the Fellowship’s offices to go through the various ideas suggested, and their report was presented a week later to the December meeting of the Executive Committee.

Space in this Newsletter precludes a full report, but two quotations should be mentioned as providing much food for thought: Mrs Thost from Londonderry said “the Fellowship needs to communicate more with its members”, and Ms June Broomhead from Campsie said “people are really interested, but don’t know what to do”. The Fellowship members have done their bit, it is now up to the Executive Committee to convert ideas into action.

G. S.

OBITUARY

The many friends of Mrs Nancy McFadden (member No. 2774 — FF Carolina Laycock), of Brisbane, were saddened to her of her death on Christmas Day. Nancy was the organiser of a two-day Batman Family reunion in Sydney last June. A Carolina Laycock reunion which she had planned for Brisbane on 25 January was consequently cancelled.

Nancy belonged to many historical groups both here and overseas. A mother of six, she taught music as well as being a most ardent and relentless researcher. She was ever-smiling and anxious to share her information. We can only hope that now all her questions will be answered. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband John and their young family. Vale, Nancy McFadden. We loved you well!

B.L.S.

A SPECIAL OFFER TO FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS — 100-YEAR FAMILY DIARY

This is a family history diary in the fullest sense. It is beautifully bound in maroon and gold. Includes calendars for birthdays and anniversaries — room for family signatures and portraits. Available for a special price of \$59.00 (plus postage \$3.00) — usually \$69.00. Order now by writing to Mrs Naida Jackson, Fellowship Office, or telephone on a Tuesday.

CALLING ALL EVERINGHAMS . . .

Valerie Ross will be reprinting “Cornstalks” in an updated form. Please send information for inclusion to V. J. Ross, P.O. Box 20, Avoca Beach 2260. Cut off date is May 1, 1986. It is requested that you quote the page no. of your descendant’s entry in the previous 1980 issue of “Cornstalks”.

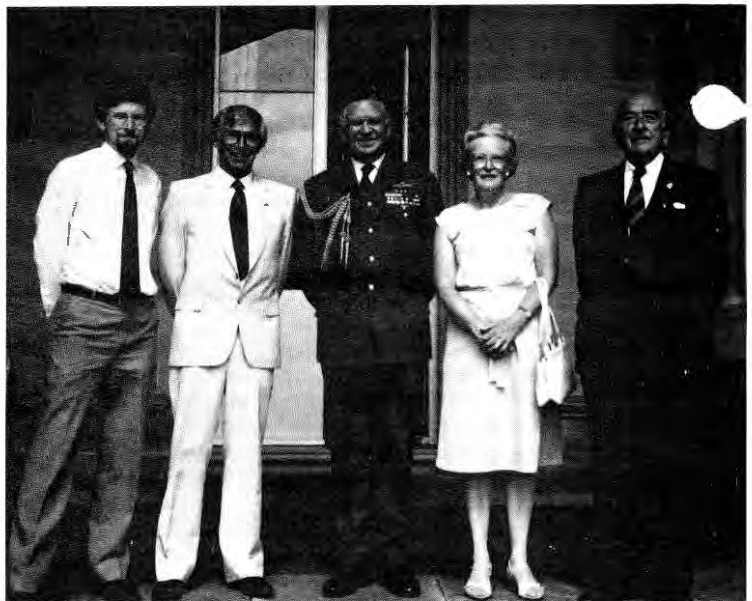
“The Everingham Letter Book” — copies of Valerie Ross’s latest book are available at the Fellowship office for \$23.95 (add \$4.00 postage and packing).

“The Everingham Letter Book provides an exciting new perspective on life in early New South Wales . . . life as seen by a literate First Fleet convict and described in uninhibited personal letters to a friend and benefactor in England. The letters, published for the first time, are of significance to social historians, and of great interest to the many descendants of Matthew Everingham, a boy convict who became a respected pioneer. Matthew Everingham’s letters have been carefully verified and analysed by Valerie Ross.” — Anvil Press, Wamberal NSW.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our President and his wife Joy on the birth of a grandson, Hugh William Champion, on 6 January last. The baby’s parents are Amanda and Neil Champion. Hugh is an eighth generation descendant through William Everingham and Jane Chaseling, and seventh generation through John Tunks and Phoebe Mobbs (nee Tomlinson).

Congratulations to our long-time ‘Friday’ Lady and Newsletter assistant, Joan Cox, on the arrival of her first grand-daughter, Lydia Nicole Danis-Cox, born on January 23, 1986. Lydia, the first child of Don and Sema Cox, is a seventh generation descendant of Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.



At Government House
Past President Roderick Best, President Peter Christian, the Governor of New South Wales, Past Presidents Beryl Lewis and Frank Everingham, at the Australia Day presentation of memorial to the Governor.