

Fellowship of First Fleeters
105 Cathedral Street
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011



Founders

NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

'To live on in the hearts and minds of Descendants is never to die!'

PATRON: Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, Governor of New South Wales

President's report

Again, in this issue, is a reminder for your subscription for the coming year. Appreciation to all who have renewed and also to those who have made a donation to First Fleet House. I am pleased to be able to report that our mortgage is cleared and that we now own First Fleet House outright. So please, if you have not renewed do it now, so that we can plan for the future.

The Executive has decided to move its meetings to a Saturday morning at 9.30 am once a month. This may give an opportunity for more members to offer themselves on the Executive and thus be a part of the decision making of the Fellowship. We are in urgent need of new blood on the Executive, if you feel that you may contribute in some way please contact me on 9868 3063. Personally, my 20 years on the Executive has been a most rewarding experience in many ways and I would like to see the future of the Fellowship assured.

Our thoughts go out to Zona and Ron Maguire at this time. Both had been in a rather nasty car accident recently and Ron has had a setback and is at present in hospital awaiting surgery. Both are vital members, as Zona is Secretary, and Ron is the Editor of the Newsletter. Appreciation is due to Pam Quick, Elaine Bennett and Ron Faulkner for their help in getting this issue out to you.

The Bonds of Friendship. At last I am pleased to report that this memorial has been replaced in Loftus St, Circular Quay in 'Jessie Street Park', quite near the original landing site. But, unfortunately and to our dismay, it appears to have been unceremoniously 'dumped' in this position minus its original plinth and far from its pristine condition. Representation has been made to the City Council, mainly from the Sydney/Portsmouth Sister City Committee, to restore this important memorial of our history and heritage to its original condition. Only for the

concerted efforts of a number of concerned individuals this memorial could well have been consigned to oblivion because of political correctness!

I am sure we were all pleasantly surprised at the outcry against the Sutherland Shire Council's efforts in endeavouring to downgrade the memory of James Cook. Why is it that since 1988, some people have a pathological fear, that, by recording incidents in the history of European settlement of our nation, it may upset some other members of our community? Let's get it straight... this is the way modern Australia was founded and we, as descendants of those first arrivals have no need to be ashamed of what was not their (or our) doing!!! I am sure we all respect the rights of minorities within our society, but not at the expense of our heritage.

The two Chapters formed recently have had inaugural meetings. The North West Chapter, centered in Tamworth, has elected Warren White as President and we look forward to the future with them. The New England Chapter was formed under the Presidency of Warren Luxford. This Chapter has already prepared a brochure giving details for membership. Contact for our New England members and friends is PO Box 1546, Armidale NSW 2350.

The Mormons have completed the photocopying of our records of Births, Deaths and Marriages that we hold, plus any records we have of pioneer family history. These have now been preserved for posterity. I did receive a couple of complaints about making these records public, but the plusses far outweigh any negative aspects of this exercise. No names and addresses were included in this exercise and it will be invaluable to all future generations. Over 20,000 records were listed.

I recently received a copy of the service of Choral Evensong from the Cathedral Church of

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News of Members

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FOR PERIOD 29 MARCH 2001
TO 25 JULY 2001.

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period, nine adults and seven juniors.

JOHN CROSS: Mr Warren John Luxford.

THOMAS CROWDER: Mr Thomas Alexander Lamond (Jnr).

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Mr Simon Craig Bennett.

ANN FORBES: Mr Stanley Roy Ellem, Mr Gregory Mark Ellem, Miss Sarah Louise Ellem (Jnr), Miss Claire Elizabeth Ellem (Jnr), Miss Olivia Rose Ellem (Jnr), Miss Judy-Ann Yabsley.

JANE LANGLEY: Miss Emily Jane Quick (Jnr), Miss Samantha Jane Quick (Jnr).

JAMES MCMANUS - JANE POOLE: Mrs Yvonne Showman Newell.

SAMUEL PIGGOTT: Miss Lily Grace Tyson (Jnr).

WILLIAM STANDLEY: Mr Brian Stevens.

ROBERT WILLIAMS: Mr Geoffrey James Stuart Mills.

THOMAS WILLIAMS: Mrs Jean Audrey Harm.

BIRTHS

Welcome to additional First Fleeters.

DOYLE Abbey May 15 September 2000 (FF Thos Acres/Henry Kable/Susannah Holmes). Daughter to Greg and Fiona of Kiama. First grand-daughter to Trevor and Jeanette McBeath. Second grand-daughter to Kable and Maureen Doyle and first great-grand-daughter to Mabel Pearce #3707. Eighth generation Australian.

HUDSON Annabelle Prudence 18 May 2001 (FF Thos. Acres). Daughter to Stuart and Melissa of Kiama, second grand-daughter to Trevor and Jeanette McBeath. First grand-daughter to Trevor Hudson and the late Prudence Hudson. Second great-grand-daughter to Mabel Pearce #3707. Eighth generation Australian.

WILLINCK 5 July 2001. Daughter to Emmo and Louise and first great-grandchild for Joan Bull (#1954) of Deniliquin. FF Philip Gidley King. Ninth generation Australian

GARRETT Ethan William. 1 February

2001 at Normanhurst (FF John Small/Mary Parker). Son to Ian and Suzanne. First grandson to Colin Manton #4305. Eighth generation Australian.

PRATELLI Denver Julian 26 March 2001 (FF Edward Humphreys). A son to Jodi and Nick, a brother for Dakota. Third grandson for Darleen Stenberg. Seventh generation Australian.

DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

Laura Boyd #5543 (FF Robert Forrester), 3 June 2001. Aged 94 years. Loving sister of Charles.

Lillian May Stone #6734 (FF Edward Humphreys), 8 December 2000. Aged 84 years. Mother of Darleen Stenberg #6735.

Mary Magdalen Longhurst (FF Thos Acres), 26 June 2001 at Canberra. Loving wife of Murray and loved mother of Tom, Peter, Frank and Chris.

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copy and pictures
Sept/October issue
Sept 3 2001

OFFICE HOURS
10.00am to 3.00pm
Monday to Friday

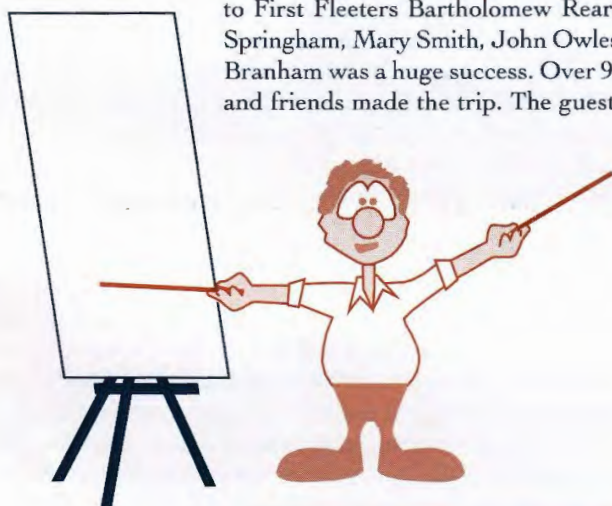
what's *on*

SYDNEY DAYTIME AUXILIARY

On Wednesday 11 July 2001 the Sydney Daytime Auxiliary held the ever-popular annual Soup and Damper Day at First Fleet House. The meeting began at 11.00 am and I gave a report on the year's activities.

As reported earlier, 150 people were in attendance at the Australia Day Luncheon, held at the NSW Masonic Club's Cello Restaurant. Guest of Honour was former Governor of New South Wales, Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair. Rear-Admiral Sinclair is a descendant of First Fleeter William Broughton.

The trip to Norfolk Island in March of this year for the dedication of the memorial plaques to First Fleeters Bartholomew Reardon, Mary Springham, Mary Smith, John Owles and Mary Branham was a huge success. Over 90 members and friends made the trip. The guest of honour



was the retiring Governor-General of Australia Sir William Deane.

The Dartmouth and alpine countryside trip was attended by 25 people, who all voted it a wonderful success.

The treasurer reported a surplus of \$487.00. Chairs for the courtyard and a broom to keep the yard clean and tidy have been purchased. My thanks went to Phyllis Selby and Bonney Savill for their continuous work in keeping the Daytime Auxiliary operating.

After lunch, President Peter Christian gave a talk on the Norfolk Island trip, giving indepth details of the proceedings and of the people he met.

The next Daytime Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 22 August 2001 – not 23 August as inadvertently printed in the May/June edition of *Founders*. The meeting commences at 2.00 pm at First Fleet House and a speaker will address the group. These meetings were very popular in the 1970s and now we have reintroduced them on a regular basis we look forward to a large crowd in attendance.

Douglas Oakes
CONVENOR

NASH FAMILY REUNION

To take place
6 OCTOBER 2001
'Wren' Ground
Nurrunging, Doonside NSW

Contact for members
Lydia Hope (02) 9831 2279
Alan Simpson (02) 4773 9324

BARRISFORD (BERESFORD) REUNION

To take place
SUNDAY
16 SEPTEMBER 2001

Redcliffe Peninsula
Queensland

Contact Jean Monk
13/17-25 Little Street
Lane Cove 2066
(02) 9428 2056

email: jeanmonk@bigpond.com

ADVANCE NOTICE DAYTIME AUXILIARY TOUR

From the 5 to 10 May 2002.
A six day tour by coach to **Mt Seaview and the Hastings Valley Hinterland**. Further details in the next issue of *Founders*.
A deposit of \$100.00 is required by the end of December. For information ring Bonney or Phyllis at First Fleet House on a Thursday morning. (02) 9360 3788.

Finding First Fleet Ancestors

my search for my ancestry actually begins on the 12th December, 1948, four days after the death of my mother, the day she was laid to rest in the Cessnock cemetery. On the 16th December, 1948, my father quite willingly gave up two of his daughters for adoption and placed the third one into what was then known as the Newcastle Mental Hospital where she died from congenital heart failure at the age of 15 months. I was five months old.

In 1991 the laws on adoption were changed by an Act of Parliament, thus, giving all adoptees a chance to find their 'roots'. In June 1996 I finally decided to cast caution to the wind and try to discover my ancestry. At that stage, I was armed only with the names of my parents, William James and Lillian May Allan, nee Gorman, it was my mother's side I was interested in, as a cousin from the Allan side had previously found me and supplied me with information on the Allan's going back to the 1700s in Scotland. So, with not a little trepidation, I found out from a friend when the Cessnock Family History group met each Monday at the Cessnock Public Library. Little did I realise that going to that first meeting in June 1996 was to completely change my life.

I cannot claim any credit at all for discovering my First Fleet ancestors, that credit entirely belongs to the patient researchers of the Cessnock family history group and in particular, Carole Knott, who first made the connection for me after I'd obtained the marriage certificate of my parents, stating their parents names. My mother's parents were stated as Hugh William Gorman and Clara Jane HIBBS. Carole, in her usually forthright manner, asked did I realise that I was most probably a descendant of the First Fleet sailor, Peter Kenny HIBBS. Carole then set about proving same, but not only could I claim descendancy from Peter, but also from First Fleet convict, Matthew James EVERINGHAM, and from the Second Fleet convicts, Mary PARDOE

and Elizabeth RIMES, as well as from Richard WOODBURY, another convict who came on a later ship.

The lives of these people has been extremely well documented by such notable genealogists/authors as Alan Maunder and Val Ross. Alan's book *Sailing on the Hibbs Line* was to give me valuable information about the actual lineage of my family and to finally give me a sense of 'belonging', something for which I had craved throughout my 48 years. It also gave me many 'cousins', among them, Alan Maunder on the Everingham side, and his wife Nolene, who is a cousin on the Hibbs side, as well as Elgine Kelly and Betty Warn who have been unstinting in their generosity in giving me information and photographs and most of all, in welcoming me to the bosom of the family. Val Ross's books, especially *Cornstalks*, *A Hawkesbury Story* and *Matthew Everingham, A First Fleeter and His Times* bring to vivid life details of the struggles of the new colony and their attempt to tame this country.

Peter, Matthew, Mary and Elizabeth were well grounded in survival tactics which they would need in their new land. They had lived in Regency England when life at best was hard and at its worst, nigh on impossible. There have been many books written about the class distinction of those days, the 'haves' who quite literally had everything, to the 'have nots' who had nothing and survived as best they could by theft, deception or fraud, whatever it took to stave off starving to death in the mean streets of Merry olde England. There were no welfare agencies or the 'dole' such as we enjoy in our world today whenever things get too tough – the people of the late 1700s had to steal to stay alive if they were not fortunate enough to be employed as a servant to the wealthy or aristocratic families of the day. Many who did resort to theft were flung into filthy and noisome jails, there to await the mockery of a trial and to the eventual sentence of either 'hanging from the neck until you are dead' or the hulks

(unseaworthy ships) that were beached in the tidal Thames awaiting transportation and an unknown and frightening destiny.

This new land however, proved to be although a harsh existence, at least clean and healthy. It was warm and sunny, a complete change from the much colder and wetter climate they had been used to. Here at least, after the initial near starvation of those first years of the settlement in their new land, they served their 'time', took up land grants, married and settled down to raise the firstborn generations of Australians, or 'cornstalks' as they became known.

The Hibbs and the Everinghams eventually took up their land grants along the Hawkesbury River where they toiled from daylight till dusk in order to keep body and soul together; work was hard, times were fraught with danger from the local Aborigines who at that time were just as likely to kill the settlers and burn their houses to the ground, or else steal the valuable crops the early settlers had laboured so long and hard over. Floods, drought, bad crop yields – all were taken in their stride as they fought to tame the harsh landscape – their very lives depended on it. Generations were born, lived, married, raised their own families and eventually died and were buried in this new homeland, half a world away from the country who had flung them like so

much flotsam and jetsam into the great unknown. They came from the busy, bustling streets of England to the quiet beauty of the Australian bush.

And for me, as I recently stood at the grave side of Peter and Mary Hibbs, and again at that of Matthew James Everingham, it was with the realisation that only 209 years and six feet of raw earth separated us, their genes, and more importantly, their hopes and dreams live on in me and in every generation since that day in January 1788 they stepped on shore at Botany Bay, full of trepidation as to what their future held.

Lastly, my personal thanks goes to those wonderful folk of the Cessnock family history group, to Carole Knott, Dawn Reid (who gave me a verbal kick in the rear end until I did join the Fellowship of First Fleeters ... thanks Dawn!), Dot McDonald, Christine Craig, Barbara Blackmore, and Keith and Dorothy Woollett. Without these people I would never have realised my dream of finding who I really belonged to! *'Meus gratias naseo nullus exsiliofinis'* (My gratitude knows no boundary).

Thank you.

LINDAY CARRALL
#6567

JANE LANGLEY ASSOCIATION BOOK LAUNCH

A New Beginning – The Story of Three First Fleeters and Their Descendants

On Sunday, 10 June, 2001, 200 descendants of Jane Langley, her daughter Henrietta and Thomas Chip, gathered at Curzon Hall in Sydney for the launch of their book about the family. There are 11,000 descendants names in the book, together with many stories and photographs. It is a fascinating account of a convict girl, Jane Langley, who arrived on the 'Lady Penrhyn' with her daughter, the sending of Jane and Henrietta to Norfolk Island and her subsequent marriage to Thomas Chip, a marine on the 'Friendship', and the chronicle continues right up to the present day.

The book was launched by President Peter Christian, with speeches by Tom Silk, who edited the book, and who made special mention of his wife, Helen, for her enormous contribution to the publication of the book. May Armitage, president of the Jane Langley Family Association, expressed her appreciation to the family for its dedication of the book to her late husband, past President Alan Armitage. She also thanked all those who

contributed information for the book, as well as the family's appreciation for all the work Tom and Helen had done towards the publishing of the book.

Afternoon tea followed, with the cutting of four cakes by Peter Christian and May Armitage. Many raffle prizes were donated by committee members and delightedly won by some of those present.

A copy of the book was donated to the Fellowship of First Fleeters for inclusion in the Library.

Pictured below: Tom Silk, Helen Silk, Peter Christian



Controlling the COMMISSARIAT

Of all the tasks that faced the first fleeters, both before sailing and on arrival in N.S.W., that of managing the commissariat must have been, to use a modern expression, 'mind blowing'. What to take? There were literally thousands of items that were quite basic. The list included such items as axes, shovels, hoes, iron pots, wooden platters, fishing nets and hooks, candles, bedding and clothes. And how to issue the stores? What they brought with them were virtually the only supplies in the colony. The officer in charge of the stores was the commissary.

The first man to hold this important position was Andrew Miller. He came out on the 'Sirius' with Phillip, and for a short time, he was his secretary. Miller found the job fraught with problems, even when he was given a trustworthy assistant, Zachariah Clark. There was no coinage, and assigned servants had to be paid in rum, tobacco, tea, sugar, clothing, flour, salt pork or rice. Free workmen were paid in notes on the British Treasury. Miller's health broke down under the strain, and he resigned in 1790. He died on the return journey to England.

Another first fletcher, John Palmer, took up the task of handling the stores. He had had experience at handling and issuing stores as the purser on the 'Sirius'. He became the commissary in June 1791. The job had become more complicated now, for, besides issuing government stores, he was responsible for negotiating with



merchants to buy in new stores. He arranged the deals, fixed the prices and drew up treasury bills for payments. He had to keep accounts and virtually act as banker to the colony. Palmer, sophisticated and self-confident, with a friendly personality and good intellect, handled his great responsibilities well. He decided to stay in the colony, brought out his family and built himself a fine house at Woolloomooloo. Here he entertained the highest gentry in the colony. He was seated at the governor's table on the night of Bligh's arrest in the Rum Rebellion. His support of the governor involved him in difficulties with the N.S.W. Corps, but he was re-instated

by Macquarie. However, the commissariat was re-structured, and Palmer lost some of his power. But he remained an influential man in the colony till his death in 1833.

Another first fletcher employed in the commissariat was William Broughton who came on the 'Charlotte' as servant to surgeon White. He was at first storekeeper at Rose Hill, but his most important work was done as acting deputy commissary of Norfolk Island. He also held positions in the commissariat in Sydney and Hobart. He was highly praised for his honesty and hard work by Macquarie. Later he took up farming and stayed to found a family in the colony.

Australia was fortunate to have men of such character to put in charge of the housekeeping requirements of the young colony.



mail box

NEW FFF WEBSITE

George Griffiths, member #1855, writes ...

Dear Fellowship members,

I have started a temporary home page for you. It is at www4.tpgi.com.au/ggprint/fff.htm. Later I will put it on one of those free space home page sites, they do contain ads but it is free!

What I would like to do is put some short stories about some of our early folk. I have some but they belong to the John Palmer Society of which I am a member. There have been some in past newsletters, maybe with your permission I can put a couple in. Also a list of all surnames that are linked to the FFF. Maybe we can get a few more members. I can also put them on CD ROM which we can sell for the Fellowship. I have a CD burner and some free time to give.

For those who love a virus there are lots listed on my site www4.tpgi.com.au/ggprint/virus.htm. I know Peter does! Please let me know what you think.

Regards to everyone,
George Griffiths
15 Cronin Street, Penrith

Reply

We would all like to thank George for his interest. The website is good and I will send some FF stories to him via email. George certainly has permission to use any stories from past newsletters. I will need to speak to George re the linked surnames and the proposed CD ROM. His list of viruses is almost endless! I seem to have caught at least two in the past month plus, at the moment, I have a flu virus!!

PETER

WILLIAM AND KEZIA ROBERTS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Barry Roberts (FF William Roberts) is keen to revive the above Association following interest shown after publication of the book *Rich Inheritance 2*. It is also in the interests of children and grand-children that the Association needs to be revived.

Former members and those wishing to join please contact:

Barry Roberts
14/19-23 Sturdee Street
Towradgi NSW 2518
(02) 4285 9364

RESPONSE TO FOUNDERS ARTICLE

Pamela Hempel's article in *Founders* on the Norfolk Island pilgrimage has received some response. Someone in Chicago USA emailed Pamela for a list she has prepared of addresses and email addresses (if relevant) of all who attended the trip to Norfolk. Pamela would be only too pleased to send a copy of this list to any other interested persons. Please enclose SAE and request to:

Mrs Pamela Hempel
Millstream Road
Werrington Downs NSW 2747

Pamela is also prepared to email copies of *Founders* to non-members who were on the Norfolk trip.

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT FORRESTER

Member Milton C. Buff would like to exchange family information and the possible formation of a family association from fellow members. He can be contacted at

PO Box 980
Griffith NSW 2680

FF WEBSITE AT UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

An interesting letter from member Adair Bunnet (#4721) FF John Harris/Mary Green/Mary Allen pointing out an interesting First Fleet website on which he worked with the University of Wollongong. Unfortunately non-convicts are not included on the database. It can be found at <http://firstfleet.uow.edu.au/>

FF JOHN IRVING

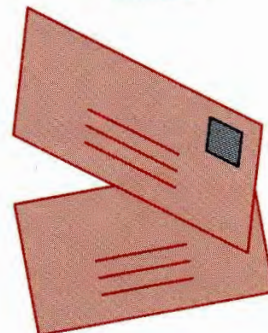
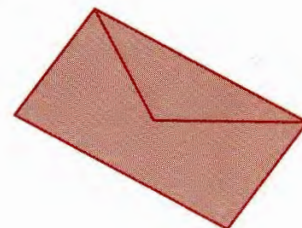
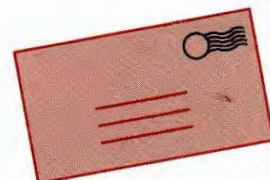
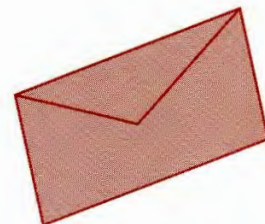
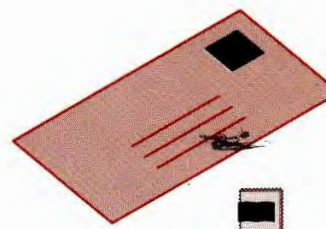
Judith Williams would like to contact descendants of FF John Irving. She can be contacted at:
1 Bocking Avenue
Bradbury NSW 2560

MARY ALLEN/EDWARD PAIS

Mrs Bev Page would like to hear from descendants of Mary Allen/Edward Pais. Bev has just commenced her research and we hope she will soon join us. She can be contacted at:
3 Marina Crescent
Greenacre 2190

FF THOMAS SPENCER

Member Edward James Tuckfield (#3249) enquires if any member can help with the birth date and place of FF Thomas Spencer. His address is:
18E/1 Albert Avenue
Broadbeach Qld 4218
email ptuckfield@optusnet.com.au



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GOODS FOR SALE AT FIRST FLEET HOUSE

105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from page 1)

St Thomas of Canterbury, Portsmouth, commemorating the anniversary of the sailing of the First Fleet from that city. It is a thought that on the Sunday closest to 13 May each year we should hold a similar service here in Sydney. The readings were pertinent to our pioneers and one prayer in particular was most relevant.

'On this anniversary of the departure of the eleven ships for Botany Bay,

Let us praise God for his grace and mercy,

For bringing light out of darkness,

For giving hope where there was despair,

For bringing freedom to those in chains,

For the gifts of new life and new opportunities,

For sustaining His people on their pilgrim journey.'

I look forward to receiving letters from members - one recently was most interesting from member Dorothy Singe. In the next issue of *Founders* I hope to go into more detail about this very keen and proud member of our Fellowship. A nice note from Paula Stafford, member #96, and I have sent a personal reply to this icon of our Australian community! A wonderful Australian and proud descendant of William Broughton.

The Soup and Damper Day seemed to have been a success. The venue at First Fleet House is ideal but it is an effort trying to cater for up to 50. Appreciation is due to Bonney and

Phyllis from the Daytime Executive for their efforts. Please keep in mind the next Daytime Fellowship meeting, Wednesday 25 September at 1.30 pm.

The AGM of the Fellowship will be held at First Fleet House on Sunday 4 November next at 2.00 pm when the Annual Reports will be presented and the election of officers and Executive for the ensuing year will be held.

I have had 13 speaking engagements to various service clubs in the Sydney area since my last report to you. On Wednesday 1 August I spoke to the Royal Australian Historical Society members, among whom was our Patron on an unofficial visit. On my most recent talk to Cheltenham Probus Club I was delighted to meet up with Ian Maher FF Joseph Wright. Ian looked resplendent in his new First Fleeter polo shirt! At my talk to Hurstville Womens Probus it was also a pleasure to meet member Marjory Boyd FF Wm Nash/Maria Haynes and a distant cousin of my wife Joy, Val Chaseling FF Matthew Everingham. There were 100 women Probus members present on that day.

I still cannot give you news of Ron Maguire, our Editor. His operation is due on the 16 August. Both he and Zona are in our thoughts.

In Fellowship

PETER

Opinions expressed herein are those of the article authors and correspondents and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, nor the views of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to omit any material considered unsuitable for publication. Space limitations may result in some material being held over to another issue. **RON MAGUIRE**, Hon. Editor

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