

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

Fellowship of
First Fleeters

Apologies to those members who received a subs memo in the last issue of *Founders* and had already paid their dues. The Executive, in its wisdom, decided to include a second subs sheet in the last *Founders*, not realising that a number of members would query their membership. With the advent of our new computer and its program we will be able to iron out difficulties in the coming year.

The AGM in November resulted in a full Executive for the coming year. We welcome new members, to the governing body and look forward to their individual output and expertise. Roy Morris, our Treasurer, gave a detailed run down on finances. The Fellowship is indeed asset rich to the tune of, in excess, \$550,000, but with expenses our cash flow causes concern. It will be up to the incoming Executive to take a hard look at this and remedy the situation. Some 1,200 financial members are shareholders in our organisation.

A number of important motions were put to the meeting with the following results, subject to approval from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

1. The motion re Benefactors was passed.
2. The motion re Spouse Associate was passed. (In previous years the Fellowship required a marriage certificate for this category. In tune with this modern day and age, we will

recognise, by Statutory Declaration, a de-facto relationship.)

3. Associate Members. This motion was defeated. In essence it would have allowed non-First Fleet descendants as members, full voting rights and a position on the Executive.
4. The President of the Fellowship must be an ordinary member, or a Life Member of the Company. Carried.
5. That Life Membership be conferred on member Syd Ballard. Carried. (Syd for many years was an active member of our Northern Rivers Chapter and recently reached the age of 100 years.)

The passing of Doug Oakes, a foundation member and Life Member was recognised by a minute's silence by those present.

What of the future of the Fellowship? Our Treasurer intimated that he would be standing down in the New Year. I appeal to any member in the Sydney region to offer himself, or herself, with some expertise in this area, to come forward and take on this important position on the Executive. Roy has intimated that he would be willing to give assistance in the changeover.

I hope that we will be able to appoint a member of the Executive to a PR position. We need to liaise with the Chapters and to alert the President to any problems which may arise to publicity affecting the Fellowship and our heritage.

Our Vice-Patron, Commodore Paul Kable AM RAN (Ret), FF Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes, has kindly consented to be our Guest of Honour, together with his wife, Ann, to our Australia Day Luncheon. Details are included in this issue.

The North Coast Chapter intends to hold a meeting on the 3 February next, at Boambee Bay Reserve at Coffs Harbour, to attend, please contact secretary Robyn Condliffe on 02 6653 3615.

(continued on page 8)

THANK YOU MR GUNNING

A special 'Thank You' to Mr Noel Gunning of Harrington for his generous donation of a number of paintings of the Ships of the First Fleet.

The President on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Fellowship wishes to publicly acknowledge its appreciation of this most generous gift.

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News of Members

BIRTHS

Welcome to additional First Fleeters:

ETHAN ANGUS BLAIR (FF David Kilpack), 4 October 2001. Second son of Allison and Michael Blair. Grandson for David (#4382) and Judy Pike. Eighth generation.

PATRICK JAMES TUCKFIELD BRAIN (FF Thomas Spencer and Mary Phillips), 25 August 2001. Son to Katrina and Stephen Brain, first grandson of the late Edward James Tuckfield. Eighth generation.

FAITH KIRA GARDINER (FF John Herbert/Deborah Ellem), 17 August 2001. Daughter of Natalie Burns and David Gardiner. Fourth granddaughter for Glenda (#6211) and Bob Burns. Seventh generation.

VAUGHAN STEPHEN JAMES GROVES (FF Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley), 2 April 2001. Son to Lauren and Lachlan of Caringbah, first grandchild to Debbie and Stephen Armitage and first great-grandchild to Margaret (#6689) and Phillip Townsend of Caringbah. Ninth generation.

HANNAH LOUISE QUICK (FF Jane Langley/Henrietta Langley/Philip Scriven), 25 October 2001. Second daughter for Graham (#1357) and Heather Quick; third granddaughter for Pam (#1356) and Barry Quick. Eighth generation.

DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

ANTHONY MANN (#4345). Passed away 22 September 2001, at Canberra. Loving son of Ethel (#2190) and brother of Kerry. Andrew was also a member of the Canberra Chapter. Descendant of First Fleeter Andrew Fishburn.

EDWARD JAMES TUCKFIELD (#3249), passed away on 14 June 2001. Descendant of First Fleeters Thomas Spencer and Mary Phillips.

BRUCE WEST TWEEDIE (#6822), passed away 20 September 2001. Beloved husband of Marjory. Descendant of First Fleeters Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.

OUR NEW PATRON

The Governor's office has advised the Governor's correct title which is 'Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC Governor of New South Wales'. The arrival of Professor Marie Bashir as the first female Governor of NSW has called for some changes to the official protocol. According to a memo from her official secretary, Brian Davies: 'When first presented to the Governor you should address her as 'Your Excellency' and, from then on, as 'Ma'am' or 'Governor'. The Governor's husband should be addressed as 'Sir Nicholas' at all times.' As to the dress code, Davies wrote: 'There are no Vice-Regal dress requirements. In particular; it is unnecessary to specify any details of dress for women, who are not required to wear gloves or a hat on any occasion, and for whom suits or pant suits are always acceptable dress.'

SPECIAL NOTICE

A search for **Rose Centenarians** is under way to find all family descendants who reached this grand age! Living today or deceased.

Please contact the Rose Family Society Inc. if you know such a family descendant The Secretary, PO Box 772 Strathfield 2135. Photos will be hung in your historic family home 'Rose Cottage.'

Further information available from Secretary Noel - Phone 9877 5454; or President Louise - Phone 9144 1773.

How far behind are you in the payment of dues? Please take notice of this extract from the Articles of Association.

CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

4. If the subscription of a member shall remain unpaid for a period of two calendar months after it becomes due then the member may after notice of the default shall have been sent to him by the Secretary or Honorary Treasurer be debarred by resolution of the Committee from all privileges of membership provided that the Committee may reinstate the member on payment of such arrears as the Committee thinks fit.

4.1.2 If the subscription of a member shall remain unpaid for a period of at least eighteen months after it has become due then the Committee may by resolution determine to remove from that member such privileges of membership as the Committee shall determine.

Closing date for
copy and pictures
Jan/Feb issue
January 29 2002



OFFICE HOURS
10.00am to 3.00pm
Monday to Friday

what's *on*

EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTIFUL BELLINGER VALLEY

For this fantastic holiday write down the dates

SUNDAY 2ND JUNE TO FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 2002

The Bellinger Valley Motor Inn is set in this rural paradise, with views of the valley and mountains from every room. The 27 spacious, comfortable rooms are furnished with all the things you need for a happy holiday — TV, refrigerators, tea and toast making facilities, queen beds, telephone, air-conditioning, and fans.

The extensive grounds include a swimming pool, outdoor warm spa, pool house with BBQ, guest laundry, and acres of lawn and garden to walk or relax in. Our fully licensed restaurant is rich in history and tradition. The cosy log fires during the cooler evenings provide a magical atmosphere for our Christmas in Winter celebrations.

The food and service matches that of the surrounds. We provide delicious three course dinners with a choice of two dishes per course, and cater for special dietary needs. The piano in the restaurant has been the focal point of many a happy singalong.

The adjoining function room also serves as our breakfast-room.

Breakfast is buffet style and includes a variety of hot dishes.

This six day five night holiday includes luxury coach travel from Sydney and return, five nights accommodation, all meals, morning teas and admission to all attractions.

The Bellinger Valley Motor Inn is family owned and operated, and takes great pride in ensuring that each guest feels at home.

Remember for the Holiday of the Year (Sunday, 2nd June, to Friday, 7th June) book early by phoning First Fleet House 9360 3788 or write your requirements.

THOMAS AND JANE ROSE FAMILY SOCIETY INC.

THE EIGHTH TRIENNIAL FAMILY REUNION

The descendants of Thomas and Jane Rose

'Rose Cottage'

Rose Street, Wilberforce NSW

will be held on

Sunday, 24th March 2002

From 9.30am – 3.30pm (Plus !?)

ON WET OR FINE

Bring your picnic basket (free tea/coffee)

and enjoy meeting new family cousins.

Sausage sizzle and drinks available.

NASH FAMILY REUNION

10.00am Service at St Phillip's Church

(York Street)

10 February 2002

Morning Tea at Church

Bring picnic for lunch on Observatory Hill

Contact Lesley Evans

Phone (02) 4933 8262.

AUSTRALIA DAY *Luncheon*

Saturday, 26 January 2002

AT CELLO'S, THE NSW MASONIC CLUB

Our special guests for 'The Day We Celebrate' will be our Vice-Patron Commodore Paul Kable AM RAN (Ret.) He will be accompanied by his wife, Ann. The venue for the luncheon will again be Cello's at the Masonic Club (Castlereagh Inn). Cello's is the magnificent heritage dining-room on the fourth floor which so suits the occasion.

There will be pre-lunch drinks after which a three-course lunch will be served. (Drinks with lunch are not included in the cost.) This is a time for families to gather and celebrate the day our forebears came to Australia. Show our guests the strength of our association!

We are inviting members and Family Associations to form parties to join with us on the day. However, if you haven't a family association, please make a booking and we will endeavour to seat you with fellow First Fleeter descendants

and/or with mutual friends.

When making a booking please supply the following information:

- (i) Number coming.
- (ii) First Fleeter ancestor.
- (iii) Name of party you wish to be seated with.

Bookings can be made to First Fleet House on (02) 9360 3788.

Information is that parking near the Masonic Club on a Saturday is not a problem. Discount parking is available for anyone who wishes to avail themselves of it in the Piccadilly parking station, a few doors down from the Club. Take the parking ticket from the barrier device to the reception in the club foyer and they will exchange it for a voucher to give to the attendant of the parking station on leaving.

Please note the event, date and venue in your diary.

DATE: Saturday, 26 January 2002

TIME: 12 noon (pre-lunch Drinks) for 1.00 o'clock Lunch

COST: \$45.00 per person by Thursday, 17 January 2001

VENUE: Cello's – The Castlereagh Inn, 169-171 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

DRESS: Lounge suit for gentlemen and smart casual for ladies.

(All bookings must be paid for by THURSDAY, 17 JANUARY 2002 – money or cheques will not be collected at the function).

WHO AM I?

Some time ago my Sister-in Law, member Mrs Pat Sherriff, FF Matthew Everingham, wrote some notes for her grandchildren on their forebears. Pat has done some incredible 'genie' work, and the following short profiles on some of her descendants were written in the hope that her descendants would pass on their heritage for future generations. It gave me the idea that I could add to this and pass on some stories of our forebears, especially those who pioneered our Nation. We in the Fellowship have a unique heritage and must ensure that those who follow on know about their pioneer forebears. With Pat's permission I share some of these stories with you, in the hope that you will put pen to paper and pass on your heritage to your descendants!

PETER

WELL, I AM A CRAZY MIXED UP KID!

I am all mixed up because of the product of all my ancestors. I have many mixed genes in my blood. I have so many different ancestors. Let me tell you about some of my great grandparents. Some were good, some were rich, some were poor. I get so tired of writing great, great, great, great, great etc, so to make it a bit more plain I shall just write 15th x great grandfather (or mother) to stop my hand from aching.

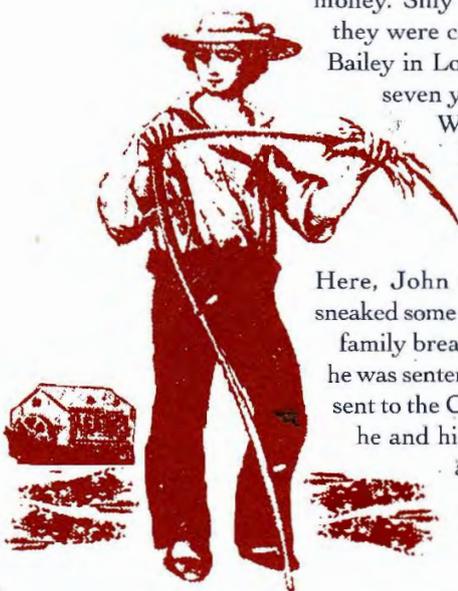
JOHN HILL (1780-1863)

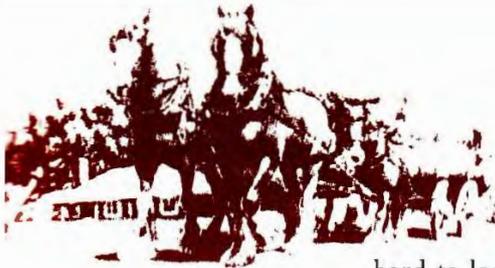
John was my 5th x great grandfather from Suffolk, England and was born in 1780. He was a miller and lived with his wife and children in Suffolk. A miller works at a mill to grind wheat and corn into flour – there are many mills in this part of England. In 1817 John and his friends must have had a hard time paying their bills because they decided to try to make their own money. Silly dopes weren't they? ... because they were caught by the law and tried at Old Bailey in London and John was sentenced to seven years transportation to New South Wales because he had a forged Five Pound note in his possession. He came out to NSW and his wife and children followed in three years and all settled in Sydney. Here, John was in trouble again as he had sneaked some government flour home to make the family bread – this was definitely a crime, so he was sentenced to another seven years and was sent to the Coal River (Newcastle). Eventually, he and his wife wrote to Governor Darling and asked permission to return to Sydney as he had been promised a job there. He was

allowed to return and after his sentence was finished he bought land in Pitt St and also purchased a famous old Sydney mill, The Craighend Mill in Darlinghurst. John did not earn all the money to buy this land as he decided it was easier to marry rich ladies – four in all. His son was a carpenter and made The Speaker's Chair now residing in Parliament House, Sydney and also some furniture for Old Government House, Parramatta. John Snr died in Sydney in 1863. We call him "John the Miller" Hill.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM (c1769-1817)

Matthew was born about 1769 in England and was my 6th x great grandfather. I don't know who his parents were though many of his descendants have tried to find out. He was working for a lawyer in 1784 in a place in London where hundreds of lawyers worked. His boss didn't have enough work for Matthew and sacked him. Poor Matthew got the flu and was too sick to look for work to help pay his rent. You did not get the dole or any social service money in those days! Matthew went to another lawyer's office, a friend of his former boss, and told him that his boss needed to borrow a couple of books. He was given the books which he pawned and received 10 shillings for them. He was caught by the law and sentenced to seven years transportation. He was only 15 years of age. In 1788 he arrived in Sydney on the First Fleet. On receiving his freedom he acquired a grant of land first at Ermington, near Parramatta, and later on the Hawkesbury River. He married another convict sent out on the Second Fleet for stealing a blanket in London. My grandmother says that if you have ever been to London in the winter and felt the cold, you, too would steal a blanket if you had





no money!

Matthew and his wife, Elizabeth, had a large family and had to work

hard to look after their farm.

Matthew almost crossed the Blue Mountains before Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, and he wrote letters to explain his route over the mountains. There is a book which has printed his letters and maps (*The Everingham Letter Book* by Val Ross). Matthew became a policeman in the Hawkesbury River area. One day the aborigines attacked his house and tried to burn it down. Poor Matthew was drowned in the river on Christmas Day 1817 whilst trying to catch smugglers who were trading in rum. Rum trading was banned in those days.

FLORENCE WADHAM (1538-1596)

I know a ghost story about Florence Wadham, my 13 x great grandmother. This story is still told in Somerset, England, where Florence lived. She married my 13 x great grandfather, John Wyndham and soon fell sick and 'died'. Well, all the family thought she was dead as she didn't move and didn't appear to be breathing!! All the family wept and sobbed because she really was a very nice lady. They carried her coffin from their house, across a valley to the church and laid her to rest in the family vault. The family left the church and went home to have a cup of tea and a good cry. One of the church helpers (called a sexton) watched the funeral and knew that Florence would have been dressed in her best clothes and probably wearing some jewellery. He waited until dark, crept into the vault and opened the coffin and tried to get the rings off her fingers. Suddenly Florence groaned and sat up. She was not dead after all and must have been in a coma (doctors were not very clever in 1558!!! Can you imagine what the sexton did when Florence sat up? Can you imagine how fast he ran off? Florence got out of the coffin and walked to the door of the house, bleeding finger and all. She knocked on the door and the servant who opened it ran off screaming. It took Florence a long time to convince the family that she was well and truly alive. In the end she did!! Florence and her husband had one child after this ghostly event and from that son, today all Wyndham descendants in Somerset and New South Wales, yes me too, are descended. John's father died when John was 12 years old

LOUIS AUGUST JOSEPH LEFEVRE (1815-1894)

I have lots of French great grandparents who all lived in Normandy in the 1600s and 1700s; grandma and grandpa Canu (which means weavers), grandma and grandpa Poulet (which means chooks), grandma and grandpa d'Orange (Orange), grandma and grandpa Le Tellier (Mr and Mrs Foolscap Paper), grandma and grandpa laPorte (Mr and Mrs Door) and grandpa LeFevre (Smith). The French seem to have such silly names. They even have days of the week like Mr and Mrs Thursday!!

Louis Le Fevre was my 4th x great grandfather. He was a sailor and lived in Normandy in France. The French used to send their ships down to New Zealand and Tasmania to catch whales for oil and bones. Louis was the cook on board *The Cachelot* (this means sperm whale). He hated life on a whaling ship in the 1840s and so did the rest of the crew, because when the ship stopped in New Zealand, a third of the crew ran off,

and when the ship reached Sydney another third escaped and hid from the captain. Louis ran off too. All he left on the ship was a pair of shoes, which the captain sold for three francs. He skedaddled to Brisbane in 1840 after he deserted the ship. Some Frenchman must have seen him there and told the ship owners about it, because they wrote in the ship's log that he was in 'Mouton Bay' (the French evidently called Moreton Bay, 'Sheep Bay'!!). Louis married an English lady and they settled at Tumut, New South Wales. He never learned to speak English very well.

THOMAS CHASELING

Thomas Chaseling was my 6th x great grandfather and was sent to NSW as a convict. He stole 264 handkerchiefs in England. When my grandmother was in Ireland she was talking to an Irish family about convicts and told them about Thomas and his 264 stolen handkerchiefs. The Irishman said 'Oh Dear, he must have had a very bad cold!!!'

JOSEPH ASHLEY 1658-1739

Joseph was my 9th x great grandfather. When you read his letters and his children's letters you realise he was a cranky old man. He had lots of money but was a bit mean. His sons kept asking him for pocket money when they were at school but he would not send them any!. They wrote letters ... 'Dear Father, I need some money, please send me some. I don't like school. Please let me come home. I need some new shirts. My school friends all have nice shirts made of linen, can I have some?' But Joseph Ashley wrote back to his son and said he would send him some canvas shirts, because they were perfectly good enough for his children. Oh dear, canvas is such scratchy, hard stuff to wear. Joseph sold uniforms to the army and was a very rich man. His family wrote lots of letters. There are 500 letters kept in boxes in the archives in England which tell us all about how the family lived 280 years ago. One of Joseph's sons had stones in his gall bladder and had to have an operation. The letter tells us about operations in 1722. There was no anaesthetic to help patients go to sleep in those days. The doctor operated on four boys who were only five years old. People had to hold them down while the doctor cut open their bellies. They bit their lips and clenched their hands, sweat came on the foreheads. The doctor removed the stones and Joseph's son described how the stones looked. One stone looked like a horse bean and one like a sheep's kidney. Yuk!



JOHN STURT (1493-1553)

I have a lot of Sturt great grandparents who were living in Yately in Hampshire, England, from 1281 to 1590. They were farmers who had to work for the King and every year they had to pay the King by giving him some of their best farm animals. John Sturt was born in 1493 and was my 14th x great grandfather. He wasn't a farmer but was a turner and worked with wood, carving and making furniture. The family went to London in 1590 and lived there for 100 years. They became rich and went back to the country to live. In 1798 John Sturt's 7th x great grandson went to South Africa and married a Swiss girl. Their son, George Sturt came to Australia in 1840, later settling in Tumut NSW. He went there because his cousin, Charles Sturt, the explorer, told him about the good farming land in that area.

At the time when our ancestors arrived in Sydney, most internal illnesses could not be diagnosed, internal operations were impossible, and amputations were carried out by a surgeon with unsterilised knife and saw, while the screaming patient, fortified by strong liquor, was held down by a team of strong men. Death from shock and blood poisoning was common for the knowledge of bacteria and anaesthetics was still in the future. It is against this background that the work of the first fleet doctors must be evaluated.

There were eight surgeons and two surgeon's mates sent with the First Fleet to attend to the medical needs of some 1500 people making a voyage half way round the world. Of these, 778 were convicts, most of whom were in poor health from being imprisoned on disease-ridden hulks or in the overcrowded gaols of England. The chief surgeon was Mr. John White. In spite of the conditions, and the eight months voyage, only 34 people died.

But White's problems on arrival were enormous. Many had scurvy or dysentery, there was no accommodation and medical supplies were woefully inadequate. White and his

when White returned to England in 1794, the position was much improved with only 59 deaths occurring in that year.



The "Rum Hospital"
Sydney Hospital, 1816

HEALTH HEALING

WITH THE FIRST FLEET SURGEONS



assistants responded well to the challenge.

A rough structure of bark and canvas was erected on the western side of Sydney Cove to serve as a hospital. White was a keen amateur naturalist and was able to make up medicines from native trees and plants. The situation was improving whe the

Second Fleet arrived with 500 seriously ill and dying convicts. No sooner had White and his team saved half of these than the Third Fleet arrived with many more sick convicts. In spite of all his efforts, there were 436 deaths in 1792. However,

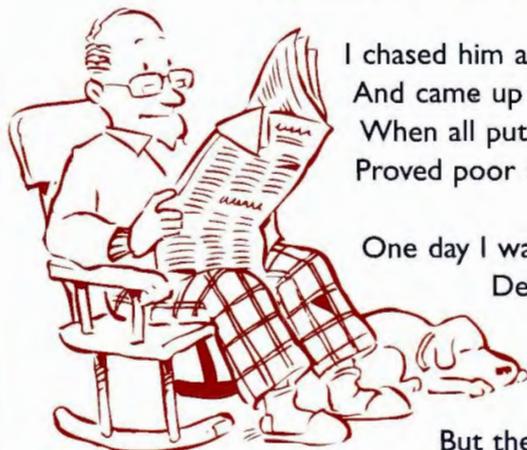
Another medico of note was Thomas Jamison, the surgeon's mate in the *Sirius*. He was responsible for the health of the increasing numbers of people sent to Norfolk Island from March 1788 to October 1799. Back in Sydney, he became Surgeon-General, successor to William Balmain. He helped to carry out the first successful vaccination of children here against smallpox. He published the first medical articles in the *Gazette*, and gained permission for surgeons to go into private practice to attend to women in childbirth.

Surgeon Thomas Arndell was assistant surgeon on the *Friendship*. When Rose Hill was opened up as a settlement, he became surgeon in charge of the hospital there. He was a capable doctor, but he gradually became more interested in farming and gave up his post at the hospital in 1795. However, from his farm, he attended to the people of the area by accepting from Bligh the position of assistant surgeon at the Hawkesbury. He remained in N.S.W. to establish a numerous and well respected family.

With the coming of Macquarie, the work of these medical pioneers was consolidated Sydney hospital was built to serve the growing needs of the citizens of Sydney.

Am I Really Me?

I started out calmly, tracing my tree,
To find, if I could, the makings of me.
And all that I had was Great-grandfather's name,
Not knowing his wife's nor from whence they both came.



I chased him across a long line of states,
And came up with pages and pages of dates.
When all put together, it made me forlorn,
Proved poor Great grandpa had never been born.

One day I was sure the truth, I had found,
Determined to turn this whole thing upside down.
I looked up the record of one Uncle John,
Then found the old man was younger than his son.

But then when my hopes were growing quite dim,
I came across records that must have been him.
The facts I collected – they made me quite sad,
Dear old Great-grandfather was never a Dad.

I think someone surely is pulling my leg,
I'm not at all sure I'm not hatched from an egg.
After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree,
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me.

Author Unknown

TUNKS FAMILY TREE 2001

The Tunks Family Tree 2001 is now available to TDAI and First Fleeter members. It has 168 pages of Tunks Family Tree details covering over 6,000 names plus a 51 page index of names with page references. It is available in book form and on CD for the following costs.

Tunks Family Tree 2001 Book \$25.00 + p&h (Sydney & environs \$5.00. Interstate and Country \$7.00. Overseas \$9.00)

Tunks Family Tree 2001 CD \$25.00 + p&h \$3.00)

Tunks Family Tree 2001 Book & CD \$40.00 + p&h (Sydney & environs \$5.00. Interstate and Country \$7.00. Overseas \$9.00)

If you would like to order a copy/copies of the book or CD please post this form with cheque or money order (inc. post and handling charge) to the TDAI Membership Secretary, John Daniell, 114 Spencer Road, Killara NSW 2071. Should you have any queries re your order please phone/fax 02 9418 1279.

Please post _____ (insert number) copies of the Book or CD or book and CD (cross out what is not applicable) of the Tunks Family Tree 2001

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

I enclose cheque / money order for \$ _____ Signed _____

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from page 1)

I will be attending a meeting of the newly formed South Coast Chapter early December. In August last, the late Barry Roberts was elected President, and I hope that one of the members will come forward to keep the flag flying!! Further news in the next issue of *Founders*.

Joy and I had a very quick three-week trip in October, visiting Cologne, Berlin, Prague, Vienna and Bangkok, but I can assure you all, that there is no place like home!!

I recently attended a dinner, organised by the Sydney Portsmouth

Sister Committee, at which our Patron, Her Excellency the Governor was Guest of Honour. It was my pleasant duty to introduce Her Excellency to the guests and I can assure members that our patron has the interest of the Fellowship at heart.

The Museum of Sydney on the site of First Government House has recently acquired models of all 11 of the First Fleet ships. The makers of these models, Lynne and Laurie Hadley, spent nine years of intensive research into original plans, drawings and British archival documents before embarking on building them. Each ship is constructed on a 1:48 scale. They are currently on display at

the museum site. The spiel in the latest edition of *Insights* gives a well-documented run down on each ship of the Fleet, and in a future edition of *Founders* we hope to pass this on to members. The Historic Houses Trust is to be congratulated in the acquisition of a vital historical part of this nation's heritage.

May I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

In Fellowship

PETER

from the chapters

South Coast Chapter

An inaugural meeting of the South Coast Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters was held on the 7th August last in Wollongong. Meetings will be held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at the Old Courthouse, Bellemore Basin, Wollongong.

New England Chapter

The Executive has received the first newsletter of the newly formed New England Chapter, centered on Armidale, NSW. Congratulations are in order for a fine effort. It includes: 'The Internet and the First Fleet'; a list of those who travelled on that fleet; a joining form for the Fellowship (terrific idea);

ships of the First Fleet; stories from life during the first settlement; list of livestock and provisions on the Fleet; websites pertinent to the First Fleet; a biography of John Cross FF; a book review and more. We, at First Fleet House, look forward to more newsletters from this Chapter. Contact to the Secretary Margaret Gunther, (02) 6771 1330 or email mgunter2@metz.une.edu.au.

Chapter meetings are held on the first Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December, at various locations within the New England area.

North Coast Chapter

The Executive has received the newsletter of the North Coast Chapter with an invitation to all Chapters north of the metropolitan area to share fellowship at their February meeting to be held at the Boambee Bay Reserve, Coffs Harbour on the 3rd February. The newsletters from our Chapters make interesting reading for all descendants. Keep up the good work!

Merry
Christmas

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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