



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

The Australia Day Luncheon was a success both socially and financially, a success due in no small part to the efforts on Phyllis Selby, Bonney Saville, Ron and Zona Maguire and Pamela Hempel. Thanks are also due to June Bigham and Beverley Naughton for donations to the raffle. Further reports are included in this issue.

Joy and I attended the State Reception held at Darling Harbour later on the 26th January. I was able to attend the service on the 3rd February at St Phillip's Church Hill to commemorate the first Christian service held in the new Colony. The sermon of good Evangelical tone was marred somewhat by the preacher referring to those bonded on the First Fleet as 'criminals.' It was obvious that he had not delved too deeply into Australian history!! I might add that he was politely informed that he had given offence to a number of us in the congregation!

During January and part of February I spoke to Bondi Probus at the Hakoa Club, St. Ives Ladies Probus, where I was made most welcome by member Louise Prince, FF Matthew Everingham. On the 13th February I was guest speaker at the Balmain Hospital Auxiliary, and on the 15th February I spoke to the Wollongong Seniors Club. This was attended by some members of our South Coast Chapter.

At the December Executive Meeting, Joy Pankhurst took over as Membership Committee Convenor. Quite a job as it is a Committee of one person now. For over two decades Naida Jackson had the oversight of membership and processed quite a few thousand members. On behalf of the Executive and Members of the Fellowship I wrote to Naida expressing gratitude for her efforts over the years.

Possibly in June I may be visiting my son in Brisbane and perhaps, on the way, also visit the North-West Chapter in Tamworth and the New England Chapter in Armidale. This would have

to be done on a Saturday in Tamworth and Sunday in Armidale. We will be in contact with both Chapters at a later date.

January 26th each year seems to bring political correctness out of the woodwork and this year was no exception. The Australia Day Oration, organised by the Australia Day Council, was given this year by a Professor Flannery (I think I have the name right) who put forward amongst other things the ridiculous idea that 'all non native flora' in Australia should be jettisoned, and 'that Sydney and Port Jackson should revert to original Aboriginal names.' I fear that the professor was suffering under a serious misapprehension that Australians en masse would endorse his muddle-headed political correctness. It was a damp squid and a ridiculous waste of time and money by the said Council.

In Fellowship

PETER

OYEZ ... OYEZ ... OYEZ

Our long-serving Treasurer is calling it a day! He has served us well for many years but he feels that the time has come to step down to let new blood take over.

The Quest is On!

Who among our many members of myriad skills will volunteer to be our revered Hon. Treasurer.

Roy assures the successful nominee that he will stay for a period while the changeover takes place.

Please write to the President
First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street,
Woolloomooloo 2011, with your offer to become Hon. Treasurer.

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News of Members

BIRTHS

Welcome to additional First Fleeters:

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.

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.

HANNAH CHARLOTTE RUSSELL (FF Patrick Burn/Ann Smith), 11 January 2002. Daughter of Andrew and Michelle Russell. Granddaughter of Lynette (#2726) and Peter Russell. Ninth generation.

MARRIAGES

MATTHEW LYN SAYS HARGRAVE (FF Benjamin Cusley) and CAROLYN ANTIONETTE WOODS (F.F. Ann Martin) were married on 1 December 2001 at Blacktown Reformed Church, Blacktown, NSW.

DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

LLOYD ALLCHIN (#3512), passed away 3 October 2001. Descendant of First Fleeters Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.

JEAN MURIEL COULTER (#2727). Passed away 25 January 2002. Loved mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Descendant of First Fleeters Patrick Burn and Ann Smith.

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.

VIOLET GRETA MOORE (#944), of Taree, aged 80 years. Descendant of First Fleeters Matthew James Everingham and William Roberts. Also her husband Douglas George Moore, age 86 years.

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.

what's on

THOMAS AND JANE ROSE FAMILY SOCIETY INC.

THE EIGHTH TRIENNIAL FAMILY REUNION

of the descendants of
Thomas and Jane Rose
at '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.

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.

'A NATION WITHIN A NATION'

This book launched on 9 November last details the story of Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne. It contains the names of 48,000 descendants of these two First Fleeters.

Inquiries to:

PETER MCKAY,

PO Box 645

Geelong Vic 3220

Cost is \$60.00 plus postage.

**Closing date for
copy and pictures
March/April issue
April 6 2002**

OFFICE HOURS

**10.00am to 3.00pm
Monday to Friday**

Some 120 members and guests gathered on Saturday 26th January in the magnificent colonial dining room, Cellos, within the NSW Masonic Club in Castlereagh Street, Sydney, to celebrate the Founders of our Nation. Vice-President Rod Best, in his inimitable manner, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Peter Christian welcomed guests present including our Guest of Honour, Vice-Patron Paul Kable and his wife Ann, and President of the Masonic Club Mr Bill Wright and his wife Joan. We were pleased to welcome Bess Hooke, the Matriach of the John Small/Mary Parker First Fleet Family and on a sad note we mourned the passing of Doug Oakes.

Ron Maguire said Grace and the Loyal Toast was proposed by Executive member Elaine Bennett.

Paul's address to us was well received and the response to his speech was made by Rod. Peter then proposed the toast 'The Day We Celebrate' and Rod's wife, Louise Baur, led us into the rendition, on the baby grand, of our National Anthem.

The tables were decorated with Australian Flags and on each table Pamela Hempel had placed family First Fleet names. This year we organised a raffle and a lucky door prize

was drawn. Peter in his report for this issue, noted those who worked so well in making the day the success that it was. In this issue we have included photos of the event. Place cards at each setting were tastefully done by Ron Maguire noting the proceedings and at the back of each card was printed 'Phillip's Promise', which is worthily reproduced below:

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON 2002



'Good people ... I am ~~an~~ man of vision,

And I do not doubt that this country will prove the most valuable acquisition Great Britain ever made.

We have come today to take possession of this fifth great continental division of the earth, on behalf of the British people, and have founded here a State which we hope will not only occupy and rule this country, but will become a shining light among all nations of the Southern Hemisphere.

How grand is the prospect which lies before this youthful nation.
I give you ... success of the Colony.'

The above report was prepared by an anonymous member of the Fellowship in memory of our late member, Doug Oakes.







VICE-PATRON PRESENTS AUSTRALIA DAY



L-R: Joy Christian, Ann Kable, Paul Kable, Zona Maguire, Peter Christian

A highlight of our Australia Day Luncheon was the following address given by Vice-Patron Paul Kable

david Collins, soldier and Judge Advocate of the First Settlement, wrote on the day of arrival in Botany Bay: 'Thus under the blessing of God, was happily completed, in eight months and one week, a voyage which, before it was undertaken, the mind hardly dared to contemplate. Its successful completion afforded great satisfaction for in that space of time with a fleet of eleven sail we had travelled five thousand and twenty one leagues: had touched at the American and African continents and had at last rested without meeting any accident in that distant and imperfectly explored ocean'.

The founding of European Australia by the First Fleet is one of the great expeditions of mankind. Thirteen hundred and fifty people, crammed into eleven tiny ships, sailed half-way round the world on a voyage that took eight months and one week and lost only forty-eight people, most of whom were sick and dying even before they left England.

It was an epic voyage not only in seamanship and navigation but also in the management of people and logistics;

its success can largely be attributed to Captain Arthur Phillip, Commodore of the Fleet and first Governor of New South Wales, his attention to detail, his humanity and his tenacity.

It is puzzling that Britain should have selected Australia as her overseas prison if that were the only objective. Australia was very far away and that made transportation slow and expensive. Surely an isolated British possession in the Northern Hemisphere or Africa could have been found.

The idea of British settlement in the Pacific goes back, probably, to Commodore George Anson's Pacific voyage of 1740-44. Of the officers who served onboard his flagship, it is remarkable that the Captain (Anson), the lieutenants (Saunders, Brett and Denis), the midshipmen (Keppel, Hyde Parker and Campbell) all reached flag-rank and four became Lords of the Admiralty. First-hand experience of Pacific conditions was thus brought to the Board of Admiralty between

1766-86, the period important to Australia's founding. The interest in the Pacific was kept alive by the successive voyages undertaken by both French and English navigators, but most especially by Captain Cook's three remarkable voyages.

After discovering and charting the eastern coast of Australia (or New Holland) in 1770 Cook made some far-sighted observations on its suitability for settlement. After his second voyage he recommended that the best way to enter the Pacific was south of New Holland to New Zealand and this was the route adopted by eighteenth century navigators. This was confirmed by his third voyage when he sought a 'route through Arctic Seas without success.'

At that time although Britain had isolated possessions in the Indian and Pacific regions she did not control the sea routes. The Dutch held the Cape of Good Hope and the choke points of the East Indies and Ceylon; and the Spanish held Cape Horn. Britain's major trade with both India and China and north-west America was vulnerable to interception. Even worse was the

prospect that France could take India and colonise New Holland by virtue of the strength of its Navy based in Madagascar and Diego Garcia and its treaty with the king of Cochin China. Other important ingredients in the problem were the tea trade, whaling, Spanish loot resulting from the Philippines/Mexico/South America triangle of trade; and North American fur.

The result of Cook's voyages showed that the logical outcome of ships using the route south of New Holland would be a settlement at a convenient port in either New Holland or New Zealand. No doubt the matter had been well-considered by the Admiralty during the period of Cook's exploration. These circumstances explain the willing cooperation giving the plan entitlement 'Heads of a Plan for effectually disposing of convicts, by the establishment of a colony in New South Wales' by the Lords of the Admiralty when they considered it in September 1786.

The British Government had been wondering where to send those convicts sentenced to transportation. They had been overcrowding prison hulks and jails since the loss of the American colonies in 1783. This problem was urgent when in March 1786 the Sheriffs of London petitioned the king to have transportation resumed.

Another urgent problem for Britain at this time of struggle with Spain, France and Holland for the control of India and the East and Pacific was naval resupply. This was essentially a maritime struggle. Often naval actions were broken off as smashed spars, torn sails and lack of cordage made warships unserviceable. The fleet that replaced these items quickly won the next battle or was able to blockade the enemy in harbour. In the years to 1790 the British Fleet was stored and repaired back in Britain whereas her rivals had excellent regional naval havens. The supporters of New South Wales persuaded the Government that suitable flax and timber could be harvested there. Indeed the new colony at Sydney did

contribute logistically during the 1803-15 war against France.

Flax was made into canvas, rope and was superior to hemp in use as hawsers. A sure supply of flax wrote Lord Sydney 'would be of great consequence to us as a naval power.' The tall timbers which grew to the water's edge in New Zealand and islands around Australia would yield masts and spars of good quality for the British fleet.

Thus an Australian colonisation would be reciprocally beneficial, both to overcrowded English jails and to English sea power. Thus Lord Sydney affirmed the

traditional principle that England expected some return from the expense of ridding herself of criminals.

In turn Britain was able to dominate the Indian and Pacific oceans for one hundred years but not much due to the flax and timber; as the flax was not as well processed as that from the Baltic and grew only on Norfolk Island. The Norfolk Island pine proved rotten behind its impressive bark. But rather the domination came from a gradual acquisition of a chain of naval havens across the Indian and Pacific oceans. The Australian ports became an important part of that chain.

As Australians we have continued in a maritime tradition. Any creature from another planet asked to look at earth and pick the obvious maritime nation by geography would surely nominate our continent. And indeed we have most aspects of a fishing industry, merchant fleet, seabed exploitation and a regionally powerful naval force. We certainly have a substantial recreation fleet, both sail and power. We continue, by virtue of geography, to be absolutely dependent for our standard of living on sea trade and thus its security. Of that notion Lord Sydney and Arthur Phillip would understand and approve.



The President's Toast appears on page 8.

President's Toast

The Day We Celebrate

I quote from Thea Stanley Hughes's Book *Arthur Phillip* ...

'During the afternoon of the 25th January 1788, the *Supply* under the command of Arthur Phillip anchored in Sydney Cove. Now, there was a slight pause – one night – between the sense of urgency about getting the Fleet to its destination and the new sense of urgency about the fulfilling of his destiny.' We all, gathered here, celebrate that destiny in a very special and unique way!

The next day, 26th January, some 214 years ago, a Saturday to the very day, it was clear weather, a light sou-sou east breeze and a temperature of 70 degrees F. and at about 6 pm, the ten remaining ships of the Fleet anchored in the cove.

Indeed, Phillip had accomplished an incredible feat of endurance, having sailed some 15,000 miles with some 1,350 souls in his care he had found a safe haven.

Convicts totalled some 752, a third of them female, marines totalled 245 and the rest Naval officers, able seamen and crews of the eleven ships. Most of us here relate to these people in some tangible way. Indeed, we inherit their genes!

At dawn, Phillip was ready for action. He had the power of life and death over all under his care. His commission from the Home Government ensured that British Justice would apply to the new colony. One of the most important commands of this commission, from His Majesty, George the Third, was the power to grant land to emancipated convicts, and to those unfettered, who chose to stay.

It took some time for most of those exiles to settle down. Some fell by the wayside and some well-known names came under the Governor's displeasure during the early days.

Those in trouble included Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley ... yet on their reception of a grant of land in the Penrith area, they settled as good citizens. John Small, at

one stage, found himself in strife, Phoebe Flarty, Sarah Bellamy, and a number of other well-known matriarchs all blotted their copy book in the early days of the Colony.

One only has to read *The Historical Records of Australia* and John Copley's writings of the early settlement of this land, to realise that a new beginning did emerge for those who had been exiled from their native land under such inauspicious circumstances. Indeed they planted a seed, probably unwittingly, of the native born of this nation, which was both different from that of their origins in Britain, but similar in nature in their newly adopted land. It is a historical fact that we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the majority of all our First Fleet forbears, for the genesis of our nation as we know it today. As Australians, descended from those First Fleeters, we need not be ashamed of what was not our doing. An accident of history saw European settlement of this land, there should be no need to apologise for this event.

By the same token, I think, we, again, as First Fleet descendants, should realise that the destruction of Aboriginal culture began on the 26th January 1788. Again, not of our doing ... but by the putting aside inherent prejudices, from both sides, perhaps, it may result in a spirit of reconciliation. Time will only tell!

But, this Day of all Days, we come together to celebrate a triumph over adversity, and what a triumph! Our forefathers founded this Nation and we here, remember them with pride. May we always give thanks to the Almighty for the benefits which we all inherit through their struggles.

'TO LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF DESCENDANTS IS NEVER TO DIE' – ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.

I give you the toast ... 'The Day We Celebrate'

MAIL BOX

STANDLEY – LOWE FAMILY

Should there be any other family member of the above that may have the desire to contact me, please do: Mavis I. Devereaux-Dingwall, (02) 9674 1947.

Heather Stevens, PO Box 229 Randwick 2031. Re Esther Abrahams and George Johnston: interested in Isaac David Nichols.

JOHN BARRISFORD (BERESFORD)

Researching my mother's ancestry I came across John Barrisford (Beresford), a marine in 40th Portsmouth Regiment who volunteered to come out with the First Fleet to Port Jackson. Interested in obtaining further information. He was recorded as in Tasmania when he left Norfolk Island on City of Edinburgh. Graham L. Hall, 7 Cottonwood Ave, South Vermont, 3133 Vic.

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