NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS *To live on in the hearts and minds of Descendants is never to die!*

L'aller

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

President's Annual Report

nother year of consolidation for the Fellowship has been completed and appreciation is due to your Executive members and the solid core of dedicated weekday volunteers for their combined efforts.

Some 63 members were processed during the year and included in this number were 16 Junior members and 11 Spouse Associates. Membership Co-ordinator, Joy Pankhurst gives much time and effort in the processing of membership Tuesday by Tuesday.

Archivist Pam Quick was also busy in the organisation of special events and day tours, the cruise on the *Our Svanen* being the highlight of the year. The tour of the Macarthur Camden estate was also well attended.

Elaine Bennett, our Office Co-ordinator, was also kept busy during the year, mainly chasing up quotes for various jobs to be done on First Fleet House.

Leaking roofs, new cisterns, and paint jobs, in association with Pam Quick, have been her forte.!! May I say, also, that Elaine is at the forefront to bring the Fellowship office procedure up to date!!

Two new helpers, Ian Palmer (FF John Palmer) and Neville Usher (FF John Small/Mary Parker), have been of terrific help with the input to the computer.

Bonney Savill and Phyllis Selby usually organise an extended Annual Tour. In addition to the overseeing of the sale of goods from First Fleet House each Thursday. Bonney in particular has been of great help to our Treasurer, Roy Morris, in the collating and banking of funds for the Fellowship, with the help, no doubt, of Phyllis. What would we do without their combined efforts????

Jean Mortimer recently volunteered to take over the Friday shift and she and her husband, Terry, coming all the way from Wollongong, have so far been kept busy at HQ. I might add that Jean could be of value to the Executive???

June Bigham has been 'holding the fort' on a Monday, although lately she has not been in the best of health. Regardless of this, June has always had the best interests of the Fellowship at heart.

These and a few other helpers see to the needs of members.

Pamela Hempel has done a superb job as Public Relations person and also acts as a liaison officer to the various Chapters. We are indeed fortunate to have a person such as Pamela on our Executive.

Your President is fortunate to have a keen Executive in addition to the four abovenamed (Pam, Elaine, Joy and Pamela): William Hempel, an able Secretary; Vice-President and a former President Rod Best to whom I lean on for advice on many occasions; Bruce Arnett who gives valuable input to the meetings; our Editor Ron Maguire and his wife, Zona, both of whom have given invaluable service to the Fellowship over the years; George Griffiths, the Fellowship's Webmaster, and your Treasurer, Roy Morris, who invariably keeps the meetings on the straight and narrow, dotting every 'i' and crossing every 't'.

May I add that Roy is keen to step down as Treasurer and would welcome a member to volunteer as Assistant Treasurer, with a possibility that he or she may take over this important facet of our organisation.

Unfortunately, Brian Harris, who was elected at the last AGM, has been in indifferent health, stands down. We thank him for his input and wish him well for the future.

Speaking of the future ... the direction that the Fellowship takes depends on each and every member, and, yes, our membership is scattered far and wide, but we look for your support, enthusiasm, trust, and continued interest.

(continued on page 6)

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News of Members

Membership Report

For period 27 July 2003 to 27 September 2003

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period; nine adults, three juniors and two spouse associates.

WILLIAM BAKER – SUSANNAH HUFFNELL: Mrs Heather Jean McCall, Miss Dorothy Anne Wilson.

JOHN CROSS: Mrs Prudence Milba Ann Friend.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS – MARY GROVES: Ms Christina Anne Jones, Miss Deni Ranasinghe (jun), Mr Jackson Nuyan Ranasinghe (jun).

ELEANOR FRASER: Miss Kate Stapleton (jun).

JAMES FREEMAN: Mrs Lois Joy Stathers (sp Mr George Stathers).

WILLIAM HUBBARD: Mrs Janet Lynette May.

HENRY KABLE – SUSANNAH HOLMES: Miss Maureen Anne Stephenson. THOMAS LUCAS: Mrs Helen Joyce Atack (sp Mr Roger John Atack).

ANN YEATES: Rev John Mark Brooker.

Births

Welcome to additional First Fleeters:

HAMISH WILLIAM STEVE GORDON (FF Nathaniel Lucas ñ Olivia Gascoigne), 31 March 2003, Sydney. Son to Angus and Sarah, a brother for Amelia Mae Annie Gordon. First grandson for Judith Vivienne Gordon (#5972). Eighth generation.

LUCY ELIZABETH KING (FF John Cross), 11 November 2003, at Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick. Daughter for Selwyn John King and Jeanette Margaret (nee Murray), of 34 Seaview Street, Summer Hill, a sister for Ryan James and Alana Rachel. Granddaughter for Leonard (#2437)and Lola Murray. Seventh generation

Deaths

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

RICHARD GARY FITZGERALD (#6561), passed away Thursday 17 April 2003. (Some members may remember him as proprietor and operator of Richards Old Bookshop at the Entrance.) Descendant of Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne.

THERESA CATHERINE TAPPER (#5657), passed away on 14 September 2003. Aged 80 years.

WALLACE ANDREW JENKINS (#1767), Telegraph Point, a proud member of First Fleeters, passed away on 7 July 2003.

Commemorative Service

A service to commemorate the First Christian Service held in the Colony will be held on

SUNDAY I FEBRUARY 2004 at 3:00 pm at St Phillips, Church Hill

Reverend Ross McDonald will be the preacher at the service.

he Fellowship would like to compile a register of any memorials pertaining to First Fleeters. This register will include all known monuments, plaques, statues, gardens or anything else appropriate, as well as any background information about them, such as when they were built or dedicated, who designed them and where exactly they are located. The register will be published in *Founders*. It will be maintained at FFF House and regularly updated when any further information comes to hand.

ERE are they register will

> This information will be invaluable to help answer the many queries the FFF office receives and will no doubt be of interest to members when visiting country towns, cities, etc.

> If you know of any of these sites, please contact Pamela Quick at FFF House by mail or email: fffaus@ol.com.au.

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Closing date for copy and pictures Jan/Feb issue 31 January 2004

FF HOUSE CLOSED

Sat 20 December-Sunday 4 January

OFFICE HOURS

10.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday

Australia Day 2004

LATE BOOKINGS

With the numbers for the Dinner nearly 190, the Conference 130 and the Picnic 100, and the time drawing close before we reach our maximum numbers, we want to give you this final opportunity to make a booking so you do not

miss out on the January Event. Take a moment to fill out the form along with your cheque made payable to the Fellowship of First Fleeters and send it in ASAP.

Remember the speakers for the Conference are: Alan Atkinson

Anne Marie Whittaker

Brian Fletcher

Lynne and Laurie Hadley

Over 60 different First Fleet families will be represented by their descendants.

The Celebration Dinner includes

entertainment by the Southern Flame Quartet and the Grand Draw for our Annual Raffle. If you require extra tickets these can be sent to you by calling FF House, 9360 3788.

EXHIBITORS

The following Exhibitors have advised they will have stands which all members can visit. These stands will only be available during the day of the Conference.

South Coast Chapter

Everingham Family

eind Accommodation Package

And the Winner is! Mr and Mrs David Walker Nathan, Queensland

CONGRATULATIONS!

We hope you enjoy your complimentary stay at Holiday Inn Penrith Panters Owen Cavanough Family Blue Mountains Family History Society Rope-Pulley Family Tunks Family Thomas Arndell Family Fellowship of First Fleeters State Records of NSW The John Nichols Society The Buddong Society Thomas and Jane Rose Family Nepean Family Historical Society Turtle Services BDM Transcriptions

PICNIC DAY

On Sunday the Family Picnic will take place on the grassy grounds of Panthers.

The Fellowship is in need of a group of people from which volunteers can be called upon at short notice from time to time to man the office during the week for a day or part of a day.

As you are aware, the Fellowship has permanent volunteers to man the office. However, from time to time, due to sickness and family commitments, the office is unmanned. Obviously the more



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people in this backup group the better, as there would be less call on their services individually.

Your reward! An interesting day, plus a warm feeling for a job well done.

Please give sincere consideration to being one of this group. For further information contact Elaine Bennett or Pam Quick on a Wednesday at the office 9630 3788.

the old ETERIES

he first white man to die in Australia appears to have been a member of a Dutch exploratory party who was killed by aborigines early in 1606. The first burial of an Englishman in Australia took place in August 1699 of the cook aboard Dampier's HMS *Roebuck* off the West Australian coast. Seventy years later, on the east coast of Australia, a seaman called Forby Sutherland, aboard Captain Cook's ship, died of illness in Botany Bay (May 1770).

The Reverend Richard Johnson, chaplain to the First Fleet, kept an account of the deaths of officials, crew and convicts on the voyage to Australia, beginning on 3 February, 1787 with a death on board the vessel *Alexander*. The first 45 names in this record were endorsed 'Buried at Sea', and these entries formed the nucleus of the register at St Phillips Church, Sydney (*pictured right*).

The earliest records of burials on land do not state the actual locality, but merely mention Sydney Cove or Parramatta. From other sources it has been learnt that the first burials in Sydney were on the ridge west of lower George Street. Evidence points to the tombstone of George Graves (how



Early Parramatta

appropriate) of the HMS *Sirius* who died on 12 July, 1788. This tombstone was subsequently discovered near the Bethel Church, and is now at Vaucluse House.

The second burial ground in Sydney was situated in the present Clarence Street to the rear of the land on which the military barracks were erected in 1793. Archdeacon William Cowper (former incumbent of St Phillips) stated that he had seen headstones in the Clarence Street cemetery bearing the date 1792. No burials seem to have been made in it after that date, and all the headstones were removed before 1845.

The third cemetery, which occupied the site of Sydney Town Hall and St Andrews Cathedral, came into use in 1793. The earliest headstone in that cemetery bore the date 1793. The site was closed in 1820. When excavations were being carried out for the city railway, some humans remains were found below George Street in front of the Town Hall, so it was evident that the cemetery extended eastward.

Sydney's fourth cemetery was consecrated on 27 January, 1820, occupying the site on which Central Railway Station now



stands. It was known as 'The Sandhills' or Devonshire Street Cemetery. It remained the principal cemetery in Sydney for many years. The graves at Devonshire Street remained undisturbed until the site was required for further extension of the railway into the city (opened in late 1907), and all the remains and memorials were removed to a new site provided for that purpose in Bunnerong Road, Botany. Since no fewer than 21,695 interments had been made in Devonshire Street, a great amount of work was involved in the transfer. The remains were re-interred in 9,390 graves, and the tombstones, vaults and monuments were re-erected in the new cemetery.

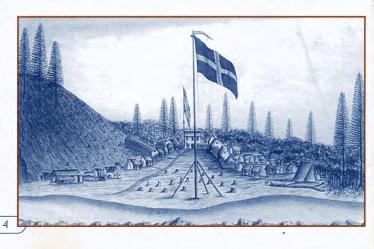
COUNTRY CEMETERIES

The principal cemetery at Parramatta for many years was St John's Churchyard, the first burial recorded there being that of Elizabeth Scott, who died 1 April, 1789. The cemetery remains intact, surrounded by its old brick wall. It contains more epitaphs than any other cemetery in the country. Late in 1810, Governor Macquarie gave instructions to create new burial grounds in the new townships of Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Liverpool.

At the same time, Governor Macquarie directed that the burying of the dead on farms should cease. The first person buried in the cemetery at Windsor was Andrew Thompson (q.v) who was interred on 25 October, 1810.

NORFOLK ISLAND

The first settlement on Norfolk Island (below) was established in March 1788. The first death – that of a marine

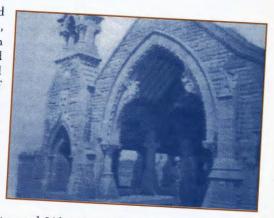


who was a member of the First Fleet – occurred on 10 June, 1788 and he was buried 'near the flagstaff'. The oldest headstone on the island is that of Thomas Headington, a convict of the First Fleet who died on 2 April, 1798, aged 40. Excavations during later years revealed the skeletons found were to be the graves of murderers who were not entitled to burial in consecrated ground. Lots more interesting reading in the Australian Encyclopaedia, but my favourite cemetery was Rookwood.

ROOKWOOD

Now Rookwood was a late starter. Established in 1868 and 300 hectares (777 acres) in size, it is the largest working cemetery in the Southern Hemisphere, and also the largest 19th century cemetery in the world. There is an interesting Celtic Cross about 10 to 15 metres high. A book named 'The Sleeping Necropolis' by David A Weston deals with Rookwood – currently possibly out of print but available from your local library. Well, my experience with Rookwood was of the 'living' nature. During the early war years (World War 11 that is), my girlfriends and 1 would regularly bicycle off on a Saturday morning, and often find ourselves at Rookwood Cemetery for our 'orange break'. Never venturing very far into the grounds, we would sit amongst the weeds, the freesias and jonquils and the big clay ants and contemplate. There were lots of turned-

over urns and headstones, which even in 1942/43 seemed to have attracted the attentions of passing larrikins. In the middle distance was a fascinating railway line, which curved around the grounds in



between Flemington and Lidcombe stations. This line was probably out of use, but a marvellous Mortuary Station (*pictured above*) of Gothic structure and made of Sydney sandstone was the railway station. The Mortuary Station was subsequently removed to the museum in Canberra.

JEANETTE WILLIAMSON

This article first appeared in the FFF North Coast Chapter Third Quarter Newsletter, 2003.

PRIME MINISTER, CANBERRA

FIRST FLEETERS MAGAZINE AUSTRALIA DAY FOREWORD

we are

The first edition of any publication is historic. First Fleeters* makes its appearance one year before Australia celebrates the bicentenary of Captain Cook's discovery of the eastern coast of Australia and in the month when we celebrate our national day.

It is fitting that it should do so, because the Fellowship of First Fleeters is directly concerned with the promotion of Australia Day which commemorates the arrival of our first settlers some eighteen years after Captain Cook's epic voyage.

We owe our existence today to Captain Cook and to the First Fleeters who began to build a nation.

I am glad Australians who have been able to trace their descent from those who landed from the First Fleet in 1788 have come together as a Fellowship and are among those sponsoring the Australia Day Movement.

There is plenty to be proud of in Australia today. We are forging ahead into a new, exciting era of national development and we are united as a people. We live in peace with our neighbours, we respect the rule of law and we guard our democratic institutions closely.

We have a challenge before us to widen our influence, strengthen our friendships and develop our resources. I am confident we can achieve these goals.

Australia Day is a reminder for us of things done – and things yet to be done. I commend First Fleeters to its readers.

JOHN GORTON November, 1968 *Now known as *Founders*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from page 1)

We have a vibrant organisation, a unique historical association which can and should hold a special place within the community as a whole.

During the year 2002-2003 I was privileged to have spoken to 31 organisations about the First Fleet, the voyage, the arrival, some people on the Fleet and their descendants. In every instance I was gratified by the response, it must be going over well as I have bookings every month to July 2004!!

In retrospect this is my 14th Annual Report to you, and I do not know how many more that I will be able to give. I thank you, one and all, for the fellowship and friendship you have given me.

In this wonderful land of ours, handed down to us by our First Fleet forebears, we should never forget, regardless of divisions of politics and religion, that we have a common red line of kinship and heritage which links each and every one of us together.

This is our common Fellowship! PETER



South Coast Chapter 2004 Meetings and Events

The SCC will commence monthly meetings next year. The first Tuesday of each month from February to November, 10:00am start at the Old Court House, Wollongong.

FEBRUARY 3 MEETING

Back to school. A short talk from members plus display items. eg photos, old school books, school badges.

MARCH 2 MEETING

Guest Speaker Ray Thorburn to speak on 'Prisoners of Conscious in the Colony' – situations against peoples and government!! Not crimes that led to deportation.

MARCH 13 TOUR

Travel by coach to Canberra to the National Museum. One hour tour starting at 10:30am \$5.50 Concession \$7.50 Adult. Lunch inside the War Memorial (inviting ACTmembers to lunch with us). Walk around and view the exhibits at your leisure, leaving ACT about 3:30pm. Sutton Forrest for quick refreshment break.

APRIL 6 MEETING

Guest Speaker from the RSL APRIL 7 TOUR

The old guns around Wollongong foreshore. Greg Scott, our guide will unlock the door under Flag Staff Hill to see those guns as well. Cost! we buy Greg lunch back at the RSL. NO MAY MEETING

Some attend Barrington Tops Holiday, while others take a RDO.

MAY 15 LUNCHEON

To remember those who sailed from Portsmouth with the First Fleet 13 May 1787. Venue TBA JUNE | MEETING

Subject TBA

Dr Chan Institute – two hour tour at no cost. Morning Tea on arrival. Lunch nearby.

MAILBOX

GRAEME LOVELL

I purchased the book *A Rich Inheritance* Vol 2 from FFF as my wife is descended from William Roberts and Kezia Brown.

Volume 1 is proving more difficult to obtain. I would appreciate if there is some one who might know where I can get a copy of Vol 1 as a Family Reference.

Graeme Lovell on glovell@bigpond.net.au

MRS P FERGUSON

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PICKET/PIGOTT, SAMUEL *Charlotte*, First Fleet and THOMPSON, MARY *Lady Juliana*, Second Fleet Information sought for a proposed book and Family Reunion. Please contact: Mrs P Ferguson 79 Perry Drive Chapman ACT 2611

E-mail: fergcanb@alphalink.com.au

Gloucester BARRINGTON your gateway to

Sunday 2 - Friday 7 May 2004

COST \$565.00

DAY I: MEET, GREET AND TRAVEL

Pick-up at pre-arranged departure point, Eddy Avenue, 9.00am, meeting our Tour Captain Mal. Sit back, relax and enjoy the informative and interesting commentary as we travel to Stroud – first settled by the Australian Agricultural Company in the late 1800s. Visit the underground silos on Silo Hill, the courthouse where Captain Thunderbolt was tried, Quamby House the oldest church still standing in Australia.

Enjoy a delicious lunch on Silo Hill before travelling on to Gloucester for an afternoon of sightseeing. The township of Gloucester was established in 1855 and grew slowly until 1876 when gold was discovered in the nearby village of Copeland. Growing appreciably during the interwar period, Gloucester is unique for its intact collection of buildings of this period.

Enjoy the spectacular view over the township from Kiaora Lookout before arriving at our home for the next five nights – Gloucester Country Lodge.

DAY 2: HISTORY, HORSES AND GOLD

The first stop this morning is to the Gloucester District Museum. Constructed in 1909 and opened in 1910 as the Gloucester Shire Council Chambers, the museum houses material of historical significance to the district dating from 1826.

A guided tour of the town by our local historian is followed by morning tea in Billabong Park before travelling to Alan and Diane Schultz's property 'Cobark' – some 2000 acres of Gloucester's finest cattle and river country. Enjoy a delicious country lunch prepared by Diane as you listen to Alan's fascinating history of the property and his association with the land. The image of the 'Man from Snowy River', Alan is a horseman of old. Meet his workmates, his bullocks, dogs, draughthorse and packhorse as he demonstrates horsemanship of an era almost forgotten.

From Cobark we travel to Copeland. Take a step back in time to the Mountain Maid Goldmine. Try your hand at gold panning, venture into the underground mine, visit the old world mining museum or take a relaxing forest walk amongst one of the last remaining significant stands of Red Cedar trees in NSW.

DAY 3: NATURAL WONDERS

This morning we travel east through Krambach to the old river port of Tinonee, with its lovely old arts and craft shops. After morning tea we travel to Wingham and Wingham Brush – the last remaining area of tropical rainforest on the eastern seaboard. A walk through the Brush to view the giant strangler figs as well as the roosting area for thousands of flying foxes. After lunch at the Wingham Services Club it's on to Elenborough Falls – the second longest single drop waterfall in the southern hemisphere.

DAY 4 : GARDENS, HERBS AND HILARITY

Our day commences with a tour of the lovely gardens of Malcolm and Kate McNaughton's property 'Mendips' – a participant in the 1998 Australian Open Garden Scheme.

From Mendips it's on to Hillview herb Farm – a commercial herb farm located just five minutes south of Gloucester. Your host Karen will guide you through the gardens explaining the different herbs and their many uses and then serve a delicious lunch using many of her own garden produce. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to enjoy – shopping time in Gloucester, a stroll around the golf course or just a well earned rest.

This evening (5pm) we travel to 'Trudgalong' – a 130 acre farm nestled on the banks of the Gloucester River. Trudgalong has diversified from the more traditional forms of agriculture to include aquaculture, Boer goats, miniature ponies and a variety of other animals. Dinner tonight is at Trudgalong following the farm tour and is BYO. Be prepared for some great entertainment.

DAY 5: A DAY TO REMEMBER

Today we take a breathtaking trip to Barrington Tops, some 5000ft above sea level in the Mount Royal Ranges. The views from Devil's Hole Lookout are nothing less than spectacular. We travel through rainforest regions, Beech forests, Snowgums and sub-alpine areas of the beautiful and mystic Barrington Tops. The drive has been described as 'the last great driving adventure on the east coast of NSW'. Today Mal treats us to a delicious stir fry lunch at Pole Blue (the origin of the Manning River). We take a walk through the 'Firs' – breeding ground of Liar birds and then stop to take in the fabulous view over the Hunter Valley from the Dingo gate before heading home.

DAY 6: FAREWELL

Our last hearty breakfast before bidding farewell to Gloucester. We head home via Dungog, once home to cricketing legend Doug Walters. Dungog is proud of its wide streets, well preserved buildings and friendly country hospitality. Established as a military outpost designed to rid the area of infamous bushrangers such as Captain Thunderbolt, Dungog still reflects its historical rural past.

We then head on to the lovely village of Morpeth on the banks of the Hunter River – renowned for its arts and crafts.

Morning tea, lunch breaks are at convenient locations to stretch our legs.



REMEMBER ME

Lesley Pearse

This novel is based on the true story of two First Fleeters and their escape from the Colony. Although a work of fiction it closely follows the story and graphically portrays the harrowing state of the Colony bordering on starvation and the plight of the people. Mary Brand and Will Bryant and several other convicts made their escape and sailed to Batavia, a journey which ranks equal in navigation skill to Governor Bligh. The circumstances of the voyage and their tragic fate makes great reading - it brings home to all First Fleeters the courage of our ancestors and the conditions which they survived. Published in paperback from Penguin books, about \$20.00 in most book stores.

CONVICT RECORDS IN AUSTRALIA Cora Num, 2003

Cora Num, Pearce, ACT 2607

This book contains information about various detailed and specific sources for the convict period. The sources are grouped by subject areas to help researchers looking into all aspects of their ancestors during that era.

THE FIRST FLEET AND YEAR OF SETTLEMENT Tony Crago, 2003

Woollahra Sales and Imports, Newtown, NSW 2042 The book is about the First Fleet's survival during its first year and would be especially helpful to students in school.

St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor, NSW, Parish Registers 1810-1856

Lake Macquarie Family History Group, Inc. 2003 Hawkesbury City Council, Windsor 2756

This detailed book has been produced as a project of the Lake Macquarie Family History Group with the assistance of the Hawkesbury City Council and contains listings of entries in the Church Records during the years mentioned. The baptism, marriages, and funerals listed from those years are of special interest to any members who have connections to that time period and area of Australia.

FIRST FLEET HOUSE LIBRARY

FF House Library has many materials of interest to members and these latest three books are just samples of materials that may help researchers or those interested in our early colonial history. Contact First Fleet House if planning a visit to Cathedral Street to ensure the office is open before you arrive.

Terry and Jean Mortimer are presently reorganising the Library at FF House and entering all the acquisitions into a computer programme, so that we can advise you what is available if you wish to come in and peruse at your leisure. Our thanks to Terry and Jean for taking on this huge task.



he latest hobby which is creating a lot of interest is SCRAPBOOKING. How many of you have all those 'old' precious photos just sitting there waiting for some TLC? In 2004 we plan to offer Scrapbooking Classes at First Fleet House – just the thing to help you turn those photos in to precious memories!

One class will run during the week and another on the weekend, both in the daytime, thus catering for everyone. The classes will be small in number, offering personal guidance. If you have had the opportunity to see someone else's scrapbook, you will realise how unique and precious these books are.

If you are interested in attending a class, please fill out the slip below.

Name _____

Address

Postcode _____ Phone Number _

Email address

Preferred Day: Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun (Strike out days not suitable)

Please send form to: Pamela Hempel, Edenmore, 1 Millstream Road, Werrington Downs NSW 2747.

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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