

# Founders

Newsletter of Fellowship of First Fleeters



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## Days to Remember

- 21/22 January 2006  
Australia Day  
Conference/Dinner  
/Picnic
- 26 January 2006  
Australia Day  
Harbour Cruise
- 5 February 2006  
Anniversary First  
Christian Service  
St. Phillip's

## President's Report

I announced at the AGM that this would be my last year as your President. I assure you all, that it is time that I stepped down. I have enjoyed leading the Fellowship over the past 20 years save for a rest of three years!! I hope and pray that in some small way I have successfully fought hard to preserve the heritage of our First Fleet forebears within our Australian community.

We have two new Directors, Ian Palmer, FF John Palmer, and John Boyd, FF Edward Whitton. We were sorry to lose Pamela Hempel due to business commitments and Pam Quick due to Family commitments. Bruce Arnett, FF Ann Forbes, is now a Vice-President.

The Sydney/Portsmouth Sister City Committee received a reply from the Lord Mayor re the request to re-site the Bonds of Friendship to the forecourt of the old Customs House at Circular Quay. We were informed that there was no room and the Memorial would not be moved, but 'most likely something will be done re illuminating the sculpture,' mention was also made of the invasive nature of a nearby tree. The Committee was understandably not satisfied with the reply and further correspondence will ensue.

Recently former President Jim Donohoe donated a CD and Book to the Library entitled 'Births in Australia 1788-1828.' It is a monumental work as it is an index of 27,500 children born in Australia during these formative years. Each child is shown with parents' names where found. The price for the CD is \$29.50 and may be ordered from Jim at (02) 9969 0547 or you may contact him by e-mail... jamesdonohoe@bigpond.com. Jim is also the author of many interesting works but one stands out - 'The Paracensus of Australia 1788-1828'. This is a consolidated list of 145,000 persons who resided in this land during its formative years, indexed alphabetically. The CD costs \$69 including post. I look forward, with many members, to the publication of Jim's latest book, 'James Squire Mine Host Extraordinaire'. I am told that the book will relate to some 17 First Fleeters.

Joy and I had two weeks in Spain and Morocco in October. We crossed the Strait of Gibraltar twice. Thrilled to see that mighty rock. On the return trip it happened to be the exact bicentennial of the Battle of Trafalgar.

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**FIRST FLEET HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED FROM  
MONDAY 19th DECEMBER 2005 AND WILL  
REOPEN MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2006**





## News of Members

*Membership Report  
for period 25 September to November 2005*

### New Members

*We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period: 27 adults, three juniors and three Associate Members.*

THOMAS ACRES: Mitchell Edward Bruce (jnr.). Diana Goldrick.

OWEN CAVANOUGH/MARGARET DARNELL: Neville Hannah; Wayne Neville Hannah; Jennifer Phillys O'Hanlon; Vanessa Louise Hannah, Amanda Jane Hannah, Garrie John Hannah, Jason Garrie Hannah, Nikita Lee Hannah, Glenn Alan Hannah, Joel Edward Hannah (jnr.), Thomas James Hannah (jnr.), Aileen Roberts.

BENJAMIN CUSLEY: Peggy Joan Taylor; Robyn Patricia Taylor-Bee; Nancy Jean Butterfield; Fiona Anne Smith.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS/MARY GROVES: Melissa Joanne Abraham, James Abraham (associate spouse).

WILLIAM EGGLETON: Hayley Clare Weemaes; Shirley Clare White.

JANE LANGLEY/PHILLIP SCRIVEN: Yvonne Isabel Coleman; Paul Anthony Chapman, Catherine Chapman (associate spouse), Matthew Paul Chapman, Adam Anthony Chapman.

SAMUEL PIGOTT: Wilma Joan Raymond.

JOHN RANDALL/JOHN MARTIN: Pauline Garmonsway.

WILLIAM STANDLEY: Beverley Ada Gilbert-Bailey.

EDWARD WHITTON: John Christopher Boyd.

JOSEPH WRIGHT: Heather Causer, Lindsay Causer (associate spouse).

### Births

*Welcome to additional First Fleeters:*

ANNIKA POTTER (FF Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley), a daughter to Matthew and Naomi. Fifth grandchild for Pamela (#5897) and David, ninth great-grandchild to Stella Minter (5825).

NATALIE ANNE SPRYCHA (FF Robert Williams), born 18 December 2004, daughter to Karen and Lukuzs. A granddaughter for Keith and Cathy Smith. *(The reason for the delay in notification of the birth is that we wanted her to fit into her First Fleeters T-shirt!)*



### Deaths

*Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the following:*

WYNNE ANDERSON (#936) passed away 2 November 2005. Descendant from First Fleeters Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne, Elizabeth Mason, James Squires.

## FFF Office Bearers 2004-5

**President** CHRISTIAN Peter: JP, Ph.C  
**Vice-President** BEST Roderick: BA. LLM; QUICK Pamela  
**Secretary** HEMPEL William: BA MA  
**Treasurer** MORRIS Roy: JP, AO, B Com (Melb), FCIS, FCPA Brigadier(Ret'd)

### Directors

ARNETT Bruce, Mech Eng Cert; Electronics & Comms Certificate.  
BENNETT Elaine  
GRIFFITHS George, JP, Web Master  
HAXTON John, JP, Dip Chem Eng; Dip Corp Mgmt; Dip R.E Mgmt  
HEMPEL Pamela, Public Relations Officer  
MAGUIRE Ronald, JP, Editor 'Founders'  
MAGUIRE Zona  
MORTIMER Jean, Librarian  
PANKHURST Joyce

## Maintain-A-Brick Donations

The Fellowship thanks the undernamed for the generous donations made to its Maintain-a-Brick Fund. The names have been inscribed in the fund ledger.  
O.Bennett, M.A.Broughton, M.Bubb, M.Eggleston, R.W.Hurst, J.Thomas, J.L.Westmore, T.W & H Williamson, H.Wylie, J&S Yabsley.





*President's Report* from page 1

I had three talks in October/November. One to a group called VIP. Was not sure about this, but discovered it was a get-together of Visually Impaired People complete with one or two guide dogs. One of my more memorable meetings I can add together with the Carers' Group this year consisting of a number of wonderful octogenarians eager to hear of the founding of our Nation. On Armistice Day I spoke to the Willoughby Ladies Probus and followed that up the next week to speak to the Gosford Ladies Probus Club. I was delighted to again meet Lee Bulloch who worked as a volunteer for the Fellowship in 1988. Lee was our Calligrapher Extraordinaire and volunteered to inscribe a new Member's Certificate for those interested.

We were sad to lose Lee and her husband Warren, FF Joseph Tusso, when they emigrated to Tasmania. Both have returned to the Central Coast where Warren is an ordained priest of the Anglican Church.

May the spirit of Christmas touch all of you and may the New Year bring much Happiness and Contentment.

*In Fellowship, Peter*



## *President's Annual Report* at the Annual General Meeting on Nov 26

The past year has indeed been one of consolidation for the Fellowship. Sixty-five new members were enrolled during the year, together with six Spouse Associates and 18 Junior members. We are fortunate to have a band of dedicated volunteers who keep the flag flying at First Fleet House on weekdays. Without their continued devotion to duty the wheels would stop turning. There is a gap for a couple of volunteers to take over duties on a Tuesday of each week.

Ongoing maintenance has been carried out on the fabric of First Fleet House. Attention has been paid to the roofing, the kitchen has been re-modelled. We were fortunate to have work on tiling around the kitchen walls donated by Geoff Fletcher, and at the moment tiling has been laid on the floor and general painting has been carried out. We have had a problem recently with some cracks in the walls due to subsidence and we are looking into this.

The Membership Committee consisting of co-convenors Neville Usher and Lois Cook have been kept busy, ably assisted on a Wednesday by Pam Quick and Elaine Bennett. Our Web Master George Griffiths also is in evidence on this day together with Leonie Dawes who has turned the courtyard into a veritable greenery.

Efforts on other days by Ian Palmer, Bonny Savill and Phyllis Selby, Jean and Terry Mortimer are appreciated. Treasurer Roy Morris, ably assisted by John Haxton, is invariably on deck on a Thursday. My appreciation is also due to my two Vice-Presidents, Rod Best and Pam Quick.

Daytime Fellowship meetings were resumed during the year. Three such meetings, including the Annual Soup and Damper Day, were fairly well attended and members were entertained by a guest speaker. Several outings were organised by Pam Quick in addition to the Heritage Week Circular Quay walk in September.



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A successful Australia Day Luncheon was well attended and thanks are due to Pamela Hempel in this regard. Due to family business pressures we are sorry to lose Pamela from the Executive this coming year. Her spouse, William, we hope, will continue in the position of Secretary to the Fellowship. Pamela has also been responsible, ably assisted by Jean Mortimer, for liaison with the Chapters of the Fellowship. A new Chapter was recently formed in the Southern Highlands and seems to be on a firm footing. We look forward to working in harmony over the next year. There are Chapters mooted for the Central Coast and the Albury area. Other potential areas are Brisbane and the Gold Coast. We do need a member who would be prepared to act as a catalyst to do the necessary spade work to get a group together to form a Chapter. I may be slightly presumptuous here, but I do regard the Chapters as my 'baby'. The first was the Canberra/ACT group, then Hunter Region, the Northern Rivers, North Coast and North West centred in Tamworth and last but not least the South Coast Chapter. Some few years ago I took off for Wollongong to sort out some five or six members who were of two minds to start a Chapter. The catalyst was there, in the room, in the person of Jean Mortimer. I think that some of my enthusiasm caught Jean and from those few members, the Chapter now counts on about 50 members!! My thanks to all of the Presidents and members of our Chapters for their combined efforts in bringing our distinct heritage to the fore.

## **GOOD NEWS! FOUNDERS MAY NOW BE VIEWED ON LINE**

To access, enter  
[www.members.ol.com.au//fffaus](http://www.members.ol.com.au//fffaus)  
Go to  
**Fellowship of First Fleeters**  
**-First Fleet House Site.**  
Then click on  
**Members Newsletter**  
which takes you to a password page.  
Type Username as **"guest"** and type  
Password as **"enter"**  
both lower case.

This Username and Password will be changed in the next Financial Year.  
*Founders* will still be posted to all Financial Members.

This site is still being worked on and we hope in future to improve the online newsletters and offer members the option of either having a copy posted or to view or save on line.

**YOUR COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK  
WOULD BE APPRECIATED**

The new edition of *"Founders"* has had some problems which will be ironed out and thanks are due to Ron Maguire, the Editor, for his ongoing efforts.

During the year I had 33 speaking engagements, mainly to Probus Clubs not only in the Metropolitan region but a number on the Central Coast, Kiama and Moss Vale. I already have a number of bookings for 2006.

This coming year will be my last as your President. It is 25 years since I first joined the Fellowship and over the past 20 years, save for a three-year break, I have considered it a privilege to have put before our fellow Australians, as your leader, the positive aspects of the first European arrivals in this land. Far be it for me to preach to the converted; the dedicated members of the organisation who have stood by and supported the Executive in many ways. One in particular, John Roberts AO, FF Ann Forbes, has been particularly generous in his donations to First Fleet House not only enrolling his immediate family into the Fellowship, but also has ensured our financial independence for the immediate future. In the knowledge that John is a fairly private person, I felt that I needed to bring to the attention of members that here we have a descendant who is willing to stand up and be counted as a very proud member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. The Directors have conferred the title of Benefactor on Mr John Roberts AO.

I look forward to again working with a dedicated group of Directors in the coming year, and willingly take on the responsibility as President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters for one more term.



*In Fellowship, Peter*





## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS TRAVELLERS' ODYSSEY

There have been some happy wanderers amongst our members over the past few months. Wendy, Chapter Secretary, and husband Colin have just returned from a wonderful trip to Canada, USA and Alaska. John, Treasurer, and Rosemary have done some traveling in NSW and Queensland whilst my daughter and I spent a few weeks in the UK. Has anyone else had adventures out of the Southern Highlands recently?

One of the places I visited in southern England was Plymouth but time did not permit a visit to Portsmouth from where the entire First Fleet set sail. However in Plymouth I had a frustrating search for the plaque erected to commemorate the departure of the transport ships Charlotte and Friendship and a tribute to Captain Arthur Phillip. I was amazed and saddened at the ignorance of employees of two tourist information centres and so-called 'local historians.' Phillip was an unknown identity but I suppose I should be grateful that James Cook was well-recognised.

Regarding the plaque, I eventually was directed to a wall in close proximity to the Barbican Tourist Centre where plaques to lost fishermen were erected. 'Perhaps you will find it there.' I have been assured that there would have been a more enthusiastic response from Portsmouth folk.

The lack of knowledge (and possibly interest) about the birth of our great nation was further exacerbated when mingling with guests at a wedding in Surrey. One purely 'social' question I received was how long had I lived in this remote part of the world. My reply that I was a sixth generation Australian descendant of a First Fleeter who arrived 213 years ago was dismissed with the comment: 'Oh, is that all! We go back thousands of years'. It was obvious this speaker did not even consider we share their past and I wondered if she thought we Colonials came from outer space.

Having travelled to Britain previously, and having good English friends, I had never before encountered this lack of knowledge first hand. Anglo-Australians gaze in awe and marvel at the likes of Stonehenge, the great cathedrals at York, Salisbury, Winchester etc, Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Stratford-on Avon - the list goes on and on. It is all part of our past too. Is it that we have a wider world knowledge than folk of other lands? Are Australians more widely travelled? Or, am I being too blindly passionate and proud in craving acknowledgment of the past that has shaped the great nation Australia has become, in its very short history?

From the First Fleet arrival to those who followed opening up this vast land I consider a huge debt of gratitude is owed. What hardship and deprivations those early explorers like Burke and Wills, Hume and Hovell, Ludwig Leichhardt endured. What courage, vision and also spirit of adventure they had! The sheer strength and fortitude of our early pioneer ancestors facing adversities in a hostile land is to be marvelled at. We who enjoy the fruits of their labour must not let them be forgotten.

'They' say we have no cultural background! Rubbish!!

What better background than the spirit and strength of those early settlers that has been passed down through the generations to us developing such a deep love of our land.

Not all who dwell in this country are privileged to have the background knowledge we share, and there are those who would 'bury' records of our heritage. Even some Australian born from a line of pioneer stock do not share a love of heritage believing we live in the present not the past.

It is vital to reach the youth of today but let us remember there are also those amongst new arrivals to our shores, some of non-English speaking backgrounds, who have a thirst for knowledge of Australia's past.

With our ever-increasing population and multicultural society, I feel we should not be complacent and those of us who consider our past important should take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself no matter how small to spread our history to as wide an audience as possible.

Your Chapter president is one very proud Australian who has had her say and would welcome your comments and suggestions. *Patricia Robinson*

## HELPERS NEEDED

The Fellowship of First Fleeters really needs more helpers for the manning of our office; a handyman for small repair jobs, a helper for our IT Manager and especially to help with ideas for arranging and conducting our social days.

Presently our office is manned 10.30 to 2.30 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

*If you feel you could assist your Fellowship in any of these ways, please contact our office during the above hours (02) 9360 3788.*





## From the Chapters

### SOUTH COAST CHAPTER

**Sunday 5th February** 3.00pm St Philip's Church Sydney.  
218th Anniversary of the First Christian Service in the Colony.

**Tuesday 7th February** 10am to 1pm. Historian, Georgina Elder Shaw from Botany Bay National Park, will speak about Australia's most important European historic site '*Kurnell and its History*'.

*General meetings are held in the 'Old Court House Wollongong' (opposite Wollongong Harbour).*

*All FFF members are invited to attend the South Coast Chapter outings, more details throughout 2006.*

President Jean Mortimer 4257 5575, Vice-President Stan Keough 4232 1060

### NORTH COAST CHAPTER

**Sunday 5th February** Boambee Creek Reserve 10.30am start  
This day also combines with a visit from New England Chapter. North Coast Chapter Members, please bring a plate of 'Finger Food' to share. Please also bring your own cups, glasses, plates, knives, forks and spoons.  
Tea, coffee, cold drinks, morning tea supplied by Chapter.

**Saturday 1st April** Invitation - First Fleet Memorial Gardens, Wallabadah NSW  
The New England Chapter extends an invitation to join their Chapter at the 'First Fleet Memorial Gardens, Wallabadah NSW'.  
Details in next Newsletter or Phone (02) 6653 3615

*All FFF members are invited to attend the North Coast Chapter outings, more details throughout 2006.*

*Meetings commence at 11.30am unless otherwise stated.*

*For further information or transport to meetings, please contact Secretary, Robyn M Condliffe, Phone (02) 6653 3615*

### SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CHAPTER

*Governor Arthur Phillip's birthday celebrated .*

At the October meeting we proudly celebrated the birthday of the man responsible for the foundation of our nation by having a birthday cake for afternoon tea. One of our members and a past President of the Fellowship, Beryl Lewis, had the honour of cutting the cake which we all enjoyed. The cake simply said: 'Happy Birthday Arthur.'

*Left: Beryl Lewis, watched by Florence Malmberg and Dorothy Rich, cuts the cake to commemorate Phillip's Birthday.*



*From left to right: Marilyn Kelly, Minute Secretary; Patricia Robinson, President; John Kirkby, Treasurer; Valerie Collyer, Membership Archivist Publicity; Wendy Selman, Hon. Secretary Newsletter.*

*For further information please contact  
Wendy Selman  
PO Box 503, Mittagong 2575,  
or Valerie Collyer 4872 1238*





## Calendar of Events 2006

### SATURDAY 21st & SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY

Australia Day Weekend Conference, Dinner and Picnic  
Penrith Panthers (see back page for details)

### THURSDAY 26th JANUARY

Australia Day Harbour Cruise (see advert this page)

### WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH

Daytime Fellowship Luncheon. Speaker TBA.

### SUNDAY 14th MAY

Celebration Lunch - Anniversary of Sailing of First Fleet from Plymouth. Venue FF House and East Sydney Hotel.

### WEDNESDAY 17th MAY

Daytime Fellowship Luncheon. Speaker TBA.

### WEDNESDAY 12th JULY

Soup & Damper Day - First Fleet House.

### SEPTEMBER

History Week - Sunday History Walk.

### WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER

Daytime Fellowship Luncheon. Speaker TBA.

### SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER

Tour of Hyde Park Barracks and St James Church.

### WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER

Christmas Party at First Fleet House.

*It's On Again!*

## AUSTRALIA DAY CRUISE

THURSDAY  
26TH JANUARY 2006

Ferry 'Fiesta' is booked again to leave from Pickup to be advised. Possibly Gladesville Wharf (Birkenhead Wharf closed for repair) returning 3.00pm,

following the *GREAT FERRY RACE* and participating in the decorated

## *Parade of Sail*

We had a great day last year and want to make it bigger and better in 2006. We need more decorations for 'Fiesta' - any help and ideas would be appreciated. Dress in your Australia Day gear and bring your family and friends and

## *Celebrate!*

Cost remains the same as last year:

**Adults - \$45**

**Children under 16 - \$30**

BYO food only, drinks must be purchased on board

**Bookings now open - phone FFF on 9360 3788**

Cheques payable to: *Fellowship of First Fleeters, 105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo 2011*





TO LIVE ON IN THE  
HEARTS AND MINDS OF  
DESCENDANTS IS  
NEVER TO DIE

**Closing Date  
for  
Next Issue:  
January 30**

#### Chapters

ACT  
Geoff Cameron  
6251 4095

HUNTER VALLEY  
Ray Meredith  
4943 1246

NEW ENGLAND  
Warren Luxford  
6772 4717

NORTH COAST  
Colin Robertson  
6654 1528

NORTHERN RIVERS  
Betty Harriman  
6683 4493

NORTH WEST  
Aussie Pratt  
6766 2130

SOUTH COAST  
Jean Mortimer  
4257 5575

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS  
Valerie Collyer  
4872 1238

## Fellowship of the First Fleeters

105 Cathedral St Woolloomooloo NSW 2011  
Phone: (02) 9360 3788  
Fax: (02) 9360 3988  
Email: fffaus@ol.com.au  
www.geocities.com/fellowship\_of\_first\_fleeters

# Australia Day Weekend

**Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd January 2006**

*Conference, Celebration Dinner & Picnic*

**Venue – Panthers-Penrith NSW**

All members, family & friends from throughout Australia & Overseas are invited to attend the Conference which commences at 9.00 am on Saturday with morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea all included.

**Three keynote & highly respected speakers have been confirmed to provide presentations during the Conference – namely:**

**Peter Christian** - *President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters*

Peter has spoken to many groups outside the Fellowship about the First Fleet story and it is a pleasure to allow our own members and friends to have the opportunity to enjoy and share his special expertise.

**Ray Thorburn** - *Director Kiama Family History Society*

Ray has spoken to many groups about the valuable specialised work being done by him and his organisation centred on the South Coast and it is a pleasure to have him share a little of his expertise with us.

**Geoff Stuart** - *Author "Secrets in Stone"*

Geoff was a guest speaker at the Australia Day Luncheon in 2005 where he shared with us a little about the History of Sydney as seen through his discoveries and photographs over three years research for his book "Secrets in Stone." Geoff has agreed to speak further about his experiences to the wider membership and friends in 2006.

**A Celebration Dinner is planned for Saturday Evening at 6.30 pm**

A great time to arrange a table with round tables of 10. Catch-up with family or meet other descendants of a First Fleeter.

*As descendants of a First Fleeter, we shall toast those  
who we are so proud to call our Ancestors.*

**Numbers are Limited**

## Picnic Day - Sunday 22nd at 10am

A time to relax with one another beside the lake with views to the Blue Mountains. Bring a rug, fold up chair, picnic lunch & enjoy some R & R.

**Accommodation:** On site at Holiday Inn Penrith Panthers  
Enquiries: Phone 02 4721 7700. Don't forget to ask about a special rate!  
*Mention at the time you are attending a Conference & Dinner at Panthers.*

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