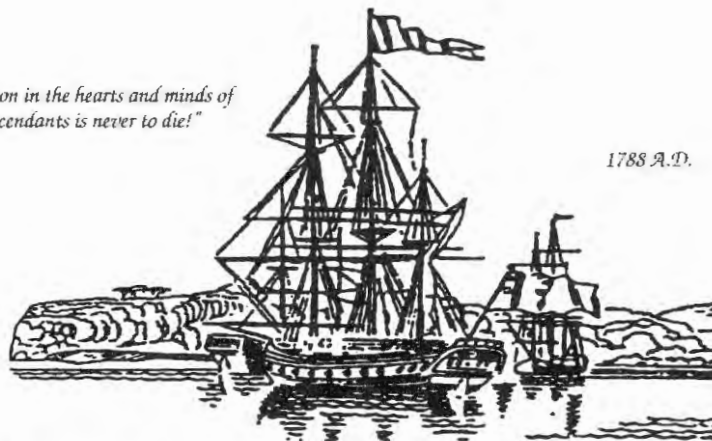


Fellowship of First Fleeters

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

1788 A.D.



NEWSLETTER

JOURNAL OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS INC. NSW 1988

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PATRON: His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC, Governor of New South Wales

OFFICE ADDRESS: First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 **PHONE:** (02) 360 3788, 360 3988

JULY/AUGUST 1995 VOLUME 26 NO. 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations are in order to Foundation Member and former Executive member, Nell Sansom, who was the recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June. Nell, a very proud descendant of First Fleeter James Bloodworth, was, for a number of years, the driving force in the recognition of the site of First Government House and that site being retained as a national memorial for future generations. Well done, Nell.

Welcome home to our Vice-Patron Commander Paul Kable, R.A.N., who had been stationed in London for the past few years. During his time in the United Kingdom, Paul had not only done invaluable work for the Australian Government, but had also kept the F.F.F. to the fore.

On 25 June last I was privileged to attend the ceremonies relating to Robert Williams, F.F.F., at St. Peter's, Richmond.

A truly moving event. The service was led by member Rev. Jim Payne and the Cathedral Singers under the direction of member Shirley Mills.

I had the pleasure of speaking to two groups recently – the Probus Club of Beverly Hills and the War Widows Guild, Epping Branch.

The Week-day Fellowship had a most successful Soup and Damper Luncheon at First Fleet House on 5 July last. Due to the absence of Doug Oakes, chairman of this body, who is overseas I was seconded to chair the general meeting. I was sorry not to be able to stay for the repast, or to hear a most interesting talk by Mr Jack Gibbs on some of the old homes in Potts Point.

Please keep those subscriptions coming in – and any loose change? Please spare a thought for our 'Buy-a-Brick Fund'!

In Fellowship,
PETER

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

On 27 January 1996 our

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON

will be held in the

Holme and Sutherland Room,
Sydney University

The function will begin at
12 noon for 1.00pm

Estimated cost is about \$40 which
includes pre-lunch drinks and
savouries.

Those who have attended our other
Days there will again appreciate the
venue and those attending for the
first time will be more than
adequately satisfied.

**PLEASE START PLANNING YOUR
BOOKING NOW!**

EXCURSION SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

Coach Excursion to Windsor with
special emphasis on the Everingham,
Williams, Roberts and Keziah Brown
and Ann Forbes families.

After a jam-packed tour we will finish
at Castlereagh Cemetery at the
Rope/Pulley grave for a wine and
cheese and biscuits wake.

TIME: 9.00am – 5.00pm

COST: \$25 includes wine, cheese and
biscuits

PLACE: Pickup at York St, at Scots
Church, and Epping Road and
Longueville Road

Dear New Member,

On Saturday, 7 October 1995, the Fellowship Executive invites you to a 'Meet the President' afternoon commencing at 2.30pm, at First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo.

After a short welcome by Peter, afternoon tea will be served.

We hope you will be able to join us.

Space is limited so could you please RSVP by 30 September.

In Fellowship, Zona

FIRST FLEET CHRISTMAS CARDS SPECIAL PRICE 10 FOR \$2.00
(Postage \$1.25 for NSW and \$1.50 interstate, extra)

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

We were very pleased to see so many members brave the freezing weather for the Soup and Damper Lunch meeting – 32 in all. It was good to see Ray and Patricia Meredith from the Newcastle Chapter, who had caught the 6.30am train from Newcastle to join us, also Jack and June Searl who have come from Macksville to live at Collaroy Plateau. We hope these members will continue to support our functions.

During the meeting, Joy Cordeiro gave us an entertaining account of her recent trip to Cairns as a member of the crew of the Endeavour, a great experience and one which Joy will surely remember all her life.

Our lunch was delicious – hot soup and damper (totally appropriate for the weather that day) and many goodies in the way of sandwiches, cakes and biscuits provided by the hard-working committee.

After lunch, Jack Gibbs, a local historian, gave us a very interesting talk, illustrated by slides, on the former glory of the Potts Point area. Jack showed and described the architectural features of some of the old castles and mansions in the area, most of which have been swallowed up by the dreaded developer – sad to see.

Altogether a delightful day.
ANNE DAVISON

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR PERIOD 29 JUNE TO 26 JULY 1995

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined this period – six adults and one spouse associate.

THOMAS CHIPP – JANE LANGLEY: Mr Kenneth Arthur Perry.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS – MARY GROVES: Mr David John Buising.

PETER HIBBS + JOHN RAMSAY: Mrs Nell Florence Jordens (sp. Mr Heinz Friedrich Jordens).

WILLIAM ROBERTS: Mr Ronald Archibald Millen Forbes.

ANTHONY ROPE – ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mr Kenneth Joseph Wood.

WILLIAM TUNKS: Mrs Gweneth Hope Forbes.



Our next outing will be a guided tour of

Aquatic Centre, Olympic Park, Homebush.

DATE: Wednesday, 6 September.

MEET: at bus stop, right side of Strathfield Station (facing away from city) in time to catch 9.30am bus 401. [Do NOT board special tour bus 401 which leaves from same stop.]

TOUR: starts 10.00am at Aquatic Centre.

PRICE: \$14.00 which includes tour plus roast lamb lunch with dessert and tea or coffee.

Please send \$14.00 with booking as we have to pay in advance. Cancellation fee of \$2.00 is payable.

We need final numbers by 21 August.

In October a tour will be arranged for the ABC complex in Sydney. The tour will be on Tuesday, 31 October (no tours are held on Wednesdays). Details will be in next Newsletter.

Don't forget the Christmas luncheon to be held in the Renaissance Hotel, Circular Quay, on Wednesday, 6 December, at 12.00 noon for 12.30 lunch. Cost will be \$33.00 to be sent with booking. Full refund of \$33.00 if seven days notice is given of cancellation.

PHYL SELBY, Social Secretary

BIRTHS

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeters:

ELIZABETH ANN FOSTER (F.F. Nathaniel Lucas – Olive Gascoigne), 21 May 1995. A son to Analeigh and Richard. A grandson for Elizabeth Foster (#4246).

BENJAMIN CHARLES GRIFFITHS (F.F. John Ryan), born 9 May 1995. A son for Michael Charles Griffiths (#3103) and wife Helen Margaret (nee Walker) and the first grandson for Dr Terry Griffiths (#2684).

OLIVER RICHARD HUGH HANNON (F.F. Mary Dickenson – William Eggleton) on 2 September 1994. Second son of David (#4447) and Prudence and grandson of Ross (#4446) and Moya Hannon.

PHEONIX JAMES JENNER (F.F. John Small – Mary Parker), born 17 March 1994 at Queen Victoria Hospital, Launceston, Tasmania. First child to Stephanie Louise Cornwell and partner David Allan Jenner; first grandchild to David and Jenny Cornwell and nephew to Alexandra Cornwell (#5707) of

KIAMA – JAMBEROO VALLEY

COACH TRIP

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Come and spend an enjoyable day touring the South Coast. Stopping at Sublime Point for morning tea then down the coast to the beautiful Jamberoo Valley.

Later exploring the picturesque town of Kiama.

Cost \$27.00 including morning tea and lunch.

All inquiries to F.F.F. Office on Tuesdays

phone 360 3788 or 360 3988.

Send cheques or money orders to Fellowship of First Fleeters

105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo 2011.

Brunswick Heads, NSW. 7th generation.

BONNEY LOCKART (F.F. Owen Cavanough – Margaret Darnell), born 15 May 1995. A sister for Sam and a daughter for Helen and Ken and a first granddaughter for Carmen and Alec (#6143) Lockart.

THOMAS ROBERT PATFIELD, born 7 June 1991, and HARRISON CHARLES PATFIELD, born 1 March 1994 (F.F. John Small – Mary Parker). Two sons of Martin John Patfield and grandsons for Bryan Patfield (#1796). 7th generation.

RACHEL ALEXANDRA ROSS (F.F. Joseph Hatton – Ann Colpitts), born 29 June 1995. Second daughter for Kathryn and David Ross (#767) and fourth granddaughter for Joan (#13 and Life Member) and Keith Ross.

BENJAMIN ALLAN JEFFERY WRIGHT (F.F. William Tunks, Thomas Spencer, Mary Phillips, Anthony Rope, Elizabeth Pulley, William Nash, Maria Haynes), born 19 June 1995 at Liverpool. A son for Lori Hunt (#5859) and Ben Wright. A grandson for Allan (#5867) and Margaret (#5868) Hunt. 9th generation.

HAPPENINGS with Laurel and Brenda



Hi Folks

On Friday 21 July, we represented the Fellowship together with fellow member Kathleen Smith (descendant of First Fleeter John Cross, Kath is also secretary and a life member of the Liverpool and District Family History Society) at an Australia Remembers Dinner held in the Greenway Centre, Liverpool, and organised by the Friends of Liverpool Library.

Dinner was preceded by cocktails in the foyer, with a hundred guests representing various organisations supportive of the Friends of the Library.

An excellent smorgasbord dinner was provided, followed by appropriate entertainment com-

mencing with "Busters Girls" dressed in smart GI-type costumes performing various tap routines from the sounds of the forties. This was followed by the rendition of many old favourites from the era, by the duet "Misty". Songs included We'll Meet Again, White Cliffs of Dover and soon had the nostalgic crowd singing along. Dancing continued until evening's end and a most enjoyable time was had by all.

So many of these wonderful events have been happening around the country, organised by the R.S.L and various organisations commemorating August 15 the end of World War II. Many of you may recall "what you were doing" on this day back in 1945, we would like you to share your memories with us, so please drop us a line as this is 'hands on history' to many of our younger members.

Honour Roll

CHAUNCY: Alfred Rupert died as POW in Changi 22nd November 1943 Age 50yrs.

CHAPMAN: Morrice died Gallipoli WWI. FF: Jane Langley, Philip Scriven. Submitted by Margaret Hardwick Memb. No. 6203.

HUXLEY: Cpl Thomas V. 2/3 Pioneer Btn. NX65223 died of wounds El Alamien 7th November 1942. FF: Ann Forbes. Submitted by Mrs Beryl Pollack Memb. No. 4342.

CLARK: Flight Sgt. Peter Maxwell No. 412903 RAAF. Killed in training 23rd June 1943. Buried Annan War Cemetery, Scotland. FF: Anthony Rope/Elizabeth Pulley. Submitted by Madge Rups (Rope) Memb. No. 69.

RANGER: Sapper Ranger No. 6606 1st Aust Tunnelling Co. A.I.F. KIA 25 April 1917 on Hill 60 France. Buried Railways Dugouts Burial Ground Transport Farm 1 mile east of Ypres. FF: Anthony Rope/Elizabeth Pulley. Submitted by Stella Winter Memb. No. 5825.

KINGHAM: Pte. Clarence Charles NX30860 2/20 Bn. A.I.F. Died at Naoetsu Camp where he had been taken after the fall of Singapore on 24 Nov 1943 Age 33yrs and is buried in Aust Section Yokohoma War Cemetery A.D.I. FF: James Sheers/Mary Smith. Submitted by N.B. Kingham Memb. No. 2481.

CANAVAN: RAAF 422126 Flight Sgt. Reginald Francis. Died 2 Dec 1943 Air operations-Wellington bomber Exercises. Buried Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbelltown, Mull of Kyntyre, Argyllshire, Scotland. Just 22 years of age. F.F. Peter Hibbs. Submitted by James Canavan Memb. No. 2018.

EAREA: Harry J.M. NX47295 Lance Corporal 2/30 Battalion. Died as a P.O.W. whilst working on the Burma Railway 26 Jan 1944. He was 26 years old. FF: Ann Forbes. Submitted by L. McMiles Memb. No. 5601.

ROBERTSON: Donald Jack Lance Corporal 2/7th Battalion. Killed in action on 25 April 1943 New Guinea.

PATTERSON: Ronald Alton NX 1719 Private 8th Div HA. Died on march at Sandakan on 30 May 1945. Submitted by Marjorie Rowsell Memb. No. 6194.

BRUCE: Leslie Alfred 31st Bn. A.I.F. Private No 3514. Killed in action 14 March 1917 in Bapaume France aged 18 years. Submitted by Louise Barker.

My Endeavour Encounter

Joy Cordeiro (#6155)

I have always loved looking at and reading about sailing ships.

A dream came true for me when I was accepted to sail 'Cook's' 'Endeavour Replica', as a supernumerary (a working passenger) from McKay to Cairns, 26 June to 1 July last.

As I recall those five days, now four weeks later, I don't think I will ever forget the incredible camaraderie among the 48 crew which consisted of 14 professionals, two female supernumeraries and the 32 voyage crew. When captain Chris Blake gave the order to 'wear ship' we all had to come immediately to the top deck and man the ropes to change the sails from one direction to another, etc, we had to work as a team even though it would look and sound very chaotic to an onlooker! My brain did not master learning the ropes by names so I was placed at the helm frequently and to steer that magnificent sailing vessel, and especially at night, it was truly a glorious experience. As I stood in absolute darkness (no lights are allowed on deck) and listened to the gentle lapping of the water with the gentle breezes puffing out the sails, I looked towards the heavens, the stars were so bright and thought to myself this must be the closest thing to peace on earth.

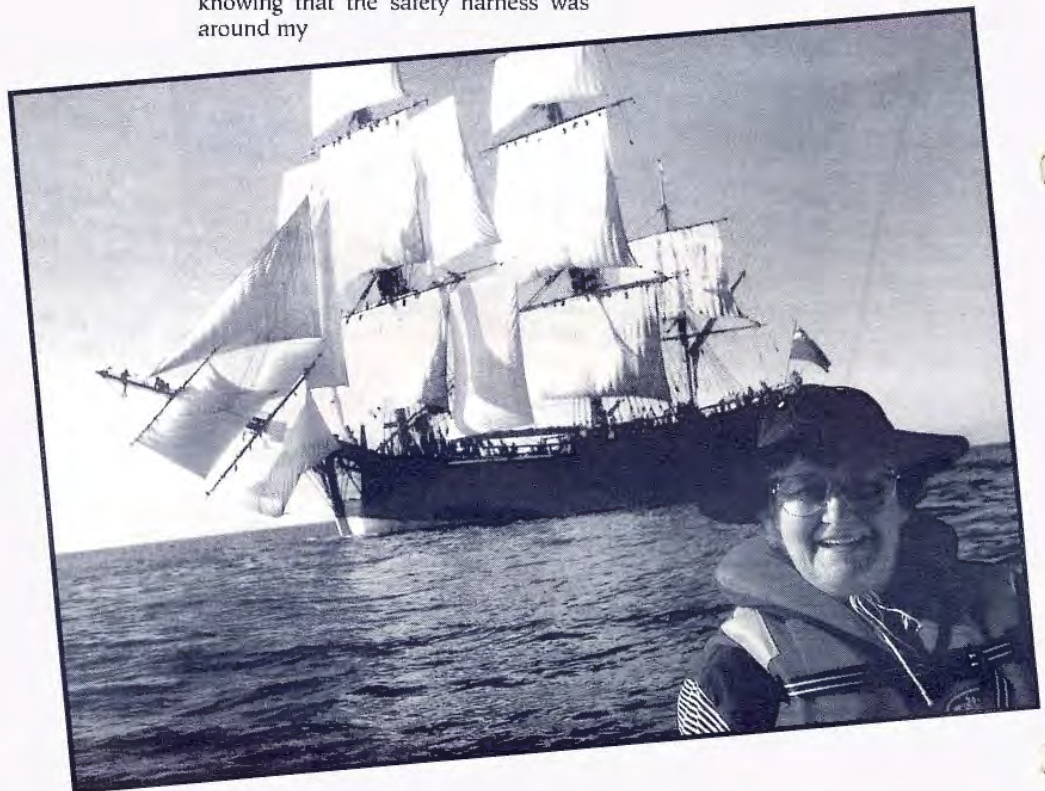
Can I encourage you to support the Endeavour Foundation and keep her afloat and in Australian hands, as We Do All own her.

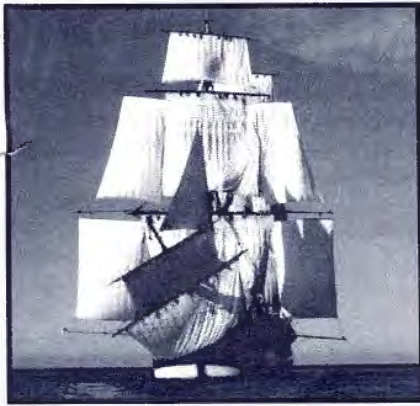
I was so lucky as the weather and the seas were perfect, never had to use the wet-weather gear which is issued to us, when we first boarded the ship, along with a safety harness. However, I loved knowing that the safety harness was around my

waist at all times – just in case! The only time I made use of it was when I was told to hang over the side to get some of the coral debris which was floating by as a four-foot slick, no easy feat at the speed we were going and only with a small canvas bucket.

Much to my sorrow, even though we sailed right through the Barrier Reef all the way, the islands were much further away than I expected. However, we called into Cape Upstart to present a Cook Memorial Plaque to the local people. This was my first time over the side with a life jacket on, and to climb down the tiny footholds hanging on tightly to ropes either side to balance my jump into the rubber duckie when the 'swell was up'. My timing was very poor and certainly showed I was an amateur when I nearly landed in the drink.

Twice more I went over and down the side, boy it was fun for this 62-year-old running around the ocean in a rubber duckie. On the Tuesday we were becalmed and Captain Blake put up brand new stunsail sails which made Endeavour glorious to look at so he sent us out six at a time, in the rubber duckie, to go around her and take photographs. An incredible sight and I can assure you one which I will never erase from my mind's eye.





Next day we had a picnic on Hichenbrook Island, some swam not realising there were crocs around. We did not see the warning signs!

Endeavour is a 'dry and quiet ship', we never had noise, everybody spoke quietly, and by 8.00pm most of us were 'in bed', because of the constant rotating night and day four-hour watches which we all shared. The voyage crew still sleep in hammocks, like in Cook's day having to put them up each night, and packing them away by day. I paid extra and had Joseph Banks's cabin, my hammock was flat, hard and permanent, hut only just long enough and only two-feet wide. There was a single rope to put across one's body and then attach to the six-inch lip of canvas, which I suppose was meant to stop one falling off. The night seas were so calm, it was hard to believe we were on the high seas.

Food was great, plenty of it, but we had to gulp it down in 25 minutes, as there were three sittings. The voyage crew were allotted washing up duties but we two old ladies were excused. However, we were not excused from cleaning showers, toilets, cabins, and floors; thank goodness the scrubbing of floors was left to the younger folk. Remembering how to use the marine toilets was very perplexing at first, because of the water valves we had to turn on and off. The showers were 'normal', but we were allowed only 60 seconds of water; we were not allowed to do any washing. Space and water are very limited.

Even though it was calm we never seemed to have time to go below and write up diaries etc. Several times a day we had to muster to our allotted spot and 'number off', to our top man, this way he knew we were still aboard and available to do chores!

Captain Blake and his officers were wonderful folk, treated us with utmost respect and forever ready to teach us new tricks and answer our questions.

As you know anybody in good health has the chance to experience what I had and I again beg you to support the Foundation, encourage people to go over the ship when she's in port, and especially encourage the children to think about sailing in her, when they are old enough, as Endeavour has been built so beautifully that she will last 150-200 years.

The welcome we received at Cairns began three hours earlier at Fitzroy Island in 26-knot winds which blew up so quickly, about 1.00pm. We had to tack this way and that, take sails down, put others up, undo ropes, pulling here pulling there, orders were being called out every few minutes. Man this, man that, four to port, six to starboard, mid ships, Whacko! I was on the helm by now and thoroughly enjoying the excitement of slipping through the water so quickly and being able to stand upright in an eight-degree list.

I wish I could relive this thrill for 200 years as I have to admit I was so proud to be aboard and witness the wonderful show of the Australian people in every type of boat possible. The few big pleasure craft which came out to the island to meet us must have been confused, as the wind sent us in all directions for three hours; until the tide was high enough for us to enter Cairns Inlet where dozens more boats, tugs with spouting water surrounded us. Helicopters kept buzzing us at such close range, and even a vintage aeroplane did circles above us. It was an absolute, incredible feeling to be part of this atmosphere, and for me personally to say I was one of two people on the helm, who brought Endeavour right into the wharf, well, this would have to be my moment of glory.

We berthed at 5.00pm, waved to the hundreds of spectators, tidied ship and ourselves, then some of us had to hurry off to the Mayoral reception and welcome for one hour. For the remainder of the night until 11.30pm and again the next day until 7.00pm I stayed aboard (too emotional to leave) and talked to the children and adults who paid to come aboard. I explained my uniform and what I had done as part of the crew. This time was very special to me as I have fallen in love with Endeavour.

I will never forget my five days sailing, what a wonderful encounter with this magnificent sailing ship and I certainly will 'be there' to see her return to Sydney on 20 October.

My phone number is (042) 834286 and the Endeavour Foundation inquiry number in Sydney (02) 2831 170.

BUY A BRICK DONATIONS

We wish to record appreciation to the following for donations to the Fellowship's 'Buy a Brick' Fund. These names have been recorded in the Donor book in the Library at First Fleet House.

W. G. Anderson, Roland Burgman, Laura Boyd, Laura R. Boyd, Gladys Ashworth, K. & V. Buchanan, L. R. Baxter, Alice Clarke, H. Collingwood, Alex P. Cooke, Hazel D. Chivers, Norman Dawson, Thora Eales, Arthur E. Ebb, E. R. Edwards, Kevin Brian Fear, Harold T. Gibbons, Dorothy Jean Hanney, Dorothy J. Haldon, the late T. F. Hanson, Michael Houstone, Doug Huxley, Geoffrey Kable, J. R. Kingston, Violet & Stan Knight, J. E. & R. M. Legge, Joan M. Martin, Peter Henry Rudolph Meyer, Hugh G. Morgan, R. Millward, L. M. Nixey, Margaret Palmer, Guy Roberts, William Robertson, Charles Stewart Ross, Albert W. Rowe, S. T. & M. A. Rowsell, Lloyd Saltmarsh, Denis Smith, Cynthia J. Thompson, Constance Torbett, Tunks Family Association, Elsie Watson, Elsie Watson, Julie R. Whitehouse.

Ian C. Anderson, Mrs W. Anderson, Maxwell L. Arch, Mary G. Bailey, Syd Ballard, L. R. Boyd, Norman Wilfred Butler, William Edward Roobar Carter, Margaret A. Corby, Norma Dawson, Mrs E. A. Dobbin, E. R. Edwards, H. T. & B. A. Gibbins, Valerie E. Gordon, Doris J. Harris, Dorothy Jean Heldon, W. M. Hughes, V. McPherson, Charlotte Maud, Hugh G. Morgan, R. W. Morris, Phyllis M. Norman, Bryan J. Patfield, James E. Richie, I. M. Riethmuller, Mrs D. Sevil, John W. Shortland, Myrl Skinner, B. Sloan, Ronald H. Small, H.I. Smidt, Tunks Family Association, Hazel & Henry Wylie.

OBITUARY

In the March/April issue of the Newsletter it was unfortunately recorded that Myrtle F. Lucas had passed away - for this we sincerely apologise.

On 4 March 1995 Frank N. Lucas (#1764) passed away. Frank, who had a long and fruitful life, was born in 1911. We extend our sincere sympathy to his beloved wife Myrtle.

FIRST FLEET POSTER PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

When Cooloola Shire Mayor Adrian McClintock at a morning tea with the Gympie Ancestral Research Society presented one of the Society's founding members with a life membership, he in turn accepted a framed commemorative poster of the First Fleet on behalf of the council.

Gympie Ancestral Research Society president Lyall Ferguson told the gathering that the posters were the initiative of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, an organisation whose membership requirement was to be a direct descendant from the Colonists of the First Fleet, which arrived in 1788.

Mr Ferguson said that GARS had noted Mr McClintock's interest in the First Fleet poster at One Mile School's 125th birthday celebrations, and decided to present council with one.

The presentation was particularly

relevant for Mr Ferguson, not only for involvement with GARS, but because one of his forebears was on the First Fleet.

Scarborough after being sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing a watch chain.

Cr McClintock thanked the members of GARS for the poster and also for their continuing hard work preserving and researching the history of Gympie and its residents.

He then took great pleasure in conferring Life Membership upon one of GARS founding members, Merlyn Burkhardt.

Cr McClintock congratulated Mrs Burkhardt for her unwavering involvement in GARS and many other local organisations, and presented her with a life member badge and trophy.

Mrs Burkhardt was delighted by the surprise presentation, and said that her work with GARS had always been a pleasure.



Gympie Shire Mayor, Adrian McClintock, Mr Lyall Ferguson (#4401) and Merlyn Burkhardt

Through the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Mr Ferguson discovered his forefather had arrived in Australia aboard

'I've always said that anyone who isn't interested in their past, doesn't deserve a future,' she said.

DOCTORATE AFTER LIFETIME OF LETTERS

Australian writer and biographer Mollie Gillen was honoured at a recent graduation ceremony at Sydney University when she was awarded an honorary doctorate in Letters.

Mrs Gillen graduated in Arts from Sydney University in 1930 and then worked in London for several years before going to Canada with her Canadian husband.

She worked as a Federal Government information officer in Ottawa and was active in the city's University Women's Club. In 1961, she moved to Toronto and spent 11 years as associate editor and staff writer with the Canadian magazine *Chatelaine*.

She had developed an interest in writing, and in 1960, published a thriller novel, *Star of Death*, and the first of a series of short stories for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Then, in steady succession, came a biography of the Canadian Massey

family, a book exploring the relationship between the Duke of Kent (Queen Victoria's father) and his French mistress, and an account of the assassination of Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to have met such a death.

In 1975, she published a biography of L.M. Montgomery, Canada's best-known writer of children's fiction and author of the celebrated *Ann of Green Gables* series.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don McNicol: 'Mollie Gillen justifiably gained a high reputation for the quality of her writing, the range of her interests and the depth of her research.'

In 1965, she won the President's Medal of the University of Western Ontario for a three-part series on the Massey family. 'Her standing has been further enhanced by the important contributions she has made in more recent

years to Australian history,' Professor McNicol said.

'She began in 1982 with an outstanding article on the reasons for the settlement in New South Wales. This appeared in the prestigious *English Historical Review* and stands out as a major contribution to a continuing controversy.

'In 1985, she published *The Search for John Small*, which set new standards for the writing of family history.'

For the Australian bicentenary, she wrote *The Founders of Australia*, which analysed the background to the First Fleet and contained meticulously researched pen-pictures.

Mollie Gillen clearly is one of our most illustrious graduates and possesses in abundance those qualities of mind and character which are the hallmark of the dedicated scholar.'

Sydney University News

ROBERT WILLIAMS HONOURED IN RICHMOND COMMEMORATION

The life of Robert Williams, the earliest First Fleeter to die in the Hawkesbury and the youngest to be buried in the Richmond District of NSW, was commemorated at the special church service and dedication ceremony at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Richmond, on 25 June.

A Fellowship of First Fleeters plaque was unveiled at the event which was attended by the President of the Fellowship, Mr Peter Christian, the Mayor of the Hawkesbury, Dr Rex Stubbs, and numerous descendants, spouses and wellwishers.

In his sermon during the service, descendant the Reverend Jim Payne MBE recounted how Robert Williams had arrived on Scarborough after being sentenced to death in Cornwall for the theft of two horses, the sentence being commuted to transportation. After becoming a free man in 1793, and receiving a grant of land near the present-day Cranebrook in 1809, Williams died in Richmond in 1811, aged 53, and was buried in an unmarked grave in St. Peter's Cemetery.

His son Robert Williams, jun., and partner Charlotte Eather are buried in a family vault in the same cemetery.

Jim Payne pointed out that Williams was not recognised as a First Fleeter until 1990. This was because the earlier accepted birth date of Robert Williams, jun., was in error and obscured his relationship to the First Fleet convict of the same name. Extensive research by family members, particularly Les Butcher and his late wife, June (a descendant of Robert Williams), resolved the discrepancy and the Fellowship of First Fleeters confirmed the link.

As a result large numbers of descendants of Williams could now claim a First Fleet ancestor, even though most family

members were unaware of the connection until recently – and certainly knew nothing of it at the time of the Bicentenary celebrations in 1988.

The decision to hold the special church service and dedication ceremony on a Sunday reasonably close to the anniversary of the pioneer's death followed the formal recognition of Williams's participation in the First Fleet and efforts by family members to arrange for the restoration of the Williams/Eather family vault.

The first stage of the restoration, costing some \$1250, was financed by donations from a small group of descendants and spouses. It comprised the cleaning and relettering of the top of the tomb where the names of Robert Williams, jun., and Charlotte Maloney (nee Eather) and several of their descendants appear, together with painting of the iron surrounding fence.

A similar amount needs to be raised to fund stage two of the project, involving the restoration of the sides of the tomb, where a number of other descendants are named.

Another key participant in the service at St. Peter's, Richmond, was descendant Shirley Mills, director of the Cathedral Singers from St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney. The Cathedral Singers, with organist David Scott-Thomas, provided the music at the service, a ringing tribute to our First Fleet forebears in one

of Australia's most historic churches.

In giving his sermon, Jim Payne welcomed the presence of Peter Christian and other members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. He also



Painted a picture of the hard life of one First Fleet family in the young Colony, a life which in Robert Williams's case involved 'much sadness'. Apart from the trauma of a death sentence and later transportation, Williams had suffered the loss of a baby daughter and later of his first wife, Elizabeth, who was murdered in mysterious circumstances. His second marriage failed when his wife left him and his surviving child.

Contributions for the completion of restoration work on the Williams/Eather vault, made payable to 'Williams/Eather Vault Fund', can be made through J. E. Mills and Associates, Solicitors, of PO Box 68, Eastwood, NSW 2122.

Further information on the project or on the results of research into Robert Williams and his descendants can be obtained through James and Shirley Mills on telephone (02) 876 2482 or from the Reverend Jim Payne on Canberra (06) 254 6722.

Yasmin Ali Williams (#6295), the five-year-old daughter of Ali and Amina Williams of Canley Vale, is believed to be the first Australian-born Muslim member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Yasmin is pictured here with Mollie Gillen AM, author of The Founders of Australia.



NASH FAMILY REUNION

Saturday, 23 September, at 11.00am

The Family Picnic Reunion will be held in the Pavilion at Parramatta Park, at rear of Government House.

Ring Lydia Hope, 831 2279, or Alan Simpson, (047) 311609, for information and details.

A SITE NOT FOR HISTORICAL EYES

Since the 'early days' the Friends of the First Government House Site were adamant there be no development on the Site apart from a museum to interpret that period of history within the framework of the First Government House, ie 1788-1845. The Friends envisaged the Site being preserved in its entirety, encapsulating a museum and including a theatre. Thus not only the Site's preservation but its interpretation became concerns. In 1992 the objectives of the Friends were updated to place greater stress upon interpretation. At present it is the interpretation of history within the framework of the life of First Government House which forms the major issue for the Friends. Today, it appears that such interpretation is threatened.

Firstly there is the 'rolling' of the First Government House Place. This has been sacrificed for a piazza of Italian-Spanish origin, the creation of Dr Emmett. While the architecture may be faultless the concept can be deemed incongruent in the historical framework.

Familiar with the giant M.O.S. sign standing in splendid isolation in Phillip Street?

Consider its symbolism; the half-frontal image of Balladere, his eye directed to the site and then the sculpture on its boundary. Here Dr Emmett is conveying his message, 'this was Aboriginal land'. The irony of this 'vista' is brought to light by the knowledge that the portrait was Governor Phillip's property.

It was in fact the fine work of the Port Jackson painter and bears visual evidence that Phillip had established a friendly relationship with the Aborigines of the Port Jackson area.

Regarding the Aborigines within the region, Dr Emmett was in error when he recently claimed, '1,500 natives inhabited Sydney Cove in 1788' [Ref. *Time Magazine*, 19 June 1995]. As described by Collins, this particular area was woodland, silent and tranquil.

From within the Museum the impression is strengthened that there is a determination to de-emphasise the significance of the First Fleet's arrival. This further extends to Governor Phillip's administration of the early settlement and the British contribution to the penultimate development of our nation.

Once inside the museum the visitor is greeted by a message emblazoned on the wall with a Ruth Park quote:

'Sydney

An ugly word Sydney.

The city was named for a maggot-headed politician, who happened to be Home Secretary when Captain Phillip brought his live lumber into the harbour in 1788.'

'Unfortunately the rebirth of the First Government House Site has apparently be subject to current fluctuations in philosophical thought. It has become a place of issues in accordance with nouveau 'political correctness.' The original purpose of the site, containing a museum of 'historical correctness' has thereby been destroyed.'

Is this any way to express pride in the formal establishment of our nation and one of its key contributors for success? Surely there are more appropriate quotes? Where does that leave the Olympics now?

In recent times Dr Peter Emmett claimed that Australia's colonial past is contradictory and confusing [Ref. *Time Magazine*, 19 June 1995].

When asked whether his direction was more emotional than factual the Senior Curator replied: 'I hope so, because it leaves space.' What can be drawn from this space, and what does such an interpretation achieve? There should be no leeway within the Museum and through-out the Site to distort historical facts.

Unfortunately the rebirth of the First Government House Site has apparently be subject to current fluctuations in philosophical thought. It has become a place of issues in accordance with nouveau 'political correctness.' The original purpose of the site, containing a museum of 'historical correctness' has thereby been destroyed.

Through the Freedom of Information Act the Friends obtained a copy of the Market Research Report undertaken by the Historic Houses Trust (a bureaucracy) 1993. The Trust aimed to find an alternative name for the First Government House Museum.

The contractual agreement was of 12 days duration, and the actual research of 261 persons in the vicinity of Circular Quay and Manly wharf was conducted at the weekend — tourists and sightseers.

The Trust maintained that by changing the name to the Museum of Sydney it had the right to develop and position the museum to be exactly what the Trust wanted it to be.

Both past and present Governments have been convinced by the Trust that the Market Research to change the name to the Museum of Sydney was both lengthy and in depth. Both parties have their support for the name Museum of Sydney on the Site of First Government House.

The Trust claimed that the name Museum of Sydney on the Site of First Government House was in the best interests of the museum in respect to its relevance to the site and its historical, cultural and heritage goals.

The current philosophy of the Trust dictated not to erect the planned statue of Governor Phillip or the medallions of the nine Governors on the First Government House Place but instead to spend \$330,000 on an abstract Edge of Trees sculpture, a sculpture which is beyond the understanding of most visitors.

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