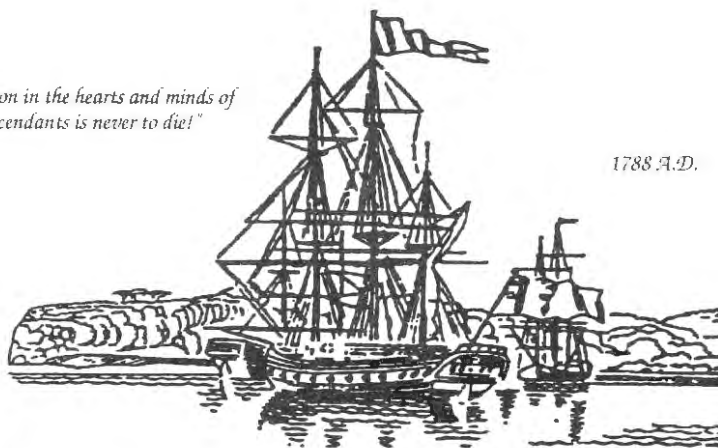


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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
PRICE 50¢ Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 1271

PATRON: His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels, AC, Governor of New South Wales
OFFICE ADDRESS: First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 **PHONE:** (02) 9360 3788, 9360 3988
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1997 VOLUME 28 NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We were indeed honoured to have our Patron, the Governor of New South Wales, the Honourable Gordon Samuels AC, and Mrs Samuels to join with over ninety members and friends at our Australia Day Eve luncheon.

His Excellency reviewed a guard of honour from the Australian Colonial Re-enactment Association. They looked resplendent in their marine outfits of the eighteenth century. Prior to the Executive Committee being presented to the Governor, a posy was given to Mrs Samuels by two young First Fleeters Nicole and Gregory.

All in all, despite the atrocious weather, we celebrated the occasion in a grand manner. Our Patron during the course of the afternoon presented honorary life membership badges to Olive O'Reilly, Joy Pankhurst and Cec Thompson.

I was pleased that he was able to meet and speak with quite a number of members present.

On Australia Day I was present at two functions. First, the annual Pioneers Service at the Garrison Church where, after divine service, First Fleet family banners and national flags made pilgrimage to the Bonds of Friendship at the historic landing site. Later that evening I represented the Fellowship at the Australia Day concert and State reception at Darling Harbour.

I was sorry to learn of the death of Canon Robert Hardwick recently.

Robert was a descendant of Jane Langley F.F. and a keen member not only of the Fellowship but of the Northern Rivers Chapter. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family.

On Wednesday, 5 March next, our Vice-Patron, Commodore Paul Kable RAN, will speak to the Daytime Fellowship, at First Fleet House, on his research whilst in the United Kingdom on Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes, his First Fleet forebears.

Life member Hazel Liebau (F.F. William Tunks) celebrated her ninetieth birthday on 23 January last. Our best wishes from all at First Fleet House, Hazel.

Bill Hunt (F.F. William Nash) has recently stood down as President of our Northern Rivers Chapter due to moving interstate. He tells me he is keen to start a chapter centred on Morningson. I know that there is a strong historical group in the Morningson Peninsula area but I am not sure of our First Fleet membership there. I will be in touch with Bill at a later date with further information, but if any members in that area are keen to help form a chapter, please contact me at First Fleet House.

Further news from the Northern Rivers Chapter. Secretary Lionel Phelps contacted me recently re meeting dates for 1997. Meeting dates for Northern Rivers Chapter for this year are 23 March, 25 May, 27 July, 28 September, 23 November.

The chapter is keen to form groups in the Grafton and Coffs Harbour areas.

Rod Davis (F.F. Jane Langley+Thomas Chipp) has been elected President of the Northern Rivers Chapter. For any information on the meetings of that body please ring him on 066 802 768.

I would like to acknowledge, on your behalf, a bequest of \$200 from the estate of the late Bert Weston (F.F. George Johnston and Esther Abrahams).

In Fellowship
PETER

MEET THE PRESIDENT

First Fleet House
Sunday, 9 March, 2.30pm
RSVP 3 March 1997
(02) 9360 3788

CALLS TO YOUR OLD SYDNEY PHONE NUMBERS

**From 9 February 1997 you will be
only able to contact us on our
new eight digit telephone
numbers:**
(02) 9360 3788 (02) 9360 3988

BIRTHS

A warm welcome for the following New First Fleeters:

CLARE-EISE ALLAND (F.F. Rope-Pulley). 12 August 1996, to Beu and Don (#6141) a daughter. Grandchild to Gweneth Alland (#6032).

JAMES CAMPBELL BRADLEY (F.F. Charles Peat - Ann Mullins), 24 September 1994. First child for Mark and Lynne, first grandchild for John and Jeanette (#4406). Eighth generation.

EMM SOPHIA BRADLEY (F.F. Charles Peat - Ann Mullins), 12 December 1996. Second child for Mark and Lynne, second grandchild for John and Jeanette (#4406). Eighth generation.

JOSEPHINE LUCILLE MUNRO (F.F. Peter Hibbs), 14 September 1996. Second daughter for Lyn and Bill Munro. Granddaughter for Joyce Knight, second cousin for Betty Warn (#6110). Seventh generation.

EMILY PAIGE TAKAMAA (F.F. Thomas Acres), 16 November 1995 at Penrith. A daughter for Roslyn and Mikael. A granddaughter for Val (#5810) and Fred Burden. Eighth generation.

BRIDGET VICTORIA WALSH (F.F. Peter Hibbs), 24 June 1996. Third child for Cheryl and Heath Walsh of Belmont, Victoria. Granddaughter for Edna Johnston, second cousin for Betty Warn (#6110). Seventh generation.

DEATHS

JEFFREY JOHN WILKINSON, Life Member #377, dearly loved husband of Joan, loved father and grandfather, loved son of the late Lola Wilkinson, on 14.11.1996. Descendant of First Fleeters Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For period 27 November 1996 to 15 January 1997

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - three adults, five juniors, one spouse associate plus one spouse associate of earlier member.

THOMAS ACRES: Mrs Beryl Joan Morton.

JAMES BRADLEY + JAMES McMANUS - JANE POOLE: Mr John Joseph Costello (sp. Mrs Rita Maria Costello); Miss Maree Rachel Costello (jun.); Mr Shane Joseph Costello (jun.); Miss Clare Julie Costello (jun.); Miss Emily Bridget Costello (jun.).

EDWARD GARTH - SUSANNAH GOUGH: Mr Robert Francis Ellis.

ANTHONY ROPE - ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mr Liam Richard Norris (jun.).

SPOUSE ASSOCIATE OF EARLIER MEMBER: Dr Janet Ruth Carleton Steele wife of Dr Ronald Victor Roberts (#6562).

ALL DESCENDANTS

of

MICHAEL MURPHY

(Marine, Private)

and

HANNAH (ANN) MURPHY,
nee WILLIAMS (Convict)

are invited to a

REUNION

at

WARRNAMBOOL, VICTORIA

SATURDAY, 26 APRIL 1997

A Get-together, Bring your own lunch. Dinner at night.

Numbers required so please contact:

WA:

Nancy Pearce 09 331 3141

Qld:

Gayle Thomsett 076 911 394

NSW:

Dallas or Jean Lace 02 9533 4593

Vic:

Janet Dunstan 050 372 734

Beryl Stephens 055 723 633

Peggy Sargeant 03 9870 8040

Miriam Marshall 051 442 139

(after 6pm)

Or write

REUNION

PO BOX 71

Ringwood East VICTORIA 3135



DATES TO REMEMBER FOR '97

MARCH

Wed 5 Annual General Meeting of Daytime Auxiliary - First Fleet House.

APRIL

To be advised.

MAY

Mon 5 Annual holiday trip - off to Dubbo.

JUNE

To be advised.

JULY

Wed 2 Soup and Damper Day - First Fleet House.

AUGUST

To be advised.

SEPTEMBER

Wed 3 Fort Denison.

OCTOBER

To be advised.

NOVEMBER

Wed 5 The Edge, Katoomba.

DECEMBER

Christmas social - date to be advised.

INVITATION

TO THE 1997 FAMILY REUNION PICNIC

And to Celebrate the Publication of

The Tarr Family History

Sunday, 27 April 1997

Commencing 10.00am to 4.00pm

George Kendall Reserve, Ermington, Sydney

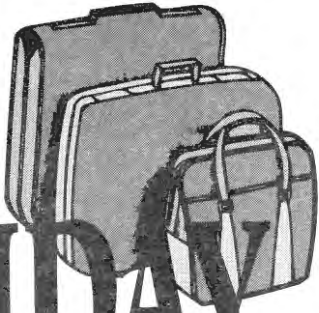
(Reference Gregory's map 142 K4)

Barbecue and toilet facilities available

Bring your own picnic basket with food and drinks and enjoy the company of cousins you have not met since childhood and others you have yet to meet.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY

FOR FIRST FLETERS & FRIENDS



Centred on Dubbo Palms Motor Inn, Dubbo

Departure times and further information to be advised in next Newsletter. For details and bookings contact First Fleet House: (02) 9360 3788.

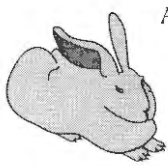
Cost will be \$435 (**), which includes return coach fare from Sydney to Dubbo. Single Supplement \$125

(** Twin share only)

MONDAY, 5 MAY

All aboard the coach to Dubbo.

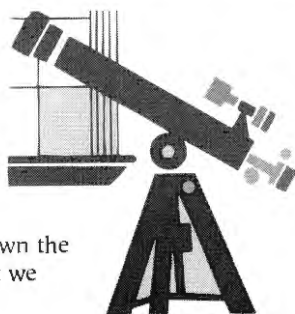
TUESDAY, 6 MAY



After a fully cooked breakfast we board the coach for a short drive down the Great Western (not another Great Western) to the township of Wellington. Our first stop is the well-known Angora Farm for morning tea followed by a very entertaining presentation including 'Shearing a few rabbits' and some live acts with the 'Resident Musician.' Depending on the weather, we will have lunch in the gardens at Wellington then on out to the Wellington caves for a guided tour by one of the National Park rangers. Then 'tis home to Dubbo at around 4.00pm to the Motor Inn. The coach will this evening take us to dinner at the Amaroo Bistro in the centre of Dubbo.

WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY

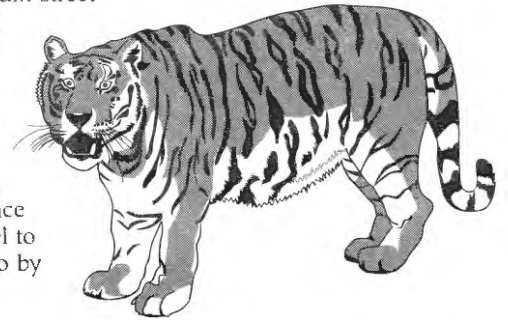
On our way around about 9.00am north along the Newell Highway, first stop a tour of Gilgandra including a visit to the local observatory. Morning tea will be in the gardens before proceeding to the Warrumbungles National Park, turning off the Newell Highway at Tooraweenah and winding our way through this magnificent mountain range. Lunch will be at one of the picnic spots to marvel at the sites such as the famous 'Bread Knife.' A visit to Siding Springs Observatory then on to the township of Coonabarabran before returning south along the Newell Highway to Dubbo arriving at the motel about 4.30pm. Dinner this evening is at Matilda's Restaurant only a short 150 metres walk down the road. If the weather is inclement we will use the coach.



THURSDAY, 8 MAY

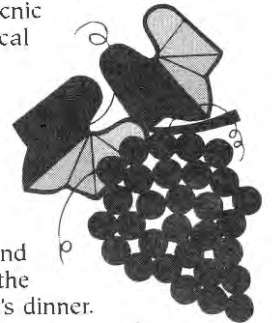
This is the day to visit the Western Plains Zoo and generally it is best in the morning. After breakfast we depart for the zoo at 9.00am for a short drive out to commence our tour at 9.15am. The ingenious design of this zoo gives wonderful viewing of the exhibits and first-class photographic opportunities. We meander around the grounds before enjoying a barbecue lunch followed by a chance to visit the main kiosk building for anybody looking for a souvenir of their visit. After lunch the coach takes us to Dundullimal Homestead before returning us to the motel at approximately 2.30pm. The rest of the afternoon is free and it is only a short walk to Dubbo's main street

(Macquarie Street) for the excellent range of shopping facilities. Dinner is a fun night at the Fawley Towers Bistro with Julie and Basil. Once again we will travel to and from the Bistro by coach.



FRIDAY, 9 MAY

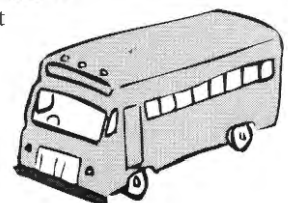
This morning we travel east to the townships of Gulgong and Mudgee. Gulgong, of course, is famous as the old town shown on the Australian \$10 note. Our first stop is the Gulgong Museum and this display covers a vast area for which we will have the benefit of a tour guide to explain much of the history and artefacts that are prominently displayed. There will be time for a brief walk along the narrow winding main street with many of the houses and shops as they were over 100 years ago. On departing Gulgong we drive down to the beautiful town of Mudgee with its contrasting wide open streets and impressive government buildings. A picnic lunch can be enjoyed in the local Botanical gardens before we take the opportunity to visit a local winery, together with a visit to the "Honey Farm". If you like honey, this is the chance to sample many varieties and flavours. Then we board the coach again and it's homeward bound to the Dubbo Palms Motor Inn, arriving around 5pm. The Rendezvous Restaurant at the Dubbo R.S.L. is the venue for tonight's dinner. The R.S.L. club is only a short walk from the motel so we will meet in the foyer bar of the R.S.L. at 7.00pm, enabling you to enjoy the facilities of the club both before and after dinner.



SATURDAY, 10 MAY

Today is an easy day, commencing with a visit to the "Old Dubbo Gaol" located in the main street of Dubbo. This is a chance to view 'life on the inside' as this institution was only decommissioned in 1966. Our coach now drives us out to Jinchilla Gardens and Gallery where we will have time for a short visit before driving back for lunch.

Then all aboard for back to Sydney by coach.



The Day We Celebrate

AUSTRALIA DAY 1997

Over ninety members and friends attended the Australia Day Eve Luncheon held in the Holme Building at the University of Sydney, together with the special guest His Excellency The Honourable Gordon Samuels AC, Governor of New South Wales. The following pages are a photographic record of this happy occasion.



Pictures continued on pages 6 & 7



The President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Mr Peter Christian, in giving the address 'The Day We Celebrate' said:

Your Excellency, Mrs Samuels, members of the Fellowship and friends.

In proposing this toast I would like to quote the pledge of commitment that each new citizen of our nation makes -

'From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.'

This would certainly not have been the commitment made by those, both bonded and free, who arrived with Arthur Phillip in Sydney Cove some 209 years ago.

Who would have thought that those democratic beliefs, rights and liberties would gradually take hold in this new Colony? Who could have imagined, especially in England at that time, that in July of 1788, a convict, one Henry Kable, would sue the master of the convict ship Alexander over the loss, during the voyage, of a parcel of books? The Court awarded Kable damages of 15 pounds!

The people of the First Fleet sowed the seeds of our Australian characteristics right down to our Australian accent. Their children, the Currency Lads and Lassies, were, according to Dr Portia Robinson of Macquarie University, in her book, 'The Hatch and Brood of Time,' an incredibly law-abiding generation.

Speaking of Australian characteristics, I was most interested last week to read Bryce Courtenay's remarks in one of our daily papers. Courtenay, the author and immigrant from South Africa, wrote, 'We have taken from everyone yet remain uniquely Australian and, moreover, we have achieved this distinction in a remarkably short time, with tolerance, racial harmony and in peace.'

Regardless of the controversies which surround us at this time, there is much truth in what he is endeavouring to put forward!

As one delves deeper into one's family history it is apparent that we owe an enormous debt to our pioneers. We, as First Fleeters, can be proud of our heritage, whether it be from Anglo-Saxon stock or whatever. From the 1960s onwards it has become obvious that First Fleet descendants are becoming a microcosm of ethnic Australia.

I feel confident in regard to the future of the Fellowship. It is our duty to instil into our descendants a pride in their rather unique heritage, an abiding love for their country and a tolerance for newcomers who are prepared to act upon their commitment as Australians.

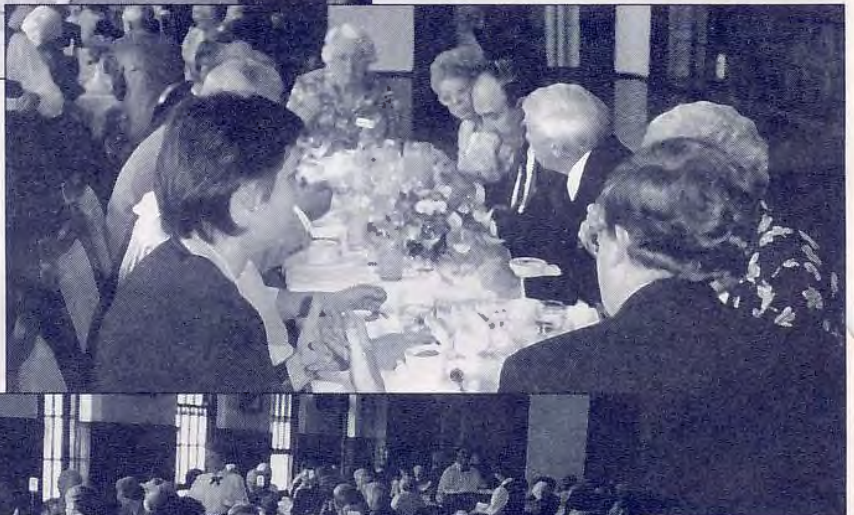
So, would you join me in honouring this important time - a time when we give heartfelt thanks to our forbears and the land in which they came to; a new beginning, casting out the old life and taking on that new beginning under this land of the Southern Cross.

Long may their memory remain in the hearts and minds of their descendants.

Advance Australia Fair



AUSTRALIA DAY EVE LUNCHEON *(continued)*





BOTANY BAY EPIC CONTINUES

Ever since the First Fleet flagship and French ships were lost in the Pacific there have been six more ships to bear the HMS Sirius name until 1996.

In 1988 it was decided to make a HMS sculpture gift from the Australian people to Portsmouth, home of the ship, where it was built in 1963. In 1987 a heritage flag was presented to HMS Sirius at Portsmouth. At the same time 23 brass First Fleeter plaques and 84 paper heritage flag replicas were handed to Soren Larsoon for transport to Sydney with the First Fleet Reenactment 1987.

Fellowship President Peter Christian, with Rear Admiral Sir Peter Martin, presented the First Fleet Flagship Pennant to HMS Sirius's captain at Sydney in 1988. At the same time Wilbur Wright presented a plaque with heritage flag replica and certificate. These flag plaques are still available as historic memorabilia.

In the ship's wardroom was a painting by Tony Crago of the First Fleet passing La Perouse's ships in Botany Bay, 26 January 1788. It was then decided by the Fellowship of First Fleeters to present a copy to La Perouse Museum so that future visitors were informed of this historic incident. Also the Randwick City Council donated the picture to be sent to the La Perouse Museum, Albi, Sister City of Randwick, and La Perouse Hometown Funds raised from sale of plaques enabled a copy of the painting to be presented to Training Ship Sirius.

By 1991 the HMS Sirius sculpture was ready for unveiling at Portsmouth. Although NR cadets were unable to be present, it was very pleasing to have Fellowship members, the Clarke sisters, there as official guests.

Now with the First Fleet Reenactment anniversary, the British High Commission commends the idea of the RN handing over the flagship pennant to the RAN as a symbolic gesture. Now HMS Sirius is decommissioned, the flagship name still continues to serve in Australia. One odd thing is that apparently the British sea cadets have two ships so named and want to have close links with our RN cadets. Lady Martin has authorised a trophy in her husband's name for competition.

It is desired to again have Australians at the sculpture on the Reenactment 10th Anniversary, 13 May 1997. From the friendships engendered by the recent rescues of the French and British sailors, presentation of the paintings and their locations in three countries will be permanent reminders of these two great sea sagas. It would be fine gesture if visitors to the United Kingdom could offer to be guests at the Reenactment 10th Anniversary, Portsmouth, 13 May 1997.

WILBUR WRIGHT

BOOK REVIEW

Sir David Martin – A man of Courage and Dedication

by Marea Stenmark

This volume was recently donated to the Fellowship Library by the Thursday Fellowship Committee.

In the foreword to the book Sir Ninian Stephen, a former Governor-General of the Commonwealth, writes: 'This book now tells of David Martin's life of service to the nation and state and is a fitting memorial to a very distinguished Australian.'

The first chapter deals with David's First Fleet forebears Lieutenant George Johnston and convict Esther Abrahams, on information which I am led to believe given by our late member Bert Weston, himself a descendant of these two First Fleeters. The remaining chapters trace the life of our former proud Fellowship member and, as Governor of New South Wales, our Patron.

The final chapters deal with his state funeral and tributes from all sides of the State political spectrum. Marea Stenmark completes her biography with excerpts from some of the many fine speeches which our former late Governor had given. His final words were, in a speech given to the Australia Day Council of New South Wales, 'I love this country of ours, and the people – this Australia and these Australians. I hope we all do – we ought to. Let's clean it up and let's keep it that way'.

I first came into contact with David Martin whilst he was Flag Officer Naval Support Command in Sydney. I had just taken over as President of the Fellowship and during the next decade much correspondence and phone calls passed between us. David was a very proud First Fleet descendant and was at all times interested and an extremely able P.R. person for the Fellowship. In 1988, in response to a call at First Fleet House from the Father's Day Council, it was my privilege to nominate Rear-Admiral David Sinclair as Father of the Year. The nomination was accepted.

This is a book which I commend to all First Fleet descendants, indeed, to all Australians.

As the author says in her book: 'His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir David James Martin AO K.C.M.G. left us all a great legacy. A legacy of high ideals, of wise counsel. He delighted in making and listening to speeches and his spiritual generosity burns brightly in their texts. Through those speeches and by the example he set, he will never be forgotten. Many thought of him as a visionary, others as a prophet. Still more saw him as the man with the common touch.'

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

Peter Christian

SAVE THE CENSUS FOR HISTORY'S SAKE

The Proposal

Save the Census for History's Sake is campaigning to retain and subsequently record the following nine items of information which are vitally important to Medical Geneticists, Academic Historians, Social Demographers and Family Historians:

Name
Household address
Age and Gender
Marital status
Relationship (family structure)
Birthplace
Birthplace of parents
Internal migration
Occupation

These nine questions usually appear on the first 1-3 sheets of each Census return.

Save the Census for History's Sake proposes that only the original sheets containing the above questions from each 1996 (and subsequent) Census return form be retained and securely stored as soon as the Australian Bureau of Statistics has completed its required data extraction. Suitably safe and fully confidential storage would be available at several Commonwealth locations, eg, the Mint, the Australian Archives (the

latter is the official repository of Commonwealth records, such as Federal Cabinet documents, which are subject to a 30 year no-access embargo).

Microfilming to be undertaken at the most financially economical time within the embargo period.

Embargo period, strictly 100 years (eg 1996 Census information to be released in August 2096).

For further information, please contact the Save the Census for History's Sake spokesperson in your State:

Qld – Dr Jennifer Harristown, Tel: (07) 3870 2215
Fax: (07) 3371 2287

NT – Mr Bill West, Tel: (08) 8985 1768 Fax: (08) 8985 1768

Tas – Mr David Harris, Tel: (004) 245 328 Fax: (004) 314 628

ACT – Mrs June Penny, Tel: (06) 241 1942 Fax: (06) 254 6465

SA – Mr Andrew Peake, Tel: (08) 332 8884 Fax: (08) 300 7303

WA – Mrs Vac Croker, Tel: (09) 277 6602 Fax: (09) 479 1275

Vic – Mr Nick Vine Hall, Tel: (03) 9699 9548
Fax: (03) 9696 2382

NSW – Michele Stephens, Tel: (043) 234 201
Fax: (043) 234 201

Source: *Australian Family Tree Connections*