

Please address all correspondence to the Fellowship of First Fleeters,
G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

Vol. 10 No. 1
February 1979

From the President

I do hope all Members had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a very active 1979.

We have certainly had a busy time celebrating Australia Day this year. I was honoured to attend a Reception held by the Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia on 24th January and the State Reception held at the Wentworth Hotel on 26th January. Once again the Flag Raising was an impressive ceremony, with a party of Members attending in Colonial costume.

The Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 27th January was a great success, with a capacity attendance. We were privileged to have as Guest Speaker Prof. K. Cable, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, and our Official Guests were the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Sydney and the Lady Mayoress. Ald. Meers presented Honorary Life Membership Badges to Mrs Thelma Guy and Mrs Joan Ross to mark their 10 years' service to the Fellowship.

On Sunday 28th January I represented the Fellowship at the Garrison Church, and Mrs L. Wilkinson and Mrs E. Reynolds were our representatives at St Patrick's. An Exhibition was held at The Rocks on Sunday 28th and Monday 29th January, and sincere thanks are tendered to all who worked so hard (including husbands and wives) to make this the success it was. As in previous years a group, again in Colonial costume, went to Government House on the Monday morning. On behalf of the Kable family, Vice-President Roy Kable made our presentation of a Memorial Scroll. Altogether a very hectic but rewarding week.

It was wonderful to have with us, all the weekend, Mrs Coralie Green, a Member who came from Adelaide especially for the celebrations.

On Tuesday 23rd January I took part in Caroline Jones' programme "City Extra" on 2BL. I joined the Historical segment with Mr Phillip Goeves, and as a result have had a great number of enquiries from prospective members.

It was good to see the name of Associate/Friend Mrs Shirley Ball in the Australia Day honours list. Congratulations are extended to her.

It is with very deep regret that I report the sudden death of Mr Eugene Bernath. Eugene was a good friend to the Fellowship and liked by all. To his widow, Executive Member Colleen Bernath, I extend very sincere sympathy.

Beryl Lewis.

Invitations to Members

An Exhibition in Greenway's famous church, St James, King Street (historical documents and artifacts), plus inspection tour of the restoration, on Saturday 17th February. Solely for Historical Society members.

From the Women's Pioneer Society, invitation to attend their Golden Jubilee Service on Sunday 18th February at 11 am in St James', King Street.

All Members are invited to attend both functions. For details please telephone the President (709 8974), as seating has to be arranged for the Service and a time of day to suit the number attending on the Saturday. (RSVP is 10th February).

Mrs Maurcen Leona Blackmore Goering, Utah, U.S.A. (Henry Kable and
Susannah Holmes)

Miss Nadine Meredith, West Pymble. (Frederick Meredith)

Mr Edward Lionel Maunder, Boggabri. (Frederick Meredith)

Mr Garry Lucas, Hawker, A.C.T. (Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne)

Mrs Jan Wilhelmina Anthony, Quentin Nicholas Anthony, Mark Edwin John
Anthony and Andrew Douglas Anthony, Farrer, A.C.T.
(Matthew Everingham)

Mrs Nanette Lucille Cornish, Mr James David Cornish (Jnr), and Miss
Jennifer Lucille Cornish, Richmond, N.S.W.
(Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne)

Mr Peter Ferdham Bellette, Cleveland, Queensland. (Jacob Bellett)

The Membership Committee would like to thank all who helped in any way
with the Australia Day Exhibition at The Rocks. We hope everyone
enjoyed it.

CHANGE OF NIGHTS

Could Members please note the change in nights -- the
Lecture Nights are now held on the third Wednesday in the
month and the Executive Committee meeting on the first
Wednesday.

Australia Day -- Queensland

The Fellowship was again represented in Queensland's Australia Day
celebrations. Since our foundation in 1968 we have had representa-
tion on the Australia Day Council (Queensland), firstly with
Geoffrey Boyd and for the past eight years by myself (incidentally,
I am now Vice-President of the Council).

On Friday 26th January I represented the Fellowship at the Consular
Reception in the Executive Building, Brisbane, given by the Premier,
Mr Joh Bjelke-Peterson, and later joined the Premier, the Lord Mayor
of Brisbane, Ald. Frank Sleeman, and the President of the Australia
Day Council, Mr Barry McDonald, at King George Square for the
unfurling of the Flag by the Premier.

The scene was most colourful, with attendants in period costume and
music provided by the bands of the 1st Military District and the
Queensland Police. An escort party from the R.A.A.F., Amberley,
and a fly-over of F111's added to the occasion, all being well
received by a large lunchtime crowd.

The Australia Day Dinner that evening, held at Parliament House,
brought such response that numbers had to be limited. His Excellency
the Governor of Queensland, Sir James Ramsay, KCMG, CBE, DSC, K St J,
and Lady Ramsay were present. Being invited to say Grace, I quoted
that of the Australasian Pioneers Club:

Before we partake of the good things before us
Let us remember the Pioneers, our Ancestors,
Through whose toil and suffering and sacrifices,
And by the Grace of a Divine Providence,
We inherit our liberties, our way of life,
And our place among the great nations of the Earth.

On Saturday evening the 27th I again represented the Fellowship in
judging, with two ladies, the Miss Australia Day Quest, won by
charming Katie Reardon. On Monday the 29th I represented the Council
and the Fellowship at the Toowoomba celebrations, held in East Park,
giving the main address, entitled "The First Fleet". An estimated
2000 people were in attendance.

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Australia Day - Queensland (Continued)

Overall Queenslanders were pleased to join with their parent State, New South Wales, in honouring our Foundation Day.

Arthur Ingham-Myers.

The Day We Celebrate 1979

(The address given by the President, Mrs Beryl Lewis, at the Australia Day Dinner, Held at the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney, on 27th January 1979)

Mr Toastmaster, Professor Cable and Mrs Cable, My Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When Captain Arthur Phillip first sailed into Port Jackson in January 1788 he could not be expected to visualise the wonderful country that would encompass those waters 191 years later. The Fleet, which he had brought half-way around the world, comprised such a variety of humanity it is doubtful if any of them realised fully the potential of their efforts - they are reputed to have referred to Australia as "the world's wrong end". Whilst the majority were convicts, each and every one made their contribution in laying the foundations of what today is a wonderful city and a great nation.

Regarding this day we celebrate, sad to say, I find Australians very ignorant and apathetic. Patriotism does not seem to be one of the traits of our "Mr and Mrs Average".

In this regard I was delighted to read Prof. Cable's statement, as Chairman of the Modern History Syllabus Committee of the Board of Senior School Studies, in December last that from 1979 all New South Wales students in their first senior high school year will be able to study Australian history. Prof. Cable also said that this would not have been possible 20 years ago, because not enough had been written on Australian history. I'm sure we would like to see this extended to primary school level, for it is in our formative years that our values are accrued. In this "International Year of the Child" I hope we will all do all in our power to have this come to fruition. For children are the recipients of this heritage, and what better time to do this than in this "International Year". This principle is desiderata to the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

What a romantic story it is, to the uninitiated almost like fiction. Imagine this history-making story in the hands of a good (and I emphasise good) film producer. Those 11 little ships on their marathon journey, six of which carried the people of whom historian Charles Bateson wrote - "Never in history were a country's beginnings laid by such unhappy and unenthusiastic pioneers as the convicts of Australia's First Fleet". Imagine this human cargo landed in a virgin country, where even the weather was at variance to what they were used to. The hurriedly erected shelters in Sydney Cove are a far cry from the multiplicity of skyscrapers that now grace, or otherwise, according to opinion, our city today.

The now famous words written by Arthur Phillip to Lord Sydney in 1788 - "We got to Port Jackson early in the afternoon and had the satisfaction of finding the finest harbour in the world in which a thousand sail of the line may ride in the most perfect security" - may still hold true today, and I'm sure we Sydneysiders still agree with him.

We who are privileged to be direct descendants of those First Fleet nation-builders are very proud of our ancestors, be they convict or free, for truly they gave us this nation, and it is in our hands to pass on this heritage to those who come in future generations. Our actions today surely make the history of tomorrow. Our roots are in the past - but we must look to the future. Let it not be said that we failed to engender a feeling of national pride in this our country. In celebration of this Anniversary let us vow to do all in our power to have recorded the true history of the genesis of this country, to

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The Day We Celebrate 1979 (Continued)

lay aside myths and legends and encourage the resurgence of interest in family history.

Then, like Longfellow, we too can say, "Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us, footprints in the sands of time".

Now with those thoughts in mind will you please be upstanding and join me in drinking to the day we celebrate - Australia Day.

(Extracts from Professor Cable's address at the Dinner will be published in the next Newsletter)

Can Anyone Help - Accommodation in Sydney?

(From Mr John Gandy, Karekare Beach, Piha, R.D., Auckland, New Zealand)

I would like to spend some time in Sydney during the coming year for research purposes. I envisage a stay of one to two months. I wish to bring my wife and two boys (aged 6 and 3), but we could not afford hotel accommodation for that length of time.

If a Member, or someone a Member knows, is going away for such a period some time during 1979, and would like my family and myself to mind their house in their absence, could they please contact me at the above address? My wife and I lived in Sydney during 1971, so we are reasonably familiar with the city and its environs. Further details can be given if anyone cares to contact me. Character references are available if required.

Perhaps I can assist Members, too. I have recently been appointed Secretary for the Auckland group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, and if any Members require assistance of a general nature, pertaining specifically to Auckland, I am only too happy to try to help.

May I take this opportunity to wish you, Madam President, and everyone in the Fellowship all the very best for 1979.

Lectures for 1979

21st February: Sister Catherine O'Carrigan (Resident Historian for St Vincent's Hospital): "Early Doctors of St Vincent's Hospital".

21st March: Mr S. Sweeney (expert on early graves and cemeteries): "Sydney's First Four Cemeteries".

18th April: Dr George Bergman (from the Jewish Historical Society): "Early Jewish Settlers". On Sunday 22nd April at 2 pm there will be an inspection of the Great Synagogue, Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

16th May: Dr Peter Reynolds (Department of Architecture, University of New South Wales): "Horbury Hunt - Architect Extraordinaire".

20th June: Mrs June Moore (Trustee and Research Officer, Randwick and District Historical Society), or Mrs Beryl Barker (Ranger in Charge of Restoring Bare Island Fort): "Bare Island".

18th July: Thea Rowe (First Fleeter): "Rogues and Vagabonds" (Early to Present-day Theatre).

15th August: Mr Philip Cox (architect): "Norfolk Island - the Architecture of the Second Period, 1827-1856".

19th September: Valerie Ross (First Fleeter and author): "Writing the Book" (Matthew Everingham and the Hawkesbury Story).

17th October: Dr Harold Royle (Armidale medical historian): "The Medical Aspects of the First Fleet".

21st November: Beginning at 7 pm, Inspection of Victoria Barracks and afterwards a lecture at the Barracks with Major Miller, Army historian.

Sally Kalina.

Coming Event

21st February: First Lecture for 1979 (see above).