

Fellowship of First Fleeters
105 Cathedral Street
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011



Founders

NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

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

PATRON: His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels, AC, Governor of New South Wales

President's report

Welcome to the New Year and the dawn of a new millennium. On New Year's Day accompanied by Joy, my daughter and two grandchildren, we decided to celebrate the Centenary of Federation by watching the parade at a vantage point from St. Mary's Cathedral. A couple of months previously I had contacted the powers that be running the show to ascertain what part that the Fellowship of First Fleeters could play in the parade. A reply via e-mail was received, that if I rang a certain number, I would be informed of the concept of the proposed Federation Parade. Needless to say I treated the reply with the ignore that it deserved. Obviously we were not wanted! As far as the concept was concerned it left a lot to be desired. Good in some parts but utterly boring in others, and myself and family attending, were not the only ones to feel that way.

Owing to ill health Doug Oakes has been forced to step down as Vice-President and Convenor of the Plaques Committee. The Executive, at its December meeting, accepted his resignation with deep regret but gave him leave of absence as a Director of the Fellowship. Doug, a Foundation Member, has been a tower of strength not only to myself, personally, but to the Fellowship as a whole and will be sorely missed. Unfortunately he will not be able to proceed with the Norfolk Island trip but I will be leaning on him for advice as I take his place. He is assured of our thoughts and prayers for restoration to health.

Our Australia Day Luncheon was a great success with over 130 members and guests in attendance. We were pleased to welcome our member and former Patron, Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair, and his wife, Shirley, unfortunately time went so quickly we were not able to meet all present as our guests of honour had to travel to Tea Gardens later that day. Further details of the gathering are in this issue.

On Australia Day I had an interview with member Ray Hadley [FF Thomas Spencer/Mary Phillips] on the John Laws program at 2UE. Although the landline was not the best I feel that I got the message across! Later that day Joy and I represented the Fellowship at the State Reception at Darling Harbour where I was able to have a short conversation with our Patron.

I recently received notification from the Governor's Official Secretary that His Excellency the Hon. Gordon Samuels will be completing his term of office on 28 February next. He went on to say that His Excellency and Mrs Samuels have much enjoyed their association with our organisation and extend their very best wishes for continued success in years ahead.

I have, as a result of this communication, requested on your behalf patronage from the incoming Governor, Dr Marie Bashir AO.

The Secretary of the North Coast Chapter, Robyn Condliff, has written advising that action is being taken to start a Chapter in either the Tamworth region or the Armidale region. Recently we sent Robyn a printout of members in both areas so we hope for success in this venture. I still, personally, live in hopes that we can find a catalyst in the Brisbane area to form a Chapter. In the early 1970s we did have a nucleus there but it seemed to fade away.

More on the Olympics. At least two First Fleeters took part in Torch Relays. Jennifer Johns [FF John Nicholls] at Coffs Harbour and Rodney Bosman [FF Robert Forrester] carried the paralympic torch in Sydney. It is of interest to note also that Stuart Bigham [FF Ann Forbes] was recently awarded an Australian Sports Medal for his contribution for 30 years involvement with Australian Rules football in Victoria.

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News of Members

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FOR PERIOD 24 AUGUST
2000 TO 6 FEBRUARY 2001

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

THOMAS ACRES: Mr Thomas Charles Pinnock (jun).

OWEN CAVANOUGH -
MARGARET DARNELL + ANN
FORBES: Mr John Russell Tait.

THOMAS CHIPP - JANE
LANGLEY: Mr Neville Elliott Chiplin.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Mr
Leslie Allan Bennett (sp Mrs Jacqueline
Bennett); Mrs Dorothy May
Wotherspoon,

ROBERT FORRESTER: Mr Milton
Clifford Bubb, Miss Melissa Anne Bubb;
Mrs Anisa Elizabeth Crocker, Miss
Brittany Kate Crocker (jun); Mrs
Elizabeth Mavis McInnis; Mr Sean
James Trebley.

JOHN HERBERT: Mr Peter Graham
Row.

JOHN HERBERT - DEBORAH
ELLAM: Mr Douglas James Howlett
(sp Mrs Beryl May Howlett).

NATHANIEL LUCAS - OLIVIA
GASCOIGNE: Mr Roderick Lucas
Williams.

FREDERICK MEREDITH: Mr
Barrance Frederick Troy.

JOHN NICHOLS: Mrs Stephanie
Bladen.

JAMES OGDEN + WILLIAM
TUNKS: Mr Francis John Warren (sp
Mrs Maureen Warren).

EDWARD PUGH - HANNAH
SMITH: Ms Carol Anne (Innes)
Stockley, Mr David Robert Innes, Mr
Barry Allan Innes.

JAMES WILLIAMS: Mr Keith
William Phipps, Mrs Joan Phipps, Mr
Ian Keith Phipps.

JOSEPH WRIGHT: Mr Brian George
Harris.

ADDITIONAL FIRST FLEETERS:
John Herbert to Elizabeth Haywood
for Mr Ross John Hills; Richard
Morgan to John Palmer for Mrs Julia
Cornford; John Herbert and Deborah
Ellam to Frederick Meredith for Mrs
Violet Gavin.

BIRTHS

Welcome to additional First Fleeters:

MONIQUE SANDRA and ABIGAIL
ALYCE DOHERTY (FF John
Nichols), 21 November 2000. Twin
daughters to Peter and Sandra Doherty,
granddaughters for Shirley and Kevin
Doherty (#3705). Seventh generation.

FIONA ELIZABETH HARPER (FF
Daniel Stanfield, Alice Harmsworth and
Edward Kimberley), born 8 December
2000 at Nowra NSW. Daughter of Lisa
and Stuart (#6095) Harper,
granddaughter of Lynette (#6094) and
William Harper. Eighth generation.

OLIVIA GEMMA SHARP (FF Jacob
Bellette), 3 December 2000. Daughter
to Lisa and Jonathan, sister to Benjamin,
granddaughter to Janice Bellette
(#6600) and great-granddaughter to
Gwendolyn Porter (#6599). Eighth
generation.

NAOMI MARIE WALSH (FF
Andrew Fishburn), 29 November 2000.
A daughter for Angela and Graham and
first grandchild for Victoria McPherson.
Tenth generation.

DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is extended to the
families of the following:

JOHN WILLIAM COWELL (#5931),
passed away at home suddenly on 26
June 2000. Age 66. Descendant of First
Fleeter Joseph Tuzo.

GWENDA MARY COWELL (nee
Gibbs), passed away at home, suddenly
on 11 December 2000, age 64. Wife of
John William Cowell (#5931).

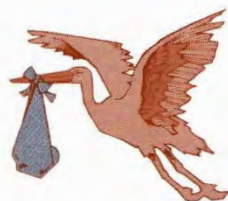
KENNETH HUNT (#) passed away
on 6 November 2000 (member of the
North Coast Chapter.) Descendant of
First Fleeters Wm Douglas/Mary
Groves.

MONA KEOUGH (#6666) passed
away 14 October 2000 (member of
North Coast Chapter). Descendant of
First Fleeters Wm Eggleton and Mary
Dickenson.

GWENDOLINE RICHMOND
O'BRIEN (nee Powell) known as Molly,
died 15 October 2000 at John Flynn
Hospital, Tweed Heads. Aged 94 years.
Descendant of First Fleeters John Small
and Mary Parker.

Closing date for
copy and pictures
March/April issue
March 24 2001

OFFICE HOURS
10.00am to 3.00pm
Monday to Friday





THE FOLLOWING IS AN ADDRESS
DELIVERED BY FORMER PATRON
PETER SINCLAIR AT THE
AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON.

Delighted – and so pleased to be here as a fully-fledged member, rather than as last time, your Patron. Because last time I was not aware that I had a First Fleeter amongst my ancestors. Indeed, I have always been envious of my wife Shirley's claim to early (but not First Fleet) ancestry, which included some notable convicts, because I could not even find any sign of clinking chains in my lot. I always used to say that my ancestors used to pardon Shirley's ancestors – but no more. Because from that amazing moment two years back, when I learnt about my great(etc) grandparents William Broughton and the tragic Ann Glossop (killed and eaten by Maoris), I no longer bow to Shirley's seniority!

How I wish I had known this when I was your Patron! What fun we could have had! I could have given my old friend David Martin a hurry up too, if I had known that we were practically related! Incidentally, my ignorance of my First Fleet connection was not due to laziness or disinterest on my part, Shirley and I have researched our family trees to the Nth degree. It was simply that we (and other members of the family) had not elected to follow down the line of the wife of Charles Throsby Smith, the founder of Wollongong and my great-great-great grandfather. Given the vast number of First Fleet descendants that must be amongst our population, there is a real challenge there for this Fellowship to find ways to encourage greater awareness.

Important that the challenge is faced and not just to boost the membership of the Fellowship. Because, in my view at least, it is becoming increasingly urgent that our community develops a better, perhaps I should also say fairer, understanding of the early years of our settled history.

For there has been a disturbing tendency in recent years to distort the telling of our early history, or to ignore it if that suits the agenda of the politically correct better. Let me give but two examples.

The first has to do with multiculturalism. In this year of celebrating the centenary of Federation, we seem hell bent on claiming that multiculturalism is a fairly recent happening. Yet we all know that in the First Fleet there were people from many countries apart from the predominant British stock. Indeed, the First Fleet was a multicultural community.

Furthermore, we illustrate multiculturalism by focusing on more recent arrivals to this great land – the selection of people who gave those great presentations at the Centenary Celebration evening at Centenary Park is a good example – there was no one from a British background. It is almost as if the contributions of the first settlers were of no consequences to our future and especially if they were English, or Welsh, or Scottish. I worry about this, because if multiculturalism is to mean anything positive for our nation, then it has to be all-inclusive. For example, there are over five and a half million Australians who have Scottish blood in their veins and they should have an important part to play in our multicultural Australia. And so should the other founding cultures.

The second matter has to do with the R word – Reconciliation. Now I am all for reconciliation, if this means restoring dignity and respect to the first inhabitants of our land. But I worry that many people with an axe to grind are using the cause of reconciliation to denigrate the early settlers and anything British by distorting the telling of history. Thus we hear, variously, that the first Europeans were hell bent on genocide and that all manner of atrocities were heaped on the aboriginal people from the outset.

Yet the truth is quite different, because as you all know, Arthur Phillip was under strict orders from the British Government to:

PAST PATRON PRAISES PAST

'endeavour by all possible means to open an intercourse with the natives and conciliate their affections, enjoining all to live in amity and kindness with them'.

Arthur Phillip not only abided by those orders, he made a supreme personal effort to minimise the inevitable impact of the European culture on the aboriginal people. And succeeding Governors did likewise – and especially Governor Macquarie. Indeed, a study of his attempts to help the aboriginal people would perhaps suggest that our generations are ignoring some of the lessons learnt from Governor Macquarie's time.

It is often said that a people who do not understand their past are unlikely to shape their future wisely – and I certainly subscribe to that. So it is my hope that the true story of our beginnings as a settled nation, with all its triumphs and failures, will endure in the telling of the history of Australia – and that all Australians, whether of long standing or recent arrival, can draw strength, pride and encouragement from it.

The story of the First Fleet is integral to the telling of that history. May the Fellowship of First Fleeters always be at the forefront in promoting that truth.

Outstanding SUCCESS



What more could be said of the Australia Day luncheon at Cello's, NSW Masonic Club, on Saturday, 27 January 2001.

Some 130 members, relatives and friends joined together to celebrate this the most important national day. We look forward to the next.

Elsewhere in *Founders* will be found the President's welcome. The Address by our Guest of Honour Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair AO to the gathering was fully endorsed by acclamation by the listeners and is included in *Founders* for the benefit of all.

The photos printed here show merit of the gathering of ancestral families and descendants of the First Fleeters.





President's Welcome to Australia Day Luncheon

On behalf of the Fellowship I would like to give a very warm welcome to our member and former patron Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair, FF Wm Broughton, and his wife Shirley. On a few occasions they have both been with us in the past, but this day we claim them as our own!

May I say how happy we are to have Doug Oakes with us today. Doug our love and good wishes have gone out to you over the past few months and we hope to see an improvement in health in the future. We have with us today two former Presidents of the Fellowship, Beryl Lewis, FF John Small, Mary Parker and James Bradley, and our present Vice-President Roderick Best of the same First Fleet family. We also

have with us, celebrating this day, John Daniell, President of the Tunks Descendants Association, Bunny Sloane from the Rope/Pulley Family Association and Janice Eastment from the Small/Parker Family Association. A warm welcome also to Nell Samsom, President of the Friends of First Government House, and Beverly Naughton, associate FF and Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society. I would also welcome the President of the Masonic Club Mr Rod Downing and his wife Rhonda. Appreciation to Ron and Zona, Bonnie and Phyllis and Joy Pankhurst for the organising of today's proceedings... Thank you members and guests.



The Day We Celebrate

*The President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters expresses the
Australia Day toast at the luncheon to celebrate the 26 January 1788*

'It was one of the most underestimated and unappreciated pioneering experiments of all time'. That sentence is attributed to Colleen McCullough at the launch of her latest book *Morgans Run* I think that it should be in the present tense. The arrival of the First Fleet on the 26th January 1788 is one of the most underestimated and unappreciated pioneering experiments of all time. Until the middle of the twentieth century convict descent was well and truly hidden among our forefathers until we dusted the skeletons out of the cupboard and found that they, the convicts, weren't so bad after all. The descendants of those who arrived on that day banded together in 1968 to form an organisation to be known as The Fellowship of First Fleeters which would ensure the telling of the story that for all time in the future, their forebears, both fettered and free, laid the foundation of our nation.

For the past decade or so there have been some members of our community with a 'black armband' mentality endeavouring to play down and/or denigrate not only the circumstances of the arrival of the Fleet, but the part played by its members and their descendants.

I wish to draw your attention to the Publishers' Note in Mollie Gillen's volume *The Founders of Australia*. The publishers, Malcolm Sainty and Keith Johnson, noted that there was no official monument to our founders, no play, opera, movie or literature sponsored by the then bicentennial committee in

association with the Federal Government. The publishers went on to say that through a misguided and apparent identity crisis they bungled the best opportunity in a century to encourage Australians into a unified nation. Aboriginal people, increasing numbers of whom shared European descent, were encouraged to ignore joint heritage. Sainty and Johnson, both recognised genealogists, proceeded to also note that they believe that all Australians should be able to identify with those who laid the foundation of this nation.

Here, today, I think we can all relate to those sentiments.

Regardless of the missing Bonds of Friendship and the continual pinpricks of political correctness from some quasi-government quarters the Fellowship will not resile from its Aims and Objects, mainly to ensure that the 26th January each year is celebrated in a fitting manner as to the foundation of our nation, to encourage members to pass on First Fleet heritage to descendants and to be proud of the part played over the years by our first pioneers and their descendants!

So this is the day we celebrate. On that day, Saturday 26th January 1788 it was, as we are told, clear weather, a light sou-sou east breeze and a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit ... our forebears unknowingly and certainly unwillingly, had been transported to paradise. Long may their memory be revered! Members and guests I give you the toast ... *'The Day We Celebrate'*. Advance Australia Fair.

How do *you* live your dash?

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
 He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning ... to the end.
 He noted that first came her date of birth and spoke the following date with tears,
 But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. (1934-1998)
 For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth ...
 And now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.
 For it matters not, how much we own; the cars ... the house ... the cash,
 What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.
 So think about this long and hard ... are there things you'd like to change?
 For you never know how much time is left, that can still be rearranged.
 If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
 And always try to understand the way other people feel.
 And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more
 And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.
 If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a smile ...
 Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.
 So, when your eulogy's being read with your life's actions to rehash ...
 Would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

mail box

~~SO~~UTH COAST CHAPTER OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

Expressions of interest are required from the membership of Fellowship of First Fleeters living on the South Coast.

The aim is to form a South Coast Chapter which will be an arm of the Fellowship Headquarters in Sydney.

The area envisaged is from Helensburgh to Nowra.

Those interested are asked to contact Mr Barry Roberts on (02) 4285 9364 or write to 14/19-23 Sturdee Street, Towradgi 2518.

'A NEW BEGINNING'

The story of three First Fleeters and their descendants.

A hard-cover book of 850 pages with stories, photographs and 11,000 names of the descendants of Jane Langley, Henrietta Langley and Thomas Chipp.

This book to be published in 2001.

Orders are now being taken – Price \$85.00

HELEN SILK

87 Arabella Street,

Longueville NSW 2066.

Further inquiries phone Helen Silk – 9427 2394.

FAMILY INTERESTS

Mrs Caldwell, 27 Eastbourne Valley Way, Northbridge 2063, would be pleased to hear from members of the Kable Family.

Mr Laurence Turtle of 15 Robertson Street, Kurrajong 2758, is interested in sharing research in Thomas Smith and Ann Colpitts and Joseph Hatton.

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Appreciation to John Roberts [FF Ann Forbes] for his most generous donation to the Fellowship. The Executive at its February meeting will ensure that the gift will be used to the utmost advantage for the Fellowship.

In January I spoke to Cronulla Probus Club and on the 22nd of that month I was guest speaker to the Camden Ladies Probus Club held at 'Gilbulla' at Menangle. The luncheon had an Australia Day theme with about 90 members and spouses present. It was indeed a pleasure to meet up with FF members Norma Hunt and Garnet Dredge both descendants of Joseph Tuzo. On 25 January at Bankstown RSL Club I spoke to another service organisation, this was another very proud celebration of our National Day.

With many other members I look forward to the Norfolk Island tour and the plaque ceremonies associated with it. More about that in the next issue of *Founders*.

In Fellowship
PETER

YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2000 – 2001

Peter G. Christian	President
Roderick C. Best	Vice-President
Roy W. Morris	Treasurer
Zona V. Maguire	Secretary
Bruce Arnett	Committee Member
Robert F. Ellis	Committee Member
Ronald G. Maguire	Committee Member
Roseleen M. Millwood	Committee Member
Joyce M. Pankhurst	Committee Member
Barry Roberts	Committee Member
Cecil G. Thompson	Committee Member



BUY-A-BRICK DONATIONS

The Fellowship thanks the undernamed for the generous donations made to its Buy-a-Brick Fund. The names have been inscribed in the fund register.

Phillip Alexander; Mrs Patricia Berry, Margaret and Katrina Binder, Valma...Burden; H.W. Cowell; Mrs Pamela Franklin; Daphne Hazell, Dennis Hunt; B. Lewis, Mr T.J. Longhurst; Dallas and Dorothy Mooney, F.P. and E.C. Moxham; Dianne Reppun; Mrs B.M. Tambrel; Sylvia and Stan Yabsley. Warwick and June Adams, Shirley Anderson, M.L. Arch, Mary Bailey, Louise Baur and Rod Best, B.J. Bellingham, R.A. Benjamin, Geoffrey Booth, Paula Bosman, Laura Boyd, K. Broughton, Wendy Brown, Phillip and Glenda Butler, Audrey P. Cacouris, R.G. Carter, William Carter, Richard Chalmers, Alice Clarke, E.A. Dobbin, Betty Dunn, Mrs Val Eastment, Gwendoline Edmondson, E.R. Edwards,

John Edwards, Moyna L. Eggleston, Lorna Goodwill, Valerie E. Gordon, W.H. Gowen, Ron Hargrave, Daphne Hazell, Gordon Keith Hoswell, R.V. Iredale, Warren and Nancy John, D. Johnson, K.W. Jones, Ruth Jurd, G.P. Kable, Elizabeth King, Colin Lawless, Beryl Lewis, Therese Luck, Joan M. Martin, Jan Matheson, P.J. Matschoss, John McCribbin, Mrs M. McKell, Donald McLennan, Victoria McPherson, H.G. Morgan, Jacquie Morgan, Mr and Mrs R. Morris, North Coast Chapter FFF, Mrs M.E. Pearce, Oswald J. Pearce, R.D. Player, Penshurst Probus Club, Mrs Beryl Potts, G.E. Porter, Mrs Valda Reid, C.S. Ross, Kenneth Sibraa, Alan and Myrl Skinner, Miss Beatrice Small, D. Smith, Theresa Tapper, E.R. Thomas, C.A. Torbett, Gordon Tunks, S. Tyson in memory of Betty Spence, Mrs B. Warn, Mrs Jean Westmore, Roderick White AM RFD, Helen Williamson, R.W. Withington.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the article authors and correspondents and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, nor the views of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to omit any material considered unsuitable for publication. Space limitations may result in some material being held over to another issue. **RON MAGUIRE**, Hon. Editor

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