

# F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

PRICE: 50¢ p.a.

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

Registered for posting as a periodical Category "B"

Vol. 9 No. 8  
September 1978

## From the President

During the past month it was my very sad privilege to attend the Memorial Service for the late Ald. Leo Port, M.B.E., Lord Mayor of Sydney, at the Great Synagogue. I am sure Members will be interested to know just how very welcome I was made to feel, as their representative on that occasion, and for my part it was an experience I shall never forget. Ald. Port had been instrumental in helping the Fellowship on several occasions, and Sydney certainly is the better and more beautiful for his efforts.

It was also a great honour to be entertained at a Reception at Government House by His Excellency the Governor and Lady Cutler. This is such a beautiful old building and the gardens, as evening fell, were a glorious sight. I feel this is indeed recognition for the Fellowship.

To those new Members who are thinking of getting costumes to wear to our various functions, may I commend the TV programme "Against the Wind." Whilst not purporting to be First Fleet, it is set in the 1790's and will give you a good idea of the clothing worn in that era. (Mondays 8.30 pm Channel 7).

Your Committee are now assembling a library of historical books, and any Member wishing to refer to them is very welcome to do so in our office on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10 am and 2 pm. They cannot be taken away, but do feel free to visit the office and do some reading. Also, Mrs Cowell is making wonderful progress with the Archives — I hope you have sent your Family History for inclusion.

The coach trip to Berrima on Sunday October 15th promises to be very interesting. We have a "First Flector," Mr G. Squires, to escort us around and show us all the interesting spots. Mr Squires is the Acting Secretary of the local Historical Society. Do hurry and make your reservation.

It was good to see so many at the Lecture Night this month, and particularly as our Lecturer was a Member, Mrs Beatrice Bradley. Mrs Kalina will report on this event.

A full report of the Annual General Meeting will appear in next month's Newsletter.

Beryl Lewis.

## Member's 100th Birthday

Mrs Ethel Carruthers, of Eastlakes, turns 100 on September 28th. Mrs Carruthers, a descendant of Hugh Hughes, has the honour of being the oldest Member of the Fellowship.

When one realises that Mrs Carruthers has seen more than half this country's life, one senses, despite her great age, how young a nation Australia really is, and how many changes she would have seen in her lifetime and how much has been achieved.

The President and the Fellowship extend their sincere congratulations to Mrs Carruthers.

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new Members to the Fellowship -- including one new name for our list, Joseph Elliott or Trimby.

David Scott Lucas Jnr., Railton, Tasmania. (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne)  
Gregory James Lucas, Jnr., Railton, Tasmania. (As above)  
Arthur J. Lucas, Railton, Tasmania. (As above)  
Raymond B. Forster, of Willoughby, N.S.W. (William Tunks)  
Mrs Joan Rowe, of Lindfield, N.S.W. (William Nash - Maria Haynes)  
Lady Hilda D. Joske, of Strathfield. (Matthew James Everingham)  
Mrs Jessie E. Griffith, of Warwick, Queensland. (Ann Forbes)  
Mrs Dorothy L. Cameron, of Ashbury, N.S.W. (John Small - Mary Parker)  
Mrs Nellie D. Dunbar, of Ashbury, N.S.W. (As above)  
Mervyn C. Crane, Stockton, Newcastle, N.S.W. (Joseph Elliott (Trimby) )  
The Membership Committee would like to apologise to Mr Vincas Lukaitis for the incorrect spelling of his name in an earlier edition of the Newsletter.

Naida Jackson. Mary Bailey.

#### Wreath Laying at Phillip Memorial

This year is the 240th anniversary of the birth of Governor Phillip, and the Fellowship will be making the annual pilgrimage to the Phillip Memorial in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Date: Wednesday, October 11th.

Members will gather at 11 am in the Gardens at the Memorial, opposite the State Library, and the wreath will be laid by Mr Roy Kable, Vice-President, in the absence on holidays of the President.

The Lecture on the same evening will be given by a representative of the Royal Australian Historical Society, and will deal with Governor Phillip, to tie-in with the morning's ceremony.

#### August Lecture

The Lecturer for our meeting in August was Mr Maurice Sullivan, who has worked in research of early Australian theatre at the Sydney Opera House library. His topic for the evening was "Theatre in Sydney 1789 Onwards."

Unfortunately not many Members could attend that wintry evening, as many had the flu. But for the few who attended it proved to be an intimate and friendly meeting. We sat in a circle passing around photographs of Sydney's early theatres, and everyone joined in the discussion with enthusiasm.

So many of these lovely old theatres burnt down, and it's sad to think we have no evidence of their existence.

The actors in our early days were mainly convicts (probably old professionals). Tickets were a shilling, or the value in meat or flour. A popular play of 1789 was "The Recruiting Officer," celebrating George III's birthday.

The Theatre Royal opened in 1833, and was generally referred to as the first playhouse in Sydney. Then came the Royal Victoria Theatre in Pitt Street in 1838. Its first performance was "Othello". The theatre burnt down, which was a great pity, as it was a beautiful and spectacular playhouse.

Mr Sullivan talked about the actors and how they had to be very versatile, acting in Shakespeare, comedy, opera and pantomime. It was a Golden Age of Theatre -- not like today, when old theatres such

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## August Lecture (Continued)

as the Royal were torn down, and the memories gone with them. The old theatre days have slowly vanished. Will Theatre's Golden Age come again?

Mr Sullivan was a very interesting speaker, and he made our evening a happy one.

Sally Kalina.

## Coach Picnic

The Fellowship's coach trip to Bowral and Berrima is on Sunday 15th October. It should be a particularly interesting day. Particulars: Coach leaves outside the Assembly Building in York Street, Sydney, at 8.30 am. There is an additional pick-up point at Skelsey's, on the Hume Highway at Lansdowne. Cost, \$8 per person. For bookings and other information, please telephone Colleen Bernath on 764 4479 (evenings).

## Some Information on the Fellowship for New (And Perhaps Old) Members

The Lectures organised by the Fellowship are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except December and January) at 8 pm in the No 1 Board Room, on the fourth floor of the Assembly Building, York Street, Sydney. Entrance in the evening must be made through the Jamison Street entrance of the building.

The Fellowship's office is Room No 312, on the third floor of the Assembly Building. The office is open from 10 am to 2 pm every Tuesday and Friday.

The Fellowship's Name Bars, Badges and Spoons may be obtained as follows:

Name Bars must be ordered direct from Mrs Thelma Guy, 3 Coocinda Close, Eastwood, N.S.W. 2122 (telephone 869 7917). They are available with either a blue or black background. Prices: Member's name plus one First Fleeter's name, \$2-50 each. Member's name plus two First Fleeters' names, \$2-75 each. Member's name plus three First Fleeters' names, \$3-50 each.

Badges and Spoons may be purchased from the Fellowship's office or from Mrs Guy. Ladies' Bar Brooches, \$1-50 each. Gent's Lapel Badge, \$1-50 each. Spoon with FFF Crest, \$2 each.

## Obituary

We regret to announce the death on July 22nd of a Member of the Fellowship, Mrs E. J. Parker, of Lakenba. The Fellowship extends condolences to Mrs Parker's family. 584

## The Ballad of the First Fleet, 1788 (Continued)

By Howard Guinness. (The first verses appeared in the August Newsletter)

The cove was soon swarming with sea-weary voyagers,  
Whose rolling gait hindered then speeding their tasks,  
~~THE~~ Governor's tent was erected and guarded,  
While food was unloaded in stout wooden casks;  
Then up went the Union Jack, "Cheers for old England!  
Fire off the cannon, and empty the flasks!"

In duty to God on the first Sunday morning,  
The camp was paraded (a custom of old),  
The Chaplain was present to lead them in worship,  
With Phillip resplendent in scarlet and gold.  
The officers yawned at the well-trodden phrases,  
The convicts stood awkwardly -- scornful and bold.

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The Chaplain's voice came to them clear and arresting,  
"What matter the dangers through which we have passed,  
God brought us here safely through doldrum and tempest,  
All thanks for this land where our venture is cast!  
The years will bring plenty if God's law is honoured;  
If not, then a desert we'll harvest at last!"

The Governor later inspecting the clearing,  
And thanking good fortune for much that he saw,  
Was startled by natives who stepped from the shadows  
Perplexed and enraged at the camp on their shore.  
He stiffened and loosened his sword in its scabbard,  
Alert to the danger of plunder or war.

Some soldiers came hurrying up to defend him,  
The spears of the natives were poised for the throw,  
The moment of truth had surprised them at noonday,  
Their senses benumbed and their reflexes slow.  
But Phillip stepped forward at once with decision,  
And laid down his sword without striking a blow.

(To Be Continued in Next Newsletter)

### Early Encounters Between Europeans and Aborigines in N.S.W.

(By Ena Harper. Reprinted by kind permission of Ashfield Historical Society and Ena Harper. This is the sixth instalment published)

As he came into Botany Bay Captain Cook looked through the glasses at the natives of New Holland, and wondered what they were like. Would they be fierce or friendly?

In his Journal he wrote: "The natives do not seem to be numerous nor do they seem to live in large bodies but disposed in small parties along by the waterside; those I saw were about as tall as Europeans, of a very dark brown colour but not black nor had they woolly frizzled hair but black and ~~look~~ much like ours....Some we saw that had their faces and bodies painted with a sort of white paint or Pigment."

They were a totally different people from any they had met. The Englishmen stared and stared at them with eager curiosity. Cook wanted only friendship with these people, for he was an explorer, not a conqueror.

It seems to me that the coming of the Endeavour into that quiet harbour could only be compared with the landing of a flying saucer at Cabarita. If Sydneysiders were spending a quiet Sunday afternoon there, what would they do? Some would flee in terror, other hardier souls would gather around to stare.

The striking feature of the Aborigines' reaction to the coming of the Endeavour was their indifference. Some may have stood and gazed at the ship, but Joseph Banks, the botanist, records his amazement at their lack of interest. He noticed that they hardly lifted their eyes from their fishing or other employment even when the ship passed within a quarter of a mile of them.

"The people seemed to be totally engag'd in what they were about: the ship passed within a quarter of a mile of them and yet they scarce lifted their eyes from their employment; I was almost inclined to think that attentive to their business and deafened by the noise of the surf they neither saw nor heard her go past them. At 1 we came to an anchor abreast of a small village consisting of about 6 or 8 houses. Soon after this an old woman followed by 3 children came out of the wood."

(To Be Continued)

### Coming Events

- Oct. 11, 11 am: Wreath-laying Ceremony, Governor Phillip Memorial, Royal Botanic Gardens.
- Oct. 11, 8 pm: Lecture on Governor Phillip, No 1 Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Building, York St. (entrance Jamison St.).
- Oct. 15, 8.30 am: Coach trip to Berrima (starts outside Assembly Building).

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