

**F.F.F.****NEWSLETTER**

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

Vol. 11 No. 5.  
June 1980

From the President

Many Members are now asking what the Fellowship intends to do for the Bi-Centenary in 1988. Have you sent in your suggestion? Your Executive Committee would like to hear from everyone before making a final decision. Suggestions are many and varied, and we do wish to consider everyone's point of view. So if you haven't already done so, please let us hear from you.

I have had an extremely busy month, the highlight of which was to attend, as your President, the State Reception for Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. It was wonderful to meet them in such a friendly relaxed atmosphere, and I feel it a great honour that the Fellowship of First Fleeters was represented.

Friday 13th June saw my husband and myself at Government House for a Reception in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's official birthday. These functions are always a delight, particularly as the Host is our highly

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For the benefit of new Members:--

**OFFICE****LECTURES**

Room 312,  
Assembly Building,  
2 York Street,  
Sydney.

Board Room,  
4th Floor,  
Assembly Building,  
Sydney. (Enter by  
Jamieson Street entrance)

Office hours:

The office is open 10 am to 2 pm Tuesdays and Fridays.

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esteemed Patron. Then on Tuesday 17th it was a great privilege to attend a State Reception in the State Office Block to meet His Excellency Sir John Mason, High Commissioner for Britain.

It is good to know that the Fellowship is receiving the recognition it deserves, and thus being represented at these official functions.

As a guest speaker this month I have visited Narwee Evening View Club, Earlwood Caring Centre (School for Seniors), Cronulla Uniting Church Fellowship and Chatswood View Club.

It was a pleasure to support the Lady Mayoress' Relief Fund by attending a Bread, Wine and Cheese evening at Sydney Town Hall.

This year the anniversary of Governor Arthur Phillip's birthday falls on a Saturday (11th October), and after our usual wreath-laying ceremony we

### President's Report (Continued)

hope to hold a luncheon in the very nice new restaurant in the Royal Botanical Gardens, followed by an extremely interesting speaker on Arthur Phillip. More details later, but do keep this date free.

It was particularly pleasing to me to welcome an old friend, Mrs Betty Goodger, to speak to us at our May Lecture Night. Her subject was "David Scott Mitchell, the Man and his Library"; the lecture will be reported by Mrs Sally Kalina later in the Newsletter.

I extend sincere thanks to those Members who have forwarded donations towards the plaques at The Rocks and the Memorial in Sydney Cove.

Beryl Lewis.

### Queen's Birthday Honour for Patron's Wife

Lady Cutler, wife of the Fellowship's Patron, Sir Roden Cutler, V.C., became a Companion to the Order of Australia (C.O.A.) in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Another award of particular interest to Members of the Fellowship was that to historian Philip Geeves, who received the Order of Australia Medal (O.A.M.).

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Time: Wednesday 17th September at 7.30 pm sharp.

Venue: Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Building (enter by Jamieson Street entrance).

Nominations: Date for nominations to close, under Rules 32 and 15, is one month prior to meeting (17th August).

Notices of Motion: Under Rule 35 to be in by the 1st day of August.

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### April Lecture Evening

Mr Noel Thorpe, formerly from the Sydney Water Board, spoke to the Fellowship on early Sydney. The title of his address: "The Streets of Sydney".

Mr Thorpe is no stranger to us, as he gave a brilliant lecture a couple of years ago on the Tank Stream. This lecture was equally as good, with many beautiful slides showing the Sydney of years gone by, up to the present time. The slides showed us many buildings that have gone, and it is sad to see so many old and historic buildings disappear, leaving us less and less of our past.

We saw the original old Scots church, and Campbell's wharf, and the original First and Last Hotel. Also slides of the early trams, and an interesting one on peak hour traffic in 1916.

Many later photographs were taken by Mr Thorpe, and they were excellent. He has a natural talent for history, and hopes to compile his knowledge of early Sydney in a book one day, and I'm sure it will be an interesting history of our city.

The Sydney Water Board has always been interested in Australian history, and you will see many old pictures and prints in their building in the city.

(Continued on Page 3)

3

April Lecture Evening (Continued)

We enjoyed Mr Thorpe's talk, and found him an inspiring speaker. We look forward to having him return soon.

Sally Kalina.

Membership Report

We welcome the following new Members into the Fellowship:

Mr John H. Herbert, Deniliquin. (John Herbert and Deborah Ellam)  
Mrs Kathleen M. Hunt, Deniliquin. (John Herbert and Deborah Ellam)  
Mrs E. Lois Mahoney, Blakehurst. (William Tunks; Hugh Hughes)  
Mrs Helen C. Strong, Master Robert M. Strong (jnr.) and  
Master Andrew J. Strong (jnr.). (William Tunks; Hugh Hughes)  
Mrs Anne Sabato, Simone L. V. Sabato (jnr.) and Master Stefano C. Sabato  
(jnr.). (William Tunks; Hugh Hughes)  
Mr Leslie E. Forrester, North Parramatta. (Robert Forrester)  
Mrs Constance H. P. Perkins, Maroochydore, Qld. (John Palmer)  
Mr Alan H. P. Field, Dunedin, New Zealand. (John Palmer)  
Mr Christopher J. Chalmers, Lindfield. (William Tunks; Hugh Hughes)  
Mr Petrie Chalmers, Artarmon. (William Tunks; Hugh Hughes)  
Miss Kathleen M. Chalmers (jnr.), Miss Christine T. Chalmers (jnr.),  
Master Christopher J. Chalmers (jnr.) and Miss Francine L.  
Chalmers (jnr.), all of Lindfield. (William Tunks; Hugh Hughes)  
Miss Vikki L. Chalmers (jnr.) and Master Jonathan R. Chalmers (jnr.),  
both of Turramurra. (William Tunks; Hugh Hughes)  
Master Byron R. Evans (jnr.), Miss Sian E. Evans (jnr.) and Master  
David J. Evans (jnr.), all of Roseville. (William Tunks;  
Hugh Hughes)  
Mrs Susan Sissian, Sylvania. (William Nash and Maria Haynes)  
Mr Norman Cross, Tathra. (John Cross)  
Mr Frederick W. B. Moses, Bellevue Hill. (William Roberts)  
Mr Barry I. Gardner, Lugarno. (James Bloodworth and Sarah Bellamy)  
Mrs Gwendolen A. Crawford, Oatley. (William Tunks)  
Mrs Ann E. Jones, Greystanes. (William Tunks)  
Mr Allen J. Crawford, Oatley. (William Tunks)  
Master Andrew P. Jones (jnr.) and Master Phillip C. Jones (jnr.),  
both of Greystanes. (William Tunks)  
Mr Leonard G. Thompson, Yarraville, Vic. (Thomas Lucas)  
Mrs Lorna J. Knappe, West Footscray, Vic. (Thomas Lucas)  
Mrs Mavis J. Fleming, Yarraville, Vic. (Thomas Lucas)  
Mrs Evelyn M. Whelan, Yarraville, Vic. (Thomas Lucas)

The Membership Committee looks forward to meeting any new Members at our monthly lectures.

Editor's note: Omitted from the above the suburb of residence of Mrs Helen Strong and Masters Robert and Andrew Strong, and Mrs Anne Sabato, Simone Sabato and Master Stefano Sabato. All are from the southern Sydney suburb of Blakehurst.

Donations

Donations have been received from the following Members towards the cost of the plaques at Playfair Square:

Mrs B. Stephenson

Mrs B. Townsend

Mrs L. Wilkinson

Addresses Wanted

The following Newsletters have been returned from the Dead Letter Office. Can anyone advise on these Members?

Mr S. W. Weaver, 4/2 East Esplanade, Manly 2095.

Mr A. W. Small, 2/12 Rennison Street, Beaumaris, Vic. 3193.

Mrs D. Upcroft, 35 Cook Street, Baulkham Hills 2153.

Mrs Janette H. Grounds, 34 Terama St., Bilgola Plateau 2107.

## A Family Tree

Have you compiled a Family Tree? If not, why not? Perhaps you haven't the time; it is a time-consuming commitment. Perhaps you think you don't have the expertise.

At least you can provide some of the information required, and maybe some time someone interested will put it together. This is what you need to do, and everyone can do this much.

List the full name of all your relatives (don't forget to include yourself) and show against each one -- or all the information you can -- their date of birth, if deceased date of death, name of father, maiden name of mother, if married name of spouse and date of marriage. For all married females use maiden name, not married name. Head your list with the name of your First Fleet ancestor and send it to the Archivist at the Fellowship office, where it will be filed until required by that someone who is going to build the Tree.

Do not delay just because you cannot remember a date or two. Send in what you do know now and follow up with any later information you might find. Copies of birth, death and marriage certificates are very useful.

Please remember that, as the years roll by and we pass on, the task of preparing a Family Tree becomes more difficult for the Genealogist of the future.

## May Lecture Evening

This was a remarkable lecture -- "David Scott Mitchell, the Man and his Library". The speaker was Mrs Betty Goodger, Field Librarian for the Mitchell Library. Mrs Goodger is a most enthusiastic and entertaining speaker, who certainly loves her history. She puts so much dedication and devotion in her work, and it shines through so clearly.

I feel as if I know David Scott Mitchell personally after that lecture evening, though he was just a name to me before.

Born to a wealthy family in 1836, Mitchell was a clever student, and was in 1852 one of the first group of students to attend University here. He became a B.A., M.A. and later Master of Law.

Through the years Mitchell acquired a wonderful collection of books and original documents. He also collected paintings, diaries and charts. Mrs Goodger showed us a slide of his home -- masses of books piled to the ceilings, and little room for furniture.

His passion for books remained with him all his life. Later plagued with ill health, he became a recluse and books were his life and world. He had the world's leading collection of Australiana, a priceless treasure, and he probably wondered at that stage in his life about his collection, and what would become of it.

So he kindly offered his collection to the nation, his only request being that a suitable building be provided to house such a gift. Sir Hector Carruthers asked his civil servants to find such a site, and in 1910 the Library was completed.

The Lecture Night was a happy one. The Board Room was filled to capacity, with many Members, one coming all the way from Mittagong. Also new Members attended, and it is always nice to welcome new faces. Thank you, Mrs Goodger, for the memorable lecture and for the beautiful slides you kindly brought to show us.

Sally Kalina.

## Notices of Motion

The attention of Members is drawn to Rule 35 of the Fellowship's Constitution and Rules, which reads: "Any Member desiring to submit

### Notices of Motion (Continued)

any special matter for the consideration of the Annual General Meeting, shall give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary not later than the First day of August preceding the holding of such meeting".

### Bankstown Historical Society's 21st Anniversary Celebrations

Different functions associated with Bankstown Historical Society's 21st Anniversary Celebrations have been, or are to be, held this month. Activities to be held on the weekend of 28th/29th June are as follows:

On both the Saturday and Sunday there will be an Open Afternoon (from 1 pm to 4 pm) of The Homestead, in Lionel Street, Georges Hall (off Ashcroft Street; bus from Bankstown station). There will be an inspection of the entrance hall, attic and cellars; a photographic display; historical films; and afternoon tea. Proceeds to the After-Care Association.

Also available both days will be a 90-minute trip along the Georges River aboard MV Mirabel, departing Fitzpatrick Park Wharf, Picnic Point, at 12 noon and 2.30 pm Saturday, 10 am, 12 noon and 2 pm Sunday. Cost: Adults \$2-50, pensioners \$1-50, children \$1. Refreshments available. Information on the trip available by phoning 774 1173 or 772 3437.

The Bankstown Historical Society suggests that, for a full day's outing, a picnic lunch be brought and a visit made to Lake Gillawarna, which is directly opposite Ashcroft Street on Henry Lawson Drive — next to the site of the original "Homestead", built by Major George Johnston about 1798.

### Early Encounters Between Europeans and Aborigines in New South Wales

(Continuing Ena Harper's papers on the subject, reprinted by kind permission of Ashfield Historical Society and Ena Harper. Much of the previous instalment dealt with Aboriginal attacks on farms, where it was pointed out that, while the military were sometimes called upon, there does not appear to have been any wholesale massacre of Aborigines in defence of the farms)

Fire at Mr Alt's Farm. The attacks by Aborigines on the settlers' farms. Of interest to those in the mid-western suburbs is the account of a fire at Mr Alt's farm recorded in Vol. 48, Part 5, Journal of the R.A.H.S. It is in an article written on Augustus Alt by B. T. Dowd.

"It was during the year 1794 that Augustus Alt received his first grant of land. The farm contained 100 acres at Petersham Hill district, granted by Francis Grose, February 20, 1794. Called "Hermitage Farm", it extended from Iron Cove Creek south-westerly to within a few chains of the old Liverpool Road, embracing what is now Croydon railway station. It was the house of Alt's farm which was referred to by him in his memorial, previously mentioned, as having been plundered and burnt to the ground by blacks, with all effects therein, in August 1798. This happened at a time when Alt was absent during a sitting of the Vice-Admiralty Court in Sydney, some seven miles distant".

There is no direct answer to the question as to why was Mr Alt's house burnt, but it would appear that on various occasions the Aborigines showed their resentment to the settlement of the land by Europeans by destroying dwellings or huts and murdering anyone who was unprotected.

So Tench writes in his Journal in 1788—

"....similar to the vindictive spirit Mr Cook found to exist among

## Early Encounters (Continued)

their countrymen at Endeavour River, they more than once attempted to set fire to combustible matter, in order to annoy us".

Collins writes of the destruction of the hut of a settler at Prospect Hill in August 1791, but does not say how it was carried out. He says the owner would have been murdered but for the timely appearance of another settler with a musket.

In June 1798, the year that Mr Alt's house was burnt, Collins writes as follows:

"....the settlers at the northern farms were much annoyed by the natives, who came down in a body and burnt several of their houses. This was the more unfortunate, as those farms appeared to have had some industry bestowed upon them".

It would appear that the burning of the houses was done in a spirit of revenge, a protest at the Europeans' fixed claim to the land, and we can only conclude that the same motive applied to the burning of Mr Alt's house at Croydon.

Aborigines along Parramatta Road. As we have seen when considering the foundation of the western suburbs, the area between Sydney and Parramatta was heavily wooded and in the early days the track between the two settlements was very primitive. It will be seen from an article in the "Sydney Gazette" written November 11, 1804, that it was common for Aborigines to be seen in the bush along the road.

"A menace was a few days since held out by a band of natives, which we here relate with a design of putting travellers on their guard against a people in whose friendship and fidelity no confidence can at any time be placed. A few days ago Gilberthorpe, a settler driving his cart from Parramatta to Sydney, when about mid-way discerned a body of natives, about 30 in number, to be loitering about the sides of the road: but this not being uncommon he proceeded onward, unsuspecting any malevolent intention. When he had approached to within a couple of hundred paces of their rendezvous, several of the men stepped into the road and shipped their spears to receive: but suspecting this ceremonial to be no indication of friendship, he instantly turned short, and drove expeditiously toward the place from whence he set out, closely pursued; other inhabitants of the settlement appearing in view, the chase was given up".

This encounter would have taken place near the Burwood-Croydon portion of Parramatta Road and gives a brief picture of the situation between settlers and Aborigines in our area at this period.

As more and more of the forest trees were felled and farms like Mr Alt's were established, there was less and less refuge for the Aborigines. If they did not settle in the towns they had to retreat further and further inland. As time went on, there were fewer accounts of depredations on farms in the Sydney-Parramatta area and constant references to attacks in the Hawkesbury farmlands. One hundred years later the Aborigines had vanished from our area, as suburban homes replaced the farms.

(To Be Concluded)

## Coming Events

- June 28/29: Bankstown Historical Society's 21st Anniversary Celebrations.
- July 16: Lecture, Mr John M. Bennett, Legal Historian and author: "Sydney's Early Magistrates".
- Sept. 17: Annual General Meeting, Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Building.
- Oct. 11: Wreath-laying Ceremony, Governor Phillip's Birthday, Royal Botanic Gardens.

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