

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) 360 3788, 360 3988 MAY/JUNE 1996 VOLUME 27 NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

he Executive is indebted to Ray Meredith, President of the Hunter Valley Chapter, for putting forward a number of ideas pertinent to the future of the Fellowship and its Chapters. Ray has put forward seven points before your Executive for discussion. For the past three months we have discussed in detail this submission. At this juncture I would like to place before you the following.

> Your Executive unanimously was in agreement on Point One of the submission viz 'Where a person or family has traced its line up to or back to a point where there is one missing link or certificate-of-proof and it appears there is a high possibility because of known facts, such as place of abode, follow-on of given names, and other relevant facts, to be accepted as members or at least associate members.'

> The Second Point is more controversial. 'Where a person or family has the same ideals or historical interest as the Fellowship, they be accepted as, at least, associate members (Friends) without voting rights.'

The amended Constitution (1995) gives voting rights and a place on the Executive to associate members. An amendment to the Constitution requires a majority vote at an annual general meeting. This matter had been put before the last A.G.M. and was defeated. From 1968 to 1982 we did accept that category in the Constitution, viz 'Those who showed interest, and accepted the ideals and precepts of the Fellowship, were admitted as "Friends" without voting rights.'

I am cognisant of the fact that among the members of our Chapters we have people helping in the day-today running of the Fellowship who are in the position of being 'Friends.' I realise that quite a number of our members feel that this category of membership is an anathema.

The Executive has ruled that, at the next A.G.M., we again put this amendment before you. Perhaps you would like to contact me re your thoughts on this matter.

Point Three of Ray's submission was 'The family of an associate spouse eg brother- or sister-in-law of a member be accepted as at least an associate member.

Again the Executive decided that this was matter for the A.G.M.

Point Four of the submission is that we encourage members of Chapters who are not financial to become paid-up members or assist with some financial support. This to be discussed and policy to be decided by individual Chapters, not as a directive from First Fleet House.

The Executive decided that this was a matter for the Chapters.

Point Five: Ray put forward the suggestion that a special meeting be convened to consider the following – 'That all representatives of Chapters be convened to consider matters of all points raised.'

The Executive felt that whilst this was desirable, and given the present state of finances, could we afford to bring representatives to headquarters at the expense of the Fellowship? It would be ideal if we could have a meeting such as this – what do you think?

Point Six: "Where a member is unable to attend First Fleet House because of distance, arrangement to be made to have that welcome at a meeting of the Chapter in the area in which they live, if applicable."

The Executive felt whilst this was absolutely desirable, considering that we were a national body, perhaps there were interested members to convene in his or her area. If you feel that you could be a catalyst in this respect, please contact me.

We are in the process of sending to the Northern Rivers Chapter printouts of members in the Coffs Harbour area with this idea in mind. Some years ago we did have a viable group centred in Brisbane. Considering we have a rather large membership in Queensland would any member be prepared to convene a Chapter in his or her area. After all, we, all of us, have a special pride that our ancestors, bonded or free, laid the foundations of our nation! Again, please contact me at First Fleet House Mondays 9 to 1 or at home (02) 8683063.

Point Seven that Ray made was in regard to the position of vice-presidents. He recommended that the presidents of Chapters be automatically elected as vice-presidents. This would require a change in the Constitution which allows for only two vice-presidents.

The Executive felt that we keep to the status quo.

Having said all of the above I was disappointed that owing to a broken leg I was not able to attend meetings of our Hunter Valley and Northern Rivers Chapters. Since the beginning of May, I have been hobbling around on crutches with the leg in plaster – come 14 June I hope to be once again mobile. May I request to all convenors of our Chapters that they keep First Fleet House informed of their activities.

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This is a week of Aboriginal reconciliation. I feel sure all members may reflect on the circumstances when our forebears arrived in this country and indeed laid the foundations of Australia as a nation, our forebears did not arrive as conquering heroes, again may I remind you, they were jettisoned from one hostile environment to another. They did not come as invaders, they came, both bonded and free; sent unwillingly to a land open to settlement by any of a number of imperialistic-minded nations. I think that we, all of us, need to realise that this incursion (not invasion) into a land inhabited by various tribes of Aborigines creates now quite a number of difficulties. Two centuries of white inhabitation has seen the problems arising from the first settlement.

His Excellency, Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC, Governor of New South Wales, Government House, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Executive Directors and members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, may I offer our sincere and deep appreciation for your patronage over the past years.

Following the wonderful example of your predecessors, including our late member of blessed memory, Sir David Martin, you have indeed enhanced the position of Governor to the people of New South Wales, and, not only we in the Fellowship of First Fleeters, but all citizens of this State, owe you and Mrs Sinclair a debt of gratitude.

With every good wish for the future to you both,

In Deep Appreciation,

Peter G. Christian, President May I direct your attention to our aims and objects as stated in our Constitution Para. 3.4. 'To encourage Australian patriotism and to strengthen the bonds of loyalty amongst a'' peoples of Australia, irrespective of their birthplace, origin, creed, or party and to welcome and extend hospitality to migrants and visitors.'

Personally, I feel that it is a pity that those in authority in this land have not emphasised the fact that many thousands of the original descendants of our nation have a dual heritage, both black and white. May I remind you that there is a fair proportion of the six and a half thousand of our membership not purely of Anglo-Saxon heritage, but quite a number are of Aboriginal – Jewish – Afro – Asian heritage, and indeed one very proud Australian family which has an Islamic background.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of two of our members. Joan Hall, daughter of the third President of the Fellowship, Fred Daniell, and our sympathy goes to her husband Ken and family. Joan was a proud member of the Fellowship, descended from William Tunks. Bill McKell the husband of Mary McKell (member) was the son of Sir William McKell former Premier of NSW and Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. Our sympathy is also extender to the family of Mary.

May I in conclusion to this lengthy report, thank Ron and Zona Maguire, Editor and Secretary of the Fellowship, for transporting me in my immobile state to the Executive meeting May last. Without the efforts of Ron (member) and Zona (associate) we would indeed be hard pressed in the day-today running of the Fellowship.

In Fellowship Peter

On our Patron's retirement from office, I conveyed the following message to the Governor and it is published together with the Patron's reply.

Government House	
Sydney	
23 January 1996	
Dear Peter,	
It was kind of you to send Shirle wishes on the eve of our departu	· ·
House.	
We very much appreciate your gen especially your support at this diffie	
May the Fellowship of First Fle valuable work of spreading the	
heritage and its importance. Good	
Yours sincerely,	
Peter Sinclair,	
Governor	

DAYTIME FELLOWLSHIP YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Peter G. Christian Roderick C. Best Douglas M. Oakes Roy W. Morris Alice Clarke Dorothy E. Jupp Ronald G. Maguire Zona V. Maguire Beverley A. Naughton Bonney L. Savill Phyllis L. Selby Cecil G. Thompson

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President Vice-President Vice-President Treasurer Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member THE OTHER SIDE OF HUNTERS HILL

WALK

SUNDAY 23 JUNE 1996

1.30PM

This leisurely two-hour walk through interesting, historic Hunters Hill starts from the

TOWN HALL

Alexandra Street

(meeting time 1.00pm)

The cost will be \$5.00 per head.

The walk takes in places of interest such as the Congregational Church, Lindhurst, Loombah, Corio, Jenoa and Woodbank.

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, 3 July

SOUP and DAMPER DAY

Time: 11.30am Meeting

12 noon Lunch

1.00pm: Our exciting speaker will be Beverley Earnshaw, author, historian, President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers. Her talk is entitled 'The Lame, the Blind, the Mad and the Malingerers,' about the way the early convicts were treated when sick.

Cost \$3.00 includes lunch and afternoon tea.

PLEASE COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Remember Australia Day Weekend 1997!

Australia Day, 26 January 1997, is a Sunday. The Fellowship's Australia Day Luncheon will be held on Saturday, 25 January 1977. The venue will be the same as 1996, the Holme and Sutherland Building at Sydney University, but will be on the ground floor not the third – no stairs. Information about cost of tickets and the guest speaker will appear in later Newsletters.

Family groups are asked to form a party to be with us on this day.

The Garrison Church at the Rocks will be having a special anniversary service on 26 January 1997 at 10.30am and has asked us to come and join them on this day.

The service involves a flag procession down the aisle and then from the church to the 'Links' at Circular Quay. In past years family associations have joined with their banners in the processions.

After the Church Service we will be proceeding to Darling Harbour for the official Australia Day functions.

Family Associations are particularly asked to be with us at all functions with their banners; friends who are not members of family groups or associations will be most welcome.

It is hoped to have an area set aside at the Australia Day celebration at Darling Harbour for our members and friends, but to have an area allocated it is generally expected that the groups participate in the procession leading up to the event.

Please keep the Australia Day Weekend in mind and come along and participate in any or all of the happenings.



wenty-six members and friends joined in this year's Grand tour. Ted Tynan and his wife, although not members of the Fellowship,

after joining with us on the Culcairn adventure last year accepted an invitation to be with us on the

Macksville trip. Twenty 'First Fleeters' gathered at Central Station and the rest joined en route.

Led by 'Fearless' Phyllis our leader, we boarded the train to be confronted by what appeared to be seatusurpers, after some hackle-raising and affronted eye-balling, as well as some unkind aspersions being cast on the railway's inefficiency in overbooking, the word flashed that the train we were fighting to board was headed for Armidale in one minute.

Quickly recovering our suitcases and other luggage with the speed that belied the age of many, we fled the Armidale express with seconds to spare and waved it on its way. Stan Bartlett was left wondering if his doctors were accurate in their analysis of his physical condition. Phyllis's excuse was that she had not gone to the front of the engine to see if Macksville was on the destination board.

Making sure the next train we boarded was destined to reach Macksville, we settled down to a six-hour journey. Although meals on trains are generally

basic, it did not stop a rather continuous flow of travellers participating in the 'culinary delights' of the restaurant-car. Although the countryside showed evidence of receiving copious quantities of much-needed rain the previous week, the weather for us during our stay was very good.

On arrival at Macksville station we were met by our host for the week, who Travelling through wonderful dairy country around South West Rocks we finally arrived at Trial Bay where, other than the scenery, was the remnants of the jail which had played an important part in Australia' history. The jail is now roofless and unused except as a museum. From here we went on to visit



successfully shepherded us on to the waiting bus and conveyed us to our base.

The first day started with a visit to Strutts Pottery at Temagog in the Macleay Valley. Here we were shown the practical aspects of creating something beautiful out of inanimate lumps of clay. After purchasing a few souvenirs, we were on our way to Mesopotamia Lodge, a deer farm.

After a pleasant lunch (venison can be very palatable) we visited the farm to see the animals and hear a talk on deerfarming and then it was back into the bus and off to Trial Bay. Smoky Cape lighthouse and then wended our way back to base.

Today we set out along the Bellinger Valley to the town of Bellingen and after visiting the historical buildings and being enticed to gather some more 'take homes,' continued on our way up Dorrigo mountain. Winding our way up this magnificent mountain it was hard to realise and picture in the mind's eye bullock teams and their timber jinkers carrying the massive tree trunks down and up the mountain over old rutted dirt roads.



Page 4



While we enjoyed a steak sandwich, we were regaled with a background of local music. Joy Cordeiro proved she had a wide knowledge of music by knowing that Saddle Boy was the song on the reverse side of Slim Dusty's record 'The Pub With No Beer.' On our arrival back at Macksville we were very happy to receive a visit from one of our members, Noelene Pascoe, who lives just south of Macksville at Eungai Creek.

Day four it was off to Port Macquarie, a thriving city on the Mid-north Coast. A trip on the waterbus through the oyster leases and a visit to the local canal development then on to Georges Goldmine to be taken into an abandoned mine and shown an old stamper battery crushing ore. This gave us much to talk about as we had a pleasant barbecue lunch. The coach then gathered us in to take us through Coramba to the Green Pastures Gallery to see a display of Australian wildflower jewellery. The journey home gave us some wonderful views of the countryside and coastline.

The final day of our grand touring took us to Farmer John's Big Bull Restaurant for a steak dinner and a hayride, a trip not for the light-hearted. Some of the ladies wanted to get off and walk but the muddy conditions made them change their minds. A visit to the farm nursery to see the days-old animals was a highlight of the trip. The farm has a 14-metre high model of a bull, with a viewing platform in its head from which a magnificent panorama of the countryside can be had.

Our boarding of the XPT the next morning was uneventful and void of trauma and we were taken



of trauma and we were taken home from a most enjoyable week in the north.

> Many thanks to Phyllis Selby for her industry in organising these trips and pressures are already being exerted to coax her to continue; a possible tour to Dubbo? It is confidently predicted that the 'Macksville Marauders' will make a nucleus for the trip.

We eventually reached our next port of call, Griffith Mountain Lookout, and from there we went on to Dorrigo for lunch and to see the largest collection of old trains in one area at the

Dorrigo Steam Railway Museum. Dangar Falls was part of one of the prettiest rainforest areas one could wish for. Our way back to Macksville took us again through Belligen which gave us the opportunity to visit an old butter factory which 'surprisingly' had souvenirs for sale.

On the third morning, bus deposited us at Nambucca Heads to see the Vee Wall, a breakwater where visitors are encouraged to show their skills at painting and writing their appreciation of their visit to Nambucca. Then it was out past Bowraville to the 'pub with no beer.' See back page for Joy Cordeiro's story "A funny thing happened on the way to Macksville"



Page 5





Brenda's eldest son Darren graduated from the University of

Sydney Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Humanities Education) Honours class II Division 1. Since then he has become engaged to a fellow graduate. Both are now



teaching and plan to be married later in the year. Congratulations Darren and Heather.

Laurel's eldest daughter Keryne safely delivered twins (a pigeon pair) on 19 April, Patrick and Laura now join with thousands of other proud descendants of Ann Forbes.

Tince our last newsletter we have been very busy with so many different happenings. Firstly we took a drive down the coast to Kiama to the Family History Centre mainly to purchase microfiche on the convicts of Tasmania which this society has painstakingly indexed from records held in the Mitchell Library. If you are interested but unable to visit the Society, they will search the microfilm and supply relevant details of your convict from this index for a small fee of \$10 (please quote reference numbers). Anyone who has the opportunity to visit this Society will find a very helpful group of volunteers who are more than willing to do everything possible to assist you with your research.

At the break of dawn on 25 April along with thousands of others we witnessed the daunting sound of the 'Last Post' played by the Lone Bugler silhouetted against the ghost-like buildings of the city skyrise. As we stood motionless with heads bowed in honour of the Anzacs who fought for the freedom of our country, emotions ran high with many wiping tears from their eyes as wreaths were laid for fallen comrades at the cenotaph.

At 9.00am throngs of people lined the streets of Sydney to witness the parade of the many Servicemen whose battalions regroup on this special day to march in honour of fallen comrades. Many young faces could be seen among the crowds indicating the growing interest in Anzac Day, also there were many young children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren marching with family medals along with their fathers and/or grandfathers, ensuring the tradition of Anzac lives on. Laurel's 10year-old granddaughter, Megan Johns, proudly wearing her great-grandfather's medals, marched alongside her Pop.

At St Andrew's Cathedral a grassed area was roped off for those wishing to place small white crosses in memory of their family and friends.

LEST WE FORGET.

On 23 May along with 15 other ladies we did a tour of St James's Church, the Mint and Hyde Park Barracks.

It was a beautiful autumn day and just perfect for this type of tour. Among the group from the Liverpool & District Family History Society were three other First Fleet descendants, Joy Cordeiro, who came up from Wollongong for the day, Kath Smith and June Bigham.

We met outside St James's and were given a guided tour through the church by the Verger.

St James's Church was originally intended as a courthouse when the foundation stone was laid on 7 October 1819. It has been open now for worship since 1824 and is the oldest ecclesiastical structure in the city of Sydney. The convict Francis Greenway who was transported to New South Wales for forgery was the architect. The church was consecrated in February 1824 by the Rev Samuel Marsden. Sydney was still a small town and the congregation were living in close proximity to the church. However by the 1880s the congregation started to dwindle as the population spread further afield.

The convict stigma which had become attached to the building by this time was effaced by the restoration of the exterior in 1894 by Varney Parkes and total remodelling of the interior by J. H. Buckeridge in 1900. (How unfortunate that this type of history needed to be removed.)

A very high pulpit from which the sermons were delivered dominated the interior whilst parishioners who paid an annual rent for pews were at floor level and visitors and the poor were relegated to the free seating at the back.

Several alterations to the building occurred over the years, the last being in 1900 when all but the memorial tablets were renewed. Many memorials to our early colonists and parishioners are visible in the walls and stained glass windows of the church.

Beneath the church is a large crypt, which over the years has served many purposes, for parish schools, as a verger's residence, as a shelter for servicemen in war time and now as parish offices and kitchen facilities.



A beautiful mural painted by Turramurra artists in 1930 covers the walls of a children's chapel, featuring an unfinished Harbour Bridge.

During the tour our attention wandered to the huge organ, and the memorial to the men of the parish who served in World War I, also the side chapel redesigned in 1988 and funded by the Bicentennial Council of NSW and parishioners.

Records of the parish are complete from consecration in 1824, information can be obtained by applying in writing to: The Archivist, St. James's Church, 173 King Street, Sydney 2000.

With the lunch hour upon us we took the opportunity to use the cafeteria on the 14th floor of the law couns just opposite. From this level one has a perfect view of our beautiful city overlooking St Mary's Cathedral, Hyde Park,

and so many familiar modern and historic buildings. (Try this venue one day when looking for somewhere to lunch.)

From here we moved across to the Mint and Hyde Park Barracks directly opposite where our afternoon session called 'Raise High the roof-beams carpenter tour' (a guided tour of the buildings, not the working of the mint) was to begin. This building has seen many changes over its lifetime and little of its original self remains today. Heleanor Feltham, Bob Crosby and Gary Crockett were our guides. Heleanor's talk was more the historic side of the building and its occupants, while Bob, a carpenter by trade, gave a more detailed account of the construction and the materials used throughout various periods. Gary spoke mainly on the Hyde Park Barracks and how people now interpret Macquarie's dream of the growing colony.

After a talk on the numerous changes to the architectural design of the building we proceeded to the third floor which has been restored as near as possible to its original state utilising a variety of evidence from the period of convict occupancy. At this point our talk became very relaxed as we swung in hammocks similar to the originals which had been dismantled at the cessation of convict transportation when the building was redesigned in 1848 to receive the first Irish immigrants.

A very drowsy group was then ushered back to the remaining approximate fifth of the original coining factory for the final section of our tour which included a talk on the tools used throughout the earlier period of the colony. Delicious devonshire teas were then served to conclude a wonderful day.

PS: The Barracks tour is not recommended for those unable to ascend stairs with ease.

From top: St James's Church, Hyde Park Barracks, Mint Building





Page 7

A funny thing happened on the way to Macksville

Woonona Railway Station is not that important, but I always catch the train there.

Well imagine my surprise when on Monday, 6 May, whilst waiting to catch my connection to Macksville XPT, I met three First Fleeters.

I'm a great talker as many of you know and I began gossiping to the middle-aged couple beside me and who told me they were lapsed members of the Fellowship. I had just begun to encourage them to rejoin when two men appeared (probably father and son). Imagine my surprise when, in answer to the older couple's query, 'Where are you off to, Ray?' the son said: 'Oh, Dad's off to Macksville.'

Joy, of course, had to butt in and ask was Dad going with the Fellowship of First Fleeters. 'Yes,' he replied. John Nicholls is their forebear.

Wasn't it coincidental. However, it did not stop there. A young woman got in at Thirroul and she and her case sat beside me. Well now, would you expect me not to ask if she by any chance was going to Macksville, too? No – shame. Wasn't long though before I discovered a forebear was Matthew Everingham – she knew he was a First Fleeter but didn't know about the Fellowship, its aims or the social contacts with outings, etc. So we exchanged addresses and I have to post the information to her, so she 'most probably will join,' she said.

A short time later another lovely surprise was in store for me; Ted and Sylvia Tynan made their presence known, and they too were en route to join us for the week.

I will let somebody else tell you about the XPT to Armidale – by golly we were very close to going there!!

Well, we had a wonderful holiday, weatherwise great, scenery incredible, company superb. So, I'd like to say thank you to Phyllis for all her efforts in arranging the trip.

The train journey back to Woonona was most interesting, we never stopped talking and this time Max's son, Ray, has promised he will join the Fellowship too, as his mum is already a member. Ray lives very close to me I discovered so one more new member, I hope! Wow! What fun I've had 'encouraging all these folk.'

JOY CORDEIRO (#6155)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

PERIOD 28 MARCH TO 22 MAY 1996

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period – 13 adults, ten juniors, two spouse associates.

BENJAMIN CUSLEY: Mr Charles Lawrence Hargrave; Miss Rachel Maree Hargrave (jun.); Mr Matthew Lynsay Hargrave (jun.).

WILLIAM HUBBARD: Mrs Patricia Margaret Thrift.

NATHANIEL LUCAS – OLIVIA GASCOIGNE: Mrs Pamela Meriel Grace; Mr John Maurice Murphy (sp. Mrs Carol Ann Murphy); Mrs Kay Christene North.

JOHN NICHOLLS: Mr Peter John Phillips.

SAMUEL PIGOTT: Miss Jessica May Van Der Leeden (jun.); Mrs Jane Margaret Waldron.

JOHN ROBERTS: Mrs Lesley Patricia St Jack (sp. Mr Kevin James St Jack).

ANTHONY ROPE – ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mrs Patricia Mary Spence; Mr Anthony Alfred Spence; Mrs Kathleen Maria Rose. JOHN SMALL – MARY PARKER + MICHAEL MURPHY: Miss Ashleigh Madison Johns (jun.); Mr Christopher John Hannibal (jun.); Mr Matthew Thomas Hannibal (jun.); Miss Rebecca Elizabeth Hannibal (jun.); Miss Jordana Kristine Najar (jun.); Mr Cameron Richard Rubenach (jun.); Mr Daniel Michael Rubenach (jun.).

DANIEL STANFIELD – ALICE HARMSWORTH: Mrs Susan Meppem.

WILLIAM WALL: Mrs Patricia May Warren.

DEATH NOTICES

Deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following:

FREDA COOK (#3012) passed away 16 April 1996, of Alstonville (Lismore/Ballina). Aged 89 years. Descendant of First Fleeter Samuel Piggott.

RICHARD E. HOGG (#1732) of Mitcham, Victoria, beloved husband of Sadie M. Hogg. Descendant of First Fleeter. Descendant of First Fleeters David Collins – Ann Yeates.



BIRTHS

A warm welcome for the following New First Fleeters:

BENJAMIN KEITH CHRISTIAN (F.F. Matthew Everingham – William Tunks), 29 May 1996. Son of Matthew and Sarah. Eighth grandchild of Peter and Joy Christian.

LAURA JOANNE COULTER (F.F. Patrick Burn – Ann Smith), 30 March 1996. Second daughter of Toni and – Trevor Coulter, second greatgrandaughter of Jean Coulter (#2727). Eighth generation.

RHIANNA KATE EMMA DAWSON (F.F. John Cross), 24 May 1995. A daughter to Martin and Kathryn (nee Murray), a granddaughter to Lola and Leonard (#2437) Murray. Seventh generation.

RYAN JAMES KING (F.F. John Cross), 26 March 1996. A brother to Alana and son to Selwyn and Jeaneete (nee Murray), a grandson to Lola and Leonard (#2437) Murray. Seventh generation.

PATRICK ANTHONY and LAURA ALISON ROSATA (F.F. Ann Forbes), 19 April 1996, a pair for Keryne and Serge and a brother and a sister for Michael, of course twin grandchildren for Laurel McMiles (#5601). Eighth generation.