

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO OUR WEBMASTER BOB RICKARDS

Webmaster for the Fellowship for the past nine years, #7715 **Robert (Bob) James Rickards** descends from FF **Henry Kable**, Convict, *Friendship* & FF **Susanah Holmes** Convict, *Friendship*.

Director John Boyd has the story:

Following the approval by the Board at its 27 May 2021 Board Meeting, I was joined by FFF South Coast Chapter President and Board Member #4858 **Kerrie Anne Christian** (FF **John Small**, Convict, *Charlotte*, FF **Mary Parker**, Convict, *Lady Penrhyn* and FF **James Bradley**, Convict, *Scarborough*), together with Bob's wife #7715.1 **Dorothy** and FFF SCC Members #7995.1 **Heather Paul** (FF Associate) and #7761 **Dorothy Conkey** (FF **Richard Partridge**, Convict, *Scarborough* & FF **Mary Greenwood**, Convict, *Lady Penrhyn*) for afternoon tea on Wednesday 9 June to present a very surprised Bob Rickards with his **FFF LIFE MEMBERSHIP Badge**.

A big thankyou to **Ian Palmer** who was able to access the safe at First Fleet House, obtain a FFF Life Membership Badge on Thursday 3 June and mail the same to me. It arrived on Monday 7 June in the pm post and it was engraved the following day in Dapto.

Once that was completed, I arranged with Dorothy and Co to attend an 'Afternoon Tea' at the Rickards home to make the presentation on Wednesday afternoon.

Bob first joined the Fellowship on 12 February 2003, but due to work commitments he resigned in 2006. Upon retirement he re-joined on 29 August 2009, together with his wife Dorothy as an Associate.

When #5527 **Ron Withington** (FF **William Parish**, Convict, *Alexander* & FF **Phebe Norton**, Convict, *Lady Penrhyn*) in 2009 became Website Director, he looked to update and modernise the Fellowship's Site, noting in his report

to the Annual General Meeting that year, that he 'particularly would like to express the gratitude of the Fellowship to member Bob Rickards for his valued counsel and technical expertise in setting up and managing the site'



With the resignation of Ron in August 2012, Bob became the FFF Webmaster, a position that he has held until June 2021 when Kerrie Anne Christian took over as the Web Weaver.

Bob has also setup and maintained the FFF South Coast Chapter Website since 2010.

I have had the very great pleasure of working with Bob over the past 9 years in building the FFF Website to what it is today- he was always very open to any idea or process that would improve it.

Together we worked on the following in particular:

- The CHAPTERS page.
- The SHIPS Page listing every First Fleeter on the ship that they arrived on with a link to their story.
- And most importantly the GRAVESITE PLAQUES page which now has the photos, descriptions and other links for the 99 Individual Plaque Ceremonies undertaken since 1976 and the 23 Commemorative Plaques installed since 1988.

A very well deserved honour for Bob and a very big thankyou from the Fellowship for all that he has contributed to ensure the Fellowship is both accessible and interesting.

Bob is the third member of South Coast Chapter to receive Life Membership, following #6409 Jean Mortimer (FF **William Tyrrell**, Convict, *Alexander*) in 2009 and #7163 John Boyd in 2018.

#7163 John Boyd (FF **Edward Whitton**, Convict, *Scarborough*), Board Member & Website Coordinator
June 2021

