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The Granville Guardian

Patron Laurie Ferguson M.P. B.Ec.(Syd) M.A.(Syd)

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The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 25th August 2012 at our Research Centre 62 Railway Parade Granville Executive Meeting 1.00 pm

Guest Speaker

Judith Dunn OAM

“Looking Beyond the Obvious”

Our Centre is open every Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm and on the fourth Saturday of the month for personal research.

Visitors and members of family history societies are welcome.

A fee applies for non-members

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

“A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated.”

The annual general meeting has been and gone; many thanks to the people who served us for the 2011-2012 term, and I would like to thank all members who resumed office for the new term:

President Barry Bullivant, Vice president Stephanie Humphreys, Secretary/ Treasurer June Bullivant, Committee Arthur Naylor, Betty Higginson, Maureen McManus, Colin Humphreys, and Susan Russell.

We have had to write to Parramatta City Council and the Parramatta Heritage Office re objections to putting portals through the original fabric of the eastern side of the Lennox Bridge. Everyone will be aware that when the bridge was widened in the 1930’s to accommodate the tram line to Castle Hill, the original fabric was not touched; the western side was added to the bridge and the design was sympathetic to the original bridge. It appears that a letter has been sent out with and I quote, “*Council’s Reference Number should be quoted in any enquiries and or correspondence and any person objecting to the proposal should state the land they own or occupy and the reasons for their objections*”

The DA/425/2012 and I feel that this is done to discourage anyone other than the people in the adjacent area near the bridge from putting in a submission objecting to the proposal. Members, this is a bigger issue than just the few people who live around the bridge, we believe that this is an Australian icon; we have not much Heritage left in Parramatta, and this is the fourth time that the community has fought for the retention of the bridge in the past century. The argument being used now is the widening of the bridge in the 1930’s, next they will want to pull it down because the eastern side has been defaced and the bridge weakened by putting portals through. **Leave our Heritage Alone; find**

another way to get bicycles and pedestrians to the other side. Please put your submissions in before 4.30 pm on Monday 3rd September to Bradley Delapierre, Development Officer, PO Box 32 Parramatta NSW 2124, and also to the Heritage Office Parramatta, 3 Marist Place Parramatta NSW 2150.

Vale John “Jack” Makin

Jack was born on the 29th August 1923 to Norman and May Makin née Elliott, and died on August 10 at Nepean Hospital.. His siblings were Jane, born in Granville 1922, died in 1998; John Derrett, born in Granville, died in 1922, brother Norman, born in Granville 1926, and died in 2010.

Norman and May Makin were living at “Clarice Villa” in High Street Harris Park until 1930. Norman’s occupation was listed as butcher’s labourer. By 1933 they had moved to 147 Sydney Road, (now Parramatta Road) Granville. May died in 1940, and in December 1945, Jack married Alvie May Hall at Cootamundra. They moved to Blaxcell Street Granville in 1949. Jack and Alvie had three children, Maureen, Mark, and Barbara, who died on 30th January 1964 and is buried with her grandparents Norman and May in the Independent Section of Rookwood Cemetery. Jack had seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Jack attended the Parramatta Central Primary School and then the Hurlstone Agricultural High School. Family members attended the Salvation Army Church.

Jack had enlisted in the RAAF on the 19th March 1942 at Granville. He was posted to Training School at Parkes, then moved to Ultimo, and on to 1 Engineering School at Ascot Vale on the 14th June 1942 where he completed his training as a flight rigger. He was then posted to 1 Airfield Defence Squadron at Cootamundra on the 21st August 1942. Jack attained the rank of Leading Aircraftsman. He was awarded the Australian War Medal 1939-1945 and the Australian Service Medal 1939-1945.

Jack joined the Parramatta RSL; he also loved his sport, and being a life-long Eels supporter, he had season tickets during the eighties. He liked playing golf, tennis, squash, soccer, and ten pin bowling. Jack worked as a volunteer for the Granville Magpies, his local soccer club, spending many hours performing numerous tasks that were needed.

Jack was a member of the Granville Historical Society and wrote a number of books on the history of Granville, the business owners, the hotels and his mates. He even knew the local fire bug who set fires in Granville, particularly the Rowell’s Timber Yard fire. This Society owes Jack a debt of gratitude for his memories and his effort in recording the history of our area.

After Alvie passed on, Jack moved to Kingswood Court nursing home, where he enjoyed life and made many new friends amongst the residents and staff. His dream breakfast was bacon, sausages, eggs and hot toast, his favourite meal was steak and chips, and dessert was pavlova, washed down with a beer.

May Jack rest in peace.

We would like to acknowledge Ray & Maureen Sloane for the story on his life.

Barry G Bullivant OAM

<p>A Day of Destiny Famous Parramatta Man David Lennox By June Bullivant OAM</p>

It was spring 1832, Major (later Sir) Thomas Livingston Mitchell walked in Macquarie Street, Sydney where stonemasons were working on the coping stone of the low wall in front of the Legislative Council Chambers. The Tap, Tap of the chisels on the stone came to the Major's ears, but his thoughts were in the Blue Mountains. He had just accomplished an important deviation there, but a vast gully worried him. A bridge was needed, and bridge builders were scarce in Australia in 1832.

Tap! Tap! Major Mitchell's glance was arrested by a short, wiry man. Blue eyed, fair-haired, young, (David was 44 years old) the man was evidently enjoying his work. The Major asked his name and how long he had been in Australia.

"David Lennox, sir" was the reply "I was born in Ayr, Scotland, and came to Australia on the Florentia on August 11 this year." Then he told how, in the old country, he had worked as a mason under master bridge builders, taking part in the building of Gloucester Bridge and also one over the Severn.

At once the Major took the man to his office, and to David Lennox that spring day was a day of destiny, for during the next forty years he was David Lennox, Bridge Builder. His first commission was Lennox Bridge on Lapstone Hill, and by July 1833, the arched stone bridge spanning the gully was complete. It stands today in its picturesque setting, strong and beautiful after one hundred and seventy nine years – an historic landmark. David Lennox proved himself not only efficient, but a born leader of men, who formed his own band of masons. Many of them were prisoners, who through splendid service, won well earned freedom. David Lennox said: "I never began any work which I did not finish to the satisfaction of all parties," and Lennox Bridge is his testimony in stone. On the keystone on the up-stream side of the bridge is cut the name of the builder "David Lennox" and on the other side A.D. 1833.¹

David Lennox, the builder of the first bridges on the Australian mainland, was a resident of Parramatta. He was born in 1788 in Ayr, Scotland, and arrived in Australia in 1832 with considerable knowledge of bridge building. His wife had died young; he emigrated to Australia leaving his two daughters with his sister. By 1st October he was appointed by the Government as Sub-Inspector of Roads.

¹ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday 21 June 1941, page 9, article by O.Z

In 1835 Lennox began his association with the district which was to accept him, perhaps take him for granted, as one of its famous names and where he was eventually to spend his days of retirement. In the crowded main thoroughfare of Parramatta today, few pause to read the plaque set up on the Lennox Bridge by the Department of Main Roads in 1935. Today, traffic speeds over it in a way that Lennox could never envisaged, but he would have been proud to see its smooth clean span still firmly curving over the river, just as he designed it.²

In 1844, Lennox moved to Melbourne as Superintendent of Bridges, in charge of all roads, bridges, ferries and wharves in the Port Phillip District. He retired from this position after nine years, and in 1855 returned to Parramatta and built a cottage at 4 Campbell Street. His daughters Mary and Jane had come to Australia in 1837, and Jane moved in with him at Campbell Street. David Lennox died at his Parramatta home on 12th November 1873, and is buried in St John's Cemetery with his daughter Mary, who passed away at the very early age of twenty-one. His name is not inscribed on the grave, but his memory is perpetuated in the names of Lennox and Lansdowne Street, Parramatta.

Workmen engaged on the widening of Lennox Bridge in 1934 discovered a number of galleries and passageways of stone and several cell-like compartments a few feet below the road surface. After shifting a quantity of masonry on the eastern side, they found a flight of stone steps leading under the bridge roadway. They explored the passageway and found two galleries about ten feet high, intersected occasionally by small rooms about six feet long and four feet high. On the western side there is no opening, the decision was then taken that the widening was to be on the western side. Mr J.K.S. Houison, then secretary of the Parramatta Historical Society and treasurer of the Royal Australian Historical Society said it was likely the galleries were used as observation galleries or store rooms for tools during the building of the bridge.³

During the depression in the 1930's, homeless families and people would sleep in the galleries out of the cold and rain.

In 2012 the community is still fighting to keep his bridge intact. The eastern side is the original fabric; the western side is the addition. David Lennox would be turning in his grave if he could see what they are trying to do to his bridge.

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² Joyce Cole, *Parramatta River Notebook*, page 58

³ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday 18 August 1934, page 15

<p>MAYS HILL CEMETERY INDEX</p>
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An important index for family history researchers is the Mays Hill Cemetery Index. This contains an alphabetical and searchable list of 2,500 inscriptions from grave sites, as well as images of memorials.

Mays Hill Cemetery, on the Great Western Highway at Parramatta, was originally known as the Western Road Cemetery, and contains the graves of many district pioneers, dating from 1839.

The webpage is:

<http://austcemindex.com/cemetery-inscriptions.php?id=801&page=all>

This is part of the Australian Cemeteries Index:

<http://austcemindex.com/>

<p>CORNSTALK</p>

This is a word that has all but disappeared from the Australian vernacular. It seems from old newspaper reports that it came into use in the early 1820s to describe native-born non-indigenous colonials in New South Wales. It was even used in the London press in 1899, when the Daily Graphic, reporting on the arrival of the New South Wales Lancers, described the troopers as ‘ a hard and tough looking lot of young men of the typical cornstalk type’.

The Oxford Companion to Australian Literature gives this definition:

Was originally used early in the nineteenth century to denote a colonial-born, White Australian, as opposed to those born overseas; the word derived from the physique of the colonial-born, who were thought to be taller and fairer than the European-born and had thus flourished like the Indian corn brought to Australia. With the spread of settlement 'cornstalk' narrowed in meaning to apply to someone born in NSW as distinct from the other colonies (cf. 'croweater', 'sandgroper'), as in Henry Lawson's poem 'Jack Cornstalk'. Synonyms for 'cornstalk' in its original sense included 'currency' and 'native'. There was a 'Jack Cornstalk' series in the Australian Star in 1899, and the word itself was sometimes used in titles and for pseudonyms, e.g. Land of Australia: Songs and Verses by Samuel Cornstalk (1913) by F.S. Walker. Daniel Healey wrote 'The Cornstalk' His Habits and Habitat (1893), a mixture of satirical prose and verse, and J.H.M. Abbott, in Tommy Cornstalk (1902), related some of the Australian soldiers' experiences in the Boer War. Many Australian stage characters in the nineteenth century bore the name Cornstalk.

Locally, politician George Thornton wrote in the 1860s a popular dance tune, *Cornstalk Polka*, which John Nobbs once described as the first piece of national music. Thornton grew up at his grandparents' home in Sorrell Street North Parramatta, and died there in 1901. There was at one time a Cornstalk Hotel in North Parramatta.

During the Boer War, *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate* often used 'cornstalk' in headings and reports on the involvement of the New South Wales Bushmen's Contingent in the fighting.

According to a newspaper report in 1909, Victorians were sometimes known as 'Gumsuckers' because that State 'is noted for its gum trees'; South Australians were 'Crow-eaters' in reference to the consumption of crows as food in times of drought; Queenslanders were 'Banana-eaters'; West Australians were 'Sand-gropers' because of the State's hot and arid desert areas, and Tasmanians were sometimes known as 'Jam-eaters' because of the island's fruit farms.

LINNWOOD OPEN DAY

The Friends of Linnwood are holding an Open House day at historic Linnwood, 25 Byron Road Guildford, on Sunday 9 September from 11 am to 4 pm.

There'll be a History Fair, featuring displays by local historical and family history societies, a display of memorabilia by Merrylands Police Station, celebrating 150 years of policing in New South Wales, a colonial police and military display, a display of military vehicles including World War II jeeps, arts and crafts stalls, and music by the Toongabbie Music Club.