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The Granville Guardian

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

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The annual general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 24 July 2010 at our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville
Executive Meeting 1.00 pm

Guest Speaker:

Jack Brook

“Governor Lachlan Macquarie”

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 ANNUAL REPORT

“A place where Heritage and Culture is valued and celebrated”

This month is the AGM, I would like to thank all members for their continued support and work during the last twelve months. We have had a lot of research done by Maureen McManus, Maureen goes over and beyond the call of duty, attending the Heritage Centre and taking photos; she did it all even though her illness tried to slow her down. I thank Arthur Naylor for stepping in for Daphne Wiles, managing the database, when she had to take leave due to illness. Our thanks also for the work he does out of hours, taking photographs, research, scanning photographs and the many things that he manages to do for the society. The work of the centre room girls is also greatly appreciated: Stephanie Humphreys doing database entry even after her stint of illness is back and working; Di Normoyle for taking office and doing a mighty job of making a spreadsheet of the Metcalfe and Morris records. thank you to Robyn Gibson and Betty Higginson for their efforts working on the same project, and June Parkins, who despite being ill worked at mounting photos. Also to the girls who keep us fed, we haven’t had to buy a packet of biscuits for the twelve months, Betty Higginson, Maureen McManus & Di Normoyle.

In the back room, John Parkins has been entering A F Anderson cards into the database, and I have been preparing PowerPoints for the many speaking engagements (we have averaged one a month this year). Middle room boys Dennis Lovely, John Tompsett, and John Scarborough who has been working through St Anne’s Church Merrylands records and St Marks registers into the database. Front room boys Arthur Naylor and of course Colin Humphreys our research guru and newsletter editor, thank you Colin, we have had only positive feedback and many compliments about the Guardian. Front room girl June Bullivant has also worked diligently this year, obtaining grants from Shell Australia,

the Department of Environment & Water (volunteer grant) and a Stories grant from Parramatta City Council.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank the people who took office for this year: Stephanie Humphreys, Di Normoyle, Maureen McManus, Betty Higginson, Colin Humphreys, Daphne Wiles, Arthur Naylor, Susan Russell, June Bullivant & Barry Bullivant. Daphne Wiles is progressing slowly; she and her work are sorely missed especially by June as Daphne would organise her, keep the front room tidy, and organise the many tasks that keep the society running smoothly. We wish her a full recovery and a speedy return to normal living. I would also thank the members who have supported us by donating photographs, records, and general material for our archives. George Pearce is assisting us with the history of Wentworth Street and the Duck River area, taking photographs and writing it all, we thank every one of you.

I would also like to thank the appointed officers who hold office, namely David Eglon, for being Public Officer and our publicity officer.

Our successes have been many this year again, we showed the DVD of 1914-1990 video to the Granville RSL members, and it was received well. We have spoken to over fifteen groups in the last twelve months, and we will launch Thomas Fowlie's "The History of Granville" as a talking book next month, a first for any historical society. Copies will be sent to 75 vision impaired people in the Parramatta Local Government area, Legal Deposits, the Parramatta Heritage Centre and local libraries. We have obtained grants and acquitted them and this has managed to keep all members busy.

The research division headed by Maureen McManus that we spoke about has had an extremely busy year, handling over twenty enquiries from email alone, plus the ones from the snail mail. The website has attracted 1,200 hits per month, a good result from a small website. Our society is well known and respected by many, and we look forward to the next 12 months.

Barry & June Bullivant and Susan & Barry Russell represented the Society at the Civic Reception to farewell Bishop Manning in the Granville Town Hall on the 9th July 2010. June and I went into town and presented the PowerPoint The Lady Bushranger to The First Fleeters.

Barry G Bullivant OAM President

THE FROMELLES WAR CEMETERY

This week, the remains of the last of the 250 Australian and British soldiers, recovered from mass graves on the Fromelles battleground of World War I, were re-interred with full military honours at a ceremony in France.

The battle of Fromelles, on 19 and 20 July 1916, was the bloodiest 24 hours in Australian history, with 5,533 Australian soldiers killed, wounded, or missing.

The remains of a Granville man could be among those recovered. Private Horace Frederick Robinson is included in a list of 191 Australian soldiers who were killed at Fromelles and known to be buried by German troops. However he is not one of the 96 whose remains have been identified. Private Robinson, aged 20, a clerk of Cowper Street Granville, who served with the 30th Battalion, was initially reported missing after Fromelles. Confirmation of his death came when the German War Office returned his

identification disc in March 1917. Born in Kent, England, he came to Australia at the age of 17, and worked as a clerk before enlisting on 20 July 1915.¹

Three other Granville men, with no known graves, and who died in the Battle of Fromelles, are commemorated in V.C. Corner at the Australian Cemetery and Memorial at Fromelles.

Twenty-year-old Private Henry Flude, of the 54th Battalion, son of John and Lydia Flude of Campbell's Hill Road South Granville, enlisted at Granville in October 1915. He sailed from Sydney for Egypt in December 1915, and landed in France on 29 June 1916. He was born in Rockhampton Queensland, and educated at South Granville Public School.²

Private James George Pamphlet, of the 59th Battalion, a morse code operator, was two months past his 18th birthday when he was killed on 19 July. He was born in England and came to Australia in 1914 to join his sister Emma, who had married a Granville resident the previous year. He enlisted in September 1915 at the age of 17, arrived in Egypt for training in the following February and was with the 59th Battalion when it landed in France in June 1916.³

Private John Edward Watkins, 19, of the 53rd Battalion, son of Evan Watkins of Cohen Street Granville and formerly of Merrylands, was cut down by a bullet in the initial charge, and then was shot and killed by a sniper as he crawled back to his own lines. Born in Newcastle, he was a coppersmith by trade, and enlisted at Granville on 25 February 1915.⁴

Other soldiers from Granville, killed in the battle, were 23-year-old Private William Hugh Robertson, also of the 53rd Battalion. He was born at Nowra but worked as a shop assistant for a Granville grocer before enlisting on 27 June 1915. He was initially posted as missing, and his parents John and Jessie Robertson of Wollongong would have to wait more than a year before his death was confirmed in August 1917.⁵

Twenty-five-year-old Private William Jarvis, of the 54th Battalion, had lived with his guardian, William Burbank, in Virginia Street Granville, after the death of his parents when he was a boy. He enlisted in August 1915, embarked for Egypt three months later, and arrived in France on 29 June. Private Jarvis lay wounded on the battlefield for several hours before stretcher bearers found him and took him to a casualty clearing station where he died.⁶

¹ National Archives of Australia (NAA): B2455, Robinson H F 1312; Australian War Memorial (AWM): Roll of Honour (ROH) Circular, Red Cross Report

² NAA: B2455, Flude H 3494, AWM: ROH Circular;

³ NAA: B2455, Pamphlet James George 3860; AWM: ROH Circular, Red Cross Report

⁴ NAA: B2455, Watkins John Edward 715; AWM: ROH Circular, Red Cross Report; *Cumberland Argus*, 9 September 1916, p. 12

⁵ NAA: B2455, Robertson William Hugh 2944; AWM: ROH Circular; *Cumberland Argus* 6 Oct 1917, p. 4

⁶ NAA: B2455, Jarvis William 3328; AWM: ROH Circular

A third soldier from the 54th Battalion, Private Joseph Henry Eaves, 21, son of Silas and Clara Eaves of Kemp Street Granville, was wounded in the assault on enemy trenches but was captured by the Germans after the Australians withdrew from the ground they had taken. He died three weeks later on 14 August in the Etap Valenciennes Hospital in France while a prisoner of war in German hands. He was born at Mittagong, and worked as a draper and a motor mechanic before enlisting in September 1915. He joined the 54th Battalion in Egypt in February, and arrived in France with his Granville mates at the end of June.⁷

Private Walter Henry Coulter, of the 56th Battalion, also 23, died of his wounds while being carried to a field ambulance. A former pastrycook, and the son of James and Ada Coulter, he was born at Newtown, and enlisted in July 1915.⁸

Nineteen-year-old Private Harold Walter Smith, of the 2nd Battalion, a former apprentice to a Granville coach builder, was also killed in the Fromelles action on 19/20 July 1916. He was born at Merrylands, went to school at Merrylands Public School, and sang in the Methodist Church choir. He had enlisted just nine months before he was killed, and arrived in France at the end of March. His parents, Alexander and Sarah Ann Smith, had another son in the AIF, William Alfred Smith, who died of his wounds in August 1918.⁹

Bombardier Stanley Francis Chippindale, 22, of Boundary Street Parramatta, son of a Granville postman, John Chippindale, was born in Parramatta, educated by the Marist Brothers and worked as a shop assistant in a men's mercery store. He was posted to the 12th Light Horse Regiment when he enlisted in August 1915, but was so keen to join the fighting that he transferred to the 25th Brigade Australian Field Artillery and left for the war front two months later. At Petillon near Fromelles on 19/20 July 1916 he was working as a telephone specialist in the front line trenches when a shell exploded, burying him under debris and soil. Other soldiers freed him, and he continued to work non-stop for 12 hours, maintaining communications at the front. His bravery and dedication to duty won him the Distinguished Conduct Medal. But he was wounded in the same engagement, and was evacuated to Newcastle-upon-Tyne in northern England. The wounds were healing well until he developed pneumonia and died on 17 August 1916.¹⁰

Colin Humphreys

⁷ NAA: B2455, Eaves J H 4165; AWM: Red Cross Report

⁸ NAA: B2455, Coulter W H 3254; AWM: ROH Circular

⁹ NAA: B2455, Smith H W 3622; AWM: ROH Circular, Red Cross Report, *Cumberland Argus*, 12 August 1916, p. 4

¹⁰ NAA: B2455 Chippindale S F 1634; AWM: ROH Circular, Honours and Awards Recommendations (First World War), Red Cross Report; *Cumberland Argus*, 2 September 1916, p. 10, 30 September 1916.

JULY SPEAKER

Our guest speaker at this month's meeting is author and historian, Jack Brook, who will speak about Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

In 2008, Jack Brook was the winner of the inaugural Blacktown Mayoral History Prize for his 'significant and sustained contribution to an understanding of the history of Blacktown and its Aboriginal history'. He's also the author of *The Seven Hills: A Village Divided: A Suburb United*.

He is a Fellow and Life Member of the Blacktown and District Historical Society, and has had work published in the Australian National University's publication *Aboriginal History* and the Journal of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Islander Studies

COLONIAL CRICKET

With an England cricket team set to play an Ashes Test series in Australia this year, the sporting focus this summer will be on Test Cricket.

The first English cricket team to tour Australia came here in 1862, but it wasn't until 1876/77 that two matches between Australian players and a visiting English team were deemed to have Test status. In the modern era, English teams tour Australia only every four years, but the early tours were not under official control and were privately organised. Between 1878 and 1900 there were eight visits by touring sides. Six of the sides that toured in the decade between 1881 and 1891 played at Parramatta.

The first was Shaw's Eleven in 1881, and it received an enthusiastic welcome before meeting a side of 22 local players on a rough and bumpy stretch of turf. The visitors were not accustomed to playing on such a difficult wicket and were beaten by five wickets. The English side played 18 matches in Australia, winning eight, losing three (two Tests and the two-day match against the Cumberland club at Parramatta) and drawing seven.

Shaw returned to Parramatta when the English toured again in 1884/85 and played an 18-man side representing the County of Cumberland. This time the local curator had prepared a good batting wicket and the county's captain, William A. Brodie, had no hesitation in electing to bat when he won the toss. But the crowd of about one thousand saw wickets tumble in quick succession and the locals were dismissed for 85. The English Eleven easily passed this total by the close of play, and were all out on the second day for 173. Maybury bowled exceptionally well for the home side to take nine wickets for 81. The County side did a little better in its second innings but despite a good knock of 43 by opening batsman T. Docker of Granville, it was all out for 96 and lost by nine wickets. England won the five-match Test series three-two.

In mid-November 1886, the County match was the opening game of the English tour. The tourists arrived at Granville by train from Albury, and after a welcome by Judge Ernest Docker (who had been selected in the County team) and Parramatta M.L.A. Hugh Taylor, were taken to their hotel in Parramatta. A heavy shower fell before the match commenced, and the local captain, William Brodie, on winning the toss, asked the opposition to bat first, hoping the rain-affected pitch would help his bowlers. His judgement proved correct and the 18-man County side took a first innings lead of six runs, but then collapsed for only 49 when batting a second time to lose by 23 runs. Judge Docker, Brodie, Tom Boon, James Cleeve and Nobbs failed to score in each innings, and seven other local batsmen were dismissed for no score in one of their innings. The English Test side won the two-match Test series two-nil.

Two English teams, led by Arthur Shrewsbury and George Vernon, visited Australia in the summer of 1887/88. Both played matches against 'Combined Australia' sides (which are not accorded Test status) and combined for a one-off Test against Australia, won by the English team. Both touring sides played at Parramatta.

In 1891, the legendary Doctor W.G. Grace came to Parramatta as captain of an English side brought here by Lord Sheffield, who later presented the Sheffield Shield for the domestic first class competition. Grace told the locals to field as many players as they wished, so 20 were included to oppose 12 Englishmen. The home side batted first and was all out for a paltry 67 runs, with only one batsman reaching double figures, and seven, including the former captain Brodie, failing to score. When England batted, Doctor Grace came to the wicket with his side five down for 45, but was bowled without adding to the score. The visitors won by 46 runs on the first innings.

A cricket club was formed at Parramatta Junction at the beginning of 1879, and played its first match on 8 February against Blacktown. The Junction team – J. Bergin, F. Hughes, J. Smedley, J. Stone, James Bergin, W. Smedley, Payten, H. Stone, J. Nobbs, Manton and Raynor crushed their opponents by an innings and nine runs.

Sources: Cricinfo website (Wisden Almanack)
Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate, 26 October 1936, Sesqui-centenary supplement
Cumberland Mercury, 15 February 1879, p. 3, 3 December 1884, p. 2,
 13 November 1886, p. 4, 17 November 1886, p. 2

Colin Humphreys