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The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 26 July 2014
At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville

Speaker

Dorothy Warwick & Pat O'Brien
Topic "Aussie Icons"

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

"A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated."

Annual Report July 2014

Granville Society has had a busy period of activity in the past few months. We would like to thank our members, and the people from our Forum Networks for the work and assistance that have been afforded to the Granville Society over the past 12 months. We would also thank Pat O'Brien and Dorothy Warwick for the opportunity they give our society by allowing us to participate in this forum but also to showcase our projects in the open days of Linnwood House. The popularity of the 'talking picture shows' has increased the need to design more topics for release. We have already shown *Parramatta the Cradle City*, and *Demolished Houses of NSW* which includes Parramatta. We are also working on The Big Fella, Jack Lang, Premier of NSW, Captain Arthur Phillip, his English roots, and his other service before he sailed to Australia and his service to this country, for the 200th anniversary of his death, and the 100th anniversary of the sending of an Australian contingent to German New Guinea at the start of World War 1. The research time for these three alone is tremendous. There are a couple more planned, including the story of Ben Hall the Bushranger, and one which will include some of the research into World War 1 soldiers from Parramatta.

The society has invited the newly retired journalist from the Parramatta Advertiser Di Bartok to come for a visit to our centre to see what resources we hold. After some 40 years in the job she will have interesting stories to tell.

Some of the warm and fuzzy moments of society activities come in helping young people with their assignments. To be able to give them information and point them in the direction for other details the society does not keep has been rewarding again this year. Young people struggling with self confidence can have fantastic sense of place when their assignment is used as an example for other classes to follow.

Also, a tribute to members who have contributed to their local communities and to our society, to tell the story of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in the local community, that goes unreported unless they are famous, is a tremendous local resource for future historians to find in years to come. A family history file is a fantastic resource for local history.

The society has endeavoured to raise our capacity and diversity of skill sets by reaching out to the wider community; to increase the interest in history for other people who are not that interested. This means thinking outside the realms of the usual historical aspects. Thus we have been working with the Arts groups to bring our history to a different type of audience. This appears to have had an effect on the young. We have been working with Wendy Blaxland, historian, author and playwright, to assist with public relations, with writing grant applications, and to bring history to young people in schools by supplying them with a vibrant, interesting and visual account of our history. The topic for this project is "CROSSING" a story of the crossing of the Blue Mountains.

In a second venture into the artist's field, we discovered a young artist of Vietnamese ancestry who loves to paint heritage buildings. We were successful in obtaining a grant to have him paint the Royal Gate in Parramatta in front of St John's Church, a memorial that is dedicated to people from that parish who were involved in World War 1, and also the War Memorial in Prince Alfred Square. The grant allows us to purchase the necessary equipment for his art work, and to purchase the framed paintings, which will be hung in a prominent place in Parramatta. The research for these two important WW1 icons is being carried out by Enid Turbit for the Prince Alfred Square and the Granville Society is doing the Royal Gate. This project alone is very interesting. We are receiving priceless information from people with a family member who served in the war. Hosford (Ken and Margaret Smith of Parramatta Historical Society) has supplied the stories of three of Margaret's family for the project (this will evolve into about 6 pages), and we have about 9 pages so far on the Anschau family. (John Anschau was the Parramatta Postmaster) We were lucky to locate the family archivist who was happy to supply us with original family information and photographs. We plan to make the information available for the community, by adding a dedicated website to our collection of sites.

For fun we added a couple of pages of scanned photos of World War 1 soldiers from the *Cumberland Argus* to the Granville Historical website. A couple more are yet to be added - just click on the photo and it comes up. There is no information yet about the soldier and his family, but that will be added as time permits, and the launch of the Granville families' stories should be accomplished by Anzac Day 2015. We also dropped 227 photos into a simple video programme and added some modern music, which took about an hour to do, and we had a 16 minute movie that can show the same soldiers but with a bit of animation and sound.

The compilation and indexation of Metcalfe and Morris records which were donated to the society by Guardian Funerals a few years ago is nearing completion. Members working on this project have produced spreadsheets that contain 34,104 entries from the information on the original funeral records. This has been a mammoth task, and we have just been donated the remainder of their plans, which are up to the present day I believe. This has made access to this valuable resource easier for family historians.

Barry G Bullivant OAM, President 2013-14

A Tribute to
 Darley Elizabeth Davey nee Pearson
 28 June 1922 to 1 July 2014



Victor Davey and Darley Pearson 3 April 1961

As a historical society which was started in the local community and the members being family historians, we feel that it is important to mark the passing of Darley Davey because both Darley and her late husband Vic lived a life of giving of themselves to the local community, and were also responsible for leaving a fantastic legacy to the Granville Community and the history of the area.

We have been fortunate to link up with family historians Joy and Allan Davidson, Joy being a Davey before she married Allan, who kindly assisted us with information to write this tribute. Darley's parents were James Charles Pearson and Elizabeth (Darley) Waldron. Her mother, Elizabeth, was born in Roscommon Ireland to Thomas Waldron and Mary Delaney, both born in Ireland and died in NSW.

Darley's father, James, was a Master Mariner, and Captain of the ship "Galava". Darley's paternal grandfather was Thomas Pearson, born in Ireland and who died in 1922, and Mary Pearson nee Ringrose, who was also born in Ireland and who died in 1896. Both deaths were registered in Granville. Darley had two brothers, Thomas and James, who both pre-deceased her.

Darley and Vic dedicated a lot of their time to their business, but also spent a lot of time working as dedicated members of the Holy Trinity Church, which was within walking distance of their Walter Street home. During our research into the history of Darley and Vic, we discovered that Darley's family was living at 109 Blaxcell Street Granville in 1930, and she was still living in that house when she married Victor Charles Davey on 3 April 1961. In 1936 Victor was living at 99 Trongate Street, Granville. Vic died on 26 August 1993 aged 78 years. I remember meeting Darley and Vic at a photographic display we had mounted in the Granville Town Hall for the Bicentenary of Australia in 1988. Darley and Vic were very interested that the historical society had been formed, and decided to join. They became keen members of our society.

Darley was a great typist and would type all of Vic's writings. Our archives have an incredible amount of their work with eighty seven articles listed on the database, including the first history of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, written by Vic and typed by Darley. This was donated by Vic and Darley, and called the Vic Davey Collection. (Darley never took credit) Vic was also a keen photographer and had a myriad of cameras in his collection and also did his own developing. Vic was responsible for donating a wide range of valuable photographs to the society collection.

Darley would come to the society every Wednesday and do data entry, sitting in the corner of the middle room in our old rooms at 2 Carlton Street, and only retired from this role when she gave up her driver's licence. Invited to our Christmas parties every year, it would clash with something else, but in 2013 she arrived and had a good time talking to all her old friends. She always told us that she wanted to live until she was 92, why that age we will never know.

Darley's nephew Steven delivered this moving tribute to his aunt at her funeral.

Eulogy for Darley by Steven Pearson



One day Darley said now that I am 84 I suppose I should make my funeral plans. She handed me a list of instructions and said, here it is and would you take care of it? At first I was speechless at her request. I had never said no to Darley in my life and I wasn't about to start. So here I am.

She told me, she really didn't want a eulogy, and that today's focus should be on the mass, honouring, praying and giving thanks to God. Two years ago she relented and said that I was the only person to say something but I was to keep it brief, and again she told me, six points that was important to her and I could share this with you today, it was quite brief.

Darley Elizabeth Pearson was born on 28 June 1922 at Kogarah. At the age of two her parents moved to Granville and she has been a member of Holy Trinity church community ever since. She went to the local catholic school, received her first communion, was confirmed, married and wanted to be buried from here. She loved her church and fellow parishioners.

Darley married Victor Charles Davey (Vic) in 1961 and they were married for 32 years until Vic's death in 1993.

Darley and Vic were very active in the Granville senior citizens for 34 years where they would organise social afternoons and extended bus trips. They were wonderful years and together many long term friendships were established and she was happy that so many people benefited from those activities.

While Darley and Vic were unable to have a family of their own she was an aunt, great aunt and great, great aunt to over 45 family members at last count. She truly loved her family and enjoyed when they would visit, and would always join in all the family activities. She really enjoyed watching them grow and develop, and never missed sending a birthday card, Christmas greeting or special celebration to each one of us. She always made us all feel so special and took an interest in all our activities.

Darley's mother was a very good example to her particularly in her faith, she did a wonderful job raising Darley, Thomas (Tom) my father and James my uncle Jim – they all had a very strong faith. Life for her mother was not easy, but Darley recalls that she never heard her complain once.

Darley joined the Legion of Mary in 1942 at the age of twenty. Darley was a foundation member of the first Legion Of Mary at Holy Trinity Granville along with Father Campion's mother. She was an active member for 60 years until it had to cease in 2002 and held all the offices of the Legion. Darley always had a special spiritual devotion to our lady and sought to emulate her message of Christ's love.



Lastly Darley loved her parish community here at Holy Trinity and she especially held her parish priest Father Campion in high esteem. She often would say "we are very lucky to have him, he's a wonderful priest and he'll do me." After Father Campion's retirement, she continued to visit him up until his death earlier this year. Darley commented if Father Campion is not in heaven we have no chance.

That's all Darley wanted me to say, but I just have to add a little more from a personal perspective. The only way I can really describe Darley is with one Word.....LOVE,

Her soul was full of God, and her heart full of love.

Darley's faith was deep and strong, but she lived her catholic beliefs in a simple fashion as a child of God. Her life was uncomplicated, but always meaningful. Whenever I was with Darley I often felt a goodness within her, which always gave me a welcoming feeling. I think many of us here today may have felt something similar that inner warmth that she had for all.

We all have special memories that we will hold dear to us, and it is those happy times which makes today somewhat difficult to let her go and we will miss her dearly. But as Darley had often been heard to say "if you're got your faith, then why grieve, and Darley certainly had her faith, and Darley would want us to be

happy, for I truly believe that she is with her heavenly father and mother and among the saints and enjoying her eternal reward. She is where she always wanted to be.

The last two weeks have been very difficult for Darley but she always remained positive and never complained, and would say how she has had a good life. Darley through her many examples showed us not only how to live a true Christian life but also how to die as a true follower of God and I thank God for making Darley a very important part of our life.

As I mention family was so important to Darley. As you know Darley wanted to live to 92 and God gave her that wish and she wanted the family to be together and have a pancake party. So we did and we all had a wonderful time at the age care facility. I would like to share a small letter of love she received from a very special young nephew who she truly loved who wrote....

"Hi Darley Happy birthday, I hope you have a great birthday you are the most oldest and wisest person I know you care for lots of people and you have the most kindest heart." I couldn't sum it up any betterlook at the effects she had on us all.



But I have to also add that you who are here today her fellow parishioners and friends were her faith family which she dearly loved here at Holy Trinity, no one was ever excluded, - in her heart everyone was welcome. I didn't realise how much you cared and loved her in return. It is your support over many years and especially over the last three months that enabled her to sustain whatever was ahead, knowing you were visiting and praying for her. You gave her courage and comfort knowing she was loved, this in turn made things a little easier for us, Darley's immediate family, you gave us support to cope with Darley's Calvary -- for which we will be eternally grateful, no wonder she loved coming to church.

As I said earlier Darley really didn't want a Eulogy, -- and I haven't really told you much you didn't already know or felt. But it is your presence here today that really make up the whole Eulogy everyone of you at some point contributed to shape Darley's journey in life. I think you all have a story that



you could tell and it's only when we all get to tell that story that we will find a most fascinating story indeed.

Finally if there was one thing Darley would want to be said after she met God last Tuesday the 1st of July it surely would be "well done good and faithful servant and maybe the Gallic blessing. "Cead mile failte "a hundred thousand welcomes.

After Mass we will be travelling to North Rocks catholic cemetery for Darley's burial, we understand if you are unable to travel there so we do want you to stay on and have a cuppa a bite to eat and we will join you afterwards. Share your story your eulogy those good times with others in the parish hall. We have some photographs mementos of Darley which we think will bring good memories.

Thank you for your presence, your love and prayers and do come and celebrate the life of a very special lady Darley Davey.

28/6/1922 - 1/7/2014

Late of Granville Beloved wife of Victor (deceased).

Loving sister of Thomas (deceased) and James (deceased). Cherished aunty to her many nieces & nephews, great nieces and nephews from the Pearson & Davey families. Born to Eternal

Life Aged 92 years Requiem Mass for the late Darley Davey will be offered at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Randle Street, Granville on Monday 7th July 2014 commencing at 10am.

Following the service the cortege will proceed to the North Rocks Cemetery for burial. In lieu of flowers please consider a Mass offering in loving memory of Darley. Merrylands 9682 4899 Proudly Australian Member AFDA - See more at: <http://tributes.smh.com.au/obituaries/smh-au/obituary.aspx?pid=171581160#sthash.IYfAnNNO.dpuf>



By June Bullivant OAM