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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 2.00pm on Saturday 27 September 2014
At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville**

*Speaker
Brenda Inglis-Powell
Soldiers of Different Armies*

TO CONTACT US

Write to

**P.O. Box 320
Granville NSW 2142**

Phone:

**9682 1290 (Wed. only)
9631 0216
(Barry & June Bullivant)**

Email:

granvillehistorical@bigpond.com

Website

www.granvillehistorical.org.au

Heritage Watch NSW Website

www.heritagewatchnsw.org.au

Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery

www.mayshillcemetery.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GranvilleHistoricalSocietyIncNswAustralia?ref=hl>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

The past month has been a very busy one. Speaking engagements have been a bit slower but Civic Events have increased due to the changeover of Lord Mayor and a flurry of important milestones.

Parramatta commemorated more than 125 years of military tradition with a parade in the Central Business District.

The nation's military history came alive as Parramatta celebrated more than 125 years of the Royal NSW Lancers with a street parade through the CBD featuring cavalry, tanks, armoured vehicles and the modern day Regiment and band.

The Parramatta Lancers Parade, which marks the raising of the 1st Light Horse (Australian Imperial Force) in 1914, now known as the 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers, paid tribute to Australia's servicemen and women and commemorates 100 years since the declaration of World War I.

The historic parade was attended by the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

The parade depicted an overview of the Lancers history, which began in 1885, and included Lancers in historic uniforms, alongside modern-day soldiers.



A Civic reception was given to the Lancers in the Parramatta Town Hall prior to the commencement of the Parade.

Congratulations must be extended to the Events Committee Parramatta City Council for the organisation of this event, partnering with the Parramatta Lancers, and everything ran

smoothly doing Parramatta proud. The parade commenced at Parramatta Park at 1.30pm, proceeded along Macquarie St and finished at the Lancer Barracks, in Smith Street. A great effort by the Museum, the Regiment and the Parramatta community including all our politicians at all levels of government and political persuasion.

One person needs special mention, the Museum's Publicity Officer, Captain Ian Hawthorn, without whose initiative and drive the function would not have happened. The Parade was described by the Lancers, so the huge crowd was fully informed what they were seeing. A family fun day was held at the Lancer Barracks following the parade, attended by a large crowd including His Excellency and Lady Cosgrove.



Parramatta marked the 200th anniversary of the passing of Governor Arthur Phillip with a special commemorative event on the river foreshore, just a few hundred metres from the point where Governor Phillip set foot in 1788.

It included a special address from former MP and colonial historian Andrew Tink AM, input from students from Arthur Phillip High School and a letter from the Mayor of Bath, the English city where Governor Phillip retired and is buried. Governor Phillip, Parramatta's founding father, was the first Governor of NSW and personally laid out the street grid for Parramatta, a city he thought might be the capital of the infant colony. He died on August 31, 1814. Photograph Natalie Roberts Parramatta Sun.



Around 170 people attended a function in the Granville Town Hall to congratulate Councillor Paul Garrard for 40 years of service to Local Government. The Guest of Honour was feted by a long list of friends who spoke of his service to Parramatta as a Councillor of Woodville Ward. The night was compered by Pete Graham, of Radio 2UE, long term resident and school friend of Paul Garrard. Parramatta Councillors attended the function with Lord Mayor John Chedid making presentations to Paul Garrard for his dedication to the local area.

The Hall was dressed for the occasion by the Parramatta City Council Events staff. The grand old hall looked magnificent decked out with round tables with white cloths and royal blue sashes on the chairs, candelabras, mirror centres with small vases of colourful flowers. For the full story on Paul's Services see following story. The photo used is from the story in the Daily Telegraph.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/parramatta/bullying-even-arson-couldnt-stop-garrard-from-speaking-out/story-fngr8huy-1226980102929>

Barry G Bullivant OAM, President 2013-14

THE BRAVE ANZAC NURSES

Nurses in World War 1 were exposed daily to the most appalling aspects of warfare: death, horrible injuries including limbs that had to be amputated, and ghastly burns. They carried out their work with great dedication under terrible conditions, and sometimes in grave danger from enemy shelling, air raids and gas attacks. The war experiences of some of these nurses were portrayed recently in ABC Television's six-part dramatic series *Anzac Girls*.

When war broke out in 1914, the Army recruited nurses from the Australian Army Nursing Service Reserve, and the civilian nursing profession. Nurses at public hospitals in Sydney began volunteering for service at the same time as the first men were signing up to join the Australian Imperial Force. Nearly 2,300 nurses served overseas and more than 300 in Australia. At least 388 were decorated for their courage, including seven who were awarded the Military Medal for displaying bravery in the face of danger. The first four awards of a military medal were to Sister Dorothy Gwendolen Cawood of Parramatta, Sister Clare Deacon from Tasmania, Staff Nurse Mary Jane Derrer from Mackay in Queensland, and Sister Alice Ross-King of Melbourne.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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They were honoured for their rescue of patients during a German air raid on No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station [CCS] not far from the battle front at Trois Arbres near Arras in France.¹

Casualty Clearing Stations consisted of makeshift canvas wards and operating theatres, usually located near a railway line, and were the closest hospital facilities to the front line. The Trois Arbres facility in July 1917 had a nursing staff of 14, three operating tables in use throughout the day and usually two at night. In the late evening of 22 July 1917, an enemy plane dumped two bombs on the station. One left an enormous crater in the ground, destroyed one of four canvas marquees and severely damaged the others. Two patients and two staff members were killed and 16 patients injured. The body of one patient was found on his stretcher embedded in the ground. The other patient could not be found and was believed to have been blown to pieces.²

Amidst the chaos and carnage, the four nurses risked their lives to save patients trapped by fire in the burning buildings. Sister Ross-King was following a young orderly along the duckboards back to her tent after completing her shift, when the raid began. The bomb exploded directly ahead of her, knocking her to the ground, and killing the orderly. She regained her feet but in the dark failed to see the crater in front of her and fell into it. With Sister Cawood, Staff Nurse Derrer, and Sister Deacon, who was off

¹ A.G. Butler, *Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services, 1914-1918*, Volume III, Chapter XI, pp. 564-5

² Butler, pp. 564-5; Australian War Memorial (AWM), E. Stewart, *Nurses Under Fire*, in *Wartime Issue 50*, www.awm.gov.au/wartime/50/stewart_nurse/

duty, she ran to the shattered wards to carry patients to safety. She grabbed what she thought was a patient's leg to lift him from the floor, but found it was a loose leg with a boot and puttee on it.³

A month after the raid, the Anzac Commander, General Sir William Birdwood, wrote to the four nurses, officially notifying them of their award of a military medal for their 'great coolness and devotion to duty'. Sisters Cawood and Ross-King were both later mentioned in dispatches for 'distinguished and gallant service in the field.' Ross-King was awarded the Royal Red Cross, 2nd Class, in June 1918. This medal ranked just below the Military Cross in the order of precedence for military honours, and above the Distinguished Service Medal and Military Medal. It was introduced by Queen Victoria in 1883 to recognise special devotion and competence in nursing duties. Two other



military medals were awarded in July 1917, to Sister Rachel Pratt for conspicuous gallantry during an air raid on No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station, when she was wounded by a bomb fragment, and to Sister Alicia Mary Kelly for her actions during the shelling of another casualty clearing station in which a Canadian nurse was killed. The seventh military medal was awarded to Staff Nurse Pearl Corkhill of Tilba Tilba New South Wales in August 1918.⁴

Dorothy Cawood was born at Parramatta on 9 December 1884, the seventh child of John Cawood, a carpenter, and his wife Sarah. She began her nursing career at the age of 25 at the Coast Hospital at Little Bay in Sydney, and at the end of her four year course, qualified for registration as a nurse. Immediately after the outbreak of the Great War, she enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 14 November 1914, and sailed for Egypt with the first AIF contingent on 28 November. She served at the 2nd Australian General Hospital in Cairo during the Gallipoli campaign, and later in the war in France. She returned to Sydney in May 1919 and worked at the State Hospital at Liverpool. Then from 1928 until her retirement in 1943 she was Matron at the David Berry Hospital at Berry on the New South Wales south coast. She moved back to Parramatta in 1944 and remained there until her death in 1962.⁵



Evelyn Jane Nobbs, a descendant of Fletcher Christian, leader of the Bounty mutineers, was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal, ARRC (2nd Class) on 30 July 1919. Nurse Nobbs was 25 when she enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service in June 1915. She left for the Middle East in late June 1915 and served at the Choubra Infectious Diseases Hospital in Cairo, the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station and the 2nd and 3rd Australian

³ AWM: *Diary of Alice Ross-King, 1917-1919*, <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG0000975/>

⁴ J. Abbott, 'Cawood, Dorothy Gwendolen (1884-1962)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cawood-dorothy-gwendolen-5537/text9433>, accessed 22 September 2014; L. Finnie, 'Ross-King, Alice (1891-1968)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ross-king-alice-8276/text14501>, accessed online 22 September 2014.; A.G. Butler, pp. 564-5

⁵ Australian Dictionary of Biography

General Hospitals in France. She returned to Australia on 11 March 1920.

Evelyn Nobbs was born at Norfolk Island on 8 December 1889, to the Reverend George Rawdon and Emily Harriett Nobbs. George Nobbs's parents were the Reverend George Hunn Nobbs, a notable figure in the history of Norfolk and Pitcairn Islands and Sarah Christian, the granddaughter of Fletcher Christian.⁶

Below is a list of nurses from the Granville and Parramatta districts who served in the Australian Army Nursing Service in World War 1:

Edith Attwater Faber, of Hillier Street Merrylands.

Born: 1883, Bourke; Next-of kin: Frank and Rebecca Faber.

Enlisted: 24 November 1914, age 31; Embarked: 28 November 1914 per *Kyarra* for Egypt.

Served: Egypt, England. Returned to Australia: 5 July 1917; Discharged: 4 April 1918.

Died: 1974.

May Elizabeth Hands

Born: Cooma NSW, Next-of-kin: Mother, Mrs Mary Hands, Auburn Road Auburn.

Enlisted: 24 July 1915, age 35; Embarked: Sydney 31 July 1915.

Served: Egypt (ill in hospital for 13 days with bronchial catarrh). Duty on transport ship *Nestor* from Suez to Australia. Returned to Australia: 13 March 1916.

Discharged: 28 March 1916.

Pauline Olive Hyland of Harris Park.

Born Granville; Next-of-kin: Mrs Adelaide Hyland, stepmother.

Enlisted: 10 August 1916, age 26; Embarked: Sydney, 9 December 1916 for Egypt.

Served: Egypt and England.

Returned to Australia: 18 April 1919; Discharged: 11 July 1919

Florence Laura Lewis

Born: Orange NSW; Next-of-kin: Mrs Rhoda Selina Skerritt, The Avenue Granville.

Enlisted: 14 July 1915, age 27 years; Embarked: Melbourne, 12 June 1915. Served:

Egypt, France; Discharged: 9 September 1916, due to marriage.

Charlotte Gertrude Low

Born: Pambula NSW; Next-of-kin: Father, D Low, Rawson Street Auburn.

Enlisted: 18 June 1917, age 24; Embarked: Melbourne, 7 October 1917.

Served: Disembarked at Port Said 23 January 1918 and joined 31st General Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt. Became ill on arriving in Egypt, and treated in hospital.

Embarked 25 May 1918 to return to Australia; Returned Australia: 26 June 1918;

Discharged: Medically unfit, 20 November 1918.

Mabel Scott Powell

Born: Goulburn; Next-of-kin: Father, Alfred James Powell, Harrow Road Auburn.

Enlisted: 3 November 1918, age 34; Embarked: Sydney 9 November 1918 per *Wiltshire*.

Ill with severe gastritis from first day on board, and left ship at Albany, returned to

⁶ NAA: B2455/Nobbs Staff Nurse; GHS Family History files

**Sydney after treatment in hospital.
Discharged: 20 February 1919. Died, June 15 1925**

**Dorothy Margaret Steer, Parramatta.
Born: Adelaide. Next-of-kin: Father, H.S. Steer, Parramatta.
Enlisted: 29 January 1917; Embarked: Sydney, 9 June 1917; Disembarked at Suez 19 July 1917. Served: Egypt.
Returned to Australia: 22 December 1918; Discharged: 14 March 1919.**

**Frances Stuckey, Granville.
Born: Narrabri; Next-of-kin: Sister, Miss K. Stuckey, Bowden Street Granville.
Enlisted: 6 August 1915, age 26; Embarked: Melbourne, 9 December 1916.
Served: England and hospital ship *Karoola*.
Returned to Australia: 10 January 1918; Discharged: 23 January 1918.**

**Winifred Emily Watkins.
Next-of-kin: Mother, Mrs R.A. Watkins, Marsden Street Parramatta.
Enlisted: 3 September 1917, age 35; Embarked: Melbourne 30 June 1917.
Served: Egypt; Returned to Australia: 7 February 1920; Discharged: 16 March 1920**

**Agnes Hannah Wood.
Born: Auburn 1889; Next-of-kin: Thomas and Ellen Wood, Northumberland Road Auburn.
Enlisted: 10 May 1917, age 27; Embarked: 9 June 1917.
Served: Egypt and England.
Returned to Australia: 15 December 1919. Discharged: Medically unfit, 11 July 1920.⁷**

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⁷ All service details on past two pages sourced to National Archives World War 1 Army personnel records, B2455, and World War 1 Australian Army Nursing Service, <http://www.aans.gravesecrets.net>