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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 27 February 2010 at our Centre at 62 Railway Parade Granville Executive Meeting 1.00 pm

**Speaker:
Alan Overton AM
“Growing Up in Granville”**

The Granville Historical Heritage Research 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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Happy New Year to all our members; hope you had a wonderful Xmas; may the New Year bless you with many happy days to share with friends and loved ones.

Many thanks to all those members who worked so hard in 2009. Don’t forget we need you back to help us again this year. To those who have not been well - we hope this year will see you much better.

Police Station: Progress – or Non Progress

Most of you know that the NSW Premier Nathan Rees was tipped out of office just before Christmas; this caused over twelve months work to be abandoned, every letter, email and communication was void. Member David Eglon rang on the 21st December 2009 to say that he had a visit from an estate agent to find out the history of the Station. This led to a flurry of communications which was sent to our many supporters of the project, as well as the new politicians who had taken office. The result has been reasonable; we managed to get two phone calls trying to shift us off the case, four letters saying the project is in the hands of the appropriate ministers. This is where we are at this moment in time.

Shell Australia

We were advised that Shell Australia was looking for projects that would be worthy of assistance of funds. We put forward a project called Granville from the Dream Time, a social history of Duck Creek, Duck River and the industrial area surrounding Shell Australia. We were successful in obtaining a \$5000 grant. This grant will allow us to obtain research resources such as the Granville Council Rate Books and Minute Books. We have already added a considerable collection to our library and two CD’s which contain Series 1- volumes 1-26 of Historical Records of Australia. If any member has photographs and history in their collections

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of Clyde, Camellia, Duck River and Duck Creek we would be happy to hear from you. The project includes a component that has a display in the Parramatta Heritage Centre similar to the one that we mounted for "Forest to Factory".

We were unsuccessful in obtaining from the Royal Australian Historical Society a grant for a project on Dog Trap Road; we were also unsuccessful in obtaining a volunteer grant from FASCHIA, (the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs). We have a grant application in to Parramatta City Council, a Heritage Grant that will assist us with the project that we are doing for Granville from the Dreamtime.

Arthur Naylor has completed scanning the Parramatta & District Soldiers for our area and Colin Humphreys is nearing completion of *Roll of Honour, Granville Soldiers who died in World War I*; thank you fellows, this only leaves burning the disk and distribution to the promised legal deposits and local schools to complete that project. The Granville RSL Club has received the disk to honour the grant that they gave us. Snapshots is nearing completion so that will be distributed in the near future.

Barry G Bullivant OAM

BULLIVANT v. MACQUARIE

This year marks the 200th year since the start of the Governorship of Lachlan Macquarie.

Governor Macquarie pursued a policy of allowing deserving former convicts to enjoy the same rights as free settlers. His insistence on inviting ex-convicts to dine at his table at Government House in Sydney was objected to by Lt. Governor Colonel George Molle and his fellow officers of the 46th Regiment of Foot including Ensign Charles James Bullivant. It became such a problem that the Officers of the 46th refused the invitations of the Governor to dine at his table with these people. The officers were known as the Exclusives - the ex-convicts were known as the Emancipists.

Governor Macquarie became enraged at the attitude of these officers who, he said, thought they were better than the rest of society and a number of letters were exchanged between Macquarie and the officers of the 46th Regiment.

The favourite sport of the day was baiting Macquarie for his sympathy towards ex-convict settlers. It got so low that Ensign Bullivant had drawn a caricature of the Governor in a position of Ignominy on the rear of the guardroom door in Sydney in chalk and charcoal. It was greatly enjoyed by his fellow officers who wrote scurrilous labels underneath it.

It was inevitable that it came to the attention of the Governor who called for an apology from Ensign Bullivant; if not he would be court martialled. The Governor accepted an apology from Bullivant but the end result was Bullivant resigned his commission and married Maria Ikin who was the licensee of the Three Crowns Inn at 4 Charlotte Place Sydney. They went on to be wealthy, owning eight hotels around Sydney town.

Charles Bullivant died at his home in Merlin Street St Leonards North Sydney aged 80. On 25 January 1879 he was buried in a purpose-built tomb in his garden. He did not want to be interred in hallowed ground; however upon his death and the sale of the property his remains were removed and re-interred in St Thomas Church of England Cemetery in North Sydney

Information from the Historical Records of Australia
 Researched and written by his 3x Great Grandson
 Barry George Bullivant OAM
 President
 Granville Historical Society

<p>GRANVILLE FIRE BRIGADE'S FIRST FIRE</p>
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The Granville Permanent Building and Investment Society was the brainchild of several of the town's elite. Foundation Directors in September 1883 included John Nobbs, Harry Richardson, Lucien Grimwood and William J. Baker, all members of the Progress Party who would be elected to the first Granville Borough Council on 21 March 1885. Other prominent citizens who were shareholders included Laurence J. Olsen, William Thackeray, Thomas Howieson and Judge Ernest B. Docker.¹

Imagine their consternation when the society's premises, a four-room weatherboard cottage in Railway Parade, were destroyed by fire in the early hours of Saturday 14 August 1886. Fortunately the safe containing business records was saved before flames completely consumed the building. A man, seen by police trying to enter the cottage earlier in the evening, and who was later picked up for being drunk in a public place, was arrested and charged over the fire.

After preliminary court hearings, 68-year-old William McDonald, was sentenced in the Central Criminal Court in Sydney in September 1886 to five years imprisonment for setting fire to the building society's office. Judge Innes in passing sentence described McDonald as a man of violent passions, and said it was not safe to let him loose on society.²

Evidence at an inquest into the fire gives an insight into the primitive fire fighting methods of the period. About 1 am on Saturday 14 August 1886, signalman David Rumble was standing on the landing of the signal box near Granville railway station when he noticed smoke. He thought at first it was coming from the engine of a train waiting at a signal, but a few minutes later a railway porter John Marvan reported the building society office was on fire. The cottage was owned by Edward Lea, son of Annie Lea, one of the early large land-owners in the area. Mr Rumble said he telephoned to the Granville station for the fire brigade and repeated the message by telegraph to Parramatta. He then went over to the fire and started drawing buckets of water from a well to try to extinguish the flames. The blaze at that stage was small and confined to the kitchen, but the rope broke and the bucket remained in the well.³

¹ *Cumberland Mercury*, 15 September 1883, p. 8

² *ibid.*, 11 September 1886, p. 8

³ *ibid.*, 21 August 1886, p. 3

The society's secretary, John Rayner, was called and he and the two railway employees began removing items from the office, including a heavy safe and some furniture. The first fire engine at the scene, a horse-drawn vehicle from No. 1 Parramatta Brigade, turned up just before 2 am, about 45 minutes after the alarm was raised. The firemen removed a panel from a fence, backed their engine close to an underground tank on the premises, and started to play water on the flames. However the water ran out quickly and the building was totally destroyed. Members of the Parramatta No. 2 Brigade arrived later tugging their engine after them, and the Granville brigade was even later, having dragged their engine along a 'very rough road' from Clyde. Police told the inquest that McDonald had been seen trying to open the door of the building earlier in the night, and had been arrested for drunkenness after the fire. Mr Rayner's wife, Annie, alleged that McDonald had once come to her house, demanded money, and when she refused, had threatened to burn down the house.⁴

The fire was the first blaze attended by the Granville Volunteer Fire Brigade after its formation. The brigade was initially established by Hudson's engineering works in a shed facing Factory Street at Clyde to protect their property. The first fire engine was a manual appliance, a four-wheeled wagon pulled along by up to 10 men using a rope harness. A new engine, named *Protector*, drawn by two horses, was commissioned on 4 September 1885. The brigade met twice a week in the works canteen for a training drill, led by its captain, Thomas Epps. Mr Epps had joined Hudson Brothers from Maryborough in Queensland when its factory was at Redfern, and was the first foreman at the Clyde plant. His son, Henden, also worked at Clyde and served on Granville Council in the early 1900s, including six terms as mayor.⁵

The Volunteer Brigade was re-organised under the Fire Brigade Act in 1891, and began working from a shed in Good Street. It operated from a temporary fire station in Sydney Road (Parramatta Road) from 1897 until a new station was opened on the Good Street site in January 1900. The volunteers handed ownership to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in 1901, and were replaced by permanent staff in 1913. The Granville fire station was closed in 1945 but the old building is still standing today.⁶

While the building society fire was the first attended by the Granville Volunteer Brigade, it was not the first fire in the district. In October 1875 a fire, believed to have been started by embers from a bushfire, destroyed two houses, including the gatekeeper's house, at the intersection of the railway line and Dog Trap Road (Woodville Road) Parramatta Junction. And in November 1878, the family of John Fear was left homeless when fire destroyed their home at Guildford. His wife Charlotte was woken by a crackling noise around midnight to find the house well alight, and had barely time to carry her four small children to safety before it was destroyed. John Fear was a pioneer settler, having come to the district in 1853 to work on the Sydney to Parramatta railway line.⁷

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⁴ibid., 21 August 1886, p. 3, 18 August 1886, p. 3, Obituary for Henden Epps, *Cumberland Argus & Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 30 April 1936, p. 6

⁵*Granville from Forest to Factory*, Granville Historical Society, 1992, p. 67

⁶ibid.; C. Adrian, *Fighting Fire 1884-1894, A Century of Service, Metropolitan Fire Brigades*, Allen & Unwin, 1984, p. 153

⁷*Cumberland Mercury*, 16 October 1875, 23 November 1878, p. 4; T. Fowlie, *The History of Granville 1919*, Granville Historical Society 2001, p. 28

