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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 26 February 2011 at our Research Centre 62 Railway Parade Granville Executive Meeting 1.00 pm

Guest Speaker
The Friends of Rookwood

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 **FEBRUARY 2011**

Granville Historical Society

A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated

Happy New Year and all that, June and I hope you had a happy and meaningful Christmas. Over the break June, Arthur, Maureen, Edith & Brian Turbit, Audrey Meisenhelter and Linda Bradley have been working hard for the photographic display to be officially opened on Saturday 19th March at the Parramatta Heritage Centre at 1.00pm.

If members are free, will you come on Monday 14th March for set up please about 10.00am, refreshments will be provided. We hope to get it up in one day; if not finishing touches will be put on the Tuesday. We have tried to provide photographs that have not been shown regularly so that you may be surprised. We have called the display *River Reflections – Stories of the River*, and have covered Parramatta Park, Parramatta River, Toongabbie Creek, Subiaco Creek, Brickfield Creek, Clay Cliff Creek, A'Becketts Creek, Vineyard Creek, Duck River, Duck Creek, the Suburb of Camellia, and Clyde. We have covered the families, and businesses along the waterway's foreshores.

The Parramatta and District Historical Society, The Parramatta Art Society, and The Darug Aboriginal Tribal Corporation are contributing paintings and photographs, and the Granville Society has purchased Aboriginal artefacts that will be displayed. The idea of the display is to showcase the treasures that local historical & family history groups hold and to have a network of groups that can work together for the common cause. By working together we can be a strong force of people and have a voice!

While working on this project we discovered a local artist who paints in such great detail that it looks like a photograph. Save the date and join with us for this important Parramatta Local Government Area history event.

Barry G Bullivant OAM

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Ryerson Index to death notices appearing in current Australian newspapers is an important research tool that is expanding rapidly.

The Index, started by the Dead Persons' Society 12 years ago, is growing at the rate of 1,300 entries a day and its holdings are expected to number three million entries in the latter part of the year. It also aims to have a complete run of *Sydney Morning Herald* entries from 1955 to the present day some time soon.

The annual report for 2010 says it has about 130 indexers at work on indexing current and back issues of almost 180 newspapers throughout Australia. The Back Indexing team is running out of information to index, and is particularly keen to hear from anyone who can supply information to index, from any paper at all.

The Index website also has links to New Zealand online cemetery indexes, indexes to a number of New South Wales country and Victorian newspapers, and the 1872 Greville Post Office Directory.

For details of its resources, go to:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswsdps/dpsindex.htm>

To search the Index, go to:

<http://ryersonindex.net/search.php>

Other online indexes include:

Rookwood Cemetery:

<http://rookwoodcemetery.com.au/search-online.html>

The Australian Cemeteries Index:

<http://austcemindex.com/cemeteries.php?state=NSW>

(560 NSW cemeteries)

Macquarie Park Cemetery North Ryde:

http://www.maccem.com.au/articles/Search_Records/8

The best way to search major Australian newspapers such as the Sydney Morning Herald pre-1955 is with Trove, the National Library search engine that can access a vast number of Australian resources. Use Trove - <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> - to find obituaries, birth, marriage and death announcements, published reports of court cases, property sales and sporting events and any other item of interest in the National Library's digitised newspaper collection.

You can search specific newspapers within a defined time frame, using the advanced search option, or a general search of all newspapers. Windows on the home page allow for searches of particular categories – books and journals, pictures and photos, digitised newspapers, diaries, letters and archives, maps, music, archived websites, and people and organisations.

W.J.BAKER'S GOLCONDA ESTATE

In 1885, a prominent early settler, William J. Baker of The Highlands, Woodville Road Granville, subdivided part of his property into 148 allotments in an estate called *Golconda*. The text in a brochure publicising the sale makes interesting reading 116 years later:

The estate, adjoining the magnificent property of A.S. Low Esq. J.P., has large frontages to the Woodville Road, the main road of the district; also to the Government Road, running parallel with the railway line. The allotments fronting these roads have been subdivided into business sites with a twenty feet lane at rear of each so that every inch is available for building purposes. There are also large frontages to Baker, Bertha and Ethel Streets all 66 feet wide. All the land has been stumped and cleared under the proprietor's own personal supervision; and the soil is the most productive in the district, being first-class for the cultivation of flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Golconda is unrivalled both for its scenery and situation. It is situated within two minutes' walk of the Public Park, an area of 12 acres, resumed by the Government for the purposes of recreation; it adjoins the magnificent estate of A.S. Low Esq, J.P., who has expended several thousand pounds in improving and beautifying his property. The views from Golconda are very extensive, Pennant Hills and the North Shore being distinctly visible therefrom. The most pleasant drive in the district is along the Woodville Road.

When you feel tired and weary in the morning, you are living in an unhealthy district. Why not live at Granville and improve your health? Numbers have tried the experiment and have benefitted by it. If you are living by the sea-side and find the atmosphere oppressive, remove to Granville and get pure inland air.

Golconda is centrally situated within the Municipality of Granville, only 15 minutes from Granville and only five minutes from Merrylands, so that it is situated within easy distance of two railway stations - one of which is destined to become the great manufacturing depot of New South Wales - viz., Granville. As regards the water supply, Golconda has an advantage over all other estates as it has a permanent water supply on the ground, which has never been known to fail in the driest of seasons. It is in the centre of the estate and will always be available to purchasers. In order to facilitate transit, two bridges have been built on the estate, and it is the only one that has such an abundant supply of water fronting the main road, so that purchasers and business men who require a good supply of water for manufacturing purposes will do well to note this.

To persons about to build, Golconda offers exceptional advantages for the purchase of building materials, and bricks not to be surpassed in quality manufactured in the neighbourhood, are also to be had within easy distance of the Estate, and as a proof of their

quality, purchasers will do well to inspect the School of Arts, Granville, and the large Wesleyan Church, Macquarie Street Parramatta (now being erected) both of which edifices are made of bricks manufactured in the district.

Golconda also demands the attention of Mechanics and Tradespeople generally. Situated as it is in the midst of manufacturing industries of all kinds, it stamps it as one of the finest positions in the colony, both for the mechanic and the business man. Amongst the industries are those of Hudson Brothers (Limited) the well-known Timber Merchants, Railways Contractors, Blacksmiths, &c. &c., Mr. Ritchie's Plough Manufactory; Messrs Bergen & Sons Tweed Factory; Mr. Burns' Tweed Factory; Mr Matthews' Woolwashing Establishment; Mr Stoner's Winnowing Machine Factory; also several large Brick Works &c.

In addition to all of these, it must be remembered that Granville is the junction of the two main lines of railway – Southern and Western – which gives employment to a great number of men, and must necessarily increase as time goes on, so that in a little time hence, land in the vicinity of Granville will be at a premium.

It will not be out of place to mention that Granville is not behind in the way of facilities for business, being connected with Sydney by 59 trains daily, and Golconda itself is only a few minutes' walk from the Churches, of which there are at present three, viz., Church of England, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic, the Presbyterian body at present worshipping in the Large Hall of the School of Arts. The Public School at Granville, a well ventilated building standing on an area of two acres (ample room for a large children's playground) is also a few minutes' walk from Golconda, and the factories are only 15 minutes easy walking distance from this Estate,

The Borough of Granville has four Railway stations to accommodate the residents, viz., Granville, Clyde, Merrylands and Guildford. Granville has a Race Course which is said to be the best in the Colony. Granville is well supplied with Public Buildings for the transaction of business, viz., Government Post, Telegraph, Money Order, Savings Bank Offices, a branch of the Commercial Bank, a Local Building Society, also a branch of the Parramatta Building Society.

Granville has one of the best family hotels in the Colony.

(National Library of Australia – Digital Collections – Maps
 Accessed through Trove: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-lfsp946-s1-e-cd>)

River Reflections River of Stories

The Lord Mayor of Parramatta,
Councillor John Chedid,
and Councillors

Invite you and your guest to the launch of

RIVER REFLECTIONS RIVER OF STORIES

**Special Guest Speaker:
The Honourable Ms Julie Owens MP**

1:30pm, Saturday 19th of March

At the Parramatta
Heritage Centre
160 Church Street, Parramatta
Phone: (02) 883 93311
19th of March

Exhibition runs from
19 March to 22 May 2011

This exhibition is a partnership
between Granville Historical Society
and Parramatta Heritage Centre

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RIVER REFLECTIONS
RIVER OF STORIES

River Reflections River of Stories is an initiative of the Granville Historical Society. The idea came from Shell Australia saying that they had not known the history of the area. They supplied a grant and Parramatta City Council also gave the society a grant. The result was that many artefacts, resource tools and images were purchased by the society. The next decision was to create a network of Parramatta local and family historical societies, as well as local artists and Aboriginal societies. Members of the community came forward and members of Granville undertook to photograph all the creeks in the area. Three members of Granville Arthur Naylor, George Pearce & Bill Coleman have spent months achieving this goal. The Parramatta Heritage Centre have kindly supplied the space to show this photographic & art display which contains over 500 photographs and works of art, Aboriginal artefacts and written history. We would like to thank all people who have contributed to the display and would like to invite you to the launch, details are above, please ring the number provided if you are able to attend.

The theme is River Reflections and covers images of Parramatta River, Toongabbie Creek, Clay Cliff Creek, Duck River, Duck Creek, A'Becketts Creek, Vineyard Creek and Brickfield Creek etc. If you cannot make it to the launch it is open until the 22 May 2011