



The Granville Guardian

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

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April 2014

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

Speaker
Video WW1 "Anzacs"

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Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

Hope all members have a nice safe quiet Easter holiday and will support the men and women of our defence forces for Anzac Day Friday 25th April 2014.

Patrick Gerard O'Brien died 6 April 2014, in his sleep with family around him. The president and members of the Granville Historical Society wish to convey our sympathy as we acknowledge the passing of Gerry O'Brien, President of the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery.

Gerry and his wife Pat were the founding members of that organisation, and he worked tirelessly for the members. He ran the business meeting in his own style with humour and candour, commenting on the correspondence or an email, you did not know you were at a meeting, it was so entertaining.

Gerry was also a coach and bus driver. He knew everyone by name and greeted everyone with a smile, cracking jokes with the regulars, and told a bus load one night that June Bullivant was known as a dragon lady, to the amusement of all on board. Gerry will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pat and her family. We wish them all the best and hope their memories of Gerry help them through this difficult time. Gerry's funeral service was conducted on Thursday 10 April at the Mary Mother of Mercy Chapel, Rookwood Catholic Crematorium. A large number of people attended to send Gerry off to the Friends Group in the Sky. His coffin was painted with a long winding road with a motorbike wheel on the top; didn't know he was a bikie. Thanks to all the people who attended and supported Pat and her family, a very friendly funeral as many people knew each other.

June and I attended a roundtable discussion for a Master Plan for the Parramatta River Foreshores. We represented Granville Historical Society in our capacity as members of the Parramatta City Council Heritage Advisory Committee. There was a varied group of people - many representing NSW government services and departments and Parramatta City Council departments and policy makers, people from council advisory committees, local citizens and people representing concerned groups of Parramatta.

The morning was run like a workshop which did not leave any time to ask serious questions, as participants were asked to write down ideas, and put them on notes or little flags and stick them on a map. The area was from the Gas Works Bridge up to the Bernie Banton Bridge, both sides of the river. None of the proposed developments like the Meriton, the Lennox Car Park, the Riverside development, the one in George Street site, which is near the Workers Club, or the "Promenade" which is to be built on the Morton Street depot site were mentioned. It seemed strange to try and plot a plan without featuring in those developments, or environmental, heritage or Aboriginals' concerns, when they will have an impact on what green space is left on the banks of the river.

Research enquiries have been busy; most people seem to be over the Christmas holidays, and we had a request for information from a person in Victoria about his Moxham family. He spotted one of his ancestors on our family history file names on line. It was in a file that contained information from late member John Bann, but he said not he did not think that was his line Anyway some extensive research by June Bullivant showed not only was he related to John Bann's family, but his relative was the from the Moxham family from Granville, Guildford and Parramatta, and they linked into the Moxham Quarry as well. Small world isn't it.

We wish Robyn and George Gibson a nice holiday; they will be away from the society for two months due to school holidays, doctor appointments and holidays overseas. We will lose Tracy Bullivant shortly because she will start a new job at Westmead Children's Hospital and would like to thank Tracy for her contribution to the Society over the past year.

We also hope that Stephanie and Colin Humphreys have a safe and enjoyable holiday, thank you to Colin for making sure the newsletter was done before they went.

We would like to mention the NSW Government White Paper on Crown Land, this legislation will have a tremendous impact on all communities in NSW; we encourage everyone to read the legislation on the Crown Land Website and lodge a submission commenting on it before June 20th 2014.

http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown_land/comprehensive_review_of_nsw_crown_land_management

Barry G Bullivant OAM
President.

**THE BARLOW
BUILDING 47 GOOD
STREET**



This building has stood at the corner of Good Street and Parramatta Road Granville for almost 100 years. It is significant because of its association with two well-known local identities - architect Varney Parkes, a former member of the New South Wales Parliament, and the son of Sir Henry Parkes, five-times Premier of NSW who was known as ‘the Father of Federation’, and Fred Barlow, a former soccer player-turned storekeeper, who had a major role in resolving one of the first big industrial disputes in Granville in the 1890s.



Frederick William Barlow was born at Orwell in Cambridgeshire in 1866, and came to Sydney on the steamship *Belgravia* in May 1884. This was the largest ship that had been chartered by the New South Wales government for its immigration program, and carried 874 immigrants. Among such a large number of new settlers, many feared they would not be able to find work immediately. In fact, there was not a great demand for skilled tradesmen and labourers, but a good number of vacancies for agricultural workers. Fred Barlow, an agricultural labourer, accepted a position on a rural property on

the north coast, most likely a sugar plantation on the Richmond River. But it wasn't long before he was back in Sydney, and working as a gardener at Vaucluse House,



Vaucluse House in New South Wales

where he met Alice Jane Cooke, a seamstress, from Yafford in Hampshire. She was about five years older than Fred and had arrived in Sydney on the *Abergeldie* in February 1884. The pair married in 1886 and had four children - John Barnet (Jack) born in 1886, Elizabeth in 1888, Florence in 1890, and Ernest in 1899.¹

Fred and Alice moved to Granville about 1886/1887 and Fred joined the workforce of the engineering firm of Hudson Brothers. He also joined a group of footballers who would establish Granville as a major nursery of soccer players. Several ironworkers, imported by Hudson's from Scotland, started the Granville soccer club in 1882. Their team, mainly Hudson employees, played social games in the first couple of seasons, but joined the Sydney Football Association in 1885, and won its knockout competition for the next two seasons. Barlow played well enough to be a member of the Granville first grade side, and after taking a leading role in the formation of the Granville Soccer Association, was a dominant figure in its administration. He was elected president of the NSW Soccer Association in 1924 and was also head of the national association. He got great enjoyment in fostering the game in schools, and provided trophies for the schools competitions.²

In the turbulent final years of the 19th Century, the 1895 Hudson Brothers strike was nowhere near as significant as the 1890s maritime and shearers strikes, but a successful resolution was absolutely vital to the local economy. It was said that when Hudson Brothers were prospering, so was Granville's economy. Local shopkeepers and landlords depended on the cash flow from the company's payroll to maintain profits. The strike began on 19 March 1895 when almost 300 workers walked off after the company cut wages by between 10 and 20 per cent. Fred Barlow, then the head storekeeper at the works, was elected chairman of the workers strike committee and remained in that role for the duration of the dispute. The strike ended after five weeks when the men agreed to accept a pay cut ranging from 7½ to 12½ per cent. The strike had failed to bring about any significant gains for the workers but they believed the outcome could have been worse but for the way Fred Barlow had handled negotiations. Hudson brothers' financial woes continued until it went into voluntary liquidation, and in October 1898 a syndicate formed the Clyde Engineering Company to purchase the plant. Two months after the new company had taken over, Barlow announced that after 13 years at Hudson's and Clyde, he was leaving to run a retail business; he had purchased a tobacco shop and hairdressing salon in Good Street, near the School of Arts.³

¹ New Family Search; State Records NSW, Passengers on Bounty Ships arriving Sydney 1828-1896; *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 7 May 1884, p. 5; NSW Birth Death and Marriage Registrations Index

² Sand's Directory; *Sunday Times*, 9 March 1924, p. 5; Granville Historical Society Resource Files; Obituary *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 10 June 1935, p. 2

³ *The Cumberland Mercury*, 23 March 1895, p. 6; *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 27 April 1895, p. 2, 8 June 1895, p. 3; B. Hardie, *Their Work was Australian, The story of the Hudson family*, Halstead Press, Sydney, 1970, p. 57; *Cumberland Argus*, 21 December 1898, p. 1

In 1905, Fred brought his eldest son Jack, who was 19, into the business to look after the hairdressing salon. Nine years later, Jack expanded the operation to include a billiards saloon. Fred's wife Alice then started a fruiterer's shop on the opposite side of the street at the corner of Good Street and Sydney Road, calling it The Corner Fruit Shop. Next she added a type of employment agency at the same premises, assisting clients to obtain domestic help.



Varney Parkes

In 1914 Fred bought the corner block from butcher Henry William Runge and commissioned architect Varney Parkes to design a new building for the site. Parkes was no stranger to Granville and had spoken at many public meetings in the town as the Member for Central Cumberland during a long parliamentary career. He trained as an architect in the Colonial Architect's Office before entering politics. He designed a large number of city buildings and in 1914 was engaged in planning a house in William Street Granville and a shop in Merrylands as well as the Barlow building. His biographer, Louise Raine, says he was not a distinguished architect [but] while he was fashionable, he had distinguished clients. For Fred Barlow, he designed a Federation Free Style two-story structure with shops at street level and residences above; walls elaborately banded and plastered with decorative street glazed tiles on the façade. It was completed in the middle of 1915 and is registered as a heritage item of local significance.⁴

Frederick Barlow's health declined in the late 1920s. While he was battling illness, his eldest son Jack (John Barnet) died in June 1927, at the early age of 41. By this time, Fred and Alice had moved to Pennant Hills where Fred died on 8 June 1935, aged 69. Alice died on 23 September 1945 at the age of 84.⁵

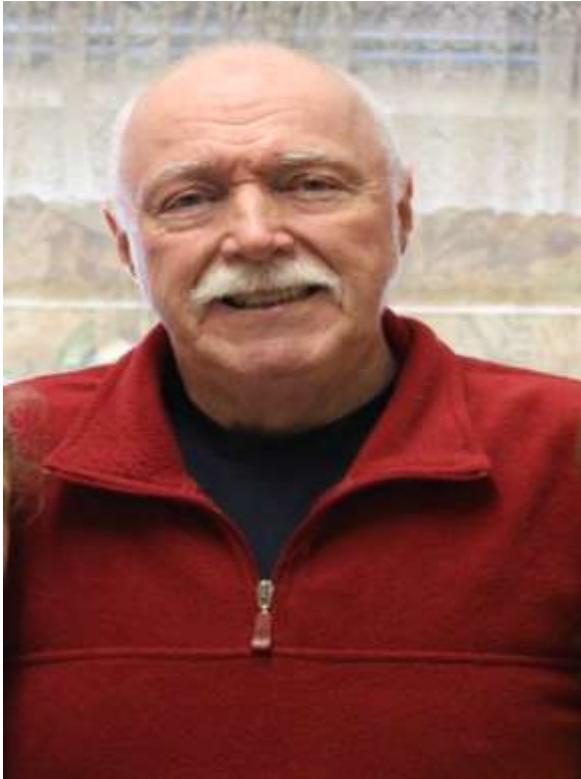
©Colin J Humphreys.

⁴ *Cumberland Argus*, 11 March 1905, 15 February 1908, Sand's Directory; NSW Heritage Office database, <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/heritagesearch.aspx>; SMH, 6 June 1914, p.16; L. Raine and P. Reynolds, 'Parkes, Varney ((1859-1935))' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/parkes-varney-7959/text13857>.

⁵ SMH, 7 June 1927, p. 12, *Cumberland Argus*, 10 June 1935 p. 2, 26 September 1945, p. 7

Gerard Patrick O'Brien

19.11.1943 – 6.4.2014



Born in the Eastern Suburbs to Jack & Vida O'Brien the youngest of three sons he grew up in Rosebery and finished his school life at Marist Bros. Randwick.

His working life was spent at Sydney airport working for Alitalia, Air New Zealand and Pan Am. His love of travel was with him all his life especially travelling around Australia. After his marriage to Pat Murray he moved to the Western Suburbs settling in Merrylands and raising three sons.

His hobbies were motor cycles both riding and racing. In the 1970's he became a soccer referee for the Granville District. After retirement he started working for Baxter's Buses a job he loved.

In 1995 after his wife found out she had family buried in Mays Hill Cemetery he became Chairman of The Friends of Mays

Hill Cemetery a position he held until his death.

A position he was very proud of and worked hard at raising money for its restoration. Gerry was also a member of the Friends of Linnwood from its earliest days.

In 2006 Gerry was nominated for a Heritage Volunteer Awards

Gerard O'Brien *Nomination: Holroyd City Council*

Place: Holroyd

As Chair of the Friends of May's Hill Cemetery, Gerry O'Brien is committed to the conservation and promotion of this significant 150 year-old heritage item. The cemetery documents many of the Holroyd district's pioneering families including several local identities associated with the nearby Presbyterian and Baptist churches.

Gerry has been at the forefront of all the Friends' activities since the group was formed in 1995. In conjunction with Holroyd City Council, the Friends are working towards the long term rehabilitation, security and conservation of this community asset.

In association with Council's consultant archaeologist, the Friends have compiled a list of more than 100 cemetery monuments that are currently undergoing repairs and conservation. The Friends also conduct regular tours and open days at the cemetery which attracts many visitors each time.