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The Granville Guardian

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The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 28 June 2014 at our Research Centre 62 Railway Parade Granville

Speaker
Barry G Bullivant OAM
'Demolished Houses of NSW by Progress, Greed, and Decay'

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26 JULY 2014.

Nominations are open for the committee and must be lodged with the secretary, June Bullivant, on the nomination form which will be available at the June meeting.

Well, this has been an extremely busy month, worse than the previous one, with many items needing attention. We had to find a late replacement for the scheduled speaker for this week's meeting, who was unavailable, so after much research, we prepared a presentation titled 'Demolished Houses of NSW'. Of course this is a good thing because we now have another one for our community groups to enjoy.

While we were in Coffs Harbour, June Bullivant spent her days researching the soldiers honoured in the Royal Gate WW1 Memorial at St John's Cathedral Parramatta. The idea with this project is to write a history of the family, if the information can be found, and this means contacting families who are researching family history.

When researching the Anschau family that has two members on the Royal Gate, June wondered why these men were listed, considering they were both born in Lismore. The delightful result was to find that the family ancestor was a vine dresser who was born in Germany and worked for William Cox. The other result was to find that a descendant was currently living in Sydney and he was the family archivist who had the full story and original photos of the family. We were able to add to his information but he was also able to provide other assistance. Thus we now have a story that includes fighting or nursing cousins, tying this

family to Parramatta through John Anschau, who moved from Lismore to Parramatta to take over as Postmaster.

June and I attended the grant awards held by Parramatta City Council in which we received a Community Capacity building grant for groups with no paid staff, to build the capacity of our organisation. As a result of the successful grant, a young Parramatta artist named Tam Cao is going to paint both the Royal Gate and the memorial in Prince Alfred Square. The grant will also fund our purchase of the results of his work; enable us to choose an appropriate position for them; and to use the images for covers on the two stories.

Thank you to Parramatta City Council for the opportunity to preserve images of important local history, and have a young artist, whose ancestors lived in Vietnam, record our Parramatta icons which pay tribute to Parramatta families who fought to save our country and keep it free. The previous story about the Anschau family was part of the research that will be done to realise the Telling Stories grant. We also thank Parramatta City Council for the grant that will allow the story of those families to be told. The sharing of Parramatta's history is important not only for the people who were born in Australia, but for the people from many different countries who chose to make their home in Australia, for them to enjoy and appreciate the area they live in, and how it became the city it is today.

An exciting part of this process is meeting new people at these functions, and the chance to create networks that will assist the society in our quest for information about the history of Granville and Parramatta. We managed to network with three different groups who were at the awards. These were the Seniors Group for Our Lady of Lebanon, who have asked us to give a talk to their group; a group that is looking after people from South Africa, and assisting them with Trauma counselling (they asked us to speak for them); and we forged an alliance with the Parramatta Lancers and are due to visit them very shortly. They are donating a copy of their history to the society and we will share any information on the stories we find that involved the members of the Light Horse and the Lancers who served in WW1. We also enjoy a very close relationship with the Parramatta RSL Sub-Branch and registered Club, so this will make it easy for us to find our stories.

Barry G Bullivant OAM President

And now an SOS from Blacktown - please read this and respond to the person addressed.

ANZAC CENTENARY 2015

John Horne writes: In conjunction with Blacktown and District Historical Society and Jim Bostock of Blacktown RSL, I am in the process of researching and writing a book entitled 'Diggers from the Shire of Blacktown' which will give honour to those men and women who served their country in the Australian defence forces during the First World War (1914-1918).

We are principally concentrating on those who were born in the Blacktown Shire, those who enlisted from the Blacktown Shire or who came to live in the Blacktown Shire after the Great War.

Identifying those soldiers, seamen, airmen, nurses, medical staff and clergy is a massive task. We therefore urgently seek your help as your organisation has had a very long association with the original Blacktown Shire. We seek any names or information e.g. address, date of birth, next of kin, marital status, employment etc that might be found in your historical records or files. These might include documents, honour boards, rolls of honour, cenotaphs or any memorabilia relating to WW1 (or the period 1914-1918) and particularly photographs that you may find in your organisation. Perhaps you may know somewhere or someone within your local community who may be able to help.

Blacktown Shire has changed greatly over the past 100 years and without doubt was not what Blacktown City is today. The particular areas we are seeking information and/or photographs relate to those Blacktown Shire localities of 100 years ago. These are Blacktown, Prospect, Rooty Hill, Plumpton, Rouse Hill, Wentworthville, Colyton, Eastern Creek, Marsden Park, Minchinbury, Model Farms, Mt Druitt, Parklea, Pendle Hill, Quakers Hill, Riverstone, Schofields, Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Kellyville and Vineyard. We are also searching for information a little further afield to Holroyd, Fairfield, Westmead, Parramatta, Auburn, Baulkham Hills etc.

As you can imagine, critical deadlines must be met for the book to be edited, published and distributed to all schools in the Blacktown City area by Anzac Day, 2015.

We thank you very much for any information you might be able to provide. My email address is jhornex@live.com.au and telephone number 99 200 111.

Yours faithfully,

John Horne
(N.J. Horne)
Vice President
Blacktown and District Historical Society
PO Box 500 Blacktown NSW 2148

<p>FROM RAILWAY STREET TO THE AVENUE</p>

Railway Street was one of the earliest streets laid out in Granville. It is drawn, extending from John Street to the railway line, in the map of Wetherill's subdivision of the Drainwell Estate that was offered at auction on 23 October 1875. The reason for its name was obvious: it led to the old Parramatta Junction railway station. Parramatta Junction – as one writer famously observed – was then ‘a presumptuous little place which loved to call itself a town, but which, with its small railway station, one hotel, and

half a dozen half-built houses, accessible only through pathless fields, was barely a village'.

The buyers at the Drainwell Estate auction in 1875 included some of the local gentry, like Harry Richardson and his father Ralph, and John Rayner. Harry and Rayner went in too deeply, and forfeited their properties to mortgagees. But the Richardsons came back and bought another block, where the house they built is a landmark property today, at Number 60 The Avenue. But not all the buyers were elitist. A painter named William Adams was one of the first land owners, and occupied his new home in 1878. Over the years, the residents and home owners in this street were from a wide range of occupations, from businessmen, industrialists and shop owners to tradesmen, ordinary working men and labourers. In fact, one of the charms of this street is the range of building styles from workmen's cottages to Richardson's late Victorian villa, and builder William Thackray's Gothic style mansion at Number 58.

Quite a few of our local notables of the early era took up residence in the street, indicating it was a desirable address. They included John Rayner, real estate agent and speculator and District Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; Henry Albert Membrey, foreman of the boilermaker shop at Clyde Engineering, and mayor of Granville in 1922, who built at Number 85 in 1910; Archibald Patten from the well-known grocery family, who was elected to Granville Council in 1914; and Thomas Irons, the Chief Executive of Clyde Engineering, who purchased the Richardson villa in 1893.

In 1912 there was a move to change the street's name. The motive was said to be the confusion that came with having several streets in the municipality with similar names, such as Railway Street, Railway Crescent, and Railway Parade. Maybe some felt that such an attractive street should have a grander name. A number of landowners and ratepayers, whose spokesman was a Mr Alexander, sought the change in a petition to Granville Council in December 1912, and suggested a more appropriate name would be The Avenue. The council agreed to their request. Many streets in Granville were named after people or English place names but, a century later, the reason for re-naming Railway Street is lost in the mists of time.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

June 25: Eighty-nine people died in the flooded Murrumbidgee River around Gundagai on 25 June 1852 in what was Australia's worst flood disaster. It had rained heavily throughout the month but early on the morning of 25 June a giant swell hit the town, on the river's right hand bank. Only three houses remained standing after the flood surged through, and 89 people out of the population of 250 drowned.

June 28: In 1790, on this day, the last of the Second Fleet convict transport ships, the *Scarborough*, sailed into Port Jackson, with 180 male convicts on board. The *Surprise*, carrying 218 male convicts and the first members of the NSW Corps, had arrived two days earlier. The NSW Corps, also known as the Rum Corps, was to relieve the Marines of the First Fleet. The *Neptune* had arrived the previous day with 400 male convicts.

June 29: The first St Mary's Cathedral in College St, Sydney, was destroyed by fire on 29 June 1865. All that remained of the original buildings was the Pugin facade and belltower along with part of the north-east transept. Plans for a new Cathedral were drawn up and the foundation stone was laid in December 1868. The Cathedral was finally finished in 1928.

June 30: On this day in 1861 the infamous riot at Lambing Flats New South Wales occurred. The riot followed 10 months of unrest at the Burrangong goldfields on what is now the town of Young. On 30 June, a mob attempted to drive off the Chinese and went on to destroy tents and possessions. The mob's leaders were arrested by police, but on 14 July the mob attacked again, this time the Police camp. Following the riot, The *Chinese Immigration Regulation and Restriction Act*, which limited Chinese migration to NSW, was passed.

Also in the month of June, the road to Mrs Macquarie's Chair was completed on 13 June 1816, Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney was officially opened by Governor Macquarie on 4 June 1819, Van Diemen's Land officially separated from New South Wales on 14 June 1825, and Queensland separated from New South Wales on 6 June 1859.

[Information from State Records: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/news/today-in-history/june>]