



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 28th September 2013

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

Guest Speaker

John Low

“Crossing the Blue Mountains”

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

“A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated.”

I don't believe that we are in September. I thought last year went fast but this year has gone faster; the Granville Historical Society has been working harder, having more meetings, consultations and networking with ever widening groups of people.

We had a meeting with the new management at the Parramatta Heritage Centre to discuss projects for World War 1. Present were members of three RSL Sub-branches, Parramatta, Epping, and Granville, and a representative of the NSW Lancers. The discussion and networking was of tremendous benefit to all attending. Although the Heritage Centre is not having anything to commemorate WW1, they have offered help and expertise to the groups that are organising events. The Lancers plan to have a procession down Macquarie Street, Parramatta for 30th August 2014; the three Sub-branches will be having their usual morning Dawn services on Anzac Day.

Granville Historical Society will work with the Parramatta Heritage Centre to compile an online database which will act as a digital resource of the soldiers who served from the Parramatta LGA. The information for this will be compiled from the Friends of Mays Hill collection, the Guildford and Holroyd collection and of course our collection. Kim Phillips from the Spirits of Gallipoli will also contribute to this project. The society will work with the Parramatta Heritage Centre to publish the work of Colin Humphreys and his publication “The Forgotten Heroes” as an “Electronic” publication.

Our projects with “ICE” are moving very nicely, and we have made our archives available to the team from ICE. We would like to thank Arthur for giving his time and expertise

to help us achieve this. The society also thanks Stephanie Humphreys for her expertise and time. Stephanie has been asked to be a speaker for this project - a tour of ten areas of Granville for Architectural Week in November this year. The tour is being designed by ICE who will design an APP which will be placed onto an Ipad or smart phone. The participants will go to the building or place, open up the APP, and up will come images and history. At St Mark's Church Stephanie will give a 15 minute talk. At the swimming pool, June and I will also speak for 15 minutes. Some of the venues will be just driven by while the APP is showing the history. This will be ground breaking technology for Granville and ICE has agreed to work with us on other projects such as the "Lennox" in Parramatta. Watch this space for more information.

The Greater Western Sydney Heritage Action Group participated in the Open Day at Linnwood once more. They used the Granville Society photographic display of the David Lennox and his work. This is the 4th time that we have featured the "David Lennox" display, and we would like to thank Dorothy Warwick and the Friends of Linnwood for supplying the venue. A good day of networking was achieved with minimum of fuss and a few hundred people got to see our display. People are wondering why we have to fight to save the "Lennox Bridge"; they were under the impression that no one would want to destroy it. When we explain that there is an alternative to putting portals through the original bridge they cannot believe that the destruction is still going ahead and that a decision has been made without a Heritage Engineers Report that would tell them what impact the portals will have on the bridge and its stability.

Barry G Bullivant OAM

<p>THIS WEEK IN HISTORY</p>
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September 22:

The fire that destroyed Sydney's Garden Palace occurred on this day in 1882. The Garden Palace was built in the south-western end of the Royal Botanic Gardens in only eight months to house the Sydney International Exhibition. At the time of the fire a number of government departments stored records in the Palace, and so when fire completely engulfed the timber building a number of significant documents, such as the 1881 Census, were destroyed.

September 23:

On this day in 1993, Sydney was officially announced as the venue for the 2000 Summer Olympic Games. Sydney was selected over Beijing after four rounds of voting at the International Olympic Committee meeting in Monaco. The games were held from 15 September to 1 October.

September 26:

The first railway line in New South Wales was opened on this day in 1855. The 22 kilometre line was built from Redfern to Parramatta Junction with stations at Newtown,

Ashfield, Burwood, Homebush and the temporary terminus at Parramatta Junction. The Sydney terminus was on the south side of Devonshire Street just south of the current location of Central Station.

September 28:

On this day in 1973 the first public performance took place in the newly completed Sydney Opera House. An all-Wagner concert was performed by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by Charles Mackerras.

[Source: State Records NSW, *Today in History*, <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/today-in-history/today-in-history-september>]

A VERY OLD CRIME

This is not a local history article, but it deals with a subject that is very topical and has historical interest. Experts believe the sexual abuse of children has always occurred, and there is evidence there have been sexual assaults of minors in New South Wales for more than 170 years. Indeed in 1848, a Circuit Court judge at Bathurst warned that “the detestable wickedness of infantine violation” was on the increase in every Circuit district in the colony.

The judge made his comments in passing sentence on a former convict, Henry Mackay, convicted of the sexual assault of a nine-year-old girl. Mackay had been sentenced to seven years transportation at the Surrey Quarter Sessions in 1817, and arrived in Tasmania on the *Lady Castlereagh*, on 30 July 1818. He received his Certificate of Freedom in September 1823, and was employed in Sydney as a tailor in 1825, according to the General Muster of that year. In the 1828 Census he was listed as a tailor residing at Coomingborough near Goulburn.¹

Mackay was married and seemed to have been a law-abiding citizen for almost 20 years until a woman and her 11-year-old daughter sought shelter at his Penrith home during heavy rain in 1842. Mary Griffin was travelling with her daughter, Marian, who was born at the Parramatta Female Factory, to Bathurst where she was to join her husband. Mackay welcomed them in and encouraged them to stay for a week. When the mother said she wanted to continue her journey, Mackay suggested the girl stay with him and his wife for a while. He had lost his own child, and he could teach the girl religion and general knowledge. This would be better than the mother taking the girl over the mountains in bad weather. But after the woman had left, Mackay abandoned his wife and fled with the child to various places, including Richmond, the Cowpastures and the Murrumbidgee. He passed the girl off as his daughter and said her name was Betsy Mackay. This continued for 18 months until someone recognised the child from a description given in a newspaper advertisement placed by the mother. Mackay was arrested and faced Berrima Quarter Sessions in September 1843 where a jury found him guilty of violating a child. He did not deny committing the offence but blamed the

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 4 October 1848, p. 2; *Sydney Gazette*, 18 September 1823, p. 1; General Muster List NSW, Ed. Carol J. Baxter, ABGR, Sydney, 1999; 1828 Census, Eds. Sainty and Johnson, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1980

girl, and the jury thought she had at least consented. The judge said he was fortunate he was not charged with the more serious offence of rape which carried the death penalty, but the prosecution had decided to charge him with the lesser offence. He had already spent 12 months in jail and the judge sentenced him to a further 12 months hard labour with periods of solitary confinement.²

In May 1847 Mackay, now going under the name of Charles Henry Mackie or McKay, was again arrested for child sexual abuse. It appears that after his release from Berrima Jail, he worked as a school master at Wallerawang and Bowens Hollow near Lithgow, where he molested four young girls, aged nine to eleven, over several months. It was well over a year before the case went to trial because of the prisoner's attempts to evade or at least delay justice by feigning illness and refusing to speak. Eventually he was carried into Bathurst Circuit Court, apparently helpless and unconscious, but the hearing went ahead after the judge accepted medical evidence that he was fit to stand trial. A jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to be hanged. Mackay showed no reaction to the sentence, and remained crouched in the dock. But a few hours later he regained the power of speech and admitted he had feigned illness. He also said he was sorry for the trouble he had caused.³

His public execution outside the gates of Bathurst Jail at 9 am on 10 November 1848 was quite extraordinary. The crowd, estimated to exceed 600 – more than Bathurst's population – was stunned when it became clear the hangman's rope was a little too long, and some of the onlookers felt the condemned man's suffering was prolonged unnecessarily. But others were convinced his neck was broken immediately by the force of the fall. Public executions began in New South Wales in 1806 in line with the British justice system. They attracted big crowds, including 10,000 at the hanging of John Knatchbull, the first man executed at the new Darlinghurst Jail in Sydney, on 13 February 1844. The last public execution in New South Wales took place at Darlinghurst on 21 September 1852.⁴

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² *SMH*, 15 September 1843, pp 2-3

³ *Bathurst Advocate*, 23 September 1848 p. 2; *SMH* 4 October 1848, p. 2; *Bathurst Advocate*, 30 September p. 3

⁴ G. Woods, *A history of criminal law in NSW – the colonial period*, Federation Press Annandale, 2002, p. 162