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The Granville Guardian

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The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 12.30pm on Saturday 23rd November, 2013

At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville
Christmas Party bring a plate

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

I can't believe that we have completed another year of service to the community; it is my pleasure to wish each and every one of you A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A very special wish for our members who may be experiencing health problems in one form or other.

Thank you to all our members and volunteers who have worked extremely hard, for the society. You are to be commended; we got very high praise from the team at the Information & Cultural Exchange (ICE) who used our archives to mount a tour of Granville. This is one of the more exciting projects we have been involved with. The “Pearls of Granville” which was an architectural study tour of Granville was an outstanding success. The tour was completely booked out for all four days, and our members who worked on this project received a lot of satisfaction out of it. I would like to thank Arthur Naylor and Stephanie Humphreys, as well as all of our volunteers who helped to keep our archives up to date and thus made access to the data so easy.

Our society was also involved in the Open Day of Linnwood House on the 10th November. The launch of the NSW Heritage Network Inc, formed to assist small groups with their heritage problems was attended by many invited guests. the publication will be available on the Heritage Watch Website and Save Our Heritage and the Inheritance Blog very soon. A lot of people have made the knowledge and expertise available for this publication, assisted by the support of Jack Munday and Clive Lucas who have been passionately supporting Australian Heritage for many years.

Congratulations to the Friends of Linnwood for an outstanding day. The organisation and the work that was undertaken for the open day was unbelievable. Linnwood is a fine example of community use of a heritage building.

Our compliments to Holroyd City Council, trustees of the site, for their forward thinking, but also to the Friends of Linnwood for their dedication and hard work. It allowed the work of community groups to be showcased. One of the novel additions to the day was Maurice Hayley, an architect who specialises in making card board cut out models of heritage items. He has made one for the Lennox Bridge for display, and has also made the plans for Linnwood House. His stall, tucked away on a card table near our own, was surrounded all day. This is the link to Linnwood on Youtube.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/heritagemodeller/videos>

The NSW Heritage Network has now linked up to a group who are trying to save Aboriginal Heritage and Culture in NSW. They will benefit from the experiences that our other networks have experienced.

June and I attended the workshop to develop a master plan for the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct. The amount of expertise and knowledge in the room was unbelievable, and many new people have been added to our networks. The workshop was very productive; if what was discussed on the day plays out on the ground, everything will be okay as there was a strong emphasis on heritage and sympathetic usage to maximise the community use of the site. This was run by Elton Consultants, who encouraged discussion instead of talking at you, which was refreshing.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, last Saturday for the year is 23rd November 2013 (Christmas Party), last Wednesday 27th November, 2013, First Wednesday 5th February 2014 and the first Saturday 22nd February 2014.

Barry G Bullivant OAM President



Maurice Hayley's cardboard cut-out of the Lennox Bridge

**JORDAN SPARKS –
PARRAMATTA
UNDERTAKER
By June Bullivant OAM**

Jordan Sparks was an undertaker, auctioneer and Methodist lay preacher in Parramatta for more than 30 years in the mid-19th century

The son of Richard and Susannah Sparks, he was born in Kent, England c 1813, and



was a plumber by trade. After arriving in Parramatta, probably in the early 1840s, he went into partnership with William Robinson as Plumbers, Painters and Glaziers. The partnership was dissolved on 30 June 1843, and Sparks continued to trade on his own until he was declared insolvent in February 1845. This proved to be just a small setback as he was back in business three months later after paying off his debts. In a land sale on 14 July 1852, Sparks purchased two blocks at Parramatta on which he built houses for rental. Then in August 1853, he announced he had commenced business as an undertaker, a calling in which he said he had considerable experience. He also obtained an auctioneers licence, and in 1854 was entrusted with the sale of a carriage and household furniture on behalf of the Honourable H.W. Parker MLC (later Sir Henry Parker) at his residence, Elizabeth Farm.

The Immigration Deposit Journals of 16th November 1854 show he paid a deposit to bring his wife Mary Ann, sons Jordan and Samuel Jordan and an infant child to join him. Sparks operated his business from Church Street, Parramatta near the Lennox Bridge, and then from 115 Marsden Street, Parramatta.

Jordan Sparks died in February 1878. *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported on 19 February 1878 “the death of Jordan Sparks, and old and respected inhabitant of Parramatta on the morning of 15 February after a long and painful illness. Mr Sparks was 65 years of age and was formerly a prominent member of the town, although of late years he has glided out of public notice. His interment took place on Saturday 16th February 1878, at the Wesleyan burial ground, Parramatta North, and in spite of the rain which poured throughout the day, was pretty numerous and respectably attended.”

Members of the Wesleyan Church Parramatta Circuit honoured his loyal service to Methodism with the erection of a plaque: “To the memory of Jordan Sparks who departed this life 15th February 1878 having served the church as a local Preacher and office bearer in this circuit for a period of 30 years.”

The death of Mrs Sparks was reported in the Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate on 10 June 1899: "On Thursday we lost another old and highly respected Parramatta resident, when Mrs Jordan Sparks, senior, died somewhat suddenly. For some time past she had been residing with Mrs. McMichael, of Guilford, who was her daughter and on Thursday Mrs. McMichael signified her intention of coming into Parramatta. Mrs Sparks, who was then apparently in fairly good health, suggested that they should pray before Sarah McMichael left for Parramatta. The two knelt down in prayer, and afterwards Mrs. McMichael left on her mission, only to return and find that Mrs. Sparks was no more. She had died suddenly during the absence. The deceased lady, who was 70 years of age, was one of the oldest members of the Parramatta Wesleyan Church. She is buried with her husband at Parramatta North in the Old Methodist Cemetery."

Sarah Sparks married the Reverend Thomas Ridley McMichael a Wesleyan Minister from Willoughby at Parramatta in 1874. They resided at "Hazelville", Mountford Avenue, Guildford, and it was in their house Mary Ann Sparks died.

