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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 24 November 2012 at our Research Centre 62 Railway Parade Granville**

**Christmas Party, please bring a plate, BYO Drinks tossed salad, coleslaw and meat provided.**

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

## **TO CONTACT US:**

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## **Granville Historical Society**

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

We are at the end of another working year, and welcome in the Christmas season and a break for our hard working members. The last Wednesday will be 28th November 2012; our last Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November will be our Christmas Party. Bring a plate and also your drinks, a fruit punch will also be provided.

We will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Australia Day Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013 with a finger food luncheon at the Granville RSL Memorial Drive, Granville at 12.30pm. All current and past members are welcome, please let June know the week prior, tea & coffee provided, drinks available at club prices. I will show a short presentation of our achievements over the twenty five years. This will be our first Saturday back, in a different venue from usual. Our first Wednesday will be 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

To celebrate our birthday we will be making available for researchers the Metcalfe & Morris funeral arrangements that the middle room girls have been working on for the past three years. They have completed over seventy A4 folders which cover the 1960s, 1970s and some 1990s. They will come in disk form and also be put on our website as searchable pdf format.

After five years of phoning and waiting, we have finally obtained two digital microfilm and microfiche readers for our rooms; they are second hand and have been donated by the NSW State Library for our use. Our thanks must go to Joseph for contacting us and giving us the news last week. This will enable us to hook it up to a computer, get a digital image, transfer it to email and give our students, family historians and the community in general copies of records that they cannot access ordinarily.

Prior to that we made an offer to SAG for one of theirs for \$1,000 as they are upgrading. It is now surplus to our needs so if there is an organisation that would like one please let me know. Also we have an old Canon that has been refurbished and which we will donate to a worthy cause. We have been successful in obtaining a Volunteer Grant from FAHCSIA for \$2,900 which will assist us with equipment for our members generally, members who work really hard, but can progress further with the correct equipment.

Thank you to all members for their work and support for 2012. We have applied to PCC for a Telling Stories grant on the Funeral Industry in Parramatta and beyond; let's hope we are more successful than last time. Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Barry G Bullivant OAM  
**President**

<p><b>HOW OUR SOCIETY          BEGAN</b></p>
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**In 1987 amid the excitement and sense of anticipation as the Bicentenary approached, Parramatta Council established a Granville Ward Bicentennial Committee, charged with proposing some Bicentennial projects that would involve the local community.**

**Barry Bullivant was a member of that committee. A local businessman with a deep interest in local and family history, he pressed hard for the establishment of a historical society. This, he told the committee, would be a multi-purpose concept. It would galvanise local people to become involved in the celebrations; it would help to provide the human resources to collect, study and record objects and materials of local historical interest; and would make the community aware that our old and historic buildings needed to be preserved, not only for the present generation, but for future generations as well.**

**A public meeting was called at the Granville Town Hall on 12 November 1987 to discuss the proposal. This decided to form the Granville Historical Society. The minutes of the Granville Historical Society Organisational Meeting record that Barry Bullivant was elected President, Maureen Burke Secretary, and June Bullivant Treasurer. Audrey Meisenhelter, Greg Wulff and Yvonne Maio were elected to the Executive Committee. (Yvonne withdrew from the committee in December). Paul Garrard, a Granville representative on Parramatta Council since 1974, was also present at the meeting, which was told the council had granted the Society the use of 10a Carlton Street for 12 months at no cost. 10a Carlton Street is a two-room Federation brick building on the southern side of the front of the Town Hall. It was erected in 1922 for the Granville Municipal Council engineer and health inspector, and is still used by the Granville Historical Society as a repository for artefacts and historical items.**

**The Society moved quickly on one of its main objectives – the preservation of old and historic buildings. At its first general meeting in the Town Hall on 10 December 1987, it decided to take up the issue with Parramatta City Council, the Heritage Council, and Laurie Ferguson, who was then the State M.L.A. for Granville.**

In February 1988, the Society staged its first major event, an exhibition of historic Granville photographs in the Town Hall. At the same time, fund-raising was a high priority, and members prepared craft items and jams and preserves to sell at street stalls.

March 1988 saw committees formed to study a wide range of topics, including historic buildings, monuments churches and plaques, industrial and commercial development, schools, railways, town planning, photography and family history. The historic buildings committee brought officials of the National Trust to Granville for what was described as ‘a very successful tour of historic buildings, both private and public’.

The election of office bearers for the 1988-89 year was held in May with Barry Bullivant returned as President. David Eglon was elected Vice-President, and June Bullivant Secretary-Treasurer, together with a committee that included Greg Wulff, June Eglon, Audrey Meisenhelter, and Dianne Williams. The Society’s finances were given a big boost in September with \$1,000 coming from the proceeds of the Granville Bicentennial Ball, held at the Granville RSL Club. The ball was organised by June Bullivant with the assistance of members.

In November 1988, Laurie Ferguson was invited to become our Patron, and has remained in that position, a strong supporter of our society.

An interesting program of speakers was provided throughout the Bicentennial year at our monthly meetings. Historian Terry Kass gave some advice on projects the Society should be investigating; John Watson also had valuable advice – on ‘Keeping Archives’; Vic Davey gave a history of the industrial development of Granville, and Kevin Cork spoke on ‘The History of Cinema in Australia’.

Barry Bullivant retired as President at the annual meeting in June 1989, replaced by June Bullivant. David Eglon again filled the role of Vice-President, Meryl Watson was elected Secretary and Linda Bradley Treasurer. The incoming committee members were John Watson, Audrey Meisenhelter and Dianne Williams.

In his President’s Report for the 1988-89 year, Barry Bullivant said: ‘The founding members of our society were aware that to attract new members, and of course to hold the members we had, we needed to have a well-balanced program that would meet the needs of our members, and would cover as many aspects of local history as possible. I’m sure you will agree that we have a come a long way towards achieving this aim’.

[Editor’s Note: This is a brief account of the first two years of the Granville Historical Society. There have been other members whose efforts have helped to make this Society what it is today, but that is a story to be told at another time]

## THE GOUGH TOWN EXTENSION

As we reported in the article ‘Gough Town and Coffee Palaces’ in the October *Guardian*, the Gough Town estate at Merrylands was offered for sale in April 1881 by a well-known temperance campaigner, Philip Risby Holdsworth.

The marketing of Gough Town as a temperance township where no alcohol could be sold or manufactured was an outstanding success. All 378 allotments were sold by September 1881, although some of the original buyers did not proceed with their purchases when they were required to come up with their first monthly payments on 1 June. The exceptionally strong demand prompted Holdsworth to look for additional land. In June he announced he had acquired the St Ann's Hill Estate which had been on the market since the previous September. This land, formerly owned by A.T. Holroyd, was once part of the area reserved by Governor Phillip for church and school purposes. It was adjacent to Gough Town but closer to Merrylands railway station. The previous vendor had described it as 'the cheapest and most picturesque land on the market'. It had frontages to Merrylands Road, Newman Street (then known as The Avenue), Chetwynd and Addlestone Roads, Oxford, Cambridge, Burford, and St Ann Streets, and Memorial Avenue (Chertsey Terrace). Holdsworth also took over the unsold balance of the Merrylands Estate, on the northern side of Merrylands Road opposite St Ann's Hill. Marketed as Gough Town Extension, 'where there were no public houses and no drinkshops to tempt men away', more than 150 additional allotments were offered for sale on 24 September 1881.<sup>1</sup>

Strong buyer demand continued, and by March 1882 a total of 575 housing blocks had been sold in Gough Town and Gough Town Extension. The unsold lots together with 15 so-called cottage lots in a small subdivision were auctioned on 11 March 1882.<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile the development of a new housing area west of Parramatta followed the opening of a new railway station on the western line at Mount Druitt in July 1881. The land was part of the Mount Druitt Estate signed over to soldier, engineer and early settler, Major George Druitt in 1837. As a public servant supervising public works in the colony from 1817 to 1821, Druitt was responsible for the construction of many roads and bridges, including the Dog Trap Road (Woodville Road). About 310 acres from the estate was further subdivided into two sections. The first of these was offered as villa sites at an auction on the lawn of the new railway station on 21 May 1881. Next a subdivision of almost 600 allotments, marketed by Philip Holdsworth as the Garfield Temperance Town, in what he called 'The Great Sale of the Year', was put up for auction on 9 November 1881. The terms were similar to those for the sale of the Gough Town land. Advertisements for the auction said the railway platform and reserve were in the centre of the property and there were also an established village and public school nearby. The auctions were apparently very successful, as in September 1882, Holdsworth advertised there were 'only a few lots left'.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 17 September 1881 p. 13, 1 June 1881 p. 11, 19 September 1881 p. 7

<sup>2</sup> *SMH*, 8 March 1882 p. 8;

<sup>3</sup> M. Austin, 'Druitt, George (1775–1842)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/druitt-george-1994/text2431>, accessed 13 November 2012; NSW Heritage Register, 'The Manse, Mount Druitt', [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au) accessed 13 November 2012; *SMH*, 9 May 1881 p. 9, 29 October 1881, p. 15, 4 November 1881 p. 4