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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 2.00 pm on Saturday 27 October 2012

**At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville
Executive Meeting 1.00 pm
Guest Speakers
Dorothy Warwick and Pat
O'Brien – Grand (and not so
grand) Cemetery Monuments**

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

Granville Historical Society has been busier than ever. We have completed 12 speaking engagements since the last meeting. Things have been a little grim; we have added some new topics and have been researching new ones. The best thing about these presentations is that some of the groups, especially Probus clubs, have nearly 100 members, and we can obtain leads for projects we are doing. We have made contact with a local doctor's wife who has been in Granville since 1952; we have a contact for a woman who has some information and artefacts on Henry Lawson; we ran into a fellow who is the great grandson of the owner of the Vauxhall Inn; so you can see the benefits of this public relations exercise.

Our main focus in the last month has been social media. We have set up a Facebook page, and have added to our websites. Our members have been working extremely hard, especially Dorothy Warwick and Arthur Naylor who have been taking some beautiful photographs that we can put online and share them with the community. Thanks to Dorothy and Arthur, we have an ever growing population of admiring people who are enjoying their efforts; most posts attract nearly 50 people who like the post.

We have also been assisting with a web site of the Granville RSL, helping give them an online presence and we have created a Facebook page. We think this is the way of the future, and can see social media as a useful tool for obtaining and sharing information.

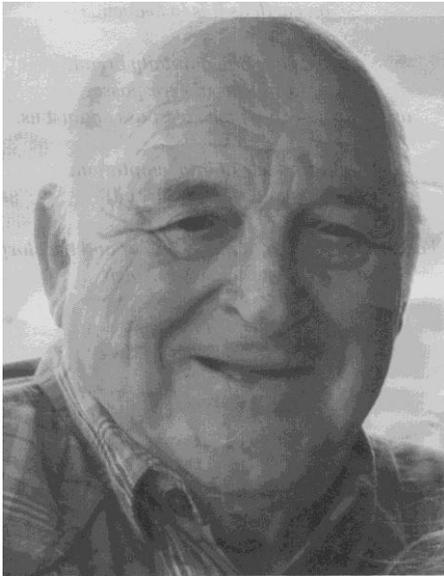
We are researching the funeral industry from Parramatta to Rookwood and beyond; if anyone has information on undertakers, stonemasons, carriage builders, etc, would you contact June with your information.

Our working bees are moving along and getting even busier, and Daphne Wiles is training our new volunteers in the basics of cataloguing.

Now to the Lennox Bridge saga: on 3rd October, the Heritage Council met to discuss the DA that Parramatta Council will make the decision. The report that was done by the Parramatta Branch is 30 pages long. It ruled against defacing the bridge, following 149 submissions sent to the Heritage Office, of which 141 were against demolishing the bridge heritage. So far Granville has posted protests on to our Facebook Page, circulated to all friends who include politicians, greenies and the like, and a few that say they like to protect heritage, but when it comes to putting themselves up front they are nowhere to be seen. Granville has sent an email and letter of protest to the Minister Robyn Parker, Premier Barry O'Farrell, Chairman of the Heritage Council, Parramatta Lord Mayor and Councillors. Congratulations to Dorothy Warwick and Mt Druiitt who are with it all the way.

Granville has asked for a copy of the report and also a copy of the minutes. I am told that the report is a large file, so they are seeing if they can send it; the minutes will not be available until they are ready to have the next meeting. We have sent the information to the Parramatta Sun and are looking at Talk Back Radio and Today Tonight.

Barry G Bullivant OAM



Vale John Frederick Parkins 22 November 1929-21 September 2012

John was born in Dorrigo on the 22nd November 1929. John loved his roots - just recently he had a trip there and thoroughly enjoyed it. John was a family man, always talking about his children and grandchildren. We met John when he and June came to the society many years ago to trace William Lorando Jones, the noted sculptor. This was June's interest but John always supported June with her genealogy. John had worked at David Jones and Peters Ice Cream, and could be heard telling people about his time at Peters, discussing how he liked the brick of ice cream because the best part stuck to the packaging. John and June were members of the Liverpool Genealogy as well, and they spent hours attending meetings. At our society, he was doing data entry, working on the A. F. Anderson Funeral Files. He would say 'I am only up to the B's, I'll be dead before this job is

finished', but he would beaver on. He and Barry Bullivant spent many years in the same room, where they would discuss stories, tell jokes, get a bit of work done, and if you did not keep an eye on them they would have a nap. But they enjoyed each other's company. His other great love was the Masonic Lodge of Padstow, a community service organization, and John certainly achieved, holding office and working for the community. You could tell by the number of members who came to his funeral service how well he was liked and respected. One member said John had nicknamed him "Bubbles"; the name stuck and he was called that by John until the day that he passed on. He was also a member of Probus, where he spent many happy hours. The Society will miss John not only for his service to us but I would see him come up the hallway, he would block my view, a giant of a man, but a gentle giant of a man and a thoroughly nice one. Vale John from all your friends at Granville.

June Bullivant

Remembrance Day (also known as **Poppy Day** or **Armistice Day** is a [memorial](#) day observed in [Commonwealth](#) countries since the end of [World War I](#) to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty. This day, or alternative dates, are also recognized as special days for war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries. Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November to recall the end of hostilities in World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month," in accordance with the [Armistice, signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning](#). ("At the 11th hour" refers to the *passing* of the 11th hour, or 11:00 a.m.) World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. ^[1]



The day was specifically dedicated by [King George V](#) on 7 November 1919 as a day of remembrance for members of the armed forces who were killed during World War I. This was possibly done upon the suggestion of [Edward George Honey](#) to [Wellesley Tudor Pole](#), who established two ceremonial periods of remembrance based on events in 1917. ^[2]

The red [remembrance poppy](#) has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "[In Flanders Fields](#)". These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of [Flanders](#) in World War I, their brilliant red colour an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

DIARY

WALK FOR HERITAGE

Join the Friends of the Parramatta Female Factory in the Walk for Heritage, at the Female Factory, Fleet Street Parramatta, from 10 to 11.30 am next Saturday 27 October.

The walk takes place on the 185th anniversary of Australia's earliest female workers action.

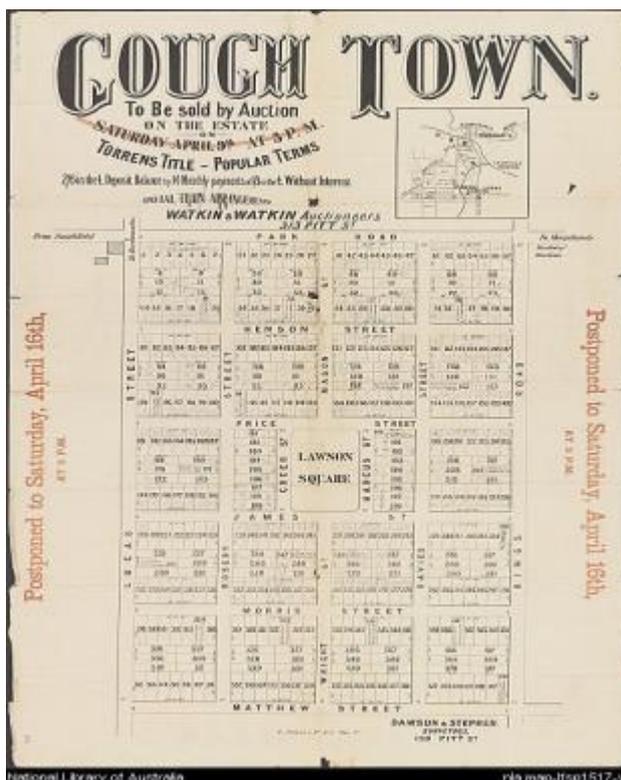
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Parramatta and District Historical Society is presenting an exhibition of photographs of Parramatta taken around 1925, at the Lucas Gallery in Hambleton Cottage. Phone 9635 6924 for details.

GOUGH TOWN AND COFFEE PALACES

Land developers often named streets in a new subdivision after family members. In Australia's first temperance township, Gough Town at Merrylands, the streets bore the names of leaders of the New South Wales temperance movement. Some of these temperance advocates were also directors of companies that had established coffee palaces in Sydney at about the same time. The coffee palace movement was an initiative closely aligned with temperance groups.

The developer of Gough Town, Philip Risby Holdsworth, was a well-known temperance advocate. He was born in London c. 1825, came to the colony with his family in 1832, and later worked as a boat builder at Pyrmont and Woolloomooloo Bay before becoming a land agent and developer. In 1881, in association with a partner, John Bennett, he subdivided a 100 acre block of land near the oldest part of Merrylands, adjacent to Arthur Todd Holroyd's property Sherwood Scrubs. Holroyd, a barrister, company director, Member of Parliament and first mayor of Prospect and Sherwood Council, had bought a large part of William Sherwin's grant at Merrylands West in 1855.¹



The estate of 378 allotments was called Gough Town, after the internationally renowned temperance orator, John Bartholomew Gough. When the temperance movement swept England and America in the middle of the nineteenth century, Gough drew big audiences to his lectures on the evils of drink and how he turned his life around when he signed the pledge after becoming an alcoholic.²

The land was bounded by Merrylands Road (then known as Park Road), Chetwyn Road (Kings Road), Matthew Street, and Fowler Road (Lucas Street). New streets included Henson, Price, James, Morris, Roseby, Davies, Creer and Marcus Streets. Buyers were assured there was no better site in the area for a new township, and that the future of Gough Town should be a rapidly

improving one. An open square at the centre of the estate, called Lawson Square (after the English temperance campaigner, Sir Wilfrid Lawson) was reserved for 'public recreation'. Land at the southwest corner was allocated for school purposes. Gough

¹ *The Sydney Gazette*, 13 September 1832; *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 27 March 1897, p. 9; G. Karskens, *Holroyd: a social history of western Sydney*, NSW University Press, 1991, pp. 83-88

² *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 17 April 1886, p. 9

Town Public School was established on this site in March 1886; the name was changed to Merrylands Public School in January 1912.³

Holdsworth was secretary of the United Temperance Association of New South Wales, an umbrella organisation representing the Temperance Alliance (whose formal name was the New South Wales Alliance for the Suppression of Intemperance), the Sons of Temperance, the Independent Order of Good Templars, and the Independent Order of Rechabites. He named the township's streets after his temperance colleagues: John Davies MLA was chairman of the Temperance Alliance. John Wright was Chief Templar and James B. Price Secretary of the Independent Order of Good Templars. William B. James and Lorimer E. Harcus were also Templar members. Joseph Creer MLA was a committee member of the Temperance Alliance, William Henson MLA, John Roseby MLA, Amiel Morris and G.F Mason were from the Sons of Temperance and George Lucas was a temperance campaigner for over 20 years. Holdsworth nominated William John Foster, militant temperance advocate, and Justice Minister in the Parkes-Robertson Government in 1881, who studied law in the office of A.T. Holroyd, as his representative on a Trust in charge of Lawson Square. Land buyers elected Amiel Morris and Lorimer Harcus to the other two positions.⁴

When the land went on sale on 16 April 1881, 51 blocks were sold on the first day to buyers who were happy to take up land in an area where no alcohol was allowed to be sold or manufactured. Holdsworth and his son signed up for five allotments each, William James purchased two, and George Lucas one. A further 122 allotments were sold on 24 September 1881.⁵

Soon after the first sale, eight thousand temperance supporters attended a function celebrating the founding of Gough Town at the Garden Palace, the venue purpose-built for Sydney's International Exhibition in 1879. (The palace was destroyed by fire on 22 September 1882) About 100 of the new land owners were guests at a celebratory dinner at the Sydney Coffee Tavern in George Street City.⁶

Philip Holdsworth had diverse community interests, separate to his involvement in the temperance movement. He was secretary of the Protectionist League, responsible for organising candidates for elections, and was a member of the Protestant Political Association. He attended meetings of the Irish National League, a minor group that raised funds for Irish causes. He was active in various suburban progress associations, and deputations to government on local issues, and was a delegate to the Sydney Church of England annual synod. In September 1884 he spoke at a public meeting in the Granville School of Arts in support of an appeal to raise money to build a Sunday School hall at St Mark's Church. In 1890, he and Granville identity John Rayner were

³ National Library of Australia, Map, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-lfsp1517> ; *SMH*, 22 March 1881, p. 9; Government Schools of New South Wales from 1848, accessed 11 October 2012, http://www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/main_pages/simple.aspx

⁴ Various biographical sources, including the Biographical Register of Former Members of the NSW Parliament, <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/members.nsf/V3ListFormerMembers>; M. Rutledge, 'Foster, William John (1831–1909)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/foster-william-john-3560/text5505>, accessed 11 October 2012; *SMH*, 27 April 1881, p. 5

⁵ *SMH*, 30 April 1881, p.6, 26 September 1881, p. 4

⁶ *SMH*, 25 May 1881, p. 6, 27 April 1881, p. 5

appointed auditors for Prospect and Sherwood Council, and he also expressed interest in becoming an auditor for the City of Sydney.

His obituary in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1897 noted his ‘interest in many philanthropic causes’. An entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* about his only son, Philip Joseph Holdsworth, described Holdsworth Senior as a ‘respected boat builder ... prominent in early temperance and protectionist movements in Sydney’. On the debit side of his character ledger were his financial affairs that led to proceedings in the Insolvency Court in 1851 and 1857, and his 12 months in jail when he was a 25-year-old. He had pleaded guilty in the Sydney Quarter Sessions in March 1847, to embezzling £176 while employed as a clerk by the Australasian Colonial and General Life Assurance and Annuity Company.⁷

COFFEE PALACES

The establishment of coffee palaces in the middle of the nineteenth century was encouraged by the temperance movement to wean the masses from a desire to frequent pubs. In England the campaign was directed at the working class, but in Australia coffee palaces became places that provided accommodation, leisure facilities such as a reading or billiard room, and meals at a reasonable price.

The first such establishment in Sydney was the Sydney Coffee Palace which opened at 293 George Street in the heart of the city, on 1 October 1879, just in time for the International Exhibition. It comprised a restaurant, 62 bedrooms, billiard room, reading room and ladies room. It was soon attracting 10,000 customers a week who consumed four tons of beef and mutton, 30 lambs, 250 dozen eggs, and a quarter of a ton of coffee. The ‘great success’ of their first venture induced the directors to open a second and larger establishment in a three-storey building between Pitt and George Streets near Circular Quay on 13 July 1880. A newspaper report on the opening noted that ‘coffee palaces are not only fashionable but appear to have acquired a permanent footing in Sydney’. Twelve months later the company reported ‘the continued success of the coffee palace movement’, but said profits were not up to expectations. Indeed there were signs investors were starting to become anxious about dividends. Then in May 1884, the company was forced to sell its first coffee palace to try to reduce its debts. One of the early directors, temperance activist John Roseby, was declared bankrupt with debts of £7,000.⁸

Soon after the second coffee palace had opened, a rival company, the Sydney Coffee Tavern Company was officially registered, with two Members of Parliament, F. Abigail and W.F. Martin, as directors. It built a 30-bedroom venture with restaurant, reading room, and billiard room (described as the best in Sydney) that opened at 251-255 Pitt Street on 29 September 1880. The tavern had a very short life and went into liquidation

⁷ *SMH* 26 September 1884, p. 7, 5 September 1890, p. 8, 27 March 1897, p. 9; H. Heseltine, ‘Holdsworth, Philip Joseph (1851–1902)’, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/holdsworth-philip-joseph-3782/text5977>, accessed 11 October 2012; State Records NSW, Insolvency Index; *SMH*, 12 March 1847, p. 2

⁸ *SMH*, 1 October 1879, p. 8; *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 17 July 1880, p. 25; *SMH*, 30 September 1881, 1 May 1884, p. 16; Former Members NSW Parliament, <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/members.nsf/>

in October 1882, but continued to operate under new ownership providing accommodation for lodgers.⁹



1 Grand Central Coffee Palace Clarence St. Sydney



2 Federal Coffee Palace Melbourne

Despite the failure of the early coffee palaces, there was renewed interest in the concept in the late 1880s. Five new premises were opened in Sydney between July 1889 and January 1890, including the Victoria Coffee Palace in Pitt Street, the Post Office Coffee Palace in Erskine Street, the Federal Coffee Palace in Phillip Street and the six-storey 200-room Grand Central Coffee Palace in Clarence Street at the top of Barrack Street. Most coffee palaces struggled to be viable until they sacrificed principle for profit, and obtained a liquor licence.

The Grand Central obtained approval to sell wines and spirits 2½ years after opening. The coffee palace movement was strongest in Melbourne where there were 50 palaces by about 1888, the year of the Melbourne International Exhibition. They included the Federal Coffee Palace in Collins Street (the largest in Australia with 500 rooms), and the Grand, which in later years would become the Hotel Windsor. But even in Melbourne, many coffee palaces were in financial difficulty by the early 1890s.¹⁰

Another Melbourne-based group, the Australian Coffee Palace Company, which had been reaping a handsome profit from the Melbourne Coffee Palace in Collins Street, decided to expand to Sydney in the late 1880, and spent £40,000 on a prime inner-city site with frontages to Bent, Phillip, and Young Streets.

⁹ *SMH*, 5 August 1889, p. 5, 15 January 1892, p. 7 *SMH*, 30 September 1880, p. 6, 4 October 1882, p. 14, 28 October 1882, p. 8;

¹⁰ *SMH*, 5 August 1889, p. 5, 15 January 1892, p. 7; G. Wotherspoon, Dictionary of Sydney, <http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/coffee>; S. Murdoch, Encyclopedia of Melbourne, <http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM00371b.htm>



Hotel Metropole Sydney 1

With the purchase of quality imported furnishings, the total bill for construction and outfitting had reached £150,000 by the opening date of 14 January 1890. It was named Hotel Metropole, because the owners wanted it to be recognised as a first class hotel, believing that overseas guests felt coffee palaces were inferior to licensed hotels.

After 16 months as a temperance hotel, the Metropole was granted a liquor licence. It became a Sydney landmark, remaining business until 1969 when it was demolished to make way for a government office block.¹¹

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¹¹*SMH* 15 January 1890, p. 5; *The Argus*, 10 August 1889, p.11, *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 15 October 1898, p.11