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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 2.00pm on Saturday 27 July 2013

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

Guest Speaker
June M Bullivant OAM
Topic "Linkedin, Twitter,
Facebook, Website and the World
Wide Web"

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

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

We are at the time of year where we need to thank our workers for the great job again this year. Thank you to our girls data entry team, Stephanie Humphreys, Robyn Gibson, Lynne and Dulcie Willing, and Betty Higginson, who doubles as tea and kitchen hostess and generally looking after members of the society. Then to the boys room data entry team, John Tompsett, John Scarborough, Dennis Lovely, Barbara Longworth, and our newest recruit Nathan Woloch. To Colin Humphreys our newsletter researcher and editor, and Arthur Naylor our database, handyman, researcher, who can fix everything from electric train sets to computers, and put cupboards together as well. The data entry girls have worked so hard on the funeral plans we had to purchase another cupboard to store the folders in.

Thank also Clifford Howard for the hard work he has been doing despite being quite ill over the past year. He has been mounting photographs, and trying to overcome the back log by changing over the old albums which had second copies in them, that were falling apart. The second copy has been added to the master, and if people want to buy copies of originals they are with the master. To Judith Forrest for the never ending job of mounting news clippings for our resource files; this has proved extremely useful for the many researchers we have helped over the past twelve months. To the committee I would like to thank you for your dedication to the society and your decision making that is taking the society into the digital era with a passion.

To our members-at-large - Karen Garrard for maintaining the profile of the society and adding to our collection of Parramatta history by obtaining disks of Parramatta history. Also thank you to Maureen McManus for sense of humour and her support during her extended illness. Frances

Bluhdorn and Daphne Wiles for their dedicated work of catching up on the back log of cataloguing of donated books, photographs and artefacts. Stephanie Humphreys had run out of data entry for the database, but now has a pile in front of her thanks to Daphne and Frances.

Our achievements are remarkable; we have been able to maintain the society and the projects that we are committed to as well as achieve some firsts in the historical world. Members of our society have been working on heritage projects in Parramatta and Western Sydney; the problem is that the White Paper of the NSW Government looks to wipe out the heritage protection in New South Wales even for State Listed Heritage Items. We are talking about the 1836 convict-built Lennox Bridge in Parramatta, also the 1795 Thompson Square in Windsor. The society was part of a campaign in 1990 to save the Lennox, and has had to work as part of a team to do it once again.

Many of our society achievements have been varied, we had to complete ten new PowerPoint Presentations to cope with the requests for our talks from organisations, and we have averaged three talks per month for twelve months. We celebrated our 25th Birthday in January 2013 at the Granville RSL with over seventy people attending. We have digitised the annual reports and the photographs of the Granville Multicultural Community Centre, and also written the history of the organisation, and we have started on a history of the funeral industry in Parramatta, working with Pat O'Brien and Judith Dunn. We made a PowerPoint presentation for Guardian Funerals which they are showing to staff and the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce. We have auspiced the 1st Granville Scouts for a grant to allow them to purchase equipment to assist young people with a disability. We partnered the Friends of Mays Hill in the story of the Funeral industry where they supplied the society with a lot of information and we donated \$1,000 to them from a Parramatta City Council Telling Stories grant on the funeral industry.



We were successful with a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs for \$3,000 which has allowed us to refurbish the Memorial Cabinet at the Granville RSL. This cannot be completed at the moment due to extensions at the club; however, everything is being readied to complete this project when the building has been finished. We

were also successful with a grant from the Federal Government for \$13,700 which will allow us to tell the story about David Lennox and his massive amount of bridge building not only in England prior to moving to Australia but from Parramatta to Port Phillip Bay. The work on

this project has been very rewarding; Dianne Stocks the daughter of Frank Bloxham, a past member of the Parramatta Historical Society, a noted and dedicated historian and an avid collector of Lennox information and memorabilia, has donated to the society his Lennox collection. The grant will allow us to mount a static display as well as work with ICE (Information Cultural Exchange) in Parramatta to achieve a digital display also. We are already assisting ICE with an architectural project on Granville, digitising our information to allow them to use the information for that project and they will furnish us with a copy of the project. This will have a mutual benefit both to us and ICE.

We were also successful in obtaining a grant for a project entitled “*A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated.*” This grant was to research other cultures and exchange information and knowledge; this is also part of our ongoing work of expanding our knowledge to understand other people and their culture. As you are aware we share our centre with the Cantonese Opera Group and the Scottish House, we have also had guest speakers from the African, Chinese, Aboriginal, Scottish, and Lebanese Communities, and other nationalities will be added to our knowledge base and archives over the next twelve months.

Our student projects were extremely successful again this year; this and our other projects would not happen without the support of the Parramatta City Council. We have had numerous students come to us for information for their projects, and all of them are asked to contribute to our archives with their work. They have all received top marks for their efforts. Granville Boys High School continues to work with us. The information that was given to them was about five of the heritage items located near the school. (Member David Eglon asked us what 30 students wearing Granville High School uniforms were doing outside his house and what did we have to do with it) They still have our story boards from 2007 that they are using as a visual display from which the students gain inspiration. It was pleasing to attend the school to see the work of the students and perform a PowerPoint on the history of Granville to the boys, who are all from NESB families. They were genuinely interested in our history, and this is pleasing to see. Our thanks are extended to the history teachers at the school for the interest in our area.

Ron Lamb a resident of Auburn and keen historian has asked the society if we would assist with the scanning and printing of 105 6x4 negatives of country towns around the turn of the century. Some were of Canowindra in 1900; there were also images of Bathurst, Parkes, Cowra and some other areas. These were acquired by Ron’s father many years ago in his job as a demolisher. The society has taken on the task of having the negatives done, and had a disk printed which Ron has given us permission to distribute to people like the RAHS and other societies that are part of this collection. The Society has also advised Ron to lodge them with the Mitchell Library for safe keeping.



We are adding to our archive on the Holy Family School at South Granville, with the help of Roy Burton who has borrowed the information from Father Stack, We have scanned the photographs, and Betty Higginson is working through all the newsletters, photocopying for our archives. Thank you to Roy and Betty for their dedication. Also thank you to George Pearce and Susan Russell for their contributions to our archives. They are always on the lookout for goodies to add to our collection.

Barry G Bullivant OAM
President

THE BOWMAN FLAG

An article on the Bowman Farms in the March Guardian told how John Bowman emigrated from Scotland to New South Wales in 1798 and settled on a 100 acre grant at Richmond. He gradually acquired more land, including three properties in the Parramatta district – Denham Court and Denham Farm, granted to Richard Atkins in 1793 and 1798, and a grant of adjoining land in his own name. These holdings remained in the Bowman family until the 1870s.

There is another achievement that gives John Bowman and his wife Honor a place in Australia's history. They were the creators of the oldest known locally designed flag. It was flown from their home *Archerfield* near Richmond in April 1806 to celebrate the victory of Lord Horatio Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805. News of Trafalgar did not reach Sydney for almost eight months, when it was published in the *Sydney Gazette* on 13

April 1806. Governor King ordered a day of thanksgiving to commemorate the victory on the following Sunday.

The Bowman Flag was reputedly made by the women in the Bowman household, using silk from Honor Bowman's wedding dress. The design contains the first recorded use in Australian heraldry of the kangaroo and emu supporting a shield. It also shows the three flowers, the rose, shamrock and thistle, and the word 'Unity'. This refers to the union of England, Ireland and Scotland in 1801

The design was hand pointed in oils, reputedly by Mary Bowman, but the painting appears to be the work of a professional artist. The motto 'England expects every man will do his duty', was the message signalled by Nelson to the ships of the Royal Navy at the start of the Battle of Trafalgar.



treatment.

The Bowman family held the flag until 1905, the 100th anniversary of the flag, when it was presented to the Richmond Superior School. It was donated to the Mitchell Library in 1916 and subsequently underwent preservation

The above images show the original flag and an enhanced reproduction.

(Source: State Library of New South Wales)

http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/history_nation/terra_australis/bowman/index.html

Colin Humphreys

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On 28 July in 1923 construction began on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The contractors set up two workshops at Milson's Point on the North Shore where the steel was fabricated into girders. The granite for the pylons was quarried near Moruya, where about 250 workers and their families lived in a temporary settlement.

[Errata: The years for the Atkins grants in the March Guardian article should have read 1793 and 1798]