



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 22nd March, 2014

At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville

Guest Speaker

Katherine Knight

Topic Passion Purpose Meaning:
Arts Activism in Western Sydney
March is Art Month

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Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery

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Friends of Linnwood

<http://www.linnwood.org.au>

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

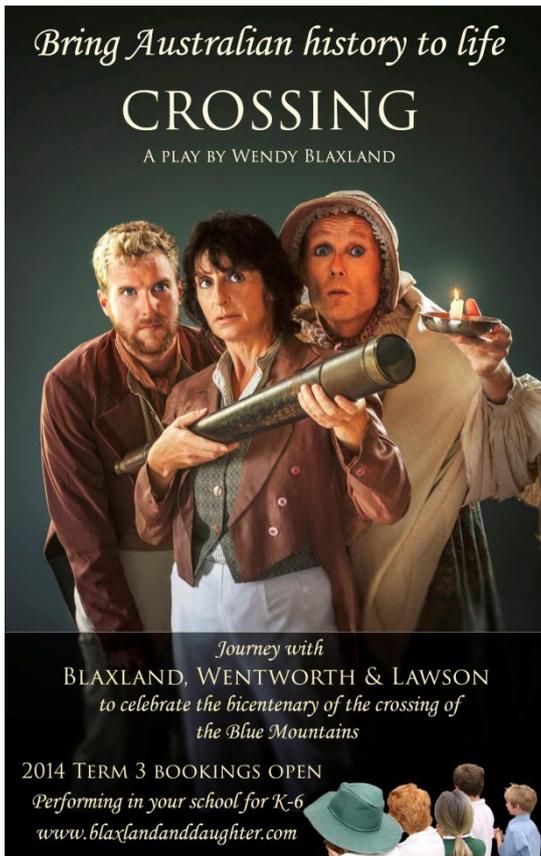
"A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated."

Granville Boys High School International History teacher brought 10 boys from his class for a talk and a tour of our archives; all the students are from families that have called Australia home. The boys were told briefly about the suburb that they are attending school and thanked Barry Bullivant for his time.

June Bullivant had a meeting with Wendy Blaxland and her daughter Jessica. They have formed a small family-based theatre group, *Blaxland and Daughter*, that is performing a play Wendy has written on the crossing of the Blue Mountains, called *Crossing*. The group was formed to develop and present theatre projects on educational and historical subjects to young people and families, in schools, and public performances. They have been self funding the operation of their company, and the play has been running for 12 months at schools throughout Sydney.

This year the company is concentrating on Parramatta schools, both primary and secondary, and is now offering bookings for the third term. The company uses professional actors and the play is written to educate and entertain, with an evaluation and question and answer period at the end of the performance. Actors and management alike donate their time for rehearsals; they work out of Brush Farm House, and have people donate their time to make this project become a reality. This is a unique and novel way of teaching Australian history and the Granville Historical Society is in the process of assisting this company as part of our outreach programs to "Bring Australian History Alive"

If you would like to make a booking for your school please ring Wendy Blaxland on 9489 4955 or email wendy@blaxlandanddaughter.com to discuss your event.



The company has been praised for their initiative, the quality of the performance and the retention of the story of the *Crossing*. If you know of any schools that would be interested in this project please pass the details on.

There has been increasing interest in our PowerPoint presentations, with talks being booked by groups on a regular basis. So popular was the past month's that on one day we travelled to Galston in the morning and then Liverpool in the afternoon.

Member Judith Forest surprised us last Wednesday with a collection of WW1 letters home from the front. This sad story of her family will be featured in our upcoming project on WW1, the families that lost loved ones, and the ones that came home. Granville is committed to make the men and women who served our country more than a surname and an initial on a Memorial, we want to give them the honour they deserve, the family that they belonged to and the problems they suffered because of war. If you have anything in your collection you would like to share, please contact June with

your story, artefacts and letters.

If the society is successful with our grant submissions we will be researching the Royal Gate in front of St John's Church in Church Street Parramatta, and Enid Turbit will be researching the War Memorial in Prince Alfred Park.

The 4th Annual ZEST Awards Ceremony, held on 26 February 2014, was a resounding success in recognising some of the great work which takes place in the community sector of Greater Western Sydney. Nearly 500 people packed the Millenium Room of ANZ Stadium and were treated to stunning performances by Manea Pacifica and Hybrid Formz Academy. The night ended on a high with the induction of Cheryl Webster OAM, Maree McDermott OAM and Uncle Wes Marne into the ZEST Hall of Fame. ICE (Information Cultural Exchange) who conducted the "Pearls of Granville" for Architectural Week earlier this year won the "Out Of The Box" award on the night. *The Stronger Voice for Western Sydney* partnership created the ZEST Awards, an annual community service sector awards event, in 2010. Granville Historical Society would like to congratulate the team at ICE and was pleased to assist the project with information and speakers.

The other collaboration with ICE, our Lennox Project "The Lennox Trail", will be launched during Heritage Month, and dates will be announced shortly. The website is <http://www.lennoxtrail.com>

Barry G Bullivant OAM
President.

VALE FATHER LES CAMPION



Photo Victoria Brooks Catholic Weekly 2013

Father Les Campion, a popular Priest of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Randall Street Granville died at 4.30 pm on Sunday 16 March 2014 at the Rosary Village at Yennora. At this time there are no funeral arrangements known.

Father Campion was the local Catholic Priest from 1971 until his retirement in 2007. He was also chairman for a number of years of the board for Marian Nursing Home which was established by the Diocese of Parramatta in 1970, and was awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (a papal award given from the Vatican) in 2011 which also marked his 61 years of priesthood.

The award was announced by the Bishop of Parramatta, the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, at the 2011 Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Wednesday 20 April 2011. Father Campion was awarded at the same time as Father Eric Burton and Father David Scott. The award was not the first blessing Fathers Eric Burton, David Scott and Les Campion have shared on the same day; all were ordained priests on 22 July 1950, in the same ceremony at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. Also known as the 'Cross of Honour', the medal was established by Leo XIII in 1888, and is currently given for distinguished service to the Church by lay people and clergy.

He is perhaps best known for the pastoral care he was able to give on the day of the Granville rail disaster in 1977, when an express train from Mt Victoria bound for Central Station derailed at the Bold Street Bridge.

Father Les was the first religious minister to arrive at the scene of the accident which claimed the lives of 83 people and seriously injured 213. When asked his recollection about the disaster he answered *"All I could see were the cruelly mangled bodies of those immediately in front of me. It was absolute desolation, dust and wreckage and when you saw that terrible picture, the realisation that there were people in there."*

Father Les also prepared and delivered speeches for the Granville Rail Disaster yearly anniversary until just recently when sickness prevented him from attending

Father Les officiated at many local functions in Granville, and did the official religious address at a large number of Granville RSL Sub-Branch Anzac Dawn Services

A member of his congregation, when asked what they remembered of the life of Father Les Champion they said:

"He was an eloquent speaker with meaningful and reflective sermons, he had a great sense of humour and loved his sports especially the NRL and favourite team – the Eels. He was extremely humble and I always remember as a school kid all of us running to him when he would walk through the playground during a recess or lunch talking to us or just giving us a wave or a smile. He would also at times be out on his front verandah or walking to the church and would wave to us on our way to or leaving school

He never took a holiday and whenever someone called him, be it for the sacrament of the sick, or otherwise, day or night, he would be there. Whenever you mentioned Fr Champion's name to another priest they would always know him, no matter if you were at Katoomba or Wollongong, He was well known and admired by his fellow priests far and wide.

But to me, he was simply my Parish Priest who married my parents, Christened me, gave me First Communion, was there when I had my confirmation and when I graduated high school. Above all that he truly was like family to us. With all that said, to me he was just Fr Champion.

Rest in Peace Father Les.

June Bullivant OAM

<p>LAND DEVELOPMENT PROTEST</p>
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This society is supporting the Greater Western Sydney Heritage Action Group's campaign against a proposal to develop a unique wetland at Northmead for housing.

You can sign the petition at:

http://www.change.org/petitions/premier-of-nsw-barry-o-farrell-and-brad-hazzard-department-of-planning-stop-the-sale-and-the-housing-development-of-moxham-reserve-on-crown-land-in-northmead?utm_source=supporter_message&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=supporter_message