



TRIBUTE

SEPTEMBER, 2017

FREE PUBLICATION

St Marys & District Historical Society Inc. - Quarterly Newsletter

PO Box 64, ST MARYS NSW 1790 – Street Address - St Marys Corner,
Mamre Rd, St Marys – Parking via 29 Swanston Street.

‘Recording & Preserving the Heritage of St Marys’

Executive Committee for 2017/18

Each year the Society’s Annual General Meeting is held on the 4th Saturday of September. This year the Executive Committee was re-elected again for another year. Congratulations to President - Caroline Volkiene; Vice-Presidents - Lyn Forde and Eric Kent; Secretary - Marie Koen, Treasurer - Norma Thorburn.

Clock Raffle Drawn

The clock raffle was drawn on the 10th September at the Society’s ‘Back to St Marys’ reunion. *Thank you* to everyone who supported the society by buying a ticket in the raffle of 3 wood-burned clocks donated by member Paul Mills. Congratulations go to the winning ticket holders of Blue **B 82** (Kookaburra), **80 B** (Pendulum) and **91 D** (Retired). The winners have been notified and have claimed their prizes.



Honorary Life Member Badge Presentation

At our August general meeting Honorary Life Membership badges were presented to Marion McLeod, Norma Thorburn OAM and Margaret Dwyer. Marion's



knowledge of period clothing and dressmaking has ensured that members were



attired correctly when representing the society. Norma's love and knowledge of St Mary's history is recognised through her many guest speaking events.

Margaret's skills are diverse and her willingness to assist where ever possible is invaluable. Marion, Norma and Margaret's commitment to the society has helped to ensure the society's success over the past 20 years. Congratulations!



Member Profile: Tom Thorburn – Webmaster



Tom Thorburn, joined the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts in 1961. The school runs a Library and Lecture series at their premises in Pitt St. At the time he was working as the Computer Manager at Manchester Unity also in Pitt St. Being an avid reader, he made good use of the Library.

In the early 1990s a vacancy occurred on the Board of Directors at the School and because of his managerial experience, he was asked to fill that vacancy. Over the years Tom served on several of the Boards sub-committees as well as organizing the Speakers for members. When the internet became available, he taught some of the older members how to navigate it. He was made a Life Member in 2010.

Although he has now stepped down from the Board he will continue as a member and visit regularly. He will also continue to write author reviews for the Library.

Tom has been the Webmaster for our Society for the past twenty years. – *By Norma Thorburn*

Our President adds – Congratulations Tom on a well deserved award in recognition of your service to the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts.

Tom is one of the original members of the St Marys & District Historical Society formed in 1996. In September 2014 Tom received his "Honorary Life Membership" for his commitment to the Society – *Caroline Volkiene (P)*.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

Rotary Club of St Marys Changeover Dinner

On the 27th June a dinner invitation to the Rotary Club of St Marys turned out to be a pleasant surprise for our members who attended on the night. At the close of dinner the Rotary Club of St Marys president, Cheryl Deguara, called upon our president to accept a donation on behalf of the society. The Society appreciates the support and generosity of the Rotary Club members who raise funds throughout the year and then distribute between community groups.



Members Tom Thorburn, Jackie Greenow OAM, Eric Kent,
Caroline Volkiene (P), Cheryl Deguara (P) Rotary Club of St Marys and Norma Thorburn OAM
(Photo – Caroline Volkiene)

Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration

On Friday 18th August the Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service was held in the St Marys RSL auditorium due to high winds. This year the focus was on the 50th Anniversary of the “Battle of Suoi Chau Pha – Honouring Their Service.” A moving address was given by guest speaker Colonel Vo Dai Ton (Rdt) ARVN Special Forces. (Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) also known as the South Vietnamese Army, SVA.)

Six Australian soldiers from A Coy were killed in this battle and a further 19 wounded.

*38110 Cpl “Dessie” Aylett
38939 Pte Barleif Alfred Harstad
16327 Pte John Martin O’Conner*

*2412450 Pte Edward Francis Brophy
213834 Cpl James Francis Hayes
3411862 Pte David Milford*

Lest We Forget

St Marys Spring Festival

The return of the Spring Festival was welcomed by all including our members who were invited to travel in vintage cars in the parade down Queen Street. These beautifully restored cars were provided by Rob Brown and the Model A Ford Club of NSW. Meanwhile the society's stall was left in the capable hands of member Marion McLeod.



Photos – Caroline Volkiene



Photos – Neville Lowe

Duration Cottages Reunion (DCR) Donation

In June the society opened its doors for guests attending the Duration Cottages Reunion lunch. Recently, Sue Hartas and Rosalie Speed Cook, DCR members visited the Chambers for a morning tea and in appreciation for the society supporting their event a donation was presented to our members. Thank you to Sue and Rosalie for their generous donation.



Sue Hartas nee Wood (DCR),
Caroline Volkiene (P) and Rosalie
Speed Cook (DCR)



Sue Hartas nee Wood, Rosalie Speed Cook and members
Lyn Forde and Marion McLeod
Photos – Caroline Volkiene

Koala Corner Pre School Visit



The society had a special visit from Koala Corner Pre- School mid September.

The question was asked “What would interest 4 year olds at an historical society?” Well it turned out to be plenty. They loved looking for items by following the monkey symbol; interacting with the displays and yes, the piano does work! The old school desks were just right for colouring in and the vintage toys were a hit and each found a favourite to play with. Hats, chatter boxes and fans made out of paper were gifted to the children and period hats were happily tried on and worn, especially the ‘magic’ hat! The littlies marched away hand in hand singing “See you later alligator, in a while crocodile”. Photo – Caroline Volkiene



‘Back to St Marys’ Reunion – A Great Success!

A beautiful spring day encouraged visitors to the society’s annual ‘Back to St Marys’ reunion on Sunday 10th September. Photographs from the society’s archives were able to be viewed throughout the Chambers. Three areas featured: ‘People and Places’, ‘Queen Street Shops’ and ‘Members Activities’. Paul Mill’s school photos



were a great success as usual with visitors searching through the albums to find familiar faces. Our members were on hand to answer the many questions asked and provide sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee.



Photos – Caroline Volkiene



The St Marys & District Historical Society meets every 4th Saturday of the month at 1 pm – at the St Marys Precinct “Chambers” – Mamre Road, St Marys.

No meetings in January or December.

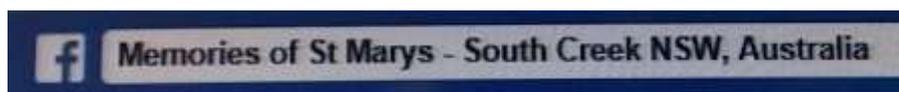
ALL WELCOME

Patron of our Society is Jackie Greenow, OAM.

Back issues of the “Tribute” can be found on our website at www.stmaryshistoricalociety.org

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Please contact: us on 0450132181 & leave a message



(While care is taken to ensure that all articles are accurate, the opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society) Any comments on this Newsletter are encouraged.

PLEASE, DON'T THROW OUT AUSTRALIAN HISTORY. OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, BOOKS, LETTERS, RECEIPTS, DOCKETS, NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY.