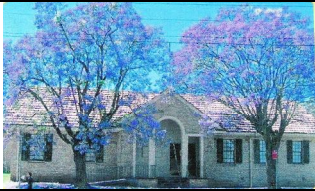


TRIBUTE

Autumn, 2013

FREE PUBLICATION



St Marys & District Historical Society Inc - Quarterly Newsletter

PO Box 640, ST MARYS NSW 1790 – Street Address - St Marys Corner, Mamre Rd, St Marys – Parking via 29 Swanston Street.



On Sunday 3rd February 2013, the 7th Anniversary of the National Servicemen's Memorial and Tribute Laying Ceremony at Victoria Park, St Marys was attended by Caroline Volkiene our President and members Norma and Tom Thorburn. As a tribute on the day, the Society's book "History of Victoria Park & War Memorial" was donated on behalf of the Society. The book was researched and published on behalf of the Society by our Vice-President Lyn Forde.

Photo courtesy of Tom Thorburn

On Monday 4th March 2013, along with members Norma Thorburn, Margaret Dwyer, Tony Biddulph and Paul Mills, I attended the opening of the St Marys Seniors Computer and Internet Hub. Penrith Council recently established the internet hub that is funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services - Ageing Disability and Home Care. Classes are for people over 50 - from beginners to more experienced users and will be held at the St Mary's Seniors Centre with training provided for seniors by U3A Nepean-Blue Mountains.

From President Caroline Volkiene



Back: President U3A Nepean Jim Tiberi, Caroline Volkiene, Norma Thorburn, St Marys Senior Citizen's President Tom Thorburn, Deputy Mayor Penrith Ross Fowler OAM, Tony Biddulph, Councillor Trish Hitchens, Paul Mills and Member for Londonderry Bart Bassett, Front: Margaret Dwyer –

Photo courtesy of Rachel Pagitz from Penrith City Council

On Saturday 9th March 2013, several of our members attended the 12th Penrith City "Makings of a City" History Conference at the Joan Sutherland Performing Centre in Penrith. The theme was "Crossing the Great Divide" in tune with the celebrations this year of the 200th Anniversary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson & Wentworth. The conference was well attended and our congratulations to Lorraine Stacker, Allison, Vanessa and the Library Staff for a great effort. The conference speakers this year were Dr Siobhan Lavelle, OAM, Assoc. Professor Dr Carol Liston, Andrew Tink, Tracy Bradford and Dr David Blaxland. Our new banner had its first outing and along our trade table it attracted a lot of positive comments. Overall it was a great day.

From Caroline Volkiene

Photos courtesy of Norma Thorburn



Caroline Volkiene & Margaret Dwyer



Caroline, Norma Thorburn, Robyn Gorman, Margaret & Jim Mason

On Wednesday 6th March, an afternoon tea was held at Parliament House, Macquarie Street in Sydney by the Australian Local Government Women's Association to honour Women Councillors and Women in Senior Council positions. Councillor Jackie Greenow of East Ward and a Life Member of our Historical Society, received the top award for the whole of the Sydney area. Jackie has spent time on the Executive of ALGWA at various times over almost eighteen years she has been a Councillor. Our members say congratulations Jackie, we are all very proud of you!

From Norma Thorburn



Photos courtesy of Norma Thorburn



Norma Thorburn & Jackie

On Wednesday 20th March we celebrated Senior's Week by inviting seniors to come along to the "Chambers" to enjoy a talk on "Early St Marys" by member Norma Thorburn. It was a full house and they showed their appreciation generously and further questions were asked at the end of Norma's presentation. The use of our newly acquired projector ensured that our guests were able to view the presentation unheeded. Our members dressed in 1813 period dress, and member Marion McLeod was happy to enlighten the audience with the history of fashion and the reasons as to how certain garments came about. The member's contribution of the delightful morning tea was appreciated by all and it was mentioned by our guests several times, that they felt very welcome and enjoyed this year's ANZAC display. Great conversations were had by all, an enjoyable and successful day!

By Caroline Volkiene

Photos courtesy of Paul Mills



ANZAC EXHIBITION

An exhibition honouring Anzac Day presented by the St Marys and District Historical Society

2 March to 30 April 2013
Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am - 2pm

The Chambers - St Marys Corner Building 2
29 Swanston Street St Marys

This year's exhibition pays tribute to those who served in all wars from the Boer War through to the Afghanistan War. Some of the items featured are photographs of WW1 soldiers from St Marys, a restored Union Jack flag from the Boer War and Japanese Invasion Money (JIM).

Beside the exhibition visitors can access and review a number of books which cover the history of St Marys and District.

The society has on display the list of names and photographs of those who enlisted for the Second World War from the St Marys area. To help record and preserve the history of local soldiers, the St Marys and District Historical Society invites everyone to bring along photographs of relatives to add to those already on display.

For more information about this exhibition please call 0450 132 181 or email info@stmaryshistoricalsociety.org

(Cover photograph from the collection of St Marys & District Historical Society Inc. Source: Francis Robert (evans) Ltd 1912-1916. Digitized from February 1943. © Field Company, Stated by New Orleans with the Royal Australian Engineers and was the President of St Marys NSL sub-Branch from 1906-1951.)



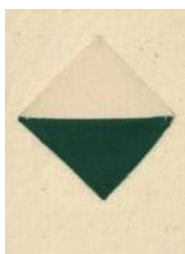
ST MARYS CORNER
COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

address: 29 swanston street st marys NSW 2760
e-mail: stmarys@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au
phone: 02 4732 7679

The Society has on display until the 30th April, 2013 an Anzac exhibition at our headquarters the Chambers building at the St Marys Corner that will be open from 10 am to 2 pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This photo is Sapper Harold Robert (Bob) Lee who enlisted on the 4th February, 1943 into the 8th Field Company, AIF (*Second World War*) and served with the Royal Australian Engineer in New Guinea. He was also President of the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch from 1964 – 1991. The Society members hopes you will come along and see the display of memorabilia and photos and we encourage you to bring along photographs of relatives from the St Mary's area to add to those already on display. The Society will take a copy of any of your photos and hand the originals back to you on the day. *Flyer courtesy of Penrith City Council*

World War One – Corporal **EDWARD BETTS** enlisted on the 26th January, 1916 at Town Hall, Sydney. He was assigned to the “B” Company Depot Battalion at Casula. He was 22½ years of age and married to Martha Violet Stubbings in 1916 at Windsor before he enlisted. At the time of enlistment he was living at Plumpton working as a “station hand”. He was born at Westminster in London, England and worked in Chelsea as a plumber for John Knight & Son at 26 Charles Street before coming to Australia. He was also listed as a “Driver” in the Royal Engineers – 26th Battalion in Chelsea. Edward was assigned to the 20th Battalion – Australian Infantry and embarked from Sydney on the 9th September, 1916 on the “A14 Euripides”. Whilst on the troopship on the 15th September he was given 24 hours detention for disobeying orders.

Colour Patch



20th Battalion



The HMAT A14 *Euripides* weighed 15,050 tons with an average cruise speed of 15 knots or 27.78 kmph. It was owned by the G Thompson & Co Ltd, London, and leased by the Commonwealth until 2 June 1917.

On the 24th May, 1917 Edward was appointed Lance Corporal and later Corporal. On the 30th May, 1917 he was sent to the Field ambulance sick with appendicitis and on the 9th June he was transferred from Havre on the Hospital Ship “Warilda” to England.



The HMAT A69 *Warilda* weighed 7,713 tons with an average cruise speed of 16 knots or 29.63 kmph. It was owned by the Adelaide Steam Ship Co Ltd, Adelaide, and manned by Australian officers and mainly by Australian crews. The *Warilda* was torpedoed and sunk by a submarine in the English Channel, 3 August 1918. On the 10th June, 1917 he was admitted to Reading War Hospital in England with appendicitis and transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital. From the 31st July, 1917 – 14th August, 1917 Edward was given a furlough then reported to Codford until the 27th October, 1917 when he rejoined his battalion overseas.

On the 27th March, 1918 Edward was admitted to the Ontario Military Hospital at Orpington and later on the 10th April, 1918 he was transferred to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital with a ruptured right ear drum. He later returned to his unit. Edward was killed instantaneously by a bullet fired by an enemy sniper during the attack on the 11th August, 1918. He was buried at Lamotte-an-San and a cross was erected over his grave. His body was later exhumed and buried at the Heath Cemetery at Harbonnieres, France.



Photo courtesy of National Archives

A parcel of his effects was returned to his wife at Plumpton via the “Sardinia” on the 14th March, 1919. It contained 1 metal mirror, 1 wallet, 1 comb, cards, photos, 2 religious books, 1 diary. Martha later married Frank Tull at Granville in 1926 and continued to live at Plumpton. Edward’s personal details on his service record are as follows: - Age: 22+8 months – Height: 5’4 ½” – Fair complexion, Blue eyes & Fair Hair – C of E Religion. He had a scar on his middle finger on his right hand.

WE DO NOT GLORIFY WAR - BUT WE DO REMEMBER LEST WE FORGET

-oOo-

The St Marys & District Historical Society meets every 4th Saturday at 1 pm - at the St Marys Precinct “Chambers” Building - Mamre Road, St Marys. **No meetings in January or December.**

Patron of our Society is Tanya Davies - Liberal Member of Parliament for Mulgoa.

ALL WELCOME

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

This Newsletter is a free publication.

Articles in this Newsletter may be republished if permission is given by the Society.

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