



# TRIBUTE

JUNE, 2018

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'*

COMING SOON!

**'Back to St Marys'**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**10:00am – 3:00pm**



## *St Marys & District Historical Society*

Yes! It's that time again to get together and enjoy  
the many historical photographs of  
St Marys (South Creek).

- 'Sports People of St Marys' Photographic Display
- Catch up with old friends and search through the many  
school photographs collected by member Paul Mills
  - Tea & Coffee Available

**Bldg 2, The Chambers**

**St Marys Corner Community & Cultural Precinct  
Cnr Great Western Highway & Mamre Rd, St Marys  
(Parking at rear via 29 Swanston Street)**

**Contact - m: 0450 132 181 (voice mail)**

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

### 2018 ANZAC Day Commemorations:

#### St Marys ANZAC March – April 22nd

Several of our members attended this year's service and some were able to participate in the march as passengers in a Model 'A' Ford. Our thanks go to driver and owner Charlie Brown for his kind invitation. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Society by our president. An inspiring speech was given by special guest, Major Jaymi Matthews, a local from St Clair, and was one of the first in her Corps to be on active frontline duty in an overseas conflict. Our president also took part in collecting a small amount of soil from Victoria Park along with the Mayor Clr John Thain,



Prue Car MP, Member for Londonderry, Ron Blakely (President) St Marys RSL Sub-Branch. This soil will join the 1700 other samples, which represents soil from the locations where the men joined up for WW1. The new artwork for the ANZAC Memorial Centenary Project will be on view at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney - 5 October to Remembrance Day, on 11 November 2018.

Members Caroline Volkiene, Tom and Norma Thorburn and Eric Kent. Photo: Caroline Volkiene.

#### St Marys RSL ANZAC Dawn Service – April 25<sup>th</sup>

The Commemoration of ANZAC Centenary Dawn Service was held at the Guns Memorial, St Marys RSL. Once again this service was well attended. This year included a strong female presence, with current service and ex-service Sub-branch female members playing a key role in running the service to show support for the 'By the Left' campaign, which encourages female veterans to raise awareness of their strong contribution to the Australian Defence Force (ADF).



This moving service was attended by members Norma and Tom Thorburn and flowers were laid on behalf of the Society by our President. Photo: Caroline Volkiene



## Walk & Talk History Tour - St Marys Public School

At the end of May local history was being explored by the students of St Marys Public School. The school invited member Norma Thorburn to talk to the students about the historic Bennett Wagons in South Creek Park as well as Mr. Andrew Thompson's home 'Mimosa', and the War Memorial in Victoria Park.

The students all enjoyed the tour. Another walk and talk up to St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church is to follow.

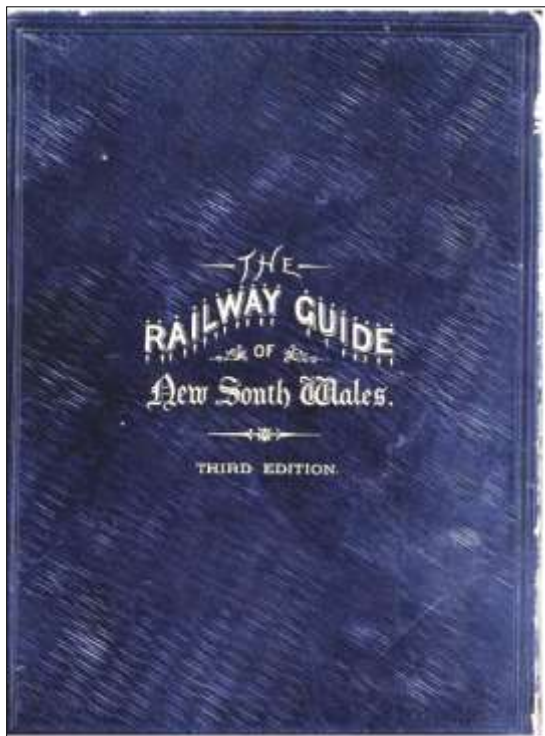
Photo – Caroline Volkiene



## ARTICLE OF INTEREST

### RAILWAY JOURNEYS 1886

After watching a number of the BBC's documentary 'Great British Railway Journeys' presented by Michael Portillo travelling around the railway networks of Great Britain and referring to an 1840s copy of *Bradshaw's Guide*. This encouraged the research for a similar guide for New South Wales Railways.



The National Library of Australia's internet site 'Trove' presented a copy. These guides were intended as convenient volumes of reference for excursionists and others travelling by railway in New South Wales. The guides contain information on various towns and stations and describe places of interest close to the railway line. In addition, tourist maps showing the railway line and roads and tracks are usually included.

Some volumes contain short histories of the railway system in New South Wales as well as sections on the geological formation, fauna and flora of the area. Volumes contained black and white illustrations and photographs of places of interest, advertisements and accommodation details.

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*Exert from – The Railway Guide of New South Wales – Third Edition – 1886 Pg. 34.*

‘St. Marys (formerly South Creek Station), 29 miles; 113 feet above sea level. The country on either side of the Railroad, after it passes by the Rooty Hill Station to the westward is, for the most part, open, flat, and poor. Here and there the line passes through the bush, but there are not many trees near it. Before arriving at the South Creek Station (which is 18feet lower than Rooty Hill), the traveller may get another fine view of the Blue Mountain Range, which he is now approaching. St. Mary’s Station is about 4 miles west of Rooty Hill, and about half a mile away to the north of St. Mary’s – an old, pleasant, and prosperous village, on the Sydney and Penrith Road, chiefly dependent upon agricultural and grazing pursuits. Dairy farming, and wine making are also carried on. Large supplies of timber and firewood are likewise cut here, and forwarded by the line to Sydney, for use on the Railway and for sale. Tanning is largely carried on at this place, and a large number of bricks are also made. The principal hotels are the “Commercial” and “Volunteer” kept by Messrs. Byrnes and Cullen. Metropolitan sportsmen can often get a good day’s shooting here, as hares, much to the annoyance of the farmers, are becoming fairly numerous in the district. South Creek takes its name from a considerable tributary to the river Hawkesbury, into which it eventually flows near Windsor.’



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

**No meetings in January or December.**

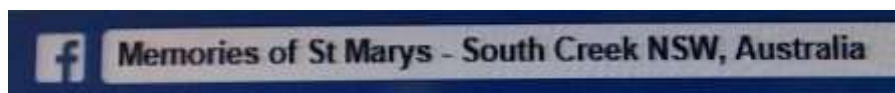
**ALL WELCOME**

Patron of our Society is Jackie Greenow, OAM.

Back issues of the “Tribute” can be found on our website at  
[www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.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.**