



# TRIBUTE

JUNE, 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.



Celebrating 20 Years



### Out and About

The society's May meeting was held at the NSW State Records. Afterwards our members viewed the new exhibition of WW1 photographs. The NSW State Records has revealed some rare insights into how those in the trenches, as well as the lives at home, were affected by World War I.

### Raffle

*Thank you* to everyone who supported our society by buying a ticket in our raffle of a vintage advertiser label quilt. The quilt was created by Pam Griffiths and Marion McLeod members of the St Marys Sewing Group. Congratulations go to the ticket holder of **Blue 10 D**. The winner has been notified and has claimed their prize.

### \* Coming Event – 'Back to St Marys Reunion'

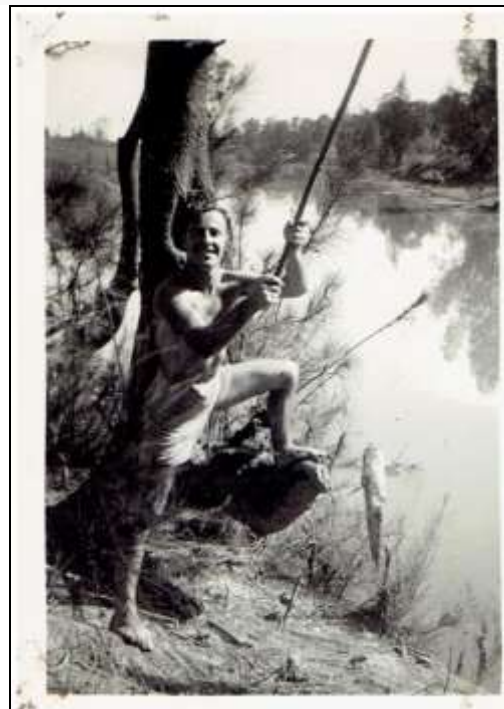
*On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 the Society's annual Back to St Marys Reunion will be held at our headquarters the Chambers, Bldg 2, St Marys Corner Community & Cultural Precinct, 29 Swanston Street, St Marys.*

*On show will be old photographs of St Marys, Paul Mills's school photographs and historical displays. Our members will be on hand to assist with questions and to enjoy a good chat. Tea & Coffee available.*

*Extract from The Evening News, Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1907 - 'In the South Creek, St Marys Mr. J. E. Paterson secured a number of perch. He said perch are rising well up stream. Perch continue to rise in the Nepean, and a number are being caught by locals. Good catches of mullet and herring are also made.'*

Right: 1947 - Fishing near James Hackett's Woolpac Inn (now ruin) South Creek Bridge, St Marys NSW.

Photo: Caroline Volkiene



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

### 2017 ANZAC Day Commemorations:

#### St Marys ANZAC March

This year our members Norma and Tom Thorburn, Lyn Forde, Eric Kent and Caroline Volkiene attended the St Marys ANZAC March. Norma and Tom, Lyn and Caroline joined the march as passengers in two vintage cars.



Left: Members Caroline Volkiene and Lyn Ford - Cars Courtesy of Charles & Son.

Photo – Caroline Volkiene

#### St Marys RSL ANZAC Dawn Service



This moving service was attended by members Norma and Tom Thorburn and flowers were laid by our President Caroline Volkiene. It was reported that nearly 6,000 people attended this year including descendants of Reg Sanders, the first Indigenous man to be made a captain in the Australian Army, who also served as President of St Marys RSL sub-Branch in 1961.

Left: Reg Saunders. Photo - Australians at War.gov.au

#### Team Colyton's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April members of the historical society joined in with Team Colyton to celebrate Colyton's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by enjoying a picnic lunch at the Bass & Barr Streets Park. It was a lovely autumn day with a number of residents and children joining in fun.

Photos: Caroline Volkiene



### **South Creek...Wianamatta Turning – Oonagh Sherrard**

During May the South Creek.... Wianamatta Turning event was held over 3 days. This was a Festival of Nature, Stories and Sound held at the Kingsway St Marys.

Day 1 invited the general public to a free breakfast and to join in with Clean Up Australia and bush regeneration with Greening Australia. Day 2 saw Year 4, 5 & 6 students from St Marys Public School gather at South Creek to participate in making sound sculptures and listen to stories of history, culture and environment and tree planting. Day 3 once again invited the general public to walk along the banks of South Creek with a member from Greening Australia. A red belly black snake was spotted as well as a number of birds. Items created from the recyclable rubbish were a milk bottle fish drum that made some great sound in the wind, plastic bottles being one of the main items found in the clean up. Project partners were Greening Australia, St Marys & District Historical Society, St Marys Area Community Development and facilitators were Sound Artist Oonagh Sherrard, Darug Elder Colin Gale, Local Historians Norma Thorburn and Caroline Volkiene, Sustainability Guru Ian Moxon and Greening Australia.



Oonagh Sherrard, Norma Thorburn, Colin Gale  
Darug Elder and Caroline Volkiene.



Oonagh Sherrard  
with fish sound sculpture  
Photos: Caroline Volkiene

### **Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School Visit**

In May the society welcomed classes 2V and 2R from Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School. The children enjoyed our WW1 “On the Home Front” display and were amazed that kerosene lamps were used in 1916. It was explained to the children that electric street lighting did not come to St Marys until 1931.

## 1<sup>st</sup> St Marys Scouts Visit – Local History Badge

We welcomed members from the 1<sup>st</sup> St Marys Scout Group to the Chambers on a stormy and wet Wednesday evening in June. The group had come along to learn about the history of St Marys to enable them to attain their local history badge. The children listened to a brief overview of St Marys by Norma Thorburn. Ten questions were given to the boys and girls to answer by following a hint trail in the form of a compass to find the answers. The night finished with Eric Kent, a former 1<sup>st</sup> St Marys Scout leader, recalling his time with the scouts.



Grant Cobcroft and Mary Garrett present an Appreciation Award to our Society's president for hosting a great evening.

Photo: Caroline Volkiene

## St Marys Duration Cottages Residents Reunion 2017

The Society opened its doors on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June prior to the guests attending the reunion lunch at the Community Centre. They all enjoyed looking at the society's displays and Paul Mills's collection of school photographs. Lot's of fond memories were recalled and friendships renewed. Congratulations to Sue Hartas nee Wood and crew for putting on a great reunion.



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.**