



TRIBUTE

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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 2018/19

The Society’s 2018/19 Executive Committee was voted in recently at the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd September. Congratulations to the Society’s new President: Lyn Forde, also Vice-President: Eric Kent; Secretary: Marie Koen and Treasurer: Norma Thorburn.

2018 'Back to St Marys'

On the 9th September the Society’s annual ‘Back to St Marys’ event was held and enjoyed by all those who attended. Historical photographs from the Society’s archives were projected onto a screen for easy viewing in the Archives Room. Two other sites within the building were also showing photographs of 1970/80s Queen Street and of past events attended by members. Paul Mill’s school photos were once again a great success and former students were able to name a number of their old school mates. Big thanks to our members who were on hand to offer assistance and to enjoy a good chat with our visitors.



Raffle Winners

This year two raffle prizes were kindly donated by member Kerry Walker (above). A ‘Fruit Basket’ (value \$50) was won by ticket holder **BLUE E19** and the ‘Dinner for Two’ (value \$50) at the Colonial Hotel, Werrington was won by ticket holder **BLUE E63**. The winners have been notified and have claimed their prizes. *Thank you to everyone who came along and made our annual ‘Back to St Marys’ a successful event and we look forward to seeing you again in 2019.*

St Marys Spring Festival Dinner - 2018 St Marys Citizen of the Year

On Wednesday 22nd August St Marys Town Centre Management held the 2018 St Marys Spring Festival Dinner at St Marys Band Club. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2018 St Marys Citizen of the Year to the Society's Webmaster **Tom Thorburn** for providing outstanding service to the St Marys community. Tom's family attended along with several members of the Society to celebrate this special occasion. **Congratulations Tom!**



2018 St Marys Spring Festival's 'Grand Parade'

Thank you to Robert Brown, President and members of the Model 'A' Ford Club NSW who kindly invited the Society's members to be passengers in their vintage cars for the Grand Parade. Also, to the Boyd, Bannigan and Porter families for participating in period costume with our members.



L to R – Trish Hitchins (Deputy Mayor), John Thain (Mayor) and Member Tom Thorburn 2018 St Marys Citizen of the Year.



Eric Kent (VP) and Sean Banigan



Caroline Volkienes (P)



Margaret Dwyer and Norma Thorburn



Lyn Forde (VP)



Barbara Porter



Norma Thorburn (T) and Charlie Sharpe (owner)
Photographs – Caroline Volkiene, Garry Porter, Eric Kent



LtoR - Caroline Volkiene, MAFC Member, Barbara Porter,
Lyn Forde, Margaret Dwyer, Norma Thorburn

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

School Visits - Erskine Park High School

Several Erskine Park High school teachers visited the Chambers in July to listen to Norma Thorburn's History of St Marys overview. Members Eric, Lyn, Paul and Tom were on hand to answer questions about the Society's displays and later all enjoyed afternoon tea.

St Marys Public School Walk & Talk Tour

In August a walk and talk history tour started at 'Bronte' the home of Mr James Bennett of the famous firm of 'G & J Bennett' St Marys, wheelwrights and wagon builders, then powering up the hill to historic St Mary Magdalene Church, built in 1840. The students and teachers were able take in the beautiful interior including the coloured glass windows and memorial tablets dedicated to members of the King and Lethbridge families.



Norma Thorburn and students at the front of 'Bronte' House



An easy walk down the hill by the Great Western Highway to the former home and surgery of Dr. Day (1914-23) ‘Morulyan’ built in 1910. The students and teachers traversed the highway at Queen Street ending their tour at the Society’s headquarters to view the many displays and historical photographs.

Norma Thorburn and students inside St Marys Magdalene Church – Photos: Caroline Volkiene

➤ North St Marys Public School Visit

September saw our members wearing period dress to welcome 90 students plus teachers from North St Marys Public school. They were very inquisitive and asked many questions about the items that were on display.

Norma Thorburn Guest Speaking & Tour

➤ Visit from the National Trust

On Thursday, 20th September, we had a visit from the Parramatta Branch of the National Trust, which was organised by their President, Cheryl Bates, whose family has a connection with the Thompsons of ‘Mimosa’.

The tour commenced well with morning tea and a tour of ‘The Chambers’ followed by a visit to Blaxland’s Farm and ‘Mamre’. Further into the tour we had a problem with the coach, which resulted in some of the outlying areas being missed.

However, we were able to continue some of our tour on foot while waiting for a replacement coach.

Further members of the group will be visiting in the coming weeks.



➤ South Creek (St Marys) Probus Club

The following day, members of the South Creek Probus Club’s Ramblers attended a walking tour of ‘Old St Marys’ which was enjoyed by all.

It is always pleasing to be able to pass on our rich History to visitors.

Norma Thorburn OAM



Queen Street Riches & Textures 2018 Community Exhibition **'Windows on Queen' Launch**



The launch of the 2018 'Windows on Queen' was officially opened by Penrith Mayor, Clr John Thain on 25th July at Fusion Cafe. Around 40 guests were on hand to congratulate all those involved in the project. At the close of the launch a walking group was formed for a tour of the sites showcasing the history of each place.

The posters presented in the windows along Queen Street showcased the history of each place and traced these histories through photographs, interviews and thorough research about the buildings and the people who worked or lived there.

Congratulations to the Society's research team Caroline Volkiene, Lyn Forde, Eric Kent and Paul Mills on a concerted effort. Project initial concept: Marion McLeod. The project was developed in collaboration between St Marys & District Historical Society, local community members and a creative team of artists and designers and supported by Penrith City Council.

Above: Caroline Volkiene (P), Penrith Mayor Clr John Thain and Nathaniel Morrison Creative Team - Photo: Adnan Begic)

For more information on Queen Street Riches and Textures visit culturecreativity.com.au/QSRT

Vietnam Veterans Day 18th August 2018

Several of our members attended this year's service held at the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, Guns War Memorial. Due to high winds the service was relocated to the Auditorium of the St Marys RSL. The commemoration was well attended and a tribute was laid by the Society's President.

Background to this Service (Referenced from the programme)

The St Marys Vietnam Veterans Association Commemorative Service is held each year on the 18th August at 5.00pm

The 18th August was initially referred to as "Long Tan" Day in recognition of those who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Battle of Long Tan in South Vietnam in 1966.

The Prime Minister Bob Hawke formally declared the day 'Vietnam Veterans Day' on 18th August 1988 in recognition of all those that suffered and died as a result of the Vietnam War.

This special day of Commemoration is a result of recommendations of the Evatt Royal Commission, Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service and the 'After March Report' following the 'Welcome Home' Parade in Sydney in 1987.

Back to St Marys Reunion



Tom Thorburn



Marie Koen



Eric Kent



Lyn Forde and Margaret Mills



Paul Mills with Christine Rohrlach and Jan Thompson



Visitors looking through Paul Mills' school photo albums



Caroline Volkiene and Christine Rohrlach



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.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.