



TRIBUTE

SPRING 2011

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 Swanson Street.

HISTORICAL BRIDAL DISPLAY AT THE CHAMBERS

At our Seniors week fashion parade at the Chambers in 2010, the response to the three original wedding gowns dated 1930, 1960 and 1980 was very positive, and after many questions and stories told on the day, one being “how did St Mary’s ladies organise their weddings?” our members decided to talk to their family and friends about this very thing. After about a year, gowns started to appear at the Chambers, some on loan, some donated, along with wedding memorabilia and photos. Because of this, the Society decided that we had enough to put on a historical bridal display. This display was opened at the Chambers on Saturday, 9th July with invited guests including Member for Mulgoa, Councillor Tanya Davies, Councillor Kaylene Allison, our Patron Sister Mary Louise Petro, Eric Weller, Karen Harris & Adnan Begic from Penrith Council. Items on loan for the display were from Barbara Porter, Lyn Forde, Marcia Benedetti, Norma Thorburn, Councillor Jackie Greenow, Margaret Dwyer, Metse De Ronde, Caroline Volkiene, Margaret Mills, Ann Dwyer, Debbie McPherson, Isobel Lowe, and Samantha Cull. The display was the work mostly of members Caroline Volkiene, Norma Thorburn and Margaret Dwyer with the special expertise of Barbara Porter and Jane Holmes from the Encore Historical Sewing Group. Many guests turned up on the day and it was declared a resounding success, so much that it has been extended until the end of October.





SPRING FESTIVAL 2011

Again a good turnout for the St Mary's Spring Festival this year. Our members, combined with the St Marys Public School to congratulate their 150th Anniversary. Emma Freedman from Chanel 9's Today Show used the Spring Festival crowd to help with the weather crossings and the Society again had a stall in Queen Street. The weather was a touch of spring with a little cold wind thrown in for good measure. Members Lyn, Carol, Margaret and Rosemary manned the stall, while Tom, Norma, Carol and Marie walked in the parade, helped by members of the St Mary's Development Committee and the school children who wore the old fashion school attire and rode on the back of a truck – sitting in the old school desks found just before the July celebrations. A nice surprise by a visit to the stall by Member for Lindsay David Bradbury.





Vale Betty Richardson - One of our members and an old resident of St Marys passed away in June. She will be sadly missed by our Society because Betty could remember names, dates and families of St Marys that most of us have forgotten long ago. Her wonderful memory and information on the many family members of old St Marys was always a delight at our meeting days. She would sit next to another old late Society member by the name of Ernie Evans and they would give the most interesting facts on St Mary's information from our member's families as well as information asked by the public. She will be missed.

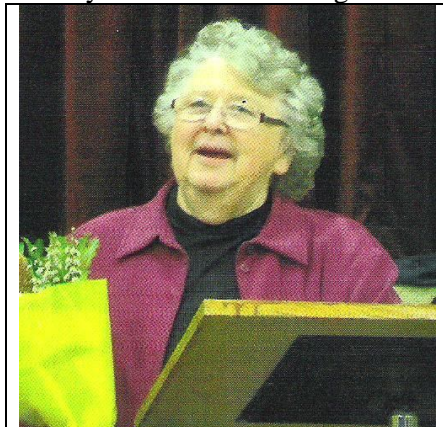
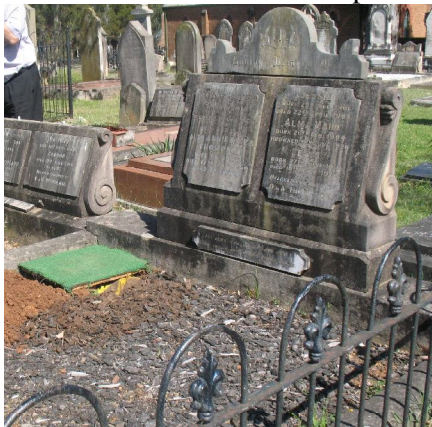


THE ANNUAL BACK TO ST MARYS REUNION was held on Sunday, 11th September at the Chambers with Society members Margaret Dwyer, Norma Thorburn, Marie Koen, Lyn Forde and Paul Mills who had his collection of School Photos. Unfortunately, the reunion was not well attended this year with only about 20 members of the public turning up. For the Society to keep on holding the reunion we need the attendance on the day. Hopefully next year will be better so keep in mind that the reunion is the **first Sunday after Father's Day.**

BENNETT ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL – 50th Celebrations. The Historical Society congratulates the school on their 50th anniversary - Society members Carol Volkiene and Lyn Forde held a stall at the celebrations at the school on Saturday, 17th September, 2011. It is known that the school was named after the Bennett Wagon Building family of St Marys. A piece of history found out on the day was that Simon Baker (Denny) who stars in the TV Series “The Mentalist” was once a student of the school.



ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ST MARY’S THOMPSON FAMILY has been laid to rest in the cemetery at St Mary Magdalene. Lynette Thompson, who died two years ago, requested that her ashes be buried by her sister Merle Thompson within the grave of their grandparents, George Oliver & Annie Thompson (Nee Woodland). Lynette and Merle Thompson and cousin Lyn Forde, were the first in Australia to publish the “South Creek Registers” researched by Lyn Forde from the original church registers in the 1980’s on the births, deaths & burials at St Mary Magdalene. Lyn has gone onto publishing a comprehensive burial book called “In the Little Churchyard on the Hill”. Book CD is available for sale at the Chambers. Photo shows the placement of Lynette’s ashes at the gravesite.



Lynette Thompson 1934 – 2009



Photo on the right shows Merle, family and friends in the St Mary Magdalene Church along with Reverend David Clarke who is leaving the parish at the end of the month, with his wife Janine and family to preach at Hoxton Park Anglican Church. Reverend Clarke has been Senior Minister at St Marys for nine years.

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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 Sister Mary Louise Petro - **ALL WELCOME**

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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

