On Sunday 20th July, six members of the Society attended Penrith Council's celebrations at Regatta Park to mark the bi-centenary of the commencement of the building of the Cox road over the Blue Mountains by William Cox. Many Cox descendants attended along with the 73rd Regiment re-enactment group.   The Historical Society was invited to attend in period costume. The photos taken by Tom Thorburn are of the 73rd Regiment members with member Marion McLeod and Mayor Ross Fowler seated on a wagon with driver Graham Ware.   Source: Norma Thorburn

In July the Society enjoyed a visit from several exchange students from Fujieda City, Japan. This is a major program run by the Penrith International Friendship committee (PIFC). During their time at the Chambers, the students enjoyed viewing the historical displays and many items on exhibit. They also enjoyed the experience of dressing up in the Society's early colonial costumes.
Source: Caroline Volkiene

NOTE:
I would like to advise that this will be the last "Tribute" prepared and published by me (Lyn Forde). Over the last eleven years I have been the Editor of 46 issues that have been available to the public and online from 2003 to 2014. Look out for next year's 2015 newsletter that will be published by a Committee of our members. I wish them all the best in this endeavour.   This will leave me free to continue with my research of St Marys and its many interesting tales and the hope to continue my contribution to the Nepean News History Page.

In June, members Caroline Volkiene, Norma Thorburn and Lyn Forde came to South Creek Park at St Marys to discuss the housing in the park of two more Bennett wagons by Penrith City Council. The project will see the construction of two pavilions to house the wagons that will result in a three-sided courtyard and an outdoor learning area. The existing pavilion will remain with the construction of the new area making use of recycled material that would otherwise been disposed in landfill. A number of materials identified for suitability to the construction are recovered hardwood fence palings, rusted tree grates and tree stumps for seating in the central courtyard of the pavilion. The whole project should take about five months to complete

The Bennett wagons were one of St Mary's manufacturing giants in the early days of the 1800's. The wagons were made firstly by James Bennett (Snr) in a shed behind the hotel now know as the Park View opposite Victoria Park. He was aided by blacksmith "Johnny Gotch" (John Sherringham) and when his sons took over parts of Queen Street with two Bennett factories their wagons were sent Australia wide. Many of the men of the district and around worked at the Bennett Wagon Works and our Society is blessed with a wonderful donation from a Bennett descendant Joan Dent of Victoria who has given the Society memorabilia belonging to the family.
Photo courtesy of Penrith City Council

At the close of the July general meeting our members travelled up to Glenbrook by car to enjoy afternoon tea; freshly baked scones with jam and cream, at the Mountain Blue Cafe. Afterwards we viewed the amazing painted panorama of "Aitken's Australia in the Round" gallery, display and museum. A thumbs up from all our members!

On a recent trip to Melbourne members Norma and Tom Thorburn visited Mrs Joan Dent the daughter of the late Mr Harold Bennett who was the last of the Bennett wagon builders in St Marys. Joan very generously gave the Society several large framed photographs of Bennett wagons and family members, as well as a family album and many items of memorabilia. The Society is most grateful to receive these valuable items and we will soon have them on display. Don't forget, if you have anything like this from your historic St Mary's family the Society would love to hear from you.
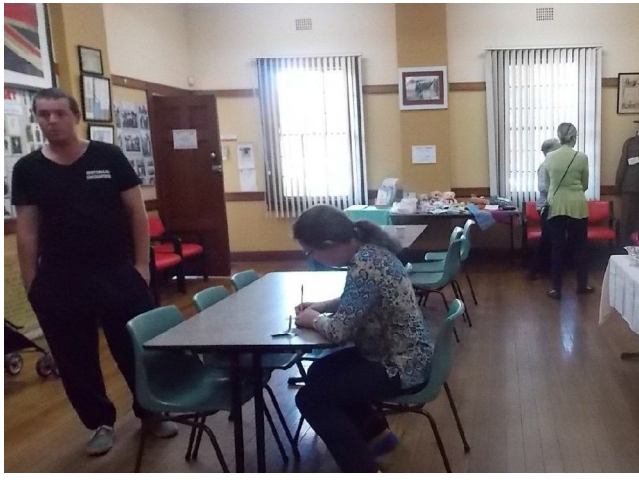*Photo Courtesy of Tom Thorburn*

The Annual St Mary's Spring Festival was very well attended considering the rainy weather. It didn't stop the crowd from checking out the stalls, rides and various entertainment in Queen Street. The march down Queen Street was well attended with our members participating in costume to welcome in Spring. *Photos on Page 3*

The last event on our calender was the "Back to St Marys Reunion" held at the Chambers on the 14th September. We had a good turnout and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. Paul Mill's School Photos were in demand and many tried to "rack their brains" to remember the names and faces of their "old" school chums and class mates. Linda Friend reminded us that she was preparing a "St Mary's High School" reunion for late next year and Carol and myself caught up with Thompson cousins. The weather behaved and their was no hint of rain. The raffle was won by Angela Smith. *Photos courtesy of Lyn Forde*
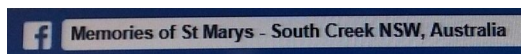
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The St Marys & District Historical Society meets every 4th Saturday at 1 pm - at the St Marys Precinct "Chambers" Building - Mamre Road, St Marys. **No meetings in January or December**.
Patron of our Society is Tanya Davies - Liberal Member of Parliament for Mulgoa.
ALL WELCOME

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

f Memories of St Marys - South Creek NSW, Australia

(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