



TRIBUTE

WINTER, 2016

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 Swanston Street.

September 2016

Event

“Back to St Marys”

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

When:

Sunday 11 Sept 2016

Where:

St Marys & District
Historical Society
Bldg 2, The Chambers,
St Marys Corner,
(Parking at rear via
29 Swanston Street,
St Marys

Time: 10am to 3pm

- See the new displays
- Catch up with old friends
- Search through the many school photographs collected by Paul Mills.
- Refreshments Available
- *Contact:*
m:0450 132 181
(voice mail)



Celebrating 20 Years

Recording & Preserving the Heritage of St Marys

**St Marys & District
Historical Society**

1996 - 2016

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

St Marys Public School – Tour

Member Norma Thorburn guest speaking at South Creek Bennett Wagon Pavilions. Listening intently were Years 3 to 6 from St Marys Public School. Afterwards teachers and students crossed the Great Western Highway (very carefully) to Victoria Park to learn about the history of the War Memorial and “Mimosa” the home of Andrew Thompson. Congratulations to the teachers and students for their interest in local history.



Photo: Caroline Volkiene

Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School Visit

In May and June grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 visited the society. The teachers and students enjoyed stepping back in time by experiencing the 19th century desks and learning how to write with pen and ink. There were toys made of paper just like in the old days, chatter boxes, hats, aeroplanes, jacks and string games were all enjoyed. Several of our members were on hand to answer the many questions asked. Our display of a 1916 sitting room encouraged the children to wonder through and to experience how families lived during WW1.



Photos: Caroline Volkiene

Uniting Church St Marys – Donation of Historical Foundation Stone

On Sunday 14th August our President, Caroline Volkiene and member Jim Mason and sister Monica attended the St Marys Uniting Church for the handover of the historical foundation stone of St Marys Methodist Church which once stood in Queen Street. At the close of service and after a short speech, Reverend Doctor Keree Casey called upon our President to accept the foundation stone. Caroline expressed her thanks for their donation and said it will be placed on display along with photographs of the four historic churches of St Marys. A generous morning tea was enjoyed along with fond memories recalled of the old church.



L to R: Member Jim Mason, Caroline Volkiene (President) and the Reverend Keree Casey Uniting Church, St Marys.



St Marys Methodist Church Foundation Stone.

Photos: Garry Porter

The first Methodist Chapel was built in Queen Street and gave its name to Chapel Street opposite. It was originally built of timber but became infested with white ants and was replaced by a brick church in 1893 with a church hall added in 1925. The church was demolished in 1972. (*Ref: South Creek St Marys-From Village to City by Eugenie Stapleton.*)



Photo: St Marys & District Historical Society

Vietnam Veterans Commemoration 50th Anniversary

A very moving service took place on Thursday 18th August 2016 at St Mary's Outpost. The Vietnam Veterans' Day Commemorative Service held at the Guns Cenotaph started with the arrival of an UH1 helicopter, a very distinctive sound for those who had fought in Vietnam. This year the Vietnam Veterans Day Address was given by the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO. The Table Ceremony was conducted by the 5 Engineer Regiment and Mrs Rita Thomas (nee Jewry). A wreath was laid on behalf of our society by members Caroline Volkiene (P) and Norma Thorburn.



UH1 Huey helicopter lifting off from St Mary's Vietnam Veterans Outpost to start the 50th Anniversary of Battle of Long Tan Service



Vietnam Veterans 50th Commemoration – Guns Memorial
St Marys Outpost – St Marys RSL
Photos: Caroline Volkiene

50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam

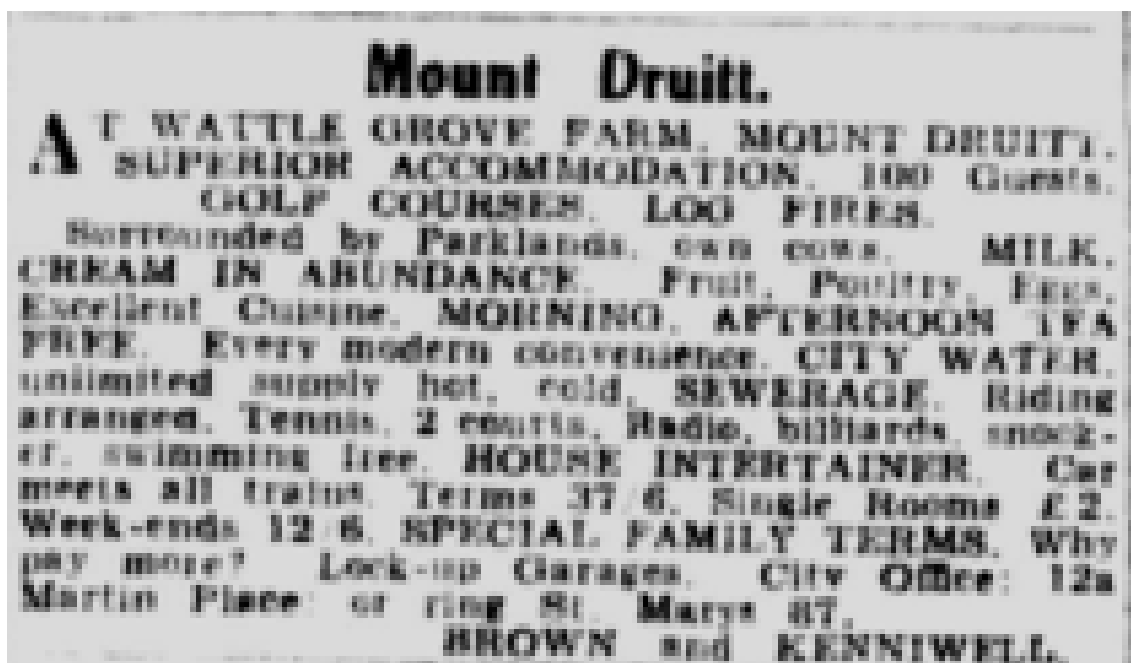
The battle of Long Tan was fought on 18 August 1966. 105 men from D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) and three New Zealanders from an artillery forward observation party from New Zealand's 161 Field Battery, encountered a force of more than 2,000 Viet Cong soldiers. During the battle, 17 Australians were killed, ***Jack Jewry from St Marys***, sadly was one of the diggers killed, and a further 25 were wounded, one of whom later died of wounds. This was the highest number of Australian casualties incurred in any one engagement of the Vietnam War. The outstanding performance of D Company in the Battle of Long Tan was recognised by the Americans by the *Presidential Unit Citation*, the emblem of which is still worn by any soldiers serving in D Company, 6 RAR.

On the 24th August, 1996 the park at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Merinda Avenue at St Marys was dedicated "*Jack Jewry Reserve*" in Jack's memory.



Photo: Caroline Volkiene

ARTICLE OF INTEREST



Ref: The Sydney Morning Herald Saturday 2nd November, 1940 Page 7 (Advertising)

Can you help? We are looking for information regarding the Wattle Grove Guest House (Farm) c1940s. The farm backed onto Ropes Creek and entry to the farm was off Roper Road near the now M4 motorway, Colyton.



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.

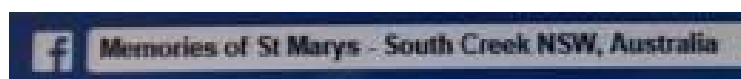
ALL WELCOME

Patron of our Society is Councillor Jackie Greenow, OAM.

Back issues of the “Tribute” can be found on our website at www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.org

This Newsletter is a free publication. Articles in this Newsletter may be republished if permission is given by the Society.

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