



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'

*We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New year!*



Members of the St Marys & District Historical Society
Photo: Caroline Volkiene

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

200th Anniversary of the Historic Castlereagh Wesleyan Chapel

In October, the Society attended the 200th anniversary of the historic Methodist Church at Castlereagh; the church was officially opened on 7th October 1817. We arrived dressed in 1817 period dress representing Rev. Samuel Leigh, Mr & Mrs John Lees, free persons, servants and convicts. Several highlights of the day were the Castlereagh Bell Ringers and choirs Penrith Harmony, Penrith Uniting Church and the Auburn Tongan Choir who sang an outstanding 'The Hallelujah Chorus'. The commemorative plaque was unveiled by descendants of John Lees Joan Petersen and Helen Cowell. At the end of the service visitors were invited to a sumptuous afternoon tea. Congratulations to the committee and all those who made it a memorable day.

New Artwork for the ANZAC Memorial Centenary Project in Hyde Park

In November our president joined St Marys RSL Sub-Branch members, politicians and school children from Werrington and Werrington County Public schools to



witness the collection of soil from Werrington House.

The walls in the Hall of Service will display the names of the towns, suburbs and settlements across NSW where men and women enlisted from for the First World War. Alongside each place name will be displayed a sample of soil, collected from each listed locale.

Photo: Caroline Volkiene

St Marys RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Day Commemoration

This years Remembrance Day Commemoration was held at Kokoda Park, St Marys and was attended by members Lyn Forde, Norma and Tom Thorburn. Our President Caroline Volkiene laid a wreath on behalf of our members.

This year in particular, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the completion of the Kokoda Track Campaign of 1942 to halt the Japanese advance towards our nation. Photo: Lyn Forde.



Community Involvements cont'd...

Official Opening of the Mirrabooka Study Centre

Members Caroline Volkiene and Lyn Forde were guests at the official opening of the Mirrabooka Study Centre at the back of Mimosa on Pages Rd at St Marys. An address by Director John-Paul Hinojosa and Special Guest speaker Hon. Pat Farmer AM who gave an interesting account of his many long distance runs for charity and the unveiling of the plaque with a blessing of the new club building. Caroline and Lyn were given a personal tour by Joe Cassar of the completed renovations inside Mimosa and the new study centre. Apparently, Mirrabooka is an aboriginal name for the constellation most commonly known as the Southern Cross. The name Mimosa is still retained on the home which is heritage listed.



'Mimosa'
Photo: Lyn Forde



New Mirrabooka Study Centre
Photo: Caroline Volkiene

Visit to St Marys North Primary School

In November Norma Thorburn and Caroline Volkiene were invited to talk to years 1 and 2 about the early history of St Marys and the games we played when we were children. A sample bag of home made games were taken along to show to the children. Paper aeroplanes, pirate hats made out of newspapers, chatter boxes, knuckles (of animal bone), spinning paper games showing a 'bird in a cage' and string games were eagerly received.

Donations

In October, the Society had a wonderful surprise when Vince Turner of Rain & Horne St Marys donated a cheque to our Vice-President Lyn Forde for the Society's ongoing historical research and displays at our Headquarters the "Chambers" building at the St Marys Precinct. Vince is a long-time enthusiast of all things St Marys and has been a good supporter of the history of the St Marys area. Thank you Vince.



Article and photograph by Lyn Forde

Happy 100th Birthday and Happy New Year!



Dulcie Green celebrated her 100th birthday on New Years Day at her home joined by family and friends. This lovely lady was born to Ethel and William Hackett at their family home on Victoria Street (Great Western Hwy) St Marys – where Hogs Breath stands today. Dulcie is the 6th of 9 siblings and recently celebrated her sister's 90th birthday.

During WW2 Dulcie worked at the Munitions Filling Factory in the Pyrotechnics/Paper Section and caught the train from St Mary's station to Ropes Creek station now the suburb of Ropes Crossing.

She met and married Ron Green from Ryde. Ron had served in the ADF as a Lance Corporal and fought in Papua New Guinea during WW2. Ron built their first home

in Ryde where they had two sons (Paul and John) and lived there for about thirteen years before moving to St Marys where Dulcie's parents lived and most of her siblings had settled. They moved to Saddington Street and lived there for approximately forty years. She now resides in St Clair with her son. Dulcie is a wonderful homemaker and is renowned for her morning teas, which her family still enjoy on a regular basis.

Dulcie is a descendant of one of the old families of St Marys, the Hackett family and is the great granddaughter of James and Mary Ann Hackett.

Article and Photographs by Paul Green



'James Hackett was transported to the Australian Colonies as a convict in 1826. Two years later James was working for Sir John Jamieson of Regent Villa (Regentville) as a jockey, horse trainer and coachman. He received his "ticket of leave" in 1835 and was free to take up work in the Evan (Penrith) district. In 1838 James married Mary Ann Bradley the granddaughter of first fleeter' Anthony and Elizabeth Rope.

Over the following years James prospered sufficiently to purchase several parcels of land at South Creek St Marys. James established Hackett's Racecourse on his land which is now occupied by St Marys Senior High School, and had a publican's booth in the grandstand until his death in 1897 at the age of ninety.

The old racecourse property was sold at auction on the 19th July, 1937 by his son Mr. Charles Hackett. It was reported, "Well over fifty years ago race meetings were held on this estate, and these drew a wonderful gathering of racehorse owners with their champions, all anxious to win the local "derby".

At the time of his passing he was remembered as a landowner, entrepreneur and revered resident of St Marys.' - Researched from the Society's archives.

From our President - Dear Aunty, love and best wishes on this very special birthday and thank you for sharing many of your memories of growing up in St Marys with the Society.

We will be closing the Chambers on Wednesday 13th December for the Christmas and New Year and will re-open on Wednesday 7th February 2018.



Photo with Santa at Anthony Horderns, George Street, Sydney
(Now the current site of World Square)
Photo – Caroline Volkiene



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.