



TRIBUTE

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FREE PUBLICATION

St Marys & District Historical Society Inc. - Quarterly Newsletter

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' Recording & Preserving the Heritage of St Marys '



*From the Members of the
St Marys & District Historical Society*

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

*The Chambers will be closed from
Wednesday 11th December 2019 until Wednesday 5th February 2020.*

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

Remembrance Day 11th November



From President Lyn Forde - On Remembrance Day on Monday 11th November, I was asked by the St Marys' RSL Sub-Branch to give the address for those present on the day. It was a good attendance and a lovely day, with many people and school representatives turning up, along with Tanya Davies MP (Member for Mulgoa), Penrith Councillor Greg Davies, Mellissa McIntosh MP (Member for Lindsay), Prue Car MP (Member for Londonderry). My address was "*St Marys Reflections & Recovery from WWI*" which went down so well that Tanya asked for a copy to read in Parliament the next day. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Society, along with many beautiful contributions from the other organisations and school representatives. The day was very respectful of what that day represented and concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Nova Employment Visit 1st November

Member Tayler Brown, who is also a trainee with Nova Employment arranged for her fellow trainees to visit the Society in early November. Lyn Forde (P) welcomed them to the Chambers along with members Eric Kent, Marie Koen and Caroline Volkiene who answered their many questions. The group showed particular interest in the period costumes and the St Marys Public School display.

Castlereagh Uniting Church Heritage Descendants Day

On Sunday 13th October members Lyn Forde, Eric Kent and Norma & Tom Thorburn attended the Heritage Descendants Day at the Castlereagh Uniting Church. Our members were dressed in period dress to add a bit of colour to the day. The Castlereagh Uniting Church was the first Methodist Church built in Australia in 1817 and the first Methodist Church built in the Southern Hemisphere.

Tours & Guest Speaking – By Member Norma Thorburn OAM

Leonay Probus Club Tour of St Marys Friday 8th November

Members of Leonay Probus Club were welcomed to 'The Chambers' to begin their tour of St Marys. Following a sumptuous morning tea, we set off in their coach. After visiting several historic sites, including the Anglican Church and Graveyard we enjoyed a hearty lunch at the Band Club and then continued our tour. A good day was had by all.

The group gathered on the steps of the Church for a photo.



Photo courtesy of Leonay Probus Club

🚩 Grandparents Day Sunday 27th October at Parker Reserve

This was a wonderful day, organised by Council, for families to celebrate grandparents. There were several activities for children and their families to enjoy, but the most popular was the billycart rides for the children. These fantastic carts were made by the men from the Nepean Men's Shed, who also ran the Barbecue.

I gave a talk on my Grandfather, Walter Mallard during the morning and later I spoke about 'When Smithy Came to St Marys'. Both talks were well received.

At the end of the day, I was lucky enough to win one of the bilycarts. This caused some celebration and my great grandson will receive it when he's old enough.



Left Norma and right husband Tom and prize – 'bilycart'.



GPO, 1 Martin Place, Sydney - A historic address.

The Fullerton Hotel opens doors on Aussie shores. Tonight, marks the first night of business for The Fullerton Hotels and Resorts in Australia, with the company now in charge of the historic 1 Martin Place address in Sydney. Once the city's tallest building, Sydney's General Post Office has recently undergone a major makeover to its sandstone exterior with meticulous cleaning and restoration of its iconic façade. In all, more than 38,000 working hours has been put in to restore the edifice to its status as a grand city landmark. Referenced: Matt Lennon October 18, 2019 in Hotel News:

By member Tom Thorburn (VP) - On the 19th October the Westin Hotel in Martin Place was renamed the Fullerton Hotel and is situated in the building that was the former GPO.

I saw an advertisement in the newspaper asking for former employees of the GPO if they would be interested in telling of their experiences. Since the first job I got when I arrived in Sydney in 1951 was as a temporary mail sorter I replied.

I was videoed and photographed. Because of this I was invited to the official renaming.

The job entailed learning where the mail went in NSW which took 8 weeks. NSW was divided into regions (no postcodes then) and involved learning stories which tied the towns and communities together. Unfortunately, I did not make use of this knowledge since I was stationed in Overseas Air Mail. Photo: Fullerton Stories – Rediscovering Sydney's Heritage.





ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Nepean Times, Thursday 14th January 1954.

ST. MARYS

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Christmas Tree

Some 300 children attended the annual Xmas tree party at the Community Hall, and all received ice cream, lollies, and drinks.

Two hundred and twenty children up to 10 years each received a toy from the Xmas tree and were entertained by Mrs. J. Painter, who played a number of Xmas songs, and the St. Marys Pipe Band, which rendered a number of airs.

Credit for the smooth running of the function and the collection of £28/16/10 goes to Mesdames W. Williams, A. Bevan, Green, K. Ogston, R. Jamieson, M. McCalman, and Miss Glen, and Messrs. E. Jones, K. Ogston, R. Wyatt, and J. Dunnermuth.

Mr. T. Sweeney carried out the duties of Father Xmas admirably. Winner of a competition for a nylon blouse donated by Diana Rita was Mrs. Delaney, of 31 Eleventh Row, St. Marys.

Thanks to all those business people who donated in various manner.

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The St Marys & District Historical Society meets every 4th Saturday of the month at 1 pm – at the St Marys Precinct “Chambers” Building – Mamre Road, St Marys.

No meetings in January or December

ALL WELCOME

Open to the Public on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm
(meeting days till 1.00pm) and by appointment for Groups

Please contact: Lyn Forde: 8840 8771 / Groups/Bus Trips - Norma Thorburn: 9623 2307

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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(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.