



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!*

A Message from President Lyn Forde



This year has been a challenge for all of us, including our Historical Society and others like us. Shutting down due to the Covid19 Virus in late February and not opening up again so far this year, has been hard on our members and I am sure those members of the public who have been denied access to our headquarters at the Chambers featuring all our permanent displays as well as the new displays that were in the process of going up in February plus all of the celebrations we could have had and been to over the year. Some of our members are now in nursing homes or sadly passed away and our thoughts and love go out to their families. Not having access to attend many of the things we took for granted before the virus struck has found us in lockdown and self-isolation for most of the year and until Australia has deemed to be virus free in the future, we as a Society, won't be able to operate fully now, or into 2021 when we usually open up in February. We will continue to keep you up to date via our Facebook and website and you can contact us through our website email. **Please, do not ask for family research information until we are able to open up again.** I take this opportunity to congratulate our Facebook and Tribute Editor Carol Volkiene on keeping up our newsletter over the year, even though it would have been a challenge when our Society has had really little to write about. Because of the pandemic, our Annual General meeting usually held in September was postponed this year and our Executive Committee will continue the same until September next year (*hopefully the Society is back by then*). When we deem it safe to operate again we will publish this via Facebook, our Website and the History Page of the Nepean News. I am still writing for the paper once a fortnight. but due to the pandemic the paper copies are rare and go very quickly, but you can sign up for an email copy online via the Nepean News website. Just **Email nepeannews@aol.com and they will sign you up for free!** On behalf of all our members I wish you and your families a safe Christmas and we hope to see you all **sometime** in the new year. STAY SAFE and wear a mask!

Summertime Memories 1950's - by member Caroline Volkiene

Summertime meant the beginning of school holiday adventures, family birthday's and Christmas.

I have many happy memories of growing up in a Duration Cottage in the late 1950s early 60s and one of those was the building of the summer cubby house.

I can recall the excitement of meeting up with my friends down at the creek. This creek usually had only a small stream of water until the heavy rains came and then the water would rise and sometimes flood. Our ages ranged from about 7 to 12 years, and even at that young age we were aware of possible dangers including snakes, spiders and swooping magpies.





Our birthdays were in December!
(Photo: C. Volkiene)

The end of year school term lunch break would see us making plans for building the biggest and best cubbyhouse ever! The plan was to raid our backyards for any old crate boxes, rope, old fence palings anything really, the rest we would find in the paddock down near the creek.

I can hear mum saying “*Be home before dark!*” as I ran out to play. I would take a short cut through my neighbour’s home that backed onto the paddock and would gingerly skirt a black cow called Pansy, and down to the small creek that divided the primary school from our homes. The sense of freedom came in the form of summer’s heat and the smell of grass; long, green and dry and knowing no more school until next year.

Branches would be collected and stacked together sought of like a tepee, maybe not quite straight but it looked like it wouldn’t fall down. Everyone would talk at once, but the plan was always clear to us. An old piece of tarp had been found and everyone agreed that it could be used as the roof or a wall or even the floor, the possibilities were endless. On and on the planning would go, there was no hurry as this cubby would take its shape over the summer months and would finally exhaust itself in the coolness of autumn.

When the sun would start to go down, our mum’s warning of “*Be home before dark!*” would see us race back to our homes yelling out to each other “See you later alligator! In a while crocodile!” until we were out of sight. Just one of many great memories.



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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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.**