



TRIBUTE

JUNE, 2019

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.

'Recording & Preserving the Heritage of St Marys'

COMING SOON!

'Back to St Marys'

Sunday 8th September 2019

10:00am – 3:00pm



St Marys & District Historical Society

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

- 2019 Display - 'Stories from the History Wardrobe'
11-11.30am Overview of display costumes
1-1.30pm Historical Bennett Wagons Talk
- Catch up with old friends Refreshments Available

Bldg 2, The Chambers

**St Marys Corner Community & Cultural Precinct
Cnr Great Western Highway & Mamre Rd, St Marys
(Parking at rear via 29 Swanston Street)**

Contact - m: 0450 132 181 (voice mail)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

Tours & Guest Speaking – By Member Norma Thorburn OAM



7th May – Tom and I travelled to Penrith to give a talk and slide show to the National Seniors Group. The group were surprised at the amount of history we have in our area.

14th May – Jordon Springs Probus Club started their tour at the Society’s headquarters the “Chambers” building.



An enjoyable morning tea was provided by our members and an overview of our current displays was given. After lunch at St Marys Band Club the group walked down to historic St Marys Public School (Blt.1861) where we were met by teachers Collette Rankine and Cheryl Guy for a guided tour of the heritage buildings. The group meandered down to South Creek Park to see the Bennett Wagons and then returned to the bus at Victoria Park to continue their tour.

2019 ANZAC Day Commemorations:

St Marys ANZAC March – April 14th



The St Marys ANZAC March new assembly point for 2019 and beyond was Cook Park on Wilson Street (near western end) and concluded at the RSL Guns War Memorial at the St Marys RSL Club where a Service was conducted. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Society by vice-presidents Eric Kent and Tom Thorburn. David Trist OAM delivered a thoughtful Address to the crowd and it was reported that a crowd of around 500 attended on the day.

Several of our members attended this year’s service and participated in the march as passengers in Charlie Sharpe’s and Col Bootle’s Model ‘A’ Ford vintage cars (members of the Model ‘A’ Ford Club NSW.)



Col Bootle and passenger member Eric Kent

St Marys RSL ANZAC Dawn Service – April 25th

The Commemoration of the ANZAC Centenary Dawn Service was held at the Guns Memorial, St Marys RSL. Once again this service was well attended.

This moving service was attended by members Norma Thorburn (T), Tom Thorburn (VP) and Caroline Volkiene. Flowers were laid on behalf of the Society by Norma and Caroline.



Photographs: Caroline Volkiene

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

(Nepean Times Thur 12 Oct 1961)



High School Pool Starts Centre

First step in the formation of a 47 acres community centre at South Creek, St. Marys, was completed last Saturday with the official opening of the St. Marys High School War Memorial Swimming Pool. Opening the pool, the Mayor of Penrith, Ald. W. L. Chapman, M.L.A., paid tribute to the generosity of St. Marys industrialist, Mr. W. E. Cuckson.

Ald. Chapman and other speakers said Mr. Cuckson had made possible the fulfilment of this step in the community centre plans first envisaged by the school headmaster, Mr. W. J. Eason.

More than a hundred school children waited patiently at the gates for the official ceremony to finish. When they were allowed to enter the gates, the previously "uninhabited" area of the pool and surroundings became a busy playground of happy youngsters.

As the opening ceremony, attended by more than 500 people, had been held outside the fence, near the memorial garden, the contrast was noticeable when the children and the general public were allowed to enter the gates, unlocked by Mr. Eason and Mr. Cuckson.

OLYMPIC SWIMMERS

Olympic swimmers, high school boys and girls had previously given demonstrations of swimming techniques, life-saving and water ballet.

The Olympic swimmers were: Julian Carroll (Australian backstroke champion), Neville Hayes (Australian butterfly champion and Olympic silver medallist), Kevin Berry (Olympic butterfly representative) and Ian Thompson (N.S.W. freestyle representative).

Dedication of the memorial garden was performed by Rev. E. J. Storey, of St. Mary Magdalene Church of England. Appropriate music for the dedication and the following opening ceremony, was played by the St. Marys junior band.

Welcoming the visitors, Mr. Eason said, "You have here something unique in schools, something which gives a challenge for future development."

Mr. Eason gave due recognition of the assistance by the Premier. Mr. Heffron (who was Minister for Education at the time the pool was first considered), of the St. Marys P. and C. committee, of the pool committee, of Penrith council and of the people of the district.

"COUNCIL'S VISION"

"We gained this centre through the people of the district and through the vision of Penrith council," Mr. Eason said.

Referring to the pool as a memorial to the fallen, Mr. Eason concluded by saying: "I hope we can give the same service in peacetime, as our men did in war."

The rapid growth of St. Marys in recent years, and the consequent need of amenities, was instanced by Ald. Chapman when opening the pool. As an example of the development of the area, he said there were now 100 factories in the district.

Vote of thanks to Mr. Cuckson and the people of St. Marys was moved by Ald. H. G. Caines and supported by Ald. A. J. Gilkes, two representatives of St. Marys on Penrith City Council. (cont'd Pg4)

Ald. Caines commended Mr. Cuckson for the assistance given by him in the construction of the pool. He thanked all the parents who regularly provided contributions for the pool to their children to take to school, "I feel sure that of all who worked for the pool, the person who least wants thanks is Mr. Cuckson," Ald. Gilkes said. "He is the person who sees a thing wants doing and does it." Addressing the children, Mr. Cuckson said: "My heart is with the children. That is why I am making every effort to make their future secure."

"BABY" POOL APPEAL

He said he believed education would do more for Australia than weapons and appealed for the start of a "baby" pool as the next step in the development of the community centre.

Official opening of the amenities buildings at the pool was performed by Mr. R. Mutton, of G. H. Thomas Pty. Ltd., which donated the building. Thanks to the firm were expressed by the girl captain of St. Marys High School, Dianne Gahan.

Announcing that the pool was classed officially as a short Olympic pool, Mr. Todd, the engineer who designed the pool, said it was 110 feet long (33 1-3 metres), five feet six inches deep at one end and three feet at the shallow end. "If we had gone deeper it would have added £6,000 to the cost of the pool," said Mr. Todd.

President of St. Marys Amateur Swimming Club, Mr. H. Craddock, said 43 students from St. Marys High School had gained their bronze medal for life-saving this year. With the provision of the new pool, the club aimed at increasing this number to 500 this year. He introduced Messrs. Williams and F. Cooper, representatives of the N.S.W. Amateur Swimming Association.

Supporting Mr. Craddock, the president of Nepean National Fitness Association, Mr. B. Iverach, assured the gathering that his organisation was fully behind the opening of more community efforts in the area.

Boys from St. Marys High School gave demonstrations of life-saving and water safety. Trained by Mr. Fred Griffiths (chief instructor, St. Marys Amateur Swimming Club, and pool manager), they were John Lyons (captain), Richard Peters, Philip Vernum, Tony Pugh, Ray Allan, John Viney, Richard and Neil Craddock, Alan Jones and Chris Riley.

Water ballet, trained by Miss C. Gordon (high school sports mistress), comprised Vicki Short, Alison Fretwell, Wendy Tarrant, Lyn Smith, Susan May, Neomi Pirity, Pam Lusby and Mairi Pryde.



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

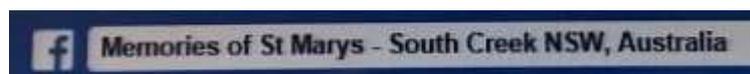
ALL WELCOME

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.