

TRIBUTE

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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.

NOTICE

Renovations have begun at our headquarters the "Chambers"!
Penrith City Council started building works on the new access ramp, entry and disabled toilet in September. We look forward to re-opening to the public in February 2016.

Although the Chambers have been closed for renovations our members have been very active out and about in the community.

PROGRESS REPORT ON SOUTH CREEK PARK

The Bennett Wagon Pavilion is now completed. The official opening took place on Thursday 3rd September 2015 and was well attended by members of our Society along with local residents and Council officials. Joan Dent and her son John flew up from Melbourne to attend the opening. Joan is the daughter of Harold Bennett, the last of the wagon builders to live in St Marys. Our Society is indebted to her for all the support and information regarding the Bennett family that she has freely shared with us over the years.



His Worship the Mayor of Penrith Councillor Ross Fowler OAM and Joan Dent cutting the ribbon to officially open the Pavilion.

Photo courtesy of Paul Mills



Prue Car MP Member for Londonderry, Clr Ross Fowler OAM Mayor of Penrith, Norma Thorburn, Joan Dent and Fiona Scott MP Member for Lindsay

Photo courtesy of Tom Thorburn



The two new additions to the South Creek Pavilion showcasing the historical Bennett Wagons

Photos courtesy of Paul Mills



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

ST MARYS FESTIVAL DINNER

On Thursday 3rd September, 2015 a dinner was held in the Bennett room at the St Marys Band Club, for the opening of the 40th St Marys Spring Festival.

Attending were representatives from Penrith Council, St Marys Town Centre Management, Band Club Board, St Marys Rotary, previous recipients of the St Marys Senior Citizens Award, volunteers helping with the organisation and partners.

When it was nearly time for the activities to begin, Norma Thorburn, remarked on the number of vacant seats that were still to be filled but thought no more about it.

The formal activities began with Alex Karavas, the chairman of St Marys Town Centre Management, welcoming everyone. Councillor Jackie Greenow then officially opened the Festival. Alex then announced the recipient of the 2015 ST MARYS COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD, which replaced the old ST MARYS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD.

To Norma's "great" surprise she was named as the recipient of this award. Every one attending rose to their feet and joined in acclamation for a well-deserved recognition of service to her Community. While she was still talking to Alex, Jackie indicated to Norma to look to the other side of the room. When she did so, she saw her children and most of her grandchildren had come into the room. They were the reason there were so many empty seats!

Norma still can't believe that everyone managed to keep it a secret from her. With the winning of this award she was able to achieve one of her ambitions, she got to ride on the Bennett Wagon during the Parade at the Festival.

Above right photo of Alex Karavas presenting Norma Thorburn with the Community Spirit award.

(Photo courtesy of Tom Thorburn)



St Marys Spring Festival 40th Anniversary

This year the society's theme for the parade was acknowledging 100 years since the 1915 Gallipoli campaign fought during WW1 (1914-1918).



Photo of Bennett Wagon



Norma Thorburn recipient of the first St Marys Community Spirit Award

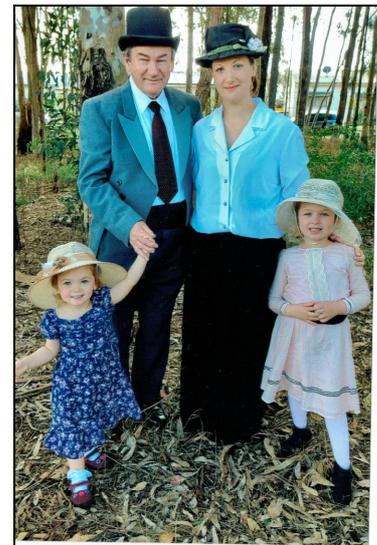


Tom Thorburn, Eric Kent & Sean Brannigan all dressed up for the Parade

St Marys Spring Festival 40th Anniversary cont'd



Left: Our Patron Clr Jackie Greenow OAM and the Brannigan Family representing the Society in the Parade.



Right: Amelia Brannigan, Eric Kent, Hannah Brannigan and Annabel Brannigan.

Photos courtesy Eric Kent

Our July monthly meeting was held at Penrith R.S.L. We were grateful to the club for providing us with a room for the occasion.

Before our meeting we had light refreshments and after the meeting our members enjoyed looking at the Club's excellent display of War memorabilia.



Members Margaret Mills, Tony and Sheila Biddulph and Margaret Dwyer engrossed in conversation and the displays. Photo courtesy of Paul Mills



Members Eric Kent, Sheila Biddulph, Paul Mills, Tony Biddulph, Lisa Foster and Marion McLeod. Photo courtesy of Margaret Mills

Werrington Community Festival

In August some of our members attended the Werrington Community Festival finely fitted out in 1905 costume. Although the day was hampered by rain there was a good turn out of local residents to enjoy the festivities. Prue Car - MP Member for Londonderry dropped by to catch up with Norma and Carol on the day.



Norma Thorburn, Prue Car & Caroline Volkiene
Photo courtesy of Tom Thorburn

Bicentenary of Penrith Dedications & Celebrations

- Dedication to the 1st Government Building - Our president Caroline Volkiene attended this event which took place outside Penrith Police Station on the site of the first official government building in the area, a guard house and military depot built in 1815. A plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Penrith, Clr Ross Fowler OAM and the Penrith Local Area Commander, Supt Brett McFadden to signify the local importance of the site.
- Sister Cities in Japan - Mamre was the setting for breakfast for visitors from our sister cities in Japan, here to celebrate the bicentenary of Penrith. Member Norma Thorburn was guest speaker, assisted by translator Tomoko Ward.
- Burial of the Bicentenary of Penrith Time Capsule - Members Caroline Volkiene and Norma Thorburn witnessed various items placed in the time capsule some of which were a Penrith football jersey, an aerial photograph of the city, a school uniform and a “Penrith - the makings of a city” book by Lorraine Stacker.
- Bicentenary of Penrith Festival - Members Caroline Volkiene, Lyn Forde, Marion McLeod and Tom Thorburn travelled to Smiths Paddocks Oval, Thornton Estate Penrith to participate in the festival. We held a stall in the main oval and enjoyed 1 hour in the heritage tent to inform the public about our Society. Tom gave an overview of St Marys history, Lyn talked about her research and Marion enlightened everyone with her talk on the historical dress and hats that we had on display.

100 Years of Women in Policing

Our Society acknowledges and congratulates our local Police Women who proudly marched down Queen Street in July this year. Their march concluded at St Marys Corner & Cultural Precinct where a band performed and a “Women in Policing” and police memorabilia were on display.



Photo courtesy of Tom Thorburn

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

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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