



TRIBUTE

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St Marys & District Historical Society Inc - Quarterly Newsletter
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Celebrating 20 Years 1996 – 2016

Congratulations to our 2016/17 Executive Committee elected in September: President- Caroline Volkiene; Vice Presidents - Lyn Forde and Eric Kent; Secretary - Marie Koen and Treasurer - Norma Thorburn.

Right: Our president welcoming guests to one of several morning teas held in November to celebrate the Society's 20th anniversary and to say thank you for their continued support over the years.



Members from St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, St Marys Vietnam Veterans Outpost and Rita and Michael Thomas.

(Photos Caroline Volkiene)

Back to St Marys

On the 11th September the Society's annual 'Back to St Marys' event was held and enjoyed by all those who attended. This year, photographs from the society's archives were projected onto a screen for easy viewing in the Archives Room. We had positive feedback so it will be part of future 'Back to St Marys' events. Paul Mill's school photos were once again a great success and former students were able to name a number of their old school mates. Big thanks to our members who were on hand to offer assistance and to enjoy a good chat. – *Reminder: This annual event is held on the second Sunday in September at our headquarters 'The Chambers' Bldg 2, St Marys Corner Community & Cultural Precinct.*



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

Llandilo Public School 150th Anniversary



Our members participated in Llandilo Public School's 150th Anniversary on Sunday 23rd October. It was a lovely spring day and former students were there in their numbers. Congratulations to the committees who made this special occasion a great success!

Right: Our vice president, Eric Kent recalls that when he was a small boy in about 1941 his family moved to a farm at Llandilo, on the western end of Seventh Avenue. "...The house, as I remember, was of rough weatherboard, painted a light brown almost beige with a corrugated iron roof. It consisted of two buildings joined by a small wooden bridge; the back was the kitchen and the front being the bedrooms with a veranda on the front. It was very small compared with today's homes. Just outside the kitchen door was a water tank as in those days this was the only water we had. Electricity did not exist there either; just kerosene for lighting and the cooking took place on an old wood burning stove that smoked out the kitchen every time it was lit. (Photos Caroline Volkiene)



Members: Eric Kent, Caroline Volkiene, Lyn Forde, Norma & Tom Thorburn
Having a bit of fun with one of the exhibits from the
Museum of Comparative Zoology Australia Ltd. www.mocza.com

Photo: Tom Thorburn

St Marys Heritage Tour – Tour Guide Norma Thorburn OAM

On Thursday, 3rd November, Paul Burgess of Aldinga Tours in Newcastle brought a tour group to St Marys for our Heritage Tour. The coach left Newcastle at 6.30am and picked up at several spots between there and Lake Macquarie. They arrived at ‘The Chambers’ at 10am for a much needed comfort stop and a very nice morning tea provided by our members.



We set off for St Mary Magdalene, where we were met by Rev. Wayne Sutcliffe. After viewing the church and some time spent in the graveyard, we drove around the historic parts of St Marys, which were appreciated by the group, as many of them were quite up with the early land grant holders of the early days.

We enjoyed a nice lunch at St Marys Leagues Club before heading off to Werrington to complete our tour. It always pleases me to be able to tell people about our rich history and have them appreciate our stories. They had a long trip home, but all said they really enjoyed the day.

Note: I will be conducting a tour for ‘locals’ in the new year and more information will be available at our rooms and on-line later.



★ Members Lyn Forde, Marion McLeod, Diane James along with Tom Thorburn and Caroline Volkiene were on hand to help out on the day.

Story: Norma Thorburn OAM - Photos: Caroline Volkiene

Remembrance Day 2016

On Friday 11th November members Caroline Volkiene and Norma and Tom Thorburn attended the St Marys RSL Sub-branch Remembrance Day Service at the Guns Memorial, St Marys. This year the focus was on the Battle of Pozieres, 100 years ago (23 July 1916 – 7 August 1916.)

POZIERES, a small village in the Somme valley in France, was the scene of bitter and costly fighting for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions in mid 1916. The village was captured initially by the 1st Division on 23 July 1916. The division clung to its gains despite almost continuous artillery fire and repeated German counter-attacks but suffered heavily. By the time it was relieved on 27 July it had suffered 5,285 casualties.

The 2nd Division took over from the 1st and mounted two further attacks - the first, on 29 July, was a costly failure; the second, on 2 August, resulted in the seizure of further German positions beyond the village. Again, the Australians suffered heavily from retaliatory bombardments. They were relieved on 6 August, having suffered 6,848 casualties.

The 4th Division was next into the line at Pozieres. It too endured a massive artillery bombardment, and defeated a German counter-attack on 7 August; this was the last attempt by the Germans to retake Pozieres. (Ref: Australian War Memorial)



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.

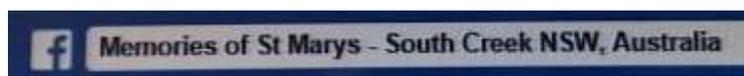
ALL WELCOME

Patron of our Society is Jackie Greenow, OAM.

Back issues of the “Tribute” can be found on our website at www.stmaryshistoricalociety.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

*‘Recording & Preserving the Heritage
of St Marys’*