



TRIBUTE

SUMMER, 2016
PUBLICATION

FREE

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.

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



Update - Renovations are still in progress at our headquarters the “Chambers”. We look forward to re-opening in February 2016.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

Open Day at Historic Werrington House

Sunday the 18th October brought an overcast day for the Open Day of Historic Werrington House. The doors were open to the public for the first time in 183 years and our Society was honoured to be invited by the owners, Mr Peter Collins and his wife Mrs Jennine Leonarder-Collins to help bring this event together.

Several of our members dressed in 1830s period dress, gentlemen to welcome visitors at the main gate and the front of house, our ladies guided the public through the ground floor bringing attention to points of historical interest in each of the rooms.

Our thanks go to Steven Green, St John Ambulance and his team for providing first aid on the day. Also, to the members of the St Marys Rotary Club for cooking a tasty BBQ sausage sizzle.

Visitors were able to explore the grounds of the property and the “Garrison” containing both war and political memorabilia.

Open Day
Historic Werrington House 1832

Werrington House, 1832. Home of my childhood.

Sunday, 18th October 2015 12.00 noon - 3.00pm	Werrington House 108 Rugby Street, Werrington County NSW 2747
Weather permitting	This is the first time that Historic Werrington House will be open to the public in 183 years.
Entry - \$5.00 each Children under 12 free	This event is held under the auspices of the St Marys & District Historical Society Inc.
Great Parking Only Coffee / Tea Sausage Sizzle (St Marys Rotary Club)	For information call Caroline Johnson 0450 152 188 Hanna Thurston 9523 2007



Members Lyn Forde, Marie Koen, Diane James (seated), Jim Mason and Norma Thorburn in 1830s period dress and member of the public.



This photograph shows just a small portion of visitors patiently waiting in line for the tour.

Photos courtesy of Tom Thorburn

The day was a great success with attendance exceeding our wildest dreams, about 1000 visitors. Interest in local history is alive and well in our area and surrounds!

Coo-ee Re-enactment March - Commemorative Service and Breakfast, Victoria Park, St Marys NSW

As part of the 2015 ANZAC centenary commemorations, a re-enactment of the Coo-ee march followed the original march of 100 years ago. The original 515 km (320 miles) Coo-ee recruitment march left Gilgandra with 26 men on 10 October 1915 and arrived in Sydney on 12 November, with 263 marchers who had joined along the way.

The re-enactment march entered Penrith City at the Great Western Highway near Lennox Bridge on Saturday 7 November and camped overnight at the Penrith Paceway. A Civic Reception was held that evening to welcome the Coo-ee March Re-enactment marchers to Penrith at the Sky Lounge. On Sunday 8 November, the marchers



continued along the Great Western Highway from High Street walking towards St Marys where a Commemorative Service and breakfast was held at the War Memorial in Victoria Park.



Photos courtesy of Caroline Volkiene

Left - Eric Kent and Lyn Forde (VPs) and Caroline Volkiene (P) enjoying the dinner at Penrith Paceway for the members of the Coo-ee Re-enactment March.
 Right - Entertainment at the Paceway Dinner



Marys Rotary provided a BBQ breakfast which was enjoyed by all and the marchers then moved onto Mt Drutt. Congratulations to St Marys RSL Sub-branch's Coo-ee Centenary Re-enactment March, Local Support Committee, well done.

Samuel Luke joined the Coo-ees at Victoria Park on Wednesday 10th November 1915.

On 21st April 1917 during the First Battle of Bullecourt the 4th Pioneer Battalion was constructing tramways in the vicinity of Vaulx–Vraucourt, France when Private Luke was killed in action by a high explosive shell. He was buried in the Vaulx Hill Cemetery, France. Private Luke's name is also listed on the St Marys War Memorial.



Members:
 Tom Thorburn, Eric Kent, Lyn Forde, Lisa Foster, Norma Thorburn and Caroline Volkiene - Victoria Park, St Marys.

Photo courtesy of Chris Miller



5th Light Horse Assn.



Members: Eric Kent, Lisa Foster, Lyn Forde, Caroline Volkiene and Clr Jackie Greenow OAM (Patron).

Photos courtesy of Caroline Volkiene



The Remembrance Day Service was held at St Marys RSL Sub-branch. Members Caroline Volkiene, Norma Thorburn and Eric Kent represented our society.

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.

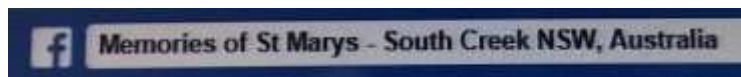
ALL WELCOME

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