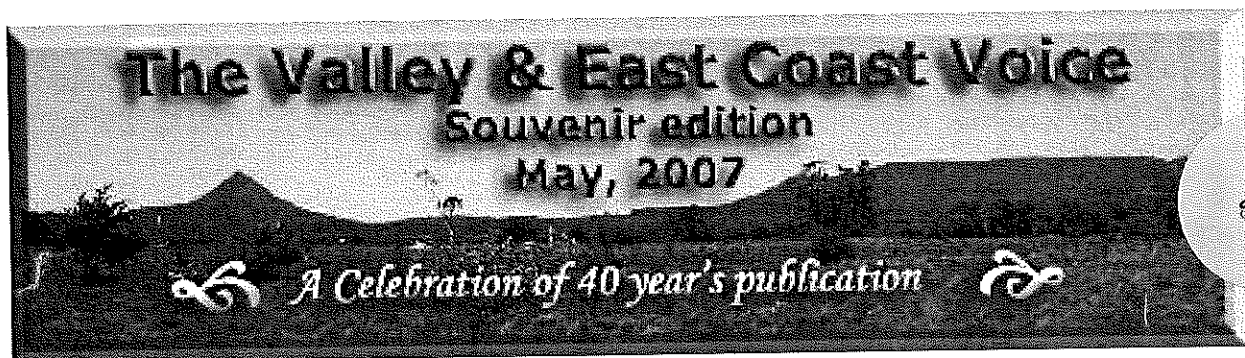




Celebrating St Marys Sesquicentenary Year

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! VALLEY VOICE.

by Geoffrey Dean (ex-co-editor)

When Judy Spilsbury rang me towards the end of October in 2006, and told me that the Valley and East Coast Voice had continued on without break since I and my family had left St Marys back in the early 1970s, I was gob-smacked.

That night back in 1968, when Dorothy Simpson, Ada Gerie and Sandra Young from the local hospital went up to 'Seaview' for dinner with my family, the possibility of starting up a small local paper was the main topic to be discussed around the dinner table.

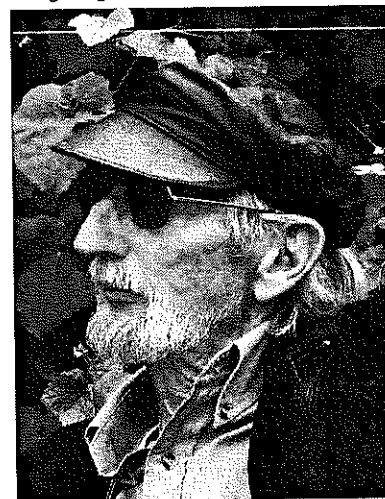
Such a paper would be a central point for the comments and news of the district, we thought. We could give it a go - a kind of experiment to see how such a local newssheet would go down with the locals. Our decision fueled with, I remember, some very good wine.

Well, that first run, we optimistically printed four hundred and fifty copies, turned out on my old typewriter and a borrowed Gestetner, most of which were gone by lunchtime the following day.

Our rash experiment had well and truly paid off. We were stuck, and whether we liked it or not, we were obliged to carry it on until we left the district.

And, I might add, not one of us could have envisaged that 40 years later 'that little old rag' as we used to call it, would still be going.

Congratulations to all those dedicated people who were involved in it during those years.



Geoffrey Dean,
one of the co-founders of this
community paper.

Recollections of the birth of the Valley Voice by Mary Targett

In early 1968 while I was working at the St Marys District Hospital, I was asked by Matron Simpson if I would help out with the typing of a local newspaper that she and her friends, Yvonne Whittaker (Clinic Sister) Geoff & Betty Dean (Seaview) and I think Ada Gerie and Sandra Young (Nursing Sisters) were embarking on.

On the evening of May 2, 1968, we gathered in the Children's Ward of our hospital, (obviously no patients) and proceeded to create our first edition.

The latest technology was used, Gestetner, (copying machine) waxed stencils on which the typing was done, typewriter from the hospital office, and many bottles of pink correction fluid, which had an aroma about it quite fitting for a hospital.



Mary Targett,
involved in this paper since its inception.

The ward was abuzz with activity, and lots of laughter, courtesy of the green ginger wine, which was enjoyed by all.

This continued into the wee small hours of the next morning, when finally our first issue was ready for delivery to the outlets. Some of us managed a few hours sleep, others not so lucky, before heading off to our regular jobs.

Obviously we couldn't continue from the Children's Ward, so we moved to the Recreation Room of the Nurses Quarters, where the table tennis table was put to good use.

This facility was used for several years, before the move to our present premises.

In conclusion I would like to say we have come a long way thanks to the many volunteers we have had over the past 40 years.

Many thanks to our Editors of recent years: the late Ron Sumner, Audrey Wright and Judy Spilsbury, who have made a huge difference to the quality of our paper.

EDITORIAL

When I first thought of doing a souvenir edition of the Valley Voice for our 40th birthday I never envisaged what a task I would be taking on. To say I had 'bitten off more than I could chew', was an understatement. Just finding a starting point was the first headache. So much has happened in the last 40 years, that you don't know where to start.

I know we have had lots of tragedies and triumphs, but I decided to go with a mostly lighthearted, pictorial view of life in St Marys. I have had tremendous support from a lot of people, who have supplied me with photographs, stories, advice, encouragement, and most of all naming all the football photographs. That was, indeed a job in itself, as almost all the photos I have had access to were not named. Consequently, if we have any names wrong, I do apologise.

All the names listed below are of people who have volunteered their time over the forty years to help produce this community paper. It goes without saying that an edition would not be achieved without plenty of help, and to all those listed, and those whom we have missed, thank you.

Sometimes St Marys has struggled to stay afloat, but we have, and I think we are doing very well. We don't have the increased population and business that has evolved on the coast, but this is still a lovely place to live. This is probably proven by the influx of new residents now living here from all parts of Australia. We must have something going for us.

As always it's the people who give a township it's personality, and we have had many characters larger than life, contributing to all aspects of small town life, and it's always been said, 'if you want something done, ask a busy person'.

I have tried to cover a variety of events such as sporting achievements, awards, accolades, service clubs etc., but there is no way you can mention everything in 50 plus pages.

I do hope you enjoy this publication. It was put together with a lot of work, but I gained a lot of pleasure from doing it. Thank you to all who helped with this special edition and to all the contributors, distributors, advertisers, volunteers and consumers. Without all of you we would not have survived for 40 years, to celebrate this milestone in the Valley Voice's history.

The very first edition, Vol 1, No 1, was published on May 3, 1968, and is reprinted in this souvenir edition. It had to be realigned to fit the size of today's paper, as the first few years were produced in foolscap size. Times and technology have changed dramatically in the last few years, and when I print this paper now, I think back to the first years, and how hard it was to type and print on the old Gestetner machines, by cranking a handle for hours on end. Life has certainly changed for the better as far as printing goes, and it is certainly much easier with the computers and printers of today's quality.

Having said that, it still needs volunteers, and to all those who still help from years ago, and to all the newcomers, thank you very much indeed. Your time and services are very much appreciated.

Judy Spilsbury.
Editor.

(Apologies to any volunteers whose names we have missed.)

VOLUNTEERS OVER 40 YEARS

Wendy Bantick, Gary Barnes, Lisa Bean, Sharon Binns, Wendy Brennan, Karen Budge, Margaret Bullock, Maureen Bushing, Geoff Clarke, Keith Cook, Bob Cook, Julie Cornelius, Judy Costain, Pat Curry, Liz Dean, Elizabeth Dean, Geoff Dean, Jill Faulkner, Dot French, Ada Gerry, Heather Gillies, Kerin Glatte, Janet Godfrey, Barbara Harris, Roberta Harwood, Carmen Iles, Zoe Johns, Heather Lodge, Kath Lohrey, Jos Lynch, Nancy Macleay, Sharlene Mason, Ruth McGiveron, Marj Oliver, Peter Rubenach, Dorothy Simpson, Irene Smith, Judy Spilsbury, Betty Sumner, Ron Sumner, Mary Targett, Eiko Waller, John Wassens, Kerry Webb, Yvonne Whittaker, Audrey Wright, Sandra Young.

PAPER DELIVERY BOYS AND GIRLS

Kyle Bean, Kirk Bean, Tiarna Bean, Drew Berwick, Jason & Sean Costain, Alyssa Morris, Jane, Mark and Matthew Spilsbury, Todd & Emma Spilsbury, Hannah, Jacob & Jackson Spilsbury, Todd & Narelle Summers, Danielle and Georgia Williams, Michael, Andrew & Julie Wright.

Tongue in cheek?

Taken from Vol 2, No 6, dated July 18, 1969.

"Congratulations to the crew and staff at Cape Kennedy for a successful launch of Apollo 11.

A member of the Valley Voice staff will welcome the astronauts on their arrival on the moon, and present each of the astronauts with a complimentary copy of this paper."

Touche

Taken from Vol 4, No. 5. July 2, 1971

*A well known grazier in the district has offered visual proof of the crisis in the wool industry. Believe it or not he has filled in the pot holes in his driveway with wool. Thus proving no doubt that wool is now **CHEAPER THAN DIRT.***



THE BEGINNING OF A VOICE: by Jim Haas

In 1968 the Vietnam War was in full swing, Lyndon Johnson was President of the United States, John Gorton was Prime Minister of Australia, Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated, Saddam Hussein gained power in Iraq, NASA launched the first manned space ship Apollo 7, the Olympics were held in Mexico City, the Fingal Valley was in a state of drought, and the Valley Voice was launched in St Marys.

The first edition came out on the 3rd of May with an Editorial written by Geoff Dean of Seaview Farm, part of which went on to say: ".....The purpose of this paper is to serve our community. We believe there is a necessity for local news reporting and comment medium in this district. Mainly it is intended to be a communication between what is happening and what should be happening in this valley. It is to be a liaison between those who do and those who want to know. The aim is to be factual in news reporting, critical in out look, and constructive in suggestion.

"At times it will be difficult not to be unbiased and if this human error creeps in, we will welcome you, the reader's, opinion. To be successful it will need public acceptance and sympathy for its birth pains...."

On page three we learned that Miss Teena Quest entrant, Patsy Targett, was holding a concert in Royle's Theatre (Todds Hall). Performers will include John Laing, winner of Brian & the Juniors Talent Quest, Danny and Dudley Madden and some fine local talent, which includes a hilarious, locally made, short film.

The back page of the newly launched paper told how the St Marys Football Team was enjoying a good year at the top of the FDFA ladder with a young side of only an average age of 21. Players doing well were: Ron McCarty, Chester Bullock, Terry Haas, Keith Mason, Don Birrell, Trevor Viney, Tony Cook, and Ashley Stone at fullback is drop kicking the ball a country mile.

St Marys and indeed the greater Break O'Day Community should truly thank Geoff Dean and his small band of helpers, all of whom gave up their time and showed immense initiative to put a paper together that had the quality to grab the interest of the people and grow from strength to strength to fulfill the dreams of the paper's pioneers.

Whilst Geoff moved on to bigger literacy achievements with his writing of several books, the Valley Voice has continued on with a strong group of dedicated volunteers, some of whom like Mary Targett, Audrey Wright and Judy Spilsbury have been helping for several years, and still work to ensure the paper hits the stands every second Thursday.

But the paper is nothing without the community; the business people who advertise, the community groups who tell us what's happening and of cause the general public who send in their articles and photos, all of which gives the paper variety and interest. Letters to the Editor is a place where people can express their views and opinions and whilst this can sometimes create confrontation, it is important the views of the community are brought out in the open and aired to enable us to move on.

Going on 40 years is a wonderful achievement for a community paper. While other towns in our area have produced papers that have come and gone, the Voice has stood the test of time. Now it is bigger and better than ever and with the diverse range of people with a variety of talents second to none living in the Break O'Day Plains, the skies the limit for our local rag.

In the first edition of Valley Voice a letter to the editor was written by well respected local identity and business woman Ruth Gill. Part of it read; ".....My congratulations on your first edition of Valley Voice. May it prosper and give the citizens of this Valley a chance to express their hopes and opinions on what can be done in this very much neglected area....."

Ruth, God rest your soul, the paper has prospered, it is still giving citizens a chance to have their say and one could argue that the area is not quite as neglected as it was in 1968.



Ball Committee:

D. Bullock, K. Cook, A. Jarvis, R. Legge, A. Wright.

ST MARY'S DISTRICT HOSPITAL — 1927-1977

Golden Jubilee Ball

Friday 2 September 1977, Community Hall, St. Mary's
8:30pm To 1:30am

Chicken and Champagne Supper Ron Graham's Band

Dress: Costume, Formal or Lounge

Letter to the Editor

The Editor,
The Valley and East Coast Voice.

Dear Friends,

My attention has been drawn to the fact that this amazing local newspaper is about to celebrate its 40th birthday.

Thirty nine years of continuous production and circulation by volunteers is a remarkable achievement.

Congratulations! Praise and thanks must go to **all** who have contributed to this excellent community service.

The area covered and concerned is sizeable, significant and scattered. This fortnightly publication has drawn residents into an extended and extensive family of genuine community interest.

For 30 years, as Legislative Council Member for Macquarie, I valued receiving the V. & E.C.V. Indeed, I felt continually "in touch" with and part of the spirit of endeavour which constantly drives this community forward.

To "understand", "belong", and "share" are essential elements of life. Your paper enables by providing this regular forum for information, ideas, news, advertising, and comment, covering every aspect of community life.

Well done! The V. & E.C.V. is an essential icon in the area. Its real value can not be assessed in dollars and cents. Its purpose and presence provides a service in all seasons, in times of adversity, prosperity and celebration and must continue indefinitely.

Again congratulations for achieving this celebratory milestone.

Best wished for the future.

George and Joyce Shaw.



The Honourable George Shaw and his wife Joyce, pictured in his time as a Member of the Legislative Council.

Editor's note:

For those who are younger and may not be aware.

George Shaw was elected to the Division of Macquarie in the Legislative Council in May 1968, and retired in May 1998.

He has held almost every position in the Upper House of Parliament during that time, including President 1988–1992.

Soon after his retirement, the Governor of Tasmania, following a request by Premier Jim Bacon, issued a Gazette Notice that George retain the title "Honourable" for life.

On Australia Day 2007, The Governor General of Australia announced that George would receive The Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) "for service to the Tasmanian Parliament and to the community through church, service, aged care and sporting organisations."

The Say by Cagerattler

Our area is in the lucky and unique position to enjoy the privilege of being able to communicate, and get the news around the community through our fortnightly periodical we know as the Valley and East Coast Voice. This paper has now reached a very special anniversary, which adds up to 40 years of vibrant, efficient and dedicated service to the community.

It truly is **OUR COMMUNITY PAPER**. It allows anyone who wants to contribute, the chance to be a part of it all, by doing reports on group activities, writing interesting articles, getting things off their chests, or putting out their business services. And then there are the classifieds.

The amazing thing above all else for me is that over the past four decades, the lifeblood and heartbeat of the Valley Voice is its loyal band of volunteers, who produce, print and distribute this valuable tool, without benefiting personally, a single cent. Their only reward for the considerable time and effort needed to get each issue out is that it means so much to all of we residents, and the work they do is genuinely appreciated.

I suspect just about every household glances through the Voice when it comes out. You must get your copy of the Valley Voice. That's a given requirement for just about all of us. Not only locals, but several ex residents have their copies mailed to them, so they can keep in touch with our 'goings-on'.

Throughout its existence this little paper has become an integral part of our lives here, and around the valley.

Best wishes and congratulations from a grateful member and indulgent contributor of a few lines here and there. Forty years. What about fifty, then sixty, and maybe even seventy? Let's hope so.

What do you think?

The Valley Voice

First Edition Vol. 1 No. 1 P.O. Box 100, St. Marys 3 May, 1968

EDITORIAL

THE REASON WHY

The purpose of this paper is to serve a community. The participants believe there is a necessity for a local news reporting and comment medium in this district.

They believe there are many purposes such a news-sheet can perform. Mainly it is intended to be a communication between, what is happening and what should be happening in this valley. It is to be a liason between those who do and those who want to know about it. The aim is to be factual in news reporting, critical in out-look and constructive in suggestion.

At times it will be difficult not to be unbiased and if this human error creeps in, we will welcome your; the readers, opinion.

To be successful it will need public acceptance, eventually and public sympathy for its birth pains. To cover costs of production it will be charged and it is hoped advertising fees will add a small profit for future expansion.

If you like it, buy it. If you don't like it, don't tell others, tell us what is wrong.

KATH'S MILK BAR

PENGAL

Pies Pasties

Smallgoods

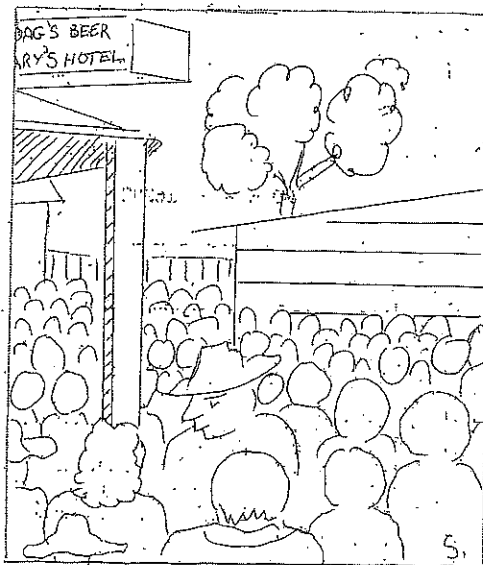
Fruit & Vegetables

Cigarettes

Cordials

Milkshakes

Ice Creams



"Free Beer?" "No, First Edition of the Valley Voice!"

TOUCHE' COLUMN

A Question from a traveller:

"Look," he said, "I over heard in St. Marys last week that cries of drought from some farmers in the valley only damages the districts image." He asked, "what image - image to whom?" Is it an image of unlimited greenery?" "Can't be. A drive through here last February would prove that. Perhaps it is the image that no matter what happens, the district doesn't scream?" "Perhaps that's what it is?"

"If so, God help us if we get an earth quake."

(We said; under our breaths)

Seamander Motel has seen some up and downs during its short history. Mostly under temporary management. Until some permanent arrangement is made we will reserve judgement.

Two Governmental cars met on the middle of Break-O-Day Bridge this week. Guess what? One belonged to the Road Safety Council of Tasmania.

How St. Marys was Named

It is of interest that during the 1914-18 War there was an Australian Hospital in Harefield, England and an Australian War Cemetery in the Churchyard of St. Marys. Each year a representative from Australia House lays a wreath in this cemetery on Anzac Day.

MORE NEXT ISSUE

ADULT EDUCATION STUDY WEEKEND

On Friday night 26th, Mrs. Campbell Smith spoke of the need for unity and involvement by all in the Valley. She said there was no need for a dwindling population to become apathetic or depressed. She invited general discussion on these subjects and this was eagerly embarked upon by the some sixty people present.

This talk was accompanied by films and general discussion again. Everyone present agreed that all lectures had been most informative and Mrs. Campbell Smith's charming personality captivated all.

This is the first time the Adult Education Board has held a week-end school in St. Marys and it is hoped the experience will be repeated.

McGEE'S GARAGE & SERVICE STATION

St. Marys Phone 59
Mechanical Repairs
24hr. Towing Service

AT ST. MARY'S PHARMACY

ACROSS

1. Fall on delicate material, or is it a myth?
4. Two of a kind.
7. Let the court stand, not likely!
8. Timely.
9. Goes with either.
10. Compensating.
12. Belonging to.
14. One counts them, but they're not there.
17. A friendly game.
20. Rumpus.
21. Merriament.
22. He could be fatherly, but with a strong arm.
24. Lying, like a sticky beak.
26. From the past.
27. Deity.

DOWN

1. What every climber needs.
2. The King's lady.
3. Pussy brought her relatives in the spring.
4. Have you got your finger in one?
5. Preposition.
6. Of the countryside.
7. Heard around the farm.
11. Bill's mate.
13. Fencing weapon.
15. In-betweens.
16. Are you urging your hens to lay.
- 18. Cereal with a soft beginning. Let's discuss it.
19. Roof repair.
23. Prefix
25. Green^{ish} signal.

ANSWERS IN NEXT EDITION

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27

FOR ADVERTISING SPACE

APPLY THE VALLEY VOICE

P.O. BOX 100 ST. MARYS, 7215.

3 May, 1968.

FROM

Miss Piffle

T.F.F. St. Marys Branch. Meeting
Wednesday 8 May, 8.00 p.m. at the Institute.
Business:- Government aid.

Mrs. J.B. Bushing of Fingal and
Mrs. H.B. Bushing of St. Marys are
off to Melbourne on Friday the 3rd
May, for two weeks holiday. Lucky
things. They intend to visit their
sister-in-law, Mrs. H. Holland of
Trafalgar.

Mr. & Mrs. Ian Walker of Fingal
have returned after two weeks away.
Most of the time was spent at Burnie,
Bicheno and Hobart.

Megan Luck and Jeff Kerrison
who will be married on May 18th
are to be guests of honour at a
Kitchen tea given by Mrs. Maisie
Pilgrim on Friday May 10th, 8.00 p.m.
Cornwall Hall.

Ellen Keddies recent letter
from Melbourne tells us she is
enjoying settling in at Bethesda
Hospital for her nursing training.

On Saturday April, 27th at the
Scamander River Hotel-Motel, the
Child Health Association and the
Preschool Committee combined to hold
a Mannequin Parade.

WHAT'S ON

Miss Teena Quest

A Bar-b-cue at the home of
Mrs. E. Barnes, Fingal, Sat. 4th
May.

Concert at Royle's Theatre,
St. Marys, Friday 3 May.

Euchre evening Sat. 4th May
at the Institute, St. Marys.

Ladies Day at the Golf Club
St. Marys, Tuesday 7 May. Starts
12 m.d. Visitors from Ben Lomond,
Fingal and Bicheno. Bring your own
partner.

American Tea at Mrs. Cles Niel's,
St. Marys, 10.00 a.m. Thurs.
9th May. Bring a gift and buy a
gift.

DAWSON'S SUPER MARKET

St. Marys Phone 27 & 41
Self Service Grocery Dept. In
Keeping with the Big Cities.

Serve Yourself and Save.
Avoid Delivery Expenses
and Save Again.
YOU Avoid Office Charges and
Save still again.
Make Tremendous Savings.

SO COME AGAIN AND GAIN AGAIN

MISS TEENA QUEST

St. Marys Entrant Patsy Tangett

Readers don't forget the concert Friday
night 3rd May, at Royals Theatre. It is
in aid of the Miss Teena Quest. It
promises to be a good night.

Performers will include John Laing -
Aust. winner of Brian & the Juniors, which
speaks for itself. Others include Danny
and Dudley Madden and Mr. R. Scott from
Hobart and some fine and varied local
talent includes a short, hilarious locally
made movie, skits and singing talent.

METHODIST CHURCH

The preacher at the St. Marys Methodist
Church this Sunday morning, 5th May, will
be the Rev. H.B. Freeman, the Chairman of
the Tasmanian District.

The St. Marys Methodist W.A.O.M. will
celebrate its 49th Birthday next Tuesday
at 2.30 p.m. The speaker will be Rev.
R. Innes of Launceston. All ladies invited.

HOLDER BROS.

Fingal

Phone 1

For General Hardware

& Drapery.

Foodstuffs available from

our 4 Square Self Service

Store at Bargain Prices.

Distinguished Medals to St Marys Neighbours



Mrs Kathleen Cooper, being awarded her BEM by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, at Government House.



Mrs Amy Jarvis.

Two of the best known volunteers, worked tirelessly for many years on various committees in St Marys. They were recognized for their charitable efforts by being awarded British Medals.

Some committees they were recognized for are as follows: St Marys District Hospital, St Marys Branch Red Cross, Returned Services League, (mens / ladies committees) St Marys Football Club, and the Child Health Clinic.

Mrs Amy Jarvis was awarded the "Member Of The British Empire Medal" by the Governor of Tasmania at Government House.

Mrs Kathleen Cooper was awarded "The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire" by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Government House.

It is most unusual for two people in a small town to be awarded such distinction, and even more so, being next door neighbours. This is something St Marys can look back on with pride.

Their names now appear on an Honour Board in a London Cathedral.



There have been many citizens of St Marys who, over many years have worked tirelessly for the community. Pictured above are the late Keith and Doris Bullock, (left) and Jean Schier, (right) who still resides at Falmouth. All of whom have been on all the committees you can think of. Always ready to lend a hand wherever needed.

All communities need volunteers, and our own small town is no exception. So if you find yourself with time on your hands, why not find a niche for yourself with an organisation who will welcome you with open arms. Volunteering has many rewards, not just making yourself feel good by doing something for the community, but also doing something for all those who will benefit from your help.

Order of Australia Medals to St Marys Locals

Local resident Len Miles of St Marys, received an **Order of Australia Medal** in the 1997 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

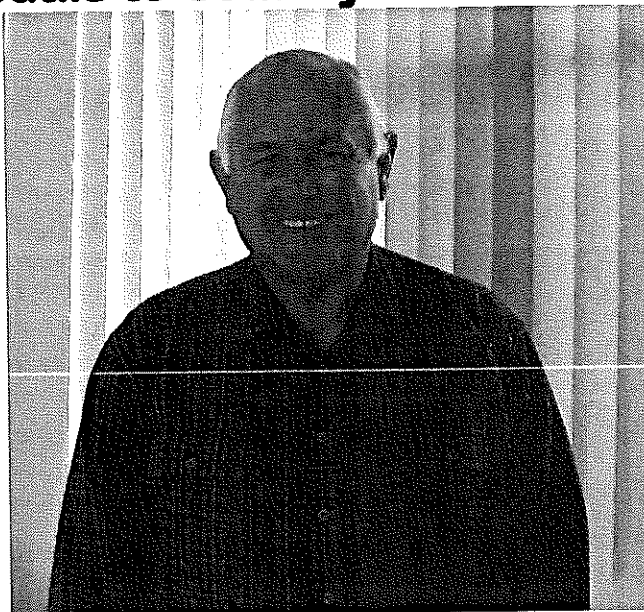
Break O'Day Mayor of that year, Robert Legge, presented Mr Miles with his award at a Celebrate Tasmania firework display and bonfire at the Scamander River reserve. Mayor Legge described Mr Miles as a man who had worked tirelessly for the community over many years, without ever seeking recognition.

A member of the St Marys Health Forum, Mr Miles was part of the unsuccessful campaign waged by the St Marys community against the closure of its hospital. (Which later reopened with a change of government.) Mr Miles said he would continue to work for the community as long as he was able.

House of Representatives Speaker, Michael Polley said that hearing of Mr Miles's award was "wonderful news". "Len has been involved in the Miner's Federation as President and as an official for over 25 years, but this is an even more fitting award than his national one," he said. "He's also been involved with the St Marys Football Club and the voluntary service of the ambulance for years." "Len Miles is a good bloke."

As well as working for the trade union movement and volunteering as an ambulance driver, Len has been involved with both St Marys Football Club and the Fingal District Football Association as a delegate, President and Vice President, St Marys Parents and Friends, Red Cross, Lions Club of St Marys, St Marys Hospital Support Group, and St Marys Hospital Home and Community Care.

Len also represented Australia at the World Trade Union Congress in Moscow in 1985.



Len Miles, awarded an OAM in 1998.



Kevin Faulkner, awarded an OAM in 2001.

Community involvement does bring rewards even though not expected.

Another local resident Kevin Faulkner also received an **Order of Australia Medal** in 2001.

To support ones community in which they live, is not done for any reward other than the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts helped to bind the community of which they belong, and result in a smile from someone who maybe, has been helped.

But sometimes someone does recognise this effort, as was the case with Kevin Faulkner who in 2001 was awarded an **OAM**, as cited in the award, "For service, through business, social support and sporting organisations", which added to an "**Australia Day Medal**" award in 1988 and an "**Australia Day Citizen Award**" in 2001.

Motto "One does not give, expecting to receive".

Kevin has been a member of several clubs and committees, and some of the past and present involvements are:

Lions Club of St Marys, Break O'Day Councillor, Social Security Department, Social Welfare, Red Cross Ambulance, St Marys Rural Fire Brigade, St Marys Football club, St Marys Tennis club, Hospital Auxiliary, Justice of the

Peace, Hospital Board Member, Health Forum, East Coast Tourism Council, Parents and Friends, Town Streetscape Committee, St Marys Chamber of Commerce, Hospital Support Group.

Both these citizens of St Marys are still very active with their community work. Congratulations to you both.

St Marys Community Health Centre Day care



The St Marys Day Centre is situated onsite at the St Marys Community Health Centre.

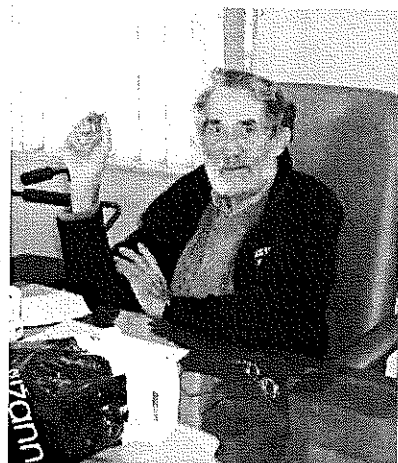
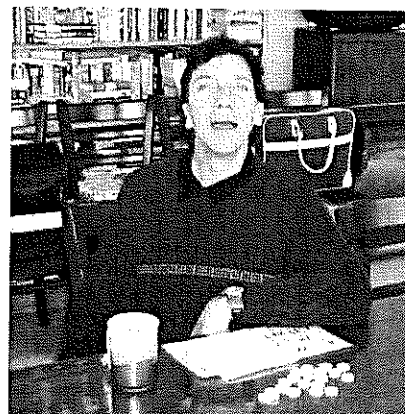
They meet every Wednesday from 10am—3pm, and the group is offered a variety of crafts, outings, cooking, guest presenters and social interaction experiences.

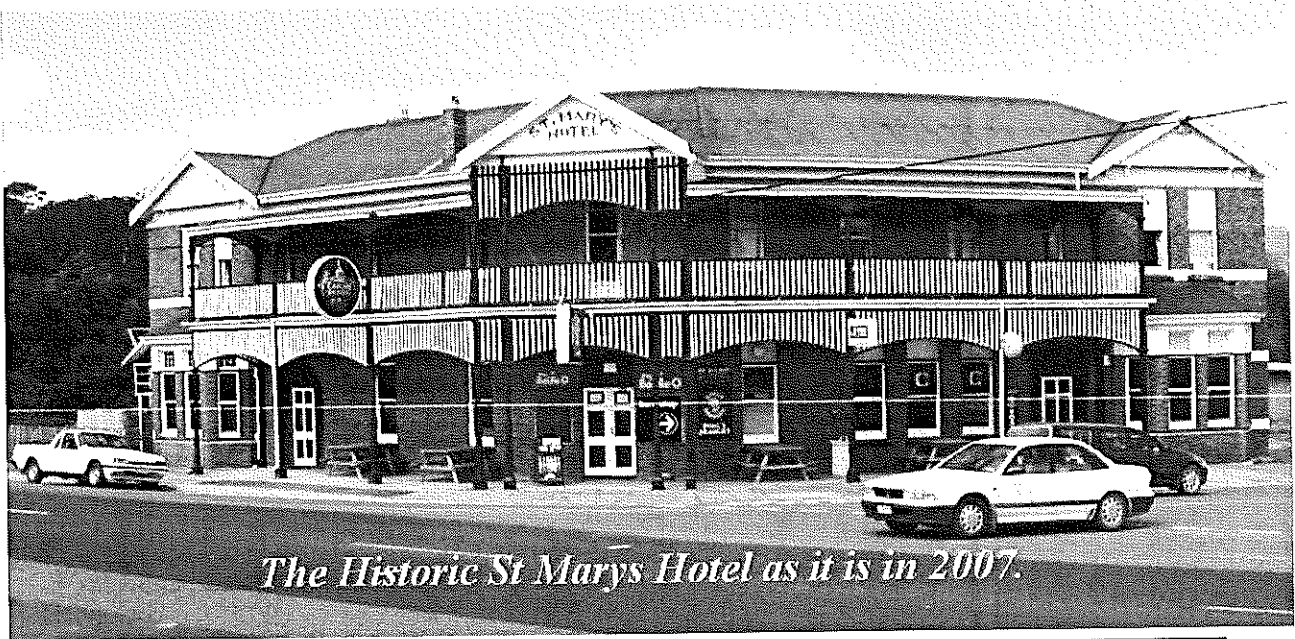
The group is open to all members of the community, but with a focus especially on daily respite.

Hayley Gilbert, The Centre's Diversional Therapist, has been the coordinator of the group for the last 8 years.

Hayley has a number of volunteers, who support the group and its weekly activities, and she wishes to thank all of you who help and support her role.

If you would like any information about the group, or would like to participate, please phone Hayley on 6372 2111. They are a friendly welcoming group, who love to see new faces.

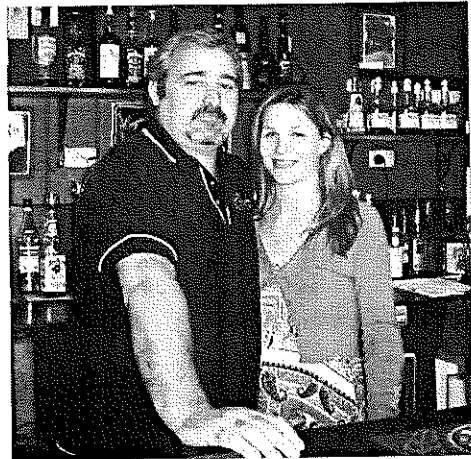




The Historic St Marys Hotel as it is in 2007.



*Former publicans: Greg and Wendy Tapp.
(With their family's permission.)*



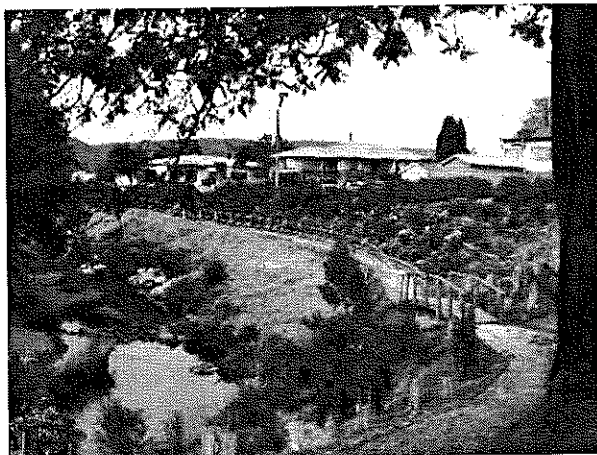
*Current publicans:
Paul and Jennifer Heatley.*

Wombat Walk Weeders

This small group of volunteers work each Wednesday morning at Wombat Walk, along the St Marys Rivulet in the centre of town, landscaping, weeding, planting and water monitoring.

The Group takes part in National Tree Planting day each year, and has also entered Tidy Towns Competitions and won several awards in recognition of the work being done.

The Wombat Walk workers are hopeful that the pathway along Wombat Walk can be given a 'maintenance free' surface to



save the constant chipping of weeds from the present

gravel path, and also envisage a bridge to link the picnic area with the playground and toilets.

In the five years that this group has been working, numbers have remained at about five, or seven at the most, but those who do turn up, find that their efforts are rewarded with what has been achieved, and consider it of benefit to the town of St Marys.



l/r: Pat O'Donnell, Audrey Wright, Karl Balzer, Kelly Farrell, Robina Balzer, Wendy Brennan.

Wombat Walk.



2007 Young Achiever Awards

The Prestigious Gala Awards Presentation Dinner held at West Point Casino on the 14th April was attended by more than 400 guests, to hear the announcement of winners from over 130 nominations, in the eight category Southern Cross Young Achiever Awards 2007.

Congratulations go to Pete Cornelius of St Marys, (pictured, right) on winning the Islandstate Arts Award with prize money and trophy.

Pete was told he was doing great things, and is a fine role model and inspiration to other young people

He has worked hard with his career in music, which has taken him around Australia, to the UK and the USA.



After the fires in December 2006, the volunteer fire brigade received many accolades.

Pictured receiving a cheque from Joy Hayes of Huonville, is Michael Aulich, St Marys Brigade Chief.



One of St Marys oldest residents Ray Wright, talking to Greg Cruse of St Marys Online Access centre.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my parents, grandparents, brother, relatives and friends, my committee, and last but not least the wonderfully generous people of St Marys and the East Coast area for the support given to me over the last six months of fund raising for the multiply handicapped children and adults of Tasmania.

Having worked for these months, I now have a better understanding of just how much money is actually needed to continue caring for the handicapped.

Multicap Heights is a credit to the corporation, and with continued support from the Tasmanian public, can only continue on to bigger and better things.

I have much pleasure in announcing the amount raised by my committee reached a grand total of \$9398.36. I consider this a fantastic amount considering the population, and it was most gratifying to see exactly how generous people can be.

To all those who helped in any way, whether attending functions, cooking for functions or simply purchasing a raffle ticket, I would like to say a sincere thank you.

Felicity Spilsbury.

(This letter was published in the Valley Voice in 1980, after Felicity won the Charity Queen in that year's Multicap Quest.)



Felicity Spilsbury, after winning the Multicap Quest, 1980, which raises funds for the disabled.

Winter Solstice

A brief history of the Winter Solstice.

by **Eo Greensticks.**

In the year 2000, it was a Dragon Year in the Chinese calendar. A way to make a Fire Dragon Puppet sprang into my mind all unbidden.

Discussing this with Ellie Titree, who was then resident in the area, it came to light that she had once been a Fire Breather with the Circus. She said that if I would make the Fire Dragon Puppet, she would breath fire and we could put on a Winter Solstice Celebration, with a Lantern Parade in St Marys.

So we did! It seems like lifetimes ago now, but somehow we rounded up a few Fire Twirlers and some Fire Drums, and Grassy Bottom Regional Arts sponsored the event.

We spent 2 weeks making lanterns in the Town Hall, and a crowd of about 300 turned up on Faulkner's Green. We were happy to see people from all sectors of the community, clustered elbow to elbow around the fires, brought together by the common human need for warmth in the cold of winter and to celebrate, as humans have since time began, the wonder of fire and light on the longest, darkest night of the year.

The Lantern Parade was (and still is) truly a thing of great beauty. Even though I had helped build most of the lanterns in the parade, somehow, when they were all lighted up and carried in procession through the night, they made a quantum leap, and I caught my breath to see them appear over the edge of the green.

Everywhere there were happy faces lighted up by the lantern glow, and we counted the night a huge success.

The Winter Solstice was a 'baby' then, and my how it has grown!. Now in its 8th year, we expect a crowd of perhaps 1000 or more.

With a larger crowd each year, we eventually changed sites, to the Recreation Ground, and added Fireworks to the menu.

We have featured the Chinese Astrological animal each year and have been through Dragon, Snake, Goat, Horse, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and now we are in the year of the Pig, and are putting together our 8th Fire Spectacular, 'Pigs Might Fly' as I write.

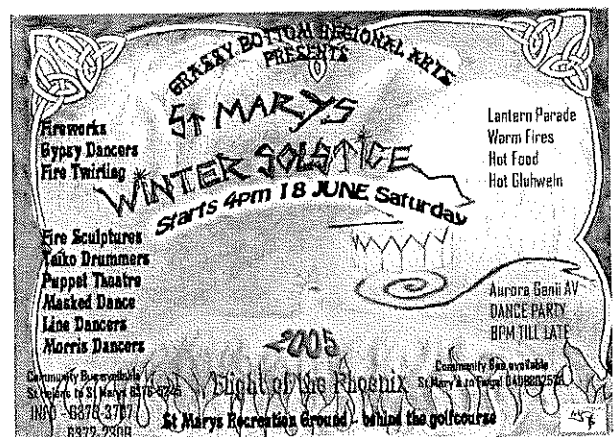
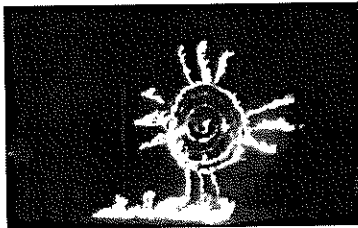
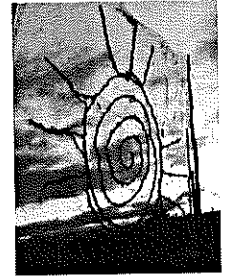
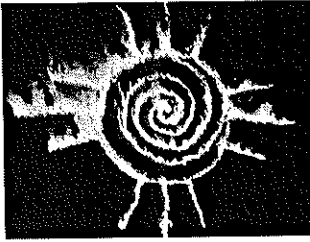
In the persistent attempt to make things fly, we have been hard at work using applied physics and rocket science, burning things up in the parking lot, and sometimes the kitchen, and slowly progressing towards what we hope will be the advanced prototype of the Flying Pig, a hybrid hot air inflatable, 3 of which we hope to see rise gracefully into the atmosphere on the 16th June.

Along with a host of Dancers, Circus Performers, Flouro and real Fire Twirlers, Music, Shadow Puppets, Fire Sculptures, a Lantern Parade and of course the Fireworks (which keeps us on our toes trying to raise funds) we think this will be a great year.

In European tradition, Winter Solstice is essentially the Christmas/New Year Celebration, a festival to cheer people up and warm their hearts in the middle of deep, cold northern winters.

Here in the southern hemisphere, where Christmas falls mid-summer (the Summer Solstice) and Easter, a Spring Festival, happens in Autumn, things get a little bit mixed up.

The Winter Solstice is an attempt at seasonally appropriate celebration here where we are – and besides, it seems that if you burn some stuff up on the end of a stick, everyone turns out to watch, because fire is an element which is pivotal to the development of human culture, and a timeless fascination for people of all ages.



A day at the races



Eric Bean.



Claire and Eric Bean.



Stalwart member, Keith Bullock.



l/r: Claire Bean, Keith Johnson, Doris Bullock, Denzil Casbault, Yvonne Johnson, Keith Bullock, Eric Bean, Peter Wilson, Col White, Cros Davern.



Jack Russell racing. 2000.



Ladies Fashion Stakes. 2000.

*l/r: Fe Gillies, Heather Gillies, Dot Hardcastle, Grace Faulkner, Roberta Harwood.
Back, right: Carlene Bullock, coordinator.*



l/r: Bruce Glatte, Bruce Spilsbury, Denzil Casbault, Don Hayes, Eric Bean, Peter Wilson, Ross Bean, Keith Johnson, Graeme Lynch, Michael Smith, Don Woods, Col Dakin, Max Britton, Stuart Vance, Ian Faulkner.

A day at the races.

This is a story of 49 years of racing as told by Eric Bean.

How long have you been Secretary, and who did you take over from?

"I took over from Jack Spilsbury and Charles Semmens, as temporary secretary, forty seven years ago. I served on the committee for two years before this. So it's 49 years now."

What changes have been made?

"Early days we ran trots and gallops together. It was hard to get fields those times. We had to do away with gallops and have run just trotting since 1960. Stake money in January 1961 was £355.0.0. Six races were held. This year, 2007, the stake money was \$57,000.00 and nine races were held."

Over the years the name has changed. Can you tell me a little about that?

"Yes. The last gallops were held in March 1960. The name changed from the Hack and Trotting Club to Trotting Club in 1962. The last March meeting was held in 1962. One gallop was run on our Centenary Day, 1986. The name changed again from Trotting Club to Pacing Club in 1989. The Club became incorporated in 1992."

How many times in the last 47 years have the races had to be cancelled due to weather?

"In 47 years of racing, we have only had to abandon the entire day due to weather conditions, three times."

Have you had any bad accidents or falls during that time?

"Gratefully no fatalities or serious injuries during that time."

A day at the races

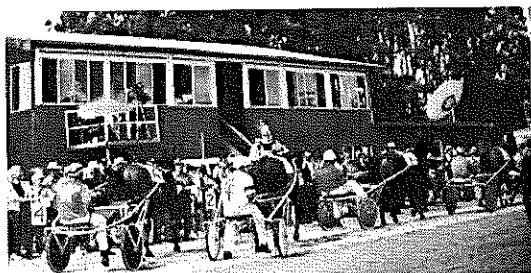


Gwen and Tom Spencer.



Back l/r : John Bean, Jos Lynch, Colin Dakin, Murray Webb, Les Jones, Russell Barr, Peter Wilson, Michael Schier, Roger Donald, Ross Bean, Steven Lynch, Michael Williams, David Dawson.

Front l/r : Eric Bean, Ian Faulkner, Graham Lynch, Claire Bean, Doris Bullock, Elaine Bean, Helen Dakin, Kerrin Glatte, Bruce Spilsbury, Bruce Glatte, Keith Bullock.



Assembling prior to racing. 2000.

What are your favourite memories?

"Our Centenary year in 1986 was a great meeting with the appearance of Melbourne Cup winner, Piping Lane. A pipe band played to a record attendance. Also New Year's Eve 2005, with eight races and record starters, and January 1st, 2007 with nine races again, record starting fields and stake money."

Do you have many long serving members?

"Tom Spencer served the club for many years as a committee man, chairman and patron, and was an energetic member. Keith Bullock served the club as Treasurer for about thirty five years, attending meetings at eighty nine years of age. A great worker. His wife Doris, also assisted the ladies with luncheons and other functions for many, many years." The four longest serving members have a total of 170 years of combined service to the club."

What horses have you yourself trained, and have you had any success?

Over the years I have had a few decent horses, and lots of brumbies! I could not have lasted this long in the club without the wonderful help of my wife Claire, my family members, and a great committee, plus all of the terrific assistance we get from all of our volunteers."

Do you have any last words you would like to add?

I wish to, on behalf of our club, congratulate the people who have given their time, and I imagine there are a lot of them, for their efforts in keeping our local Valley Voice paper going for 40 years.

Congratulations to all, past and present,
for a job well done.

Eric Bean, for
St Marys Pacing Club Inc.

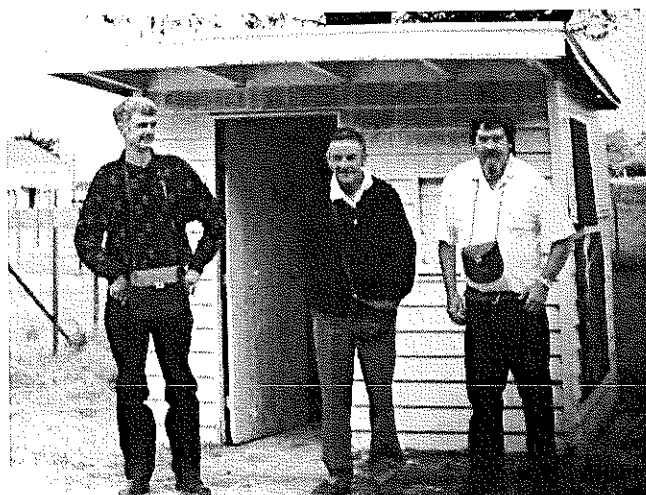
Pictured right:

*Pam Peart,
Doris Bullock,
Kerin Glatte,
Kerry Barr,
Yvonne Johnson,
Claire Bean.*

*(In period
costume for
2000.)*



*One of the Christmas Parades.
Eric Bean(on sulk) and Max Britton.*



*Long serving gatekeepers. l/r: Michael Schier,
Trevor Hoskinson, Greg Cooper.*

St Marys Sports Centre



2004 Men's Golf Pennant.

Vr: Dale Ridgers, Mark Carrick, Craig Mitchell, Shan Wilmot, Jamie Viney, Stephen Dawson, John Miles, Chris Davern, Rod McGiveron.



2002 Ladies Golf.

Vr: Leslie Kellaway, Liz Clayton, May Cook, Beth Haas, Mary-Anne Ennis, Roberta Harwood, Norma Mallinson.



Proud owners of their Bowls Trophies.
John McDonald, Clive Berwick, Frank Singline.



Hole-in-one.

Peter 'Wombat' Wilson, after hitting a hole-in-one, on 'Misery' (Par 3) on the 24th March 1984.

St Marys Sports Centre



Pictures tell stories.

by Rod McGiveron.

The St Marys Sports Centre Inc. wishes to convey to the Valley Voice our congratulations and thanks for 40 years invaluable service to the community.

As the photos on these pages show, there have been quite a few successful teams and events highlighted by the paper over that time.

Some of the members are no longer with us but they are never forgotten, including Ruth Gill, Frank and Grace Singline, the irrepressible Peter Lohrey, Clive Berwick and Craig Mitchell. Fantastic people all.

Many others are still an integral part of the club, or are involved at other golf and bowls clubs, enjoying their sports to this day.

The club is proud to be a part of these special pages, as a long time contributor to the Valley Voice.



1999 winners of the N.E. Coast Golf Pennant.

Vr: Liz Clayton, Pauli Wyminga, Idie Francis, Wendy Haas, Norma Mallinson, Carole Gunson, Beth Haas, Heather Hayes, Kath Blair, May Cook. (holding flag)



Ruth Gill.



Peter Wilson, George Oliver, Rita Mitchell, Shan Wilmot.



Peter Wilson and Grace Singline.



Jack Bullock.



Peter Wilson and Peter Lohrey.

Lions Club of St Marys

The birth of "St Marys Lions Club"

by Kevin Faulkner

Our local Lions club was born as a result of three men talking socially on the evening of 20th August 1975. The topic of the lack of a Service Club or similar organisation in our town came to the fore, which became more significant than just a passing comment.

As a result, a list of names was formulated and a meeting held at "Tas Yates's Hotel", at which it was decided that a "Lions Club" be formed.

Official "Formation" occurred on Mon 15th Dec 1975.

Much work over a short period of time culminated in a massive formal dinner in the Town Hall on Saturday 28th February 1976, whereby 192 people from across the length and breadth of our state and continent, witnessed the Charter of our Club, on Installation night with 37 enthusiastic members named as follows:

Dale Wright, [Pres] Clive Berwick, Max Britton, Denzil Casbault, Trevor Clarke, Doug Cornelius, Bill Dickson, Kevin Dobson, Des Faulkner, Kevin Faulkner, John Ferrier, Brian Forsythe, Jim Haas, David Hamilton, Alan Jackson, John Juhasz, Colin Loane, Graham McCarter, Jim McFadzean, John McGiveron, Bob McGregor, Rod Maher, Len Miles, Ian Naidoo, Garry Richards, Garry Richardson, Bob Rochfort, Stephen Salter, Gilbert Schier, Bruce Spilsbury, Toby Spilsbury, Peter Stubbs, Greg Tapp, Trevor Viney, Mike Webb, Barry Wright, Tas Yates.



President Dale Wright, left, receiving the Lions Club Charter from District Governor (201V1/T1) Don Diamond.

Thirty one long years and scores of thousands of dollars have passed since that time, hopefully to the betterment of our community, to this present time where only four of the original charter members remain, namely; Kevin Faulkner, Brian Forsythe, John McGiveron, Len Miles.

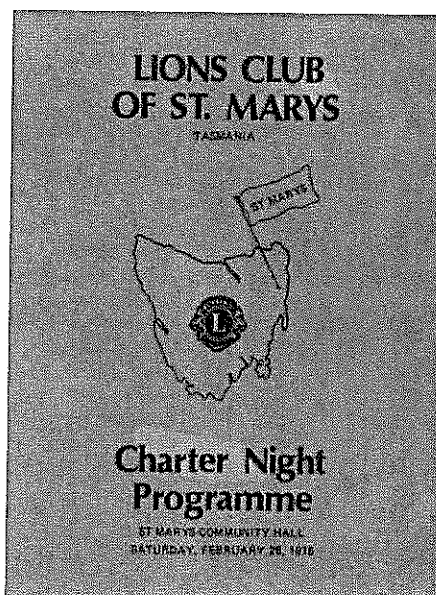
With a motto of "We Serve" and with the continued aim to, "Help those less fortunate than ourselves" we will survive, hopefully long into the future, as history proclaims we have in the past.

But we will rely on the involvement of younger members to ensure that what was envisaged so long ago, continues to benefit our community in the years to come, and so provide some guarantee that the commitment and goals of the original members was not all in vain.

The Club still remains operative and very viable with the support of fifteen, still dedicated, members, who require nothing more for their efforts, than a smile.



President Dale Wright, left, receiving the Lions Club Banner from St Helens President Lion Eddie Denman.



LIONS CLUB OF ST. MARYS

TASMANIA

OFFICERS -

President	DALE WRIGHT
First Vice President	ALAN JACKSON
Second Vice President	GILBERT SCHIER
Third Vice President	GARRY RICHARDS
Secretary	BOB ROCHFORD
Treasurer	GIM MCFADZEAN
Lion Times	KEVIN DOBSON
Tell Twister	KEVIN FAULKNER

DIRECTORS -

STEPHEN SALTER	GARRY RICHARDSON
ROD MAHER	IAN NAIDOO

CHARTER MEMBERS -

CLIVE BERWICK	BOB MCGREGOR
MAX BRITTON	ROD MAHER
DENZIL CASBAULT	LEN MILES
TREVOR CLARKE	IAN NAIDOO
DOUG CORNELIUS	GARRY RICHARDS
BILL DICKSON	GARRY RICHARDSON
KEVIN DOBSON	BOB ROCHFORD
DES FAULKNER	STEPHEN SALTER
KEVIN FAULKNER	GILBERT SCHIER
JOHN FERRIER	BRUCE SPILSBURY
BRIAN FORSYTHE	TOBY SPILSBURY
JIM HAAS	PETER STUBBS
DAVID HAMILTON	GREG TAPP
ALAN JACKSON	TREVOR VINEY
JOHN JUHASZ	MIKE WEBB
COL LOANE	DALE WRIGHT
GRAHAM MCCARTER	BARRY WRIGHT
GIM MCFADZEAN	TAS YATES
JOHN MCGIVERON	

Lions Club of St Marys

*Pictured left/ right:
Mrs Burns, Lions
Peter Burns,
Ian Faulkner,
Brian Forsyth,
Kevin Faulkner,
John McGiverson,
Jean Legge
(President) 2007.*



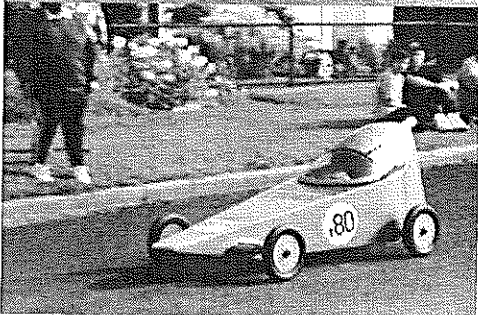
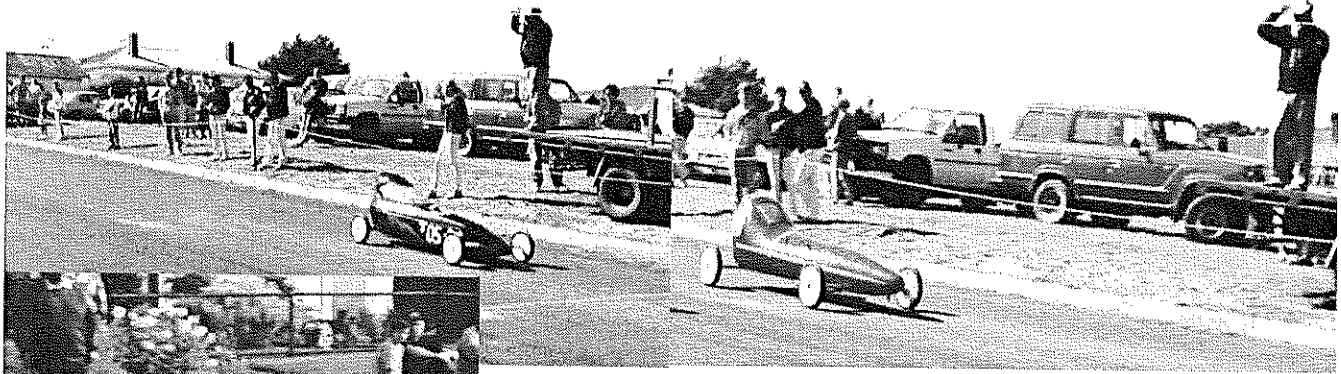
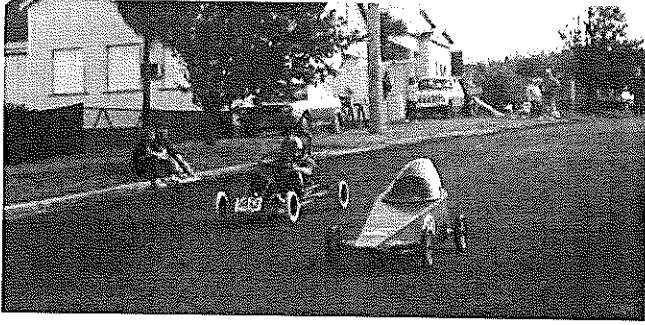
*David Young,
Ruth McGiverson,
Harry Veldums,
Charlie Hersey,
Len Miles,
Kerry Veldums,
Peter Troode,
Bob Hersey.*

*(Absent:
Robert Legge)*

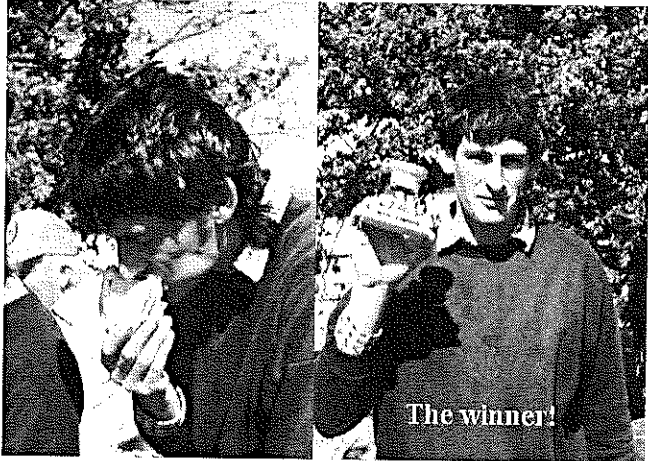


St Marys Lions Club have always been involved in the St Marys Christmas Parade and Children's Party.

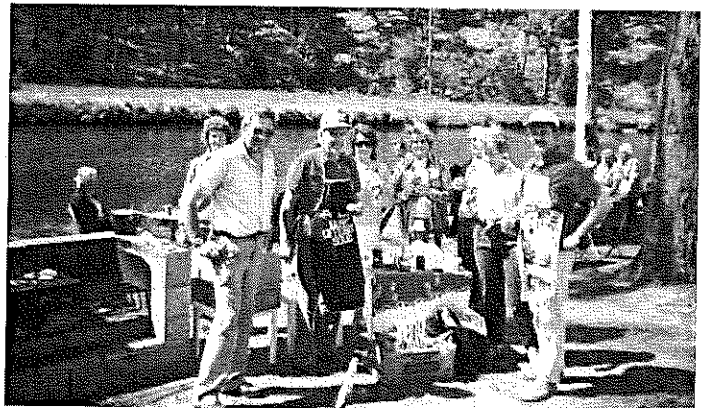
Lions Club of St Marys activities



Some of the many activities of the St Marys Lions Club included the billy cart races, which became very popular and were held for a number of years. On the same day there was a pie eating contest. Many entered with a lot of enthusiasm. The winner for this particular year was Andrew Webb. Other planned activities were bus trips for the senior citizens, catering for sheep and bull sales, organizing the Christmas Parade, and lots more. The Lions Club of St Marys is still very active today.



Raising the flag on Australia Day.



St Marys Lions Club senior citizens bus trip and barbecue to Trout Creek Reserve.

A brief history of the Break O'Day Woodcraft Guild and Men's Shed.

by Reon Johns.



20th November 2004. A Meeting was held at Wendy and Reon's home with the intention of forming a woodworking club. In attendance were Eo Greensticks, Wendy Brennan, Tracy O'Neill, Graham Derbyshire, Dale Wright, Michael Lindsay, Michael Wamoris, Karl Balzer, Pete Williams and Reon Johns. A steering committee was formed, with Reon as President, Eo as Secretary and Pete as Treasurer.

Just over a week later the Break O'Day Woodcraft Guild was incorporated. The Guild then grew to over twenty members. At first we worked out of members' garages until Mayor Salter suggested that we take over the Old Railway Goods Shed.

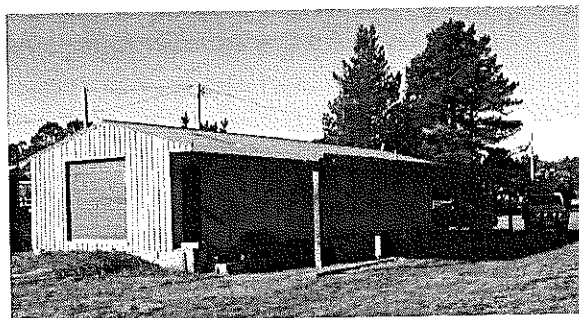
This involved a lot of repair and the connection of water, sewer and electricity. The members threw themselves into the upgrading of this run down building and with the help of local tradesmen the Old Railway Goods Shed turned into The Break O'Day Woodcraft Guild workshop.

Our first job was the building of the Mount Elephant Fudge boxes and these are still in use today. Over the last three years we have made numerous noticeboards, repaired chairs, constructed flyscreens and a scale model of the first plane to land in St Marys.



The Guild strives to provide an area for people to share and gain skills or just have a chat. We are open to all adults who love wood or woodwork. We try to be self funding and raise all our money from making and repairing the odd bit of furniture, making noticeboards and other bits and bobs. Our biggest fund raiser is the sausage sizzle. If you see me at the Markets selling sausages come over and say hi and don't forget to buy a snag and support us.

Left: Ian Summers with his 1/4 size model Avro Avian. A plane such as this landed at Cullenswood in 1928.



Woodcraft Guild. Once the goods shed at the St Marys Railway Station. Now new building.



JAM (Jesus And Me)

by Melanie Norton.
Sunday School on a Monday.



JAM will be celebrating its 6th year of operation this year!

The journey began in September, 2001 when a group of children, parents and friends were present for the first session, at the Anglican Church in Main Street.

From its inception, JAM has always been on a Monday, straight after school, and so was usually referred to as "Monday JAM"!

The aim was always, to first love the children, and only then to engage them with fun, games, craft, singing, afternoon tea and always a related lesson from the Bible.

As time went on, numbers grew quickly, and it soon became evident that "Jesus And Me" had outgrown the building. So after much prayer and negotiation, JAM was able, in 2005, to move into the current premises in Story Street, under the new umbrella of the Salvation Army.

JAM has gone from strength to strength, and continues to see much fruit from hard labour!



Heritage Corner

Story taken from Volume 2, No. 3, dated June 6, 1969. Written by Mr J Strochnetter from Ulverstone, who was a former resident of Gray.

Gray, its people, and the old school. What memories are conjured up and what feelings of nostalgia engendering when my mind goes back to that 'old school' at Gray, which I attended in my initial schooldays. The site of the building was in the exact spot where Mr and Mrs Bert Denney used to live. Later the site was changed and the second building was the house which was once owned by Mrs N Macleay.

The first building was completely wooden in structure, with one long room for the schoolroom, and a small skillion room attached, which was used by the teacher as a general purpose room and sleeping quarters. Can you visualize 54 scholars packed into one room with a small fireplace to provide warmth in the cold winter months, and a door that had to be kept open so often for hygienic purposes?

The teacher's name was O.E. Holmes, and you can imagine his difficulties and problems with 54 scholars broken into 7 classes, which he managed single handed. How he did it I will never know. The noise of teaching one class must have distracted the scholars of other classes studying, yet he did this year after year. I can understand now, how he would become irritated and vent his temper on some poor unfortunate scholar who may have been backward. We dubbed him Paddy Holmes (behind his back of course) but he turned out some really good scholars. He got some relief in later years, as I was sufficiently advanced to teach the two lower classes, having passed the sixth class exam after only four years at school. (Pretty good, eh?)

The playing space at the school was restricted, and boys and girls shared the same small playing area. Many of the children attending the school came from considerable distances. I remember one family named King, who used to walk from Irishtown, upwards of 3 miles across country, over fences, fallen trees, along tracks, through bush hanging with white frost, or saturated with rain in the winter time, over streams bridged with only a log, and turn up at school just in time to fall into rank prior to entering school. The teacher would form each class into a separate rank and then give the order to 'mark time'. You can just imagine the clatter—50 well shod children, the boys and some of the girls wearing hobnail boots as they marched to their desks along a bare wooden floor.

As to Gray itself, it comprised a district of some 26 farms, a school, two churches, a Post Office and a saw mill, with a population of 210 people. The farms were comparatively small, ranging from 40 to 100 acres, and were general purpose farms, producing such commodities as were required to up-keep the large families, which were the general rule of the district. The chief cash commodities produced were cheese, butter and some fruit and vegetables. These were sold to provide ready money to purchase clothing and groceries. There was very little money to spare after providing for their large families—my own totalled 16 (including my mother's second marriage) but this was easily eclipsed by our next door neighbour, Mr J. Lehner, who was compelled to provide for 22 children (two families). I take my hat off to him; he did it, and did it well.

I have great admiration for the people of Gray. Sometimes the seasons weren't the best, which made the going tough. I well remember the year 1898, when a disastrous drought struck the district. By the end of the summer there was no grass to be seen, just scorched brown earth, with streams and springs completely dried up and the people had to get water the best way they could, at times carrying it for long distances. At the end of the same year the whole district was ravaged by a disastrous bush fire, which left the place a blackened and ruined countryside.

Yet these wonderful people did not cavil, (find fault or complain) they took it like the men they were and just set to work to make repairs, and hope for a better season next year. And what of the woman folk? They were even more wonderful, and stood by their men folk, caring for those large families and helping each other as well.

It was a common sight to see neighbours trudging along the road with baskets on their arm, and converging on someone in distress.

A wonderful lot of people, and I am proud to have been associated with them.

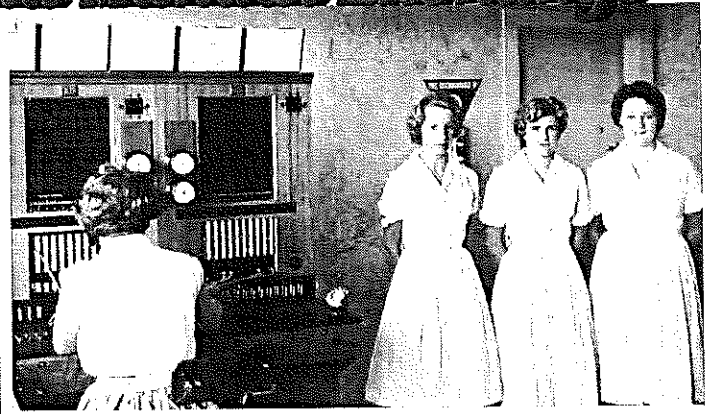


The old school house at Gray as it is today. A private residence.

The Post Office and Manual Exchange



The day the Post Office staff took command of their new building. l/r: Lawrence House, Ross Davis, Bazil Crawford (Postmaster) Terry Johns, Wayne Rowbottom.



*Manual exchange, (closed in 1978)
l/r: Kaye Davis, Jill Maney
Kath Targett, Claire Bushing.*



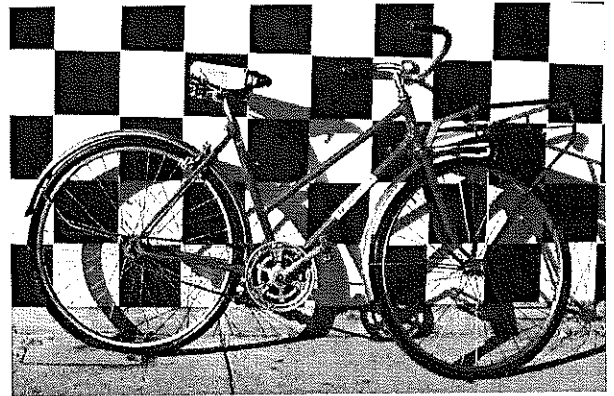
Jill, Kath and Claire.



Former Postmaster Ian Mawson, (left) pictured with wife Jan (right) and two of his four children, Kerry (centre) and Leonie (back). Glen and Raymond absent.



Current Postmaster Harry Veldums and his wife Kerry.



'Ye olde postal delivery vehicle'



Dave Green, current postal delivery. Different kind of pedal power now.

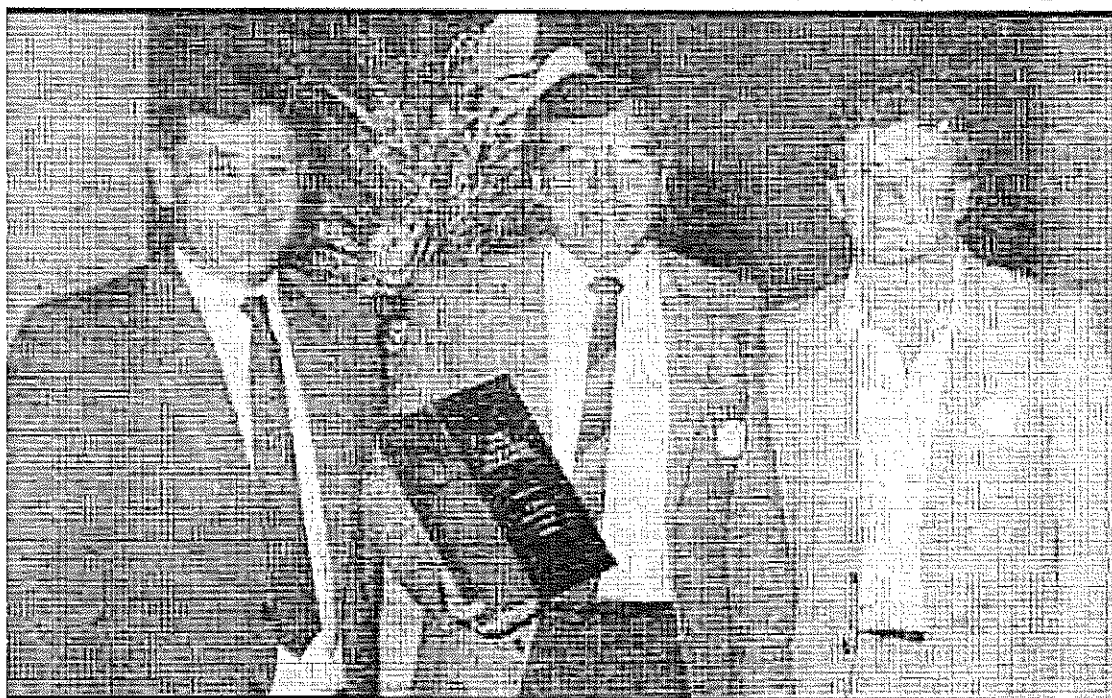
Kevin Faulkner, started work as a telephone technician after leaving school.

During the 80's he was a Technical Officer, retiring in the position of Area Manager in 1996.



North East LEADER

St. Marys - the best small Post Office in Tasmania



LAST WEEK the St. Marys Post Office received the yearly award for Excellence at the judging held at the International Hotel in Launceston.

The award is judged on three criteria:

1. Customer Service
2. Philatelic Display
3. Community Work undertaken by the staff.

Initially there were 34 other branches in the Statewide competition, but on the last night the field had narrowed down to four southern and one northern branches. The St. Marys branch was awarded first place.

The judges were:

1. Mr David Rowe, State Manager of Australia Post.
2. Mr Ken Burnin, a Director of the Australian Institute of Management.
3. Mrs Sachli Singh, a Solicitor with the Australian Government.

All the judges admitted that they had a hard task but decided unanimously that St. Marys Post Office was the best small Post Office in the State.

Mr Peter Wilson, Postal Manager, Peter Lohrey Postal Service Officer and Postman Scott Beem were quite justifiably proud of their achievement.

It is good to see the high standard that we maintain reflected in the gaining of this Award said Peter Wilson. "We came to Launceston thinking maybe, just maybe we might get third, so you can imagine how we felt when we came in number one! Peter Lohrey was most surprised at the size of the gathering in Launceston - in excess of 100.

After the judging it was down to some pretty heavy celebrating - first to the Launceston Hotel and then onward to the Launceston Casino to savour even more of the delights of victory. The next morning was rather hazy but the winners agreed that they wouldn't change places with the other competitors.

The three staff members now have their eyes fixed firmly on the National Awards, to be held in Melbourne in November, and are hoping to be Tasmania's third winner after Ulverstone in 1984 and George Town in 1988.

Scott will be rounding off a hectic and triumphant week when he marries Melissa Avich in St. Marys Church of the Assumption at St. Marys at the weekend, 30th September 1989.

We asked Peter Wilson to give us his percentage chance on a win in the National Awards - and 50/50 was his reply.

The Award of Excellence is a fitting tribute to all involved.



St Marys postmaster Peter Wilson (left), assistant postmaster Peter Lohrey and relief postal delivery officer Peta Thomas.

St Marys postal officer breaks new ground

St Marys Post Office has recruited a new relief postal delivery officer, and for the first time in the establishment's long history, the officer is female.

Peta Thomas, from St Marys, will be filling in for staff on leave, doing postal deliveries etc when required.

Although it is only a part-time job at the moment, the

By JOHN FURLLOW

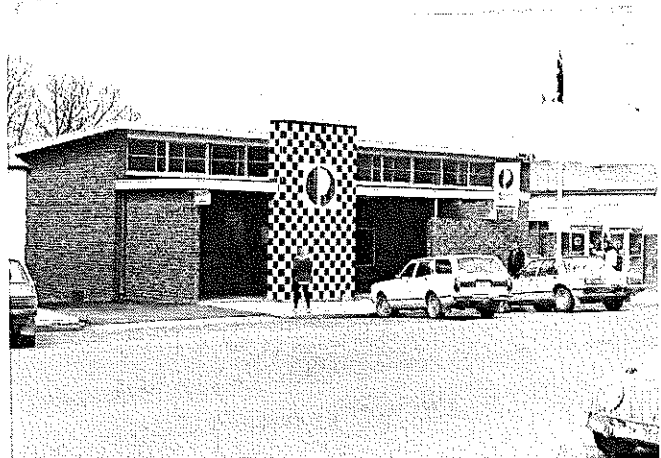
chances for advancement within Australia Post are endless, according to Mr Peter Wilson, the postmaster at St Marys.

Miss Thomas, who is 18, has been doing advanced education at the Adult Education Centre at St Marys and this factor, along with

local knowledge, probably swung the scales in her favour.

Mr Peter Lohrey, the assistant postmaster, said that the postal system had changed dramatically in the past few years and that a good education, computer literacy and a level head when working under pressure was now an integral part of the job.

St Marys - TAS



St Marys - TAS

Left: Former Assistant Postmaster Peter Lohrey and Postmaster Peter Wilson. Right: Post Office in the 1980's.

Memories



John and Linda Spilsbury.

John emigrated from England at the age of 17, working in the mines on the west coast, before trying his hand at farming at Sassafra where he met Linda.

They produced 8 children, the last two being born at St Marys, where they came to in the late 1930's.

John was Secretary of the District Hospital, then Secretary of the Cornwall Coal Company, until his retirement. They were both heavily involved in the community, including the Racing Club, The Red Cross Ambulance Service, Meal on Wheels, and the Silver Threads Senior Citizens Club. John was also a JP.

They both passed on in the 1980's.



*Long time business woman of St Marys,
Mrs Maisie Finney. (nee Royle)
Now residing with her daughter.
She is an amazing 92.*



Photo from the 1950's. This was taken when the golf club was situated under the grandstand.

Back l/r: Nobby Oliver, Cecil Robinson, Bert Casbault, Ron Pinkard, Keith Forsythe, Stan Salter, Arthur King, Basil Lehner, Perce King, Johnson Bean.

Middle l/r: May Hayes, Bill McVickers, Jean Lehner, (lady unknown), Molly Royle, Joy Bolton, George Gavaghan, (man unknown).

Front l/r: Maisie Royle, Scotty Jansen, Maisie Robinson, 'Tuppy' Pinkard, Veda Salter, Ivy Wardlaw, Amy Munley, John 'Shorty' Gee.

Memories



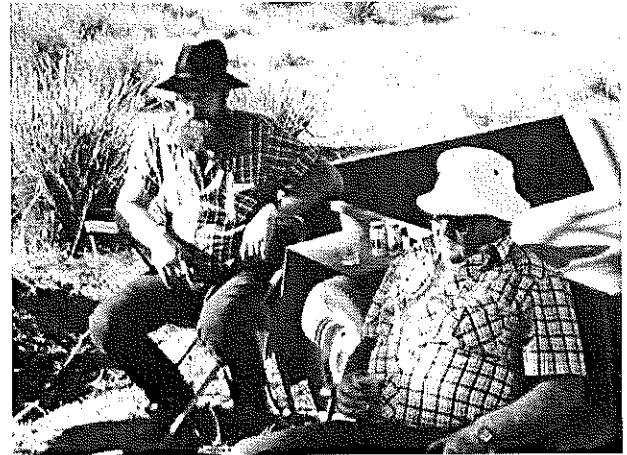
*Larger than life characters. From left:
Ruth Gill, Colleen Barnes, Doug Barnes, Geoff Gill,
Pearl Davern, Crosby Davern.*



*Former much loved doctor:
Ian Naidoo and his wife Thunga.*



*Col and Maisie Royle. Funeral Directors, Cartage
Contractors, Theatre Owners, Shop Traders, Florists.
Both community minded people.*

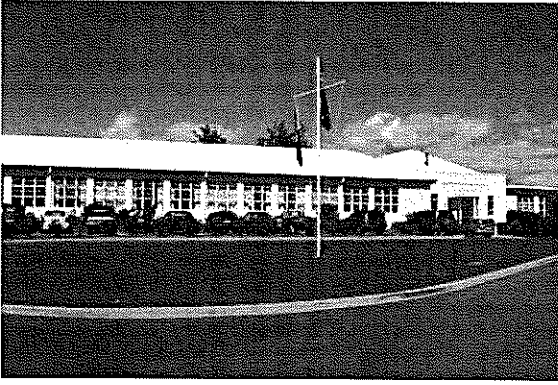


*Typical of the laid back lifestyle we experience
here in St Marys.
Les Peart and Bruce Spilsbury.*

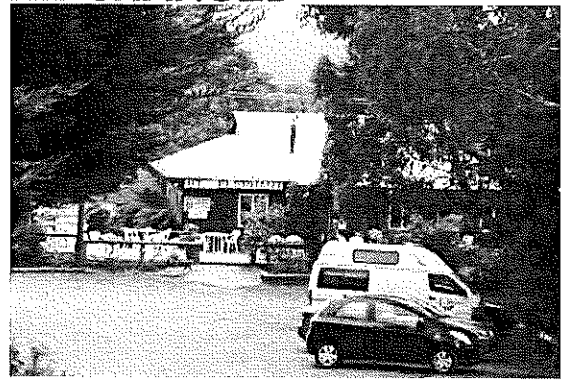


*St Marys Netball girls. 2006. All 14 and 15 year olds. Girls night out.
L/r: Lucy Goldsmith, Hannah Spilsbury, Beth Rosskelly, Emma Spilsbury, Danielle Williams,
Selina Panoff, Allie Spilsbury, Christa McColl, Fern Menogue.*

THE NEW AND THE CHANGED



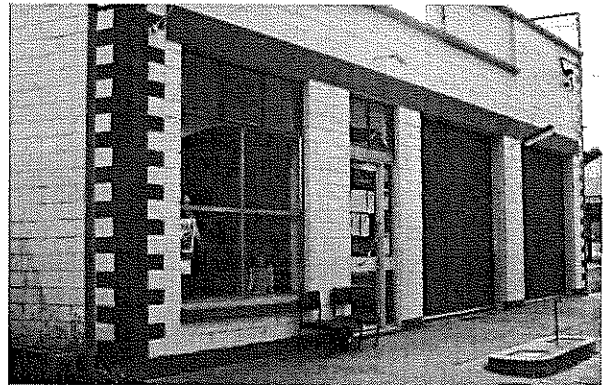
District High School. Looking good.



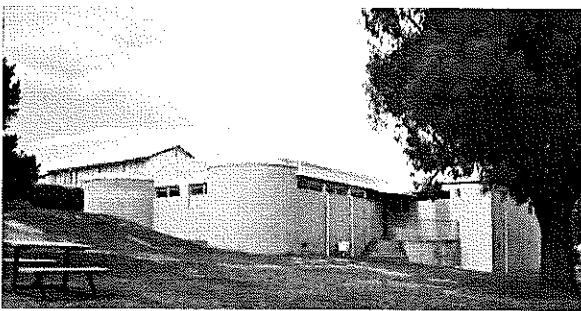
Mt Elephant Pancake Barn.



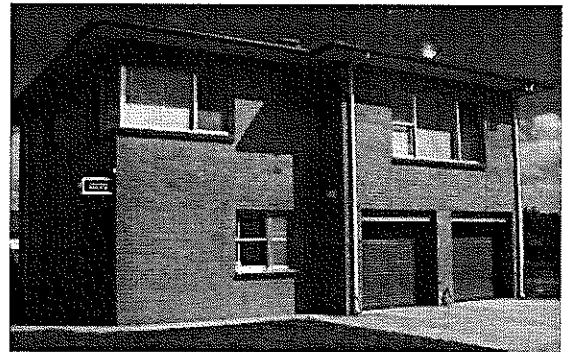
Playground. Lions Club and Break O'Day Council project.



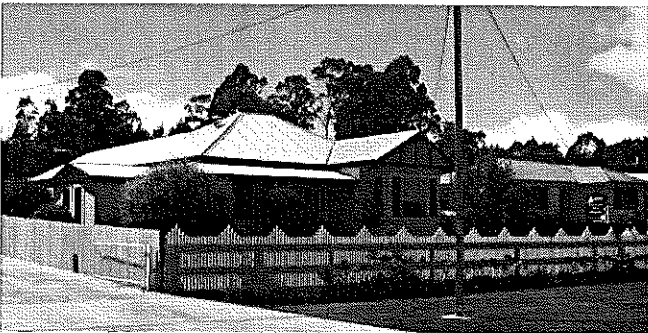
Service Station turned into Artspace.



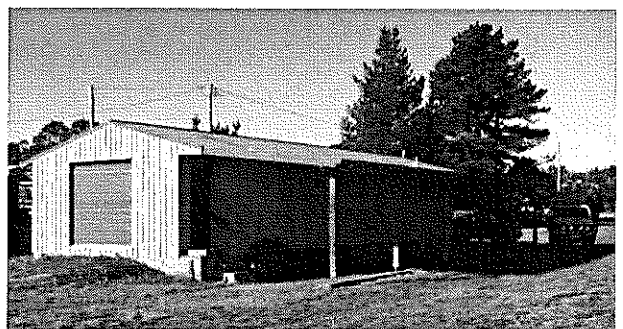
District High School Gymnasium.



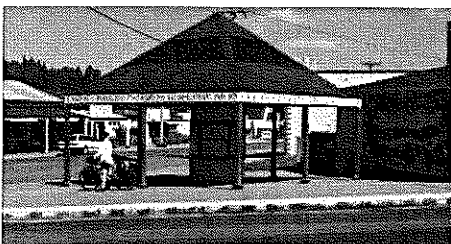
Police Station.



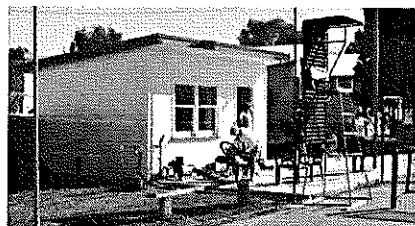
Addlestone House, new Bed & Breakfast.



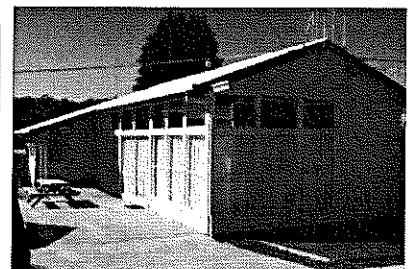
The old railway goods shed. Now the Woodcraft Guild.



*Information booth,
corner Main and Storey Sts.*

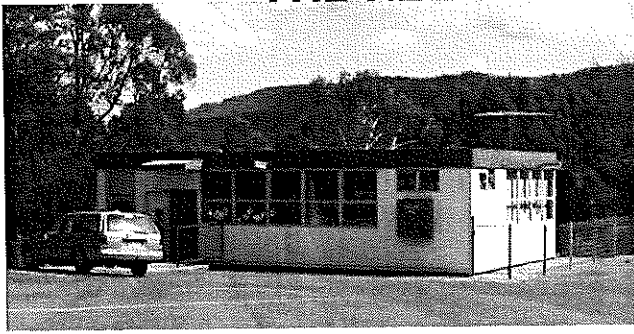


*Old library,
now Tennis Club rooms.*

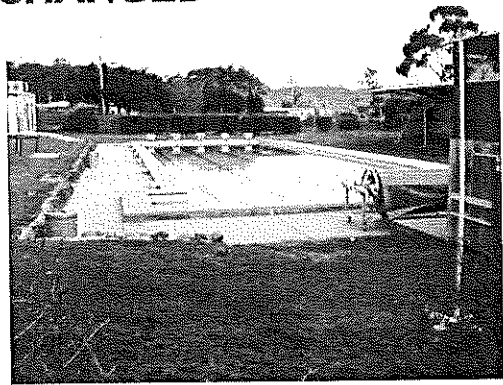


*Former Pre-school,
converted to Year 11/12.*

THE NEW AND THE CHANGED



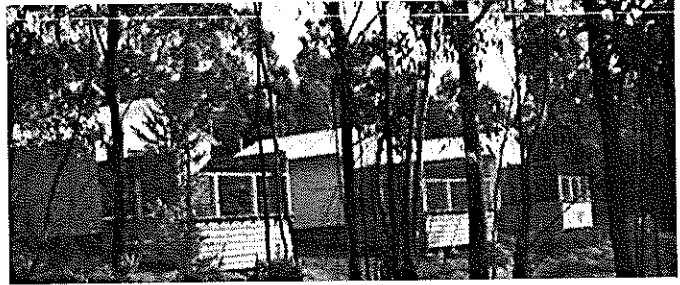
Pre-school, relocated to High School.



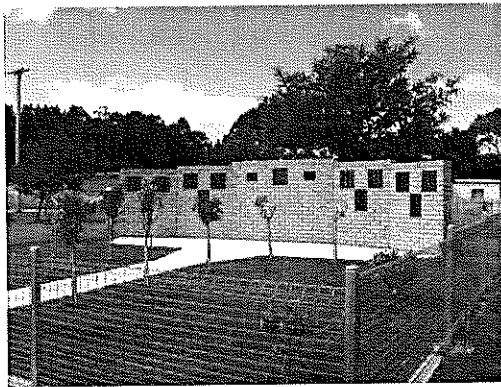
High School swimming pool.



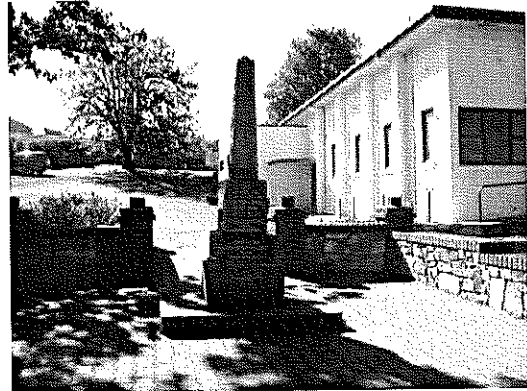
St Marys On-line Access Centre.



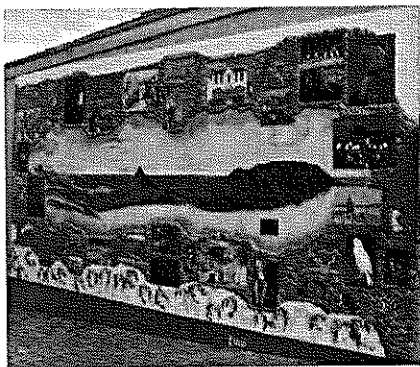
Rainbow Retreat Eco Cabins.



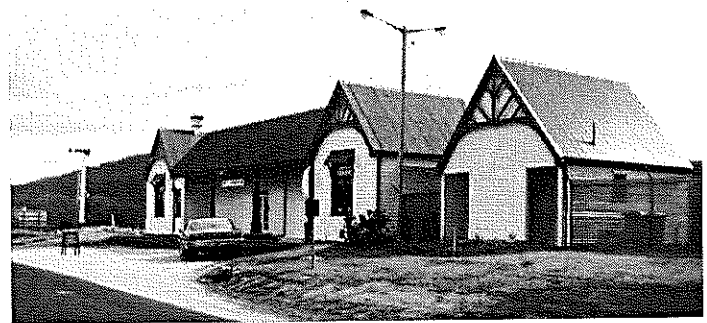
Miners Heritage Wall at Cornwall.



New Cenotaph.



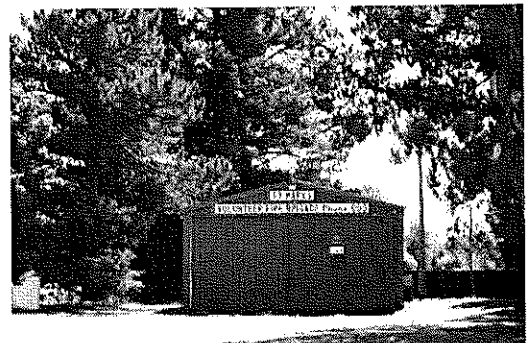
Mural painted by local artists.



Railway Station, 2007. Now History Room, Gifts and Café.



The new Gone Rustic Quilt Studio & Gallery, situated in what was Spilsbury's Service Station.

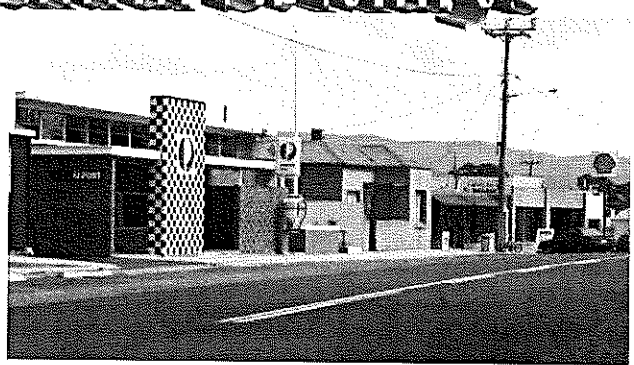


St Marys Fire Brigade.

Buildings in Central St Marys



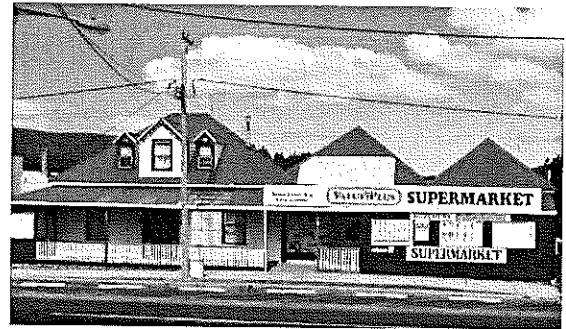
Looking east on Main Street.



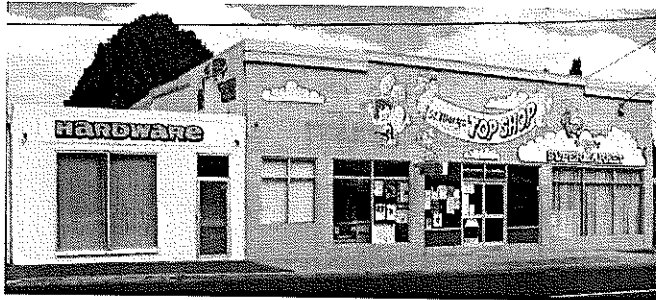
Looking west on Main Street.



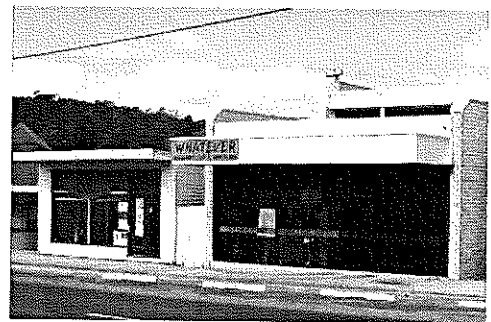
St Marys Newsagency. Purple Possum, Storey Street.



St Marys Value Plus. Main Street.



St Marys Top Shop. Main Street.



Designer Hair. Whatever Art.



Coach House Restaurant. Main St. St Marys.



Community Hall. Main Street.

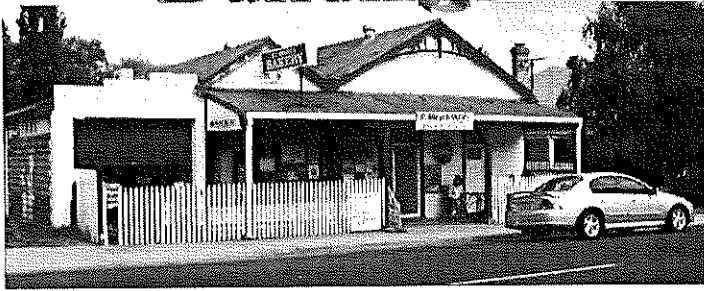


Valley Voice, Op- shop, St Marys Health and Beauty.



Main St Clothing. Main St. St Marys.

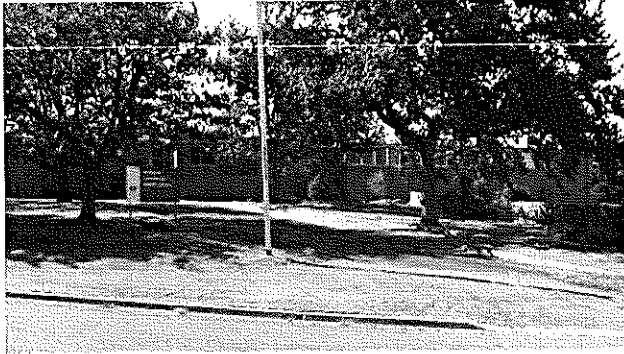
Buildings in Central St Marys



St Marys Bakery.



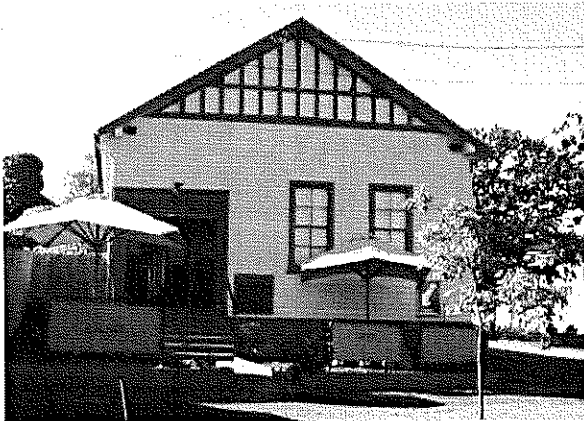
Caltex Service Station.



Community Health Centre.



St Marys Library.



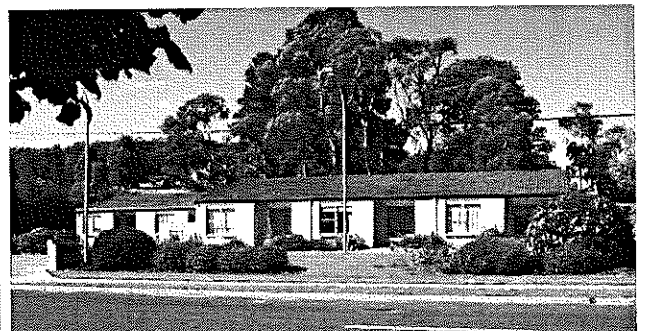
Former RSL, now e.ScApe Café Gallery.



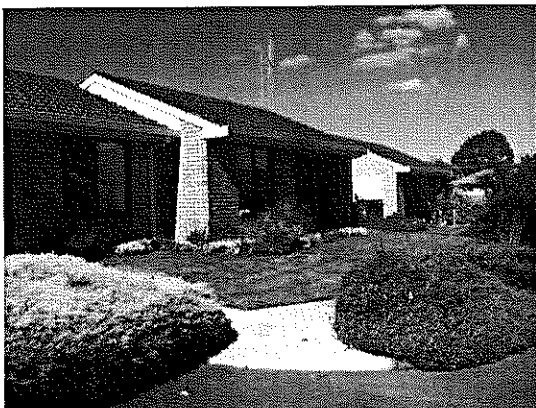
Service Station closed at the moment.



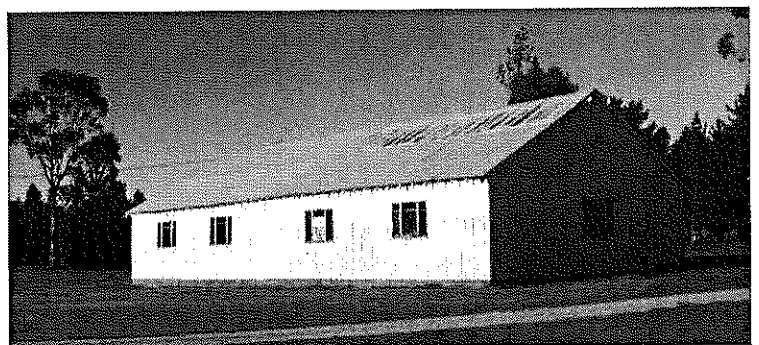
Housing Commission units. Groom St. St Marys.



Units. Main St. St Marys.

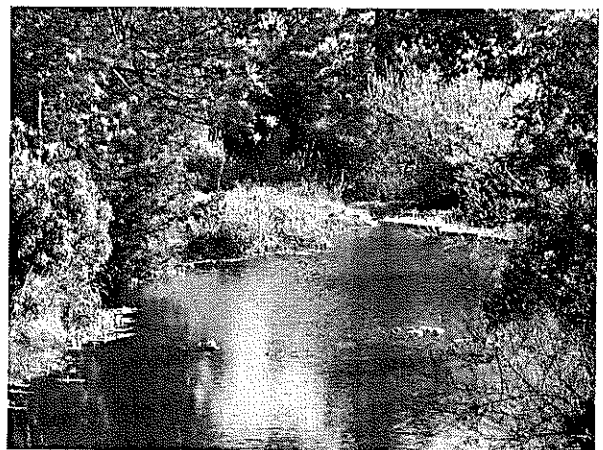


Units. Storey St. St Marys.

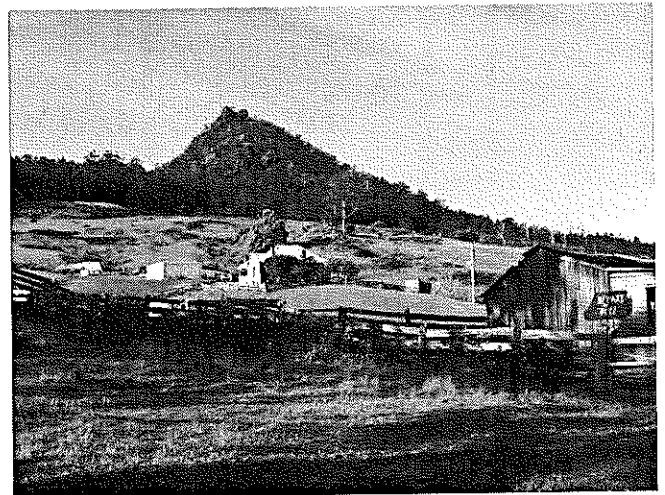
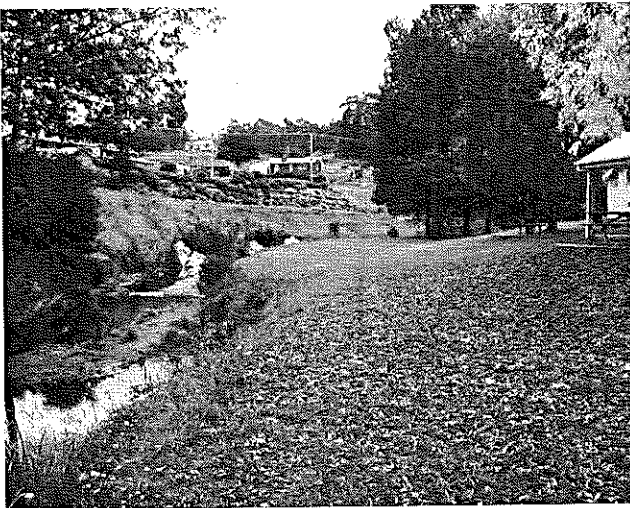
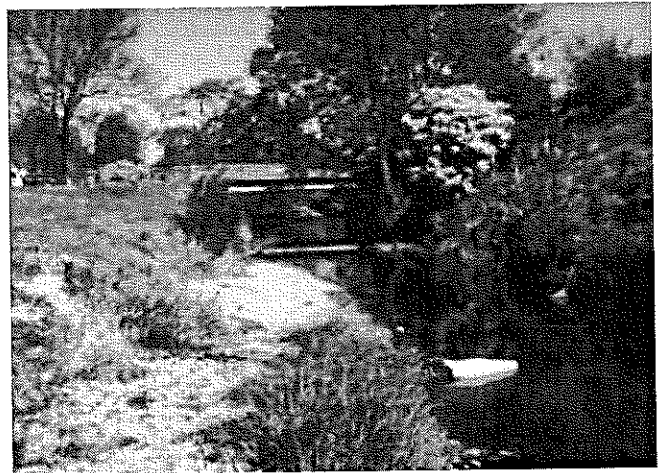
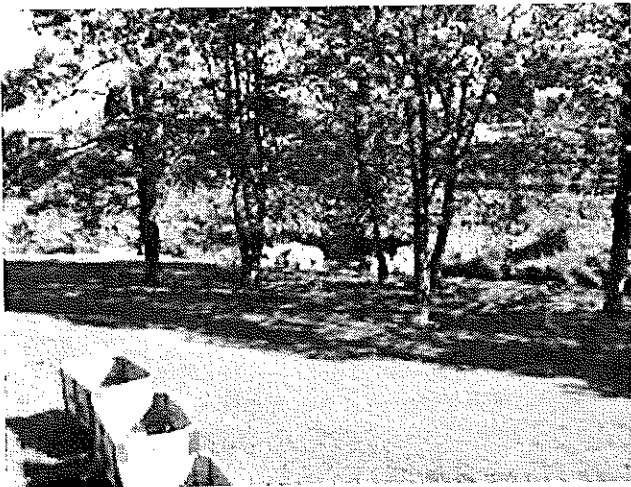
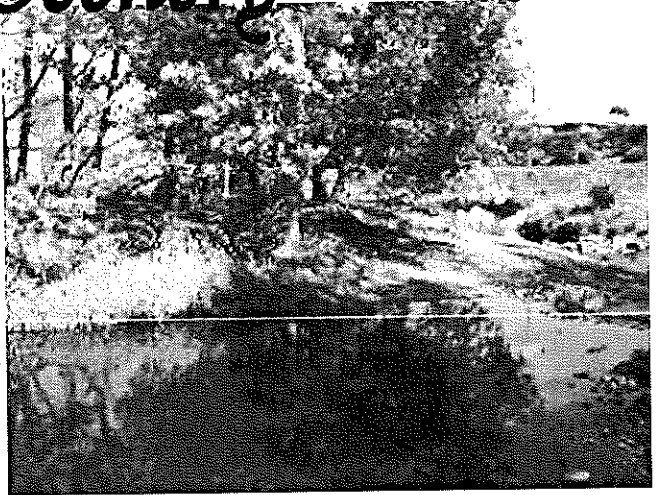
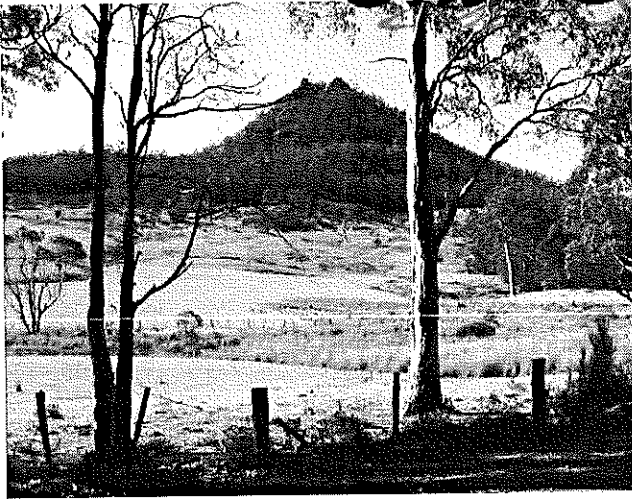


Industrial Hall. Changes on the way?

The Scenery



The Scenery



A GRAND DAY FOR ST MARYS

Early 1972 the committee of the St Marys Football Club, along with myself as appointed coach, sat down and discussed what players we had for the start of the season, finding out who we had and approximately where they would play. It was obvious that we were deficient in some vital areas. I was given full permission to try and recruit the necessary players. That involved a first class rover, full back and most importantly a big tapping ruckman.

The Williams brothers from Evandale and an exchange with St Helens for Stephen Salter, completed what we thought could get us well into the Finals. We soon moulded ourselves into a very cohesive and well balanced side. When we beat Rossarden at home was when we realised we had what it would take to really give the Flag a shake. The St Marys Tigers had not won a Seniors Premiership for 25 years, and we hoped that we could do it this time.

Cliff and Elwyn Williams and Stephen settled in extremely well, along with Bob Bye, (Stephen and Bob both ex-coaches), and Tim Wardlaw able to roost the Sherrin 60 -70 yards, John Bushing and John Dakin taking charge at the defence end, Ricky Freeman, 16 year old John Hollis, brother George Hollis and Norm Barnes all fleet of foot, gave us first use of the ball. Graeme McCarter, David Dean, Greg Tapp and Tony Rawnsley operating mainly in defence, also made things difficult for opposing sides. David Pendlebury, brothers Les and Ian Newman, 'Big' John Margison and Alan 'Buffalo' Lynch completed the line up of the St Marys Premiership team.

Saturday 2nd September 1972 St Marys versus Avoca at St Marys.

Grand Final day was amazing, record crowd, good weather, the town decked with black and gold balloons and streamers, all made for an exciting day's football. At half time St Marys 7.3 led Avoca 3.5. In the third quarter St Marys raced further ahead through a good team effort, and scored six goals for the quarter to lead by 34 points at the final change. Avoca rallied in the final term, but St Marys was too solid and clinched a 14 point victory.

St Marys 16.6 (101) d Avoca 12.15 (87).

We were certainly the better side on the day. The main ingredients employed in the Finals was fitness, discipline, and professionalism. With a team that played as a team, we were arguably rated as probably the best country side in Tasmania. Some of the 'old timers', Gordon 'Spot' Salter, Roy 'Mick' Gatty, Kelly Birrell, Harold Thomas and Augie Newman remarked to me that the win would give them another ten years!

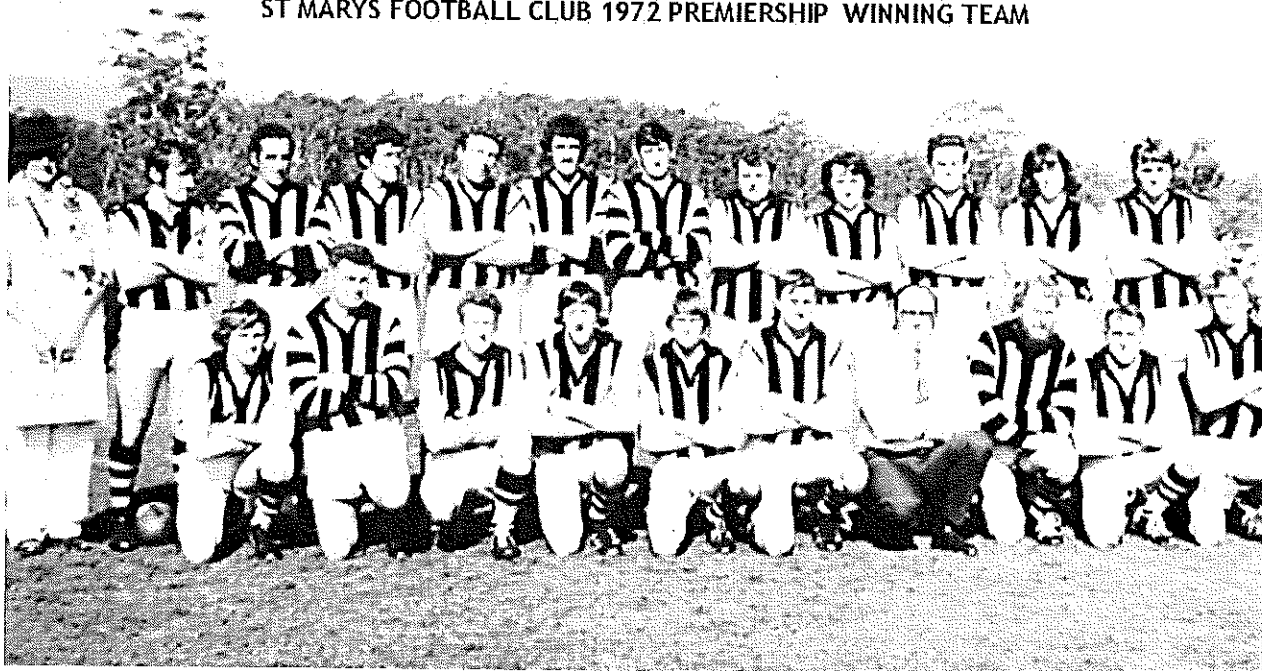
Presenting the players one by one from the balcony of the St Marys Hotel to the crowd gathered on the street below was a real highlight. The cooperation of the Police Sergeant in closing off the street corner enabled us to carry this out. Celebrations were long and hard going on for nearly two weeks.

The culmination of winning the Flag was certainly twofold, with our new clubrooms, new scoreboard complete with a running electronic clock made by 'Roo' Viney, along with a new pipe fence, gave us the best facilities in the F.D.F.A.

After all this, it gave me the greatest satisfaction as an honorary coach, to thank players, committee, community and sponsors for an historic year.

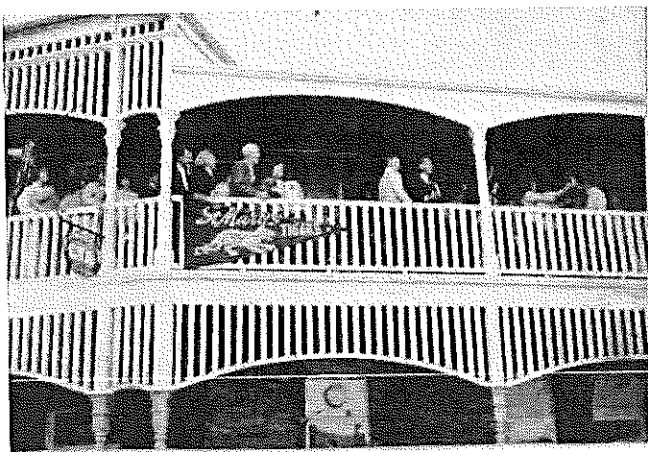
Dale Wright.

ST MARYS FOOTBALL CLUB 1972 PREMIERSHIP WINNING TEAM



Back row: l/r: Harold Thomas (trainer) David Pendlebury, Greg Tapp, David Dean, Stephen Salter, Tim Wardlaw, Graeme McCarter, John Margison, Ricky Freeman, Bob Bye, George Hollis, Alan Lynch.
Front row: l/r: Les Newman, John Dakin, Tony Rawnsley, Cliff Williams, Ian Newman, Elwyn Williams, Dale Wright (coach) John Bushing, Norm Barnes, John Hollis.

A GRAND DAY FOR ST MARYS



1972. Players being presented to their fans after winning the first premiership for 25 years.



St Marys
Football Club
Annual Dinner
1972,
With Coach
Dale Wright
being presented
with the
winners Trophy.



1953



Back 1/r: John Dakin, Tom Newman, Doug Nolan, John Archer, Jimmy Johns, Geoff King, Geoff Apled, Leon Williams.
Middle: Stuart Bradbury.
Front 1/r: Des Jarvis, Peter Davern, Ron Lohrey, Peter Gavaghan, John Ibbott, Don Smith, (Capt) Bert Cooper, Maurice Nailer.
Forefront: Albert Brown.

Football

ST MARYS FOOTBALL CLUB RUNNERS-UP TO ST HELENS, 1970. MARGIN: 4 PTS.



Back row, l/r: Terry Targett, Greg Tapp, Norm Barnes, Don Singline, Kevin Leedham, Robert Bye, Tim Wardlaw, Graeme Mc Carter, Garry Richards, David Dean.

Front row, l/r: Dale Wright, Don Birrell, Michael Brown, Alan Lynch, Trevor Viney, Kent Mitchell, M Turner, D Williams, A Maney, Mick Curry.

Mascot: David Nailer.

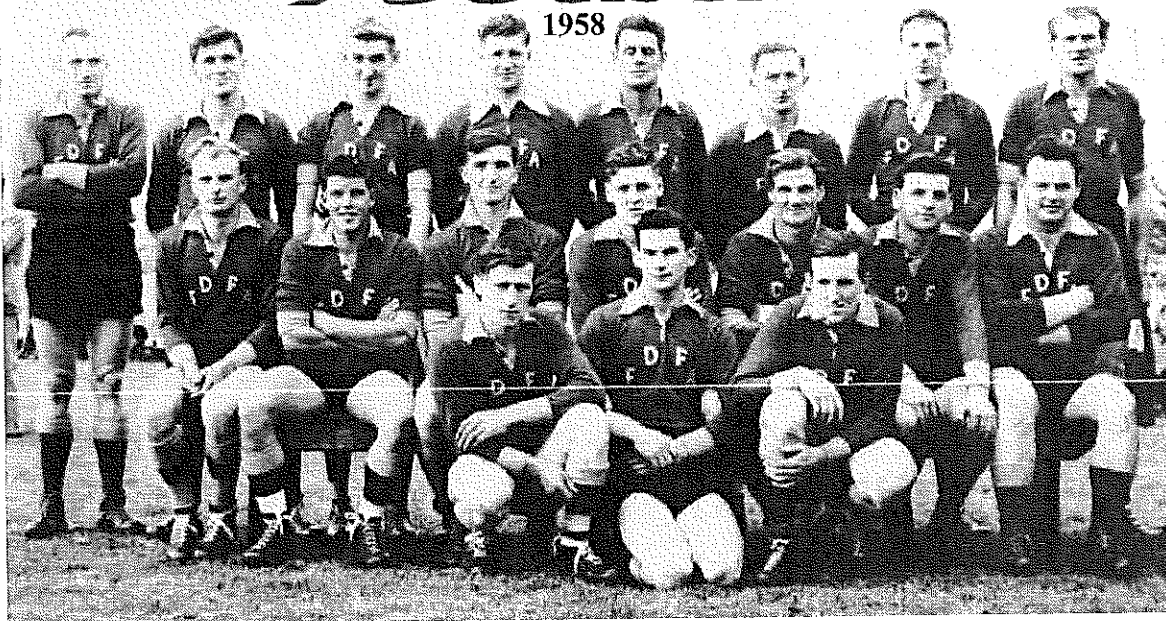


Back l/r : Terry Targett, Tony Rawnsley, Alan Lynch, Garry Richards, Tim Wardlaw, Robert Bye, Des Hayes, David Dean, Graeme McCarter, Greg Tapp, John Bushing.

Front l/r: Kent Mitchell, Ricky Freeman, Trevor Midson, Malcolm Wardlaw, Norm Barnes, M. Turner, Trevor Viney, Les Newman, Don Birrell.

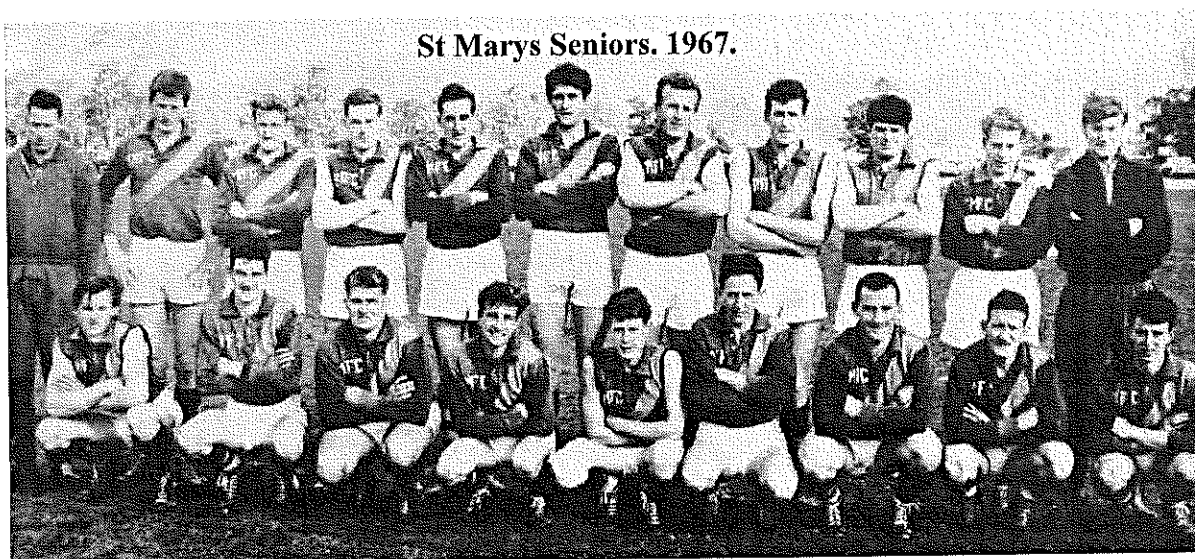
Football

1958



Back l/r: Jim Woodlands, Des Vincent, Brian French, Girvan Kringle, Peter Bessell, Ken Mansson, Wally Hawkins, Maurice Stephens.
Middle l/r: Geoff Hall, Don Gray, T. Courto, Kevin Gillies, S. Turner, Colin Fox, John Fox.
Front l/r: Eddie Davey, Eddie Dwyer, Maurice Freeman.

St Marys Seniors. 1967.

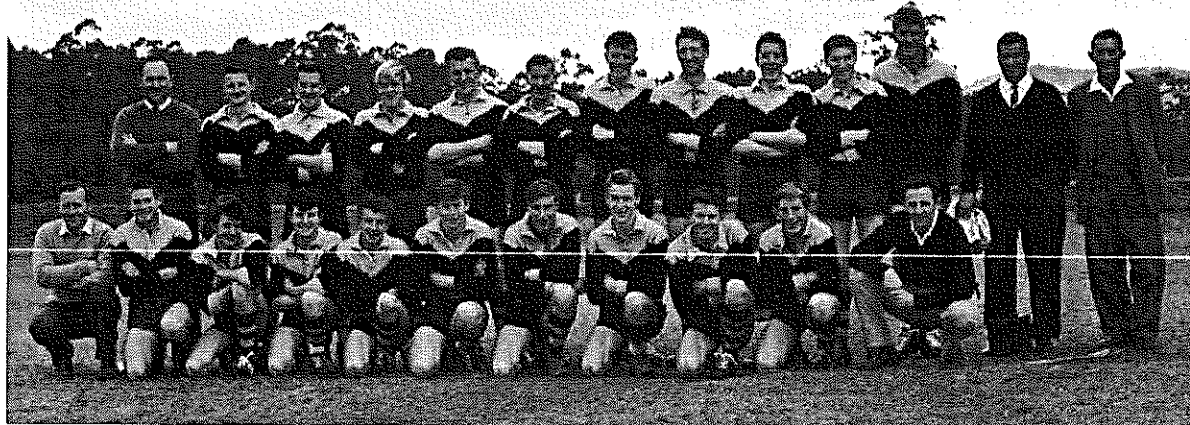


Back l/r: Keith Mason, Lloyd French, Bruce Nailer, Robert Bye, Greg Tapp, Tim Wardlaw, Stephen Salter (coach) David Dean, Ashley Stone, John Bushing, Kevin Pitt.
Front l/r: Lionel Freeman, Don Singline, Brian Birrell, Don Birrell, Tony Cooke, Ian Mawson, Tony House, Trevor Viney, Wayne Morris.



Back L/r: Sean Aulich, Les Lavelle, E. Maher, Brett Maney, Des Faulkner Jnr, Anthony Singline, Vance Donald, Mark Ridgers, Nigel Britton, Andrew Wright, Scott Bean, T. Miller, Brian Birrell, Ian Faulkner.
Front L/r: Neville Peake, Shane Gavaghan, Andrew Singline, Paul Rawnsley, Ricky Lohrey, Stuart Rawnsley, Graeme Peet, Alan Lynch, (Capt/coach) Murray Bennett, Michael Williams, Leigh Spilsbury.
 Mascots: Adams Williams, Nigel Birrell.

Football



Back 1/r: Dale Wright, David Blair, John Maney, Kerry Mitchell, Alan Lynch, Peter Greenwood, Terry Targett, Tony Cooper, Terry Maney, Kevin Pitt, Chris Wardlaw.
Front 1/r: Trevor Emmett, Murray Stone, Billy Semmens, Wayne Morris, Don Birrell, Ron McCarty, Peter Luck, Geoff Jones, Les Fisher, Trevor Midson, Ian Mawson.
 Kelly Birrell, Neddy Tapp. (trainers)



Back L/r: Dale Drinkwater, Glenn McDonald, Brendan Manion, Ken Maynard, Robert Schier, Des Faulkner Jnr.
Middle L/r: Gary Streets, Andrew Viney, Garry Richards, Jamie Lowe, Robert Wilson, Les Newman, Ricky Lohrey, Les Lavelle.
Front L/r: Michael Cooke, Stephen Cooke, Stephen Spilsbury, Rod (Pud) Howe (Captain-Coach) Derek Summers, Dale Ridgers, Phillip Midson.

Mascots: Rodney Bushing, Drew Berwick, Damian Lavelle.

Football

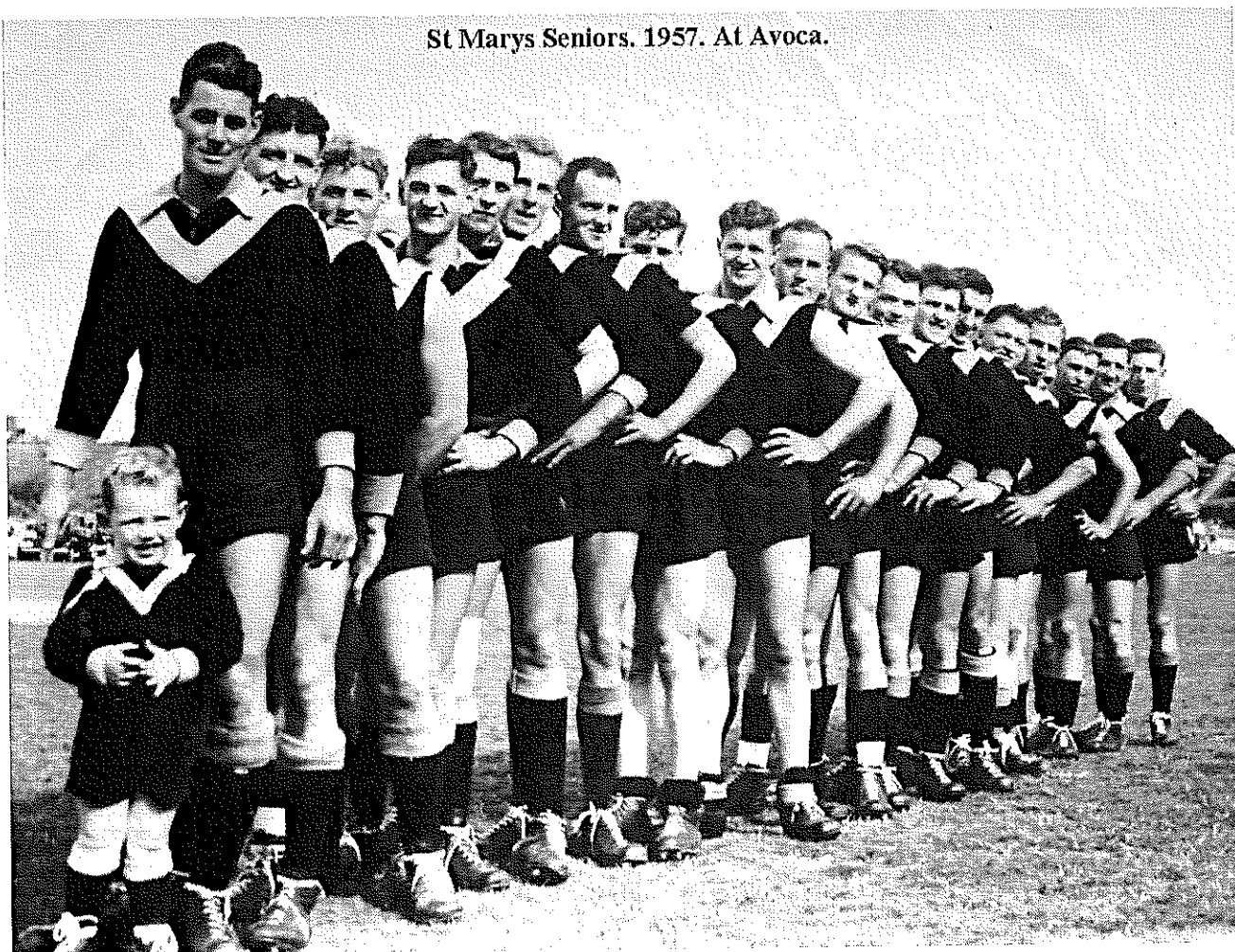
St Marys Seconds 1968



Back Vr: Harold Thomas (trainer) John Bullock, Murray Berwick, Arthur Parsons, Keith Mason, Michael Brown, Geoff Jones, Leon Lynch, Stephen Lynch, Garry Richards, Tony Cooper.

Front Vr: Les Fisher, Anthony Maney, Kerry Mitchell, Ricky Freeman, Ian Mawson, Bruce Nailer, Alan Lynch, Tony Singline, Peter Greenwood, Graeme Blair, Kelly Birrell. (trainer)

St Marys Seniors. 1957. At Avoca.



From left:

Roger Yates, (mascot) Peter Bessell, (Capt/coach) Peter Gavaghan, Athol Easterbrook, Teddy McNeil, Murray Berwick, Stephen Salter, Bruce King, Kevin Gillies, Girvan Kringle, Joe Hollis, Bruce Nailer, Peter Sims, Barry Cooke, Rex Anderson, Des Jarvis, Ron Gamble, Kevin Targett, Leo Lynch, Trevor Lynch.

Football



Back l/r: Dale Wright, (Coach) Brian Birrell, (Trainer) George Hollis, Michael Brown, Adrian Donker, Scott Bean, Michael Wright, Garry Richards, Tony Singline, Nigel Britton, Alan Lynch, Nigel Mayes, Ray Stuart, Shane Gavaghan, Ian Faulkner, (trainer)

Front l/r: D Carpenter, Ricky Lohrey, Trevor Midson, Shane Goss, David Herring, Michael Cooke, Phillip Midson, Paul Spilsbury, Mark Read.

Mascots: Nigel Birrell, Marcus Greenwood, Jason Lynch.



Back l/r: Terry Targett, (Coach) Robert Grainger, Michael Barnes, Larry Stingle, Glen Lodge, Murray Schier, Stephen Spilsbury, Craig Gatty, Michael Read, Chris Spilsbury, Shane Brooks, Des Faulkner Jnr, Rick Ward (front) Ken Maynard, Glen McDonald, Kim Waller, Les Newman,

Front l/r: Robert Hinds, Shane Gavaghan, Andrew Singline, Michael French, Michael Singline.

Football



The St Marys Football Club always had a hard working committee.

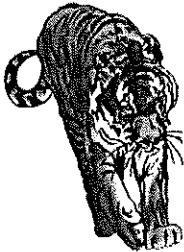
In the 1980's, one of the ways to raise money was to sell fire wood.

This 'load'?! was sold to the publicans at the time, of the St Marys Hotel, Mike and Nancy Graham.

Pictured l/r:

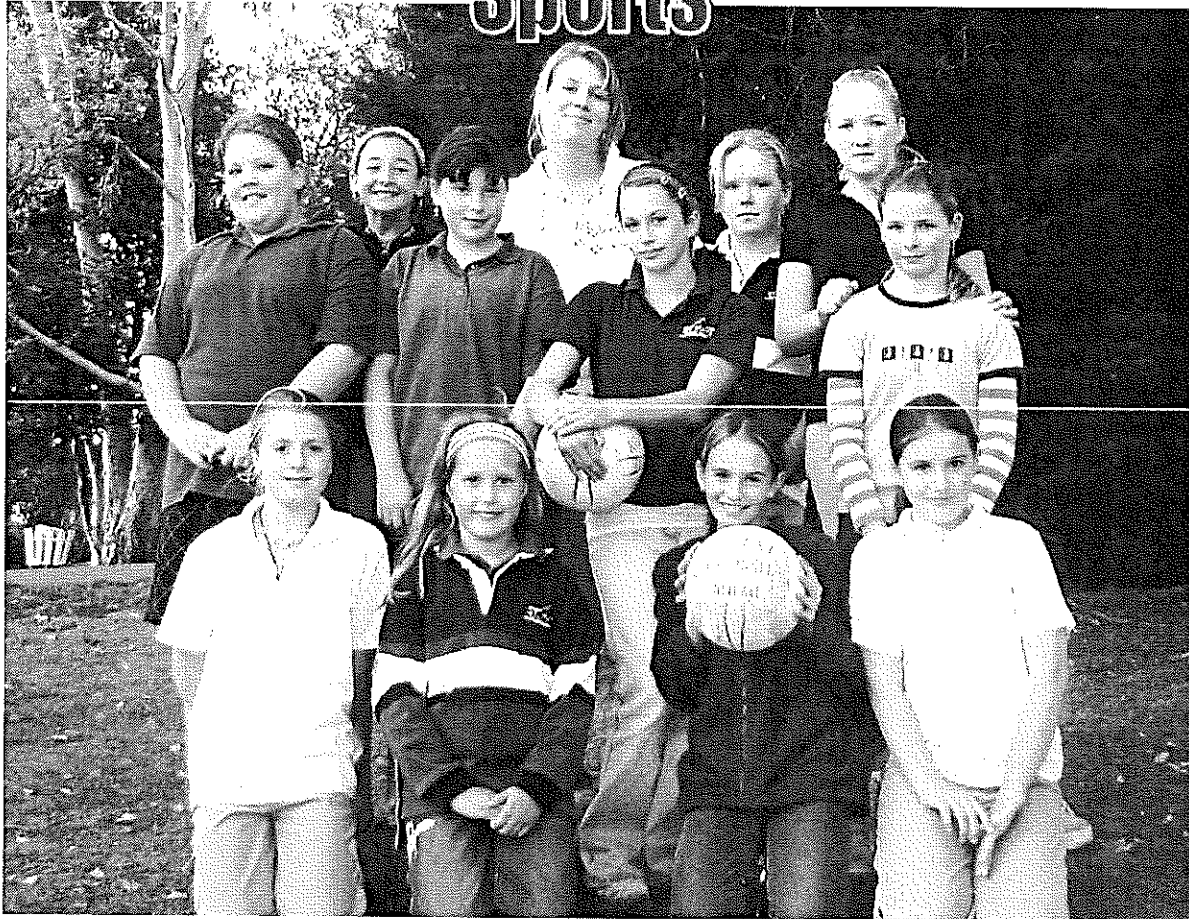
Graeme Radley, Michael Schier, Barry Gillies, Roger Donald, Les Lavelle, Michael Smith, Trevor Hoskinson, Horrie Brown, David Dawson.

*Christmas Parade float,
displaying
1972 winner's banner.
Still celebrating the win?*



Pictured L/r: Ron Moss, Peter Davern, Joe Hollis, Peter Gavaghan, Peter Berwick, Maurice Nailor, Des Jarvis, John Ibbott.

Sports



St Marys Netball team. 2005.

Back l/r: Emily Brown, Selina Panoff, Alex Veldums (coach) Kirsty Panoff, Chtista Mc Coll, Rebecca Mitchell, Allie Spilsbury, Fern Menogue.

Front l/r: Indi Douglas, Georgie Williams, Shari Donald, Belinda Cox.



St Marys Netball Div 3. 2004.

Back l/r: Selena Panoff, Hannah Spilsbury, Danielle Williams, Sharon Ross Kelly, (coach) Allie Spilsbury Emma Spilsbury, Emily Brown.

Front l/r: Shari Donald, Kirsty Panoff, Fern Menogue, Rebecca Mitchell, Belinda Cox.



Coal shoveling, Fingal Festival.



School sports winners.

Vaughan Spilsbury, Avalon Chippendale.

Sports

ST MARYS BADMINTON CLUB
PREMIERS, 1966.



Back, Vr: Ashley Stone, Bruce Nailer, Marj Aulich, Barry Aulich, Molly Cocker, Vern Royle, Malcolm Wardlaw, Dale Wright.

Front, Vr: Nancy Coopes, Olga Gavaghan, Leith Gatty, Molly Royle, Glenys Murray, M. Marquis.



St Marys District School football team. 1952

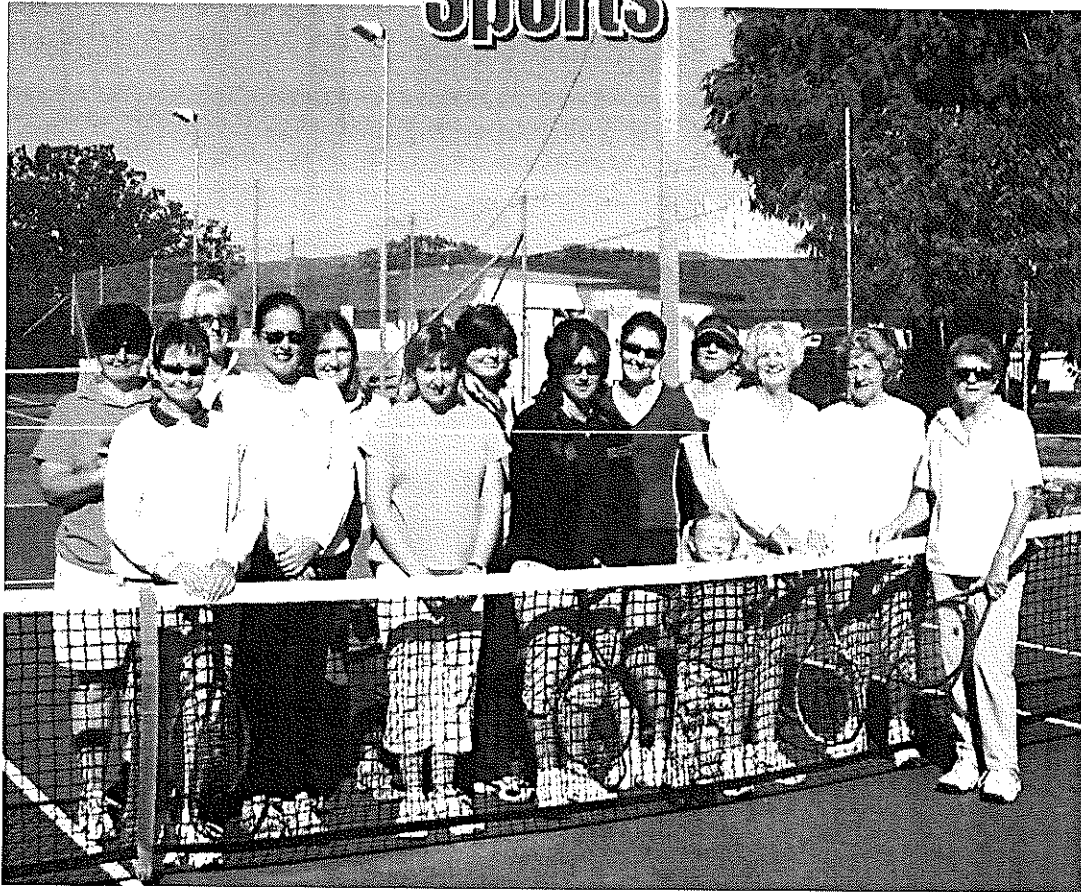
Back Vr: Dennis McKercher, Mr Ken Innes, David Blair.

Third Vr: Len Miles, Robert Saunders, Bruce Spilbury, Max Lowrie, Tony Sims, Don Woods, Ron Cooper.

Second Vr: Kingsley Barr, Keith Mason, John Smith, Kevin Targett, Barry Miles, Brian French.

Front Vr: Trevor Hoskinson, Barry Woods, Don Gray, Terence House.

Sports



Wednesday Tennis Ladies. 2007.

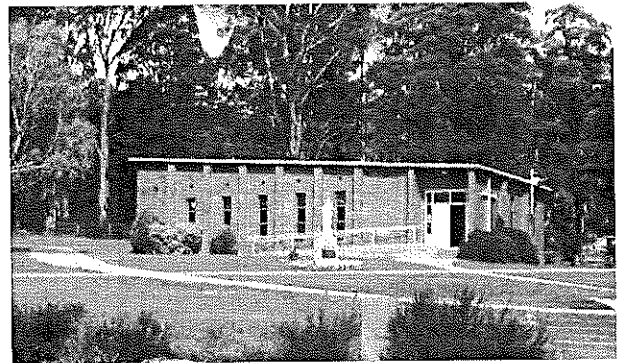
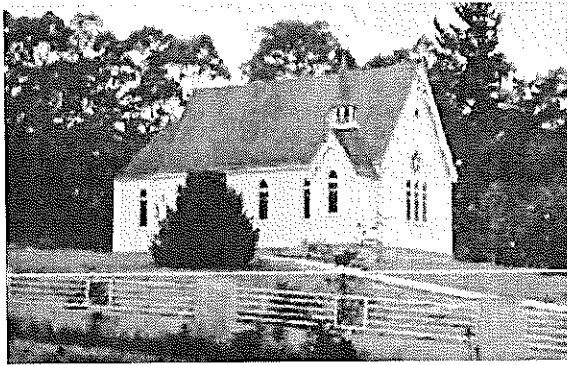
L/r: Judine Lynch, Annette Davey, Cheryl Oates, Jane McCann, Trish O'Duffy, Genevieve Aulich, June Panoff, Allison Bushing, Linda Faulkner, Sadie Keys, Robin Trenfield, Jill Faulkner, Kaye Nailor.



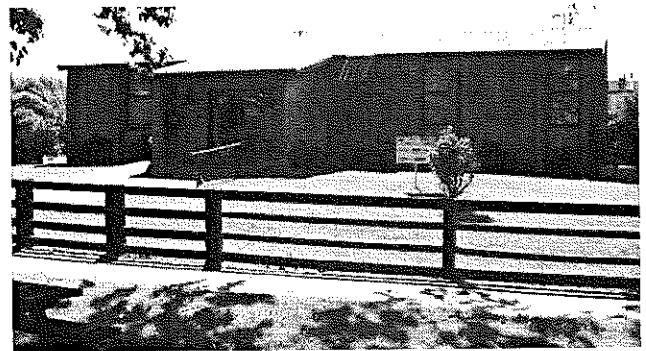
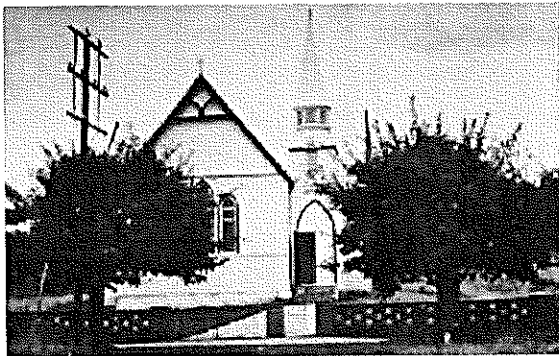
U15 Cricket Grand Final Premiers 2006/2007.

*Back Vr: Sam Barnard, Kodie Donald, Bryn Norton, Craig Frieboth (Coach), Brody Rickman, Jacob Spilsbury, Brody Mitchell.
Front Vr: Brodie Barnes, Nicholas Kringie, Liam Norton, David Nickson, Aaron Webb.*

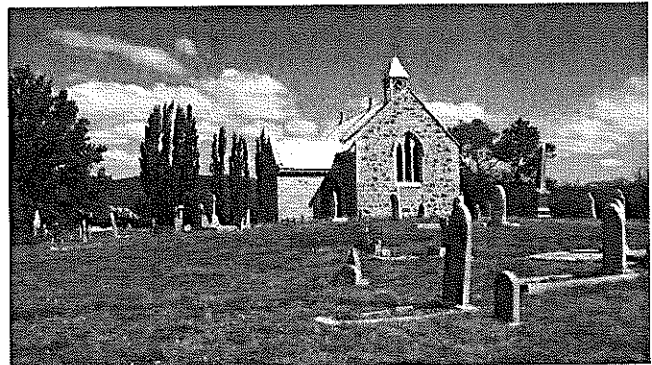
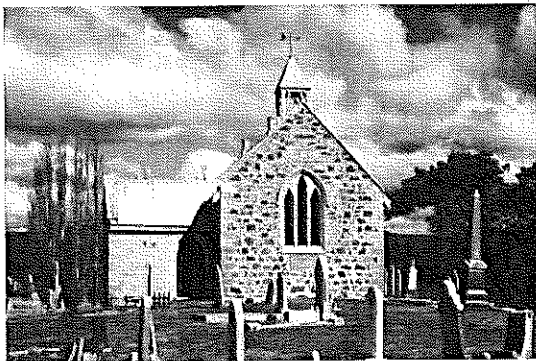
The Churches then & now



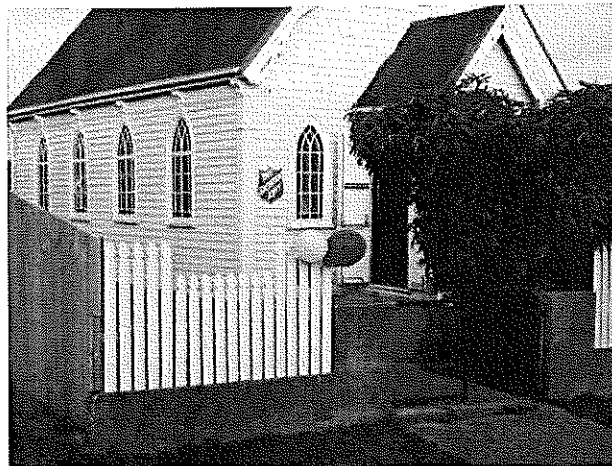
Mary of the Assumption. Catholic Church, St Marys.



Holy Trinity. Anglican Church, St Marys.



Christ Church. Anglican church, Cullenswood.

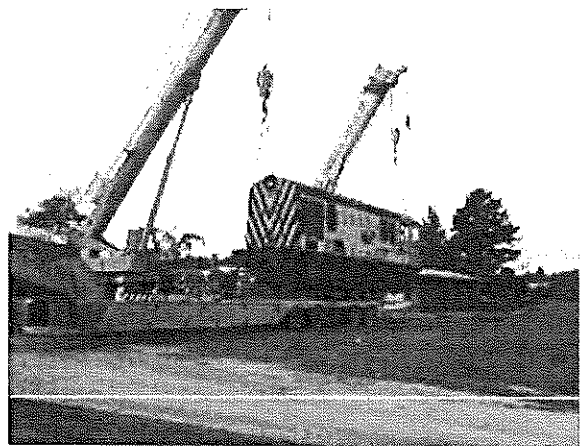


Former Uniting Church. Now home to J.A.M.

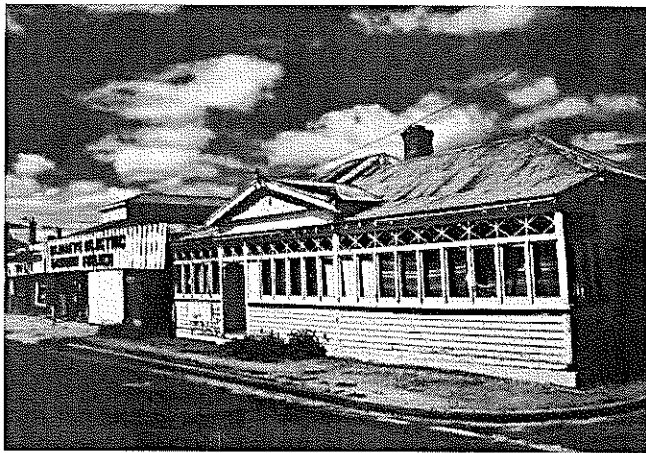
GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



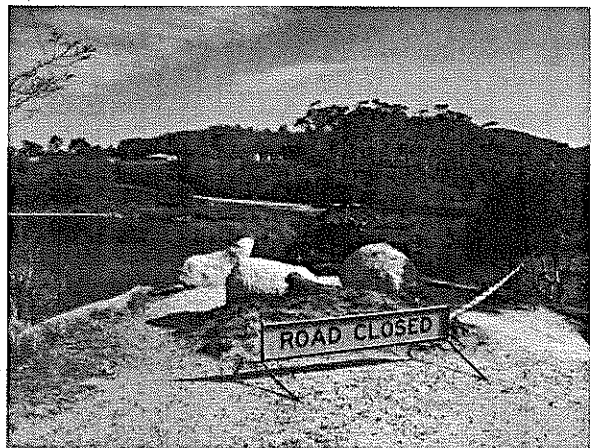
Todd's Hall. Lost to fire September, 2003.



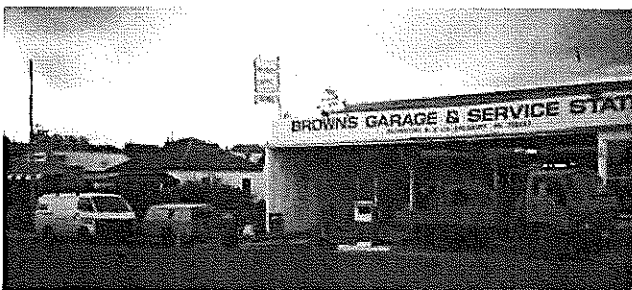
The day the last train left St Marys. But not by rail.



Stan Graham's shop, west end of Main St.



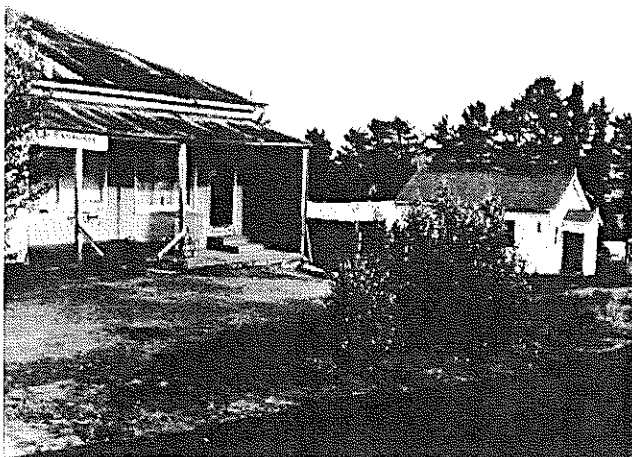
Four Mile Creek bridge. Lost to fire December, 2006.



Spilsbury's service station. Now Quilt Gallery.



Daisy Dell farm. The last of the dairy industry.

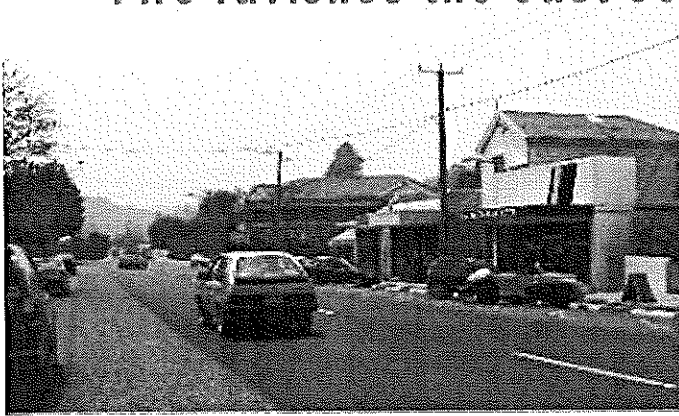


The Cornwall shop and the Salvation Army Hall.

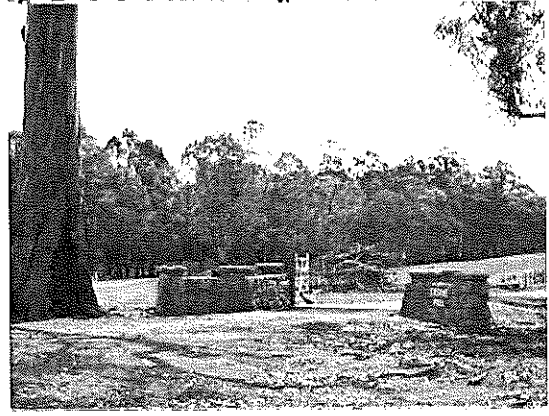


*Criterion Hotel. Demolished.
Was located where units are at east end of Main St.*

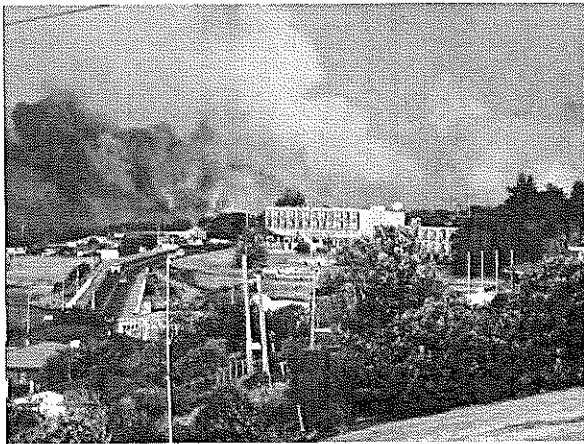
Fire ravishes the east coast, December, 2006



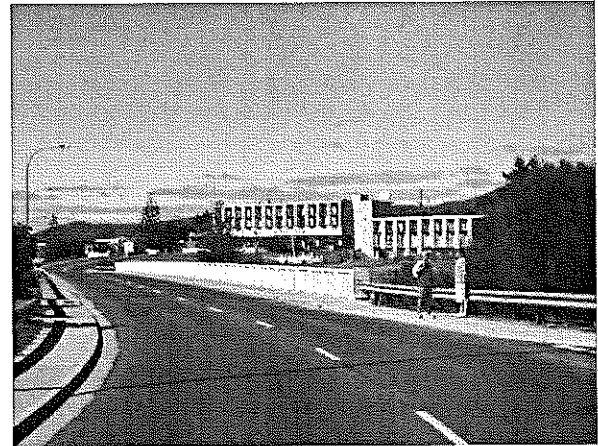
December, 2006. Smoke engulfed St Marys for many days. Only a wind change saved us from destruction.



Enstone Park entrance with fire aftermath, 2006.



December, 2006 as fire ravaged Scamander



February, 2007. What a different outlook.



St Marys Pass, just days after the fire..



Property losses at Scamander.



Smoke from German Town, over Falmouth Lagoon..



*Valley Voice volunteers.
l/r: Judy Spilsbury, Jill Faulkner, Janet Godfrey, Heather Lodge, Irene Smith,
Bettie Sumner, Wendy Brennan, Karen Budge.
2007.*



*Aerial photo of St Marys, taken 2004.
(Photo courtesy The Launceston Examiner)*