

Compliments of the season to all our readers



Congratulations, all volunteers!!

This was not the way we intended the last edition of the paper for 2006 to be published. This has been two of the most horrendous weeks in our community's history, and I for one, would not like to experience it again. Our hearts go out to all those who have lost everything in the last two weeks' vicious weather conditions. You see and hear via the media, of similar situations happening throughout the world, and although you can sympathize, until it is experienced, the magnitude of it, is simply beyond comprehension.

The helicopters flying overhead, hour after hour, making it sound like a war zone, trucks, dozers, emergency vehicles and the insidious smoke, making everyone acutely aware we were in dire straits, brings home the horror that everyone is experiencing.

Where would we be now if not for the wonderful services of emergency workers? I hesitate to mention them all here in case someone of significance is left out, but the Helicopter crews, Tasmania Fire Service, including volunteers, SES, contractors with heavy machinery making containment lines, Forestry workers, Fire Services volunteers from other units, Tasmania Police, Ambulance Service, Aurora, Telstra, Parks and Wildlife, all media, including TV and radio, and many others, worked continuously day and night in the most trying conditions, to try and save lives and property in this district. This list would not be complete without mentioning the Salvation Army, St John Ambulance Service and the businesses of the East Coast. Thanks is a small word, but it means so much to so many people, and I'm sure there are residents who are still in their homes because of the efforts put in by all these crews.

To **ALL** emergency personnel in whatever capacity your services were utilised, congratulations on the magnificent job you have done. You all, without exception deserve medals.

As this paper goes to print, the fires are still burning, people are still at risk, and the emergency services are still working tirelessly. Let us hope that the dangers will soon be over, and families will have their loved ones home with them for Christmas.

Last edition for 2006

As this is the last edition for 2006, we would like to say thank you to all our readers, contributors, advertisers, distributors, our reliable delivery girls and boys, staff at St Marys Health and Beauty, and our loyal band of volunteers who help get this paper out each fortnight. This paper would not be able to continue without your help. I hope all our readers have enjoyed the stories and photos this year.

As we are a non profit organisation, we don't have state of the art equipment. However we did manage to upgrade a little this year, making the production a little better. Next year, due to rising costs we will have to upgrade our fees. As yet we have not decided what this may entail, but the cost of advertising will be slightly more next year. All of us at the Valley Voice would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas, and hope that 2007 will bring happiness to one and all.



St Patrick's Head, under normal conditions, would be visible above the roof line of the St Marys Hotel.

Please note: Deadline for articles to be included in the next Valley Voice is: 5 pm Tuesday, February 13, 2007.

Community news

St Marys Hospital Auxiliary meets the first Monday of every month at 2pm at the **St Marys Community Health Centre**.
Please note: No meeting in Jan.

The Break O'Day Woodcraft Guild Inc. meets the last Saturday of the month at 4pm at the goods shed behind the **St Marys Railway Station**.

Grassy Bottom Regional Arts are holding General meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at the **e.ScApe Café** at 6.30pm. Come along to share your creative ideas and help Grassy Bottom maintain an artistic culture in our community.

SMACD will hold its next meeting on December 22nd at 5pm at the **St Marys Online Access Centre**.

The Tasmanian Lymphoedema Centre Inc., holds meetings every 3rd Monday of the month at 10 am at the **St Marys Community Health Centre**.

Don't forget the **Lions Club of St Marys Christmas Parade and Children's Party** on Christmas Eve. Get involved with a float or offer your help on the day.

The Pacing Club of St Marys will be holding their one day of the year again on New Year's Day.

St Marys Hospital Auxiliary

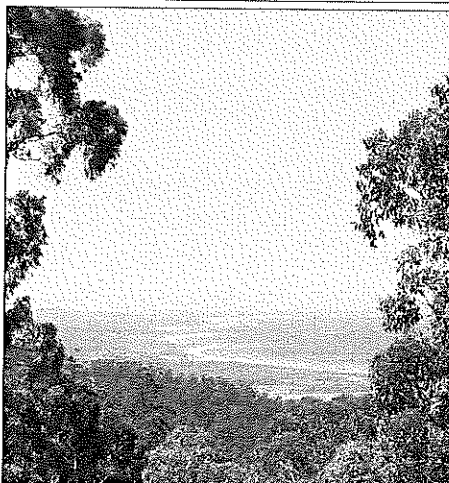
Raffle consisting of four prizes, the first being a decorated fibre optic Xmas "Money tree" valued at \$150, will be conducted between now and Xmas eve.

The proceeds will be to assist in the purchase of a new Heart monitor costing \$11,000, vital for the up to date treatment of patients at our Centre.

Your support for this cause will be greatly appreciated.

Tickets on sale at various venues.

Kevin Faulkner Sec.



Rainbow Retreat Wilderness Eco Cabins.

Winner

of the **Tourism Council of Tasmania's**
"People's Choice Award"
for the June quarter 2006.

To celebrate this fantastic honour, we are offering our special
Woodfired Pizza Deal.

The deal includes a delicious pizza, a bottle of wine and chocolates on arrival.

The special price of \$169.00 which includes continental breakfast daily.

Come and stay at our award winning Retreat and enjoy the ocean views and the wildlife that roam freely on the property.

For other fantastic accommodation deals you are welcome to view our website at

www.rainbowretreat.com.au

or visit our Retreat at

Lot 1, Gillies Rd, St Marys.

Your hosts, **Peter & Ian**
6372 2168 or 0417 017 105

St Marys Online Access Centre

Opening Hours:

Monday	10am – 3pm
Tuesday	10 am – 4 pm
Wednesday	10 am – 4 pm
Thursday	10 am – 3 pm
Friday	10 am – 3 pm
Saturday	11 am – 2 pm

Ph: 6372 2005



The **St Marys Child Care Centre** will be closed until Monday the 22nd January, when it will reopen for normal hours. Casual holiday bookings welcome.

Families who have not been able to lodge their re-enrollment forms due to the fire emergency can leave them in our pigeon hole at the Health Centre, or post them in via the **St Marys Post Office**.

Any enquires, then leave a message at **6372 2187** and I will contact you as soon as possible.

ST PATRICKS HEAD DAY

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Adding to the **St Marys Sesquicentenary** celebrations, the competition brief for 2007 is:

ENTER A PHOTOGRAPH THAT RELATES TO, DESCRIBES OR ILLUSTRATES - ANY ASPECT OF THE WAY OF LIFE HISTORICALLY, IN OR SURROUNDING THE TOWNSHIP OF **ST MARYS, TASMANIA**.

ALL ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY
23rd FEBRUARY 2007

You must provide either a digital file or a negative with your photograph.

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

More information will be available early 2007

Classifieds

FOR SALE

2nd children's bench seat to suit '96 Ford station wagon, complete with seat belts. \$150. ono. **Ph: 6372 2646**

Quantity of carpet. Good Condition. **Ph: 6372 2924**

York Pacer 2750 treadmill. Hardly used. \$250. ono.
Large fibreglass bath. \$100. ono.
Ph: 6372 2668

Shogun mountain bike with front suspension. Very good condition. \$350.

Denon stereo system with CD deck, tuner, powerful amp, JBL speakers. \$200.

Cane coffee table \$25. Magazine rack \$15. Set of shelves \$15.
PH: 6372 2025.

York Elliptical Crosstrainer 3400 exercise machine. Tones quadriceps, buttocks, lower abdominal, hips and thighs. Adjustable pedal height. Moving handle bars. V G Cond. Cost \$700 - sell \$450.
PH: 6372 5486

CABANA pop-top caravan & annex. Freshly painted, 3 berth, 2 way fridge, TV and aerial. reg 11 0/7. V G Cond. \$4500.
Ph: 6372 2176 Mob: 0427 314 213

Baltic lining boards, various lengths 1 m to 5.5 m. Approx 220 Lin. m \$200. ono. **Ph: 6372 2222 or 0437 227 123**

HP 930c Deskjet Printer. \$75.
HP 5470 Scanner with slide transparency adapter. \$100.
HP 45 black Inkjet cartridge. New. \$40. All in good condition.
PH: 6372 5486

'91 Ford Laser S 5 dr hatchback. Tinted windows, 6 mths rego. 5 speed manual. 168,000 kms. In good condition. \$4000. Ono.
Ph: 6374 2178.

Girls 20" 6 speed Huffy bike. Like new. \$75. **PH: 6372 2552**

More for sale items

1½ year old desexed Border Collie x female. Lively and affectionate. \$60 Genuine enquiries only to **6372 2096.**

Certified organic vegetables, direct from grower. Delivery or pickup in St Marys **Ph: Jack 6372 2034**

Shearer available for small lots.
Ph: 6372 2762

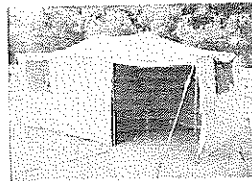
Artificial Christmas Tree
In excellent condition 2.4 metres tall
Used once (last Xmas)
Looks great, very bushy \$55.00
Ph: 0419 548 583

1 wooden rocking horse. \$20. ono.
1 girls push bike, 20". \$45. ono.
All in great condition.
PH: 6372 2164

3 point linkage forks to suit up to 40 hp tractor. Very straight. \$250.
Ph: 6372 2762 (evenings)

Wrecking: Inter B250. Brand new roll bar, silvan spreader, harrows, 12 - 28 rims & centre.
Ph: 6272 4278.

1990 Nissan Pulsar hatchback. \$3000. Chris. **Ph: 63725363**



15" x 9" Heavy duty canvas tent. Ideal for camping, parties etc. Excellent cond. Bargain \$400. Family size George Foreman roaster. Brand new. Never used. \$80. (An unwanted gift)
Ph: 6372 2438 : 0439 333 398

TIPEE 18 foot. Brand new. \$800
PIANO \$300
FISH TANK 2 foot long. With all accessories \$30.
Ph: 63 722846

Bale handling equip. Bale forks \$690. 3 pt link spike \$384. Adjustable feedout forks, \$795.
PH: 6272 4278


WANTED TO BUY

Exercise bike in reasonable condition to buy, or will exchange for manual treadmill in good condition. **Ph. 6372 2412**

Wanted urgently. Block or blocks to run sheep for agistment.
Ph: 6372 2762

Antique and general machinery, including tractors, to do up, or parts. Burnt okay. **Ph: 6272 4278**

Accommodation wanted in Central St Helens for young, employed 18 year old male. Private room, bungalow or caravan would be suitable. **PH: 6372 2646**

 **RESIDENTS OF BREAK O'DAY** are advised that from **TODAY** until further notice, water restrictions will apply to

ALL COMMUNITIES.

Sprinklers will be permitted on the following basis:

Properties whose street numbers are even, may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Properties whose street numbers are odd, may water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

No watering is permitted on Mondays.
Your cooperation will be appreciated.

In relation to many queries about the St Marys water:

I can advise that the **WATER BOILING ALERT** still applies, until further notice.

Samples have been taken, and when results are obtained a decision will be made. Information will be given to STAR FM for broadcasting.



**4 days
until Christmas**

The Say by Cagerattler.

Perhaps in ten or twenty years our memories of the fortnight before Christmas 2006 here on the upper east coast might be fading somewhat, but to all those whose lives will be effected directly, it will be a time never to be forgotten.

There are many families at the moment, picking up the pieces either in terms of a roof over their head, or with their livelihood and income lost. Some have lost both. Then there are countless people who through their careful pre-fire actions and determination to help protect their own properties, who still have their homes and more importantly, are safe.

For others though, through bad luck and fate of the winds, no amount of preparation could help on Monday and Thursday afternoons in Scamander and Four Mile Creek respectively.

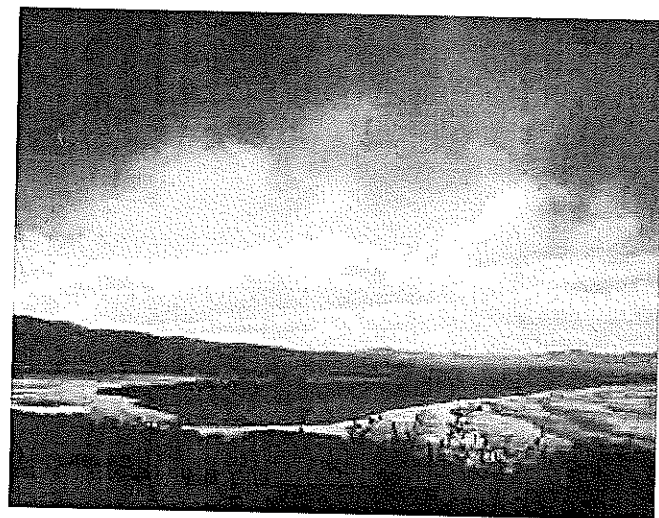
Our hearts go out to those individuals and families who have

lost out in this way, and we all must be prepared to support them if we can, as has already happened.

Congratulations to our Firey's, SES, Forestry, Parks and Wildlife, Aurora, Police, Telstra, Ambulance, Health Care workers, Salvation Army, St John Ambulance, media outlets and Council personnel, who, with the aid of many earthmoving contractors and so on who have, and continue to work around the clock to protect persons and property as best they can. Also a special mention to ABC radio who kept us informed at those crucial times. All these people deserve our consideration, support and thanks, for what is a tough uncompromising battle, that could go on for some days and weeks yet.

The Tas Fire Service both full time and at the local brigade level have shown just how important their work is, and the mind boggles as to how many other properties and, dare I say, lives would have been lost if they weren't as good as they are. All emergency services are exactly the same.

What really makes me proud though, is everyone almost without exception in this community who have done their bit to help, something acknowledged by the career fire officers on a number of occasions. Others have volunteered their time to help out in other ways. As old Mr Grace would say, "You've all done very well."



Smoke pall hovers over Falmouth

No doubt in the coming weeks and months, some of the happenings and close calls by fire crews and locals alike, will come out, proving what the human spirit is capable of, and with the ferocity of these unique fires it's a truly genuine relief that only one person to date has been seriously injured.

Another benefit is the technology that enables fires such as these to be fought and monitored.

The helicopters with water bombing capabilities work in unison with fire-spotting and GPS equipment, which in turn helps limit damage as best is possible.

Meteorological information is also a tool to allow the crews to be in the most dangerous places. It sort of restores your faith in the weather predictions, doesn't it?

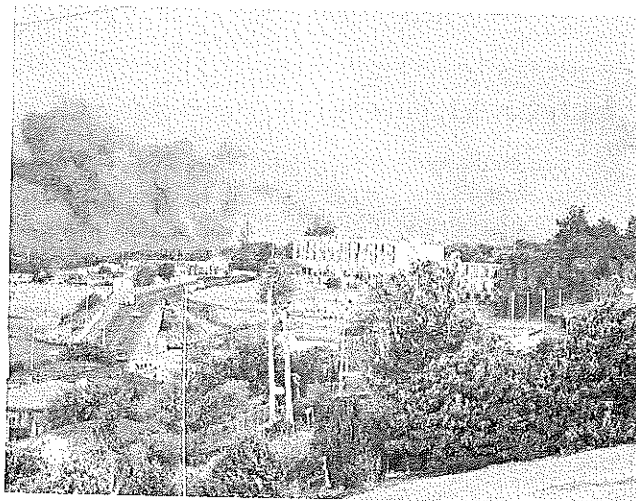
The next few days leading up to Christmas will probably determine what happens with this fire, but let's hope that by then many of the crews can at least enjoy a few hours respite with their families, as they take part in the holiday period.

No one knows for sure how long some roads, most notably the St Marys Pass will be out of action, but just remember this; these road crews will be doing their utmost to get traffic flowing again, but only in a safe and hazard free situation. As much as we are irked by delays and detours, just remember the displaced families either burnt out or partially burnt out, and thank your lucky stars that your only problem is delays. If that is all there is to worry about then you are indeed lucky.

As this is the last Valley Voice for 2006 may I, Cagerattler, thank you all for your ideas for some of the topics, and to the Valley Voice which allows the column. It's genuinely appreciated.

Have a very safe and happy holiday and we will pick up the pen again in 2007.

What do you think?



Fire at Scamander last Monday

**The Lions Club of St Marys
wishes to apologise to
St Marys residents.**

Lions Club of
ST. MARYS



We usually have decorations and Christmas trees up in the town the week before the Christmas Carols, but due to raging fires in the area last week, this has not been possible.

Aurora have been working frantically, replacing power poles and restoring power to Scamander – Four Mile Creek and surrounding areas, which are more important than the decorations!

As for Christmas trees on streets, it is not a good idea as pine trees tend to burst into flames very easily, and anyway, where would these be available – the bush is burnt.

As of yesterday, Aurora, feeling it was important for the Christmas spirit, have made the time available to place the streamers in the street.

Our Children's Party, Street Parade etc. will still go ahead Xmas Eve, fire permitting.

Our congratulations go out to all those volunteers who have worked day and night, helping to save our houses and keep our town safe.

THANK YOU

We sincerely thank our family, friends and those amazingly brave firefighters, who worked tirelessly protecting our homes and property.

What would we do without you?

We cannot thank you enough for all you have done.

It makes us proud of our small community and its wonderful caring people.

We may not be there in person, but our thoughts are always there!

Bruce & Julie Cornelius and family.



ST MARYS HOTEL
Ph. 6372 2181



**A big thank you to all involved
in fighting the fires.
Keep up the great work.
From the staff at
ST.MARYS HOTEL**

SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

I am tired, but I still have a bed to sleep on.
I have been worried, but I haven't been terrified.
We've had no power for 3 days, but we have a generator to share with a neighbour.
The kettle takes ages to boil on the gas stove, but I still have a stove to cook on.
Food in the freezer is thawing, but I still have a freezer and some food.
I can't do any washing, but I still have a washing machine, and the clothes to put in it.
My house is dirty and disorganised, but I still have a house to clean up later on.
I have been anxiously waiting and watching, but I haven't been out there for days, fighting the enemy first hand.
I am still safe for now, but there are many who are lost and bewildered.
I have so much to be thankful for, especially Tasfire and their incredible battles, for Aurora and their efforts to restore power, and the Police for advice and supervision.
I will look back on this time and remember, just as I did after Ash Wednesday 1983, but there will be many who would prefer to forget.

Written mid-day, Saturday, 16th December, 2006

(Name and Address supplied)

THANK YOU

I would sincerely like to express my thanks to all those people who helped save my house at Greenbank Drive, Four Mile Creek.

A special thank you to my son Roger, daughter-in-law Nola, Shane Gavaghan and the fire brigades, son-in-law Chris and granddaughter Louise.

If it wasn't for these people I wouldn't have a house still standing.

Thank you all for your help once again.

Bettie Sumner and family.

A true Christmas story. by Beverley Rubenach

Christmas Eve 2005, and the beautiful, tranquil "Christmassy" feeling I had cherished all my life surrounded me. Pausing to reflect and appreciate the beauty, I felt content. I had helped create this wonderful atmosphere – this well-being feeling.

Rising at 4 o'clock for weeks prior to Christmas, I had washed ceilings and walls, scrubbed carpet, arranged and re-arranged furniture to make everything look just right. All this arranging and re-arranging was a necessity, for like my childhood home at Lower Germantown, our home at Gray had many "flaws" - water stained walls from unfinished building projects, scruffy carpets from 30 years of wear and tear of our own family plus from the multitude of visitors and friends that have been such a part of our life.

However, with a creative touch, enough paintings, flowers and decorations, these "flaws" did not show. Most rooms were filled with the soft glow of Christmas lights and candle light that evening, to create a feeling of peace, for we were celebrating the birth of Jesus – the Prince of Peace.

Tomorrow's Christmas dinner preparations were well organised, beautiful Christmas carols were playing softly on the CD player, to remind us that this was the season of forgiveness, unity and love. All the family were home; all was perfect.

Currently, each family member was off doing something special each wanted to do for Christmas – wrapping presents most likely. I was alone, letting my heart be filled with that Christmas spirit, as I gazed on the dimly lit nativity scene, and prayed that I would be like Jesus to my family and those around me – one who brought love, peace and unity.

The thunderstorm and heavy rain that had occurred during the St Marys Christmas Parade had passed, and was replaced by a gentle rain. How appropriate to have a gentle rain refreshing everything. It reminded me of God's love refreshing the world. I went outside to feel the outdoor beauty and peace that matched the indoor feeling.

I came back inside to my beautiful peaceful haven, and horror of horrors! There was freshly washed work clothes hanging all over the dining room chairs!.

So Andrew hadn't been upstairs wrapping Christmas presents. He had been washing his clothes ready for his return to work on Boxing Day.

I was furious – didn't he know the work I had put into making everything perfect for this most special night of the year? He was nowhere to be seen. I was in top gear with my indignation and anger. How dare he do this! I marched to the foot of the stairs. A "voice" in my spirit said, "Stop! Don't you dare!"

I stopped. I knew God was speaking. I protested within myself. "I have every right to be upset." I justified myself. The "voice" continued, "Think of all the families who would give everything they owned, to have their son's clothes hanging in their home this night!"

Visions of grieving families filled my mind, touched my heart. I thought of those I knew personally, who had lost sons or daughters through accidents or sickness. I prayed for these grieving families, and I thanked God for the completeness of our family.

But God had not finished teaching me.



"Families are not only grieving and separated tonight because of death. Other things divide and destroy," God's "voice" told me.

I had visions of families separated because of misunderstandings, anger, pride, rejection, unforgiveness. The list went on and on. Again I personally knew families who were not together because of any one of these things. I prayed for them. "You realise that you could have caused your family to be one of those split apart, hurting families," God's voice gently challenged me.

Yes, I knew. Andrew loves his family, and would have forgiven my outburst of anger and indignation. But where would the true love, joy and peace of Christmas be? Where would my prayer to be like Jesus be? What was the use of 'perfection' of our surroundings if our hearts were in turmoil?

Everything I treasured and worked so hard to create was worthless if relationships were not right. After all, that is the Christmas message – God the Father sent his beloved son Jesus, to restore relationships. I quietly retreated to the dining room and the wet clothes hanging on the chairs. Oh I didn't like the décor any better, but I thanked God for it.

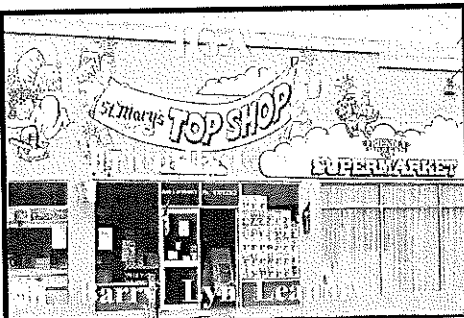
Epilogue

On Christmas morning I got up early and folded the dry clothes and put them at the foot of the stairs. I didn't tell Andrew about the 'incident' until months later, when he was home and the family was enjoying a game of cards.

In typical Andrew 'lay back' style, he just smiled and put a trump card on my card shoring up the game for himself and my opponents.

That's life, that's family, that's love.





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Come and see us for...



Great specials and friendly faces
8am – 6pm Mon to Fri
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Spend \$10.00 or more on groceries, and go in the draw for a \$25.00 grocery voucher, to be drawn on the first of each month.

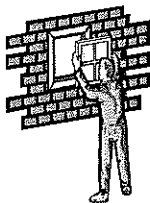
10% off frozen meat packs, from \$25.
Hardware, gardening needs & paint.
EFTPOS
and phone recharge available.
FREE TOWN DELIVERY
Phone: 6372 2242

Wishing all our customers
a Merry Xmas
and a safe and
Happy New Year.
From everyone at the
Top Shop.

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- ☐ Glass repairs
- ☐ Shower screens
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- ☐ Aluminium windows
- ☐ Security doors



Locally owned and servicing
the East Coast

Call David and Anne Cannon
for prompt and reliable service.

The Councillors and staff of Break O'Day Council
would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents
and visitors



A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy and Healthy New Year.

The Council offices will be closed from
12 noon Friday, 22 December 2006
and re-opening Tuesday, 2 January 2007.

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Sewerage and Water: St Helens area: 0419 554 538
Scamander, St Marys & Fingal area: 0409 858 604

"Face Painting" & other arts.

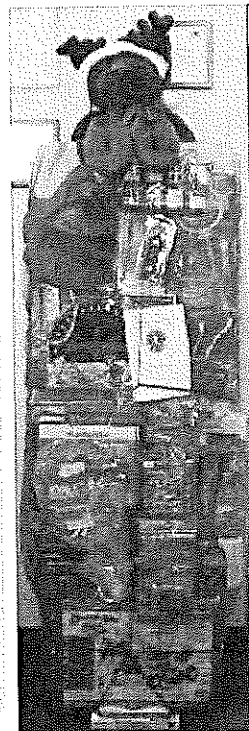
by Gypsy Pengar

A THOUSAND SMILES
SAYS IT ALL

Phone Penny:
03 6372 5763

Bookings:

Parties, Groups,
Events and
Commercial
Functions.



THE LIONS
CLUB
CHRISTMAS
STOCKING
IS
DISPLAYED
AT THE
POST OFFICE,
AND TICKETS
ARE AVAILABLE
FROM ANY
LIONS MEMBER
AS WELL AS
BUSINESSES
AROUND THE
TOWN.

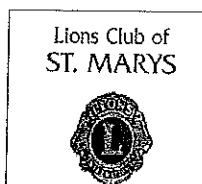
St Marys Hospital Auxiliary

wish to thank you the public for your wonderful
support thru 2006 and look forward to
it's continuation in 2007.

We extend to you all a Happy and Joyous Xmas
and may all your expectations for the New year
be fulfilled.

No meeting in January. Next meeting:
5th Feb 2007

Kevin,
Sec.



Lions Club of St Marys - 201 T1
PO Box 101, St Marys Tasmania 7215

**ST MARYS LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY AND PARADE WILL BE
HELD THIS YEAR ON CHRISTMAS EVE.**

3.00 PM — Children's Party begins with free tickets in draws of gifts for school age students, as well as free tickets for adult gift.



3.00 PM — Large jumping castle, free to children. (until 6.45pm)

3.30 PM — Santa arrives with sweets and balloons for children.

Treasure hunt during the afternoon — Games — Icy poles — Drinks — Chips — Balloon Sculptures —
Children's tent — duck pat lotto.



5.00 PM — **CHRISTMAS PARADE** starts in Newman Street, decorated bikes will join and **FOLLOW** the parade from the Library to the Post Office. Parade will continue around the square and disperse at Hotel corner.



5.30 PM — Music on Faulkner's Green — BBQ and refreshments on sale. Dance prizes during the evening.



6.30 PM — Lions Christmas Stocking drawn — Float prize winners and House lights winners announced.



8.00 PM — **GYPSY ROSE** in St Marys Hotel- (no cover charge)



**Great 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for house lights.
Also 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for Christmas parade floats.**

**REGISTER AT THE ST MARYS POST OFFICE
FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE LIGHTS COMPETITION.**

**HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS EVE IN ST MARYS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER —
GET YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOGETHER AND MAKE A FLOAT
FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE.**



JOIN IN AND HAVE FUN.

SEE YOU THERE.



DINGO MINI DIGGER!



PLUS

1.6 tonne excavator and tipper.

IDEAL FOR THESE JOBS!

Post holes— 200, 300, 450 mm

Levelling Trenching

Under house excavations

House and shed piers

Irrigation Water lines

Electrical and phone cables

Landscaping Footings

Tree planting

Clearing rubbish

Sewerage and drainage

Phone Chris

0417 344 209

or

A.H: 6372 2258

RATHAB'ZAR

40 Main Street St Marys Ph: 6372 2487

Cathy, Kelly, Robyn, Vicki and Dawn

would like to thank all of our customers for their patronage during the year.

If it wasn't for our great locals, we wouldn't exist.

We'd like to wish everybody a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

We will be open all weekend.

Saturday from 10 am – 1 pm

Sunday from 11 am – 5 pm.

There will be wine and cheese
in the shop Xmas Eve,
so come & celebrate with us.

We have lots of last minute Xmas gifts.

New Ajoy clothing has just arrived
so get in early.



Merry Christmas to all



HARRIS FUNERALS

Lindsay & Diane

(D. Bailey & son) A.F.D.A

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Mob: 0418 133 420

Office & Residence:

114 Cecilia St

St Helens

Chapel:

46 Tully Street

St Helens

We are here

when you need us

to arrange

Burial or Cremation.

Pre-paid and pre-arranged
funeral plans are available.



As part of the upcoming Sesquintenary celebrations we are looking for the oldest vehicle in St Marys and the oldest vehicle that is still registered.

Please contact
Ian Summers,
Grant Faulkner,
Bill Targett or
Reon Johns.

K. & A. FLETCHER

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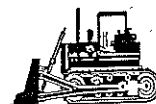
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- * ROTARY HOEING FOR HOUSEHOLD VEGETABLE GARDENS
- * TREE TRIMMING & GARDEN CLEAN UPS

- ◇ TRENCHES BACK FILLED
- ◇ RUBBISH REMOVAL
- ◇ SHED SITES CUT
- ◇ LANDSCAPING



A LITTLE BIT OF HERITAGE: From Jim Haas

In generations to come when people look back on our heritage, December 2006 will surely feature as one of the most significant months in the history of the St. Patricks Head District.

From a quiet Sunday afternoon we were thrown into a drama that, although many have worried about, nobody expected it to happen with such velocity and create the devastation it did at German town, Scamander and Four Mile Creek and continue to be threatening some ten days later.

Last Thursday at Cornwall, I fought the fire as it came towards my house, with two Forestry workers who travelled all the way from Smithton to lend a hand. All around the town Forestry and Tas Fire units from Hobart, Launceston, St. Patricks River, Legana and Mathinna stood alongside Cornwall residents and together a town was saved.

But this is only one little story in the week that will be compared with the Hobart fires of 1967. A week where we received the most press coverage ever for all the wrong reasons. It will be a week where, some time soon, we can all sit down over a beer or a fine red and tell our stories, pat ourselves on the back for the effort shown by the community and wonder at the courage shown by all who stood and fought.

Whilst at the time of writing, the fires are still a threat as they work their way though the hills around us, we must pay tribute to Forestry, Parks and Wildlife, bulldozer drivers and the helicopter pilots all of whom played a major role in the fight to save our lives and our possessions.

Special thanks, however, must go to Tas Fire Service and their wonderful bunch of volunteers. They came to our humble town from all over the state, to stand alongside our local boys and work on the fire ground for up to twelve hours a day to protect properties, back burn, put in containment lines and supervise an operation that has been, to say the least, a mammoth task.

Last but certainly not least, another special mention must go to the property owners who showed tremendous courage and commitment to stay with their homes when, at times, the fire came at them like a roaring freight train.

Possessions have been lost this week, some irreplaceable, but we are all still here and because of this we will recover. The community spirit of the Break O' Day Plains, which has taken on many a fight in the past, will grow stronger from the experience of the last ten days and prepare us all for the next challenge.

Northeast Wildlife Carers

Northeast Wildlife Carers: are a local group of volunteer wildlife carers based in the Break O Day municipality.

If anyone finds an animal or bird which is either injured or orphaned, please contact us on 0417 017 105 or 6372 2973 or take any injured animal directly to the local vet, who does not charge for this service if the animal has been taken for an examination first.

It is advisable to phone the vet first on 6376 1577 to seek the appropriate advice.

Any donations of old children's playpens, or old beanies, which are used as pouches, would be much appreciated.



Classifieds in the Valley Voice are free of charge. If your articles are not sold after the first entry, we will repeat the ad in the next issue. Please inform us if your items are sold.

Please note: Letters to be published in the Valley Voice must be signed. Your name need not be published, but we must have a signature. Articles and letters published in the Valley Voice are not necessarily the opinion of the staff and volunteers of this community paper. Ed.

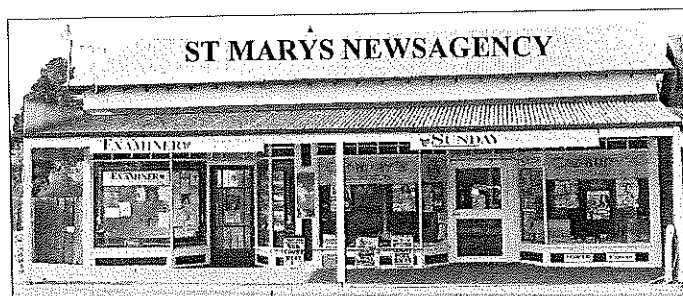
KEVIN LOVE WELDING

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**Steel supplies
All types of fabrications**

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Calows
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Phone: 6372 2143
Open 7 days a week for your convenience
6am – 7pm Monday to Friday
7am – 6pm Saturday & Sunday

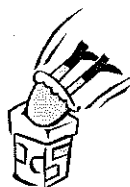
Aurora
PAYG



The St Marys Newsagency is now a
BILL EXPRESS agent.

For more details: Call in and see Deidre or Rick.

St Marys Newsagency would like to
wish all their customers a
Happy Christmas and a
safe New Year



THANKS, FIREYS



NORTH EAST COMPUTERS Pty Ltd
Established 1995 ABN 44 074 123 425
3/34 Quail St Ph: 6376 2445
St Helens Fax: 6376 2447
Email: sales@necomputers.com.au
www.necomputers.com.au



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Come and see our extensive range of
computers, printers, scanners
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Bus. Hrs:

Mon, Tue & Fri 9am to 5pm (2 Techs available)
Wed & Thurs 9am to 3pm Sat 9am to 12pm



MON-FRI: KELLIE — WED-THU-FRI: EMMA

Opening hours: MON - WED - FRI 9 – 5 PM
TUES - THUR 9 – LATE. BY APPOINTMENT
Great for Xmas presents.



Just arrived! PPS Hot Styling Kits.

Includes:

- 1 x PPS Black Titanium Flat Iron
- 1 x PPS Flat Iron Bag
- 1 x PPS Hot Iron Protector Spray 250ml
- 1 x PPS Spray Straight 250ml
- 1 x PPS Shine it Drops 100ml



All these products for \$119.95. Normal Price \$205.75.



Do you like that Beach hair look?

Sea Salt Beach Packs contains:

- 1 Sea Salt Mist 250ml
 - 1 Beach Styler 100ml
 - 1 Life Jacket U.V. protector 100ml
 - 1 Lip Balm
- \$29.95**



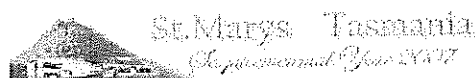
Kerasilk packs

- 1 x Shampoo
 - 2 x conditioning treatments
- \$36.95 Normally \$56.85**



PHONE: 6372 2108

We will be closed from Dec 23, reopening Jan 3, 2007
A very Merry Christmas to all our customers



OPEN LETTER TO ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

As you would be well aware St Marys will be celebrating its sesquicentennial (150 yrs) in 2007.

Plans are well underway for a community celebration beginning St Patrick's Day weekend (16-17-18 March 07).

We would like to have a calendar of events for the entire year. We have already negotiated with several Clubs to hold a special event.

We would like any club or organisation to consider holding an event or re-title a current activity with the word "sesquicentennial" in mind.

E.G: Sesquicentennial car show.

SMACD would appreciate meeting with you or your organisation to discuss this further at your earliest convenience. We also plan to have a lunch on a Sunday in the not too distant future to inform you further of our plans for the sesquicentennial.

Reon (03 6372 2094)

e.ScApe

Tasmanian Wilderness Cafe Gallery

now showing in the gallery:

From Our Landscape

An exhibition of work from - Judith Rose Thomas
Dyan Summers, Ronnie Summers

A recreation of Tasmanian Aboriginal ancestral knowledge and technology utilizing the natural resources from our coastal regions.

in the fully licensed café:

Breakfast, lunch, snacks. Parties and functions catered.
Homemade soup, biscuits and slices!!

REAL coffee, milkshakes, smoothies, spiders.

A selection of Tasmania's best beer and wine!!

Opening Hours:

9 – 3pm Sunday (& Public Holidays)

9 – 5pm Monday – Tuesday

9 – 8pm Wednesday – Saturday

Closed December 27th 2006 – January 2nd 2007

Merry Christmas and have a great New Year!!

21 Main St., St. Marys Tasmania 6372 2444

C & D EXCAVATIONS



LOCAL OWNER - OPERATOR

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Ph : Dana or Craig 6372 2033 /0439 722 032

If the earth doesn't move for you, let us help !

- ◆ 2 x 20 TONNE EXCAVATORS WITH TILT BUCKET & RIPPER, ROCK & LOG GRAB & QUICK HITCH
- ◆ D 65 KOMATSU DOZER, RIPPER & TILT BLADE
- ◆ 10 YARD TIPPER
- ◆ COMPACTION ROLLER
- ◆ 4 WHEEL DRIVE TRACTOR & SLASHER
- ◆ DAMS
- ◆ ROADING
- ◆ SLASHING
- ◆ FIRE BREAKS
- ◆ LAND CLEARING
- ◆ HOUSE SITES
- ◆ BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION
- ◆ ROAD GRAVELS AVAILABLE
- ◆ AND MUCH MORE



Craig, Dana and staff would like to thank all those who offered help this week during the fires.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and much better times in the New Year.

East Coast Phone & Communications

- * Telephone & Data cabling
- * Commander Systems
- * Sound System cabling
- * TV Antenna & Tuning
- * Digital Set Top Boxes, supplied & installed where reception available



PO Box 29,

St Marys 7215

Ph: 6372 2402

Mob: 0409 959 121

John Heron

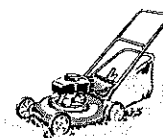
30 years

experience

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T. F. MOWING

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Peter Dane Gardening

St Marys

Qualified Horticulturist

Over 25 years experience in all aspects of garden maintenance, restoration and organic vegetable growing, specialising in pruning.



Call 6372 2686

or 0408 208 658

Contacts for Valley Voice.

Fax: 6372 2172

PH: Judy: 6372 2155

Email: j.spilsbury@tassie.net.au

Accounts: Mary: 6372 2328

Please leave written material at the St Marys Health & Beauty Centre, Main St, St Marys, or post: C/- Post Office, St Marys Tas 7215

Advertising:

Classifieds: 25 words or less: free

Community notices : free.

Small ads. Garage sales Greetings, Thanks etc. \$8.

¼ page \$15. ½ page \$25. Full page \$40.

1 year posted subscription \$25.

MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER

Dec/Jan	St Marys	Fingal
Mon 25th	Christmas Day	Christmas Day
Tues 26th	D & K Floyed	Tom Brady
Wed 27th	D & V Rice	Christine Woods (P)
Thurs 28th	Yvonne Salter	Prev Mills
Fri 29th	Jeff Herrmann	Christine Woods (S)
Mon Jan 1st	Tina Floyed	Carole Woods
Tues 2nd	Pam Lynch	June Hall
Wed 3rd	B & B McAllister	Susan Woods
Thurs 4th	Gail Gamble	Lynda Bean
Fri 5th	G & M Derbyshire	Robyn Miller

Church Services

Catholic Parish of St Marys

Sr. Helen Hickey,

Parish House. Ph: 6372 2252
Mob: 0427 055 963

1st Week: MASS

St Helens Vigil 6.00pm
Bicheno 9.00am
Fingal 11.30am
Campbell Town 5.00pm

2nd Week LITURGY

St Helens Vigil 6.00pm
St Marys 9.00am
Bicheno 9.00am
Fingal 9.30am

3rd Week: MASS

St Helens Vigil 6.00pm
St Marys 9.00am
Swansea 11.30am
Campbell Town 5.00pm
Bicheno LITURGY 9.00am

4th Week: LITURGY

St Helens Vigil 6.00pm
St Marys 9.00am
Bicheno 9.00am
Fingal 9.30am

5th Week: MASS

St Helens Vigil 6.00pm
Bicheno 9.00am
St Marys 11.00am
Ross 5.00pm

Anglican Parish of the Northern Midlands

Services each Sunday

Avoca 8 am
Fingal 10 am
Mathinna 2nd & 4th
Sunday monthly at 11.30am

Daily Office Reading

Avoca Tuesdays 10 am
Fingal Tuesdays 12 noon
Ross Wednesdays 10 am

Anglican Parish – St Helens Ph: 6376 1144

St Helens Every Sunday
8 am and 10.30 am

Kanga Sunday School

10.30 am – 12 noon every
Sunday for children 5–12 yrs
St Marys 10 am

Christmas Day: Holy Trinity, 9am

(No service 5th Sunday)

Pyengana 7.30 pm

5th Sunday months only

Break O'Day Uniting Church

The Manse St Helens
Ph: 6376 2405

St Helens 9.00 am
Fingal 11.15 am

Seventh Day Adventist

Hodgeman Street Scamander
Sabbath School 10 am
Divine Service 11 am

Tim Morris MHA Member for Lyons



CONTACT:

33 Burnett St, New Norfolk 7140

Phone: (03) 6261 8048

Fax: (03) 6261 8047

E-mail:

greens@parliament.tas.gov.au

www.tas.greens.org.au

Authorised by Tim Morris MHA,
Parliament House, Hobart 7000.

DICK ADAMS MP

Federal Member for Lyons

Web Page. [Http://dickadams.id.au](http://dickadams.id.au)

Email: D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

PH. (03) 6398 1115

Fax. (03) 6398 1120

Local Call Cost 1300 132 689

Authorised by: P. Kearney
21 Killara Ave, Lanena



Advertisement

Rae & Partners

Lawyers Barristers & Solicitors

93 York St Launceston

Ph: 6337 5555

Visiting :

St Marys Community
Health Centre

Alternate Tuesdays :

9 am – 10 am
Appmts: 6372 2172

Catholic Parishes of St Mary's & Campbell Town



ST MARYS CATHOLIC PARISH

SUMMER MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve:

Campbell Town 6.00pm, St Marys 9.00pm,
St Helens Midnight.

Christmas Day

Bicheno 8.00am, Swansea 9.30am.

December 30/31:

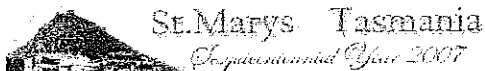
St Helens 7.00pm,
Bicheno 8.00am. Swansea 9.30am
Liturgy St Marys 9.00am and Fingal 9.30am

January/February:

Saturday Vigil St Helens 7.00pm,
Sunday Bicheno 8.00am, Swansea 9.30am.
Fingal 7.00pm **1st Sunday:**
St Marys 7.00pm **3rd Sunday.**

2nd/4th Sundays Liturgy of the Word with
Communion:
St Marys 9.00am and Fingal 9.30am.





As part of SMACD St Patrick's Day 2007 theme Back to St Mary's celebrations, we would like to honour all the residents of the

St Marys area who were born or have continuously lived in the area before 17 March 1947.

Those who qualify will receive a special certificate at the afternoon tea on 18 March 2007 at the St Marys Hall.

We are also searching for the oldest living resident in the St Marys area.

Please feel free to nominate anyone you consider fits the requirements or you can nominate yourself, and if you need more information contact Reon on 6372 2094.

Its easy, just fill in the form and leave it at the Caltex Garage.

Nomination Form

Name.....
Date moved to St Marys or Year of birth.....
Contact details (phone or postal address)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Ransley's Appliance Service

P O BOX 136

SCAMANDER TAS 7215

- WASHING MACHINE NOISY?
- REFRIGERATOR RUNS TOO LONG?
- CLOTHES DRYER BLOWS COLD AIR?

THEN YOU NEED THE SERVICES
OF OUR TECHNICIANS

RING US ON:

SCAMANDER 6372 5307

MOBILE: 0428 761 811



Important Notice

Northeast Wildlife Carers would like to bring to the communities' attention the devastating effect and situation of domestic dog attacks on the local wildlife.

Over the last few weeks local carers have been given injured and orphaned wildlife that have been attacked by dogs in people's yards.

We would like to advise people who bring these poor creatures for rehabilitation to the carers, that as the animal has been affected on their property it is their responsibility, and it would be appreciated if they could donate some money to the carers that they are handing the animal to for rehabilitation.

The cost per animal rehabilitated is approximately \$400 a year, and is paid by the carer from their own pockets; we do not receive any form of funding to help with the cost of raising these animals.

As we are suffering a major drought, the wildlife are coming out of the bush and into the suburban areas for food and water, so please be aware of the wildlife that may be entering your property and please check before letting your dog out as they cause irreparable damage and cause a lot of grief for all who are involved.

We have had instances of dogs entering people's properties and attacking wildlife. When we care for these animals after an attack we cannot be sure the orphan will survive, as they suffer post traumatic shock and die after a few days.

Please feel free to check out our new website at www.wildlifetasmania.com where you are able to make an online donation and learn about the status of Tasmania's unique wildlife.

Peter Power, North East Wildlife Carers

EAST COAST SURVEYING

Consulting surveyors and land planners.

Mark Anderson 6376 1972

We can help you.

- ☐ Buying a property?
- ☐ Planning a development?
- ☐ Unsure of your property potential?
- ☐ In dispute with an adjoining owner?



Scamander Beach Surf Shop

6 Lagoon Esplanade
Scamander

Ph: 6372 5529

Scamandersurf.com

Bathers Wetsuits
Clothing Footwear
Bodyboards
Watches Jewellery DVD's

Surfboards:

Milch McTavish
Surftech G Boards Bic



Bay Surf Shop

2 Pendrigh Place
St Helens

Ph: 6376 1755

The Carpet Walk
25 Quail Street
St Helens
6376 2555

Garry Walker 0417 331 536

Visit our Showroom for:

Domestic Carpet	Vinyl
Outdoor & Marine	Carpet Cork Tiles
Timber & Laminate	Floors Mats
All Cleaning Products	Vinyl tiles
Bathroom Accessories	Rugs
Tiling Accessories	Tiles
Outdoor Runners	Knee Pads
Outdoor Mats	Adhesives
Mosaic Tool Kits	Grout
Anti Slip Mats	Sealer
Commercial Carpet	Trowels
Commercial Vinyl	Door Mats
Tile Cutter Machines	Carpet Tiles

*We look forward to our new Showroom opening late
March 2007 which will include Furniture, Bedding,
Manchester and Electrical.*

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

St. Helens Dental Service will be closed from Thursday 21st December and re-opening Monday 8th January, 2007.

St Marys Dental Service will be closed from Thursday 14th December - re-open date to be announced.

Dates of Service at ST HELENS ONLY!!

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ☺ Monday 8th January | ☺ Thursday 18th January |
| ☺ Tuesday 9th January | ☺ Friday 19th January |
| ☺ Wednesday 10th January | ☺ Wednesday 24th January |
| ☺ Thursday 11th January | ☺ Thursday 25th January |
| ☺ Friday 12th January | ☺ Monday 29th January |
| ☺ Monday 15th January | ☺ Tuesday 30th January |
| ☺ Tuesday 16th January | ☺ Wednesday 31st January |
| ☺ Wednesday 17th January | |

Please feel free to contact them regarding your child's dental health on the numbers below:

St Helens Dental Unit 6376 1713
Kelham Street Dental Unit 6336 4100

During the school holidays, should you require the Dental Service please contact the Northern Dental Unit on the number above, or your local GP.

Book Sales

Booklists were due in to the Office before the end of the school year - late return of forms will result in a delay at book sales while your order is made up.

Surnames A-K	Tuesday 6 February 9.30 am to 2.30 pm
Surnames L-Z	Wednesday 7 February 9.30 am to 2.30 pm
Any that cannot attend on Feb 6 or 7	Thursday 8 February 9.30 am to 2.30 pm

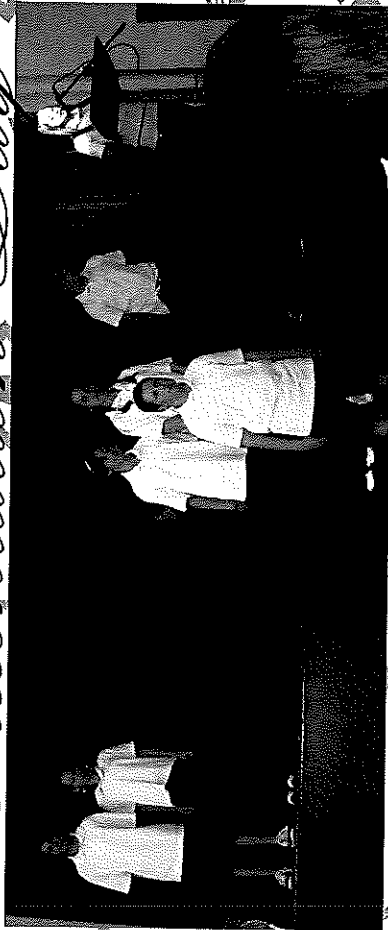
*** Uniforms ordered in October of last year should be available for payment and collection at book sales. Limited items are available to purchase on the day***

School Commences

Thursday 15th

February, 2007

Presentation Day



MGE - Christin Heron, Carly Graham, Kiani Carson, Elizabeth Jones, Jordan Kholia, Logan Rice, Christa McCall



'Greek theatre' performance

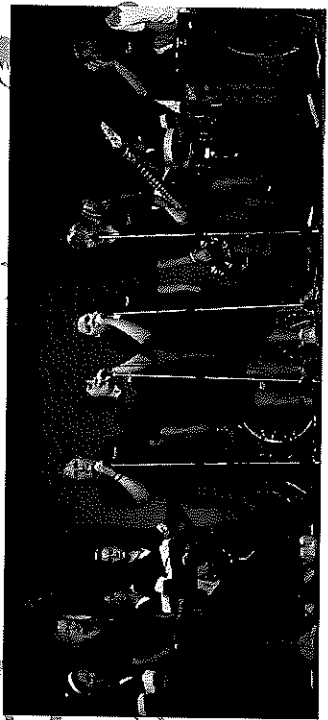
Performed by: Ruby Wallace,
Melissa McGarity, Tegan Speers,
Sam Pantou, Lana Stephens,
Ella Cook



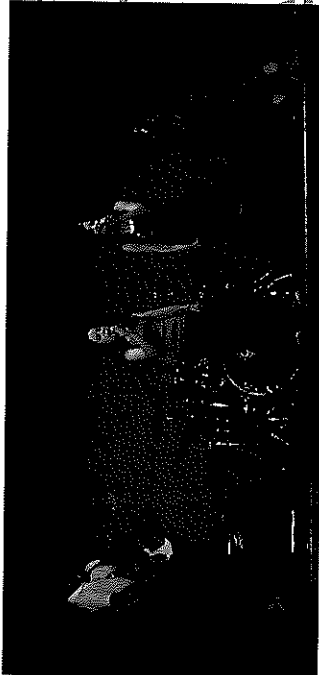
Grade 1/2Boon performing
"The Tooth, the Whole Tooth and Nothing but the Tooth"



7/8 School Band Performance



Acoustic Performance



9/10 Medley Performance



Dance, Art, Music Performance - "Heartbeats Rhythm"



ST MARYS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

PLEASE BE PATIENT

Current demand on our doctor is at an all time high. Please be aware that **waiting periods do apply**. **Phoning in advance may save you a wait. Please be patient**, we are doing our very best and your cooperation is appreciated. Everyone's health is important to us. — Manager CHC

DOCTORS ROSTER

December 2006— January 2007

Except for the Public Holidays, doctors will be rostered on as normal during the December and January period.

PLEASE PHONE THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE ON 6372 2111 FOR APPOINTMENTS OR **BEFORE PRESENTING AFTER HOURS**.

CURRENT WAITING PERIOD IS APPROX 2 WEEKS FOR DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS.

- At the time of print, subject to change depending on demand.

SCRIPTS AND DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS

PLEASE ENSURE DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS ARE BOOKED **PRIOR** TO YOUR MEDICATION/S RUNNING OUT OR **IN ADVANCE** IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THIS PRACTISE REGULARLY. SCRIPTS **WILL NOT** BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE AND **WILL NOT BE FAXED** BY THE CENTRE. PLEASE USE HEALTH AND BEAUTY OR POST OFFICE.

St Marys Community Health Centre

GP Surgery Hours:

8:50am-12:30pm

12:30pm-1:30pm LUNCH

(Please do not phone during lunchtime as appointments can not be taken)

1:30pm-5:00pm

PLEASE PHONE GP ASSIST ON 1300 780 011 AFTER HOURS SERVICE.

AMBULANCE 1800 008 008

EMERGENCY 000

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT BOOKINGS

ALL BOOKINGS for the Community Bus must be made on the following phone numbers:

6372 2773 or 0409 802 536

David Mallett Coordinator

DAY CENTRE Xmas Closure

The Day Centre will be closed Wednesday 27 December and will resume again on Wednesday 3rd January 2007.

'WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE'

19 Dec Bill Bragg 10.00am-1.00pm
Phone 6336 2185

22 Dec Relationships Australia
10:00-4:00pm Phone 1300 364 277 for appointments

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Social Work availability over the December/January and period is as follows:

December 2006

St. Marys: Helen Jennings will be available each Monday & Tuesday & on Wednesday 6th & 20th December

St.Helens: Shan Williams will be available Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until the Xmas break.

January 2007

Helen Jennings will cover both sites:

St.Marys each Monday & Tuesday and Wednesday 3rd, 17th & 31st.

St.Helens each Thursday & Friday and Wednesday 10th & 24th January

Enjoy your holiday break and may 2007 be YOUR year for Happiness and Growth

NEXT PODIATRY VISIT

Please note that Perry Daly's next visit will be Wednesday, 7th February 2007
Phone Lightfoot Podiatry 6331 9568

ST MARYS CHILD HEALTH CENTRE

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
Open Clinic 9.00am—12.00noon
Appointments : 6372 2111
Mobile 0428 136 381

January dates:
Tuesday 9th & Tuesday 23rd

*Wishing you a Happy Xmas and New Year
- Lorraine—*

PUBLIC TRUSTEE VISIT

Jayne McLelland an Advocate from the Public Trustees Office in Launceston will be visiting the Day Centre on Wednesday 7th February 2007. An information session will be held at 11.30am and she will address any questions clients may have.

- All welcome—

ST

MARYS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Congratulations to Hayley and Craig
On the birth of their son
Jimmy Craig 18.12.2006



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Xmas Celebrations at the Day Centre



Handbags - a potential Health risk!

This is of interest!

Have you ever noticed girls who sit their handbags on public toilet floors - then go directly to their dining tables and set it on the table? Happens a lot!

It's not always the 'restaurant food' that causes stomach distress.

Sometimes "what you don't know 'will' hurt you"!

Read on...

Mum got so upset when guests came in the door and plopped their handbags down on the counter where she was cooking or setting up food. She always said that handbags are really dirty, because of where they have been. Smart Mum!!!

It's something just about every woman carries with them. While we may know what's inside our handbags, do you have any idea what's on the outside?

Shauna Lake put handbags to the test - for bacteria - with surprising results. You may think twice about where you put your handbag.

Women carry handbags everywhere; from the office to public toilets. To the floor of the car. Most women won't be caught without their handbags, but did you ever stop to think about where your handbag goes during the day?

"I drive a school bus, so my handbag has been on the floor of the bus a lot," says one woman.

"On the floor of my car, and in toilets."

"I put my handbag in grocery shopping carts, on the floor of the toilet while changing a nappy," says another woman "and of course in my home which should be clean."

We decided to find out if handbags harbour a lot of bacteria. We learned how to test them at Nelson Laboratories in Salt Lake City, and then we set out to test the average woman's handbag.

Most women told us they didn't stop to think about what was on the bottom of their handbag.

Most said at home they usually set their handbags on top of kitchen tables and counters where food is prepared.

Most of the ladies we talked to told us they wouldn't be surprised if their handbags were at least a little bit dirty. It turns out handbags are so surprisingly dirty, even the microbiologist who tested them was shocked.

Microbiologist Amy Karen of Nelson Labs says nearly all of the handbags tested were not only high in bacteria, but high in harmful kinds of bacteria. Pseudomonas can cause eye infections, staphylococcus Aureus can cause serious skin infections, and salmonella and e-coli found on the handbags could make people very sick.

In one sampling, four of five handbags tested positive for salmonella, and that's not the worst of it.

"There is fecal contamination on the handbags," says Amy. Leather or vinyl handbags tended to be cleaner than cloth handbags, and lifestyle seemed to play a role.

People with kids tended to have dirtier handbags than those without. With one exception. The handbag of one single woman who frequented nightclubs had one of the worst contaminations of all.

"Some type of faeces, or possibly vomit" says Amy.

So the moral of this story - your handbag won't kill you, but it does have the potential to make you very sick if you keep it on places where you eat.

Use hooks to hang your handbag at home and in toilets, and don't put it on your desk, a restaurant table, or on your kitchen countertop.

Experts say you should think of your handbag the same way you would a pair of shoes. "If you think about putting a pair of shoes onto your countertops, that's the same thing you're doing when you put your handbag on the countertops" - your handbag has gone where individuals before you have sneezed, coughed, spat, urinated, emptied bowels, etc!

Do you really want to bring that home with you? The microbiologists at Nelson also said cleaning a handbag will help.

Wash cloth handbags and use leather cleaner to clean the bottom of leather handbags.

St Marys Sports Centre news by Kackhander

With all the recent fire concerns, matters at the club have taken a bit of a back seat, but still we need to mention a few things.

Well done to the bowls team against Swansea the week before last, recording a rare win at Swansea. Not only is it a rare win, but also an emphatic one, which has secured the team in the four at the moment. Well done to you all.

Due to the uncertainty of travelling last weekend, our game against St Helens Red, and indeed the whole round was postponed. It's likely to now be rescheduled prior to the finals after the Christmas/New Year break.. As soon as we know we will inform the members.

Thanks so much to all those involved in keeping some greenish tinges in the bowls green and the golf greens. We have been permitted to use minimal water for the short term, until we are fully assessed of our circumstances. As our system is quite efficient, this allows this to occur, but once assessed in the coming weeks we may be further restricted, so please keep that in mind.

A special thank you to all the fellows involved in the fitting of the new sliding door, adjacent to the bowls green. This is a marvellous addition to the clubhouse, and with the proposed new deck a bit later, will add to the building considerably.

Thanks Jack, Damon, Roger, Trev, Jim, Kodie and anyone else I've forgotten. Also thanks to Barry Younghusband for the boards.

Whilst on people we've forgotten, we must not forget to especially thank Noelene and Clinton Mitchell for their major part in the construction of the new seat on the 9th/18th teebed. This was because of me not realising their direct contribution, and with recent other matters clouding the fact.

We hope to officially recognise their contribution very soon, along with Rita, Shan and Charmaine. Sorry about that.

The Annual Dinner will now be held in very early January, due to numerous reasons involving the bush fire situation. The club felt strongly, to wait until things had eased so we can ALL enjoy the evening.

Well done to those organising the volunteer night last Saturday. Those who attended enjoyed the drinks and eats in recognition of their contribution to the club.

As this is the last Valley Voice for 2006, we'd like to thank "The Voice" for allowing us this page. It is extremely valuable to pass on news, and we wish our members and the community and our friends at the Voice a safe and Happy Christmas/ New Year period.

Until next time (2007) good hitting and rolling.



**Merry Christmas to all,
and to all a goodnight.**
*From the staff and volunteers of
The Valley and East Coast Voice.*



38 Main Street St Marys
Mark Kate

Phone/Fax 6372 2240

Butcher Ph: 6372 2274

Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm

Sat 8am 12 noon

This week's specials

BOXED CHOCOLATES

Cadbury Roses	250g	\$ 6.99 ea
Cadbury Milk Tray	250g	\$ 7.99 ea
Guylian Seashells	250g	\$10.99 ea
Guylian Twists	200g	\$ 9.99 ea
Ferrero Rocher	200g	\$ 7.99 ea

**Mark, Kate and staff would
like to thank you all for your
support this year. Wishing
you all a Merry Christmas
and a safe and Happy New.**

YEAR

Next week's specials

Spree washing powder	1kg	\$ 1.99
Dishwashing liquid	1lt	\$ 1.99
Arnott's Savoy/Jatz	250g	\$ 1.79 ea
Schweppes/Pepsi soft drinks	2lt	\$ 1.69 ea

This week's meat specials

T bone	\$14.99kg
Mince	\$ 7.99 kg

Next week's meat specials

Porterhouse	\$14.99kg
Legs of lamb	\$ 7.99 kg
Lamb chops	\$ 7.99kg