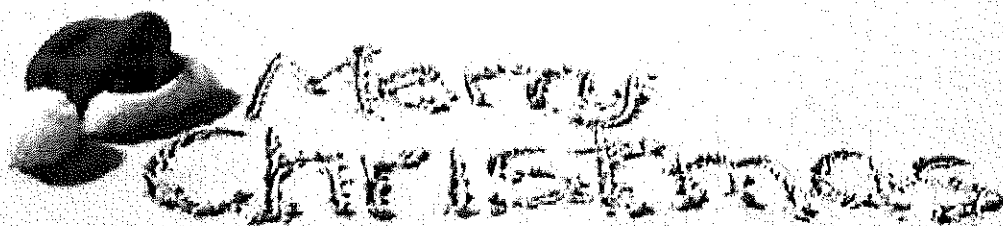


Wendy F

\$1



THE VALLEY AND EAST COAST VOICE INC.

Established 1968

50.17 December 14, 2017

The Rise and Fall of the Valley Voice

The decision by a group of people referenced as "the committee" including Geoff and Betty Dean, Matron Dorothy Simpson, Ada Gerie, Sandra Young and Yvonne Whittaker, was one made after much thought and discussion, and resulted in the printing of the very first edition of the time honoured Valley Voice on 3rd May 1968.

So too, was the decision made by "the committee" including Glyn Johnson, Jill Faulkner, Rod Hunt, Irene Smith, Wendy Fowler, Wendy Dawson and myself, on 6th December 2017, resulting in the printing of the very last edition on 14th December 2017.

I present this as a very brief summary of the recent events bringing to a close the Valley Voice in the format and structure under which it was created and remained during its long, successful and valued reign of nigh on fifty years. Many efforts were made and called for the position of editor since learning of the intention of Wendy Dawson, our valued present position holder, to relinquish the position at the end of this year due to personal reasons. The dedication, time involved and personal restriction increases continuously, hence to perform and undertake the position on a voluntary basis is now virtually no longer possible.

Our great thanks and gratitude is given to our past editors, namely Geoff Dean, the late Ron Sumner, Audrey Wright, Judith Spilsbury and Wendy Dawson. For you the term applies, 'No Editor, No Paper'.

Recent times saw some responses to position advertisements, but ensuing interviews and discussions elicited no positive results. One late response by Gary Barnes representing FVNH did result in positive talks and possibilities of ongoing printing and circulation, but obviously not in the original format or location, hence our decision to completely foreclose the Valley Voice per se, allowing any ongoing revival or circulation to be undertaken with the least restriction or obligatory constraint.

Our talks to date have been fruitful and our hope that some semblance of our past will be carried on into the future; it is to this end we offer our support and assistance in any way required.

To all past volunteers, supporters, contributors and distributors, too many to mention, a huge THANKS for your great efforts afforded the Valley Voice during its long and successful existence.

Find some reward in the fact that:

"There was but many happy readers,
But there was but one Valley Voice."

You were part of that.

Kevin Faulkner, President.

As the existing Valley Voice committee have decided to close down as of this edition, **The Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House**, with the support of **St Marys District School**, are excited to announce that we will be taking over the production to continue the tradition of the Valley Voice.

To achieve this, our current publication - **The Fingal Focus** - will be merged with the Valley Voice to expand the readership and support the Valley Voice. Our plans are to continue the Valley Voice into the future, maintaining existing content and format where we can, inviting existing and new advertisers to be involved. We look forward to working with everyone on this exciting new endeavour, supporting our communities.

Our contact details for the Valley Voice will be valleyvoice@fvnh.org.au or telephone 03 6374 2344.

Gary Barnes, Coordinator, Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House Inc.

St Marys District School is very excited to begin a mentor program with the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House. During this program, students will work collaboratively with mentors from the Neighbourhood house, to write articles in the Valley and East Coast Voice Inc., interviewing locals and reporting on events. This is a wonderful opportunity for both the students and the school to express their views and establish bonds within the community. We cannot wait!

Laura Sliskovic, St Marys



Editor: Wendy Dawson
wdawson@valleyvoice.com.au
0403 430 452
website: valleyvoice.com.au
facebook.com/ValleyEastCoastVoice
POB 230 St Marys Tasmania 7215
For all account queries please contact
rodhunt@netspace.net.au

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Temporary road closure on December 24, 2017

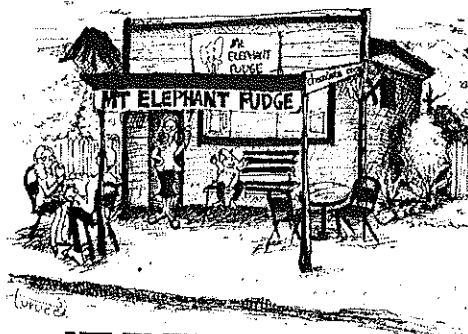
Due to the St Marys Christmas Eve Celebrations, there will be a disruption to traffic during the street parade.

**This will occur from
5pm to 5:20pm.**

The streets affected for the parade route will be Newman Street, Main Road, lower Cameron Street, Groom Street, Story Street and returning along the Main Street to Newman Street.

We apologise for any inconvenience this slight delay may cause.

**Merry Christmas to
Every One**

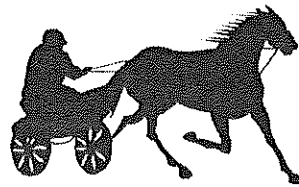


MT ELEPHANT FUDGE

Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 4.30pm

Lizzy, Jack and Hamish would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!!

THANK YOU for your custom during 2017, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2018!



Hello everyone

The St Marys Pacing Club's organization of the annual race meeting on Monday January 1st, 2018 - NEW YEARS

DAY - is progressing

well, with all things in place. The first race starts around 1pm and we can only hope for the good weather as the day grows closer.

We would like to thank all our wonderful, loyal sponsors who are again supporting the Race Day. Without these people and businesses, the day would be very difficult to continue and survive.

Our loyal race sponsors are

Harris Funerals St Helens
Mitre 10 St Helens
Gazzmans, St Helens
Southern Cross Television

6ty Bullock Consulting
Hilly's IGA St Marys and
St Helens
Beachfront Bichenor

A big thank you for your support.

Cense Consulting Group St Helens and St Marys Pharmacy will again be the major sponsors of the Race Lady Fashions, with a \$250 first prize.

A huge thanks to the sponsors who allow us to put on the event.

This year the winning lady, runner up and peoples choice award will have the opportunity to attend the Easter Sunday Race Meeting at Mowbray, with the opportunity of winning a \$6000 travel voucher as part of Tasracing's Fashions on the Field competition; for more information give Craig a call or check out our facebook page.

The peoples' choice will be conducted by a gold coin donation with your choice of your favorite lady's outfit, and the money raised will be donated to a local charity.

The Junior Fashions on the field will be on again for boys and girls of various ages, with something for every participant.

Thanks again to the wonderful sponsors who have donated money towards the junior event, with the surplus allowing us to provide a jumping castle and a free raffle for boys and girls, with great prizes.

There will be a guaranteed seven race card with the first race expected to start around 1pm. The Southern Cross St Marys Pacing Cup will be the major race of the meeting with a \$10,000 first prize.

As usual we ask for any volunteers who would be able to offer half an hour to help out in the kiosk. Our roster would enable personnel to staff the kiosk between races, then continue to enjoy their day. Anyone who would be in a position to help out kindly let one of our committee members know, or contact me on the details below.

Thanks again to all who have indicated their support.

Have a safe Christmas and we look forward to catching up on New Years Day at the races.

Let's bring in the New Year with a winner or two!

Cheers

Craig Woods Secretary STMPC

0437 742 351 / zugylarry@gmail.com

Community Notices

The next **AVOCA Market** is **Saturday January 13, 2018**, in the Hall. Contact Shirley at the Post Office on 6384 2129 or 6384 2259

The new **Ochre Health St Helens Practice** is located at 11 Pendrigh Place, St Helens. The practice is open Monday – Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am-12.30pm.

To make a consultation, please contact the Medical Centre on (03) 6376 1777, or visit www.ochrehealth.com.au to book online.

Thank you

Words are hardly enough to express my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful doctors and staff of both the St Marys Community Health Centre and the LGH, for their caring support given to me over the last three months.

Also to my loving family and friends for enquiries, visits, flowers, cards and phone calls. You are all so special to me. Thank you one and all.

Judy Spilsbury, St Marys



GARAGE SALE

**Saturday December 16 at
11 Gray Rd, St Marys
8am to 12pm**

No early birds please

Moving in clear out sale! Various household items including kitchenware, furniture (lounge, tv cabinet etc), ornaments, baby items, clothing, books and some antique items

For Sale

Solid pine **TV Entertainment Unit** in good condition with TV opening width of 900mm, cupboard underneath with two leadlight glass doors at both ends.
\$200 ono. 6374 1027

I may be old and feeble, but I'm still selling moo poo.
Norm 6372 2380

gone with the wind
spinning wheel
OPEN 10-4 PM
Textiles, quilts, fabrics, notions, etc.
Now also hosting
BAGDAD QUILTING SUPPLIES with JUDY DUCKETT
0417027424 - 37 main street st marys tas 7215

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

David and I decided to move to Tasmania in 1999, and although we don't live in the town, through the Valley Voice we have learnt about the locality, it's people, history, events, businesses, and much, much more, and it has been a privilege to 'meet' the various families and their stories which have graced the pages over the years.

We looked forward to receiving our copy each fortnight thanks to our ever-reliable postie, John, and when I look back it is hard to believe that the little township of St Marys has produced a local paper of such quality for about 50 years! This is really something to be proud of.

Toni Brewster, Chain of Lagoons

Dear Editor

On behalf of the St Marys Sports Centre committee and members, we would like to express our gratitude for the service you have provided to us, especially during the last 12 months.

At times your workload has been extreme due to illness and lack of volunteers. You have always produced the paper on time.

If this is your last edition and you hand over to another group, all our best wishes for your future.

Looking forward to a small group gathering in the new year.

Yours faithfully

Jacqui Bianchi, St Marys

ADVERTISEMENT

Guy Barnett MP
State Liberal Member for Lyons
Minister for Botanicals
Minister for Energy
Minister for Building and Construction

Warm wishes
for a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

Liberals

Please contact me at
76 Elm Bay Road, Delamare
15 High Street, New Norfolk (03) 6391 2170
GuyBarnettMP - guy.barnett@parliament.tas.gov.au



Jack Foreman and Jun Li, winners of the Golden Paddle Championship at Falmouth Community Centre recently.

To the person/people who broke into, and stole from, our St Marys Salvation Army Storage Shed



Had you thought to contact us, we would have most happily GIVEN you whatever it was you thought you so urgently needed. To break the lock, damage the handle and generally leave a mess, is an affront to an organisation which works tirelessly to bring hope to people who have none. When we're able, we run our monthly stall at the Town Hall Market, where we aim to sell donated goods, in order to raise money to help others and to contribute to the cost of running the Salvos in this town. Your actions have depleted our emotional reserves, after an already bitter year of personal and professional loss.

As volunteers, we could walk away at any time, close the building and exit the Ministry which includes:

- Children (JAM)
- Children (SMDS - gifts of winter clothes, beanies and Pamper Packs)
- St Marys Hospital Chaplaincy (Day Care/In-patients)
- Sunday Worshippers (Sunday JOY)
- New mums with baby baskets
- Welfare to those in need
- General support and encouragement shown to as many as possible
- Conducting of Weddings, Funerals, Memorials and Dedications
- St Helens Chaplaincy (Medea Park)
- St Helens EPlus Chaplaincy

Like so many other groups in St Marys, we need younger people to continue the previous years of commitment. However, we want you and the public to know that, regardless of your crime, we will continue to minister to the people of the Valley and East Coast, for as long as we are able

Envoy Melanie Norton B.Ed., TTC., Grad. Dip. Min.



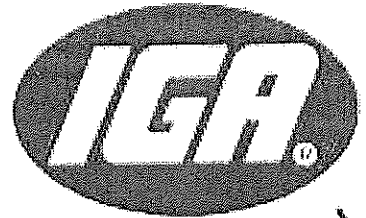
Meals on Wheels | More than just a meal
Tasmania

St Marys roster

0488 384 344

December 14	Lundy Vosper
15	Karl Balzer
18	Valmai Spencer
19	Pam Bretz
20	Freya Winter
21	Judy Duckett
22	Freya Wynter
25	Valmai Spencer
26	Pam Bretz
27	Lynne Fitzgerald
28	Heather Griffiths
29	Kerry Veldums
January 1	Valmai Spencer
2	Pam Bretz
3	Karl Balzer
4	Lundy Vosper
5	Ruth Aulich
8	Valmai Spencer
9	Pam Bretz
10	Heather Griffiths
11	Freya Wynter
12	Lynne Fitzgerald
15	Valmai Spencer
16	Pam Bretz
17	Lundy Vosper
18	Kerry Veldums
19	David Lawer
22	Valmai Spencer
23	Pam Bretz
24	Heather Griffiths
25	Judy Duckett
26	Karl Balzer
29	Valmai Spencer
30	Pam Bretz
31	Freya Wynter

Hilly's IGA St Marys



Open 7 days a week

'think Hilly's, think convenience'

Pizzas made wholly in house,
ready to cook.

Large range of salads
made fresh in-store.

Succulent BBQ Chickens
cooked to perfection.

Cookies fried chicken
and hot chips available 7 days.



Hilly's IGA St Marys and St Helens

'we stand for fresh'

C & D EXCAVATIONS

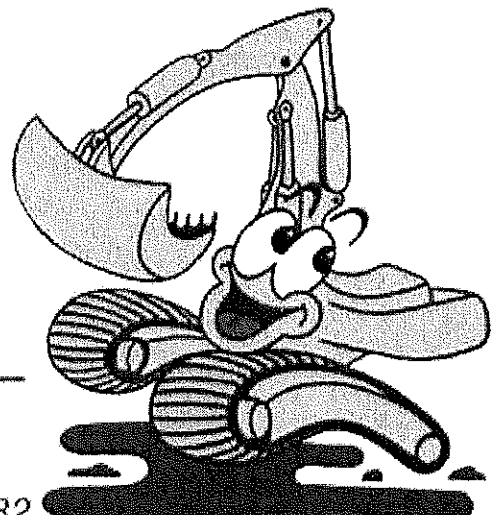
For all your earthmoving requirements

- Road gravel.
- Top soil, screened topsoil.
- Sand and rocks.
- On sight screener 20mm - 75mm.
- 20 tonne excavators with tilt bucket, ripper, rock and log grabber and quick hitch.
- D65 Komatsu dozer with ripper and tilt blade.
- 10 yard tipper.
- Compaction roller.
- Wheel loader.

Dams, roads, firebreaks,
land clearing, house sites,
drainage, bridge construction
and much, much more ...

LOCAL OWNER/OPERATOR WITH
OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Call Dana or Craig: 6372 2033/0439 722 032



Literacy, it's Everyone's Business

In 2016 Break O'Day became a 26TEN Community and since then we've been working hard to ensure that adult literacy is everyone's business! We want Break O'Day to be a thriving and happy region where people have adequate access to literacy, numeracy and learning opportunities.

Literacy and numeracy means more than reading, writing and basic maths; it also includes speaking, listening, problem solving and the use of everyday technology. We know that one in two adult Tasmanians struggle with one or more of these skills, which means that life for almost half of us is more difficult than it needs to be. With huge demands on people to use everyday technology and understand workplace health and safety, or interpret medical and legal jargon, the level of functional literacy and numeracy the average person needs today is higher than it was 20 years ago. Many people have difficulty with everyday tasks like applying for a drivers license, booking a ticket online, reading a bank statement, understanding safety signs or reading to their kids.

Do you need help? You no longer need to struggle with reading, writing and maths because there's free and confidential support available through St Helens Literacy Services. Polly is our Literacy Coordinator, and her role is to work with you to find out what kind of support you need and match you with a volunteer tutor. Drop in to your local LINC and have a chat with Polly about any support you may need. Literacy Services is located at the back of the Online Access Centre. You can also phone and make an appointment on 0428 161 057.

Would you like to help? Anyone can become a 26TEN supporter by filling in your details on the 26TEN website. You will receive a kit including a copy of *Communicate Clearly*, a guide to using plain English, an invitation to attend workshops and regular tips and updates on adult literacy. As a supporter you may decide to become a literacy volunteer at the Literacy Services Centre, or you may simply wonder what you can do to help.

Organisations can also become involved by joining as members via the 26TEN website. Organisations can focus on communicating clearly and using plain English in forms, signs and documentation. Free workshops are available to train staff in writing clearer documents that are easier to understand. It is important to have customer service staff build trust and explain the text after reading it, and then checking that people understand. Also realise that people might be too ashamed to ask for help, so it is important for staff to be good listeners and know where to refer those who need support.

There are grants available for employers until 28 February 2018. These grants support employers and peak bodies to run projects to increase the literacy and numeracy skills of Tasmanian workers (paid and voluntary). Projects can include improving the reading, writing and math skills of employees so they can do their jobs better, or train supervisors and managers to support workers in building their skills.

Ultimately our vision for this community is that everyone starts talking about the subject more openly so that we can reduce the stigma that is often associated with low literacy. We need everyone to know that they are supported to improve their skills through our Literacy Services Centre, and employees through the Employers Grant Program.



Harris Funerals

St Helens, Bicheno & Fingal Valley

*We are here when you need us.
Burial or cremation, traditional or
unique funeral services available.*

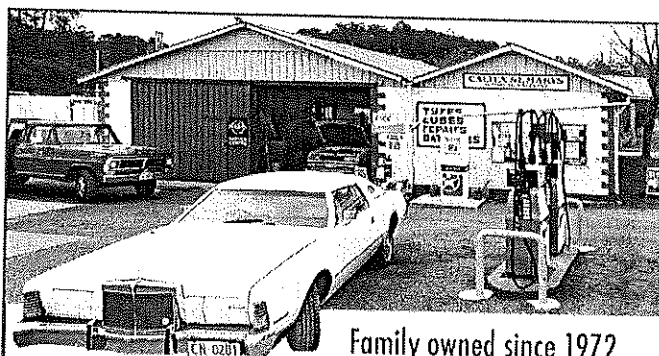
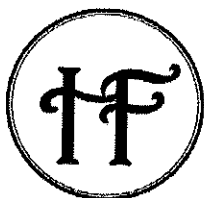
Office & Chapel:

46 Tully Street St Helens

6376 1153 ~ 0418 133 420

tamara@harrisfunerals.com.au

Member of the
Australian Funeral Directors Association



Family owned since 1972

CALTEX ST MARYS

Mechanical repairs and
all routine servicing.
Batteries, tyres (including white walls).
Old school V8s and 6s loved
and nurtured, even Holdens!
• FUEL AVAILABLE 24 HOURS •

41 Main Street. Ph: 6372 2335
caltexstmarys@bigpond.com

Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources and Liberal Member for Lyons 1 December 2017 MoU between STT and the Tasmanian Axeman's Association

Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) is backing Tasmania's traditional summer woodchopping series through a new five year major sponsorship agreement.

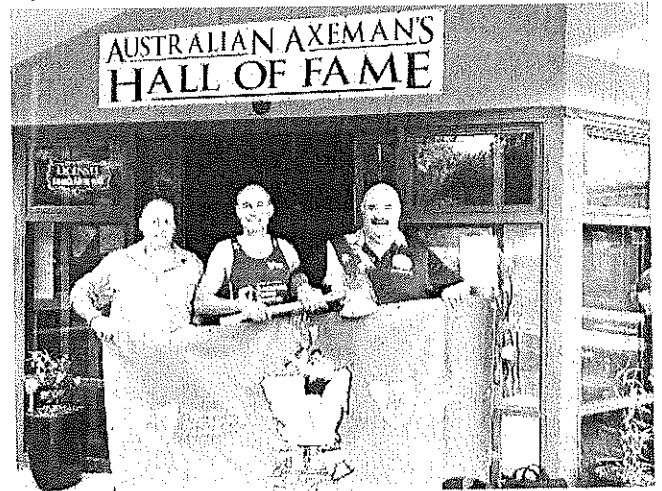
Today I joined with an absolute Tasmanian icon and world champion woodchopper, David Foster, to welcome a partnership between STT and the Tasmanian Axeman's Association.

The agreement will see STT supplying chopping blocks for woodchopping events at shows and carnivals throughout the summer. The sponsorship agreement is valued at up to \$10,000 per year.

These events are a traditional highlight of summer carnivals and the Government and STT are very proud to be supporting the Tasmanian Axeman's Association.

There has been a long association between the Axeman's Association and STT (formerly Forestry Tasmania) and we are delighted this is continuing through this partnership.

Competitive woodchopping has its roots in regional Tasmania, and is a reminder of the rich history and crucial role of Tasmania's timber industry as a way of life, as well as an industry supporting regional families. Tasmania has produced many world champions including David Foster, and the sport remains an important and exciting fixture at shows, sports carnivals, regatta days and other festive events held across the state



Mt Elephant and Beyond Book Club review

To Name Those Lost by Launceston writer, Rohan Wilson, was our book for this past month and it was unanimously enjoyed. We had earlier read Wilson's previous book - *The Roving Party* - and had been equally impressed. These are not gentle reads, being set in 1800's Tasmania, and dealing with well researched stories of early hardship and brutality, but they feel so authentic and real and they certainly open the eyes of the reader to little known episodes in our early history.

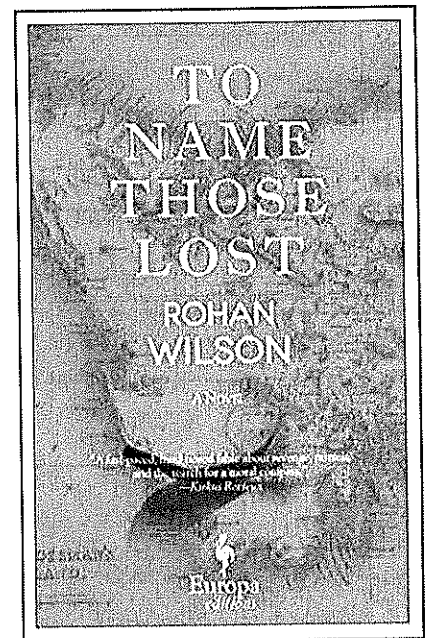
To Name Those Lost, is set in and around Launceston in 1874. The government has levied a tax on the people of the area to establish a railway, after a private company has failed. This causes a riot in the centre of Launceston and the mob smashes windows, loots shops and generally runs amok. We get a very different picture of Launceston from the usual school history lesson many of us would have received, but this novel's characters are the poor, ex-convicts and their families very often, struggling to establish themselves, to keep their families together and to put the next meal on the table. Many have been brutalised and hardened by the prison system and by sheer poverty, and violence is never far from the surface. Life seems expendable.

The focus of the novel is on two families; Thomas Toosey searching for his 12 year old son, William, and Fitheal Finn an Irishman, accompanied by his hooded daughter, Caislin. These two men, former inmates of Port Arthur Penitentiary, are engaged in a hunt to the death. Toosey has stolen two hundred pounds from Finn and wants to find his motherless son and escape to the mainland on the next boat leaving. Finn wants his money back (the proceeds of the sale of his farm) and is dragging his daughter along, dressed as a man in pursuit of Toosey across country and through the riot-torn streets of Launceston.

One of the intriguing aspects of reading this novel is recognising the streets and buildings which still exist today. But how different are the dingy, hovel-lined laneways of Invermay, the thick smoky atmosphere and the general sense of poverty and filth. There are brief references to the grand homes of Brisbane Street, the venal doctor and the brutal police, but this novel is concerned with the lives of the struggling poor.

It is a confronting story and the violence is graphically described but this adds to the authenticity of the account. The writing is often lyrical and beautiful and highly original. The characters are driven by a sense of family loyalty, love would be sentimentalising the motives. With the streets alive with homeless children, preyed on by corrupt and criminal adults, it is little wonder that William is desperate to find his father. We meet some of these abandoned or orphaned children and wonder how they managed to survive. And that is what the ending of the novel hints at. Maybe there will be a future for the next generation. Survival is the first step. Descendants of battlers like these must walk among us today. How different are our lives.

Pam Bretz, St Marys





The 1968 Scottsdale line-up, which earned the right to be called the North's top team when it defeated East Devonport on Saturday (from left): Captain/coach Graeme Gahan, Lloyd French, Geoff Graham, Stephen Salter, Ken Lette, Peter Sexton, Max Briggs, Ron Hall, Barry Whish-Wilson, Ron Knight, Jim Leitch, Bob Becker, Terry Allanby, Graeme Millwood, Rodney Rattray, Mannie Goninon,

2nd from left Lloyd French was best fairest in '68 and later played for Richmond seniors in VFL. Lloyd played with St Marys in '67 - do any readers of the Valley Voice remember Lloyd originally from Lindisfarne, Hobart?

4th from left Stephen Salter, pretty sure this is our late mayor who played for St Helens and St Marys.

7th from right Rodney Rattray, former real estate agent in St Helens who played for St Helens. This team fielded many very good players including Jim Leitch, an all Australian.

Conducted by the Northern Country Football Council, 1962
Semi-final, 14th July, N.E.F.U., 13.17 (95) d. F.D.F.A., 9.9 (63)



F.D.F.A Team (from left) - BACK: G Worker, G Kringle, I Short, R Press, G Barber, N Kemp, K Milbourne, D Wilson, I Kitchen, G Scott. FRONT: R Riley, B Barnes, E Dwyer, D Wickham, M Dilger, M Davidson (Captain), W Colman (v.c.), M Hall, T Coker, Tas Graham.

Thanks to Dale Matheson of Scamander for these photographs

East Coast Vet Clinic

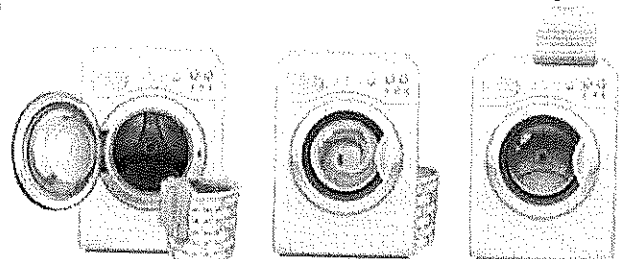
Dr Jeff Parsons regularly visits
the Fingal Valley
for all your veterinary needs.



*For appointments, please call the
St Helens clinic on 6376 1577*

CLEAN CRACK LAUNDROMAT

32 Main Street St Marys



Coin operated washers
and dryers
6.30am - 8pm

St Marys Christmas Eve Celebrations

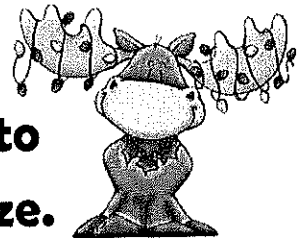
Follow St Marys Christmas Eve Celebrations on facebook and stay up to date.

Christmas Stocking tickets are on sale at local businesses. \$1 per ticket.

Get your ticket NOW to go in the draw for this fantastic prize!!



Register your decorated house to win a randomly drawn cash prize.

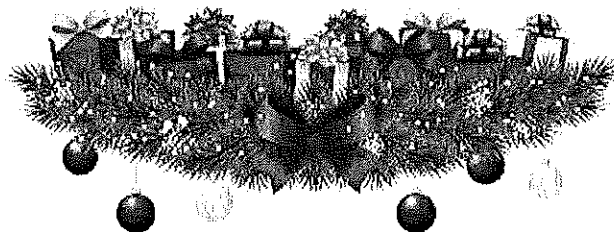


Register your name at the St Marys Newsagency or you can leave your details on the facebook page.

(St Marys Christmas Eve Celebrations)

Doesn't have to be lights as long as it looks like Christmas

Drawn Christmas Eve at the party



St Marys Businesses

Decorate your business for Christmas and go into the draw to win a cash prize.

No Need to Register!

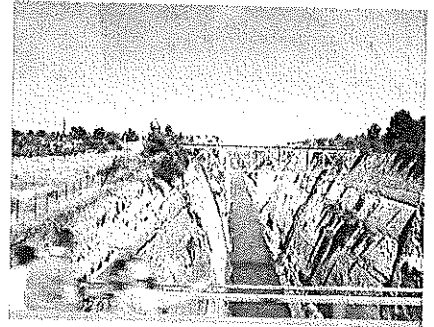
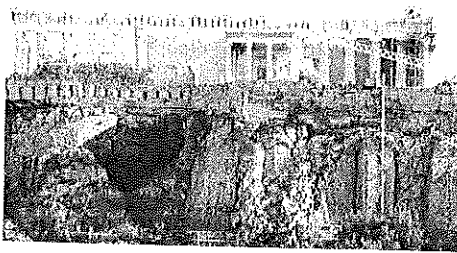
Drawn Christmas Eve at the party

Birthday Party on a Greek Island - Mary and Brad Knowles

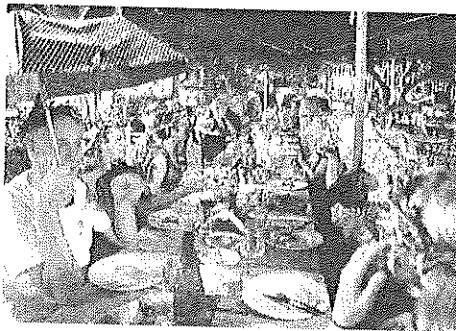
When I did Bible Studies at school, St Paul and the Corinthians always fascinated me.
I have travelled this way before and only realised where I was when we had passed over it.
So this time I was ready with my camera.

Ten years ago I travelled by myself to Greece for my friend's 60th and then explored Italy, Switzerland, Morocco, Liechtenstein, Austria and France, coming home from Paris.

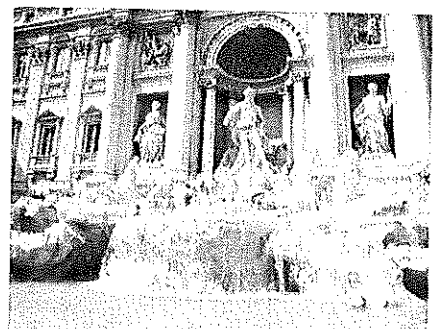
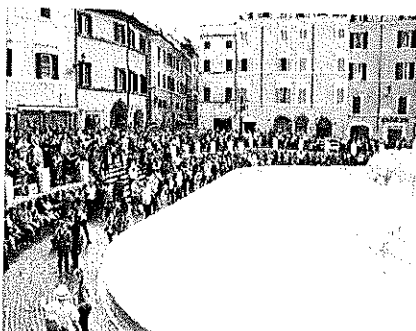
When in Rome I threw a coin into the Trevi Fountain which is supposed to mean you will return.
Well, ten years later I did return – unbelievable! I never expected to be able to.



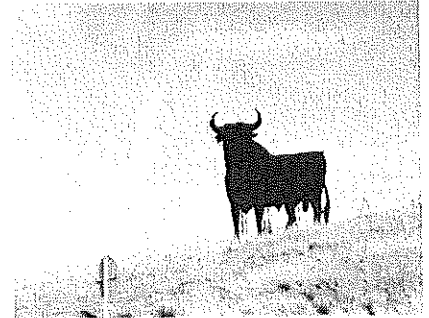
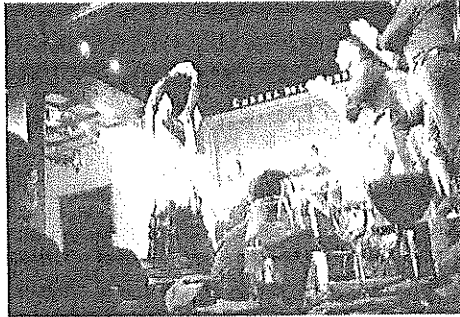
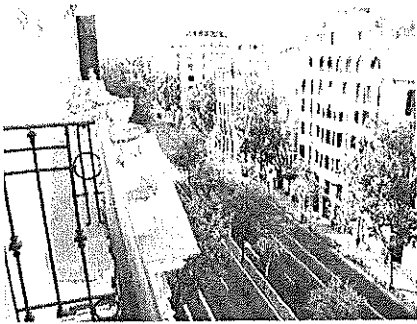
September 2017: Flew to Athens, explored before travelling past the Corinthian Canal to the west coast and a ferry to Paxos Island for a friend's 70th. Practised Greek dancing and helped make 45 head wreaths for the party guests.



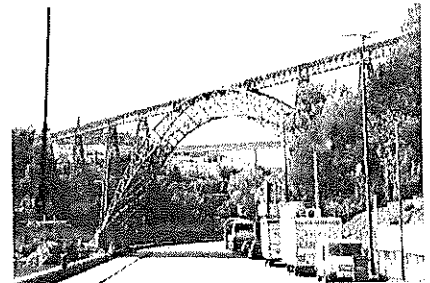
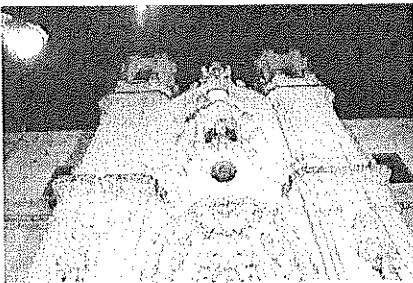
Travelled on to Rome for 3 days, visiting St Peters Basilica, the Colosseum and the famous Trevi Fountain



Barcelona, Valencia and Madrid where we enjoyed a Flamenco Show



Travelled across Spain and into Portugal to the beautiful city of Porto (city of bridges, Port wine and where the name Portugal comes from) and then three days in Lisbon before heading north to San Sebastian and into France. After Paris we had a sobering tour of the Belgian battlefields and three enjoyable days in Amsterdam before the long flights home. Fantastic!!



Thanks to Mary and Brad for sharing this with our readers. Editor.

Correct phone etiquette

Sometimes you will get a caller who won't tell you who they are until you identify yourself first. Let me be clear: the person who called -- and not the person who answers the phone -- must identify themselves first. My typical conversation is usually like:

ring *ring*

Me: Hello?

Them: Hello. May I speak with Mr. Kramnets?

Me: Who is calling?

With this introduction, I neither confirm nor deny my identity. I require them to identify themselves first.

After they identify themselves, I have the option to (A) acknowledge myself, (B) gather more information about them without identifying myself, or (C) just hang up.

JOHN AND SUSAN WEBB

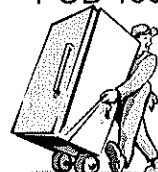
www.zort.com.au

WORDPRESS WEBSITES
SEO SPECIALISTS
ADWORD CAMPAIGNS
RESUMES AND COVER LETTERS

JOHN 0439 929 915 • SUSAN 0429 911 808
johnwebb135@gmail.com

Ransley's Appliance Service

POB 136 Scamander Tasmania 7215

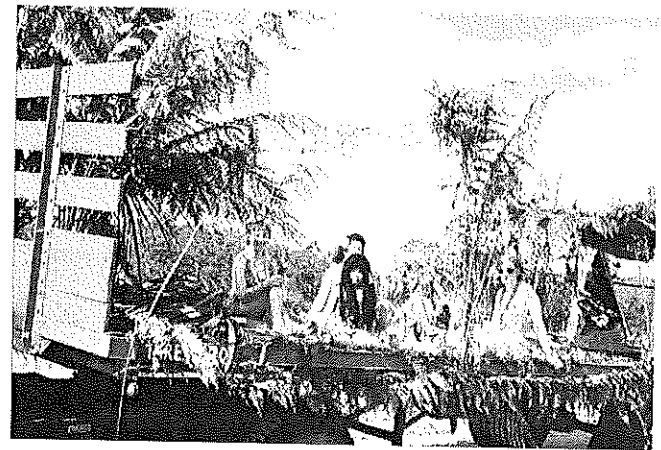
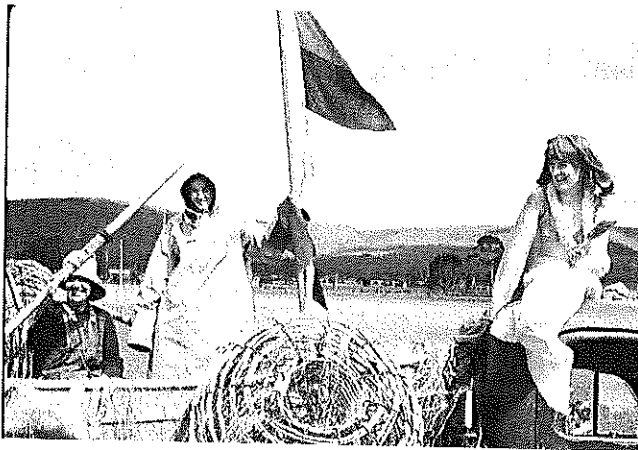


*Washing machine noisy?
Refrigerator runs too long?
Clothes dryer blows cold air?*

then you need the services of our technicians
6372 5307 / 0428 761 811

1969 ** 1969 ** 1969 ** 1969 ** 1969 ** 1969

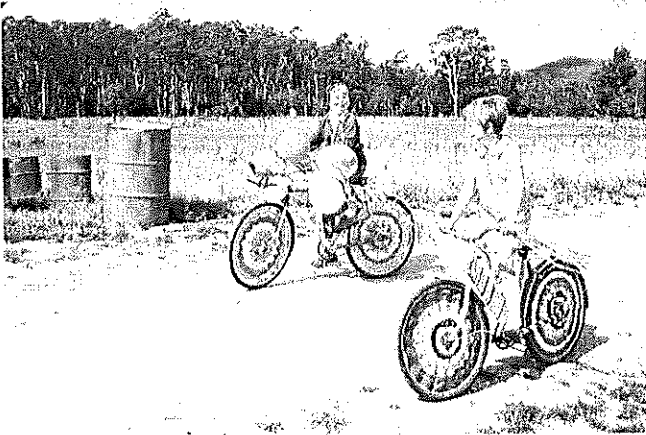
Huge thanks to Robert Jones of St Marys for supplying these photographs of a parade held in St Marys in 1969, at the Rec Grounds. Little information available but some readers can probably fill in the gaps. Editor.



'Valerie Voice', Betty Dean



1969 ** 1969 ** 1969 ** 1969 ** 1969 ** 1969



Advertisement

Kylie

Wright


A new voice for Lyons

Tasmanian
Labor

Putting **people** first

0439 742 946
kyliewright464@gmail.com

Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP
53b Main Rd Perth Tas 7300



Garry and the team at
Gazzmans thank you for your
continued support throughout
the year, and look forward
to serving you again in 2018

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,
Boxing Day closed
27th - 29th December 9am - 5pm
30th December 9am - 12pm
31st December and
New Years Day closed

Your one stop shop for ...
FLOORCOVERINGS,
FURNITURE, HOMEWARES,
MATTRESSES, MANCHESTER
and WOOD HEATERS

21 Quail St, St Helens
Ph: 6376 2555

Camels in St Marys? Why not??

In 2015, Jeff and Ros Wallace moved from country Victoria to St Marys in the hills on the East Coast of Tasmania.

Intending to downsize their very busy tourist business - they have been the owner / operators of Assist Travel, tours for tourists with special needs, for 36 years - they chose the sleepy township of St Marys to settle in. Being familiar with Tasmania from years of visits with tour groups from the mainland, it was an easy choice. Their property in central west Victoria had been getting increasingly dryer and warmer, depending on rain for tank water had become frustrating, and buying water by tanker load for sheep and pets, expensive. They looked for 'greener pastures' with water on tap. Selling the sheep, goats and alpacas was sad. Saying goodbye to family and friends, and resigning from the local fire brigade was also a little rough, although Tasmania is just a short ferry trip or flight away.



Ros, Knuckles (trying to reach the champagne) and the Safari Trailer

But when it came to the loved pets there was no decision other than to bring them along to their new home. This normally wouldn't be an issue for people moving to Tasmania from the mainland. However, Ros and Jeff's pets happen to be camels. Six camels. Moving the household goods as well as the tractor was simple compared to the moving of the camels. But they had to come, and they did.

A lot of people asked if the local Tasmanian conditions were suitable, particularly being up in the hills, but after more than two years here they are happy.

On arrival Ros and Jeff found there was a lot of interest in their pets.

The property faces the main road on the St Marys end of Mount Elephant Pass, and sees a lot of passing traffic. The daily interest with cars stopping and people wanting to come in led Ros and Jeff to consider the idea of making it a tourism attraction. The idea was run by the very supportive Break O'Day Council, and this was followed by drawing up plans, discussing

guidelines and finally getting council permission.

Work began. The first task was to alert people to the camels, and their unique qualities. Ros and Jeff produced a 40 point brochure listing interesting facts about camels. Available free, it lists points from where they came from, their history in Australia, how they became feral, their ability to adapt to extreme weather, their loving nature and their milk which has amazing qualities.

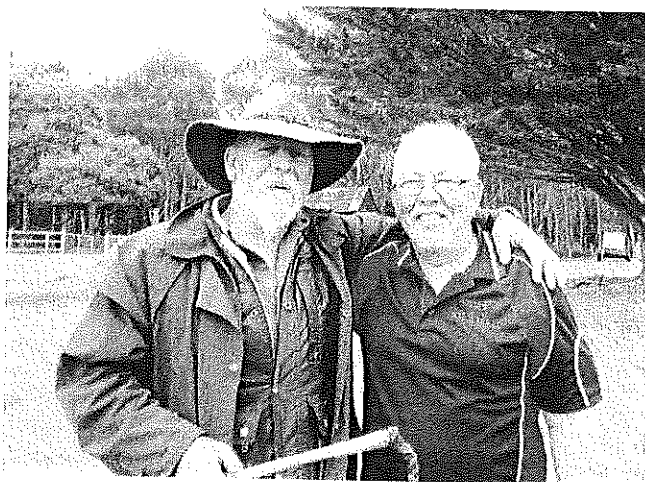
Then it was on to planning a venue of interest to visit. Fortunately, the 21 acre property has some beautiful, very old (even one listed) buildings. By the time the farm opens later in 2018, there will be an old slab barn souvenir shop / interpretive centre, a camel interactive compound and our safari trailer, already built by local craftsman Mark Owen, which takes people through the free ranging camels and allows for hand feeding.

Souvenirs are all camel related, from camel hair products, camel milk soap and face creams, camel milk soft serve ice cream, postcards, toys, jewellery and more.

As with people, each camel has a different personality. With our camels we have shy Rowe and her curious and affectionate woolly white baby Knuckles. We have Lucy, rescued from Dubbo eight years ago where she had been living on her own in a small paddock near a school bus stop, with no camels, just children for company. Lucy does NOT think she's a camel, and gets quite offended when approached by the bull camel, Sam. He has his little harem of ladies - Tinkerbelle, Anna and his reluctant female friend Lucy. All camels approach visitors for pats and feeds.

Over the years, Ros and Jeff have always invited visitors to meet their camels as they hope that over time the commonly held attitudes to camels will change from 'Oh I've come across camels up north and I was told they spit and kick and bite,' to 'Oh what beautiful gentle animals!!'

Although not yet open to the public, Ros and Jeff have been slowly working on their entertainment program. Last week a trial day was held to use the safari carriage for a group of visiting tourists from the mainland - this group being part of an Assist Travel 8 day special Tasmanian East Coast Tour.



Mark Owen, aka Dennis Doherty, and Jeff

Working with a local entertainer who channelled little known local bushranger Dennis Doherty, especially for the group, and taking the tour through the forest to meet the camels was a great success.

As it was an overcast day with rain constantly threatening, Jeff decided that the Camel Farm needs an undercover area for future shows in inclement weather.

Something else to be done before opening!

Tourism is the way of the future in Tasmania and the East Coast has so much to offer, not just in produce and venues but as Ros and Jeff discovered in the talents of many of the locals.

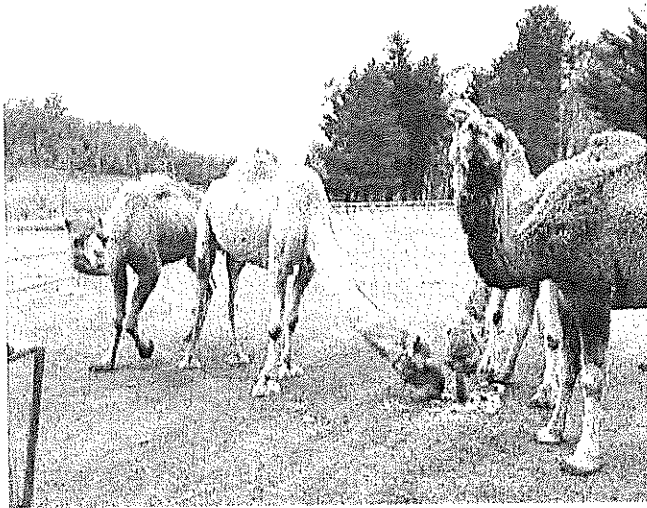
TasCamels Camel Farm plans to draw heavily on local contributions.

Ros and Jeff feel that moving to St Marys was the best choice of their life, and look forward to now not downsizing, but upsizing with local help.

Submitted by Ros Wallace, photos by Wendy Dawson and Ros Wallace.



Ros with the rare white baby Knuckles



Yay! Weetbix time!



One of the lovingly restored outbuildings

LJ Hooker



Kate Walsh

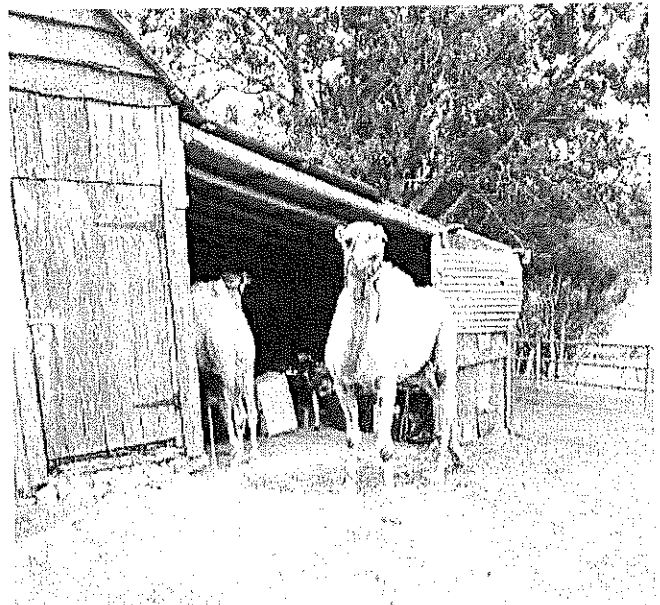
Your local area specialist in St Marys and Scamander. For an obligation free market appraisal please contact Kate Walsh from

LJ Hooker St Helens.

Ph: (03) 6376 2300

Mobile: 0419 683 904

Email: kwalsk.sthelens@lh.com.au



Cruising the feed shed

St Marys Community Space

There is now Outdoor Gym equipment available for use by residents and visitors to the Fingal Valley. This equipment was sourced from a grant through the Tasmanian Community Funds by the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House Inc.

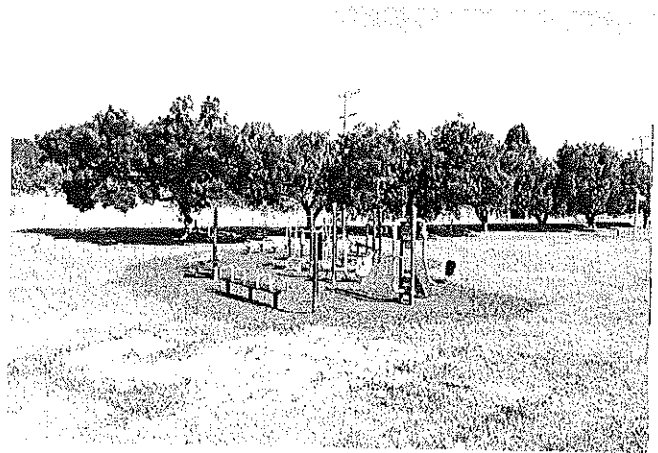
The Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House catchment area takes in St Marys, Cornwall, Avoca, Rossarden, Mangana, Mathinna and Fingal, so we are very proud that we were successful in obtaining this grant for the exercise equipment for the benefit of the whole Valley.

We hope that the St. Marys Community Space at 18 Groom Street, will be well utilised and that benefits will flow from this project. The Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House Committee would like to thank contributors to this development, especially the Break O' Day Council for the donation of the land, and special thanks to Paul Aulich, a founding member of the St Marys Community Space Association Inc., for the time he volunteered with preparation and installation.

Some of the equipment is especially recommended for the frail aged, to help build strength, and we hope that the elderly will be able to utilise this space as well. Local Dr Cyril Latt has already used the equipment and has stated that it will be of great benefit to the entire community.

If you have any further suggestions on any project you think would enhance you and your children's lifestyle don't hesitate to contact us, we're always willing to listen. The official opening will be advertised after Christmas.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. The FVNH office will close at 12 noon on Friday 22 December, 2017 and re-opening at 9 am on 15 January, 2018.



On this day in 1287. : The Zuider Zee sea wall in the Netherlands collapses, resulting in 50,000 deaths.

Zuider Zee was a former shallow inlet of the North Sea in the northwest of the Netherlands, extending about 100km inland and 50 kilometres across at its widest point. Its overall depth varied from 4 to 5 metres, and its coastline measured about 300 kilometres.

Zuider Zee, originally named Lake Flevo, lacked a navigable passage to the sea until a massive flood in the thirteenth century joined it to the North Sea. During a storm on 14 December 1287, the Zuider Zee seawalls collapsed, killing around 50,000 people. The resultant flood of seawater opened the way for the growth of the city of Amsterdam. Originally an insignificant fishing village, Amsterdam grew into a thriving centre for sea-going traffic.

The St Marys Salvation Army would like to pay tribute to two of the past volunteer editors of the Valley Voice - Audrey Wright and Judy Spilsbury - and also to the current and outgoing editor Wendy Dawson.

During the last 17 years, all three women showed us continued patience, guidance and always offered help and suggestions as we navigated our way around submitting articles to, and advertising within, our now nearly 50 year old paper.

What a journey it has been.

In addition I pay tribute to the team of volunteers who have tirelessly supported the dedication and determination of the editors.

Thank you each one for your contribution to so many people in the communities on the East Coast.

Well done!

We now wait with great expectancy to see what the future holds for this paper - we cannot let it die.

Humble beginnings at the St Marys Hospital, way back in 1968 and here we are at the end of 2017.

Bring on the new guard of editors, secretaries, treasurers, public officers et al.

Bring on the younger generation to contribute.

Envoy Melanie Norton St Marys Corps

As outgoing editor of **The Valley and East Coast Voice Inc.** I would like to thank the committee, volunteers, advertisers, readers and contributors for the wholehearted and sustained support I have received since I took the role on.

A special thanks must go to Judy Spilsbury and Ray Walker for the help and encouragement they gave me. I wish the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House and the St Marys District High School all the best in the future, and am very happy that the Valley Voice will continue to inform, entertain and challenge readers for many years to come.

Wendy Dawson, Cornwall

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.



ARTISANS @ Stables Market

3.30pm – 6.30pm on Friday 15 December 2017

St Marys Sports & Recreation Ground via Harefield Rd

Musical Entertainment provided by St Marys High School Band

ARTISANS @ Stables Market is a showcase of high quality Tasmanian Artisan Products and is a fantastic opportunity to wander around the markets, enjoy the entertainment and some lovely food.

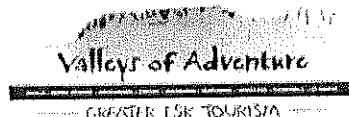
Come along and browse the high quality handmade and home produced items, from plants, food and wine through to crafts, jewellery and fine art.

There is free overnight camping within walking distance to the Markets if you wish to stay after the markets and enjoy the ambience of the Fingal Valley and East Coast for the weekend or longer.

For further information please contact thestablesmarkettas@gmail.com

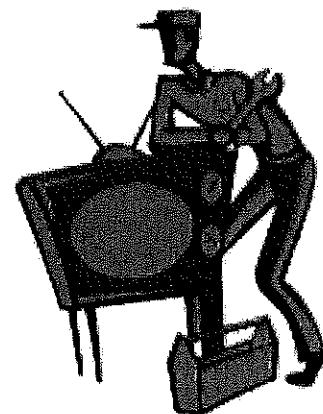
www.facebook.com/thestablesandmademarket

Thanks to the Valley Voice for their support!!



The Antenna Guy

- ✓ TV antennas installed and repaired
- ✓ Satellite TV (VAST)
- ✓ Additional phone/internet outlets
- ✓ Home entertainment setup
- ✓ TV mounting and cables tidied
- ✓ Your local East Coast Technician
- ✓ All areas serviced
- ✓ Residential and commercial
- ✓ Licensed and insured
- ✓ *Get crystal clear TV reception anywhere, guaranteed!*



Call 0408388322 or 63771150.

The Say, by Cagerattler

The other day some of us were talking about how many good things happen in our region, based entirely on volunteers.

The volunteers are what makes communities like ours so special.

Just think about it.

At the risk of forgetting so many I won't attempt to name them individually, but there are a big number of social, historical, tourism, sporting and help groups that are entirely volunteer run, and done so in a thoroughly professional manner. Some have shop fronts, others run in the background.

Also volunteer run but with some statewide integration are the amazing services provided by the Fire Brigades, SES, Coastal Patrol and Ambulance Services that work closely in emergencies with state bodies, and especially Tasmania Police.

Within public and state run facilities

there are dedicated, hard working community members who 'do their bit' often and without hesitation.

This is why the volunteers are so treasured. Never disregard these fantastic people.

As we talked the other day on this subject it stunned us as we rattled off all the things we take for granted, that require volunteer help to run successfully. It was gob smacking and quite amazing to really consider that fact.

As we approach the festive season we should all attempt to thank many of these volunteers if we get the chance, for what they do.

If you are one who volunteers your time for anything, I'll start it off ...THANK YOU.

Another very special thanks I want to make is this.

To the past, present and hopefully future Valley and East Coast Voice Inc. volunteers I'd like to thank each

and every one of you for allowing me to be part of our paper.

I love doing Cagerattler and other previous submissions, and it's a privilege to be permitted to have a bit of a say each fortnight.

If this issue happens to be the very last one ever, it'd be extremely remiss not to thank sincerely the Valley Voice crew and dedicated readers over the past 30 plus years, who have kindly allowed me to contribute different articles.

If it's not the very last, with a bit of genuine hope, that'd be wonderful news for all concerned in a variety of ways (me included), and everybody wins I think.

Happy Christmas, New Year and holiday period to you all, and we'll see what 2018 brings.

What do you think?

Rod McGiveron, St Marys

Sheree, Tom and the Board members of the
St Helens / St Marys Community Bank® would like to thank
everyone for their support and encouragement throughout the year,
as we move closer to the opening of our new
Community Bank Branch.

In February 2018 we shall be
celebrating the opening of our full branch in St
Helens and we look forward to providing pre-
mium banking services to the
communities within our district.

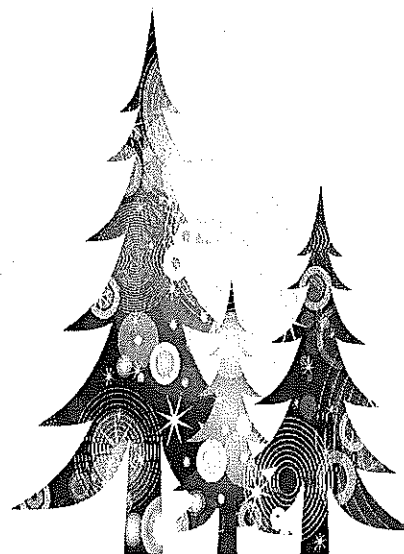
Seasons Greetings!

May 2018 be a prosperous year for all

Your Community Bank®



Bendigo Bank





How do you contact us?

Email: admin@hub4health.org.au

Web: www.hub4health.org.au

Facebook: Hub4Health

Our Aim:

To support and facilitate health and wellbeing programs to rural and remote communities within the Break O'Day Municipality and beyond.

Hub4Health will be introducing new Active4Life Gym Memberships in 2018. This will be based on an electronic card holder system (similar to that currently used at St Marys District School Pool). Fees from the card holder membership will be used to support the ongoing operation of the gym and ensure it is sustainable over the longer term.

Community members who only attend scheduled sessions run by a facilitator do not need currently need a card, however for non- members the cost of all Hub4Health programs will be fixed at \$5pp per session as of the 1st Jan 2018. These changes will be reviewed as of 1/4/2018, and feedback is welcome.

The first information session on the changes, including fees and forms, will be on the December 15, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm in the Active4Life gym

For more information please contact us via email admin@hub4health.org.au or check our facebook page.



Hub4Health Board of Management and Staff wish everyone in Break O'Day a Merry Christmas and hope it is a safe and relaxing summer for all.

Gentle Tai Chi for Seniors

Every Tuesday from 9:30am at the St Helens Tennis Club.
Gold coin donation

email
admin@hub4health.org.au

Hub4Health Walkers

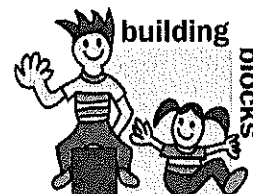
The Walking Group meets every Wednesday and third Saturdays at Hub4Health.
Leaves at 9am sharp.

Call Bryan on 0414 987 435 or Pam on 0439 547 529

LIFE COACHING

Would you like to have some free assistance to help meet your goals? Hub4Health is offering a volunteer, one to one Life Coaching Program with John Williams. To register your interest please contact us at admin@hub4health.org.au

All Building Blocks sessions are free of charge for all children from 0-5 years old, along with their parents, carers & grandparents. Look out for our school holiday program coming out soon for all ages activities.



A Christmas Surprise, by Beverley Rubenach, based on historical facts and real people

Evercreech, Somerset County, England. December 8, 1844

Lydia Target placed the blood soaked bandages into the water of the copper, situated in the cramped backyard. Giving the fire a vigorous stoking, she wiped away tears - tears caused in part by the smoke but largely caused by weariness and worry. Removing her soiled apron and smoothing her raven black hair, she cast a departing glance at the dilapidated one room place she, her husband John and their six children called home.

With trepidation she set forth on a secret mission - to summon the doctor to attend John's horrific wound. A sense of frustration, failure and guilt overwhelmed her. She had let her family down.

The use of herbs Robert and yarrow had slowed the bleeding, stinging nettle and burdock had halted infection, her fine careful, capable stitching had closed some of the flesh but all this was not enough, without a doctor's help John would die.

The poverty stricken family could not cope with the expense of a doctor's services as they had only one shilling to their name! 'I hope this new doctor be exceptin a jar of jam or a day's labour at his house as payment,' she pondered as she set forth to the village. 'I hope he be like old Doc Morris was, and be understandin the plight of us country folk.'

Times were hard! People were perpetually hungry and cold. John and eldest son Stephen were farm labourers but had no work during late autumn and throughout winter.

Folks like the Targets could hunt and forage food on common land, but this land was decreasing alarmingly as rich land owners saw it as their right to seize the land. People were now forced to venture further and further afield in order to provide for their families - some, in desperation, turned to poaching.

Trudging bare footed along the cold slushy path, Lydia prayed. 'Thanks be to ya God that me John's wounds be caused by his own huntin knife when he be clumsy and tripped and fell. I be grateful the wound not be from a gamekeeper's firearm. Ya be knowin me John be a good man at heart. Oh! I know he be getting into a bit of trouble now and then, but we both know he be doin it because he loves us all so.'

The bone chilling sleet that penetrated her threadbare clothes could not extinguish the warm inner glow she now felt, as she recalled some of John's acts of love. Annually, John provided his family with the only Christmas treat they would receive. Always something different, but he would always present it saying 'Lydia my darlin, Love of me life and our children, this be me Christmas surprise,'

On Christmas Eve last year, after his customary pronouncement, he proudly placed a small bag of flour and a handful of figs on the kitchen table.

'There me love, now ya can be cookin us a figgy pudding.' And she did! This was the first Christmas pudding Stephen, Ann, Harry, Maria, James and George had ever tasted. What Christmas joy! That joy, however, was short lived. Early on the morning of December 31, John was unceremoniously arrested for larceny.

On January 1 at the County Sessions, the judge proclaimed 'John Target, I convict you of taking with intent and without means of paying and without the owner's consent, a bag of flour and some figs. This crime was committed at a shop in Wells, nine miles hence. Thereby, I sentence you to four month's imprisonment.'

John's absence greatly increased the family's hardship, but Lydia managed to keep the family united and optimistic. They celebrated John's release with singing and dancing to Stephen's harmonica.

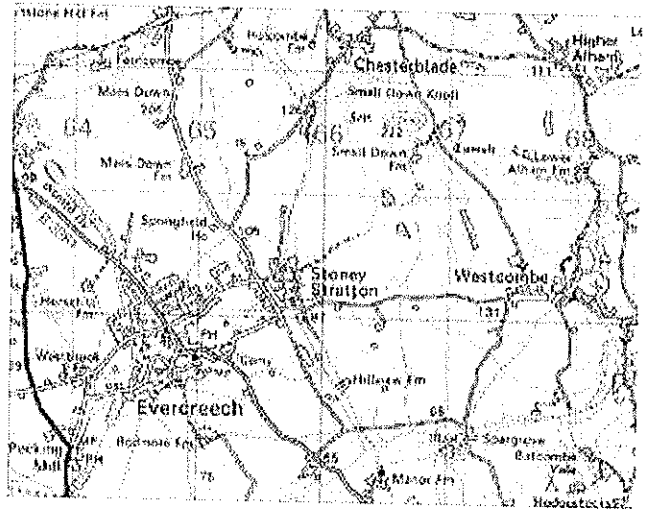
Ending her daydreaming, Lydia found herself rapping on the doctor's door. A rush of doubt seized her; had she made the right decision to consult a new, unknown doctor? Flashes of events caused her to cease knocking - six days ago John and Stephen had set off in search of food. Lydia felt John's Christmas surprise was also part of his mission. 'Be seein ya in two days, me love,' he said kissing her goodbye. But two days passed and they did not return, then three days, then four days. What a relief when on the fifth evening the two men flung open the kitchen door. Her delight instantly turned to fear. Stephen was supporting his ashen faced father. John slumped to the floor, groaning in pain. His blood soaked trousers signified a terrible wound. They told her everything except the location of the accident. She decided to go back home and obtain the answer. Too late! The doctor answered the door!

Hurrying homeward, Lydia was passing a group of men chatting on the street corner. She heard snippets of an alarming conversation. She slipped silently into the shadows to eavesdrop.

'I be bettin ya all a sixpence that John Target be the one a sheep stealin on the squire's estate, some 40 miles hence,' one man challenged.

'And what be makin ya confident John Target be the man?' another asked. 'I be talkin to me relation, William Stride - he works on the estate. Well, a few nights back the gamekeeper fired shots at a man tresspassin! The man ran off but fell down a hollerin in pain. Another man rushed from the woods and helped the injured one. Both escaped.'

Continued on p19





'Could have been anyone,' someone interrupted.
'Aye,' the betting man said, 'but just before that William be seen young Stephen Target near the boundary of the estate, and he warns him the gamekeeper be on the prowl for poachers, and poachers there be for the gamekeeper found a slaughtered sheep. Not far awar, where the fell fell, there be a big pool of blood! The thief be badly injured, that be for sure.'
'Can't blame a man for tryin to provide food for his family,' another sympathised, but Lydia did not wait to hear more.
Arriving home she told her family of the doctor's pending visit. The look of panic and dismay on the faces of the two men she loved so dearly confirmed her worst fear.
'What's done is done and can't be undone,' she declared. 'We all be fine as long as no-one betray us.'
While complementing Lydia on her healing skills, the doctor asked John a multitude of questions while tending the wound.
'Mr Target, I am new to the area and you appear to be a man of great knowledge of the region and the people, so I'm sure you can help me out - payment in return for services.'
John talked! The family was relieved to see the doctor and his horse swallowed up in the darkness of night.
'Can he be trusted?' Stephen asked anxiously.

'We can only hope, pray and wait,' Lydia sighed.

December 9, 1844 - Evercreech, Somerset County, England

Dawn was breaking. John had a restful night's sleep, thanks to the doctor's treatment. The peace was broken and the family abruptly woken as two constables burst through the kitchen door. With firearms raised ominously, they shouted 'John and Stephen Target, you are under arrest for sheep stealing!'

The court proceeding was brief.

The gamekeeper gave his account; reluctantly, William Stride testified seeing Stephen loitering near the estate and the doctor smugly gave his evidence.

Lydia and 19 year old daughter Ann sat trembling, as John spoke in his own defence.

'I be havin this to say - I be the one who slaughtered a sheep on the squire's estate.'

Murmur filled the court room.

John continued. 'I be wantin just one sheep, for that animal be providing me hungry family with food; its wool be used to spin and weave clothes for winter warmth, the hide be used to make boots to protect my family from winter cold. I be doin it out of necessity, responsibility and love for me family. I not be a true thief - the real thief be the wealthy and the greedy who look with scorn on the misery and sufferin of the poor, and do naught to help by keep addin to their fortune.'

'Enough!' the judge roared. 'Do you have more to say before I pronounce sentence?'

'Yes,' John said loudly and proudly. 'Me son, Stephen, be a good lad. We go huntin together, but he stay off the squire's land. He know I could be takin a fancy to one of the estate's sheep, so when he hear a firearm explode he races to find me. Helpin his injured da home, that be his only crime.'

John paused and glanced at his wife.

Turning back to the judge he said 'I not be askin for clemency. Instead I be askin yet to double me sentence and let me innocent son free.'

Lydia collapsed into Ann's arms. She roused as the judge pronounced 'Stephen Target, due to insufficient evidence and the unusual sacrificial request of your father, I find you not guilty.'

Stephen was unshackled. Giving his father a smile of eternal gratitude, he walked to his mother's open arms.

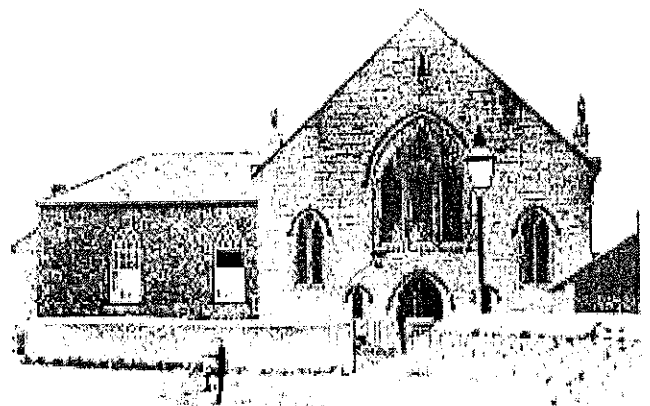
'Silence,' the judge commanded. 'John Target, I find you guilty of sheep stealing. Thereby, I sentence you to transportation to Van Diemen's Land - the term you will serve is 15 years!'

John was roughly hauled away. Above the loud clanging of the ball and chains, John called 'Lydia, love of me life, take care of our precious sons and daughters. I'll love ya forever Lydia me darlin.'

Just as the door was about to close, separating husband and wife forever, Lydia shouted 'John, me beloved, I do all ya be askin and I promise ya one day I be with ya again - in Van Dieman's Land.'

People in the court room sniggered at poor delusional Lydia and scoffed at her promise - join John in Van Dieman's Land 15 years hence - impossible!!

Continued on p20



Evercreech Church, c1870

December 25, 1844

Lydia ventured to church with her family. She was fearful the congregation would hold them in contempt, because of John's crime. Maybe it was the Christmas spirit, for she found empathy.

The sermon the minister preached that day remained etched in her memory for the next 15 years.

'This Christmas Day, we gather to celebrate the birth of God's only begotten son, Jesus Christ. Jesus willingly left his heavenly home to bring joy and salvation. He, the King of Glory, chose to become a baby born in a humble stable in Bethlehem.

He identified and sympathised and helped the poor and needy. His law was love, and his gospel peace. Because of recent local events, I want you all to think about Easter and the reason Jesus came to earth. We all disobey God and do wrong things in life. Because of this, God our Creator has a right to pronounce punishment for our sins. But Jesus, being perfect too, the punishment we deserved by dying on the cross in our place. This Christmas let us thank God for his sacrificial love and be thankful to those who follow the example of Jesus by demonstrating sacrificial love.'

Lydia squeezed Stephen's hand and both let tears of gratitude and thanks flow freely. They prayed for John in the hellhole of Van Dieman's Land.

1845

Not a day passed without Lydia striving to keep her promise to John. For many weeks after his sentencing, she worried about his wound. In the filth and squalor of the prison while he awaited transportation, the wound could become infected. John could die on England's soil and she would not know, for no contact with him was possible.

March 1845

The whole community helped Lydia and her family. Especially kind to her was Eliza Rossiter Stride, wife of William. She was highly respected in the area, for her understanding and compassion. She lived four miles away from Lydia, but visited often. She had taught Ann to read - a great achievement for the uneducated Target family. Ann's ability to read brought great joy to Lydia. In mid March, someone gave Ann a clipping from a London newspaper. It had a list of names of the convicts being transported on the convict ship Theresa, on March 28.

'See here is his name,' she cried excitedly. 'John Target.' Lydia was joyful for John had survived, wound leg and all, the horrors of prison.

'He will endure and survive the journey. He will survive the next 15 years and wait for me to come to him - and come to him I will!'



Commercial Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

The years from 1846 - 1855

Lydia missed John the most during special family events. She felt guilty she could freely engage in life, while John was in ball and chains of the hard labour chain gangs. She was surrounded by delight and goodness, family and friends.

He was surrounded by misery and cruelty, soldiers and whips.

Stephen married an educated local lass, Sarah, and soon grandchildren added to Lydia's joy.

On September 9, 1849, Ann married a successful carpenter / wheelwright George Mitchell, in the town of Shepton Mallet.

Once each Target child reached 12 years of age, they went to work to contribute to 'the Promise Fund.'

1854

After 10 years of silence - of no way of knowing if John was still alive, a letter came addressed to Lydia Target from Avoca, Van Diemen's Land. Ann read the letter.

'Dear Mrs Target,

I am writing on behalf of my hired man John Target. He asks me to inform you he received a pardon, having served nine years and nine months of his 15 year sentence. He lives in a small cottage here at Avoca. Prior to his pardon, John worked on the probation gang. There I observed that he was a good, reliable man and I had no hesitation in taking him into my employ.

John sends his love to all his family.'

The letter was from a Mr Gilligan, Avoca. Now Lydia was unstoppable!

Concluded on p21

June 29, 1855, Launceston, Van Diemen's Land

'A promise fulfilled,' Lydia declared as she disembarked from the long sea voyage halfway around the world. The coach from Launceston to Avoca was crammed full of Targets - Lydia now 61, Maria 21, James 19, George 16, Stephen 31, his wife Sarah 30 and their children Richard 10, Sydney 8, Thomas 5, Sarah 2 and Martha nine months - their belongings and £88.



The 50 mile coach trip seemed to Lydia to be endless. Conflicting emotions overwhelmed her; the excitement of reunion after 11 years of separation, and trepidation - how the extreme, challenging circumstances had caused them to change. She prayed nothing could destroy love.

Heaving and panting from the exhausting journey, the horses were happy to have reached their destination. Lydia wasn't so happy. Who was the weather beaten elderly man pacing up and down? The coach door opened and the man approached cautiously. He looked curiously at the plump, grey haired woman who descended. He smiled.

'Lydia, me darlin,' he cried as recognition dawned.

'John, John, I be keepin me promise,' she sobbed, falling into his arms. He looked in astonishment at the group of people approaching him with open arms. 'Could these all be mine?' he asked.

'They surely are,' Lydia beamed. 'John Target, ya not be the only person capable of delivering surprises.'

'But it is not Christmas,' he laughed.

'No,' Lydia responded. 'But do be winter here.' Embracing them all, John declared 'This family reunion and the keepin of a promise be better than any Christmas we could ever imagine.'

Beckoning them to a waiting wagon, he grinned 'Lydia, love of me life, I not be outdone by ya for surprises. I be takin ya all to ya new home.'

It was a stone cottage at Avoca, provided by Mr Gilligan - a palace compared to the dingy one room house in England.

'Stephen, did ya be bringing ya harmonica?' John asked that evening. Stephen reached into his pocket and produced the instrument.

'Come let us sing and dance, and give thanks to God,' Lydia suggested. 'Not before ya be makin us all a figgy pudding, Lydia me darlin,' John chuckled as he placed the required ingredients on the kitchen table.

Epilogue - 1857

The surprises were not over. On April 1, 1857, Ann and George Mitchell arrived in NSW as assisted immigrants - assisted by John, Lydia and Mr Gilligan - en route to Avoca. Their entry papers stated both could read and write, and were in good health. They arrived in Van Diemen's Land later that year, and John met his grandchildren William Henry 7, George Henry 5, and John and Lydia met the latest arrival Jane Lydia born at sea on December 25, 1856.

'Our Christmas surprise,' they laughed in unison.

Ann and George Mitchell move to St Marys and George set up his wheelwright business on the site now known as Faulkner's Green. They, John and Lydia Target are buried at Cullenswood.

John and Lydia are my great, great grandparents. William Mitchell is my grandfather; he married Mary Ann Walters, daughter of Bridget Fennelly who featured in my past Christmas stories.

Gray, December 2017

While researching the Target family, my daughter Hannah Rubenach Quin made an amazing connection discovery. On September 13, 2015, Hannah married Ross Quin from St Marys. Ross knew his family originated from Evercreech, Somerset County in England. Hannah discovered his great, great, great, great grandparents William and Eliza Rossiter Stride lived only four miles from the Target family. Now Hannah and Ross live only four kilometres away from us.


Life is full of surprises!

May God bless you all with a joyful Christmas surprise this year.

'Joy to the world, the Lord has come!'

Beverley Rubenach, Gray. 2017

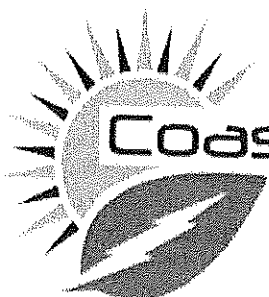
Hon Rene
Hidding MP



Always Available

Ph: (03) 6165 7840
rene.hidding@dpac.tas.gov.au
f rene.hiddingmp

Authorised by Rene Hidding MP, 1 Gordon Street, Steep



NICK SHAW 0439-414-299

Coastal Heat Pumps & Solar

Lic no. L076081
Lic no. A4155228

Specialising in both Domestic and Commercial projects

Tax deductible for business

Tier 1 supplier, for the best quality solar systems

1 kW - 100 kW systems available

Call us today for a FREE SOLAR QUOTE

Already have a quote?

WE'LL BEAT IT BY 5 %

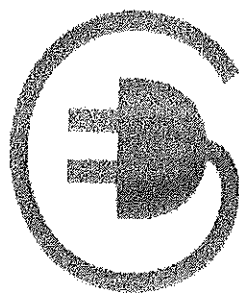
**Install one of our leading brands of
Heat Pumps today and stay WARM this WINTER
while still staying COOL in SUMMER.**

-Floor mounted-

-Wall mounted-

-Fully Ducted systems

-up to 18kW



St. Helens Electrical

Rod Shaw 0407-615-072

Nick Shaw 0439-414-299

**24798 Tasman Highway
St. Helens, Tas. 7216**

**Email:
sth.electrical@gmail.com**



**Coastal Heat Pumps
& Solar**

Domestic, Commercial, Industrial
New houses, wiring and repairs
Underground mains supply

Lighting Specialist
Interior and Exterior
Advice, sales, and installation

Heat Pump/Heater Installations
Supply and install all brands
Floor, Wall, Ducted
Advice on all home heating

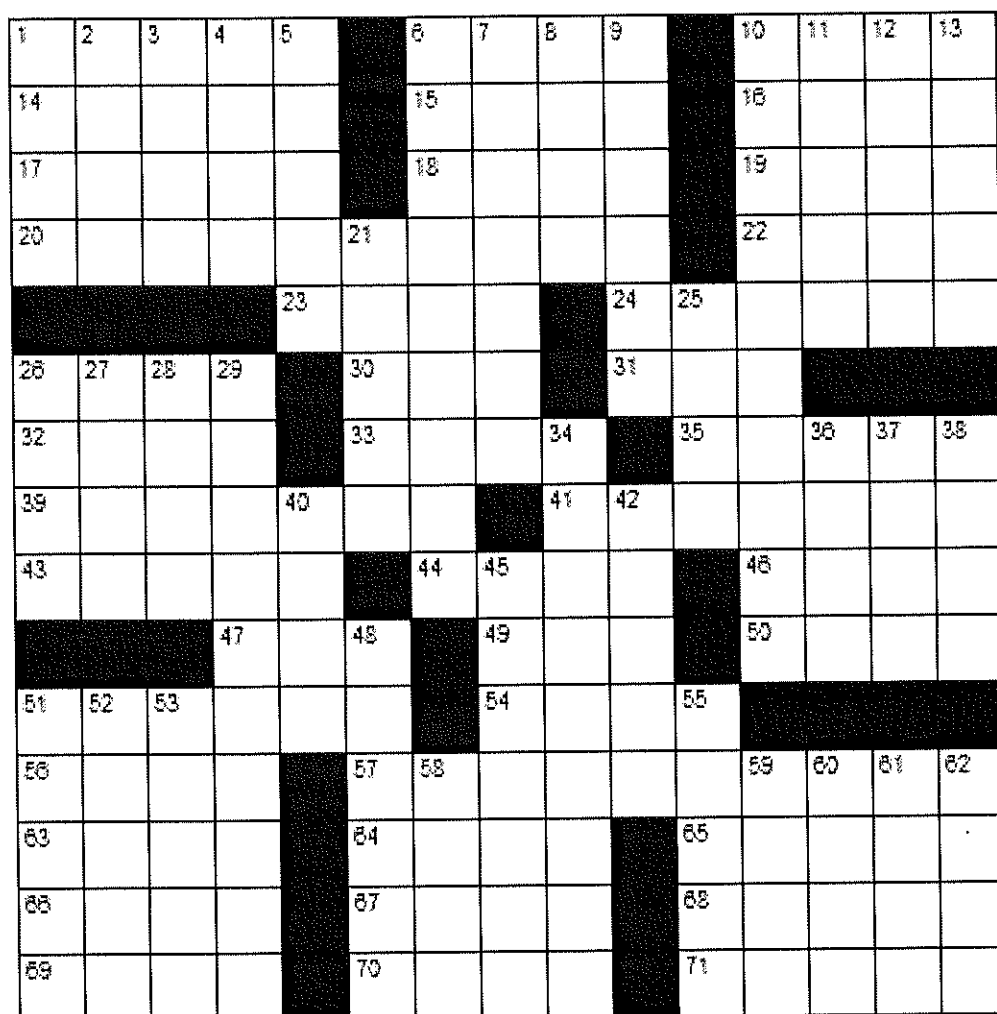
Solar Installation
Domestic and business
1kW to 100kW

Call for a free quote

Electrical Contractors
Servicing the East Coast from Pyengana down Coles Bay
and through the Fingal Valley
Lic: 933671

ACROSS

1. Animal tissue
6. A small wooded hollow
10. Being
14. Scoundrel
15. Type of sword
16. Male deer
17. A kind of macaw
18. Quick
19. Head
20. Undergrowth
22. Auspices
23. Found on rotary phones
24. A movement upward
26. If not
30. Alkaline liquid
31. 52 in Roman numerals
32. C C C C
33. Morsels
35. Lariat
39. Idyllically calm and peaceful
41. Adulteress
43. Viscera
44. Pierce
46. Garret
47. Cotillion girl
49. Make lace
50. Not nays
51. Insincere
54. Novice
56. Cab
57. Record player
63. Agitate
64. Disabled
65. France's longest river
66. By mouth
67. Winglike
68. Church officer
69. Heap
70. Cravings
71. Oceans



DOWN

1. German for "Madam"
2. Forsaken
3. Quaint outburst
4. Certain
5. Listened to
6. Paying
7. Shoulder board
8. Not more
9. Deadly
10. Particularly
11. Platform
12. Lustrous fabric
13. Excrete
21. "The Hobbit" hero Bag-
25. Storage cylinder
26. Reflected sound
27. Foliage
28. Consciousness
29. Squadron
34. Filters
36. Blackthorn
37. Couch
38. Chooses
40. Anagram of "Lyme"
42. Backward-looking
45. Footstool
48. Schtick
51. Razor sharpener
52. New Zealand native
53. Lengthways
55. Leered
58. Fit
59. Part in a play
60. Deputy
61. Kind of school
62. Not his

Solution on p28

Libraries (Closed public holidays)

61 Cecilia Street **St Helens**
6387 5600
Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm
Sat 10am - 12pm

31 Main Street **St Marys**
6372 2114
Mon, Wed & Fri 12.30 - 4pm
Tue & Thurs
10am - 12.45pm

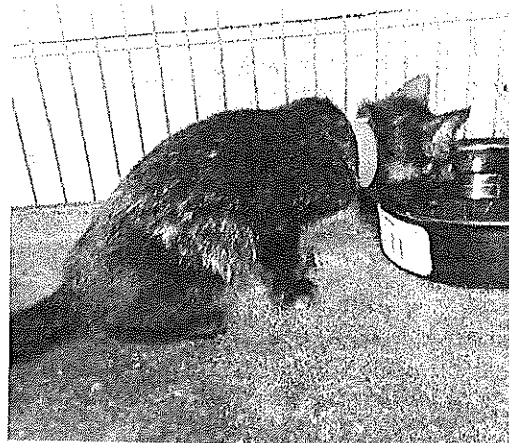
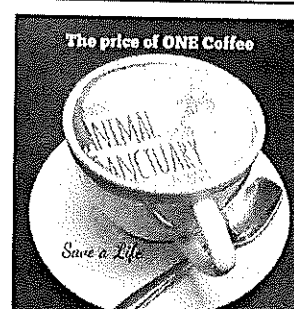
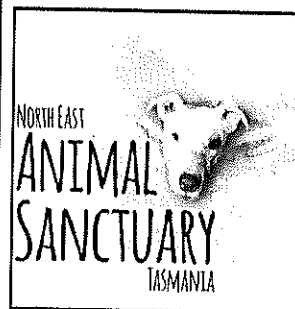
Fingal FVNH
Talbot Street 6374 2344
Mon, Wed & Fri 9am - 4pm
Tue & Thurs 9am - 12pm



152 words of 3 letters or more were found in
HUSBANDRY



abs	brashy	dubs	
absurd	bray	had	
ads	brays	hand	
and	brush	hands	
ands	brushy	handy	sad
anus	bud	hard	sand
any	buds	hards	sandy
ars	buhr	hardy	say
ash	buhrs	has	shady
ashy	bun	hay	shard
ays	buns	hays	shrub
bad	burn	hub	shun
ban	burns	hubs	shy
band	burs	husband	snub
bands	bursa	husbandry	sub
bandy	bury	hydra	subah
bans	bus	hydras	sun
bar	bush	nab	sunday
bard	bushy	nabs	sundry
bards	busy	nay	sunray
barn	buy	nays	uhs
barns	buys	nub	unary
barney	dab	nubs	unbar
bars	dabs	nus	unbars
bash	darn	ran	unsay
baud	darns	rand	unshy
bauds	dash	rands	urban
bay	daub	randy	urn
bays	daubs	rash	urns
bra	day	rashy	yah
brad	days	ray	yar
brads	drab	rays	yard
brady	drabs	rub	yards
bran	dray	rubs	yarn
brand	drays	ruby	yarns
brands	drub	run	yaud
brandy	drubs	runs	yauds
bras	dry	rush	yuan
brash	dub	rushy	yuan



Meet our 2 newest additions - Violet and Ruby. Violet is black tabby and Ruby is Tortoiseshell.

Adoption Fee is \$220 each
This fee covers:

- Health check
- Initial vaccination
- Flea and worming
- Microchipping
- Desexing

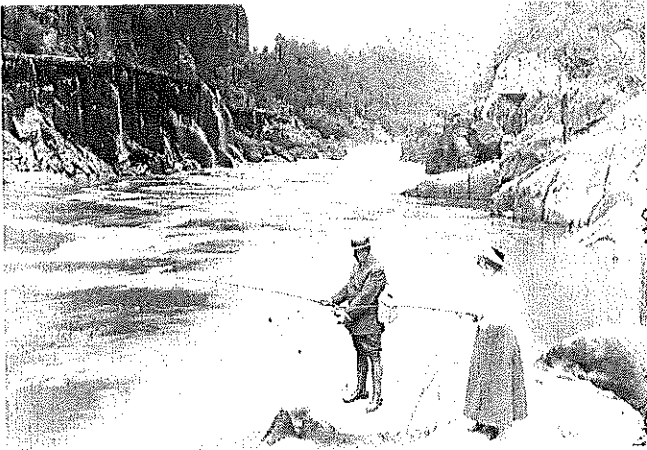
ADOPT, DON'T SHOP

michelle.jesson@bigpond.com 0457 081 533



Tasmania Way Back When

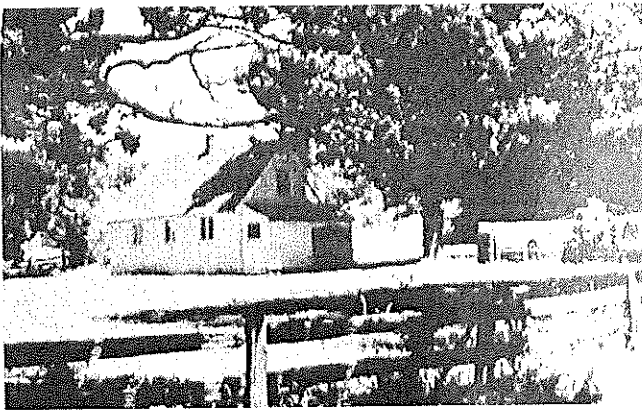
<https://www.facebook.com/tastime/photos/>



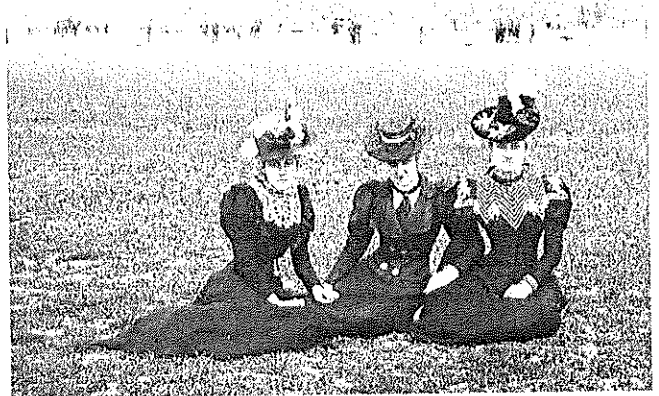
1905 Fishing at Cataract George, Launceston



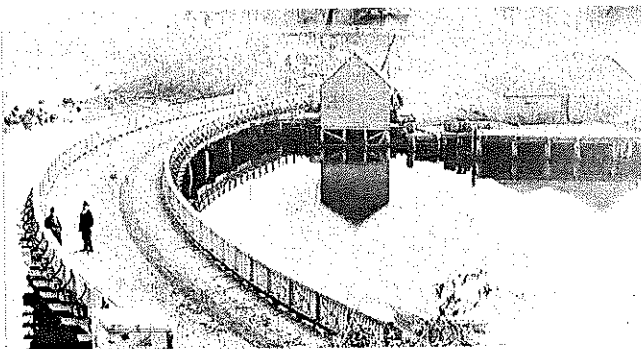
1911 Hut and residents at Wielangta Forest



Mangana School undated



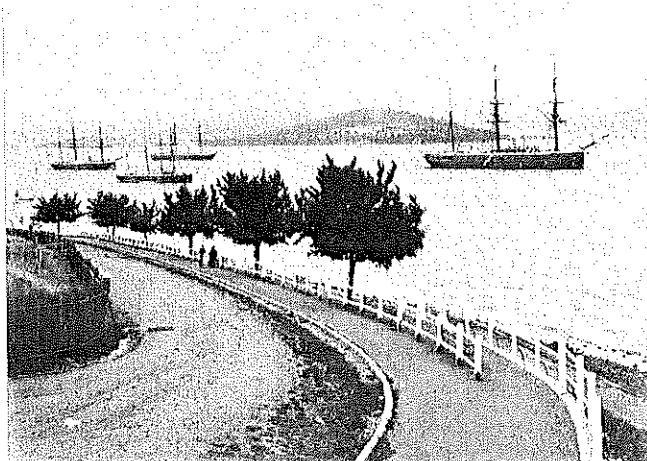
c1880 Ladies at Ploughing Match, Cambridge



c1920 St Helens Bridge



1921 Waratah - Mount Road during snow fall of July



c1870 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point



*c1890 William Wells and Thompson's Hire Coach
at Lillico Beach*



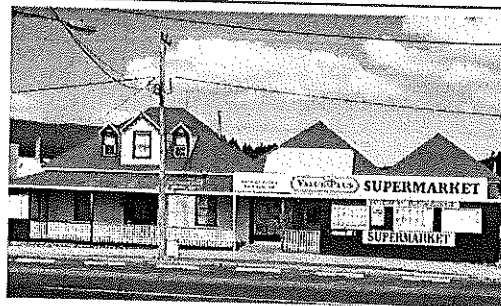
St Marys IGA Supermarket

38 Main Street 6372 2240

Butcher instore weekdays 8am - 2.30pm
6372 2274

Monday - Friday 7.30am - 7pm

Saturday 8am - 7pm Sunday 9am - 7pm



Mark and Staff wish everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

*Now taking orders for Christmas. Ham, turkey, duck, seafood, rolled roasts and more.
Call in and have a chat with one of our friendly staff members.*

St Marys Sports Centre Inc. Gray Road St Marys

Thursday 5pm onwards. Friday 5pm until close, includes Happy Hour 6.30 - 7.30pm. Raffles, Lucky Members Draw, Pick a Pen, toasted sandwiches on sale. Saturday 12 until close (this time may vary). Sunday 1pm until close.

Bowls news Fun Day on 15/11 was a fantastic day. Teams of pairs, Tam and Jim v Dawn and Steve in the finals, Steve and Dawn too good on the day. Corner to corner a hit! Great prizes donated by Karl Balzer, beautiful leather wallets and key rings. Well done Mark, our local shop owner, who enjoyed the day. When you see a Fun Day advertised next, come along as it is open to all. Bowls on 2/12 rained out. On 9/12 St Marys def Swansea at St Marys, a nice surprise!

General news Chad Morgan Day, Sunday December 17 at 3pm. \$20 per ticket, Sausage Sizzle. Come and enjoy a day of great fun. The Centre's Break Up is on December 22, commencing 5pm. Sausages and onion / Hamburgers and salad on sale. Great night, including the Raffle draw.

Golf news Great to see the Spilsbury family playing a round. Sunday we saw a roll up of locals and campers, approximately 18 players in all.

St Marys Christmas Eve Celebration

Faulkner's Green St Marys 3pm - 5:30pm

Free Jumping Castle, Free Face Painting, Giveaways

Prizes will be awarded for:

- Best decorated business
- Best Christmas lights
- Most festively dressed person
- Best dancer in the crowd
- Age and Gender prizes, and heaps more

The Valley and East Coast Voice Inc.
is available at the following outlets:

Avoca Post Office	Holder Bros Fingal
Coach House Restaurant	Mathinna Post Office
St Marys	Scamander S/market
The Farm Shed, Bicheno	St Marys IGA
Hilly's IGA St Helens	St Marys Newsagency
Hilly's IGA St Marys	

Shower Thoughts

Does a deaf person close their eyes when the pastor says, "Let us pray" or do they watch the interpreter so they know what they are praying about?

Printed and published by
The Valley and East Coast
Voice Inc.
POB 230
St Marys Tasmania 7215.

