



THE VALLEY & EAST COAST VOICE

Volume 36 No. 17 Thursday 18 December 2003 50c



Work recognised

Stanley this year hosted the Keep Australia Beautiful - Tidy Towns Presentation of awards day and the efforts of the small St Marys group of volunteers, 'Wombat Walk Landscaping' was recognised with a Certificate of 'Major Environmental Project Award for ongoing regeneration of Wombat Walk'.

This group has been working on the area along the St Marys Rivulet in the centre of town for about eighteen months, and have appreciated the encouragement and support they have received from Break O'Day Council and much of the community.

St Marys District High School received commendation for their 'Wide ranging farm activities'.

Overall major prize of this year's Spring Clean Tasmania Tidiest Town went to Bicheno, a committed participant of the program for over nine years and this year successful.

Innkeepers Tidy Towns Judge Mr Ken Stewart visited 65 entries this year and said the substantial increase in participation mirrored the mood of community optimism.

Editor Ron along with all volunteers at the Valley Voice, wish: the loyal business sector who continue to advertise in this paper, the regular column contributors, paper sales people, and readers, a very happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.



Thankyou to all who supported the Valley Voice in 2003.

Paper will resume mid February 2004

Charges made in relation to assaults and other offences

Since the last report there have been four people charged in relation to assaults and street offences in St Marys. Also over the weekend of 12th to 14th December 2003 there were several burglaries in the Chain of Lagoons and Four Mile Creek areas.

A male and female suspect were identified as driving a white Hi-Lux flat tray vehicle. Descriptions given to Police were: Male approx 30 years old, approx 180 cm, solid build, black goatee beard, numerous tattoos on both arms. Female as being slim build, average height with long wavy red hair. Police would greatly appreciate any assistance as to the identity of the suspects.

Crime report: Bob Baker Sergeant St Marys Station

Playground update

The new playground will be delivered this week and will be stored in the Council Depot for about two weeks to allow Christmas to pass and for preparation to take place.

The Break O'Day Council have organised the soft fall to be installed under the equipment.

It is planned to arrange an official opening with a community BBQ as soon as the work is finished. We will keep you posted with notices.

Lions Club of St Marys



St Marys Christmas Parade

Wednesday 24th December.

Children, are you ready to decorate your bike and enter it in the parade, you can also be in the fancy dress competition.

Decorated House Competition

You need to register your decorated house at the Post Office to be in the draw for 1 of 3 cash prizes. Three houses will be drawn at random, so every participant has a chance to win. Winners announced Christmas Eve at the St Marys Town Party.



C.D.D.M EXCAVATIONS

St Marys

Earthmoving Contractors - - owner operators

Craig: 0439 722 032 6372 2033 or Des: 6372 5441

✓ 20 ton Excavator with: - quick hitch, buckets, ripper, log forks, rock grab

✓ Dozer.

✓ Track Loader—forks, root-rake.

✓ Wheel Loader— forks, bucket

✓ 4 WD Tractor & Slasher.

✓ Compact Roller,

✓ Tipper & Water-cart

✓ Firewood

✓ Land clearing

✓ Water holes

✓ Dams

✓ Roading

✓ Gravels



CLASSIFIEDS



Break O'Day Council

Items for Sale

Size 12 Childs wet suit "Trevor Hendy", worn twice \$40
Phone 6372 2602

3 Exercise bikes, assorted styles
\$15 ea. Ph. Kathryn 6372 2172

Stock sale
Black faced ewes and lambs
\$45.00 each,
Suffolk Ram \$65.00
Angus cow with calf at foot
\$650.00 ono
Contact Mick Sharman
03 6372 1001 or 0427 721 001

Needed, home for a gaggle of
Tolouse geese.
Excellent for keeping grass
down, fertiliser, or 'guard dogs'.
Christmas dinner an option !
Phone 6372 2944

Birds cage & Budgie
High chair, Pine cot
Ladies bike
Couch and 1 chair
Phone 6372 2542

Opening hours for tip sites over Christmas / New Year period.
After 2nd January 2004 tip times will revert to normal.

St Helens		Scamander / St Marys	
Fri 26th.	10 am - 4 pm	Fri 26th.	10 am - 4 pm
Sat 27th.	10 am - 4 pm		
Sun 28th.	10 am - 4 pm	Sun 28th.	2 pm - 5 pm
Mon 29th.	10 am - 4 pm		
Tue. 30th	10 am - 4 pm	Tue 30th.	10 am - 4 pm
Thu 1st.	10 am - 4 pm	Thu 1st	2 pm - 5 pm
Fri 2nd.	10 am - 4 pm	Fri 2nd.	10 am - 4 pm
Binalong Bay		Pyengana	
		Wed 24th.	9 am - 12 pm
Sun 28th.	12 pm - 2.30 pm	Sun 28th.	2 pm - 4 pm
		Wed 31st.	9 am - 12 pm

Thumbs up:
To the bearded Council worker who mowed the back streets of St Marys - keep up the good work.

Thumbs down:
To the dog owners who let their dogs do their business on the nature strips where we have to walk.

East Coast Glass

Falmouth 6372 5361

- * Glass repairs
- * Security doors
- * Shower screens
- * Wardrobe doors
- * Double glazing
- * Aluminium windows



Locally owned and servicing the East Coast for over 10 years. Call David and Anne Cannon for prompt and reliable service.

Deb's Costume Hire

Do you need a fancy dress costume?
Plenty to choose from at reasonable rates.
Please call Deb on 6372 2261



Summer Fun Days

Grassy Bottom Regional Arts will run a series of fun based workshops over the summer holiday period. Workshops planned include: music, dance & juggling. Keep an eye out for programmes

Harris Funerals

Lindsay & Diane
(D.Bailey & Son) A.F.D.A

Ph/Fax 6376 1153 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.

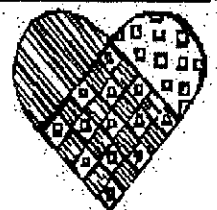


Gone Rustic Quilt Gallery

Quilts, Classes, Patterns, Kits

The Old Church
Storey Street
St. Marys, Tas. 7215

Rita Summers
Phone - 0409 289 997
Email - riet@hotmail.com
Website - groups.msn.com/GoneRustic



RATHA B'ZAR

Your local Craft shop
Main Street St Marys

We now stock:

Drums
Jewellery - Sunglasses
Rafia Hats
Lead Light - Wind Chimes
Tribal Wands
Rustic Mirrors - Bird Houses
Leather Work
Living Pictures - Dream Catchers
Hand-painted T-shirts
Hand-made Christmas decorations.
Quality new & pre-loved clothes.
Plenty of good reading.

Do your Christmas shopping in St Marys.

Wine & Cheese Shop Opening, & Christmas Party
Wednesday arvo 24th of December

St Marys Police Station Hours for Christmas/New Year Period Only

Monday 22nd December '03	9 am to 4 pm
Tuesday 23rd December	Closed
Wednesday 24th December	Closed
Thursday 25th December	Closed - Christmas Day
Friday 26th December	Closed - Boxing Day
Monday 29th December	9 am to 4 pm
Tuesday 30th December	9.30 am to 3 pm
Wednesday 31st December	9 am to 4 pm
Thursday 1st January 2004	Closed - New Years Day
Friday 2nd January	<i>Resumption of normal office hours</i>

Closed during 12 to 1 pm each working day

ADDLESTONE HOUSE B & B

19 Gray Road St Marys 7215



Your hosts: Bob and Charlie (Charmaine)

★★★★½ Accommodation at very reasonable rates

Ph. 03 6372 2783 Fax. 03 6372 2889

E-mail: addlestone@bigpond.com

Appreciation

Members of the Lions Club of St Marys wish to congratulate and thank the 'New Management' at the St Marys Hotel on the catering for their Club in such a professional and friendly manner and sincerely wish them every success for their future.

In Sympathy

The St Marys Pacing Club wish to extend their sincere sympathy to the families of the late Bob McGill and Doug Parker who have recently passed away.

They were both wonderful supporters of our club and will be sadly missed.

Rest in peace.

Eric Bean Secretary

East coast tourism operator on national consultative body

East Coast tourism entrepreneur Mrs Allison Stubbs of Coles Bay has been congratulated for her appointment to an Australian Government national small business consultative body.

Senator Guy Barnett said the panel will advise Government on a broad range of issues impacting on small business.

The council comprises 12 business operators from across Australia, who will provide possible solutions and ideas to address issues confronting small business. The council had its inaugural meeting late last month.

Mrs Stubbs is the General Manager of the multi-award winning ecotourism operation Freycinet and Strahan Adventures.

Representatives from the Taxation Department and Department of Small Business and Tourism will attend meetings of the council.

ST MARYS NEWSAGENCY

would like to say Merry Christmas
to all our customers

and thank the Valley Voice for
another successful year -

- keep it up!



Community notices

The St Marys Lions Club and St Marys Traders Christmas Parade Christmas Eve

- Children decorate your bikes
- Dress up in fancy dress
- Have your face painted
- Ride with Le Frog
- Jump in the Castle
- Join in the treasure hunt
- Heaps of fun for young and old
- Gypsy Rose from 5.30 pm
- Collins Pocket at Hotel 8 pm
- Community group raffles will be drawn at intervals during Christmas party.

Notice of A.G.M. The Tasmania Lymphoedema Centre Annual General Meeting will be held at 10 am on Monday 16 February 2004 at the St Marys Community Health Centre. Members and persons interested in becoming members are invited to attend.

H. Gilbert Secretary

Bicheno Riding Club Inc. are holding their Annual Gymkhana on 17th January 2004. Programs available, phone 6375 1806, 6375 1037, 6375 1621.

Carols by Candlelight

A large gathering attended the Carol evening which this year returned to the St Marys Community Health Centre. It was great to see so many present and joining in. The happy smiling faces of the J.A.M. children were a delight as they sang so sweetly.

Our sincere thanks to all who helped, both behind the scene and on the night and of course we are most grateful to those who gave items on the night, they certainly gave variety to the programme.

We must give a special thank you to Don Ives who has for several years travelled from Beaumaris to play for our Carols.

If you have any ideas regarding how the 'Carol Evening' can be improved, please speak to one of our members or write to our secretary Kevin Faulkner, who I am pleased to say is progressing well after his operation.

We are sure you would have noticed the Christmas lights on the tree, a 'Symbol of Christmas', one of the many things we have been able to purchase through the generosity of our community that supports us so well.

May you all have a holy, joyous and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year

Community Health Centre Auxiliary Members

St Marys Catholic Parish Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve:

Bicheno - 6.15 pm

St Marys - 8.30 pm (Children presenting the Christmas Pageant)

Christmas Day:

St Helens - 9.00 am

Thank you to the staff and helpers at the Valley Voice who have 'held the fort' and kept the paper going in our absence.

Ron and Bettie Sumner

Coach House Restaurant

Ross Tracy and Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year and we would like to thank our many customers, old and new for their patronage since taking over the Coach House.

Pizza hours are now from 5 pm to 9 pm

We will be closing at 7.30 pm Christmas Eve and re-opening at 8 am on Boxing Day.

*Merry Christmas everyone
Ross, Tracy & Staff*

BMX Bike Park

Thank you to all who have contributed to the construction of the bike park this year. We still have plenty of work to be done early next year before the bike track will be completed.

Working bees for January will be advertised in shop windows, please come along.

Have a happy and safe Christmas.

Hannah Rubenach, coordinator
St Marys Bike Park Group

Lions Club of St Marys Christmas Stocking

Tickets \$1 each & drawn at St Marys Christmas Party Christmas Eve



Ray Rosskelly
PAINTER

St Marys
6372 2218

Designer Hair

St Marys 6372 2108

Kelly, Emma Francine and Lyn would like to wish absolutely everyone a Happy and Safe Christmas and a Merry New Year.

Designer Hair:

Closed at 3 pm Christmas Eve re-open New Years Eve 31st Dec.' 03. 10 am to 2 pm

Closed 1st and 2nd January '04 Back to business Monday 5th January 10 am

LIONS CLUB OF St.Marys

CHRISTMAS PARADE

WEDNESDAY THE 24th DECEMBER 2003

SPONSORED BY: CORNWALL COAL, AURORA, & ST.MARYS PACING CLUB

3.00 p.m.

Lions Club Children's Party
& B.B.Q on Faulkner's block.

4.00 p.m.

Kids Tent, Face Painting, Donuts, Fairy Floss,
FREE Motorbikes Rides with LE FROG*,
FREE Jumping castle, Kids Lucky Ducks Game
Duck Patslotto, Chocolate Wheel,
Kids Treasure Hunt & lots lots more.

4.45 p.m.

KIDS WE NEED YOUR BIKE!

Enter the decorated bike & fancy dress
competition that starts at the library and win
great prizes.

5.00 p.m.

Main Christmas Parade

5.30 p.m.

(GYPSY ROSE)

Will perform on the block and Announcements of
Raffles, Prize Winners for Floats & Decorated
Houses will be announced throughout their
performance.

8.00 p.m.

Cabaret will start in the hotel

(COLLINS POCKET)

LE FROG RIDES* (all children to be accompanied by
an adult while waiting for rides)

Meals on Wheels Roster

Dec/Jan	St Marys	Fingal
Mon 22nd	Tina Floyed	Shirley Parker
Tue 23rd	Pauline Berwick	June Hall
Wed 24th	Wendy Aulich	Christine Woods (P)
Thu 25th	<i>Best wishes for Christmas Day</i>	
Fri 26th	Claire Bean	Julie-Anne Claridge
Mon 29th	Glen Lodge	Sue Woods
Tue 30th	Lorraine Gill	Alana Johns
Wed 31st	Pam Lynch	Karen Lohrey
Thu 1st	Gail Gamble	Suzie Smith
Fri 2nd	Peter Williams	Bob Yates
Mon 5th	Sally Spilsbury	Carole Woods
Tue 6th	Trish Pike	Cheryl Rankin
Wed 7th	Pauline Berwick	Wendy Blair
Thu 8th	Jean Schier	Rhonda Hoskinson
Fri 9th	Kath Read	Robyn Miller
Mon 12th	Audrey Wright	Katrina Johnson
Tue 13th	Ruth Aulich	Rachael Reid
Wed 14th	Mary Viney	Debra Speers (N)
Thu 15th	Tania West	Jan Marshall
Fri 16th	N & A Challis	Christine Woods (S)
Mon 19	Tina Floyed	Shirley Parker
Tue 20	Pauline Berwick	June Hall
Wed 21	Wendy Aulich	Christine Woods (P)
Thu 22	Kaye Nailer	Joan Lowe
Fri 23	Claire Bean	Julie-Anne Claridge



St Marys Top Shop
56 Main Street St Marys 6372 2242

Karen, Graham & Staff would like to wish you all the best for a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

HEY KIDS

Santa will be visiting our store on Thursday 18 December from 3.00 to 3.30 pm so come along and have a chat to Santa.

Free lollies for the kids



Wombat Post News

Wombat and Staff would like to wish all their valued customers a very Merry Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

On January the 5th Wombat will clock up 40 years of service with the Postal Department with the last 21 as Manager of the St Marys Post Office.

I would like to thank my Staff and townfolk for your friendship over this period.

See you at Wombat Post
PM Pete



<http://dickadams.vision.net.au>
email: D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

St Marys

The gem of the East Coast

"Tasmania is going to be the tourist destination of Australia."

The East Coast has got all the best of Tasmania, lets make the most of our great community."



SUPPORTING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES

Dick Adams MP

Fax
03 6398 1120

Federal Member for Lyons
PO Box 50 Perth Tas 7300

Phone
1300 132 689

Prime Plumbing & Gas

**Slow Combustion Cookers,
Cast Iron Heaters & Pot Belly's**
Spare parts for most makes, including
**Everhot, Rayburn, Stanley, Coonara,
Convair & Red Embers.**

Friendly advice, efficient service & many years of experience.

Rod & Vanessa Clark

138 Bathurst St Launceston
Ph. 6334 1499 Fax. 6334 3640
Email: primeplumbing@bigpond.com

St Marys Health & Beauty Centre

Dear Customers,

It has happened!!!!

Kathryn & John have sold St Marys Health & Beauty Centre to Ernest Targett with our last day of trading being on Saturday 27th December. In the meantime, we are clearing out some of the stock.

We have greatly appreciated the support of our loyal customers over the last 12 years (yes it has been nearly that long) and we will miss the chance to have a chat with you when you visited the shop.

We are actually moving on to a new business which we will both be working in, the Wellington St News & Lotto, at 222 Wellington St Launceston next to the Cheesecake Shop (just down from Hungry Jacks), so we would really like you to drop in when you are in the area.

We wish Ernest and his staff all the best at St Marys Health & Beauty Centre.

Thankyou,

Kathryn & John Brown



To all our Valued Valley Customers

Targetts Pharmacy will be taking over the St Marys Health & Beauty Centre as of the 29th December.

Opening Hours

Mon – Fri 9.00am – 5.30pm (closed 12.30 – 1.30, lunch)
Saturday 9.00 – 12.00 NOON

We look forward to any suggestions you may have.

Wishing Kathryn & John all the best for the future.

Merry Christmas

Ernest Targett Pharmacy

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

Just writing my views on the proposed logging of South Sister. I have listened to several groups, attended several meetings, read reports, read letters in the local paper and talked to lots of people on the street with their concerns.

Looking at what I have listed above, I found in my mind that some of these people were right, some are completely wrong and some are simply not worth listening to or reading about, whatever side of the argument they are on.

However, I would like to put my views in writing. As a local, lived here all my life. I do not have a degree in any of this but I do have a lot of local knowledge.

The South Sister and surrounding area is unique in itself and the surrounding area to the east, south and north-east holds some incredible farming land. Red basalt soils which compare to that of Sassafras and Scottsdale farming land. Scottsdale, we were informed several years ago now, is geologically connected. Sassafras and Scottsdale, as we know are both capable of growing anything. However we are now beginning to hear about salinity problems in some of these areas.

Over the past few years I have developed my 80 ha of basalt soil for cropping. I have invested \$20,000 into construction of another dam with the same amount again required and planned for, to finish it off.

I have successfully grown cereal, poppies and potatoes. Poppies and potatoes both requiring at times vast amounts of water and potatoes require good quality water.

With several years of hard work behind me and a considerable investment into these soils, with planned future dam extension and Linear Pivot irrigation for cropping, I know that I will be needing volume and good quality water to fill the dam.

Should these plans come to fruition the property will be opened to all markets, vegetable, cereal, poppies etc. or some niche which will boost dollars per hectare which is what it is all about. If I am able to do this then comes employment, ongoing.

I am not alone in investing in my property for future cropping. I know of another property to the east of the Sister who is also going down this track and in fact already does employ seasonally but they will not be able to continue without good quality and quantity of water.

Around the Sister there is several hundred hectares of good quality soil, ready for development, ready to employ people and boost the dollar to the hectare which will in tern boost the economy of the area for decades to come. It has already started and can only go forth to become bigger and better.

After reading the McIntosh and Leaman report I have concluded that the South Sister logging should not go ahead.

This mountain is full of springs which provide good quality/quantity water for all properties.

As we all know, disturb a spring and it will most likely stop. We can not risk losing this water for a weeks worth of employment for a handful of loggers, who will then probably never be seen in the area again. Their employment is not at risk, their future is not at risk.

There has been no "expert" yet able to convince me that the water will not be disturbed.

So therefore it is down to economics. A few weeks worth of logging against investment on top quality soils to employ locally every year for decades and farming growth.

I would welcome talking to anyone who thinks they can tell me how the proposed logging of the Sister is better economic sense than farming investment.

I am not against select logging, I have in fact had this done on my farm, but for my family's future and surrounding farmers futures, this logging proposal should be thrown out the window, if anyone thinks otherwise, please convince me.

Economically this is a bad move.

Stephen Bantick St Marys

VALUE PLUS

ST MARYS SUPERMARKET

38 Main Road St Marys
Mark Kate John Roseanne
Mon- Fri. 8am - 6pm Sat: 8am - 12

Phone/Fax 6372 2240
Butcher Ph. 6372 2274

Christmas is just around the corner. Call in and check out our Christmas gift ideas

- Ladies Venus Gillette Packs
- Mens Rugby Gillette Pack including CD game
- Holden Racing Gillette Chill pack
- Variety of Bob the Builder games

•Chrissy Specials this week

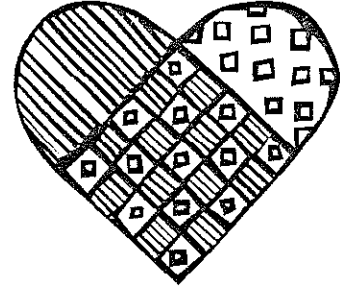
- Cadbury Milk Tray 725g \$7.99
- Cadbury Favourites 300g \$7.55
- Cadbury Roses 250g \$6.55
- Nestle Choc Boot \$3.99
- Nestle Christmas Smarties \$2.49
- Nestle Santa Munchies \$2.49
- Nestle Wonkas Giant Sack \$5.99
- Nestle Small Stocking \$4.25

Now taking orders for:
Fruit & Vegetables and Prawns

Happy Christmas

Important News!

from
Gone Rustic Quilt Gallery
St. Marys



The last opening day this year will be
Friday, 19th December,
at the usual hours of 10 am to 4 pm.

THE NEWS IS

that *Gone Rustic* will be re-opening in
NEW PREMISES

in St. Marys in early 2004.

At this stage, the opening date is still
13th January, 2004,
depending on how quickly we can complete
the necessary renovations.

MORE NEWS SOON!

♥ Exciting classes on offer in early 2004 ♥

Decorated Shirt - transform & personalise a plain garment with simple appliqué & hand stitching	1 day - \$20 (bring a cut lunch) Free pattern (lots of shapes)
My Place - offered again by popular demand! Use a photo as the starting point for a wallhanging	4 sessions - \$20 Quilters' graph paper provided
Rustic Wallhanging - a choice of 5 country style designs; simple appliqué & hand and machine stitching	1 day - \$20 (bring a cut lunch) Free pattern (choice of 5)
Garden Star - simple patchwork star and floral stitchery, ready for framing	1 day - \$20 (bring a cut lunch) Free pattern
Needleturn Appliqué - learn a stress-free way to design and stitch using this lovely traditional technique	1 day - \$20 (bring a cut lunch) Special papers provided

For expressions of interest, or for more details,
please call Rita on 0409 289 997, or email GoneRustic@hotmail.com ☺

Lawns and God !

GOD: Francis, you know all about gardens and nature, what in the world is going on down there on Earth? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attract butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grasses grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST FRANCIS: Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST FRANCIS: No, sir - just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST FRANCIS: Yes, sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn the heat. That surely slows down the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST FRANCIS: You'd better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movies have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a real stupid movie about.....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St Francis.



The Historic St Marys Hotel

Ph 6372 2181 Fax 6372 2184

48 Main Street St Marys

Coffee Shop - Meals - Accommodation

Warm fires - Tote - Keno

Discount Liquor - Ice

Live Music

Licensed

Coffee Shop

Open 10 am to 4 pm (closed Mondays)

Light meals, Iced coffee, chocolate & Spiders

Variety of special teas & Pacific Chai

Latte, Cappuccino, Hot Chocolate

Banana splits

Dining Room available for special functions

Counter meals also available in Lounge

Holiday arrangements

Coffee Shop closed:

Christmas Day and until

reopening on Tuesday

30th December

Christmas Eve:

Counter Meals available in

Dining Room only.

6 to 7.30 pm



Seasons
Greetings
to all



J R & M C

Faulkner Pty Ltd

41 Main Street St Marys

**Serving the Valley & East
Coast since 1972**

**Caltex bulk Fuel &
Oil Distributor**

Mobile 0419 308 205

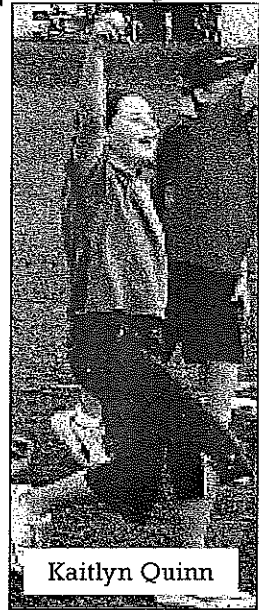
Fax 6372 2822

AH 6372 2277

Athletic Carnival



Caitlyn Viney



Kaitlyn Quinn

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

Grade 3

Tom Loftus Blackwood
Indi Douglas Duncan

Grade 4

Toby Micek Blackwood
Sophie Bourke Dalmain

Grade 5 Field

Emma Spilsbury Dalmain
James Douglas Duncan

Grade 5 Track

Fern Menogue Blackwood
James Douglas Duncan

Grade 6 Field

Ella Cooke Blackwood
Shaun Cannon Blackwood

Grade 6 Track

Ella Cooke Blackwood
Shaun Cannon Blackwood



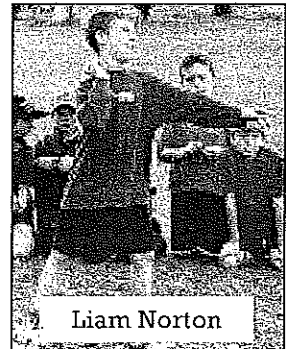
Caitlin McGee



Elise Wright



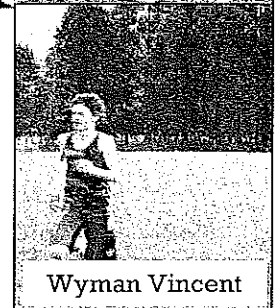
Amie Rawnsley



Liam Norton

Overall Results of the Carnival

1st Dalmain 1608
2nd Duncan 1535
3rd Blackwood 1531



Wyman Vincent

Athletic Carnival

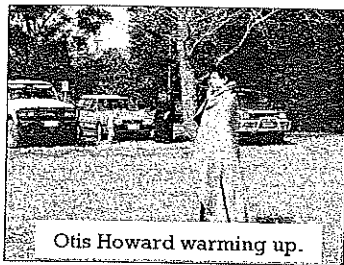
2003



An excellent jump



Jesse Pettigrew, Jacob Bourke, Ben Miller & Richard Howe



Otis Howard warming up.



Josh Rice



Well done Zac McDonald

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

Grade 7 Track

Matthew Bourke Dalmain
Rhianon Stuart Duncan

Grade 7 Field

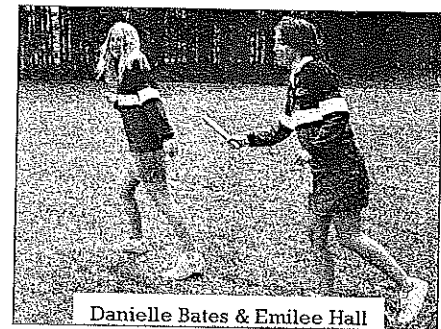
Nick Child Duncan
Rhianon Stuart Duncan

Grade 8 Track

Billy Singline Blackwood
Jenna Goss Blackwood

Grade 8 Field

Todd Spilsbury Dalmain
Rebecca Holmes Dalmain



Danielle Bates & Emilee Hall

Grade 9 Track

Ben Miller Blackwood
Nadine Ozols Duncan

Grade 9 Field

Ben Miller Blackwood
Nadine Ozols Duncan



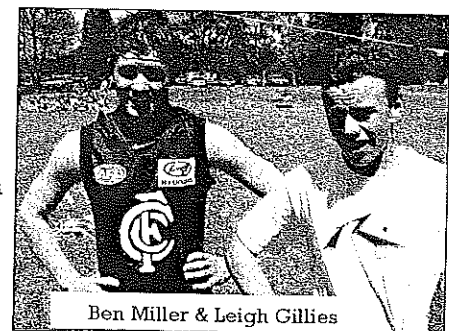
Aedan Pentelow, Aaron Midson & Matt Bourke

Grade 10 Track

Ryan Stuart Duncan
Annabelle Pastula-Ramadier Duncan

Grade 10 Field

Wyman Vincent Duncan
Annabelle Pastula-Ramadier/Tameika
Harding Duncan/Dalmain



Ben Miller & Leigh Gillies



Sam Kelly, Josh Williams, Patrick Escobar,
Cameron Gillies & Lochie Rice



ST MARYS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

GP ROSTER— ON CALL: CHRISTMAS 2003

DR SHAH Thursday 25th/ December— Tuesday 30th/ December

DR GENIOLA Tuesday 30th/ December— Sunday 4th/January 2004

Dr Geniola on call phone: 6374 2288

Dr Shah on call phone: 63722311

Medical Emergencies phone:

000 or

The Ambulance on:

1800 008 008

000 works on Mobile Telephones.

DR SHAH:

Will be working on Christmas Eve
Until 11:30am.

Dr Shah will be on leave until:
Monday 5th/ January 2004.

DR GENIOLA:

Will be working Christmas Eve
Until 2:30pm.

Dr Geniola will be on leave until:
Wednesday 7th/ January 2004.

*On behalf of everyone at the St Marys Community
Health Centre thank you to everyone in the community for
your ongoing support and we hope you all have a very
Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Scripts will no longer be taken over the phone by
our receptionist. A doctors appointment will be
required if you cannot speak directly to your
doctor. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

Thank you



Information from this page was submitted by:
The St Marys Community Health Centre, Gardeners Creek Rd. St Marys, TASMANIA. 7215

Christmas as it used to be

Early years of Christmas as a child was good but very tough, lucky to get one present from Santa but Christmas dinner was the best meal of the year prepared for weeks even months ahead.

Certainly things improved later on when there was plenty of work at the mines and such. Christmas Eve was mostly visiting day to relatives and others and some cooking preparations for the following day and in the evening up the street to Dawborns (Joe Wilson's) Christmas Party where there was lollies and balloons given away and some child would win a bike and a crowd would gather there and on the pub verandah. Everyone would have a wonderful time.

Christmas Day would dawn and most of family would go to church first then it would be dinner time, but beforehand out in the garden picking a bucket of fresh peas and digging new potatoes which were not allowed to be touched until Christmas Day. Sometimes there would be others come for some peas which would be sold for one shilling a bucket. Then all the family would gather for dinner, extra table brought up from the shed and put in at the end of dining table covered with a starched white table cloth and best cutlery, some things only used once a year. The goose and ham was carved, the Christmas pudding with sixpences and three-pences, boiling away on the stove and everyone seated, dinner was served. After dinner, you know I can't remember anything but a hot day we gathered down by the creek under the willows in the cool and when later there was quite a few grand children, sometimes Father Christmas arrived.

The week between Christmas and New Years Day was mostly spent fishing or three or four days camping, but always back for New Years Day Races and what a day. People came and still come from way back as far as I can remember. A train used to run from Launceston, picking up people from every station along the way arriving about dinner time. We used to have relatives and friends arrive from all points of the compass. Some especially from Campbell Town and Hobart would have dinner at our place before going over to the races and what competition there was between the local owner-trainers alone. The Bullocks, the Currans, Jim Smith, Tony Davis, Chas Semmens, Col White, Fingal Woods, Scamander Semmens, earlier Syd Dakin, Stan Hill, later Eric Bean - still here, and others I know I can't remember but what a wonderful day it was and after that Christmas was over.

In the earlier days there were races at Avoca, St Helens, Fingal, Swansea on different days over the Christmas period.

That was a little of what my Christmas was like, so I will close by wishing everyone, old residents and new alike a very happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Jeff Morris St Marys

Forest of Tears

I weep tears for the forests gone. Rivers of water down my face when I remember places, holy leafy, deep tree havens, where I have shed my reserve and danced in spirit with the green labyrinth of trees and sky.....now taken, now gone.

Have you too shed tears? Have you stood like I have, in a used logging coup, in the dusty turned up remains of the carved dirt harrows, scattered with a debris of branches sticking out like torn limbs?

Disappeared the ancient trees, vanished the fern and lichen, lost the animals and birds. Standing there, as far as the eye can see, I remember, howling, inside.

Oh, wounded piece of rainforest, earth's rare beauty, our precious jewel, beaten, destroyed, taken, bulldozed away into growling timber trucks never to be again.

Alizon Ruth Whitestar

Ransleys Appliance Services

P O Box 154 St Helens 7216

- * Washing Machine noisy ?
- * Refrigerator runs too long ?
- * Clothes Dryer blows cold air ?

Then you need the service of our technicians

Ring us on: 6372 5307

Mobile 0428 761 811

ST MARYS ONLINE ACCESS CENTRE



23b Main Road St
Marys Tas 7215
Ph/Fax 03 6372 2005

HOURS OPEN:

Monday to Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

Saturday: 11 am - 2 pm

Rae & Partners Lawyers Barristers & Solicitors

93 York St Launceston
Ph 6337 5555

Visiting St Marys Community Health Centre for all legal matters
Alternate Tues. 9 am - 10 am

Appointments:
St Marys Health & Beauty Centre 6372 2172

St Marys Tennis Club

Membership Fees

A reminder to members that fees are now overdue. Spare invoices are available from outside the Clubrooms. Please pay fees to Drew Adam, Frank St, St Marys.

Christmas Raffle

The Club is currently raffling a beautifully decorated Christmas cake (a Linda Faulkner original), wine and chocolates. Tickets are \$1 and are available from all Club members, St Marys Newsagency, St Marys Police Station, St Marys Health and Beauty and BP Scamander. **A reminder to all members to return their raffle books this week to Susan Miles.**

Club Championships 2004

The Club Championships will be held on 27th and 28th March for the Ladies/Mens Singles, Ladies/Mens Doubles and Mixed Doubles. The draw for this event will be done before Christmas and will be on display at the Clubrooms. Participants are encouraged to begin the early rounds of the competition in January or February to alleviate congestion in the weeks preceding the Finals.

Upcoming events

The Examiner Break O'Day Mixed Challenge will be held on 14th and 15th February 2004. Entries close 30th January 2004. Contact Susan Miles for entry forms.

Next Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be on Thursday 22nd January at 7.30 pm.

Susan Miles (Secretary)

St Marys Pacing Club

As stated in the last issue of our paper, January 1st 2004 is the first day of Tasmania's Bicentennial Year of celebrations and we hope to have a few other events and attractions on the day.

The Veteran Car Club of Launceston will be in attendance with their wonderfully restored cars which are well worth viewing.

We also have a room under the grandstand in which we will be displaying items of memorabilia in the town and district. If any person has any items such as old photos of race meetings in the district, would you kindly advise or leave at St Marys Post Office with Peter or at my residence Gray Road. We are relying on your assistance to make this display a success so please help if possible.

We ask as many people as possible to dress up in period costume. Cash prizes will be given for the Best Couple, Best Lady and Gent, and possibly others to be decided. A \$100 lucky programme, \$100 losing TAB ticket and \$25 betting vouchers are also to be won.

Dorothy Dragon bouncing castle, face painting etc, for the children.

If any person can come up with any other form of entertainment, please contact me as soon as possible. Please as many people possible participate in these events and make it a great day.

We look forward to you attending and continued support and any help possible will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely
Eric Bean Secretary

Church Services

Catholic Parish of St Marys

Priest: Father Bill Egan 6372 2252

Fingal

Every Friday Mass 10am

1st and 3rd Sunday Mass 10.30am

St Marys

Every Sunday Mass 9am

Bicheno

Every Sunday Mass 4pm

St Helens

Every Saturday

Vigil Mass 6pm

Mangana

5th Sunday Mass 11am

Anglican Parish of the Northern Midlands

Services each Sunday

Avoca 8.00am

Fingal 10.00am

Mathinna: 2nd & 4th Sunday
monthly at 11.30 am

Daily Office Reading

Avoca Tuesdays 10am

Fingal Tuesdays 12 noon

Ross Wednesdays 10am

Anglican Parish - St Helens

6376 1144

St Helens

8am and 10.30am

Every Sunday

St Marys 10am

No service 5th Sunday

Monday JAM:

3.15 pm to 5 pm
for children 5-12 yrs

Pyengana 11am

2nd and 4th Sunday

Break O'Day Uniting Church

Fingal 9.00am

St Helens 11am and 7pm

Seventh Day Adventist

Hodgeman Street Scamander

Sabbath School 10am

Divine Service 11am

New Beginnings Church

Every Sunday at 10.30 with
children's time, tea and coffee
afterwards.

Last Sunday of month we will
share lunch together.

108 High St Mathinna

Ph 6377 1234

New Beginnings Church is a branch
of The Vine Church A.O.G
Launceston

Regarding South Sister

Beautiful, isn't she; rising over eight hundred metres above our town, visible from everywhere whether shining in the sun or hidden in the cloud. I first climbed South Sister in 1984 whilst staying at Seaview YHA, - never realising that fifteen years later I'd be living under her trying to establish a certified organic orchard.

Now fifteen years later, South Sister (coupe NI 114A) is under threat from Forestry operations that just aren't compatible with that environment.

I am not opposed to logging per se, my grandfather was a sawmiller on this island, and I love timber, occasionally milling my own fallen Blackwood. However, should South Sister be logged only 5-8% will be graded as sawlog. The rest will feed the pulp mills, returning to us as packaging, toilet paper, etc. A pretty lousy deal for such a special local icon, eh!

Of greater concern to both my neighbours and myself though, is the catchment and the future of our water.

Some 60% of my creek water seeps directly from South Sister. At present my creek, which supplies approximately a third of St Marys back-up reservoir supply, is at the level it was at in February, our most drought and fire prone period since 1967.

From Dublin Town to German Town (tourism, cattle, berries and a new mixed fruit orchard) across to Rosegarland and Steve Bantick's farm, (cattle, sheep, peas, poppies and potatoes) there are seventy people who are dependant on water supply that seeps or flows directly from South Sister, as well as several who generate homestead hydro power. With the lack of Spring rain we are already experiencing a drop in water levels. If the South Sister coupe is logged it could destroy the sponge effect (surface water) which helps water percolate up through the coal seams.

If South Sister (coupe NI 114A) is logged what risk management strategies are in place to protect our water supplies? South Sister is not only a major tourist drawcard, but the head of our catchment. Surely with the lack of good water and the looming bushfire threat that we are all facing, no-one, pro-logging or otherwise, would condone this coupe being logged. The very small short term gain is far outweighed by the threat to our future water purity and supplies. No Water-No Future.

Why spend hundreds of thousands of dollars rehabilitating St Marys Rivulet and the South Esk environs if the main feeder creeks have been destroyed?

If the South Sister coupe is logged we face water loss, more wildlife moving onto farm land (even though it was their habitat before it became our resource), more fire threat and less tourists bothering to look around and stay awhile, possibly leaving with a negative bias. What will have been gained for our community? Nothing.

I came to live in this community because I believed and still do, that it is a beautiful environment and is strong in its spirit of community. I am not an agitator for any organisation but I believe I have an obligation to protect this mountain environment and I encourage you to do the same simply because it is the catchment for all of us, from bush to farm to town community and we must protect it in order to have a sustainable and viable future here.

Whilst I believe in a sustainable timber industry no-one will ever convince me that it is world's best practice to log the headwaters of any catchment area. Around the planet, other than terrorism, the biggest issue is water. We have ours, let's not lose it. Please respect the future for your grandchildren, because the Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth and are the custodians of the future.

Rodney Baker German Town

Editors note:

Because of the number of very lengthy articles being received, it is again asked that these letters be kept to an acceptable length.

Scamander Beach Surf Shop

6 Lagoon Esplanade Scamander
Ph 6372 5529 scamandersurf.com

& Bay Surf Shop 2.

2 Pendrigh Place St Helens
Ph 6376 1755



St Marys School

Op Shop

Main Rd St Marys

Monday-Friday

10 am to 2 pm



The Say with *Cage Rattler*

Holiday Valley?

I'm a bit ticked off but I'm still glad that we are where we are.

This morning whilst listening to the ABC News and Morning Show, I heard of yet another development happening close by, this time at Orford.

It is a proposed 130 million dollar residential and resort complex. Fairly soon Freycinet Coles Bay will be beginning site construction of another accommodation and holiday resort for the area and very shortly Dohertys will be open at St Helens.

One of these days maybe a developer with a vision for environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism will discover the Fingal Valley. If ever a place cried out for inclusion it is us. Okay perhaps we haven't the ocean on our doorstep but just look at what we do have.

- Incredible and diverse walks and hikes - too many to mention and including Douglas Apsley
- Fantastic Esk and Scamander River systems including Break O'Day for canoeing, fishing, gold panning, swimming, you name it.
- Several local communities steeped in history dating back to the very early 1800's
- Plenty of local sport facilities, golf in particular. Where else would you find four golf courses (Malahide, St Marys, Scamander, St Helens) where it would be possible to play each one easily in one day for a total cost of about \$40 in fees. Overseas golfers would gasp in disbelief about that !
- Clean unspoilt air, not tainted at all by any form of industry
- Friendly accommodating people who I'm sure would love to see our local community kick on.

I can hear one or two individuals who Cage Rattler has had run-ins with this year saying; "Here we go again" I can assure these people that they are in the minority and by a considerable margin.

Wouldn't it be great to once again hold a forum like Break O'Day Council did 3 to 4 years ago on planning recreational development for our area. This time though such a forum/think tank might be more specific to actual feasible ideas where interest already exists; such as abseiling, rock climbing, cave exploring and so on.

There would be no need for a bloody big hotel to be built but maybe backpacker, camping facilities designed to suit a Valley location.

Who knows but we'd be silly not to consider these things especially with the new Sydney ferry about to come on line.

All I'd like to see is everyone being able to make enough to sustain and enhance our area. To do that we have to take every opportunity.

As this is the last Valley Voice for this year, I'd like to thank Ron, Audrey and Mary for indulging me this column, I've really appreciated it. Maybe again next year, who knows?

What do you think?

St Marys Health & Beauty Centre

42 Main Road St Marys
6372 2172

Post Christmas Sale before Christmas !!!

🎁 20% off all Gifts, jewellery, cosmetics, fragrances, watches, toys & sunglasses.

🎁 From 12 noon until 6 pm Christmas Eve there will be up to 50% & more off selected stock.

🎁 There are also baskets of stock priced at \$2, \$4, & \$7. Selected hair care products at \$2 ea - some were \$7.

🎁 Sale continues on Saturday December 27th until 11.30 am.

🎁 Please ensure all lay-bys & photos are collected by Christmas Eve. Failure to do so may result in forfeit.



We wish all our valued customers an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Miller's Skid Steer Earthmoving

General Earthworks



George Miller
44 Elizabeth St. Mangana
Phone 6374 1024

- Driveways graded & rubbled
- Trenches back filled
- Rubbish removal
- Shed sites cut
- Landscaping & Site cleans



Sports Centre News

by Kackhander

Thankyou so much to everyone who made our end of year family day one of the most enjoyable functions we have held.

It was not a huge number because we haven't a huge number anyway but having said that everyone who attended is to be congratulated for their efforts. A myriad of events over the day was held and thanks to Cindy, Tina, Heather and helpers, the food at teatime was incredible. Special mention to our chefs Trev and Rog. Well done fellas.

After the meal everyone took part in an under lights bowls carnival which culminated in a great final pairs between John Cox - Karen Spilsbury and Graham Hayes - Di Field, with John and Karen finally winning out. Unbelievably there were 12 teams taking part. Master of Ceremonies Jack Viney, Chris Davern (honorary match manager) and Club President Rex Floyed organised a top night. So popular was it with the new bowlers, that it is hoped to have another one before the end of the season. A special mention to John Cox and Mark Carrick of Value Plus St Marys for their generous donation of \$50 worth of Gift Vouchers. Thank you Mark and John.

The fancy dress competition was won by Aaron Webb with a brave and daring performance. Well done to Aaron.

In pennant the team suffered a loss to Swansea two weeks ago but it turned out to be only very narrow overall which is not so bad really. Only one game to go before the Christmas break against the top team St Helens. A big effort there boys.

Clive Berwick Memorial Triples Carnival

Everyone is reminded about the Open Triples named in honour of Clive Berwick on Saturday 27 December. Please make sure our club is well represented on our own green. Good reports of teams travelling from all over the place, are coming in. See you there.

Mark Birch is envisaging all sorts of things for golf next year, but we must all be prepared to support the innovations.

Sadly numbers are down at the moment but let's try to arrest that over Christmas while bowls is having a few weeks spell. Well done to Jim Haas the other week for winning the Sunday comp in fine style.

Like an idiot I forgot to put in a notice for best offers for the superceded ride-on mower. We really need to have offers in by this upcoming weekend if possible so please be quick. If you need to view mower, please let us know.

This being the final Valley Voice for 2003, we would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and pay a special thanks to our good friends at the Valley Voice for letting us use their pages all year. Thanks to all.

Anyway good hitting and rolling



The Historic St Marys Hotel

48 Main Street St Marys
Ph 6372 2181 Fax 6372 2184



We wish to thank all our customers for their loyal support & extend our best wishes for the Festive Season and the New Year

Hotel closed Christmas Day

Specials:

Nottage Hill Range \$7.95
Brown Brothers Port \$12.95
Cockatoo Ridge Sparkling \$8.95
Boags Premium & Glass Pack \$49.95

*A member of United Cellars
Discount Liquor*

Counter meals available
12 - 2 pm Tues to Sun
6 - 8 pm Daily

Live music coming !!

Christmas Eve December 24
Collins Pocket (no charge)

Wednesday Dec. 31

New Years Eve

Pete Cornelius & DeVilles —
final gig with original line-up. \$10
Limited tickets — on sale now

2004 January Sunday 11

Matt Corcoran —
The 'touring madman' ! \$5

January Saturday 24

Australia Day W'end Concert -
outdoors. 4 Bands including Steve
Arvey (USA - *Legendary Blues Baf-*
foon I), P.C. & the DeVilles, Trawl
Dogs, & more . \$15 Cover.

(If wet, concert in Lounge)

