



QUEEN STREET RICHES AND TEXTURES 2016

Surfaces, Angles and Corners: Queen Street St Marys

Queen Street Riches and Textures 2016

| art
| mentorship
| community engagement

Penrith Council recognises the importance of community engagement with art and culture. This engagement fosters new creative collaborations and provides emerging artists with opportunities to enrich our identity by telling stories inspired by local people and places.

This is the fifth year that St Marys Corner promotes Queen Street Riches and Textures. It is a dynamic annual initiative that celebrates creative collaboration between senior artists that mentor emerging artists and community members to reflect on Queen Street St Marys through a particular creative medium.

This year the focus was poetry and stories. The outcomes of community workshops and mentoring sessions in creative writing and illustration will be presented to the audience in an exciting publication, through a series of public readings and broadcasts.

I'd like to congratulate and commend everyone involved in Queen Street Riches and Textures 2016 - our City's creative writers, participating artists and local residents, the TAFE Western Sydney Institute Nepean Arts and Design Centre, St Marys Area Community Development Project and Penrith Council staff who supported the many community and cultural collaborations to make this year's project so rewarding and successful.

COUNCILLOR JOHN THAIN
MAYOR PENRITH CITY COUNCIL



Ann Babinard, *Stroll*, 2016.

The street gathers with footsteps
heading north on her majesty's back
alcoves weave threads among her
shoe stores and hardware still mingle,
the church bells of Magdalene still toll,
the children line the sidewalks
and ending with the conclusion of the King.

From 69 - 71 by Michael Stoneburner

Surfaces, Angles and Corners

| Queen Street, St Marys

Writing and poetry groups are among the most vital and creative organisations of any community. The St Marys Creative Writers Group (SMCWG) is one of the oldest local community groups at St Marys Corner. The group has been supported since its formation in 2000, by the St Marys Area Community Development Project (SMACD), a local non-profit community based organisation managed and run by local people.

The members of the group have appeared in various publications and many have been published and accredited with awards. The SMCWG anthology is published annually and has been officially deposited at the State Library of NSW, Penrith Library and the National Library in Canberra.

In 2016 SMCWG celebrates 15 years of creative endeavors and with this important anniversary, the Queen Street Riches and Textures Project invited the SMCWG to work together on a new creative project. Angela Stretch, Sydney based writer, artist and creative producer was appointed to collaborate with the group. From a series of meetings, concept discussions and creative writing workshops at the SMACD Arts and Crafts Studios a new creative book venture emerged.

With a new vision and context, fresh ideas and perspectives on stories, the inspiring *Surfaces, Angles and Corners St Marys* was produced. Published contributions include the SMCWG facilitator Gayle Barbagallo, Adel Farag, Richard List, Gabrielle Moran, Joel Stoneburner, Michael Stoneburner, and Jacqueline Tasik.

This project was also open for submissions to writers from the greater Penrith community to submit stories, historical accounts, articles, and poems. Written work featured includes Abaker Athum, Ben, Lyn Forde, Caroline Volkiene, Tomoko Ward and George Sullivan's poem, *St Marys*, written circa 1920.

Four student candidates from TAFE Western Sydney Institute Nepean Arts and Design Centre - Ann Babinard, Amber Bolton, Sarah Emerson and Anita Faulkner - were also part of the creative team. *Surfaces, Angles and Corners* provided them with new challenges and an opportunity to interpret written material into visual media. Contributing to the design and visual presentation of the book carried with it new experiences and learning.

Experimenting with words, text, images, photographs, video and sound has been the source of content and material of the *Surfaces, Angles and Corners: Queen Street St Marys* book.

Surfaces, Angles and Corners: Queen Street St Marys has been a great participatory project that has generated great creative drive, and encouraged artistic learning on so many levels.

The book *Surfaces, Angles and Corners: Queen Street St Marys* is a collection of observations, memories and passages created to document illustrate, challenge and stimulate new conversations about St Marys.

Queen Street Riches and Textures 2016 - *Surfaces, Angles and Corners: Queen Street St Marys* project was produced at St Marys Corner Community and Cultural Precinct from January to September 2016. To read and listen selected writings and poetry from *Surfaces, Angles and Corners: Queen Street St Marys* and to learn more about *Queen Street Riches and Textures* initiative please access stmaryscorner.info/projects and select Queen Street Riches and Textures 2016.



69-71 Video poem, photographs and spoken word, mp4 file, 1.15 min.

69-71 poem written and spoken by Michael Stoneburner. Photographs and animation by Ann Babinard. Photographs contribution by Amber Bolton.

Music by Enigmatic - Bensound.com

Music background editing and introductions by Angela Stretch.

Digital link assistance by Craig Daalmeijer Power.

Queen Street Riches and Textures is an initiative of the St Marys Corner Community and Cultural Precinct.

St Marys Corner is a community and cultural precinct that delivers a range of social services and programs and supports the development and facilitation of a broad range of cultural projects.

To enquire about cultural activities at St Marys Corner please contact us via stmaryscorner@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

W stmaryscorner.info

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