



## NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2015

### HORROCKS DESCENDANT FROM NEW ZEALAND VISITS PENWORTHAM



Rainsford Horrocks and his wife Laura visited Penwortham in July. Rainsford is the great-great-grandnephew of John Ainsworth Horrocks and Laura had this to say about their visit: *"We stayed in Auburn at an historic pub (Rising Sun) well known for its fine fare and atmosphere. We caught up with Wendy & David Spackman of the Mt Horrocks Historical Society who kindly took us on a 4WD trip on their farm for panoramic views of the area and clear view of Mt Horrocks. MHHS member and Penwortham local Joey Duncan showed us through her gorgeous heritage cottage, then St. Marks Church. We also visited the graveyard and paid our respects to Rainsford's great-great-great Uncle John Ainsworth Horrocks.*



*The following day we met up with Janet & Jim Morran who showed us through Horrocks Cottage, the site of Hope Farm and Horrocks Tree. Our visit ended at the Watervale Institute where MHHS keep their records and have a Family History Room. We enjoyed meeting such friendly and welcoming people."*

The Society was saddened to hear of the passing of Rainsford's father Jim Ainsworth Horrocks earlier this year. Jim was a great-grandnephew of John Ainsworth Horrocks. He was a life-member and long-time supporter of MHHS and will be sadly missed.



### 2015 Pioneer Service St Marks Church, Penwortham

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September a service was held at St. Marks Church dedicated to the old Manse that once stood within the grounds of the church. During the service Janet told the congregation a little about the history of the Manse.

Following the service the stone, on which a plaque has been placed to mark the site of the Manse, was unveiled and blessed. The stone is alongside the Riesling Trail and can be seen in the adjacent photograph with St. Marks Church in the background.

A light lunch was provided by MHHS for those wishing to return to John Horrocks Cottage.

(Please contact MHHS if you have a photograph of the old Manse prior to demolition.)

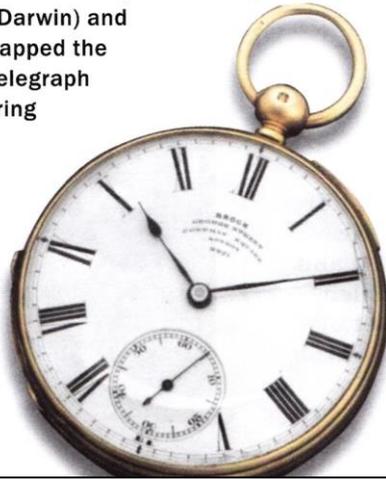
## The NMA's new acquisition



The National Museum of Australia (NMA) has acquired a pocket watch belonging to one of Australia's greatest inland explorers, John McDouall Stuart.

Stuart is most famous for his final 1861–1862 journey, when he became the first person to successfully cross the continent from south to north. His return passage between Chambers Bay (east of what is now Darwin) and Adelaide ultimately mapped the route for the Overland Telegraph – one of the great engineering feats of the 19th century.

The watch was presented to Stuart by the Royal Geographical Society, London, in 1859, in recognition of his work and has been with Stuart's family until it was put up for auction. The NMA purchased it for \$70,000.



Explorer and father of the Overland Telegraph, John McDouall Stuart.

Stuart's pocket watch, presented to him in 1859. Images courtesy National Museum of Australia.

The statue of John McDouall Stuart proudly stands in Victoria Square, Adelaide. Three of Stuart's triumphant party from 1862 were still alive to witness the unveiling in 1904. They would have loved seeing him depicted in his moleskin breeches, coloured shirt and 'cabbage tree' hat. He faces north towards the scene of his triumph. In the end, Stuart's monuments were not great epitaphs in stone or bronze, but massive changes to the map of Australia. No explorer did more for the colony. Eventually the railway and the Stuart Highway followed his track across Australia. His most significant achievement was to blaze the track for the Overland Telegraph Line built between Darwin and Adelaide in 1871. That established a series of cable stations and bases for explorers to attack the last great blank on the map – the Centre to the West.

## World War 1 Bicycle Battalions

Bicycles were intended to supplant horses. In 1914 German Jäger (light infantry) battalions each had a cycle company (Radfahr-Kompanie) and there were 80 of them by the end of the war, some formed into battalions. But they and their British and French equivalents were, like the cavalry, denied the chance to show their effectiveness by the static nature of trench warfare.

Volunteer cycle battalions were first authorised in the British army in 1888 and both sides used them in the Boer War for reconnaissance and communications; unlike horses they did not need fodder or water. By 1914 there were 14 Territorial Army cycle battalions. The first British soldier to be killed in the war was a cycle scout from Middlesex Regiment, on 21<sup>st</sup> August, but cycle troops missed the best chance to show their mettle in the first few months of open warfare because no battalions saw service overseas until 1915.

The Army Cycle Corps was then established, overseeing their deployment mostly still in Britain or providing drafts of troops to replace losses in infantry battalions. Only in the last months of conflict, when it once more became a war of movement, did cycle troops carry out valuable reconnaissance work.



German bicycle troops pose with their machines among pine trees on the eve of the First World War

## Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium

On a recent trip to Belgium Jim & Janet Morran visited the Menin Gate at Ypres. The names of eight local soldiers appear on the panel dedicated to Australian Servicemen. Their photos and military service details were taken from the display at last year's Pioneer Service at St. Marks Church and placed beside their names on the panel. As our visit was in early June, the poppy wreaths from ANZAC Day were still intact and made a wonderful display.



The large *Hall of Memory* at the gate contains names on stone panels of 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient but whose bodies have never been identified or found. On completion of the memorial, it was discovered to be too small to contain all the names as originally planned. An arbitrary cut-off point of 15 August 1917 was chosen and the names of 34,984 soldiers missing after this date were inscribed on the Tyne Cot 'Memorial to the Missing' instead

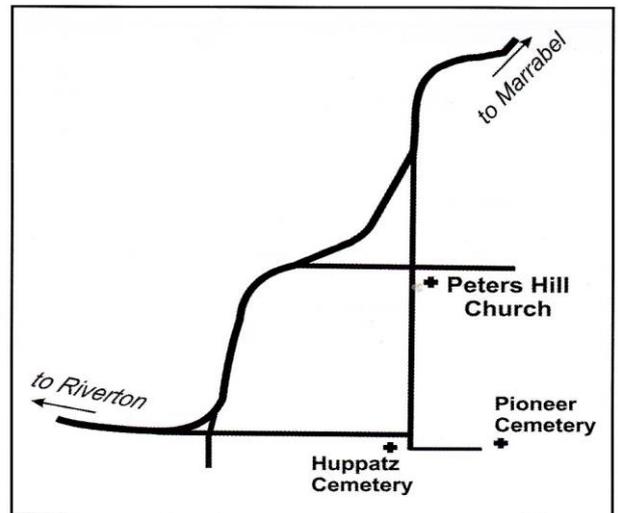


Tyne Cot WW.1 Cemetery

## Wends in South Australia

Wends (also called Serbs) are a Slavic people living in eastern Germany. They have been economically and politically repressed for centuries and in the mid-1800s a number migrated to other countries. The first Wendish families arrived in South Australia in 1848 and some headed north to Peters Hill near Riverton.

Follow the Wendish Pioneer Trail and you will discover more about these devoutly religious pioneers.



The **Peters Hill** area is east of Riverton. Take the road to Marrabel. It is first a bitumen road and then an unsealed road. After 7km, turn right to Peters Hill. The Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail sign is located near the church at the next intersection at 99 Huppatz Rd.

The Huppatz family cemetery and the Pioneer Cemetery are situated over 1km south of the church, via a dry weather track.



St Peter Lutheran Church  
(Est. 1864)

## 2015 - 2016 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2015-2016 financial year fell due on **July 1st 2015**

They have been set at the AGM at **\$20 Single and \$30 Family**

This is the first increase for many years and deemed necessary to cover our ever increasing overhead expenses.

**Pay by:** Cheque, Money Order made out to "Mt Horrocks Historical Society Inc."  
Bank Transfer/Direct Debit: BSB No.105-030 Account No.140232440.  
(Please use your **name** as reference)

### Acquisitions

"*Our Richardson Story*" written for children by and donated by Chris Richardson

- Found in motoring books given to National Motor Museum and subsequently donated to MHHS by them:
  - Pamphlet re: Stanley Grammar School
  - Souvenir Back to Auburn Carnival 1936
  - Historical Souvenir – CJ Dennis Memorial Committee 1953
- Biography – Ann Jacob - donated by Adrienne Pearse Ann's great-granddaughter
- "*Australia's Heritage*" Part 33 (1971) left at Horrocks Cottage by anonymous donor.
- Gordon Read of Penwortham UK donated a copy of his presentation on the Horrocks family. Included were newspaper sheets describing early migration to Australia.

### Donations & Sponsorship

MHHS would like to acknowledge the generous donations from members in recent times.

We also thank the **Clare and Gilbert Valley Council** for their generous sponsorship of the Society.

MHHS wishes to thank **HR Sanders** for their donation of building materials for the Society's projects.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday 1st November** – John Horrocks Cottage open from 2-4pm

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Shared Lunch. 12.30 at John Horrocks Cottage. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

\*All welcome\*

### Committee Members

President	Wendy Spackman	Publicity/Newsletter	Jim Morran
Vice-President	Janet Morran	Minute Secretary	Jim Morran
Secretary	Anne Weddle	Public Officer	David Spackman
Treasurer	David Spackman		
COMMITTEE	Joey Duncan, Alan Williams, Malcolm Weddle, Meredith McInnis, Malcolm Paterson, Rod Pepper		

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Details of charges for research undertaken by the Society are available on request

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