



NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2015



Christmas Lunch & Guest Speaker

A delightful day was had by all those attending our Christmas Lunch on 7 December 2014. Guest speaker, Skye Krichauff, gave a very enlightening talk and much was learned about the interaction between the white settlers and the indigenous community in the days of white settlement. It was interesting to hear of the Horrocks involvement in the early days of settlement of the Mid-north. Every seat in the Interpretive Centre was taken and following Skye's talk many points of view were discussed. Then followed a shared lunch and general socialising in the grounds of Horrocks Cottage. Our new shed was put to good use for catering purposes



Wendy Spackman welcomes Skye



Christmas lunch beneath the walnut tree

Plane Crash at Mt Oakden Continued.....

Following on from the article in the Spring Newsletter regarding a plane crash (1942 & not 1842!) at Mt. Oakden near Watervale, a group of dedicated MHHS members decided to walk to the peak. After a very steep start the going became much easier and they reached the top in time for a late morning tea. The crash site was on the other side of the mountain but the group was rewarded with stunning vistas and clear signs of many previous visitors who left their names etched into the rock including:

W.J. Grace 1899

H. Perrin 4/9/86

W. Bryden - H. Richardson Wed Nov 20 1946



L-R: David Spackman, Malcolm Weddle, Wendy Spackman and Jim Morran (photographer - Society member John Hill)

Gallipoli Photos Saved in Canada

Dozens of WW1 photographs, including some from Australia's Gallipoli campaign have been saved by a quick thinking removalist in Canada.



Max Madden, an Australian who operates a removalist business in Vancouver, was helping relocate Canadian Trevor Pilley to a retirement home when he came across historic black and white photos. They were contained in an album marked "Dardanelles Landing of Australians and New Zealanders at Anzac", which was in a pile of belongings to be sent to a consignment store for auction.

The photos were taken by Trevor Pilley's father, Charles, who was a machine gunner in a biplane during WW1.

"Trevor's father travelled quite extensively during the war, from the Gallipoli campaign right through into the Middle East from Palestine, Gaza and then across over India" Mr Madden said. "There's a number of photos of Turkish POWs, a couple of very early WW1 tanks and very early military motorbikes with sidecars from 1916. It's a pictorial history of that time that encapsulates the military side as well as things of a quite personal nature".

Mr Madden put a collection of the photos on display for the 2010 Anzac Day ceremony in Vancouver and planned to send copies of the rediscovered images to the Australian War Memorial as well as to its Canadian counterpart.

Did you know.....:

Mary Wade was the youngest convict to be transported to Australia? At the age of 10 she was sentenced to hang when she was found guilty of stealing another girl's clothes and pawning them for ten pence in London. However, after serving 93 days in Newgate prison she was reprieved and transported to NSW to intern at the Norfolk prison. At the age of 11 Mary was the youngest convict aboard the infamous all-women ship "Lady Juliana" and is an ancestor of former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd.

A Mother's Mysterious Conduct Child Left on Doorstep

Extract from Penwortham Magazine (UK)



Hurst Grange Lodge, Penwortham, was the scene of a somewhat romantic incident on Wednesday evening.

The house stands at the entrance to the grounds attached to Alderman Forshaw's residence, and enjoying repose from the din of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, it was natural that at an advanced hour the occupants, Mr and Mrs Ravenscroft, should be a little alarmed at hearing the cry of an infant on the doorstep. The night being dark, a lighted lamp was procured, and on the doormat within the shelter of the porch were found a bundle of wraps and a brown paper parcel. In the former was found a female child, apparently not more than a month old, well nourished, and attired in garments which indicated that the mother must be a lady with means.

The accompanying parcel also contained a change of clothing, a woollen shawl, a bottle of milk, two feeding bottles, a bottle containing gin, and even brushes with which to cleanse them. There was also enclosed a fine linen handkerchief, in one corner of which worked in silk the name 'Edith Maud'. This needlework had evidently been recently done, the handkerchief not having been washed since the words were inscribed. There was further discovered an envelope containing 5 shillings in money, and on which a note was written. The message began: '*Dear Madam, We want you to take care of this child for a few weeks, and you will receive 5shillings per week as long as it remains with you. You must cherish it as your own, and you will be rewarded*'. The police have the matter in hand.

Lancashire Daily Post 2 March, 1900

Rededication of Arch & Gates Watervale Soldiers Memorial Park



L – R Peter Lane (RSL), Roy Blight, Mayor Alan Aughey, David Spackman, Revd Roy Todd, Stephen

On 13th November 2014, over fifty adults and thirty schoolchildren from Watervale Primary School attended the rededication.

The program consisted of:

- Welcome- Roy Blight (CEO, CGVC)
- Opening - by Allan Aughey (Mayor)
- Prayers, Dedication & Blessing by Revd Roy Todd
- Last post played by Stephen John

Following the National Anthem there was an official handing over of the MHHS project to the Clare & Gilbert Valley Council.

“Lest we Forget”

David Spackman then thanked CGVC, local contractors and the local community for their support as well as acknowledging grants from the Anzac Day Commemoration Council and Dept. Veterans Affairs. All present were invited to delicious afternoon tea catered for by the Watervale Bowling Club.

Penwortham Day



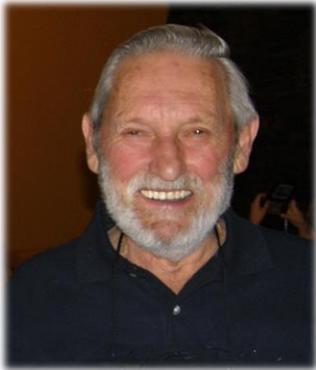
John Ainsworth Horrocks' grave.



Blessing of the new Penwortham flag
Prue O'Donovan, Leo Falkner, David Spackman

The inaugural “Penwortham Day” was held on 8th November 2014. The day was both heartfelt and humorous, honouring Horrocks, pioneering families and the community spirit that prevails today. Leo Falkner, the ‘unelected mayor’ of Penwortham entertained the crowd followed by Mayor Allan Aughey who gave a splendid oration. The new Penwortham flag was then unveiled and blessed by the Reverend Prue O’Donovan.

Those present then made their way to John Horrocks’ grave in the St Mark’s church cemetery where descendants of Arthur Horrocks, (John’s brother), who attended the celebrations, laid a wreath. Two of Penwortham’s youngest residents also then placed flowers on the grave to represent the future of the village. The group then made their way to Horrocks Cottage to enjoy a barbecue dinner, local wines and catch up with young and old friends.



It is with deep regret that we advise members of the passing of Lionel Bullen. Lionel was a long time dedicated committee member of the Society and as Vice-President was instrumental in the purchasing of John Horrocks Cottage. He and his wife Kate, also a Committee Member/Secretary for many years, were made Life Members on their move to Mount Gambier in 2009 from where they maintained an avid interest in the Society. Lionel will be sadly missed and the Society sends heartfelt condolences to Kate and family.



The Society was also saddened to hear of the passing of Margaret Hill, a long-time member whose husband was an avid photographer and donated many of his prints of the Skilly district to the Society. Condolences are extended to her son John, also a member who lives in the UK

Acquisitions

The Nykiels in Australia 1856-2009 donated by Geraldine Pearce

Framed photograph of Private Robert Clyde Dunstan (WW.2) of Leasingham donated by B. Sandow

“Sevenhill Hotel – History 1863-2014” compiled and donated by K. Shadiac

Horrocks Adverts from past issues of ‘The Sketch’ donated by Katherine Murray

Advertiser 100th Anniversary Edition - July 1958 donated by Malcolm Weddle

Researching

Charles & Charlotte (nee Dean) Amey who leased land near Leasingham c.1867.

Obediah Wren – worked on a property near Mt. Horrocks c. 1886

Janet is still accepting WW.1 soldier information for our Military Collection

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, Gypsy Sandow, Helen Karger, Alan Williams, Malcolm Weddle and Doreen Hill | | |

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

Website: www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety

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