



## Historic Penwortham Tree



In Penwortham, there is an old gnarled gum tree on Church Lane running from the Horrocks Memorial to the gate of St Marks Church, known as the Two-Up Tree. If you look closely you can still see horse shoes embedded in the trunk. In the early days of settlement, it was used as a meeting place, where the villagers would gather together to plan their future in this new land.

John Horrocks also used the tree's shade to protect those who wished to attend church services on the Sabbath.

After church the men would congregate around the base of the tree while their wives went to prepare lunch. The Catholic men would be the first to arrive, as their Mass was at 6am, so after they tended their stock, they would wander down to the tree to swap yarns, to be joined later by the other men. As time went by, a pack of cards would be produced, and the men would settle down to play poker. This practice was frowned upon by the women, so a lookout would be posted in the tree, usually one of the lads deemed too young to join the card game.

On one Sunday, when the Catholics had already settled down to a game of poker, the lookout became bored with watching the approach tracks, and began watching the game instead, so he was unaware of a family approaching to attend the service at Saint Marks Church, until he heard voices close by. Quickly he gave warning to the card players, who just as quickly hid their cards wherever they could, and just in time. The men greeted the family and as there were ladies present, Mr Anton Pawelski, always the gentleman, stood and doffed his hat. The only trouble was that he'd forgotten that under his hat was where he had hastily hidden the cards, which fell to the earth like snowflakes. Anton was left wondering whether it pays to remember your manners.

As told by Anton himself. Article written by Geraldine Pearce

Eventually the illegal game of Two-Up was introduced, hence the name of the tree. A lookout, usually a lad deemed too young to join in the game, climbed the tree with the aid of the horse shoes. He was able to spot the arrival of local police and warn the players to disperse.

The photo opposite depicts the horse shoes up the trunk on the Two Up Tree



# Mt Horrocks Historical Society in History Festival

This year the Society has an event scheduled in South Australia's History Festival.

On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> a guided 1-hour walking tour with a Committee member will commence at 2PM

Titled: *"Take a Walk with Pioneer and Explorer John Horrocks (1818-1846) "*

The walk will take in historical sites in Penwortham such as John Horrocks Cottage, St Mark's Church, Horrocks Tree and the grave of John Horrocks in St Mark's cemetery.

A reasonable fitness level is required.

Cost: \$10 includes afternoon tea at Horrocks Cottage on conclusion.

Bookings Essential: Ph Meredith 0427051881



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S  
**HISTORY FESTIVAL**  
27 APRIL - 31 MAY 2019

## **Record Low Vintage in Clare Valley**

The founder of Penwortham, John Ainsworth Horrocks arrived in South Australia in 1839 and returned to England in 1842. Before he left to come back to South Australia, he arranged for a variety of vine cuttings and other plants to be shipped out to Adelaide .

Since that time vineyards have flourished in and around Penwortham and the Clare Valley.

However, during the 2018 -19 season a combination of frost, hail, drought and hot weather has decimated grape yields in the area.



Growers are reporting a 50% drop in production. Leo Faulkner Grape Grower and Contract Picker in Penwortham reported that “A combination of virtually no soil moisture and the heat really impacted volumes. Crop levels are way down on past vintages. It is a matter of quality over quantity. On the 40C days the vines struggled with bunches opening up thus generating less weight”.

However, some grape varieties are bursting with flavour.

Growers are reporting white varieties such as Riesling are holding up well. Winemakers are also predicting great age ability in some reds.

## **AGM**

### **Mt Horrocks Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 12.30**

**Watervale Store**

**Guest Speaker: Nan Berrett**

**“Social Media and MHHS”**

Social Media  
LOGO COLLECTION



**Lunch can be purchased at own cost after the meeting**

**RSVP 22-4-19**

**Wendy Spackman**

**0417175234**

## **Funding Success**

MHHS has been successful in obtaining a grant through the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council.

\$3000 has been granted through The Heritage Restoration Fund.

This money, as well as funds from the Society will be used for purchasing and laying slate at the Horrocks Cottage.

## **New Members**

Mount Horrocks Historical Society welcomes these new members.

Thank you for joining the Society, we hope you find it interesting and enjoyable

Kevin Duke

Julianne and Peter Treloar

Phil Holmes

Kate Hackett

William Othams

Martin O'Malley

# Thank You

MHHS wishes to thank Geoff Brock MP Independent Member for Frome for his ongoing support and more recently for the printing of the newsletter.



Geoff handing over newsletters to MHHS members Mal Paterson and Meredith McInnis



## Committee Members

President	Wendy Spackman	Newsletter	Jim Morran & Meredith McInnis
Vice-President	Janet Morran	Minute Secretary	Jim Morran
Secretary	Anne Weddle	Publicity	Meredith McInnis
Treasurer	David Spackman	Public Officer	David Spackman

COMMITTEE                      Joey Duncan, Alan Williams, Malcolm Weddle, Malcolm Paterson

## Contacts

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**Research Officer:** Janet Morran - Phone: 8849 2410 - mob.0415 399 790

Details of charges for research undertaken by the Society are available on request  
Website: [www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety](http://www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety)



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## Geoff Brock MP

Independent Member for Frome

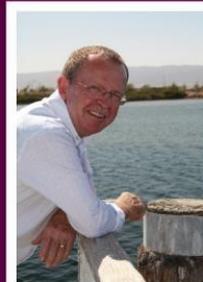
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