



NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018



The 2018 Annual General Meeting was held at the Watervale Hotel on Monday 30th May, with approximately 20 people in attendance. President Wendy Spackman welcomed all present and asked the Treasurer to present his audited Annual Report, in which he moved that the annual subscription remain at \$30/family and \$20/single for the coming year. The President then gave her report which can be seen below. All positions were declared vacant and member Valerie Tilbrook stated that, as no new nominations had been received, the Office Bearers and Committee would remain the same. Names and positions held can be found on the last page of the Newsletter. The only change was that Meredith McInnis has accepted the position of Publicity Officer.

President's Report – 2017-2018 (edited)

Cottage & Interpretive Centre:

Reroofing of cottage, all woodwork repainted, front path gravelled, front veranda paved, power points installed in shed and Gin & garden area completed.

Cottage visitors:

A group of the Brooks family visited in May, a group of 40 from the Penguin Club visited in October. In November a small group from Brinkworth History Group visited. At our Christmas lunch we had a surprise visit from Ingrid Horrocks of New Zealand.



Wendy Spackman & Anne Weddle

Art work & sign boards:

David completed his sculpture of John Horrocks and Harry the camel which now includes his dog Gulnare and an interpretive board has been installed. Hope Farm and Stables signage has been installed at Penwortham siding on the Riesling Trail. Penwortham Day on 5 November was another success with about 60 people attending the unveiling of a corrugated iron cut out of Tommy Duke stopping the train.

Bicentenary of the birth of John Ainsworth Horrocks:

As reported in the Autumn Newsletter the event was a great success. It was a very tiring, but wonderful weekend, with many new friendships formed.

Wendy thanked all members for their continued interest and support and their many generous donations as well as the Committee for their continued support, input and hard work which makes everything possible.

The President's full report and Treasurer's Annual Report are available on request to the Secretary

2018-2019 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the 2018-2019 financial year fell due on **July 1st 2018**.

They remain set at \$**20 Single and \$30 Family**.

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)

Please ignore this notice if you have already paid your subs.

"BOOTS" (Part 1) – by Geraldine Pearce



After the First World War a large number of soldiers came home to find that there was little or no work for them. Many of these displaced men took to the roads around the country, finding odd jobs where they could, even if it was just for a good meal and a sleep in the hay stack.

I first met my first 'swagman' when I was living with my parents at Horrocks' Cottage in Penwortham when I was about four. He called himself 'Boots', because of the boots he had hanging around his neck tied together by the boot laces. Over the years, I cannot say I ever saw him wearing the boots. His clothes may be filthy but his boots were always highly polished.

He travelled around the country roads with an old rusty bicycle without tyres. He never rode the bike; he used it for carrying his swag, billy can, water bag and a heavy cast iron frying pan. The bike squeaked so loud through lack of oil that we could hear him coming before he got to the top of Penwortham Hill.

Boots cut a stack of wood for my mother and while Mum finished serving up the stew, he showed my brother Ron and me how to play a game with a piece of string and our fingers. He then asked if he could have water to wash his hands and face before he ate the stew. He refused to come inside to eat; he took his plate and sat down under the Lucerne trees. This is the first time that I saw Boots but it wasn't the last, every few months he would reappear. A message would go around the village, "Boots is back, anyone got some odd jobs for old Boots" and the answers would come back through the grape vine; "Mr Pawelski wants a hand to bring in a truck load of wood before it rains, Mr Morrison needs to pick his pears before the next town train comes through, Mrs Moyle would like the weeds cleared around her gate, Miss Coles would like a wooden step made to go under the post office window so the little children can collect the mail, Mrs Smith would like a wire basket made to collect and store her eggs"- and so it would go on. Sometimes he would visit his regulars who would tell him they had no work for him, but that they had some nice apples he might like. Whatever the task, however big, he would never ask for money, all he wanted was food, a warm and dry place to camp, and would be grateful if anyone had some old clothes that would fit him, or a blanket when his wears out, that's all he asked for.

My grandfather offered him a pair of boots but these were turned down firmly. *"I appreciate your offer Mr Morrison but I've got me boots, I don't need another pair, they'd just weigh me down."*



(Part 2 in next Newsletter)

A Brief History of Urrbrae House



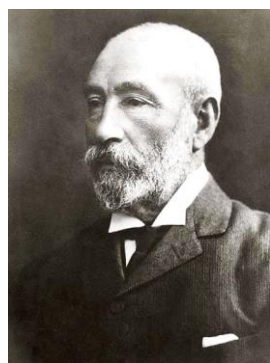
Urrbrae House is situated in the Adelaide suburb of Urrbrae and was built in 1891 as the home of pastoralist Peter Waite, his wife Matilda and their children. It replaced a large single-storey house believed to have been constructed in the late 1840s or early 1850s by Robert Forsyth Macgeorge, a tailor from Glasgow who arrived in South Australia in 1839. “*Urrbrae*” was the name given to the land bought by Macgeorge in 1946. “*Urr*” after his home parish in Scotland and “*brae*” denoting a slope or hillside especially near a creek or river.

The Waites moved into the original house in March 1877. Following the death of their son David in 1913, they decided to bequeath the Urrbrae estate, including the mansion house, to the University of Adelaide. The bequest would enable the creation of a research and education institution to support agriculture science (later the Waite Agricultural Research Institute) and the establishment of a public park (today the Waite Arboretum).

Urrbrae House was the Waite family home until the death of Peter and Matilda in 1922. It was handed over to the University of Adelaide in February 1923 in accordance with Peter Waite’s bequest. From 1924 until the end of 1973 Urrbrae House was the residence of Directors of the WARI and their families. Since early 1990’s Urrbrae House and its gardens have undergone major revitalisation and restoration.



Matilda Waite



Peter Waite

Entry to Urrbrae House is free.
The house was first opened to the public in 1991.

Anzac Day 2018 Watervale War Memorial



Clare Army Cadet Unit

Veterans back row:

Mal Paterson (MHHS) Les Bourne (RSL)

Peter Lane (RSL) Mayor Alan Aughey,

Front row:

David Spackman (MHHS), Geoff Brock MP

Member for Frome and MHHS



Sister Anne Donnell's Diary

Sister Donnell of South Australia worked with the third Australian General Hospital in the First World War. Here are a few entries from her diary:



30th December 1917: France, a terrific barrage opened at 6.45am, lasted an hour. Very soon after, the wounded started to come in.

3rd January 1918: Rumour says that 'Fritz' has brought 50 more divisions from the Russian Front.

9th January 1918: The snow lies thick on the ground – everything freezes in a few moments, even your very breath.

10th April 1918: The Germans make another big push.

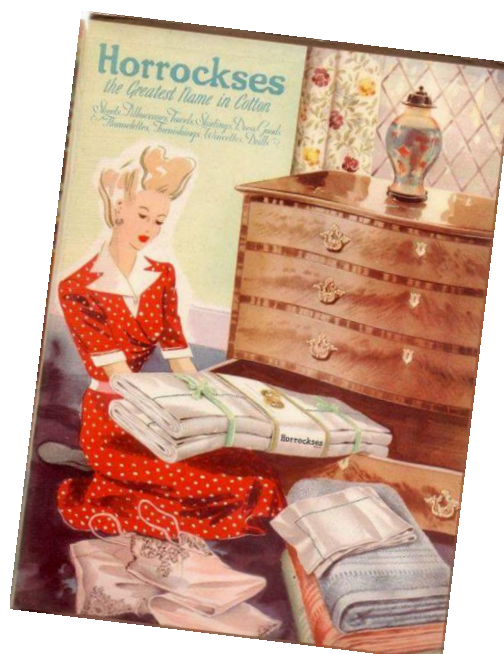
21st April 1918: My Australian died today.....

(From Donnell's Diary (ML MSS 1022) at the Mitchell Library, SLNSW)

Wicked wit:

A celebrity is a person who works hard all his life to become well known then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognised –

Fred Allen (1894-1956) comedian



Acquisitions & Donations

Photo of Chapel-on-the Hill, Penwortham
Donated by Milton Turner

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Committee Members

President	Wendy Spackman	Newsletter	Jim Morran
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

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



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