



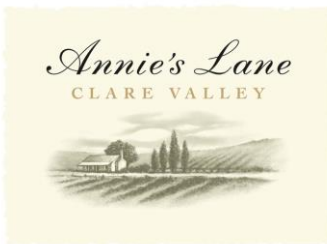
NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2016



MT HORROCKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 'ON SHOW'

MHHS enjoyed some local exposure in the latter part of 2015. The Society was offered the chance of producing a display in the Clare Library for a two week period in September. Following that, in October we were invited to participate in a celebration at Annie's Lane Winery. Details below:

Annie's Lane Winery- Watervale 150th Anniversary Celebration 4th October 2015



MHHS was invited to set up a display at this celebration. Many people attended the function and showed an interest in our Society. We also gained new members which is always a bonus.

Clare Library Display

For two weeks in September MHHS was given the opportunity to 'showcase' the Society at the Clare Library. Jim & Janet made good use of the display area with books and pictures as well as artefacts from the MHHS Collection.



The Library staff reported much interest in the display and many comments such as "*I remember my mum had one of those*". As a result of the considerable interest shown MHHS is planning to mount further displays in the future.



The display concentrated on items of Watervale history from our Collection. Annie's Lane Winery was originally *Springvale Winery* set up in 1865 by Carl Sobels and later became the famous South Australian *Buring & Sobels Winery*.



Work in Progress at John Horrocks Cottage



In the latter part of 2015 committee members Rod, David, Malcolm, Alan & Jim met with local stone mason Peter Russell to inspect the cottage and prioritise the maintenance work required. Peter not only provided expert advice on the repairs but also supplied the required materials for the committee members to begin the work straight away!



Under Peter's guidance the group was shown how to prepare the surfaces and apply the mortar. The team was then set to work filling in gaps in the stonework in three areas. The main effort, by Peter and David, was to clean and fill the large gaps in the Interpretive Centre walls. Rod applied himself to cleaning and repairing the external brickwork of the kitchen chimney which had considerable water damage, while Jim worked on the exterior of the front window of the cottage. There remains much work to do to repair the masonry but fortunately there was no sign of salt damp and nothing that required immediate attention.

The inspection also identified the paving at the front door as requiring repair. Since that time Rod has been hard at work arranging a donation of crusher dust and concrete sand from the Clare Quarry and has also donated lime to prepare the mortar for repair work to the masonry. A large amount of suitably aged slate was donated by Alan which will be laid at the front door. Rod has also arranged for local Mark Harrold to deliver the crusher dust and assist in repairing the veranda floor for which he will also provide the necessary equipment.



Our thanks go to Clare Quarry and Pinks Mitre 10 for their generous support towards the maintenance of John Horrocks cottage as well as those involved in the project.



Wendy Spackman stacking up the new Woodshed.

Whilst in a 'working mood' – it was decided to erect a woodshed alongside the dunny. For many years wood has been stacked against the northern wall of the cottage – apart from an eyesore it was a home for undesirable pests! Thanks once again to Rod Pepper, Andy Gallagher and willing Committee members who erected a far more suitable storage for the wood. Wendy Spackman was soon at work filling the shed with wood ready for winter. The northern wall will now be dedicated to displaying old farming implements donated over the years.

Digitising the MHHS Collection

While much effort has been made in maintaining John Horrocks Cottage, the Society is continuing with its role in preserving the history of the area. To this end, a successful application was made to the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council for a Community Asset Grant. It has long been the intention of the Society to catalogue the Collection and this grant enabled us to purchase a laptop, scanner and software. Work will now commence on digitising and cataloguing all historic photographs, maps, documents etc. This will not only ensure the security of our records but eventually make it possible to view items from the Collection online.

The Society acknowledges the generosity of the CGVC.

“Penwortham Day”



Penwortham resident Terry Forrest unveils the monument

The plaque reads:
This plaque commemorates the founding of the village of Penwortham by John Ainsworth Horrocks on 5th November 1839 and the 175th celebration of this event on 8th November 2014. A Penwortham flag was designed for this occasion and is flown on the nearby flagpole to mark significant days or events.



Malcolm Paterson hoists the newly designed Penwortham flag.

Sturts Desert Pea



South Australia’s floral emblem, the Sturt’s Desert Pea is amongst our most spectacular native plant species.

Edward John Eyre recorded the first sightings of the plant during exploration in the Gawler Ranges of South Australia.

“The Legend of the Sturt Pea”

A young and beautiful aboriginal maiden was given a cloak of red feathers by her warrior lover whom she idolised. During a time of drought, the warrior wandered far looking for food, while the maiden kept a lonely vigil. The tribe soon moved on and their last view of the girl was of her black hair contrasting with her red cloak as she knelt in prayer awaiting her lover’s return. When the tribe returned, there was no sign of the girl, but a lovely red and black flower (desert pea) blossomed where she had last been seen.

Origins of Golf

The origins of golf are disputed, but “Gowf” was well enough established in Scotland by 1457 to be officially forbidden because it interfered with practising archery.

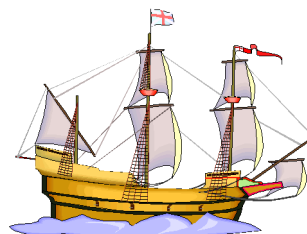
It flourished all the same, and indeed Mary Queen of Scots played golf and so did James VI (later James I of England).



In the 18th century groups of enthusiasts began to form clubs and organise competitions. *The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers* was founded in 1744, while the *Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews* held its inaugural competition in 1754. It was at St. Andrews that 18 holes were eventually established as the proper number of holes in a course.

Skeletons on the Smith Family Tree

The Smith family was very proud of their family tradition; their ancestors had gone to America on board the Mayflower



Their line had included Senators and Wall Street wizards. They now decided to compile the family history, a legacy for their children. They hired a fine author. Only one problem arose, that being how to handle the fact that a great-uncle had been executed in the electric chair. The Author said he could handle that chapter of history tactfully. The book was released and it said that:

"Great-uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, was attached to his position by the strongest of ties and his death came as a real shock."

Acquisitions & Donations

Member Margaret Szalay attended the ST Gill exhibition in Melbourne in the latter part of last year, taking photographs of all the Horrocks Expedition sketches which she kindly sent to the Society. MHHS has copies of all but one of the sketches and it is proposed that we acquire this one from the State Library of Victoria.

Hosking Family Tree with a connection to Corporal John Coles of Penwortham donated by Ian Bails

Centenary of the Clare Railway

The year 2018 will see the 100th anniversary of the building of the railway from Riverton to Spalding



The Clare Regional History Group intends to celebrate the occasion and is seeking any historic photographs of the railway, trains or stations along the route. Should you have any such photos please contact the MHHS Secretary. (8843 0140)

Committee Members

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Vice-President	Janet Morran	Minute Secretary	Jim Morran
Secretary	Anne Weddle	Public Officer	David Spackman
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Details of charges for research undertaken by the Society are available on request

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