



## **NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2015**



### **AGM & GUEST SPEAKER**

The Society held the 2015 Annual General Meeting on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June with approximately twenty people in attendance. Reports were presented by the President and also the Treasurer who moved that the subscriptions be increased to \$30/family/annum - \$20/single/annum (**due 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015**). This increase was deemed necessary to cover ever increasing expenses. Guest Speaker Gerald Lally of the Clare Regional History Group was then asked to take the Chair for the election of officers and committee. The new Committee was duly elected; names and positions held can be found at the end of this Newsletter and copies of the AGM Minutes including reports are available from the Secretary on request.

MHHS farewells Gypsy Sandow, Helen Karger and Doreen Hill and thanks them for their invaluable input over the past years. In particular past-President Gypsy Sandow who has given so much of her time, energy, hospitality and enthusiasm to Mt Horrocks Historical Society.

We welcome Rod Pepper, Meredith McInnis and Malcolm Paterson as committee members, all of whom reside in Penwortham.



Then followed a presentation by Gerald on his publication: "*Hill River - a Valley of History*". A most informative talk due to the fact that Hill River is Gerald's 'home ground'. He also had on display a fine collection of historical photographs.

Afternoon tea was served by Committee Members to those present.

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### **"About Time" – SA History Festival Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

As in previous years, MHHS registered as an event for the SA History Festival by opening John Horrocks Cottage and St Marks Church to visitors from 2pm – 4pm. Visitors numbered approximately 12, amongst those 4 came from Peterborough Historical Society including their President and 1 person from Kapunda Historical Society – all visitors were delighted with the Cottage and the Horrocks history. Joey welcomed most of them at St Marks Church after they had toured the Cottage, Interpretive Centre and surrounds. Light refreshments were supplied by Committee members on duty.



Anglican Church Of Australia

## Diocese Of Willochra

Visit - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Fifty members of Diocese of Willochra, who were celebrating their Centenary, had included John Horrocks Cottage and St Marks Church in their itinerary. Malcolm Weddle joined them on their coach to present a brief talk on John Horrocks. The group was then invited to tour the Cottage, Interpretive Centre and St Marks Church. All were most interested to have a glimpse of early pioneer life.

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### Home Assist Group – Salisbury

Visit - Tuesday - 9<sup>th</sup> June

MHHS Committee members welcomed a group of ten people from the Salisbury Home Assist Group. They visited John Horrocks Cottage and St Marks Church and were most interested in the story of Horrocks.

### Horrockses Visit John Horrocks Cottage



Ken & Jan Horrocks from Victoria visited the cottage and were given a comprehensive tour by David & Wendy Spackman. The couple are unaware of any connection with John Horrocks and the Horrocks family, but are delving into their family history seeking any connection.

### State Library of South Australia

17 July 2015–25 October 2015 Keith Murdoch Gallery

#### Australian sketchbook: Colonial life and the art of ST Gill

Encounter the people and places of colonial Australia in this free exhibition celebrating a lifetime of work by artist ST Gill - This exhibition is open 10am-5pm (until 9pm Thursday).

### A Penwortham SA Wine travels to Penwortham UK



As mentioned in the Autumn Newsletter, Peter Wilkinson and his wife Dot from Penwortham UK visited our Penwortham earlier in the year. While here they purchased a number of bottles of a wine bearing a "Penwortham" label from Jeanneret Wines. Peter kindly passed on one of the bottles to Christopher Nelson, the vicar of St Mary's Church, Penwortham UK who most graciously received it on a sunny spring day in Penwortham.



## A Tale of Two Graces

The wonder of Grace Darling's 1838 rescue of nine shipwreck survivors captured the hearts of the world. Grace was only 21 years of age when as she peered out of the window of the Longstone Lighthouse in the Farne Islands off the coast of Northumbria in England she spotted a shipwreck. She and her father William Darling observed people moving on a nearby rock and decided to launch a rescue effort.



Over the next two hours Grace and her father battled strong winds and rough seas in their 6 metre boat to rescue nine people from the wreck of the SS Forfarshire. Grace had to manoeuvre the vessel single-handed while her father assisted the survivors.

Australia's own Grace – Grace Bussell (later Mrs. F. Drake-Brockman) 28 years after Grace Darling's courageous rescue, a young girl from the Margaret River Region in Western Australia became known as the 'Grace Darling of the West' for her own heroism. In the early hours of 1<sup>st</sup> December 1876, Sam Isaacs – an indigenous stockman employed by the Bussell family – rushed into the family homestead bearing terrible news of a tragedy unfolding some 20 kilometres away. Grace Bussell, only 16 years old, acted quickly – she and Sam galloped to Calgardup Bay where the steamer SS Georgette had leaked, steadily sinking among ferocious waves. Two women and five children drowned. Others floundered helplessly.



Then as the *Inquirer & Commercial News* recounted on 31 January 1877:

*They were all in the water and in the greatest danger when, on the top of a steep cliff, appeared a young lady on horseback...They did not think a horse could come down that cliff, but down that dangerous place this young lady rode a speed – Grace Bussell urged her horse into the boiling surf, and out beyond the second line of roaring breakers..*

Struggling on horseback through the unruly tides, Grace and Sam spent four exhausting hours rescuing 50 survivors. Grace was awarded a silver medal by the Royal Humane Society for her bravery (while Sam received bronze and sadly far less recognition). Much like her English namesake, Grace Bussell's courage resounded throughout the world.

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**2015 – 2016 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE**

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

Proceedings of the Royal Geographic Society 1906. (Pages 36-47: John Ainsworth Horrocks Journal) donated by Peter Wilkinson (UK)

**MHHS New Email Address Reminder**

MHHS now has a Gmail address in addition to our Yahoo address: For the present either address can be used however the Yahoo address will eventually be phased out. The new address is:  
[mhhsinc@gmail.com](mailto:mhhsinc@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Events**



**Pioneer Service**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September: 11am**

The annual Pioneer Service at St Marks Church, Penwortham will be dedicated to the Old Manse. A memorial plaque will be placed at the location of the old St Marks Manse which was built in 1850 and demolished around the year 1923.

**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		

**Contacts**

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

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