



NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2013

BUSY TIME AT JOHN HORROCKS COTTAGE

It has been a busy but enjoyable time at Horrocks Cottage over the last few months. The Committee is delighted to see that more and more people are becoming aware of our historic building and visitor numbers are increasing. If you have not yet made the journey to Penwortham we urge you to do so and remind all that the cottage is open on the first Sunday of the month from 2 – 4 pm.

Sunday 7th April – 30th Birthday Party

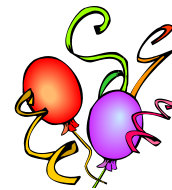
The Society's 30th birthday celebrations were well attended and an enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Amongst those present were four members of the inaugural Committee elected at the first AGM in 1984 who can be seen in the photograph below with Gypsey Sandow & Wendy Spackman.



Inaugural Committee L-R Margaret Walton, Dean Glaetzer, Geraldine Pearce, Jamie Sobels

Research Officer Janet and Committee Member Doreen took the opportunity to present a display of part of the MHHS Collection which provoked a great deal of interest from the guests.

The Society also had on offer an introductory membership package of 3 months free membership, a copy of *A Harvest Comes Tomorrow* and a fridge magnet. We welcomed three new members to the Society on the day.



Over 50 people attended the celebrations and it was an added pleasure to welcome the Society's Patron Katherine Murray and her husband John. Another prominent guest was Pam McTaggart who attended with members of her family. Both Katherine and Pam are Horrocks descendants and great supporters of MHHS.



Katherine did us the honour of cutting the birthday cake which was made by MHHS President Wendy Spackman.



Wendy Spackman was recently interviewed by the Stockman's Journal and the article, as reported in the Clare Regional History Group letter, is reproduced below.

Mt Horrocks Historical Society celebrates 30 years!

Our good friends at the Mt Horrocks Historical Society, based at Watervale and Penwortham, have recently reached a very creditable milestone.

We congratulate President Wendy Spackman and all members and volunteers on this achievement.



HORROCKS HIGHWAY: Mount Horrocks Historical Society president Wendy Spackman says the group's most notable achievement has been the change in name of Main North Road to Horrocks Highway, on the section of road from Gawler to Quorn.

Historic 30 years for society

A CLARE Valley historical group celebrated its 30th anniversary last month.

The Mount Horrocks Historical Society was formed in 1983 by a dedicated group of residents in order to preserve, record and research the history of an area which stretches 23 kilometres, from Sevenhill in the north to Undalya in the south.

President Wendy Spackman says the group's most notable achievement has been the change in name of Main North Road to Horrocks Highway, on the section of road from Gawler to Quorn.

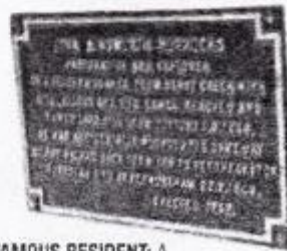
"It took us 10 years of petitioning to achieve this," she said. "We found out in August, 2011, that we'd been successful. This stretch of road was where Horrocks traveled on his expedition."

Another achievement has been the John Horrocks Cottage and Interpretive Centre the group bought in 2001.

John Ainsworth Horrocks was the first white man to settle in the region, with his cottage built at Penwortham shortly after his arrival in 1839.

He died at the age of 28, after an ill-fated exploration trip to the north, where he was shot in the face when a bad-tempered camel caused a gun to accidentally discharge during a hunting party at Lake Dutton, in the north west.

The camel was the first imported, to Australia, and



FAMOUS RESIDENT: A plaque at John Horrocks Cottage commemorating explorer John Ainsworth Horrocks.

Horrocks later ordered it to be shot.

"He arrived in South Australia on his 21st birthday," Wendy said. "Although he died at a very young age he achieved a lot."

"He was known as the King of the North as he looked after people in his area – he was always very hospitable."

The cottage is State and National Heritage Listed, with the group regularly opening it to the public on the first Sunday of every month, from 2pm to 4pm. Donations from visitors, grants and fundraising have helped the group to restore and help renovate the cottage.

The group also holds events, caters for groups, and holds morning teas to boost fundraising.

Wendy says there is a growing interest in family histories, with many families researching their ancestors.

"People are increasingly interested in looking back

and researching their past," she said. "At the old institute in Watervale, we keep a range of historical records, archives, journals and photographs."

Wendy, whose husband David is also on the committee, says they are both very interested in family history and this carries over into other projects.

"One of the journals we have is a copy of the diary of Anne Jacobs, from 1839 to 1848," she said.

"Anne married John Horrocks's brother Arthur."

"It is amazing how hard they worked. She had a dairy milking 100 cows a day, making butter and cheese, then taking it to Burra to sell, as well as feeding and putting up any visitors for the night."

The group's most recent project has been to restore Watervale's memorial gates, which were moved and discarded when the Horrocks Highway was realigned and widened.

The gates will be re-installed at the Watervale Soldiers Memorial Recreation Park later this year.

Another project has been the building of a new shed – at the rear of John Horrocks Cottage – that will house more of the group's collection of historical items.

• Details:
www.communitywebs.org/mounthorrockshistoricalociety or
www.facebook.com/pages/Mt-Horrocks-Historical-Society

Sunday 5th May – SA History Month

The Society hosted another very successful event as part of SA History Month entitled – “John Horrocks – Little Known Explorer of South Australia”

The theme was Horrocks 1846 Expedition to the North West of SA. Copies of nineteen sketches made by ST Gill, the colonial artist who was part of Horrocks team were on display. Visitors could also follow Horrocks journey through his journal and the diary of Gill as well as newspaper articles of the time.



Part of the exhibition was a comprehensively detailed map of the route taken by Horrocks and his team prepared by David Spackman complete with photographs of the site at Lake Dutton where Horrocks was injured. This map will be on permanent display in the Interpretive Centre adjacent to Horrocks Cottage and copies can be purchased via the Secretary.

There were many visitors on the day and all showed great interest in the exhibition as well as the cottage.

Sunday 26th May - AGM & Guest Speaker

The 2013 Annual General Meeting was held at Horrocks Cottage in conjunction with an invited Guest Speaker. Approximately 20 people attended the AGM which followed the usual format of the President and Treasurer presenting their reports. Also included was a report by Alan Williams, Supervisor of the shed construction. Copies of these reports are available via the Secretary. The Treasurer proposed annual subscriptions remain at \$15 single and \$20 family and the motion was carried. Members are reminded that the 2013-2014 subscriptions are now due.

The election of the new committee was overseen by Brian Matthews and the names of your new committee can be found at the end of this Newsletter

The AGM was followed by an informative talk by Bruce Munday on Dry Stone Walls. Bruce has recently published a book on this subject entitled “Those Dry-stone Walls”. South Australia is blessed with beautiful stone – stone with colour, texture and light. Some of our stone structures have stood for 150 years, never touched by mortar. The stories behind these stone walls have been captured in his book and were the basis of his talk.



Friday 24th May – Shed Roof On

Aiming to have a roof on our shed in time for the AGM and Guest Speaker on the following Sunday, it was ‘all hands on deck’ as Alan Williams, David Spackman, Jim Morran, Malcolm Weddle and Alex Ryan got the job done.

Now all that remains to be done is some final painting and the shed will be ready for use. It is intended to use the shed for storage allowing the Interpretive Centre to be utilised more effectively for displaying some of our photographic collection.



There will be a formal ‘opening’ later in the year so watch for details in the Spring Newsletter.



Visitors

On 14th March the Society hosted visitors from Penwortham UK. It was reported in the Summer Newsletter how welcome the Morrans & Weddles had been made on their visit to Penwortham in England in late 2012. It was now MHHS turn to welcome Peter Wilkinson and his wife to our Penwortham.



Peter Wilkinson at John Horrocks grave
St Marks Church, Penwortham, SA

During an eventful day Peter & Dot visited Horrocks Cottage, St. Mark’s Church and Clare Regional History Group. An unexpected but thoroughly enjoyable side trip was, thanks to David Spackman and his 4-wheel drive, an exhilarating ride to the summit of Mount Horrocks! There was even time for the visitors to join some of the MHHS committee for lunch at the Rising Sun in Auburn.

In addition to visitors during our normal Sunday opening days, people tend to drop-in when they see committee members at work. This has happened on a number of occasions of late and two such visits were from Horrocks descendants who were given personal tours of the cottage.



Tom & Pam Dare (nee Horrocks) visited
the cottage in April



Mary Horrocks visited in May

Deucher/Horrocks Genealogy Chart

On 19th February Research Officer, Janet Morran & MHHS member Margaret Szalay visited the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney NSW to view and photograph a handwritten genealogical chart of the House of Horrocks of Tullichawan Castle, Scotland and Penwortham Lodge, Lancashire – who migrated to New Zealand.



This chart begins with the Royal House of Scotland in the 9th Century and ends with the descendants of James Deuchar



who migrated to New Zealand in 1882. The last entry is 1923. The chart measures 1m x 70cm and was donated to SAG by James Deuchar in memory of his parents James & Edith Deuchar (nee Horrocks)



The SAG is housed in Richmond Villa in Kent Street, Millers Point a heritage listed building of the gothic revival style. It was built by Mortimer Lewis –Colonial Architect for NSW 1835-1849. Originally erected near the Domain, it was dismantled and moved in 1977 to make way for extensions to Parliament House. Lewis was responsible for designing and overseeing many government buildings in Sydney and rural New South Wales, many of which are heritage listed.

Time Capsule in the Foresters Hall

While undertaking research at the State Library of SA, which involved looking through old newspaper articles, an interesting fact regarding the Foresters Hall at Watervale was discovered. The following edited extract from the South Australian Register reveals that prior to the laying of the foundation stone in 1869 a time capsule was placed under the stone:

The foundation-stone of the Forester's Hall was laid on Tuesday, Aug. 24 at 3 O'clock.

At the appointed time Mr & Mrs King arrived, the brethren of Court Bushman's Home arriving from the opposite direction: the latter having marched from the Court-room in procession wearing their regalia and badges of office.

A crowd anxious to witness the ceremony speedily surrounded them. PCR Ashton having welcomed those present called upon PCR Williamson who read the following document which with a copy of that day's Register and Advertiser and the latest numbers of the Northern Argus and Kapunda Herald and some coins was placed under the stone in a sealed bottle:

"The foundation-stone of the Foresters Hall in connection with Court Bushman's Home, A.O.F. 4118, Watervale, South Australia was laid in the year of our Lord 1869 on the 24th of August by Mrs Arthur King in the 32nd year of the reign of Her Most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria and the first of the governorship of His Excellency Sir James Fergusson Bart"



The Society feels it is incumbent on any future owners of the hall to be mindful of such a significant historical artefact being part of the building.



Acquisitions

- Lancashire & Northwest Magazine (details of trip to Penwortham UK – Sept.2012
- Map of Preston “Past and Present - 1842 to present day”
- Several Copies of The Penwortham Magazine
All donated by Peter Wilkinson

- Image and negative of Celia Temple (nee Horrocks) 1881
Donated by Katherine Murray

- Folding Trestle Table
Donated by David & Wendy Spackman

- B/W Photograph of Prince of Wales Hotel, Watervale
Donated by Max Catford

PIONEER SERVICE: ST. MARKS CHURCH

SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 11 am

The Pioneer Service this year will be in remembrance of the tragic deaths of the Ethel and Hope Green at Leasingham in 1913. The service will be followed by a visit to the grave.

Ethel's Cottage at Leasingham, the site of the tragedy, will be open for viewing from 12:30. A light lunch will be available cost \$5/head. RSVP (lunch only) Sec. 8843 0140

Weddles2@gmail.com.au



International Fleet Review Sydney Harbour

An International Fleet Review will be held in Sydney Harbour from 3-11th October 2013. The review is being held to commemorate the centenary of the first entry of the Royal Australian Navy's fleet into Sydney. On 4th October 1913 the flagship *HMAS Australia* led the new Australian Fleet Unit into Sydney Harbour for the first time to be greeted by thousands of cheering citizens lining the foreshore. It is anticipated that approximately 40 visiting warships and 12 tall ships (including the “*One & All*”) will participate in the event.

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2013 – 2014 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

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Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2013-2014 financial year fell due on July 1st 2013. They have been set at the AGM at \$15 Single and \$20 Family.

Pay by: Cheque, Money Order made out to “Mount Horrocks Historical Society Inc.”
: Bank Transfer/Direct Debit: BSB No.105-030 Account No.140232440.
(Please use your **name** as reference)

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, Gypsey Sandow, Alan Williams, Malcolm Weddle and Doreen Hill		

Contacts

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SA 5452
Email: mhhsinc@yahoo.com.au

Research Officer: Janet Morran - Phone: 8849 2410 - mob.0438 200253

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

Website: www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety