



NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2019



MHHS 2019 Annual General Meeting

The 2019 Annual General Meeting was held at the Watervale General Store on Monday 29th April, with approximately 20 people in attendance including local MP Geoff Brock and Guest Speaker Nan Berrett. 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 reported on the Society's achievements for the year and an edited version can be seen below.



Wendy Spackman, Nan Berrett
Geoff Brock MP

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Meredith produced a booklet of photos from JAH Bicentenary Celebration.

John Horrocks' pruning knife, donated by Adrienne Pearse at the Bicentenary, has been mounted in a box and is now on display in the cottage.

C&GVC CEO - Dr Helen McDonald visited the cottage and offered some council expertise (Steve Watson) regarding paving the north and east sides of the cottage and drainage of water. The Heritage Architect visited the cottage, approved the repaving and suggested the roof be repainted rather than replaced. MHHS applied for a Council Heritage grant to assist with the paving and drainage works. This application was successful, with \$3000 coming into the next financial year.

Some members attended the Clare Railway centenary unveiling and celebrations on the Riesling Trail. David & I attended the launch of Dr John Wilson's book – 'Riesling Railway' at the National Railway Museum.

Wording for a new John Horrocks sign on the Riesling Trail has been completed, but the old sign not replaced as yet.

On 12 December MHHS catered for a group of 14 from Sir Hubert Wilkins Group.

Christmas lunch was windy and warm, but a group of 10 had a very enjoyable day.

A letter of support was sent to Rod Shearing (RGSSA) regarding the possible renaming of Lake Dutton to Lake Gill.

The committee was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Geraldine Pearse without whom there may not have been a society. Also, I am sad to say that two of our long serving, hard working committee members are retiring. Anne & Malcolm Weddle have served many years on the committee and will be missed. They are both awarded life membership.

Thank you to the committee for all your hard work, input and support over the year.

Wendy Spackman, President 2018-19

All positions were declared vacant and member Valerie Tilbrook took the chair and called for nominations. Names and positions held can be found on the last page of the Newsletter. After lunch Wendy welcomed Nan Berrett as guest speaker to talk about Social Media.

St Marks Cemetery

During the last month Committee members have assisted St Marks Church in the cleanup of the cemetery. St Marks Cemetery is not in the care of the Clare Council, therefore no one is directly responsible for its upkeep.



As can be seen from the photos a lot of hard work was needed to clear the graves. Rev. David Thompson organised a series of working bees and with tools at the ready, members of the congregation along with the Spackmans, Jim, Meredith & Mal set to work. Check the Spring 2019 Newsletter for the 'after' photos.

Watervale

Those travelling through Watervale recently will have noticed much in the way of renovations being carried out. Namely the upgrade of the tennis courts and the revamping of the Watervale Hotel. A great deal of activity has also been taking place at Annie's Lane Winery on Springvale Road.



Penwortham

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S **HISTORY FESTIVAL**

27 APRIL - 31 MAY 2019

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, MHHS had a registered event in this year's History Festival. On Sunday 5th May Meredith took a group of 7 people on a 1 hour guided tour of Penwortham.

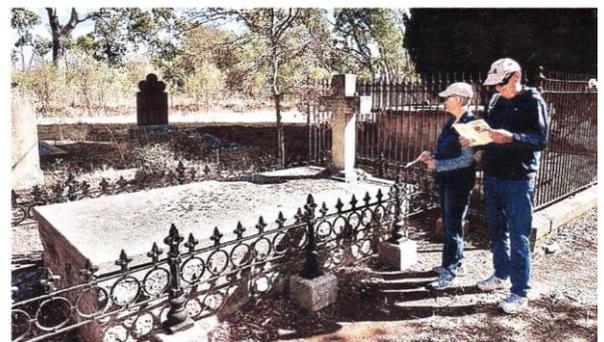
The walk concluded with an enjoyable afternoon tea at John Horrocks Cottage, catered for by MHHS Committee members.



Meredith and her group of walkers at Horrocks Cottage

Take a Walk on the Horrocks Side

www.plainsproducer.com.au



Jim & Janet Morran at Horrocks Grave in
St Marks Cemetery

The above is an extract of an article in the local newspaper; 'Plains Producer' provided by Meredith to promote the walk.

Morran's visit to Edgworth, Lancashire, UK – 2018

John Ainsworth Horrocks' grandfather, also named John, was born at nearby Bradshaw in 1768. A short time later he, with his older brother Samuel and parents, moved to 'The Birches' an ancient hamlet of four farmsteads built on a ridge above the village of Edgworth. It was here that John's father set up a stone quarry business. He also built a small terrace of cottages.

Both John junior and Samuel worked for their father, but John decided to set up a cotton mill adjacent to his father's stone mill. He was soon producing yarn which he delivered to local spinners and handloom weavers by packhorse. The venture took him to Preston where increasing demands led to John installing additional spinning frames and employing more hands supervised by his brother Samuel.



The home of the Horrocks family



John eventually set up business in Preston in 1791 and his cotton business expanded with a series of mills being built over the course of ten years.

John Horrocks became a prominent citizen of Preston, becoming an MP in 1796 and building Penwortham Hall in 1800. Sadly John had little time to savour his success as he died at the young age of 36. He is buried in St Mary's churchyard at Penwortham.

Tribute to Geraldine

We were all very sad to hear that Geraldine Pearce passed away in early April this year. She was, without doubt, the bedrock of Mt Horrocks Historical Society, being one of the main founders. It was her inspiration, vision and sheer hard work that led to the Society surviving and becoming the thriving and successful organisation it is today.

Her knowledge of local history was vast, having lived in the area nearly all her life. After setting up and then serving as Historian of MHHS for many years Geraldine continued to support and work with the Committee. At many a meeting, when we had a problem with a specific fact, date, place or person, it was usually resolved by saying 'ask Geraldine'! She always answered, often contributing more details and a colourful story or two about local identities.

Geraldine was a prolific author, writing no less than 17 books about the Clare Valley and its characters, all delightfully illustrated by local artists and we are fortunate to have these, which will always remind us of her.

She was a sweet and gentle soul, who always saw the best in people and will be greatly missed by her loving family. Also by her many friends, both in the local community and by colleagues and contacts, made far and wide over many years.

Vale Geraldine

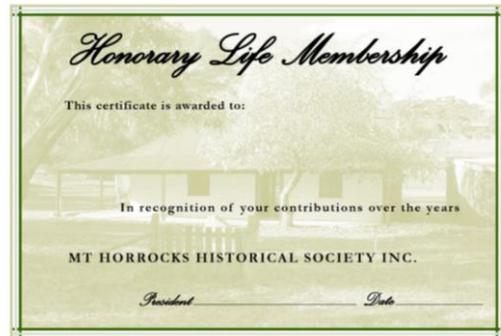
Anne & Malcolm Weddle
June 2019



Life Membership Awarded to Anne & Malcolm Weddle

As mentioned in the President's Report, the Society has said farewell to two long standing Committee Members – namely Anne & Malcolm Weddle. In acknowledgement of their valuable contribution to MHHS over many years, they have been awarded Life Membership and join the following list of Life Members:

- Kate Bullen
- Lionel Bullen
- Mary Clark
- John Horrocks (NZ)
- Jim Horrocks (NZ)
- Geraldine Pearce
- Gypsy Sandow



2019-2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the 2019-2020 financial year fell due on **July 1st 2019**.

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.

Committee Members

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

COMMITTEE Joey Duncan, Alan Williams

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

Website: www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety

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