



NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2021



Mt Horrocks Historical Society would like to wish all our members and friends a very Happy & Safe New Year. The year 2020 was trying one for everyone, but hopefully 2021 will bring better days for us all. Please continue to visit our website www.mthorrock.org.au and our Facebook page for latest news.

Penwortham Day 2020

A number of people including many local residents attended 'Penwortham Day' to commemorate the settlement of Penwortham in November 1839 by John Horrocks.

SA Government Gazette of January 16 1840 shows that: "*Horrocks purchased freehold property of 15,000 acres situated on the banks of the Hutt River, by virtue of 25 Land Orders of 80 acres each, dated November 13 1839 being in the names of James Morphett and Peter Horrocks Esquires, for the sum of £2,000 cash and the same Land Orders*". This was testified to by Charles Sturt at the Assistant Commissioner's Office, Adelaide on January 15 1840.

To honour the English heritage of the town, the 'unofficial' Lord Mayor of Penwortham and member of MHHS, Leo Faulkner, has created a "*Penhenge*" which was unveiled on this occasion.



New Gateway and Signage at St Mark's Church

As well as commemorating the founding of Penwortham, the day was an ideal time to celebrate the installation of a new entrance to St. Marks' cemetery from Church Lane and a sign created by David Spackman to guide visitors to the grave of John Ainsworth Horrocks.



A small sign will be erected alongside the grave with a few words relating to Horrocks.

'Bob' the Railway Dog

Bob was a scruffy brown stray, bought on impulse by a local railway man as a gift for his wife and setting in motion the beginnings of a legend. Recognised near and far for his cheery bark, waving tail, and devotion to train travel – Bob quickly became a beloved member of the tight knit railway community in the mid-north of SA.

The story of Bob, railway mascot, really begins at Terowie in the mid north of South Australia as was reported in the Advertiser's 1936 article titled "Owned Bob the Railway Dog" reporting on an interview with William Seth Ferry. According to William Ferry, he first saw Bob in a cattle truck at Terowie (where he was a special guard) with about 50 other stray dogs from Adelaide who were consigned to a rabbiter at Carrieton. He took a fancy to him and when they got to Carrieton offered to buy him. The rabbiter refused. He would however do a swap - one dog being as good as another! William went on to Pt. Augusta, found a stray dog at the Police Station, returned and made the swap and the rest is history.



What we do know is that Bob loved travelling on trains and he loved the men that worked on them. When he heard the whistle of a train he was off! For a time he went missing. He was stolen by a sheep farmer. Unfortunately for him he had Bob herding sheep near a railway line. Bob heard the whistle of a train and ran to the engine where the crew recognised him and claimed him. The farmer was told that Bob was the property of the SAR and that he would be prosecuted for theft if he did not give him up. (From the time that William Ferry rescued him in Terowie the railway men had always kept his dog licence current). After this incident one of his friends, a commercial traveller, had a special collar made with the legendary inscription on it of "stop me not but let me jog for I am Bob the drivers' dog".

A few months later William Ferry transferred to Petersburg (Peterborough) as Porter/Guard and by the time he left in 1889 for Western Australia, he was Assistant Station Master. During this time Bob had graduated from travelling the line with his owner, to free spirit, jumping on and off trains as the mood took him, making interstate journeys and short suburban trips on trams as well as trains (he also made river trips on the Murray Steamers).

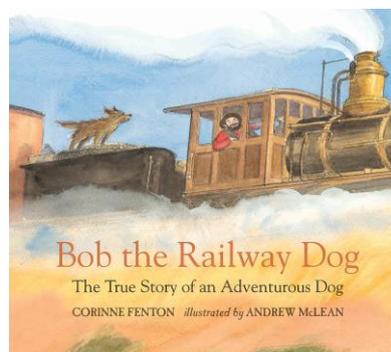
He was a great charmer as this excerpt from the memoirs of Stephen William Quintrell shows –

"So Bob continued on his merry way and travelled widely to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. At the completion of every trip he always followed the engineman home and was an important visitor. When back in Adelaide, he always went for a feed at the Eagle Hotel and the girls always gave him the best. Every traveller knew Bob and the children adored him. I have had him follow me home from Kingston. He was a most deserving dog. Some peevish drivers would put him off, and he knew them and never got on their engine".

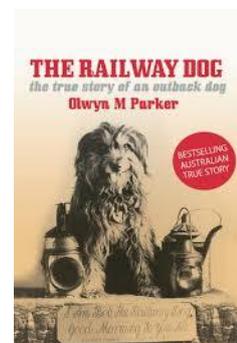


Statue of Bob the Railway Dog in Peterborough South Australia

For further information on Bob, below are two books which tell his story:



Bob the Railway Dog – The True Story of an Adventurous Dog by Corinne Fenton

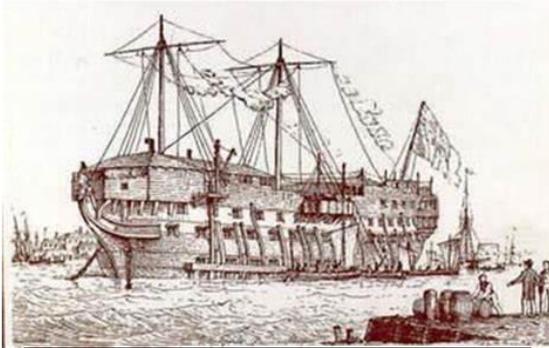


The Railway Dog – The True Story of an Outback Dog by Olwyn M Parker

Dorset UK to “Downunder” Via the ‘Red Post’

What connects the pretty county of Dorset in the UK with Botany Bay in Australia?

At the beginning of the 19th century, transportation of criminals to Australia was a common practice. Shackled prisoners from Dorchester gaol were marched from the prison to board the ‘hulks’ at Portsmouth on the coast, some 15 miles to the west. It is now widely accepted that posts painted bright red served as markers for the accompanying guards, many of whom were illiterate.



A Prison ‘Hulk’ – A ship to hold Prisoners



Turning off the main road at this point, and heading south from the post, the prisoners would soon have arrived at the aptly named “*Botany Bay Farm*”, their first night’s stop on the long trek to Portsmouth. A sizeable barn acted as a temporary cell for the convicts and although it was largely destroyed by fire in the 1930s the farm and nearby public house have retained the name.

Who Lived in Watervale 100 Years Ago?

SA Directory 1921 – WATERVALE

County of Stanley, Electoral District of Wooroora – District Council of Upper Wakefield; 81 1/4 miles north, by road 73 miles. Population: 282 – Parcels Post, Telegraph and Money Order - Offices: Com Savings Bank, Post Mistress Mrs. MG Osmond

Resident Justice: CA Sobels, Public School: PJ Gehling, Places of Worship: C of E (vacant), Methodist (supplied from Auburn) Rev. Prior. Bank: Savings State (Digby A Tavender). Hotel: Watervale (HE Forbes). Communication with Adelaide: Train Daily

Allen AW, fruit exporter	Grace WJ; labourer	Perry, Wm, farmer
Baker Wm. Gardener nr. Watervale	Green Harold E; labourer	Prior, Rev. (Methodist)
Bartlett, Isaac	Grenfell, Mrs. A; farmer	Pope, Jno, farmer
Bartlett, Robert; Coachman	Guthrie, David	Reid, Norman, Vgnrn
Beck, Henry; gardener	Guthrie, Elizabeth	Scovell, Jno, farmer
Buring H & Sobels Ltd. Vgnrns	Haines R; apiarist	Smith, Chas
Burgess F; farmer & fruit exporter	Hamp AF; fruitier	Smith, Jno; gardener
Catford BH	Hamp, Frank; farmer	Smith, Wm, gardener
Cole, Hannah	Hamp, Jas; labourer	Sobels, CA (JP), Vgnrn
Cole, Miss Alice	Harden, Jas; labourer	Sobels, EE; Vgnrn
Davis, HS; labourer	Hunter, Geo; fruitier	Sobels OC, Vgnrn
Delaney, Jas. labourer	Lane, Elsie; shop assist.	Solly Samuel; farmer
Elliott, Mrs.	Lindner, T; labourer	Stewart, Mrs. TJ; dressmaker
Field, Frank; labourer	Luck TM, str. manager	Tavender DA; store manager
Forbes HE, hotel keeper	Mannix J.; labourer	Thompson, John; Mngr-Hughes Park
Gare, Jno; saddler	Merritt, Griffen	Ward, Arthur; farmer
Gehling, PJ; school teacher	Mutton, Stanley; labourer	Ward, Jas; gardener
Giles, Rev. (Meth)	Newland, Ralph; Vgnrn	Ward, Jno; fruitier
Grace, Jno	Osmond, Mrs. MG, postmistress	Ward, Jno;
Grace ME; labourer	Pearce, gardener	Ward, Wm; farmer
Grace, Neil; labourer	Perry, Mrs. E; farmer	Worrall, A; labourer
Grace RE;		

Australia's First Public Railway

A rail link was proposed to join the river Murray port of Goolwa with the sea port of Port Elliot 11 km away. There was a public protest at the allocation of £20,000 for the works by the then Governor of South Australia, Sir Henry Fox Young. Works commenced at Port Elliot in 1851 which was to have a jetty and breakwater, whilst Goolwa was to have a jetty and turntable. The line opened on May 18 1854 and was Australia's first public railway. For reasons of economy, horses were used for traction until replaced by steam line in 1885.

Since 1887 passenger trains operating along the coast from Goolwa to Victor Harbor have affectionately been known as 'The Cockle Train'. The broad, sandy surf beaches at Goolwa are famous for large cockles which are the most common fishing bait.



The 'Steam Ranger' Locomotive 207 "Dean Harvey"
on the Cockle Train run

History Festival 2021



Details of MHHS' event in the Festival programme will appear in the Autumn Newsletter

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Vice-President	Janet Morran	Minute Secretary	Jim Morran
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COMMITTEE	Joey Duncan, Nan Berrett and Alan Williams		

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