



## **NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2020**



### **MHHS 2020 Annual General Meeting**

After having to cancel the original date in May due to COVID19, MHHS held their AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> July at the Watervale Bowling Club. There were 15 in attendance including local MP Geoff Brock and guest Speaker John Smyth. 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. Malcolm Weddle took the Chair and as no other nominations came forward, he declared the Committee positions filled as listed on the last page of this newsletter.



Guest Speaker, John Smyth with Wendy Spackman and Geoff Brock MP

### **President's Report 2019-2020**

As the May 2019 History Festival event walk of Penwortham sites proved to be a success, it encouraged us to plan a cemetery walk for 2020. However, due to Covid-19 this did not eventuate, but hopefully will happen in 2021, giving us plenty of time to plan a great event.

Meredith and Janet have been busy during the year organising a new website as well as managing the MHHS Facebook page. Meredith has also produced a short video to play on a laptop during Cottage open days.

A new information sign about Horrocks and the cottage has been installed on the Riesling Trail.

We have not as yet been successful in finding an acceptable quote for re-painting the cottage roof – ongoing search.

A new Laser Printer was purchased and installed at the Institute.

With the assistance of church members, a couple of working bees were carried out at St Marks Cemetery, making a huge improvement. This is an ongoing job.

The Committee enjoyed a visit to Saddleworth museum, followed by a lovely lunch at Gilbert Valley Hotel.

A group of children from Vineyard Lutheran School visited the cottage in December.

Jason Gill continued the paving at the rear of the cottage and removed the tank stand. He then excavated a trench for storm water and constructed a contour for flood water. Slate paving is yet to be completed.

A working bee to tidy the cottage grounds, remove caltrop and give the cottage a good general clean was held. Allan scattered lawn seed over the new contour.

Thank you to the committee for all your hard work, input and support over the year and thank you to our members for your support and generous donations.

Wendy Spackman  
President 2019-20

## Prince of Wales Visits South Australia 1920

Edward, Prince of Wales arrived in Victoria on 26 May 1920, representing his father George V, to thank Australians for their participation in the First World War.

**OUR EMPIRE'S AMBASSADOR**

**A BELOVED PRINCE OF MEN**

**ADELAIDE THRILLING WITH LOYALTY**

**The King's Son Welcomed by 200,000 People**

The Observer (Adelaide SA)  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 1920



The Prince of Wales had himself served in World War I, and was awarded the Military Cross in 1916. This perhaps accounts for some of the public support shown for his visit, which took place just two years after the conclusion of the war. Shouts of 'Digger' accompanied him throughout his visit and he became widely known as the 'Digger Prince' one of the highest compliments at that time, given the regard in which all servicemen and women were held by the nation.

The Prince of Wales arrived in Australia on board the HMS Renown in April 1920, having left England the previous month. He spent nine days in Victoria, eleven days in New South Wales, four days in Tasmania, eleven days in Western Australia, six days in South Australia and eight days in Queensland. In all, he visited 110 cities and towns across Australia.

His interest in, and affection for, those who had taken part in the war effort, and his often informal and good humoured style, saw his popularity soar. He showed a particular concern for the repatriation of soldiers, especially the wounded, and wrote an open letter from on board the Renown congratulating those who had helped in this regard. He also penned a letter to the schoolchildren.



### Letter from the Prince of Wales to the School Children of Australia

#### *Girls & Boys*

*My wonderful first visit to Australia is nearly over and I want to tell you before I sail how sorry I am to be going and to give you all my best wishes. All of you whom I have seen have given me delightfully kind welcomes of your own, and I only wish that I could have gone everywhere and not missed seeing any of you. I should like you all to remember my first visit which I have enjoyed so much myself, and so I have asked that as a special favour to me you may have an extra week's holiday sometime this year.*

*Australia is a magnificent country and I think you very fortunate to have it for your own. Make up your minds to serve Australia well, for the future of every country depends before all things on the spirit of its girls and boys. You have a splendid example of patriotism before you in the men and women of Australia who fought and worked in and finally won the Great War. Your sailors and soldiers thought first of Australia and the Empire, not of themselves; many gave up everything, even their lives in order that Australia and the Empire might be safe and free. Many of Australia's women too served gallantly overseas, and others did all they could to help at home. If you follow their footsteps, you will make Australia one of the greatest and happiest countries in the World.*

*I want to say one thing more. You have all been told how great the British Empire is. Our flag, the Union Jack flies in all British Territories throughout the world as a sign that all British peoples stand together in peace as in war. Think always of Australia as part of that free Empire which has withstood great trials and never failed.*

*Edward, Prince of Wales*

## Horrocks Cottage Re-opens

After being closed for a number of months, John Horrocks Cottage re-opened its doors on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June with COVID19 restrictions in place. It was pleasing to see a number of people visit and it is hoped that this will continue for the remainder of the year.

It is now the intention to push on with our paving project and eventually address the issue of repainting the roof.

As with any heritage building, maintenance is ongoing for its preservation.



## Donkeys in South Australia

By the time Australia's first European colony in NSW was being established, donkeys had been domesticated for several thousand years, and it would have been a reasonable assumption that they would adapt well to conditions in the new settlement.

As early as 1792-95 at least 10 donkeys had arrived in NSW from India comprising 4 Jacks and 2 Jennies with 4 more arriving in 1803 and in 1822 it was recorded that they were "thriving abundantly" in Tasmania. It could be surmised that by the time SA was being colonised, the donkey population would have grown considerably and that some descendants of the first arrivals went overland with their owners in due course. Newspaper accounts report that one donkey arrived in 1837, two in 1840 and in the book "Australian Donkeys" it is said that in the late 1840s donkeys were imported from Asia, some of which were taken to Farina. In 1866 a newspaper reported that 29 males and 8 females arrived from Kandahar (Afghanistan). Loans were arranged by Sidney Kidman for Indian camel drivers to import donkeys. Apparently some of these were sent to Burra, Terowie, Farina and Coongie

While camels were superior transport in the open, treeless, waterless plains and sand hill country, bullocks excelled at pulling great loads and horses were preferred for carrying goods and passengers and for riding and working stock, the donkey also filled a very important role in Australia. Hardy, surefooted, easy to train and outfit, they proved to be ideally suited for working in tough outback conditions. In a region where summer daytime temperatures can be well over 100 degrees, their efficient body cooling system was an asset. They can scent and dig for water and can tolerate brackish water better than other animals. They work well in a team and rarely move from camp during the night.

Hard bush tracks usually kept the donkeys hooves trimmed well down and they rarely need to be shod. Old photos show one or more donkeys pulling vehicles in suburban areas and country towns. Transport to school in rural areas was sometimes by donkey-drawn sulky or on donkey-back. It must be said that the donkey has not been accorded proper recognition in the history of Australia's development.



*Extracts from "The Donkey Drivers" by Kath Burbidge donated to MHHS by Malcolm Weddle*



David Spackman, MHHS Treasurer, celebrated his 80th birthday on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June seen here with his wife Wendy (President of MHHS). Also celebrating were other committee members and friends, with lunch at the Sevenhill Hotel and afterwards cake, coffee and a few wines back at the Spackmans' home in Watervale. A good time was had by all.

*"Congratulations David"*

## **2020-2021 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE**

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the 2020-2021 financial year fell due on **July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**.

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

### **Contact**

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

Website: [www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety](http://www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety)



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