



NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2021

Annual General Meeting 2021

MHHS held its AGM on 3th May at the Watervale Bowling Club. There were 23 in attendance including guest speaker Jon Ruwolt who spoke on the history of the local railways.

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. A notable absence on the Committee is Joey Duncan who has unfortunately resigned due to ill health.



Wendy Spackman thanks Guest Speaker, Jon Ruwolt

“Last year was a very different year for us all due to COVID 19, however we have been able to attract a steady flow of visitors to the cottage.

Paving around the northern and eastern sides of the cottage has been completed after lengthy planning and execution. I wish to thank Alan Williams for all his hard work and for liaising with Jason Gill. Everything looks great!! The front pathway to the cottage has been edged with timber and re-gravelled.

After a successful working bee at St Mark's cemetery, things are looking good, however, rain has produced many weeds and we are currently in the process of another clean up ready for History Festival activities. A gateway to the cemetery from Church Lane was installed and a cemetery walk sign erected, along with a small story board on John Horrocks' grave.

We had a working bee in the garden area at the Watervale Institute and thanks go to Leonie Moore & friend for their assistance.

Our website has been upgraded – not without a few headaches!! Many thanks to Meredith & Janet for their persistence.

Christmas lunch was cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions and following the opening of the cottage drinks and nibbles were enjoyed at “Hilltop”. (*Spackman's residence at Watervale*)

During the year we had a farewell lunch for Janet & Jim who have moved to Goolwa but have returned regularly for meetings and cottage openings. We hope they continue to support our small group!!

Due to failing health Joey Duncan is unable to continue as a Committee member and I thank her for her contribution over many years.

Committee member Alan Williams also has health problems. We wish him all the best and hope he is back to good health very soon.

My thanks go to our small committee for their input, hard work and support throughout the year.”

Wendy Spackman, President

SA History Festival 2021 Event “A Twilight Walk among Penwortham’s Gravestones”

On Saturday 22nd May, a group of 15 people escorted by committee member Meredith took an enjoyable wander through the graves at St Mark’s Cemetery. To their surprise a few of the ‘inhabitants’ in the guise of local residents, stood beside their graves to give a short account of their life before being interred in the cemetery. ‘Actors’ not shown below were David Spackman taking on the role of Cpl John Coles and Jim Cowin as local doctor, Antony Sokolowski. The walk was followed by a fireside gathering at Horrocks’ Cottage to partake of delicious cheeses supplied by Louise of the Watervale Store and wonderful donated Clare Valley wines. Since the event, many positive comments have been coming our way which is mostly down to Meredith and her excellent organisation of the event albeit assisted by her ‘actors’ and fellow committee members on hand during the evening. If you missed out on this walk – it may well be repeated during the History Festival 2022!



Meredith welcomes the group at St Mark’s Church



Mrs. Green (*Wendy Spackman*) mourns the loss of her two little girls in a terrible fire accident



John Horrocks (*Gerald Lally*) recounts his short adventurous life before his unfortunate death.



The event concludes with a sociable get together at John Horrocks’ Cottage



The Oscar "W" – Paddle Steamer



The *Oscar "W"* is a steam-powered, wood-fired, River Murray paddle steamer that was built in 1908 in Echuca, Victoria, SA by Franz Oscar Wallin and named after his son Oscar who he hoped would take over his shipping business. Sadly young Oscar was killed in WW.1 and the vessel was sold out of Wallin's fleet. The *Oscar "W"* interprets the River Murray trade of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and is the only River Murray steamer in South Australia able to tow a barge.

In 1914 Wallin sold the vessel to Permewan Wright & Co. In 1919 the Murray Shipping Co. was formed and took over Permewan Wright and the *Oscar "W"*. In 1942 the Murray Shipping Co. turned to the tourist trade and sold off the old work boats including *Oscar "W"*. George Richie of Goolwa bought the vessel and planned to turn it into a tourist paddle steamer, but wartime shortages of materials and labour made this impossible. In 1943 the vessel was sold to the SA Govt. Highways Dept. for use as a ferry. She was converted to oil-burning in 1945. By 1959 a new vessel was needed to carry out this work and in 1960 the *Oscar "W"* was sold to Paddy Hogg for £50. After being used as a tourist and work vessel, in 1964 she was sold to Allan Moritz who initiated restoration, but sadly died before the work was completed. *Oscar "W"* was sold to the SA Tourism Commission who was establishing an Interpretive Exhibition at Goolwa. Funding was made available and she was put into river-worthy condition and steamed to Goolwa on 31st March 1998, where, after having received a new wood-fired boiler in 1994, she remains as a working exhibit. Since 2001 the paddle steamer has been owned by the Alexandrina Council and makes regular cruises.

Source: [The History of the P.S. Oscar-W](#)

Did You Know?

"Spirit of Ecstasy"

100 years ago in February 1911, the artist Charles Sykes presented Rolls-Royce with the sculpture of a flying lady which was to go on to become its mascot the "*Spirit of Ecstasy*".



The Managing Director, Claude Johnson, had commissioned the mascot after owners began fixing 'inappropriate' ornaments to their motor cars. Sykes chose to model his sculpture on the mistress of his friend the 2nd Lord Montague of Beaulieu, the Motoring pioneer.



"Anyone for Tennis?" Wimbledon

Approximately 54,250 balls are used during the Wimbledon fortnight.

Wimbledon has used the same trophies since the 1880's and winners take home a ¾ size replica.

The competition has only been cancelled twice – in WW2, when the Centre Court was bombed and 2020 due to COVID.

Wimbledon's longest ever match took place in 2010 when American John Isner beat Frenchman, Nicolas Mahut in 11 hrs. & 5 mins played over 3 days.

Tennis goers munch their way through approx. 2 million strawberries and 7,000 litres of cream each year.



2021-2022 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

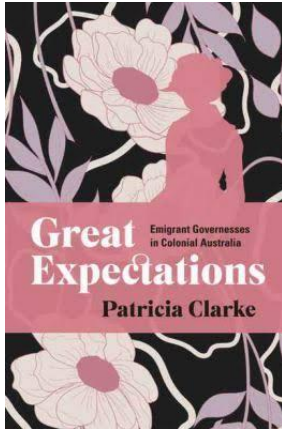
Members are reminded that subscriptions for the 2021-2022 financial year fell due on **July 1st 2021.**

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.

“Great Expectations Emigrant Governesses in Colonial Australia”



By **Patricia Clarke**

For educated middle-class women in nineteenth-century Britain, options were limited. Marry and bear children, accept the drudgery of keeping house for relatives or friends or attempt to find a position in one of the very few industries that would employ women. The Female Middle Class Emigration Society scheme helped governesses and would-be governesses immigrate to the colonies from 1861 to 1886. In ‘*Great Expectations*’, Patricia Clarke uses the women’s letters to tell a broader story of emigration, education, class prejudice and the development of Australian Society.



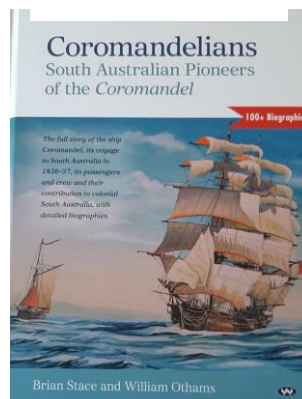
Acquisitions & Donations

“Coromandelians – South Australian Pioneers of the Coromandel”

By

Brian Stace and William Othams

We thank member Bill Othams for the donation of his book which will make a valuable addition to the MHHS Library. Local past residents mentioned in the book are the Duke/Clay & Elliot families who arrived in SA aboard the ship in 1837.



Wendy Spackman & Bill Othams

Committee Members

President	Wendy Spackman (0417175234)	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 Jon Ruwolt, Nan Berrett and Alan Williams

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

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