



NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2022

Penwortham Day 2021



The little village of Penwortham celebrated the annual 'Penwortham Day' on 7th November, 2021 beneath the walnut tree in the grounds of Horrocks' Cottage. It was a gathering of some 40 plus local residents and members of MHHS.

The day commemorates the founding of the village by John Ainsworth Horrocks. In November 1839, shortly after his arrival in South Australia, he secured land in the area. Later he built a 2-roomed cottage which we know today as 'Horrocks' Cottage'. It is therefore fitting that 'Penwortham Day' was celebrated in the grounds of 'his' cottage. Recognition was given to the Ngadjuri people who first occupied this land.



Penwortham residents & MHHS Members



MHHS Christmas Lunch at *Little Red Grape*



Little Red Grape, Leasingham

It was decided to follow a different format for the MHHS Christmas lunch this year and patronise a local business instead of a the usual picnic lunch at Horrocks' Cottage. This proved to be a popular decision, as those who attended were not disappointed and enjoyed a delicious lunch and a glass or two of lovely Clare Valley wine. Included in the dozen or so people there, three MHHS Presidents past and present were in attendance at the lunch; Malcolm Weddle, Gypsy Sandow and the current President Wendy Spackman.

Wilkins the Explorer Cont'd....

After the war, Wilkins served in 1921–22 as an ornithologist aboard the *Quest* on the Shackleton Rowett Expedition to the Southern Ocean. In 1923 he began a two-year study of the bird life of Northern Australia for the British Museum. This ornithology project occupied his life until 1925. His work was greatly admired by the museum but derided by Australian authorities because of the sympathetic treatment afforded to Indigenous Australians and criticisms of the ongoing environmental damage in the country.

In March 1927, Wilkins with pilot Carl Ben Eielson explored the drift ice north of Alaska, touching down upon it in Eielson's airplane in the first land-plane descent onto drift ice. Wilkins was the first recipient of the Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal, which was awarded to him by the American Geographical Society in 1928. He was also awarded the Royal Geographical Society's Patron Gold Cross the same year. On 15 April 1928, a year after Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic, Wilkins and Eielson made a trans-Arctic crossing from Point Barrow, Alaska to Spitsbergen about 20 hours later on 16 April. For this feat and his prior work, Wilkins was knighted, and during the ensuing celebration in New York, he met an Australian actress, Suzanne Bennett, whom he later married. Now financed by William Randolph Hearst, Wilkins continued his polar explorations, flying over Antarctica in the *San Francisco*.



Sled dogs pulling the aircraft



The submarine "Nautilus"

During 1930 Wilkins planned an expedition in a Submarine called the *Nautilus* to the Arctic. However the expedition suffered many problems and setbacks. He predicted that Arctic weather stations could be established which had the potential to forecast Arctic weather "several years in advance". Wilkins believed a submarine could take a fully equipped laboratory into the Arctic. The crew was able to take core samples of the ice, as well as testing the salinity of the water and gravity near the pole. However the expedition became very dangerous, and Hearst implored him to return. The vessel was in such poor shape that it was sunk off the Norwegian coast on 20 November 1931. Despite the failure to meet his intended objective, he was able to prove that submarines could operate beneath the polar ice cap, thereby paving the way for future successful missions.

Wilkins died in Framingham, Massachusetts, on 30 November 1958. The US Navy took his ashes to the North Pole aboard the submarine *USS Skate* on 17 March 1959.

The Wilkins Sound, Wilkins Coast and the Wilkins Ice Shelf in Antarctica are named after him, as are the airport at Jamestown, South Australia, and a road at Adelaide Airport. Well known Sevenhill local Louise Wilkins attended the screening of the film 'The Eye of Wilkins' in Burra. Louise's late husband Ron was a nephew of Sir Hubert.

Arthur Richardson - Local Cricket Hero

Born in Clare in 1888, Arthur Richardson began playing cricket for the Sevenhill cricket club and later in the 1911/12 season, he transferred to the Kybunga Cricket Club and topped both the Stanley Cricketing Association batting and bowling averages, scoring 738 runs and taking 40 wickets. He played four Tests in 1924–25 against the touring English team, and toured England in 1926, playing all five Tests and scoring a century in the Third Test at Leeds

Richardson was one of the few Australians to play with spectacles. He played first-class cricket for South Australia, mostly as an opening batsman and off-spin bowler, from 1918–19 to 1926–27. In his final season he helped South Australia win the Sheffield Shield by scoring 607 runs including an innings of 232 against Queensland. In October 1927 he was appointed by the Western Australian Cricket Association as state coach for a two-year contract and he played a few first-class matches for Western Australia from 1927–28 to 1929–30.



AR Richardson
SLSA PRG 280/1/30/95



The SA cricket team that played NSW at Adelaide Oval in season 1922-1923
AR Richardson 3rd from left on the front row.

His highest first-class score was 280 (in 242 minutes) for South Australia against the MCC in 1922–23, when he became the first person to hit a century before lunch in Australia. His best bowling came in the match against Oxford University in 1926 when he took 6 for 28 and 5 for 36.

Richardson played for two Lancashire teams in the UK in the 1930's. At his first match at Todmorden Cricket Club's ground, Richardson was so overwhelmed by the scenery he stopped a Todmorden player in his bowling run up so he could admire the view! He set the record for the highest number of runs in a Lancashire League season in 1929 with 1193 runs.

He returned to South Australia in 1930 coaching for the South Australian Cricket Association, and also coached in South Africa and the West Indies and served as an umpire in two Tests and in several matches in the Sheffield Shield in 1936–37.



South Australian Cricket

The History of Australian cricket begins over 210 years ago. The first recorded cricket match in Australia took place in Sydney in December 1803 and a report in the *Sydney Gazette* on 8 January 1804, suggested that cricket was already well established in the infant colony. By 1839 a club was formed in South Australia.

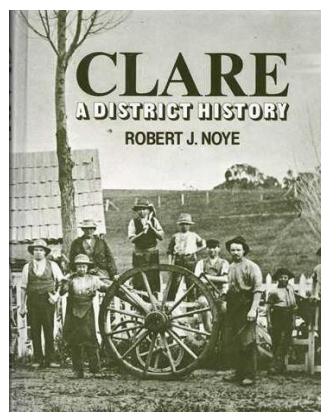
While cricket was first played in South Australia in 1839, for 30 years matches were irregular. The South Australian Cricket Association was formed in 1871 and club games were arranged from 1874–75, before the establishment of district-based cricket in 1897–98.



The earliest known first-class match played by South Australia took place against Tasmania on the Adelaide Oval in November 1877. In 1892–93. They joined New South Wales and Victoria and played the inaugural Sheffield Shield season. South Australia won the Shield in just their second attempt. They have won the competition 13 times in total.

Clare Regional History Group launches New Book

CRHG has launched a further edition of R.J. Noye's "Clare – A District History". First published in 1975, this book has been out of print for about 10 years. This enlarged edition contains seven additional chapters and many coloured photographs covering 1875-2010. The book is available from the History Group history (clarehistory@gmail.com), the Clare Public Library and Clare Valley Wine, Food and Tourism Centre (price \$50 - \$10 for postage if required).



MHHS New Website

Thanks to Committee Member, Jon Ruwolt, MHHS now has a more manageable website. Although with the same format as previously, the new website is easier to edit and therefore, keep members more informed. Please keep updated by visiting www.mthorrock.org.au from time to time, as well as checking our regular posts on Facebook at: MHHSInc or search for Mt Horrocks Historical Society

Nan Berrett has resigned from the Committee due to other demands on her time. We thank Nan for her valuable contribution during her time on the Committee. MHHS Committee is now at a critical low number and we are desperately seeking history-minded volunteers to join 'our merry band'. Please contact our Secretary if you can help.

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

Website: www.mthorrock.org.au

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