

MT HORROCKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Autumn Newsletter 2024

ANZAC DAY

Watervale

ANZAC Day 2024 began with the traditional 5PM service at Watervale. This is a true community service being led by Leonie Moore, a MHHS and local RSL member. Students from Watervale Primary School gave the Acknowledgment of Country and the ANZAC requiem. The 411 Army Cadet Unit from Clare provided the Catafalque party. Lay minister Marilyn Scott from the Uniting Church conducted the prayers. The Last Post was played by Clare Band member Miriam Furler and her son Maurice. The Ode was read by Shannon Kuchel, granddaughter of Eddie Pearce, a WW2 veteran who had recently passed away at the age of 102. Wreaths were laid by The RSL, The Council, Penny Pratt MP, local services and schools. The Mt Horrocks Historical Society presented a visual display of Watervale War Veterans inside the Institute, which was viewed by about 40 people.



Visitor for the service
Roger Edson



Buglers Miriam and
Maurice Furler



Catafalque Party



Enjoying a drink at The Vale
Mal Paterson, Grahame
Ferguson and Iain Neil

Penwortham

On Sunday 28th April a special ANZAC service was held in St Mark's Church Penwortham. This was organised by Margorie Smart a previous resident of Penwortham. The windows of the historic church were decorated with photographs of Penwortham veterans. Peter Lane, Vice President of Auburn Clare and Districts RSL Sub-Branch gave a presentation about the Gallipoli campaign and also the hardships Indigenous soldiers had to endure. Afterwards the congregation were encouraged to lay sprigs of rosemary on the graves of veterans in the St Mark's cemetery.



Peter Lane



Display in Window of St Mark's

Farina

An ANZAC service is held in the old, abandoned town of Farina in the north of South Australia every three years. David and Wendy Spackman, along with Steve Magor and Bron Willis made the trek to Farina to take part in the dawn service. A gunfire breakfast followed the service. This event is proving popular, with around 200 people attending. On their way home the group visited Lake Dutton, the site where Horrocks sustained the fateful gunshot wound.

MHHS David Spackman at Farina



Colonel William Light's House



Exciting news out of Adelaide recently, when The South Australian Brewing Company, founded in 1888, began demolishing the old West End Brewery site. They found the remains of the cellar and house that Colonel William Light, Surveyor General, had once lived in.



Colonel William Light, a man of vision, was born at Kuala Kedah, Malaya on 27th April 1786. He was the first Surveyor General of South Australia, arriving in 1836 and his first task was to decide on a suitable site for the new settlement. He began surveying Adelaide on 11th January 1837, beginning at the junction of where North and West Terrace now stand. This point is marked by a granite obelisk. He completed his survey on 10th March 1837. It had only taken him 8 weeks.

He planned the CBD with very wide streets, and Adelaide was one of the very few cities that had an overall plan, that has stayed the same. In designing the city, his plans included surrounding the city with 2,332 acres of park and of these he reserved 32 acres for one of the world's earliest public cemeteries, now called West Terrace Cemetery.

Just 6 weeks before his death Colonel William Light signed his will at his newly constructed home on his land at what would become Thebarton. His sole beneficiary was his partner Maria Gandy known quaintly as his 'housekeeper'. They could not marry because he was still officially wed to his second wife, who had deserted him several years earlier.

Colonel Light first slept in the cottage on 25th February 1839. Nursed by Maria, he died there on October 6th the same year. Colonel William Light was buried in Light Square, Adelaide.

'Thebarton Cottage' (named after his boyhood Suffolk village in England) was demolished in 1926 despite protests.

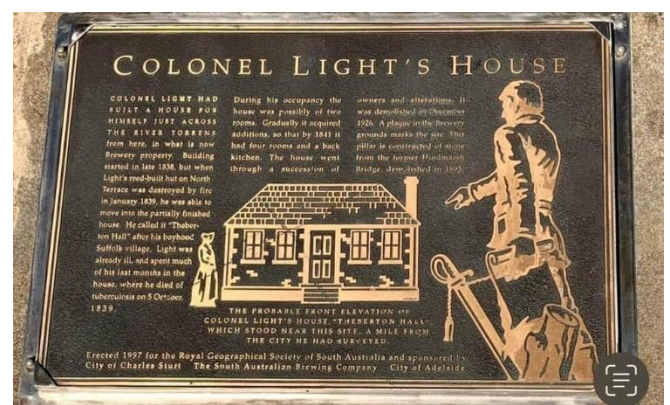
The remains of the Thebarton cottage will be covered over to protect the state heritage listed site

once the archeology project is completed.



The plaque that was on the wall of the factory that replaced the former cottage site is now a State Heritage Object.

The Lion Company, owner of the former site that includes the house, foundations, well, and garden will recommend interpretation of the area to the new owners.



Vale 'Joey' Judith Duncan

Joey Duncan, a member of Mt Horrocks Historical Society for many years passed away on the 6th of February 2024.

Judith Harrison was born in the middle of a blazing heatwave sweeping Melbourne on the 27th of January 1939.

Her parents were Gwynneth and Harry, of Welsh, Scottish and Yorkshire heritage, they lived in the goldrush towns of Clunes, Castlemaine and Ballarat, and later Hawthorn and Essendon in Melbourne.

She grew up in the new Melbourne suburb of North Balwyn during the 40's and 50's, attending Fintona Girls School and beginning university.

Then, leaving by passenger ship to London at the age of 22, coloured streamers thrown by crowds of loved ones dressed in their best on the Port Melbourne dock, Joey experienced Europe for the first time.

She formed a fondness for Greece throughout long stays on islands like Rhodes.

In the late 60's she returned to live in Carlton and later moved to Armidale in rural NSW.

In the early 70's, she returned to London for five years to learn and teach in the Handweaver's Studio.

In 1977 as a single mum, she went with her daughter one-year-old Zoe, to live in the small fishing village of Plomari on the Greek island of Lesbos. She lived there for three years, where they enjoyed the Greek way of life, eating far too much taramasalata.

They then moved to the Clare Valley. This is where Joey made her home for the rest of her 85 year life.

Joey's celebration of life was held in the beautiful old St Mark's Anglican Church Penwortham where she regularly attended church. She was buried in the nearby cemetery.



Joey with Meredith McInnis & Wendy Spackman

Grape Growers Untold

An oral history initiative of the Clare Valley Wine and Grape Association 'Grape Growers Untold' is a series of podcasts led by ABC Broadcast Journalist and Clare Valley local Annabelle Homer.

Annabel talks to stalwarts of the Clare Valley grape growing community about days gone by of growing grapes in the Clare Valley. Several local growers are featured in the podcasts.

Bunny and Yvonne Peglidis and their winemaker Kerry

Thompson feature in Episode 1. Bunny (who recently turned 90), was only 21 when he migrated to



Bunny and Yvonne Peglidis

South Australia from Greece. He got a job at Quelltaler, Watervale and met his wife at the local tennis club.

Together they have worked their Watervale vineyard for over 65 years, adhering to the traditional ways which are now often considered obsolete in many vineyards.

Penwortham local Leo Faulkner, along with Martin Smith in episode 2, recall women

scrambling around on their hands and knees picking



Leo Faulkner

grapes, the devastating 1983 bushfires and the huge prices of \$4000 a tonne for Chardonnay.

Other grape growers featured in the series of podcasts include Les Bryksy, Ian Smith (Watervale), Lita Brady, (Wendouree), Noel Smith and Roger Kimber (Stanley Flat), Malcolm Parish and Neil Grace (Leasingham).

The podcasts can be heard on Spotify or Apple podcasts or through the link below.

<https://bit.ly/GrapeGrowersUntold>

The Watervale War Memorial

The Watervale war memorial was erected outside the Institute in 1921. It was a grand affair, with photographs showing a crowd of people gathered to celebrate the event. The monument cost £150.



Official Opening 1921

It was later removed by the Highways Department when they upgraded the Main North Road taking it closer to the Institute. The locals feared that the monument would be damaged by patrons of the Watervale Hotel. The Highways Department shifted it to the entrance of the Memorial Park.

There was only one person who ever came near to running into the monument, and that was Mrs Stewart who had been at the bank in the Institute. She accidentally put her car into reverse instead of first gear and backed into one of the cement posts surrounding the monument.

Then the Highways Department upgraded the road in the 1950s and altered the camber of the road by having the old Mill House demolished. The road was shifted so that it swung further the east and a bank of about four feet was built up along the western side of the park and the entrance was effectively blocked. A



At the Soldiers Memorial

new road was established, but in doing so the monument was completely cut off. The only access was by walking through the park.

Local Watervale resident Shirley Jenner remembers when the War Memorial was at the oval. "We had to go through the gates to get to it."

"On ANZAC Day the veterans would march from the Hall to the memorial. There were quite a few at that time (1960s), Jim Schobers would give them a tot of rum at the hall before they set off."

Many years passed until a newly formed group, the Watervale/Leasingham Residents Association was approached by a returned soldier from WW2 who

asked if they could shift it back to its original location. With the alteration of the road, an island was formed in front of the hotel, thus reducing the risk of someone hitting it.

The Association received a grant, and the monument was moved back to its original location.



Bill Dallison & Wilf Pearce

It was officially unveiled in 2001 and has remained in that position to this day.

Committee Members

President	Wendy Spackman
Newsletter	Jim Morran & Meredith McInnis
Vice-President	Meredith McInnis
Minute Secretary	Jim Morran
Secretary	Malcolm Paterson
Publicity	Meredith McInnis
Treasurer	David Spackman
Public Officer	David Spackman
Committee	Janet Morran Pam Datson Eugenie Booth
Patron	Adrienne Pearse

Contacts

Secretary: Malcolm Paterson

Phone: 88434123

Correspondence to:

Secretary MHHS

PO Box 38, WATERVALE SA 5452

Email: mhhsinc@gmail.com

Research Officer: Janet Morran

Mob: 0493255357

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

Website: <https://www.mthorrock.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MHHSInc/>



