



A Note From the Chair



Dear MHHI Members,

My apologies for the late edition of our quarterly newsletter and even now I am under the pump to get it out as I am preparing to leave tomorrow, 11th August, for surgery to fuse my right ankle. Hopefully, when it is fixed, I might be able to get some of my agility back so I can do more, including getting the next edition of the newsletter out on time!

Firstly, you might be interested to know that on the 26th of June we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the death of the Servant of God John Hawes. There was a small commemoration of this event with several pieces of music being played on the day at the Cathedral Mass. We will be celebrating his 150th birthday on 7th of September. Stay tuned!

In this newsletter we have highlighted some of the conservation works underway and some eagerly anticipated works that hopefully will commence soon.

Finally, after five long tortuous years of repairing Cyclone Seroja damaged Hawes buildings, there is a glimpse of light at the end of this long dark tunnel. It has been an enormous multi-million dollar, multi person effort with enormous anxiety. My thanks to all who have assisted in this task. Some, to my regret have had their faith shaken by the experience, but not half as much as those who not only experienced the wrath Seroja inflicted on their beloved Hawes buildings but also their own homes, families and communities.

I often wonder what might have been achieved at this time if Seroja had never happened. But adversity brings out the best in people and communities, and this has been the case in our works to repair and conserve the built heritage of Hawes. May the Servant of God John Hawes intercede to God on your behalf and for all our efforts.

As ever, Hawes Heritage Events continue to happen. A new initiative in our tour offerings is the Friday Evening Tours of the Cathedral held on the 2nd Friday evening of each month. These are growing in popularity and provide a different tour experience that highlights the beauty of music and song woven into the fabric of the story of Hawes and the Cathedral. We are also in the process of partnering with a local tour company to provide frequent extended tours of Hawes buildings in Geraldton and out into the hinterland. Again, stay tuned!

I want to particularly draw your attention to the Mullewa Project. This project was launched in April this year to support the urgent conservation works on Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church and the Priest House in Mullewa. These amazing and truly iconic buildings are "pure Hawes" but in desperate need of conservation. The ongoing terminal decline of many regional communities means their loved heritage faces an existential crisis. This is self evident in Mullewa, and without an heroic effort on the part of us, Hawes Mullewa buildings could go the way of so many other dilapidated and crumbling buildings in regional Western Australia. We cannot allow this to happen. We all have a responsibility in this regard. There is a prominent donation form to be found on the back page of this newsletter. Please be generous!

God bless you all.

Fr Robert (Chair MHHI)



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Coming Events

- **150th Birthday** of Monsignor Hawes
- **90th Anniversary** of Northampton Church & Utakarra Chapel
- **Visit** of Ballarat Cathedral Choir

PLUS LOTS MORE

**DISCOVER THE
MONSIGNOR HAWES
HERITAGE TRAIL**

ON



Scan this QR Code



Recent events

It's half-way through the year! Here is a panorama of the MHHI great events so far!

Orchestral Mass

One of the objectives of MHHI is '... to keep alive the rich spiritual heritage that Monsignor Hawes brought to the Mid-West and Gascoyne.' This objective is fulfilled in events like *The Orchestral Mass* held on the 20th June in Hawes' magnum opus: St Francis Xavier Cathedral, with its opulent acoustic and sheer richness of architecture and design.

The Cathedral Choir and its *Young Choristers* played host to musicians and singers from all over, including Geraldton school students, the *Geraldton City Band* and members of the Perth based *Camerata de Immaculata*, making a musical line-up of over 60 musicians! They brought the Cathedral truly alive as Hawes would have dreamed!



Night Tours

2026 has seen a new and popular event introduced to the tours calendar, the *Night Tour*. This takes place on the 2nd Friday evening of each month at 7pm and features live music by Cathedral musicians and singers headed by Diocesan Director of Music, Jacinta Jakovcevic.



Pentecost Pilgrimage

May 24 marked the 90th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Sancta Maria in Ara Coeli, Northampton, with a day pilgrimage - complete with Eucharistic procession and some of our Young Choristers leading the singing !! The Church is a rare example of gothic architecture designed by Hawes. A great time was had by all!!



UPDATES IN A NUTSHELL - CONSERVATION

Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Nanson

How conservation happens - mortar analysis and paint scrapes!!



The interior paint scheme of the church returned as Hawes determined. Modern comforts like ceiling fans have been installed. Plans are being prepared to establish a Nature Based Park in the Church grounds to help conserve the Church and associated for the enjoyment of future generations

Archaeologist again? No, just a conservator taking a mortar sample!!

Our multi-talented chairman (Fr Robert) checking the mortar at the Nanson church

Sacred Heart Convent, Northampton



Work continues on the Cyclone Seroja repairs to the Northampton Convent after many frustrating delays. It is anticipated the Convent will reopen as for Short Term Accommodation in October as well as avenue for group activities like retreats and seminars.



San Spirito Chapel, Utakarra



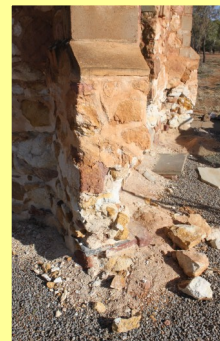
A State Heritage Council grant of \$50,000 has been graciously received for the conservation of San Spirito Chapel. With a similar contribution from the Diocese the roof of this fascinating church will be waterproofed. Its external Modernist is cleverly juxtaposed by with a pure Romanesque internal architecture, as only Hawes could do.



Priest's Lodge, Morawa



Hawes' Morawa Priest's Lodge is currently in imminent danger of collapse and urgent works will soon commence to ensure it stands for years to come. Through renting out the rarely used adjacent presbytery money will become available to commence work on this unique structure which is akin to a stone tent which Hawes inhabited while building the Holy Cross Church in Morawa between 1932 & 1933.



Mullewa Church Precinct Project



Following the launch of the Mullewa Project in April this year, we have received a few donations, including a substantial \$50,000 from one of our members who doesn't even hail from Mullewa, believe it or not! Hopefully, this beneficence will be contagious so that these exceptionally significant buildings in which Hawes uninhibitedly expressed himself will be assured conservation for years and generations to come. Can you help? See back page!



Did you know??
Our Hermitage has recently earned **Premier Host** status from Stayz for providing quality service and exceptional guest experiences !!



TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO STAY HERE WHEN VISITING GERALDTON



THE HERMITAGE

Retreat into the Arts & Crafts of John Cyril Hawes



Book through STAYZ
Using this QR Code

Another initiative of MHHI

Activating the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail and Supporting Regional Tourism and Regional Communities through the provision of unique heritage accommodation!



SUPPORT MHHI - AND RECYCLE EVERY CENT ADDS UP !!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Containers for Change recycling efforts! Even Dominie has been organising his empty bottles

and cans and heading to Containers for Change with Fr Robert !!

Remember the 3 easy steps:

- Collect containers with the 10c symbol on them
- Place them in a box or bag and label them with this code: **C11199094**
- Take them to a collection point



THANK YOU !!



The Mullewa Church Precinct Project

A Regional Project Conserving Heritage and Revitalizing Communities



How to Donate or make a Bequest

DONATIONS

Please complete the form below and mail or email to the addresses provided or use QR Code

FIRST NAME		SURNAME	
COMPANY NAME (If applicable)		DATE	
POSTAL ADDRESS:			
PHONE		EMAIL	
I wish to donate \$			

Direct Bank Transfer Details for the John Hawes Foundation:

Acc Name: Mons Hawes Heritage Incorporated **BSB:** 086006 **Acc No:** 188701385 **Ref:** Surname + Initial + Mullewa. *Cheques can be made payable to Mons Hawes Heritage Incorp Fund and posted to the John Hawes Foundation at the address below.*



BEQUESTS

Bequests or Gifts in your **Will** can make an invaluable and enduring impact on the conservation of the heritage of John Hawes. Making a planned gift to the John Hawes Foundation creates a legacy that will endure for generations to come.

To make a bequest or gift please contact Fr Robert Cross 0400 216 088 or email heritage@geraldtoncatholic.org.au to discuss how best to honour your legacy and intention.

Contact details for Fr Robert Cross

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