



# MONSIGNOR HAWES HERITAGE

June 2024

## NEWSLETTER

### A Note From the Chair

As ever, a lot is happening around the heritage of Monsignor Hawes. Firstly, we've had a Sundowner to mark the official blessing and opening of **The Hermitage** Short Stay Accommodation at which the efforts of so many people to bring it to this stage were acknowledged. Secondly, we've recently conducted our annual **Hawes Heritage Trail Pilgrimage** with 25 Pilgrims enjoying the experience.

Preparations are well under way for the **Centenary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone** at OLMC Mullewa, with over 100 people having already registered. Your registration of intention to attend will assist our committee to organize the event. Details below.

In anticipation of this 100 Year Celebration and as a matter of urgency, we have recently re-sealed and painted the domes of Our Lady of Mt Carmel.

This is a great achievement and was made possible through funds raised by the Vietnamese community for Cyclone Seroja repairs in the Diocese, as well as a contribution from MHHI. This is a good example of the use of moneys raised by our membership fees and Hawes Heritage Events. In addition, thanks is due to those who contributed time and equipment to enable this work to go ahead.

The ever popular Camino San Francisco is set to go on July 26-28th. If you haven't been on this Camino, you don't know what you're missing. (see information below).

From the 8th July I will be in Perth receiving radiation treatment for skin cancer on my head. Keep me in your prayers.

Fr Robert Cross  
MHHI Board Chair



John Cyril Hawes

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On Tuesday 25th July, Bishop Michael Morrissey blessed and officially opened

**The Hermitage** Short Stay Accommodation in Onslow St Geraldton.

This marked the culmination of many years of negotiation, fundraising, restoration, and enhancement, and involved many hard working people along the way.

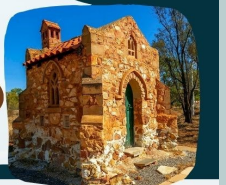
Thanks to all concerned!



### Upcoming Events

**Camino San Francisco**  
26th-28th July 2024

The *Camino San Francisco* is an annual event, so named because it seeks to elicit in participants an experience of the spirit that inspired Monsignor Hawes in his life and architectural works, namely the spirituality of St Francis of Assisi that honours and respects the natural environment and our place within it.



**REGISTER NOW**

0417 912 997  
[www.monsignorhawes.com](http://www.monsignorhawes.com)

**100 YEARS CELEBRATION**  
14th September 2024



OPEN INVITATION  
[www.monsignorhawes.com](http://www.monsignorhawes.com)

Gerry: 0417 912 997

**'The Hermitage'**  
SHORT STAY ACCOMMODATION  
50 Onslow St Geraldton

**TO BOOK**  
Phone: Debra 0408 644 287  
Email: [debra@wn.com.au](mailto:debra@wn.com.au)



# FOCUS BUILDING

## The Priest House Mullewa



Photo of Northern Façade of Priest House courtesy of Tony Tropiano.

Once the Church of Our Lady of Mt Carmel was completed in 1927, Hawes, at the insistence of Archbishop Clune of Perth and with the encouragement of his parishioners, began plans to build a suitable Presbytery. He had been living in what was described in the *Cathedral Chronicle* in May 1932 as a 'one-room shanty' while building the church, and all were keen for him to have more comfortable accommodation.

He commenced building in 1929, the Centenary Year of European Settlement in WA, and this event is commemorated with engravings on the eastern façade of the building.

The Priesthouse is a low cottage style building with red Cordoba tiles, built from the same quarried stone as the church. Over the large green entry door to the east of the building is inscribed in Latin '*Janus Patet Cor Magis*' which means '*The door opens wide but my heart more so*'.

The interior has an English cottage feel to it with a strong arts and crafts influence in the decorative features. The main living room has an ingle-nook fireplace, a large latticed bow window with a box seat, the cement floors are covered with linoleum throughout, and the walls are wood panelled and wallpapered. Most of the furniture was made to Hawes design using West Australian Jarrah, and he decorated the guest room with his own watercolour sketches of The Bahamas. The main bedroom had a special opening for his beloved dog Dominie to come and go.

In addition to the house he built a cement-block stable for his horse Babs, which he designed to be used as a garage in the future. To the north of the Priesthouse he landscaped a large garden area which featured a statue of the Good Shepherd with a fish pond in a stone base, and a small domed shelter as a place of contemplation.

Although Hawes should have been feeling settled and content with the culmination of this project, he was actually very unsettled and told the newly appointed Bishop O'Collins that his mission in Western Australia was now finished. He commented that he had built the house for his successors, and noted in his memoirs *It was far too comfortable and un-Franciscan for me*.

Fortunately O'Collins convinced him to stay until there were more priests in the Diocese, appointed him Diocesan Architect, and gave him the title of Dean. Consequently, his term in Mullewa lasted another 9 years.

During the 1970's the Priesthouse was no longer required as a presbytery and the Parish Council decided to set it up as a Museum in honour of Monsignor Hawes and his works. As well as many photographs, art works, books, vestments and items used by Hawes during his time in Mullewa, it also contains some treasured possessions such as his plaster model of Donatello's 'Laughing Boy,' for which he won a prize as a student of the Arts & Crafts School in London, and the silver cup which was presented to him after he won a Yalgoo horse race on his horse 'Babs'.

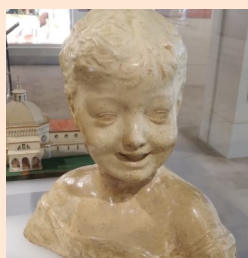
In typical Hawes style, he had the old timber-framed 'shanty' removed to a site on the main road and rented out as a cottage, providing income for the parish.



The stables (and Babs)



Living Room



Donatello



Statue of the Good Shepherd



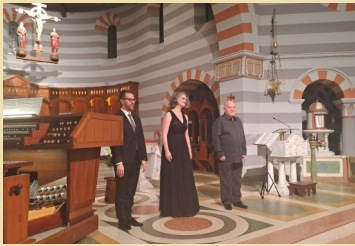
Living Room wall

The building is open to visitors from July to September.

Details on the website [www.monsignorhawes.com](http://www.monsignorhawes.com)

# HAWES HERITAGE EVENTS

On **April 12th 2024**, 3 visiting musicians presented an 'exceptional music experience' at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Organist Waclaw Golonka travelled from Poland to present the **Sounds Sublime Concert**, and was joined by fellow Pole, Perth resident Jacek Slawomirski on violin, and Perth vocalist Katja Webb. The artists received a standing ovation at the conclusion of the concert and several of the audience members joined them for refreshments at Laian Restaurant afterwards. This event was sponsored by **Crothers Construction**.



The artists in SFX Cathedral.



Eugenie Harris, Judy Critch & Jacek Slawomirski.

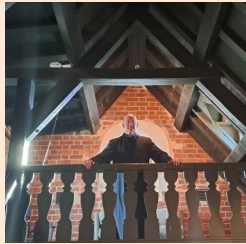


Greg Eastman, Andrew Reynolds, Angela, & Ann Bell.



Bishop Michael, Kerry Marriot & Katja Webb.

On **April 26th 2024** Hawes Heritage Events conducted its annual **Wondrous Gems of John Cyril Hawes Tour** which visits all the Hawes sites in Geraldton and gives the participants access to places that are not usually available to the public. The final destination for the night was **The Irish Club (formerly St Patrick's Church)** where the group enjoyed the great hospitality.



'Fr Hawes' in The Hermitage



Admiring the stained glass window at Nazareth House



Listening to Fr Robert in San Spirito Chapel



Donelle James, Danny Bowen & Ann Boyle at the Irish Club



Miriam O'Donoghue & Suzi Lee at San Spirito.

The **4 Day Hawes Heritage Trail Pilgrimage** commenced at 9:30 Mass in St Francis Xavier Cathedral on June 9th. Over the next few days the Pilgrims were able to enjoy seeing the rain-soaked countryside as they discovered the life and works of John Cryil Hawes in Geraldton, Mullewa, Nanson, Northampton, Perenjori, Carnamah and Morawa. They were very grateful to the volunteer 'Coach Captain' Ali Roach for transporting them safely and with great patience and good humour, as well as to the local historians on board who shared their insights into the history and life in the various locations visited.



Rhonda Hickey



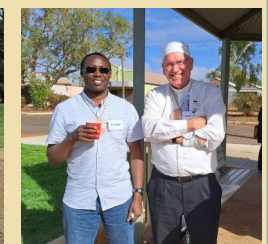
The Pilgrims



Pat Hopkins & Ann Johnston



John Carstairs & Tony Critch



Fr Joel & Fr Robert



Pat, Ann, Rhonda, Carmel & Jackie



Gerry, Lee & Lynn



Michelle Davis in Mullewa



Rhonda at Nanson Church/School



Fr Joel in Northampton



Pat Ward in Carnamah



St Joseph's Perenjori



Mary & Suzi in the choir loft



Fr Robert in Perenjori



Suzi & Fr Joel in Morawa

# END OF AN ERA

When Barbara Green arrived in Mullewa in 1964 and married local farmer Michael Thomas in 1966, the Mullewa Parish gained not just a new parishioner but a very valuable contributor. Michael's family had been involved with the Church of Our Lady of Mt Carmel since its inception and were very much part of the building process, volunteering to assist Fr Hawes as he slowly and laboriously constructed his masterpiece.

By the time Barbara arrived in Mullewa, Hawes was long gone and the then Parish Priest, Monsignor Ted Bryan, had decided to turn the now unused Presbytery, built by Hawes in 1930, into a Museum in his honour. Barbara became involved in helping to set this up, and after attending lectures on Museum Collation in Geraldton, she created and managed a register of all the items that were on the site or donated to the Museum.

But Barbara was not only looking after the artefacts related to Monsignor Hawes. She soon became the driving force behind the conservation of his buildings. In 1995 she commenced applying for grants for the conservation of the Church and the Museum. A successful application in 1996 allowed the Parish to engage Conservation Architect John Taylor, and during the ensuing years, with John's guidance, the Parish was successful in obtaining over \$260,000 in grant money. Barbara was responsible for administering this funding and acquitting the grant moneys.



In 2002 the Mullewa Parish Council, which at the time was headed by Kevin Weir and Barbara, was recognized with the Midwest Heritage Council's Premier Award for 'undertaking timely conservation works and operating within restrictive Heritage Council guidelines'. The spokesman for the Heritage Council, Paul Connolly, praised the diligence and tenacity of the Mullewa Parish Council and in particular the efforts of Barbara, for the application and management of the grant project funding.

The Priesthouse Museum soon became a very popular tourist attraction in Mullewa and along with the Church, is opened and manned by volunteers in the tourist season, to allow supervised access to the buildings. In the past few years Barbara has been managing the volunteer rosters and the Museum.

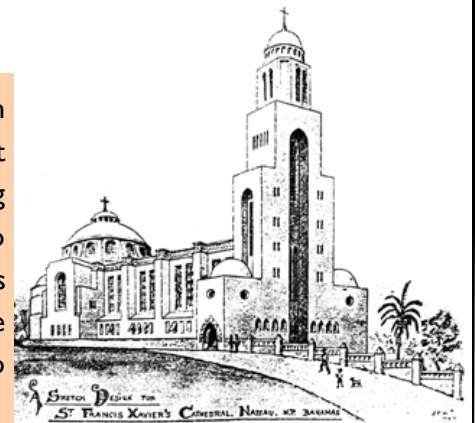
60 years on, Barbara and Michael have recently relocated to Geraldton and Barbara's untiring contribution and quiet, unassuming presence will be greatly missed in Mullewa.

Barbara's involvement with Hawes buildings is not however restricted to Mullewa. She was a member of the St Francis Xavier Cathedral Precinct Project Management Committee from 2013 – 2017 and is currently a Board Member of Monsignor Hawes Heritage Inc.

Thanks for all you do for the Heritage of Hawes Barbara (and Michael).

## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

In 1947, several years after Hawes returned to The Bahamas from Western Australia, he designed a Cathedral for Nassau. Like his Geraldton Cathedral, it would have been named St Francis Xavier's as it was to replace an existing Cathedral by that name. His plans allowed for the outer walls and vaulted roof to be built first, thus allowing for the continuous use of the existing building — just as he had in Mullewa over 20 years earlier. He wished this Cathedral to be visible from the sea so he designed a huge tower at the front. He felt it should stand up like an Egyptian pharos (lighthouse). His design was never used.



## From the writings of John Cyril Hawes

Hawes was living in Greenough and still designing buildings for Bishop O'Collins in 1937 when he received the news that he was to become 'Monsignor'. He was humbled and overwhelmed by the honour bestowed on him and he wrote to his friend in England, Charles Selby-Hall, saying . . .

*The blow, alas, has fallen, and my life is made a burden by a hail of congratulatory telegrams . . . . .*

*Yet, please God, if I live, I hope to shed my fine purple feathers, and, as a Benedictine oblate, to end my days in the Bahamas in a patched old habit as plain 'Brother John' (and the beard)!*