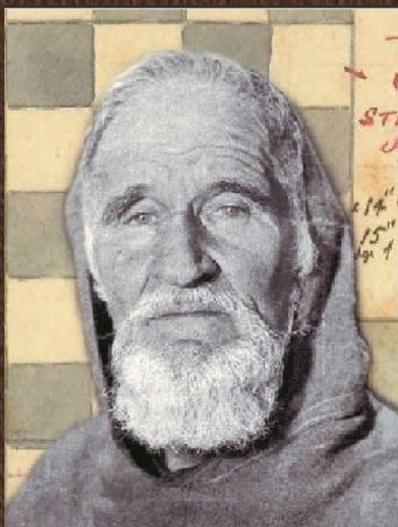


Welcome to the fourth edition of the MHHI Newsletter distributed to members and friends of the Association. We aim to circulate this newsletter bi-monthly throughout the year to keep everyone abreast of our activities and invite your input to keep the important history of Monsignor Hawes alive throughout the Midwest of Western Australia



WHAT CAN I DO?

Monsignor Hawes Heritage are always looking for new members and people keen to be involved in keeping the spirit alive!

If you would like to be involved or know someone who might, please complete the membership application form on our website or contact the secretary

A note from the Board,

Welcome to our fourth edition! In October we held our Annual General Meeting and it was good to see some members come along, Father Michael Morrissey was reappointed to the position of Chair by the Bishop. Continuing Board Members include Bishop Justin, Laurie Graham (Treasurer), Barb Thomas, Robyn Zadow (Secretary) and Lucinda Jose (ex-officio, mghi project officer).

We thanked and wished a warm farewell to Debbie McIlraith who is leaving the region and also Claire Savage who has finished with the Heritage Council. Both members have provided wonderful assistance and support to MHHI.

We are thrilled to welcome Pat Mills to our Board, Pat has a wealth of knowledge of Hawes Buildings and is a representative of the Cathedral Tours. Welcome Pat!

The AGM also endorsed our new Constitution which better reflects our operations, to view a copy simply go to our website or contact the Secretary.

Our membership base is continuing to grow however, early in the new year we will be launching a membership drive, so if you know anyone who you think would love to be a member, please direct them our way. Remember that membership is free to individuals and organizations and there is no time commitment. We just want to build a network of people who support the cause.

The Audio Tours CD is selling well at visitors centres and Parishes in the region, it is available for purchase for \$19.95 of course you can purchase directly from MHHI by contacting the Secretary.

The next Board Meeting will be held following on Wednesday 8th December.

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FOCUS BUILDING

Each issue we profile a Hawes building. This issue we have reprinted some of the audio tour of the Chapel of San Spirito, Utakarra in Geraldton. Text has been taken from SHP Productions research and John Taylors book "Between Devotion and Design"

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Chapel of San Spirito

In Geraldton Cemetery at Utakarra there is a remarkable and surprising little chapel – the Chapel of San Spirito. Its plain white walls, colourful interior and the silence invite us to imagine the lives of those buried here. There are two graves, on which two names are inscribed -- Archdeacon Adolphe Joseph Lecaille and Reverend John Dean Hawes – but only Lecaille’s date of death is engraved – the 7th of May 1908.

Before Bishop Kelly arrived in Geraldton, Western Australia had seen very few Catholic priests. The Belgian-born missionary Adolphe Joseph Lecaille, later Archdeacon Lecaille, was one of them. Under very primitive conditions, Lecaille designed and built seven churches in the Diocese in the 1860s and 70s, including the first churches at Greenough and Northampton, and the first Saint Francis Xavier Church in Geraldton. Over this period of ten years, Lecaille also travelled on horseback from town to town to say Mass –paving the way for John Hawes’s own journeys many decades later.

John Hawes greatly admired Lecaille’s devotion to the people of the Geraldton diocese and, in 1935, decided to honour the memory of this remarkable pioneer priest by building a cemetery and tomb at this cemetery.

The Chapel of San Spirito was perhaps the project closest to John Hawes’s heart. It was Hawes who secretly donated money to the diocese to build the chapel out of respect to his predecessor, and it was also he who donated his services and artwork. In return, he was allowed to design the Chapel as he wanted

Construction of the chapel began in April 1936 and was completed three months later. Hawes designed the chapel and painted the magnificent interior triptych (or three-part mural), both of which were inspired by a ninth-century Spanish church. The exterior of the Church is a modernist in style, reflecting the influence of the 1930s Modern movement on Hawes’s work. The barrel-vaulted ceiling in the nave, the Rood triptych and subtle lighting of the sanctuary all make a beautiful composition. Hawes said later that the chapel was the best architectural work he had ever done.



Bishop O’Collins presided over the private blessing and opening of the chapel on 29th August 1936 however there was no public function, the public entombment of Archdeacon Lecaille took place the following day with an impressive public ceremony at Utakarra Cemetery and the chapel was consecrated two years later on 6 December 1938, with Lecaille’s sarcophagus placed in the centre of the Nave.

The second grave at this Chapel is engraved with the following words:

Pray for the soul of the Reverend John Hawes, dean of the parish of Mullewa, architect of Geraldton Cathedral, and builder of this and other churches.

But Hawes is buried in his beloved Bahamas. Even as this engraving was being done, he knew in his heart that he would die elsewhere. According to his biographer, Tony Evans, this empty grave is not a sign of Hawes’s self-importance, but instead a symbol of the fact that he prepared for death throughout his life.

The painted biblical scene on the ceiling of the nave was painted by artist Dan Mazzotti around 1953 or 1954, he approached Bishop Gummer (O’Collins successor) describing himself as a migrant artist fresh off the boat from Italy. He was shown the chapel and proceeded to paint the scene we see now.

You can visit the Chapel anytime and view the architecture through the gates. Mass is celebrated at the Chapel on occasion, contact the Diocese for details.