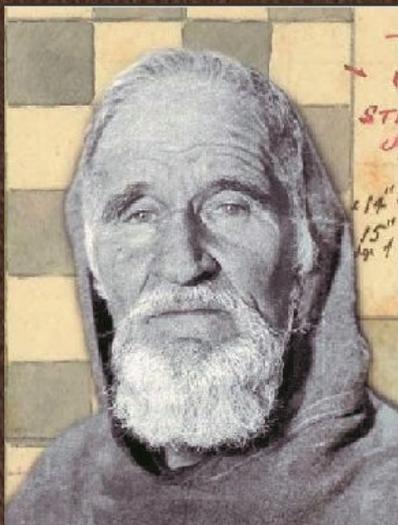


Welcome to the fifth edition of the MHHI Newsletter distributed to members and friends of the Association. We aim to circulate this newsletter bi-monthly throughout the year to keep everyone abreast of our activities and invite your input to keep the important history of Monsignor Hawes alive throughout 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 the first issue for 2011. The Board met for the first time in February and discussed the many projects planned for the organization.

Several grant applications have been submitted for projects to enhance Hawes Heritage across the mid west region. We are eagerly awaiting the outcomes of these and continually seeking recurrent funding for our project officer position – if you know someone or an organization that may be able to assist, please let us know.

We are thrilled to welcome some new members to our database, remember to encourage anyone you know with an interest in Hawes to join up, membership is free!

The Audio Tours CD is continuing to sell 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.

We were delighted to be asked to nominate the Audio Tours project in the 2011 Western Australian Heritage Awards in the category for “Outstanding interpretation product that enhances a place”. To be asked to nominate is a testament to the success of this project to date and its reception from the community.

Hopefully next time we are in touch we will have further details of successful funding rounds and share with you our next project.

The next Board Meeting will be held in April 2011 at a date to be determined.

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FOCUS BUILDING

Each issue we profile a Hawes building. This issue we have reprinted some of the audio tour of St Joseph's Church, Perenjori. Text has been taken from SHP Productions research and John Taylors book "Between Devotion and Design"

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St Joseph's Church, Perenjori

John Hawes submitted his first designs for this church in 1917, when he was relatively new to the Mullewa parish. Only two years earlier, he had travelled by the newly-opened Mullewa to Wongan Hills rail line to meet the people of this tiny settlement.

But Hawes's original church, with its jarrah weatherboard walls and a shingle roof, was never built. About 20 years later, in 1936, he drew a second set of designs for the church, which naturally was very different from his original one. By this time Perenjori had grown from a small, dusty outback settlement to bustling country town. The new church seated a total of 114 people, with 90 in the Nave and 24 in the gallery.

Hawes was working on several churches at this time but, at 60 years old, was not involved in the heavy physical toil of building the churches himself, as he had done for many years. Instead, he hired a stonemason, Mr T.P. Crothers, to build St Joseph's Church.

The building of St Joseph's Church began soon after Bishop O'Collins laid the foundation stone on the 10th of June 1937.

At this time, John Hawes was under extreme pressure from a heavy workload. He was not only amending designs for Perenjori, but also designing churches for Bluff Point and Three Springs and overseeing the building of the Church of St Mary in Ara Coeli, Northampton, in addition to his duties as a parish priest.

Whilst not everyone supported Hawes architecture, the *Perenjori Pioneer* quoted Bishop O'Collins continued support of his work in noting one parish said a church built from Hawes plans would "...look like a cross between a flour mill and a shearing shed. When completed the parish was emphatic in its claim to possess the best church in the dioceses".

Hawes did see some humour in the criticism and responded that "the new plans for a church at Three Springs would represent a cross between a wheat silo and a railway condenser"



Bishop O'Collins officially opened St Joseph's Church on the 5th of December 1937. The *Cathedral Chronicle* gives this account of the Bishop's speech: "Personally, he was very glad the church had not been built twenty years ago, as it would probably then have been only a small wooden building ... He congratulated the contractor (Mr Crothers) and his employees on the excellence of the job."

St Joseph's Church is today considered a unique and remarkable example of the modernist style of architecture that Hawes refined during the 1930s. He was heavily influenced by the book 'How to build a church' by Father Benedict Williamson at this time and the neo-Egyptian stone baldachino in St Joseph's was inspired by Father Williamson's illustrations.

Today, the church continues to be a place for worship and prayer and a reminder of the impact of Monsignor John Hawes on the region.

The church enjoys the support of dedicated local parishioners and is currently the subject of several grant applications to commence restoration and maintenance works to ensure the longevity of the building.

