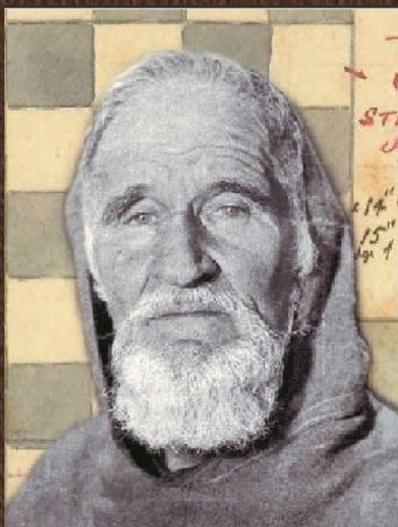


**Welcome to the sixth edition of the MHHI Newsletter distributed to members and friends of the Association. We aim to circulate this newsletter bi-monthly throughout the year to keep everyone abreast of our activities and invite your input to keep the important history of Monsignor Hawes alive throughout 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 May newsletter, firstly you will remember last newsletter we mentioned our nomination for the 2011 Western Australian Heritage Awards in the category for “Outstanding interpretation product that enhances a place” We were thrilled to receive a “Highly Commended” from the judges and two representatives visited Geraldton to present the award to Bishop Justin, more details attached.*

*We have again welcomed some new members to our database, remember to encourage anyone you know with an interest in Hawes to join up, membership is free!*

*The organization will hold its Annual General Meeting in August and in line with this we will hold a General Meeting to endorse some changes to the Constitution. Dates will follow once confirmed.*

*We are eagerly awaiting the outcomes of some grant application and again we are 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.*

*The Audio Tours CD is continuing to sell at Visitors Centres and Parishes in the region, it is available for purchase for \$19.95, see the website for further details.*

*You will also notice some changes to our website, this is an ongoing project to make viewing the audio and video tours of the churches more user friendly and generally updating the information. Check the website regularly and let us know what you think.*

*For those of you interested in some history, you might like to view the blog at <http://bishopbrady.com> regarding the recent exhumation of the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Perth. One of our new members, Father Robert Cross was part of the exhumation party.*

*The next MHHI Board Meeting will be held in June 2011.*

—PO Box 1366 GERALDTON WA 6530—  
—[www.monsignorhawes.com.au](http://www.monsignorhawes.com.au)—  
—[secretary@monsignorhawes.com.au](mailto:secretary@monsignorhawes.com.au)—



# FOCUS BUILDING

*Each issue we profile a Hawes building. This issue we have reprinted some of the audio tour of the Church of the Holy Cross, Morawa. Text has been taken from SHP Productions research and John Taylors book "Between Devotion and Design"*

MAY 2011

VOL 1 ISSUE 6

## Church of the Holy Cross, Morawa

The foundation stone was laid for the church on 18 December 1932 and the opening ceremony held on 2 July 1933. It was designed by Hawes at a time when Hawes's architecture was being championed by Bishop O'Collins. The plans reflect the same composition as his Church of St Mary the Virgin on Long Island in 1910 although this one is larger.

At this time, Morawa was a relatively busy trading centre of about 1000 people in the developing north eastern wheat belt.

When you enter the Church at Morawa, the soft light will reveal a simple, but beautifully coloured, interior. What you might feel in this place is the result of John Hawes's sensitivity and genius as an architect. He was always aware of the environment surrounding his buildings and adapted the style and materials he used to suit the climate and landscape. The thick walls made from local stone, the wide overhanging eaves and the shuttered windows keep the heat at bay and provide an inviting sanctuary.

*The design of the church is modelled, not on the type of English ecclesiastical architecture, incomparable as this is in its own northern setting, but on a type more suited to this southern hemisphere—that of sunny Italy. Clergy and people prefer the 'hall' type of church design; that is to say, a wide area, unobstructed by pillars. The width involves necessarily a comparative lowness of the proportions....The ancient 13<sup>th</sup> century churches of Tuscany, in and around Sienna, have been {my} inspiration for {my} design of the Church of the Holy Cross at Morawa... The total cost of the Church was £1300; rather more than first expected but the unforeseen depth of the foundations (just on four feet) and the distance, 12 miles, the stone had to be carted instead of from a place only two miles away as first expected, added a great deal to the cost.*

John Hawes's attention was demanded on many architectural projects at this time, but he still managed to oversee and help with the building works on the Church and once the church was completed, Hawes built a tiny presbytery nearby for the visiting parish priest to sleep in overnight. Hawes rode his bicycle from Mullewa to Morawa district and used it as a bush camp.



The Priest's cell, as we call it now, is the smallest Priest's cell in the southern hemisphere. Being far too small and lacking in facilities for a permanent parish priest to live in, the cell is now just a curiosity.

It has been said that the cell: ... *is indicative of Hawes' contentment with small spaces and limited domestic facilities which was part of his romantic Franciscan temperament.*

Morawa's population boomed in the 1960s due to the iron ore mining industry and the small church was unable to accommodate all of its new parishioners. In 1966 the church was enlarged and restored by the architect Reginald Summerhayes in a manner that respected its 1933 style and materials. The stone used for the new sanctuary, sacristies and transepts came from the original quarry. The changes made to the Church of the Holy Cross show us that heritage can evolve and be conserved in its original spirit.

The legacy that John Hawes has left us is still relevant to our need to consider our environment and to evolve with it. We must all be aware of the richness and the diversity that surrounds us. The Australian outback is a harsh and fragile, plain and rich cultural and natural environment. We need to live in harmony with it. This what John Hawes knew.