



MONSIGNOR HAWES HERITAGE

September 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

A Note From the Chair

Since our last newsletter a lot has been happening through the auspices of Hawes Heritage Events, including,

- ◆ Bateman Parish Pilgrimage
- ◆ Willetton Parish Pilgrimage
- ◆ Cathedral by Candlelight Shore Leave Festival Concert
- ◆ **St Mary's Cathedral Boys Choir's Grand Musical Tour**
- ◆ 2 Hermitage Sundowners.

In addition, we have assisted another two groups who had organized their own Hawes Heritage tours, from the Parish of Ballajura and Caritas Bunbury.

A great deal of time & organization on the part of Gerry Eastman and myself has gone into these tours and **we've been ably assisted by a band of** many volunteers, for whom we are most grateful. The Cathedral Tour Guides, the Museum Volunteers (both in the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Centre in Geraldton and The Priesthouse Museum in Mullewa), and the Parish Priests in Northampton and Mullewa are vital in telling the story of Hawes. Their enthusiasm and welcoming

presence helps to inspire the visitors with the spirit of Hawes. One of our recent Pilgrims commented - *the efforts of every person involved has made this past week so successful & informative and so very welcoming . . . The whole experience has truly encompassed the meaning of "Church"*

These events, more fulsomely reported elsewhere in this newsletter, engaged over 300 people with the heritage and spirituality of Monsignor Hawes and the funds generated will go towards the \$8,500 cost of Scoping Works for OLMC Mullewa, San Spirito Utakarra, and the Priest Lodge in Morawa.

Future Hawes Heritage Events **planned include a tour of Geraldton's** Historic Hinterland finishing at The Hermitage in Geraldton, an *Arts & Crafts in the Piazza* Night which involves all the Catholic Schools in the Geraldton area and Christmas in the Piazza.

Fr Robert Cross (Chair MHHI)
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Upcoming Events

Tour of Geraldton's
Historic Hinterland
Sunday 17th October

Arts & Crafts
in the Piazza

Friday 5th November

Christmas in the Piazza
Sunday 5th December



THE HERMITAGE \$100,000 APPEAL

Current Total \$38,000

Thanks to all who have contributed

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To Donate



A painting by Hawes of Thompson's Bay, Long Island, The Bahamas

FOCUS BUILDING

Church of St Francis of Assisi

Cat Island The Bahamas

At the Old Bight on Cat Island in the Bahamas stands a dilapidated but beautiful church, with a strong connection to Western Australia. The Church of St Francis of Assisi, which Hawes built almost single-handedly over 3 months at the age of 68 for a cost of £196, was financed by Hawes and the Tertiaries of the Third Order of St Francis in Western Australia. The fundraising was coordinated in WA by Barbara Arnold, who Hawes had met during his time in Mullewa. Mrs Arnold used to sew his vestments for him.

In designing this church, part of his mission was to protest against the 'beastly concrete matchbox churches' that were receiving acclaim in the *Liturgical Arts* Magazines. What started out as a humble chapel designed to seat 60 with low walls and a steep-pitched palm-thatched roof, evolved as the building progressed and was eventually described by

Hawes himself as 'a real baroque little mission church with all the applied ornaments there



Sketch of the proposed church

was time to stick on to it.'

Much of this ornamentation was the work of Hawes and he described the time building it as 'three months of purgatory. The worst time I've ever had in my life.' At the beginning of the project, after only 10 days working, he was so unwell due to the intense heat, that he had to stop and take time off.

The church was blessed and opened at Easter 1945 and the ceremonies and travel involved would have been enough to leave a younger person exhausted. On Good Friday morning Hawes attended the Easter ceremonies at the Freetown church 6 miles from Old Bight. He then walked to Old Bight with a procession of 25 Freetown parishioners and held services on Good Friday and Easter Saturday in the new church. He was back in Freetown for Mass on Easter Sunday morning and then returned by foot once more to Old Bight for an evening service.



Using cement, Hawes modelled in relief St Francis preaching to the birds



Plaque acknowledging the West Australian contribution

This Church of St Francis of Assisi was built by the Offerings of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order of St Francis of Perth West Australia



Interior of St Francis of Assisi as it looks today



Typical Hawesian features in St Francis of Assisi Old Bight



Hawes was nervous working on the spire and it reminded him of the difficulty he had placing the cross on Mullewa's campanile.



Hawes carved and painted this figure of Christ at his Hermitage some time before this church was built.

The figure is 27" long.

From the Writings of John Cyril Hawes

Hawes was used to travelling great distances for Easter Ceremonies.

"I once rode 70 miles on the same horse in one day I preached in Geraldton Cathedral on Good Friday, and had to be in my own parish (Mullewa) on Easter Day. There was no train so I started to ride (by moonlight) at midnight on Good Friday; by morning I had covered 35 miles. I rested at a farm all day, and went on in the evening. . . . I reached Mullewa in the morning, heard confessions and celebrated Easter Mass. And moreover, my horse wasn't one penny the worse! I knew so well how to ride it, walking, trotting, and cantering, and to keep his back under the saddle brushed and cool".

HAWES HERITAGE EVENTS

Hawes Heritage Events has hosted 2 Pilgrim groups from the Perth Parishes of Bateman and Willetton. Both groups followed a similar route and their itineraries included some local sightseeing along with the Hawes Heritage Trail sites in Geraldton, Northampton and Mullewa.

Fr Phong from the Bateman Parish brought 35 Pilgrims with him and 25 Pilgrims from the Willetton Parish were joined by another 12 people from various other parishes for their journey.

Bateman Parish of St Thomas More Pilgrimage



San Spirito Chapel Utakarra



Fr Larry Rodillas & Fr Phong



Joseph leads the singing on the Skywalk



Joseph & Stephen in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church



Singing at the Pioneer Cemetery Mullewa

Willetton Catholic Parish Pilgrimage



Debbie carrying the cross at Mullewa



Coral amongst the bush in Kalbarri National PK



Christina, Luanna & Coral at The Hermitage



Fr Cross in San Spirito



'Oh God How Great Thou Art'

Cathedral by Candlelight Concert—September 24th



As part of the inaugural Shore Leave Festival, Hawes Heritage Events hosted a *Cathedral by Candlelight Concert* in St Francis Xavier Cathedral. The capacity audience was entertained by the Fremantle Chamber Orchestra with Jacinta Jacovcevic on organ and judging by the final applause, they were more than happy with what they heard. The programme **was made up of popular classics such as Mozart's *Eine Kliene Nachtmusik*** which were all very well received.

A Grand Musical Journey Tour

On September 29th, a group of 12 boys from **St Mary's** Cathedral Choir in Perth, under the direction of Jacinta Jacovcevic, entertained a large group of followers on a Grand Musical Tour of St Francis Xavier Cathedral, San Spirito Chapel and Mullewa. The audience was transported by coach from one venue to the next and the Mullewa visit included the Hawes Heritage Walk, singing hymns in Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, *Amazing Grace* at the Pioneer Cemetery, *We Are One* at Mass Rock and finally in the gardens at the Priest House Museum the choir sang *The Teddy Bears Picnic*. This was a unique and uplifting experience which showcased the talent of the choir while highlighting the amazing architecture of Monsignor Hawes.



More pictures and information at www.monsignorhawes.com/past-events-2/

WHO WAS MURIEL ROBERTS?

When Hawes left Geraldton, he left his beloved Fox-Terrier Dominie with a friend in Georgina (near Greenough) named Mrs Roberts.

Muriel Eileen Roberts (nee Rudduck) was born in Perth and married Montague Frederick Roberts in Three Springs in 1929. They had 4 children Jean (1931-2004), Margaret (1932), Nancy (1935-1986) and John (1937-1981). They moved to Meadow Springs Farm in Georgina in 1932.

Hawes was the Parish Priest at Greenough before his departure from WA in 1939 and had obviously got to know **the Roberts family well. He describes Dominie's last home thus 'It was on a farm at Greenough in such surroundings as he loved, the company of little children and horses: and plenty of rabbits about, to chase'**

In his diary he recalls *'What pleasant times I had there with the dear children, Jean, Margaret and John but especially my dear little Nancy. How I loved to have her stand on the sofa where I sat, with her little arm round my neck. God bless them all.'*

When reading Hawes' story of leaving his beloved Dominie with 'Mrs Roberts', one can imagine a middle aged motherly farmer's wife with a love for animals .

Muriel however was only 31 at the time of Hawes' departure and 2 years later was divorced from her husband. She became the sole owner of Meadow Springs Farm at Georgina and had custody of the 4 children.

Muriel would have had a lot in common with Hawes. She was a breeder of Golden Retriever dogs and Arab horses and loved to go to the races. Her niece Wendy Le Get recalls being taken to the track when she was young by her Aunty Muriel who would place a two shilling bet on her behalf.

Muriel wrote to Hawes speaking lovingly of Dominie and what he was up to, and how he was forever searching for Hawes in **familiar places such as the Priest's house at Greenough.** Sadly, after 12 months, she had to report that she had found him curled up dead in his basket. Perhaps he could wait no longer for his beloved master to return.



Caricature by Hawes a few months before leaving Dominie & Australia
From *The Hermit of Cat Island* by Peter F Anson



WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN

Four unbuilt designs of Hawes, all planned just before or after he left Western Australia—which may go some way to explaining why they were never built.

- ◆ The Holy Redeemer Church Walkaway designed 1938
- ◆ St Pauls Church Three Springs designed 1936
- ◆ Nazareth House Chapel Geraldton designed 1943
- ◆ SJOG Convent Chapel Geraldton designed 1939

WELCOME & THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



Bishop Emeritus Justin Blanchini

Corporate Sponsorship assists with the ongoing costs associated with the work of MHHI and Hawes Heritage Events.

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www.monsignorhawes.com