



Mid North Day - 5th May 2013

Sunday 5th May 2013

It was a brisk morning on Sunday the 5th May when we met at Tarlee for our Mid North Day Trip. There were 8 cars on the trip. Quenton had found a little spot off the road that we all usually just drive past called Undalya. About 100 meters off the road is an old bridge over the Wakefield River called the Undalya Bridge. It was built in 1879 and replaced in the 1950's. The new bridge is the one we always use and it is on the main road. The old bridge is barely visible from the main road (Horrocks Road).



We drove on to Auburn and did a short tour and history lesson around the town looking at the Post Office, Court House & Police Station, Council Chambers and the now renovated Hotel. All these buildings were constructed from late 1850's to late 1870's. This is also the home of CJ Dennis whose poetry we had to read in school.

When we got to Watervale we drove past the Stanley Grammer School, building began in 1863 and additions were made over the following years. It became a private boarding school for boys and only a few girls. The building looks to be in very good condition with no visible cracks or pinning from the outside. A Mr Cole was asked to be the schoolmaster in 1859 and he eventually retired at the age of 74. The building has had quite a history since then. If you are interested for the details, please ask Quenton for them.

Back on the road and into Penwortham, where we had morning tea at John Horrocks house. John Horrocks led a very interesting life.

He travelled out by ship and was impatient to get to the good land which was on offer. He brought his younger brother with him because he was sickly and his parents thought the weather in Australia would be better for him.

It is thought that the house may have been built as a good shelter for him. The house is modest and probably quite big for the times. John was a man of over 6' and the door ways are just about 5'6".



We were given a tour and talk by the people who have restored the cottage. The Main North Road from Gawler up to Clare has had a name change to Horrocks Road due to their diligence in wanting to honour John Horrocks.

After we left the cottage we made the short trip to Seven Hill where we had a look at the winery. This was a chance to do a little wine tasting if you wanted to or go for a walk around the walking trail. There is a lot to see around the Winery. We went for a walk to the Jesuit Church, a beautiful old stone building. The slate floors and stone walls made



Mid North Day - 5th May 2013

the building quite cool. The grounds are kept immaculately by the monks and would make a great picnic area as well. I didn't go and see anywhere near the number of things that are there to see (another trip). We went back into Seven Hill Township and got some lunch and then went onto Mintaro and ate lunch at the park.



We needed to be at Martindale Hall by 2.00 p.m. for a tour of this beautiful old building. This house is absolutely magnificent. The woodwork and cornices are so decorative. The work is so extensive. The house was built in 2 years. It would have taken more than that in today's world. The cost would be astronomical.

The house was finished in 1880 and needed 50 - 60 specialised workers who came from England to do the job. We were given a talk about

the property and its owners, then allowed to walk at leisure through the house.

As we were leaving we stopped at the Coach House. We were only allowed to look around the outside as the government is still renovating the building. The building looks so good.

After all this walking and discovering it was time to go back to Mintaro to the Tea Pot Café and get a coffee and scones.

Thanks to Quenton and Deb for another great tour of our close interesting area.

[Norma Rivett]