

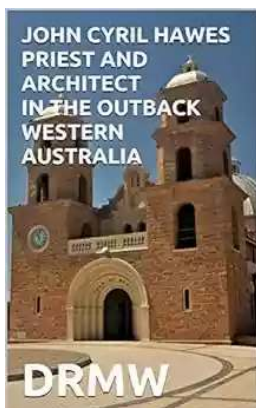
# Exploring the Legacy of John Cyril Hawes: Priest And Architect In The Outback Western Australia

When thinking about Western Australia, the vast landscapes and stunning natural beauty often come to mind. However, there is more to this mesmerizing region than meets the eye. Amidst the rugged outback, one man left a lasting legacy that blended faith, art, and architecture harmoniously - John Cyril Hawes.

With a career spanning over three decades, John Cyril Hawes not only served as a prominent priest but also made significant contributions as an architect. His unique approach to design and devotion to his faith created a remarkable fusion that can still be witnessed today in various landmarks across Western Australia.

## The Early Years

John Cyril Hawes was born on the 7th of August, 1876, in Richmond, London. His childhood exposure to the intricate beauty of Gothic architecture planted the seeds for his life-long passion. Fascinated by the interplay of light and structure, he found solace in the awe-inspiring churches he encountered throughout his formative years.



## JOHN CYRIL HAWES PRIEST AND ARCHITECT IN THE OUTBACK WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by DRMW(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 10022 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 281 pages  
Lending : Enabled



As a teenager, Hawes decided to embark on a spiritual journey, leading him to pursue priesthood with the Roman Catholic Church. His deep-rooted faith and fervor for art set the stage for the remarkable career that would follow.

## **A Journey to the Outback**

In 1915, Hawes embarked on a journey that would forever change his life trajectory. At the age of 39, he set sail for the distant land of Western Australia, seeking to bring the light of his faith to the outback communities. Arriving in Perth, he was greeted with a landscape vastly different from anything he had ever encountered.

Undeterred by the harsh conditions and isolation, Hawes dedicated himself to serving the communities of the Outback. His mission was to build churches and create spaces of worship that would not only provide comfort but also elevate the aesthetic standards of the region.

## **Architectural Masterpieces**

Throughout his career, Hawes left an indelible mark on Western Australia with his architectural masterpieces. His designs seamlessly fused traditional elements of Gothic and Romanesque architecture with a unique twist influenced by the natural surroundings of the Outback.

One of his most renowned creations is the St. Mary's Church in Northampton. This iconic structure stands as a testament to Hawes' extraordinary talent for blending art and spirituality. With its striking red-brick exterior and intricate stained-glass windows, the church captivates visitors from afar, drawing them into a world of devotion and architectural marvel.

Hawes' prowess extended beyond churches as well. He designed the stunning New Norcia Hotel, a testament to his ability to bring beauty and functionality together. The grandeur of the establishment is matched only by its seamless integration into the surrounding natural landscape.

## **The Legacy Lives On**

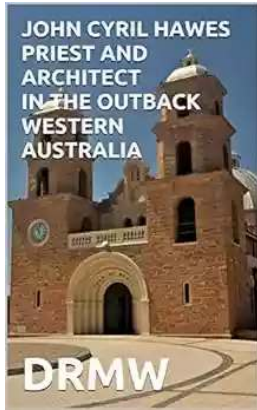
John Cyril Hawes passed away on the 27th of June, 1956, leaving behind a rich legacy that continues to inspire and captivate. His influence can still be seen in the multitude of buildings attributed to his visionary design principles.

Today, his architectural gems serve as reminders of the dedication and passion he brought to his craft. Each structure tells a story, showcasing the unique blend of faith and artistry that defined Hawes' approach.

Although time has passed, the impact of John Cyril Hawes persists. His work continues to draw visitors from near and far, offering a glimpse into the extraordinary life of a man who forever shaped the architectural landscape of Western Australia.

John Cyril Hawes, the priest and architect, left an indelible mark on the Outback Western Australia through his devotion to faith and passion for architecture. His visionary designs brought beauty and spirituality to the rugged landscapes, forever transforming the region's architectural landscape. Today, his masterpieces serve as a testament to his unique approach, captivating visitors with their

grandeur and artistry. As we explore Western Australia, we are reminded of the remarkable legacy left behind by one man who saw the potential to create something extraordinary in the most unexpected places.



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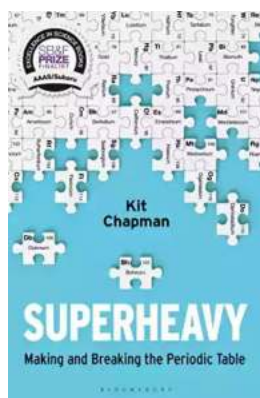
John Cyril Hawes (1876-1956) trained as an architect and then entered the Anglican Church as a minister, where his high church ideas caused argument with his colleagues. He later became a convert to the Catholic religion. His Franciscan ideas when a Catholic priest did not always go down well with his colleagues. He travelled widely and on occasion lived as a vagrant. He spent much time in Western Australia as a priest where he was eventually given the title Monsignor in 1938 by Pope Pius XI. His life in Western Australia was hard as a result of the climatic conditions in the outback and the long distances that he had to travel between his churches. He designed and built many churches and other religiously associated buildings mainly in Western Australia. He had also designed churches in England and The Bahamas. With difficulty he fitted in his architectural work with his priestly duties but on many occasions he fell out with

his fellow clergy. His other interests included sailing and horse-riding. He was an artist and a sculptor (some of his works can be found in his buildings). An eccentric and romantic, he was once described as an Internationally famous Architect, Philosopher, Poet, Essayist, Fox terrier breeder, Sculptor, Collector of archaeological treasures, Ex-Protestant minister, Mule skinner on the Canadian Pacific railroad, Art expert, Tramp, Cowpuncher, Australian gold-rush priest and Sailor. To this should of course be added his deep feelings of religion as a Roman Catholic and a Franciscan. John Hawes was described by the local people as “like an English Gentleman”. He had sympathy with and associated with his parishioners and the Aboriginal people in Western Australia. He was a lover of dogs, his last dog, Dominie, being his favourite. The book describes the churches that he designed, and in some cases built, in Western Australia. However as his past history originated in the UK his background and architectural work in the UK is also described.



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