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The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

April 2024 Newsletter

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Saturday 6th April 2024 - we had hoped that Doug Bradby would be our speaker but unfortunately we have been unable to confirm this.

Robyn Coates will share a short presentation about Ballarat's St Piran's Day activities and St Piran's Oratory and this will be followed by a presentation prepared by Chris Dunkerley (from NSW) for Kernewek Lowender in 2023 on Governors of NSW with a Cornish Connection.

Saturday 1st June 2024 - Annual General Meeting - the speaker will be Brian Rollason, President of the Cornish Association of Victoria. The Annual Election of Office Bearers and Committee will take place during the meeting.

Office Bearer Positions:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Chairperson | Vice-Chairperson |
| Administrative | Treasurer |
| Secretary | |

Please ensure that Keith Lanyon has your nomination if you wish to be an office bearer or a member of the committee by 17th May 2024.

August 3rd August 2024 - a speaker from the Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat will share information about the Chinese in the development of Ballarat

February Meeting

The February speaker was Dr Phil Roberts OAM, a noted Ballarat historian, writer and well known educator throughout Ballarat.

Some Members may remember Phil speaking at our St Piran's dinner in 2020, about his research into the Avenue of Honour, resulting in him being awarded the Victorian Premier's History Award for his book Avenue of Memories.



Phil has written 21 books - six school histories; five sporting club histories; four local industry books and six community histories.

He began with the history of Ballarat High School, in 1981, (published in 1982 for the school's 75th Anniversary) and in this journey, he discovered that two of his great uncles attended the school - Norm and Ral (Morelle) McKenzie.



At a family gathering, Phil's aunt told him of the story - one he hadn't heard previously.

Each Monday, the two boys would ride from the family farm, in Garibaldi, to Buninyong Station - they took it in turns - one would ride the horse

Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.
Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



and the other would jog and then they would changeover - they left the horse with their brother who had a grocery store in Buninyong.

At Buninyong, they caught the train to Wendouree and then walked down Gillies Street to the school, arriving 15 minutes late.

The journey took them about three and a half hours.

In the afternoons, they did the return journey to Buninyong and then stayed with their brother until Friday afternoon, when they returned home to Garibaldi.



Phil is a keen Royal Tennis player and has played at many of the Royal Tennis Courts throughout the world.

He hopes to play in the Veterans Competition during 2024.

Phil shared information from some of his books, including some hints in writing, and it was a most entertaining afternoon.

Phil, also reminded us of the wonderful Ballarat Mechanics Institute (BMI) and its programme of Twilight Talks.

Phil is a former President of BMI.

These talks are hosted by Phil and Neil Leckie. Neil Leckie is a BMI Member and is one of the BMI Tour Guides. Neil is also a former Army Reservist with an interest in Ballarat's military history. He manages the military museum at Ranger Barracks in Alfredton. (if you have an interest in Ballarat Military History then this Museum is worthy of a visit)

BMI is located at 117-119 Sturt Street.

Tours of the collection are held regularly in the daytime.

<https://ballaratmi.org.au/>



Phil Roberts, Keith Lanyon and Jenny Burrell presenting Phil with a copy of *Agan Kernow*.

Remembering St Piran's Day in Ballarat - Sunday 3rd March.

When planning this year's St Piran's activity, the Ballarat Committee decided that we would visit places in Ballarat which had a Cornish connection and ask someone from each place to share some stories relative to Cornwall or Cornish folk.

People had enjoyed the 'heritage type' church services previously with plenty of old Methodist hymns so a Church service was a must in our activities.



Twenty-seven people enjoyed lunch at Criag's Royal Hotel, with many of them having joined in Worship and morning tea at Skipton Street Uniting Church. prior to gathering at Craig's.



Although it was lovely to have time to sit and chat over lunch, the delay in food service meant that we had to cancel our visit to Christ Church Cathedral. Robert Christensen had arranged for the Dean to be present and for Robert to give us some information about the Cathedral and its congregants.

Hopefully we can visit another time.

Many people had driven past St Paul's Church of England, on the eastern side of Humffray Street South, in Bakery Hill, but few had been inside, so were pleasantly surprised by its interior.

Dr Anne Doggett, a noted Ballarat historian, was our speaker at St Paul's. Anne has written a comprehensive history of the Church (*The Church on Bakery Hill*) and shared some of its early history with us.



She spoke in detail about a memorial window for James Hicks Eddy and Mary Jane Lovell, who were married in an earlier church in 1864. James and Mary Jane were ancestors of Di Christensen.



The window was the work of David Taylor Kellock, a well-known stained-glass artist who has windows in many churches and institutions throughout Australia.

People were able to wander around the church and also enjoyed the afternoon tea provided by Sue Lanyon and women from St Paul's.



Central Uniting Church in Lydiard Street was our next destination.

The church at the moment has scaffolding around the western doorway.



Again, few people had been inside the church and were amazed at the size, the organ, the wall paintings and the large balcony.



Ballarat member, David Pratt, a long time member of the church, told us of its history and of some of the early members with a Cornish connection - Davey family, William Dunstan, William James and his wife Sarah Holman, John James and family and the Moyle family.



Val D'Angri talked about three stained-glass windows in memory of her Curnow ancestors, originally installed at Humffray Street Methodist Church.



When it was sold to the St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Val arranged for the windows to be removed and placed in the Lydiard Street Church.

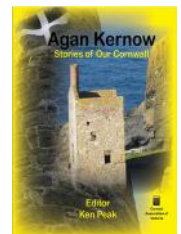
Those who attended had a wonderful day and learnt many interesting facts about the people and the places visited.

It was wonderful that so many travelled from Melbourne to join with our Ballarat Members.



Agan Kernow

The book is available for purchase by CAV Members, relatives and friends. This is a 262-page book of 76 stories by 51 authors from across the Cornish diaspora.



The purchase price is \$25 - speak with Robyn Coates to purchase a copy.

A touch of Cornish Humour

When Boris Johnston was Prime Minister, he visited a Cornish Village and asked the inhabitants what the government could do for them.

"We have two big needs," said the village spokesperson.

"First we have a health centre but no doctor" Boris whipped out his mobile phone, spoke for awhile and then said, "I have sorted it out. A doctor will arrive here tomorrow. What is your other need?"

"We have no mobile reception in our village!"



THE OLD SCHOLARS' GATHERING—GONG GONG METHODIST CHURCH JUBILEE.

A request from Dot Wickham

Above is a gorgeous photo of the old Gong Gong Church, which stood on the hill near Brewery Tap and Daylesford Roads.

The wooden structure has since been removed and is part of the Brown Hill Uniting church in Humffray Street, Ballarat East.

The original hut on the spot where the Gong Gong church was built was owned by an Italian charcoal burner and purchased in 1860.

My Wilson and Kinnane families are amongst the old scholars but I don't know which ones they are! I think that is James Kinnane standing at the right hand side.

It's a Jubilee photo so would have been taken around 1910.

Can anyone help with any of these names?

Some possibilities are:

Hosking, Kinnane, Wilson, Treweek, Clark, McGregor, Lugg, Huggins, Brough, Bonwell of Bullarook, Hill, Ainley, Eggleton, Richie, Westcott, Kittelty and Lowe.

Thanks Dot.

At right is Dot's grandfather, James Kinnane with his wife Emilie Wilson. They married in 1912.

He was a Sunday School teacher at Gong Gong Church and worked as train driver.

James died from heart trouble in March 1924.

He was only 37 years of age. Having driven the train from Melbourne to Ballarat he collapsed and later died.

When he died, his wife Emilie was pregnant and already had four other children - three boys and a girl - David, John, Russell and Jean. Another son, James, was born after the death of his father in April. Sadly, Emilie died in January 1926 from typhoid fever after visiting one of her sons in hospital. She was just 36 years of age.

If you can help Dot with any names, please send her an email - this is her email address:

dot.wickham@gmail.com



GONG GONG CHURCH

From the Ballarat Methodist p 13.

A SOCIAL REUNION

On Monday, the flood gates of old memories surrounding the Methodist Church, Gong Gong, were opened wide in a reunion of old people who used to worship at Gong Gong in the days when that pretty region was known as Fellmongers. The function was part of the jubilee celebrations, the church having reached its fiftieth birthday on the 3rd of June.

It was a most happy affair – representatives of successive generations gathering in the old spot that has been a common shrine since 1860. Old and young took part in the reunion, though it was arranged, of course, principally on behalf of the early members of the church.

Some of them have been away from the district for years, and scarcely knew the old place. Others have been residing there practically all their lives and it was with genuine pleasure that they greeted their brethren from other parts.

When a man meets a friend of whom he has seen scarcely anything since boyhood he is rejuvenated for the nonce, (*editor's note - for the time being*) and reminiscences of a tender character invariable follow the hand shake.

This was the experience of most of those who took part in the gathering.

There was only one topic, and one old man caught the spirit of the hour when the bell clanged. "The same old bell," he exclaimed, glancing at the bell with a smile of recognition. "The hymns may change, but that note is just the same as it was when I used to come here as a boy."

Most of the assemblage were mere children or babies when the church was formed; but there were a few whose memory goes back to the time when the Methodist seed was first sown in the Gong Gong.

One of these was Mr. R. Hosking, one of the pioneers, who still lives in the district. He took a foremost part in the building of the church, and circumstances constrained him to talk yesterday as he had not talked for many a long day. It was with a fervor that can be easily understood that Mr. Hosking spoke of the early times in Gong Gong, and the present generation hearkened

reverentially to the story of their spiritual heritage.

It was, so Mr. Hosking explained, during the Methodist revival at Brown Hill in the year 1860 that the idea of the Gong Gong Church was first conceived.

Every good Methodist in the district at that time was attending the revival meetings almost every night in the week, and one night, as several of them were going home, somebody asked why Fellmongers should not have a church of its own.

This remark led to an informal meeting, as the result of which the pioneers, Mr. Whitnish, Mr. Bishop, he himself, and others, purchased a small hut from an Italian charcoal burner who was leaving the district. The hut was not large enough to accommodate all who wished to attend the opening services, and the seats were very hard, but they had some glorious times in communion with the Lord.

Passing into a humorous vein, the speaker told about the early lives of several of those present, with special reference to sundry courtships that had their birth in the old church gatherings.

The present church building is a fine weatherboard structure, the old hut having long since been desecrated into a stable.

The proceedings took place in a large marquee erected in the church grounds.

Reminiscences were also furnished by Mr. r. Hosking, junr., and Mrs. W. Llewellyn, the first scholar of the Sunday School, whose husband was one of the first to attend service at Gong Gong.

Other old identities present were Mr. Jas. Kannean, of Stawell; Mr Harry Clark, of St. Kilda, and old librarian of the Church; Mr. W. Llewellyn, above-mentioned; Mrs. Lugg (nee Huggins); Messrs H. and T. Brough, of Brown Hill; Mrs. Bonwell, of Bullarook, and her brother, Mr. J. Hill; and Mr. H. Clark. The day's arrangements were well supervised by the Sunday School superintendent, Mr. J. McGregor.

In the evening a tea meeting was held in the church, and was so well attended that several sittings were necessary.

The following ladies presided at the tables:- Mesdames McGregor, Wilson, Ainley, Eggleton, Clark, Hammer, Huggins; the Misses Hosking, Huggins (2), Wilson (3), Nalder, Richie, Treweek, Owen, Westcott, Kittlety, and Lowe.

The tea was followed by a public meeting in the tent, which was filled to overflowing. The chair was occupied by the Hon. F. Brawn, MLC, who congratulated Mr Hosking, sen., on being able to be present after such a lapse of time.

The following musical programme was carried out :- Solo, "Nearer my God," Miss Mitchell; solo, "Life's tomorrow," Miss Peirce [sic]; duet, "In the Springtime," the Misses Mitchell and Blight; duet, "The children's home," the Misses Blight; anthem by the choir, "Onward Christian Soldiers" (leader Mr Huggins). Miss Hosking played the organ. Mr. J. McGregor, after delivering a brief, but satisfactory report, presented Mr. R. Hosking, sen, with a handsome saddlebag armchair in token of the congregation's esteem.

The recipient responded in a speech full of pathos and humor, and was loudly applauded on resuming his seat.

The Rev. J. L. Haslam, in the course of an address, said the speeches that day had been mostly on the past. He urged them to look to the future, to seek power from on high. Then there would be glorious times at the church at the Gong.

The Rev. J. Mathieson also spoke. The meeting concluded with votes of thanks.

Prior to the gathering breaking up, Miss Hosking, who teaches at the Sunday School, was presented with a sugar scoop, on behalf of the scholars.



Picture is labelled
GONG GONG METHODIST CHURCH
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/621b4c28c96ff819e8243586>

Dates for Kernewek Lowender 2025



Waving the flag for the Cornish

At the recent Highland and Celtic Festival, held in Croydon, on 24th March, there was a Cornish Stall amongst the many Scottish clans.



A Touch of humour

What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter?
An ir-relephant.

Why did the child stare at the orange juice container?
It said concentrate!

What is Beethoven's favorite fruit?
A ba-na-na-na...

What do you call a cow with no legs?
Ground beef.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school?
It's fine, he woke up

5/4 of people admit that they're bad with fractions.

CORNISH SNIPPETS

Farmers in Cornwall are planting thousands of trees on their land.

It is part of a government-funded project to create more woodlands and tree cover across the county. More than 4,000 trees have already been planted as part of pilot projects, with an overall target of 32,000 by next winter.

Councillor Martyn Alvey said the scheme is "key to creating more woodland" which helps to "lock up carbon and restore nature".

Cornwall Council's Forest for Cornwall team supports the agroforestry pilot projects with funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Woodland Creation Partnership Fund.

Agroforestry involves tree-planting alongside ongoing farm production, for example livestock, arable, horticultural or orchard crops.

Trees have been planted in field corners, hedgerows, shelterbelts and orchards on farms in the Lizard, Bodmin and Ladock.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-68632729>

Cornwall Council has welcomed the government's introduction of new rules requiring planning permission for properties to be used as short-term lets.

The changes, announced by Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on a visit to St Agnes last week, are aimed at limiting the number of short-term holiday lets.

They mean that a planning application will be needed for anyone renting out their main or sole home for more than 90 nights a year, and are intended to provide support in areas where short-term lets are preventing local people from renting or buying a home.

In addition, a new mandatory national register will provide local authorities with information about where short-term lets are operating, helping to support the planning process.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/communities-and-housing/council-welcomes-new-government-rules-aimed-at-limiting-short-term-holiday-lets/>

A memorial statue of pilchard fishermen is set to be built at St Ives Bay to put "history back" into the town.

The 'Tucking in the Net' memorial was approved by

the Cornwall Harbours Board and will be created by Cornish sculptor Tom Leaper.

A group of St Ives residents wanted to place the statue at The Castle on Smeaton's Pier to celebrate the rich maritime heritage within the town, the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) said. Mr Leaper told the board that the memorial would pay tribute to all those who sailed from St Ives and its backdrop would be the bay where they caught fish.

The LDRS said between 1840 and 1900 there were nearly 300 boats fishing from Porthminster beach, making it the fourth biggest port in Britain and that in 1905 there was a record catch of 13m pilchards on a single day.

The sculpture will be derived from an image of the pilchard fishermen.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8039knr848o>

Nearly 600 schoolchildren from across Cornwall spent the day coding and testing Lego robots as part of an international challenge.

Hosted by the Royal Navy and organised with Cornwall Council, the First Lego League competition was held over two days in an aircraft hangar at Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose, Helston.

Teams from 60 schools, including both primary and secondary school year 7s, took turns against the clock to complete series of challenges to remotely operate Lego machines – lifting levers, pressing buttons and scooping up Lego characters.

Sailors from the air station watched closely and awarded points. The children next had to make a presentation to a panel of judges to talk about teamwork and their core values – the whole day was based around promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/together-for-families/budding-engineers-from-cornwall-wow-royal-navy-judges-at-lego-competition/>

Rare flowers and butterflies to benefit from £350,000 project at Cornish reserve

Rare coastal lichens, wildflowers and butterflies are being given a helping hand through the conservation and creation of "micro-habitats" across a landscape in Cornwall.

The project aims to help wildlife recover across the entire 2,400 hectare (5,900 acre) Lizard National Nature Reserve, with many "Lizard specialities" found nowhere else in the UK.

The £350,000 project, funded by government agency Natural England, is focusing on conservation of micro-habitats on cliffs, bare rocks, in ditches,

pools and tracks, where tiny lichens, liverworts and plants can be found.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/national/24213394.rare-flowers-butterflies-benefit-350-000-project-cornish-reserve/>

Many big attractions in the South West are **seeing fewer visitors** than before the pandemic, according to new figures.

Overall the greater South West's most popular sites saw 8% more visitors from 2022 to 2023, said the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA). However, numbers in 2023 were 9% lower than 2019 - the year before the pandemic started.

ALVA said the cost of living crisis and fewer international visitors were behind the trend.

The Eden Project in Cornwall is among the attractions that have struggled to hit 2019 numbers. It remains the most popular attraction in Devon and Cornwall with 713,000 visitors in 2023, up 8% on 2022, but numbers are down 29% on 2019.

Among those putting on numbers since 2019 was Tintagel Castle, which is up more than 100% on 2019.

A spokesperson for the Eden Project said the rise from 2022 to 2023, along with a 14% rise from 2021 to 2022, was a "ringing endorsement of a strong seasonal programme", the nature's playground play area and the "continued popularity of our Biomes and outdoor gardens".

Visitor numbers at Tintagel Castle are up 20% from 2022 to 2023 at 334,000 and up 116% on 2019. The rise is thought to have been in large part thanks to a £4m footbridge.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-68579465>

Development of a huge station for high speed rail links between London and the Midlands will lead to a "decade of disruption" for rail passengers in south-west England, a Plymouth MP has said. Luke Pollard, Labour MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport, said building the station at Old Oak Common in west London would affect rail passengers travelling between Devon and Cornwall and Paddington.

The station is being touted by HS2 (High Speed 2) as the "largest new railway station ever built in the UK".

The Department for Transport (DoT) said it was working to mitigate any disruption.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9ed4zrp4e4o>

Doc Martin star Martin Clunes and Walking Dead star Andrew Lincoln **have objected to the latest**

seaweed farm plan in Cornwall.

Biome Algae Ltd and Camel Fish have applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to grow seaweed on two adjacent 50-hectare (124 acre) sites, totalling size of 180 football fields, at Port Quin, near Port Isaac.

They say the seaweed will be native to the UK and grown to provide food, low-carbon animal feed and fertiliser alternatives and biomaterials to replace single-use plastic and take away cartons.

Objectors say the farm is too big and will impact wildlife and fishing activity in the bay.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9edpe2plzdo>

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<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/together-for-families/budding-engineers-from-cornwall-wow-royal-navy-judges-at-lego-competition/>

National Maritime Museum Cornwall and Leach Pottery in St Ives are among six South West organisations awarded a share of £2.6 million.

This financial boost comes courtesy of the Government Cultural Investment Fund.

It will support crucial repairs, renovations, and digital infrastructure development.

The National Maritime Museum Cornwall in Falmouth is set to receive £499,000.

These funds will provide necessary building work on the roof to address water, corrosion, and environmental issues caused by its proximity to the sea wall.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/24209738.cornwall-museums-awarded-share-2-6m-government-funding/>