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The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

February 2024 Newsletter

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Saturday 3rd February 2024 - Our speaker will be Dr Phil Roberts, noted Ballarat historian,

Sunday 3rd March 2024 - St Piran's Day Celebration

Church Service at Skipton Street at 10.00 am.

Lunch will be at Craigs Royal Hotel in Lydiard Street at 11.45 am for 12 noon.

Bookings are required by **19th February 2024**. Please contact Keith Lanyon if you are able to join us for lunch.

kmlanyon@hotmail.com

0411 512 160

The menu for Craigs can be seen here:

<https://craigsroyal.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/>

[CRAIGS AtriumMenu May2022_A3_WEB.pdf](#)

Parking is available in the multi-storey car park in Dana Street (first two hours are free) or metered street parking.

After lunch, it is proposed to tour Christ Church Anglican Cathedral and Ballarat Central Uniting Church, both in Lydiard Street, and St Paul's Anglican Church, Humffray St South, Bakery Hill. This year is the 170th year of Worship at St Paul's.

Saturday 6th April 2024 - TBC

Saturday 1st June 2024 - Annual General Meeting

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

Christmas Meeting

The weather on Saturday 2nd December was gloomy to begin with, but it didn't dampen the cheery atmosphere, at the Grand, when members from both the Ballarat Cornish branch and the CAV gathered for a traditional Christmas lunch.

Seated around round tables, there was much chatter as a quiz, prepared by Wendy Benoit, tested everyone's knowledge of Cornwall. (found on page 6 in case you weren't there)

The singing of traditional Christmas carols and one Cornish carol was most enjoyable

We have already booked the same venue for this year such was everyone's enjoyment.

Thanks to Jim and Bev Hocking and Keith Lanyon for organising this activity.

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.





CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON QUIZ

For those who missed out on the quiz prepared by Wendy Benoit.

Answers on page 6

1. Where is the national seal sanctuary?
2. Where is the Royal Cornwall Show held?
3. What is the name of the cat associated with the duchy?
4. Carn Euny is famous for what archaeological feature?
5. Name another place with such a feature as Carn Euny?
6. How many stone circles are there in the Hurlers on Bodmin Moor?
7. In what year did the Tate Gallery open in St Ives?
8. What creature did Pastor Hawker, from Morwenstow, take with him on pastoral visits?
9. What role did Pendennis Castle play during the Second World War?
10. Where and when is the 'Obby 'Oss unleashed annually?
11. Falmouth has the third largest natural harbour in the world. Name the other two.
12. Where is the China Clay heritage centre?
13. The Isles of Scilly are fabled in legend to be the remnants of which lost land?
14. Barry Humphries holidayed in Cornwall and fell and broke bones. Where was this?
15. Name two of the steam railways operating in Cornwall.
16. Who was the Cornish inventor of the 'horseless carriage'?
17. Between which points does the King Harry Ferry operate?
18. After who was the King Harry ferry thought to be named?
19. From where does the ferry service run to the Isles of Scilly and what is the name of the ferry?
20. Which village is connected, at low tide, by a causeway to an island?

More photos of the event can be found at:
<http://cornishvic.org.au/Christmas-23/default.htm>

Buninyong Library

It is located at 408 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong and opens between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm each day, but not on the 1st or 3rd Saturdays of the month. It also operates as the town's Visitor Information Centre.



Run by about fifteen volunteers of the Buninyong Library Trust, the Trust is the custodian of the Buninyong Cemetery Trust's records where you can search for the location of graves. Helpful volunteers assisted my second cousin in locating the grave of our ancestor's brother, and it was discovered that another brother was buried in the same grave. He had died in South Melbourne.

Books by local authors are sold here and there is much historical information stored in this building, including family histories.

The volunteers say that it is amazing how many people had relatives who once lived in Buninyong. My great grandparents were married in the Buninyong Presbyterian church on 27th March, 1879 by the Rev Thomas Hastie.

Phone-(03) 5341 8211
Email- bunlibtrust@gmail.com

Ballarat Gold Museum

There has been much talk on Facebook this week about the Ballarat Gold Museum, adjacent to Sovereign Hill.

Many millions of tourists have visited the Gold Museum since it was opened by the Hon R.J. Hamer, E.D M.P. on Sunday 3rd December 1978.

Visitors to the Gold Museum have recently discovered that it is no longer open to casual visitors.

If there is a specific historical item you wish to look at, you need to apply in writing to do so as it now no longer allows you to wander through the building perusing the various exhibits.

I received an email from them this week stating: *'The Gold Museum no longer operates as it was previously. It is now our Centre for Rare Trades and Forgotten Arts. We run workshops and behind the scenes tours which are ticketed events.'*

It is not good that the public no longer has access to the items and photos donated by the public in the past.

It is extremely sad that Ballarat, founded on gold, and the most historical city in Australia, has no historical museum like we had in the years before the Gold Museum opened to such promise.

If you wish to search the collection:
<https://www.sovereignhill.com.au/experiences/australian-centre-for-gold-rush-collections/collections/>

St Paul's Church, Bakery Hill.

On Sunday evening at 5pm on 11th February, St Paul's church is celebrating its 170th year. The first full time incumbent, Rev'd James Thackeray was appointed in 1854. The first services were held under a tree or in a small wooden canvas structure.

Many Cornish families attended St Paul's for baptisms, weddings and funerals. I have lost count of how many of my families were connected to St Paul's; I was baptised there.

The history of the church was written several years ago by Dr Anne Doggett- *The Church on Bakery Hill-St Paul's Ballarat and its place in the Community.*

Di Christensen

Picture from
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/519c5b4e2162ef13f0d2bf56>



Two obituaries of previous owners of Craigs Royal Hotel

Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Monday 29 July 1901, page 6

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS BATH J.P. A VETERAN COLONIST.

The health of Mr Thomas Bath, J.P., had been of such a precarious nature of late, and more especially during the past few days, that his death, which took place at an. early hour this morning, at his residence, situated at comer of Errard and Mair streets, will perhaps not cause sur prise to his more immediate friends.

The demise of Mr Bath will in effect remove one of the comer stones of the district as he had been so closely allied with its fortunes for so long a period that he was justly recognised as one of the fathers of the City.

The late Mr Bath was a native of Penair, in the parish of St. Clements, near Truro, Cornwall, England, and was born on January 29, 1830. and had thus reached the ripe age of 76 years.

In his early days he followed the butchering trade, but subsequently took up a seafaring life.

As far back as 1849, the late Mr Bath landed in this state, his first place of residence being Geelong, where he remained until 1851.

While at Geelong he was married to Miss Johanna Vaughan.

In the stirring times of the gold discovery at Hiscocks, in 1851, the deceased made his way thither, but his sojourn there was only of short duration, and he again took up his residence at and subsequently came to Ballarat.

The gold finds at Fryer's Creek eventually had the effect of attracting the late Mr Bath, where he met with profit..

He afterwards proceeded to Colac, and from there to Bendigo, where he witnessed the opening of the Eaglehawk diggings.

Little Bendigo was the next spot to which Mr Bath turned his attention; but his active association with mining ceased in 1853, when he commenced business as a hotelkeeper in Lydiard street, at the premises now known as Craig's Royal hotel.

The hostelry was originally known as "The Ballarat," but in 1854 this title was changed to "Bath's."

Mr Bath retired from the hotel business In 1857, when the property was taken over by the late Mr Craig.

The deceased then turned his attention to farming pursuits, and proceeding to Learmonth, established a station, which has become famous all over the state for the quality of the stock raised.

Some three years afterwards the late Mr Bath, together with his wife, paid a visit to the motherland, returning to "Ceres" in 1861.

Although the late Mr Bath did not perhaps, take an active interest in municipal matters, he exhibited keen interest in all that pertained to the welfare of the City, and his name was a household word in our several institutions.

The Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society will lose a staunch supporter, with which he has been connected from as far back as 1856.

He had held the position of treasurer for a period of 20 years, and no annual show was regarded as complete without the presence of the late Mr Bath.

Consequently his demise will leave a gap in the ranks of the old brigade very difficult to bridge over.

The

Ballarat Hunt Club in its palmiest days always had a warm supporter in Mr Bath, while as a member of the School of Mines council he was ever ready to do his utmost to forward the interests of that institution.

He was, in addition, a member of the Old Colonists and Art Gallery Associations, and a genuine supporter of the several charitable institutions.

Amongst the old residents, the deceased gentleman was well known, while the younger portion of the community were well acquainted with him by repute, and the death of one who had taken such an active part in bringing the City to its present prosperity will be regretted by people of every degree.

Ballarat Courier (Vic. : 1869 - 1886; 1914 - 1918),
Wednesday 17 August 1870, page 2

THE LATE MR WALTER CRAIG.

All Ballarat was painfully affected early yesterday morning by the sad intelligence of the death of Mr Walter Craig, at his house, the Royal Hotel, the same morning at about daylight.

Very great fears had been entertained for some weeks past that recovery was improbable, from the virulence of the form taken by a disease he had for some years laboured under and struggled against. Mr Craig had for years been afflicted with rheumatic gout, the effect of early exposure in pursuit of his

profession as a land surveyor.

About six weeks ago the evil symptoms became aggravated, and during that time his medical attendants, Dr Hudson and Mr Hillas had been constantly visiting him.

As usual in these cases, there were alternations of rallying and relapsing, but latterly these last became more frequent and severe, assuming the form of inflammation of the lungs.

For a time it was thought that he might fight successfully with his malady as before, but these hopes were gradually dissolved.

On Monday evening, Mr Craig appeared to be better up till about eleven o'clock, when the alarming symptoms returned, but do not seem to have attracted the notice of his attendant until Mrs Craig entered the room and discovered that a great change had taken place.

Messrs Hudson and Hillas were at once summoned, but only to discover that death had begun its work, as already the extremities were cold.

The Rev. John Potter, who had frequently visited Mr Craig, was also called in and remained on this last occasion until nature no longer sustained the powers of sense.

The family were all present, and were recognised by the dying father up to within his last hour; Mr Hillas also waiting to see the end, which came at about five minutes before six o'clock on Tuesday morning.

He died quite peacefully, going off as it were in a sort of sleep, at the comparatively early age of forty-five. The immediate cause of death was gangrene of the right lung.

We regret further to have to add that the shock has had a serious effect on Mrs Craig, who now lies in a somewhat precarious state.

The funeral is fixed for Friday next.

In noticing the events of an active life of one of the most prominent of the citizens of Ballarat, it may be mentioned that Mr Craig was a native of Lowick, Northumberland, a village close to the border, and was born in the year 1825.

He followed the same profession as that of his father, land surveying, and previously to his emigration to Victoria was associated with his father. His arrival in Victoria, accompanied with Mrs Craig and two young daughters, took place in 1852, or late in 1851.

He practised his profession for several years, and

was very actively engaged both in private practice and on public works.

Among these were the laying off of the allotments in Collingwood Flat; the survey of Footscray and Abbotsford, combining therewith extensive purchases of land at the sales, much of which was resold to newly arrived settlers at large advances.

Mr Craig was at one time a large landholder at Footscray and in the neighbourhood of Dandenong. He was also engaged in the survey of the Geelong and Melbourne railway, and we understand that it was the exposure to wet on the Werribee Plains, where the water was in places three feet deep, that the foundation was laid of the malady which beset him more or less during his after life.

He was in the habit even then of complaining of weakness in the feet, from which it is natural to infer that there was a predisposing cause in addition to the apparent one.

Mr Robert Boyd, engineer of Buninyong shire, was at one time a fellow labourer and remembers the circumstances of the case.

Mr Craig's last professional engagement was on the Government Railway between Melbourne and Castlemaine.

In all his undertakings he was extremely successful at this time, standing high in estimation both for field work and as a draughts-man.

In August, 1857, Mr Craig became the purchaser of Bath's hotel for the sum of £13,200, the building being then entirely of wood, a one-storied building occupying the site of the present permanent handsome south wing.

This latter part of the structure was built about five years since, from designs by Mr C. D. Cuthbert, the portion finished having cost about £5000.

As a first-class hotel, the Royal has long had a reputation, and during the period of the host's own personal superintendence was considered the best house of public entertainment out of Melbourne, both for the superiority of its accommodation, and for the excellent qualities possessed by the owner, himself a man of good taste and judgment.

As a public man, Mr Craig's career will, though its term was prematurely shortened, compare most favourably with that of his peers, and during his holding the office of member of the borough council, he displayed an energy and shrewdness which made his services highly useful.

One of his acts was to get the water supply extended to Soldiers' Hill, and he often made useful practical suggestions, some of which have tended to the permanent improvement of the town.

He was first elected to the borough council in January, 1862, and showed himself a straightforward man of business so long as his health continued. But in March, 1863, he was compelled to resign through ill-health, and his services were lost to the ratepayers.

Another of his public-spirited acts was to preserve the Theatre Royal to the public as a place of amusements at a time when it seemed likely that Ballarat would be left without one. This purchase was made in February, 1865, for the sum of £2550, a further sum of £2000 being spent in repairs, refittings, and adornments. The theatre continued in Mr Craig's possession for a period of three years, when it was sold to the present owner, Mr R. S. Mitchell.

As a patron of sports of the field, Mr Craig was always prominent, and to his exertions is partly due the present position of the Ballarat Turf Club, of which he was for some time president.

He was also a steward of the same club, and also a member of committee of the Victoria Racing Club. A great lover of horses, he at one time possessed a considerable stud, both of racers, hunters, and carriage horses, all showing excellence of breed and treatment.

Mr Craig was not particularly fortunate on the turf, though for many years largely interested in its events. He was an ardent lover of races, and consistent in his attendance at the chief meetings, occupying a tip top position among brother sportsmen.

He was frequently largely interested in race horses not running in his name. Among those which did may be mentioned Miss Fisher and Tim Whiffler, both Adelaide purchases, Coeur de Leon, Masaniello, Statesman, Little Billy, Miss Jessie, and Nimblefoot.

Tim Whiffler won the Australian Cup in 1867 as a four-year old, but has not been very successful since; Masaniello was a most promising animal, but did not achieve much; and Nimblefoot, a Tasmanian horse, for which a heavy price was paid, though previously a winner, did not add to his owner's exchequer.

He is entered for the Melbourne Cup in 1871.

In conclusion, it may be stated that Mr Craig's

qualities as a host, a councillor, a citizen, a sportsman, and a gentleman, won for him the admiration of a large circle of acquaintances who one and all deplore the shortness of his stay. Nearest and dearest of all are left a mourning widow and five children to bewail the loss of an affectionate father - four daughters and one son. The eldest daughter is married to Mr Thomas Bailey, the youngest two being of tender years.

A mark of respect was yesterday afternoon paid the deceased gentleman at the meeting of the Borough council, of which he had formerly been a member. The Mayor, Mr Cowan, having reported the sorrowful event, remarked that as they only met once a fortnight, they should, instead of adjourning, meet and send a letter of condolence to Mrs Craig, to be signed by the Mayor and town clerk, as a recognition of Mr Craig's zeal, formerly displayed in the interests of the borough. This suggestion was carried out on the motion of Cr. McDowall, seconded by Cr. Lewis, Mr W. C. Smith, in supporting the resolution, speaking in high terms of praise of Mr Craig's conduct as citizen, councillor, large rate payer, member of the Turf Club, &c.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that out of respect to the deceased, the volunteer entertainment, originally fixed for Friday evening, has been postponed until Monday.

Answers to Quiz

1. Gweek
2. Wadebridge
3. Cornish rex
4. Fogou
5. Chyaster; Boleigh Fogou near Lamorna, Pendeen Vau and Trewardreva near Constantine, Pixie's Hall or Piskey Hall
6. Three
7. 1993
8. Pig
9. Secret Command Centre
10. Padstow and May Ist
11. Sydney and Rio de Janeiro
12. St Austell
13. Lyonesse
14. Zennor
15. Bodmin and Wenford, Lappa Valley, Helston, Launceston
16. Sir Goldsworthy Gurney
17. near Feock to Roseland Peninsula
18. Henry IV
19. Penzance and Scillonian IV
20. Marazion

CORNISH SNIPPETS

Gold Roman ring found in Cornwall ruled as treasure

A 2,000 year-old Roman gold ring was found by a metal detectorist 10 inches (51cm) underground in Cornwall, an inquest in Truro heard.

Michael Burke made the discovery in the parish of St Just in December 2021.

Any treasure found in the county belongs in the first instance to the Duchy of Cornwall not the finder or landowner.

Assistant coroner Guy Davies ruled it as treasure and said it originated from the 1st or early 2nd century AD.

The 12g ring containing an oval gem is said to have originated from Turkey and is similar to others found at Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland, Northamptonshire and Norfolk.

The ring will be acquired by the Penlee House museum in Penzance which will fund the finder and landowner if a reward is handed out for the treasure trove.



<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-68018404>

Choughs flourishing inland as Cornish pastures recover

A protected bird known for sticking to the Cornish coastline has started to move inland in what wildlife experts say is a sign of its "flourishing" recovery.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust said Cornish choughs had been sighted "daily" on its Penwith nature reserves. It credited the sightings to "pasture restoration and conservation grazing".

"Choughs are beginning to flourish in Cornwall once more," the trust added.

Choughs became completely extinct in Cornwall during the mid-20th century.

As a result of a breeding pair arriving in the Lizard in 2001, the first wild choughs to hatch in more than 50 years in Cornwall did so the following year.

Chough numbers have been increasing along Cornwall's coastline as suitable habitats are restored, particularly through carefully managed grazing.

Cornwall Birds (CBWPS) said the chough

population is now in excess of 200, with 112 chicks fledging last year.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust's west Cornwall reserves manager Nick Marriott said the development was "exciting".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-67941667>

Good Growth Programme backs major museum transformation

The transformation of the award-winning Royal Cornwall Museum, including exhibition spaces and a new programme of activities and workshops, is one of the latest projects to receive support from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Programme.

Truro's museum and art gallery has received £2.1m from the Good Growth Programme which is managed by Cornwall Council and funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which aims to help level up communities across the UK. The funding will enable the transformation of the Heart of Cornwall exhibition, the main gallery of the museum.

It will also fund improvements to the nature gallery and the museum entrance and garden, which will improve accessibility.

A programme of activity building skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths will also be delivered thanks to the funding, including school workshops, careers events, family activities and exhibitions.

Funding from the Good Growth Programme is the latest in a series of successful funding bids by the museum designed to secure its future by transforming how its collection are presented, safeguarding the building and home to the 200-year-old institution in the heart of Truro, and ultimately broadening its appeal to residents and visitors.

Cornwall Council previously provided a total of £200,000 of transitional funding while the museum put together a longer-term funding solution. The Heritage Lottery Fund provided £250,000, and Arts Council England awarded £1.5 million through the Museum Estate and Development Fund, which is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to address the infrastructure and urgent maintenance needs of the museum sector. In July last year, the museum was awarded £460,000

from the Truro Town Deal to refurbish its renowned Mineral Gallery.

This investment will develop a more interactive experience relating to the internationally recognised collection that demonstrates Cornwall's history as a global mining centre.

The Good Growth programme consists of £132m from the Government's £2.6 billion Shared Prosperity Fund, which aims to help level up communities across the UK, and £5.6m from the Rural Prosperity Fund.



Switching off/dimming street lights in Cornwall

The Council is turning off some of its streetlights when most residents are asleep between the hours of midnight and 5am. Streetlights in town centres where there is a strong night-time economy, areas where there is CCTV, and along main roads, will remain on or will be dimmed.

Streetlights will remain on, or be dimmed between midnight and 5am to reduce light pollution, in locations such as:

- Traffic signal junctions, pedestrian crossings, subways, some roundabouts and junctions
- Parts of town centres and footpaths that are still relatively busy during the night
- On certain roads where there is traffic calming and speed humps
- Areas where there is CCTV or police surveillance equipment
- Entrances and exits to hospitals, police, ambulance and fire stations

The vast network of streetlights currently contributes to around 30% of the council's total carbon emissions.

Carbon reduction is a primary driver for taking action to replace streetlights and turn them off or dim them when appropriate.

All Council-run streetlights in Cornwall are in the process of being replaced with energy saving LEDs as part of a programme to cut carbon emissions, as well as reduce electricity consumption.

The new LED streetlights, which are a similar colour temperature to the previous lamps, will be remotely controlled and monitored.

Using low power technology, the streetlights can be

adapted to the needs of local areas.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news>

Letters to heaven post box installed in Saltash cemetery

A special post box has been erected at a cemetery in Saltash to enable mourners to send 'letters to heaven' to lost loved ones.

The post box at Churchtown Cemetery looks exactly like any other normal red post box but it has blue signage erected on it to state it is solely for letters, messages or cards in a sealed envelope to be posted to 'loved ones who are no longer with us'. The post box is serviced by Saltash Town Council - not Royal Mail - so people are advised not to also use it as a normal post box.

The council has assured everything that is posted will not be opened and that you don't have to attach a stamp.

A post has been published on the Facebook page of Saltash Town Council explaining how the idea for the heavenly post box came about.

It states:

"Following a request from a resident, Saltash Town Council have installed a post box at Churchtown Cemetery for grieving people to write letters to heaven.

The letters to lost loved ones can be posted in a sealed envelope using the post box.

Items posted can be anything from cards for events such as birthdays, anniversary and Christmas to letters and messages.

The post box is not owned or serviced by Royal Mail so no stamp is required.

Every item posted will be treated with confidentiality and will not be opened."

Storm Isha closes roads and railway lines as battering of Devon and Cornwall continues

Storm Isha has arrived in the West Country and has already started to wreak havoc in the region.

Since the onset of the storm, the Met Office has expanded its 'high impact' amber weather warning to include most of the country - including all of the South West. The Met Office has predicted windspeeds of nearly 70mph in the region, though forecasters say gusts could reach as high as 80mph in some places. An amber weather warning will come into effect from 6pm today and meteorologists have warned of possible 'danger to life' and injuries from flying debris. The storm is likely to cause power cuts and affect mobile phone services, as well as damage buildings and affect travel across the region.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/>