



**CORNISH ASSOCIATION  
OF  
VICTORIA, INC.**

**NEWSLETTER  
No. 137**

**MAY 2021**

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A

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**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**



Your Committee met recently and we have agreed that the CAV will meet physically together again at Oakleigh on Saturday 15th May at 1.30 pm.

I know so many of you have missed our monthly get togethers although we have been able to meet together successfully on Zoom.

We have established that given the current restrictions and rules for organisations like ours, we will trial getting together again. After all they can almost fill the 'G' with footy fans, so surely we should be able to meet again?

Of course things will be a bit different in terms of seating arrangements and for the moment we will not be able to have an afternoon tea laid out the way we had in the past. As a result of the restrictions, there will also be some changes also in relation to the provision of tea and coffee.

These new arrangements are a small price to pay for being able to get back together again in the Covid-normal era.

We will also ask members with smart phones to use the government approved QR registration system at the front door of the church, while some of you will have to sign in on a special registration sheet. Names must also be recorded in the normal way as well.

The Committee also took the view that for those members who are able we will meet for BYO lunch at 12.00 noon.

We are going to have a Cornish 'Show and Tell' or Cornish Memorabilia meeting; a bit like Antiques Roadshow, only better. We ask you to bring along an item (doesn't have to be an Antique) perhaps from Cornwall or something that reminds you of Cornwall and be prepared to talk for a few minutes about the item. I'm not as posh as Fiona Bruce but it might be fun!

Most important of all: please spread the word that the 'Cousin Jacks and Jennies' are back!

However, due to a range of issues our May meeting will not be available on Zoom.

I apologise profusely to our members in regional Victoria, as I know you enjoy participating in our Zoom meetings.

Normally, we do not meet in May in a Kernewek Lowender year. However given that only a small contingent from Victoria will be attending Kernewek Lowender we have decided to trial our own meeting.

Rest assured, we are planning for our meeting on Saturday 19th June (featuring our own Ted Curnow who will speak on 'The Four Seasons of Cornwall') to be shown on Zoom while our Melbourne folk enjoy meeting together at Oakleigh at the same time.

This meeting will be a world first for a Cornish Association so stay tuned.

This way we involve many more of our members, especially those who cannot attend our meetings in Melbourne.

I think that this is an exciting prospect for us, ensuring our future for many years to come. We will do our best to

**CORNISH ASSOCIATION  
OF VICTORIA INC.**

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**Fees:**

**Membership:**

Single: \$40.00

Family: \$60.00

Life Single: \$400.00

Life Family: \$600.00



**Saturday 15th May at 1.30 pm -**  
'Show and Tell' -

**Saturday 19th June at 1.30 pm -**  
Four Seasons of Cornwall with Ted Curnow

**Saturday 17th July at 1.30 pm -**  
AGM and Members' Stories - see page  
16 for more information concerning  
the AGM



**PASTY DRIVE**

Marcus Curnow is offering free  
delivery of traditional Cornish Oggies  
to the gathered in person at the CAV  
meeting on May 15 or he can home  
deliver in Melbourne region for \$11 on  
the same day.

You can look at the Aussie Oggie  
( <https://aussieoggie.com/> )  
online shopping menu and order there  
or for a CAV discount for Traditional  
Cornish Pasties (\$\$7 rather than \$8)  
contact Marcus.

If you are interested please send  
Marcus a text no later than TUESDAY  
May 11th 4pm.

Marcus's number is: 0421 076 804



**Pastoral Care**

If you know of someone who is  
unwell, celebrating a special  
birthday or just needs a cheery  
greeting, please let Evelyn Jones  
know the details so she can be  
in touch.

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**CAV NEWSLETTER**

The CAV Newsletter is  
published in February, May,  
August & November and  
distributed via email and in some  
cases by mail.

If you have an email address,  
please consider having your  
newsletter emailed.

For distribution contact  
The Secretary.

Deadline for contributions for  
the next issue:

**Saturday 17th July 2021**

Articles for inclusion are  
welcome at any time but **must**  
**be received by the deadline**  
**date.**

Please use plain text font size 12,  
without formatting.

Photos and tables should be  
included separately - not as part  
of a document.

Acknowledgment of source is  
required.

The email address for the CAV  
Newsletter -

[robyncoates@hotmail.com](mailto:robyncoates@hotmail.com)

Please mark - Article for CAV  
Newsletter.

ensure that our members are aware of our future meeting plans.

At our AGM on Saturday 17th July, we plan to hear from a small select group of members who have contributed a short story to the 'Agan Kernow' project.

The anthology of stories about Cornwall and our Cornish ancestors is coming along well and is in the process of being edited.

I will keep members posted about its progress.

Speaking of our AGM, I can also publicly announce that **June Whiffin**, our illustrious Secretary, and CAV Treasurer **Rod Phillips** have decided to 'retire' from their positions on the Committee at our AGM in July.

This is not the time for speeches but needless to say they have both served the CAV so exceptionally in these positions for many, many years.

They will be missed.

There will be more said about June and Rod at a later time.

Yet they will be hard to replace.

However, we know that our CAV members will respond as they have in the past.

So on behalf of all CAV members we wish June and Rod well for the future.

Our immediate task now is to canvas our members to find suitable candidates for Secretary and Treasurer and other Committee positions for the remainder of 2021 and into 2022.

It is therefore an appropriate time for your Committee to take stock and plan for the future. In football terms, we see ourselves in 'rebuild' mode, which means it will be an exciting time for the CAV as we continue our important work into the future.

Members should think about putting their name forward and those that do should note that your Committee will continue to meet via Zoom in the future, as this has been very successful. It also saves having to drive to Oakleigh as well!

All being well we plan to sign the MOU and transport our library materials from our shed at Oakleigh to the Castlemaine Historical Association on 11th May.

If you can give us a hand either at Oakleigh or up at Castlemaine please give us a ring and we will

provide you with the appropriate information. I believe that 2021 is an exciting time for the Cornish Association of Victoria as we move into a new COVID-normal era, making use of technology to further enhance our objectives.

I'm hoping to see as many of you as is possible at our meeting in May.

'Oll an Gwella'

Ken Peak  
President  
Cornish Association of Victoria

### CAV Meetings 2021

The first three meetings for 2021 have all be held via Zoom and have proved to be of great interest to those in attendance.

Special thanks to our presenters - Brian Rollason , Neil Thomas and Helen Dwyer - who gave us wonderfully prepared and interesting presentations.

Presenting via Zoom is a little unnerving, as you are unable to gauge the reactions of your audience, as it is very hard to flick through all the faces to see if anyone is sleeping, but all three presentations have been terrific.

At the **February Meeting**, **Brian Rollason** spoke and illustrated two walks that he had undertaken on a visit to Cornwall -

*Two Cliff Top Walks: From Rinsey Cove to Trevavis Head and from Godrevy Point to Portreath*

The first walk covered an old copper mining area which was active in the 1850s.

The copper veins are from the metamorphic aureole formed when batholiths intruded into the sedimentary rocks and are situated on the cliffs.



The wheal engines were built on the cliffs and the mine tunnels were under the sea. The two mines were Wheal Prosper and Wheal Trevavis which produced over 17500 tons of copper before the mine was eventually flooded and abandoned in 1846. The remains of the engine houses



are a stark reminder of both the ingenuity of the Cornish miners and the hardships they had to suffer as miners.

In contrast, walking with Brian, we moved over to North Cornwall with lower cliffs and magnificent beaches.

Godrevy Lighthouse was built to warn ships of the dangerous reef known as The Stones off St Ives.



On the walk Brian and Jane were fortunate to see a pair of Cornish choughs which have been reintroduced to Cornwall. These birds are similar to crows but have distinctive red legs and a red beak.

Other wild life were the Atlantic grey seals basking on the beaches below the cliffs. These seals are now found along the west coast of Britain and are increasing in numbers.

Brian and Jane also visited one of the restaurants of one of Cornwall's most famous chefs, Rick Stein, and we were treated to pictures of the food which he cooks. Unfortunately the "pudding" of sticky date pudding and double Cornish clotted cream was eaten before a photograph was taken.

At the **March Meeting**, Neil Thomas shared photos of a visit to Cornwall - *Around Cornwall*.. Continuing on from a previous talk, Neil showed photos of many familiar Cornwall locations beginning at St Piran's Oratory.



Legend has it that St Piran landed on Perran beach from his native Ireland and built the oratory in the Irish style. The first oratory was probably built of wattle and daub and replaced in stone at a later date. The oratory was very simple in plan and was barely 30 feet (9.1 m) long. Local community groups have established a fund for re-excavation of the site which began in early 2014.

Nearby is St Piran's Cross (believed to be the earliest recorded stone cross in Cornwall). It stands in the dunes between the oratory site and the graveyard of the old church. It is dedicated to tanners and miners and stands 8 feet (2.4 m) high

At St Senara's Church at Zennor there is a 15th-century carved pew-end that shows a mermaid. Legend has it that a mermaid had come to church every Sunday to hear the choir sing, and her own voice was so sweet that she enticed Mathey Trewella, son of the churchwarden, to go away with her; neither was seen again on dry land. Supposedly the famed "mermaid chair" was the same bench on which the mermaid had sat and sung, opposite Trewella who was singing in the loft.

Hanging on the trees nearby to the Church were some cloots/clooties - pieces of cloth - these were also found near Madron Well. Madron Well housed a spring which up to the 18th century provided a water supply for Madron and Penzance. This spring was a sacred Celtic then Christian site said to have healing powers. At Madron Well the clootie practice is to tie the cloth to the tree and as it rots the ailment is believed to disappear.

Along his journey Neil met a couple who were also looking for Cornish ancient stones and he was very grateful to them at Boscawen Un which was proving difficult to discover. Although they had this site on their phone map they still had to ask a farmer for directions.



Boscawen Un is believed to be a very important Bronze Age ceremonial site. (c2400 BC) and is one of three sites where a Gorsedd of poetry was held. Neil was later reminded that this was the site of the first revived Cornish Gorsedd ceremony which was held at this site in 1928.

A visit to the Rotary Shelter Box depot in Helston was a highlight for Neil as his Rotary Club had purchased some boxes for around \$1 000 to be shipped for when there is a disaster. The boxes consist of enough items to maintain a family for six months and contain things like powdered food, water purifiers, tent, bedding, mosquito nets etc.



A visit to Chun Quoit and nearby Chun Castle Hill Fort were special. Chun Quoit is believed to have been built



around 4000 – 5000 years ago and roughly the same age as the Pyramids at Giza.

Chun Castle is an Iron Age hill fort. (3rd C BC - 1st C AD)

Roughly circular, the fort consists of two stone walls, each measuring nearly three metres high and surrounded by an external ditch, enclosing the remains of several round houses and one oval house, which may represent a later, post-Roman, phase of occupation.

Locals used the water from a well within the inner walls of the fort right up until the 1940s, and water remains in the well to this day even during dry spells. It was used for domestic purposes and for superstitious reasons.

Pagans still make pilgrimages to Chun Castle on days of religious significance.

Much of the original stonework was used in buildings in Penzance and Madron

Neil showed many photos of prominent Cornish landmarks included Men an Tol, Carn Euny and its Fogou and the Merry Maidens.

At the **April meeting, Helen Dwyer** shared her experiences of walking the Kokoda Track three years ago.

Along with her friend, Lynette, also from Yarram, Helen joined sixteen other walkers from across Australia, and fifty four porters from PNG, as they walked the ninety-six kilometres (sixty miles) along the Track.



The track runs from Owers' Corner in Central Province about 50 kilometres (31 mi) east of Port Moresby, across rugged, mountainous and isolated terrain to the small village of Kokoda in Oro Province.

It reaches a height of 2,490 metres (8,169 ft) as it passes around the peak of Mt Bellamy.



Before embarking on this adventure with *Adventure Kokoda*, all members had to undergo intensive training and pass medical and fitness tests.

There were also many suggestions made by the company as to clothing and footwear suitable for the journey.

(if you are interested checkout the link: <https://www.kokodatreks.com/treks/trek-planning/pre-trek-preparation/physical-preparation/>)

Participants could pay extra to have their own porter carry their packs and provide individual support and Helen was delighted that she had chosen this option, particularly after the first day when she was ready to quit.

Day Packs were to weigh no more than six kilograms and their actual backpack no more than eighteen kilograms.

Tents and food supplies were carried by porters and were set up before the group arrived at each stop for the night. Many of the porters wore thongs (flip flops) on their feet.

People were encouraged to walk at their own pace and Helen's friend Lynette was a slower walker and arrived some time after the others and often felt she was struggling when she looked at the others who had already rehydrated when she arrived - she became quite despondent - the group leader sent her and a couple of others off earlier one day and she was able to see the exhaustion of the 'faster' walkers as they arrived at their destination which lifted her spirits.

Helen's talk included many photos showing the countryside they were travelling through - interspersed with these were photos she had found comparing conditions soldiers had walked through during the 2nd World War.

She included photos of villagers and children and at one village she joined in a game of Aussie Rules footy with the children.

Most of the PNG villagers, however, were rugby players and fans.



Located near Isurava is Conn's Rock or the Surgeon's Stone commemorating the deeds of Con Vapp.

Isurava was the site of intense fighting for four days in August 1942 and was where Private Bruce Kingsbury, who was awarded a post humous Victoria Cross for forcing the Japanese to retreat back into the jungle, was killed by a Japanese sniper.



There is an Australian Memorial at Isurava opened by Australian Prime Minister John Howard in August 2002 to commemorate 60 years since the ferocious Battle in 1942. It was erected in remembrance of all those Australians and Papua New Guineans who fought and those who died on the Kokoda Track in 1942

Four pillars with the words ENDURANCE, MATESHIP, COURAGE and SACRIFICE epitomise those who fought in PNG.



A visit to the Bomana War Cemetery, about 20 kilometres north of Port Moresby was a sobering experience.

Helen was able to locate the grave of Bruce Kingsbury VC.



## NEWS FROM OUR COUNTRY COUSINS

### Ballarat

Ballarat members have gathered for two meetings this year - the first in February via Zoom and the second in April at the Uniting Church Hall in Skipton Street.

Robyn Coates spoke at the **February Meeting** on Thomas Curnow, The School Teacher Hero at Glenrowan.

Thomas Curnow was born in Cornwall on 4th June 1855 and baptised on 23rd December 1855 at Gwennap. His parents were Thomas Curnow and Ann (formerly Trewartha). Thomas, his father, was a copper miner and had married Ann in 1852. A sister to Thomas, Ellen, was born in Cornwall c 1852. The arrival date in Australia of Thomas, Ann, Ellen and Thomas is unknown but Thomas and Ann are present in Ballarat from 1857 as the birth of a daughter is recorded - six other children were born in the Ballarat area.

Thomas studied to be teacher in the 1870s and in July 1876 he was appointed Head Teacher at State School 1742 in the township of Glenrowan, a small town in a farming district located about 220 kilometres north east of Melbourne. Thomas Curnow was married on 1st July 1878 to Jean Isabella Mortimer, a local woman.

Into this peaceful life came the infamous Kelly gang who had family living not far from Glenrowan and who had grown up in the area, so knew the district and its hideouts well.

They were wanted for armed robberies throughout Victoria and NSW and also for murder. They had set up in the Glenrowan Hotel.

Thomas Curnow very bravely waved down the train carrying the police, sent to Glenrowan to arrest the Kelly Gang, warning them that the railway lines had been removed. When the attempt to derail and ambush the police train failed, Kelly and his gang engaged in a final violent confrontation with the Victoria Police at Glenrowan on 28th June 1880 resulting in a few deaths. Ned Kelly and his gang were subsequently arrested.

Thomas Curnow received a monetary reward and a Medal from the Victorian Humane Society. He asked for and received a transfer back to Ballarat where he continued his teaching career and community involvement until his retirement in 1915.

He died in 1922 and is buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.

Our **April meeting** was held at the Skipton Street Hall - the first 'in person' meeting since March 2020. Keith Lanyon was our speaker and his topic was Pirates.

Today the term pirate has a certain 'romance' about it and pirates are often portrayed as dashing and charming rather than as the villains they were. We have '*Talk like a Pirate day*'; we enjoy the tales associated with Daphne Du Maurier in *Jamaica Inn* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* and some enjoy Johnny Depp in *Pirates of the Caribbean* and these together with treasure maps, secrets and bravado seem to be more prevalent than tales of bad, mean men and women causing great harm and destruction.

All piracy is related to theft typically with the aim of stealing valuable goods – people for slavery or hostage/ransom, cargo, valuable metals and jewels and even vessels.

Pirate Alley is an area off the coast of Somalia which is well known for piracy, as ships prepare to go through or have been through the Suez Canal. Keith saw Pirate Alley from a surveillance aircraft whilst on deployment with the RAAF.

Another notorious area for piracy is the Strait of Malacca, (between Singapore/Malaysia and Sumatra) used heavily for trade originally between the East Indies and the Indian Ocean but now China and the Indian Ocean.

Many ships, as a result, now have areas which are fortified and where the captain and crew can shelter safely until rescued.

Probably the first pirates were the Vikings who were fierce warriors from southern Scandinavia and who terrorized Europe from the late 700s to about 1100. The Vikings not only raided and pillaged property but also took people as slaves, particularly women.

For over 300 years, European countries were at the mercy of Barbary pirates from the coast of North Africa. Their aim was to capture slaves for the Arab slave markets in North Africa.

Privateers had the approval of their sovereign or government to carry on all forms of hostility permissible at sea and carried a letter stating that. This included attacking foreign vessels and settlements. Francis Drake and Jack Hawkins became heroes.



With the ever increasing taxes on tea, alcohol and tobacco, to fund the various war efforts, in England, ordinary people were frustrated and many did turn their hand at smuggling in Cornwall.

With its many inlets and caves and its rugged coastline, it was an ideal area to elude the excise officers. France and in particular Brittany were very close and many Cornish men were good sailors and could travel easily across the waters.

Penzance has a hotel, the *Admiral Benbow*, and atop this hotel is a carving of Octavius Lanyon, supposedly firing at the revenue men who were after his crew for illegal imports.

There are stories that ships were lured deliberately onto the coastal rocks but whether there is any truth in these is unknown.

The Cornish coastline was also the cause of many shipwrecks and Cornish locals would often help themselves to the goods washed ashore.

Robyn Coates

## Geelong

With ongoing COVID restrictions the Geelong Branch is unable to meet at the Uniting Church where we used to meet.

So for the second time, we met for our meeting held in March at the Portarlington Golf Club.

Once again a very pleasant afternoon was had by current and past members.

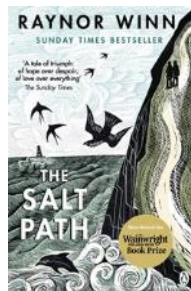
Due to the Kernewek Lowender in May, our next meeting, the AGM, will be brought back one week to May 12th - venue yet to be decided.

Neil Thomas.  
Branch Chairman

## The Salt Path

A few weeks ago, Neil Thomas sent me an email suggesting a book he thought I might enjoy.

The book was 'The Salt Path' written by Raynor Winn.



Often sceptical about book recommendations from others, I knew that Neil and I had often discussed books and so on Neil's recommendation I went to my local bookshop and purchased the book.

It was a very easy read and one I thoroughly enjoyed. I am now looking forward to reading the sequel, 'The Wild Silence'.

The story began in 2013 when Raynor Winn and her husband, of 32 years, Moth, were evicted from their farm in Wales.

Some years earlier, they had been persuaded by an old friend of Moth's to invest in a company. When the company failed, the couple were told that the contract they had signed made them liable for the debts, and that their house and land would be sold to help pay the creditors.

Not only did they lose their home, but also their livelihood.

At the time, Winn and Moth lived on their farm in Wales, which they had restored and turned into a holiday rental business.

A three-year legal battle followed where they thought they had won after producing proof they were not liable. However, the judge in their hearing refused to accept new evidence in their Appeal Hearing because it had not been submitted through the proper channels and given that they had no more money to continue appealing, they lost the case due to a technicality.

The couple, in their mid- fifties were given less than a week to pack up and leave their family home of twenty years.

Around the same time, they visited their doctor to hear the results from the endless medical tests that Moth had been undergoing.

The news was not good and he was diagnosed with a rare, terminal brain disease.

The doctor told them the average life expectancy was six to eight years and by then it had already been six years since Moth's symptoms first appeared. The prognosis was not good and they were told that Moth would experience worsening problems with his movement, speech, memory and swallowing.

Undeterred and with an extremely positive attitude, they made the decision to walk the South West Coast Path from Minehead to Poole through Somerset, North Devon, Cornwall, South Devon and Dorset.

With virtually no money (other than a tax credit bank deposit of £48 per week), a tent bought on eBay, two very thin sleeping bags and minimal food, clothing and camping gear, plus a Paddy Dillon guide to the South West Coast, they walked the 630 mile track with many encounters along the way. Many people were doing sections but few were bush camping as were Moth and Ray.



Some people were quite hostile when it was discovered they were homeless, whilst others offered kindness and support and were very encouraging and helpful - some wonderful friendships were made.

I admired their tenacity and their hope that through all the trials that were thrown to them they would survive.

I don't want to spoil the story for those who may choose to read the book.

Whilst we had never walked the South West Track, we had visited many of the places mentioned in the book and it stirred many wonderful memories of the South West Coastline.

Robyn Coates



## CORNISH HOUSE - HIGH STREET PRESTON



Harvey's Grocery Store, Preston. 626 High Street, Preston - Harvey (1904 - 1941).

Joseph Harvey arrived in Preston around 1893/94 and established himself as a grocer on the west side of High Street near Station Street.

He was to remain there until 1904 when he relocated to 624-626 High Street, almost directly across the road.

There had been grocers around this site from at least 1894 when James Holmes had a shop there. Harvey's new premises was a substantial two storey brick building, rivalling nearby Wood's store and called *Cornwall House*.

Typically for grocers at that time it supplied a wide variety of products including chaff and grain for livestock, flour, and baked goods for the home and even a tempting array of clothes and materials for the ladies.

The Harvey family continued to operate the store until the end of the Second World War. Under a succession of different owners it continued to operate for as a grocer for many years. By 1971 it was a TAB and in later years was a real estate agents.

The former store and residence has been classified by the Heritage Council of Victoria  
Information from <https://heritage.darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au>

The former J. Harvey Grocery Store and residence, also known as Cornwall House, constructed c.1895, at 626-8 High Street, Preston.

It is a late-Victorian/Federation two-storey rendered brick building with two hipped roofs clad in corrugated galvanised steel sheeting, partially concealed from the street by a low rendered brick parapet with a horizontal console-type motif along its top.

The roof of 626 High Street is slightly higher, as its shop is wider.

There are two brick chimneys on 628 High Street.

The ground floor of the west (High Street) elevation has been modified with the replacement of the original shopfront and verandah shown in early photos, however, but the upper level of this elevation retains its original window openings.

A cornice with vermiculated mouldings at its ends, and its centre, extends across the facade between the ground and first floor, directly above an awning. There is also a cornice that projects from the building at the base of the parapet.

The building has a landmark quality, particularly when viewed from Regent Street, closing the vista of this street where it intersects with High Street.

The east (rear) elevation has early painted signage 'J. Harvey Grocer', the early occupants of the building.



Apart from minor modifications to the chimneys and additions at the ground floor level, the rear section containing the residences remains very intact.

**PRESTON GENERAL SUPPLY STORE.**

**J. HARVEY,**  
Cash & Family GROCER, High Street, PRESTON,  
Invites attention for a few leading lines:

New Ling Fish, 5½d lb, by fish	12lbs Sugar, 2/3
Prime Cod Fish, 5½d lb.	2lbs Sugar, 4½d
Salmon, 6d and 8½d	25lbs Flour, 2/-
Morton's Herrings, 4½d	2lb tin Marmalade, 6d
Salt Herrings, 1/3 doz.	Preserved Pineapples, 6½d
Sardines, 3½d	1lb Candles, 4½d
Tongues, 1/-	2lbs Salt, 1d
Ox Cheek, 5½d tin	Foros, 7½d pkt.
Potted Meats, 1½d	S.S. Starch, 4½d lb.
Bloater Paste, 1d	Try our own blend of Tea, 1/-, 1/3, 1/6

**GIVEN AWAY.**—Cup and Saucer with 1lb. Anten Blend 1/3 Tea.  
Lowest Prices for Bran, Chaff, and Oats.

Johnson's Block Cake, 6d lb. Goods delivered daily. Best Bread, 4d large loaf.

Address: High Street (opposite Regent St.), Preston.



<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/27285>

**HARVEY, Joseph**  
Joseph Harvey was born in 1853 in St Just in Penwith, Cornwall the son of Joseph Harvey and Christiana nee Eddy.  
Joseph died April 1906 in Preston, Victoria.

In 1873 in Madron, Cornwall he married Susannah / Susan nee Thomas.  
She was born in 1854 in St Just, the daughter of

Archelaus Thomas and Mary.  
She died 16th December 1930 in Preston, Victoria.

The children of Joseph and Susan were:  
Joseph (1874 Cornwall-),  
John Thomas (Cornwall-),  
Mary Ann (1876 Cornwall-),  
John Thomas (1878 Cornwall -1958 Richmond),  
Helena Anna (1880 Cornwall -1976),  
John Thomas (c1879 Cornwall- ),  
Archelaus Harold Thomas (1885 Bendigo- 1887 ),  
Helena Albertha Thomas (1887 Bendigo - 1976),  
Archelaus Thomas (1890 Preston - 1892),  
Elizabeth Ellen (1892 Preston - 1924),  
Beatrice May (1894 Preston - 1894)  
Joseph Hector (1900 Preston-1925 Preston, Vic.).

Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946),  
Saturday 5 May 1906  
*HARVEY.*—On the 27th April, at his residence, "Cornwall-house," Highest root, Preston, Joseph, the dearly beloved husband of Susan, and beloved father of J.T., J., H.J., L., and E. Harvey, aged 68 years.

The Argus – 28th April 1906.  
*HARVEY - The Friends of the late Mr. JOSEPH HARVEY are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Coburg Cemetery. The funeral is appointed to move from his residence, Cornwall-house, High-street, Preston, To-morrow (Sunday, 29th inst.), at 3 o'clock punctually. WILLIAM GEORGE APPS, Undertaker, Fitzroy and Moor streets, Fitzroy. Telephone 1045.*

The Argus – 27th April 1908.  
*In loving remembrance of our beloved father Joseph Harvey, dearly loved husband of Susan Harvey, who died at Cornwall House, High Street, Preston April 17, 1900 aged 55 years.*

The Age – 17th December 1930.  
*HARVEY – On the 16th December at "Cornwall House" High Street, Preston, Susan Harvey, loving wife of Joseph (deceased); loved mother of J. T. (Caulfield); James (Preston); and Lena (Mrs Werso, Hurstbridge); and Lily and Hector (deceased). Aged 76 years.*

Leanne Lloyd



## In Memory of Dear Little Jack

An essay on the Harvey Family History and the locality of Towaninnie.

By Tom and Libby Luke

What you are about to read will prove to "One and All" that truth is really "Stranger than Fiction".

This story commences with our determination to follow up independently and together the story of our ancestors called "family history".

Both of us have a very strong Cornish background. Our ancestors with their knowledge of Hard Rock Mining and Steam Winding Machinery in Cornwall found this expertise in demand in the newly discovered Gold fields in the State of Victoria here in Australia.

From 1852 onwards Bendigo became the World and Australia's premier Goldfield reaching its zenith in the 1870s.

With their mining expertise also coupled with the dire economic situation in Cornwall, the Cornish came to Bendigo in their thousands.

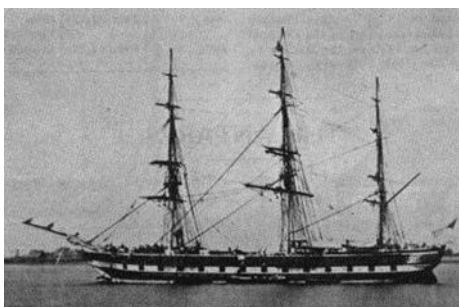
Over 200 of the mining managers were native born Cornishmen.

They were also the largest ethnic group in several other goldfields of Victoria.

A Cornish song says it all:

*"Wherever there is a hole in the ground,  
that's where I am heading for that's where I'm bound.*

*I am leaving old Cornwall behind  
and I'm not coming back,  
follow me down Cousin Jack"*



The Ship *Cospatrick* pictured here of 1199 tons commanded by Master A Elmslie, departed from Plymouth on 1st December 1870 and arrived in Melbourne in March 1871 with a huge component of Cornish Miners and their families.

Tom's family the Bolithos were on board as was Libby's Great Grandmother Nanny Harvey. In fact they came together, as in Boscawell in Cornwall they lived only a couple of dwellings apart. Tom's family the Bolithos came direct to Sandhurst

(Bendigo) whilst Libby's Great grandmother went to Buninyong where she married Richard White. They eventually came to Sandhurst (Bendigo) and lived in Maple Street Golden Square. Their former home is still there and in use today.

This preamble sets the scene for an amazing story and the tie in between our families.

In the St Just in Penwith area in Cornwall, in the early 1850s, a William Harvey brother to Nanny, who was to become Libby's Great Grandmother, married a Jane Bolitho, Tom's Great Great Aunt. After the birth of two children, William emigrated to Australia and mined at Durham Lead near Buninyong and Ballarat in Victoria. His wife Jane nee Bolitho and their two children followed him to Australia arriving in 1856.

This is the background and where this story begins!

In 1986, Libby and I spent a cold and wet Saturday afternoon at the Australian Institute for Genealogical Studies Library (AIGS) in Hartwell in Melbourne looking at films hoping to find more on both of our respective ancestors.

We had the film reader booked for an hour. At 55 minutes the librarian informed us that our time allocation was about to expire and another genealogist had booked the reader.

We were then advised that if we wished to do further research on this film, we could use the reader again in an hour.

This we accepted and used the time checking out the Library reference books.

Libby researched a book on the Buninyong Cemetery.

After some time, she approached me to show me a burial record for a Walter Bolitho Harvey in Buninyong.

She enquired if I had this record in my database. My answer was "I do not know".

When we got home that evening, we checked my family records and ascertained that I did have this man in my database and that he came from a locality named Yeungroon up near Wycheproof in the Southern Mallee.

Looking at Libby's Database also showed this man coming from her Harvey Line of ancestors.

Thanks to the extensive genealogical records of the Cornish Association of Victoria we proved beyond doubt that this couple William Harvey and his wife Jane nee Bolitho were common ancestors to us



both.  
Now the scene changes!

The following Monday fired with enthusiasm we drove to the Mallee town of Wycheproof and enquired from the Council Offices re cemetery records for Wycheproof.

We sat at the home of the record keeper for a considerable time but could not find any Harveys or Bolithos.

As we were leaving the lady volunteered:  
"There is another Cemetery out at Towaninnie some 19 kilometres to the North East"  
She also informed us that the council had the Burial Register. By the time we left we were holding a photocopy of all the 106 burials at Towaninnie to that date.

We travelled on the Calder Highway North to Dumosa, then on to the Swan Hill road.  
As we were approaching the locality of Lalbert, a sign post on the driver's side said Towaninnie 6 kilometres and the fact that it was a dry weather road only.  
The storm clouds were on the horizon when we decided to chance it.

As we approached the little cemetery with the perimeter surrounded by sugar gums, we noticed that the Cemetery Gates had two large granite pillars. gold lettering on them stated:  
Gateway erected as a Memorial to the family of the late William & Jane Harvey  
Pioneers of this district



"Libby's Great, Great Uncle and Tom's Great Great Aunt"  
This definitely sent a tingle down the spine.

Inside the gate we came on to the Harvey Family Graves in reasonably good condition.  
To our surprise a good portion of the graves in the cemetery all had Cornish names like Hosking,

White, Ellis, Davy, Harvey, Holt etc.

A small Cornish settlement not near a mining area but in the Southern Mallee agricultural wheat belt of Victoria.

We have since found another Cornish descendants farming settlement near Terang in Victoria's Western District. This was settled by Cornish Agricultural Labourers who had come ashore at Point Henry near Geelong.

Whilst in Towaninnie, we visited the local farming family of Vince and Mary McNichol in their home and after a lovely afternoon tea we stood on their front verandah and were shown in the distance the area of the former Harvey Family Farm.

We were also presented with a music cassette which had a song titled the "Towaninnie Graveyard". This had been recorded by the Swan Hill Folk Museum.

We played it over and over in the car on the way back to Melbourne until we had it word and hopefully melody perfect.

Checking Victorian Birth, Death and Marriage records showed all of these Cornish People had been mining at Durham Lead, near Buninyong and Ballarat.

Our theory for this settlement goes like this.  
One morning they could have woken and one member may have said "No payable gold here and mining kills you. "They are opening up and selecting farming land in parts of rural Victoria."

They would have packed their belongings and headed North across the Great Dividing Range to the Avoca River.

Then onwards to a spot where they were told the railway would come through.  
They would have selected land and set up homes, farms school, churches and other necessities of life.  
The railhead instead went to Wycheproof and the little town of Towaninnie faded away leaving just a few farmers.

The name Towaninnie is Aboriginal meaning: "Head severed from Neck".

In Memory of Dear Little Jack Part 2

We now move this story forward another 8 years to 1993.

We had as was our regular habit participated every two years in the Cornish Festival (Kernewek Lowender) held on the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia in the towns of Moonta, Kadina and Wallaroo.

At the time of printing this it is the World's largest Cornish Festival

This year of 1993 we deviated on our way home from our usual route and travelled via Renmark, Mildura and down the Calder Highway. As we approached Dumosa we made the decision to pay a visit to Towaninnie and renew acquaintances with Vince and Mary McNicol.

Mary met us at the door of their home with the news that the whole family were down with a dreaded bout of influenza. She did however have a book she had purchased for us titled "Lalbert Reflections" by Jan and Janine Power. This wonderful history of the area greatly increased our knowledge of what Towaninnie had been and what had caused its demise. We then decided to make another visit to the Towaninnie Cemetery to visit the graves of our ancestors and discovered that although being out in the country and away from modern day pollution that the headstones had deteriorated.

We then discovered a grave with the following inscription

"In Memory of Dear Little Jack".

A further check revealed that all the words of the Chorus to "Towaninnie Graveyard" were taken from different Headstones in the Cemetery.

This gave the song further relevance.

The songwriter from the Swan Hill Historical Family Group had used the words from the Headstones to record the Chorus of the song.

The Chorus goes like this:

In memory of Dear Little Jack  
It's hard then to hold your tears back  
United forever with the Lord  
In Heaven you will find your reward.  
A Bud to bloom in Heaven the headstone records  
What a greeting what a meeting with the Lord

We have not been back to Towaninnie but have made a pledge to do so soon.  
Pioneers from the other side of the world and by the grace of God related to both of us.  
Truth is stranger than fiction.

Tom and Libby Luke August 2019.

## Stoneman family of Castlemaine

Recently I was lent a book about a giant of the grocery trade in regional Victoria entitled: *Stuart Stoneman: A life in the grocery trade*.



The history of the Stoneman family in Victoria commenced when Stuart's great grandfather, Richard Stoneman, who emigrated from Cornwall where he was a miner in 1859, settled at Fryerstown.

In 1864, Richard became part of a partnership of six local men who formed the Duke of Cornwall Quartz Mining Company. Unfortunately, the venture only lasted three years, but the legacy left behind gives us a magnificent "Cornish" engine house, now a popular tourist attraction and classified by the National Trust.

Richard's descendant, Stuart Rusden Stoneman, who was born in Castlemaine in 1927, developed a chain of shops named *Stoneman's Supermarkets* throughout regional Victoria.

Their shop in Castlemaine was the first grocery shop in country Victoria to introduce self serving. This new method of shopping led to a group of grocery suppliers that became the brand SSW (Self-Service Wholesalers). He was to become chairman of the group.

Stuart was a strong supporter of community activities in Castlemaine and became the Chairman of Trustees of the Castlemaine Art Gallery. There is a gallery there called the Stoneman Gallery in his honour.

He retired to the historic property, *Duneira*, at Mount Macedon in 1992. Upon his death in 2002 he left *Duneira* to the public. The S.R. Stoneman Foundation was established to care and maintain the property for the public to enjoy.

The Stoneman Foundation also benefits the Library at Trinity College Melbourne University, Christ Church of England Castlemaine and the Castlemaine Art Gallery.

Neil Thomas

### **World leaders will be welcomed to Cornwall by Cornish creative projects**

The Prime Minister will be choosing a poem and works of art submitted by young people in Cornwall to create a card to welcome world leaders to the G7 Summit in June.

Cornwall Council has teamed up with the Cabinet Office to launch two competitions: one for primary aged children and the other for secondary aged children.

The younger age group will be invited to submit artwork around the theme of climate change and preserving biodiversity.

The older age group will be asked to write a poem on the same subjects.

All the entries will be assessed by a judging panel in Cornwall before Downing Street has the final say on the winner.

The project is being coordinated with the support of Kernow Education Arts Partnership (KEAP), Pictures must be at least A4 in size and poems are open to creativity.

### **New Song for G7 Summit**

World-renowned lyricist Sir Tim Rice has written a new song to mark Cornwall's hosting this summer's G7 summit of world leaders.

Sir Tim – famous for musicals such as Evita and Jesus Christ Superstar as well as Disney epics such as The Lion King – has written the song, Gee Seven, with Peter Hobbs.

Primary school teachers across Cornwall are being urged to get children involved in singing the song in time for the summit in June.

To inspire thousands of children to take part, Truro Cathedral choristers have been filmed performing the song at the city's cathedral.

The building was transformed into a Covid-safe film set as 35 choristers joined Sir Tim and a professional film crew of seven – working for free – in navigating the challenges of social distancing to capture footage for the short film.

The film captures Truro Cathedral choristers singing the new song, written especially for them, by Sir Tim, who has a home at Helford and is the choristers' patron.

The song has been specially arranged by Joseph Wicks.

### **The unassuming Cornish hut that gained national importance 100 years ago**

100 years ago, on April 30, 1921, following five years of continuous measurement, Ordnance Survey took

their final sea level reading from inside an unassuming little hut in Cornwall.

This measurement, along with the data gathered over the previous years, would be used to calculate heights of the hills, cliffs and mountains of Great Britain.

At the end of a pier, sidled up to a lighthouse which marks the entrance to one of the UK's busiest fishing ports, this hut hides its vital national role that was governed by the Official Secrets Act for almost 70 years.

Behind the locked door and bolted steel shutters, people inside have weathered storms, witnessed tsunamis, scaled our highest mountains and documented climate change.

It could easily be mistaken for another fish shed, but for 100 years, this small concrete hut in Newlyn harbour, Cornwall, has been the home of mean sea level, from which all height measurements in mainland Britain begin.

Read more at:

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/gallery/unassuming-cornish-hut-gained-national-5311985>

### **Covid hospital numbers fall to lowest total for more than six months**

The number of patients in hospital in Cornwall following a positive Covid-19 test is at the lowest level for more than six months.

As of Tuesday morning (April 13), there were just two patients across the county in hospital after a positive test, the lowest number since October 3. Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust units had two patients, which is the lowest for that Trust since October 22, while the Cornish Partnership Trust had no patients in its hospitals following a positive test for the first time since November 3.

In the last month, there have only been two hospital deaths in Cornwall, both at RCH, with one on March 19 and one on April 4.

### **High Sheriff Awards**

From ward managers to hospital chaplains, IT specialists to volunteers, more than 20 members of staff from all departments of the NHS were rewarded as Unsung Heroes by the High Sheriff of Cornwall recently.

As covid-19 restrictions were lifted to allow members of the public to meet outside in groups of six, 22 people were presented with certificates and heard the praise and appreciation of colleagues at a socially distanced ceremony in the chapel at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro.



During the pandemic, High Sheriff, Kate Holborow launched the High Sheriff Unsung Hero Awards to recognise “those who work behind the scenes – and with small acts of everyday kindness, dedication and selflessness go above and beyond to play such a crucial role in our communities”.

### **Cornwall Council Elections**

Local elections are set to take place in early May with Cornwall Council elections as well as elections for the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner.

While election notices were posted for almost all town and parish councils in Cornwall, there will only be elections for those which have more candidates standing than seats available.

This year, for the first time, the council will be made up of 87 councillors, reduced from the current 123 following a boundary review by the Government.

With the reduction the list of candidates has shown some areas where current Cornwall councillors will be facing off against each other.

A complete list of those seeking election can be found here:

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/19228531.names-candidates-every-cornwall-council-election-division-2021/>

### **Smoking and Poverty**

Thousands of households in Cornwall could be lifted out of poverty if they stopped smoking according to public health officials.

Smokefree Cornwall has published its latest annual report which shows that smoking costs Cornwall £117.3 million a year.

Officials said that 24% of households with a smoker are living in poverty and if they quit then more than 3 000 households would be lifted out of poverty.

The shocking figures were revealed in a presentation given to the Cornwall Council Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Health and Wellbeing Board also heard that more people in Cornwall are smokers than the south west and the rest of the country - 15.2% of adults in Cornwall smoke compared to 14% across the wider south west and 13.9% in England.

Surveys have also found that routine and manual workers in Cornwall are two-and-a-half times more likely to smoke than those in other jobs with 30.5% of them smokers.

Smokefree Cornwall says that every year more than 900 deaths in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are caused by smoking and that there are currently 63 000 smokers in Cornwall.

### **Solar Farms**

There are plans for two solar farms to be built next to the A30 in Cornwall.

Statkraft, a large generator of renewable energy, is evaluating land on either side of the dual carriageway outside Indian Queens for the developments.

Statkraft said both sites have been carefully chosen for their potential to deliver high levels of solar-powered electricity to the grid.

The land identified is at White Cross - between White Cross and St Columb Road, south of the A392 - and at Treviscoe - west of St Dennis and north of Central Treviscoe, on fields between Treviscoe and the B3279.

Subject to planning permission, they would be named White Cross solar energy farm and Treviscoe solar energy farm.

The 75-hectare site at White Cross solar energy farm could generate over 51 gigawatt hours of electricity per year - which is enough to power over 14,000 homes.

Statkraft also propose to install an 18MW battery for each solar project.

This would be located at a separate site opposite the Indian Queens substation, where both projects will be connecting into the local grid.

The batteries can store the electricity from the solar panels as well as be used to provide support services to the National Grid.

### **Shellfish to Brittany**

Recently it was agreed that Brittany Ferries will regularly travel to Cornwall to take stocks of fish, crabs, lobster, oysters and other Cornish produce to Roscoff, in Brittany.

Brittany is a major importer of Cornish seafood – as well as being hugely popular in Breton restaurants, fish and shellfish is transported by wholesalers in Brittany to other parts of France.

Following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Cornwall Council and Brittany Council officers from both authorities will now work together on the logistics of the export plan – the EU policy side of which will largely be handled by Brittany. The export of Cornish goods could start soon.

Either Newlyn, Falmouth or Looe will be the destination for the Brittany freight ferry, but which Cornish harbour has yet to be determined.

Cornish Tid Bits are sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, , CornwallLive,

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.**

**Saturday 17th July 2021**

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Cornish Association of Victoria, Inc. to be held at the Oakleigh Baptist Church, Oakleigh, at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday 17th July 2021.

The ordinary business of the meeting will be:

- To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 10th October 2020
- To receive the report of the President.
- To elect Officers of the Association and ordinary members of the committee.
- To receive and adopt the financial statements submitted by the Treasurer in accordance with section 94 (1) of the Act.
- Other business, of which 14 days notice has been given to the Secretary, prior to the meeting.

**Committee Nominations**

The closing date for nominations for the Committee is 6.00 p.m. 3rd July 2021, and these must be received by the Secretary, June Whiffin, prior to that date.

Nomination Forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

In the event of an election being necessary for the position of Committee Member (a total of 13 Committee Members are allowed) voting will take place between 1.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m.

Voting will be by show of hands, unless otherwise requested by the candidate.

Each member is entitled to appoint another member as a proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the A.G.M.

Members nominating are invited to forward to the Secretary, a short resume of details applicable to their nomination, at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

This information will be made available when candidates are individually introduced at the meeting.

June Whiffin,  
Secretary, C.A.V.,  
19 Monash Grove,  
Blackburn South 3130

Email: [jwh30198@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jwh30198@bigpond.net.au)