

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Dyth da. Fatla genes?

As the end of my Presidency draws to its close, I would like to thank all members of our Association for the privilege of being the President of the Cornish Association.



When I joined the Association back in 1986, I was amazed at the knowledge displayed by the members espousing their Cornish heritage.

The love of Cornwall was in the hearts of all those who I conversed with and the pride they showed of their visits. I did not think that I would ever join those illustrious members who had taken on the role of President and I am grateful that they were instrumental in ensuring the Association continued going even though we faced difficult times during the Covid pandemic.

We have joined in with the other Celtic groups in the various Celtic gatherings and shown that we are indeed a group that is worthy to be included.

Unfortunately, my health managed to interfere with some of the activities over the past two years but as I am now back to full remission I hope to continue to help out.

Jane and I also planned our cruise along the Kimberly coastline and it was decided that we would postpone the Annual General Meeting for July until August.

We again hope to see as many of you as possible to the meeting at the Darebin North West Uniting Church but we will also be holding it on Zoom.

Perhaps members can be in touch with each other and see if any car pooling or giving lifts to the meeting can occur.

I will also be giving a talk on the Fox family of Falmouth and I am sure some of you have visited the gardens which they established at Glendurgan, Trebah, Penjerrick and the Rosehill gardens in Falmouth itself.

As the meeting is to be held this month you still have time to nominate for the Committee as we still need to increase our numbers.

If you are unable to come please make sure that you are able to join us on Zoom as we do need a quorum to ensure that the meeting complies with all regulations.

We will continue to provide a variety of speakers and continue to our experience with Zoom especially inviting other Cornish Associations to share their interesting talks.



## CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.

### NEWSLETTER No. 153

August 2025

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A

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### Membership Fees

Single: \$40.00  
Family: \$60.00  
Life Single: \$400.00  
Life Family: \$600.00

**Cornish Tid Bits** may be sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, CornwallLive, Kresen Kernow, Wikipedia



**Saturday 16th August** - Annual General Meeting 1.30 pm - see notice on page 3 - the speaker will be Brian Rollason, *The Fox Family from Falmouth*.

BYO lunch at 12 noon and a plate of afternoon tea to share.

**Saturday 20th September** - it is hoped to have Alistair McInnes as the speaker - Alistair has been walking the South West Path of Cornwall and has also been in Brittany.

**Saturday 11th October** - Geelong Tour - this will be in conjunction with the Ballarat Group. We will meet at Geelong branch's normal meeting place at 10.45am at the Geelong East Uniting Church, 195 Ormond Rd, East Geelong - next to the East Geelong Cemetery. Drive to Point Henry, return to church hall, 12.15 pm for a pizza lunch.

Car pool to Wesley Church, Customs House, City Hall, Return to church hall about 3.45. There is a memorial plaque to Rev. Francis Tuckfield at Wesley Church. The City Hall was designed by Cornishman, Joseph Reed and the Customs House was built by Cornishman, William Crocker Cornish.

If you are interested, in Ballarat please contact Keith Lanyon (0411 512 160) and in Melbourne please contact Brian Rollason (9563 7189)

**Saturday 18th October** - this will be a zoom only meeting - the speaker will be Judy Wright whose topic will be *Hayle Copper and J & F Pool Ltd*

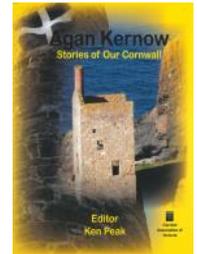
**Wednesday 19th November** - visit to St Erth Garden in Blackwood - see further notice on page 3

**December** - a Christmas Function - TBA

### Agan Kernow

The purchase price is \$25 Australian plus the appropriate postage.

For overseas postage rates speak with Robyn Coates 0419 551 320



This is a 262-page book of 76 stories by 51 authors from across the Cornish diaspora.

### CAV NEWSLETTER

The CAV Newsletter is distributed via email and in some cases by mail. Deadline for contributions for the next issue: 18th October 2025

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

Please include pictures or tables as a separate file. The email address for the CAV Newsletter - [robyncoates@hotmail.com](mailto:robyncoates@hotmail.com) Please mark - Article for CAV Newsletter.

### 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.

Evelyn's details are:

Ph: 0417 160 658  
[ejo65074@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ejo65074@bigpond.net.au)

It is also very exciting to see that the Cornish singing group “the Fisherman’s Friends “are coming to Australia and they will be performing at the Brunswick Ballroom, Costa Hall, Palais Theatre, St Kilda and Frankston Arts Centre, Frankston. Make sure you go to see the group for an evening of Cornish songs and sea shanties.

I am sure you all enjoyed the singing of Elizabeth Freeborn who now lives in Falmouth and would love you to pop in to say hello.

Finally, a big thank you to Ken, our secretary, for all the work he has done over the year under very difficult times and to Robyn for helping out.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the AGM and welcoming Ron Hawken as our next President.

Oll an gwella,  
Brian



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025**

### **CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.**

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Cornish Association of Victoria, Inc. to be held at the Darebin Northwest Uniting Church, 399A Murray Road, West Preston, at 1.30 p.m. on **Saturday 16th August 2025**

The ordinary business of the meeting will be:  
To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 20th July 2024  
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.  
To discuss the future operation of the Association in 2025 and beyond.  
Other business, of which 14 days’ notice has been given to the Secretary, prior to the meeting.

#### **Committee Members**

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 AGM.

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

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

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### **St Erth Gardens in Blackwood**

We are hoping to visit St Erth Gardens and Nursery in Blackwood on **Wednesday 19th November**. This would be in place of the meeting which would normally be held on Saturday 22nd November.

Blackwood is an historic gold mining town within the Lerderderg State Park and Wombat State Forest and is located about 89 kilometres northwest of Melbourne, off the Western Highway (M8), The reason for a midweek outing is that the weekends are very busy.

The cost is \$15 per person and \$20 if you wish to do a tour with a guide.  
A small café is located on site and an outdoor eating area if you wanted to BYO lunch.  
If you are a Digger Foundation Member entry is free.

The original sandstone cottage. still standing, at St Erth, was built by Matthew Rogers, a Cornish stonemason.  
He and his wife arrived in Victoria aboard the Ship *Geelong* on 11th August 1854.  
Michael and Mary Ann were married at Phillack in 1852 and both were living at Bodriggy. Michael was baptized at St Erth and Mary at Phillack.  
Matthew, his father and Mary’s father are all listed as stone masons.

After a short time mining at Clunes, they settled at Blackwood. Matthew did very well from his gold ventures and was a generous benefactor to the area. They had no children of their own but adopted a young woman named Elizabeth (Lizzie).  
There is a huge memorial in the local cemetery.

Mary Ann Rogers died on 27th August 1896, aged 68 years.  
Matthew Rogers died on 6th January 1902 aged 77 years.



Tommy and Penny Garnett purchased the property they named The Garden of St Erth in 1967, moving there to live permanently in 1973.

Tommy had been principal of Geelong Grammar and he and his wife worked tirelessly to create the garden.

Tommy was also Gardening Editor for the Age newspaper.

In 1996, The Diggers Foundation took on the garden .

If you would like to attend, please let Brian Rollason know by 15th October.

His details are on page 2.

More details closer to the date.

### **Obituary for Mrs Mary Ann Rogers**

Kyneton Observer (Vic. : 1856 - 1900), Tuesday 1 September 1896, page 3

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article240665342>

TRENTHAM - (From Our Correspondent.)  
Monday.

One of the largest funerals ever witnessed in this district was seen on Sunday last at Blackwood, when the remains of the late Mrs Mary Rogers, wife of Mr Matthew Rogers, were interred in the Blackwood cemetery.

The coffin was literally covered with beautiful wreaths sent 'by friends locally, and from Malmsbury and Bendigo.

Prior to the coffin, which was made of polished oak, being carried out of the late residence of the deceased, a short service was conducted by the Rev Wesley Johns, assisted by " Major" Roberts. the hymn " Shall We Gather at the River?" being sung most feelingly by the large number of friends in attendance.

A number of relatives of the deceased walked on foot beside the hearse, which was followed by two mourning coaches and a long line of vehicles.

A large number of people were present in the Cemetery, the deceased lady being respected by one and all in the neighbourhood.

The service at the grave was performed by die Rev Wesley Johns, assisted by Major Roberts, and the hymn " Safe in the Arms of Jesus" was sung.

The coffin was lowered into the family vault, which was only completed a few days ago.

Mr T. W. Ross, of Kyneton, supervised the mortuary arrangements very efficiently.

On Sunday evening the Rev Wesley Johns conducted a funeral service in the Wesleyan Church, Simmon's Reef, in honor of the deceased.

Major Roberts also conducted a service at the Red Hill Salvation Army barracks, which building was the gift of the deceased.

### **Obituary for Mr Matthew Rogers**

Bacchus Marsh Express (Vic. : 1866 - 1943), Saturday 18 January 1902, page 3

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/90579978>

BLACKWOOD. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A FORMER correspondent supplies the following::

By the death of Mr. Matthew Rogers, on the 6th inst., at the age of 77 years, Blackwood loses one of its most notable pioneers and worthy citizens.

Born at St. Erth, Cornwall, on 11th June, 1824, he came out to Victoria in 1854.

He followed his trade as a mason for a short time after landing, but, notwithstanding the high wages to be obtained in those times, mining allurements proved too strong, and it was not long before he found his way to the diggings.

He went first to the Clunes rush, and from there came to Blackwood, about 1856, when a miner named Simmons had just discovered the rich reef which bears his name to this day; and also gave its title to the township of Simmons' reef.

This locality yielded an immense amount of gold for many years, and Mr. Rogers's claims, the Imperial and the Big Hill, proved not the least remunerative. These ventures, in conjunction with others, such as the Garibaldi, &c., together with a lucrative store business (in which he was greatly assisted by his wife, who died a little over 5 years ago) realised a competency.

His sound business abilities were well evidenced in his mining ventures, many thousands of tons of stone being broken out and crushed from his Simmons' Reef mines with considerable profit from the low average yield of less than 1 dwt. (pennyweight) per ton.

Though seldom taking office on any local

committees he was always ready to give substantial help when needed, and in political matters especially his influence had a marked effect.

A commanding presence, with a genial manner, secured him many friends, and the Blackwood brass band could always depend upon being hospitably welcomed during their New Year's Eve musical round, with a donation of £1 for the band funds.

The erection of the Salvation Army barracks at Red Hill, at a cost of over £800, and the beautiful vault in the Blackwood cemetery, which cost over £1,100, will all help to keep in mind the memory of a respected resident of some 43 years standing.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. T. Ross, of Kyneton; the "Dead March in Saul" being played on the organ by Mrs. Hosking as the coffin was being conveyed from his residence to the hearse.

The service was conducted by the resident Wesleyan minister, Rev. J. E. T. Green, the hymn, "Shall we gather at the river" being feelingly sung. Many beautiful flowers were sent by friends at Melbourne and Blackwood.



### Geelong Branch Report

The Geelong Branch took part in the National Celtic Festival, held at Portarlington.

With the assistance of other branch members our stall was open for the three days of the long weekend in June.



Despite the miserable weather reducing the attendance numbers, a good time of fellowship was enjoyed and interesting conversations about Cornish heritage were had with members of the public.

Our regular meetings are held at the Uniting Church, Ormond Road, East Geelong at 1.30pm. on the third Wednesday of the odd months.

Neil Thomas  
Chairperson Geelong Branch of the CAV

### Ballarat Branch Report

**June Meeting** - Annual General Meeting

Although it was a cold miserable day, thirteen members, ventured out to the Skipton Street

Church Vestry for some fellowship and heard a wonderful talk about the Fox Family from Falmouth delivered by the President of the CAV, Brian Rollason. It was lovely to welcome both Brian and his wife Jane.

Brian also conducted the election of Officer Bearers: for 2025-2026

Chair person Keith Lanyon.

Vice Chair Wendy Benoit. ,

Admin Secretary Wendy Benoit.

Treasurer Jim Hocking.

Committee Members Robyn Coates and Bev Hocking.

**August Meeting** - the speaker was meant to be Doug Bradby whose topic was *Who benefitted most from the Gold Rush?*

Unfortunately, Doug was unavailable to attend, but Jenny Burrell, one of our members was able to give us interesting information and lead a discussion on the same topic.

Those who benefitted:

- \* Miners if they were lucky to strike plenty of gold
- \* those who serviced the population - general shop keepers, hotel keepers ( there was a sly grog industry - Bentley's pub); carters of goods; boot makers; tradespeople - blacksmiths. carpenters; butchers; bakers; coach operators, candle makers, tent makers etc
- \* women also had trades - dressmakers; milliners; teachers.

\* James Oddie - A Ballarat older statesman, leader, and benefactor on his 85th birthday, quoted a Professor Gregory and suggested that the British Government had benefitted to the sum of £500 million - The £500,000,000, to Britain had been the biggest thing that had happened to her for the last 500 years. Yet the early pioneers had been told they were only rogues and vagabonds. Did they ever hear of an industry being started by rogues and vagabonds? ... They were men of honour, energy and of great mental power.

It was a very enjoyable and informative afternoon which concluded with a delicious afternoon tea.

Editor's note:

While the gold rush brought immense wealth to Victoria and the British Empire, I can find no evidence to suggest a direct £500 million profit was made by the British government from the Victorian gold rush.

The Victorian government generated revenue through mining licenses, taxes on gold exports, and increased trade, which ultimately benefited Britain.

## Cyber Security

I recently attended an evening regarding cyber-security run by the Victorian Police and here are some suggestions from the meeting you all might find helpful.

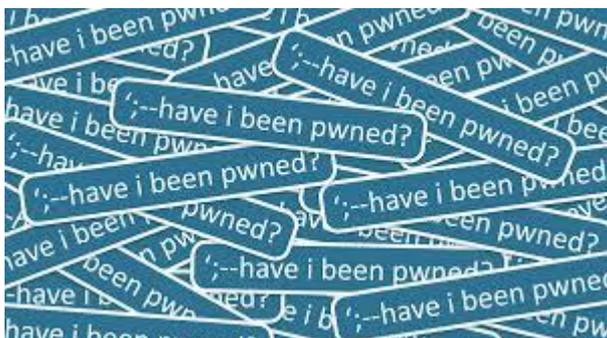
- \* don't carry any cards in your phone case - no banking, driver's licence, Medibank card etc
- \* people over 26, in Victoria, don't need to carry their driver's licence with them - leave it at home in a secure place
- \* don't have any digitized bank cards on your phone which you use to buy things - i.e. touching your phone on the machine at the checkout.
- \* if you use Microsoft windows, Windows Defender is as good if not better than any purchased anti-virus software like McAfee, Nortons etc
- \* beware of anything that is free - via email or some apps - if it seems too good to be true then it usually is too good to be true.
- \*Gmail isn't all that secure.
- \* use a phrase as a password for banking and superannuation information
- \* never use 1234 or the word password as your password
- \* for PC users download and use Microsoft Authenticator
- \* try to use two factor authentication
- \* Never answer your phone by saying your name.
- \* don't click unsubscribe as people know that your email address is active.
- \* be very careful about clicking emails in your junk/spam folder
- \* empty your junk/spam folder regularly.
- \* never answer anything on the phone with yes or no
- \* use lots of different passwords
- \* Using symbols such as \* # @ % & ( ) ! in passwords is a good idea.

### To check the security of your password:

How secure is my password?

### To check whether you have been hacked:

Have I been pwned?



## The Salt Path

Recently an article in the British paper, *The Observer*, suggests that the book *The Salt Path* and the subsequent film of the same name, maybe based on untruths which had also caused great distress to those who knew the real story.

The book details the 630 mile walk along the south-west coastal path by the author, Raynor Winn and her husband, who she calls Moth, who supposedly was suffering from a terminal illness (CBD) and who are homeless due to the re-possession of their home.

Along the way they are dependent on the generosity of many other campers and walkers, a weekly amount of money from tax credits, landowners and payment for occasional odd jobs.

The article suggests that the author's name, is not Raynor Winn but really Sally Walker and her husband is Timothy Walker.

Raynor Winn has issued a reply to the article.

Links to the original article, a BBC article and Raynor Winn's article are below.

<https://observer.co.uk/news/national/article/the-real-salt-path-how-the-couple-behind-a-bestseller-left-a-trail-of-debt-and-deceit>

<https://www.com/news/articles/bbc.c80p2pzgpmgo>

<https://www.raynorwinn.co.uk/new-page>



## Fisherman's Friends in Australia

Fisherman's Friends will be playing in Brunswick, Geelong, St Kilda, and Frankston, Victoria, in January 2026 as well as other states.

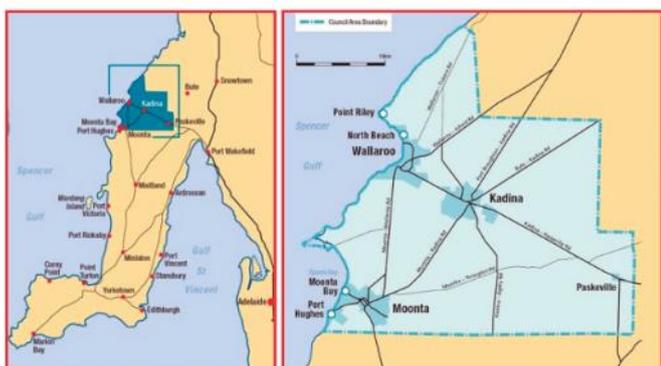


Specifically, they'll be at The Brunswick Ballroom on January 8th, Costa Hall Geelong on January 9th, the Palais Theatre St Kilda on January 10th, and the Frankston Arts Centre on January 11th.

You would need to contact the venue closest to you for information and tickets if you are interested.

## Kernewek Lowender 2025

Twelve members of the Victorian Cornish Association joined in the celebrations for Kernewek Lowender, in May 2025, staying in Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta/Moonta Bay - all located on the Copper Coast of the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia.



The Festival ran from 12th-18th May and each day there were many events available to attend. A popular event on both Tuesday and Wednesday was Dressing the Graves Ceremonies held at four district cemeteries - Green Plains near Paskeville, Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta.



Dressing the Graves was an idea of the late Roslyn Paterson and began 20 years ago - it was decided that it was an opportunity to recognize the contribution made by local pioneers and to ensure that younger people appreciated the historic past contained in the cemeteries.

At each ceremony, eight people were honoured. Citations developed from family history research were read at the graveside and placed on the grave by relatives along with flowers. This year the theme was *Everyday People*. A choir from the local school sang at each venue and at Wallaroo the local band played before the ceremony.

Wednesday the programmes which were offered were Cornish Pasty Making, a Cornish Language class for Beginners and a Feast or Famine Dinner: *In the old days, sometimes there was food and sometimes there wasn't. Cornish miners were very poor because they were paid so little. We have made a feast*

*of five courses from their poverty-stricken pantries. The food is prepared by experienced country cooks.*

On Thursday, the Cornish History Seminar was held at Kadina Football and Netball Clubrooms - this year's theme was *Cornish Australians in Industry and Commerce*,

The seminar featured papers given by presenters from several states showing where Cornish born, or people of Cornish descent, had made significant contributions in public life.



Papers were presented by Terry Trembath (Sir David Fletcher Jones), John Carvosso (Samuel Carvosso), Margaret Dell (Sir Langdon Bonython), Claire Webster (Insights from the SA-Cornish Fishing Exchange 2023-24), Baden Teague (William Dangar of St Neot) and Noel Carthew (James Gartrell - A Philanthropic Merchant) - all different and very interesting.



Thursday evening featured the Opening of the Art Prize in Kadina Town Hall and an evening with the talented Kadina Wallaroo Moonta Band in the Wallaroo Town Hall.

Each Kernewek Lowender, the motto should be, *Don't rain on our Parade* as so often it does and this year was no exception.



As groups were lining up for the Parade, in Moonta, the heavens opened and down the rain came. Thankfully, it did ease as the Parade began.



The number of groups participating was much less than previous years as were the numbers attending to watch.



The Maypole Dancing and the Furry Dance were both held in Queen Square. alongside the Town Hall, (whilst it poured rain) with a much smaller Street Fer.

Entertainment was provided by *Dalla* - husband and wife duo Hilary Coleman and Neil Davey, from Cornwall - on clarinet and bouzouki and also voice.

A pasty bake off featuring local identities, plus the Grand Bard, Jenefer Lowe, Noel Carthew from SA Cornish Association and Hilary and Neil



took place in the Park. The Cornish contingent should have won but the Judges awarded the local Mayor the winner. (biased in my opinion)

Whilst all these activities were happening in the Square, an Organ recital by Ron Newton from NZ, was being held in the Moonta Mines Church on the wonderful pipe organ.

Wallaroo Town Hall was the venue in the evening for *Sup and Sing* where 120 people gathered for a

three course meal (including a Pasty of course) followed by an entertaining evening featuring *Dalla* (Hilary and Neil), some harp solos by Liesel Warner and a couple of humorous poems from Peter Gallford.



Hilary Coleman, ably assisted by Jenefer Lowe and Michele Brown, led everyone in some community singing of well known Cornish Favorites. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Saturday, it was Kadina's turn for Maypole Dancing and Furry Dancing, as well as the Rotary Village Fair held in Victoria Square opposite the Kadina Town Hall.

Some members chose to attend another Pasty Making class at Wallaroo.

The Gathering of the Bards took place in the afternoon - thankfully in the Wallaroo Town Hall as the rain poured down.

This ceremony was led by the Grand Bard, Jenefer Lowe.



Twenty-one Bards from across Australia and Cornwall took part. Below those from Victoria.

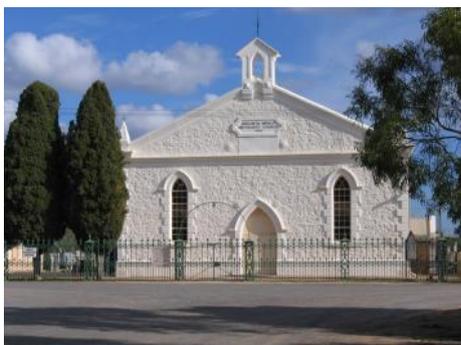


Sunday's activities began with a Blessing of the Waters remembering the hardships of previous generations, many of whom sailed from faraway lands, to Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta, in the hope of making their fortunes.

Later on in the morning, a cavalcade of about 600 cars and motorcycles took several hours to travel through Wallaroo, Moonta Bay, Moonta and finally ending at Kadina Oval to be part of the fun fair.



A Heritage Concert or in Methodist terms a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon (PSA) took place in the historic Moonta Mines Church Building in the afternoon.



The afternoon was led by Rev, June Ladner.



Community singing of some old favourite hymns was very popular.

The Lobethal Harmony Group performed several items, locals Trevor Bowden and Craig Woodward sang the *Holy City* and organist Ron Newton played a couple of organ solos.

Darryl Parker (often the Moonta Mines organist at KL) joined with a local woman in playing an energetic piano duet.

In a short address, June talked about two of the hymns - *God be with you till we meet again* and *O God our help in ages past*.

The hymn, *God be with you till we meet again*, evidently was a Moonta Mines favourite, which June explained was often sung in Cornwall when people left home to come to Australia.

Many people who came to Australia would never see their family members again.

The second hymn *Oh God our help in Ages Past* was frequently sung at funerals in the church, with the people also singing it as they accompanied the coffin to the Moonta Cemetery, about a thirty minute walk along unmade roads.

A final gathering of members with Cornish Connections from NSW, SA, Victoria and Cornwall took place at the Wombat Hotel in Kadina where a great time of fellowship was enjoyed.



(mostly re-printed from the Ballarat Newsletter)

## Update on World Heritage Listing bid by Moonta and Burra

Australian Cornish Mining Sites Consortium Advances World Heritage Bid - 17th July 2025 - <https://burramoontaworldheritage.com.au/article/australian-cornish-mining-sites-consortium-advances-world-heritage-bid>

The Australian Cornish Mining Sites: Burra and Moonta Consortium (ACMS) is proud to announce a significant step forward in its bid to secure UNESCO World Heritage status for South Australia's historic Cornish mining towns of Burra and Moonta.

On Friday, July 11th, 2025, the consortium visited the Deputy Premier in Adelaide to officially deliver the Submission of Request for Preliminary Assessment.

The State have committed to forwarding the request to the Commonwealth for submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

This pivotal visit followed a high-profile meeting in May this year at Government House, where the ACMS Consortium met with Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.

Preliminary Assessment is a mandatory desk-based process for sites being considered for nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage List.

It's a way for the State to get early feedback on the potential of a site to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to assess the feasibility of a nomination.

This assessment is conducted by the Advisory Bodies; International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – and helps to avoid investing resources in nominations that may still require some work to proceed.

Mayor Bill Gebhardt from the Regional Council of Goyder emphasised the importance of this stage. "The handover of the bid for Preliminary Assessment is a critical step on the road to receiving UNESCO World Heritage status. This is a new process that will become mandatory in 2027, but something the bid team felt important to engage in now." Mayor Gebhardt stated.

After being added to Australia's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in September 2024. This meeting again marks a huge step towards gaining global recognition for the Burra and Moonta sites.

Mayor Roslyn Talbot, Chair of the ACMS Consortium and Mayor of Copper Coast Council, welcomed the occasion, highlighting the power of collaboration.

"Today's handover simply would not happen without the team we have assembled, it has taken a power of work to get to this position." Mayor Talbot said.

Millie Nicholls, President of National Trust SA reiterated that "it is through this collaboration; that we have forged a genuine opportunity to showcase our shared heritage on the world stage through a UNESCO World Heritage listing."

This collaboration was also noted by the Deputy Premier in accepting the nomination.

The ACMS Consortium is a collaborative body dedicated to securing UNESCO World Heritage status for the historic Cornish mining towns of Burra and Moonta in South Australia, recognising their profound historical and cultural significance.



Hughes Engine House - Moonta Mines



Burra Engine Houses and Open Mine



## **Gorsedh Kernow names 22 new Bards for 2025**

Twenty-two new bards will be welcomed into the College of Bards of Gorsedh Kernow at Marazion on 6th September 2025 by the Grand Bard of Cornwall, Jenefer Lowe, Gwythvosen, in recognition of their outstanding work in serving Cornwall.

This year we are delighted to welcome as new bards, people whose work reflects Cornwall's distinctive culture both traditional and modern, at home and in the diaspora.

A number are active in the arts and media, while others have studied and promoted Cornish heritage, worked in support of their communities and promoted Cornwall at home and abroad. Others have passed the highest grade of Cornish language exams and continue to work with the language.

Gorsedh Kernow was established with the aim of celebrating and promoting Cornwall's distinctive Celtic culture and all of our initiates have contributed considerably to Cornwall in different ways.

The new bards for 2025 are:

1. Mark Camp, Looe

For using his considerable knowledge of Cornish history, heritage and natural history to promote Kernow.

2. Julie Caplin Grey,

For providing cultural leadership within Cornwall and improving community access to Cornish culture.

3. Linda Collins, Penzance

For the promotion of Kernow through Music

4. Fr. Ross Crichton, Isle of Eriskay, Outer Hebrides

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow.

5. David Downing, Minnesota, USA

For promoting Cornish identity in the USA

6. Philip Martin Eddy, St Neot

For seeking new ideas to improve his community in Kernow, for the good of others.

7. Charlie Fripp, St Agnes

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow

8. Sam Galsworthy, Truro

For being an enthusiastic promoter of Kernow and promoting international links

9. Josh Hood, Redruth

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow

10. Christina Lake, Falmouth

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow

11. Alexandre Le Gall, Cantabria, Spain

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow

12. Tristan Netherton, Sticker

For his extensive work and contribution to the local community and his support for the culture of Cornwall.

13. Rev. Daniel Reed, Helston

For promoting the importance of preserving Kernow's history and culture and sharing it with the wider community

14. Dr Sharron Schwartz, County Donegal, Eire

For her research and sharing information about the Cornish Mining diaspora in Latin America

15. Richard Simcott, Chester

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow

16. Lord St Levan, St. Michael's Mount

For his enthusiastic support for Kernow, including a wide range of community and cultural projects

17. Valerie Thomas, St Ives

For gathering, recording and sharing Cornish history and inspiring others.

18. Chris Trevena, Penzance

For the promotion of Kernow through preserving archive recordings.

19. Sheila Vanloo, St. Austell

For supporting local Arts and Music in Cornwall through broadcast

20. Martin Van Staeyen, St. Ives

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow

21. John Webb, Toronto, Canada

For promoting Cornish Identity in Canada

22. Adam Wheeler, Redruth

By examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Kernow

## **CORNISH PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH DARWIN**

While holidaying in Darwin recently I thought it would be interesting if there were any Cornish people associated with the city.

Darwin is not noted for its mines and I did not expect too many names.

It did turn out that many of the early settlers came from South Australia and in particular the Copper Triangle towns of Kadina, Moonta and Burra.

1. Richard Randall Knuckey – born at Stithians near Redruth, lived at Burra and Kadina went to Darwin and became a NT surveyor and worked on the Overland Telegraph line and in 1871 discovered and named Dalhousie Springs

2. Emma Jane Lambrick of Perranarworthal -a pioneer woman resident of Port Essington

3. Thomas Henry Pearce of Redruth

4. Henry Perkins who came from Torpoint and established Perkins Shipyard.

PS You would not believe this but there was an advert in Darwin to learn Cornish with the blurb saying that it is a one-on-one course and will help students improve their Cornish level quickly and efficiently.

The question is why would you need Cornish in Darwin?

Brian Rollason

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

100 years ago the seaside town of Falmouth became a place of suspicion and mistrust.

At the start of the First World War, it became a secure area where aliens had to be excluded.

Anyone attempting to enter England from the western end was required to report in Falmouth to the "Port Examination Officer" and anyone suspicious to be questioned by the "Alien Officer".

Many people of German extraction were arrested and detained.

On the 14th November 1916, the exotic dancer Mata Hari was arrested entering Falmouth on board the SS Hollandia.

The Alien Officer thought she was the German spy Clara Bendix and she was taken to London for interrogation.

Without any evidence against her she was freed and

deported once more through Falmouth.

Mata Hari was later arrested in France and tried as a spy.

She was found guilty and was shot in October 1917.

My home town holds many secrets!

Brian Rollason

## **FALMOUTH PACKET SHIPS AND MUTINY**

The Post Office Packet Service dates to Tudor times and ran until 1823, when the Admiralty assumed control of the service.

Originally, the Post Office used packet ships to carry mail packets to and from British embassies, colonies and outposts.

The vessels generally also carried bullion, private goods and passengers.

The ships were usually lightly armed and relied on speed for their security.

However, Britain was at war almost continuously during the 18th and early 19th centuries with the result that packet ships did get involved in naval engagements with enemy warships and privateers, and were occasionally captured.

Falmouth was a packet station from around 1688.

The location of Falmouth in Cornwall was favourable to the successful transmission of mail through enemy naval ships and privateers.

The value of the Falmouth Station grew as Napoleon implemented his Continental System, attempting to exclude British trade and communications with mainland Europe.

In 1810, men of the packet service at Falmouth mutinied over pay levels.

Previously, the sailors had been authorized to trade for their own account. When this was banned as smuggling, they objected to the resulting loss of income.

In punishment for the refusal to man ships, the Post Office moved the Falmouth Packet Station to Plymouth.

Much lobbying of the Postmaster General and HM Treasury by a delegation from Falmouth and by Cornwall's forty-four members of Parliament followed.

After considering Fowey as an alternative station, the Post Office agreed to return the service to Falmouth in January 1811.

In 1843, Falmouth merchants persuaded H.M. Government not to move the packet station to

Southampton, which was now served by a railway.

The last packet arrived at Falmouth on 30th April 1851, and the Cornwall Railway did not reach Falmouth until 1863.

In 1823, the Admiralty took over the administration of the Packet Service.

It replaced older packet vessels with naval ships made redundant by the peace that had followed the end of the Napoleonic wars.

Steam vessels started to replace sail in the 1830s and this enabled a more regular and predictable service to be operated.

Over time, there was a consolidation of packet stations.

Most routes were transferred to Southampton, which had been linked to London by railway.

Other ports handling packets include Liverpool (from 1840) and Plymouth (from 1850).

In 1850, the government disbanded the Packet Service.

Instead, the Post Office contracted for the carriage of mail with companies running other regularly timetabled services. Ships with the contract to carry mail were designated Royal Mail Ship.

This change was administered by Admiral Parry.

*Sourced from Wikipedia*

## **SEA SHANTIES**

By Linda Batchelor

Falmouth, famous for its harbour, the third deepest natural harbour in the world, has been a safe deepwater port and anchorage for ships since the 1600s.

Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival was founded in 2003 with the mission to keep alive the history of the sea and the days of sail by performing sea shanties, songs of the sea and Cornish songs.

It has grown to become the largest free nautical music and song festival in Europe with over 65,000 visitors.

There has undoubtedly always been a tradition of singing at sea, but there is a distinction between sea songs and shanties.

Sea songs came from off duty singing and dancing by sailors known as forebitters or off-watch songs.

Fiddlers or flautists were often employed on ships to provide entertainment or accompaniment to singing and dancing to 'hornpipes, jigs and reels'.

Shanties were work songs aimed at co-ordinating the manual labour for the many tasks required in sailing a ship.

These songs (chants) of a repetitive nature not only provided rhythm, regular breathing patterns and synchronized movement but also encouraged a sense of unity of effort in collective physical duties.

References to these type of work songs can be traced from the mid 1400s with origins in many cultures. However the English term 'shanty' or 'chantey' in North America, probably came from the French 'chanter' to sing. It only began to emerge in a maritime work context from the eighteenth century and reached its heyday in the early to mid-nineteenth century.

To read more of this check out the whole story at: <https://nmmc.co.uk/2025/05/sea-shanties>

(On a PC, press control until hand appears and then press enter)

## **Explore the exotic plants that still flourish in Cornwall's world-renowned gardens**

By Linda Batchelor

Robert Shuttleworth Sutton was a Packet Service Captain from 1797 until 1835 and had commanded HMP Windsor Castle from 1814 and HMP Stanmer from 1817.

Both packet ships regularly sailed the route to Brazil and in November 1832 the Stanmer had sailed via Madeira, Tenerife, Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro to Brazil.

Captain Sutton, from Flushing near Falmouth, was credited by the Royal Cornwall Horticultural Society as a keen horticulturalist and it not surprising that like many of his contemporaries he was interested in collecting examples of plants from places he visited on his voyages.

On the voyage to Rio, in 1832, he had found a plant growing in a wood on a sloping hill near the Bay of Bonviago, Rio de Janeiro, dug it up and brought it home.

On his return to Falmouth, in March 1833, he had presented this example and a "choice collection of orchidaceous and other interesting plants he had found" to Sir Charles Lemon of the Carclew estate near Mylor and Mr George Croker Fox of Grove Hill House in Falmouth.

Both men were influential figures in Falmouth and Cornwall, Sir Charles, as an MP and wealthy landowner and Mr Fox as the head of the firm of

leading ship agents in Falmouth.

Their commercial interests were widespread including shipping and mining but they also had interest in science, botany, horticulture and gardening.

In 1837, The Royal Cornwall Horticultural Society recorded in its Annual Report that the Society's Silver Medal was "presented to Captain Sutton, formerly of HM Packet Service, as a tribute of acknowledgement for the zeal he has evidenced in the promotion of Horticulture, and many of the new and rare species he has introduced to the country."

These instances illustrate the interest in plant collecting.

Not only the development of economic botany but also of ornamental horticulture and the part played by transporting plants around the globe often by voyages at sea.

Read the rest of this story at:

<https://nmmc.co.uk/2025/07/bringing-seeds-and-plants-from-distant-countries>

## CORNISH TIDBITS

### **12,000 have signed petition for Cornwall nation status**

Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner have both been asked to consider granting Cornwall nation status.

It comes as almost 12,000 people have so far signed a petition calling on the Government to recognise Cornwall as the fifth nation of the UK, granting the Duchy equal status with Wales and Scotland. Cornwall Council's Liberal Democrat and Independent coalition Cabinet recently backed a call by the full council for Cornwall to receive fifth nation status.

A petition started by the unitary authority has surpassed the 10,000 signature mark, meaning the Government now has to respond to it.

If the petition receives 100,000 signatures by its deadline of September 11, the matter could go to the House of Commons for debate.

Being recognized as the fifth nation could give Cornwall extra devolved powers, cultural preservation and official recognition of Cornwall's distinct heritage, language and historic autonomy.

The Cabinet formally adopted a new set of priorities aimed at tackling the biggest issues facing residents – from housing and health to the economy, environment and transport.

The six priorities form the foundation of the new administration's plan to deliver lasting improvements in people's lives, "grounded in common sense and shaped by what communities say matters most".

The six Cabinet priorities are:

1. Strong, safe, vibrant communities with more decent and affordable homes
2. A clean, green Cornwall with healthy rivers and seas
3. A resilient economy creating good growth and jobs
4. A caring place for families where children build a bright future
5. Supporting people to live healthy and dignified lives
6. Connected, safe, reliable roads and transport – that works for the people of Cornwall.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/25353988.12-000-signed-petition-cornwall-nation-status>

### **Cornwall residents to face 4.99 per cent council tax rise blamed on government**

Cornwall Council announces a 4.99% council tax increase, blaming the government for the rise amid new funding reforms.

Residents of Cornwall face paying the maximum annual council tax rise of 4.99 per cent for at least the next three years. That was the less than welcome news at a meeting of Cornwall Council's Cabinet on Wednesday, July 30, which also heard there were some financial positives likely to come Cornwall's way.

The Liberal Democrat and Independent coalition cabinet unanimously signed off the council's response to the Chancellor's June spending review and further government changes since then, including the Fairer Funding Review 2.0, which could directly benefit Cornwall. Members were clear to blame the government for the likely maximum council tax increase.

The net result of the government's spending review is that the budget for local government as a whole will increase by 4.5 per cent, equating to a 2.7 per cent increase in real terms, taking into account inflation. While this increase has been welcomed by Cornwall Council, it is lower than in previous years and assumes that the government will demand Cornwall Council increases council tax by the maximum level.

On the face of it, there are positive signs that the council's lobbying for fairer funding has been heard. Cornwall's share of the overall 'need' has slightly increased and the formula acknowledges the

particular issues rural authorities face in providing services.

<https://www.bude-today.co.uk/news/politics/cornwall-residents-to-face-499-per-cent-council-tax-rise-blamed-on-government-817696>

### **The top 10 best beaches in the UK (2025)**

This year only one Cornish beach made the top 10. The study was conducted by holiday rental service Holidu, which analyzed Google Maps user data for over 9,500 beaches, considering both ratings and reviews to identify the best spots.

Barafundle Bay Beach – Pembrokeshire, Wales

Traeth Mwnt – Ceredigion, Wales

Woolacombe Beach – Devon, England

Dunraven Bay – Glamorgan, Wales

**Trebarwith Strand – Cornwall, England**

Cuckmere Haven – East Sussex, England

Man O'War Beach – Dorset, England

Bigbury Beach – Devon, England

Gullane Beach – East Lothian, Scotland

Benone Beach – County Londonderry, Northern Ireland

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/whats-on/whats-on-news/uk-best-beaches-for-2025-10387014>

### **Tin mining to return to Cornwall after Reeves makes £29m investment**

Tin mining is poised for a comeback in Cornwall after the UK government invested almost £29m to reopen the county's last tin mine, creating more than 1,000 jobs in the region.

The South Crofty tin mine, near the Cornish village of Pool, closed in 1998, and in the years since, as tin prices have soared, attempts to reopen it have been unsuccessful.

On a visit to Cornwall recently, Rachel Reeves, the chancellor, estimated that reopening South Crofty could create 1,300 jobs for the region.

Back in January the government approved the £28.6m investment to support the reopening of the mine, which is being led by Redruth-based Cornish Metals.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jul/29/tin-mining-to-return-to-cornwall-after-reeves-makes-29m-investment>

### **New hidrs needed to help search dog training**

A specialist search and rescue team is looking for volunteer hidrs to help it train the dogs.

Cornwall Search Dogs needs people to hide in fields, woodland and on moors so the canine detectives can practice scenting and trailing them.

Trustee and dog handler Annie Page said the team

currently has five volunteers but would ideally like 15 across Cornwall.

In the last five years, the charity, near Camborne, has had 240 call-outs, some of which were to help search for missing people, with the majority to find lost dogs.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpqvz1917l8o>

### **Cornwall Council can reduce £1.2 billion debt if it sells all its farms**

A Cabinet member told a Cornwall Council meeting recently that the "number one thing" it could do to reduce its £1.2 billion debt would be to sell off its farms estate.

Following a long debate by its sustainable growth scrutiny committee, councillors agreed that there should be an inquiry into the future of the estate, which includes 10,800 acres of land and 81 farms. The farms estate is the council's single largest land asset and features 1,600 acres between Liskeard and Blunts village, about 1,000 acres between Mitchell and Trerice in Newquay, with the remainder of the estate dispersed across the rest of Cornwall.

The meeting heard that the main aim of the farms estate was to be a first foot on the ladder for people to enter the sector who may not have the ability to farm elsewhere, such as people who are not able to inherit a family farm.

Questions were asked about how successful this aim has been.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/cornwall-council-can-reduce-12-10390622>

### **Four months of major roadworks start in Penzance**

Multi-million pound changes to the main shopping street in Penzance will make the area a nicer place for people to come and linger, the town's mayor has said.

Market Jew Street is closed to traffic for most of the day on weekdays for the next four months while the work happens.

New crossings, green areas with trees, and traffic calming measures are being put in there to make the area safer and more pleasant for pedestrians and cyclists.

The scheme is part of Penzance's Town Deal, with £21m being spent on various projects with the aim of transforming the town centre.

Penzance received a total of £21.7m as part of the previous Conservative government's Towns Fund initiative.

Other projects include a "park and cycle" facility at Ponsandane, repurposing the iconic Market House, and creating a bouldering centre in an empty shop

unit on Market Jew Street.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyq9vxxrkro>

### **Airport investment hailed as 'fantastic' by some but others fear 'devastation'**

The Liberal Democrat/Independent coalition Cabinet met on Wednesday, July 30, to outline a new approach aimed at securing the long-term sustainability of Cornwall Airport Newquay and its land, which remains owned by Cornwall Council. This approach includes efforts to lower the subsidy paid by Cornish taxpayers to keep the airport running, which currently amounts to about £4 million annually.

The meeting heard that 23 businesses have expressed interest in setting up on the airport estate, including hotels, business parks, distribution centres, and potential additional solar projects. A solar installation already on site generates £600,000 annually for the council.

There is also potential for stronger partnerships with the Ministry of Defence.

The Cabinet unanimously backed the proposed future plans for developing the airport estate.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/news-opinion/airport-investment-hailed-fantastic-others-10392665>

### **Wild-born chough fledges and thrives in Kent for first time in 200 years**

A young red-billed chough has successfully taken to the skies from a nest in the wild in Kent for the first time for more than two centuries, conservationists said.

The successful fledging of the chick from a nest at Dover Castle comes just three years after the launch of a reintroduction programme led by Wildwood Trust, Kent Wildlife Trust and Paradise Park to restore the species into the region.

The red-billed chough has strong cultural links with Kent and its history, appearing on pub signs, the coat of arms of Canterbury and in the legend of martyred Thomas Becket, whose blood was said to have stained the bird's red beak and legs.

The rare birds, which forage on grassland and heath with short vegetation near their cliffside nests, are found only on the western fringes of Britain, the Isle of Man and the island of Ireland.

A reintroduction programme to rear and release chicks aims to introduce up to 50 birds in the South East over five years, with the first cohort of released birds taking to the skies in 2022.

And long-term efforts to restore and manage chalk grass land habitat, including through conservation grazing, has created the conditions for choughs to

forage and breed, the team behind the project said. Chalk grassland supports a wide array of wildflowers and invertebrates, with the insects and larvae found in dung from grazing animals, a crucial food source for choughs during the breeding season.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/national/25371334.wild-born-chough-fledges-thrives-kent-first-time-200-years>

### **Churches across Helston and the Lizard Peninsula could see new leadership and ministry under a new proposal.**

The Church Commissioners of the Church of England have opened a public consultation into the reorganisation of the Kerrier Deanery.

The proposed 'Pastoral Scheme', put forward by the Truro Diocese, would see the creation of a single benefice for the entire deanery, a move that would alter the leadership and ministry of 23 churches in the region.

The Kerrier Deanery, which stretched from Constantine in the east to Germoe in the west, and from Wendron down to The Lizard, is currently composed of six groups of churches, known as benefices.

Historically, each of these benefices has been served by its own resident vicar or rector. Under the new proposal, all 23 churches and their respective parishes would be consolidated into a single Kerrier benefice.

This new structure would mean that none of the 18 parishes would retain a designated vicar. Instead, a team of just two stipendiary priests – a team rector and a team vicar – would be appointed to oversee the entire deanery.

These paid and housed positions by the Truro Diocese would hold responsibility for all 18 parishes. The diocese has acknowledged the need for change and has been developing these plans since early 2021.

In order to move forward, the proposed reorganization requires the approval of the Church Commissioners, who are now inviting public feedback on the matter.

Anyone residing within the Kerrier Deanery is entitled to submit their views, whether in support of or against the proposals.

This consultation is not limited to practising members of the Church of England.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/25363810.proposal-new-church-leadership-across-helston-lizard>