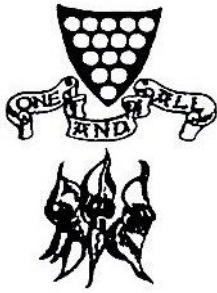


# CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, INC.



**FOUNDED 1890**

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## Newsletter – March 2010

**Coming events – including events to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of copper in Wallaroo Mines**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March** “Songs of Praise in Cornish”- 3.00 pm, Moonta Mines Uniting Church. A new volume of popular hymns, in Cornish and English, will be released at the concert, presented by the Yorke Peninsula Branch of the Association, with international soloists, the Association Choir and Harvest Christian School Choir. *\$15/head.*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March** 1.00 pm St Piran’s lunch at Morphett Arms Hotel. Special guests, Peter & Dawn Williams, from Cornwall. *Please contact the Secretary for bookings.*

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March**, 5.30 pm – Reception to honour Commonwealth Day, in Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School, South Terrace, Adelaide., in the presence of His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, CH, RANR, Governor of South Australia, and Mrs Scarce. *Tickets \$25, available from the Secretary.*

**18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March** “Welcome back Cousin Jack!” in Eaglehawk, Victoria

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – The Association Choir will be singing at the Yilki Uniting Church, Giles Street, Encounter Bay, with morning tea available at the Church from 10.30am before the service at 11.15. Afterwards there will be a barbecue lunch at Roger & Lyn Goldsworthy’s, ‘St Blazey’, 28 Gibson Ave, Encounter Bay – look for the Cornish flag! Please contact Lyn (phone 8332 4523) to place your orders for meat for the barbecue. Those attending lunch are asked to bring either a salad or dessert, and a chair.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**, sing-along ‘Messiah’, 3.00 pm Moonta Mines Uniting Church, in partnership with the Elder Conservatorium; Director Carl Crossin will conduct the Conservatorium orchestra. Soloists – Ruth Bormann (Soprano), Guila Tiver (alto), Patrick Power (tenor), Ian Vayne (bass). *\$20/head*

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**, 7.30 pm, Rosefield – History Week. “How the Cornish saved South Australia!” A

series of brief talks covering the contribution of the Cornish to South Australia, in areas as diverse as mining, music, and religion. Our Association Library will be open from 7.00 pm, and there will be a supper, including Cornish pasties. Note that this event is included as part of History Week, open to the general public, and we have indicated a limit of 70 people; members wishing to attend should book with Diana Hancock (8379 2451) or Terry Johnson (8382 5559).

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June** 2.30 pm – Visit to Uniting Church Historical Society at Black Forest, followed by an early pasty tea at 5.30 pm at Rosefield

**July** – no meeting

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August** – “Gardens of Cornwall” DVD, and Annual General Meeting

**November 25, 26 & 27, 7.30 pm** “Opera at the mines” (pre-show gourmet dinner, 6.00 pm). The Moonta Progress Association, in partnership with The State Opera of South Australia, ArtsSA, The National Trust, and the Copper Council, presents an open-air production of ‘I Pagliacci’ at the Moonta Mines Museum. *\$60/head; pre-show dinner \$45 (limited dinner seating)*

Visit [www.moontaprogress.org.au](http://www.moontaprogress.org.au) or call 1800 654 991 for bookings for the events in Moonta Mines

**2011**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May, Kernewek Lowender.**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Dressing the Graves

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Seminar, “The ingenious Cornish – their inventions and enterprises in Australia”

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Meet the Cornish

**Past events**

**The annual Christmas concert** on 1<sup>st</sup> December attracted a small crowd, but those present had an enjoyable evening of music and the message of Christmas, and a chance to chat over supper (the Secretary met one of his school teachers for the first time since 1964!)

**Our display at Celtica**, Port Adelaide, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December attracted considerable interest from passers-by, but little support from the membership. Thanks are expressed to Ros Paterson, Carlene Woolcock, Terry Johnson and Noel Carthew, for setting up the stand, staffing it all day, and packing everything up afterwards. Terry's Cornish language workshop was once again very popular. It is an opportunity for us to be visible among our Celtic 'cousins', and interest from the public included a nomination for next year's "Dressing the Graves", and a local film-maker who had regular correspondence with Winston Graham (of Poldark fame), and is contemplating making a documentary about him.

**"Grandmother's favourites"**, on 16<sup>th</sup> February, drew a much more pleasing number of people, and some interesting memories and recipes – we were intrigued, for instance, to learn that of several recipes for squab pie, only one actually included squab; and we were also left wondering at the size of some of the meals, given the recipes which measured the fruit in pounds and included 1½ pounds of lard! Not all of "grandmother's favourites" were Cornish, and the quandong pie proved to be very popular.

**Sympathy is extended** to our friends in the Cornish Association of Victoria, on the sudden death in January of Margaret Owens, Vice-President of the Association, and due to become President next June. Margaret's enthusiasm and dedication to Cornish activities, and particularly Cornish family history, (not to mention her sense of humour!) have been appreciated by all who knew her, and she will be sadly missed.

We were also saddened by the recent death of Life Member Vivian Pryor, of Newquay, at the age of 92. Many of us will have fond memories of time with Vivian, either here in Australia, or in Newquay; his love of Cornwall and all things Cornish is shown in his Life Membership of both this Association and the Cornish Association of Victoria, in addition to his involvement with the Homecomers and Torquay Cornish Association 'at home'. We rejoiced with him at his Bardship only a couple of years ago. For many years Vivian had custody of a duplicate of our Association banner, which he proudly carried on our behalf at many functions in Cornwall!



Past Grand Bard, Ann Trevenen Jenkin, represented the Association at Vivian's funeral, and has since sent a copy of her remarks there, including:

"I do not think I have ever represented so many bards from the Cornish Overseas, as at Vivian's funeral. This is a mark of the man, his friendships, his affection for everyone, his love of Australia and of the Cornish in Australia, where he felt more at home in Moonta, than in many places in the British Isles, excepting Cornwall of course!

All of us remember his sense of humour, his kindness and generosity, especially to so many from Australia, who were all made welcome and often stayed with him. He often carried the Cornish Australian banner to remind us here of these important links. He reminded me a bit of Mr. Toad with his love of fast cars, and drove fast on quiet Cornish roads! He was a safer driver than Mr. Toad however!

He knew so much about the history of Cornwall, its dialect and customs and his own family history in West Cornwall, near to where I live. He knew how to find the best pubs for meals, and the staff greeted him as friends. I remember my last meal with him at the Headland Hotel just before Christmas, when he was frail but as interested in everything as ever, the surge of the great waves, the sun shining on the water, the gulls circling. I was proud to be with him. He could always be on the same wavelength as others, including my two dogs, whom he welcomed with rich chocolate biscuits, and they too were his friends for life! I do not know what it did for their digestion!

My own personal memories are of a quiet, gentle man with firm opinions, and a desire to defend and uphold his beloved Cornwall first through the Homecomers and later also through bardship when he became one of the oldest bards to be initiated, possibly the oldest ever, at nearly 90, at Penzance in 2007, *For Lifelong Service To Cornwall*, an honour well deserved, and of which he was extremely proud."

There was a request for donations in Vivian's memory to Shelterbox, and the Association has sent a cheque accordingly.

Shelterbox began when Tom Henderson, of the Helston-Lizard Rotary Club had an idea:

'Hey guys, I've had an idea which could bring shelter and beds to people who have become homeless in disasters around the world... and all in a single box'.

He put ShelterBox together, it's administered by the Helston-Lizard Club, and boxes are sent worldwide with the help of Rotary Clubs.

The Shelterbox usually consists of 10 thermal blankets, and a 10 person dome tent, with tools and other survival equipment, to provide dry shelter, a warm bed, light and heat, clean water, cooking aids, and tools for up to 10 people.

Shelterbox Australia is a project of the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills (Vic.), at 94 Doveton Ave, Doveton, Vic.

**Ken Prouse** and other members of his family recently re-visited the Wallaroo area he knew as a boy, which revived memories of the old wheat stacks where bagged wheat was carted from Alford by his father and uncle. They found many landmarks, but had some problems trying to the sites of the early churches – many are now demolished, which didn't help! Ken is anxious to find where exactly was the Wesleyan Sunday School, from which his maternal grandmother received in 1888 an impressive, but now badly battered, copy of "Christian miscellany and family visiter"; the first few pages are missing, but Ken has sent what there is of an article on "Gwennap Pit and its Methodistic associations".

John Wesley had preached at Redruth and Gwennap "before the autumn of 1762, but as yet "the Pit" had not been occupied for preaching purposes, if it had even been noticed by Wesley at all On Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, in that year, after preaching in the main street at Redruth, he writes: "The wind was so high at five, that I could not stand in the usual place at Gwennap. But at a small distance was a hollow capable of containing many thousand people. I stood on one side of this amphitheatre, toward the top, with the people beneath, and on all sides,..." Three years later he tells us that he preached to a congregation at Gwennap, but does not say whether he preached in the "usual place", "the plain", or in "the Pit". On his next annual visit he informs us that the congregation at Redruth, at one o'clock, was the largest he had ever seen there; "but small, compared to that which assembled at five in the natural amphitheatre at Gwennap; far the finest I know in the kingdom. I believe there were full twenty thousand people; and, the evening being calm, all could hear".

[There is a footnote: 'It will be observed that we have not said anything respecting Charles Wesley's visits to Gwennap. The fact is, that the popular notion about his preaching in "the Pit" has no foundation in fact, as he had ceased to visit Cornwall before service was held in it']

The article concludes "Tradition – in this instance, no doubt faithful to the fact – tells us that in annual service has been held there ever since Wesley's death ... for many years past, Whit-Monday has been the appointed day for this gathering. Great interest is then excited, and for many miles around crowds of persons of all classes may be seen coming in every direction. Nearly every style of conveyance, from the unpretending donkey-cart to the stately carriage and pair, makes its appearance; and the West Cornwall Railway generally runs a special train for the accommodation of visitors. If the weather be fine, there is frequently a much larger concourse than can find room within the area of the hollow. Sometimes the "people outside" are not quite so reverent and orderly as could be desired; but still there is never any serious disturbance, and within "the Pit" the congregation is generally as devout and well-conducted as in any ordinary place of worship. For several years past a Bible-stall has been kept just on the outskirts of the crowd, by a class leader, at which a considerable number of copies of the Scriptures are

usually sold. The earnest reverence which Wesley so frequently noticed in his day, continues to characterise these annual gatherings; and at the close of the sermon, a collection is made for the funds of the Wesleyan-Methodist Missionary Society. Conducted in this way, these days of high festival cannot fail to excite wholesome memories of the early history of Methodism in the locality; and, we hope, inspire a more earnest longing in the hearts of the worshippers after a final and eternal union with the great multitude who serve God day and night in the heavenly temple."

As an interesting aside to that, the Bendigo & District newsletter recently reported that there was a time when most Cornish Methodists did not have sugar in their tea, as John Wesley preached that sugar was a product of slavery.

**News was received** a little while ago that the well-known Cornish singer and tour guide, Harry Safari, had undergone a laryngectomy; Ros Paterson received an email in response to her message to him:

"Dear Roslyn

How good of you to get in touch and it is also wonderful to know that people I have never met are concerned about my health it makes me feel very proud and humble. Sadly I never did get down to Australia to sing but hey I might still get there to listen. With a name like Paterson are you related to Banjo ?

I have written a song about South Australia called "A Letter Home" I was inspired to write it after reading Not Only In Stone by Phyllis Summerville a few years ago. I imagined someone here in Cornwall reading a letter from someone far away in South Australia.

Thanks again and please give my best to anyone who knows me and tell them I am fit and well but quite quiet.

Harry"

**Hands off our pasties!** (from ThisisCornwall.co.uk, 16<sup>th</sup> February):

Cornish pasty makers have shrugged their shoulders and carried on crimping after Welsh entrepreneurs claimed the origins of the meat-and-potatoes favourite lie on the other side of Severn estuary.

On St David's Day – March 1 – the first in a chain of Welsh pasty shops is to open in Pembrokeshire. Businessman Oliver Booth has seized on a local legend that suggests an early prototype of the snack was served to workers building the cathedral in St Davids, Britain's smallest city, in 1181.

However, it was noted that the traditional Pembrokeshire pasty is quite different from the Cornish pasty, as it contains Welsh lamb, Welsh leeks, redcurrant jelly and currants.

The Cornish Pasty Association was quoted as saying: "We wish The Pembrokeshire Pasty & Pie Co luck and hope their venture reinstates the Pembrokeshire pasty as a well-loved Welsh delicacy and encourages regional foods to thrive."

**Jill Beaglehole** has sent the following, of her memories of life in Burra Burra in the 1950s:

"In 1949 I returned from boarding school to start life in the real world – in my case, Burra Burra. My working life began under my father in the Bank of Australasia (now ANZ); this was also my first experience of things Cornish.

Burra Burra is a collection of townships laid out in 1845 by the South Australian Mining Association (SAMA). They were comprised of miners from several areas of Great Britain, and each had their own area in the Burra Burra complex. Thus Burra North had Redruth (Cornish) and Aberdeen (Scottish). The main Burra Burra area comprised of Kooringa (meaning "place of the sheoaks"), Llwychr (Welsh), Hampton (English) and Copperhouse.

Copper was discovered by shepherds Thomas Pickett and William Streair shortly before mining by SAMA. There is a monument to the early miners (known as Johnny Green, holding his pick and gad), which is my day was on Peacocks Chimney. It has now been relocated to near the old mine entrance.

In the early days the miners lived in dugouts along the creek bank, and were quite often flooded out. Two of these have been preserved as part of the Tourist Trail. Later SAMA built Paxton Square, to house the families, and there were 33 cottages around 3 sides put up in 1850 (the fourth side was never completed). The cottages were pretty basic, and consisted of 2 or 3 rooms and a lean-to at the back for cooking, bathing, washing clothes, etc. A long-drop toilet was placed at the end of each property. They had dirt floors even in my time, and were not what one could call hygienically clean! In the 1950s these cottages were rented out to people in poorer circumstances for 2/- per week. A mixture of races lived there – Afghans (descendants of the camel drivers), Maoris, and some Asians, plus locals. A far cry from these times, done up as holiday accommodation; basic but quite comfortable.

The town water supply came from the main shaft of the Bon Accord Mines and was only suitable for gardens, car washing and other like things, as is was full of copper and could not be drunk. We lived in the ANZ Bank premises on the main street, and built into a hill. Our personal water came from 8 tanks, up 9 steps from the premises. A 9<sup>th</sup> tank by the laundry had to have water pumped up for washing, and the toilets also up there. Most houses could have their tanks at ground level. Irons were about the only electrical item allowed, as it was 32 volt only supplied at that time.

The miners moved from Burra Burra to Moonta as mining scaled down, and names such as Pascoe and Nankivell cropped up in both places.

The rotunda in Market Square is a memorial to King Edward VII. The square was used for cattle and horse markets as late as 1900.

Porters Lagoon was popular for swimming, and the creek at Red Cliffs a good picnic spot, although care had to be taken as it was subject to flash floods.

I left home at 20 years of age to work in the city office. Although not of Cornish background I was always fascinated by the history of the town.

In 1963 Cornwall once more entered my life, on my marriage to Mostyn who was from Moonta and of Cornish background."

**The City of Onkaparinga** newsletter recently had a short article "Built on slate":

"When people think of Willunga they tend to envisage the almond trees, vineyards, bush produce and agricultural history. When they think of Cornish miners they tend to associate them with the Yorke Peninsula or Burra. In fact, it was the slate industry, and the miners, that underpinned Willunga's early economic development.

The first slate quarry in the area opened in 1840, only a year after the first European settlers arrived. The industry continues to this day, although in a much diminished form from its lucrative heyday.

The National Trust Slate Museum in High Street is keeping alive the story of Willunga's past and the Cornish families who moved to the area to cut the stone from the ground. "You can still see the Cornish names around the town", says the National Trust's Julie Taylor. "The old Cornish houses still have their original slate floors and slate water tanks."

There was even a separate village, the slowly disintegrating ruins of Delabole, near one of the quarries that housed the workers and their families.

The Slate Museum was first opened in 2005, and the third and final stage was opened in May 2009. It shows how bullocks, horses and blacksmiths helped to sustain the industry and transport the slate, which was used across the country in homes and now historical buildings.

The industry had its troubles, notably during the labour crisis in the 1850s when the miners departed en masse, as many men in the colony did, for the lure of the new Victorian goldfields.

When they returned, the vast majority none the richer, they helped to take the industry to its peak. By the 1870s 20,000 slate tiles were being shipped from Port Willunga every week. Evidence of this once flourishing industry can be seen in prominent Adelaide buildings including the GPO and Town Hall. Willunga slate was also sent further afield and was used in St George's Cathedral in Perth and in some of Melbourne's colonial buildings.

The operators of the Bangor Quarry agitated for years for a rail line to transport their slate to Adelaide. However, by the time it was built in 1915, galvanised iron and other materials saw a rapid decline in the demand for slate.

The quarry is one of two still operating today in what is a niche market, having now outlasted the former railway.

The Willunga Slate Museum is located next to the Courthouse Museum at 61 High Street, Willunga. The Museum is open from 1pm to 5pm on weekends and public holidays, and from 11am to 4pm on Tuesdays. Group visits can be arranged at other times by phoning 8556 2195"

**Tom and Libby Luke** have sent 3 typically Cornish photographs:

1. Ding Dong Mine down in West Penwith: Lying in the heart of the moors of West Penwith, Ding Dong is reputed to be one of the oldest mines in Cornwall. There are tales that it not only worked 2000 years ago but was visited by Christ and Joseph of Arimathea, however the earliest record of it is probably the brief mention given by John Norden at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1714 three separate mines were operating: Good Fortune, Wheal Malkin and Hard Shafts Bounds. By the middle of the 18th century at least seven small concerns had sprung up although the name Ding Dong did not rise to pre-eminence until the turn of the 18th century. By 1782 some sixteen workings were known.

Richard Trevithick worked with his father at Wheal Treasury mine and after making improvements to the Bull Steam Engine he was promoted to engineer of the Ding Dong mine in 1796. The main thrust of his work was to improve the efficiency of the steam engine, thereby cutting down on fuel consumption and increasing output. He did this by increasing the operating pressure.

It is said by the locals that Ding Dong is so deep that at the bottom on a Sunday morning you can hear the Church Bells in Australia !!!!!



2. Men an Tol with Ding Dong in the background: Remotely located near Penzance in the west Cornish moors is the unique and enigmatic Men-an-Tol stone. Archaeologists suggest that the three stones that comprise the Men-an-Tol are the remains of a Neolithic tomb because various types of holed stones have been found near the entrances to many burial chambers. Ancient folklore of the surrounding region, however, explains that the centre stone has fertilizing and energizing properties capable of curing almost any ailment when crawled through towards the sun. Young children were passed three times, naked, through the hole and then dragged through the grass three times toward the east, in order to cure rickets or tuberculosis. Adults, seeking relief from rheumatism or spinal problems, crawled nine times through the hole in a sunwise direction. The Men-an-Tol is also thought to be an instrument for measuring the May-August sunrise line, and in reverse direction, the February-November sunset.



3. Old Kea Church: This photograph is of the old church tower near Truro. There is a small chapel next door where present day services are held. It is located close to the banks of the Truro River. This and the nearby village of Kea are said to have been named after the British Saint Kea who lived there in the 5th century. A monastery at this location is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Of the original parish church only the tower now remains: a small mission church was built onto it in 1863.



**Russell Pengilly** has emailed since his move to Melbourne, indicating that Miriam's health "has improved tremendously in the last few weeks since Christmas. It is marvellous to see her getting around with the aid of a "walker" and is a marvellous contrast when compared with her immobile, seemingly unimproved condition for the first four months after her operation. The care facility here is relatively new and has been operating only since early 2009. Also only six of the independent units are occupied with many more in the course of construction on the other side of the main building where Miriam is resident. Our unit, which was brand new when I occupied it, is the one closest to her building so it would be less than a hundred yard walk to visit each time or to bring her to the unit which I have done frequently. She has a room, complete with ensuite, all to herself, the usual facilities – wardrobe, chest of drawers, book shelves, writing area and her own television set. The proximity of family and their regular visits has been great therapy for her."

**Howard Curnow** sent a Christmas letter, including a description of taking a group of Cornish schoolchildren to the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference:

“The work of Cornwall Wildlife Trust, a Charitable Trust of which I am the Chairman, is to care for the flora & fauna of Cornwall. We have amassed, literally, millions of records over the years, on which we base most of our practical, day-to-day work. As a result of observations of these records we know that the climate in and around Cornwall has been changing for at least 20 years. The main indicator of this is the increase in the sea temperature, thereby affecting the flora & fauna in the shallow waters around our coast. Likewise, with there being nowhere in Cornwall which is 25 miles from the sea, there is also a very obvious effect on the land-based plants and creatures...

I felt that we should make an actual demonstration on behalf of the planet. In short, that we should take a group of Cornish schoolchildren, with their own individual message, to the Conference in Copenhagen. I must point out here (so as to protect our Charity status) that CWT is not constituted as a campaigning organisation, like ‘Greenpeace’ or ‘FoE’, but that desperate situations call for desperate measures.

First I wrote to all 75,000 schoolchildren in Cornwall This quickly led to the discovery that more than 2/3 of the schools in Cornwall already had their own Climate Change programmes up and running. So my plans went through at least 100 modifications until finally, at 8.00am on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 19 people, two cars, a minibus and a Cornish Pilot Gig met on the seafront in Penzance – next stop Copenhagen, 1,200 miles (1,900 km) away...

Between 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December tens of thousands of sightseers, demonstrators, politicians and delegates descended on the Danish capital from all corners of the world. They came by ‘plane, car, bus or train. One man cycled from Australia. Many used a variety of techniques to get their message across, mostly verbal, but I decided early on that the display by the Cornish children should be a dramatic, visual, non-verbal demonstration of their wish for the future, summed up in the one word - **HOPE** (in 15 languages). Heads of State, or their representatives, from 192 countries were coming together to talk about the future of the world. Top of the agenda would be ideas for adaption to, and mitigation against, the forces which are changing our climate. To implement these ideas will involve tremendous expense, in the form of taxation. This will impact on the young people of the world for the whole of their lives, (and goodness knows on how many as yet unborn generations), but they have no place at the Conference table in Copenhagen. *‘Footsteps to Copenhagen’* would be our attempt to let the children have their say... Trying hard to be cheerful we rolled off onto Danish soil to find we were the only vehicle to be stopped by the Police. They wanted to see our passports. I suppose it might have been the strange slogans with which we had adorned the minibus – on the other hand, it could

have been the strange people they saw in the bus. But after ten minutes friendly banter a Customs official arrived and proceeded to go through our bags. We wondered why they picked on us. Could it have been the casual remark I made in answer to a policeman who asked what the Cornish were famous for ... I simply said ‘smuggling’.....

There is no doubt whatsoever that our small contingent was a ‘hit’ in Copenhagen. The presence of the gig, *‘Cape Cornwall’* – the ONLY boat on the waters around the city centre because of the tight security restrictions in force, their massive silk flag (5m x 4m) and their skill at getting under the bridges attracted many. The children, each with their silk banner, their dramatic visual display, the magnificent, high-soaring, white dove of Hope (a bamboo frame covered in white silk with a 2m wingspan and 10m long tails) and the banner displaying the word ‘Hope’ in 15 languages ... all of this was designed to make an impact, and it succeeded.

Countless onlookers (including the Police) showed their appreciation ... all of which added to the sense of excitement and achievement. Everyone in our group knew they were taking part in a piece of history. They knew too that they were making history. Any feelings that we were really very small fry were lost in the realisation that the children of Cornwall were standing shoulder to shoulder with the peoples of the world in calling to the politicians to act boldly and to act now. These youngsters, and the 75,000 children throughout Cornwall who mandated them to go to Copenhagen, can stand proud in knowing that they did their bit for the planet for the future. Some politicians talked of the failure of Copenhagen, but when did you last see the leaders of 192 nations together in one venue with a single-item agenda? Of course their vested interests came first, but this was the first meeting in many senses. We returned full of optimism.”

**Rev Ted Curnow** has added this item: “While the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change has left some disappointed and there have often been attitudes that diminish Cornwall as a significant player in matters of a contemporary nature, news now points to a positive direction.

Before we left Hayle in 2005 supporters of the concept were researching the tidal movement in and out of the Hayle estuary. Now we learn that last November construction began on a £42 million **Wave Hub Project** centred on the sea bed 10 miles off the coast that will allow wave energy devices to be tested on a large scale

This will certainly place Hayle and indeed Cornwall at the forefront of the recent global marine energy industry.

The South West Regional Development Agency describes the project as a Cornerstone of its strategy and hopes to deploy Power Buoy devices in 2011. The total sum invested in the South West is expected to top £100 million. The

Hub will have an initial capacity to power 7,000 homes with the potential to more than double that

figure. This will mean drilling through the sand dunes on the beach at Hayle and establishing a new electricity sub-station on the site of the former power station located in the Hayle Towans. It's all a matter of watching this space now."

**Dry-stone walls** – the Association has received a request for information and 'interesting local facts' about dry-stone walls in South Australia, in preparation for a book on the subject – the Secretary has further details and can pass on any relevant information.

**Colin Roberts** has sent this information:

Dear Overseas Cornish Associations

As a Cornishman who has spent pretty much equal amounts of my life in Cornwall and Australia I know only too well the passion and hard work of the overseas Cornish associations. The emergence of Bewnans Kernow, the new partnership of Cornish cultural organisations, of which I am Secretary, has also stimulated conversation in this regard.

The view taken over here is that whilst the eyes of the Diaspora are very much on Cornwall, as you would expect, our knowledge of the richness of your activities can be somewhat ad hoc at times.

The Gorsedd Council has been considering this question for some time and we have recently held discussions with a number of organisations within Bewnans Kernow to determine how we might be more structured in informing ourselves about Cornish cultural happenings overseas.

I am now pleased to advise that the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies (FOCS) has volunteered to develop a page on their excellent website devoted to overseas Cornish activity. They will gladly promote events, report on events and put up newsletters received from you all.

The Webmaster is George Pritchard and you may email him your content at:

[george@penhalvean.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:george@penhalvean.freeseerve.co.uk)

I will also use my extensive network of Bewnans Kernow members to advertise the fact that this is where they can go in the future for a comprehensive look at what is going on overseas. I am aware that some of you will be sending George content already, but this new initiative is aimed at formalising this across the board.

We hope this service, resulting from a strong collaboration between the Gorsedd, Bewnans Kernow and our colleagues at the FOCS is of assistance to you and supports the great work you do for Cornwall all over the World.

[George Pritchard is interested in including the Cornish carols from Moonta in the website; discussions are under way as to the best way for this to happen.]

**The Cornish Association of Bendigo & District** now has a Facebook profile, to keep people up to date with activities and news.

**Cornish Quest** recently arranged a talk by a Scottish Solicitor, John Kirkhope, on the legal status of Cornwall and the Duchy. Mr Kirkhope has just begun his PhD on Cornish Law, and is working on a book on the subject. A brief outline of his talk is as follows: For 600 years (approx) the Duchy was political, but for the last 150 years the Duchy argues it is a "private estate".

Numerous legal cases show this is ridiculous - but

- 1) The Treasury and Duchy have agreements involving Prince Charles' tax and don't want any court cases

- 2) It would be a big problem for solicitors etc .

- 3) big business worry about Cornwall.

The records of the Duchy of Lancaster can be inspected.

The lecturer asked to see Duchy of Cornwall papers, for research, and when asked gave 2 university names. Duchy still refused and referred the request to the Attorney General and Secretary of Duchy. Most people know the foreshore in Cornwall belongs to the Duke, but in England belongs to the Queen.

A Prince of Wales has to be newly "created" (investiture) every time, and has no powers, rights, etc.

The Duke of Cornwall is automatically the eldest male child of Sovereign (becomes Duke the instant someone dies) and has a seat in House of Lords. (Prince of Wales does not). This is traceable back to Cornish Kings.

Any rights, powers, privileges, etc that Prince Charles has come from Duchy, not Wales.

- 1) The Cornish are not English, this is cultural and lecturer didn't cover

- 2) the Duchy is not a private estate whatever property it owns

- 3) Cornwall is "de facto" part of England but not "de jure"

- 4) speaker didn't have time to cover Stannary Parliament

With huge amounts of money, proper in depth consultation before, and identifying a good test point the status quo could be challenged, transforming Cornwall into a place where residents would be empowered to solve our problems.

### **The little horsemen of Padstow**

The Cornish Association of Victoria, Ballarat Branch, newsletter recently printed an interesting article on the little horsemen of Padstow.

Tradition has it that sometimes when the church clock strikes midnight the little stone horsemen (atop the roof of a former inn) leave their roof and ride off to Market Square and then gallop through the town.

The last person to have seen this was a young boy, a sailmaker's son, named Buddock Curgenvan. Buddock saw the horses gallop off one New Year's Eve, and followed them. The horsemen turned to come back towards him (they were only up to his knee), and as they went past him they looked up and laughed – and when Buddock headed home they were back astride their stone horses on the roof top and motionless in the moonlight.

**The Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs** presented a massed choir concert in Newquay on 20<sup>th</sup> February, in support of “those of Cornish descent affected by the Victorian bush fires of last February in Australia”.

The choirs feel a strong affinity with the passionately Cornish people living so far away from Cornwall; indeed many of the members of the Kernow Male Choir which visited this part of Australia in 2003, singing at the opening ceremony of ‘Kernewek Lowender’, were also members of Federation choirs. The Federation’s first inclination was to raise funds to support those who lost property and/or loved ones as a result of the fire. However, it appears that a public appeal, insurance companies and the Australian Government have been able to provide what financial support is required. Consequently, in discussion with members of the Bendigo Cornish Association and the Victoria Cornish Association, it has been decided that it would be both fitting and appropriate for the Federation to contribute to the erection of a monument in the St Just Point area marking and celebrating its Cornish heritage.

#### **Cornish lose racism claim because ‘they are not a real nation’**

The Daily Mail of 31<sup>st</sup> January carried a report that the British Equality and Human Rights Commission had received a written complaint about repeated media mockery of the county, and had ruled that “case law has not established the Cornish as a ‘racial group’, for the purposes of the Race Relations Act, so currently, it is not clear whether any claim of racial discrimination against Cornish people would be successful.”

The Daily Mail did also point out that a border between the Cornish and the English was established by King Athelstan, at the Tamar in 936, and the river is still the border; the Cornish are racially distinct, being descended from the Dumnonii and Cornovii Celtic tribes, according to an American academic; more than 37,000 people claimed their ethnicity as Cornish in the 2001 census; Kernewek (Cornish) is recognised as a minority language by the European Union; Cornwall has a proud culinary tradition including pasties, clotted cream, fudge, farings, heavy cake, and sardines; and the county is rich in Saints.

**Juliet Jenkin** has indicated that The Cornish Global Migration Programme is about to produce its first newsletter – “I shall be sending it around via the email as there are no funds to send it by post. It will also be a begging letter. So watch out.!!!”

[www.cornishmigration.org.uk](http://www.cornishmigration.org.uk)

**The Gorsedd of Cornwall** has inaugurated a special award of exceptional endeavour, for an outstanding Cornish achievement meriting international recognition. This was presented to Pete Goss, of Torpoint, who last year arrived in Australia to a heroes’ welcome with his intrepid crew, after a

12,000 mile voyage in the “Spirit of Mystery” from Newlyn to Melbourne re-enacting the voyage by seven Cornish fishermen 154 years ago.



*Pictured with Pete Goss are the newly installed Grand Bard, Skogyn Pryv, Mick Paynter of St. Ives, and Barbara Shaw, Mentenor a’n Ertach; on the right Maureen Fuller Steren Mor of Saltash, newly installed as Deputy Grand Bard, with Keith Shaw, Kaswydh.*

In other news from the Gorsedd Council, approval was given for the manufacture of a new sword for the ceremony of the sword, re-introduced into the Open Gorsedd to symbolise unity and friendship with the Brittany and Wales Gorsedhow. This is to be paid for by an appeal to bards.

The resignation of Website Manager, Ted Chapman - *Glywys Venta*, was accepted with a strong vote of thanks for his work over the years. Pat Miller - *Myrgh Jowna* was appointed as the new Website Manager.

**The Kernewek Lowender newsletter** of December 2009 included a message from Paul Thomas (Mayor of the Copper Coast, and President of Kernewek Lowender), outlining plans for the celebrations of 150 years since the discovery of copper at Wallaroo Mines. Each month of the year of celebration will illustrate a different theme and provide various events, including musical events already mentioned and a re-enactment of the three day horse ride from Moonta to Adelaide to stake the mining claim.

Retiring Lutheran Pastor Bob Turnbull is moving to Gawler and will not be able to work with the Dressing the Graves Committee. His imposing presence at the Kadina Cemetery will be missed, and the Cornish Association joins with Kernewek Lowender in wishing Bob and Betty a happy retirement, with thanks for his involvement in the past few years.

*Many thanks to all those who contributed material for this Newsletter. Such contributions are always welcome.*