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The Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

Newsletter No. 331 Circulation 120 ISSN 1321-3199 February – March 2011

De Gol Sen Perran Lowen! Happy St Piran's Day

PROGRAMME 2011

Members Functions

Annual General Meeting

Notice of AGM to be held on

Saturday 5 March 2011

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, Ryedale
Road, West Ryde

Starts sharp at **11:00am**

Reports - elections of office bearers and new
Committee for 2010/2011, consideration of
motions, open forum. *Please consider
nominating for Committee, or for other
Association roles. Bring your ideas for our future
programme.*

**(Note: Membership fees not due until 5
March!!)**

Saint Piran's Day Lunch



Saturday 5 March

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

From 12:30pm (after AGM)

\$40 each for adults

See more details in this newsletter

But RSVP by 27/2/2011

*Country visitors may be billeted – but please contact us
now if needed (02 9876.2893 or email)*

Next South Coast Events

[Southern Sons of Cornwall Inc](#)

(CANSW members are welcome)

For more details contact:

Sonia Reuter is Events Co-ordinator,
and her phone number is 02 4421 8187

Her email address is:

oneandall12@bigpond.com

[Central Coast Cornish Interest \(CCFHS\)](#)

Contact: Kay Radford ccfhs@hotmail.net.au

Family Outing

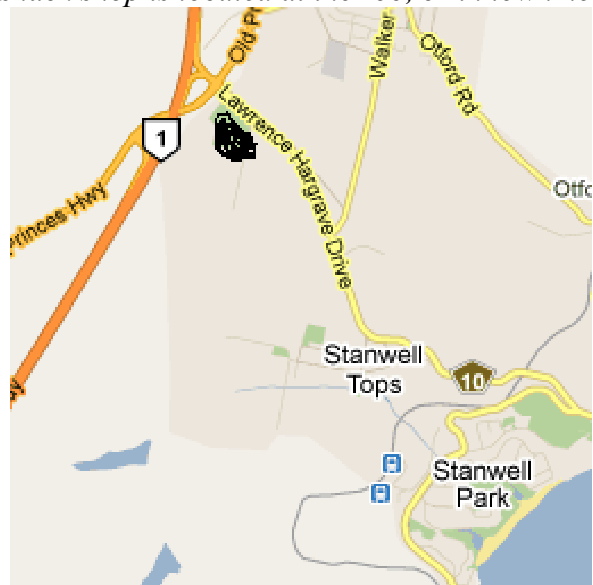


Sunday 3 April

Meet at 10am morning tea – for our visit
expected 10:30am to 12.30pm in zoo,
For keeper talks etc. then picnic lunch (venue to
be decided on the day)

Symbio Wildlife Park is an own award winning, family
owned zoo, set in 16 acres of bush on Lawrence
Hargrave Drive, Helensburgh - famous for providing
genuine hands-on encounters with fascinating
creatures from Australia and around the world,
including **Sumatran Tigers, Tasmanian Devils,
and Red Panda**

A snack shop is located at the zoo, or in town nearby.



Make a day of it!

Car pooling possible, pickup from Waterfall station – let us
know if interested (02 9876 2893)!

<http://www.symbiozoo.com.au/>

Other functions & activities

EVENTS STILL IN PLANNING

(More details in later newsletters – your ideas welcome)

- **Cornish Fayre Day - July 2011**
- **Members meetings and outings during the year**



WIDER COMING EVENTS

Australian Celtic Festival

Glen Innes NSW

The Year of the Irish

Friday 29 April – Sunday 1 May 2011



For details of Accommodation, the draft programme & bookings contact the Glen Innes Visitor Information Centre

- Tel: 02 6732 2397 Fax: 02 6732 6090 Email:

info@gleninnestourism.com

Web site: <http://www.australiancelticfestival.com/>

Programme available from 30 January.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER

11 to 15 May, 2011



World's largest Cornish Festival - South Australia
Plan your trip away now!

Some members are interested in a group to fly and hire a car/s, and some shared accommodation. Are you? Let us know!

Web address: <http://www.kernewek.org/>

Includes Official Programme – view, download, or print

Lowender Office: Ph: 08 8821 4500

KL Office, 50 Moonta Rd Kadina 5554

Ticket sales from 1 February

Email: info@kernewek.org

Local info at: <http://www.moontaprogress.org.au/>

16th Gathering of Cornish Cousins (North America)
“REMEMBERING CORNISH HERITAGE - MAKING THE CONNECTION” on from 10–14 August, 2011 at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, USA info@cornishfest.org
or contact CANSW Secretary for a copy of the flyer

Committee News:

CANSW bank a/c balance at 31/01/2011 was \$6,452.24

The Committee met on 23 January and discussed coming functions and ideas for 2011. Our membership is now 90 households (about 150 adults plus some children). New ideas for promotion and gaining new members are welcome.

Next Committee Planning Meeting

Sunday 10 April, 2011, 11:30am at Cocks

Subject to new Committee - All members welcome (rsvp) – working lunch, so bring a plate

Your ideas are always welcome

Remember - Maxine Gray volunteered to be our contact for **Family History enquiries** – 14 Janice Crescent, Moss Vale, 2577 (02 4869 4958)

maxrose@exemail.com.au

Maxine would love to have your enquiries.

Our Lending & Research Library



Our wonderful Library is a tremendous source of information (books, video) for interest, research and entertainment - members should take the opportunity at meetings to have a good look. As have 475+ items (6 boxes) we can only bring 2-3 boxes to each of our Association members meetings, and other main events.

However, a book can be posted out to far flung or invalid members and then posted back-in once read (within a seasonal period). A particular book/video or box category can be taken to an event, if you contact our librarians by the week prior to the next meeting.

Contact **Eddie and Eileen** on **02 9349 1491**

Email: ealyon45@gmail.com

A fairly full listing can be posted to you on request, and is also available to view and /or download in both catalogue Id & alphabetical order on the members web site:

<http://members.optushome.com.au/kevrenor/merlib5.htm>

or short link <http://tinyurl.com/46c9cl>

Eddie Lyon, Librarian

New

Celtic Studies Foundation – Lunchtime lectures
Free - all welcome – Sydney University Celtic Studies Foundation. At Woolley Building (near to Parra. Rd footbridge) On the Last Friday of the month – 1pm.
Next meetings: From end March - Contact Suzanne Jamieson on 02 9351 2081
s.jamieson@econ.usyd.edu.au

Institute of Celtic Studies, Newcastle

Latest programme out – contact Graham/Stella on 02 4929 1912 or <http://www.celticstudies.com.au>

PAST EVENT

'CELTIC AUSTRALIA DAY' (26 Jan)



Some of the members who enjoyed the festival

A good Cornish presence on a very hot day, with involvement in the opening parade, celtic wrestling, and time meeting others as well as some new Cornish people.

SAINT PIRAN

In the 21st century Saint Piran, or Sen Perran in the Celtic Cornish language, is honoured around the world, with his feast day (Degol) 5th March, and his symbol (Banner Sen Perran), celebrated wherever Cornish people settled, as well as increasingly in the Duchy of Cornwall itself.

It wasn't always like this; say in the 5th century AD. Legend has it that he grew up in Ireland and being a very godly man he took exception to the womanising of the local Ri, or regional Irish king. For his efforts he was tossed off the cliffs on the south of Ireland, tied to a millstone. The stormy sea immediately became calm, and Piran floated safely over the Celtic Sea to land upon the sandy beach of Perranzabuloe in Cornwall. Unlikely? Perhaps rather he rode a currach or even a coracle? Certainly ogham inscriptions on the northern coast of Cornwall indicate contact with Ireland at this time. This tale tells that he set up a small residence and oratory on the wind-swept coast; some say as protection from Cornish tribal leaders, and others that this was in keeping with a missionary's life of self denial.

Cornwall in the 5th century was a tribal area within the kingdom of Dumnonia, a British Celtic partly-Christianised realm that was re-establishing in post Roman times. It could also just as well be that he was

in fact a pilgrim and missionary from the Christianised south of Wales, as other legends have it, and indeed Cornwall became a key stop on the so-called Saints Way from Wales to Brittany, and Atlantic coast trade kept contact with the Mediterranean.

It is said that Piran was joined at Perranzabuloe by many of his Christian converts and together they founded the Abbey of Lanpiran, with Piran as abbot, and his oratory was within the Lan. According to a 12th century inventory St Piran's Old Church, Perranzabuloe, had a reliquary containing his head and also a hearse in which his body was placed for processions. Over time the old church and other remains were overtaken by coastal dunes - Perranzabuloe means 'Piran in the sands'. The small oratory or chapel dedicated to St. Piran circa 450AD, was excavated in 1835 and it was claimed to be the oldest extant building of worship on mainland Britain, second only to Iona Abbey. It has now been reburied, to protect it, and all that marks the spot is a stone with the words 'St. Piran'.

The churches at Perranuthnoe and Perranarworthal were also dedicated to Piran and holy wells at Perranwell and Probus are named after him. The town of Perranporth near his landing spot means port or harbour of Piran. He probably also made trips to Brittany where he became an associate of St. Cai; so in Brittany St. Peran, Loperan and Saint-Perran are also named after him; and at the other end of the pilgrimage route in Wales there is record of a chapel near Cardiff. There is little doubt that a holy man with the name of Perran existed in Cornwall.

Another oft-quoted legend is that Saint Piran 'rediscovered' tin-smelting (tin had been mined for thousands of years and recorded as smelted in Cornwall since before the Romans' arrival, but the methods had, legend has it, been lost) when his black hearthstone, which was evidently a slab of tin-bearing ore, had the tin smelt out of it and rise to the top in the form of a white cross (thus the image on St Piran's flag). He went on to teach the local people how to extract the mineral - tin - from the rock, and the resulting celebrations apparently lasted many days and it is said gave rise to the expression 'drunk as a Perraner'.



Baner Sen Perran – St Piran's Flag

The white cross on black banner was first described in writing as the Standard of Cornwall in 1838, but its

history does seem to stretch well into an unrecorded past. It bears resemblances to some old Breton symbols. The flag is commonly understood to represent the white tin metal against the black tin ore; symbolically, however, it is said to represent the light of truth shining through the blackness/darkness of evil. Today it is increasingly the national flag of Cornwall, flying on official buildings, homes, and shown proudly and at times defiantly on car windows and licence plates, shops, badges and clothing, and commercially exploited in merchandise.

St Piran's Day (5th March) is becoming very popular in Cornwall, indeed a move to create a public holiday is current, and the term 'Perrantide' describes the period around the day itself. Many Cornish-themed events occur in the Duchy and also around the world over 'Perrantide' in areas in which there is a large community descended from Cornish emigrants. Dinners and lunches by Cornish Associations in the UK and across North America and Australasia, pasty throwing 'Olympics' in California, and personal flag-flying, Cornish Pasty making, and other gestures made by individuals. The partying, along the theme of 'Perraners', and concerts has historic support. The Parish of Crowan was known in the early 1800's to have a Perrantide festival, and during which the ladies were given free rein to choose their partners.

The largest St Piran's Day event is probably the pilgrims march across the dunes to 'St Piran's' Celtic Cross which thousands of people attend, generally dressed in black, white and gold, or with Cornish tartans, and carrying the Cornish Flag of St Piran. A play of the Life of St Piran, in Cornish, has been enacted in recent years at the annual pilgrimage to St Piran's Oratory and the Cross. Parades in towns and villages across Cornwall take place, with particularly large ones in the capital Truro, Penzance, and in the old capital Bodmin.

The village of Perranporth ('Porthpyran' in Cornish) hosts the annual inter-Celtic festival of 'Lowender Peran', in October, which is also named in honour of him. The Cornish group seeking to bring a more Celtic style of Christianity to modern life uses the apt name of Cowethas Perran Sans, the Fellowship of Saint Piran.

Why Saint Piran has elevated above the hundreds of other Celtic Saints of Cornwall, particularly Saint Petrock, or St Meriasek, is not clear but his banner has become in the past 50 years one of the strongest and widely used national symbols of the Cornish people. I wonder what Perran himself would have made of it all?



In other news, it is soon Pirantide:

- [MAGA Kernow](#) has produced a special 'Pirantide' Resource Pack to give schools and community groups ideas for Cornish themed activities to run around St Piran's Day. The pack is made up of five sections: music (with songs like Little Eyes and Trelawny); dance (with instructions and music for four traditional Cornish dances); food (with recipes for things like Cornish fairings and pasties); language (with teachers' notes); and the story of St Piran himself. It is accompanied by a CD to help with pronunciation in each section

- With the 5th day of March being time to celebrate Cornish identity around the world – Saint Piran's Day. There is a big push in Cornwall to magnify the celebrations, with pubs and other entertainment venues receiving kits to deck themselves out for the day, and there is a petition to Cornwall Council to declare St Piran's Day a holiday across the Duchy:

The online petition reads:

"We, the undersigned, call on Cornwall Council to vote in favour of Dydh Sen Perran / St Piran's Day (5th March) becoming an annual public holiday in Cornwall, and to make a recommendation to the UK Government to do the same."

The petition can be signed by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.freepetition.co.uk/cornwall/LivePetition.aspx?Pagelid=1>

Join in, Australia ... make sure you fly the flag and/or wear a St Pirans cross for the day!

PRAA SANDS & PENGERSICK

Situated in Breage Parish, between Helston and Penzance just off the A394, Praa Sands (properly pronounced 'pray' (prah or prar are incorrect) is a coastal settlement.

Praa is an ancient Cornish word meaning "hag's" or "witch's cove".



Situated in a sheltered depression within Mount's Bay, it has a long, wide sandy beach facing South, lapped by comparatively large waves for the area. Formerly serving the local mining industry, it is now predominantly a tourist-oriented area.

The beach, which has shallow waters and seasonal lifeguards, attracts surfers and holidaymakers. Adjacent to the beach, at Sydney Cove, are some fine cafes (including one with staff who have had time in Perth, and Yamba NSW)

The adjoined location of Pengersick is also the site of a "haunted" castle, a small "keep" building that is in private hands. There is evidence of 5000 years of history at Pengersick, going back to the Bronze Age.

The original family possessed of these lands, settled here in the 12th century. They took their name from the place. The outline of their extensive residence and associated village settlement, chapel and garden has been identified through archaeological evidence and geophysical survey. The Pengersicks were amongst the most notorious families in the Duchy. Their exploits have given rise to the numerous legends associated with the name. It does appear that fate has always taken a hand in the destiny of those who have resided here.

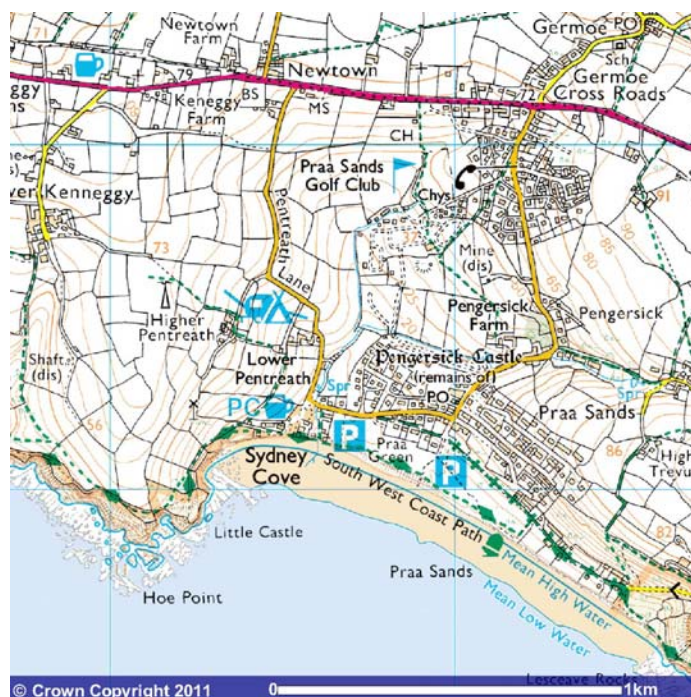
Plague and pestilence resulted in a break in the direct inheritance during the 15th century. A dynastic marriage of the surviving heiress resulted in the creation of a magnificent, fortified Tudor dwelling.

It is the dual tower complex of this, which survives today. Its spacious newel stair is one of the best to be found anywhere in the UK.



Pengersick Castle, in Pengersick Lane

The Castle is a Grade 1* Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument. Thus the fabric of the structure and surrounding grounds must be preserved. Pengersick Castle is also supposed to be one of the most haunted buildings in the UK, and holds regular ghost-hunting activities and other similar pursuits, such as holding events at Christmas and Halloween. It was also investigated in series two of *Most Haunted*



To the west of the village is another small beach, [Keneggy](#) Cove, which is accessible from the cliff walking path (South West Coast Path) at low tide, and further along is the better known Prussia Cove.



Postscript to Germoe: our friend, Howard Curnow, writes from St Hilary, Cornwall, to correct and add to our last article – “*You postulated that Wm Lemon of Germoe (where all our family gathered yesterday to bury our 90 yr old patriarch) possibly had something to do with Lemon St. Truro. Well, I won't go into all the details, or even check them, but off the top of my head ...*

One of the first places WL worked, following his youthful introduction to mining in Germoe & Breage parishes, was five miles west, in the parish of St. Hilary, at the back of (the north side of) Marazion. That ancient town which was eventually created a parish in its own right, when it was 'carved out' of St. Hilary parish in 1895, as the Church of England made a desperate, but futile, last ditch stand against the spread of Methodism. There, William took a share in a budding mine which they called 'Wheal Fortune'. (Most Cornish mines had the prefix 'Huel' (a hole in the ground) which the english corrupted into what they thought was the correct spelling, 'Wheal'.)

Wheal Fortune did indeed prove to be worth a fortune, and to cut a long story short, William finished up as one of the gentry of Cornwall, building a fine mansion, Carclew, near Perranarworthal, and shipping in large quantities of Bath Stone from his Cornish colleague, Ralph Allen who had a virtual monopoly on the stone quarries around the city of Bath. He used this fine, yellow sandstone, not only to build Carclew (which burnt down in the 20th c.) but the fine Georgian street in the heart of Truro which is, as you suppose, named after him.

His son went on to become MP for Truro but enough of this prattle, you can look him up under that other great Cornishman, Tregoogle”, Howard.

INTRODUCING SOME CORNISH WEB SITES

A series looking at some of web sites that are available on the Internet:

<http://www.cornwallcam.co.uk/>

Cornwall Cam – photos of Cornwall

Charles Winpenny wanders Cornwall almost daily taking wonderful photos, and displaying them for our enjoyment on his web site.

MEMBERS MILESTONES

We think of those who are unwell (let us know please), or with long term chronic illness.

GET WELL: *Best wishes to Betty Bevins*

Renewed members: Janice Ruse Huntington of Rydalmere. Interests – a descendent of James Ruse, among other things. **Bob Jones of Pymble.** *Welcome back!*

VALE: Jean Ellis (nee Johns)

Died 24.1.2011 aged 89.

A long term member, unable to attend functions in her later years. From Johns, Jewell, Kemp, & Treglown ancestry, among others. The beloved mother of Chris Dunkerley, and grandmother of Lowenna, Owen & Kerensa

CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

This is the public face of the Association – Thanks to John Symonds, our hard working Webmaster.

John has greatly updated the ‘**Stories Site**’ part of our web pages in our new look at

www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm

Reminder: John’s eyesight means he can’t spend much time on the computer now, but along with the pages updated, he will update any details on the surnames page – please email him with update details of your family interests to jlsymo@ozemail.com.au

Editorial note: The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect official views of the CANSW, but rather of the various contributors and sources! If someone is sick then please let me know for a get-well message, or other news please!

The next Newsletter is April / May 2011

Deadline is 10 April. Items (emailed, or on disk, or even typed for scanning) very welcome!

Nr. 331 LYTHER NOWODHOW NSW

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(02) 9876.2893 *, **Fax** 02 9876 2618

(*An ‘Answer phone’ may be on)

Email: kevrenor@ozemail.com.au

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2010

CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF NSW

Income & Expenditure Statement for 2010 - as at 31/12/2010

Comparisons					
INCOME	2010	2009	Change %	2008	Notes
Membership Subscriptions	1155.00	1320.00	-13%	1440.00	Less 'annual' members
Fund Raising / Functions					
Fund raising	120.00	85.00		106.00	Other than donations eg. Raffles
Functions	2708.50	1791.00	51%	1853.60	Functions, meetings, events
Major functions	0.00	0.00		0.00	eg. in past CHW 1994, 96, 98; 25YD '00
Total	2828.50	1876.00	51%	1959.60	
Sales	136.70	532.20	-74%	277.00	
Donations	167.00	137.00	22%	25.00	Monetary only - not 'in kind'
Projects / Other					
Operating	16.83	20.42	-18%	30.53	Interest
Project/s	0.00	1649.20		0.00	Special projects: Byng Church Trust
Total	16.83	1669.62	-99%	30.53	
Total	4304.03	5534.82	-22%	3732.13	
Comparisons					
EXPENDITURE	2010	2009	Change %	2008	
Newsletter	709.90	716.44	-1%	851.27	Newsletter printing / postage
Functions / Fund Raising					
Fund Raising	15.00	15.00		100.00	Prizes etc.
Functions	2398.00	2085.59	15%	1730.00	Gross costs - includes events
Major events eg. CHW/25YD	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Total	2413.00	2100.59	15%	1830.00	
Sales	113.00	300.00	-62%	450.00	Actual cost of sales items obtained
Operating & Projects					
Misc Operating	112.17	220.88	-49%	171.60	Incl White Pages, misc costs (details)
Affiliations	50.00	25.00	100%	100.00	Celtic Council Reps
Materials & Equip	141.00	35.00	303%	46.35	Details available
Project	75.50	1702.50		0.00	Special projects: Byng Church Trust
Total	378.67	1983.38	-81%	317.95	
Charges / Taxes	0.00	0.00		0.00	Bank / Govt charges etc.
Total	3614.57	5100.41	-29%	3449.22	
OPERATING RESULT ON YEAR - Surplus	689.46	434.41	59%	282.91	Please note Assets & Liabilities below!

Partial Balance Sheet * - Statement as at 31/12/10

ASSETS	2010	2009	Change %	2008	
Balance at bank 31/12/10	6713.34	6018.10	12%	5583.69	As per Westpac Bank Statement
Secretary's Kitty - at 31/12/10	0.00	0.00		-75.98	Advance - still in hand/(owing)
Cash/chqs at hand as at 31/12/10	0.00	0.00	0%	100.00	Various cheques & cash 'in hand'
Current assets - debtors etc.	0.00	56.70		0.00	Debtors
Total	6713.34	6074.80	11%	5607.71	
LESS					
LIABILITIES	2010	2009	Change %	2008	
Unpresented cheque	301.10	75.50	100%	19.50	2010 - Kitty recoup - paid but bank not debited
Misc liabilities - to be paid	0.00	0.00		0.00	Money owing
Total	301.10	75.50	299%	19.50	
FINANCIAL POSITION ('net worth')	6412.24	5999.30	7%	5588.21	On a partial accrual basis only *

* excludes value of Library, Sales, Equip

E&OE

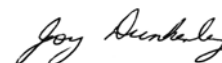
This is the official Statement of Accounts of the CANSW for year ending 31/12/2010 in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

J.P.Dunkerley

(Received and adopted by the Committee on 23/01/2011)

Honorary Treasurer, CANSW

18/01/2011



CANSW A.G.M

Saturday 5 MARCH 2011

RYDE EASTWOOD LEAGUES CLUB

10:30am, to start at 11am

(ie. Before the lunch)

Reports and Financial accounts will be presented (see last newsletter), and the election of new office bearers and committee for 2011/12:

***President, Treasurer, & Secretary,
And 6-12 other committee members
(plus volunteers not on Committee are wanted to help with a range of activities)***

Notice of motion – No motions or major issues received by the Committee

Open Forum, bring your ideas for our programme. Please consider serving on the Committee - we always need new ideas and enthusiasm.

St Piran's Day Lunch

Saturday 5 March



12.30pm (\$40 each*)

RYDE EASTWOOD
LEAGUES CLUB

Ryedale Road, West Ryde

Plenty of parking under the club, off Wattle Street, and 100m from West Ryde Station (that is between Hornsby & Strathfield). Lift from car park levels, and in club.

All members (and their guests) are very welcome! The Association has 'in faith' again booked (and will have to pay for) the menu option for 40 people - so your attendance will be very appreciated!

Some soft / fruit drinks will be on your table and available service for any other drinks is available at your own cost from the bar outside the room.

You'll love this gathering and time of good and plentiful food, and enjoyable friendship!

For country and regional members – we may have some **Billets** available. Those who can provide billeting, or need billets please contact us. **Transport needs?** – Don't let that stop you! If you need a lift to the AGM / lunch and /or home afterwards please also contact us! We may be able to assist you.

Special food? Special diet needs? Contact us when RSVPing!



Note: If you are attending the lunch please

RSVP: By 9pm Sunday 27th February

Ring Ruth on 02 9639 5365

Or ring Joy on 02 9876 2893 (answer phone)
or email ruthrussell@bigpond.com or
joy.dunkerley@gmail.com

You must RSVP - The \$40.00 may then be paid by cheque to Cornish Association of NSW sent to 21 Cliff Rd Epping 2121; or direct deposit to Westpac BSB 032287 A/C 143 725 (give name), or on the day. Your RSVP is a commitment to pay.

The Menu? Yum!

Hot Entrees – eg. Chicken with honey & soy, Beef Stroganoff, Seafood Vol au Vents, Sweet & Sour Pork, with Fried Rice / Noodles.

Carvery – Roast Pork, Roast Beef, Roast Lamb, with baked potato and baked pumpkin.

Cold Cuts – Ham, Turkey, Corned Beef, salami.

Salads – Caesar, Potato, Coleslaw, Seafood Pasta, Garden Fresh, Fresh Fruit.

Desserts – An array of **Tortes** etc.

Plus of course **Tea / Coffee**, and mints



The Afternoon?

Befitting St Piran's Day, the tables will be suitably decorated, and please feel free to come in Cornish colours – Black & Gold, B&W, or Tartan, or Celtic dress

Afterwards – time to talk, music, poetry, & your contribution?

* Under 12 years - \$25.00, Under 3 years – free