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Web Pages: www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm **NEW** (Webmaster Email: jlsymo@ozemail.com.au) John Symonds



The Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

Newsletter No. 329 Circulation 120 ISSN 1321-3199 October - November 2010

PROGRAMME 2010-2011 Members Functions

Next meeting

Hear 'Cornish Stories'
Saturday 6 November

1.30pm – 4pm

At 'Hawks on Second Avenue'
(Meet for Bistro lunch 12 noon)

We will hear a few Cornish born members talk about growing up in Cornwall and the migration experience.



This is an initiative by our friend Graham Aubrey from the Centre for Celtic Studies in Newcastle who will record this oral history for posterity.

(Note **NEW** Venue)

We will also enjoy great fellowship, and our wonderful Library will be open for borrowing or browsing.

Note: Hawks on Second Avenue is at the corner of Second Avenue & Young Parade, Eastwood.



Eastwood station on the main Northern train line is only a few blocks walk. A Car Park is at the club.

Sun December 19 – Byng Christmas Carols, 4pm

Next South Coast Events

[Southern Sons of Cornwall Inc](http://www.southernsonsofcornwall.com.au)

Picnic Day, Sussex Inlet – Sun 7 November

Christmas function – Sun 5 December

(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

Medieval Christmas



Sunday 28 November

At Camden

Jennifer Meston invites members and friends to join her at her home in the beautiful countryside of Camden for a 'back to medieval times' Christmas.

From: 11:00am

Address: 27 Thompson Place, South Camden
- for a pre-Christmas get-together

Please RSVP if possible before the day for numbers.

Cost: \$15 per head

Raffle – Framed Water Colour, and others.

(There is a pool for a swim for the young, or young at heart, so bring your bathers if hot).



Access from old Hume Highway south of Camden town – turn off (as above to the west) at Wire Lane, then right into Crookston Drive, right into Dawson Avenue, then left into Thompson Place, which is a cul de sac – look for the St Piran's flag

Ring Jennifer on 02 4655 1064 or Del on 02 4658.1925 for RSVP or for directions

This promises to be THE event of the year, with very interesting and authentic lunch with food for the period.

Perhaps you could wear something fitting?

Be prepared for a wonderful day – plan to bring family and friends.

Don't miss this – put it into your diary or calendar now!

Other functions & activities

EVENTS STILL IN PLANNING

(more details in later newsletters – your ideas welcome)

Wed January 26, 2011 – Celtic Australia Day

Sat March 5 – Annual General Meeting

Sat March 5 – St Piran's lunch

Sun April 3 – Family Outing - Symbio Wildlife Park, Helensburgh (they may have white tigers and red pandas by then – let us know if you are interested)



WIDER COMING EVENTS

KERNEWEK LOWENDER

11 to 15 May, 2011

World's largest Cornish Festival - South Australia

Plan your trip 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/>

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GOING?

Expressions of interest are called from those interested in travelling to the Lowender by air, pooling car and perhaps accomodation. Many are now unable to drive the long distances, but still wish to go, and others may be unable to spare the time for the 1,600km. We can get you together to look at options, and early decisions may get cheaper air fares (eg. Virgin \$300 return). Email c/o kevrenor@ozemail.com.au or fax 02 9876 2618 or leave message 02 9876 2893 asap

We will then put you in touch with each other!!

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 31/09/10 was \$6,544.56 (less approx \$250 owing)

The Committee met on 24 October and discussed coming functions and ideas for 2011. Our membership is now 87 households. New ideas for promotion and gaining new members are welcome.

Next Full Committee Planning Meeting

Tuesday 11 January, 2011

11am – probably at Cocks' place

All members welcome (rsvp) – 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 research and entertainment - which members should take the opportunity at meetings to have a good look. As have 470+ 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/melib5.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 Parra. Rd footbridge) On the Last Friday of the month – 1pm. Next meetings: 29 October, then 26 November. More details from our Secretary or Contact Suzanne Jamieson on 02 9351 2081

s.jamieson@econ.usyd.edu.au

Celtic Awards Dinner

Friday, 29 October at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club 7:30pm – Celtic Council of Australia - \$50 (Last minute bookings – Ring Gwen (02 4950 5500)

Institute of Celtic Studies, Newcastle

Latest programme out – contact Graham/Stella on 02 4929 1912

PAST EVENTS

Outing to Watson's Bay – 6 October

Despite threatening forecasts in the morning, and a few late withdrawals we made our way into Circular Quay and on to the Watson's Bay ferry. A small group did the walk around Camp Cove and to South Head and Hornsby Light. Then we met up with the others for lunch, chats, a yummy gelato, and a reflective look at the Gap.



11 out of the 13 who enjoyed the day out - having a gelato



The small band who did the loop walk earlier at Camp Cove



Some dined inside, others picnicked

CELTIC FESTIVAL – PORT STEPHENS, NSW

Known more for its splendid blue waters and sun-drenched beaches Port Stephens hosts a Celtic festival on the third weekend in September.

Bringing together the many Scottish clans from locally and as far as Sydney, together with representatives of the Welsh, Cornish, Manx, and Irish communities it is in its third year.

As well as a street parade, and parklands dotted with tents containing a wide range of Celtic merchandise and cultural information, there is a heavy emphasis on music and dance during the day.



Three tartan clad representatives of the Cornish (Clare Morrison from Nelson Bay, her mother from SA, and our President Joy Dunkerley head off to take part in the street parade



From the small Cornish gathering there were some taking part in the parade, and a Cornish dance display and tuition by the Hunter Welsh & Cornish Dancers, plus singing of popular Cornish songs by the Newcastle Celtic Choir (with enthusiastic support from visiting Cornish). Graham & Stella Aubrey had a busy day with music and their stall.



CANSW member Brenda Povey (left) with her stall – ‘Mostly Welsh’

GORSEDDH KERNOW – PORTHIA

On Saturday 4th September the 2010 Gorsedd was held in St Ives. Four Bards from Australia attended – Ruth & Russell Cocks and Betty Bevins from NSW, and Rod Phillips (Vic). Other members of the Association were also in attendance.

Although the weather was overcast many lined the narrow streets to watch the short morning procession of Bards and local dignitaries as they proceeded through the town to the Memorial gardens where a warm welcome was received from the Mayor of St Ives, Mrs Yvonne Watson.



Australian banners in the procession - SA carried by Dawn Williams, Betty Bevins grand-daughter Madeline with Vic., Del Clinton with NSW,

In the afternoon the sun was shining when the main procession of more than 300 Bards left the Guildhall to process to the Island where the

ceremony was to take place. Some Bards had also travelled from the USA to attend.



The Gorsedd was opened with the customary cry of peace. Delegates were present from Wales and Brittany, and the Gorsedd's new sword was used in the ceremony for the joining of the sword, a symbol of the uniting of the three Celtic nations. After the Flower Dance and the offering of the Fruits of the Earth by the Lady of Cornwall, the Deputy Grand Bard read out the names of the deceased Bards. 16 new Bards were welcomed into the Gorsedd, following which awards and prizes were given out - including the *Paul Smales Medal* to Julie Wheeler. Julie's childhood friend Andrew Pool accepted it on her behalf.

As the ceremony drew to a close The Grand Bard called all Bards to the Omborth (stage) to place a hand on the shoulder of the Bard in front, and when all were linked to the Swordbearer, the *oath of loyalty* was given and the song "Old Land of our Fathers" was sung with passion in what was a memorable setting with the sea gently lapping the shore.

To read the Grand Bard's speech click here: [Bardh Mur](#) . There was an afternoon tea for Bards, and in the evening a concert with Cornish music and songs was held in the Guildhall, which according Ruth Cocks was excellent.

Gorseddh Kernow Porthia 2010
an Gwir Erbyn an Bys



Re sowenho yn hy dydhyow Trev Porthia kepar hy lithyow

More on the Bards, esp. in Australia:
<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~kevrenor/gorseth.html>

Location:

The Open Gorsedh ceremony this year was held at St Ives (Porthia), on The Island, venue also of the 1966 ceremony. The Island seems to belie its own name, for it is in fact now a Peninsula, whilst the narrow isthmus connecting it to the mainland contains some of the oldest streets and houses of the town. Yet there is clear evidence that it was once surrounded by water.

The isthmus itself consists of a bank of sand underlaid by a rocky substratum which outcrops at Carn Glaze, Burrow Rock, Carn Crows, and other places. The most likely course for the old sea channel, before it was finally and permanently closed up in probably the mid-seventeenth century, seems to have been in a line drawn from the Wharf Slipway through Norway Lane, Norway Square and across Back Road West to Porthmeor Beach. Between Porthgwiddden Cove and the eastern end of Porthmeor appears the line of another and much earlier channel, its existence being marked at each side by raised fossil beaches in the cliffs.

The Island consists of a roughly rectangular mass of clay slate rocks interpenetrated by very hard basaltic masses, and measuring almost exactly a mile around the base. It rises to a height of 109 feet, and is practically level on top. At the western end it is crowned by the ancient chapel of St. Nicholas, and on the east by a dwelling-house, National Coastwatch Institute look-out and a battery dating from the mid 19th century.

Along the southern edge of the plateau may be clearly distinguished the remains of an older fortification built of huge masses of stone, and incorporating two bastions, popularly known as "The Two Edges". This seems to date from medieval times, and gave to the Island its old names of "Pendinas" – "the fortified headland" – and "Dinas Ia" – "Ia's fortification" – St. Ia being the local patron saint. Mr. Charles Henderson has suggested that the headland, as a prehistoric "Cliff Castle" may also have at one time been fortified with ramparts and ditches constructed across the isthmus; but if so, no trace of them now remains.

The Island is covered with a dense, coarse turf, whose vivid green makes a beautiful background for the old grey town of St. Ives, as viewed from

Porthminster Hill, or any suitable vantage place to the south. The fishermen, traditionally, have always used its grassy slopes as a drying ground for their nets, as well as the local housewives for their weekly washing; each party fiercely protective of its customary territory. John Leland, who visited St. Ives in 1538, noted: "There is now at the very point of Pendinas, a chapel of St. Nicholas and a pharos for lighte for shippes sailing by night in these quarters." St. Ives can thus lay claim to the distinction of having possessed one of the earliest – perhaps the earliest – lighthouses or warning beacons in Cornwall.

A more beautiful setting for the Gorsedd ceremony than that afforded by the Island can hardly be imagined. From its summit, nearly the whole of St. Ives Bay can be seen, together with a long section of the northern coastline as far as Trevose. Southward lie the huddled houses and harbour of the old fishing town of St. Ives, whilst to the west runs Porthmeor Beach with Man's Head, and Clodgy Points reaching beyond. A holiday playground in summer, as well as a sturdy bastion against the winter storms, the Island is steeped in history and tradition, a place held dear in the affections of local people. The Bards of Cornwall and their friends who assembled here had a site well worthy of the colourful and picturesque ceremony!

Extract - *Cyril Noall 1966 (revised 2010)*

ST IVES and PARISH

The town is Porthia in Cornish, or port of Ia. The legend tells how St. Ia, a Virgin Saint of noble birth went to the seashore to depart for Cornwall from her native Ireland along with other Saints. Finding that they had gone without her, fearing that she was too young for such a hazardous journey, she was grief stricken and began to pray.

As she prayed she noticed a little leaf floating on the water and touched it with a rod to see if it would sink. Lo, as she looked it grew bigger and bigger. She saw that God sent it to her and, trusting to Him, she embarked upon the leaf and was straightaway wafted across the Channel, reaching her destination before the others.

The legend goes on to say that she founded an oratory in a clearing of a wood on the site of the existing Parish Church that is dedicated to her. This 15th Centaury church has the rare distinction of having

three church wardens, said to have originated as: one for the vicar, one for the seafarers and one for the miners and land workers.

The town of St Ives (pop. now 11,165) was granted its charter by King Edward I in 1295 and has gone from strength to strength ever since.

Feast Day always falls on the first Monday after February 3rd, the anniversary of the consecration of the Parish Church of St., Eia in 1434. Lelant Feast is on February 2nd and in earlier times it was the custom for St. Ives to play Lelant in the famous 'Hurling' of the silver ball, a kind of naturalistic rugby march, retained by other notable towns like St. Columb near Newquay.



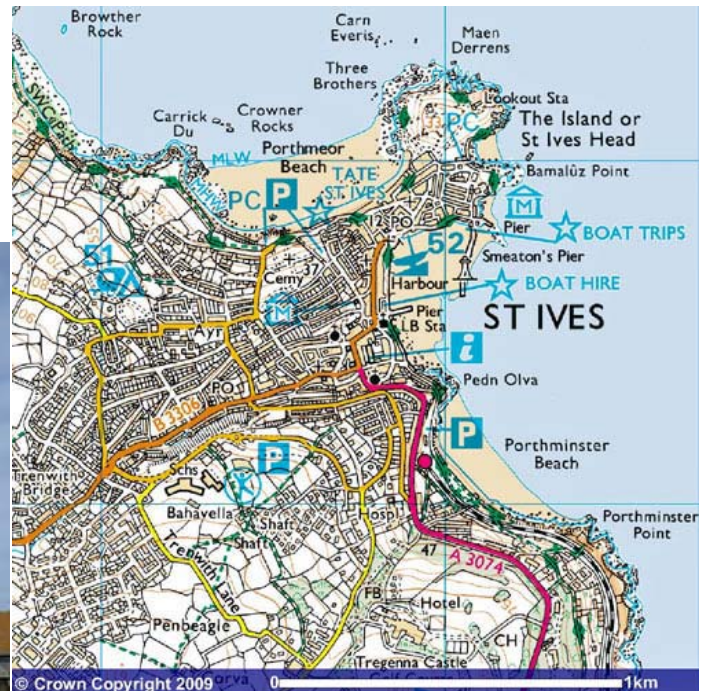
The Parish Church of Saint Ives

In 1549 during the Prayer Book Revolution the Provost Marshall came to St. Ives and invited the Mayor, Mr John Payne, to lunch at the old George and Dragon. He asked the Mayor to have the gallows erected during lunch. After lunch the Mayor and the Provost Marshall walked down to the gallows, the Provost Marshall ordered the Mayor to get up on the gallows whereupon the Mayor was hanged for being a Roman Catholic.

The importance of the town grew with the development of the Harbour and many ships plied between St. Ives and every part of the world. Arthur Guinness, the brewer, used to sell beer to a Captain Sampson who brought the beer back as deck cargo and sold draught Guinness to his regulars in his pub on Skidden Hill, now a hotel. In the early days of St Ives, boats were built on the harbour foreshore by local craftsmen.

The railway line was laid, at great expense, in 1877 breaking St Ives' landside isolation sparking tourism. The line and station has one of the most beautiful views from a train in the British Isles, with the short journey in on the branch line from St Erth Station one of the best ways to visit in busy times.

St Ives had its own shipping company in the form of The Hain Line. The company was formed in 1878 and had its headquarters in St. Ives. The Hain Line combined with the Norge Company and others to become part of the P&O family in 1917 but continued to operate under its own name and colours up until 1964.



It is a very popular place to visit in summer with Porthmeor Beach, the Harbour, Smeaton's Pier, and Porthminster Beach all thronged with holidaymakers.

A tradition revived by the Old Cornwall Society is the Midsummer Eve Bonfire when a Lady of the Flowers casts herbs into a hilltop blaze and prayers are said in the Cornish Language. It recalls the old Celtic ceremony of the Belthane Fires that the early church Christianised but was moved from May to mid-summer.



Views of the harbour



largest test site for wave energy technology. The project will see various experimental energy generators attached to the Wave Hub and begin generating power, which will be transmitted down a 25km cable back to shore.

"The UK already has 25 per cent of the world's wave and tidal technologies being developed there. This is a huge opportunity for UK business – the sector could be worth £2 billion by 2050 and it has the potential to create up to 16,000 jobs by 2040."

Even getting the Hub to the deployment site proved problematic, with several delays involving the cable that feeds power to a transfer station on the shore. It is being buried under piles of rocks where it cannot be sunk into the seabed. Bad weather around the coastline hampered the team's efforts. But the device was finally lowered to the seabed.

General Manager Guy Lavender said: "Wave Hub will be on the seabed for the next 25 years, helping the world gain invaluable knowledge about how we tap the vast energy potential of our oceans in the pursuit of clean, abundant, renewable energy and cementing the UK's position at the forefront of this green power revolution." With the hub now on the seabed, specialist contractor CTC Marine spend the next week ensuring that the hub's four 300-metre cable "tails" which serve the four berths at Wave Hub are in the right position, and will survey the entire length of the cable.

The *Nordica*, the ship which deployed the hub, will headed to Portland in Dorset to pick up a 45-tonne underwater tractor to bury the 1,300 tonne sub-sea cable for a further five kilometres offshore.

Wave Hub was funded with £12.5 million from a Government development agency, £20 million from the special EU Convergence Programme for Cornwall, and £9.5 million direct from the UK government. *From The Cornish Guardian newspaper*

CORNISH TARTANS – NEW PASCOE TARTAN

Designed by Nessa Brown. Pascoe in Cornwall may be a name taken from Cornish word *Pask*, meaning Easter. This tartan is a design of two crosses: the smaller cross representing the St Piran cross; the larger one signifying the importance of Easter in the Pascoe name. The yellow in the design can be as the profusion of flowers found in the hedgerows and gardens of Cornwall throughout the Easter period, such as primroses, daffodils and gorse.

Cornovi Creations has it - main contact details below -
T +44 (0)1209 860702

W www.cornish-tartans.co.uk

UNEXPECTED CHILEAN MINE CONNECTION

A tradition revived by the Old Cornwall Society is the Midsummer Eve Bonfire when a Lady of the Flowers casts herbs into a hilltop blaze and prayers are said in the Cornish Language. It recalls the old Celtic ceremony of the Belthane Fires that the early church Christianised but was moved from May to mid-summer.

Guise Dancing or 'Guising' is another ancient and colourful custom that has its roots deep in our Celtic past. It involves local young people dressing up in a number of disguises and running in good-natured riot. This tradition has also moved along the calendar with time and although most commonly associated with the Christmas period, 'Guisers' can often be seen in the Feast Day parade. These days there are plenty of 'Guisers' to be seen in St. Ives on New Year's Eve when the town and an increasing number of visitors turn out in Fancy Dress to gather in the streets and on the harbour to welcome in the New Year.

Fair Mo (Fer Mogh – Pig Fair) is a less rowdy tradition, celebrated just before Christmas. This ancient 'pig fair' reflects the long-standing custom of keeping pigs in virtually every 'Downlong' yard. Today local ladies dress in traditional costumes and hold their fair, or market, in the Guildhall.

St Ives is also rightly famous for its artistic community of the past 100 years, and the Tate St Ives Gallery.

More on St Ives:

<http://www.stives-cornwall.co.uk/history-of-st-ives.html>

New

WAVE HUB

The *Wave Hub*, the £42 million "plug socket" that will be used to transfer energy generated by the sea through to the UK National Grid, was installed on the Cornish seabed on Friday 3 September, 2010.

The 12-tonne structure was lowered on to the seabed under 50 metres of water by a crane, 10 miles off Hayle in west Cornwall, where it will create the world's

Idly scanning the list of saved miners for a Cornish connection showed no names, but Rev Alfredo Cooper, chaplain to the Chilean president, led the prayers at the La Moneda presidential palace for the 33 men.

He gave a thanksgiving service watched by TV viewers worldwide when the miners were found and visited them in hospital following their rescue.

Chilean-born Mr Cooper was a postman in St Austell in the 1970s after his family moved back to Cornwall, where they still live. He spent 4 months delivering mail in St Blazey and Par and also worked as a window cleaner. He still leads prayers at St Austell Parish Church when he is over visiting from Chile.

TALL MAN FROM CORNWALL

“There was a tall man from Cornwall
Whose length exceeded his bed,
My body fits on it,
But barely upon it,
There’s no room for my big Cornish head!”
- E. M. Snickering

From TV this month - The Big Bang Theory - Season 2 Ep 21
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ-WVzksLTI>

INTRODUCING SOME CORNISH WEB SITES

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

<http://keepcornwallwhole.org/>

Set up by the wide campaign against a cross-Tamar Parliamentary electorate there are lots of video footage of the rallies and information. Parliament debates the Bill as I type!

<http://www.mycornwall.tv/>

On-line Cornish TV. *myCornwall.tv* launched in 2009 to capture the very best of all things Cornish on the internet, using video and social media. A private company, headquartered in Redruth, and part funded by the Convergence programme of the EU.

<http://www.cornwall24.net/>

For Cornish around the world, launched Sep 2010 gives news, views, and links of interest. Click on ‘BlogKernow’ for lots of up to date information and views. You too can be a writer for C24 – contact Chris on kevrenor@ozemail.com.au

ENDELLION

British Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha have named their new baby daughter Florence Rose *Endellion*. Endellion refers to the Cornish village of St Endellion on the north coast where they had been holidaying when Florence

decided to make an early appearance. She was delivered at Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro. Asked to suggest names some wags favoured – Tamar – to remind the PM where the English border is.

MEMBERS MILESTONES

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

(Eddie Lyon has had a few spells in hospital despite doing well on our Watsons Bay walk)

Renewed members: Philip & Georgina Brewer (and Francesca) of Sylvania. Interests – History, boating, ornithology.

Welcome back after some years!

Congratulations to:

The new Mrs Rappo – Lowenna Dunkerley married Nick Rappo on 6 October at Kings School Chapel.

New grandma Del Clinton on the birth of Nicholas!

New g-grandma Betty Bevins on the birth of Charlie!

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 and these pages have now been moved over to an exciting new look at

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

At this new location you now can explore:

- John’s wonderful CANSW *Stories Site* (Cornish settlements at Byng, Cadia, and Cobar, first find of payable gold in NSW, etc. Make sure you have a look good at all of this!!)
- Links to *Members* ‘stuff’ – membership form, rules, sample newsletters, many talks & articles, list of sales items, and the library listing, etc.
- *Links* to other interesting sites; and other pages (not yet all added)

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 December 2010/January, 2011
Deadline is 26 December. Items (emailed, or on disk, or even typed for scanning) very welcome!

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