PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It doesn't seem that long ago I wrote my last report, but looking back I realise that it was in fact August: yes! the regular three-month cycle had indeed come around again.
So, what has been happening since then?

In August, we had our meeting at Darebin North West Uniting Church, albeit I was a Zoomer that day, (attending a wedding in the Dandenong Ranges starting shortly after the conclusion of meeting). As I was getting ready, I did listen intently to the speaker Beverley Blennerhassett as she spoke on a "modern shipwreck", specifically the horrendous 2012 story of the Costa Concordia off the Isola del Giglio in Italy.

Whilst not Cornish, shipwrecks are universal with Cornwall having its fair share of disasters.
The first recorded Cornish shipwreck I have found occurred way back in 1284 in St Just, but I'm sure there would have been many an ancient trading ship go down with a load of copper or tin on board.

Sort of keeping to a maritime theme, we skipped a formal meeting in September and had an outing to the Immigration Museum instead.
The museum is a cultural museum that focuses on the immigration history of Melbourne and Victoria.
It is located on the restored Customs House building on Flinders Street, a building I will admit, that I have never visited before, despite its 28-year existence on the site.

I enjoyed walking around the exhibits, some I found to be interactive, and I hope the others who attended did too.
On the subject of the interactive displays, I am still saddened that I was over-ruled by my superior and had to force a Chinese mother out of the country, leaving behind her two young children and husband.

In October we had a Zoom only meeting with a Family History Group theme.
Our own Helen Morgan, who incidentally is the Coordinator of our Family History Interest Group, and I took on the speaker roles.

Helen spoke about her Christmas in Cornwall and attendance at the Montol Festival held four days before Christmas in Penzance.

The festival revives traditional Cornish midwinter and old Christmas customs, guise dancing (masked processions), and folklore recorded by local antiquarians.
Actually, we are not sure if Helen was really there, ⇒3

CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.

NEWSLETTER No. 158

November 2026

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A

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Membership Fees

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

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



Saturday 21st November - at 1.30 pm at Darebin North West Uniting Church, 399A Murray Road West Preston - Robyn Coates will share photos and stories of her and Arthur's visit to Bodmin in September.
The meeting will be an in person meeting at Darebin North West Uniting Church and also by zoom.

Here is the link:
Sat. Nov 21, 2026 01:30 PM
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81937894329?pwd=Bxryebqzr3Q5ISCDkVdiloaBQvIxsQ.1
Meeting ID: 819 3789 4329
Passcode: 210082

You are welcome to BYO Lunch at 12 noon and a plate of afternoon tea to share.
A route 11 tram, runs along Gilbert Road from Collins Street and it is just a short walk, a block and a half, from tram stop 43, on the corner of Gilbert and Murray Roads. (cross over the tram lines and walk east).
A Mernda Line train stops at Preston, (from platform 1 at Flinders Street and platform 9 at Southern Cross) and it is about a five-seven minute walk west along Murray Road to the church, past Preston West Primary School.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Geelong Branch Christmas Luncheon **Wednesday 18th November** at **12 noon** at Clifton Springs Golf Club, Clear Water Drive, Clifton Springs - if interested contact Ruth Taylor -
(03) 5241 4617
drltaylor@bigpond.com

Ballarat Branch Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Saturday 5th December** at **12 noon** at The Grand in Dana Street, Ballarat.
All welcome.
Please let Keith Lanyon know if you are coming - 0411 512 160 - no later than 28th November - please also tell Keith of any allergies or dietary restrictions.
A traditional Christmas Lunch of two courses and tea and coffee will cost $42.50.
This must be ordered with Keith.
If you wish to order à la carte, the menu can be found here and can be ordered on the day:
https://restaurantguru.com/The-Grand-Ballarat-Australia/menu

The CAV Christmas Meeting will be held on **Saturday 12th December** at Darebin North West Uniting Church - 399A Murray Road, West Preston.
We are asking people to bring either a salad or a dessert to share with meats, bread and soft drinks provided. Cost will be $10.
If you have dietary restrictions or allergies, please let Robyn know - 0419 551 320

CAV Newsletter

The CAV Newsletter is distributed via email and in some cases by mail.
Deadline for contributions for the next issue: **Saturday January 16th 2026**
Articles for inclusion are welcome at any time but **must be received** by the **deadline date**. Please include pictures or tables as a separate file.
The email address for the CAV Newsletter - robyncoates@hotmail.com

Pastoral Care

If you know of someone who is unwell, celebrating a special birthday or just needs a cheery greeting, please let Evelyn Jones know the details so she can be in touch. Ph: 0417 160 658
ejo65074@bigpond.net.au

as all her photos were of a woman in a mask!
Helen then spoke of her visit to Perranuthnoe and Paul to seek out family history places of significance. Old homes and churches, as many of us do when returning to Cornwall.

This led into my topic "Why Is It Said That Family Historians Are the Worst Historians?"
The aim of the talk was to set off discussion on some of the pitfalls that besiege family historians in the form of accusations from general historians.
The topic finished with a quite lively open forum.

Next meeting Saturday 21st November, Robyn Coates will speak about her and Arthur's recent trip to Cornwall.
It will be a live meeting at Darebin North West Uniting Church, with Zoom coverage.

Saturday 12th December is our Christmas gathering, again at Darebin North West Uniting Church.
If you want some pudden' you have to attend, you can't eat it via Zoom.

Next Year will be our 40th Anniversary Celebrations.
Why are we calling it that?
Because our 40th was this year and we missed it, but we aren't going to miss the party.
The party will be on Saturday 20th March, when we celebrate the history of our great association with a combined St Piran's Day activity. If you have any old photos of events, please get them ready.
Stay tuned for more on this.

But the party won't be the first event in 2027. This year we are hopefully holding a trip to our Library in Castlemaine.
Again, stay tuned for more information to follow.

We also have a number of speakers in the pipeline for next year, some from Cornwall and some very local. All in all, 2027 is shaping up to be a great year to come to our meetings and events.

And speaking of events, don't forget that Kernewek Lowender is on again, 10 – 16 May in the Copper Coast towns of Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.
If you have never been, I recommend it as a great week for a South Australian holiday.

And finally, another plug for our Family History Interest Group which aims to fulfil the desires of CAV members to use resources of the CAV to undertake personal family histories including, but not limited to:

1. Harnessing the experiences of other CAV members who have undertaken family history projects, and gaining from their knowledge,
2. Utilising the resources of the CAV Library in Castlemaine,
3. Initiating and supporting formal and informal networking between members as they undertake individual research.

It is open to any member of the CAV, no restrictions, just let me or Helen Morgan know that you are interested, and then feel free to get involved in helping someone or being helped in your family history quest.

An pyth yw henna

Ronald Hawken

Geelong Branch Report
The Geelong Branch is currently working on a project to mount a memorial plaque in the Yarra Street Wesley Uniting Church in memory of the Rev. Francis Tuckfield.
Tuckfield was a true Cornish hero who among many other achievements established an Aboriginal Mission in the Geelong district in 1839.
He was also an early minister at that church.

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

Neil Thomas
Chairman of the Geelong Branch

Ballarat Branch Report
The August Speaker was local historian Doug Bradby who shared information from his recent book, *Ballarat's Top 40 - our very own Hall of Fame* – those people suggested by Doug as making the best contributions to the history and development of Ballarat.
Amongst his list of notables were two men born in Cornwall – Henry Caselli and William Hicks. – they featured at numbers seven and fourteen.
Number 1 was James Regan, a 22 year old and his mate John Dunlop who had been working at Buninyong,
Regan headed to Clunes for a few days where James Esmond was working, before heading back towards Buninyong where Dunlop had stayed with their equipment.

On his way back. Regan found a likely spot to try for gold - finding gold at Ballarat at Poverty Point between 20th and 24th of August 1851.
Hurrying to fetch Dunlop, the pair returned with their equipment and got to work.
Dunlop and Regan were discovered at work by Alfred Clarke of the Geelong Advertiser who told them he would give them a few days before announcing it to the world in his paper. The whole area around Poverty Point and Golden Point turned out to be an exceedingly rich find.

Number 2 was William Swan Urquhart. Born in Ross Shire, Scotland in 1818, Urquhart arrived in the colony of Victoria around 1840. He first worked as a private surveyor for squatters in the Western District, then as a contract surveyor for the colonial government. In December 1845, he was appointed to the public service as an assistant surveyor and arrived in Ballarat about October 1851. It was his decision to locate the government camp and subsequently the town buildings away from the mining area of Golden Point and the lava flow, which was subsequently found to go under the area of the township.
He also named Sturt Street after Evelyn Sturt, brother of Charles Sturt the explorer and many other Ballarat Streets – some named after Police Magistrates and Commissioners.

Number 3 was Alexander Dewar
Originally from Perth in Scotland, he became the manager of the Old Gravel Pits G. M. Company, the first joint stock company to engage in mining, in Victoria, with 72 share holders. The mine used mechanical equipment hauling up to 300 trucks of gravel per day from a buried river. The trucks were then tipped over the edge of an escarpment (now the Dana St Hill) to the puddling machines on the flat. Dewar became manager of the Buninyong Company, and the Albion Mine at Sebastopol, Ballarat. Later he was involved in the amalgamation of the Band of Hope and Albion Mines to create the Band of Hope and Albion Consols.

Number 4 was James Baker
After the Eureka Stockade, the Victorian government gave the right to determine mining regulations to the miners of Ballarat who developed the frontage system of fanning out – James Baker encouraged them to adopt it. He served as the Chairman of the Ballarat Mining Board starting in 1858 and later became the first Secretary of the Ballarat School of Mines in 1870.

Time didn't permit these names – John Humffray, James Oddie, Henry Caselli, George Longley, Charles Saunders, Eleanor Lucas, Sarah Swift, Elizabeth Williams, Elizabeth Baker, William Hicks, Alfred Mica Smith, William Shaw, David Ronaldson, William Hill and William Little.

Many people took the opportunity to purchase some of Doug's books and a grand afternoon tea was served and enjoyed.
Keith presented Doug with a copy of "Australia's Little Cornwall".

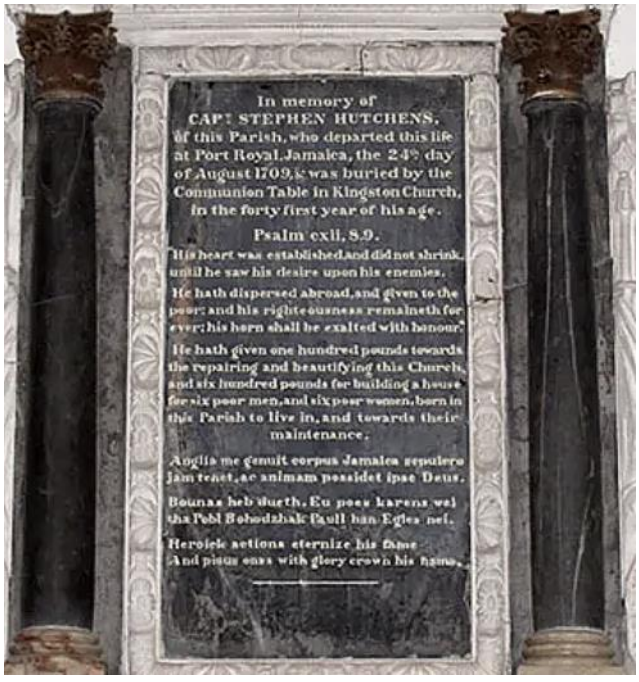
The October speaker was our own historian, Jenny Burrell who spoke about Captain Stephen Hutchens, her distant relative - *A Pirate from Penzance* - (I am grateful for this information supplied by Jenny).



Stephen is remembered in St Pol de Léon's Church on a large stone tablet mounted high on the wall.

It was placed there by Louis Lucien Bonaparte, a relative of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Vicar of Paul in 1882.

The inscription in Cornish was



written by John Boson on a memorial to Captain Stephen Hutchens in Paul Church, Cornwall.

In memory of
Capt. Stephen Hutchens (c1660-1709)
of this Parish, who departed this life
at Port Royal, Jamaica,
the 24th day of August 1709, & was buried by the
Communion Table in Kingston Church,
in the forty-first year of his age.

Psalm exii, 8. 9
"His heart was established and did not shrink,
until he saw his desire upon his enemies,
He hath dispersed abroad, and given to the
poor: and his righteousness remaineth for
ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour."

He hath given one hundred pounds towards
the repairing and beautifying this church,
and six hundred pounds for building a house
for six poor men, and six poor women, born in
this Parish to live in, and towards their
maintenance.

Anglia me genuit, corpus Jamaica sepultura j
Jam tenet, ac animam possidet ipse Deus.

"England bore me, the grave in Jamaica now holds
my body, and God himself possesses my soul."
Bounas heb dueth, Eu poes Karens wei
tha Pobl Bohodzhak Paull han Egles nei.

"Eternal life be his whose loving care / Gave Paul an
almshouse and the church repair."

Heroic actions eternalize his fame
And pious care with glory crown his name

Website for Cornish translations:
wiki.kernowlingo.com
https://wiki.kernowlingo.com/w/index.php?
title=Memorial_to_Capt._Stephen_Hutchens

During the reign of Queen Anne 1702-1714,
Captain Stephen Hutchens was licensed by the
government of the day to raid French and Spanish
ships, thus making him a privateer rather than a
pirate.
Out there on the high seas, at the time it seemed
to be a free for all to seize bounty from the
Americas, especially Spanish gold bullion.

The Hutchens' Almshouses are located in
Mousehole Lane, Penzance, Penwith, Cornwall
TR19 6TY.
There is a commemorative slate tablet on the
exterior wall which begins with this Latin
inscription meaning: "from the blessings of the
leader"
Stephani Hutchens
1709
Arma Virum qe Cano
r
Vigil

[The stone mason, being unfamiliar with the text
and the meaning, had to correct the name of Virgil
by adding the 'r' as a superscript.]

These are the first words of the Aeneid, an epic
Latin poem by Virgil (70-19 BC)
Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris
Italiam fato profugas Lavinaque venit
Litora - multum ille et terris factatus et alto
Vi superum, savae memorem Iuonis ob iram.
That is...
Arms I sing, and the man, who first from the shores
of Troy came
Fate-exiled, to Italy and her Lavinian strand
Much buffeted he on flood and field by constraint
Of heaven and fell Juno's unslumbering fire.

So, singing the praises of Stephen Hutchens, a war
hero who has given a fortune, through the church,
to build these houses for the poor.
More information can be found on
freepages.Rootsweb.com
Life, Times and Influences of CAPTAIN STEPHEN
HUTCHENS of PAUL, nr Penzance, Cornwall.
Researched by Raymond Forward at The Public
Record Office, Kew

Stephen Hutchens did not marry and had no
children, but he had brothers living in and around
the villages of Paul, Mousehole, Newlyn and
Penzance.

Dedicated family history researchers have pointed
out how I am related to the good captain but it
was too complex to remain in my memory.

Spelling variations include HEWCHINS (1662 Will
Paul); HUTCHINGS (1675) St Buryan;
HITCHINS (1836, 1837 births at Saint Erth, 1840,
1842 births at St Just in Penwith);
HITCHINGS (1847 shipping to South Australia);
HUTCHENS (1856 rate books, Parish of Springhill,
District of Creswick).

My Hutchens family settled in Newlyn, Victoria in
1854, having come aboard the *Aboukir* in 1847 to
Port Adelaide and north to the Burra Burra copper

mining area.
At the mine John Hutchens was a groom tending to the needs of the work horses.
On his farm at Forest Hill he was breeding prize-wining Percherons.
My father's mother, a much loved Nanna of 22 grandchildren, was Hilda Hutchins (1895-1968).

I have been fortunate enough to travel to Cornwall three times, in 1998, 2006 and 2014.

Jennifer Burrell
Hutchens descendant



A historic alms house built with Spanish Gold taken during the Golden Age of Piracy is looking for new residents - so long as they are local. Hutchens' Almshouses in the hamlet of Paul just outside Mousehole is looking for people to move in, but you will need to have connections to the Penzance and Newlyn area to do so.
Elaine Bawden, a trustee of the Stephen Hutchens Trust and Almshouses, said: "As trustees of Hutchens' House we maintain Captain Stephen Hutchen's dying wish to provide accommodation for people who have lived in the area of Paul, Mousehole, Newlyn or Borough of Penzance for five years.
"The wording of his generous 1709 bequest may have altered to keep up with modern times, but the ethos remains the same…housing need replaces poverty as the main criterion for the occupation of the flats at Hutchens' House. The importance of this wonderful Almshouse can never be underestimated and helps in a small way to address local housing needs for retired people with local connections who are able to live independently."
Hutchens' House was built with pieces of eight taken by Captain Stephen Hutchens. As he lay dying in Jamaica in 1709, having just captured a ship, its crew, and its treasure - a prize capture of 20,000 pieces of eight - he remembered the village of his birth in his will, and left money to house and maintain 'six of the poorest men and six of the poorest women living within the Parish of Paul'
This was the time known as the Golden Age of Piracy (from roughly 1650 to 1730) when English and French seamen were attacking Spanish vessels as they returned from the New World laden with silver and gold. Eight days after signing that will, he died at the age of 40.

https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/flat-available-historic-building-built-9285194

Cornish Association of Victoria Inc - History Timeline

1890 - 1st known reference of a Cornish Association in Victoria

1892 - Mention of a 3rd Annual Banquet

1894 - 1st meeting of Devonian Society

1914 - Cornish and Devonians join to form Devon Cornwall Association

1914 - Later Somerset Association joined and they all became The Loyal Devon, Cornwall and Somerset Association

1983 - Cornwall Family History Society – Victoria Branch formed

1985 - Last meeting of the Loyal Devon, Cornwall & Somerset Association

1986 - Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. formed on 22nd March.
Meetings held at various Uniting Churches over next few years.
Library initially kept in a box and transported to each meeting.
Bendigo branch commenced.

1988 - Ballarat branch commenced.

1991 - CAV moved to a home at Hughesdale Uniting Church
Permanent library set up in one room of Hall.

1993 - Geelong branch commenced.

2003 - Bendigo branch closed and Bendigo & District Cornish Association formed.

2010 - CAV moved to Oakleigh Baptist Church along with our library.

2021 - Library packed and transported to Castlemaine Historical Society.
Meetings held via Zoom and at times as a combination of Zoom and in person.

2023 - Official launch on 18 October of the Cornish library at Castlemaine Historical Society Inc

June Whiffin

Vale to two original CAV members

Joan Snedden
19th August 1938 - 26th August2026
(Information taken from the Order of Service of Thanksgiving for Joan's Life found at:

https://irp.cdn-website.com/6d856cf0/files/uploaded/Joan+Snedden+OOS+%282%29.pdf)

Joan Snedden was born in Hampton on 19 August 1938, the only child of Reginald Simpson and Winifred (née Booth).
The family lived above and behind her father's tailoring business on Hampton's main street.

During the Second World War, while her father served in the Middle East, Joan and her mother lived for a time with her maternal family in Mortlake.
She attended Casterton College, Mortlake Primary, Hampton Primary and Hampton High, forming enduring friendships with schoolmates and Mortlake cousins.

After leaving school in Form 4, Joan worked for four years as a bank teller in Hampton.
Active in Hampton Presbyterian Church, she became inspired by the work of Deaconesses.
As a young adult she completed the School Leaving Certificate and matriculated before undertaking three years of residential Deaconess training at Roland House, where she formed further lifelong friendships.

She served initially in Hamilton, then for seven years in the Richmond–Burnley parish.

Joan pursued extensive theological and academic studies, including a Licentiate in Theology, Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees and a PhD, Life After Death: The New Testament Teaching and Spiritualist Claims from the Viewpoint of Jungian Psychology.

Her studies included biblical literature, antiquities, psychology, Syriac and early Eastern Church documents, and Jungian analysis.

She taught biblical literature and comparative religion at the University of Melbourne, later tutoring in psychology at various institutions and teaching courses on Jung through the Council of Adult Education for twelve years.

In 1987 Joan became a Presbyterian chaplain at the Royal Children's Hospital, later adding the Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's hospitals to her schedule.
She worked full-time at St Andrew's Hospital from 1988 until its closure in 1990, and subsequently at Freemason's and Cabrini hospitals.

Joan was ordained in the Anglican Church in 2002. She was a valued member of St George's community.

Joan married Richard Snedden (1934–2021) in 1972. They had two daughters, Rachel and Fiona.

Joan's husband, Richard, was the Patron of the CAV for several years.

Gladys Margaret Grigg
26th July 1934 - 20th September 2026



Gladys Margaret Hope was born in Footscray, the eldest daughter of John and Gladys Hope and older sister to twins Thelma and Dorothy.

Gladys attended Footscray State School in Geelong Road, a bluestone building still in use today.
During the Second World War, due to the school's close proximity to the ammunition factories, she remembered the students were taught safety drills including lying in the gutters.

Her secondary schooling saw her riding her bike to Williamstown High School where she excelled academically.
On completion of her secondary schooling, she trained as a teacher at Melbourne Teachers' College graduating in 1953. Her first appointment was as a grade1 teacher at Brunswick State School.

She met her future husband, Alfred Glen Grigg, around this time.
Glen lived just a few streets from Gladys and they married in 1957. The wedding ceremony was held in the morning, so that Glen and many other attendees at the wedding could play the cricket grand final in the afternoon. Thankfully they won.

Following their marriage, they shifted to their home of sixty years in Box Hill where their three children, Peter, Christine and Neil were born.

When the children were old enough to be at school, Gladys returned to emergency teaching for some years, before returning in 1976 and working part-time as a school librarian, retiring in 1995.

Glen and Gladys joined the Cornish Association in 1987 and were among the first one hundred members to join.
Glen was president from 2006-2008 and was ably assisted in all his duties by Gladys.
Glen and Gladys regularly attended interstate Cornish activities including Kernewek Lowender, in South Australia, and attended the Southern Sons of Cornwall's Cornish Cultural Celebrations in Nowra. In Victoria, CAV activities at Clunes, Eaglehawk, Bendigo, St Piran's Day events, Ballarat festivals and Bendigo Church Services, at Long Gully, were all important to both Glen and Gladys.
Gladys was such a willing worker for the CAV, particularly in the Library at Oakleigh.

Gladys's faith was an important part of her life and she was heavily involved in activities at her church for all of her life. She was an Elder, a volunteer helping migrants learn English, cutting stamps for Sammy Stamp, in the After school programmes and the Foodbarn.
Gladys was a volunteer at the Box Hill Hospital kiosk for twenty-four years and also at the Schizophrenic Op Shop in Kew.

Gladys was very involved in the Guiding movement for most of her life - as a guide, Ranger Leader and District Commissioner and a highlight was visiting Guide Headquarters in Switzerland on one of her and Glen's holidays.
She maintained life long friendships with many the young women, "her girls", many of whom were in attendance at her Thanksgiving service, singing the final song, which always concluded Guide meetings.

Day is done, gone the sun
From the sea, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest.
God is nigh.

Sadly, Gladys developed Motor Neurone Disease in October 2025 which over time affected her speech and her ability to talk and she died peacefully in the presence of her family.

We will miss her kindness, cheeriness, sense of humour and willingness to help.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant"

SOME CORNISH FESTIVALS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Paul Feast is held on the Sunday nearest 10th October every year when the village is decorated and a civic service takes place on the Sunday of the feast itself led by the Mayor of Penzance.
The feast may be an example of the Celtic practice of celebrating Samhain or Allantide.



Allantide is a Cornish festival that was traditionally celebrated on 31st October elsewhere known as Hallowe'en.

The festival itself seems to have pre-Christian origins similar to most celebrations on this date, however in Cornwall it was popularly linked to St Allen or Arlan a little known Cornish Saint.

Because of this Allantide is also known as Allan day. The origins of the name Allantide are actually likely to stem from the same old English sources as Hollantide (Wales and the Isle of Man) and Hallowe'en itself.

The following is a description of the festival as it was celebrated in Penzance at the turn of the 19th century:
"The shops in Penzance would display Allan apples, which were highly polished large apples. On the day itself, these apples were given as gifts to each member of the family as a token of good luck. Older girls would place these apples under their pillows and hope to dream of the person whom they would one day marry. A local game is also recorded where two pieces of wood were nailed together in the shape of a cross. It was then suspended with 4 candles on each outcrop of the cross shape. Allan apples would then be suspended under the cross. The goal of the game was to catch the apples in your mouth, with hot wax being the penalty for slowness or inaccuracy."

St Just feast which is held in November every year to celebrate the dedication of the parish church. The feast itself is a two day event with a church service and civic procession being held on the Sunday of the feast and a larger scale popular celebration being held on the Monday (which includes a meeting of the local hunt).

A description of St Just feast from 1882 follows
"Rich and poor still at this season keep open house, and

many miles around, if they can possibly be spared, go home on the Saturday and stay until the Tuesday morning. A small fair is held in the streets on Monday evening, when the young men are expected to treat their sweethearts liberally, and a great deal of "foolish money" that can be ill afforded is often spent"

Madron



Madron Feast is one of many parish feasts that take place across Cornwall.
It is celebrated in the communities of Madron and Heamoor and was once the major feast day of the town of Penzance.

Until 1832, Penzance didn't have its own parish church, meaning the people of the town had to travel to Madron every Sunday to worship.

Madron's feast day occurs on the first Sunday and Monday of Advent (the fourth Sunday before Christmas).
Celebrations continue for the entire week following the main days of the festival and include a visit of the local hunt, a feast bazaar and a feast concert.
The feast is named after St Maddern, who lived as a hermit in the Madron area.



The ancient well and baptistery of the saint can be found near Madron.
The well has a great deal of superstitions associated with it, including curing disease and fortune telling.
In the past Madron Feast was a popular time for guise dancing: a Cornish tradition in which people disguise themselves and perform music, dance and drama.
At one time the feast was famous, and was even recorded by BBC Radio in 1937.

Sennen Feast celebrated on Advent Sunday
Sennen Feast Week (more commonly referred to as Sennen Feast) is a traditional parish festival celebrated annually in the coastal village of Sennen, near Land's End in Cornwall.

The festival takes place on the first Sunday and Monday of Advent.

Historically, Cornish parish feast days mark the dedication or foundation of the local parish church. Because Advent is a movable date on the liturgical calendar, the specific dates change slightly each year, but it always falls over the late November or early December weekend that introduces the Advent season.

*Honouring St Sennen:
The event celebrates the parish's patron saint, St Sennen (believed by some local folklore to be a 3rd-century Persian nobleman who converted to Christianity and was martyred in Rome, or alternatively tied to the Celtic Saint Senana).

*In historical Cornwall, local feast days were the community highlight of the year. They were massive social events, often far outpacing Christmas in scale, characterized by huge family meals, homecoming visits from relatives, and gift-giving.

*Local Folklore:
Sennen is rich in legend. The local parish church - founded or rededicated around 1441 - stands near a historic stone table (table maen) where folklore says King Arthur dined after successfully fighting off Norse raiders.

While the scale has shifted over the centuries, the community still actively keeps the tradition alive with several distinct events over the first Advent weekend:
*Feast Church Service: A special morning service held at St Sennen's Church (traditionally at 11:00 AM) to honour the village heritage.

*The Hunt Meeting: A traditional local hunt gathering typically takes place in the village as part of the feast festivities.

*Community Events: The weekend serves as a general winter gathering for locals, often kicking off the broader winter and Christmas season at the westernmost tip of Cornwall.

Picrous Day was a festival celebrated by the tin miners of Cornwall on the 2nd Thursday before Christmas.
This is believed to be the feast of the discovery of tin by a man named Picrous whom miners in the East of Cornwall celebrated as the founder of their industry instead of St Piran.

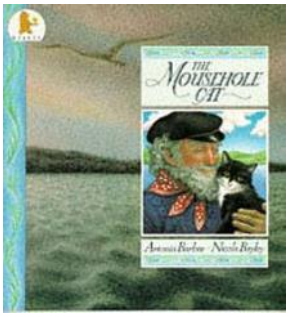
Robert Hunt in his *Popular Romances of the West of England* states.
"*The second Thursday before Christmas-day is a festival observed by the tinners of the district of Blackmore, and known as Picrous day. It is not at present marked by any*

distinctive ceremonies, but it is the occasion of a supper and much merry-making. The owner of the tin-stream contributes a shilling a man towards it. This is said to be the feast of the discovery of tin by a man named Picrous. My first impression was that the day took its name from the circumstance of a pie forming the pièce de résistance of the supper; but this explanation is not allowed by tinners, nor sanctioned by the usages of the feast.
What truth there may be in the tradition of the first tinner, Picrous, it is now too late to discover, but the notion is worth recording. It has occurred to me whether, from some similarity between the names (not a close one, I admit it), the honours of Picrous may not have been transferred to St Piran, who is generally said to be the patron saint of tinners.
St Piran is not known in Blackmore, and his festival is on the 5th of March.
The tinners also have a festival to commemorate the discovery of smelting"
Picrous day is believed to have been especially popular in Luxulyan where celebrations were held at the Rising Sun Inn.

Chewidden Thursday (also known as White Thursday, Chewidden Day or Jew-whidn) was a festival celebrated by the tin miners of West Cornwall on the last clear Thursday before (i.e. at least one week before) Christmas. The festival celebrated the discovery of 'white tin' or smelted tin by St Chiwidden, a little known Cornish saint who in legend was an associate of St Piran.



Tom Bawcock's Eve is a festival held on the 23rd of December in Mousehole, Cornwall, UK. The festival is held in celebration and memorial of the efforts of Mousehole resident Tom Bawcock to lift a famine from the village.
During this festival Star Gazy pie (a mixed fish, egg and potato pie with protruding fish heads) is eaten and depending on the year of celebration a lantern procession takes place.
There is a wonderful children's picture story book about this - *The Mousehole Cat* (1990) written by Antonia Barber and illustrated by Nicola Bayley. Great gift for grandchildren/ great grandchildren.



Guise dancing (sometimes known as goose or geese dancing) is a folk practice celebrated between Christmas Day and Twelfth Night (traditionally also Plough Monday, and some parish feasts) in Cornwall, UK.
The principal activities associated with guise dancing are the performance of a 'traditional' Christmas plays such as Duffy and the Bucca or St George and the Turkish Knight and traditional Cornish dance, music and song.
The performers were dressed in a disguise to hide their identity allowing them to perform in an outlandish or mischievous manner in the hope of receiving payment of food or money.
There has been a rise in interest Guise Dancing in Cornwall in recent years with new groups adopting the practice throughout Cornwall.
Modern guise dancing can be divided into roughly three types of activities, firstly, large processional "carnival" parades which hundreds or even thousands take part, secondly smaller more intimate performances in public houses and the like and thirdly, bands of Christmas players who perform the Christmas plays described above.
Masks of all types with the exclusion of modern fancy dress masks and the like are common.
Guise dancing is practised as part of the St Ives feast celebrations and forms the main part of the Montol Festival in Penzance.



Photos - public domain or Robyn and Arthur Coates - material from various bought pamphlets and Wikipedia.



The Kernewek Lowender 2027 Copper Coast Cornish Festival will be held from 10th to 16th May 2027 across the South Australian towns of Moonta, Kadina, and Wallaroo.

Cornish tidbits

London Cornish Newsletter Editor

For many years I have been corresponding with Liz Broekmann, the London Cornish Newsletter Editor, and on our recent visit we managed to catch up with Liz for a meal in Euston, at the Sir Matthew Flinders Hotel, just near a statue of Matthew Flinders, whose remains were discovered during the renovations of Euston Station.

We had a very enjoyable time and we presented Liz with a copy of Agan Kernow, which she was going to pass around to her fellow LCA members to read.



Falmouth council to lead St Piran's Day celebrations in 2027

Falmouth Town Council is taking over the town's St Piran's Day celebrations next year, with plans for a weekend of Cornish food, music, heritage and language.

A report to Falmouth Town Council's Cultural Services & Leisure Committee recently says the council will lead the event directly in 2027, supported financially and operationally by Falmouth BID as part of the Falmouth Town Team.

It follows the cancellation of Falmouth's St Piran's Day parade in 2026 after its external organizers informed the council late in the planning process that it would not go ahead.

The council, which had previously supported the parade with road closures and compliance but was not directly involved in organizing it, said there was insufficient time and budget to put together a replacement event to the required standard.

Councillors subsequently identified bringing St Piran's Day celebrations back to Falmouth as a priority.

Rather than simply reinstating the parade, the council is proposing a new format for 2027, when St Piran's Day on March 5 falls on a Friday.

Celebrations would extend across the weekend and could include pasty-making sessions with local primary schools, exploring the history of the Cornish pasty and giving youngsters a hands-on introduction to Cornish heritage.

Plans also include a ticketed evening concert headlined by local band Kernoasis alongside another Cornish act.

A Cornish food market is proposed, bringing together food and drink producers under a marquee, potentially accompanied by open mic slots for emerging local musicians.

https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/26703787.falmouth-council-lead-st-pirans-day-celebrations-2027/

Hepworth piece fetches more than £6m at auction

A "defining masterwork" by Dame Barbara Hepworth has fetched £6.19m at auction.

Sculpture with Colour was expected to sell for between £5m and £8m at the Christie's auction house modern British and Irish art sale.

Inspired by the Cornish landscape, Hepworth created the artwork in 1946, naming it after the Greek goddess of dawn.

Hepworth, who was born in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and moved to Cornwall in 1939, carved Sculpture with Colour from a single piece of pale Hopton Wood stone.

She lived and worked in Trewyn Studio, now the Tate Barbara Hepworth Museum, from 1949 until her death in a fire in 1975.

https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw8rz0k5p3glo

Scillonian Ferry

A new passenger ferry, set to start a "new era of travel" to the Isles of Scilly, has set off on its journey to the UK.

The Isles of Scilly Steamship Group's new passenger ferry, Scillonian IV, departed Vietnam for the UK at 06:00 local time on Saturday (23:00 GMT on Friday), ahead of entering service in March 2027.

The 75m (246ft) vessel started the two-month voyage, travelling from Ho Chi Minh City via the Cape of Good Hope, which was the same route taken by freight vessel Menawethan earlier this year.

Scillonian IV has the capacity to carry 600 passengers and will replace Scillonian III.

Ian Howard, chairman of the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group, was in Vietnam for the occasion.

https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckp8gp0937v9o

Largest woodland bat survey a 'nice story of AI for good'

Britain's largest ever woodland survey of bats would "simply not have been feasible" without AI, scientists say.

Researchers left devices on poles among the trees of 310 woodlands across Britain, recording 98

million bat calls over three years, which would have taken more than 30 years to analyse without AI.
Some of Britain's rarest and most threatened bats, including the red-listed Barbastelle, have been recorded in the south-west of England, including Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Dorset.
Kate Jones, from University College London, said: "AI has fundamentally changed the scale at which we can monitor wildlife." She added the survey was a "nice story of AI for good".
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqm24kgr1jz4o

Skipper who champions Cornish sardines gets award

A skipper who champions sustainable Cornish sardines has been named Fishing Hero of the Year at a national awards ceremony.
Tom Lambourn, from Newlyn, Cornwall, received the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) UK award at a gala dinner at London's Fishmongers' Hall recently
He was recognised by the judges for his dedication to promoting the small scale Cornish sardine fishery.
In his acceptance speech, Lambourn said it was "brilliant to be part of a sustainable fishery".
The 30-year-old skipper, who left the coastal town to study for a chemistry degree, said he was drawn back by the pull of the ocean and now captains his own sardine boat, the Lyonesse, throughout the sardine season from July to April.
Lambourn was also credited for a decision taken by Paradise Park to feed their penguins Cornish sardines rather than sprats.
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cmd93py0ggn4o

Narnia book found in charity shop sells for £1k

A rare first edition of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe has sold for £1,000 after it was spotted at a charity shop.
The 1950 copy of the first of the Chronicles of Narnia by CS Lewis was identified by a sharp-eyed volunteer at the Oxfam bookshop in Truro, Cornwall.
The children's fantasy novel was put up for sale on the charity's online selling portal and was quickly snapped up.
The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven novels - the most famous being The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - published between 1950 and 1956.
They have been the subject of multiple screen and stage adaptations, most recently a Netflix production of The Chronicles of Narnia.
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cmgel8zwlzpxo

Geothermal plant plans to drill four more wells

The UK's first geothermal power plant said it wants to increase the number of underground wells it was previously allowed from two to six.
Eden Geothermal, in Cornwall, said proposed changes to a previously approved planning application offered "a significant benefit in terms of increasing the renewable energy generated on site".
Other changes were proposed to allow for an increase in generation capacity, it added.
Eden Geothermal said key changes included increasing the size of an air-cooled condenser bank, reconfiguration of site buildings and the installation of two substations, rather than the one previously agreed with Cornwall Council, the Local Democracy Reporting Service reported.
The plant's water storage lagoon would be decreased in size if the changes were agreed.
Reaching about 5km (3.1miles/16,400 ft) below the Earth's surface, the current geothermal well taps into water temperatures of up to 200C (390F) to provide heating to Eden's greenhouses and rainforest biome.
The current well at Eden Geothermal has a vertical depth of just over 4.8km (3 miles).
A second similarly-sized well was also approved in December 2010, but has yet to be drilled.
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crjwe84lqj10o

Cotehele garland celebrates 70 years of festive magic

Around 30,000 people visit each year to see the installation, which for many marks the start of Christmas
Cotehele's famous Christmas garland is going platinum this year as the spectacular 60ft dried flower display celebrates its 70th anniversary.
The attraction has decorated the Great Hall at the National Trust property in the Tamar Valley every Christmas since 1956, becoming one of the region's best-known festive traditions.
What began as an idea for an evergreen swag seven decades ago has grown into a major attraction, involving months of planning and the work of staff and volunteers.
The display takes 10 days to create, with the garden team and around 30 volunteers working together.
Visitors can watch between November 9 and 19, as the 60ft installation is assembled inside the Great Hall.
https://www.cornish-times.co.uk/news/gardening/cotehele-garland-celebrates-70-years-of-festive-magic-969856

South Africa remembers Cornwall's forgotten heroine

Around 650 people took part in the re-enactment at the National Women's Monument in Bloemfontein

A Cornish heroine who challenged the British Empire has been honoured in spectacular style in South Africa, as hundreds gathered to recreate her state funeral 100 years after her death.

The remarkable ceremony paid tribute to Emily Hobhouse, the St Ive-born humanitarian who exposed the appalling conditions endured by women and children in British concentration camps during the Second Anglo-Boer War.

The event was organized by the Emily100 team, based at The Story of Emily in St Ive, Cornwall. The immersive historical attraction, which opened in 2024, has been at the heart of efforts to mark the centenary and bring Hobhouse's extraordinary story to a wider audience.

Born in Cornwall, Emily travelled alone to South Africa during the Second Anglo-Boer War, which lasted from 1899 to 1902. What she found in the camps shocked her. Women and children were living in appalling conditions, facing disease, hunger and suffering.

Emily refused to stay silent. Her campaigning exposed the reality of the camps and helped save the lives of thousands of women and children.

She spoke out at a time when patriotic feeling in Britain was running high and women had little public voice. Her challenge to the British Empire came at a personal cost: she was branded a traitor by the British Government and largely written out of the history books at home.

In South Africa, however, she is remembered as a national heroine.

https://www.cornish-times.co.uk/news/south-africa-remembers-cornwalls-forgotten-heroine-969678

Discovering Our Cornish Heritage: A New Guide to Cornish Memorials Across Australia

Cornish men and women left their mark right across Australia, from the goldfields of Bendigo and Ballarat to the copper towns of South Australia's "Little Cornwall".

Many of those stories are remembered today in plaques, monuments and heritage sites, some of them put up by our own Association. Until now, though, there has been no single place to find them all.

We have now put together a photographic guide and map of Cornish and immigrant memorials in Australia. It brings together about 50 memorials in more than 60 photographs, across Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia, with one more in England.

The guide has two parts.

Places covers the monuments, plaques and mine sites.

People honours Australians of Cornish birth or descent, among them Sir John Quick, author of the Constitution; Premiers Sir Albert Dunstan and Sir Edward Braddon; Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey and Sir Leslie Morshead; and the Prime Ministers Sir Robert Menzies and Bob Hawke.

The guide includes some familiar favourites:

- the CAV's Duke of Cornwall Engine House plaque at Fryerstown (1992)
- the Cornish Arms Hotel plaque in Brunswick (2001)
- the "Mystery" lugger plaque at Williamstown, unveiled by Pete Goss in 2009
- the Bendigo Underground Miner and the Widows Monument
- the Welcome Nugget in Ballarat, found by 22 newly arrived Cornishmen in 1858
- Map Kernow at Kapunda, Johnny Green on Peacock's Chimney at Burra, and The Shaftman at Moonta
- the Wheal Gawler chimney at Glen Osmond, from Australia's first metal mine (1841)
- the Plymouth quayside plaque marking where thousands of Cornish emigrants sailed for South Australia

Each memorial is shown with its location and date, and the map pinpoints every site, with close-ups of Victoria and South Australia's Copper Coast. It's designed as a travel companion, so you can plan a day trip to the goldfields, a weekend on the Copper Coast or simply see how widely the Cornish spread.

Can you help?

We'd love to hear from members who know of a memorial we've missed, or who can add details to one we've included.

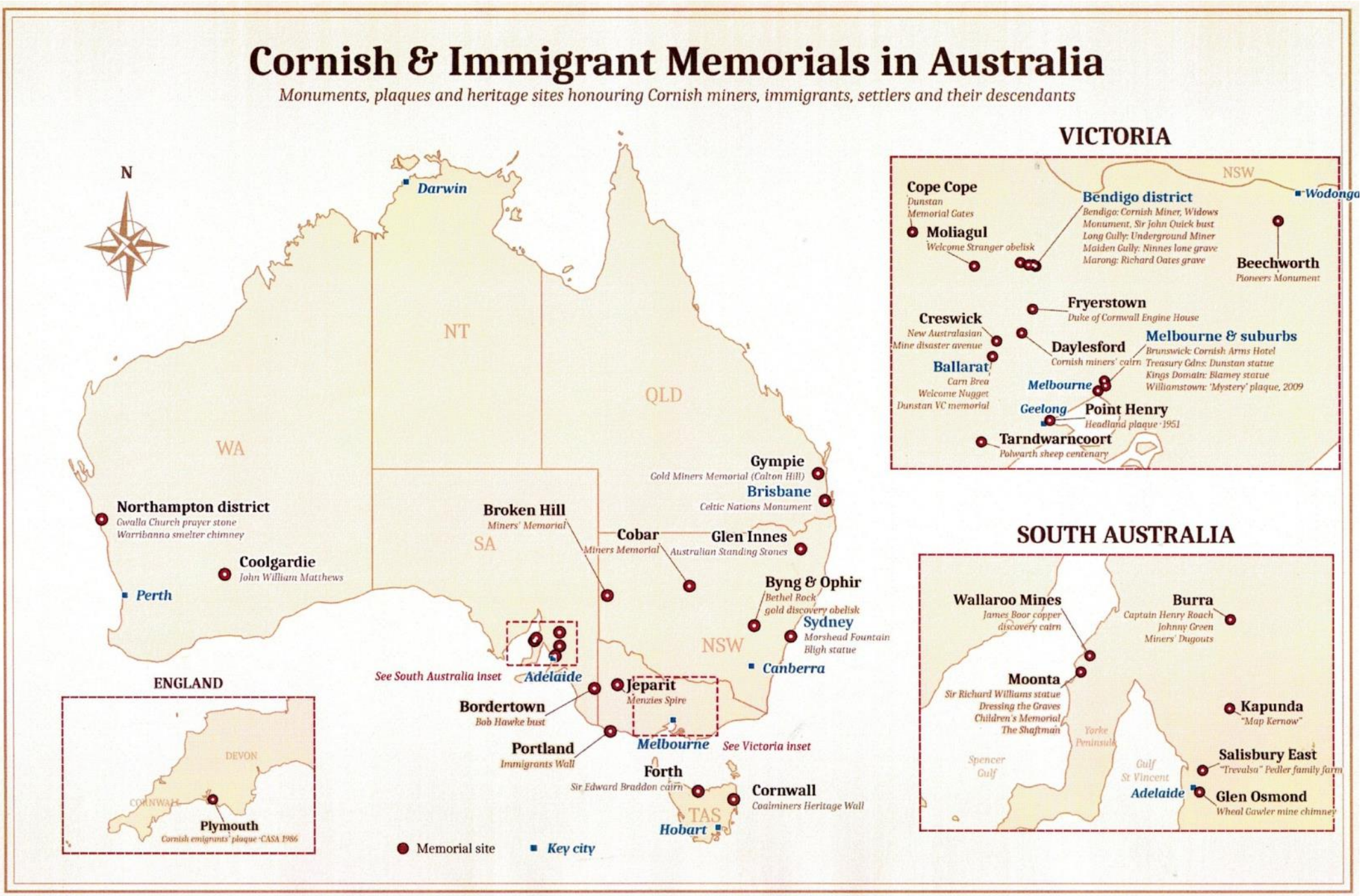
Photos are especially welcome.

David Reid, Vice-President & Geelong Branch
+61 (0)467 609 290
davidreid@fastmail.com.au
Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/93783467224

Photos used are either in the public domain or from the collection of Robyn and Arthur Coates

Cornish & Immigrant Memorials in Australia

Monuments, plaques and heritage sites honouring Cornish miners, immigrants, settlers and their descendants



Cornish & Immigrant Memorials in Australia — Places

Monuments, plaques and heritage sites honouring Cornish miners, immigrants, settlers and their descendants

VICTORIA



The Cornish Miner
Bendigo · CABD · 1996



Bendigo Underground Miner
Long Gully · CABD · 2003



Widows Monument
Bendigo · CABD · c.2010



Ninnes lone grave
Maiden Gully, Bendigo · 1852



Welcome Stranger obelisk
Moliagul · 1897



Duke of Cornwall Engine House
Fryerstown · CAV · 1992



Cornish miners' cairn
Cornish Hill, Daylesford · 2010



Pioneers Monument
Beechworth · 1954



New Australasian Mine disaster avenue
Creswick · 1882 disaster · est. 2007



Welcome Nugget monolith
Bakery Hill, Ballarat · 1934



Welcome Nugget — 22 Cornishmen
Bakery Hill, Ballarat · 1858 find



Cornish Arms Hotel
Brunswick · CAV · 2001



'Mystery' lugger plaque
Williamstown · CAV · 2009



Point Henry headland plaque
Geelong · Historical Society · 1951



Polwarth sheep centenary
Tarndwarncoort · 1880–1980



Immigrants Wall
Portland · c.2003

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Wheal Gawler mine chimney
Glen Osmond, Adelaide · 1849



"Johnny Green", Peacock's Chimney
Burra · Cousin Jack memorial · 1972



Miners' Dugouts
Burra Creek · National Trust



"Map Kernow" Son of Cornwall
Kapunda · 1988



Dressing the Graves
Moonta Cemetery · 2015



Children's Memorial
Moonta Cemetery · 1969



James Boor copper discovery cairn
Wallaroo Mines · 1960



The Shaftman — "One and All"
Moonta · CASA · 1961



"Trevalsa" — Pedler family farm
Salisbury East · 1850–1916

NEW SOUTH WALES



Australian Standing Stones
Glen Innes · 1992



Bethel Rock — William 'Parson' Tom
Byng district



Broken Hill Miners' Memorial
Line of Lode, Broken Hill · 2001



Miners' Memorial plaque
Broken Hill · opened 21 April 2001



Miners' Memorial wall of names
Line of Lode, Broken Hill



Cobar Miners Memorial
Cobar · 2021

QUEENSLAND



Celtic Nations Monument
Brisbane · 2008



Gold Miners Memorial
Zig Zag Park, Calton Hill, Gympie · 2008

TASMANIA



Coalminers Heritage Wall
Cornwall · 2006



Coalminers Heritage Wall plaque
Cornwall · 2006

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Gwalla Church prayer stone
Northampton · church built 1863



Warribanno smelter chimney
nr Northampton · Geraldine lead mine · 1851

ENGLAND



Cornish emigrants to South Australia
Sutton Pool, Plymouth · CASA · 1986

CAV = Cornish Association of Victoria · CABD = Cornish Association of Bendigo & District · CASA = Cornish Association of South Australia

Cornish & Immigrant Memorials in Australia — People

Memorials to Australians of Cornish birth or descent in public life, the military and mining

PRIME MINISTERS



Sir Robert Menzies Spire
Jepart · 1966



Menzies Spire plaque
Jepart · 1966

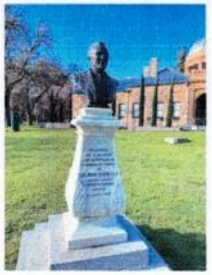


Bob Hawke bust
Bordertown · 1987



Bob Hawke bust plaques
Bordertown · unveiled by Rev. A.C. Hawke

FEDERATION & STATE POLITICS



Sir John Quick bust
Queen Victoria Gardens, Bendigo · 1934



Sir Edward Braddon memorial cairn
Braddon's Lookout, Forth · 1956



Braddon's Lookout viewing platform
Forth · 2004



Bolte & Dunstan statues
Treasury Gardens, Melbourne · Peter Corlett · c.1999



Sir Albert Dunstan Memorial Gates
Cope Cope · 1952

COLONIAL



Governor William Bligh
The Rocks, Sydney · Marc Clark · 1987



Bligh statue plaque
The Rocks, Sydney · 1987

MILITARY



Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams
Moonta · 2021



Sir Leslie Morshead Fountain
Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney · 1966



Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey
Kings Domain, Melbourne · Ray Ewers · 1960



Blamey statue plaque
Kings Domain, Melbourne



William Dunstan VC memorial
Sturt St (near Daveton St), Ballarat · 2017

CIVIC



Carn Brea — C.B. Retallack
Mair St, Ballarat · ACU



Carn Brea gate, Cornish shield
Mair St, Ballarat

MINING PIONEERS



Captain Henry Roach
Burra · 1992 · photo A. Logue



Richard Oates memorial
Marong Cemetery · CABD



John William Matthews
Coolgardie · 2004



Ophir gold discovery obelisk
Ophir · W. & J. Tom, J. Lister · 1923



Ophir 150th anniversary plaque
Ophir · 2001