



# The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

## February 2022 Newsletter

# Onen hag oll

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Saturday 5th February 2022** - Bring a 'Cornish Treasure' and share its history.  
If you don't have a 'Cornish Treasure', please bring a family treasure that is special to you.

We are hopeful that there will be no restrictions and are planning on meeting in the Skipton Street, Uniting Church Hall at 2.00 pm.  
You will need to check in with either a QR code or by writing your name and contact details on a supplied list as well as recording your attendance as you would normally.  
Please wear a mask.  
Afternoon tea will consist of biscuits and will be provided.

**Saturday 5th March 2022** - St Piran's Day  
Due to the uncertainty of COVID restrictions, this year we are holding a smaller celebration for St Piran's Day.

A pasty lunch will be served at 12.15pm and after lunch we will have a speaker, Julia Walsh, who will share information about her ancestor Henry Richards Caselli, an architect responsible for many of Ballarat's buildings.  
Pasties will be \$8 and will need to be pre-ordered by Friday 25th February.  
If you have dietary restrictions please let Robyn know when you order  
[0419 551 320 [robyncoates@hotmail.com](mailto:robyncoates@hotmail.com)]

**Saturday 2nd April** - to be advised

**Christmas Gathering****Saturday 4th December 2021**

Nineteen friends gathered for a Christmas meal at Barklys restaurant on Saturday 4th December.

After a welcome from our Chairperson Keith, a special Annual General Meeting was held to elect Office bearers for 2021-2022.  
This was chaired by Arthur Coates.

Chairperson - Keith Lanyon  
Vice-Chairperson - Wendy Benoit  
Secretary - Lorice Jenkin  
Treasurer - Jim Hocking  
Committee Members  
Di Christensen, Robyn Coates, Bev Hocking

Following the meal, Keith showed us that our knowledge of Cornwall was some what lacking through a trivia quiz.

Following a discussion about St Piran's Day 2022, it was decided to keep the 2022 celebrations much smaller than previously due to the uncertainty of COVID happenings.

John Burrell was the lucky winner of the decorated Christmas Cake.

Photos on page 2

Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.  
Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.







## VALE

### Hazel Jean Luke

3.07.1931 – 5.11.2021



Hazel Luke became a member of the Cornish Association in 2001 and was a regular attendee until 2015.

She initially attended with her cousin's wife, Fay Luke, and later convinced her good friend Anita de Little to join the Association and they participated together in the group's activities (Photo shows Hazel on left and Fay on right)

Hazel volunteered with many community groups around Ballarat - the Ryder Cheshire Foundation, RSPCA, St. Vinnies Op Shop and the Ballarat Information Centre.

I remember chatting with Hazel and her telling me that two of her uncles had served during the First World War - Richard and Harry Luke, sons of Harriett (Truscott) and Joseph Luke. Harry had served as a despatch runner with the 38th Battalion and was awarded the Croix de Guerre (France) and Richard had served with the 10th Field Ambulance. Both returned to Australia at the end of the war. Two of Hazel's great uncles also served - Thomas James Albert Luke and William Henry Luke who died of wounds

Hazel spent her last two years living at Kelaston and had an adjoining room to my aunt.

Robyn Coates

+ + + + +

### Jeffrey John Menhennet

13.10.1935 - 20.12.2021.

Jeff was born to Violet and Fred Menhennet on 13th October 1935. His siblings were Valerie, George, Maurice (Dec) and Beverly.



Jeff grew up in Hertford Street/ Smythe's Road, Sebastopol, on a small farm where he worked hard, for his father, from a young age. Jeff attended the Redan State School.

In 1959, he married Joy Rees and they had five children - Steven, Graham, Dianne, Kerry and Stuart. Two years ago, Joy and Jeff celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Jeff later became a builder and built many houses around Ballarat and the Ballarat district.

The three boys followed their father into the building industry and all worked with their father at some stage.

Graham says, "He was a very hard taskmaster."

Jeff also became a farmer purchasing land when he could and built up a good herd of cattle - preferring Angus cattle. He enjoyed seeing his cattle going to market and bringing good prices.

Jeff was involved in many pursuits and community activities.

He was a member of the Master Builders' Association and was president at times of the Ballarat Branch.

He renovated the Berringa Church and the Old Berringa School which became the Community Centre.

He was also on the Staffordshire Cemetery Trust. For his involvement in the community, both he and Joy were rewarded by the Shire.

In earlier times he had been involved with the Albert Street Methodist Church and the Humffray Street Methodist Church.

Jeff was an avid hunter and enjoyed his trips to New Zealand for deer hunting.

He also enjoyed duck shooting, rabbiting and fox hunting around Ballarat. Jeff was able to whistle up foxes and showed this skill to many of his friends.

Jeff had been a member of The Cornish Association Ballarat Branch for many years and during this time had attended many activities with Joy, where he made many friends.

Jeff passed away on 20th December 2021, at Mercy Place, where he had resided for almost two years.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Jeff's life was held at Berringa followed by interment at Staffordshire Reef Cemetery.

Wendy Benoit

## William John Potter

(Wendy Benoit found his Obituary on the Cornish Migration Facebook page and then searched for more)

Born 8 May 1838 Lanteglos, Cornwall.  
Married Mary Ryan in Ballarat in 1857. MI 1675  
Died 27 May 1923 Sebastopol, Victoria. DI 3355

William was the son of William Potter and Priscilla nee Biddick.

William snr was a grocer and tea dealer in Lanteglos and was born in Devon. Priscilla was born in St Issey, Cornwall.

On the 1851 Census for St Austell - the family is living in Fore Street and William was aged 12 years and the eldest of several children.

1851 Census St Austell

William 35 grocer and tea dealer

Priscilla 39

William 12

Charles B 8

Edwin 6

Edward 4

Mary Ely 3

Frederick 6 months

Ann Thomas 17 house servant

Caroline Jenkin 15 house servant

William arrived in Victoria aged 16 about 1855 and he married Mary Ryan in 1857 in Ballarat.  
Mary had been born in Ireland in about 1833.

In Victoria, William and Mary had the following children:

William 1858-1931 - most likely Ballarat.

Mary 1860-1951 - Italian Gully

James 1852-1947 - Italian Gully

Priscilla 1864-1942 - Staffordshire Reef

Emily 1866-1954 - Scarsdale

Ann Norah 1869 - 1921 - Sebastopol

Edward 1871-1940 - Staffordshire Reef

Margaret 1873 -1949 - Sebastopol

Charles 1877- 1946 - Staffordshire Reef

Percy 1885 -1890. Ballarat.

William was a miner and in 1909 was living in Cheshunt Street in Sebastopol. His wife Mary was at this address too. Mary died in 1921 at Birdwood Avenue, Sebastopol, aged 88.  
She was buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.

Mary's death notice appeared in *The Ballarat Star* Thursday October 13th 1921 p4 and her funeral

notice Friday October 14th p4.  
(Also in *The Ballarat Star*.)

*Ballarat Star* (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Friday 14 October 1921, page 4 National Library of Australia  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article219319385>

## FUNERAL NOTICE - POTTER

The friends of Mr William Potter are respectfully invited to follow the remains of his late dearly-loved Wife (Mary) to the place of interment, the Ballarat Old Cemetery.

The funeral will leave his residence, Birdwood Avenue, Sebastopol this day (Friday), 14th October, at two (2) p.m.

F. W. BARNES and SON, Funeral Directors (late Jordan and Tippett), 14 Armstrong street, south, and 210 Armstrong street north. Phone 79.

## *Ballarat Star* Saturday 15th October 1921 p1 OBITUARY - POTTER.

The funeral of the late Mrs Mary Potter, wife of Mr John Potter, took place yesterday, and was largely attended.

The funeral moved from Birdwood avenue, Sebastopol, to the Ballarat Old Cemetery.

The Rev. E. Williams conducted the services at the house and graveside. "*The Rock of Ages*" was sung by those present.

Among the many floral tributes were beautiful wreaths from the ladies' class of the Methodist Church, City of Ballarat Band members, employees of John MacLeod Pty. Co. Ltd., and Sebastopol Fire Brigade.

The coffin-bearers were the deceased's four sons, viz., William, James, Edward, and Charles Potter, J.P. Busch (son-in-law) and Stan. Busch (grandson).

The pall bearers were the Mayor of Sebastopol (Cr W. H. Wallis), Crs J. E. Jones, W. A. Madden, Franklin, and W. Aisbett: Captain Geo. Vickers (Sebastopol Fire Brigade), Messrs M. Anderson (representing John MacLeod, and Co.), R.

Tretheway, E. Hoosen, T. C. Barrett, and Joseph Joseph (trustees Methodist Church), A. Pryor (Pryor and Grubb), Geo. Fitches, F. Wright (City Band), W. Beggon, H. Hunichen, J. Gilbert, T. Butler, W. Gunn, E. Mitchell, C. Pender, F. Firmin (Gippsland), W. Tretheway, R. Grubb, F. Pryor, and others.

Messrs F. W. Barnes and Son had charge of the funeral arrangements.

In 1922, William was a resident at Birdwood Avenue.

**The Ballarat Star, Vic. 23 March 1923**

Potter.

Another of Sebastopol's old and respected residents has passed away in the person of Mr William Potter, the veteran Methodist local preacher.

The sad event occurred after a brief illness at his residence at Birdwood Avenue on Tuesday night.

The late Mr Potter was universally respected for his consistent Christian character.

It could safely be asserted that by old and young his life was held out as a standard of religious consistency.

Creed was abhorrent to him.

He regarded Humanity as being all of one family, one equality, and of one denomination. His preaching always conveyed that impression, and in life he practised it.

He was the friend of all; the enemy of none. His Christian charity was unbounded.

The late Mr Potter was an adherent to Methodism, which by his death has suffered a severe loss.

The Sebastopol Methodist Church, of which he was a member, and held the positions of trustee and class leader, will keenly feel its loss.

He had been a preacher for 50 years, and at time of his decease was on the "plan " of the Ballarat West Circuit.

His first sermon was preached at Staffordshire Reef in 1873, and his last about four weeks ago at Dereel, both churches being in the same circuit.

He was a preacher of considerable ability.

In the early stages of his preaching career he was known to have walked 20 miles on a Sunday to keep his preaching appointments, and on his return home to immediately go on night shift at the mine where he was employed.

It was his proud boast that he had walked seven thousand miles to preach the gospel.

The late Mr Potter was born at St Austell, Cornwall. He arrived in Melbourne at the age of 16 years about 68 years ago.

He followed mining and worked at various mining centres before settling with his family about 32 years ago at Sebastopol.

He was married at Ballarat.

His wife pre-deceased him by about eighteen months.

To mourn their loss he leaves a grown-up family of four sons Messrs William, James, Charles (Sebastopol), and Edwin (North Melbourne), and four daughters, Mrs Marriott (Cheltenham), Mrs A.

Firmin (Morwell), Miss. E Potter (Sebastopol). and Mrs J. P. Busch (Ballarat).

The deceased was 84 years of age at the time of his death.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, and was very largely attended. A number of members of the Local Preachers' Association, past and present were among the chief mourners.

The Rev. W.J. Williams of Skipton Street, officiated at the home, Birdwood Avenue, and at the graveside. at the Old Cemetery, where he made reference to the passing of one who had practically died in harness, so to speak.

Mr Potter had been a useful and constant preacher for years. He lived a consistent, truly Christian life, saying a kind word when opportunity offered and always charitable in his endeavours.

At the age of 85 Mr Potter passed from us leaving sweet memories of a life well spent.

The coffin bearers were Messrs Charles, William, Edward and James Potter (sons of the deceased), J.P.Busch (son in law of the deceased) and Stan Busch (nephew).

The mayor and councillors of Sebastopol were the pall bearers viz The mayor (Cr. W. B. Franklin) , Crs. J. B. Jones, W. H. Wallis, E. Jenkins, W. R. Aisbett, Messrs F. M. Busch, Thos. Hughes and Jas. H. Jordan (town clerk) Accompanied by Mr Arthur Hughes MLA Messrs. E. Hoosen, R. G. Drubb, J. Patterson \_\_Osborne, A. H. Pryor, \_\_Branden, J. Lewis, T. C. Barrett, R. Rankin, H. Hunichen, J. Evans, Massey Anderson (rep John McLeod and Co. Pty. Ltd), T. Ellis, Jno. Pearce, W. Tretheway, J. E. Renowden, G. Lee, H. Hall, F. Pryor, G. Borlase, A. Greenwood and representatives of the Local Preachers' Association (Messrs W. L. Dash and M. Sandall) members of the I O R and various organisations connected with the Church and Sunday School.

Messer F W Barnes and Son had charge of the funeral arrangements.

William was buried in the same grave as his wife in the Ballarat Old Cemetery. J section 06 Row 1 Grave 5.

His son James and his daughter Emily are also buried in this grave.





## Henry Caselli and Webster Street Ballarat

When I was young I was fortunate to live in Webster Street, Ballarat.

Named 'The Most Fashionable Street' by David Gordon in his book of that name, it is a very, very special street to my sister and me.

This book traces the history of Webster Street and states that,

*"Webster street links the peace and relaxation provided by Lake Wendouree, at its western end , and the commercial activity of the City of Ballarat, at its eastern end"*.

The book mentions many of the lovely homes built in the street and also the architects, of which there were a few.

Henry Richards Caselli; George William Clegg; Herbert Coburn; Charles D. Figgis; P.S. Richards; Gordon Sutherland and F W Turton

I was always fascinated by the two storey home at number 24 Webster Street, *Kent Villa*, later *Cairnshurst*.

We walked past it often, on the way to the shops in Sturt Street.

It was named *Cairnshurst* after Dr Thomas Cairns, minister of St Andrew's Kirk from 1887-1913.

It had twenty rooms, designed and built by Henry Caselli for his own family in 1865.



Caselli was a Cornishman, born in Falmouth in 1816, to Italian parents, and he arrived in Ballarat in 1854; he was just a few years younger than my great, great grandfather William Henry Lovell, also born in Falmouth and who emigrated to Ballarat in the 1850s.

I am sure they must have known each other but have been unable to find proof of this.

Casselli also designed the Royal Terrace at 13-23 Webster Street - this was almost opposite his home, a very imposing building but not an imposing location.



I am not saying anything further about Henry Caselli as his descendant Julia Walsh will tell us much more on Saturday 5th March.

His legacy in Ballarat is amazing - so many of our public buildings were designed by him.

Di Christensen



## A touch of humour

The counties of Devon and Cornwall organised a huge music festival with the reunions of both The Jam and Cream.

The festival was called off due to the two counties not being able to agree which should go on first.

A Farmer in Cornwall see's a bloke drinking from his stream.

He shouts, "Wozzon! Ee den wanna be drinkin dat, t'is fulla horse urine an cow manure".

The bloke says "I'm from London and just purchased a property in the village can you speak bit slower please".

The Farmer replies "If - you - use - two - hands - you - won't - spill - any"!

People won't believe there's a city in Cornwall  
It's Truro.

## CORNISH NEWS

Three articles from Cornish studies resources  
Cornwall: history, surnames and society by Bernard  
Deacon - [www.bernarddeacon.com](http://www.bernarddeacon.com)

### Welcome to Harriet's house

He stepped ashore on Falmouth's Town Quay one murky afternoon in January just as the light was beginning to fade. After six months or more at sea the solid ground was a stranger. Learning to walk like a landsman again, he and his mates headed for a drink.

The seaport had a good choice of convenient drinking places along its streets and alleys. They dived into one at random and, armed with some pints of Cornish ale – a marked improvement on the time Cornish ale was said to be only fit for pigs to wrestle in – conversation mounted as the party of seamen began to relax.

After some time, a rather large lady approached them confidently.

'A'right, me 'ansums? Just in, are 'ee?'

'Yeah', offered one of them in reply, 'what's to do for fun round 'ere then?'

'Well, my treas ..' she said, lowering her voice and lowering her bulk down onto the bench, 'there's my 'ouse up Allen's Yard. My girl Susan an' 'er friend Lizbeth are always ready for a good time. My name's 'Arriet by the way'.

Harriet Jordan, 37 years old, was described in the 1871 census as a 'brothel keeper', married to Thomas, a 'labourer'. His role, if any, in his wife's business is unknown. Her 16 year old daughter Susan was a prostitute as was another, Elizabeth Hotten, who lodged with the family.

The 1871 census was unusual in that it recorded 33 women in Falmouth who were given the occupational description of 'prostitute'. In addition, four brothel keepers were listed. The only other town in Cornwall where prostitution was explicitly recorded in this way was St Austell. There seven prostitutes were enumerated.

In Falmouth any passing seaman looking for the red-light district would not have had to go far.

Most of the town's prostitutes were found in the run-down housing in and around Allen's Yard, between Market Street and Smithick Hill.

The census provides a snapshot of the trade. The prostitutes were young, the youngest so described being just 15 years old with only two older than 30.

Their median age was 21 which suggests a short career before moving on to something safer and more acceptable if perhaps not so lucrative.

Despite being just the right age to feature in the Victorian Lives database, unfortunately none of the prostitutes enumerated in 1871 can be found there, so at present we have no evidence of their later lives.

All but two of the prostitutes were from Cornwall, with nine born in Falmouth, a somewhat lower proportion than for the general population. Redruth and Camborne between them also supplied eight girls.

Another brothel keeper was Elizabeth Defreeze, who was 84 years old. Her unmarried son Albert was said to be 'supported by prostitutes', even though only one was present in the household. The Defreeze family had a long association with the trade as an Ellen Defreeze and another woman, the two described as 'prostitutes', were found guilty of 'violent language in the public highway between 11 and 12 at night' and sentenced to a month in jail in 1858. Until the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 the authorities did not have the power to suppress brothels.

Before then, a succession of women suspected of being prostitutes came before Falmouth magistrates charged with disturbing the peace, unruly conduct, or being drunk and disorderly but they usually escaped with small fines.

It goes without saying that their customers were not apprehended.

### Port Isaac: of medical men and myths

Ask people what they know about the village of Port Isaac on Cornwall's north coast in Endellion parish and they're likely to respond with 'Doc Martin'.

This apparently endless series about a lugubrious doctor in a 'sleepy' Cornish fishing village is a staple of British television.

If people don't reply 'Doc Martin', then they're likely to come up instead with 'fishing village'.

The real Doc Martin of 1861 was not some grouchy incomer frustrated by the local simpletons.

In 1861 the village boasted a doctor in Frederick Trevan. Frederick was 58 years old and born in the parish. He was one of the ten children of John Trevan, the Principal Customs Officer at Port Isaac, who had married the daughter of a local merchant. Before his own marriage, Frederick wrote a manuscript, 'The History of Port Isaac and Port Quin', in 1833-34. The bulk of this is a short description of each householder and their family, details of local landholdings and a list of wrecks.

However, in at least one way, the real Doc Trevan mirrored the fictional Doc Martin. Trevan was prepared to be quite acerbic and gossipy when discussing his neighbours. For instance, John Adams was 'fond of a tippie. His wife, Polly, being a queer kind of woman hunts him out of the Public Houses, differs with him sadly and frequently exclaims "My dear Jack Strivey, must my poker fly".' Nor was he too keen on some nonconformists. Burroughs was 'an old, lame miscreant of a Baptist preacher ... who got John Adams' daughter with child.'

Readers of this fascinating insight into the village in the early 1830s might be surprised to find only four fishermen listed, while another three combined fishing with farming or shoemaking. Fishing there indubitably was in the 1800s, but the 1861 census shows that the picture of a village entirely dominated by fishing is very overdrawn. In that census, just five of the 87 men in Port Isaac aged between 15 and 69 were full-time fishermen. By way of contrast, there were 21 mariners, seamen and coastguards and another three retired mariners. Even the number of carpenters and farm labourers in the village exceeded that of fishermen in 1861. Perhaps it would be more accurate to describe Port Isaac as a seafaring village.

There is a hint that the number of fishermen in the village was on the increase in the second half of the nineteenth century. John May was the son of a mariner. However, in the 1860s, when his father died, neither John nor his brother followed him onto the high seas. Instead, they became fishermen, an occupation John May pursued at least into the 1890s. This is corroborated in the census. By 1891 the number of men in Port Isaac given the occupational label of 'fisherman' had grown to 20, although still outnumbered by the 30 mariners (with another seven being retired mariners).

### **Shipwrights**

Given its maritime connections, it's not surprising that, in the 1800s Falmouth and its neighbouring villages was a shipbuilding location.

Yet before the 1850s, in the days of sail, most shipbuilding operations in the Fal estuary were relatively small scale.

In Falmouth itself they were located mainly in the area between the present-day Maritime Museum and Trago Mills. Yet, only around three per cent of men in Falmouth in 1851 were working as shipwrights.

In this year, or just before, John Francis May was born into the family of John and Ann May, who lived at Britton's Yard, Falmouth.

John senior was a shoemaker, but John Francis became a ship's carpenter in his teens.

In the 1870s he moved to the Royal Navy Dockyard at Devonport, where he was employed as a shipwright, marrying a local girl, Mary Hennessey, in 1877.

They were still there in 1891, sharing a crowded three-roomed apartment in Gloucester Street with their seven children.

The Government dockyard at Plymouth clearly looked towards Falmouth for some of its skilled labour force as John May's move was not that uncommon.

Not every Falmouth shipwright went to Devonport however: Amelia Ann Jeffery's father was a journeyman shipwright resident in Falmouth in 1851.

He was still working as a shipwright while living in Chapel Row in 1871 when Amelia married William Henry Williams.

We don't know where William worked, as he died in the next decade, sometime after 1874.

In the 1881 census Amelia, a widow, was running a small grocery shop in Gyllyng Street in the town. This did not prosper and 1901 found her living alone in a one-room apartment in the High Street eking out an existence as a needlewoman.

While Amelia may have struggled to make a living at the turn of the century, shipbuilding and ship repairing in Falmouth was on the increase.

With the extension of the railways, Falmouth had lost the packet service in 1850. Partly to offset this, the Falmouth Dock Company constructed new docks in the early 1860s.

Shipbuilding began to expand. By 1881 the number of shipwrights in Falmouth had already doubled and amounted to 7.5 per cent of the total male labour force.

In 1878 Cox and Co. had begun shipbuilding, later concentrating on ship repair, becoming Falmouth's largest employer in the twentieth century.