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**FESTIVALS EDITION**

*Newsletter of the*

## **Cornish Association of New South Wales**

*This is also the 30<sup>th</sup> year since the inaugurations of the  
Standing Stones in February, 1992*

For more information:

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

### **PROGRAM**

## **SYDNEY & REGION EVENTS**

### **RIVERBOAT POSTMAN**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

from Brooklyn, Hawkesbury River

*Come cruising with us on  
this Hawkesbury Mail Boat,  
the famous Riverboat  
Postman, and enjoy the  
magnificent scenery of the  
lower Hawkesbury River as  
they deliver the mail and  
essentials to the river-  
access-only settlements upriver from Brooklyn.*



A long way ahead, but it is very popular and in school holidays, so bookings in advance will be needed. [Joy.Dunkerley@gmail.com](mailto:Joy.Dunkerley@gmail.com) or ring her on 0428 617 830 Cost is \$49 pension, \$59 full, \$19 School age. Discuss your interest with Joy – but you will now need to book directly yourself.

## **FESTIVALS 2022**

### **29<sup>th</sup> Australian Celtic Festival**

**Glen Innes, NSW**

**– The Year of Cornwall, Brittany & Wales**



**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
April – Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> May, 2022**

Yes, the Cornish will be there for our year! But how many can we gather? Will you? Contact Joy if you hope to.

*The 24th Cornish stone ceremony is on Sunday .*

**Diary date: For our 2022 AGM**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

### **VALE Ruth Cocks 13/11/33 – 30/5/21**

Our dear friend Ruth Cocks died on the morning of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at the age of 87 from the impact of cancer which had been presenting for many months.

Ruth has served continuously on our Committee since she was part of its foundation: as our Secretary for over the first decade, as President, Editor, and lately as Minutes Secretary. As we all know, she was a tower of strength to the growth and continuation of the Association and to the fellowship experienced among us, whether Cornish born or of descent. (See tribute inside)



## Committee News:

Bank account balance at 30/05/2021: **\$7,838.59**

*"The sad news of the death of Ruth is a very big impact and we will very much miss her personally and for the Association. We were very pleased to have been able to see her and Russell and have a chat after being in Glen Innes last month. On that trip down to Sydney we were also able to have a lovely time with Sue Thomas in Barrington. There were only a few of us at Glen Innes this year of course, but it went well with our roles as Guardians of the Stones, the Cornish ceremony (thanks Lyn) and dedication of the Gorsedd Stones plaque. Next year is our year so we hope many of you will plan to be there! At the Kernewek Lowender, there were also few visitors from NSW due to Covid-19 border worries, but we thoroughly enjoyed it! Helping Lilian James with her Cornish language Lesson, as Bards, and showing the flag (and tartan) for the CANSW. We talked to many about coming to Glen Innes next year and there was lots of interest, so CANSW members – come too!*  
Joy Dunkerley, President

## MEMBERSHIP

Your Subscription of \$15 per household for 2021/2022 became due from 7th March.

Well over half of our members have already paid, so to help identify whether you need to pay:

a) if you receive your Newsletter by Post – The CROSS here below indicates you are recorded as unfinancial.

b) If you received it by email, your will be informed by email, if you are recorded as unfinancial.

## MEMBERS MILESTONES

### A Tribute

**VALE Ruth Cocks** aged 87 (b. 14/11/1933 – d. 30/5/2021)

She was a friend of many [and also a kind mentor on matters Cornish of me, Ed.]  
Remembering many, many Committee

meetings held at the Cocks home in Baulkham Hills, trips to Byng, bring and buys, regularly supporting our outings and special weekends, lovely congress tarts baked, and doing pasties with Betty Bevins; supporting Russell in his roles, and all the many and various jobs she did for us all. There is a big hole left in our Association's ranks by Ruth's passing.



Margaret Ruth Morsehead Cocks (nee Whiteman) - or Ruth, as she was mainly known, was born in St. Blazey, Cornwall on 14th November, 1933. Eldest of 8 children, she was educated at St. Blazey Girls School before training as an Architectural Draughtswomen (working in St. Austell and later in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia). She married Russell Cocks in 1957 in St. Mary's Church, Biscovey, near St. Austell. They emigrated to Australia in 1966 settling in Sydney. They were foundation members of the formation of the Cornish Association of Sydney (now CANSW) in 1975.

Barded in 1986 at Merry Maidens, she took the name Mageres an Ertach (Nurterer of the Heritage) for her central work among both those Cornish born and descended in NSW.





Further, with Russell (barded as Gwythias Ertach Byng), she travelled extensively in Australia in support of Cornish and Celtic festivals and events, including Byng chapel and cemetery. She was made a Life Guardian of the Australian Standing Stones in Glen Innes, NSW, on behalf of Celtic Women, on their dedication by the Governor of NSW in 1992; She also received the Celtic Council of Australia honour of Duine Uasal (D.Ua) or 'honoured person' in 2002.

**Our best wishes** to a number of members who have had reported non virus health problems, or have been having ongoing medical procedures. Thinking of **Russell Cocks** with his ongoing health issues (on top of his huge loss – at the time of writing he in short term respite care, so wishing him the best for his future). **Graham Hunt** who had several stints in hospital earlier, and has ongoing issues affecting easy mobility. **Joy Dunkerley** thankfully had a 'clear' review in March, 3 years after her breast cancer operation.

**Congratulations** to all those with birthdays during May and June. Belated congratulations from all for our magnificent **Betty Bevins** achieving her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18 April, and her new great grand-daughter!

**Changed address: Graham and Roslyn Hunt** have moved - new address is – Unit 2, St Basil's Miranda, 29H Wandella Road North, Miranda 2228. Phone and email stays the same. Sorry, it came in too late for last months members listing.

**Please** still let us know of your good news, special events, or of those who are ill.

## FEATURE STORIES

### AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL

The 2021 Celtic festival in Glen Innes went ahead, after last years Covid-19 cancellation, with a different format labelled 'Fringe' – driven by NSW Health requirements for CovidSafe operation. Music and Dance was ticketed, and in behind barriers, but the so labeled 'Cultural Market' area was free to enter

over the weekend, and there was a surprisingly good number of Clan tents, and sales stalls, etc., to make it interesting. This arrangement also allowed the Ceremonies for each nation and the special ones for the Standing Stones site to be a focus. Joy & I as guardians of the stones took part in the Friday Guardians lunch, at which the Irish honored guest, Consul-General Owen Feeney spoke, and Chris dropped in at the Celtic Symposium. That night we went to a dinner at The Croft Celtic Cultural Centre and cafe, now run by our member Pamela O'Neill.



The opening ceremony was held together with the Dawn Ceremony on Saturday and Joy attended, despite the cold. There was no street parade this year, so Saturday was mainly at the Stones, and there were ceremonies at the Wall, where stones from various locations are inserted (this time from local settler properties) – see below for two the CANSW has had in the in the wall for many years



We enjoyed a meal of Lamb at the Steakhouse (!) that night with an Irish band from Brisbane, Limerick, but first Chris was asked to dedicate a new plaque at the Gorsedd Stone. (see Blessing below), and be part of the Guardians Ceremony. Sunday is for nations ceremonies, so we



attended as many as we could, but of course the Cornish Stone Ceremony was entirely ours, our 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was great to have our CANSW local member Lyn Schumacher join us to hold the ceremony.



The tree of us marched up to from the Cornish Assoc. of NSW Stone, to the Gorsedd Stone, attracting a 'crowd' of about 30 for our ceremony.



Now looking forward to next year – our year!

The Festival seems to have been a success, despite many interstate visitors deciding not to come. Many expressed pleasure in at last being able to attend such events after the past year.

## CANSW LIBRARY

As reported previously, the remaining part of our Library (some having gone to join Victoria's library at Castlemaine) has been very kindly taken from storage at her home, to Glen Innes by our member Pamela O'Neill and is now displayed in her Cultural Centre at The Croft at the Standing Stones. A huge thank you to Pamela.



Our Library on the shelves behind us

Here is Pamela's information: "*The Croft Celtic Cultural Centre and Cafe* is open Thursday to Tuesday 8am to 4pm, as well as hosting special events and educational activities. Everyone is welcome to come in, browse the large collection of books and art, play the games, and/or chat. Meals or coffee can also be had. CANSW members are always particularly welcome. We can also post out a book to members on request" (with postage and return pre-arranged – the latest listing is on our CANSW website). For the Library contact Pamela on [pamaladh@gmail.com](mailto:pamaladh@gmail.com) The Croft website with any updates is at: <https://thecroftgleninnes.com>

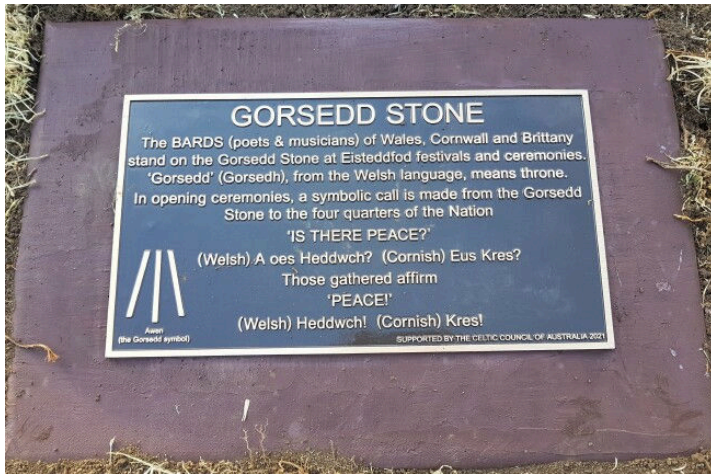
## A BLESSING

As part of the Australian Standing Stones Management Board program of improvements at the Stones, two interpretive plaques were commissioned. One was for the Ogham Stone (a stone for the Gaelic speakers, with Ancient Irish script marks) which was dedicated by the Consult General of Ireland.





The other was for the Gorsedd Stone (for the Brythonic speakers – Cornish, Bretons, and Welsh). I (Chris Dunkerley) was very honored to be asked to dedicate this plaque on behalf of the three nations, as a Cornish Bard and Guardian.



The plaque explains some of the background its placing as a meeting place, and ceremonial place. Ceremonies are held on it each year during the Festival and at other times, and the importance of their being peace in those gatherings.

Assisted by John Rhys Jones who read the Gorsedd Prayer in Welsh, in my dedication speech included a blessing on the stone, the plaque, and those who gather:

### **Bennath rag men an Orsedh**

Dre gres ha kerensa, dre guvder an dus, dre skoodhyans an tiredh, dre gan an mor, dre allos an taves, dre wolow an awen re bowgh benignys, yn hanow Duw:

An men an Orsedh ma;

- rag an fleghes a Breten Vyghan,
- rag an fleghes a Gernow,
- rag fleghes a Kembra
- hag a'n bys oll. Gwir.

### **Blessing for the Gorsedd Stone**

By peace and love, by the kindness of people, by the land's sustaining, by the song of the sea, by the power of the tounge, by the light of inspiration, may you be blessed, in God's name: The Gorsedd stone here,

- for the children of Brittany,
- for the children of Cornwall,
- for the children of Wales
- and of the whole world. Amen.

Original by Philip Chadwick (adapted by Kevrenor (Chris Dunkerley) 2021)

## **KERNEWEK LOWENDER**

This was also the year for the Biennial Kernewek Lowender (Cornish Mirth) Festival in Australia's Little Cornwall, Moonta and its neighbouring Copper Coast towns. SA Health had also mandated Covid-19 Safe restrictions, so there was some difference to a normal year and many interstate visitors didn't travel.

Just a personal outline, but Joy & I started our time helping Bard Lilian James with her Cornish Language Taster Session, of 30 keen learners on the Wednesday at the historic Moonta Mines Church ... who were challenged to reply (when we met them again over the coming week) to answer, "*Yn poynt da meur ras*" to our greeting "*Fatla genes?*"



That afternoon was the wonderful 'Dressing of the Graves' event at Moonta Cemetery. Relatives of those interred may apply to be part, with the grave of their person decorated, and information about them read out.



That night we attended a 'Feast and Famine' dinner with 120 others, tasting 6 courses of local recipes handed down from the early days of the towns. Thursday was a day at Wallaroo



at the Cornish Association of SA Biennial History Seminar, this time the theme was “Cornish Contributions to Medicine, Health and Welfare. Nine interesting papers presented.



Friday was the day for the Fer Kernewek, at Moonta. It starts with a parade, and only 2 hours before we learnt that marching was now allowed – so off we went. The fair went well with good numbers, maypole dancing and furry dancing on the Oval this time by schoolchildren, and many stalls. That afternoon was the Bardic rehearsal at Wallaroo, and then the SA Cornish Association’s dinner and entertainment night in Wallaroo Town Hall.

Saturday was a late start, going to Kadina for the their fair, and then on to Wallaroo for the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Bards of Cornwall in Australia. I assisted leader Terry Johnson, as Vice Herald, with 19 Bards, the May Queen, banner bearers from DA and Vic, and some wonderful flower dancers.



That night we out our in Moonta, and spent Sunday just looking around the area and Moonta sights. A farewell dinner at Kadina’s Wombat Hotel rounded off our time there.

## QUOTE

“Annually, on Mid-Summer Eve, fires are lit on the heights of Cornwall” – Thomas Hogg, *Fabulous History of the Ancient Kingdom of Cornwall*, 1827

## SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

**Tripcony** – If from placename Trekenning (Tripconnyng in 1594), the 2<sup>nd</sup> part may come from *Conyn*, Rabbit. Found in far west Cornwall.

**Tripp** – Uncertain, perhaps from Welsh *tripio*, to trip.

**Troon** – From *tre-wun*, homestead on the down. Placename Troon in the parishes of Camborne, Breage, and Phillack; and Trewoon, St Austell.

**Trounson** – From *tre-rounsyn*, homestead of the donkey, Found far west Cornwall.

**Trudgian / Trudgeon / Tregian** – Maybe from *tre-cun*, homestead of dogs. Name found as Tregyan 1257. Placename Tregian, St. Ewe. Found in mid Cornwall.

**Truscott** – Possibly from *dres-cos*, across the wood. Placename Truscott in St Stephens by Launceston. Found mid Cornwall.

**Trussell** – From *tre-(g)wystyl*, Gwystyl’s homestead. Placename Trussell, Tremaine & St. Keyne.

**Trythall** – placename Trythall, Gulval, spelt Trewrethall in 1297, Trevrethial in 1324. Probably them from *tre-* + a personal name. Found in west Cornwall.

To be continued [A reminder that these names come from ‘A handbook of Cornish Surnames’, by George Pawley White, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1981.]

## Notable Cornish / people of Cornwall

**John Passmore Edwards** – journalist, campaigner for the working people, chartist, pacifist and anti-war campaigner, philanthropist, he twice refused Royal recognition John Passmore Edwards was born on 24th March 1823 in Blackwater, between Redruth and Truro, Cornwall, the son of a carpenter. After an education at the village school, he became a journalist and by the early

## NEWS

### CORNWALL COUNCIL ELECTION 2021

Elections for Consel Kernow / Cornwall Council unitary authority were held for 87 areas (down from 123). New Cornwall Council leader chosen, Linda Taylor, will head the authority after her party the Conservatives became the first to take full majority control of it since its creation in 2009. The Conservatives though winning less than 40% of the vote, through the “First Past The Post” system won 47 of the 87 seats, with Independents on 15 and the Liberal Democrats, 14 seats, Cornwall-based party Mebyon Kernow has 5 seats, Labour Party has 4, with the Labour & Cooperative Party and The Greens both having one each.

### GROUP OF 7 CONFERENCE

Carbis Bay Hotel, Cornwall (near St Ives) is the the venue for the G7 Summit being held from the 11th to 13th June, 2021. Intense Media focus, including many TV show / series ....

**Tanya Gold, The Telegraph (UK) - Imagining Cornwall for the G7 (part 3)** [Warning: Pulls no punches]

*On Cornwall and Devon Walks with Julia Bradbury - “which is functionally moronic. It is like browsing Google Maps with an incurious imbecile”. “The pitch is, a woman Julia Bradbury goes for a walk: from the Minack Theatre, for instance, to Sennen Cove, or across the hills beyond Newquay. She walks the cliffs pointing at lighthouses and rocks and plants. When she passes a cave containing a pool – the Song of the Sea at Nanjizal, from which I once imagined all the magic in Penwith flowed from – she couldn’t be bothered to go in for a swim. Porthcurno, she tells us, has won more awards than Meryl Streep, for being a beach. Meryl Streep is not a beach. There are still sightings of mermaid today, she goes on. No there aren’t, because mermaids don’t exist; even so, you are still more likely to have an interview with a mermaid than a person who could shed any genuine light on Cornwall. It is as lazy as television can be. It is insulting, because there is good, and revealing, culture about Cornwall for the making, if only programme commissioners were bolder and more sensible.” ... more next time*

1840s was working as a free-lance writer in London. During this time he became an activist and served on several committees. These included such causes as the abolition of capital punishment, the suppression of the opium trade and the abolition of flogging in the services. Passmore Edwards also helped direct the Political Reform Association.

From 1848 onwards, he attended various peace conferences in Europe as a delegate from the London Peace Society. He also published and edited various magazines, promoting such things as peace and temperance. Over the following years, he purchased several successful publications and in 1876 bought the ‘Echo’, the first London daily halfpenny paper. He stood as an Independent candidate for Truro in the General Election of 1868. From 1880 to 1885 John Passmore Edwards was Liberal MP for Salisbury and later he began his philanthropic activities. However, he soon became sceptical about the quality of professional politics and the inability of politicians to effectively represent the interests of their constituents. He twice refused knighthood, and his opposition to the Second Boer War made him somewhat unpopular.

A lifelong champion of the working classes, Passmore Edwards is remembered as a generous benefactor. Over the space of 14 years, 70 major buildings were established as a direct result of his bequests. These included hospitals, 11 drinking fountains, 32 marble busts, 24 libraries, schools, convalescence homes and art galleries and the Passmore Edwards Settlement in Tavistock Place. He was also a generous donor to the Workers' Educational Association. He also gave money to many hospitals including Tilbury Hospital next to Tilbury Dock Essex, where he built a ward which was named after him. Wards in Wembley Cottage Hospital and Willesden General were also named after him. Some of his major beneficiaries were the Whitechapel Art Gallery and the London School of Economics.

He founded 24 libraries in London, the Home Counties and Cornwall. In a short period, more than 70 major buildings were established as a result of bequests from John Passmore Edwards.

He died on 22nd April 1911 aged 88 years.



## FEATURE STORIES

### Some early rulers and Kings of Cornwall - Part 3

**GEREINT** 2nd (Gerens II) - first mentioned in 705AD when the churches of Saxon Wessex requested a newly installed Bishop of Sherborn Abbey, Adhelm, to write to him (Gerontius Rex of Domnonia) in an attempt to persuade the Celtic church of Cornwall to conform to the doctrines and practices of the church as laid down from Rome. Adhelm and Gerens II appear to have known each other well, Adhelm wrote elsewhere of travelling into Domnonia and then Cornubia.

It is doubtful Gerens II had much authority over the Bishops of Cornwall, with that church being the last Celtic church to give obedience to Rome, through Canterbury, after at least 905AD. Adhelm seems to have had the ear of both King Gerens of Cornwall and King Ine of Wessex, as it is only after his death in 709AD that warfare resumed, with Gerens possibly being killed at the battle of LLongborth in the levels of what is now Somerset.

**UNKNOWN** – An unnamed but very important Cornish King won the pivotal battle of Hehil in the east of Dumnonia in 722 against an aggressive Wessex, restoring full control over the lands at least up to the River Exe to Cornish control. A sustained period of peace / truce appears to have settled on this border but we do not know what our Kings names were during the period from 722 until 815, when King Ecbert of Wessex took control of what is now North and East Devon. Peace resumed, and then ... *To be continued ... part 4*

Compiled by Chris Dunkerley - Source: Various, especially The Promontory People (An Early History of the Cornish) by Craig Weatherhill, and Bishop Adhelm's Letter to King Gereint of Cornwall.

### Silly Sayings - Unintended Church notices

*"The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon"*

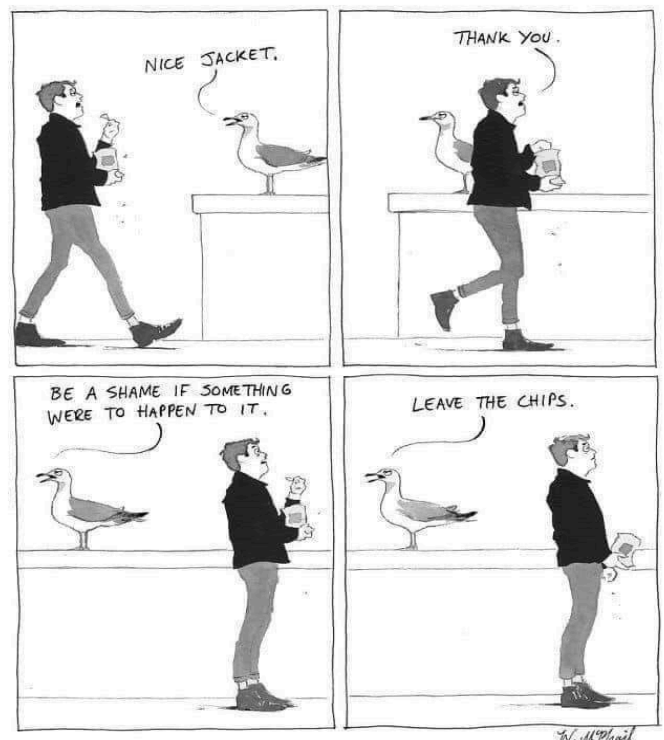


#### CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

Please have a look through all the pages on our web site; especially the NSW 'Sites' pages developed by our own (late) Dr John Symonds. Tell your friends! Suggested updates or new content are welcome.

[www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm](http://www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm)

**Dates coming up ...** Feast days of St Petroc 4<sup>th</sup> June, St Paul Aurelian 12<sup>th</sup> June, St Samson of Dol 23<sup>rd</sup> July, St Sithney 4<sup>th</sup> August.



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

*The next Newsletter: No 392 for the months of July / August 2021 has a copy deadline, by 20 July.*

Contributions may be held for future use but more (electronic – emailed preferred) are welcome!

#### Nr. 391 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW

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