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## Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

### PROGRAM

 *Zoom Keskrows* - Seasonal  
Online ZOOM 'tea & cake' chats &  
news

**Winter chills - 4pm Sat 26 July 2025**  
**Spring has sprung – October 2025**

Date/Time and Zoom links will be emailed a week prior.  
[Requests for special days / times welcome]

*Later face to face functions to be decided.*

### FESTIVALS 2026

#### Australian Celtic Festival

**Glen Innes NSW - *The Year of Scotland***  
**Friday 1st – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2026**



Visitor Information office:  
<https://www.australiancelticfestival.com>  
<http://www.gleninneshighlands.com/>

#### NOT YET PAID MEMBERSHIP?

**Just 12 of us!** Those receiving your newsletter by post (and IF still recorded as DUE - you will get a LAST general reminder on this newsletter & a paper renewal form Those by email, if recorded as DUE, will get a reminder email with a form.  
[https://cornishnsw.org/Misc/CANSW\\_2025\\_2026\\_membform.pdf](https://cornishnsw.org/Misc/CANSW_2025_2026_membform.pdf)  
Instructions are on the forms. Thank You!  
[ps. Let us know if we have it wrong!]

### Committee News:

Bank account balance at 30/6/25: \$7,264.21  
Year to date: Income \$881, Expenditure \$242 = \$639 surplus

*"I am glad we were able to make South Australia to represent the Association at the Kernewek Lowender. Hoping to see some of you at our next Zoom Tea & Cake chat."*

*Joy Dunkerley, President.*

### MEMBERS MILESTONES

**VALE Lorna Gunning** (nee Burden) 4/8/1935 - 2/7/2025 (89). Sad news of the passing on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July of our long standing member from Whiterock, near Bathurst. Loved visits to your local Cornish connected Chapel, and seeing you on your travels. Condolences to Keith and family, and White Rock community.



Graveside ceremony at White Rock Cemetary, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2025.

**Congratulations** to all those with birthdays or other anniversaries during July and August.

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

*Chris Dunkerley* has now finished 7 months of chemotherapy. Alas it has not held back the stage 4 Stomach cancer, now in his Liver, and he is now looking at Cancer trials that may help.

Contact phone numbers: NOTE – Joy & Chris  
Dunkerley's telephone landline is NO LONGER  
CONNECTED! Use instead these mobiles: 0409 393  
059 for Chris; 0428 617 830 for Joy.

## FEATURE STORIES

### *Notable Cornish people, people of Cornwall, and of the diaspora*

**John Couch Adams** – astronomer, mathematical genius. Adams was born in Laneast, near Launceston, Cornwall on June 5, 1819, and died in Cambridge, England on Jan. 21, 1892. The Cornish name Couch is pronounced 'cooch'. His parents were Tabitha Knill Grylls and Thomas Adams.

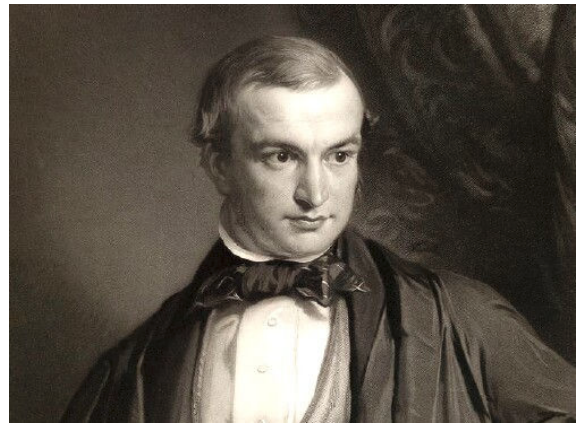
The family was a poor one with Thomas being a tenant farmer while Tabitha also came from a farming family. Thomas and Tabitha farmed near Launceston, Cornwall, and it was on Lidcott farm that John, the eldest of his parents seven children, was born. John Couch Adams was named after his mother's uncle, John Couch. It is particularly fitting that this should be the case since John Couch provided some education for Tabitha who inherited his library which included several astronomy books. It was this library, particularly the astronomy books in it, which fired John's interest as he grew up.

Young Adams was educated in local schools before being sent to Cambridge University; this being paid for by inheritance money.

His most famous achievement was predicting the existence and position of Neptune, using only mathematics. The calculations were made to explain discrepancies with Uranus's orbit and the laws of Kepler and Newton. At the same time, but unknown to each other, the same calculations were made by Urbain Le Verrier. Le Verrier would send his coordinates to Berlin Observatory astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle, who confirmed the existence of the planet on 23 September 1846, finding it within 1° of Le Verrier's predicted location.

He was Lowndean Professor in the University of Cambridge from 1859 until his death. He won the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical

Society in 1866. In 1884, he attended the International Meridian Conference as a delegate for Britain.



Adams made substantial and numerous important contributions to celestial mechanics and received many honours but he remained a Cornishman of humble stock.

So important was Adams' work for the world, that his name is commemorated by a crater being named for him on the moon and also a planetoid also named for him, '1996 Adams', a stony asteroid from the inner regions of the asteroid belt, about 13 kilometers in diameter. It was discovered on 16 October 1961, at the U.S. Goethe Link Observatory near Brooklyn, Indiana, by the Indiana Asteroid Program.

### **ANCIENT PLACES OF CORNWALL**

#### **The Bronze Age in Cornwall**

This period (2300 – 800BC) saw some fresh migrations of people and ideas from mainland Europe. At first the metal, copper was smelted and cast, but as we entered this period bronze (an alloy of copper and tin was worked more extensively).

There was a resurgence of a megalithic building style in the early Bronze Age from the Atlantic seaboard, and a greater emphasis on land clearances and permanent settlements. A new style of material culture known as the 'Beaker Culture' developed from the east.

Cornwall became central to the European copper and tin trade at this time as bronze grew to be the standard material for weapons and wares. Societies became more structured, and dwellings became increasingly permanent, with some of the field systems created at this time still visible in Penwith. During this period a



proto-Celtic language which became Brythonic in Cornwall spread with the new cultural influences.

A brief climatic downturn in the middle of this period led to a regression in cultural intricacy yet life continued and, around 1000 BC, a quick progression in crafts such as metalworking gave way to another period of strong cultural development, soon to usher in the Iron Age. It is argued that due to the progression from simplistic living focussed on survival to a more organised society, more time could be devoted to other matters. This could explain the large amount of ceremonial or 'religious' sites we have that date to this period.



The sites in Cornwall Heritage Trust's care that date back to this period are: Caer Bran (above), Duloe Stone Circle, The Hurler Stone Circles, Sancreed Beacon, Tregiffian Burial Chamber, and Tregonning Hill. Sources: include Cornwall Heritage Trust.

Find out more here <https://buff.ly/4fmlRf3>

## Our Cornish Places

### Hughes Pump House – Moonta Mines, SA

Below: Painting by Jean Ellis, 1985

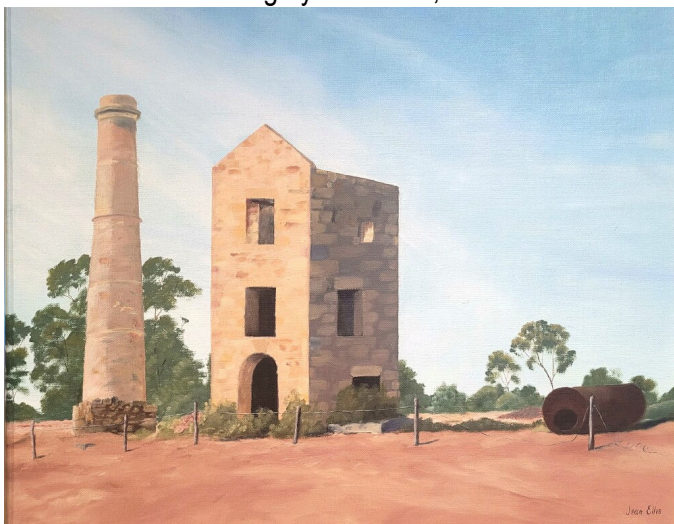


Photo below – 40 years on, in May 2025 – after tourism works and roofing etc. for World Heritage Listing.



The Hughes Pump House, Verran Terrace Moonta Mines - erected in 1865, housed a 60 inch Cornish beam pumping engine. This engine, which operated until the mine closed in 1923, pumped water from the adjacent shaft to a depth of 366 metres and from Taylors Shaft, about 300 metres to the North, to a depth of 788 metres. It is now part of the Moonta Mines heritage area.

## World Heritage Listing closer

After many years of preparation the Australian Cornish Mining sites at Burra and Moonta in South Australia were added in September 2024 to Australia's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, and recent developments suggest final listing may not be too far away!

The sites show the first major transfer overseas of Cornish hard-rock mining and Welsh smelting technology in the 1840s-1860s. The distinctive high-pressure steam engine houses are icons of Cornish mining. The listing will support protection and preservation of the historic mines. Burra and Moonta accounted for 10% of the industrial metal's total global production at one time. Both mines were important in the progress of mining in Australia and around the world.

Miners from Cornwall, West Devon and Wales migrated with their families to work in the mines. As such, Burra and Moonta would both become hubs of Cornish culture. Settlement related to agriculture and mining on traditional land had a large impact on the Ngadjuri people around Burra and the Narungga people on the Yorke Peninsula.



Today, distinct beliefs, cultural practices, and languages are actively sustained. This listing will help to tell this important story of these lands and its peoples.

Throughout the nomination process, the listing group will continue to work alongside:

- the South Australian Government
- Traditional Owner Groups
- regional councils
- heritage groups.

Being added to the Tentative List is the first step towards a World Heritage nomination. This marks an important milestone to further preserve and protect these sites for future generations.

## NEWS



First midsummer bonfire of the season at Bulls View, Madron Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Great work by Madron Old Cornwall Society. The Midsummer Fires are a revival, dating back to the 1920s, of the ancient custom of pagan firelighting at the longest day; it's believed that the date was moved slightly from the Solstice many years ago to St John's Eve, to fit in better with the church calendar. A chain of beacons is lit starting at Carn Brea near Lands End and ending near the Devon border, though currently it isn't possible to see the adjacent bonfires from all sites. Prayers are said in Cornish before the beacons are lit, and herbs and flowers are cast into the flames. Local dignitaries with small crowds of perhaps around 100 people at each site, with blessings and enthusiastic singing of the Cornish anthem Trelawney. The events are organised by the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, who do so much to keep Cornish traditions alive and in some years there are fires lit on dates around 23rd as well as on the 23rd itself, presumably so that enthusiasts may attend more than one.

After Madron others over 3 days included St Columb at Castle an Dinas, St Ives at Carnstabba Hill, Redruth at Pencoose Farm, St Just & Pendeen at Carn Brea, Mullion, and Callington at Kit Hill.



Sancreed Beacon is a beautiful stretch of semi-natural moorland which has been used by people since at least the Bronze Age. It saw the final beacon lighting by the Cornish Heritage Trust, commemorating the anniversary of WW2 victory in Europe. The hill contains a number of archaeological remains, including two Bronze Age hilltop cairns, one containing a burial cist as well as a round house settlement with associated small fields and a pasture boundary

### DULOE STONE CIRCLE – AWEN CEREMONY

The only Cornish monument of its kind to be constructed entirely from white quartz, Duloe Stone Circle is located at the southern end of the village of Duloe between Liskeard and Looe. It is Cornwall's smallest known stone circle and its size compared with that of the stones is what makes the experience of visiting there so special.





Despite much research, stone circles are still mysterious sites. In Cornwall, they generally date from the later third and early second millennia BCE and are believed to have been gathering places for communities.



At Duloe on Sunday 22nd June 2025 the Bards of Gorsedh Kernow took part in the Awen ceremony, where the Book of Knowledge is passed from the Elders in the community to the younger generation - a simple, small but beautiful annual ceremony.

## MORE PREVIOUS EVENTS

### Glen Innes, Australia Celtic Festival



Above: Dalla leading the Cornish ceremony procession from the Cornish Stone to the Gorsedd Stone, in commemoration of the rising of 1497.



Above: Dalla (Hilary Coleman and Neil Davey 'jamming' with CANSW member David Wilks on pipes.

### Kernewek Lowender, South Australia

Over the week (see below) the Copper /Triangle Coast, aka Australia's Little Cornwall hosted the bi-annual Kernewek Lowender (a strong brand drawing on the Cornish language, meaning something like Mirth/Enjoyment/Joyfulness of Cornish) festival, first started in 1973.



On the Wednesday we viewed the "Dressing of the Graves" ceremony at Moonta Cemetary (starting procession below). The graves of family members are nominated each year at 4 local cemeteries for 'dressing' and a short ceremonial read out at each nominated grave. Though not so marked, Chris Dunkerley has relatives in Moonta cemetery so it is always a special time, as well as a meetup with other visitors.



Lilian James (centre) Cornish language teacher, with helpers.



The helpers at the Cornish language 'starter' class (above) attended on Wednesday morning were: Robynne Sanderson (NSW and SA member from Broken Hill), Roseanne Hawke (SA), Chris & Joy Dunkerley (NSW) and Grand Bard Jenefer Lowe (Cornwall).

Five members of the CANSW attended Kewnewek Lowender this time – here 2 more, Jill Beard and her sister Magaret Tresidder (with Chris & Joy (at the History Seminar).



The 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Bards of of the Gorsedh of



Cornwall in Australia, was held at Wallaroo Town Hall – 22 Bards assembled at Wallaroo Town Hall, Wallaroo, SA on Sat 17 May, 2025 [19 Australian based [9 SA, 7 Vic, and 3 NSW] plus 3 visiting from UK - Neil Davey, Hilary Coleman, Jenefer Lowe) Assembly leader, the Grand Bard (Gwythvosen) Jenefer Lowe. (Photo Arthur Coates)



School Children doing a version of the Furry dance, in Kadina streets



Cornish Associations members starting the street parade, before the Fer Kernewek, on a mizzly Moonta morning.



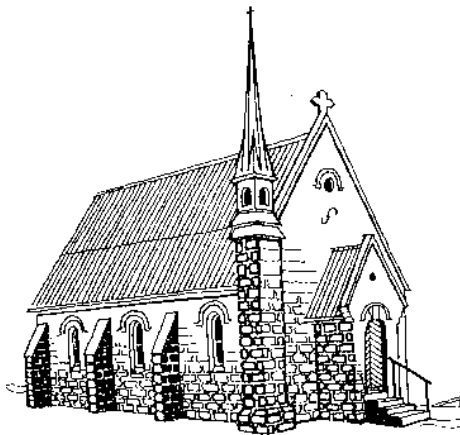
Joy & Chris Dunkerley sampling the Moonta School stall, for fine ginger fairings, and a passable Moonta style pasty.



## BYNG – a poem by Valma McKae (reprinted from a 1970's CANSW newsletter)

"So we're off to Byng again, in November do you say?  
We've enjoyed old Byng so much before, and I recall one day.  
When we went across to Ophir, a big nugget perchance to find.  
And a big ant crawled up Ivy's slacks, to bite herself behind.  
He got just halfway there though, and nipped her leg instead.  
Ivy did a fancy jig, nearly standing on her head.  
She whipped her trews off where she stood, and shook the beggar out, and killed there wretch there on the spot, no time to scream or shout.  
So look out ant nests, here we come, you like our Cornish blood,  
we'll be working with you side by side, or my names' mud.  
I suggest to all you people, who likewise will be dressed, tie bowyangs \* on your trousers, and let fate do the rest.

[\*A bowyang is a length of string the swaggmen ties around their trousers below the knee]



For more background on Byng, the Cornish Settlement, you can view/print/download our own produced booklet at:

[https://cornishnsw.org/Misc/Byng\\_A\\_Cornish%20Settlement\\_Ed2.pdf](https://cornishnsw.org/Misc/Byng_A_Cornish%20Settlement_Ed2.pdf)

## QUOTE

"I, Kenstec, Bishop-elect to the nation of Cornwall in the monastery which is in the British language called Dinurrin [ie. Bodmin] ..." – Part of Bishop Kenstec's

submission to the See of Canterbury c. 850-870AD – [H. Miles Brown, The Church in Cornwall, 1964]

**The Wonder of Today's Technology** – Stay more in touch through our active sister **Cornish Association of Victoria's** great work for its regular online meetings:

<https://www.cornishvic.org.au/latenews.html>

Cornish singer and performer Elizabeth Freeborn on Saturday the 21st of June:

<https://youtu.be/yF9byUIdbEY?si=vxx7mi2VHhP4NT03>

More available at our Talks page, links:

<https://cornishnsw.org/nsw/merlib/merlib2.htm>

## PLAS AN TAVES

*This is Plas an Tavas = Language Place - Introducing you to some daily Kernewek, the ancient Celtic language of Cornwall today, to practice.*

**Pronunciation?** Cornish is mainly phonetic!

More: <https://www.cornishdictionary.org.uk>

In this issue you will learn about:

### HA / HAG • AND

	Te ha Tesen		
			
			

In Cornish, "and" is **ha**, but it becomes **hag** when the next word starts with a vowel.

sevi strawberries » sev-vee	ha and » ha	dehen cream » de-hen	backen bacon » back-en	hag and » hag	oyow eggs » oy-oh
aval dor brewys mashed potato » aval door brew-iss	tesen cake » tez-en	asklos chips » ask-los	keus cheese » cuz	te tea » te	kowl soup » cowell
pysk fish » pisk	tesennow kales biscuits » tez-en-oh kar-lez	selsik sausages » sell-sick	bara bread » bar-ra	makaroni macaroni » mac-a-ro-ni-nee	
» pho-netic-al					

Kernewek • English

To hear the sound of words, visit 'geryow an jydh' / 'word of the day' in the resources section of the Speak Cornish website:  
<https://www.speakcornish.com>



Remember that we are members of <http://nswactfhs.org> and that our members are eligible to join their Facebook page for updates on meetings, research, seminars, and conferences. NSWACTFHS has a public Facebook page and a private Facebook group [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/270683911161995>] that our members may join.

#### CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

Please take time again to have a look through all the pages on our newly hosted 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.

**Web page:** <https://cornishnsw.org>

Try 'Sites':

<https://cornishnsw.org/nsw/Towns%20A-C/CANSWWelcome.html>

OR Information, Papers, & Talks at:

<https://cornishnsw.org/nsw/merlib/merlib2.htm>

**Association Contact Cards** are available – let us know if you want some posted to you.

**Also** membership flyers, and recipe brochures – let us know whether you want some of those posted, or be emailed to you as a pdf for your printing or forwarding.



**Sayings** - Wise words on Ageing  
"I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do." - Phyllis Diller "

#### SALES



Those at the AGM will remember that we had a few of these special Jubilee mugs left over from gifts and prizes, but they sold out quickly. We now have a few more made, at a slightly higher price of \$12 ea.

They will be available at next face to face meetings, or can be posted (alas Australia Post is not cheap, and it will be an extra \$11 for post and packing = \$23). Please let us know if you wish us to put one or more aside for you!

**Dates coming up ...** *Feast days of St Samson of Dol 23 July, St Sithney 4<sup>th</sup> August, St Mawgan 24<sup>th</sup> September. Open Cornish Gorsedh Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> September at Marazion.*



**Editorial note:** 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 418 due for the months of September / October 2025 - copy deadline 7th September, 2025*

Contributions, which may be held for future use - electronic – emailed - preferred) are welcome!

#### Nr. 417 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW

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