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Newsletter of the
Cornish Association
of New South Wales

PROGRAM

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

Summer zoom - late January 2026
Autumn zoom – April 2026

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

UPCOMING FACE TO FACE EVENTS

 **Pre-Christmas Members & Friends Lunch**

Thursday 27 November, 2025

Searock Grill - at East Circular Quay, Sydney

Come for an informal get-together. Chose and pay for what you have. A range of quality food of varying prices. If you can get in to Sydney city, please join us for this great chance this year to actually meet and chat! President Joy Dunkerley has booked accomodation and expects she will be down in Sydney to welcome all.

Meet at 11.30am (for **noon** meal)

Lunch Menu: <https://searock.com.au/menus/>

For more information Joy Dunkerley
on mobile 0428 617 830 or
joy.dunkerley@gmail.com

Location: Shop 15 (5 Macquarie Street) but entrance is on Opera Quays ie. ground level, **East Circular Quay**, Sydney (about 200m walk around from the ferries)



Annual General Meeting – 7th March 2026

Notice: Please keep that Saturday free for our AGM, St Piran's celebration, and get together. (One month's Notice should be given to the Committee of any substantial matter for discussion.)

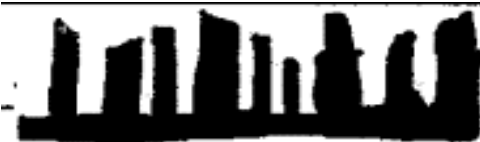
- **More details next newsletter** -

FESTIVALS 2026

Australian Celtic Festival

Glen Innes NSW - *The Year of Scotland*

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd May, 2026



Visitor Information office:

<https://www.australiancelticfestival.com>

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

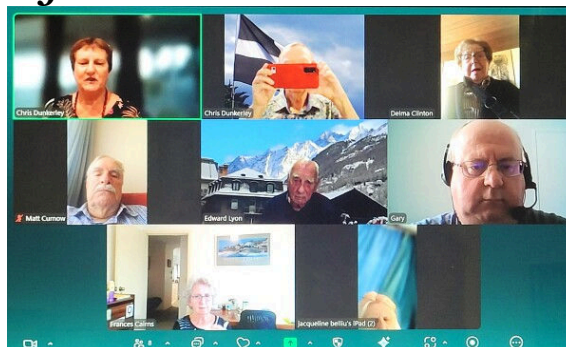
Committee News:

Bank account balance at 31/10/25: \$7,216.26
Lunch booked for 27 November – thanks Del.
Details here. Planning started for our AGM.

"Looking forward to being able to fly to Sydney for the End of year / Christmas lunch; so hoping to see some of you there in this month."
Joy Dunkerley, President.

PAST EVENT

Spring Zoom – Sun 2nd November



**NADELEK LOWEN - PUBONEN OLL!
MERRY CHRISTMAS – TO ALL**

MEMBERS MILESTONES

Congratulations to all those with birthdays or other anniversaries during November & December.

VALE: *Rose Williscroft* of Cobbity. One of our last few Founder life members has died on **Friday 31st October** in hospital after a long illness. Along with her husband Malcolm they were Cornish born, at that first meeting, on early committee, and very active in our earlier years. Malcolm passed away a few years ago. Condolences to their family and friends. A photo including Rose is on P.10 of our 50 Year News: Link: <https://cornishnsw.org/nsw/merlib/merlib2.htm>

Please let us know of your good news, special events, or of those who are ill. A number of members are known to be unwell or awaiting treatment, but please note:

Del & Ron Clinton – has had her needed shoulder surgery and is recovering slowly and quietly. Thoughts for her, and Ron as he continues long term treatment. He also turns 90 on 8th Nov. and still with full driving licence. Well done Ron.

Debbie Champion for a good result and speedy rehab from her knee replacement surgery.

Joy Dunkerley's double knee replacement surgery a complete success, rehab is going very well, and she is now able to drive and will fly down for our lunch.

Chris Dunkerley's cancer 'trial' treatment has reached it's 4th cycle. Too early yet to know whether it can turn back the tumour growths in his liver. He still feels pretty good and active.

MEMBERSHIPS Please note that after 7 months there are a number members still seemingly unfinancial for this year. Reminders are being sent, if we have you recorded as unfinancial. If you receive one and disagree, please contact us asap – we are not infallible!

**FEATURE
STORIES**

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

Emily Hobhouse

The Cornishwoman who took on the British Empire over their concentration camps in South Africa where starvation and cruelty was the norm.

Not many realise that it was the British government who invented the early concentration camp system. Emily Hobhouse, referred to by the British 'Establishment' as "that bloody woman" did, and she set out to do something about the evil. Regarded as a traitor by the British; she is honoured in South Africa.

Emily Hobhouse was born in St Ive, near Liskeard, Cornwall, on 9th April 1860 - the daughter of Reginald Hobhouse and of Caroline Trelawny. She was the sister of Leonard Hobhouse 1864-1929, the social philosopher and both were active members of the Adult Suffrage Society. She was educated at home and lived with her parents until she was 35. In 1895 she travelled to Minnesota to work amongst Cornish miners and their families who had migrated to America and fallen on hard times



Like many Liberals, she was opposed to the Boer War and she denounced the government's actions in going to war.

Towards the end of 1900 she received information on how women and children were being treated by the British Army. She wrote "poor women who were being driven from pillar to post, needed protection and organized assistance. And from that moment I was determined to go to South Africa in order to render assistance to them". In October 1900, she formed the Relief Fund for South African Women and Children.

The aim of the organisation was to "To feed, clothe, harbour and save women and children - Boer, British and other - who were left destitute and ragged as a result of the destruction of property, the eviction of families or other incidents resulting from the military operations". She struggled to raise funds for her new organisation.

Emily arrived in Cape Town on 27th December 1900. When she had left Britain, she only knew about the concentration camp at Port Elizabeth, but learnt that there were 34 concentration camps in operation. Hobhouse had a letter of introduction to Alfred Milner from her aunt, the widow of the Permanent Under Secretary at the Home Office. From Milner she obtained the use of two railway trucks, but their use was subject to Lord Kitchener's approval. She received Kitchener's permission two weeks later but was restricted to visiting Bloemfontein and she could take only one truck of supplies for the camps, about 12 tons. She left Cape Town on 22nd January 1901 and arrived at Bloemfontein within two days. The camp there housed some 1,800 people. Emily reported "that there was a scarcity of essential provision and that the accommodation was wholly inadequate." At that time soap was listed by the authorities as a luxury but she succeeded in having it reclassified as a necessity.

Extending her visit beyond Bloemfontein, she visited camps to the south of Bloemfontein, including Norvalspont, Aliwal North, Springfontein, Kimberley and Orange River. She also visited Mafeking.

Her tour brought her back to Bloemfontein in March 1901. Within the two months since her first visit, the camp population had grown and she was shocked by what she found. She later wrote "The population had redoubled and had swallowed up the results of improvements that had been effected. Disease was on the increase and the sight of the people made the impression of utter misery. Illness and death had left their marks on the faces of the inhabitants. Many that I had left hale and hearty, of good appearance and physically fit, had undergone such a change that I could hardly recognize them."

Emily returned to Britain to raise the issues with the Marquess of Salisbury and his government but there was little support from either. She wrote "The picture of apathy and impatience displayed here, which refused to lend an ear to undeserved misery, contrasted sadly with the scenes of misery in South Africa, still fresh in my mind. No barbarity in South Africa was as severe as the bleak cruelty of an apathetic parliament." Her book on the Boer War was written in France. Emily did receive more popular support and this forced the government to set up a committee of women headed by Millicent Fawcett. Emily believed the committee was biased in favour of the government's position and she herself was not invited to be a member. The members of the committee visited the camps for themselves between August and December 1901, concluded that they agreed with Hobhouse's original report and recommended improvements. With action being taken at home, Hobhouse returned to South Africa. The authorities were fearful of her visit and she was refused permission to visit the camps. Her ship docked in Cape Town on Sunday 27th October 1901 but she was not

allowed to disembark. Her own health deteriorating, she recuperated in the mountains of Savoy and heard from there that the war had ended. During post-war visits, Hobhouse set up schools to help young people learn practical skills.

Hobhouse was also an opponent of British involvement in the First War. On 3rd September, 1916, she wrote to a friend: "Think of our beloved fatherland, think of beautiful Italy, of France and of Germany, all of them working at full capacity to produce weapons of war and destruction. It seems as if we have reached the end of our civilization. It is all too hideous for words".

In 1921 the people of South Africa raised £2,300 in recognition of the work she had done for their people. The money was sent to her with a request that she had to buy a small house for herself in Cornwall. On 18th May 1921, she replied saying "I find it impossible to give expression to the feelings that overpowered me when I heard of the surprise you had prepared for me. My first impulse was not to accept any gift, or otherwise to devote it to some or other public end. But after having read and reread your letter, I have decided to accept your gift in the same simple and loving spirit in which it was sent to me." She purchased a house at St. Ives in Cornwall.

She died in London on 8th June 1926. Her ashes were placed in the Women's Memorial at Bloemfontein and a town in Eastern Free State was named Hobhouse. She is not recognised by the UK State having been regarded as a traitor. To many in and connected to the Cornish nation she is a true heroine.

PARISHES OF CORNWALL

St Erth

The parish of St Erth (In Cornish, [Pluw Lannudhno](#)) is in the konteth (keverang) of Penwith, at the far west of Cornwall, having boundaries with Hayle on the north-east since 1888 (before then with Phillack), Gwinear and

Crowan on the east, Godolphin, now combined with Breage, on the south-east since 1848 (before then with Breage on its own), St Hilary on the south-west, Ludgvan on the west, and Lelant on the north-west. St Erth takes its name from Saint Erc, one of the many Irish saints who helped evangelise the ancient kingdom in Kernow. The Cornish name of the place derives from St Uthinoch of whom little is known. The parish comprises about 3,800 acres, and in the days when mining was a thriving industry, the tin and copper mines provided many opportunities for employment, but those days are long gone. Population 1,381.

St Erth Parish congregation is now one of five encompassed within the Godrevy Team Ministry which was founded in 1996, the other four being Parishes of St Elwyn, Gwinear and Phillack with Gwithian, covering the town of Hayle and the surrounding area. The St Erth railway station is 0.75 miles from the village, at Rose-an-Grouse, and is on the Cornish Main Line from London Paddington to Penzance. It is also the junction for scenic St Ives Bay Line.



The parish church is sited close to the right bank of the Hayle River on the southern side of the village of St Erth, which has been the site of a place of worship for something in the order of a thousand years. Excavations conducted in 1992 unearthed traces of a Celtic single-cell building tentatively dated to the 9th

to 11th centuries, and a Romanesque cruciform-shaped church from about the 12th. The paper records indicate that a church at St Erth belonged to the Bishop of Exeter in about 1199, and by 1237 had passed to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral. Bishop Bronescombe's register tells us that a priest named only as Amadasius was collated to the vicarage on 13th August 1269, and the vicarage was assessed at "all the altarage of the church together with the glebe, except for 3 acres for the rector to build houses and barns, the vicar to pay to the warden of the cathedral fabric ten shillings a year". From the earliest records the patron saint is said to have been St Erc (or Ercus in its Latin form), about whom virtually nothing is known. In fact the only mention of him comes from William of Worcester, who, following his visit to Cornwall in 1478, describes him as being the brother of St Uny (patron saint of Lelant and Redruth) and of Ia, patroness of St Ives. By tradition the trio are said to have arrived from Ireland, with a number of other religious companions, and many of the churches in west Cornwall are dedicated to members of the group, although hard facts are sadly lacking.

The present church is essentially a very modified 15th century structure, consisting of a chancel and nave under a single roof, north and south aisles, south porch and three-stage west tower – although the well-known architect John Dando Sedding (who was entrusted with a restoration of the church in 1873) believed it to be of the previous century. Sedding's 1873 restoration must have been fundamental, judging by the report in the Royal Cornwall Gazette of 21st February 1874 of the church's re-opening conducted by the Bishop of Exeter - ". . .the work taken in hand was of so extensive a character that of the old building all that now remains are the tower and pillars, the latter having had to be extensively restored. The walls are built of Polyphant stone, the old high pews, which were described as modern cattle pens, are succeeded by open benches of varnished pitch pine, the chancel roof has been beautifully decorated, and the chancel paved with encaustic tiles." It says much for the sensitivity of John Sedding that the church retains the "feel" of one much older than late Victorian. It was also enhanced by some beautiful

woodwork in the early years of the 20th century, to be noticed later.

The churchyard is bounded by a traditional Cornish hedge on the western side, and from the adjoining minor road, a preliminary view of the church can be obtained, the main feature being the tower, sporting (at the corners of the string course at the top of the second stage) carved animals, an unusual feature for a tower of that age. The entrance to the churchyard is then to be found on the north-west, via a lych-gate provided in 1926 by the Misses Vivian of Meadowside in Hayle in memory of their parents. It is constructed of carved oak under a Delabole slate roof on a base of Cornish granite, designed by the architect Reginald Francis Wheatly, the carving being the work of the talented Violet Pinwill. From the lych-gate a path then leads around the west of the tower to the porch with its imposing 15th century outer doorway, the arch carried on octagonal jambs, with weathered buttresses on either side.

[The Online Parish Clerk (Genealogy) for St. Erth is Rebecca Noall, who can be contacted at tidybex@sky.com]

A methodist chapel is also a key feature of the village.



AN ALPHABET IN CORNISH DIALECT

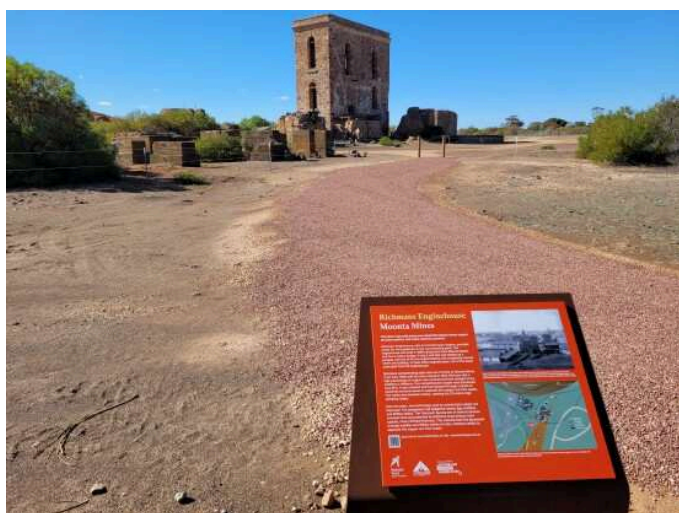
(a series – Part 1) origin forgotten in the mists of time

F is for FRAIL, a carrier bag, like a basket, another for washing, we call a FLASKET
 G is for GRUSHIONS, coffee sediment to you; another name GROUTS, means sediment too
 H is for HOBBIN, a cake for your tea,
 H is for HUER, who spies shoals out at sea.
 I is for ILE, the Barley AWN'S name, and

I is for “MY IVERS”, I cry or exclaim!
J is for Johnny-come-fortnight, a hawker, a male; and
J is for JAN JAKES, a poor garden snail.

Our Cornish Places

Richmans concentrating plant was one of three at the Moonta Mine, the others being Hancocks and Ryans. It operated from 1869 until the mine closed in 1923, crushing and concentrating ore from nearby shafts. During this period many alterations were made to the plant to suit the improved technology of mining and processing. Waste from the plant was dumped on the large tailings heap



behind the enginehouse.

Richmans Enginehouse was constructed between 1867 and 1869 using stone from Moonta Beach. Designed by engineer Frederick May and built under his supervision, the enginehouse featured a concealed roof surrounded by a parapet. It housed a 32-inch Cornish beam engine. The engine was taken out of service in 1917 and the enginehouse and surrounding buildings were salvaged in 1925. Surrounding the enginehouse are other ruins including foundations and bases of crushers, jiggers, buddles*, elevators, air compressors and boilerhouses.

There is a walk that can be completed around the area. This walk provides access to Richmans Enginehouse and lookouts on the tailings heap. Signs interpret the remaining structures.

NEWS



“Fisherman’s Friends” Tour in Australia

The original ‘buoy’ band from Cornwall is sailing into Australia for the very first time! The actual Fisherman’s Friends, Britain’s beloved folk group from the picturesque fishing village of Port Isaac - familiar to many as the setting for the hit TV series Doc Martin - bring their eagerly anticipated and heartwarming live show Down Under, filled with rich harmonies, seafaring spirit and irresistible charm. Singing traditional shanties and stirring originals, their rousing set includes fan favourites like *No Hopers, Jokers & Rogues, South Australia, John Kanaka, and A Sailor Ain’t a Sailor*. From their humble beginnings singing on the harbour to the stages of Glastonbury and Royal Albert Hall to chart-topping albums, two hit feature films, and now a major musical, this group of lifelong friends has become a global sensation.

Bookings, if still open for your venue:

<https://akaaustralia.com.au/fishermans-friends/>

The Fisherman's Friends concerts in NSW are at Blue Mountains Theatre 17th January 2026, State Theatre, Haymarket Sydney 18th Jan., Civic Theatre, Newcastle 20th Jan.; and some SE Qld venues 21-23 Jan.

GORSEDDH KERNOW – CORNISH GORSEDD Marghasyow / Marazion Sat 6 September, 2025

Esedhvos Kernow - Festival of Cornish Culture in Marazion. This year marked the 97th edition of Gorsedh Kernow, with over 220 bards gathering for the annual ceremony, including 22 new bards. The festival kicked off with a Shout hosted by Marazion Apollo Singers, followed by Brenda on Film, a production of Exiles by Bagas Degol & Anna Maria Murphy, two intensive Speak Cornish language courses, Cornish Folk Tales from the Sea with Alasdair Hoswell Author & Illustrator, an extra special lunchtime concert with Anna Anise, A History of Marazion with Ralph Jelbart, the Gorsedh seminar, a bardic trip to Levant Mine, the Gorsedh Awards Ceremony, a ceilidh/nos lowen Cornish dance with Kekezza & Martha Woods Music, entertainment on the Gorsedh field including Tros an Treys, Golowan Band, Gwerin - Cornish Dance, Marazion Apollo Singers, Cornish Wrestling, Alasdair Hoswell and Tim Saunders’ book launch, the Gorsedh concert with The Bray Family Band, Will Keating, John Dowling and Dan Woodfield and

a production of Arlodhes A Shalott, and finally the Gorsedh service. Phew! Meur ras bras / huge thanks to all the artists, volunteers, stall holders, the Marazion Town Council team, Penzance Old Cornwall Society and St Aubyn Estates. Talks are already underway for next year's Gorsedh and the Esedhvos Kernow Festival of Cornish Culture

SOUTH CROFTY The South Crofty tin mine, near the Cornish village of Pool - between Redruth & Camborne - closed in 1998, and in the years since, as tin prices have soared, a number of attempts to reopen it have been made.



Mine aims to extract tin again by mid-2028

“New equipment is being installed by Cornish Metals in the old pumping station 1,148ft (350m) below ground at South Crofty. The team behind plans to reopen a tin mine have said they are optimistic they will begin commercial extraction by mid-2028. Engineers have pumped water out of the flooded South Crofty mine, in Pool, Cornwall, and have accessed areas 1,148ft (350m) below ground. Despite being full of water since the mine closed in March 1998, managers at Cornish Metals said the tunnels were "intact" and in good condition. There are currently 80 people working at the mine and that number is expected to rise to 300 on site when the mine enters production. Cornish Metals CEO Don Turvey says tin production in Cornwall could support 1,000 jobs across the wider economy. The Canadian-owned Cornish Metals estimated it could extract the metal for about \$14,500

USD (£10,800) per tonne, while the global price was currently at \$35,000 (£26,000) per tonne.

The CEO said: "The tin price went up when they banned lead in the EU - It's now used to solder most electronics and the use of tin has basically doubled. Around half of it is used for soldering, the rest is used to make tin cans, glass production and other chemicals," he added. Work has started again in an old pumping station 350m below ground after it was cleared of flood water." Mr Turvey added: "We're about halfway down the shaft with the de-watering process, we've uncovered an old pumping station 350m down. It's a major milestone for us because that station has been there since the 1950s and it's intact despite being underwater for nearly 30 years. We now have access to a lot of the old tunnels and hopefully soon the lodes of tin."

On [her visit to South Crofty in July](#), UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves said: "Critical minerals and clean energy as well are going to be absolutely essential if we're going to become more resilient and more secure as a nation." In the latest report to investors Cornish Metals stated: "South Crofty remains a flagship project within the UK government's Critical Minerals Strategy. The company benefits from direct investment and strong strategic support from the UK government, alongside backing from leading industry partners in the critical minerals space." *By David Dixon in Pool for BBC*

Awenek

Nearly 1,000 visitors headed to Enys Gardens on Saturday 13/9/2025 to celebrate everything that makes Cornwall special - at *Awenek*, Cornwall Heritage Trust's 40th year 'Great Cornish Heritage Festival' – and what a day it was! From sea shanties and Cornish wrestling to expert-led talks and apple pressing, the festival was packed with an incredible array of activities. Highlights included seeing a Bronze Age forge in action, weapons displays, combat re-enactments, live music, traditional crafts demonstrations and even the chance for visitors to craft their own ancient tools. The day had a wonderful atmosphere and it was fantastic to see how much everyone enjoyed exploring

Cornwall's arts, culture, traditions and history.
(Meur ras .. Trest Ertach Kernow)
Enys Gardens is at St. Gluvius, near
Penryn, TR10 9LB

NB: These type of learning 'taster' images are the work of a fellow learner, Raymond Bridgewater, helping others.



QUOTE

"Altogether Cornwall, through the dubious distinction of its liaison with the Duchy, was a fine milch-cow for the Crown and remained so for centuries; a long-continuing mark through the pages of history of its original condition as a conquered country. No wonder Cornishmen as late as the sixteenth century remembered that they were a conquered people, and resented it. They had cause to." – A.L.Rowse, Tudor Cornwall, 1941]

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>

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>

In this issue you will learn about:

MISYOW • MONTHS



Kalan Gwav
All Hallows
» kalan gwav

mis Du November » miss doo	mis Kevardhu December » miss kev'ah'thoo
mis Genver January » miss ghen'ver	mis Hwevrer February » miss whev'rer
mis Meurth March » miss merth	mis Ebrel April » miss eb'rel



Kala' Me
May Day
» kala mee

mis Me May » miss mee	mis Metheven June » miss meh'the'ven
mis Gortheren July » miss gor'ther'en	mis Est August » miss est
mis Gwynngala September » miss gwyn'ga'la	mis Hedra October » miss hed'ra

my I » mih	a veu was » ah vew	genys born » gen'niss	yn in » in	
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When referring to a calendar month, you use the word for **month**, (**mis**), before the month's name (e.g. **Mis Me** for May).

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>

Interesting reading material (including 33 talks/papers) is available via our 'Talks' page, links:

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

Sayings - Wise words on Ageing

"I don't plan to grow old gracefully. I plan to have face-lifts until my ears meet." - Rita Rudner

SALES Reminder for our JUBILEE MUGS!

MUGS - remember we now have a few more, at a slightly higher price of \$12 ea. They will be available at our 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 in our bags, for our lunch at Circular Quay in November!**

Dates coming up .. Feast days of St Winnoc 7th Nov., Budoc 8th Dec. Nadalek 25 December

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 420 due for the months of January / February 2026
- copy deadline 28th December, 2025
Contributions, which may be held for future use - electronic – emailed - preferred) are welcome!

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