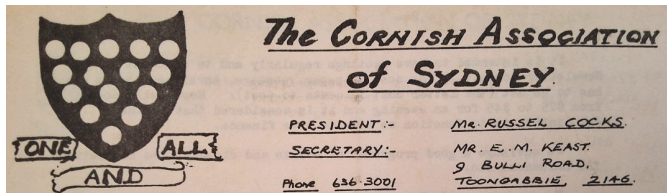


## Special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition A Newsletter of the Cornish Association of Sydney & New South Wales

Newsletter No. 415 & 50<sup>th</sup> Special Pages 1-12 Circulation 140 ISSN 1321-3199 16 April, 2025



### Newsletter 415 - SPECIAL

#### Jubilee snapshot - A taste of our 50 Years

*This is just 'A' story of our little group and its people, based largely on minutes, newsletters and memories. The author's memories are not your memories so he hopes you will cast your mind back, even if it is not a long time, and reflect on your experiences, and the people you treasure.*

#### Coming before

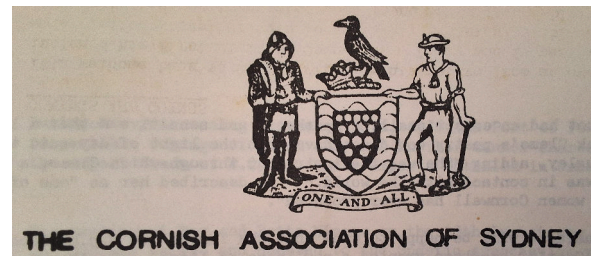
Starting in 1788 with First Fleet convict James Ruse and Governors King and Bligh we Cornish have been here in NSW and made an impact! With ongoing migration from Cornwall to NSW during the 19<sup>th</sup> century of miners, farmers / labourers, officials and skilled workers the world wide phenomenon of Cornish societies or associations found a home here too. Without the huge mining centres of SA & Vic. our population % was probably only 2% of ethnic strength (Price 1990), and dispersed across the colony.

Certainly photos bequeathed to our Association, and records held in Libraries and accessible via TROVE tell us that there were a number of formalised groups of Cornish people coming together (outside of church connections or mutual support 'guilds') in the 1800s and into the 20<sup>th</sup> C. (At least in Sydney, and in SA connected Broken Hill) for mutual support and social contact, and in some form one is confirmed as late as 1960s. The Depression and WW2 obviously had huge impacts on activities as across society. From within NSW it is noted however that Cornish Bards Thea Rowe and Breffni Hosking (both 1951), joined Clement Hosking (1938) invited to Gorsedh Kernow.

#### OUR BIRTH

Our own Association began formally, as the Cornish Association of Sydney, on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1975

at a meeting in the "Old Toongabbie Methodist Schoolroom" in Sydney. From renewed post WW2 migrations, friendship groups and families were kept in touch with each other. There was getting together, following a program on TV, the Mike Walsh Show early in 1975 when Mike interviewed visiting Cornish Bard Bert Cows (Gwandry's Kernewek or 'Cornish Wanderer') ending with an open invitation given to meet up. His item in Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper, titled "Are you Tre, Pol, or Pen? Bert Hunts the Folk From Cornwall" was published." The response was immediate, and enthusiastic - though it took a little time to get to the formal start of our Association. The first minute book opens with ...



*"Dear Cousin Jack or Jenny, At last it has happened - The Cornish Association of Sydney was formed on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1975, at a meeting arranged by Bert Cows and your Secretary. Twenty-five people attended and several apologies were received, and all agreed that it was a "Viddy Cornish Do" - everybody enjoyed themselves."*

Officers elected were: Secretary: E.M. (Ernie) Keast, President: Russell Cocks, Chairman: Bob Durrant, Treasurer: Maurie Talling, Asst. Sec.: John Wellington; and the Committee: Capt. (David) & Mrs (Nancy) Vincent, Mrs (Kitty) Sinclair, Mrs (Ruth) Cocks, Mr Roy & Mrs Miners, Mike Trebilcock, and Ted Stark.

Soon after this meeting of 24 (15 apologies), committee meetings were held in quick succession on 21<sup>st</sup> April, and 12<sup>th</sup> May - with a Social Evening then held on 24<sup>th</sup> May at the Scout Hall, Russell Street, Baulkham Hills - and one on 5<sup>th</sup> July attended by "about 90 people". Enthusiasm among

many recent Cornish migrants, and some of Cornish descent, was obvious! Welcome letters were received from the then 85 year old Cornish Association of South Australia, and the 12 year old New Zealand Cornish Association.

Rules of Association were accepted by the members of the Cornish Association of Sydney at 'a regularly called and constituted meeting' on the 5th day of July, 1975. "Membership of the Association shall be open to: - 3.1 Cornishmen and Cornishwomen by birth or descent, their wives, husbands and children. 3.2 Other persons connected with Cornwall whose applications are approved by the Association." The cost \$3. Active contact with the Cornish Assoc. of SA was already happening and in August the London Cornish Association formally provided affiliation to us. Membership was 60, and funds held of \$300. The majority of members were Cornish born (with their families) wanting social connections with their compatriots in a new land and proud of their Cornish connection. There was a small but growing number of those of Cornish descent.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> decade (- 1985): 'Cornish born, social need, opportunities'**

The Association was invited to take part in Parramatta Foundation Week Celebrations, the theme being the sowing of the first wheat by James Ruse, a First Fleet convict born in Cornwall. In 1975 we were able to produce a float (with assistance from Crago Flour Mills, and member Bob Durrant) decorated with a large fake pastry (award - 'commended') and bake some proper Cornish pasties and saffron cake for the Premier and guests.



In 1976 we came 'First' in the 'Ethnic' section! At what was to become for decades a very regular venue for social functions, members Betty & Tom Bevins hosted a 'beach party' at their new home at Narrabeen - (current Life member) Jennifer & husband John Meston making the long trek from

their citrus orchard at Tahmoor. The first Annual Statement of Accounts, for the AGM of March 1976, showed a balance of \$656.83. The first year had been a busy but turbulent one for the fledgling committee with the motto 'One and All' not always on show. After some fine tuning of the Rules and "lively" discussion a full team of 12 was duly elected, with President Bob Durrant, Secretary (and current Life member) Ted Stark, and Treasurer Maurie Talling. A Chairman's position was also established under these first adopted rules modelled on the London Cornish Association, and for many years he/she controlled the conduct of AGM and GMs.

The first T-Shirts were designed (with the "Cornish Shield") and big plans were being put in place for a group visit to South Australia in May 1977 for the Cornish Association of SA (CASA) 'Festival' (seminar) in and around Adelaide, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kernewek Lowender on the North Yorke Peninsula. In May 1976 among new members were Raymond & Elizabeth Hawke, of 'Pendarves, Byng. Ray being a g.g.grand child of George Hawke, an 1829 key settler of the Byng valley (then called Cornish Settlement). An invitation from them to visit was the catalyst for nearly 50 years of links to Byng and its people.



Cornish Bard Thea Rowe was now in contact and gave a talk at Drummoyne. The first visit to Byng proved to be both enjoyable and opened up a range of contacts and opportunities for the future. The trip to SA and the Kernewek Lowender (KL) was an eye opener to the group who travelled, and opened up ongoing cousinly contacts with CASA and the Kernewek Lowender. A trip away to Hill End and its Cornish connections was a success (one repeated decades later). The Association was very active through the whole decade with member hosted social events, outings, lots of Cornish food, camping at John & Gwynneth Wakehams 'block' at Killcare, car fun runs, longer camping trips away, Byng working bees, Christmas at the Bevins', and of course regular

informative newsletters. Though at times what we think is a 'modern' affliction – relatively “small numbers” at some events did strike often and gave pause to the Committees. Membership was 75 (50 Cornish born) but dropped briefly to 56, rising again with a mix of new members of various interests and connections in the late 1970's.

A new event, a Cornish Fayre 'seminar' at Metella Road PS, Toogabbie, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1982 (hosted by the School Principal and member Geoff Ford) had an amazing 120 attendees (could have been 122 if Joy Dunkerley hadn't still been in the maternity ward with new baby girl Lowenna). Talks, displays, sales, Cornish food, a very entertaining raffle by Geoff Ford, and singing by Nick Lock, etc.

Another new event, through Ethnic Communities Council contacts brought our participation in NSW government's Carnivale '82 multicultural event in Sydney Domain (displays and food tastings – pasties, heavy cake, ginger fairings, brawn and pickled eggs, with honey mead to wash it down. A Cornish Food recipe sheet was produced for C83 and is the basis for our current food flyer. The 100<sup>th</sup> newsletter was published – quite a feat by the editor/s.

Yet another new adventure started for the Association with the founding of the Celtic Council of Australia in March 1982, with Roger Thomas and Chris Dunkerley as founder Cornish representatives. This opened up friendly contact and cooperation with fellow Celtic nations and their own societies and events. Some new members came on the Committee, as some founders moved on (either back to Cornwall or retiring to regional areas). Roy Miners, Maurie Talling, and Brian Robson had served as President for a couple of years each in those early years.



1983-1985 saw Cornish (proudly Falmouth) born Betty Bevins step up as President, our first female one. As new members from different backgrounds joined she also brought a new outlook on connections that could be made both in Cornwall and in Australia, and her boundless enthusiasm (and proper pasties). We adopted the Cornish National Tartan for our public show occasions (Above: Ruth Cocks, Betty Bevins (centre), Russell Cocks)

Australian born (via Moonta & Maldon) Chris Dunkerley took on the dual roles of Hon. Secretary and Editor, and fulfils them still today decades later. Of note, a Gorsedh Proclamation was held on 15 May 1983 at Queens Square, Moonta, SA as part of the Kernewek Lowender - with leader *Trevanion* (Denis Trevanion) a past Grand Bard (assisted by 6 bards (4 from Cornwall)). CANSW members attended and (as also at a Proclamation in 1985) provided banner, and kilted flag bearers, who forged strong connections to cultural bodies of modern Cornwall.

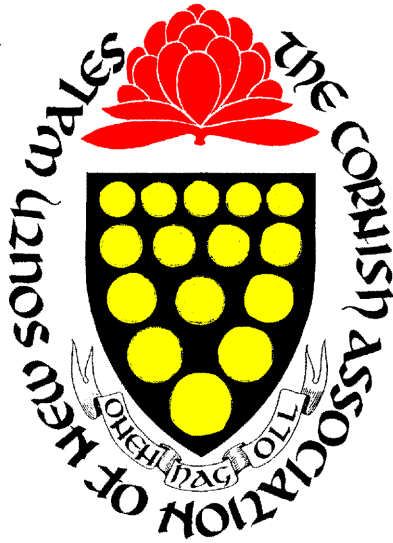
## 2<sup>nd</sup> decade (1986-1995) - 'Building on new foundations, growth, and family history boom'.



In March 1986, Ruth Cocks, also Cornish born, moved to President bringing her own calm efficiency and mentoring to many new recruits. Continuing festivals (KL) and seminars in SA, and the formation of an Association in Victoria in 1986 at Castlemaine (from members of a Cornwall & Devon Family History group) opened up more links, and new biennial visits interstate.

Though first proposed way back in 1976, the Association name was at last formally changed from Cornish Association of Sydney to the Cornish Association of NSW, at our AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1988. The very talented Geoff Ford, using his calligraphic skills designed a logo for us. It combined the Duchy shield with 15 bezants in pile, topped by a crimson waratah as symbol of

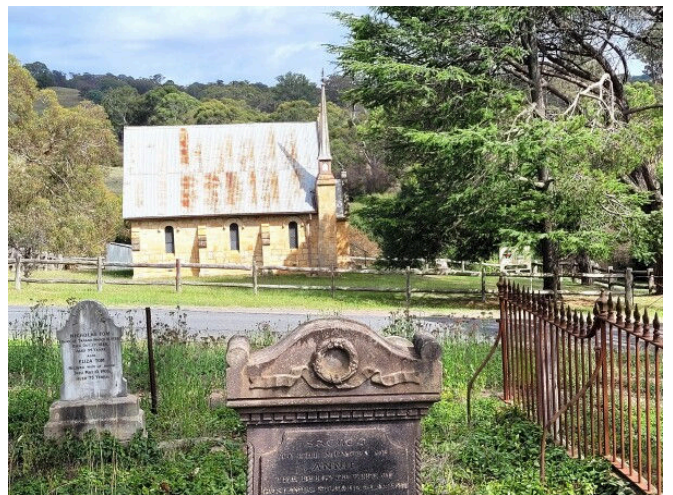
NSW, and scrolls with our name and the well known Cornish motto 'onen hag oll' (one and all).



The mid-late 1980s and early 1990s saw growth in membership, particularly of those of Cornish descent who were enthusiastically caught up in the challenge of learning about their Cornish forebears, particularly at home but also their life experiences in migration (building lives and families, leaving a heritage) in this strange new land. Gaining committee support a Family History Interest Group developed and by the end of this period was meeting in numbers and regularly - with experienced and in some cases trained researchers, such as Maxine Shaw/Gray - with visits from Pat Lay down from Queanbeyan - during these years esp. at Uniting Church properties in Strathfield and Epping. This dovetailed with continued support, mostly by many longer members, in the history and built heritage at Cornish Settlement/Byng, near Orange. Driven by Cornish born Russell Cocks this commitment covered camping weekend's for cemetery maintenance, which led to minor work on the old Bible Christian/Wesleyan Methodist chapel. By now it was the next two generation/s of local Byng settler families who welcomed us, helped, and gave friendship to us - just only naming Will & Barbara Hawke (with their children) of nearby 'Bookanan' (built in 1849). In September 1986 Ruth Cocks was barded (as *Mageras an Ertach* (Nurterer of the Heritage)) at the Merry Maidens stone circle, Penwith (our first Bard since 1951) for her encouragement and nurturing of members from whatever Cornish heritage, and being a calm organisational 'glue'.

The Australian Commonwealth government was looking for projects to fund to mark the 1988 bicentenary of European settlement. With the

backing of skilled and connected on-the-ground locals, bureaucracy savvy committee members, and the gem, a heritage trained architect, Rod Climo, (still a member) a successful grant application was made, and by 1987 work on the grounds (local Colin replacing the 80+ year old 'slip rail' fences, gates etc.). Also interior painting to match the 1873 decoration, and necessary repairs, external work to ensure no deterioration in the building, restoration of key features (barge boards, finial etc.), allow more church, local, and public use, showcasing it for future generations under the care of the Byng Church Trust and Orange Uniting Church. A velum with names of those who worked is held by the Trust. Our Association interest and at times financial support continues, and [should the CANSW be wound up] there stands an AGM motion passed; to transfer any final uncommitted funds to the Trust. [Be sure to take a look at and around Byng if travelling in the district.]



Byng – Chapel, churchyard, and cemetery

In September 1988 Secretary and Editor, Chris Dunkerley was barded as *Kevrenor* (Builder of Links) by proxy at Poldhu, on the Lizard peninsula, for services to the Cornish in Australia and linking interstate and international groups and people together. A special ceremony negotiated with the Bardic Council by our new Australian bards was approved for a version of the Open Gorsedh to be held in Australia. The 2nd of these Assemblies was held as part of the Kernewek Lowender on Saturday 13 May, 1989 at Richmans Plant, Moonta Mines, SA. *Gunwyn* (George Pawley White) as a past Grand Bard was leader and among 13 robed Bards (incl. 2 from Cornwall) were Ruth Cocks and Chris Dunkerley (as marshall) from NSW.

In 1989 Roger Thomas, the first Australian born (Cornish descent via Illogan & Broken Hill)

member to become the President, took over and he held the role for 5 years of growth.



In 1990 the Celtic Council of Australia (CCA) launched a search for a locality to host a monument to the people of the Celtic nations, who came for a new life in Australia and their heritage, and to be a physical reminder of the culture, language, and arts. The monument was to be a circle of 24 'standing' stones, arranged as a calendar, and inspired by the Ring of Brodgar in the Orkneys. Finalist towns were Maclean on the north coast of NSW, and Glen Innes on the northern tablelands. Glen Innes won. The Celtic Council team included Roger Thomas, and Chris Dunkerley. Locals John & Jean Tregurtha both with Cornish ancestry were key organisers for the town, and later joined the CANSW. The Stones were inaugurated in Glen Innes on 1 February, 1992 by Peter Sinclair, Governor of NSW - with festivities. The local Ngorabul indigenous elders had no objection to the site. From this an annual Australian Celtic Festival was developed and has grown hugely - at which for the past 30+ years the CANSW has been well represented, including as Guardians of the Stones. The Cornish Association of NSW stone in the array, was 'purchased' as part of the monument's public fundraising, with \$1,200 in donations from members for naming rights.

In 1992 two more members became Bards of Gorsedh Kernow, Roger Thomas, as *Palores and Dyghow* (Southern Chough), and Pat Lay as *Myrgh Altarnon* (Daughter of Altarnun). Betty Bevins returned as President in 1994 and she was subsequently inducted into the Bardic circle/college, in September 1995, at Marazion, with the name in Cornish, *Myrgh Aberfal* (daughter of Falmouth) for her work from the Cornish in Australia. Through meeting up with Cornish folk from Qld at Glen Innes for Australian Celtic Festivals (ACF) it was agreed to first start a

branch in our northern state, with the aim of launching an Association there. A meeting was held at the Irish Club in Brisbane in October 1994 (with Joy & Chris Dunkerley representing CANSW) and the response was very positive. By early 1995 it had an amazing 120 members, and at a formal meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March a vote was taken to cease as an affiliated branch of NSW, and form as an independent Cornish Association of Queensland (CANSW ratified, and funds set aside, were transferred to the new body). The Australian Celtic Festival continued being firmly supported by our members, often in numbers and tartan splendid, as did other interstate events (albeit in lesser numbers).



CANSW & Cornish friends - Glen Innes & ACF 1997

Building on our ongoing Fayre days, the "1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Cornish Heritage Weekend" was held at Gordon Library, over 22-23 October 1994 with the Theme "The Cornish Impact in NSW". Varied talks, family history, Cambrian singers, dinner – attracted 70 including from interstate (incl. 50 members). The 200<sup>th</sup> newsletter was produced. [Four Editors since foundation: Ernie Keast, Maurie Talling, Ted Stark, with Chris Dunkerley continuing since no. 112]

We are now 20 years on in this story – and still ambitious – eg. for a year, during 1995 we valiantly formed a singing group, 'Kanow Kernowyn', ably lead by trained member Shirley Atkinson. We had a lot of fun, and learnt some new songs, while it lasted, but a combination of lack of numbers, talent, lack of venue/piano, and the rightly high standard looked for by Shirley meant we could not continue into 1996. Ideas were tried, tested, and failures accepted. Cornish wrestling, Cornish language learning, and local studies. In October 1995 CANSW members and Bards supported the Cornish Association of ACT (which had briefly been born as a CANSW branch, and then floated as a full Association) with their well arranged Canberra Cornish Encounter Weekend. Our 13 year old member

Lowenna Dunkerley was asked to be the Lady of the Flowers in the Bardic Proclamation ceremony. Alas the CAACT folded a few years later after a flourish of activities, but through local Territory challenges of costs, venues and insurances.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> decade (1996-2005): So much happening, 'whose your father', 'golden age?'**

A first Cornish Association of NSW web site, privately developed by Secretary/Editor Chris Dunkerley, was early on the world-wide-web from 17 April 1997. A new era indeed starting. Member Dr John Symonds had been appointed our heritage 'project officer', and was very active researching the Cornish heritage of districts like Byng, Cadia, and Cobar. He started up a web site (linked to the other site, which was now focussing more on members) to make the results more publicly and widely known, as the world wide web opened up wider access. A lot of John's research project material is now on our current official web site, and is a vital part of documenting our Cornish heritage in NSW – please take a look. New member, through our Celtic connections, a professional musician, Carrl Tregonning Myriad, and at times bringing in his band – The Ragged Band – proved a wonderful asset and generous contributor of his talents and time for many years.

Roger Buckingham took over as President for 4 years from 1997, and his interest in 'new' streams of Cornish life added to the richness of our activity. The calendar of events for 1997 showed just how active the Association was. Peaking at nearly 200 memberships, there was the opportunity to be involved in 13 events – 9 of our own, including a 3 family history meetings, a Biennial Cornish Fayre Day organised by some talented members with great speakers, a 'Troyl' dance session with Carrl Myriad, a full weekend tour away in the Orange region [below, at Byng] (one of many trips organised by livewire member Helen Boulden)

and of course another of Betty Bevins famous Christmas parties at Warriewood for families (and a with pasty or two, even in December).



As the rules allowed, another new branch was formed and became active on the South Coast & Highlands thanks largely to recent (and Cornish born) members Julie Wheeler, and Sonia Reuter. (This branch a few years later became an independent Association – Southern Sons of Cornwall (SSOC)). As a branch and as an Association it was very successful and active, with a Cornish dance group, were keenly interested in the Cornish background of their region, while hosting four large weekend events in 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2016 attracting guests from Cornwall and interstate.

Of note while we mention SSOC, later they hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> and only Bardic assembly ever held in NSW, in 2012, at the Uni of Wollongong campus at Nowra [below]. 13 bards (6 NSW – incl. new bard Julie, with Ruth Cocks as marshall, and Chris Dunkerley as leader's vice herald bard). Member Kerensa Dunkerley as Lady of the Southern Land. Alas SSOC closed down in the mid 2000s.



In May & June 1997 Keskerdh Kernow (commemorating the 1497 Cornish uprising and battles across England ending at Blackheath outside London) against unjust taxes and other treatment of the Cornish) was held. A several days long walk to London was held in the UK, but around the world there were small in sympathy events. In NSW in May at the ACF in Glen Innes a new special ceremony (the Cornish Stone



ceremony) was written, with part of the ceremony being a march with banners and flags through the standing stones (marking the uprising), to the Gorsedd stone where a further ceremony in honour the Cornish coming to Australia is held. [Photo below shows a later, 2012 start to ceremony, at the CANSW stone]



In June, in sync. with the start of walk in Cornwall a small commemoration was also held at Bicentennial park, West Pymble. Work at Byng had not been neglected, with another weekend camp site setup and working party of 20 members and locals on the job. Contact and visits were made with the people of White Rock, near Bathurst, and as we learnt of its Cornish connections, joining in a traditional Harvest Festival in the chapel.

By April 2000 after the first 25 years our Association had grown to 178 memberships, and the 250<sup>th</sup> newsletter was produced. A dinner was held to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with a cake cutting and a number of Life Memberships awarded to the remaining founding members. Russell Cocks, who had been our 1<sup>st</sup> President, was elected as 11<sup>th</sup> President, for his 2<sup>nd</sup> term.



**Russell Cocks**

In 2001 and 2002 minutes show an active Committee, with well attended regular meetings. A venue that we still use, Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club at West Ryde was providing for our AGM

and also some members interest meetings, though our family history group still met in church halls in Strathfield or Epping. Sales items were being sourced and library building up. Trips to interstate Cornish festivals and participation in Celtic festivals in NSW were on the program. In September, 2002 Russell Cocks was barded as *Gwythyer an Ertach Byng* (Keeper of the Byng Heritage).

In March 2003 Eddie Lyon took over as our President, and served in that role for 3 years.



Now in 2004, it was another busy year, with a highlight a regional trip away organised to include the old gold mining centre of Adelong at which the Cornish were prominent. (Our tour group shown below)



AGM 2003: Ruth Cocks (Minutes), Eddie Lyon (President & Chair), Joy Dunkerley (Treasurer), Chris Dunkerley (Secretary).

In September 2005 our Treasurer Joy Dunkerley was barded as *Cherya* (meaning 'Cheerful' or 'bringer of well being').



Cornish born Geoff Ford (above) became President in 2006 for 2 terms, and his deep Cornish knowledge and no nonsense approach was invaluable.

A concert was held at Byng in 2008 in the chapel to mark 20 years since it's restoration. That year was also a "Year of Cornwall" at Glen Innes for the Australian Celtic Festival and the visit of Howard Curnow from Cornwall as honoured guest was a highlight.

The visit to Sydney in March 2009 by the 'Spirit of Mystery' after it's voyage and greeting at Port Phillip Bay was coordinated by our founding member Jen Meston and its skipper Peter Goss.



Stalwart members Del Clinton, and Jen Meston

This vessel is a Cornish lugger launched in 2008 as a replica for the lugger, 'Mystery', successfully sailed from Newlyn to Port Phillip 11,800 nautical miles over 116 days by 7 Cornish fisherman during the gold rush of 1854/55.

Carrl Myriad and part of Ragged Band at Celtic Australia Day, Milson's Point + Members there: below



### The 4<sup>th</sup> decade: (2006-2015) 'Society changes, online world, not so many hands'

The Association kept on doing 'our thing' during this decade, with a keen Committee, several meetings for members during the year, and of course the AGM and St Piran's dinners, pasty days and music at Betty Bevins' beachside home







Treasurer Joy Dunkerley accepted the 14<sup>th</sup> President's role as well in 2007, and still fulfils both today.



Chris & Joy Dunkerley (2009)

It was no longer the time of large scale family history meetings with research moving online and / or people in contact with us satisfied with what they had found so far, or just retiring.



By our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2010 (above) our numbers had halved to 90 memberships, though financially we were sound with a balance of \$6,412.24. Most early members were now octogenarians, if not nonagenarians – still keen but limited by the years. More and more of our members lived outside Sydney making meetings and events harder to bring off. Still we

were still able to hold our AGMs with more than a quorum and form a full committee. Lack of numbers for the venue minimum meant moving from dinner to lunches to still have fun celebrating St Piran at West Ryde.



Outings continued, with places with interesting if at times tenuous Cornish connections like Dangar Island, Experiment Farm/Hambledon Cottage, Old Government House, and Cockatoo Island, and Watson's Bay.



Gelato at Watsons Bay



Experiment Farm, Rosehill



**Tulips, at Bowral**

In 2012 Julie Wheeler was barded as *Myrgh an Tyr Da* (Daughter of the Goodland).



**Rose Williscroft, Jennifer Meston, Russell Cocks, and Ruth Cocks**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> decade: (2016-2025) ‘Age wearying, dispersion, covid times, fragments’**

Face to face meetings and outings became less frequent, much business moved on-line (aided by foreseen Rule changes), but our newsletters, broadcast emails, and website held more importance than ever. Those who could make the yearly ACF at Glen Innes appreciated the meetup and continuing the chance to show our Cornish colours.



Our AGM, with a celebration of St Piran afterwards, was a key event of our year.

[John Coombs (below) generous with his talents and time at our various meetings and pasty days]



The annual end of year, or pre-Christmas lunch, which had started earlier in the decade, became more central to our chance to meet face to face.



**Lunches**



Then came the years of the ‘COVID times’, with face to face contact maintained in a minimal way, and the use of Zoom online meetings explored (as in other parts of life).

Sadly during this time key long term members were lost to us, with little chance to honour them publicly. Past Presidents Roger Thomas and Betty Bevins, then Ruth Cocks, and later Russell Cocks who had moved into care. These stalwarts, and a number of other members of long standing, leave huge holes, not fill-able. The Editor dreaded each edition and obituaries could take our thoughts away from celebrating things Cornish. Some members otherwise sadly didn’t renew and drifted away after this semi-dormant period.

Happily some new members were and are joining as the world gained some normality, and we welcome them all to what is now our very small group. Many other Cornish Associations around the world have failed to adjust, given up, or just faded away.

As we enter 2025/26 we have 66 household memberships (covering maybe 100 people), with 45% in the Sydney metropolitan area, 40% other NSW, and 10% Qld/ACT or overseas. For the past 3+ years our program has settled on: 3 face to face meetings per year (AGM West Ryde, ACF Glen Innes, End of Year at Circular Quay), and 4 seasonal Zoom 'tea & chat' sessions. We are open to ideas for changes or improvements. Bank bal. \$6,691.71 See our website for more on our history and resources: [www.cansw.org](http://www.cansw.org)

We can be inspired by the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies motto: "*Cuntelleugh an brewyon ues gesys na vo kellys travyth*", which translated into English is "Gather ye the fragments that are left, that nothing be lost" – Cornish heritage there and here, and Cornish connected people, alike.

So moving into 2025 we carry on, with our focus still:

- To promote fellowship and to foster goodwill among Cornish people in New South Wales and elsewhere.
- To stimulate interest in the history, antiquities, Celtic background, language, traditions and social conditions of Cornwall and to aid approved cultural and other movements, in and connected with Cornwall, working for Cornwall's good.
- To endeavour to arrange contacts between relatives and friends of Cornish people in both New South Wales and Cornwall, with other Cornish Associations, and with other Celtic groups in New South Wales.
- The identification and /or preservation, and promotion, of the heritage of Cornish people and their descendants in New South Wales and across the world.
- Assistance, particularly to provide a Cornish social and cultural context, to those tracing their Cornish family histories

Just as the Association and its activities have evolved and adjusted over the decades, our own challenge now is to find and follow our own way forward from 2025.

## Author's reflection

"This special extra *Jubilee* edition is designed to celebrate the past 50 years; people, places and events - but of course it is not a complete historical record nor can it cover all memories. Having joined 6 years later myself, I rely on minutes, and newsletters, to a large degree for the start and first decade. Hundreds of members, some big personalities, and wide range of activities have led to today. Later we could have folded, like so many of associations worldwide, but here we still are! For me, so many memories. I hope this little taste, in slightly retro format, will be of interest to our members, of long standing or our very welcome new ones" – Meur ras (thanks) Editor  
Chris Dunkerley, Kevrenor CyC



Some of end of year lunch November 2024



## 50 Year Plaque

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025 in the Family Wall, located at the Australian Standing Stones, Glen Innes NSW a plaque will be unveiled, by Joy Dunkerley, CANSW President, marking our Jubilee of 50 years as an Association. Pictured below:



**Plaque:** Brass, produced by the foundry at Uralla, NSW. It is not a copy of our logo, as it cannot be reproduced exactly, but the design and wording seeks to acknowledge who we are, our Jubilee with date of establishment, include elements of our logo 'raised and polished', with colour picked out, and our motto, and the motto in Cornish (One and All).



**The Stones:** The three stones are from Byng (originally called 'Cornish Settlement') a locality near Orange NSW, which has 200 years of Cornish Australian history, and to which the CANSW has a long active connection. Three stones are included – one larger of surface stone (representing the original agricultural settlement) and two smaller of ore strata quartz representing the mining heritage of Byng and the spirit of the people). It is noted that one of the first discoverers of gold in NSW was of Cornish ancestry born at Byng.

## Some CANSW Honours:

**Bards** - as named in the the main text of this document!

In addition the following Bards invited to Gorsedh Kernow, at a time a member of the CANSW, but mainly connected to another Association for their award: Stephen Amos, *Nans Melyn* (Mill Valley) 1986 (CAV), Sonia Reuter, *Myrgh Resrudh* (Daughter of Redruth) 2016 (SSOC), and Robynne Sanderson, *Ylewadh Bre Derrys* (Musician of Broken Hill) 2024 (CASA).

**Presidents** - Russell Cocks installed 1975, & 1985, Robert Durrant 1976, Roy Miners 1977, Maurie Talling 1980, Brian Robson 1982, Betty Bevins 1983 & 1994, Ruth Cocks 1985, Roger Thomas 1989, Roger Buckingham 1997, Eddie Lyon 2003, Geoff Ford 2006, Joy Dunkerley from 2007 to date

**Life Members (current) –**

Foundation: Jennifer Meston, Ted Stark, and Rose Williscroft.

For services: John Coombs, Chris Dunkerley, Joy Dunkerley, and Stella Aubrey

[Past: Graham Aubrey; Foundation - Roger Thomas, Malcolm Williscroft, Ruth Cocks, Russell Cocks, Betty Bevins, David Vincent]



**Sources:** CANSW minutes, newsletters, correspondence, web pages, my recollections.

*Apologies to those whose names maybe could have been mentioned, but hundreds of members have been part of us over the 50 years.*

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