

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

February 2019 Newsletter

Onen hag oll

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Saturday 2nd February: Bev and Jim Hocking will speak about the architect John James Clark.



Saturday 2nd March - to celebrate St Piran's Day: a coach trip has been organized to the Rupanyup museum operated by Michael Woods - 'Woods' Family and Heritage Museum - and also to see the painted silos in Rupanyup.

We will be travelling in a 5 Star Coach and the cost for the day is \$50 - this includes travel by coach, lunch and entrance to the Museum.

We will be raising the St Piran's flag to celebrate St Piran's Day.

Please record your names and payment with Lorice Jenkin at the February meeting.

Saturday 6th April - Tour of The Old Ballarat Cemetery with Members given the opportunity to tell the story of family members buried there.

If you have an ancestor buried in the cemetery and feel you can share information about them please speak with Wendy Benoit.

More details about times and meeting arrangements in the April newsletter.

13th-19th May - Kernewek Lowender - This festival is held every two years on the Copper Coast in regional South Australia in the coastal towns of Wallaroo, Moonta and Kadina.

Saturday 1st June - Annual Meeting

DON'T MISS THE NEXT
kernewek
lowender

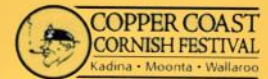
**COPPER COAST
CORNISH FESTIVAL**



May 13-19, 2019

- ✓ Maypole and Furry Dancing
- ✓ Street Parade and Pasty Bake-Off
- ✓ Classic Cavalcade of Cars and Motorcycles
- ✓ Concerts and Cornish Ceremonies
- ✓ Markets, Feasts and Exhibitions
- ✓ Pub Specials and Entertainment
- ✓ Art Prize
- ✓ Dressing of the Graves
- ✓ Many more attractions...

Web: www.kernewek.org
Email: kernewek@coppercoast.sa.gov.au



Major festival activities:

Dressing the Graves - at Greens Plains and Wallaroo (May 14), Kadina and Moonta cemeteries (May 15)
Drakes Moonta Parade and Street Party - Friday, May 17
Rotary Village Fair - Kadina, Saturday, May 18
Gathering of the Bards - Saturday, May 18
RAA Rosewarne's Cavalcade of Cars and Motorcycles - Wallaroo - Moonta - Kadina, Sunday, May 19
Cavalcade Fun Fair - Kadina, Sunday, May 19
Plus concerts, entertainment, food and wine and exhibitions, tours, fun for all ages
Programme released December 2018
www.kernewek.org



AWARD TO IAN JENNINGS

It was so good to see Ian Jennings back on deck at the recent Committee Meeting.

Ian received an award from the Commonwealth Bank for community treasurers.

Congratulations Ian for all the wonderful work you do for the Cornish in Ballarat



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



2018 Christmas Luncheon

Thirty plus people enjoyed our time at *The Barkly Restaurant*, on the corner of Main Road and Barkly Street, for our final meeting of the year with visitors from Geelong and Melbourne joining us.

The room had been beautifully decorated by the staff and looked very festive and attractive with its white tablecloths and Christmas Decorations.

On arrival we were welcomed by our chairperson, Keith Lanyon.

Our meal consisted of Turkey, Ham and Roast Vegetables or Barramundi and Salad. There was also risotto for vegetarians.

Following the main course we had a choice of Plum Pudding or Individual Pavlovas.

Lots of chatter took place amongst the members at each table and from group to group.

After our meal, a 30th Anniversary cake was cut by Lenice Stuchbery. Lenice was the oldest original group member present.

Thanks go to Bev Hocking who provided the cake and decorated it beautifully.

It was a lovely Christmas Breakup.

Thanks to Wendy Benoit for this report and photos



ELIZABETH WOOLCOCK

I am one of those people who enjoy reading Facebook posts.

Not only do I like maintaining contact with my family members, young and old, I appreciate the fact that I can keep in regular contact with friends who live locally, interstate and overseas.

I also take pleasure in belonging to some groups especially those related to Family History and History.

Recently I read a post on one of these sites – *Remembering the Past Australia* – of the execution by hanging of a woman in South Australia – Elizabeth Woolcock – on 30th December 1873.

Elizabeth was the only woman to be hanged in South Australia and one of twenty women (I could find) hanged in Australia, the last being Jean Lee in Victoria in February 1951. (See list below)

The execution of Elizabeth Woolcock was an event I was unfamiliar with and it certainly occupied my thoughts and research for some days.

What a life of tragedy she experienced.

Elizabeth Woolcock was born Elizabeth Lillian Oliver to parents John Oliver and Elizabeth Trezise, both of whom are thought to have been born in Cornwall, arriving in South Australia in 1842.

Elizabeth was born in Burra on 20th April 1848 and some reports indicate that the family may have been living in a dugout on the creek, which was prone to flooding.

Her father, John Oliver is thought to have travelled to Ballarat in 1851 to seek his fortune on the goldfields, after one such creek flooding, with his young family joining him a short time later.

Supposedly, his wife Elizabeth Oliver didn't like the Ballarat diggings and returned to South Australia, soon after the death of their daughter Catherine, leaving a very young Elizabeth in the care of her father.

Elizabeth witnessed the brutal and traumatic death of one of her father's good friends at the hands of the Police during the Eureka Stockade fighting in December 1854 and the following year when aged seven or eight, whilst in the tent alone, due to her father working on the diggings, she was raped leaving her physically and psychologically damaged. Her doctor gave her opium to alleviate the pain and her distress - sadly she subsequently became addicted.

When she was nine her father died and she was left alone on the goldfields.

Somehow, she seems to have made her way to Melbourne and was employed as a servant in the home of an apothecary where she was able to access opium to feed her own addiction and to also secrete some away.

She returned to Ballarat where she worked in a guest house. It is suggested that during this time Elizabeth supplied opium to prostitutes for use as revenge on their more abusive clients in order to punish and rob them.

Around 1865, Elizabeth heard that her mother was still alive and she travelled back to South Australia and moved in with her mother and stepfather, John Bolitho Johns, who were living in Moonta.

She worked as a housekeeper for a family and on Sundays taught Sunday school. However, in 1866, a relative of the family she worked for arrived from England and took over her job, which led to Elizabeth being unemployed.

Enter Thomas Woolcock.

Thomas Woolcock arrived in South Australia, from Cornwall, aboard the Gosforth in December 1865 with his wife Nanny (Moore) and two young sons, Francis John (4) and Thomas (2).

The passenger list details their residence as Truro and that Thomas was a labourer.

Thomas's wife died in May 1866 and he advertised for a housekeeper to care for his family.

Elizabeth applied for the live-in position against the wishes of her step-father who disliked Thomas Woolcock.

Her stepfather accused them of cohabitating and so Thomas Woolcock agreed to marry Elizabeth.

Evidence given at Elizabeth's trial suggests that Thomas Woolcock was a very mean man who drank heavily, was a bully and was known to have bashed his wife.

She left him on several occasions; she attempted suicide and her addiction became worse with the use of opium and morphine.

A boarder named Pascoe came to live with the family for a time and Elizabeth's situation improved as she experienced less abuse but disputes between the men occurred with Woolcock believing she was having an affair with Pascoe and so he left.

Soon after the family dog died.

At the time it was thought that Pascoe may have poisoned the dog.

Not long after, Thomas Woolcock became ill with stomach pains and nausea and he was treated by three different doctors who offered various remedies to cure his ailments – syrup and pills laced with mercury (Dr Bull), and rhubarb tablets and cream of tartar (Dr Dickie). Finally, Dr Herbert treated him for a sore throat with excessive salivation.

Dr Herbert's treatment worked and Woolcock was improving but two weeks later he decided Herbert's treatment was too expensive and went back to Dr Dickie who resumed the treatment for a gastric problem.

No cure proved to be successful and he died on 4th September 1873.

At the time of death, one of the doctors, Dr Dickie, stated his patient had died from "pure exhaustion from excessive and prolonged vomiting and purging".

The community was aware of Elizabeth's drug addiction as she often sent her stepson to the various chemists for morphine and rumours soon spread that maybe she had poisoned Thomas. Dr Dickie ordered an inquest largely to quash the rumours as he still believed his original diagnosis was correct.

At the inquest the three doctors concurred that given the state of the body that mercury poisoning was a strong probability for the cause of Thomas's death and allowing for the fact that the family dog had been poisoned and a quantity of mercury rich ringworm powder was found at their home, Elizabeth was charged with the murder of Thomas Woolcock and at a trial was subsequently sentenced to death and later hanged.

TROVE has many reports of the death of Thomas Woolcock, the trial of Elizabeth Woolcock and her confession before she was hanged. The articles make good reading.

There are many other references on the internet.

Police historian Allan Peters has researched the case for thirty years and even asked for a posthumous pardon for Elizabeth, but this was rejected.

He makes these points about her innocence in various newspaper reports found at TROVE:

*It is unlikely that Elizabeth was having an affair and she had nothing to gain from Woolcock's death.

*That she cared for Thomas while he was ill was

evidenced by his lack of bed sores and witnesses testified that Elizabeth showed no ill will towards her husband.

*The dog was treated for Ringworm with Mercury laced powder and could have died from Mercury poisoning after licking the powder on its body.

*Woolcock's symptoms were consistent with Tuberculosis and Dysentery, both of which were found at autopsy, and Typhoid, although this was not found. Woolcock's organs, removed at autopsy, had been left unattended and exposed to the air for 24 hours before they were examined which could have compromised the diagnosis.

*It was never proven at trial that Thomas Woolcock had died of Mercury poisoning or that Elizabeth had administered it.

*Dr Bull prescribed Mercury laced syrup and tablets which would have killed Woolcock if he had taken more than Bull testified to.

Bull had been a drug addict himself for 30 years and consumed Atropine, Sulphuric Ether, Chloroform and Opium in large and frequent doses. He was reportedly in a "drug be-fuddled state" when treating Woolcock and several witnesses testified that Thomas has told them that it was Bull's medicine that had made him so sick.

Dr Bull was committed to a psychiatric hospital after the trial and committed suicide several months later.

Women who were hanged in Australia

- Ann Davis (alias Judith Jones) – 23rd November 1789 – The first woman hanged in Australia. A First Fleet convict, she was found guilty of theft from a fellow convict at Sydney Cove.
- Elizabeth Jones – 6th July 1799 – Wife of Thomas Jones. Hanged at Sydney for her part in the murder of missionary Samuel Clode at the brickfields in Sydney.
- Mary Grady – 18th June 1808 – Hanged at Sydney for burglary from the house of Charles Stuart at Parramatta.
- Bridget Fairless – 12th July 1826 – Hanged at Sydney for highway robbery in what is now the Leichhardt section of Parramatta Road.

- Mary McLauchlan – 19th April 1830 – Hanged at Hobart for the murder of her infant son. The first woman executed in Van Diemen's Land/Tasmania.
- Mary Thornton – 17th April 1844 – Hanged at Newcastle for the murder of her husband John Thornton near Mulbring.
- Eliza Benwell – 2nd October 1845 – Hanged at Hobart for aiding and abetting the murder of Jane Saunders at New Norfolk
- Mary Sullivan – 5th August 1852 - Hanged at Hobart for the murder of two-year-old Clara Adeline Fraser in Campbell St. Mary Sullivan was sixteen when she went to the gallows
- Bridget Hurford – hanged at Perth on 15th October 1855 – for the murder of her husband John Hurford at Vass WA
- Ellen Monks – 8th May 1860 – Hanged at Goulburn NSW for the hammer murder of her husband Thomas Monks at Longnose Creek, near Crookwell.
- Elizabeth Scott – 11th November 1863 – Hanged at Melbourne Gaol for the murder of her husband in the Wappan district (near Mansfield)
- Margaret Cody – 15th July 1871 – for the murder of James Holditch, at North Fremantle on 4 March 1871
- **Elizabeth Woolcock – 30th December 1873 – Hanged at Adelaide Gaol for the murder of Thomas Woolcock at North Yelta. The only woman executed in South Australia.**
- Ellen Thompson – 13th June 1887 – Hanged at Boggo Road Gaol for the murder of her husband William. She was the only woman hanged in Queensland.
- Louisa Collins – 22nd January 1889 – Hanged at Darlinghurst for the poisoning of her husband at Botany. She was the last woman hanged in New South Wales.
- Frances Knorr – 15th January 1894 – "The Brunswick Baby Farmer" – Hanged at Melbourne Gaol for the murder of two infants
- Martha Needle – 22th October 1894 – Murdered five people by poison. Hanged at Melbourne Gaol for the murder of Louis Juncken at 137 Bridge Road Richmond
- Emma Williams – 4th November 1895 – Hanged at Melbourne Gaol for the murder of her two-year-old son John at Port Melbourne
- Martha Rendell – 6th October 1909 – Hanged for the murder of her 14-year-old stepson Arthur Morris by poisoning on 8th October 1908, suspected of killing two younger stepchildren in WA
- Jean Lee – 19th February 1951 – Hanged at Pentridge for the murder of 'Pop' Kent in Dorrit Street Carlton. The last woman executed in Australia, her accomplices, Robert Clayton, 32, and Norman Andrews, 38, were also hanged.

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From TROVE digitized newspapers:

Australia Teaches Cornwall

Mr. Frank Lush, formerly of Ballarat, and a graduate in the Ballarat School of Mines, has been entrusted with the responsibilities of supervising the erection of a sluicing plant on New Quay Moors, in Cornwall, England, where about 3200 acres have been acquired by a company to develop the alluvial tin resources of the Duchy which bores have indicated to be payable. Most of the plant will be procured in Australia, and Australian methods are to be employed.

Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times (Albury, NSW : 1903 - 1920), Saturday 9 July 1910, page 5

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At Grafton a movement is quietly setting in for the separation from New South Wales. The new colony is to be named New Cornwall.

Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser (NSW : 1856 - 1861; 1863 - 1889; 1891 - 1954), Friday 1 August 1879, page 4

MARTIN HOSKING - One hero of Ballarat: Friend of the weak by NFS

Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954),
Saturday 20th April 1940, page 14

The romantic history of the golden days of Ballarat is full of stories of heroic deeds by the Cornish miners. A few weeks ago I told in these columns how they worked for seven years at the Band of Hope mine without winning a pennyweight of gold. Stories are told of men going below and risking their lives digging out comrades when the walls of shafts had fallen in or when underground lakes had burst and swamped the drives. But the noblest hero old time Ballarat ever knew was a slight, simple Cornishman—Martin Hosking.

He was born on November 9, 1841, in a small Cornish village called Lelant. When he was twenty years of age he was lured from home by the glamorous tales of fortunes made on the golden fields of Ballarat. He was lucky enough in his mine at Little Bendigo, and was able to bring out from Lelant his sweetheart, whom he married in 1866 at the Wesleyan Church at Emerald Hill.

At that time the lower end of Main-road, Ballarat, was a sink of iniquity. Esmond-street, Arcade-street, and part of Main-road itself were full of "boozing shanties," and gambling dens. Every night, the district was the scene of wild orgies, often ending in rowdy brawls and sometimes even in murder. The whole area was a pestilential sore in the corporate life of Ballarat. No decent person dared venture there after dark, and the police went into the zone in pairs and always armed.

Ballarat was ashamed of this foul quarter.

A Clean-up Campaign

On November 10th, 1870, a well-attended meeting was held in the Alfred Hall for the purpose of finding some means of fighting against the immorality and wickedness of the lower Main-road district. Those present decided to form a Town Mission, and to appoint a missionary with a small salary. Early in 1872 Martin Hosking, now aged 31, was appointed town missionary.

He threw himself into the work with all his energies. Every day he stood in the middle of wicked Arcade-street and boldly preached the Gospel. At the risk of his life he marched into the evil bar rooms and talked to half-drunken men and women. In 1874 he

collected from well wishers £180 and bought a disused church.

This he had erected at the foot of Eureka-street as a mission hall, and here he held services. By 1877 this hall had been twice enlarged to hold the crowds that flocked to hear the cheering talks of this clear voiced young evangelist.

Beside his Sunday services in the hall, Martin Hosking held regular open air meetings, cottage prayer meetings, Band of Hope meetings and Young Men's Debating Society meetings.

Every Saturday evening, the mission hall was crowded to the doors when he conducted a free entertainment.

He induced the leading musicians and elocutionists of Ballarat to come and sing and play and recite.

He persuaded the ladies of Ballarat to provide supper free of charge to everybody.

A clean, sweet, elevating evening!

He was a bearded man of medium height with magnetic eyes and a strong musical voice.

He never preached the "Hell fire" sort of thing. In his talks—they could never be called sermons—he told many quaint Cornish stories and used many an apposite joke to point out that evil living was not only wicked but foolish as well.

He made it a point to be always well dressed, wearing top hat, frock coat buttoned up and a neatly rolled umbrella.

Often he came home on a winter night without his overcoat. When his wife asked about it, he would laughingly tell her it had gone to some one who had a better right to it than he.

One Day's Work

The well-to-do people of Ballarat put money in his hands and such was their respect for him that he was never asked to give an account of how it was spent.

His home at 22 Hopetoun-street became a calling place for people who were on the brink of despair. They came to him for advice and consolation.

Over a cup of tea he comforted them and sent them away with hearts buoyed up.

Here is one day's doing from his diary. (The names are suppressed).

JULY 4.—Called on little Emma ... Found her fever gone. Gave her some money to get some beef tea. Went on and waited on widow —— about putting her children in the orphan asylum.

Then I found old Joe —— very ill. I made and

applied two mustard poultices to his back.
I collected and paid 10/ maintenance money to Nellie
——.
Hurried to Mr. William Porter, bootmaker, of Main-
road, and begged four pairs of boots which I took to
the —— children.
I went to see J. —— and found his hand very bad. I
washed it with carbolic and bound it up.
I shaved Tom ——'s head and applied a plaster to
ease his pain.
I called at 24 Arcade-street, and coaxed the girls to
join me in prayer.
In the evening had a fine Band of Hope meeting in the
hall.

That was not a bad day's work!

In 1878 an epidemic or scarlet fever carried off many
among the poor people of Ballarat East. Martin
Hosking went into the homes of the stricken, gave
the sick ones cold water packs, made ointments and
mixed drugs.
The faith the poor folk had in him did more to cure
them than all the medicines.

A People's Recognition

His home in Hopetoun-street was a busy place.
Bags of flour, dozens of loaves of bread, vegetables,
meat, fish, parcels of clothes and bedding were left
there by kind-hearted people.
Every afternoon Martin Hosking and his children
went out and distributed them to the homes of the
needy.

For seventeen years Martin Hosking devoted every
minute of his time to raising the fallen and relieving
the distressed.
Then his health broke down.
In 1889 the people of Ballarat collected £400 to give
him a holiday.
But the money was not handed to him because the
donors knew he would spend every penny among the
poor.
A passage was booked to England, and when he was
on board he was handed the money.
He visited his native Duchy, other parts of England,
France, Egypt and the Holy Land.

He was away nine months, and when he returned no
Prime Minister, no Governor, not even a prince ever
received as warm a welcome from thousands of
cheering Ballarat people as this modest missionary did
when he stepped off the train at the Ballarat East
station.

But a year later his health began to fail.

In 1892 he was too weak to hold his pen. The last
entry in his diary reads as follows:-
"I have done my best. If I could live my life again,
I would try to do better.
To-day the mayor, Mr. J. N. Dunn, came to see me
and gave me £10 so I can hire a cab and go out every
day for a drive."

Every afternoon the cabby came to take the sick man
for his drive.
But Martin Hosking made him go and fill his cab with
old sick people so that they might share the outing
with him.

On February 17, 1893, the worn-out missionary died.
Never before and never since has Ballarat shown its
respect so impressively to a dead citizen as it did the
day Martin Hosking was buried.
The whole town went into mourning.
All sects and classes, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile,
old and young, followed him to his last resting place.

He left no estate whatever and a Martin Hosking
Fund was formed and enough money raised to place a
modest stone over his grave and to provide for his
widow.

That is the story of a Cornishman, Martin Hosking,
who rescued hundreds of girls from a life of shame,
and whose sole ambition in life was to feed the
hungry, clothe the destitute and comfort the broken
hearted.

Will any one deny that Martin Hosking was a hero?



CORNISH snippets

Possible toll increase to cross the Tamar River

To enable the Tamar Bridge, between Saltash and Plymouth, to be effectively maintained it is thought that the toll charge will increase from £1.50 to £2.00 in July 2019.

Both the Cornwall and Plymouth City Councils which are responsible for the bridge, are also set to ask for more control from the Department for Transport over the cost of tolls so they might be increased in future according to inflation. The last time a toll rise was implemented was in 2010.

There will also be a request for the Government to provide more funding for the bridge.



Some new Coins for 2019

Sherlock Holmes silhouette, complete with pipe and deerstalker hat, will appear on a commemorative 50p, marking the 160th birthday of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The image of the world-famous literary detective is surrounded by titles of Sir Arthur's stories, including *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Sign of Four*.



The 75th Anniversary of the **D Day landings** on June 6 will be marked with a £2 coin. The Allied Invasion of Normandy in 1944 was the largest seaborne invasion in history.

The coin shows the locations of the Normandy landings, naming the beaches picked - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

The 260th anniversary of the founding of one of the world's most famous pottery firms will also be

celebrated with a **Wedgwood** pottery £2 coin.



Diarist **Samuel Pepys** - who chronicled the Great Fire of London and plague - will also be honoured with a £2 coin.



Queen Victoria, born in May 1819, will be featured on a rare £5 coin, alongside a telephone, a penny-farthing bicycle, and other icons from her six decade-long reign.



The issue of £5 coins is usually reserved for special royal occasions, with the last one released to mark the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's wedding in May 2018.

Medical Woes in Cornwall

1. Hospital on 'black alert'

The Royal Cornwall hospital was on 'black alert' for 134 days during the year. A hospital goes onto 'black alert' when there are more people needing treatment than beds or staff available.

Extra staff are drafted in and routine operations cancelled to make room in surgical beds for other patients.

2. Waiting time to see GP

Figures have revealed more than 20,000 patients in Cornwall are waiting at least three weeks to see a GP. 21,670 people in the Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group had to wait until for at least 21 days to see a doctor after booking an appointment in October 2018.

That is 12% of all patients according to data from NHS Digital and out of those, 10,100 waited more than a month.

Waiting times worsened in comparison with November 2017, the earliest period for which data is available, when 11% of patients waited for at least three weeks.

Articles and Cornish Snippets may be sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, Western Morning News, The Cornishman, West Briton, Cornwall 24, Wikipedia, Cornwall Live, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, Kresen Kernow, St Piran Stuff, The Telegraph, The Cornish are a Nation, The Guardian.