

KERNENEWEK LOWENDER

12-18 MAY 2025



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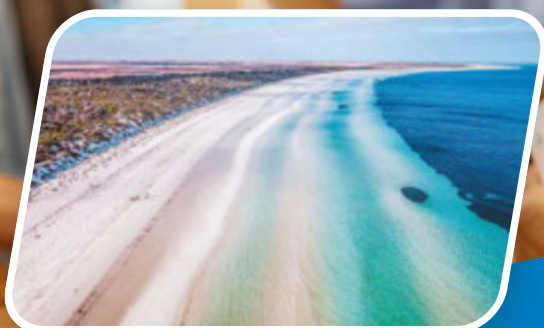
Yorke Peninsula
Country Times

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR GUIDE & PROGRAM OF EVENTS

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Welcome to the Cornish Festival

Australia's Little Cornwall is ready to celebrate

WE are excited to bring you the 2025 Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival with a seven-day program of events that celebrates our unique Cornish heritage, traditions and culture.

The program includes something for everyone — including entertainment, food, markets, street parties and parades, Maypole and Furry Dances, the Classic Cavalcade of Cars and Motorcycles, art, displays, concerts and ceremonies.

The success of this biennial event can be attributed to the support of our Kernewek Lowender committee, valuable sponsors, local community groups, businesses and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to plan and deliver an event that will attract and entertain over 30,000 visitors.

As the Australian Cornish Mining Sites — Burra and Moonta bid progresses towards World Heritage Listing, we embrace the opportunity to showcase our heritage and celebrate the innovation, fortitude and resilience of our Cornish ancestors.

Having been involved with the festival for the past 38 years, I continue to be passionate and proud of the community who represent the strong family and community values our ancestors brought with them when they made their new home in Australia's Little Cornwall.

A highlight continues to be the involvement of local children as they participate in traditional events and I look forward to seeing my granddaughter participating in the Furry Dance for the first time this year!

Whether you are a return visitor or this is your first festival, we welcome you — we hope you enjoy our hospitality, a traditional Cornish pasty and Swanky, and experience everything on offer as you revel in all things Cornish!

Lynn Spurling

President, Kernewek Lowender



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS... Kernewek Lowender president Lynn Spurling welcomes you to the 2025 Copper Coast Cornish Festival.



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Celebrating Cornish in Australia's Little C

Journalist: Erica Andrews

SINCE 1973, the Copper Coast has been celebrating its Cornish heritage through the Kernewek Lowender, making this the 27th event.

There are events of all sizes for you to enjoy -- from the iconic Maypole and Furry Dances, to fairs, street parties, Cornish pasty making and the Classic Cavalcade of Cars and Motorcycles.

Also known as Australia's Little Cornwall, the area's association with Cornish culture can be traced to the heyday of copper mining in the mid-to-late 1800s/early 1900s.

Miners and their families travelled from Cornwall and elsewhere (including Burra) to work the copper deposits, and the Welsh, renowned for their smelting expertise, came to help process the ore.

The knowledge these early European settlers brought with them was pivotal to the success of local mining operations.

When a group of locals decided to acknowledge that history by holding the first Kernewek Lowender (which translates as Cornish happiness) in 1973, they could only have dreamed the festival would still be popular half a century later.

"Our success since the festival's inception is because of the support and involvement of the community," Kernewek Lowender president Lynn Spurling says.

"It's a challenge every festival to try and retain the heritage and celebrate it in an appropriate manner, and to make it relevant to today's visitors."

Ms Spurling says the festival is a big component in the Australian Cornish Mining Sites: Burra and Moonta being placed on Australia's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List last September.

Publisher of this booklet, the YP Country Times, acknowledges the traditional custodians of Guuranda, the Nharangga people, who have cared for this Country for thousands of years. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

MAYPOLE... Kadina Memorial School students Tayla Mengersen, Imogen Cowie and Airlie Blue Michalanney are ready to perform the Maypole Dance during the 2023 Kernewek Lowender.



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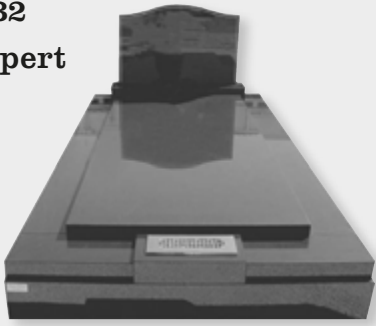
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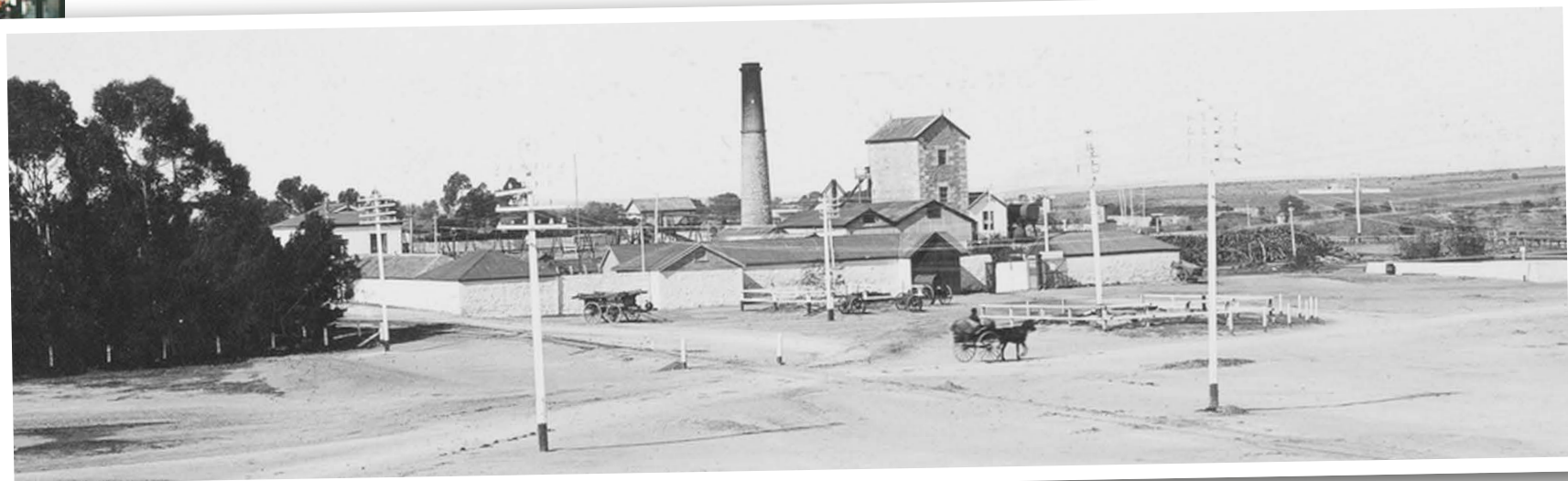
happiness ornwall



COMPETITION... South Australian Premier Don Dunstan and Member for Gouger Keith Russack get busy making pasties at the very first Kernewek Lowender in 1973.



NOVEL PROMOTION... How do you promote a Cornish festival in 1975? You bake the world's biggest pasty, measuring 3.46 metres long, and present it to the Premier. It took six men to heave the giant pasty created by Price's Bakery -- John Duncan, Wayne Raymond, Grant Osborne, Ian Bickley, David Rosewarne and David Starks. PHOTO: The Advertiser, May 17, 1975.



HISTORICAL LANDMARK... Hughes Enginehouse, a relic from the copper mining boom, still stands at Moonta Mines; the precinct is on Australia's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. This photograph dates back to 1916.



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Wedding wonderland



COLLECTOR... Claire Bettess with the dress she found in a Mid North second-hand store, and a black circa 1880s number. She has about 80 wedding gowns that will be displayed during the 2025 Kernewek Lowender.

Love stories stitched in satin and lace

FASHION fanatics will be able to walk through a wedding wonderland during this year’s Kernewek Lowender, with locals given the opportunity to contribute their family history to the exhibition.

Kadina AH&F Society is putting more than 120 wedding gowns, spanning from the 1870s to 2000, on show, as well as wedding photographs and accessories from bygone eras.

The event is the brainchild of Kadina’s Claire Bettess, who owns about 80 of the dresses that will be on display.

When asked how her collection began, Claire jokingly said, “I wish I knew — and I wouldn’t have done it”.

One of her earliest finds was a circa 1930s gown, discovered in a Mid North second-hand shop.

“It called to me from a mountain of garagenalia and other rustic odds and ends,” she says.

Among her most treasured pieces are two from the 1880s, including a rare black gown.

“They’re beautiful pieces of history, it would be a shame to see them hit the skip, which a lot of these items do,” she says.

Also in the collection is the wedding dress of Claire’s grandmother Helen “Nellie” Paterson, who married Malcolm McPherson at the Paterson family homestead, Nurnoo, near Bute, in 1914.

“I have my mother’s wedding and going-away outfits from her 1941 wedding in Bute as well,” Claire says.

“Her maiden name was Janet Green.”

Other dresses for the display have been sourced by KAHFS from various local families with a long history in the Copper Coast.

This includes those of bride Anita Stanway — who was a life member of KAHFS and whose granddaughter Natasha Westbrook is a current member — and her bridesmaid Joy Parker, from Anita’s 1953 wedding to Frank Westbrook.

A wedding photograph has been offered up by Kadina’s Joyce Wearn, 90, of her parents-in-law, William Francis Wearn (a former mayor of Kadina) and Ivy Davey, who shared their nuptials with Ivy’s sister Freda Davey, and Glen Bussenschutt.

The couples were married at the now-demolished Wallaroo Mines Methodist Church in February 1932.

“It was the talk of the town, I think, at the time,” Mrs Wearn says.

“It was a big event at Wallaroo Mines; the cars were lined up for miles.

“The two brides’ father was deceased so it was their Uncle Ben who gave them away — he walked down the aisle with one on each arm.”

KAHFS member Sharon Hannagan says the stories that came from the dresses and photos are fascinating.

“It’s amazing what you do find out about the whole area and how interwoven so many families in the area were with the showgrounds,” she says.

The Kadina AH&F Society Wedding Gowns 1870s-2000 display is staged in the Exhibition Building at the showgrounds, Wednesday to Sunday, May 14-18.



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KERNEWEK LOWENDER... Moonta Area School students Ava Penna, Lilly Haskett, Sherrydi Murphy, Liana Johnstone, Sienna Madigan, Ruby Howse, Aaliyah Weetra, Tash Hubbard, Ellie Trenwith, Savannah Gurr, Abby Braley, Arielle Jarvis, Talicia Crocker, Madeline Sims and Scarlet Croker march through Moonta's main street as part of the parade in 2023.

Heritage in focus at Moonta's Stret Fer

Journalist: Joanna Tucker

MOONTA'S Queen Square will come alive on Friday, May 16, as the Stret Fer (Street Fair) brings a dynamic mix of heritage and contemporary festivities from 10am.

The day will feature rides, food and beverages, local souvenirs and South Australian products, alongside iconic Kernewek events and new attractions for all ages.

Kicking off the day's official program is the Drake's Lowender Parade — a grand procession of local and visiting community groups and businesses showcasing their connection to the Copper Coast's Cornish heritage. The parade starts at 10.30am, travelling along George Street and turning onto William Street.

The newly minted Stret Fer replaces the traditional Fer Kernewek celebrations at Moonta Oval, bringing the festivities into the heart of the town — a move welcomed by Kernewek Lowender committee president Lynn Spurling.

"With Moonta's growing recognition in the world

heritage space, we're excited to bring the festivities back to the heart of the town, surrounded by significant historical landmarks such as the Moonta Town Hall, Queen Square rotunda and Moonta Uniting (formerly Methodist) Church," Lynn Spurling says.

"We're really pleased it has moved to the main township; it's a great place for everyone to come together and enjoy the day."

Traditional performances including the Maypole Dance and Furry Dance will take place on the grassed area of Queen Square, adding a village fair atmosphere.

And, for the first time, the Swanky Garden will be open from 10.30am to 5pm. This new designated area of the Stret Fer will offer a space to relax and enjoy the festivities, with drinks available throughout the day.

The official welcome to the 2025 Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival will be held at 11.15am at the Queen Square rotunda, featuring speeches from the official party and performances of the Australian and Cornish national anthems.

Entry to the Moonta Stret Fer is free.

Mayor vying for pasty three-peat

Journalist: Michelle Daw

ONE of the quirkiest and most hotly contested events at the Kernewek Lowender is the Apex Pasty Bake-Off — and Copper Coast mayor Roslyn Talbot is eyeing her third win.

Having claimed the coveted title in 2021 and 2023, Mrs Talbot returns for the 2025 bake-off at the Stret Fer.

The competition pits local VIPs, including Member for Narungga Fraser Ellis, against each other to make the pastry, cut up the meat and vegetables, then create the pasty with its distinctive crimp.

Mrs Talbot says it is fortunate the pasties are judged on their appearance and not on taste — with the aim to make them look nice rather than focusing on what's inside.

At Mrs Talbot's bake-off debut in 2019, her attempt was marked down for skipping an important step: pricking the pastry to let steam escape.

Her pasty skills were honed growing up on the Copper Coast, learning from her mother and in home economics classes at Kadina Memorial High School.

At 15, she won the schoolgirl section of the Cornish festival's pasty-making competition. In those early days, the contest followed a traditional format — entrants prepared and baked their pasties at home before bringing them in for judging.

"I have got that competitive streak — I don't like to lose," Mrs Talbot says.

And her main rival in 2025?

"Fraser usually cuts his fingers so, if he can keep his fingers intact, he might beat me," she says.

"They always need band-aids on hand for Fraser."

The bake-off starts at 1.30pm in Queen Square, Moonta, during the Stret Fer.



PASTY PERFORMANCE... Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, with Copper Coast Council mayor Roslyn Talbot show their entries in the Pasty Bake-Off at the 2023 Kernewek Lowender.

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Festival favourites and hidden gems

BEYOND the major events highlighted in this souvenir guide, the Kernewek Lowender offers numerous activities, displays and local experiences across the Copper Coast.

Multi-day events

Northern Yorke Peninsula Quilters Inc. will host two exhibitions: their latest works at Moonta Town Hall and Cornish Connection Quilts at Wallaroo Mines Institute — where Cornish cream teas will be served.

Historical displays and Cornish high teas will run Wednesday to Saturday at Kadina Church of Christ.

The YP Family History Group will be available at the Kadina Library Monday to Friday, and Saturday by appointment.

Copper Coast Photography Club will exhibit at the Copper Coast Sport and Leisure Centre on Doswell Terrace, Kadina.

Art lovers can enjoy a free exhibition of past Kernewek Lowender Art Prize winners at the Ascot Gallery, Kadina.

Entries for this year’s prize can be found in the Kadina Town Hall, where the winners for 2025 will be announced at this exhibition’s official opening on Thursday evening.

Both displays are open daily until Sunday. Don’t miss the Wallaroo Silo Light Show, running nightly from sunset, with a special May display celebrating Cornish heritage.

Live events and local flair

On Monday, enjoy the SA Country Showcase, followed by the KWM Band concert on Thursday, both at Wallaroo Town Hall — and both promise a great night out.

Saturday is the local rivalry showdown, as Wallaroo and Moonta face off in heritage football and netball matches; the A grade footy could be considered a replay of the first recorded match on Yorke Peninsula, held between the same clubs in 1874.

Sunday morning features the traditional Blessing of the Waters at Wallaroo

Heritage and history

National Trust facilities in Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta are open daily.

Join a guided cemetery walk in Moonta or explore Wallaroo on a heritage town walk.

Food and family fun

Feast or Famine, a hearty Cornish-inspired dinner, will be served at the Kadina Uniting Church Hall on Wednesday.

Sup and Sing with the Cornish at Wallaroo Town Hall on Friday evening will provide a three-course meal, including the ubiquitous Cornish pasty, and a concert including guest artists and community singing of Cornish favourites.

Families can head to Triple B Cafe’s Family Fun Day on Saturday for children’s pasty-making lessons, games, colouring-in and activities for all ages.

The Aussie Breakfast caps off the week on Sunday at Wallaroo Sailing Club.



GREAT DAY... Linda Wright, John Wright, Sue Gormley and Tony Gormley at the 2023 Wallaroo Street Party.

Biggest party in town

Journalist: Austinn Lane

THE Wallaroo Street Party returns for its fourth instalment on Saturday, May 17, 2025, offering entertainment and food for all ages.

First introduced to the Kernewek Lowender in 2019, the street party is inspired by traditional May celebrations in Cornwall.

Organisers Graham and Gabby Jackman are bringing the community together once again to honour Cornish heritage through live music, local food and cultural festivities.

Live music kicks off at 3pm with Ben Graefe performing kids’ favourites such as the Wiggles. Caleb Raymond follows at 4pm, then Three Bar and Tomorrow Horizon will take the stage into the evening.

Local businesses are getting involved, with Fat G’s,

Bond Store and The Smelter keeping their doors open.

A delicious mix of food trucks — including Chunky Boys, Oranaise, Mi Thai, Spuds and More, MBC Foods, Strawberries Galore and Smash Catering — will line the streets, offering everything from burgers to Thai cuisine and doughnuts.

“Sunny Hill Distillery is coming along, as is Barley Stacks Wines, and we will have plenty of traditional Swanky available,” the Jackmans say.

“We have fish, burgers, doughnuts, pizza, hot dogs — something for everyone, ready to go.”

Major event sponsors this year are Owen Terrace businesses Newbery Chemists and My Support Loop, and Drakes Supermarket will provide the electricity to run and operate the event.

Entry is free — so bring the family for a night of food, music and festive fun in the heart of Wallaroo.

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Have a ball at the Village Fair

VICTORIA Square in Kadina will come alive on Saturday, May 17, as the Rotary Village Fair brings a vibrant mix of Cornish culture, family fun and community spirit to the heart of the Copper Coast.

Running from 9am to 3pm, this free event is a highlight of the 2025 Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival, offering something for everyone.

Browse an array of market stalls showcasing local produce, handmade crafts, and unique gifts.

Food vendors will be on-site, serving a variety of delicious options, including the iconic Cornish pasties.

Enjoy live entertainment throughout the day, with performances by local musicians and entertainers.

Children can enjoy amusement rides and interactive activities, ensuring fun for the whole family.

Experience the rich Cornish heritage with traditional Maypole and Furry Dance performances,

presented by local schoolchildren.

These dances, steeped in history, are a visual spectacle not to be missed.

Dress in traditional 19th-century Cornish attire and participate in the Cousin Jack and Jenny Competition.

Categories range from babies to adults, with prizes awarded for the best-dressed individuals and families.

Even if you're not competing, come along to admire the colourful costumes and cheer on the participants.

Step into tradition with the Furry Dance

ONE of Cornwall's oldest and most cherished customs, the Furry Dance (also known as the Flora Dance) is a joyful celebration of community, heritage and the renewal of spring.

People of all ages take part, weaving through the streets to the sound of traditional music.

The Furry Dance is believed to date back centuries and is closely associated with May Day celebrations, marking the end of winter and the arrival of new life in spring.

Originating in Helston, Cornwall, the tradition includes vibrant floral decorations adorning homes and shops.

Dancers often enter houses through one door, twirl through rooms, and exit through another – symbolising the welcoming of life and energy into the home.

At Kernewek Lowender, the Furry Dance brings that same spirit to the Copper Coast.

Festivalgoers can join the fun at Moonta's lively Stret Fer on Friday, or enjoy the colourful procession through Kadina on Saturday.

All are welcome to participate – no dance experience or period costume required, just a willingness to celebrate Cornish culture with joy and energy.

With dresses swirling, music playing, and laughter echoing down the streets, the Furry Dance is a highlight of the festival and a living link to Cornwall's rich cultural past.



STEP IN TIME... Lynn Spurling and Russell Peate lead the Furry Dance at the 2023 Cornish Festival.





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Passing on the pasty tradition



PASTY PERFECT... Wendy Bennetts and June Ladner show participants how to make the iconic Cornish recipe at the 2023 Kernewek Lowender.

Journalist: Michelle Daw

THERE is nothing more Cornish than a Cornish pasty and festival goers at the 2025 Kernewek Lowender have an opportunity to try their hand at making them.

June Ladner, a fifth generation descendent of Cornish immigrants to Moonta, will lead the popular class at the Wallaroo Uniting Church Hall on Wednesday and Saturday, May 14 and 17, as she has for the past eight festivals.

Participants will learn how to make the shortcrust pastry from scratch, cut up the vegetables and meat, then shape the pasty with its distinctive crimp, following a recipe brought out from Cornwall by June's great-great-grandmother in the 1870s.

While the pasties cook in the ovens, participants are treated to a morning tea and, later, they have their completed pasties for lunch.

June says the classes can take up to 50 people and they always book out.

"The secret of its success is that people have so much fun — there is always a lot of chatter," says June, who relishes the chance to share her Cornish culture.

She remembers playing with scraps of pastry under the kitchen table at her Wallaroo home as a 3-year-old, while her mother and grandmother produced Cornish pasties every Saturday morning.

"Later, my first job was to prick the pasties with a fork," June says.

"Pasties are like a pressure cooker when they're in the oven, so the holes let the steam out.

"By the time I was 5, I was allowed to cut up some vegetables. I didn't get to have anything to do with the pasties until I was 9 years old.

"I don't have any written recipes from my mother or grandmother — it was all in their heads."

Participants in the classes learn how to make pasties from scratch, the old-fashioned way.

"Modern implements such as food processors are not going to come anywhere near the place — everything has to be done by hand," June says.

"We have got half a dozen rolling pins and the rest of the participants will have to use old wine or beer bottles to roll out their pastry, just like they did in the old days."

June says the vegetables for a pasty should be chipped into flakes, rather than diced — a skill she admits that even she hasn't mastered.

"My grandma would sit on a chair with a bowl in her lap and she could decimate a potato in a minute," she says.

June says a proper Cornish pasty should be made with shortcrust pastry, not flaky pastry; with finely cut skirt steak, not mince; and it should contain swede, potato, onion and possibly some pumpkin, but never carrots or peas.

When Cornish miners and their families began immigrating to South Australia in mid 1800s to work in the copper mines at Burra, and later, Moonta and Wallaroo Mines, they brought the pasty tradition with them and pasties are still enjoyed in the Copper Coast region today.

The miners used the crimp as a handle so their food was not contaminated by their grubby hands and the crimp would be discarded.

June says she gets some weird and wonderful results when teaching people how to make the crimp, but it's all part of the fun.

"I enjoy passing on pasty-making and I enjoy that other people are having a ball," she says.



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Cruising the Copper Coast



START YOUR ENGINES... Cavalcade coordinator Nick Harris sits in the driver's seat of his 1925 Studebaker, ready to chauffeur Kernewek Lowender event officer Emily Barber and committee president Lynn Spurling.

Journalist: Austinn Lane

ONE of the signature events of the Kernewek Lowender, the RAA Classic Cavalcade of Cars and Motorcycles, is gearing up for another memorable showing in 2025, on Sunday, May 18.

Attracting an average of 600 vehicles, the cavalcade is one of South Australia's largest historical automotive events.

It's been a much-loved part of the Cornish Festival for over 40 years, drawing large crowds with every lap.

This year, RAA returns as the major sponsor, helping bring a refreshed approach to the cavalcade — one that puts drivers at the heart of the experience.

Event organiser Nick Harris has been

involved since the early 1990s, entering alongside his father Brian Harris.

Together, they've showcased a 1973 Buick, a 1925 Studebaker, and a 1983 VH Commodore over the years.

After Brian was invited to coordinate the event in 2025, Nick stepped up to take over planning duties so his father could simply enjoy the day.

"This year, we've taken a slightly different approach," Nick says.

"We wanted to simplify things for entrants but still keep that authentic cavalcade feeling everyone loves."

Gone is the need to pre-register and wait for entry stickers to arrive in the mail.

Now, participants can decide in the week of the event to take part — just show up, pay the entry fee, and join in.

"It ensures that anyone can take part and show off their pride and joy for a relatively cheap day out," Nick says.

"The feedback you get (about your vehicle) is amazing — it really gives you a good feeling about what you have."

The cavalcade kicks off at the Viterra yards in Wallaroo, where gates open from 7am.

Participants can enjoy a hearty breakfast provided by the Bute Lions Club before vehicles set off at 10am.

From there, the route winds through Moonta Bay, Port Hughes and Moonta, before reaching its final destination — the Cavalcade Fun Fair at the Kadina oval.

Along the way, spectators line the streets to watch the cavalcade roll through the Copper Coast.

Two fire trucks from Kadina CFS will lead and close the convoy, helping signal its start and finish.

At the fair, vehicles will be displayed for a Show and Shine, with judging by the Copper Coast Motorsport Club. Trophies and prizes will be up for grabs.

Entry costs \$50 per vehicle, which includes access to the fair and show and shine for everyone inside the vehicle.

"It is a great event for the whole family and a great event for the community," Nick says.

"A big thank you goes to RAA for their continued support, along with the Kadina CFS, Kadina Tennis Club and Copper Coast Motorsport Club, whose volunteers are helping make the cavalcade possible."

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Saturday, May 17, Owen Terrace

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kernewek lowender

Multi-Day Events

Kadina

COPPER COAST VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Monday, 12th – Friday, 16th May, 9am-5pm
Saturday, 17th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-4pm
Venue: 50 Mines Road, Kadina
Entry Fee: Free; Putt Putt golf \$5 per player

Visit the centre to receive extensive information from our friendly staff to plan your stay, including assistance with festival bookings. A large range of souvenirs and local produce available for purchase. Also enjoy a game of Putt Putt on our locally themed course.

THE FARM SHED HERITAGE MUSEUM

Monday, 12th – Friday, 16th May, 9am-5pm
Saturday, 17th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-4pm
Venue: 50 Mines Road, Kadina
Entry Fee: Adults \$12 / school-aged child \$3
Family (2 adults & 2 children) \$30
Pay at CC Visitor Information Centre

Step back in time and take a journey through the famous Matta House, amid a collection of historical buildings and sheds filled with antique treasures. The outstanding machinery collection is interpreted through displays covering many aspects of life on the land. Learn the story of women on farms, from pioneer times to the present day. Take yourself to old school days when you enter a 1950s rural classroom. This wonderful National Trust facility will leave you with renewed appreciation of how far we have come. Allow at least one hour for a visit.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER ART COLLECTION

Monday, 12th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-4pm
Venue: Ascot Gallery, 48 Graves Street, Kadina
Entry Fee: Free

An exhibition of previous Kernewek Lowender Art prize winners and artworks purchased for the collection of the Kernewek Lowender festival.

CORNISH CONNECTION QUILTS AND OTHER QUILTS

Friday, 16th and Saturday, 17th May, 10am-3.30pm
Venue: Wallaroo Mines Institute, Stirling Terrace
Entry Fee: \$5 at the door
Quilt display and Cornish Cream Teas.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER ART PRIZE EXHIBITION

Thursday, 15th – Saturday, 17th May, 10am-4pm
Sunday, 18th May, 10am-1pm
Venue: Kadina Town Hall, 51 Taylor Street
Entry Fee: Free

This prestigious art award has been a major part of the Kernewek celebration over the years, enjoyed by all, including the artists who have entered the Kernewek Lowender Art Prize. The winning artist and category winners announced at the Opening Night on Thursday, 15th May. Artwork is for sale, catalogue available at the door.

KADINA AH&F SOCIETY WEDDING GOWNS 1870S-2000

Wednesday, 14th – Sunday, 18th May 10am-4pm
Venue: Kadina Showgrounds, Exhibition Building, cnr Mines and Agery Roads (enter via Mines Road), Kadina
Entry Fee: \$5pp children U12 free

Step back in time and view this beautiful collection of wedding attire. Coffee shop including Cornish Cream teas available.

KADINA CHURCH OF CHRIST CHAPEL AND HISTORY DISPLAY

Wednesday, 14th – Friday, 16th May, 10am-1pm
Saturday, 17th May, 10am-4pm
Venue: 7 Taylor Street, Kadina
Entry Fee: Free

History, photos and records of activities of the Church of Christ congregation from 1900 onward, displayed within the Church of Christ Chapel built in 1920. Chapel and hall will also be open for Sunday morning service at 10.30am, followed by morning tea.

CORNISH HIGH TEA

Wednesday, 14th – Saturday, 17th May, 10am-1pm
Venue: Kadina Church of Christ, 7 Taylor Street
Entry: \$15 incl. tea and a wide variety of Cornish Foods. Cornish sweets also available to purchase.

YP FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Monday, 12th – Friday, 16th May
10am-12 noon, 2pm-4pm
Saturday, 17th May by appointment only
Venue: Kadina Community Library
Doswell Terrace, Kadina
Entry Fee: Donation

The Yorke Peninsula Family History Group is open to help visitors research their family history which is linked to the Copper Coast; local family information.

COPPER COAST PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB – PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Monday, 12th – Thursday, 15th May, 6am-8.30pm
Friday, 16th May, 6am-7pm
Saturday, 17th May, 8am-1pm
Sunday, 18th May, 9am-12 noon
Venue: Copper Coast Sport & Leisure Centre
1 Doswell Terrace, Kadina
Entry Fee: Free event

An exhibition of club members' photographs featuring images of the Copper Coast area as well as general photographic images. Selected photographs available for sale.

Wallaroo

WALLAROO SILO LIGHT SHOW

Every day from 6pm during May
Venue: Wallaroo Silos, northern side
Entry Fee: This is a free event

The Wallaroo Silo Light Show plays just after sunset to showcase South Australia's Copper Coast — celebrating our unique history, events and local artists. During the month of May, the display will feature images relating to the Kernewek Lowender and our proud Cornish history and heritage. Best viewing from Jetty Road. Tune in to 88.3FM for audio.

WALLAROO HERITAGE AND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Monday, 12th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-4pm
Venue: Jetty Road, Wallaroo
Entry Fee: Adults \$7, children \$4
For group bookings phone (08) 8823 3015 or email whmn@adam.com.au

Explore four buildings of Wallaroo's fascinating history! Maritime history, copper smelting history, general local history displays, "George" the Giant Squid, large shell collection, railway history, the war years, over 100 model ships. Discover how the Welsh and Cornish settled historical Wallaroo, souvenirs, local history books.



2025

COPPER COAST CORNISH FESTIVAL OFFICIAL PROGRAM

WALLAROO HISTORICAL WALK

Thursday, 15th – Sunday, 18th May, 2pm-4pm
Venue: Guided tours to depart from the Wallaroo Museum, Jetty Road

Entry Fee: \$15 includes entry to the museum.
Bookings essential. Ph (08) 8823 3015
or email whmn@adam.com.au

Enjoy a guided tour around the beautiful seaside town of Wallaroo with one of our experienced tour guides.

Moonta

NORTHERN YORKE PENINSULA QUILTERS EXHIBITION

Wednesday, 14th – Thursday, 15th May, 10am-4pm
Friday, 16th May, 9.30am-4pm

Saturday, 17th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-3.30pm
Venue: Moonta Town Hall, George Street, Moonta
Entry Fee: \$4 at the door

Quilt exhibition and trading table. Trading table proceeds to the Wallaroo Hospital Auxiliary.

MOONTA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Monday, 12th – Friday, 16th May, 9am-5pm
Saturday, 17th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-3pm
Venue: Old Railway Station, Blanche Terrace, Moonta
Entry Fee: Free

This beautiful building was erected by Gambling & Son and opened in 1909. It is now home to the Moonta Visitor and Information Centre. We have well-informed staff offering suggestions of “what to do” during your visit to the Copper Coast, “where to eat” and extensive information to ensure you make the most of your visit to our region.

ROAD TRAM TOUR – MOONTA TOWNSHIP

Monday, 12th – Thursday, 15th May, 10.30am & 2pm
Venue: Moonta Visitor Information Centre
Old Railway Station, Blanche Terrace

Entry Fee: \$5pp
Ticketing: Call 8825 1891; limited availability,
bookings essential
NO BOOKINGS ON THE DAY

Take a tour on this unique Road Tram around the streets of Moonta. A tour guide will tell the story of the history of the Cornish miners' settlement of this historic town. Many of its buildings are heritage listed. Disabled access available. Proudly brought to you by the National Trust of South Australia.

MOONTA MINES SWEET SHOP

Monday, 12th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-4pm daily
Venue: Moonta Mines National Heritage Precinct
Verran Terrace, Moonta Mines

Entry Fee: Free, sweets available to purchase

The lolly shop is in the former Moonta Mines Post Office, which was built in 1946 and operated until the mid 1970s. Selling a wide range of traditional old-fashioned sweets and English lollies as well as old-fashioned traditional soft drinks such as Ginger Beer. A favourite over the years with locals and visitors, many bringing the younger generations back to show them where they loved to visit during their childhood. Run by a dedicated team of volunteers from the National Trust of South Australia.

MOONTA HISTORY CENTRE

Monday, 12th – Sunday, 18th May 10am-4pm daily
Venue: School of Mines, Ellen Street, Moonta
Entry Fee: \$5pp at the door

“Moonta Mines 1861-1923” – See a display of the infrastructure of the Moonta Mines as well as a family history of the residents who lived in Ballarat Row. Talk to the historians and find your possible connection to the famous Cornish miners and their families who made Moonta their home to become “Australia’s Little Cornwall”.

MOONTA MINES TOURIST RAILWAY

Wednesday, 14th May, 2pm; Thursday, 15th and Friday, 16th May, 1pm and 2pm; Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th May, 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm and 2pm
Venue: Moonta Mines Railway Station, Verran Terrace, Moonta Mines – near Moonta Mines Museum.

Entry Fee: \$12 adults, \$5 school aged child
Ticketing: Online up to 12 hours in advance
via www.moontaheritage.com.au or on the day at the ticket office at the venue.
Limited availability

Take a 50 minute ride on this award-winning tourist train – through the historic landmarks of the Moonta Mines. Commentary explaining the operations of the mines, once the backbone of the South Australian economy and the largest copper mine in the Southern Hemisphere. Learn how the Cornish miners became renowned worldwide for their unique mining skills. The railway is maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers. Proudly brought to you by the National Trust of South Australia Moonta branch.

MINER’S COTTAGE AND GARDEN

Wednesday, 14th May, 10am-4pm
Saturday, 17th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-4pm
Venue: Miner’s Cottage, Verco Street, Moonta Mines
Entry Fee: \$5pp at the door

Hear the story of the family who inhabited this traditional miner’s cottage, established around 1870. This self-guided tour will walk you through this cottage initially made with wattle and daub. As the family grew, they added to the cottage in several stages with whatever materials were available. The garden is a sensual oasis set amongst the skimp dumps and is proudly maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers.

MOONTA MINES MUSEUM

Monday, 12th – Sunday, 18th May, 10am-4pm daily
Venue: Moonta Mines National Heritage Precinct
Verran Terrace, Moonta Mines

Entry Fee: Adults \$8, children \$4
Ticketing: Pay at venue or online website

The museum is located in the former Moonta Mines Model School. Housing thematic displays on the Cornish Miners’ lifestyles. The museum is run by the dedicated National Trust of SA Moonta branch volunteers. Attendants will be dressed in period style attire.

Single-Day Events

Monday, May 12

SA COUNTRY SHOWCASE “A GOOD MATES NIGHT OUT”

Time: 7pm-10.30pm
Venue: Wallaroo Town Hall, Irwine Street
Ticketing: Bookings via www.kernewek.org website
link under tickets

Entry Fee: Adults \$25, children U15 \$15
Supper to be purchased on the night

A popular event of the Kernewek Lowender. Featuring South Australian and local artists. BYO knee rug and pillow if needed.

MOONTA CEMETERY WALK

Time: 1pm
Venue: Moonta Cemetery, 5 Retallick Road
Entry Fee: Adults \$8/children free
Bookings via www.kernewek.org website
link under tickets

Discover the stories, history and hardship of the Cornish miners and their families during a guided tour of the Moonta Cemetery with Cornish Bard, Liz Coole, President of the Cornish Association of SA Yorke Peninsula branch.

Tuesday, May 13

DRESSING THE GRAVES – GREENS PLAINS WEST CEMETERY

Time: 10am-12 noon
Venue: Greens Plains Cemetery – turn right (south) off Copper Coast Highway into West Ella Road, then right (west) onto Paskeville Road Cemetery is set back from road

Entry Fee: Free event

Dressing the Graves is a ceremony which honours ancestors buried in Greens Plains Cemetery. Citations developed from family history research are read at the graveside, flowers and the citation are then placed on the grave by relatives. Schoolchildren assist.

DRESSING THE GRAVES – WALLAROO

Time: 1pm-3pm
Venue: Wallaroo Cemetery, 11040 Spencer Highway
Entry Fee: Free event

A moving ceremony held to honour ancestors buried in Wallaroo Cemetery. Citations developed from family history research are read at the graveside and placed on the grave by relatives along with flowers. This year will have everyday people as the theme.

Wednesday, May 14

DRESSING THE GRAVES – KADINA

Time: 10am-12 noon
Venue: Kadina Cemetery, 122 Russack Road
Entry fee: Free event

A moving ceremony held to honour ancestors buried in the Kadina Cemetery. Local choirs sing, citations are read and placed on the graves with flowers. This is a memorable experience and opportunity to gain unique knowledge about the history of those who lived in the area. Everyday people will be honoured.

CORNISH PASTY MAKING CLASS

Time: 10am-12.30pm
Venue: Wallaroo Uniting Church Hall
Entry Fee: \$27pp
Ticketing: Online via www.kernewek.org website and at the Kernewek Lowender Office, Kadina

There’s nothing quite as Cornish as a pasty. You can learn how to make your own Cornish pasty using an old family recipe brought from Cornwall in the 1870s and the hand utensils available at the time. Morning tea will be provided. This event is noted for the chatter and laughter of participants and the marvellous success rate of novice cooks.

DRESSING THE GRAVES – MOONTA

Time: 1pm-3pm
Venue: Moonta Cemetery, 5 Retallick Road
Entry Fee: Free event

Moonta’s ceremony begins with a re-enactment of a funeral procession of the era. A moving ceremony held to honour ancestors buried in the Moonta Cemetery. Citations developed from family history research are read at the graveside, and placed on the grave by relatives along with flowers.

FEAST OR FAMINE DINNER

Time: 6pm
Venue: Kadina Uniting Church Hall
Entry fee: \$50 per person, bookings via website
www.kernewek.org — link under tickets

In the old days, sometimes there was food and sometimes there wasn’t. Cornish miners were very poor because they were paid so little. We have made a feast of five courses from their poverty-stricken pantries. The food is prepared by experienced country cooks. It will be a fun adventure in food. There will be a convivial atmosphere and live music. This is a great night out. Don’t miss it. Please advise any dietary requirements when booking.



2025 COPPER COAST CORNISH FESTIVAL OFFICIAL PROGRAM

CORNISH LANGUAGE LESSON FOR BEGINNERS

Venue: Moonta RSL, 59 George Street

Time: 10am-12 noon

Entry Fee: \$20pp, bookings via website

www.kernewek.org — link under tickets

This lesson teaches everyday expressions in Cornish. Written exercises in booklet provided teach days of the week, months of the year and a simple grace. Conducted by Lilian James OAM, a Cornish Bard. Morning tea supplied.

Thursday, May 15

CORNISH HISTORY SEMINAR “CORNISH AUSTRALIANS IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE”

Time: 8.30am for 9am start, till 3.45pm

Venue: Kadina Football and Netball Clubrooms

1 Doswell Terrace, Kadina

Entry Fee: \$75pp, please book prior to May 10th
for catering purposes,

via www.kernewek.org website

Features papers given by presenters from several states showing where Cornish born, or people of Cornish descent, have made significant contributions in public life. For example, in political or judicial life, the media and the creative arts, education and innovative programs, community programs such as Kernewek Lowender, social welfare, or sport. The full day event includes bound copies of the papers, refreshments and lunch. For dietary requirements please email kernewek@coppercoast.sa.gov.au prior to May 10th.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER ART PRIZE OPENING NIGHT

Time: 7pm

Venue: Kadina Town Hall, 51 Taylor Street

Entry Fee: \$15, bookings via www.kernewek.org
website link under tickets

A delightful evening held to launch the 2025 Kernewek Lowender Art Prize. An opportunity to view a collection of quality artworks, meet the artists, enjoy music and refreshments and be present for the announcement of winners of the biennial art awards. All artworks are for sale. The exhibition remains open until 1pm on Sunday, May 18th.

FERN AND ME COFFEE HOUSE – PLOUGHMAN’S LUNCH

Time: 11am-2pm

Venue: Fern and Me Coffee House

31 Graves Street, Kadina

To celebrate the Kernewek Lowender we will be hosting a Ploughman's Lunch, consisting of crusty bread, fruit, cheeses, chutneys and ham/beef. Assorted cakes, cookies, desserts, refreshing drinks and perfect specialty coffee available all day in house.

KWM BAND

Time: 7.30pm-10pm

Venue: Wallaroo Town Hall, Irwine Street

Entry Fee: \$20 tickets available at the door and via
www.kernewek.org website link under
tickets (\$2 booking fee)

The Kadina Wallaroo Moonta Band is in its 162nd year and is still proud to be entertaining audiences on the Copper Coast. The band has a very ardent following as we play tuneful and popular music and the Thursday night concert is always very well attended. Start your visit off with a truly wonderful evening of toe tapping music and country friendship.

Friday, May 16

SUP AND SING WITH THE CORNISH

Time: 6.15pm-9.30pm, doors open at 5.45pm.

Groups are encouraged to arrive early to sit
together, as tickets are not numbered

Venue: Wallaroo Town Hall, Irwine Street

Entry Fee: \$50pp, bookings essential prior to May
10th. Bookings via www.kernewek.org
website link under tickets

The evening consists of a 3-course meal, including a Cornish pasty, and a concert including guest artists from the Cornish Association of South Australia, and some visitors to Kernewek Lowender, with community singing of some Cornish favourites. Swanky and lemonade will be available for purchase. EFTPOS facilities will be available. Please dress warmly and/or bring a rug, as the hall is not heated. For dietary requirements, please contact kernewek@coppercoast.sa.gov.au prior to May 10th.

ORGAN RECITAL

Time: 2pm

Venue: Moonta Mines Church

Tickets: \$20 www.kernewek.org

Ron Newton, who has Cornish ancestors, is from New Zealand, has an international reputation and regularly plays at Dunedin Cathedral. He has chosen a variety of music to showcase the organ. In addition, there will be some wonderful singing from our guest artists.

DRAKE’S LOWENDER PARADE

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Starting at George Street continuing
to William Street, Moonta

A Grand Procession made up of local and visiting groups, clubs, organisations and businesses demonstrating their connection to both Cornish and local heritage. Moving through the town's main street and finishing at the iconic Queen Square.

MOONTA STRET FER

Time: 10am-5pm

Venue: Moonta Queen Square

Blending a mixture of traditional and contemporary offerings including rides, food and beverage, souvenirs and South Australian products. Alongside our iconic events, in 2025 we have on offer a new array of events.

SWANKY GARDEN

Time: 10.30am-5pm

Venue: Queen Square, Moonta

The first year for this event, a designated area for you to sit back and enjoy the festivities of the day. Swanky beer and other drinks available.

THE OFFICIAL WELCOME

The official welcome to the 2025 Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival will take place at 11.15am at the official stage on the Rotunda in Queen Square. Includes welcome speeches from the Official Party and features the Australian and Cornish national anthems.

RADIO MAGIC FM & 5CS MAYPOLE DANCING

Time: Following the Official Opening at 11.45am
and again at 2pm

Venue: Queen Square, Moonta

Entry Fee: Free display

The Maypole Dance is a traditional dance performed in Cornwall in celebration of May Day, heralding the onset of Spring. Performed several times during the festival, costumed schoolchildren dance in a circle holding a coloured ribbon attached to a large pole. The dancers then retrace their steps exactly in order to unravel the ribbons. There are numerous different dances performed, each with its unique combination of steps creating an array of varied patterns.

RADIO MAGIC FM & 5CS FURRY DANCE

Time: 12.30pm

Venue: Queen Square, Moonta

Entry Fee: Free display

The Furry Dance is one of the oldest traditional Cornish customs. Watch dancers dressed in authentic costume dance and weave their way around the square in one of the festival's most popular events.

APEX PASTY BAKE-OFF

Time: 1.30pm

Venue: Queen Square, Moonta

Entry fee: Free event

VIP guests, invited guests and local students bake-off in a race to be the first to make the best pasty from scratch. Be part of the fun and cheer them on as the vegetables are chopped and the pastry crimped to make the best Cornish pasty.

Saturday, May 17

ROTARY VILLAGE FAIR

Time: 8.30am-2pm

Venue: Victoria Square, Digby Street, Kadina CBD

Entry Fee: Free

Loads of fun for the whole family. There are market stalls to roam and enjoy with lots of local produce, food trucks, amusement rides and entertainment. Buy a traditional Cornish pasty from the NYP Rotary Club stall.

COUSIN JACK & JENNY COMPETITION

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Victoria Square paved area, corner of
Graves and Digby Streets, Kadina

Entry Fee: Free — Registration via www.kernewek.org
or from 9am on the day

Dress up in traditional Cornish attire and vie for a prize as best dressed in one of the many categories including babies, sub-juniors, juniors, intermediate, adult and family, or be a part of the fun and watch the entrants parade in their costumes.

RADIO MAGIC FM & 5CS MAYPOLE DANCING

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Kadina CBD

Entry fee: Free display

The Maypole Dance is a traditional dance performed in Cornwall in celebration of May Day, heralding the onset of Spring. Performed several times during the festival, costumed schoolchildren dance in a circle holding a coloured ribbon attached to a large pole. The dancers then retrace their steps exactly in order to unravel the ribbons. There are numerous different dances performed, each with its unique combination of steps creating an array of varied patterns.

FURRY DANCE

Time: 12.30pm

Venue: Kadina CBD

Entry fee: Free entry

The Furry Dance is one of the oldest traditional Cornish customs. Be a part of the crowds which line the streets to watch adults and children, dressed in authentic costume, dance and weave their way along the street. It's one of the festival's most popular events.

GATHERING OF THE BARDS

Time: 2.30pm-3.30pm

Venue: Wallaroo Town Hall

Entry Fee: Free event

This is an ancient ceremony, conducted in the Cornish language. Cornish Bards from around Australia, wearing traditional blue flowing robes, proceed into the Bardic Circle, where the ceremony includes songs and young local dancers, with harp accompaniment. This event is sponsored by Diana Hancock, Patron of Kernewek Lowender.



2025

COPPER COAST CORNISH FESTIVAL OFFICIAL PROGRAM

NEWBERY CHEMISTS/ MY SUPPORT LOOP WALLAROO STREET PARTY

Time: 3pm-8pm
Venue: Owen Terrace, Wallaroo
Entry Fee: Free

Come along and enjoy as Owen Terrace plays host to the Newbery Chemists/My Support Loop Wallaroo Street Party. Local entertainers will be featured during the event, as you enjoy a selection of food and beverages from local vendors. You will discover this event has something fun for all ages with performers and face painting for your little ones.

TRIPLE B CAFÉ FAMILY FUN DAY

Time: 9am-2pm
Venue: Triple B Café, 4B Evans Road, North Wallaroo
Entry Fee: \$5 per child

Kids' Cornish pasty lesson to take home with them, kids' activity classes, colouring in competition, indoor and outdoor games

KERNEWEK LOWENDER CUP WALLAROO V MOONTA HERITAGE FOOTBALL AND NETBALL

Time: 9.30am
Venue: Wallaroo Oval, 2B Cornish Terrace, Wallaroo
Entry Fee: \$10 at the gate

Local rival football and netball clubs from the Copper Coast towns of Wallaroo and Moonta face off in football and netball contests. The A grade football teams vie for the coveted Kernewek Lowender Cup and cash prizes. Come and enjoy the atmosphere of a typical country football and netball competition.

RADIO MAGIC FM & 5CS MAYPOLE DANCING

Time: At the conclusion of the Bardic Ceremony, 3.15pm
Venue: Wallaroo Town Hall
Entry fee: Free display

The Maypole Dance is a traditional dance performed in Cornwall in celebration of 'May Day', heralding the onset of Spring. Performed several times during the festival, costumed schoolchildren dance in a circle holding a coloured ribbon attached to a large pole. The dancers then retrace their steps exactly in order to unravel the ribbons. There are numerous different dances performed, each with its unique combination of steps creating an array of varied patterns.

CORNISH PASTY MAKING CLASS

Time: 10am-12.30pm
Entry Fee: \$27pp
Venue: Wallaroo Uniting Church Hall
Ticketing: Online via www.kernewek.org website and at the Kernewek Lowender Office, Kadina

There's nothing quite as Cornish as a pasty. You can learn how to make your own Cornish pasty using an old family recipe brought from Cornwall in the 1870s and the hand utensils available at the time. Morning tea will be provided. This event is noted for the chatter and laughter of participants and the marvellous success rate of novice cooks.

The Classic Cavalcade of Cars and Motorcycles convoy gathers at Kadina Oval, giving the public a closer look at the magnificent machines. Enjoy the fun of the fair with entertainment for the whole family and a variety of food, drink and merchandise stalls, including Cornish pasties and the festival's famous Swanky beer. Music and dancing display by The Legends Rock and Roll Club.

HERITAGE CONCERT

Time: 1pm – 3pm
Venue: Moonta Mines Church
Entry Fee: No set fee, during the concert an offering will be collected. Booking not required.

Finish the festival in style! Come to the historical Moonta Mines Church and enjoy choirs, instrumentalists and singers as they present a variety of music, both sacred and popular. Enthusiastically join the community hymn singing and have a happy time in the present as well as hearing fascinating details of our Cornish past.

AUSSIE BREAKFAST

Time: 7.30am-11am
Venue: Wallaroo Sailing Club, 3 Heritage Drive
Entry Fee: \$10 at the venue

Hungry? Aussie breakfast of sausage, bacon, egg, tomato and toast. Enjoy the Wallaroo Sailing Club's hospitality. Indulge yourself in a relaxing breakfast, admiring the great sea view of the bay from inside the clubhouse or outside on the deck while sipping champagne. Orange juice, tea or coffee also available.

BLESSING THE WATERS

Time: 8am
Venue: Lawns by The Shores Eatery, Jetty Road, Wallaroo
Entry Fee: Free event

This foreshore setting is the ideal venue for this morning Blessing the Waters ceremony. It is an event which remembers the hardships of previous generations, many of whom sailed from faraway lands to Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta in the hope of striking copper.

Sunday, May 18

RAA CAVALCADE FUN FAIR

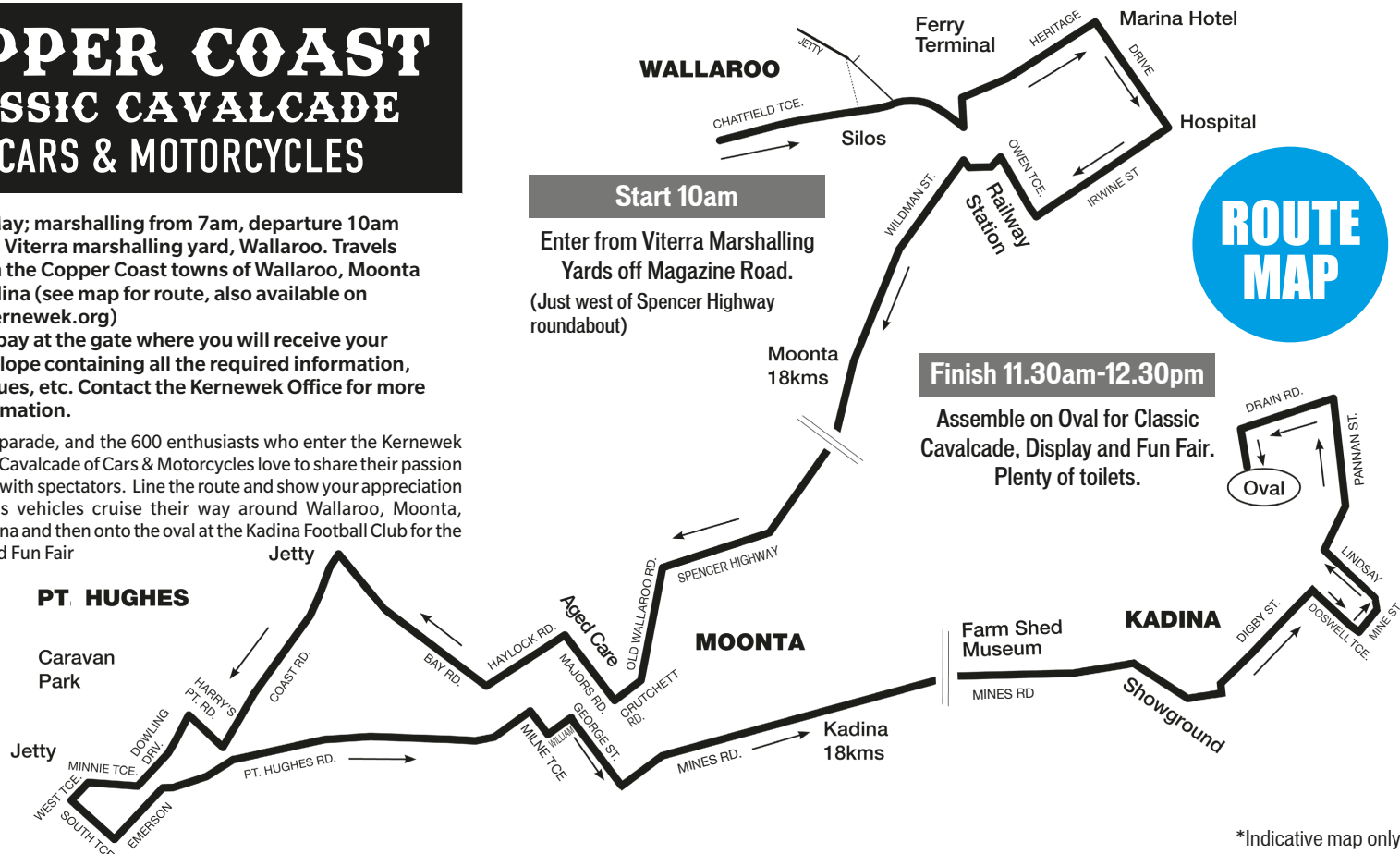
Time: Gates open to the public at 11.30am until 3pm
Venue: Kadina Oval, 1 Doswell Terrace
Entry Fee: Adults\$7, children U15 free. Bookings via www.kernewek.org website link under tickets. Entry fee can be paid at the gate

COPPER COAST CLASSIC CAVALCADE OF CARS & MOTORCYCLES

Sunday, 18th May; marshalling from 7am, departure 10am
Venue: Departs Viterra marshalling yard, Wallaroo. Travels through the Copper Coast towns of Wallaroo, Moonta and Kadina (see map for route, also available on www.kernewek.org)

Entry Fee: \$50 pay at the gate where you will receive your envelope containing all the required information, plaques, etc. Contact the Kernewek Office for more information.

Everyone loves a parade, and the 600 enthusiasts who enter the Kernewek Lowender Classic Cavalcade of Cars & Motorcycles love to share their passion and their vehicles with spectators. Line the route and show your appreciation as these fabulous vehicles cruise their way around Wallaroo, Moonta, Port Hughes, Kadina and then onto the oval at the Kadina Football Club for the Show 'n' Shine and Fun Fair



Honouring the people who built our communities

Journalist: Sarah Herrmann

EVERYDAY people are a focus of this festival’s Dressing the Graves events.

Convenor Sue Stanley says it has been her goal to honour the common person ever since taking on the role.

“These communities were built not just by the high and mighty, not just by the mayors and the captains,” she says.

“They were built by the people who went down the mines and the women that supported them by cooking their meals and raising their phenomenally large families.

“It’s a matter of the story that they tell and what they tell us about history.”

One grave being dressed belongs to two children of Uriah C. W. Marshall, a former head keeper of the Tipara Lightship (which preceded the lighthouse on Tipara Reef, Moonta Bay).

In 1872, Ernest Alfred died on January 24, aged 3 years and 10 months, from hydrocephalus, and Mary Louisa died on June 6, aged 13 months, from convulsions.

“When I was approached about the Marshall children, my heart went out to them,” Mrs Stanley says.

“I must admit, I was in the cemetery the other week and I actually leant over the fence, talking to the children — I’ve adopted them.

“The two children are there and their



parents and other siblings are buried in Kapunda.

“It’s almost as if they’ve been abandoned; when Dad left the marine board, the children were left behind.”

Ernest and Mary’s formerly untidy and vandalised grave in Moonta Cemetery was restored late last year with the help of local community groups.

Members of the Moonta Men’s Shed

and the Moonta and District Progress Association replicated a new fence for the site, while Shaun Mercer from Goerecke Memorials expertly restored the original headstone, which had been broken into several pieces.

At Kadina Cemetery, Charles James — believed to have worked as a pickey boy — will be honoured.

“His father died when he was 9, he

became the sole support for his mother and three siblings, and he died at 14 of diphtheria,” Mrs Stanley says.

“His mum was partially blind so couldn’t do inside work and most of the children ended up working in the mines.

“To completely go the other way, at Wallaroo we’re honouring Robert Buck Jnr, who was a sailor on the Rapid and came out with Colonel Light.”

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2025 Dressing the Graves nominees

Greens Plains West Cemetery (10am to noon, Tuesday, May 13): William Henry Bayliss, Eileen Doran, William George Drewett, Norma Walter Plaisted, Emily Price, Marcus Herbert Clift Price.

Wallaroo Cemetery (1pm to 3pm, Tuesday, May 13): Robert Buck Jnr, Mary Ann Cannon, Margaret Davies, Karl Ernst Friedrich Kruse, John Liddy, Edith Masters, Wilhelmina Dorothea Meadows, William John Williams.

Kadina Cemetery (10am to noon, Wednesday, May 14): William Callaghan, James Harris, Thomas Heaven, John Sanders Ivey, Charles James, George Langdon, Keith Ellis Moyle, Sarah Jane Rule.

Moonta Cemetery (1pm to 3pm, Wednesday, May 14): Arthur Edmund Freeman, James Ross Harbison OAM, George Hicks, Olive Emily Hosking, Ernest Albert and Mary Louise Marshall, Simon Roberts, John Symons, Elizabeth (Lissa) Wilton.



DRESSING THE GRAVES... Pioneering matriarch Emma Way (nee Wilson) was honoured at Wallaroo Cemetery during the 2023 Kernewek Lowender. Pictured are Wendy Morony, Cheryl Morony, Amanda Shields, Kym Morony, Naomi Miettunen, Kari Miettunen, Ruth Shields, Janet Spry, Bev Tobin and Jenny Lydeamore. Left: **HISTORY...** Trevor Bowden, Graham Colliver, Steven Stock, Graham Hancock, Robyn Knight, Shaun Mercer, Barbara Schilling, Ashley Schilling and Neil Windsor all lent a hand in the restoration of the Marshall children's grave, which will be dressed as part of the 2025 Kernewek Lowender.

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Holders of history

THOUGH the Middle Ages tradition of the gathering of the bards originally died out in Cornwall during the 11th century, the Cornish of the Copper Coast are one of the few diaspora groups keeping their ancestors' culture alive with their own interpretation of the archaic tradition.

Australia's Cornish first began the return of this tradition back in 1983, at the site of the former Wallaroo Mines Methodist Church.

“Bardic ceremonies are conducted entirely in the Cornish language.”

This movement mimics the proclamation ceremony held in a different location each year in Cornwall, to announce the ceremony, held on the first Saturday in September.

The ceremonies have also been held in various parts of Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT, in the years between the local Kernewek Lowender festivals.

Cornish Association South Australia president Noel Carthew says it was a short proclamation ceremony, rather than the full ceremony that has been held at the

Kernewek Lowender every year since.

Since then, ceremonies have been held in the Moonta Mines, Moonta square, Kadina square, and Davies Square in Wallaroo, but this year the ceremony will be held in the Wallaroo Town Hall.

It will be led by the current Bardh Meur (Grand Bard) Jenefer Lowe, or otherwise known by her Cornish name Gwythvosen, which means honeysuckle.

She was barded in 1979, and became Deputy Grand Bard in 2021.

The Bardh Meur will be wearing a copper plastron, donated by the late Cecil Beer, a former Deputy Bardh Meur, who donated the plastron while living in South Australia.

“The bardic ceremonies are conducted entirely in the Cornish language,” Mr Carthew says.

Traditionally bards were keepers of knowledge who orally recited Celtic histories, while wearing traditional blue flowing robes.

“Bardship is conferred in recognition of service to Cornwall or Cornish heritage; there are currently 37 ‘Bards of Cornwall’ in Australia, though a total of 89 Australians have received this honour over the past century,” he says.

At the ceremony, Cornish bards will proceed into the Bardic Circle, where the ceremony includes songs and young local dancers, with harp accompaniment.



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Tradition in full swing

AS ALWAYS, the next generation will play a key role in the Kernewek Lowender.

Young people traditionally take part by dressing in Cornish costumes, learning cultural dances and participating in community events such as the Dressing the Graves ceremonies, Lowender Parade and Maypole Dancing — and this year is no exception.

Attendees will have several opportunities to see the fruits of the students’ hard work learning the Maypole Dance, with three displays scheduled: at Moonta’s Stret Fer on Friday, and in Kadina and Wallaroo on Saturday.

The Maypole Dance has pagan origins and was used to celebrate fertility and new life in spring.

Like many pagan traditions, it was later adopted by Christians, and by the Middle Ages, most villages in what is now Great Britain held annual celebrations featuring a maypole.

The original maypoles were large trees decorated and danced around in the forest. Over time, it became common to cut the tree down and bring it into the village.

Kernewek Lowender president Lynn Spurling has coordinated the Maypole Dance with Copper Coast students since the late 1980s.

Back then, she was a calisthenics coach and saw the event as a good fit for her skills.

In the early days, each school had its own maypole (or two), and students danced to piano music recorded by Val Adams.

As part of the Maypole Dance, students move in a circle holding coloured ribbons attached to a tall pole, then retrace their steps to unravel the ribbons.

There are several stages to the maypole movement, with different patterns created along the way — but dancing is only part of it.

Children also sit at the base of the poles to ensure they stay stable for the dancers.



TWIST AND TWIRL... Copper Coast’s schoolchildren are helping keep the maypole magic alive at the 2025 Kernewek Lowender.

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Dance, sing, sup with th



“We are honoured to be representing Cornwall at this very special and historical event which celebrates the success of the Cornish diaspora in Australia.”

— Hilary Coleman, clarinettist and singer

ROLICKING... Clarinettist and singer Hilary Coleman and multi-instrumentalist Neil Davey perform as leading Cornish music act, Dalla Duo, and will play at Sup and Sing with the Cornish.

Journalist: Michelle Daw

TWO renowned musicians will travel from Cornwall to bring the best of traditional Cornish music to the Kernewek Lowender, from wild and mesmerising dance tunes to haunting ballads.

Clarinettist and singer Hilary Coleman and multi-instrumentalist Neil Davey, who perform as Dalla Duo, will play at Sup and Sing with the Cornish at Wallaroo Town Hall on Friday, May 16.

The evening will feature a three-course meal, including a Cornish pasty, the performance by Dalla Duo, and community singing of Cornish favourites. Lemonade and a traditional Cornish style of beer, known as Swanky, will be available for sale.

As part of their participation in the festival, Hilary and Neil will also visit local schools, where they will play music for the students, and teach them some songs in the Cornish language and some Cornish dances.

Hilary says the 2025 Kernewek Lowender will mark their first visit to the Copper Coast, known as Australia’s Little Cornwall.

“It will be fascinating to discover the connections with Cornwall,” she says.

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e Cornish

“We are honoured to be representing Cornwall at this very special and historical event which celebrates the success of the Cornish diaspora in Australia.”

Hilary says there has been a revived interest in Cornish music within Cornwall.

“We put on dance events called nos lowen, which means happy nights, and they are proving to be so!” she said.

“There are a lot of young people getting involved and new bands springing up.

“Just like other traditional Celtic music, we have jigs, polkas, marches and waltzes but we also have Furry Dances, as in the famous processional dance that occurs during Helston Flora Day in May.

“Less well known but growing in popularity, are 5/4 dances known as the Kabm Pymp or five step.”

Hilary and Neil are co-founders of the band Dalla and have done much to revive and celebrate the Celtic music of Cornwall.

They have both been made bards of the Cornish Gorseth for their services to Cornish music.

Neil plays bouzouki, fiddle and mandolin, and began touring and

recording in the late 1970s and early 1980s with his brothers in the much-loved Cornish band, Bucca.

He went on to gain a wealth of experience with bands in the wider Celtic scene, and has played throughout the world, appearing alongside legendary names such as Altan, Donal Lunny, Dougie Maclean and Martin Hayes. He has also produced two books on traditional Cornish music, Fooch volumes 1 and 2.

Hilary began singing and playing Cornish songs more than 30 years ago. She is a practising musician, teacher and researcher in Cornish music. She co-founded several Cornish bands before Dalla, and has toured extensively and recorded several albums.

She is the music director of the Cornish folk choir Red River Singers and has produced song books and recordings with them. Hilary has also written books on Cornish pub songs and carols, which both won awards.

Sup and Sing with the Cornish will be held at Wallaroo Town Hall from 6.15pm to 9.30pm on Friday, May 16, with doors open from 5.45pm. Tickets are \$50.

Music at Moonta Mines

Written by: June Ladner

THE Cornish loved music and the people who formed the early congregations of the historic Moonta Mines Church were no exception.

The church was built in 1865 by members of the Wesleyan Methodist community who had come to Moonta, primarily from Cornwall, to work in the copper mines.

The parishioners formed a large concert band, a brass band, and a competition-winning, mixed voice choir. The congregation sang all their hymns in four parts. However, what they lacked and longed for was a pipe organ.

In 1888, they had raised enough money, topped up with a generous donation from local mine superintendent Captain Henry Hancock, to afford a second-hand pipe organ.

Installing it was a challenge. A hole had to be cut in the back wall of the church and the building extended to house the organ which has more than 600 pipes.

The organ was totally reconditioned about 30 years ago and is to be featured at the two music events being held at the church during the festival.

Ron Newton, an acclaimed organist from New Zealand and an expert on historical organs, will give a recital at 2pm on Friday, May 16, supported by emerging artists, Adelaide soprano Leila Bruce, and clarinetist Ezra Lockwood, who grew up in Balaklava.

The Lobethal Harmony Club will be the



MAGNIFICENT... The pipe organ at the Moonta Mines church will be the centrepiece of two performances during the 2025 Kernewek Lowender.

featured artists at the Heritage Concert at 1pm on Sunday, May 18.

This male voice choir has an outstanding reputation and has been supporting community events for more than 100 years.

Ron Newton will contribute to the program, a speaker will talk about local history and Moonta locals Craig Woodward and Trevor Bowden, who are members of the Adelaide Plains Male Voice Choir, will perform as a duo.

There will also be community singing of old hymns in the Cornish style.

These two events have been specifically designed to honour the music heritage of the Cornish.

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Keeping Cornish culture alive

Journalist: Joanna Tucker

THE Cornish Association of South Australia has proudly preserved and promoted Cornish heritage in South Australia since 1890.

Based in Adelaide, CASA is the world’s oldest continually operating Cornish association and has been involved in every Kernewek Lowender since its inception in 1973.

However, despite its rich history, the association is facing challenges.

CASA president Noel Carthew says the group is struggling with age, health and declining membership — an issue shared by many small community groups, especially since Covid.

“Most members are more interested in the Cornwall their ancestors left over 150 years ago, while newer arrivals from Cornwall often prefer a more casual connection, like pub gatherings and singing,” Mr Carthew said.

Yet CASA’s contributions to the festival remain strong. The association played a key role in shaping early festival events, including the long-running Meet the Cornish dinners and Cornish language classes.

Since 1977, it has hosted seminars focusing on Cornish heritage and culture in Australia, in conjunction with the festival; the 2015 theme is Cornish Australians in industry and commerce.

They led Dressing the Graves ceremonies for many years, an event proposed by the late Ros Paterson OAM, a former CASA president and Kernewek Lowender life member.

Members have also marched in the Moonta street parade and danced in the traditional Furry Dance. “A few years ago, a spectator told me I was the only one in step — which I assume was only briefly true,” Mr Carthew says.

For many years, CASA operated a popular souvenir stall and supported the Cornish Association Choir, formed in 1995.

The choir performed widely, including at Meet the Cornish concerts, bardic ceremonies, and services at Moonta Mines, but it has now disbanded.

CASA has also financially supported visits from Cornish musicians and the Grand Bard of Cornwall, helping connect the Copper Coast with Cornwall’s living culture.

Mr Carthew acknowledged the continued efforts of the Yorke Peninsula branch, founded in Moonta in 2007, and praised Liz Coole and Lilian James for keeping the local group active.

While the future of CASA remains uncertain, Mr Carthew is hopeful.

“We’ve had quiet periods before and come back strong. We hope to continue sharing the culture of Cornwall and Australia’s little Cornwall for years to come,” he says.



CORNISH PRIDE... President of the Cornish Association of South Australia Noel Carthew (right) with flag bearer Maxine Tully (left) and Paul Thomas at a previous Kernwek Lowender event.

CASA KERNEWEK LOWENDER EVENTS

The Cornish Association of South Australia is continuing its proud tradition of promoting Cornish heritage at the 2025 Kernewek Lowender.

Learn the Cornish language: A beginner-friendly Cornish language lesson will be held at the Moonta RSL on Wednesday, May 14, led by Cornish Bard Lilian James OAM. The lesson aims to teach simple everyday expressions in Cornish with written exercises in a provided booklet, teaching days of the week and months of the year, numbers and a simple table grace.

Explore Cornish contributions: The Cornish History Seminar on Thursday, May 15, will highlight the impact of Cornish Australians in industry and commerce. The full-day event includes printed papers, refreshments and lunch.

Sing along and dine Cornish-style: Sup and Sing with the Cornish at Wallaroo Town Hall on Friday, May 16, features a three-course meal, including a traditional Cornish pasty and community singing of some Cornish favourites. Enjoy ss

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Marvellous May Queen and Princess

Written by: Joanna Tucker

APPOINTING a May Queen is an important part of Kernewek Lowender history. Traditionally, a young, single female was chosen to represent her village during May Day celebrations — a custom that has been carried over to Australia’s Little Cornwall since 1979.

While the responsibilities of Kernewek Lowender May Queens and Princesses have varied over the years, they remain heavily involved.

This year’s regal pair — May Queen Chloe Fuss and May Princess Bianca Hammond — will be part of many events across the festival.

These include the Lowender Parade and Stret Fer in Moonta, the Furry Dance, the Cousin Jack and Jenny Competition at the Village Fair in Kadina, the Gathering of the Bards in Wallaroo, and the Classic Cavalcade of Cars and Motorcycles.

Chloe says being chosen as May Queen for this year’s

festival is a wonderful honour.

“I think it is such an amazing opportunity to celebrate our Cornish heritage with the community,” she says.

“I’m particularly looking forward to participating in the Furry Dance for the first time.”

Bianca’s decision to apply for May Princess came after a suggestion from a family friend.

“I love the maypole every year — I’ve normally been in it for school, so I am going to love watching it and seeing all the schools participate,” the recent school leaver says.

Lynn Spurling, Kernewek Lowender committee president, says becoming May Princess offers Bianca a way to maintain her connection with the festival beyond her school years, while for Chloe, it marks her initial involvement.

“They are both really looking forward to celebrating our Cornish heritage and representing the community at the festival,” Ms Spurling says.

“It is wonderful to have this enthusiasm.”



MAY QUEENS... May Princess Bianca Hammond and May Queen Chloe Fuss are excited for this year’s Kernewek Lowender festival.

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