

**Newsletter for the descendants of the passengers & crew of the 1866 Netherby**

Hello everyone,

Well I do not know where to start? There is so much to share! This will be a bumper issue and there may be a couple of instalments so that I can share our photos of King Island and the 150th Celebration of the Cape Wickham Lighthouse.

Our October meeting was a very relaxed gathering. Numbers were down on previous meetings but that happens! The highlight was most definitely the attendance of the Charlwood family, Don, Nell and daughter Doreen. They were an absolute delight. Don told us a bit about his background, his interests in shipwrecks and also suggested a couple of leads to follow up.

One suggestion was that 2nd Officer, John Parry, was the hero of the Netherby shipwreck and it may have become a disaster if not for Parry's bravery and heroic efforts to ensure a rescue occurred.

Don suggested a plaque or some form of recognition at Point Roadknight be erected where Parry came ashore after departing King Island in a whaleboat. I love this idea and hope that our members will too. I often think that the story has all the elements of a blockbuster motion picture with Parry as the hero. Therefore, I am putting it out there to our group to see if we have a volunteer or 2 who would like to undertake the project. Let me know in the next week or two please?



**Back L-R:**

Doreen Burge,  
Ann Rutte,  
Jennifer  
Cassidy,  
Christine  
Webster.

**Seated L-R.**

Keith & Will  
Johnston,  
Don & Nell  
Charlwood,  
Shirley Bonnici.

**Issue 13 November, 2011**



Not the Netherby but very similar. No known photos of the Netherby exist!

**Descendant Listing  
Contacts**

We are in contact with descendants of the following Netherby passengers.

Adams  
Aplin  
Austin  
Bartling  
Berry  
Bulpit  
Cox  
Cubbin (my family)  
Darlington  
Denning  
Evans  
**Gill**  
Goldsworthy  
Grimes  
Groom  
Hanna  
Hickmott (L/house Keeper)  
Hogan  
Lingard  
MacFarlane  
Martin  
Massingham  
Moffatt (Moffutt)  
Morris  
Murphy  
Nally  
Newbrook  
Parsons  
Pinnuck (Pinnick)  
Rerden (Reiden Renden)  
Schrader  
Seymour  
**Skerman**  
Turner  
Watkins  
Webster (Ship's Surgeon)  
Wigley (Wiggley Whigley)  
Williams

Don's second lead was actually a very interesting one. He advised our group that at one time the Cape Wickham and Cape Otway lighthouses used to communicate via a cable that ran across the sea bed. Don thought that Captain Owens must not have known that the cable no longer worked and wondered when it had stopped working?

While I was on King Island I enquired if there was any knowledge of this. A couple of people had some information and also directed me to where we could acquire transcripts of the communications between both lighthouses. I am in the process now of doing this and will share when the time comes. As for other information we were told that the installation of the cable was never a success and it worked occasionally but periodically broke as a result of the rocks and waves. Someone was offered the grand sum of £100 to maintain the line but it was not a success.

Finally, Doreen Burge, reported that the reprint of Don Charlwood's book "The Wreck of the Sailing Ship Netherby" was slightly delayed and hoped it would be released in the first half of next year. We look forward to it.

A huge thank you to the Charlwood's for attending our meeting and their friendly disposition. It was our privilege to meet you. You will always be welcome at our meetings and wish everyone well. We will stay in touch re. the above.

# 2012

## Netherby Meeting Dates

- **Sunday, February 19**  
11am—2pm
- **Sunday, June 24**  
11am—2pm
- **November**  
date to be set.

**Australian Education  
Union building.  
112 Trenerry Crescent,  
Abbottsford. 3067**

Melway Reference: Map 15 F 11 double check for accuracy please.

All descendants/interested persons are welcome to attend.

These meetings are initially without an agenda.

This is a social occasion with a view to sharing and generating ideas for Netherby 2016 and all things Netherby!

**Confirmation of attendance is required please.**

Tea/Coffee, sandwiches and biscuits will be provided. If you have any dietary requirements—please byo. No smoking or alcohol. We will be bound by the terms and conditions as set by the AEU or J. Cassidy



### In short...

*Welcome*

to descendants of the Gill family. I have been advised there are a number of descendants living in Sydney. You are now added to our list. Also we have another addition to the Skerman listing as well.

*Thank you*

To Sharon & Jim Benn our hosts at King Island. Ernst and I stayed at Netherby Downs in a "home away from home". We had wonderful views, friendly wildlife, warm fires and new neighbours who also are Netherby descendants!

*Special Thank you*

To Sharon who invited Ernst and I to a very pleasant lunch. Sharon listened to all of my ideas and provided a lot of material to read and absorb. Thank you for inviting us into your homes!

*Another Thank you*

This time to Jim Benn for taking us out to the Netherby wreck site and pointing out the direction and rock outcrops where the Netherby was wrecked. Ernst and I visited daily taking lots of photos and trying to imagine what it must have been like.

*Special Thank you*

To Sue Melva Fisher for finding some time in her very busy schedule to sit down with Ernst and I at the museum to discuss Netherby 2016. Sue then took us to the location of the Lighthouse Lens and provided us with a personal viewing. This was very special to us and much appreciated.

Next newsletter will be out soon.  
Take care everyone.  
Ann and Ernst



## A C View Cottage & Netherby Downs

Hosts - Jim and Sharon Benn

### The Ettrick - King Island

1 & 2 bedroom self contained cottages

03 -64621938 (Mob) 0429709864

P O Box 265 Currie King Island. 7256

jimbenn53@hotmail.com

(Please mark enquiry - King Island Holiday)

**Please contact Sharon and Jim directly via email. [jimbenn53@hotmail.com](mailto:jimbenn53@hotmail.com)**

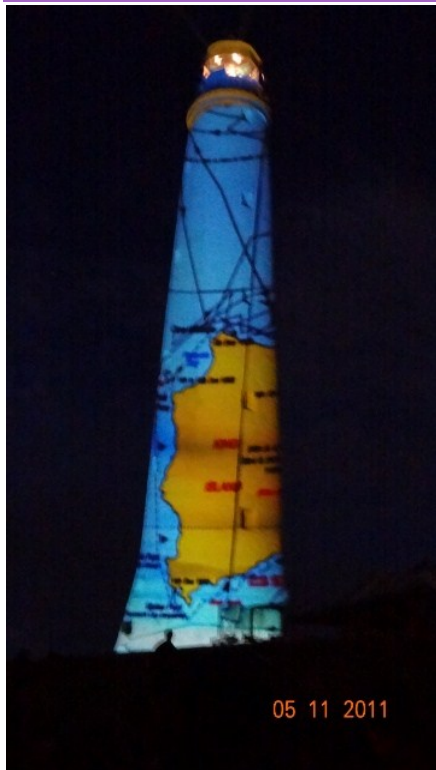
I am still promoting Karina's web pages, it is well worth a look. Membership is free. [www.netherby.homestead.com](http://www.netherby.homestead.com) It is a wonderful, informative site.

Karina is heading off on another Antarctic expedition soon. I have been made an administrator of her site and can approve new registrations.

We will try to get Karina online at one of our future meetings. We will see what we can do for other interstate descendants as well.



# Cape Wickham Lighthouse 150th Anniversary



No they have not painted the lighthouse. A light show was projected onto the wall and it looked absolutely fantastic. Multi media artist Olaf Meyer and producer Sally Marsden worked with High School students and teachers who coordinated the music in what was a fabulous end to a day and night of celebrations.

It is a little hard to know where to start but I am sure that the Island is relaxing now after it's big weekend.

There is little doubt from a tourist's point of view that their celebrations were a success. There was something happening for almost everyone. I am not sure of numbers but know that there will be some statistics released as to how many lighthouse descendants attended and other visitors, including us.

Some of their celebrations involved Open Gardens, a lantern parade, an ultra marathon, cycling and walking events and artists' exhibitions. There were a couple of re-enactments, a glow stick challenge, shop windows were decorated, a sea hawk helicopter sat static for a close inspection, did a "fly by" of the lighthouse and did a mock rescue for a good sized crowd the following day.

We did not attend the Ball or any functions which were, in the main, for the light house descendants. However, I was impressed with "Neva Not Forgotten". Christina Henri, is a conceptual artist from Tasmania, and she brought a portion of what will be a very large (international) project to King Island. The Neva was a convict ship wrecked off King Island and 150 convict women and 33 children died. Christina is organising the making of over 25,000 calico bonnets which will be cut out, sewn and embroidered in Ireland. The King Island bonnets will return and become a permanent display in memory of the lost lives from the Neva.

## Original Lens relocated:

The original lens of the Cape Wickham lighthouse was found in Western Australia by an enthusiast. The story behind how/why it got there is unknown in part. However, the lens itself, has made a permanent return to the island and is now housed in a building beside the museum in Currie.

I was in awe and emotionally overwhelmed with the KI Historical Society and their hard work in assembling and displaying the original lens from the lighthouse. It's size is enormous and it has such presence that it commands you to have a good look at it's perfection. My heartfelt thanks to the men who took the time to handle each piece of French glass and learn her secrets as it was assembled. What the Historical Society and Australian Maritime Safety Authority have done is amazing and truly they need a lot more than just a round of applause. Unfortunately, we were not on the Island for the official launch of the lens but we were lucky enough to see it beforehand!

Pictured beside the lens:  
Don Robinson, one of several people responsible for the lens assembly.



## Will meets the Governor General

I wanted to put this on the front page but... sorry Will you were relegated to the last spot.

Yes, this is Will Johnston discussing the Netherby with our Governor General, Mrs Quentin Bryce.

Will's brother Keith, also shook the GG's hand and both boys had the look of love completely over their faces!

A wonderful night was had with Will, Keith, Dianne and Narelle, (pictured below L-R) Netherby descendants from

Queensland. We had perfect warm weather for the main day and a mild evening for the Lighthouse blessing, official opening and the wall projections (light display).

Thank you everyone and a HUGE thank you to everyone on and off King Island who helped make this a very special occasion.

