

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

Happy belated New Year to everyone, I have taken a break from Netherby 2016 to concentrate on my new job, which could be changing again soon! That does not mean that I have not been thinking about the Netherby for I certainly have. However, we are only a couple of weeks away from our next meeting (Feb 19) and it is time to jump back into the saddle.

So let me take you back to November 2011 and our trip to King Island to observe the 150th anniversary of the Cape Wickham Lighthouse. On arrival we had lunch with Sharon Benn. We were staying at Netherby Downs, one of 2 accommodation properties owned by Sharon and Jim Benn (advertised on these pages). Sharon was a delightful host and it was not long before we were discussing thoughts on the format for Netherby 2016. Sharon was not the only person to make a similar statement during our visit but she was the first to say that Netherby 2016 could become bigger than Ben Hur so we need to keep it manageable for King Island.

As I tabled thoughts and ideas, Sharon made notes and at the end of our lunch she handed back those notes and had listed a name alongside each idea.

Each name will become a contact for our Netherby 2016 celebrations. This by itself has given me the confidence that we can achieve our itinerary.



In the centre of the photo are 2 long objects thought to be part of the ship, Netherby. The one behind is much shorter and has a left facing right angle.

After lunch, Sharon loaded us with a large plastic tub of reading material on King Island Shipwrecks, all things Netherby and the Skerman family history and a boot load of fire wood and I felt that we had passed our first test! I had verbalised a plan and it seemed to have been acceptable in size, context and value to King Island. It was at this point that my motivation soared!

When we left Sharon, it was also a farewell, as the next day Sharon was leaving the island to visit her grandson in Queensland.

However, our day with the Benn's was not yet over. Sharon had arranged for us to catch up with Jim who would take us to the Netherby wreck site and hopefully point out to me roughly where the ship struck rocks.

As it turned out, Jim not only was able to point the landmarks out to me, but he dangled a carrot in my face as well, by pointing out where we might be able to see the rib bones of the ship. It was a blustery day, as we clambered over rocky terrain but the waves were not that high, and the weather not at all cold. However, once I knew where that ship had lain stricken I marvelled at it all—the people coming ashore, the lack of shelter, their fears and rescue.

Over the next few days, I visited the site daily and would not be happy until I made it to within camera shot of those rib bones. Jim, also, had heard that snorkelers over the site reported that the mast was still there as well.

Issue 13 January, 2012



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
Shelford
Skerman
Townsend
Turner
Watkins
Webster (Ship's Surgeon)
Wigley (Wiggley Whigley)
Williams

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,
Abbotsford. 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 Marie, descendant of the Pinnuck family.

Welcome

to Wendy who is a descendant of the Shelford family. Prior to Wendy registering on Karina's website we did not have any Shelford connections

Welcome

to Lee, descendant of the Newbrook family.

Welcome

to Shaun who is a descendant of the Townsend family. Prior to Shaun registering on Karina's website we did not have any Townsend connections.

Thank you

to Will Johnston for sending copies of his King Island photos.

Special Thank you

to John Cassidy for once again offering the facilities at the AEU building for our meetings.

At our next meeting

We will table the ideas for Netherby 2016 and set an agenda. Everyone is welcome new or not so new. We need your input! This is your celebration too.

People unable to attend are welcome to submit ideas via email or snail mail!!

Take care everyone.
Ann and Ernst



A C View Cottage & Netherby Downs

Hosts - Jim and Sharon Benn



The Etrick - 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

Karina is back from her Antarctic expedition and Ernst and I are working on our Netherby webpages. Karina's web pages, are well worth a look. Membership is free. www.netherby.homestead.com
It is a wonderful, informative site.

Our site is slowly improving. I am about to post a newspaper article written by the grand daughter of Netherby (the baby born on the island directly after the ship had wrecked). www.netherby2016.com



Netherby Cove



This was our second visit to King Island. It was good to have our bearings and to be in town for the lead up to the Lighthouse celebrations. Ernst and I wore our Netherby 2016 polo shirts and every day had people enquire about the relevance of Netherby 2016. There have definitely been some changes and improvements since our 2008 visit. The shipwreck trail has signposts (pictured left) providing information about the site. In our movements around the island I dropped off a few brochures promoting the reprint of Don Charlwood's book. The interest was small due to the focus on the Cape Wickham Lighthouse celebrations.

At the newsagency, we were able to purchase the local newspaper which had a cut out of the lighthouse for children to assemble. What a great idea! They also had free copies of a wonderful, glossy publication on the history of the Wickham Lighthouse. We were to find these in a couple of places around town and encouraged by the businesses to take a copy. I will bring these to our next meeting.

A number of stores had set up a display in either their window or inside. These were historical displays with photos, period items and even some items borrowed from the museum. It was a good idea as well, as it encouraged us to walk inside each business. There were also people in period costume.

Our favourite stop was a tied decision between the KI Bakery and the Harbour Road Café and Gifts. The hospitality in both locations was fantastic. However, I did enjoy the atmosphere of the café/shop and marvelled at the juggling of combining a café with a gift shop, a gardening outlet and florist. With all this to attend to and still the owner took the time to make us feel welcome and extended herself further by helping us with the small dilemma of whether to purchase tickets to the Ball or wait til we knew more about the others who may/maynot attend.

The Council Chambers were also helpful. The lady enquired voluntarily if we had the latest edition of the Itinerary. We did not and may have faced disappointment without it!

It was my pleasure to finally meet with Sue Fisher from the KI Historical Society. Not only did Sue give her time to listen to our tentative plans for Netherby 2016 but she walked us up for a private peek at the original lens of the Cape Wickham lighthouse (refer to Issue 13).

Sue also explained that the launch of the Netherby bell display regrettably could not coincide with the Lighthouse celebrations. However, she did say there would be an official opening in 2012 when the Netherby display was finalised. Hopefully we will hear more about this soon and I can advertise it in our newsletter and web pages.

Sue, some of the other lady volunteers, Ernst and I adjourned to a reading room where I ran through the agenda for Netherby 2016. Again, I was cautious and apprehensive but that was soon replaced with relief. Sue thought our ideas could work and would meet the capability of the Island volunteers/organisations/services and amenities that we would need.

There is no doubt there will be challenges but nothing compared to what our ancestors faced!

As we departed King Island on the Sunday, Sue and her husband were at the airport to farewell others. Richard Fisher recognised us and wandered over for a short chat. I was definitely basking in the afterglow of what from my viewpoint was a successful Cape Wickham 150th Anniversary when he said Netherby 2016 could be much bigger than that!!

Yes it can!!!! We want every bed filled and enough to keep us all entertained, sustained and linked to our purpose.

We now have a measuring stick with which to compare our 2016 event. We do not want Ben Hur but it will be epic, if only through our own eyes. My visit to King island was a success. I passed a couple of tests and from here Netherby 2016 is definitely on the calendar.

We have a lot of work to do!!

