



Netherby 2016

post 150 year commemoration

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

Issue 35— February 2017

Hello everyone,

I have **huge** news—Netherby2016 won an Australia Day award for Community Event of the Year, King Island.

It all started when I received an email from King Island Council on December 16 to advise that our event was the winner and if I would accept the award. Well of course I would but I was also asked to keep it quiet as the Australia Day Council reserved the right to make the announcements.

The worst part—keeping it a secret. It deprived me of 6 weeks bragging rights!

The reality is that yes myself, with Jim Benn, were the key players in getting this event to fruition but there were other players including Glenn Pinnuck, Events Tasmania, Karina Taylor to name a few. On the island we cannot overlook the contributions by Sharon Benn, King Island Lions Club, the council, Historical Society, Wade Roskam and Mandy Potter, catering. It is an award for all of those people and plenty of others not mentioned here.

The award was given out at an Australia Day ceremony at the familiar Currie Town Hall. We sang two verses of the National Anthem and offered an Affirmation (published on page 2). The MC was Deputy Mayor Jim Cooper. The Australia Day Ambassador for King Island was Rob Pennicott who was 2012 Tasmanian Citizen of the Year. Last year's Citizen of the Year spoke about her year as an award winner, followed by a presentation to the Young Citizen of the Year. Jim Benn was then called on to the stage to introduce myself and the Netherby2016 event.

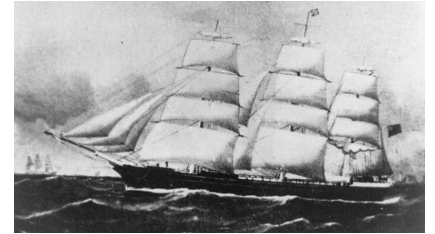
I had a short speech ready and I stuffed it up—I am sorry to a number of people I did not mention. However, I want to explain what happened that caused me to falter.

I was up on the stage—familiar to me, and I looked out, at one point, towards the back of the room and I don't know why but I immediately missed not seeing the history boards we had put up along the back wall. I looked at the POKI market in the back of the hall and immediately thought it was possibly a quarter of the size of the one in July and what really threw me was that there were chairs only in the first half of the hall and easily spaced apart and plenty of empty chairs. Whereas for Netherby2016 the hall was full to the maximum with every chair in use and people standing as well. It was at that point that I had to focus on my family and tried to regain my composure and my place in the speech but it was too late to catch up.

A copy of my speech (that was written) is on page 2. If you go to the netherby2016 facebook page, Ernst streamed it live and you can hear what I actually said compared to what I wrote.

Considering that this was the weekend of Australia Day and the Festival of King Island, I was surprised that the Town Hall was lacking in atmosphere and attendance. I don't want to point out the obvious but Netherby2016 was deserving of that award and I did not realise that until I was standing up on the stage and suddenly compared that day to our days in the hall. For everyone who attended Netherby2016 and everyone who supported Netherby2016 from afar —you were fantastic! You brought atmosphere, celebration, emotion and a sense of family being united. We are all descendants off the Netherby and we have different surnames but we are family united by history. You deserve this award and I thank you from the bottom of my boots to the tip of my head for your attendance, support, ideas, input and actions. Congratulations everyone!! You are Australia Day award winners!!!!!!

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Not the Netherby but a ship that may be similar.



Myself with Rob Pennicott, who was the Australia Day Ambassador attached to King Island for the awards ceremony.



The certificate that was awarded. I am thinking of sending it to the Netherby Room at King Island Museum. Your thoughts??

Affirmation:

As an Australian citizen,
I affirm my loyalty to Australia
and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect, and
whose laws I uphold and obey.

Acceptance speech:

Thank you...

This award comes as an unexpected surprise. Netherby2016 was a huge success for the descendants and for King Island. However, this event would not have been possible without the community of King Island not only supporting the event but also being part of it. You were there for the Saturday Bush Dance, the Thursday evening commemoration and of course, at the very memorable Sunday at Netherby Cove.

We, the Netherby descendants, were welcomed and despite the storm that lasted 3-4 days, this event went to plan because the businesses of King Island and emergency services made sure it did.

It was a pleasure to bring the event here. There were 168 people who flew onto the island for the 4 days and every one of the 168 want to return. That is testimony to King Island as a tourist destination.

There were a number of local contributors, including Events Tasmania, who made the event as great as it was including Jim Benn, the Lions Club, Wade Roskam, Grassy Boating Club, the council, the accommodation places and Mandy Potter for the catering. This assistance and support helped to make this a memorable, once in our life time event.

I am sure there were other nominations for this award and I congratulate you on your nomination.

I accept this award on behalf of those who helped me, Glenn Pinnuck, Jim and Sharon Benn and all of the Netherby descendants who attended. Also those who provided me with the motivation to undertake the event management: Karina Taylor, my husband Ernst, my sister Shirley and it is a thrill to have my great niece Jamie with us today for support.

Thank you everyone. I am humbled to accept Community Event of the Year 2016.



Left to right:

Young Citizen of the Year, Ambassador to King Island Rob Pennicott, shared Citizen of the Year winners, Deputy Mayor Jim Cooper and myself.

The Netherby Cove marker:

In the last edition of this news-letter I presented an offer by the Lions Club of King Island to support the placement of a permanent marker at Netherby Cove.

I am not sure if this would replace the cairn or be something to complement it in the form of pavers in a specific design chosen by us.

We would need to fund a large part of this as it would be a huge undertaking by the Lions Club and not something they could afford to do in total.

On my most recent visit to the island, I did of course, visit Netherby Cove several times. I was disappointed to see that no one had been to the cairn to remove the floral tribute frames left there in July and that the cairn and the Netherby sign were overgrown. I also noted that the Cove has a neighbour who is building a big house that overlooks the Netherby shipwreck site.



I think it is even more imperative that we act whilst we have the support of the Lions Club.

There is already a seat/bench at the cove and whilst this is good—it is beginning to weather and is also prone to overgrowing weeds. It is perhaps not a place to sit in the summer if snakes were around.

In my vision I see a seat with a rock or brick wall with labelled pavers inset in the wall

and also a paved floor area with a lot of labelled pavers.

The labelled pavers would be the sponsored name with the ancestors name as well and again in my mind we would be personally paying for the engraved pavers and the excess that would be laid for later engraving (if required) plus contributing to the final build of the wall, seating and paved area.

I need someone to draft the plan so we can get it quoted on. Then we will have a better idea of what we need to raise in terms of money.

Thank you to those who have already said they would contribute. It was only a couple of people so I am rallying for the cause again.



Above: this is an example of a wall, seating and paved floor. I can genuinely picture something like this down at Netherby Cove.

Below: example of the small and larger pavers in use down towards Currie wharf.



News worthy bits and pieces:

Helen Vivian advises she is back to the Netherby book having taken a four month hiatus. There is no deadline as to when it might be ready but if I were aiming for something—I would probably aim for the 151st Commemoration of the Netherby shipwreck and it's passengers and crew.

Karina, has been stuck in 1866!! Her most amazing task is to add names to the photographs that were taken during Netherby2016. There are still some unidentified people and you can help bring her in to 2017 by going to <http://karina.phanfare.com/netherby> and adding your name or that of anyone in your party or if you know, or think you know the name of some of the people in the unmarked photos.

A release date of the photobook is not that far off but it would be terrible to leave out photos of people unidentified or missing a name tag—so please help her out.

In the coming weekends, I will make a trip to the Melbourne General Cemetery to photograph Parry's grave (assuming I can find it). I think from the marker it is close to where the Cubbin family are buried in the Church of England section.

What are you doing for the 151st?

Melbourne/Victorian people and anyone in the area, if I book a hall/room somewhere close to public transport and with parking, will you attend a luncheon, a chat, a catch up and reunion?

Let me know—I know of a library that has a function room that if I am quick I might be able to book for the day.
Saturday, July 14 (day time).

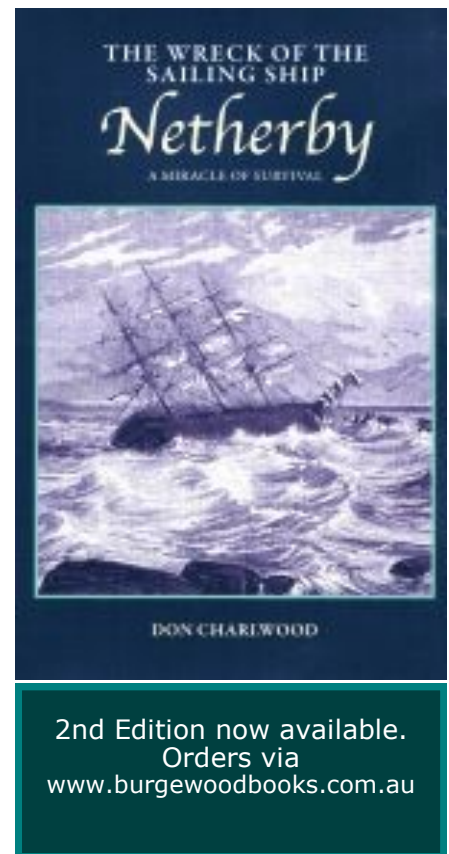
Queensland—is there someone in and around Brisbane, who might want to do something similar. Surely, with all the Skermans, someone will take on the challenge. Let me know, so we can have a similar theme. I might encourage my nephew to attend. He has an interest in the event and especially the ship.

Others? Any ideas, thoughts, wants or needs—let me know.

As far as I am concerned—we have 2 projects to ramp up. The Lions Club pavers and a tribute to Parry at Point Roadnight. Everyone is welcome to submit items to this newsletter to keep it alive, interesting and most of all as a link to keeping us together. Please feel free to send me anything.

The only other thing that I can mention is that in 2020 it will be the 175th anniversary of the Cataraqui. We know that it was the opposite to the Netherby in terms of survival. I think the Lions Club of King Island have their thinking caps on as to how the occasion should be remembered. I have said that I will put my hand up for anything that I could contribute so if you have any thoughts or ideas—let us know.

Again, congratulations on the Australia Award everyone!!!
Take care til next time.
Ann, Ernst and Shirley



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Address: Meech Street, Currie
Telephone: 03 6462 1603
Email: pacars@live.com.au

Opening Hours:
Mon-Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm
Talk to Angela.

Below: If anyone is thinking of going to King Island please do not hesitate to enquire about accommodation through Sharon and Jim Benn. They have another property to add to their list.

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
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(Please mark enquiry - King Island Holiday)