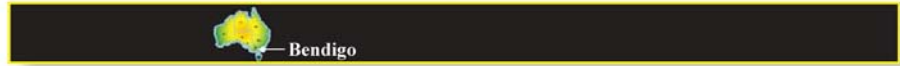


# BENDIGO SISTER CITIES NEWSLETTER



**Volume 2, Issue  
20**  
**Winter 2009**

**Bendigo's Sister Cities: Penzance / St Just, Cornwall, United Kingdom;  
Los Altos, United States of America; Tianshui, China**



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## Message from the Chairman

Since our last edition, we have witnessed disastrous fires throughout huge areas of Victoria, and Bendigo did not escape the devastation. Our friends in Cornwall and Los Altos have been well aware of this, and kept in touch in the weeks that followed. As you will see in the article on the front page of this newsletter, the Penzance St Just Twinning Committee, together with the Penzance and St Just Town Councils, have jointly provided funds for a park bench, in an expression of their understanding.

Committee member Doug Turner has proposed a Regional Sister Cities forum, which would include representatives from interested councils throughout regional Victoria. This would provide the opportunity for discussion of matters of mutual interest

and suggestions for future initiatives. The level of interest to date has been very encouraging. This year's national conference will be held in Tamworth towards the end of July, and as it has done for many years, our committee will be sending a delegate.

The primary schools email program is proving a remarkable success. Several schools in Bendigo and Cornwall are participating, and those involved report many benefits in experiencing the culture of another country.

Merle Hall, a long-standing member of our committee, resigned recently after many years of enthusiastic involvement. A "thank you" dinner was attended by current and former members.

And remember, if you are interested in finding out more

about sister cities, or even becoming a member of our committee, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope you find this edition of our newsletter of interest – happy reading!

Peter Mundy

Chairman

Bendigo Sister Cities Committee.



### Special points of interest:

- Cornwall provides a park bench to recognise the losses suffered by Bendigo residents in the recent fires
- Rosalind Park now has an English, American and Chinese flavor
- Violet St Primary School students make friends on the other side of the world

## A Gift of Understanding from Cornwall, UK

News has recently been received of an extremely generous and considerate gesture on the part of the Penzance St Just Twinning Committee, Penzance Town Council and St Just Town Council.

They are jointly providing a considerable sum to sponsor the purchase of a park bench, in recognition of the losses suffered by the people of Bendigo in the February 2009

fires.

The bench will include an explanatory plaque, and the Sister Cities Committee will work with council to determine a suitable location.

Image: Penzance Town Council Coat of Arms (from PTC Website)



# Rosalind Park's Sister Cities Garden

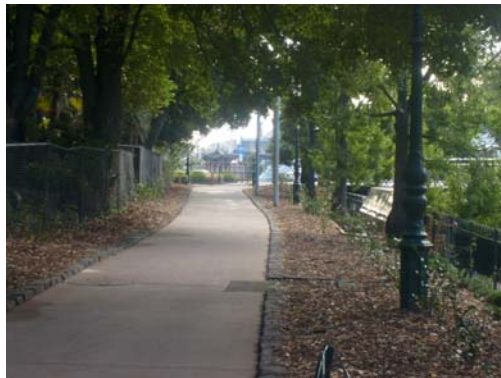
Bendigo's popular Rosalind Park is now home to a new Sister Cities garden.

The garden consists of three distinct areas, representing the three Sister Cities Relationships:

- the Penzance Garden;
- the Los Altos Garden; and the
- Tianshui Garden (leading to the Chinese precinct).

The Sister Cities garden was designed by parks staff at City of Greater Bendigo.

Staff researched the three different cities for information on appropriate species and design and the result is a representation of what may be typically found in these areas. While it was very hard to find plants that were exactly from these areas (over many years plants have moved and adapted to different continents), the garden is a great way to celebrate our important Sister Cities relationships.



## Cornish Re-enactment of an 1850 Voyage to Australia

Recently an adventurer named Peter Goss of England attempted to sail a wooden boat from Newlyn Harbour in Cornwall, England to Melbourne as part of a re-enactment of the type of trip regularly made to the goldfields during the 1850's.

Peter set sail from Cornwall on the 11 metre (37 feet) long Spirit of Mystery with 7 crew (most of whom are related to each other). The boat is a replica of the original "Mystery" which made the same voyage in 1854, with a crew heading for the Victorian goldfields.

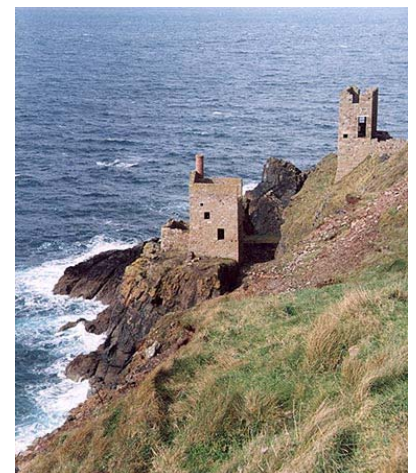
The voyage, which commenced on 20 October 2008, took 116 days and covered a total of 11,800 nautical miles.

Although the journey was successful, it wasn't without mishap. One of the crew broke his leg during a fierce storm south of Portland, just a few days before completing the voyage.

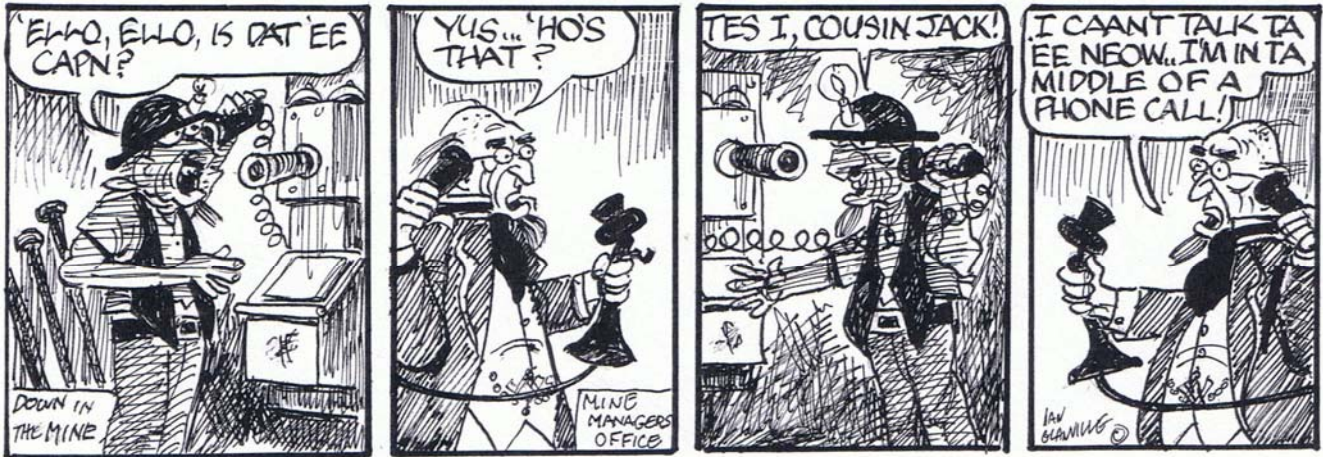
The crew was met in Melbourne by the Mayor of Hobson's Bay and the President of the Cornish Association of Victoria.

Throughout the voyage, the crew kept a blog, outlining details of their trip. Bendigo Sister Cities Committee was able to provide its support to the crew via the blog.

(Photo used with kind permission of Lucia Crothall ©)



## Latest St Just's Cartoon



*From the New Book*

Ian Glanville has released his latest book of cartoons, St Just Point number 3, available at local book stores.

## 2009 Sister Cities National Conference

Tamworth, in the heart of country NSW, is widely known as Australia's centre of Country Music, but this year, between 19-22 July, it will host the National Sister Cities Conference. The theme of this year's conference, which will be held at Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre, is "Back To Basics". It will focus on the framework needed to foster and support successful Sister Cities relationships.

Our Treasurer, Sheryl Retallick, is looking forward to attending her first

National Conference. She may even take along a flannelette shirt, boots and a hat so that she can participate in all of the activities Tamworth has to offer over the four days.

A Youth Program will also form part of the conference and offer young people the opportunity to learn about the importance of the Sister Cities movement and encourage them to think about ways in which they can be involved.





Keeping you informed of  
the Sister Cities Committee

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**BENDIGO SISTER  
CITIES COMMITTEE**

[www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sistercities](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sistercities)

## Merle's Farewell Send Off

After many years of volunteering her services to the Bendigo Sister Cities Committee, Merle Hall, was suitably farewelled at a special dinner in her honour. The dinner was attended by current and former members of the Bendigo Sister Cities Committee.

We will all miss your enthusiasm and support Merle!



## Violet Street and St Mary's Are "Penpals"

Early in 2008 the Bendigo Sister Cities Committee approached Violet Street Primary School, inviting them to participate in a "Penpal" program. Violet Street was keen to become involved, and was matched with St Mary's Church of England School in Penzance, Cornwall, as the two schools had similar student populations.

Grade 5/6 teacher Dianne Kennedy takes up the story, relating how the program developed once she was given the name and contact details of the teacher (Nikki Bonnell) from St Mary's, whose class was to be their penpals.

"We commenced emailing, to decide how we should progress. We started our correspondence with St Mary's with a 'Package' which we agreed should include information on the students, the school and Bendigo. We sent a range of items including, student profiles and photo album, school history and information plus a DVD, student made postcards of Bendigo sites and attractions and a range of Aussie trivia.

From this Nikki took the student profiles and matched her students with students of similar interests.

We then received an exciting package in return, which included letters, photos and Cornish paraphernalia. From this point we were off and running. The students then had their own Penpal. We would respond regularly, posting our individual letters together with gifts for the students. We sent such things as Aussie literature, calendars and at Christmas we sent each of the children a toy Koala. Each time the mail arrived the children were very excited and couldn't wait to respond.



Many of the students exchanged personal details, emails addresses and were therefore able to keep in touch more often.

During the year we developed a school webpage which included information on the Cornish involvement in Bendigo. This helped the students and myself learn more about the contribution the Cornish made to Bendigo. We then let our Penpal know how to access our webpage.

This year we have continued our correspondence with St Mary's with regular mail and exchanging of gifts. This year the students wanted to do more than just write they wanted to speak to their penpals, so we made a video. This was a great success and a real hit. In Nikki's words "The students love the video, we have watched it 6 times already today. In response, our penpals sent a wonderful video of themselves and their school with personal messages to each of the kids. And yes, we watched it several times also; the students just wanted to hear their penpal's accents

As St Mary's finishes their school year at the end of July it will mean a long break and also the end of primary school for some of the penpals. The students are therefore putting together their own personal videos of themselves, families, friends, pets etc. After the break we will match up any new students and keep going.

The students have really enjoyed corresponding with St Mary's. It's been a lot of fun and I believe some of the students have forged a friendship that will continue beyond primary school".

Photos courtesy of  
Violet St Primary School.

