

## Dressing the Graves Kernewek Lowender Events 2023



Planning is underway for the 2023 Dressing the Graves Ceremonies during the Kernewek Lowender in May 2023.

Dressing the Graves is a project sponsored by the Cornish Association of South Australia in conjunction with Kernewek Lowender. It is intended to remember and honour the lives of our ancestors. The ceremony is very poignant, and floral tributes, welcoming groups, choirs and preparation of citations for the grave sites are done by local school students. The involvement of our school children lends the ceremonies a truly community atmosphere.

Each ceremony is a very popular and unique experience and it has developed into the highly regarded Kernewek Lowender event that Dressing the Graves has become since its inception at the 2001 Festival. The event has created an ongoing valuable legacy for the Copper Coast, and family history research per se, and the program is well grounded to continue strongly into the future.

The **2023** Dressing the Graves ceremonies will be held on **Tuesday 16 May 2023** at Greens Plains West (10:00am) and Wallaroo (1:00pm) and on **Wednesday 17 May 2023** at Kadina (10:00am) and Moonta (1:00pm). Nominations must be received by **31 October 2022**. **The theme for this event will be Mine Captains, however nominations for other than Mine Captains are also very welcome. We hope to have at least one Mine Captain for each of the main cemeteries.** A maximum of 8 ancestors will be honoured at each cemetery.

Criteria for nominating an ancestor who is buried in one of the above cemeteries is available from Farm Shed, Kadina; Kadina Library; Moonta Railway Station and the Moonta History Centre. Enquiries and nominations can be addressed to the Co-ordinator, Dressing the Graves, at email [dressingthegraves@adam.com.au](mailto:dressingthegraves@adam.com.au), or post PO Box 280, Moonta SA 5558.

Descendants are requested to limit their applications to no more than two typewritten pages, and to follow the criteria. The nomination is for one ancestor in the grave, not the grave itself and ancestors do not have to be of Cornish descent. The community of the Copper Coast had pioneers from Wales, Germany, England and Ireland as well as from Cornwall.

A cover sheet will need to be completed and these are available from the Co-ordinator. A photograph of the grave site can be included and the grave does not necessarily need to have a headstone, although families often organise some appropriate marking. Families also often organise a family get together for the event and attend many of the other extensive events on the Kernewek Lowender program during the week. Accommodation should be booked well in advance. Past experience indicates that everyone involved in Dressing the Graves ceremonies are greatly enriched by the experience.

The book “Copper Brought Them Here – Volume 1”, edited by Robyn Knight and Trevor Briggs, includes previous citations to 2017 and will be available at the ceremonies. It can be ordered anytime via the email above. There are some 2021 booklets still available. A booklet for the additional 2023 citations will also be available for purchase at the ceremonies.

The committee is also seeking more volunteers to assist with planning. The job is not onerous but very interesting and rewarding. The team members are very supportive of each other and are a great group to be with. Just contact the Co-ordinator for an obligation-free discussion about the committee function.