

Committee News:

Bank balance \$4,557.53 All accounts and financial reports are due to the Treasurer please!

Next Meeting – Sunday 3rd

February

at the Lyon's residence - 1pm lunch (bring a plate) and 2pm meeting) **45 Mason Street,**

Maroubra

Eileen / Eddie (02) 9349.1491 for details

All members are welcome – RSVP first

News REPORT

Courtesy of the wonderful World Wide Web, we bring you the 'Bumper Summer Reading Edition':

Pioneering work into the prevention and treatment of **SKIN CANCER** is being carried out in Cornwall. The independent project is the only one of its kind in the County. More are expected to start with the launch of the long-awaited Peninsula Medical School.

The Cornwall dermatology research project is funded by a medical charity. The high incidence of skin cancer in Cornwall is blamed on the sun and on the characteristic red hair and light skins of the Celtic population. The work of the project is winning international recognition.

Compounds: "What we are trying to do is to look for compounds which, if people eat them, may provide the body with a boost to its natural defences," explains Dr Leo Salter who is part of the team. "With the compounds in the body we hope it would fight the kind of damage sunlight can do to the skin." One compound I'm looking at which may be able to prevent skin cancer is a substance we name M.A.C," explains Nick. "By incubating the human cells with this compound we have found it can reduce the damage that is caused to DNA by sunlight."

The research team in Cornwall is also studying arsenic. This is another element, which seems to play a part in the incidence of skin cancer. Cornwall has plenty! "Exposure to arsenic can cause damage to our DNA," explains Nick Morley. "It is damage to DNA that can initiate the development of cancer."

FAMILY HISTORY INTEREST?

Items for the Newsletter are very welcome, be they information or requests for help. As well as in the Newsletter the Group will try to respond to your needs! Ideas and suggested speakers, or offers of help, for future meetings are always welcome.

Write to: The Family History Interest Coordinator

C/o 21 Cliff Road Epping 2121

But please: if you require an answer, do enclose a self addressed stamped Envelope! Next meeting is: 9th Feb, 2002. Put that date in your new diary.

MEMBERS MILESTONES

Get Well Soon

To Roger Buckingham after his Oct operation for a pancreatic tumor. He was able to attend the Christmas party briefly. We hope your further hospitalisation goes well Roger! Thanks to your family for keeping us informed.

LATEST COUNT – 161 households

MEMBERS PAGES - CANSW WEBSITE

The URL is:

<http://members.optushome.com.au/kevrenor/merlib.htm>

WEB SITE/S OF THE MONTH

Victorian Cornish! Ahead of the Bendigo gathering -

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~bendcorn/welcome.htm>

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/>

PREVIOUS FUNCTIONS

- The 'Southern Sons of Cornwall' Christmas party at the Rowe's at Culburra Beach was attended by 30+ people and a perpetual trophy was started – in 2002 for poetry.
- The Sydney Christmas Party at Betty Bevins was again a great day with thanks to all who helped – Father Christmas of course for your visit – Betty's extended family for all your work, John Coombs for your music, Nick Lock and the reluctant 'Cornish Carol Choir!'

MINERAL TRAMWAYS

(Ed. When Joy and I visited Cornwall on the Pat Lay 1992 Tour, we had a fascinating look at what was planned for the Mineral Tramways – we can now see what has been achieved. I'd suggest you follow this article with a map of west Cornwall on your lap!)

The Portreath Tramroad goes from the harbour at Portreath inland to Crofthandy near Scorrier; from here, it joins the Redruth and Chasewater Railway to form the Coast-to-Coast Trail. It covers 11.3 kms (7 miles) across fairly flat terrain. Most of the trail follows the route of the original tramway, with some short on-road sections.

The Portreath Tramroad was the first 'railway' in Cornwall. It was horse-drawn and single track.

Each horse pulled up to 3 tons per load between the mines and the harbour. The Portreath Tramroad Distance: 5 miles/ 8kms; Approx time: 3hours

The trail starts at the mouth of Portreath Harbour, on the opposite side from the car park. Before you set off it's well worth the climb up the hill to the Portreath Daymark, known locally as 'The Pepperpot'. Look over the harbour area and try to imagine its industrial past and heyday as a busy port, bringing in coal and exporting copper ore for smelting in South Wales.

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Large coalyards were needed to store enough fuel to last the winter at the mines - now the site of the modern housing in front of you. Going up the valley was the Portreath Tramroad, which operated from 1812 until the 1860's, moving goods between the harbour and the inland mines.

Across the valley on the hill opposite is the Portreath Incline, defined by a cut up the slope.

With the coming of the railways, the Incline was built to transport goods up to the Hayle Railway, eventually replacing the need for the tramroad. Back at the harbour look at the information boards before you set off.

Walk up the slope front the harbour to the Portreath Arms where you'll find the first 'waymark' pointing towards the lane to the left-hand-side of the main road. A short distance along the lane branch left onto the footpath, where at dusk you might see bats flying around. Near Cambrose, look out for lines of granite blocks

(known as 'setts') which supported the rails for the tramway along which horse drawn wagons were pulled. The tramroad itself was single track. To allow for 2-way traffic 'passing loops' were constructed. From here, make sit you take in the wonderful views towards Carn Brea Hill crowned with the Basset Monument and a little further on you'll see the distinctive silhouette of the 3 engine houses at Wheal Peavor.

At Cambrose, follow the waymarks for a short on-road section is far as Mawla. This takes you over the main engineering feature of the tramroad - the Lower Forge Embankment. Once you join the bridleway at Mawla, the route then takes you through open countryside to the finish of the walk at Wheal Rose.

The NEW TESTAMENT in CORNISH

The single most important event contributing to the legitimisation of written vernaculars in Europe was

the publication of religious texts, for example, Queen Elizabeth's Irish catechism (Dublin 1571), Foirceadul Aithghearr in Scottish Gaelic (Edinburgh 1652) and the Welsh Bible (1588). The publication of the New Testament has always been of crucial importance to the standardisation of spelling, helping to unify the language under a single orthography, and dignify languages with the undeniable status of being worthy to express the word of God. Luther's German version of the Bible and the incomparable English of the King James Version left an indelible mark on their respective languages.

The letter received by the CANSW invites you to participate in the Cornish Revival by asking you to contribute to the publication of the first complete Cornish New Testament. This book will be published by 'Spyrys a Gernow' of Redruth.

This New Testament has been translated into Cornish by Nicholas Williams. Like the English-Cornish Dictionary, the New Testament, has been written in Unified Cornish Revised, an orthography which updates Morton-Nance's 1929 Unified Cornish orthography by making corrections to it based on the best modern Celtic scholarship, while preserving traditional Cornish orthographic practices.

The first draft of this translation was based on the original Greek text together with an extensive consultation of various English and Celtic versions. After this draft was completed, it was reviewed by a number of competent Cornish speakers, whose comments helped improve the text for readability. In addition -- significantly -- the translator undertook a comprehensive review of all the Middle Cornish and Late Cornish texts. A great many of these are Christian texts, whether miracle plays or homilies, and contain Biblical passages translated by native Cornish speakers. In many cases the translator revised his original text to conform to these native translations, instilling the translation with the fresh and natural qualities of the traditional Cornish.

"We are asking for contributions of £50.00 to £1,000.00 which will cover the typesetting and printing costs of the book. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged in *Rol An Ragprenoryon*, a list of benefactors. Naturally contributors will also receive a copy of the book".

The book will be set in two columns on pages measuring 130mm x 190mm (5" x 7.5") in a typeface suitable for easy reading. Maps of the Holy Land at the time of Our Lord and St Paul's journeys in the Mediterranean will accompany the text, with

placenames given in Cornish. "We believe publication of the first Cornish New Testament will be a milestone in the history of the Cornish language, and add to the richness of the Christian tradition in the Celtic world".

"Contributions can be made by cheque in pounds Sterling paid to *Spyrys a Gernow*. We ask that contributions be made by 1st February 2002".

- Ray and Denise Chubb, spyrys@euobell.co.uk
'Spyrys y Gernow', Gordon Villa,
Sunnyvale Road, Portreath, Redruth, Kernow / Cornwall, TR16 4NE, U. K.

BLAIR Gets CORNISH ASSEMBLY call

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair is being asked to allow a Cornish assembly. About 50,000 declarations calling for a Cornish assembly are being handed to Downing Street. The call for a regional version of the Scottish and Welsh "parliaments" has been signed by 10% of Cornwall's electorate. They want a greater say in how Cornwall is governed, with an assembly enabling the "right democratic priorities to be set for the County".

The declarations were handed to 'Downing Street' on Wednesday 5th December by the leader of the Cornish Constitutional Convention. The group was formed to 18 months ago to campaign for an assembly - *Senedh Kernow* in the Cornish language.

Convention chairman Bert Biscoe said the declarations were "the biggest single expression of public support for regional devolution. "Mr Blair has said devolution will only occur where there is public support." Cornwall was a "distinctive" region, he said. "People say that Cornwall is too small - all the evidence shows that size is immaterial." He pointed to a £700m regeneration programme paid for from Europe as evidence of the county's stature.

"A region is not determined by size, but by its ability to be successful," said Mr Biscoe. In November, Scotland deputy first minister Jim Wallace was invited to address the annual meeting of the Cornish Constitutional Convention in Bodmin, and supported the bid. Liberal Democrats in Cornwall backed the call for an assembly, but the county's Labour party decided against it. The campaign for an assembly was launched on St Piran's day 2000.

"This exceptionally high level of support springs partly from Cornwall's historic and cultural

distinctiveness, but also from the heightened desire to reverse the continuing decline of the Cornish economy." Cornwall's heritage as a celtic nation has long been in resurgence. It has its own language, flag and patron saint, St Piran, Cornish tartan, etc. Cornwall already has an "unofficial" national cultural assembly in the form of the Gorsedd, its own order of Celtic bards.

The Cornish won a victory this week over "English" tourist signs. Paint has been daubed on the familiar brown signs throughout the county, blotting out the Tudor Rose symbol used throughout England and Cornwall by 'English Heritage'. Now Cornwall County Council is asking people to come up with an alternative symbol. Councillor Mike Gillbard, chairman of the county's community life committee, said he deplored the vandalism - but it could result in an image boost for Cornwall.

Cornish Pasty battles for status

The Cornish pasty industry is worth £150m a year. When is a Cornish pasty not a Cornish pasty? When it is not made in Cornwall, one of the county's MEPs has told the European Union.

South West Liberal Democrat MEP Graham Watson is seeking a status for the humble Cornish pasty which would ensure only pasties which originate from Cornwall are worthy of the name. As part of his campaign he presented a Cornish pasty to E.U. food commissioner Dr Franz Fischler in Brussels on Thursday. Mr Watson is looking for Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), the second highest level of status for a local product that the EU can give. "Any pasty in Europe described as Cornish should actually come from Cornwall," he said.

"It is a fine tradition and important to Cornwall's economy. I shall be pressing hard for this protection." Pasty summit. Earlier this month St Ives MP Andrew George tabled an 'early day motion' stating: "This House believes that the humble Cornish pasty is the produce of a unique tradition of working men and women in Cornwall."

The campaign is backed by Cornwall's 87 pasty manufacturers who produce £150m worth of pasties every year. Over 50 bakers, beef, wheat and organic ingredients suppliers and others attended a "pasty summit" in Truro in November and lent their support to the initiative. It is also being supported by the Cornwall County Council Trading Standards Agency. The issue of the labelling of food and drink is so contentious that in 1992, the EU was forced to introduce two classifications to protect the authenticity of locally

produced produce. British products already accorded PGI status include Newcastle Brown Ale and Scotch Beef.

From Willow Books:

As the flag of St. Piran floated high over Cook's Kitchen shaft at **SOUTH CROFTY**, Baseresult the firm who bought the mine celebrated its opening this month. The Tuckingmill Decline will provide a modern entry into the mine and, once drained and extended to meet up with the main shaft, will lead to the resumption of tin production. Thirteen people are currently employed at the mine and that figure is expected to treble by Christmas. Three hundred applications for jobs have been received from all over the world.

The **EDEN Project** has won second place in a national poll of Britain's best-loved buildings. Durham Cathedral was first with 51.9%. One of the things that European visitors have said is that Eden is now one of the most famous buildings in Britain when the country is talked about overseas. The structure has also been short listed for the Royal Institute of British Architects national awards, after winning the south west regional finals in June.

The argument over the colours that owners should be allowed to paint the exterior of their homes in Penzance rumbles on. Homeowners and visitors alike favour the pinks, lilacs and pastel shades which have been appearing over the last few years but not so the local authority, who are of the opinion that the stone and putty colours of bygone years must prevail. An action group has been formed to try and reach some sort of compromise. Considering the scouring effect of the salt-laden winds, and the decorative 'effects' of the seagulls, most properties are re-painted regularly and thus change colour every few years. I have no doubt we will be returning to this in future newsletters.

Stone hand tools estimated to be at least 4,000 years old have been found in a cottage garden at Portreath. What is even more remarkable is that they originated from the Polynesian islands in the Pacific. They were unearthed while digging over the garden in preparation for laying a patio. The two Neolithic adzes have been authenticated by the Royal Cornwall Museum at Truro, but no one knows how they ended up where they did, more than a foot below the surface. They would probably have been used for skinning animals.

Cornwall could soon be having a £50 million **astronomy and space science complex**

split between two sites, a space centre for research and education and a unique planetarium which will use the latest technology to provide a view of the night sky over Cornwall. There will also be a movable 'sky theatre', nine telescopes, research facilities and a £1 million Space Shuttle simulator. The football pitch sized undercover Astro-Space World would have a 120 seat planetarium and three £20,000 'hands on' telescopes for use by the public. The pioneering Sky Theatre would have a removable roof and seating for 150 people on a tilting revolving plinth to view the stars which would be shown in detail on a giant LCD screen linked to a telescope. It will be the first public observation system of its kind in the world. It is hoped much of the high-tech equipment needed will be produced in Cornwall. 50% funding for the project should come from Objective One and it is hoped the centres would be completed within two years.

All **the islands and rocks of the Isles of Scilly** have become the **UK's newest wildlife trust** all for the annual price of a daffodil. The islands have been leased by the Duchy of Cornwall to the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, which must send a single flower in rent each spring. The 2,500 acres of islands, which harbour 26 sites of special scientific interest and 906 archaeological sites, have become the 47th wildlife trust in the UK. Notable wildlife includes rare terns, puffins, dolphins, and sightings of exotics such as the hoopoe and the golden oriole.

A long-awaited scheme to develop a £1.8 million **international surfing centre** in Cornwall has taken a big step forward with the county's Objective One Partnership pledged a European grant of £531,000. The grant should enable work on the first phase of the £2.6 million Fistral enhancement at Newquay to be ready for next summer. Fistral is expected to attract more international surf events, thousands of extra visitors and create 25 jobs.

Apprentice **bell ringers** in Cornwall are to be taught their skills with a simulator which will muffle any sounds and prevent them upsetting neighbours. A £2,500 ringing centre was opened earlier this year at Gwennap Parish Church, near Redruth, and it is hoped a second centre for the Truro Diocese, which is estimated to have about 1,000 ringers in 150 churches, can be found to serve north and east Cornwall. The Guild of Ringers was founded 104 years ago and is always on the lookout for new members. Video equipment will also be available to allow the learner to see and improve their own style of ringing and correct any handling faults.

The most powerful **wind farm** in Cornwall was opened this month as arguments persisted over the environmental impact of the £7.5 million scheme, which is expected to generate enough clean electricity to meet the annual need of 7,500 homes. The spectacular site of Cornwall's seventh wind farm straddles the parish boundary of St Mawgan and St Ervan, and its 184 ft high turbines can be seen from four nearby parishes. Bear's Down, given sufficient wind, would not only meet the average electricity needs of a town the size of Newquay, but offset the release of 25,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide gas that would have been released from fossil fuel power stations the equivalent emissions of about 8000 cars.

A major campaign has been launched to warn people of the **dangers of flooding** ahead of what is expected to be another tough winter for the Cornwall. 2000/2001 saw homes, businesses wrecked, and the road and rail network disrupted. November marks the start of this winter's flooding season, with experts predicting that climate change could cause more wet weather and flooding than ever before. Last autumn Cornwall and the south west of England experienced the heaviest rainfall since records began with 100 consecutive days of rain. A foot of rain fell in just ten days with a third of that coming in one torrential 30hr period.

World experts in the field of **steam energy** technology descended on Falmouth in October, 2001 for an international symposium on the future uses of steam being promoted by the Trevithick Society, as part of the bicentennial celebrations of Richard Trevithick's development of the world's first steam-powered motor vehicle. Until Trevithick designed and built the first practical high-pressure steam engine in 1797 the industrial engine had been a ponderous object combining fire, water, heavy engineering and masonry totalling many hundreds of tons. Trevithick's new engine weighed less than 5 tons and has been described as the greatest one-step miniaturisation in the history of engineering. His road locomotives proved the forerunners of all self-propelled transport in the world. Similarly, the design of his high-pressure boiler and stationary engine provided the basis for all steam power during the Industrial Revolution. The demands of new technology on an ecologically aware world are finding increasing applications for non-polluting, high-pressure steam.

One of Britain's finest choirs has recently returned from North America where it earned standing ovations. **Holman Climax Male Voice Choir** from Camborne started its tour in Michigan, where one person made a 400-mile round trip to

attend. They also performed in Ispeming and Columet where 90% of the audience had Cornish connections. A 250-seat theatre in Petosky was the final stop, where many commented that the Holman Climax was even better than the Vienna Boys Choir.

Various **Cornish festivals** were held before the onset of autumn. The tradition of **Crying the Neck**, a popular highlight of the Cornish year was kept alive at a ceremony at Trelowisa Farm, St Merryn. According to custom, the last piece of corn was cut with a scythe and added to the sheaf. After the corn has been added, the cutter shouts "I have'n!" three times. The others reply "What have 'ee?" three times. The cutter shouts "A neck! A neck! A neck!" and the others reply "Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!". The custom could be linked to the old pagan rituals to commemorate the death and resurrection of the Corn Spirit. It used to be done between different farms, everyone racing to be the first to finish the harvest.

Falmouth's Oyster Festival was also a huge success with visitors downing more than 7,000 of the slippery seafood. There were cookery demonstrations from local chefs, and people could buy plates of raw oysters to be washed down with Guinness or champagne. Perranporth also held its popular Lowendar Peran music festival, drawing fans and performers from Celtic nations including Wales, Ireland and Brittany. There were over 150 artists and most events were completely sold out. A video of the festival will be available in time for Christmas. And finally, hundreds of people flocked to **Tintagel** to enjoy the many activities arranged for the **Charter Day** celebrations which date back to the 14th century. In 1386, Richard 11's charter gave the people of Tintagel the right to hold a three-day fair, as well as the freedom of the county from tolls on bridges and market stands. The event lapsed for many centuries before making a comeback last year to coincide with the new Millennium.

Drawings have been unveiled for what is hoped will be the award-winning **Peninsula Medical School**. The three-site college will be used to teach doctors and nurses and also for research. The Cornish site for the school will be in the grounds of the Royal Cornwall Hospital at Triliske, Truro. It is hoped that the influx of medical students will attract wealth to the area and also solve a long running recruitment problem for the region. Construction is expected to begin next September and the building should be finished by February 2004.

Radio signals were transmitted this month for the 75th year at what is believed to be the world's oldest operating short-wave station. High-speed 'beam' messages have been sent around the world from Bodmin Radio Station since it first opened on October 25th 1926, but the station is due to close next year. It once played a vital role in international communications and was extremely important for the whole of the Empire. The amount of radio traffic was phenomenal the Christmas traffic sent in 1927 was 140,000 words a day, rising to 180,000 in 1928. Instead of using undersea cables to send radio messages, the station could relay beams containing information directly to receivers as far away as Canada, at speeds of 1,250 Morse Code characters a minute. From Canada, the messages would be relayed to such countries as Australia. Negotiations are underway to claim the station's place in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest operating short-wave radio station in the world, and first directional short-wave radio station.

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Ed. "The 12th December, 2001 was the 100 year anniversary of the first transmission of a radio signal from Poldhu Point, Cornwall to St Johns, Newfoundland by **Marconi** on 12 Dec.1901. The ABC broadcast a special anniversary programme from Centennial Park. As reported by Graham Hunt, that morning there was a live interview with Carolyn Rule from Mullion, Cornwall (Mullion Cove is almost below the Marconi Monument) about the Marconi Centre. Website:

<http://www.mulliononline.com>

"My family history is linked to the Rule's from Gwinear & Phillack, Cornwall in the 1800's. Roslyn & I visited the Marconi Monument high on the cliffline on a windy day in June 1999 - a very rugged coastline!, said Graham"

I heard some of the ABC program that morning, and it was great to hear news and talkback live. The BBC Radio Cornwall person giving the radios new website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cornwall> and it's more detailed site at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/england/radiocornwall/>

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As the £30 million re-vamp of **Truro City Centre** forges ahead, it may be time to pause and consider how the face of the city has changed throughout the years. The name Truro is most likely to have derived from the ancient word Tri-veru, meaning three rivers - the Kenwyn, Allen and Truro, which meet in the city. Over the centuries Truro has

evolved from a trading port into a stannary town exporting tin and copper, a borough, a city and now 'county' capital of Cornwall, with a population of 19,000. Work started in 1880 on Truro Cathedral, one of Britain's newest cathedrals. Completed in 1910 it is estimated to attract about 500,000 visitors a year. Major landmark attractions are the Royal Cornwall Museum, the Hall for Cornwall and Cornwall's design-winning Courts of Justice. The main leisure areas are Boscawen Park beside the Truro River, Victoria Gardens beside the river Kenwyn, and Idless Moor beside the river Allen. The building of the new piazza at Lemon Quay is taking shape, with the promise of two world-class water features.

The regeneration of **Redruth Town Centre** has been given its biggest boost yet with the official opening of the £2.6 million redevelopment of Alma Place the last of three major derelict sites in Redruth to be transformed. A feature of the new development is the Tregellas Tapestry, a pictorial record of Cornwall's history in a series of 58 tapestries. The individual panels portray milestones in Cornwall's history, from prehistoric to modern times. Miners, farmers and fishermen are remembered along with pirates, priests and inventors. The completed tapestry took three years and a team of 38 embroideries and designers.

A nostalgic visit was recently made by Barnes Wallis, son of the Barnes Wallis of 'bouncing bomb' fame, to RNAS Culdrose and its satellite airfield, Predannack. It was at Predannack in the early '50's that Barnes Wallis senior carried out trials on his latest invention, the 'Swing wing aircraft,' the Swallow and the Wild Goose. In fact, the aircraft which flew from Predannack during Barnes Wallis' trials were half-scale models, designed to test the theories of the great man. Mr Wallis was taken to view his father's test ramp, a mile-long concrete structure which was fitted with a precision built railway track along which bogies supporting the test aircraft were fired by rocket. These aircraft were then controlled from the ground by radio and their performances monitored by scientists on the ground.

Cornish Monopoly - A Cornish edition of the world's most popular board game Monopoly went on sale in November, 2001. To inject local interest, all the London place names on the board have been swapped for Cornwall's favourite landmarks. Instead of investing in Mayfair or Park Lane, punters can opt for the Eden Project or St Michael's Mount. Sporting assets on the board include St Mellion Golf Club and Falmouth's Royal Yacht Club. Also

included are Tintagel, Lanhydrock and the Minack Theatre. A spokesman for the company concerned said they had taken soundings from the Cornish public and the feedback was very positive.

Thanks again to Willow Books for the Cornish news service: Contact them at: sales@willowbooks.co.uk for their wide range of books.

Anna Corbett, Willow Books, United Downs Ind Est, St Day, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 5HY Tel: 01209 822011 Fax: 01209 822321

Editorial note: The content of (and the items in) this newsletter does **not** necessarily reflect the views of the CANSW, but of the various contributors and sources! If someone is sick then please let me know for a get-well message, or other news please! **The next Newsletter is due for February. Deadline is 4th February, 2002. Copy (written out or emailed or on disk) very welcome!**

<p>Nr.268 Dec 2001 Jan 2002 Editor: Chris Dunkerley 21 Cliff Rd. Epping 2121 (02) 9876.2893 (An 'Answer phone' - or peopled after 6.30pm) Email: kevrenor@ozemail.com.au</p>
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