

Rosanne made a Bard of Cornwall

Rosanne Hawke has been awarded a bardship for services to Cornish culture and literature by promoting Cornish identity, especially among young people. There were six bards appointed worldwide in 2006. Rosanne's bardic name is Myrgh Trevelyan (Daughter of Trevelyan).

Media Release by the late Ros Paterson OAM, who was the Official Australian Rep of Gorseth Kernow.

Due to the changes evolving from the moving of the Adelaide Cup Weekend, the Gathering of Bards of the Cornish Gorsedd in Australia will now be held on Friday 18th of May in Kadina's Victoria Square. The event which is an important part of Kernewek Lowender has, for many years, been held in Queen's Square, Moonta. However, with major events planned for Moonta on Saturday 19th May it wasn't possible to hold this traditional event in Moonta on that day.

The Gathering of Bards, which is a colourful event featuring the Cornish language, harp music, dance and choral singing, normally attracts about 500 people. Blue robed bards from all over Australia and also from Cornwall take part in the ceremony. Bards are people who have worked for Cornwall through their wholehearted support of the heritage, music, literature, language, and the arts either in Cornwall or elsewhere.

South Australia bards now number twelve. With Rosanne Hawke of Kapunda to receive Bardship at Redruth in Cornwall on 2nd of September for her services to literature for young people. Rosanne is the only Australian to be awarded Bardship this year. She expects to be present and welcomed into the bardic circle at next year's Kernewek Lowender.

Rosanne's Response

It is so incredible to be invited to be a bard of Cornwall. Such an honour, but I think my most overwhelming emotion is that of the feeling of belonging that this invitation brings to me as a Cornish-Australian. I so appreciate this inclusiveness of Cornwall to recognise and welcome the Cornish home as though the last 160 years have not passed. When I was in Cornwall last year people asked me, 'Where do your people come from?' They meant in Cornwall, and it made me feel I'd come home after a long time away.

A very special Cornish man and former Grand Bard, Pawley White, also made me feel as though I had just come home after a long time away. He will be greatly missed, but forever loved.

What is Gorseth Kernow?

The Gorseth is non-political, non-religious, non-profit-making and, contrary to some belief, has no connection with Druidism or any pagan practices. It exists solely to uphold the Celtic traditions of Cornwall and to honour men and women who have made outstanding contributions to Cornwall and its ancient culture, history and language.

Gorseth Kernow exists to maintain the national Celtic spirit of Cornwall:

- to promote the study of literature, art, music and history;

- to promote the study and use of the Cornish language;
- to maintain and nurture links with other Celtic cultures;
- to provide a forum and encouragement to all who work to further these aims.

There is evidence that Gorseths were held in Britain since "before the memory of man". The usually fractious Celtic tribes would declare a peace and gather together for celebrations and Competitions of Knowledge, Music and Poetry, thus creating and promoting a homogeneous Brythonic culture. The performers at these gatherings were titled BARDS and were highly valued in Celtic society.

Gorseth Kernow runs annual public competitions in poetry, music and prose, with entries in Cornish and English. These competitions are open to all, adults and children alike, and are offered to promote an interest in, and knowledge of, all things Cornish.

Rosanne's book *Wolfchild* was awarded a Commendation in the open 2004 Holyer an Gof awards, and *Across the Creek* won the children's section in 2005.

For more information about the Gorseth see:

<http://www.gorsethkernow.org.uk/english/about.htm>



Rosanne and a special flower girl at The Kernewek Lowender in Kadina