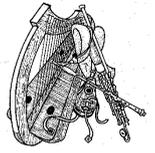




# he Shenanigans



## April (Aibreán) 2018 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club

Inc.

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1. The 'President's Charge' – a moral exhortation read to each national president of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society on taking up his (sic) duties – had remained unchanged since 1863. One passage stated: “With fond recollection ever cherish the memory of Ireland, condoling in her sufferings...and impressing upon the minds of the rising generation a love for her noble and developed race..”

Conscious perhaps of the sufferings of the 'rising generation' on battlefields closer to home, and of Eire's neutrality in this WWII war of survival, delegates to the Society's 1943 Victorian State conference wanted these phrases deleted. Also out was a verse from the 'Dear Little Shamrock' in favour of a piece of Australian poetry:

*God bless our lovely morning land:  
God keep her with enfolding hand  
Close to His side.*

### 2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

▪ **Heard at the March members' gathering:** Paddy's neighbour knocked on his door at 2.30am Lucky for him Pat was still playing his bagpipes!!

▪ **The April Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm – NOTE CHANGE because of Show Holiday; **Members' night – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8pm give or take.** **Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher:**

▪ **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7pm on EVERY Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes** are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.

▪ **March Committee Meeting 1)** Discussion re St. Patrick's Day; session players to be invited; donation to the Irish dancers to be made; Chronicle publicity; **2)** for further discussion – disabled toilets – need for a patron – possible outreach to places like Warwick, Clifton – flag poles to be made more user friendly – building a Presidents' Board; **3)** possible new national member invited to the April members' night.

3. WWW Sites: For those philatelists among us, go to: [www.aupost.ie](http://www.aupost.ie)

### 4. News from Ireland:

▪ 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Alfred Chester Beatty. The award - winning museum The Chester Beatty Library is planning a series of exhibitions to celebrate his priceless collection. The exhibition will include the 14<sup>th</sup> century Coétivy Book of Hours.

### 5. Bits and Pieces:

▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

“I knew if I waited around long enough  
Something like this would happen.”

(George Bernard Shaw.)

- **Quote from James Joyce:** “My words in her mind: cold polished stones sinking through a quagmire.”
- Some of the Orange Order’s practices in suppressing the 1798 rebellion: floggings; half-hangings; shearing – cutting off a suspect’s earlobes; and pitch-capping, in which a piece of thick paper soaked in pitch was fixed to a victim’s head and set alight.

### 6. This month in history.

- On Good Friday 10 April 1998 an agreement was reached after intensive negotiations involving the Irish and British governments and political parties in Ireland. Sinn Féin endorsed the Agreement, beginning a long-term political process that helped to transform Irish politics.
- On April 13 1742, in the New Musick Hall in Fishamble Street and under the baton of the composer himself, Handel’s *Messiah* was first given.

### 7. ‘Tings ‘Oirish:

- **Who said this?** “We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.” (The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

Here’s to your coffin!

May your coffin have six handles of finest silver.

May it be carried by six fair young maids.

May it be made of the finest wood

From a 100 year old tree

That I’ll go and plant tomorrow!

- **Irish wisdom:** It’s the first drop that destroys you – there’s no harm at all in the last.

- **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** Women are made to be loved, not understood.

- **W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “The Lake Isle of Innisfree.” (A repeat.)

I will arise and go now, for always night and day  
I hear the lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,

I hear it in the deep heart’s core. (Concl’d.)

- **This Month’s Limerick:**

There was a young fellow from Belfast  
Whom I wanted so badly to tell fast

Not to climb up the stair

As the top stair was air.

And that’s why the young fellow fell fast.

### 8. Irish History: The Ascendancy – 1700’s.

The real Calvinists were the Ulster Calvinists (or Dissenters), a separate regional sub-group for whom the Ascendancy had little affection. The Ascendancy passed a series of penal laws against Catholics and Dissenters alike, in the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, of which those against the Catholics were more onerous.

(Continued.)

### 9. Words from President, Tomas.

Thank you to all who attended and supported our St Patricks Day Parade. We had near 120 participants which is on the good side of numbers. Looking forward we have the Glenn Innes Celtic Festival to partake in. With regard to the building, we have reconnected with the our architects to flesh out the plans for a members room downstairs at the front of the Celtic Bar, and then to discuss a PWD toilet conversion. We are always on the move. Finally we still have two life member presentations to conclude and I hope you can join us at the members nights when this happens as the stories have been brilliant.

*Tomas*

(Answer: Oscar Wilde.)



Even the Saint himself made an appearance! 🍀

☘️

Photo Darrel Moran