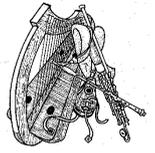




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February (Feabhra) 2018 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

PO Box 7510, Toowoomba South 4350 Ph.: **07 4639 8926**

Web: <http://darlingdownsirishclub.org.au>



Darling Downs Irish Club

Editor: Peter Kenny normandpete@hotmail.com

President: Tomas Guerin 0418717777

tomas_guerin@yahoo.com.au

Secretary: Ian Chase 0428835048

leslie_chase@bigpond.com

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1. A special blessing - St. Brigid:

St. Brigid has been known to generations of Irish people, and commands affection and respect. She is remembered for her hospitality and hard work, as a woman of God and a woman of the people. She was a powerful personality and appealed to all, from those on high to the humble beggar.

May Brigid bless the house where you dwell,
Bless every fireside, every wall and door.
Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof.
Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy.
Bless every foot that walks its portals through.
May Brigid bless the house that shelters you.

2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

▪ **Heard at the January members' gathering:** Paddy was in the cavalry and had been given a very spirited horse to ride. He got into such a tangle that the horse got its foot caught up in the stirrup iron. Looking down, Paddy saw this and exclaimed, "Be jabbers. If ye're getting up here, I'm getting off!"

- **The February Diary: St Brigid's Luncheon Sunday 4th at noon;** full Committee meeting: Thursday 8th, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 24th from 5 – 8 pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher:**
 - **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm on EACH Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes** are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.
 - **And don't forget our St. Patrick's Day March next month – either on Sunday 12th or 17th March 10.30am (Pending TRC permit.)**

- **December +January Committee Meetings:**
 - 1) New Irish Flags are in hand;
 - 2) renewal of our investment account at Heritage for 6 months approved;
 - 3) new national members, John Trethowan, Julie Harris and Anthony Young, approved;
 - 4) discussion re non-members at the Christmas function;
 - 5) Glenn Innes Celtic event – first week-end in May;
 - 6) Irish Whiskey tasting in July – two prices, one for members and one for others;
 - 7) roof completely fixed– no leaks over two summers;
 - 8) on-going discussion for replacement architect;
 - 9) St. Brigid's luncheon organised;
 - 10) as of January we have 114 financial members.
 - Our annual St. Brigid's day luncheon will be held on Sunday 4th February at noon in the Tara Room. **See flyer for full details.**

3 **WWW Sites:** Contemplating a contemplative Pilgrim Walk? Run in April and August, they offer accommodation in camping 'pods' with all facilities. Go to: www.topoftherock.ie/st-finbarrs-way/

4. News from Ireland:

▪ Pope Francis is going to visit Ireland in August next year to participate in the World Meeting of Families.

5. Bits and Pieces:

▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

Beneath this stone lies Murphy.

They buried him today.

He lived the life of Reilly,

While Reilly was away!!

▪ **Quote from James Joyce:** “Desire’s wind blasts the thorn tree, but after it becomes from a bramble bush to be a rose upon the rood of time.”

▪ The Black Death reached Ireland in August 1348. By Christmas, an estimated 14,000 people had died in Dublin alone. Scholarly estimates place the overall impact of one third of the population succumbing to the disease.

6. This month in History: Under the

Representation of the People Act passed by the Westminster Parliament in February 1918, women finally won the right to vote. The first woman elected was Sinn Féin’s Constance Markievicz in December 1918, who refused to take her seat in the British Parliament and took her seat in the First Dáil Éireann. Not universal suffrage, mind you. Only women who were householders or were married to one AND over the age of 30 got the vote in 1918. It wasn’t until 1928 that women over 21 got to tick the boxes.

7. ‘Tings ‘Oirish:

▪ **Who said this?** “I attribute my long and healthy life to the fact that I never touched a cigarette, a drink, or a girl until I was ten years old.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

May there be a generation of children

On the children of your children.

▪ **Irish wisdom:** Wisdom: easy to give; hard to take; seldom followed.

▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** True friends stab you in the front.

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

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:

Nine bean-rows will have there, a hive for the honey bee,

And live alone in the bee-loud glade. (Cont’d)

▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

There was a young fellow of Crete
Who was so exceedingly neat.

When he got out of bed

He stood on his head

To make sure of not soiling his feet.

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

The long wars were over. Ireland was at peace because one side had achieved a decisive, overwhelming victory. The Protestant interest was everywhere secure, although the memory of its recent insecurities was strong enough to make it ungenerous and unyielding in its hour of triumph. King William and the English Parliament would have been content to honour the articles of the Treaty of Limerick. It was the Irish Parliament, with the memories of 1641 and 1688 still fresh in its mind, which refused to do so. (Continued.)

9. Words from President, Tomas.

Hello Folks,

The 4th of February brings our annual St Brigid’s luncheon, and while I will be interstate I wish you all an entertaining afternoon. I particularly congratulate Frances on the receipt of her deserved club life membership. We are still awaiting a response from the local council as to our club parade on the 17th March. I appreciate that some prefer the Sunday prior, however my position is that if possible we have our parade on Saturday the 17th. We will keep you posted. With the proposed costs and loss of our architect, the club room development is in the doldrums. Current thinking is that the front of the Celtic bar may prove a more financially sensible and accessible location, but rest assured we will consult with general membership and we never make hasty decisions. With that, I will see you at the end of February.

Cheers,

Tomas

(Answer: George Moore.)