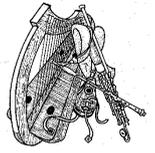




the Shenanigans



February (Feabhra) 2020 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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1. A special blessing - St. Brigid:

Throughout Irish history, there have been many lesser known female Irish Heroes. This year in our newsletter, we will be mentioning seven or eight of them, one each month. Currently, the names Nano Nagle, Maud Gunne, Constance Markievicz, and Mary Robinson spring to mind as women whose work and lives have made an impression on the country or wider world.

This month however, we concentrate on St. Brigid, in whose memory we will hold our annual luncheon in the Tara Room at noon on Sunday 2nd February. These are always an enjoyable gathering, so let's begin the new decade with a record attendance.

Music will be provided by a couple of members of our own "Sessiun" traditional music group.

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 and Mick sat in a café eating sandwiches and drinking coffee.

The waitress came over and said, "You can't eat your own sandwiches in here." So they swapped!

- **The February Diary: St Brigid's Luncheon Sunday 2nd at noon;** full Committee meeting: Thursday 13th, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 28th from 5 – 8.00pm 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'.

- **Empire Theatre events** – Murphy's Pigs – Brisbane Irish Band, 20th Feb 11.00am

- **And don't forget our St. Patrick's Day March next month – Sunday 15th.**

- **December Committee Meetings**

1) In Ian's absence, Craig again did an excellent job with the minutes; 2) plaque for deceased Committee member Bob Triggs was displayed – since placed in the snug he used to frequent; 3) 3 renewals and 2 new National members – Siobhan Yorkston and Eanan Fieritea; 4) hotel lease renewal took up quite a bit of time; 5) big thanks to all for the successful Christmas party; 6) Gitie House will be the St Brigid's Day speaker – Gitie organises the Languages and Cultural Festival in Queen's park each August; 7) Club Logo to be spruced up; 8) Glen Innes Celtic Festival 1st week-end in May; 9) A small gift for the two 'Irish-dancing girls' from the Christmas party approved; 10) QPAC in April – "Spirit of the Dance"; 11) Honour board acquired – more work yet.

January Committee Meeting: 1) changes of address to be sent to Club Sec.; 2) main bar floor area repairs; 3) l-o-n-g discussion on hotel lease; 4) St Brigid's day lunch arrangements;

5) refreshed Club logo agreed upon; 6) Irish Halloween in October; 7) Burns Dinner attendance; 8) survey of Club members to improve Club membership.

3. [WWW Sites: Sligo.ie](#) is a web site just launched by the Sligo County Council promoting living and working in the north west

4. [News from Ireland:](#)

▪ It is 50 years since **Samuel Beckett** was awarded the **Nobel Prize for literature**. One of four Irishmen who have won the prize, others being W.B. Yeats in 1923, G.B. Shaw in 1925, and Seamus Heaney in 1995.

5. [Bits and Pieces:](#)

▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

Pray as you pass by
So as you are so once was I
As I am now so will you be
Prepare yourself and pray for me.

▪ **Quote from James Joyce:** “God made food; the devil - the cooks!”

▪ The results of the December Election in Britain, may well mean a move by both Scotland and Northern Ireland to leave the UK, the latter perhaps to join the Republic. What an unforeseen outcome!

▪ **Irish Heroines – lesser known:** **Maria Edgeworth** (1767 – 1849) has often been overlooked among the greats of Irish Literature, despite being one of the most successful novelists of her generation, with a gift for social observation and dialogue that earned her the admiration of Sir Walter Scott and Jane Austen. She was among the first writers to recognise the stories of the real Irish peasant class. As an 80 y.o., she went door-to-door in Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford, distributing food during the Famine.

6. [‘Tings ‘Oirish:](#)

▪ **Who said this?** “Married life is merely a habit.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.
May the soft winds freshen your spirit.
May the sunshine brighten your heart.
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you.
And may God enfold you in the mantle of his love.

▪ **Irish wisdom:** Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people whom we personally dislike.

▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** Niagara Falls is the bride’s second great disappointment.

▪ **W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “An Acre of Grass.”

Picture and book remain,

An acre of green grass

For air and exercise,

Now strength of body goes;

Midnight, an old house

Where nothing stirs but a mouse.

(Cont’d.)

▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

‘Tis famous, the food from Killarney,
As tasty and fresh as sweet Blarney.

Knowing well it is nice

When served fast on ice

Gourmets shriek for Chili con Kearney.

7. [Irish History: The gathering storm:](#)

Into the world of worsening agrarian and sectarian unrest, the French Revolution of 1789 burst like a firecracker. Its heady doctrines of liberty, democracy and the rights of man (sic), left nobody in Ireland untouched. It terrified the ascendancy; it radicalised Protestant liberals; and it rekindled an old dream amongst Catholics. (Cont’d.)

8. [Words from President, Tomas.](#)

Hello Folks,

Welcome to 2020 the Chinese Year of the Rat.

The first Sunday in February is the St Brigid’s luncheon which I hope will be a success under the guidance of committee member Mary McGovern.

I have a weekend board meeting for a charitable Children’s camp I help at in my spare time so will not be in attendance. The drought and fires bit hard this summer locally and nationally which gives us all pause and in positive news we have had some much needed rain in the region. Your committee has been active investigating technology upgrades for the club (membership, payments) and working on the building and our lease.

Tomas

(Answer: Oscar Wilde.)