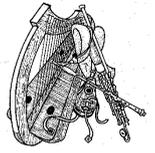




the Shenanigans



May (Bealtaine) 2018 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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1. In 1847 the Dublin University Magazine published the following sad, sad piece:

Food! Food! Food!
Beware before you spurn,
Ere the cravings of the famishing
To loathing madness turn;
For hunger is a fearful spell,
And fearful work is done,
Where the key to many a reeking crime,
Is the curse of living on!

Home! Home! Home!
A dreary fireless hole
A miry floor and a dripping roof,
And a little straw – its whole.
Only the ashes that smoulder not,
Their blaze was long ago,
And the empty space for kettle and pot,
Where they once stood in a row!

Only the naked coffin of deal,
And the little body within,
I cannot shut it out from my sight,
So hunger-bitten and thin;
I hear the small weak moan
The stare of the hungry eye,
Though my heart was full of a strange, strange joy
The moment I saw it die.

2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

- **Heard at the April members' gathering:** Paddy and Mick went to America and the first thing they saw was a hot dog stand. "Will you look at that," said Paddy. "They eat dogs in this country." "They're very reasonable," said Mick. "We'll give them a try." As they began to eat, Paddy said to Mick, "What part of the dog did you get?"
- **The May Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 10th, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 25th from 5 – 8.00pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher:**
- **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm **EACH** Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome.
- **For all those James Joyce fans out there, keep Sunday 17th of NEXT month free for our annual Bloomsday Luncheon and discussion.**
- **April Committee Meeting:** **1)** flag poles to be made safer for the changing of flags; **2)** bar top in the Michael Collins bar needs repair; **3)** we are looking at an honour board to acknowledge Club Presidents; **4)** Committee reluctantly accepted letter of resignation from David Green for health reasons. This leaves a casual vacancy. **Do we have a member who is willing to step in until the A.G.M?** Fran has volunteered to take on the organisation of the IRISH whiskey tasting event that David was to arrange – thank you Fran; **5)** new National members Nicola McGlynn and Nuala O'Sullivan were approved for membership as well as two social members. We now have 84 National, 19 social and 10 life members; **6)** payment for the fence repairs behind the hotel was approved; **7)** possibility of a James Joyce display in the TRC Library in June; **8)** some members going to represent the Club at the Celtic Festival in Glen Innes early in May; **9)** we intend to look into the possibility of some outreach to other Darling Downs towns for members; **10)** the

Information Centre in James St. will be provided with flyers to promote Traditional Irish Music; **11)** a review of St. Patrick's Day – all positive.

3. WWW Sites:

Interested in an Atlantic trip on your next visit to Ireland? Off the west coast of Cork you can see basking sharks, mink whales and dolphins:

www.aquaventures.ie

4. News from Ireland:

- In August Pope Francis is going to visit Dublin for two days, the first Papal visit to Ireland in almost forty years.
- Debts raked up by T.D.s and Senators in unpaid tabs in the Dáil bar and restaurant will be automatically deducted from their salary from mid-June. (Wonder what our mob do?)
- European Council President, Donald Tusk, has warned there will be no withdrawal agreement and no transition deal unless the problem of the border between Ireland and the U.K. is solved. "The U.K.'s decision on Brexit has caused the problem and the U.K. will have to solve it."

5. Bits and Pieces:

▪ An Irish Epitaph:

Here lies the body of John Mound.
Lost at sea and never found.

- **Quote from James Joyce:** "Man and woman, love. What is it? A cork and a bottle."
- In 1848, Thomas Francis Meagher, brought the green white and orange flag back from Paris, an obvious imitation of the revolutionary *tricolore*.

6. This month in history: Reeling from the mass resistance to conscription, in May 1918 the British Government concocted the 'German Plot', alleging that Sinn Féin was co-operating with a planned German invasion of Ireland. 150 Sinn Féin members were arrested and interned in England and Wales. One of them, Richard Coleman, a 1916 Rising veteran died in UsK Prison in the general flu epidemic.

7. 'Tings 'Oirish:

- **Who said this?** "If you accept your limitations, you go beyond them."
(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)
- **This month's Irish Blessing:**
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in **blessings**.
Slow to make enemies, and quick to make friends.
But rich or poor, quick or slow, may you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.

- **Irish wisdom:** The truth comes out when the spirit goes in.

- **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** Experience is simply the name we give to our mistakes.

- **W. B. Yeats' poem:**

"The Indian to His Love."

The island dreams under the dawn
And great boughs drop tranquillity;
The peahens dance on a smooth lawn,
A parrot sways upon a tree,
Raging at his own image in the enamelled sea.
(Cont'd.)

- **This Month's Limerick:**

There was a young fellow named Hall
Who fell in the spring in a fall.
'Twould have been a sad thing
Had he died in the spring.
But he didn't – he died in the fall.

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

These Penal laws were directed against Catholic ownership of land, already reduced to barely 10 per cent of the island, in the hope of further diminishing Catholic influence. In the 18th century, land ownership meant power. Catholics were also forbidden to practise law, to hold public office or to bear arms. Younger sons who confirmed to the Church of Ireland, could disinherit their older brothers who did not. (Continued.)

9. Words from President, Tomas.

Hello Folks,

So I missed the last committee meeting due to child related school musicals, but did enjoy the members night and meeting a few of the prospective members who came and visited us. I spoke about the plans/desires to turn the front of the Celtic Bar into the club rooms and the medium term plan for PWD toilets at the site. There was some discussion about naming the room and that is something I am prepared to open to the members and sit back and enjoy. The club was represented by members at the Glen Innes Celtic Festival under the scrutiny of Aileen; and a thank you to her for that. Please keep your eyes open for the Blooms Day luncheon and the upcoming Irish Whiskey evening.

Tomas

(Answer: Brendan Behan)