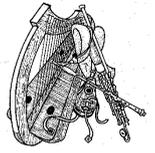




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## September (Meán Fómhair) 2019 Newsletter of the Darling Downs

Irish Club Inc.

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**1. At last month's A.G.M.** the following were elected to your Committee: President – Tomas Guerin; Vice President- Derm Guerin; Secretary- Ian Chase; Treasurer – Paul McGowan; Registrar – Kevin Chase; Committee members: – Aileen Cater-Steel; Margaret O'Meara; Michael Steel; Craig Maher; Mary McGovern; Peter Kenny; Bob Triggs.

We all congratulate these Club members, especially the two new ones, and thank them for being willing to give of their time and talents to help this DDIC operate and to move along. Don't forget – this Committee needs YOUR support.

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

▪ **Heard at the August members' gathering:** Every Irish woman's dream – her ideal man takes her in his arms, throws her on the bed....and goes and cleans the whole house while she sleeps.

▪ **The September Diary: Full (New) Committee meeting:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm **Members' night – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> from 5.00pm – 8.00 pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher:**

▪ Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes etc. as well as Irish pub songs – Traditional Irish Music sessions are held at 7.00pm 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'.**

▪ **August Committee Meeting 1)** Thanks to all those members who have paid their renewals – keep them flowing in- currently 123 members; **2)** Julie Ryan and Emma Kluck were approved as new national members. We look forward to seeing them at Club functions; **3)** a copy of our constitution is to be placed on our web site; **4)** correspondence from Melbourne showing interest in our James Joyce seat; **5)** drawings for the new passageway from the Celtic Bar; **6)** arrangements for the Ceilidh, the AGM, the Queen's Park Languages and Cultural Festival, and the Annual Dinner on 19/10 were discussed; **7)** new lease agreement for the hotel is coming up; **8)** honour board – on-going; **9)** new flags for the hotel ordered.

▪ **NEXT month – Saturday 19th - keep it free for the Club's Annual Dinner. Details on flyer in newsletter mail out.**

▪ Don't forget to keep the afternoon of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December free for the **Christmas Party.**

**3. WWW Sites:** Achill Island sea salt – a family business begun in 2013 around the O'Malley family's kitchen table, now has a visitor centre: [www.achillislandseasalt.ie](http://www.achillislandseasalt.ie)

**4. News from Ireland:** The Irish passport remains one of the most valuable in the world, ranked 6th in place globally. It is considered one of the most prized in the world because it offers visa-free travel to 183 countries.

**5. Bits and Pieces:**

▪ An Irish Epitaph:  
When my country takes her rank  
Among the nations of the earth.  
Then, and not till then,  
Let my epitaph be written  
Oh! Erin Oh!  
(Robert Emmet's words.)

▪ **Quotes from James Joyce:**

“Whatever else is unsure in this stinking dunghill of a world, a mother's love is not.”  
(Must have been having a bad day – ed.)

▪ Here's to the health of your enemies' enemies!!

**6. This month in history:** Thomas Ashe was an active member of the Gaelic League and an accomplished performer on the traditional war pipes. He took a major part in the 1916 Rising in Ashbourne, Meath. He died on hunger strike on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1917 at the Mater Hospital in Dublin after being force-fed by prison authorities.

**7. 'Tings 'Oirish:**

▪ **Who said this?** “We poets should die of loneliness but for women, and we chose our men friends that we may have somebody to talk about women with.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month's Irish Blessing:**

May God not weaken your hand.

▪ **Irish wisdom:** A nation's greatest enemy is the small minds of its small people.

▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly**

**comment:** It is better to be beautiful than to be good. But, it is better to be good than to be ugly.

▪ **W. B. Yeats' poem:** “A woman Young and Old – A Last Confession.”

I gave what other women gave  
That stepped out of their clothes,  
But when this soul, its body off,  
Naked to naked goes,  
He it has found shall find therein  
What none other knows..(Cont'd.)

▪ **This Month's Limerick:**

A young Irish lassie named Smith,  
Whose virtue was largely a myth:  
“Try hard as I can  
I can't find a man  
Whom it's fun to be virtuous with.”

**8. Irish History Colonists and Defenders.**

Under English pressure, the Irish parliament passed a Catholic Relief Act in 1778 which eased the restrictions on Catholic land ownership. The really radical measure came 15 years later, as the twin fears of the French wars and Irish unrest caused London to act over the heads of the protesting Ascendancy. Catholics were allowed to enter the professions, especially the law and the army, were given the vote on the same basis as protestants, and were permitted to join militia companies and therefore to bear arms.(Continued.)

**9. Words from President, Tomas.**

Thank you all for your attendance and participation in the club Annual General Meeting. For a change we weren't scrabbling to make a quorum (25 people) and there was high interest from the floor to fill the single committee vacancy. Thank you to Jan, Kevin, and Erin for nominating. I will be sure to come up with roles for you. Returning Management Committee members Tomas Guerin, Derm Guerin, Ian Chase, Paul McGowan, Kevin Chase, Aileen Cater-Steel, Margaret O'Mara, Michael Steel, Robert Triggs, and Peter Kenny. New members Craig Maher and Mary McGovern. The committee thanks retiring members Dr Stephen McDonald and Ms Jan Torcetti. Our next club event is the Annual Dinner on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October and we will be sure to send out invitations to all.

*Tomas*

(Answer: William Butler Yeats..)

