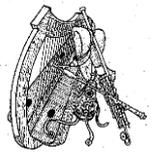




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April 20-13 Newsletter of the

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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1. The Toowoomba Regional Council Library has a five part DVD set entitled "The Story of Ireland." The five x 1 hour sessions covers the history of the place from pre - celtic times up to the 21st century. Hosted by Fergal Keane, it makes good use of many academics from various universities, not all within Ireland by any means. A wonderful coverage – the best I've seen.

This month, we remember those brave Irishmen who took up arms on that Easter Monday, 24th April 1916.

The Easter Uprising seems to have been a modern day turning point in Ireland's struggle for independence, a struggle not without its repercussions for the populace even when independence did come.

The brutal English response, did in fact turn to bite them, as the world's reaction as well as that of the Irish, went decidedly against them.

Kilmainham Jail was witness to the brutal justice meted out to those who were executed in that place.

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

▪ Heard at the March members' night: One winter morning Mary and Paddy were listening to the radio. The announcer said,

"We are going to have 8-10 inches of snow today. Can you park on the even numbered side of the street so we can get the snow plough through?" Paddy did as asked.

Next week much the same request came through – this time parking on the odd numbered side.

When an even worse snowfall came a week later, the power went off just as the announcer was about to give instructions. Paddy was worried about where to park the car.

With all the love and understanding she could muster, Mary sweetly said, "Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time?"

▪ **The April diary: Full Committee** Thurs. 11th, 7.00pm; **Members' night Friday 26th – remember that a free drink voucher will be given to all financial members – we gather between 5 and 8 pm: Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd, 16th and 30th at 7 p.m. in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish music is played.**

▪ Congratulation all round to everyone who helped make St. Patrick's Day last month the huge success it undoubtedly was. Special thanks to treasurer Michael who organised all those permits etc.

▪ **The planning committee:** At the March meeting the sub-committee inspected the work almost completed on the flooring of the Michael Collins Bar. Staff gave positive feed -back. The kitchen floor under the fridge and

freezer was also inspected with a view to drawing up plans for a quote on that job. Next meeting set for 8th April.

- **March Committee meeting:** 1) the Committee was addressed by 2 men from Brisbane re the Australian/Irish Association; 2) there was discussion about an Irish Whiskey tasting evening; 3) rule books for new members will be available at each members' night; 4) the club is still in a strong financial position; 5) approval of new members - National – Michael McKeon, Eidin Nishe, Gordon Marshall, Duncan Mitchell, and Paul Triggs – Social – Juanita Fett, John Saide, Madonna Mitchell; 6) there was discussion about the work of the planning sub-committee.

3. **WWW Sites:** www.irelandsbluebook.com gives a grand array of boutique, individual-style hotels and guest houses, often owner-run. Well worth a look for your next visit to the emerald isle.

4. **News from Ireland:**

Galway recently took out the title of 'favourite Irish holiday destination' knocking Kerry off the top spot. Surveyed by MyHome.ie, some 28% of respondents picked Galway with 23% choosing Kerry. Cork maintained its third position with 12%. Other results: Wexford 7%; Donegal and Mayo both on 6%; Clare 5%; Dublin 3%. Poor old Dublin was also voted the 'least appealing' place for a holiday.

5. **Know your rule:** Item 19: **Delegation of Management Committee Powers.**

2) A subcommittee may only exercise delegated powers in the way the Management Committee decides.

6. **'Tings 'Oirish.**

- **Who said this?** "We are all born mad – some remain so."

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- **This month's Irish Blessing:**

For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way. Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day.

- **Irish wisdom:**

The **50-50** rule attributed to 'Murphy': Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong!

- **Oscar Wilde(1854-1900) - monthly comment:**

Those who see any difference between soul and body have neither.

- Another **W. B. Yeats' poem:** "Under Ben Bulben." – an extract:
Measurement began our might:
Forms a stark Egyptian thought,

Forms that gentler Phidias wrought.
Michael Angelo left a proof
On the Sistine Chapel roof,
Where but half awakened Adam
Can disturb globe-trotting Madam
Till her bowels are in heat,
Proof that there's a purpose set
Before the secret working mind:
Profane perfection of mankind.

- **This Month's Limerick:**

A man from near Galway Station,
Who was found by a pious relation,
Making love in a ditch
To – I won't say a *****

But a girl who had no reputation.

7. **A bit of Irish History (Geraldine Ireland)** – concluded:

The Kildare ascendancy had meant that Ireland could be governed in the king's name without the king having to pay for it. The Earls of Kildare controlled the country through their own armies or those of their family allies; they received the revenues from taxation; they controlled patronage and jobs. It is interesting, however, that they never took the fateful step of attempting to proclaim themselves kings of Ireland. For all their awesome power, the earls answered to England in the end. And by the early 16th century, England was locked in the grip of a religious and constitutional revolution that would sweep their world away. (Next month – Tudor Ireland.)

8. **Words from President Derm:**

What a wonderful St Patrick's Day we celebrated this year! The weather was perfect, and the parade went off without a hitch, led by our Town Crier, Ralph Cockle, St Patrick himself, the children pulling the snakes with marching music provided by the Toowoomba Caledonian Pipe Band. We were able to lubricate ourselves on returning to the Hotel and celebrate into the late evening, with lots of fun & laughter! Thanks to all who contributed; and in only 50 weeks we can do it again!

I look forward to seeing you all at our monthly gathering on Friday 26th at 5.00pm!

Diarmuid Guerin



(Answer – Samuel Beckett.)