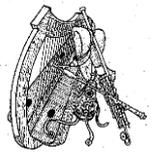




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August 20-12 Newsletter of the

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Club Event. 2. Club matters & Members' news & stories. 3. www.sites. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. News from Ireland. 5. DDIC Constitution. 6. 'Tings "Oirish". 7. A bit of history. 8. Derm's words. |
|--|---|

1. New Club Event: Just a brief report on last month's movie outing provided for members.

There was a small but enthusiastic group who watched a moving and thought provoking movie about the man after whom one of our bars is named.

No doubt there will be a lot of follow-up discussion at this month's full Committee meeting.

One thing to come out of the post-movie discussion is the advantage there would be for such event to be held in our own club rooms – something that your Committee has been looking at for some time now and the concept seems to be gathering momentum.

Let's see where all this leads us. **It is all the more important, therefore, that YOU attend this month's AGM so that you can voice your opinions on where you would like to see us heading as a Club.**

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

▪ Heard at the July members' gathering: As the barman poured Paddy his usual whiskey; he asked if Paddy wanted to be in the raffle. "What's it for?" asked Paddy. "It's for a poor widow with 13 kids," replied the barman. Paddy shook his head. "No good for me. I'd never be allowed to keep them."

▪ **The August diary: Full Committee – Thurs. 9th, 7.00pm; Members' night – Friday 31st between 5 & 8 pm** – remember that **drinks vouchers** will be handed out on the night to financial members - **as well, we will be holding our AGM at 6pm:**

Music sessions at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 7th and 21st. in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers welcome.

The Club's annual Dinner- Saturday 11th August. Come along and make a grand night of it. Just book as per the flyer.

▪ **The planning committee:** Celtic art work in the Celtic Bar is starting soon – Cameron is attending; still waiting on quotes for replacements of parts of the flooring in the main bar.

▪ **News from the July Committee Meeting:** **1)** New club shirts – a couple still available - \$45 – looking **very** smart and quite popular; **2)** renewals of membership now due – we would like every member to get a member, preferably someone on the younger side of 50!! **3)** more popular Tara mugs to be placed on order from Ireland; **4)** more discussion on the formation of our own club rooms above the main bar were again discussed – make your opinions heard at the AGM; **5)** the Club has purchased a set of books written in Gaelic; **6)** the History sub-committee would like any information to extend what has already been achieved – photos, documents, memorabilia etc. - Tomas is co-ordinating this sub-committee and can be contacted on the above number; **7)** a lot of discussion about the Annual Dinner – see flyer; **8)** some discussion about the AGM also; **9)** Tomas would like some material for our web site – again photographs, articles etc. **10)** We sited a pair of hockey sticks which used to hang in the old Club rooms – signed by all participants – Tomas would like some information on these if anyone has details. We hope to hang them in our 'new' Club rooms when they eventuate.

3. WWW Sites:

Now that the lifting of the copyright on James Joyce's writings has occurred, the National Library of Ireland has published a major collection of his manuscripts free to all on the web:

<http://iti.ms/HCcK5C>

4. News from Ireland: Kieran O'Callaghan, a PhD student at Cork Institute of Technology, has won the overall award at the **European Student Innovation finals in France**. It is the first time the award has been won outright by an Irish student. Kieran's project involved designing and developing an obstacle detection and navigation aid for the visually impaired.

5. Know your rule: Item 18 – Meetings of the Management Committee: 11) A notice of a special meeting must state – (a) the day, time and place of the meeting; and (b) the business to be conducted at the meeting.

6. 'Tings 'Oirish.

- Who said this? "Better pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than fade and wither dismally with age."

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

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

May the best of your past be the worst of your future.

- **Irish wisdom:** Asked whether he was an Irishman or not, Dion Lardner Bucicault replied, "Nature did me that honour."

- **Oscar Wilde(1854-1900)- monthly comment:** In England, a man who can't talk morality to a large, popular, immoral audience is quite over as a serious politician.

- Another **W. B. Yeats' poem:** "The Circus Animals' Desertion."

What can I but enumerate old themes?
First that sea-rider Oisín led by the nose
Through three enchanted islands, allegorical dreams,
Vain gaiety, vain battle, vain repose,
Themes of the embittered heart, or so it seems,
That might adorn old songs or courtly shows;
But what cared I that set him on to ride,
I, starved for the bosom of his faery bride?

- **This Month's Limerick:**

There was once a digger from Sturt
Who was frequently given to blurt,

"Say what you can

I'm a most cultured man,

For my name is Acidophilus Yoghurt."

- **What it means to grow up Irish – The FINAL comment:** No one really understands what it says, but almost everyone in your family can repeat the Nicene Creed verbatim!

7. A bit of Irish History (Mediaeval Ireland) – continued:

By the middle of the 14th century, all of Connacht except for the town of Galway had been recovered (from the Normans) and all of Ulster except for Carrickfergus. The pale had shrunk. Only the great Norman magnates of the south and east – the FitzGerald of Kildare and Desmond, and the Butlers of Ormond – were proof against the Gaelic resurgence, and many of these were themselves relatively 'Gaelicised' through inter-marriage and the adoption of the Irish language. This was especially true of the FitzGerald of Desmond.

8. Words from President Derm:

Accompanying this "The Shenanigans" is the Agenda for your club's 2012 Annual General Meeting to be held on 31st August 2012, during a break in our monthly Members' get together. Only National members can vote and serve on the Committee.

There is also a nomination form for positions on the Club's Committee. This is your opportunity to contribute to the running of you Club on a day to day basis as well as helping determine its long term future.

I have decided to nominate for President again, but I am conscious of the fact that one can stay on too long. I'd like to see some new, possibly younger members on the Committee; members who have never served before.

Because I will be on holidays for all of August I'll miss our Annual Dinner, which is always a great night, and the Annual General Meeting. I'll find out on my return if I still have a job!

Peter has mentioned you Committee is examining options to establish our own "Club Rooms"; ideally they would be within the Hotel building, possibly upstairs in what was the Licensee's living quarters. I'm negotiating with Cameron and I'll keep members posted on the progress I'm making.

On Tuesday 31st July I represented the Club at an Official Luncheon in honour of His Excellency, Mr Noel White, newly appointed Ambassador of Ireland to Australia. The luncheon was in the Speaker's Dining Room, Parliamentary Annexe and was hosted by The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP Treasurer and Minister for Trade

Diarmuid Guerin

