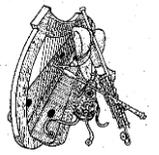




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July 2013 Newsletter of

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

PO Box 7510, Toowoomba South 4350. (<http://darlingdownsirishclub.org.au>) **07 4639 8926**

(Newsletter correspondence / items to normandpete@hotmail.com)

Pres: Derm Guerin: W) 46398999: derm@comtel.com.au Sec: Ian Chase: M) 0428 835 048: leslie_chase@bigpond.com

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1. The Troubles, as the Civil war in Ireland is sometimes euphemistically referred to, ran from June 1922 for 11 sad months, and included the assassination of Michael Collins. "An Illustrated History of the Irish Civil War" written by George Morrison, gives a thorough expose of events of these times which were so difficult for the Irish people. Thanks to Club member, Pat McNamee who has made this resource available to us all, I will try to bring something of these troubled times to the members over the coming months.

The tensions resulted from the Treaty which Michael Collins had hammered out in London - a gradualist, yet realistic document which did not go far enough for many out and out Republicans. Men who had stood shoulder to shoulder fighting the British, now found themselves embroiled in a conflict where they were killing each other. Is it any wonder, 'the troubles' are often simply not referred to in conversation in some parts of Ireland?

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

- Heard at the July members' night: A Texan walks into an Irish pub and says, "I hear you Irish are a bunch of hard drinkers. I'll give \$500 American to anyone who can down 10 pints

of Guinness back-to-back. The room is quiet, but one man leaves the bar.

Thirty minutes later the same man returns. "Is your bet still good?" In response to an affirmative reply, the Irishman lines up 10 pints and downs the lot, one after the other.

The Texan comes good with his \$100 and says, "If ya don't mind me askin, where did you go for the half hour?"

The Irishman replies, "Oh ... I had to go to the pub next door to see if I could do it!"

- **The July 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 in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish music** is played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.

- Last month quite a few of our members travelled to Maleny to attend the Celtic Winter School – a grand time was had by all, by all accounts.

- Don't forget to support "Kendo's **Irish Cafe**" near St. Paul's in Ruthven St. Carol has loyalty cards too.

- **The planning committee:** At the June meeting most of the time was spent discussing the proposed work in the hotel kitchen. Final decision deferred to the full Committee meeting.

- **June Committee meeting: 1)** Your Club is in a VERY sound financial position. Come along to the AGM in August to see just how sound; **2)** Please keep those renewals coming in- it keeps

Max, the registrar, happy! **3)** the history sub-committee is working on some more interviews of a couple of foundation members – thank you Tomas; **4)** After some quite willing discussion, the Committee narrowly decided to go ahead with repair work on the kitchen floor; **5)** the Committee is having a social gathering to celebrate this year’s achievements; **6)** Tomas is looking into the legalities of us establishing our own Club rooms on the premises of the hotel; **7)** members may soon have the option of paying dues etc. By PayPal; **8)** Committee members are being represented at TRC stakeholder meetings concerning the Outer Circulating Road. This will involve work on Russell St. in 2014.

3. WWW Sites: www.storymap.ie is the site of a guide app to Dublin. However, instead of just taking you from place to place with a bit of historical commentary, this app is made up of stories from different people telling what each place means to them.

4. News from Ireland: **The Great Book of Ireland** is an extraordinary vellum manuscript of the original works of 9 composers, 121 artists, and 143 poets, including 3 literature Nobel Laureates: Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney, and Derek Walcott. Produced in Dublin between 1989 and 1991, it has been hailed as the modern day Book of Kells – it has also been described as an ‘artistic time capsule’. University College Cork has acquired the Book which is to be preserved for posterity on behalf of the Irish people. And there is the 41st Summer School of Irish instrumental music, language, dance and singing is being held in Miltown Co. Clare this month from 6th – 14th.

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

5) A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it considers appropriate.

6. Tings ‘Oirish.

• **Who said this?** “I knew by the smoke that so gracefully curl’d above the green elms, that a cottage was near. And I said, ‘If there’s peace to be found in the world, a heart that was humble might find hope for it here’.” (The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

May the most you wish for be the least you get.

▪ **Irish wisdom:**

The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune.

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

One should never listen. To listen is a sign of indifference to one’s hearers.

▪ **Another W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “Are You Content?” – a completion:

Infirm and aged I might stay

In some good company,

I who have always hated work,

Smiling at the sea,

Or demonstrate in my own life

What Robert Browning meant

By an old hunter talking with the Gods;

But I am not content.

▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

The incredible Wizard of Oz

Retired from his business becoz

Due to up-to-date science,

To most of his clients

He wasn’t the Wizard he woz.

7. A bit of Irish History (Tudor Ireland) –

Just as he had snuffed out Welsh independence and reduced the power of the magnates in the north of England, Henry was determined that his writ would run throughout his realm, administered not by over-mighty subjects but by a new, loyal English bureaucracy, judiciary and clergy. The king gained control of the Irish Church by the same means he had used in England – he dissolved the monasteries and remitted their revenues to the state. He also made himself formally king of Ireland in 1541. (His predecessors had contented themselves with the title ‘Lord of Ireland’.

8. Words from President Derm:

We had a great “Bloom’s Day” celebration this year, a number of our members read entertaining passages from “Ulysses” & our guest speaker Gabrielle Rowen-Clarke spoke on the subject “Ulysses: Food & Memory”; thanks to all those who helped organise the event.

Our AGM will be held before our Members’ night on Friday 30th August, so put that in your diary!

Thanks to those members who have got their Membership renewals in; they’ll be right for their complimentary drink next Members’ night.

Diarmuid Guerin

Answer – Found in *Ballad Stanzas* by Thomas Moore..)