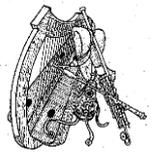




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June 2013 Newsletter of

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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1 The story told by James Joyce about a day in the life of an ordinary Irishman, Leopold Bloom, takes place on June 16 1904. Joyce chose this date as it was the day he first met his lifetime partner, Nora Barnacle.

Bloomsday, celebrated worldwide, is a public acknowledgement of "Ulysses", the work of this brilliant Irish writer. Joyce was a writer with an extraordinary ear and when people read 'Ulysses' aloud, as we will do on Sunday 16th – the actual day they pay homage to the magic of one of the toughest and most towering works in our literature. It really unfolds its magic when it is heard as mellifluous and earthy, musical but shop soiled human speech.

Club members and others will gather at the James Joyce chair in Federation Park – the chair which our Club has donated to the citizens of Toowoomba – where we will listen to an extract from the book. Afterwards we move over to the hotel for lunch where we will learn a little more about this momentous work of Irish literature.

This event is one of the real 'gems' on our Club's calendar – come along, **especially new members**, and have a totally grand time – see the attached flyer for full details.

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

- Heard at the May members' night:

An Irishman found himself in the company of a surgeon and an architect in a pub in London and they

got talking about which of the three of them went back the furthest. "Surgery is the oldest profession on the planet," said the surgeon. "How else could Eve have been made from Adam's rib?" "I disagree," said the architect. "Before that operation, order was created out of chaos, which necessitated the services of an architect." At this point the Irishman cut in. "Hold on there a second both of you," he said. "Where do you think the chaos came from?"

- We have a new "Irish" business in town – "Kendo's Irish Cafe". It's just near St. Paul's Bookstore in Ruthven St. Carol will welcome you – she is in the process of becoming a member.

- **The June diary: Full Committee** – Thurs. 13th, 7.00pm; **Members' night Friday 28th – 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 4th and 18th in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish music** is played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.

- **The planning committee:** At the May meeting most of the time was spent discussing the work planned for the kitchen floor. After much discussion and an inspection of the area beneath the floor, it was decided to recommend to the full Committee that plans be drawn up and costings approved to replace the current floor with concrete and to cover it with vinyl.

- **May Committee meeting: 1)** despite the anticipated expenditure for the kitchen area, the Club is still in a strong financial position; **2)** including social, national and life members, we have over 100 members; **3) renewal notices have been mailed out; correct any mistakes – please**

pay asap; 4) 2 new National members were approved – Gabrielle Rowen-Clarke and Daniel Creevey – we welcome them and look forward to seeing them at our Club functions; 5) there was some discussion about the renewal of the lease – to be raised at the AGM; 6) the matter of Club Rooms for members was discussed at length and Tomas agreed to head up a separate sub-committee to work on this issue. Interested members could contact Tomas.

3 **WWW Sites:** September 20 – 28 is the week when The Leitrim Roots Festival will get under way. As we all know, this year Ireland is aiming to turn its economy around by having as many people with Irish connections return and help the economy along. Those from Leitrim may find more details from: www.leitrimrootsfestival.com

4. **News from Ireland:** The 2011 census in Northern Ireland showed up some interesting facts. The Protestant group, as one would expect, dominated with 48.4%. With an increase of 1.3%, the Catholics accounted for 45.1%, whilst the “no religions” increased from 2.7% to 5.6% since 2001.

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

4) If a chairperson is not elected, or if the chairperson is not present within ten (10) minutes after the time fixed for a meeting, the members present may elect one (1) of their number to be chairperson of the meeting;

6. **'Tings 'Oirish.**

• **Who said this?** “I’ve put in so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries arguing over what I meant, and that’s the only way of ensuring one’s immortality.”
(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

May your troubles be less and your blessings be more.
And nothing but happiness come through your door.

▪ **Irish wisdom:**

The things that come to those who wait, will be the things left by those who got there first.

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

It is only an auctioneer who should admire **all** schools of art.

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

He that on Sligo at Drumcliff
Set up the old stone cross,
That red-headed rector in County Down,
A good man on a horse,
Sandymount Corbets, that notable man
Old William Pollexfen,
The smuggler Middleton, Butlers far back,
Half legendary men.

▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

There was an old gent from Hyde
Who ate rotten apples and died.

The apples fermented

Inside the lamented

And made cider inside his inside.

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

The English of the Pale were great enthusiasts for the new regime. They plotted against the Earl of Kildare, who was duly summoned to London. He left his son Lord Offaly – better known to history as Silken Thomas – in charge with instructions to make a show of force if he himself was dismissed from office. Not only was Kildare dismissed but he was clapped in the Tower of London, from where premature rumours of his death reached Ireland. Silken Thomas’ show of force – originally designed to prove yet again that only the Kildare family faction could rule Ireland and that the cost of suppressing them would be prohibitive – now turned into outright rebellion. This was quickly and decisively crushed by an English army. In 1536, Kildare died in the Tower; in 1537, Silken Thomas was executed. Within three years, the power of the FitzGerald had been broken utterly. This was a very new way of dealing with Ireland.

(Well – now we ALL know from whence our favourite Irish group got its name!!)

8. **Words from President Derm:**

On behalf of the Club I extend our sympathy to Carmel Devlin on the passing of her husband Paul. Carmel has served on the Club’s Committee and her granddaughter Lauren Davison was our Rose of Tralee entrant in 2008. Carmel our thoughts are with you.

On Sunday 16th June at 12.00 noon in Federation Park (across Russell St from the Irish Club Hotel) we will gather to commence our annual Bloomsday celebrations at the “James Joyce” seat.

Afterwards we will return to the Hotel Tara room for lunch and a talk by Gabrielle Rowen-Clarke on the subject:- *‘Ulysses: Food and Memory’*

Tomas Guerin has started collecting information to compile into a written history of the Club. This has been attempted in the past but never completed. If you have any old written records or photographs etc. Tomas could copy it would be of great assistance.

Diarmuid Guerin



(Answer – James Joyce.)