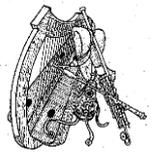




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March 20-13 Newsletter of the

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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1. "The Terracian" is the title of the newsletter of the oldest CBC in Queensland, Gregory Terrace. In a recent edition, there was a significant article about a controversial old boy, Jack Fihelly, a R.U. international and an early R.L administrator in our state – a tough, nuggetty Irishman born in Co. Cork. As the MLA for Paddington, he spoke out against the WWI issue of conscription being espoused by P.M. Billy Hughes.

His argument basically stood on the premise that Irish Australians should not be conscripted to fight in Europe while thousands of British troops, who could otherwise be in France, were stationed in Ireland policing martial law and killing Irish people. After he stood up at a Brisbane Irish function and espoused his beliefs to loud applause, all hell broke loose.

It was said of him, 'He had the most brilliant brain that ever functioned in Labour politics, State or Federal.'

Fihelly's raw, blunt speech in 1916 and the resulting political uproar, served as a reminder that WWI was a deeply traumatic, unsettling and divisive experience for many Australians.

In this month when we celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick himself, it is well to remember the influence Irishmen had on the societies in which they lived the world over.

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

- Heard at the February members' night:

"You know," says Paddy, arguing with Mary. "You can't say anything good about my relations."

"Yes, I can," replies Mary. "Your in-laws are much nicer than my in-laws." – and then fight started!!

- Good to see club member Gerard Saide at last month's gathering looking a little the worse for wear after tangling with some Brisbane surgeon. Well on the mend now.

- **The March diary: Full Committee** – Thurs. 14th, 7.00pm; **Members' night Friday 22nd the 2nd last Friday in MARCH (29th is Good Friday!) – 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 Tuesdays - 5th and 19th at 7 p.m. in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine** traditional Irish music is played.

And of course, the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Sunday 17th – on the actual day for once!! – leaving from the railway station at 10.30. After the march, we will all gather at our hotel for a grand celebration on this day of days. All who attend the march will be given a free drinks voucher to thank them for participating in the march. We will be led by Toowoomba's own Town Crier, Ralph Cocker.

- **The planning committee** held its meeting to finalise the flooring renewal in the Michael Collins Bar. In addition to the usual sub-committee members were Rick Taddio (builder), Wayne the vinyl expert, and Jamie who is in charge of water-proofing the area. It was anticipated that the job would take some 4-5 days to complete – weather permitting- bar would move to the Celtic Bar.

It was also noted that during the recent windy and wet weather, not one drop of water entered the building – testament to the new roof put in place last year.

▪ **February Committee Meeting:**

1) Preparations for St. Patrick's day march – well under way; 2) we may be able to attract some Gaelic Footballers for a demonstration match in September; 3) the Irish Ambassador is to be invited to our Annual Dinner- 10th Aug.; 4) four new National members were approved – Mary and Patrick Dwan, Byron Bradley, and Alison Broome. We look forward to the involvement of these new members in the life of our club; 5) some discussion about having an Irish Whiskey tasting event later in the year; 6) the Club is still in a very strong financial position.

3. **WWW Sites:**

In 1961 the population of Ireland was 2.8 million. By 2011, it had risen to 4.6 million – most of which can be attributed to the Celtic Tiger years. To view interactive maps of the population changes go to www.airomaps.nuim.ie/PictureofIreland

4. **News from Ireland:**

Shamrock Travel are Australia's only dedicated Ireland and Britain coach tour website. When you book your Ireland or Britain coach tour with Shamrock Travel, in conjunction with a European river cruise, they will fly you free from Ireland to U.K. or the starting point of your European river cruise.

5. **Know your rule:**

Item 19: **Delegation of Management Committee Powers.**

1) The Management Committee may delegate the whole or part of its powers to a subcommittee consisting of the Club members considered appropriate by the Committee.

6. **'Tings 'Oirish.**

• **Who said this?** "I am tomorrow, or some future day, what I establish today. I am today, what I established yesterday or some previous day."

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month's Irish Blessing:**

The test of gold is fire. The test of truth is time. The test of God's love are the heavens above, and everything sublime.

Treasures in life are many. Dreams realised are but few, but I know the test of God's goodness, is when he (sic) gave me a friend like you.

▪ **Irish wisdom:**

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing at all.

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

Wickedness is a myth invented by good people to account for the curious attractiveness of others.

▪ Another **W. B. Yeats' poem:** "Under Ben Bulben." – an extract:

Poet and sculptor, do the work,
Nor let the modish painter shirk
What his great forefathers did,
Bring the soul of man to God,
Make him fill the cradles right.

(Interesting to note that this poem goes under the heading of 'last poems' and it is under the mountain spur named Ben Bulben, where Yates is buried – ed.)

▪ **This Month's Limerick:**

A woodman of holy persuasion
When drunk with a sense of elation
Said, "Don't think me hollow
If I say that I follow
The plane way of self-realisation!"

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

Yet the king, a man inclined towards economy, had no intention of maintaining Poynings and an army in Ireland indefinitely. (Henry mark VII was a most frugal man who set up a rich dynasty for his son to spend sometimes quite recklessly – ed.) In 1496, he was recalled, the Great Earl was restored and held his position till his death in 1513. He was succeeded by his son, Gearoid Og, the 9th earl who, like his father, was removed briefly in the early 1520's only to be quickly reinstated. He continued in office until 1534, when there occurred one of the seismic shifts in the history of Ireland.

8. **Words from President Derm:**

As Peter has written earlier the Hotel should have a new floor in the bar area by first half or March, weather & contractors permitting.

In a couple of weeks we'll be marching in our annual St Patrick's Day parade, please make sure you come along and join in. As usual we'll be marching behind our provincial banners; marching music will be provided by the Caledonian Pipe Band. Our Town Crier Ralph Cockle will lead the parade ringing his bell! We'll have St Patrick and our children/grandchildren driving the snakes out! When we complete our march your Club will provide a complimentary drink to all those who took part in the march!

The Irish Club Hotel will be providing live music all day.....so come along and enjoy yourselves!

Diarmuid Guerin



(Answer –James Joyce.)