



The Shenanigans

May 2013 Newsletter

of the The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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1. If it's a mate you are after, head off to Lisdoonvarna, a tiny town on the west coast of Ireland near the desolate Burren, where in September each year an annual match-making fair takes place.

In times gone by, with the harvest completed in readiness for the winter months, families headed off to the nearest town for a bit of unwinding, and a chance to meet eligible young folk of the opposite sex.

The town of Lisdoonvarna's reputation as one such place soon grew. Nowadays, the International Matchmaking Fair is a very real boost for the local economy.

Locals say the festivals have resulted in hundreds of marriages over the years for the lovesick.

Members wishing to go this year, have a few months to organise a trip for September.

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

▪ Heard at the April members' night: Anthropologist Paddy came home to show off some of his trove of treasures to his grandmother, Maggie. "What's that?" she asks, pointing to an oddly shaped item. "Uh..." stammers Paddy. "It's a phallic symbol."

"Oh," says Maggie, nodding her head. "That's good, 'cause I'd hate to tell you what it looks like!"

▪ **The May diary: Full Committee – Thurs. 9th, 7.00pm; Members' night Friday 31st – 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 7th and 21st in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. Genuine traditional Irish music is played in the place where **'atmosphere is everything'**.

▪ **Don't forget to put aside Sunday 16th of next month for our annual Bloomsday Luncheon to honour the world renowned work of James Joyce, "Ulysses". More details in the June newsletter.**

▪ **The planning committee:** The April Meeting, in the absence of our architect, was a brief one. Some discussion was held re the concrete job supporting the fridge and freezer in the kitchen. Vermin control was to be referred to the full Committee. Some time was spent discussing the legalities of our having our own Members' area in the hotel.

▪ **April Committee meeting:**

- 1) A new National member was approved – we look forward to Lana Shearer at more Club activities in the future;
- 2) renewal notices will be sent out with either this newsletter or with next month's. The good news is that there is no increase in membership dues;
- 3) we are still in a strong financial position, even after paying for the new bar floor;
- 4) letters of thanks are to go out to significant people

who assisted with the successful St. Patrick's Day parade. There was some discussion about the lack of genuine Irish music at the hotel – some ideas were floated for 2014; **5)** preliminary plans for the Bloomsday luncheon in June were discussed; **6)** re the matter referred from the planning/building committee concerning white ants – the lease is to be looked at to see who is responsible for vermin control; **7)** the legalities of providing on-site club rooms will be followed up; **8)** an evening of tasting fine Irish Whiskeys is still a possibility – watch this space.

3 WWW Sites: Looking for a genuine Irish name for a new baby? Try this site:
www.irish-baby-names.com

4. News from Ireland:

In July last year, the new visitor centre at the Giants Causeway opened to the public for the first time. With its grass roof and dark basalt columns the new \$28 million (USD) centre was designed to complement its dramatic surroundings on the picturesque North Antrim Coast. The design of the centre tells the story of the stones and the legend of the folk Giant Finn McCool – the causeway was reputedly created by the giant to fight a Scottish rival.

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

3) A subcommittee may elect a chairperson of its meetings;

6. 'Tings 'Oirish.

▪ **Who said this?** “We have always found the Irish a bit odd. They refuse to be English.” (The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month's Irish Blessing:**
May the hinges of friendship never grow rusty.

▪ **Irish wisdom:**

The Irish love for land is legendary. Their land is their lot in life, their source of life and livelihood, their own piece of paradise. Be close to the earth; walk on it; dig in it; stay grounded.

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

Religions die when they are proved to be true. Science is the record of dead religions.

▪ Another **W. B. Yeats' poem:** “Under Ben Bulbin.” – an extract:

Quattrocento put in paint,
On backgrounds for a God or Saint,
Gardens where a soul's at ease;
Where everything that meets the eye,
Flowers and grass and cloudless sky,
Resemble forms that are or seem
When sleepers wake and yet still dream,
And when it's vanished still declare,
With only bed and bedstead there,
That heavens had opened.

Gyres run on;

When that greater dream had gone
Calvert and Wilson, Blake and Claude,
Prepared a rest for the people of God,
Palmer's phrase, but after that
Confusion fell upon our thought.

▪ **This Month's Limerick:**

A young schizophrenic named
Struther,
Who learned of the death of his
brother,
Said, “I know that it's bad
But I don't feel too sad
After all, I still have each other.”

7. A bit of Irish History (Tudor Ireland)

The Tudor revolution in England began as a desperate search for a means to allow King Henry VIII to divorce his wife. It ended with the creation of a new kind of European state. To effect the divorce, the king renounced the spiritual authority of the pope and himself became the head of the Church of England. In addition, he was determined to centralise power and to reduce the influence of provincial magnates. This had obvious implications for Ireland.

8. Words from President Derm:

We have an excellent speaker lined up for our Bloom's Day celebrations this year; so make sure you set aside a couple of hours for lunch on Sunday June 16th.

We are mailing out membership renewal forms in the next couple of weeks; make sure you review & correct if necessary all your details including your e-mail address if you have one!

Cheers,

Diarmuid Guerin



(Answer –Winston Churchill.)