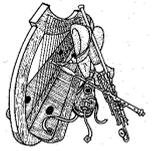




The Shenanigans



September (Meán Fómhair) 2020 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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1. At last month's AGM the following were elected to your Committee: Pres – Tomas Guerin; Vice Pres.- Derm Guerin; Sec.- Craig Maher; Treasurer – Paul McGowan; Registrar –T.B.A.; Committee members: – Aileen Cater-Steel; Margaret O'Meara; Mary McGovern; Michael Steel; Ian Chase; Kevin Chase; Liam Scott; Michael Morrison.

We all congratulate these Club members, especially the two new ones, and thank them for being willing to give of their time and talents to help this DDIC operate and to move along. We wish to thank outgoing members Mr Peter Kenny & Dr Stephen McDonald for their contributions to the running of the Club. Don't forget – this Committee needs YOUR support.

2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

▪ **Heard at the August members' gathering:** How do you make an Irishman laugh on a Monday?

Tell him a joke on a Friday!!

▪ **The September Diary: Full (New)**

Committee meeting: Thursday 10th, 7.00pm;

Members' night – Friday 25th from 5 – 8 pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drink voucher:

▪ Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes etc. as well as Irish pub songs – Traditional Irish Music sessions are held at 7.00pm. EVERY Tuesday in the Michael Collins bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome.

Genuine traditional Irish tunes are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.

Now performing in the Celtic Bar.

▪ **August Committee Meeting:** **1)** James Joyce seat missing – hopefully in possession of TRC for refurbishment as we requested!! **2)** quotes for building improvements – in excess of \$ 63 000 – NO action as of now as we have no rental income until October, unless virus situation changes; **3)** membership renewals – working on system where only changes need be recorded; **4)** the treasurer's books are with the auditor in preparation for the AGM; **5)** Elaine Gough accepted as a national member. In the last month, we have lost Mick Ahearn. Also Fr. Tom Keegan, past Chaplain and Patron. May they rest in peace; **6)** a lot of work has been done on our Club's 'float' for the virtual Carnival of Flowers parade. It will be available for viewing at Grand Central – time TBA BIG thank you to Aileen, Mary, Margaret and Michael for their huge effort; **7)** a family friendly event for Saturday 31st October is planned for the Celtic Bar. Halloween is a very old Irish event to be celebrated locally for the first time by the Club. In the current situation, bookings will be essential.

▪ **NEXT month – Saturday 17th - keep it free for the Club's Annual Dinner.**

Details on flyer in newsletter mail out.

▪ Don't forget to keep the afternoon of Sunday 8th December free for the Christmas Party.

3. WWW Sites: The Digital Repository of Ireland is a National digital site for humanities, social sciences and cultural heritage data. www.dri.ie

4. **News from Ireland:** We can only imagine the problems most Irish pubs and gathering places are having with the matter of 'social distancing'! Many have had to close never to re-open. The Republic has also been elected to the UN Security Council for 2021/22.

5. **Bits and Pieces:**

▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

"Be my epitaph writ on my country's mind.
He served his country and loved his kind."
(Thomas Davis 1814-1845 young Ireland leader.)

▪ **Quotes from James Joyce:** "Ireland is the old sow that eats her farrow."

▪ **This Month's Irish Blessing:**

Here's to the health of your enemies' enemies!!

▪ **Irish Heroines –lesser known: Kay McNulty** (1921 – 2006). One of the world's first computer programmers. Donegal born Kay, who was brought up in Pennsylvania, was one of six women selected in 1940's by the US army to work on the ENIAC, the first general-purpose electronic digital computer. Their task was to calculate trajectories for shells and bullets for soldiers using artillery guns. Essentially these women taught themselves to programme. She was inducted into the Women in Technology International Hall of fame in 1997. (This series now concludes.)

6. **This month in history.** Thomas Ashe was an active member of the Gaelic League and an accomplished performer on the traditional war pipes. He took a major part in the 1916 Rising in Ashbourne, Meath. He died on hunger strike on 25th September 1917 at the Mater Hospital in Dublin after being force-fed by prison authorities.

7. **'Tings 'Oirish:**

▪ **Who said this?** "We are bound to lose Ireland in consequence of years of cruelty, stupidity, and misgovernment, and I would rather lose her as a friend than as a foe."

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month's Irish Blessing:**

Goodness of sea be yours.

Goodness of land be yours.

Goodness of heaven.

▪ **Irish wisdom:** The smaller the cottage, the wider the door.

▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** I am not young enough to know everything.

▪ **W. B. Yeats' poem:** "What Then?"
'The work is done,' grown old he thought,
'According to my boyish plan;
Let the fools rage, I swerved in nought,
Something to perfection brought';
But louder sang that ghost, 'What then?'
(Concluded.)

▪ **This Month's Limerick:**

There once was a skinny old fox
Who decided to jump on an ox.
But the bovine just lay
In a flattening way
And now there's not enough fox to make sox.

8. **Irish History: The gathering Storm:**

Ranged against these revolutionary forces, was the government, which now embarked on a policy of wholesale repression of the populace in the countryside. This was carried out by the army commander in Ireland, General Gerard Lake, a dull-minded but efficient brute. Spying and treachery also did their job and resulted in the capture and imprisonment of the Leinster leadership of the United Irishmen in March 1798. (Cont'd.)

9. **Words from President, Tomas.**

Hello Folks,

The AGM was held at the end of August with a fantastic turnout of members. We need to acknowledge the members who stood down from the committee Life Member Peter Kenny (Newsletter editor) and Stephen McDonald. I did not nominate for President as I said I wouldn't and anybody else who wanted the job could have it, however was voted in while I was out of the room at the Collins bar. We welcome back past president Michael Morrison to the committee (nominated from the floor) and new member Liam Scott. There was a presentation on our upcoming Samhain (Halloween) social event and our entry into the static Carnival of Flowers parade.

Tomas

(Answer: Gladstone – Brit. P.M. 1809-1898.)

