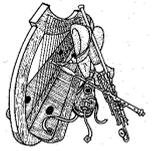




# The Shenanigans



## September (Meán Fómhair) 2022 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

Sun (Dé Domhnaigh); Mon (Dé Lain); Tues (Dé Máirt); Wed (Dé Céadaoin); Thurs (Déardaoin); Fri (Dé hAoine); Sat (Dé Sathairn).

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1. **At last month's AGM.** the following were elected to your Committee: President – Aileen Cater-Steel; V.P. – Derm Guerin; Treasure – Michael Morrison; Sec – Craig Maher; Committee: Ian Chase; Kevin Chase; Pauline Kenny; Mary McGovern; Peter McDonald; Erin Moran; Michael Steel. Outgoing president, Tomas, was elected to the Committee and had life membership conferred upon him. This will be formalised at the Annual Dinner. The Registrar is elected at the first meeting of the new committee – as per the constitution. Don't forget – this new Committee needs YOUR support. Let's get behind them as they work for the good of the Club and all its members. Outgoing president Tomas deserves our heartfelt thanks for his sterling and dedicated work over many years. Thank you, Tomas.

### 2. **Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:**

- **Heard at the August members' gathering:** Seamus walked into a bar and ordered 7 shots of whiskey and a pint. When the barman arrived back with the pint, all the shots were gone. "Ah here, you drank those very quickly," said the barman. "Well," said Seamus, "If you had what I've got, you'd drink them quickly too." "Shite" replied the barman. "What do you have?" "Only a tenner," came the reply.
- **The September Diary: Full (New)**  
**Committee meeting:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm;  
**Members' night – Friday 30th from 5 – 8 pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drink voucher with live Irish music;**

- Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes etc. as well as Irish pub songs – Traditional Irish Music sessions are held at 7 pm EVERY Tuesday in the Celtic/Michael Collins bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes** are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.

- **August Committee Meeting:** 1) 48 members attended last month's members' night; 2) 127 financial members; 3) verandah completed; 4) illumination of flagpoles quote – a bit excessive; 5) new flags ordered; 6) Club to be represented at Street Fiesta; 7) rule book to be reviewed; 8) Carnival of Flowers involvement discussed.

- **NEXT month – Saturday 15th October- keep it free for the Club's Annual Dinner. Details will be mailed out to members**

Don't forget to keep the afternoon of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December free for the **Christmas Party**; and 31<sup>st</sup> October for the **Halloween** function.

- "Celtic Illusion" at the Empire Theatre 7<sup>th</sup> next month – 7.30 pm

- 3. **WWW Sites:** A visit to Wild Ireland enables you to see animals that used to roam freely, including brown bears: [wildireland.org](http://wildireland.org)

### 4. **News from Ireland:**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> last month marked the centenary of the shooting of Michael Collins. There is an investigation into the name of his assassin.
- Rose of Tralee returns this year after a three-year break because of the pandemic.

### 5. **Bits and Pieces:**

- **Quotes from James Joyce:** "When I die, Dublin will be written on my heart."
- **A Ulysses word:** "Davy Byrne *smiledyawnednodded* all in one." (Pub.1922.)
- **Celtic Wisdom for Business:**  
Good deeds are never regretted.  
Evil deeds are never forgotten.

#### ▪ **Irish Insults:**

He had a face on him as long as a donkey's back leg.  
(He is a dour gobshite.)

#### 6. **This month in a sad 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 25<sup>th</sup> September 1917 at the Mater Hospital in Dublin after being force-fed by prison authorities.

▪ On 20.9.1922, 6 IRA volunteers were pursued by a Free State column onto Ben Bulbin in Co. Sligo. (Poet Yeats was later buried under Ben Bulbin in 1939.) Apprehended and shot were Brian MacNéill, Seamus Devins, Harry Benson, Paddy Carroll, Joseph Banks and Thomas Langan.

#### 7. **'Tings 'Oirish:**

▪ **Who said this?** "Every action in our lives touches some chord that will vibrate in eternity."  
(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

#### ▪ **This month's Irish Blessing:**

May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door.

▪ **Irish wisdom:** It's not a matter of upper and lower class, but of being up a while and down a while.

▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** Anyone who lives within their means suffers from a lack of imagination.

▪ **W. B. Yeats' poem:** "The Arrow."  
I thought of your beauty, and this arrow,  
Made out of a wild thought, is in my marrow.  
There's no man may look upon her, no man,  
As when newly grown to be a woman,  
Tall and noble but with face and bosom  
Delicate in colour as apple blossom.  
This beauty's kinder, yet for a reason  
I could weep that the old is out of season.

#### ▪ **This Month's Limerick:**

There was a young man who said, "Hobbs  
Should never be tempted with lobs."

He would knock them about,  
Till the bowlers gave out  
And watered the pitch with their sobs.

#### 8. **Irish History: Catholic Emancipation:**

The malignant legacy of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries had been the increasing polarisation of Irish life between Catholic and Protestant. Everywhere outside Ulster, a dispossessed Catholic majority faced a small Protestant elite. Not all Catholics were

poor and marginalised, but most of them were. Not all Protestants were members of the ruling castes, but even for those who were not, Protestantism was a badge of respectability and social superiority.

The most effective forms of protest open to rural Catholics prior to O'Connell had been the agrarian secret societies which could at least settle local scores. Their methods were the rough expedients always resorted to by the excluded: violence, intimidation, sabotage.

(Cont'd.)

#### 9. **Words from President, Aileen.**

*I am honoured to take on the role of Club President and thank Tomas for his commitment and success as President for 7 years. At the AGM there was overwhelming support to bestow Life Membership on Tomas. Not only has he served 20 years on the Management Committee but established a strong financial foundation for the Club. I welcome Pauline Kenny to the Committee and thank Gillian Ross for her contribution.*

*A clever team of members has made great progress designing, building and decorating the DDIC float for the Carnival of Flowers parade on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.*

*The building works for Club Rooms are complete and we will furnish the area to, as a relaxed space for members to enjoy.*

*DDIC was invited and keen to host Ireland as the featured culture at the International Street Fiesta (replaces TLCF). However we declined the honour as the date clashed with our Annual Dinner and we were unable to find an alternative date for the dinner. Hopefully Ireland will be featured in 2023 at the Street Fiesta.*

#### **Aileen.**

(Answer: Sean O'Casey)