

Irish Australian Association

13 - 15 Carrington St, Adelaide, 5000
Formed in 1961



IRISH AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 2024

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR

We hope the start of 2024 has been a good one. The Club reopened its doors on Friday 12 January so here we go for what will hopefully be a good year for the Club, its members and the Irish Community in general.

During the short break the Clubroom was repainted (thank you to those who volunteered to do it; you know who you are) and the feedback to date has been favourable. We are looking at opportunities to improve the look of the Clubroom and would be happy to hear your ideas.

The Board is considering ways of improving the operation of the IAA to ensure that systems and processes have integrity, accuracy and reliability. This will require some investment in implementing necessary changes.

Some of you who attended the AGM will recall discussion about the conflicting financial data contained in the Financial Report for 2022-23 when compared to the previous year. Following the AGM the Treasurer met with the new auditor to discuss some of the issues. It was discovered:

- There were errors identified in the 2022 financial statement
- Accounts payable at 30 June 2022 were incorrectly reported
- Some transactions had been entered in 'accounts payable' and then recorded as 'expenses' resulting in double counting expenses

Following corrections made the operating loss was reduced to \$8096.00.

Naturally, the Board is keen to ensure that financial transactions are properly categorised and recorded and has taken steps to achieve this outcome.

MEMBERSHIP

We apologise for the delay in sending membership cards to you. If you have not received your card by Friday 2 February, please contact the Club at secretary@irishclub.org.au.

CULTURAL EVENTS

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter the IAA is part of a coalition of Irish community groups to identify and coordinate key events in the traditional Irish calendar. There has been a focus on the celebrations around St Patrick. We should be in a position to finalise arrangements in the near future and will inform you when we can.

Prior to that however the Club will celebrate St Brigid's Day on Saturday 3 February from 2pm to 4pm. You may recall that the event last year was well attended and children, parents and significant others had a fantastic and informative afternoon. There will be activities again this year so put it in your diary. To help us cater please let us know how many children will be with you. Email the Club at secretary@irishclub.org.au.

FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

Over the last month we have sadly lost a couple of members in Maureen McNamara and Anne McGuinness. Their passing will bring great sadness to immediate family but also those who knew them as friends. May they both Rest In Peace.

IRISH PASSPORTS

The Irish Embassy is providing the Club with hard copies of applications for Irish passports. While a passport can be obtained on-line the Embassy is aware that there can be occasions when an applicant may not be able to connect on-line.

WHAT STORIES CAN YOU TELL?

Our membership is made up of people from a myriad of backgrounds and each would have their own memories or experiences. We are wondering if anyone would be happy to share their stories of involvement with the Irish community either through the Club or more broadly. Photographs can be a great way to tell a visual story. Once we have a few recollections we can look at the best way to share them.

GENEALOGY SA

Genealogy SA in conjunction with the Ulster Historical Foundation is running a full day seminar titled Researching your Irish and Scots-Irish Family History at the Unley Town Hall on Sunday 11 February between 9am and 5pm. Two international experts in Irish family research Gillian Hunt and Fintan Mullan will attend the seminar.

Information can be obtained from the website www.genealogysa.org.au.

FRIDAYS AT THE IRISH CLUB

All members (and non-members) are encouraged to attend and support the Club on a Friday night. It is an opportunity to catch up with friends or make some new ones while enjoying a drink and live music.

We continue to acknowledge and thank the various groups and performers who have performed at the Club on a Friday night without any payment.

The Clubroom now opens at 6pm every Friday. This allows people to pop in after work for some craic and a drink or two. Also those who may like to avoid a 'late night' can still be involved by getting there early.

We are also keen to pick up on a trend in some Irish locations whereby space is given to those who may like to speak some Irish. The Ciorcal Comhra (Conversation Circle) is a friendly and safe environment to speak, expand one's vocabulary or simply enjoy the sight and sound of the language. It is not about learning the language per se as it is entirely up to the individual to determine their level of engagement. If there are any Irish speakers who would be happy to champion this please contact us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 2 February Science in the Pub returns for 2024. Commencing at 6pm until 7.30pm there will be informed speakers on '*The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth – A journey through droughts and Floods*'. Entry is free and it is always very well attended. Whilst on the topic of 'Drought' the bar will be open.

Upstairs from about 8pm the ever popular Craic & Cratur will perform their fun and occasional unique versions of the music that has made them such a favourite over the years.

Saturday 3 February Celebration of St Brigid's Day between 2pm and 4pm.

Saturday 17 February The first Bush Dance for the year is booked

****ADVANCE NOTICE****

Sunday 14 April There will be a book launch of *Irish Women In the Antipodes*. Details to follow.

August 2024 Following the successful visits from Manus McGuire (2022) and Colm Broderick and Francis Cunningham (2023) a date in August will be set aside for Jimmy Crowley and Eve Telford to play at the Club. Traditional musicians from Cork (Eve was born in Adelaide) they perform traditional music as well as their own compositions.

We will keep you informed as details become available.

OTHER EVENT INFORMATION

The Club is a registered venue for the Adelaide Fringe in 2024.

Saturday 2 March *Magic Diamond Jack – Standing at the Crossroads*; Fusion of blues music and stories, circus, carnival acts and magic woven together as metaphors for the changes Jack goes through on his path to self-discovery.

Saturday 16 March Newry's finest export Sean Quinn presents his own comedy show.

Mad March in Adelaide has attracted some of the best Irish performers to our city. Watch out for Lisa O'Neill, Cormac Begley and Sharon Shannon at WOMADelaide 2024 and the remarkable Luka Bloom at The Gov in early April.

HALL HIRE

Members are reminded that the hiring of the Hall and Clubroom provides a good income stream for the Club. If you know of anyone or an organisation requiring such a facility why not suggest that they contact the Club. Members can also be entitled to one free hire of the Clubroom during their membership year.

VOLUNTEERS

The Club is very dependent on the good will and remarkable efforts of our volunteers. Thank you. If you feel you have something to offer please contact us.

In particular, anyone with a Responsible Service of Alcohol certification who is prepared to be a 'Responsible Person' we would love to hear from you.

CONTACT US

The Board encourages communication from the membership so feel free to ring, send an email or approach a Board member at an event with any ideas you have about improving your Club.

All correspondence by email should be addressed to secretary@irishclub.org.au.

