



Queensland Irish Association

# Newsletter

December 2025

## Merry Christmas and thank you, QIA Members

We had 140 people celebrating at our Christmas Lunch in Wests Rugby Club, Toowong earlier this month. Thank you for the brilliant entertainment to Brendan Williams and QIA Dancers. Thank you to our lovely Queensland Rose Siobhan Edwards and to Madonna Jarrett MP for coming along. Well done to organiser Mavis Williams and all of our volunteers on the day.

Our next social event is Women's Little Christmas - Nollaig na mBan - with a walk in the beautiful Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens followed by a chat at the cafe.

Women's Little Christmas is an old Irish tradition, held on 6 January, where women take a well-earned break while the men run the household for the day. It has seen a huge resurgence in popularity in recent years.

Meet at the main entrance to the gardens, be there by 11am on Sunday, 4 January 2026. This is our second Nollaig na mBan celebration and it proved very popular in 2025 so be sure to RSVP to let us know you're coming along by emailing Sarah O'Kane at SarahMOKane76@gmail.com.

Another exciting upcoming event is our St Brigid's Celebration screening of Burren Girl, followed by a Q&A session with the director and afternoon tea.



Madonna Jarrett MP, back left, with QIA Dancers and Queensland Rose Siobhan Edwards at our Christmas Lunch. More pictures on page 17.

Pictures: Mary Allen

It will take place at Brigidine College, Cecil Street, Indooroopilly on Saturday, 14 February at 2pm. Full details are on page 3.

The date has been announced for the St Patrick's Day Parade 2026.

Join in the fun on Saturday, 14th March at 10.30am for the parade, a joyful celebration of Irish culture, community, and colour. The

parade theme is 'Gaeilge – The Language of Ireland (Teanga na hÉireann)'. It will be a celebration of the beauty and spirit of Ireland's native tongue.

Finally, vale our friend Dr Tom Moore, a much-loved member of Queensland Irish Association, who passed away in November. Our condolences to his family and friends.



# Great turnout at QIA AGM 2025



There were 43 attendees at the Queensland Irish Association Annual General Meeting 2025 at Wests Rugby Club in November.



## Queensland Irish Association *Women's Little Christmas*



Join us on Sunday, 4th January at  
11am for gentle walking tour  
followed by 12pm cafe visit in

Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens  
to celebrate  
Nollaig Na mBan - Women's Little Christmas



RSVP to Sarah O'Kane  
at SarahMOKane76@gmail.com

Cafe menu at [www.botanicgardenscafe.net](http://www.botanicgardenscafe.net)





A still from the film *Burren Girl*.

# St Brigid's Celebration tells story of Irish clan

Our St Brigid's Celebration film screening this year will feature *Burren Girl*, a story that resonates with emigrant Irish families across the world. It tells the story of an American woman on a search for her family in the beautiful Burren region of Ireland.

Director Rita Davern describes the film: "Who am I? Where do I come from? Like many people in the U.S. with European heritage, I grew up with little connection to my Irish homeland or to the stories that help form a strong sense of identity. I was curious about the unknowns in my family history! In my thirty's, with the encouragement of a friend, I began a search for the place and people my grandmother left behind. Over the next forty years, thanks to the generosity of distant relations in the Burren, I got a glimpse of my own past. The experience brought me out of the cultural amnesia into which I was born. Its impact went far beyond historical facts

or a completed family tree. It was an adventure in connection. That connection to people, homeland and culture has value far beyond what I imagined.

"This film is a gesture of appreciation and thanks to the Burren farm families and friends who led me - and accompanied me - on this great exploration of our shared past. *Burren Girl* celebrates the deep, essential connection between people and their homeland. I hope the magic of this family history adventure inspires viewers on their own journeys home."

The screening will take place at Brigidine College, Cecil Street, Indooroopilly on Saturday, 14 February at 2pm. It will be followed by a Zoom Q&A with the director.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy a light afternoon tea. The cost is \$10 per person.

For details and RSVP, contact Honora Gee on 0408 531 636, or email [qiahistoricalculturalcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:qiahistoricalculturalcommittee@gmail.com).

## Calendar

### 4 January 2026

QIA Women's Little Christmas - Nollaig na mBan walk and coffee at Mount Cootha Botanic Gardens, 11am for walk, 12pm for coffee.

### 7 February 2026

St Brigid's Dinner, Royal on the Park, Alice Street, Brisbane.

### 14 February 2026

QIA St Brigid's Celebration film screening and afternoon tea at Brigidine College, Indooroopilly, 2pm.

### 7 March 2026

Queensland Irish Choir St Patrick's Day Concert, Hills Church, Everton Hills, 1.30pm. Details: [www.qldirishchoir.org](http://www.qldirishchoir.org)

### 14 March 2026

St Patrick's Day Parade, Brisbane CBD, 10.30am.

### 16 March 2026

QIA St Patrick's Eve Dinner, Brisbane City Hall. Details TBA.

### 17 March 2026

QIA St Patrick's Day Lunch. Details TBA.

### Second Wednesday of every month

Tara Hall Dining Club, The Ship Inn, Sidon Street, South Brisbane.

Contact Secretary Roger Thornton [rjthornton8@bigpond.com](mailto:rjthornton8@bigpond.com) or 0408 878 938

## Contact us

We welcome content from Members and friends in this newsletter.

If you have news or an article you would like to see included, email the editor, our public relations officer Mary Allen, at [mary@queenslandirish.com.au](mailto:mary@queenslandirish.com.au)

You can also reach us through our website, [www.queenslandirish.com.au](http://www.queenslandirish.com.au), and on our social media pages.

Another great way to interact with QIA is by joining our Facebook [group](#), Queensland Irish Association Friends and Supporters.

Editor and designer: Mary Allen.

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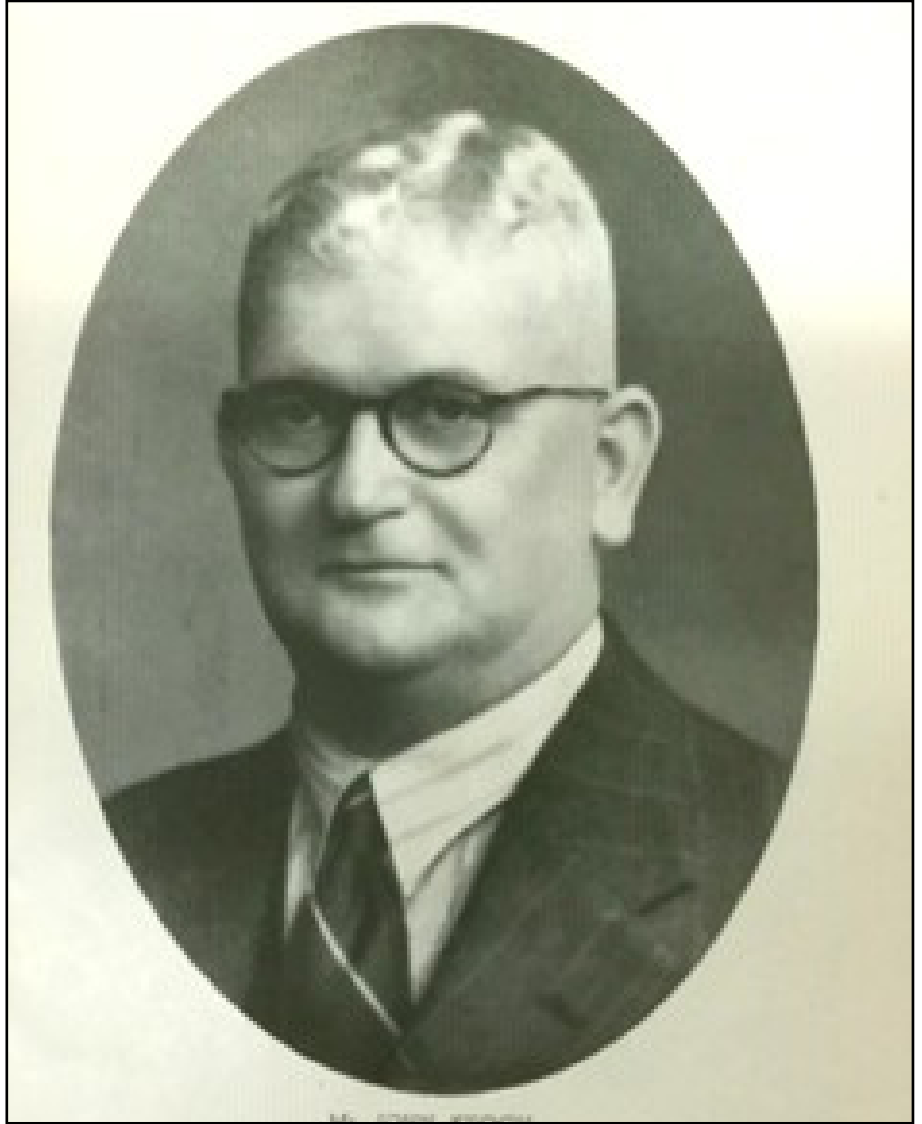
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# How John Keogh led the QIA revival over 20 years

*John Keogh led the Queensland Irish Association from 1943 to 1963, re-building it after the war, strengthening its cultural activities—especially the pipe band—expanding its public role in Brisbane's civic life, and establishing it as a respected, stable centre of Irish identity in Queensland.*

John Keogh, the only nominee, took over the office of President in June 1943, following the discovery that his predecessor, Daniel McGrath, was ineligible for the position he had occupied since 1932. The QIA was in disarray, with dysfunctional governance, finances depleted and opaque, its membership in decline. The library, left untended in the chaos before Keogh took control, was plundered. Its stock of books, 1,409 in 1940, was reduced to 800. In similar fashion, the band disintegrated, with its instruments pillaged. Social and sporting activities, apart from internal billiards and snooker, had ceased. Some of this can be attributed to the Depression and war, with many members departing for the armed services and others mobilised for civil construction assignments. It was also the outcome of an entrenched, unelected President lacking the confidence of members.

Born in Brisbane on 8 October 1890 to Irish parents, Keogh was the son of a railway guard. He was educated at St Brigid's convent school, Red Hill and at St James Christian Brothers School, Spring Hill. He married Agnes Elizabeth Levander, who was born in Brisbane, in St Stephen's Cathedral on 25 July 1914. At the time of his marriage, aged 23 years, he was a traveller, before later establishing himself as a South Brisbane storekeeper. In the early 1920s he was President of the Southern Queensland District of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society. He was elected Labor Party Mayor of South Brisbane in 1924 and, in 1932,



lost to Vincent Gair in a bid for Labor endorsement to challenge Neil Magroarty for the Legislative Assembly seat of South Brisbane.

In September 1941 Keogh succeeded Labor parliamentarian Patrick Copley as Vice-President. He made an immediate impression, initiating bursaries 'for the advancement of the secular education for the children of National members of the Queensland Irish Association'. Bursaries were awarded competitively on the results of the State Scholarship examination held at the end of primary schooling. To ensure bursaries went to students continuing their academic education

to the Junior Public Examination, at the end of two years of post-primary schooling, they were paid to the secondary school in which the winner was enrolled.

In March 1942, some three months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, the Irish Association abandoned its St Patrick's Eve Dinner and the following day's procession in favour of a Patriotic Fair in its Elizabeth Street rooms. Women came to the fore, with the three-day event led by Meta McGrath, wife of President Daniel McGrath and Agnes Keogh, wife of Vice-President

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# How John Keogh led the QIA revival over 20 years

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John Keogh. The event raised over £120, the whole sum allocated to 'the comfort and welfare of the fighting forces.' The conflict depleted the male membership of the Association and appeared to weaken its male exclusivity. The first post-World War Two annual report suggested some fluidity in gender attitudes, at least for film evenings, noting 'that for the first time for many years, members were accompanied by ladies.'

At his first annual meeting as President, in September 1943, Keogh outlined his mission of restoration, of handing the Club back 'to Irishmen and their descendants'. He recalled the idealism of the 1898 founders and early Presidents, singling out John Kingsbury, Patrick Stephens, Timothy O'Shea, and Morgan Lane. Distance from the McGrath era was emphasised with the repeal of the 1938 decision to pay the President an honorarium of £50 per year and the resignation of Secretary CT Paul in May 1942, succeeded by retired Police Inspector Patrick Howard. Long-term auditors, Horstmann & Co., were replaced by EP Griffin. Further acknowledging the achievements of the founding generation, its two remaining 1898 survivors, Michael Gallagher, and Peter Scott, were made life honorary members, the first such appointments since James Blair in 1937. Gallagher, a former Vice-President (1907-1911) and Trustee (1922-1923) was present, and, in expressing his gratitude, remarked, 'At one time I thought the old ship was sinking, but, thank God, she is sailing strongly again.' Peter Scott, a founding member of both the QIV (Queensland Irish Volunteers) and QIA, was absent, but wielded considerable influence through his integrity, longevity, and previous service on the Committee (1899-1902, 1912-1913, 1916) and as Vice-President. (1918-1923).

Both Gallagher and Scott advertised one of the founders', and Keogh's,



**Mrs F. T. Tristram and Mrs D. J. O'Mara in charge of hundreds of sweet baskets at the 3-day Irish Patriotic Fair, which commenced at the Queensland Irish Association on Saturday, 14 March 1942. Picture: [National Library of Australia](#)**

priorities: Irish achievement and integration in Australia.

John Keogh, in office from 1943 to 1963, was the longest-serving President in the Irish Association's history. Under his watch the organisation stabilised, grew in membership, and expanded the scope of cultural activities. It strengthened identification with the broader Australian community and, simultaneously renewed linkages with Ireland. The 1943 membership of 643 had, by 1959, risen to 1,456. Finances correspondingly improved: in 1946 Keogh congratulated Treasurer Neal Fahy for achieving a 'credit balance for the first time in many years.'

## **St Patrick's Eve Dinners**

St Patrick's Eve Dinners, suspended in 1942, were revived in 1944. The attendance of the Governor, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, indicated the event had not lost its prestige.

The appointment of Dr Thomas Joseph (TJ) Kiernan as Ireland's first

minister plenipotentiary to Australia (1946-50), then ambassador from 1950 to 1955, stimulated the Association's Irishness. Kiernan established rapport with QIA leaders on an official visit to Queensland in 1947. He attended his first St Patrick's Eve Dinner in Brisbane in 1953, proposing the toast 'The Day We Celebrate.'

The presence of Ireland's Ambassador at the 1953 St Patrick's Eve Dinner complemented the attendance of Vince Gair, the fourth Queensland Irish Association member, after TJ Byrnes, TJ Ryan, and Ned Hanlon, to hold the office of State Premier.

## **The Australian Turn**

The ordeal of the Second World War, and the perception that the country had narrowly escaped invasion, injected a more powerful strain of Australian identity and patriotism into QIA culture. This Irish-Australian tilt manifested itself in several ways: including a new war hero, the elevation of Australia Day and a revision of Association rules.

In September 1943, Australian troops contributed to a significant defeat of Japanese land forces in the Battle of Nadzab, forcing them to retreat from Lae, the capital of Morobe Province in Papua New Guinea. This action produced a QIA hero, Private Richard Kelliher. Born in Ballybeggan, County Kerry, Ireland, Kelliher migrated to Australia in 1929, settling in Brisbane where he had relatives. At Nadzab, he won Australia's highest award for gallantry, the Victoria Cross, one of only 20 awarded in World War Two. The Australian War Memorial, where his medal is housed, recorded his daring under fire: "When several of his platoon, including a section leader, became casualties, Kelliher, on his own initiative, raced forward hurling grenades, killing some of the enemy until forced back. Then he seized a Bren gun, ran to within a short distance, and silenced the enemy in the post.

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# How John Keogh led the QIA revival over 20 years

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His final action was to rescue the wounded corporal, saving his life.”

In June 1944, Kelliher was guest of honour at a QIA Irish Night attended by some 150 members, who sang Irish and Australian songs. John Keogh presented their hero with a wallet of notes subscribed by members. Kelliher responded as an Irish Australian, saying: “As they all knew he was an Irishman, and proud of it; but when this trouble was over he intended to make his home in Brisbane. He thought when he enlisted three years ago this country was worth fighting for and he still thought so.”

In the following year Kelliher was made the Association’s twelfth Life Honorary Member. He went to London in 1946 to march with the Australian contingent of war heroes in the Victory Parade, receiving his Victoria Cross from King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

The conferral of Life Honorary Membership on Richard Kelliher in 1945 was twinned with that of County Kerry-born hotelier James Stack. Stack’s 30 years of service included Committee member, 1925-1931 and Trustee from 1932 to 1944. Public servant and Association Librarian, Patrick Coughlin, an immigrant from County Limerick, was similarly honoured in 1946. For over three decades he had been a force in literary and debating activities. One of the authors of the 1928 Souvenir Commemorating the Extension of the Premises, he also served with distinction as Librarian in the 1920s and early 1930s. He returned to the post after Keogh took office in 1943 and set about rescuing the Library from the chaos into which it had descended the previous year.

## **The Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band**

The QIA Pipe Band (QIAPB) was re-established in 1945. It became the Association’s pride, a public expression of its Irishness, a conduit to Ireland and other European Celtic com-



**Dr T. J. Kiernan, Irish Minister to Australia, left, talking with QIA President John Keogh at the Association’s welcome event for the Minister in April 1947. Picture: [National Library of Australia](#)**

munities and an incubator of future leaders. In embryonic form, it made its first appearance on the evening of 17 March 1946, outside the Elizabeth Street premises, to greet guests to the St Patrick’s Eve Dinner.

The Pipe Band was a popular public face of the QIA in the 1950s, marching in Anzac and Labour Day parades as well as the Australia Day pageant. It piped in distinguished guests at St Patrick’s Eve Dinners, performed at the following evening’s Irish Concerts, and were in demand for charitable events. By the mid-1950s the Band was competing in inter-state Gaelic Festivals, winning Irish Drum Corps Championships in 1955 and

1957.

## **Australia Day**

The celebration of Australia Day, 26 January, commemorating the arrival of the First Fleet and the establishment of a British colony in 1788, has been a source of national pride, and division. It was first proposed in 1911 by Cardinal Patrick Moran, Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, as a counter to Empire Day. The Queensland Irish Association began observing Australia Day within its own premises in January 1944. In March of the following year, following a prompt from Archbishop Duhig, it called a meeting

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of ethnic societies 'for the purpose of arranging for a fitting celebration of Australia Day on the day on which the holiday is proclaimed.' Hitherto, 26 January had been marked in a relatively ad hoc fashion, with, from the 1930s, a Monday public holiday enabling a long weekend. As the war ended there was a sense that while ethnic saints' and Empire days were observed, little was done to celebrate a specific Australian identity on its national day. The outcome was a Queensland Australia Day Celebration Committee with QIA President John Keogh and Secretary Tom Sweeney filling the same offices in the new body, and member Chief Justice William Webb as Patron. The Committee's office was in the QIA premises. Premier Ned Hanlon granted the Committee £300 to commemorate Foundation Day in a fashion that matched its importance in the nation's history.

The 1946 Australia Day procession, with 120 floats, was one of the most impressive in the city's history. It was organised by QIA Treasurer Neal Fahy and led by Richard Kelliher, the only Queensland VC winner to survive the war, holding aloft an Australian flag. The QIA also contributed its Pipe Band and a prize-winning float. The display celebrated Peter Lalor, the Irish leader of the 1854 Eureka Stockade, a legendary event which put an Irish stamp on the mythology of Australian democracy. Australian and Irish-Australian themes dominated QIA entries in subsequent 26 January pageants. In 1948, the display was a giant billboard, mounted on a truck, proclaiming:

Sons of Ireland  
Great Australians

It listed four QIA heroes: Thomas Joseph Byrnes, Thomas Joseph Ryan, Thomas McCawley, and Hugh Macrossan. A fifth, with no Association connection, was the notable explorer Edmund Kennedy whose inclusion is puzzling as he had, apart from his name, little connection with Ireland. However, his courage, achievements,



**QIA Australia Day Float 1948. (QIA, Scrapbook, p. 76)**

and fate could appeal to the Irish imagination. It was the centenary of his death on the tip of Cape York, following an overland trek from the vicinity of Cardwell. The anniversary stimulated public interest in his explorations and tragic fate, speared by Aboriginal people, despite the best efforts of his Indigenous guide and friend, Jacky-Jacky. The QIA was intimately involved in Australia Day celebrations throughout Keogh's two decades in office and beyond.

## Revising the Constitution

Another manifestation of the Association's post-war Australian turn was an amendment to its constitution in 1945 that placed Australia on an equal footing with Ireland in the Club's cultural priorities. At its annual meeting Treasurer Michael Lyons successfully moved that Rule 3 b:

To promote the study of Irish history, literature, National Traditions and aspirations, and a more intimate acquaintance with the careers of distinguished Irishmen.

become

To promote the study of Irish and Australian history, literature, national traditions and aspirations, and a more intimate acquaintance with the careers of distinguished Irishmen, Australians and their descendants.

An attempt to narrow the Austral-



**Members of the girls' choir went on singing in the rain on the Education Department's float in the Australia Day procession in Brisbane in 1954. The Queensland Irish Association won an award for its float. Picture: [National Library of Australia](#)**

ian focus to those of Irish birth or descent failed. Keogh insisted the revised rule was not a downgrading of the Club's Irishness; he foreshadowed a renewed commitment to Irish music, dance, and songs. Other additions to Rule 3 included the provision of bursaries to encourage members' children to proceed to secondary education, and improved Club amenities. The militant anti-communism of the Catholic Church, and Premier Ned Hanlon, was reflected in a revision of membership criteria to ban or expel members 'of any subversive organisation, or of the Communist Party

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Eamon de Valera at the Queensland Irish Association Clubrooms, Brisbane, 1948.

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or a reputed supporter thereof?

In a further amendment, Rule 13 dealing with Life Honorary Membership, was expanded to include the appointment of a Patron and Vice-Patron. The first nominations balanced Irish and Irish-Australian identities: they were Monsignor John English as Patron and QIA founder and Life Honorary Member, Peter Scott as Vice-Patron. John English, a confidante of Archbishop Duhig, was born in Rossmore, County Tipperary, arriving in Queensland in 1925. Parish priest of St Agatha's, Clayfield from 1940, English had previously served as Rector of St Leo's College at the University of Queensland and Administrator of St Stephen's Cathedral. Association notables were prominent at a St Leo's farewell function in 1933 on the eve of English's departure for a tour of Europe, including his homeland. The Association had earlier staged their own 'hearty send-off', including a farewell gift, at the Club. A scholar and Irish nationalist, English became de facto chaplain of the QIA, noted for his platform oratory and continuing connection with Ireland. By the late 1940s he was the principal conduit linking the Association and Ireland.

## Refreshing the Irish Connection

Apart from Irish clergy such as Monsignor English, the QIA had little connection with Ireland in the 1930s and first half of the 1940s. Irishness was further muted as the war intensified Australian patriotism and halted observance of St Patrick's Day until 1943, when it was privately celebrated within the Club. However Irishness surged in the late 1940s, animated by the inauguration of diplomatic ties between Australia and Ireland and a renewed interest in the 1916 Rising in Dublin, first openly celebrated by Club members on Easter Monday, 7 April 1947. Later in the month, Irish Ambassador TJ Kiernan, accompanied by his wife, celebrated folk singer, Delia Murphy, daughter and son-in-law, toured Queensland. An organising committee, managed by Archbishop Duhig, planned his reception and itinerary. It was chaired by JD O'Hagan with QIA Secretary Tom Sweeney undertaking secretarial duties. Highlights included a civic reception by the Lord Mayor and a 3,000 strong Citizens' Welcome in the City Hall. Tom Sweeney then accompanied Kiernan's party on a tour of the heavily Irish Darling Downs.

The QIA entertained the Kiernans with a luncheon at Lennons, Bris-

bane's most prestigious hotel. It was followed by an evening function in Association premises, attended by some 700 men and women invitees. The occasion was stolen by Delia Murphy, a diplomatic asset, who won the audience with her renditions of Irish, Scottish, and Welsh folk songs.

## Celebrating the Golden Jubilee, 1948

The Irish Association celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1948 with jubilation. Its St Patrick's Eve Dinner on 15 March was rebadged as The Fiftieth Annual (Golden Jubilee) Dinner of the Queensland Irish Association. Treasurer and Hibernian Grand Master Jeremiah Riordan recounted the history of the Association, acknowledging the presence of foundation member Peter Scott and former President Neil Macgroarty.

The most tangible outcome of the commemoration was publication of a 68-page, extensively illustrated compendium, prepared by JD O'Hagan. The Souvenir looked back with gratitude to the 1898 founders, and celebrated survival through the vicissitudes of war and economic hard times.

In an organisation's history, the recent past can take precedence over more distant events. So it was with the Souvenir, which boldly declared that 'the outstanding event in the history of the Association' was the presence in Queensland, in June 1948, of Éamon de Valera and Frank Aiken. Although an overstatement, it did capture the excitement generated by de Valera's presence in Brisbane.

John Keogh provided an appraisal of the half century since the Association's establishment on 23 March 1898. He also paid tribute to the founding generation, noting that the sole survivor, Peter Scott, was still an honoured presence in the Club, and father of six members. He drew attention to the members whose

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work and sacrifices had enabled the organisation to overcome the great challenges of international conflicts and economic depressions. Keogh also recorded the extraordinary changes wrought by Australian federation, two world wars, and the emergence of an independent Republic of Ireland. He lamented 'the unnatural boundary separating six counties in the North', which he hoped would soon give way to a unified Ireland governed by a democratically elected parliament. Welcoming the 1946 initiation of diplomatic relations between Australia and Ireland, he urged members to offer primary loyalty to Australia without sacrificing their Irish cultural heritage. He concluded: Let us who are Irish, or of Irish descent, maintain our identity in this - our land, Australia, helping to promote the union and brotherhood of Irishmen and their descendants and let us study our Irish and Australian history, our national traditions, and our aspirations.

## **Éamon de Valera in Brisbane, 1948**

After Éamon de Valera was defeated in the Irish 1948 general election, he embarked, with Frank Aiken, former Fiánna Fail Minister of Finance, on an anti-partition tour of Britain, the United States and Australia. Arriving in Brisbane on Thursday 3 June 1948, he was greeted at the airport by the QIA Band which piped him to a welcoming party of Monsignor English, John Keogh, newly appointed QIA Secretary William Collins and some 50 QIA members and priests. The Irish Association hosted an elaborate reception with de Valera's entry sparking over four minutes of applause from 650 members and guests. A shamrock-lined portrait of de Valera as a young man, hung at the side of the podium. Keogh opened proceedings by expressing delight at having such an appropriate guest in the Jubilee year and recounted the history of the Association. Monsignor English stressed



**President John Keogh, centre, with Éamon de Valera, right, and Francis Aitkin, left, QIA Club, 1948. (QIA, Annual Report, 1948, opp. p. 4)**

de Valera's political contribution to twentieth-century Ireland and the priority he accorded to spiritual well-being. The Irish hero was then made the Association's fourteenth Life Honorary Member. In reply, de Valera explained he was in Queensland to campaign against the partition of Ireland, which, he believed, had no justification. The Association also organised a dinner at the Bellevue Hotel attended by Acting Premier Vincent Gair, and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Samuel Brassington, both QIA members. On the evening of Sunday 6 June de Valera argued against partition in a City Hall packed with a 4,000 strong sympathetic audience. He was introduced by Archbishop Duhig who sought to defuse lingering public hostility to Ireland's neutrality in World War Two. De Valera reminded his listeners that World War One was fought for the rights of small nations and Ireland was as entitled to full sovereignty as it was to neutrality.

John Keogh rated De Valera's visit a highlight of his presidency. He reported that the reception for Irish envoys on the evening of their arrival was 'the greatest function ever held in the Club rooms.' The Belle-

vue Hotel dinner was a triumph, 'full of the Irish spirit,' while the public meeting on Sunday night 6 June 'was the greatest meeting ever held in the City Hall.' The following morning Keogh farewelled his guests at the airport, delighted with their verdict: 'Brisbane had provided the best organisation of any city in Australia.' An equally pleasing compliment for the Association's hosting of de Valera and Aiken was Archbishop James Duhig's response: a request for QIA membership.

De Valera's ready connection with Brisbane audiences owed much to the simplicity of his message: that Ireland should not be divided 'by 'unjust, unnatural political boundaries', against the wishes of the majority of its people including in the six Northern counties. The rejection of partition was one of the pillars of diasporic Irish identity enabling ready rapport between de Valera and his audiences. The Queensland Irish Association relished the presence of de Valera as a symbol of the independence and dignity of their country of origin. Members had for decades applauded calls at St Patrick's Eve Dinners for a unified Ireland under majority rule. However, de Valera's

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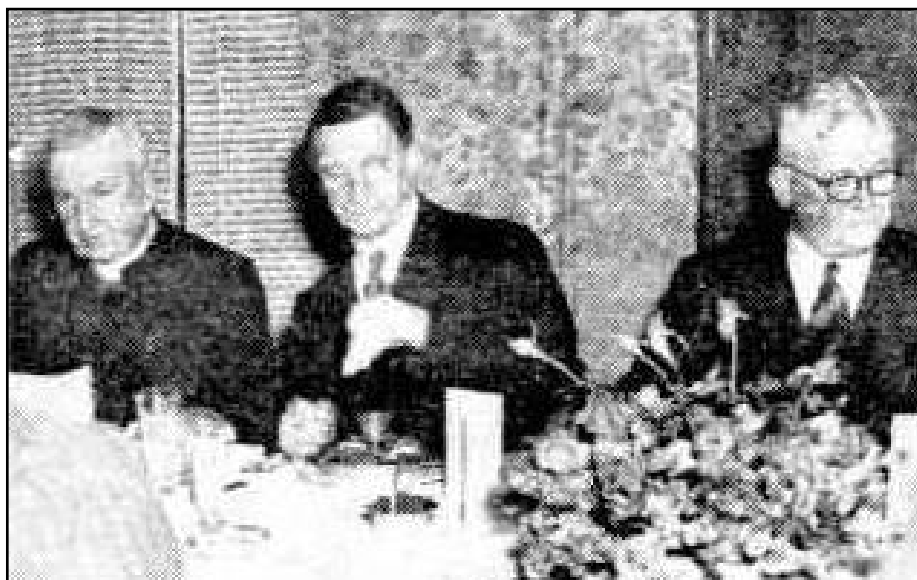
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summons for them to join his political campaign against partition went largely unheeded. Their opposition to partition was emotional and rhetorical, but too shallow to provoke activism. At de Valera's instigation, a Queensland branch of the Australian League for an Undivided Ireland was established shortly after his visit and given QIA office space and secretarial support. Its purpose was to lobby against partition and exert pressure on the British government to relinquish control over the six Northern counties. While the Association supported the Irish Parliament's protests against partition, the League languished.

## Irishness and its Limits

Outside affection for a country of origin, in most cases, some generations removed, the QIA's Irishness had its limits. It was certainly sensitive to any slights against Ireland or Australians of Irish birth or descent. Conditioned by a history of sectarian vulnerability, the Association sought to confine expressions of Irishness to channels that did not provoke external suspicion of disloyalty. Thus, the ancient and medieval history of Ireland could be celebrated safely. The 1948 naming of the Association's premises Tara House was an assertion of Irishness that carried no risk of provocation. The name was derived from the Hill of Tara in County Meath, a sacred site in Irish mythology which contained an ancient complex associated with the high kings of pre-Christian Ireland. The Executive decided to name their premises in 1946, and, as the visit of de Valera approached in 1948, John Keogh proposed Tara House, evoking the cultural and political achievements of ancient Ireland. The designation was popular with members, and it was suggested de Valera should preside over the naming ceremony. However, de Valera also evoked more recent history and bitter



**Eamon DeValera, centre, was on the guest list of the Queensland Irish Association at a dinner at the Belle Vue Hotel on 5 June 1948. Here he is seen with Archbishop Duhig and Mr W. J. Keogh, President of the Association. Picture: [National Library of Australia](#)**

Irish-English conflict and the suggestion was not pursued. In July 1948, after de Valera's departure, Monsignor English was accorded the honour of officially naming the premises Tara House.

Young Irelanders Kevin and Eva O'Doherty, heroes of the 1848 rebellion, had long been brought within the bounds of unprovocative Irishness by their talent and successful post-rebellion careers, as well as by the passage of time. In late 1946, the QIA embarked on the refurbishment of the Toowong Cemetery memorial to the O'Dohertys. Erected by the Association in 1912, the memorial, neglected from the 1916 Rising to 1945, had fallen into disrepair. The QIA was represented at the 1949 funeral of their only surviving child, Gertrude O'Sullivan.

In late June 1948, after de Valera and Aiken had left Brisbane, Treasurer Jeremiah Riordan, queried the Club's requirement that social functions begin with the anthem of the British Empire, 'God Save the King', even if the event was private. He objected to such deference to the British crown, though conceding it was correct procedure for public functions. While sympathetic, Keogh warned that

abandoning the practice would stray beyond the boundaries of safe Irishness, exposing the Club to external hostility and even internal criticism. He argued for the maintenance of the tradition of accommodating Protestants as well as Catholics, and triple loyalties to Australia, Ireland, and the British Empire. On the internal ramifications of abandoning the Empire anthem he cautioned: '...we have been subjected to attacks at various times because all club members are not sympathisers of Ireland'. The Executive concluded it would be 'diplomatic to continue the procedure.'

During the Keogh era the Club looked outwards as much as inwards, developing a wide network of community connections beyond its leadership of Australia Day celebrations. These included representation on such bodies as the Anzac Day Committee, the New Settlers' League, and the Registered Clubs' Association. It also fostered reciprocal social engagements with kindred organisations such as the Caledonian Society and the Royal Society of St George. Inter- and intra-Club sporting competitions in 1960 ranged across billiards,

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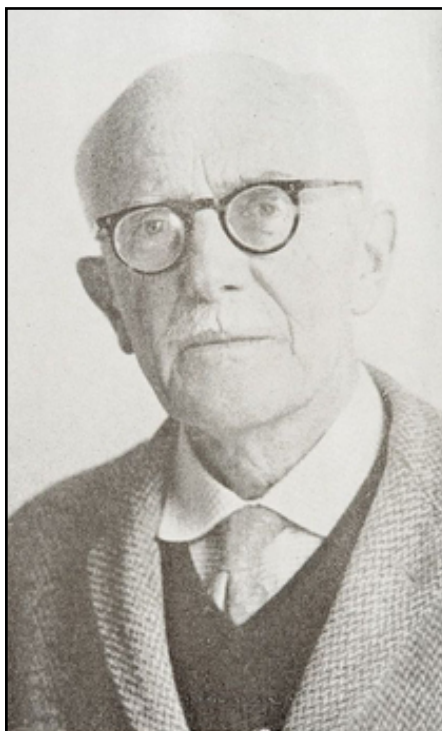
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*Continued from page 10*

snooker, bowls, tennis and further integrated the QIA into the wider Brisbane community. The library was well patronised, and the Cafeteria, 'an essential amenity of the Association', provided a food service.

## **Celtic Revival, 1951-1955**

An outcome of Kiernan's QIA connection was the promotion of Irish Studies and an attempt to embed it in the curriculum offered by the University of Queensland. This project, initiated in 1952, was steered by Kiernan and Archbishop Duhig, with the Irish Association their Queensland vehicle, despite both men having some reservations about the Club's capacity to accomplish their objectives. Duhig was dubious about the QIA's potential for Irish Studies, describing it 'as mostly made up of ordinary good people, just like the Hibernians.' Its chief educational preoccupation had been the furtherance of the secondary education of members' children through annual bursaries. Kiernan, who visited the Club in 1947 and 1953, asserted that part of his motivation was to elevate the priorities of the Association, to shift its members' attention from 'cocktails to culture', and expand their focus 'beyond the once-a-year-show' on St Patrick's Eve. The Club reacted cautiously to Kiernan's initial overtures in 1952, seeking a financial contribution to an annual Irish Studies lecture at the University of Queensland. The Executive forwarded the correspondence to Monsignor English and committed £100 a year to the venture, subject to their clerical Patron's approval. This was readily forthcoming, and Vice-President Michael Lyons travelled south in December to confer with Kiernan in Canberra and other societies recruited by him to promote Irish Studies: the Irish National Association in Sydney and the Celtic Club in Melbourne. After Lyons reported on his discussions, the Association offered a £25 bursary to the Univer-



**Professor Myles Dillon.**

sity of Queensland as a token of its commitment to the development of Irish Studies.

The QIA next committed £300 a year to the establishment of an annual Irish Studies Lecture under the auspices of the University of Queensland. A distinguished scholar would be brought from Ireland every three years, with a local expert delivering the lecture in the following two years. The Association also endowed a University of Queensland Irish Studies Prize. The subject for the 1954 Irish Studies prize was '... a study of the part played by WB Yeats in contemporary Irish history and its effect on its poetry.' The inaugural lecturer, in 1953 was Myles Dillon, a distinguished linguist, polished raconteur, and a senior professor in the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, established by Éamon de Valera in 1940. Dillon's Celtic Studies credentials were enhanced by his ancestry. He was the son of John Dillon, the Irish nationalist leader who toured Queensland in 1889 on a Home Rule fund-raising mission. Author of *The Archaism of the Irish Tradition* and editor of *Early Irish Society*, Dillon

gave two lectures in Brisbane. His first, at the University of Queensland, was '*The Archaism of the Irish Tradition*', the title of his book. The second, a free public presentation in the City Hall, was entitled, more appealingly, 'Collecting Folklore in Western Ireland'. Kiernan had suggested this accessible topic rather than the proposed, and more arcane, 'History and the Gaelic Tradition'. It was chaired by John Keogh, with Archbishop Duhig moving the vote of thanks. Advertised in Catholic schools and parishes, and enlivened by Dillon's singing of folk-songs, the lecture attracted a larger audience than the 300 in Sydney.

An obstacle to the development of Celtic Studies in Brisbane was the lack of resource materials, especially those in the Irish language. Duhig sought to remedy this by buying the 200-volume library of deceased scholar, Mary Hutton (1852-1953), a former member of the Belfast Gaelic League and renowned translator of the early Irish language. Though entrusted to Villanova College, he insisted on open access for scholars, anticipating that it would become the nucleus of a Celtic Studies library at the University of Queensland. The Myles Dillon visit, and the acquisition of the Hutton collection rendered 1953 a golden year in Brisbane's Celtic Revival. Keogh reported to his Executive: 'We had achieved what was set out by the Irish Ambassador and he was satisfied that it would create a very good impression on the other side of the world.'

By 1954 the most vigorous phase of Brisbane's Celtic Revival had passed. James Duhig and John Keogh stepped back from their previous direct management of the venture. Responsibility for the Irish Studies Lecture was vested in a QIA-University of Queensland sub-committee which notably lacked the presence of the QIA President and the Archbishop. Keogh nominated his Vice-Pres-

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# How John Keogh led the QIA revival over 20 years

*Continued from page 11*

ident, Michael Lyons, to represent the Association and Duhig delegated his co-adjutor archbishop, Irish-born Patrick Mary O'Donnell, to serve in his place. The remainder of the committee comprised University of Queensland academics, Charles Gordon Cooper, Professor of Classics, and English Language and Literature Professor, George Harrison Russell.

The Irish Studies lecturer for 1954 was Father John Hanrahan, an Irish-born Augustinian, who arrived in Australia at the invitation of Archbishop Duhig in 1947. Based at Villanova College in Hamilton, he founded the noted drama group, the Villanova Players, and lectured part time in Classics at the University of Queensland. His subject was 'The Celtic Literary Spirit'. Keogh reported that Hanrahan was 'a beautiful speaker and the lecture would have been of great interest to students.' However, the presentation was on a smaller scale than that for Myles Dillon. It was held at the University, attracting an audience of 80, and there was no City Hall event. The QIA paid Father Hanrahan a £10.10s lecture fee. In 1955 The Irish Studies Lecture was on 'Early Irish Music'. Delivered by Dr Percy Jones, a Melbourne Catholic priest and talented musician, the occasion attracted little publicity but was deemed 'most successful'.

Kiernan's departure from Australia in 1955 signalled the phasing out of annual Irish Studies Lectures at the University of Queensland. Keogh blamed academic apathy. He reported in 1958 that: 'Efforts to obtain suitable lecturers at the University have been unsuccessful for the past few years and this activity will have to lay dormant until a way is found for its revival.' In the following year he reiterated his frustration that no scholar could be recruited for the Irish Studies Lecture but expressed satisfaction that the University of Queensland Irish Studies Prize was institutionalised. In a ceremony at Tara House,



**Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band.**

attended by Premier Francis Nicklin, Chancellor of the University Sir Albert Axon awarded the 1959 Irish Studies Prize to Robert Harney for his essay, 'The Partition of Ireland'.

## **Continuities and Changes**

In 1958, the Association added Irish National Dancing to its cultural repertoire. This was largely the work of Bill Hanley and Les Shaw, members of the Pipe Band, who had been impressed with Irish dancing while attending a Sydney Irish Festival in 1957. In August 1958 they secured QIA agreement to institute a trial of Irish dancing classes with assistance from Sydney's Dwyer Dance Studio. Children were charged two shillings a lesson. They were held initially in the State Service Union Hall, also in Elizabeth Street, because the QIA had a male-only tradition and liquor licence that banned women and children during trading hours. This rule was relaxed the following year and classes shifted to the basement of Tara House. The first local teacher was Pearl Neilsen, an instructor in Highland Scottish dancing, supported by Helen Smith.

Bill Hanley, President of the Irish Dancers, invited leading performers from interstate to improve standards, including Jill Dobbs from Sydney, who eventually settled in Brisbane,

and, later in the 1960s, became the first woman to join the QIA. The venture flourished and, in 1961, the QIA instituted the first Queensland Irish Dancing Championships, known as the May Feis.

The tempo of the Club's social and sporting life picked up pace from 1959 with the Club's first annual Christmas Tree for members' children. The occasion was enlivened with Father Christmas handing out presents and Irish Dancing Class's jigs and reels. The library and cafeteria remained well patronized. Monthly socials were added to film nights. The Association fielded debating teams and many members participated in the Club's wide range of sports, including billiards, snooker, table tennis, indoor bowls, quoits, and darts.

John Keogh stepped down as President in late 1963 after a record two decades in office. His achievements included the resuscitation of the Irish Association from its dire state in 1942, increasing membership to over 1,400, a figure not achieved since the 1920s, and restoring morale and reputation. He had been a member of the Association for over 50 years and was in the crowded Club on 2 September 1916 when John Fihelly controversially attacked British reprisals in Ireland after the Easter Rising. Keogh was

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# How John Keogh led the QIA revival over 20 years

*Continued from page 12*

presented with his Life Membership badge in a ceremony at the end of the 66th St Patrick's Eve Dinner in 1964. Responding, he invoked the spirit of his Irish ancestors and their struggle for independence. He recited the final verse of Thomas Moore's 'Forget not the Field':

Far dearer the grave and the prison,  
Illumined by one patriot name,  
Than the trophies of all, who have  
risen,

On Liberty's ruins to fame.

Conscious that he was an Australian of Irish descent, Keogh concluded the function by adding three lines of his own to Moore's stanza

We will remain steadfast to the  
spirit,

And traditions of our forebears,  
And keep Australia free.

Awarded an MBE for his services to the Association in 1966, Keogh typified the great bulk of the Club's membership from the 1930s to the 1970s. He was proud of his Irish descent, more so of his Australian nationality. He was a civic-minded, socially conservative, patriotic, anti-communist Catholic, inclined towards the moderate wing of the Labor Party. His engagement with Ireland was indirect and sentimental; its partition offended his sense of historical justice. Members regarded him with respect and affection. John Keogh was a constructive contributor, instituting educational bursaries in 1941, rescuing the Association from its unstable condition after assuming the presidency in 1943, and pioneering public celebrations of Australia Day in the aftermath of World War Two. When he became President, he pledged to restore the Club and return it from the hands of a coterie to 'Irishmen and their descendants.' The generation that celebrated the Association's 75th anniversary in 1973 deemed him successful. The Souvenir booklet included him in an exclusive cohort of clerics and officials thanked for 'splendid service.' It remembered



Archbishop Halse, left, Queensland Transport Minister, Jack Duggan and Archbishop O'Donnell at the Queensland Irish Association St Patrick's Eve Dinner in 1950. Picture: [National Library of Australia](#)

Keogh as a:

...tremendous worker for the Association...President from 1943 to 1963. During those 20 years, the Association was replaced on an even keel and its present standing is in no small way due to this great member.

John Keogh died on 8 October 1968.

## Multiple Remembrances

The Centenary Dinner was buttressed by multiple acts of remembrance. On 26 January 1998, the QIA hosted an Australia Day Dinner to mark the Association's founding of the Australia Day Council in 1945. Guest speaker was Len Keogh, son of President John Keogh (1943-1963), who outlined the leading role his father played in making Australia Day a national occasion and how it symbolised the crucial contribution of the Irish in the formation of an Australian identity.

*This article was taken from the book A Hundred Thousand Welcomes: The History of the Queensland Irish Association by Rodney Sullivan and Robin Sullivan. The excerpts here were edited by Mary Allen. Thanks to Anne Garton and Dolor Milford*

(granddaughters of John Keogh).

## A Hundred Thousand Welcomes Corrigendum

p. 91, last para Delete first two sentences. New first two sentences should read: Born in Brisbane in 1890 to Irish parents, Keogh was the son of a railway guard. He was educated at St Brigid's convent school, Red Hill and at St James Christian Brothers School, Spring Hill. In 1914, he married Agnes Levander in St Stephen's Catholic Cathedral.

p. 171 First para, in Multiple Remembrances, Line 4, Keogh's years of service should read (1943-1963).

p. 244 Para 3, Line 5, delete Margaret; should be Agnes Keogh.

p. 289 Chapter 4, Note 2, Delete 'John Patrick Keogh, Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates, QRBDM. First entry should now read: John Keogh, Birth and Marriage Certificates (QRBDM).

Add to Note 2: Catholic Leader (Brisbane), 24 October 1967, cutting supplied by Anne Garton.

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# Magic of winter in Dublin



Howth Cliff Walk, Howth Head, Dublin, Co Dublin.

***Get the inside track from local experts on the best things to do, see and experience in Dublin this winter, from cosy Sunday lunches to cold-water plunges.***

There's nothing quite like winter in Dublin. As soon as the temperature starts to drop, the city hits peak cosiness, with smouldering fires in old pubs, restaurants serving up warming comfort food and lights twinkling as soon as the sun goes down. But there's more to the season than just getting cosy. You can head out to the coast for a stroll along the sea, go up into the mountains for a hike or build up a sweat in a sauna, all while taking in the beauty of the scenery. And when the evening rolls around, there's no need to hibernate – instead, why not enjoy a candlelit concert in a cathedral, or seek out one of the city's new hotspots, such as the Díon Rooftop Restaurant, or the rejuvenated Library Bar (an old Dublin favourite) in the brand-new Hoxton.

Three Dubliners – chef Eric Matthews, walking guide Shane O'Doherty and sauna owner Trevor O'Rourke – share

their hot tips and insider secrets on how to get the best out of the city this season.

## A Chef's Perspective

Eric Matthews is the co-owner of Dublin hotspot Kicky's and was previously head chef in the city's Michelin-starred Chapter One, where he was the head chef.

For Eric, winter "is the best time of year in Dublin". While the summer is all about the beach, in the colder months, life heads indoors to comforting pubs where the fires are lit and the lights are low. "I live in Stonybattery", Eric says, "and there are so many excellent cosy pubs within a few minutes' walk, like L Mulligan Grocer, the Cobblestone and Walsh's, which is my favourite."

When it comes to food, it's also one of the most dynamic seasons, according to Eric. "Winter is the best time to cook because you've got all the mushrooms and game in season," he says. "As a chef, it's exciting." And

while you might think winter isn't as strong for fresh produce, Eric believes there's a plethora of hearty, comforting ingredients that you should always order when you spot them on a menu. "You should be looking out for those top seasonal vegetables like pumpkin, kale and leeks – we're currently doing a whole roasted leek with smoked Ballylisk cheese and hazelnuts at Kicky's."

Chefs always love to eat out, and Eric has a rotation of restaurants he thinks are perfect for the colder months, including Dax, Pickle and Hawksmoor, a steak restaurant in the former home of the National Bank of Ireland, where you can dine under a grand 40-foot dome and heritage cornicing. "It's a beautiful, warm, lovely place to go and have Sunday lunch in the winter," he says. Using beef from small community farms as well as roast potatoes, buttered greens and onion gravy, the Sunday roasts are comfort food perfection.

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# Magic of winter in Dublin

*Continued from page 14*

On a winter's day, you couldn't ask for anything more.

## A Walking Guide's Take

While for some, winter in Dublin is all about the indoors, for others it's one of the best seasons to get out and about. Shane O'Doherty of Shane's Howth Adventures, which offers hiking, e-bike and boat tours around the Dublin coast, believes there's a certain beauty to the winter months.

"We are close to the water here in the village of Howth, and every time I imagine anything beautiful, the water is in the picture," he says. "Winter also gives you conditions that you don't get in the summertime – it can be turbulent and exciting. But it's no less appealing."

If you've ever walked the Howth Cliff Path, you'll know what he means – it's a jaw-droppingly beautiful trail, no matter what the weather is doing, and is topped off by a walk around Howth itself.

"The village and harbour have so many excellent restaurants, cafés and bars," he says. "Some of my favourite local seafood is in King Sitric – they have the most authentic seafood, with local crab and Dublin Bay prawns."

When exploring the city, Shane takes advantage of the fact that it's often a little quieter. "Dublin is a very old city, and that can be more evident in wintertime." For walks, he recommends the Great South Wall, which juts out dramatically into Dublin Bay and is topped by a red lighthouse, but with Dublin being a city bounded both by the sea and the mountains, heading inland is also a favourite of Shane's. "I've been into the Dublin Mountains a couple of times recently, and there are fabulous walks there," he says. "In winter, there's that more contemplative quietness that comes as the light levels go down and nature goes a little bit quieter."

## The Sauna Owner's Favourites

Trevor O'Rourke owns Sandycove



**The Forty Foot, Sandycove, Co Dublin.** *Courtesy César Dive.*

Store & Yard, with saunas, ice baths and plunge pools, along with a café. Located along Dublin's Coastal Trail, just a 25-minute DART ride from the city, it's an area popular with walkers who stroll Dún Laoghaire pier or hike up Killiney Hill, and with swimmers who brave the icy waters at the famous Forty Foot.

Trevor finds that saunas have encouraged more cold-water swimming year-round, with those who usually avoided the chilly months now swimming in the sea year-round. "Every time you take a sauna, you feel very rejuvenated and amazing afterwards," says Trevor. "But that's even more true in the winter. I think when it's cold, there's more of a reason to get in."

As well as swims and saunas, Trevor finds that Dublin comes into its own in the colder months. "Dublin is just magical in the winter," he says. "On my perfect day, I'd head into the mountains for a hike and then find a

cosy pub afterwards. Johnnie Fox's is amazing in the wintertime – you can get a nice little spot and some really good food."

But activities in Dublin don't have to be limited to hiking. As a kite surfer, Trevor says that the conditions in the winter are far better, as that's when the storms kick in. "Pure Magic is based in Clontarf but operates in Dún Laoghaire too, and they're brilliant for getting people out kite surfing and wing foiling."

And even if you're not hopping out of the sea and into a sauna, there are other ways to unwind after a flurry of water sports. "A pint always tastes better when you've been on the water," he says. "I love my local, Fitzgerald's of Sandycove. It's a proper old man's pub."

A creamy pint after a hefty dose of vitamin sea? Well, that's what winter in Dublin is all about.

*Words and pictures: Ireland.com*

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# Enjoy an intimate concert experience with Celtic Thunder



Fans of the internationally renowned Irish music phenomenon, Celtic Thunder, are in for a special treat as the group announces their brand-new show, An Intimate Evening with Celtic Thunder – touring Australia in March 2026.

This unique production will bring audiences a heartfelt celebration of the group's most beloved songs while reuniting past and present members for an unforgettable evening of music, memories, and camaraderie.

An Intimate Evening with Celtic Thunder is more than just a concert—it's a journey through the group's incredible legacy. Featuring a carefully curated set list of their greatest hits, this show will showcase the powerful harmonies, soaring ballads, and electrifying performances that have made Celtic Thunder a household name. From classic Irish folk songs to contemporary favourites, audiences can expect to hear the anthems that have defined Celtic Thunder's illustrious career.

What makes this show even more special is the reunion of familiar faces. Over the years, Celtic Thunder has been home to some of the finest vo-

calists in the world, and An Intimate Evening with Celtic Thunder will see Emmet, Damian, Neil and Ronan perform some of Celtic Thunder's greatest songs. Long-time fans will be thrilled to see their favourite voices come together, blending their talents in an atmosphere of warmth and nostalgia.

"We wanted to create something truly special for our fans, something that feels personal and celebratory," says Damian McGinty, long-time Celtic Thunder Principal.

"This show is about reconnecting—with the music, with each other, and with the people who have supported us throughout the years. It's a chance to relive the magic of Celtic Thunder in a more intimate way, and we couldn't be more excited to share this experience with our audience."

## TOUR DATES

Thursday 12 March 2026 – Twin Towns, Tweed Heads

Friday 13 March 2026 – BCEC, Brisbane

Saturday 14 March 2026 – The Events Centre, Caloundra

Sunday 15 March 2026 – Newcastle

Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Tuesday 17 March 2026 – State Theatre, Sydney

Wednesday 18 March 2026 – The Playhouse CTC, Canberra

Friday 20 March 2026 – Hamer Hall, Melbourne

Sunday 22 March, 2026 – Festival Theatre, Adelaide

Tuesday 24 March 2026 – Regal Theatre, Perth

## VIP EXPERIENCE\* PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- One (1) A reserve seated ticket in a prime location
- Exclusive access to a pre show sound-check party with Celtic Thunder
- Participate in a Q&A Session with Celtic Thunder
- Group Photo opportunity with Celtic Thunder downloadable after the show

\*VIP Experience terms and conditions apply

Tickets at <https://davidroywilliams.com/tours/celtictThunder2026/>



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# QIA Christmas Lunch at Wests Rugby Club



A large group of 140 people attended our Christmas Lunch with Irish entertainment at Wests Rugby Club in Toowong on 6 December. Pictures: Mary Allen







# Queensland Irish Association

## *Saint Brigid Celebration*



Join us on 14 February at 2.00pm at

The Brigid Centre,  
Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

Film screening of *Burren Girl*  
followed by Q&A with the director

The search for an Irish clan and its legacy

Followed by light afternoon tea  
Cost: \$10 per person

*RSVP and further information:*  
*Honora Gee on 0408 531 636 or*  
*email [qiahistoricalculturalcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:qiahistoricalculturalcommittee@gmail.com)*

**ENTRANCE AT CECIL STREET - DISABILITY ACCESSIBLE - PARKING IN CENTRAL AVE, INDOORROOPILLY**