



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

November 2025



A large group attended our Samhain/Halloween Irish tour of South Brisbane Cemetery, Dutton Park, on October 26. More pictures on page 8. Picture: Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery

Thanks for great turn-out at our 2025 AGM

Our Annual General Meeting 2025 was great and we are very grateful for the attendance of Members. The meeting was longer than two hours and the quorum was met with 43 attendees. It was lovely, also, to see new faces in the crowd.

The important highlights were Brad Tallon's Treasurer's Report, which showed a profit of \$411,950; and the approval of the nine Members of the Board, which included Graham Moloney as Vice-President for Seamus Sullivan, and Seamus Sullivan as a Director for Michele Bourke.

An amendment to the Constitution was approved by the meeting to change the heading of Clause 32 to



Attendees at the 2025 QIA AGM.

“32.2”, and inserting before it a Clause 32.1, which will read as follows: “A President shall serve no more than three (3) successive annual terms, or part thereof.”

We look forward to a huge crowd at the QIA Christmas Party at Wests Rugby Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong,

on Saturday, 6 December from 12 noon.

Already a very large number of Members and friends have indicated they will attend. Brendan Williams will provide entertainment, which will include sing-along Christmas carols. Entry is free and all are welcome.

Then on 4 January at 11am, we will have our second Women's Little Christmas gathering, at Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, with a guided tour followed by a visit to the garden cafe.

*Jeff Spender,
President,*

Queensland Irish Association.

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



Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band playing at Irish Fridays in Gilhooley's Irish Pub in October. Picture: facebook.com/QIAPB

Botanic gardens tour for Nollaig na mBan

Celebrate Ireland's Women's Little Christmas - Nollaig na mBan - with Queensland Irish Association in 2026, 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.

Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens feels like a peaceful green escape high above Brisbane, full of winding rainforest paths, bonsai, themes of arid and temperate plants, and a tropical glasshouse.

The gardens feature a rich variety of plant habitats — from tropical rainforest in the Tropical Display Dome, to arid-zone succulents, temperate species, and native Australian communities.

There's also a Japanese Garden, fern house, bonsai collection, a planetarium, and a specialist

botany library. Down near the visitor centre is the café, a relaxed spot with big windows and garden views — perfect for a coffee or light lunch after a walk.

You can get there easily by public transport too: buses like the 471 and the 598 / 599 Great Circle line stop at Mt Coot-tha Road (Stop 19), right at the gardens.

Meet at the main entrance to the gardens, be there by 11am on Sunday, 4 January 2026. Be sure to bring sun protection and plenty of water, as well as comfortable walking shoes.

If you do not want to do the gentle walking tour, but would like to meet us in the Botanic Gardens Cafe afterwards, we will see you there at around 12pm.

Designed to be accessible, the café has a ramp for easy access.

This is our second Nollaig na mBan celebration.

RSVP to let us know you're coming along by emailing Sarah O'Kane at SarahMOKane76@gmail.com.

Calendar

5 December 2025

Irish Fridays at Gilhooley's including performance by Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band.

6 December 2025

QIA Christmas Party, Wests Rugby Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong. 12pm.

4 January 2026

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

14 February 2026

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

7 February 2026

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

14 March 2026

St Patrick's Day Parade, Brisbane CBD. Details TBA.

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.

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

You can also reach us through our website, 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.

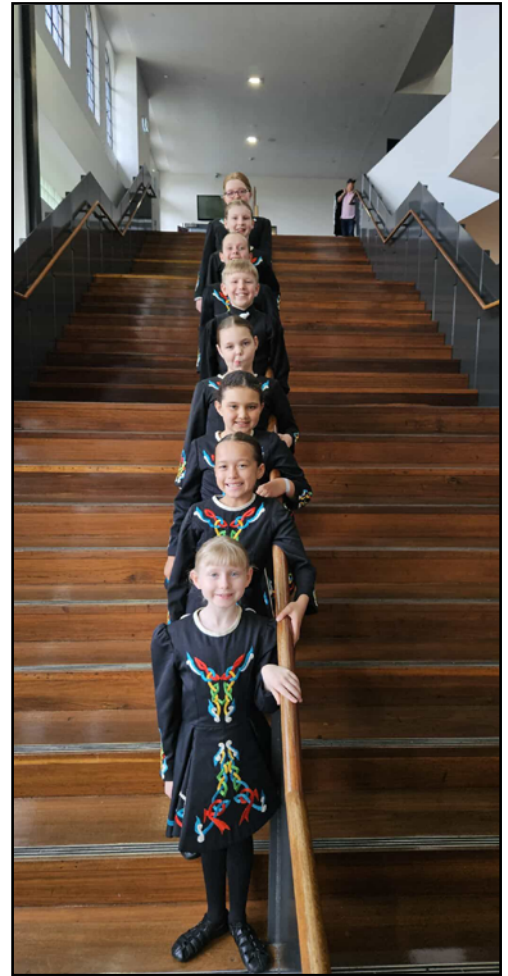
Editor and designer: Mary Allen.

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QIA Dancers at National Championships



At the Australian Irish Dancing Championships 2025 in Brisbane, sponsored by QIA, all the QIA Dancers U10 and U12 dancers made their Nationals team dancing debut. The U10 Mixed 8-Hand placed 2nd, bringing home a perpetual trophy. Pictures: QIA Dancers



Senior Man and Lady danced three lovely rounds with Rachel taking home a Championship Award and Declan placing 5th.



Iconic Irish band The Waterboys to return

THE WATERBOYS make their long-awaited return to Australia and New Zealand in May 2026 their first tour in over a decade!

Critically acclaimed as one of the best live bands on the planet, the 2025 band features double keyboard players Brother Paul from Memphis and James Hallawell from Cornwall and is grounded by killer Irish rhythm section Aongus Ralston (bass) and Eamon Ferris (drums).

THE WATERBOYS will be performing tracks from their audacious new album, *Life, Death and Dennis Hopper*: a bold, cinematic tribute to the maverick American actor and cultural icon, along with material across their storied catalogue. From the early “big music” of *The Whole Of The Moon* and classic album *This Is The Sea* through to the roots-inspired *Fisherman’s Blues* era and music from their ambitious post-2015 output.

Mike Scott comments: “The Waterboys live for the experience of playing, of feeling our music evolve and grow with each consecutive concert. Nothing makes us happier than seeing a long list of dates like these. How will the music change? What will happen that’s never happened before? How much fun and thrills can we and the audiences have? Australia and New Zealand come and join us!”

The Waterboys play at The Tivoli in Brisbane on Monday, 18 May 2026. Tickets available from Ticketmaster [here](#).

Comedian Joanne McNally

After the success of her record-breaking tour *The Prosecco Express*, Joanne McNally returns with her hotly anticipated new stand-up show *Pinotphile*. Hailed by *Variety* as *One to Watch*, McNally has been keeping herself busy by ruining men’s lives (and her own) and now she’s back; still single, still unfertilised, and laden with irreverent, ridiculous and hilarious war stories.

Join Joanne for a wild ride as she



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 2026

TUE 12 MAY **PERTH** ASTOR THEATRE
FRI 15 MAY **SYDNEY** STATE THEATRE
SAT 16 MAY **MELBOURNE** PALAIS THEATRE
MON 18 MAY **BRISBANE** THE TIVOLI
WED 20 MAY **WELLINGTON** MEOW NUI
THU 21 MAY **AUCKLAND** KIRI TE KANAWA THEATRE
SAT 23 MAY **CHRISTCHURCH** TOWN HALL

TICKETS FROM [DESTROYALLINES.COM](https://destroyalllines.com) | DESTROYALLINES

navigates situationships, revenge, frenemies and rejection in her “terrifyingly funny” (*Evening Standard*) and “joyously nuts” (*Irish Examiner*) trademark style.

She’s the co-host of award-winning podcast *My Therapist Ghosted Me*, and with riotous appearances on *Taskmaster*, *The Jonathan Ross Show* and *The Big Fat Quiz of Everything*. Joanne also hosts the hugely successful BBC Sounds series *Joanne McNally Investigates: Who Replaced Avril Lavigne and Do Furbys Spy On Us?*

Catch Joanne at Brisbane Powerhouse on April 19 and 20, 2026. Tickets available from Bohm Presents [here](#).

The Pogues

For the first time in 14 years, The Pogues return to Australia to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of their seminal

album *Rum, Sodomy & the Lash* — performed in full alongside beloved favourites.

Featuring original members James Fearnley, Jem Finer and Spider Stacy, this special lineup unites acclaimed guest vocalists Daragh Lynch, Iona Zajak, John Francis Flynn, bringing one of folk-punk’s most influential albums back to life. Ranked among *Rolling Stone’s* 500 Greatest Albums of All Time, the 1985 classic features *A Pair of Brown Eyes*, *Dirty Old Town*, and *A Rainy Night in Soho*.

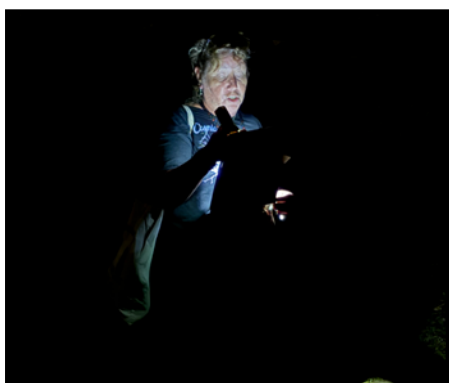
The Pogues’ Australian tour and Bluesfest return promise a rousing, soul-stirring celebration of one of modern music’s most enduring legacies.

They will appear at Byron Bay Bluesfest on Thursday 2 April and Friday 3 April 2026. Tickets from www.bluesfest.com.au.

Samhain Irish tour of South Brisbane Cemetery



A large group attended our Samhain/Halloween Irish tour of South Brisbane Cemetery. The tour was organised in partnership with Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery and Haunts of Brisbane. Pictures: Mary Allen



From riches to rags, the story of the lost Lord's son

Part two of the story of The Hon. Bentinck Yelverton Bingham, third son of Lord Clanmorris of County Galway, carried on from the October edition of QIA Newsletter. What was the son of an Irish lord doing buried alone in colonial Brisbane in 1892?
By Mary Allen.

Investing in land

Over two years after arriving, Bentinck was headed north in search of investments in land.

On 18 February 1879, Hon. B. Bingham is listed as a passenger on a ship leaving Brisbane, bound for Bundaberg, and in September 1879, the Brisbane Courier reported on stock movements in western Queensland. The notice mentions that the Hon. B. Bingham purchased Fort William run on the Burke River at a "satisfactory price," with the property described as excellent for sheep or cattle, with permanent water and good timber.

A report on stock movements in The Queenslander newspaper from Boulia the next month, on 29 October 1879, reported that "300 head of mixed cattle, the property of the Hon. B. Y. Bingham, are now passing up the river to Fort William. Tooleybuok fat cattle start next month."

Three months later, on 24 January 1880, The Queenslander reports from Burke River, Boulia: "I hear that the country lately stocked by Mr. Bingham has been sold to the Hon. A. H. Palmer, who, it is said, intends putting sheep on it." (Hon. A. H. Palmer was Arthur Hunter Palmer, Irish-born, pastoralist turned politician, who rose to become Premier of Queensland and President of the Legislative Council.)

By the end of 1880, Bentinck had been joined in Australia by his older brother Burton Percy Bingham. Both Bentinck and Burton invested in land in Queensland. A newspaper [report](#) dec-



ades later in February 1928, detailing their niece Zara Eileen Pollak marrying the Governor of South Australia, said: "The wife of the new Governor of South Australia is Irish and owns the pretty name of Zara Eileen. She is the daughter of John Pollak, of Lismaney, County Galway, and her mother was the second daughter of the fourth Baron Clanmorris. The Clanmorris family is well known in Australia. The Hon. Ben and the Hon. Burton Bingham had land in Queensland, and the late Lord Clanmorris visited the Antipodes. The De Burgh Persse family is also related, and the Joyces of Beaudesert too."

Police incident

The Brisbane Courier on 25 October 1880 [reported](#): "At the City Police Court, on Saturday, before the police-magistrate and Colonel Ross, J.P., John Timmins... Annie Mortimer was brought up, charged with having on Friday night last assaulted constable Cornelius O'Neil in Queen-street. She pleaded guilty, and constable O'Neil, on being asked the

nature of the assault, stated that the prisoner was standing on the pavement in Queen-street with a lady's riding whip in her hand and striking her dress with it. He walked up to her, put his hand on her shoulder, and told her to stop that nonsense. She immediately struck him on the head with the whip several times. The police-magistrate said that the constable had no right to interfere with the woman in the first instance, as she had not committed a breach of the law, but he and his brother magistrate agreed with Sergeant Owens, who said that the constable's conduct was not such as to warrant the assault complained of. They therefore fined the prisoner in the sum of 5s., with the alternative of six hours in the cells. Burton P. Bingham and Bentinck Bingham, on bail, were charged with having on Friday night last assaulted police-constable Cornelius O'Neil in Queen-street, whilst that officer was in the execution of his duty. They did not appear, but were represented by Mr. A. J. Thynne*, who pleaded

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guilty on their behalf. Constable O'Neil was then asked the nature of the assault. He stated that after he had arrested the prisoner Mortimer, one of the defendants came up, put his arm through the prisoner's, and said, "Come on, old woman, with me, never mind the bobby, I'll see Seymour* about it in the morning"; the other defendant then came up, and said, "Strike the -," at the same time dealing him a blow on the head. They both then attacked him, knocked him down, and struck him several times. The defendants were each fined £2, with the alternative of six hours in the cells... We understand that about two hours after the police business was over on Saturday, constable Cornelius O'Neil was taken to the office of Mr. D. T. Seymour, Commissioner of Police, and was told by the Commissioner that he was dismissed from the force for striking Burton P. Bingham with his baton."

**Their lawyer Andrew Thynne was one of the founders of Queensland Irish Association, and Police Commissioner Seymour was a near-neighbour of the Bingham family in Ireland, born in Ballymore Castle, County Galway.*

Riding accidents

The Telegraph newspaper on Tuesday, 11 January 1881 [reported](#): "ACCIDENT TO THE HON. B. BINGHAM As the Messrs. Bingham were crossing Breakfast Creek Bridge yesterday, on horseback, the horse ridden by Mr. Bentinck Bingham shied, and, on being touched with the spur, slipped and rolled on his rider, causing a compound fracture of the elbow. Mr. Bingham was conveyed to Newstead, and shortly afterwards attended to by Dr. Concanon."

Then on 11 May 1881, The Brisbane Courier [reported](#) another accident, likely to Burton: "A pair of spirited young horses were being driven yesterday afternoon to the Exhibition grounds by the Hon. B. B. Bingham,



when just as they neared the bridge at the foot of the hill before reaching Bowen Park something frightened the one on the near side, who, shying violently, forced the other horse off the road, and the two charged the fence in a most dangerous place. One succeeded in jumping it, and hung on the other side, suspended by the collar, while the trap, brought up against the fence, was fortunately prevented from capsizing by a post. The horses were ultimately extricated without damage, though the harness and vehicle were much damaged, the pole of the latter being smashed, besides other breakages. Strangely enough Mr. Bingham was not shaken from the box by the concussion, and sat holding the reins till the horses were extricated with a composure that seemed entirely unruffled by the very great peril of the situation."

The next year, on 12 August 1882, Burton was back in the news, as The Capricornian (Rockhampton) [reported](#): "A summons was issued a few days ago, at the instance of the Municipal Inspector, against the Hon. B. P. Bingham for a breach of byelaw 21 — namely, driving at other than a walking pace across the Fitzroy Bridge. On the case being called in the Police Court, Mr. Butter (from the office of Messrs. Jones and Brown) in-

timated that the complaint had been withdrawn. No further explanation was offered, but as the prosecutor thus withdrew from the case, it was struck off the list." It goes on to say that Burton took "his departure in the S. S. Keilawarra on Tuesday".

Three months later, the Logan Witness on 4 Nov 1882 reports under departures: "On Wednesday last Mr. and Mrs. De Burg Persse, accompanied by the Hons. Burton and Bentinck Bingham, left Brisbane by the A.S.N. Co.'s steamer Glanworth for Sydney, en route for England. It is understood that Mr Persse will be back again for the next session of Parliament, leaving Mrs. Persse at "home" for next summer."

Bentinck returned, in March 1884 he was [reported](#) to be shooting at the Logan and Albert Gun Club. In April 1884, there are stock movements [reported](#) from Nanango of "About 100 head of mixed cattle, from Tabragalba to Hawkwood, belonging to the Hon B. Y. Bingham".

Lord Clanmorris visits Australia

On 18 August 1885, the Daily Observer (Ipswich), under the headline Distinguished Arrivals, reported: "Lord Clanmorris arrived by the

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s.s. Wentworth this morning. He is understood to be a guest of his relative, Ms. De Burgh Persse.” This is Bentinck’s eldest brother, John George Barry Bingham. While in Brisbane, Lord Clanmorris [visited](#) the Brisbane Exhibition (Ekka).

An [article](#) in the Maryborough Chronicle on 17 October 1885 documents: “A Burnett correspondent ... says : — Lord Clanmorris, accompanied by his uncle Mr. de Burgh Persse arrived at Hawkwood on 23rd September, remained there until Tuesday 6th October. During that short visit he saw a good deal of bush life having camped out several nights and had two hunts after scrub cattle. One morning Mr. Hopper the manager at Hawkwood, persuaded His Lordship to jump off his horse and catch a young bull by the tail, which he did like any old hand. It was great sport for the on lookers to see him after the bull, but the sport was greater to see the bull after him.” It goes on to describe how he defeated the bull using “Irish pluck”, and took part in kangaroo driving, hunting native dogs and wild horses, duck and pigeon shooting.

He [attended](#) a banquet in Brisbane Town Hall (City Hall) in February 1886. And on 26 May of the same year, The Daily Telegraph for Launceston, Tas, [reports](#): “Amongst the passengers by the s.s. Pateena, which arrived yesterday, was Lord Clanmorris (John G. Barry Bingham), a baron in the Irish Peerage. Lord Clanmorris has been a visitor to the colonies for about 11 months, the most of which time has been spent in Queensland and New South Wales. He is at present staying at the Brisbane Hotel, and intends going on to Hobart in a few days, after which he will visit New Zealand.”

There are more reports of Bentinck leaving and returning to Australia between 1885 and 1887. Then, on 12 Dec 1888, Western Star has a report from Charleville on land sales that



AI-generated image of how Bentinck may have looked during his time living as a drover from the description given in The Melbourne Punch.

says: “We sold on account of O. F. S. Beichmann 42 feet frontage to Alfred-street for 250 pounds cash, being very nearly six pounds per foot, the Hon. B. P. Bingham purchaser.” Yet there are no passenger lists to show that Burton had returned to Australia from Ireland. But on 13 December 1888, Melbourne Punch [reports](#): “The Hon. Bentinck Bingham, younger brother to Lord Clanmorris, is again in Brisbane.”

In April 1889, De Burgh Fitzpatrick Persse [left Queensland](#) for a protracted visit to Ireland, not returning until January 1892. There is a [report](#) of Burton being in Ireland in 1891, fox-hunting with his uncle.

Lost at muster

Bentinck is back in the newspapers the next year, a report in The Brisbane Courier in December 1889 [said](#): “The Hon. B. Y. Bingham (reports

the Charleville Times) had a thrilling experience whilst assisting the muster at Riversleigh last week. He had gone out with the horse prior to camping when a violent storm occurred. In the darkness Mr Bingham, who was on foot, lost all knowledge of direction, and next morning he was absolutely at sea. Fortunately he struck the Angellala*, and wandered for twenty-four hours until he struck a point of recognition. Here he found himself twenty miles from the station, and had a weary trudge back, meeting the Messrs. Dunne Bros., who had started out in search, but the rain had obliterated his tracks. On the second evening Mr Bingham was exposed to a storm of unprecedented fury, the hail falling like bullets. He suffered much privation, and, to use his own words, had for two days only the birds to talk to.” *River Angellala

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Sudden insanity

A report in the [Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette](#) on 1 February 1890 said: “A Charleville telegram dated Tuesday reports: - The Hon B. Y. Bingham, a brother of Lord Clanmorris, of Galway, left Charleville in charge of two constables by the train last night for Roma Gaol, for additional medical examination and a charge of being of unsound mind. A strait jacket had to be put on him before he could be got into the train. The unfortunate young gentleman, who is well known in the West, came into a considerable sum of money about a year ago, since which time he has been living in this neighbourhood. He got through his money in an unprofitable way, and the worry lately suddenly produced insanity. Mr. Bingham is also a near relation of Mr. De Burgh Persse.”

The Week on Feb 1, 1890, [said](#): “Charleville. January 27. The Hon. Bentineck Yelverton Bingham, in charge of two policemen, was sent down to Roma Gaol by last night’s train, charged with being of unsound mind. This illness is alleged to have been caused by excessive drinking, brought on, it is reported, by anxiety and worry over land transactions with a local agent, and over which, it is said, he has had great difficulty as to title deeds.”

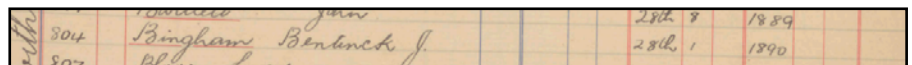
The Brisbane Telegraph on Tuesday, 28 January, headlines the [report](#) as “Alleged Land Sharking An Extraordinary Case”.

From aristocracy to asylum

In January 1890 Bentinck was admitted to the Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum in Wacol, suffering from general paralysis of the insane. Conditions at the asylum during the late 19th century were harsh. Established in 1865, the institution was Queensland's first public mental health facility. Patients were reported to be often housed in overcrowded conditions, with limited medical care. The asylum's remote location,



Wacol asylum as it looks now. Picture: Mary Allen



BINGHAM (Honorable)
Bentinck Yelverton.

[334] Effects £3,637 10s.

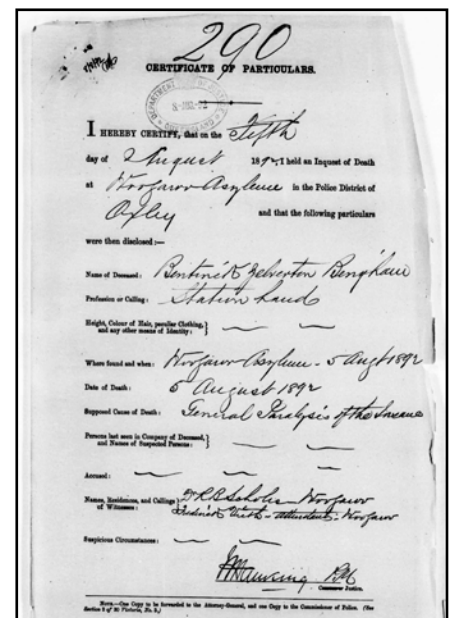
23 August.

August. The Will of the Honorable Bentinck Yelverton Bingham late of Brisbane in the Colony of Queensland Grazier who died 6 August 1892 at same place was proved at the **Principal Registry** by the Honorable Burton Percy Bingham of Averard Galway one of the Executors.

A page from the inquest report into the death of Bentinck Yelverton Bingham at Woogaroo Asylum, now The Park Centre for Mental Health, in Wacol, right, and, above, The Insanity Register showing Bentinck entered the Woogaroo Asylum on 28 January 1890 at age 35 and Bentinck's probate record from Ireland.

19 kilometers southwest of Brisbane, added to the isolation experienced by its inmates.

On 27 February 1890, the Melbourne Punch reported: "THE Hon. B. Bingham, now in a Queensland lunatic asylum, was notably eccentric years ago. Being a brother of an Irish peer, he was in his wanderings over West Queensland repeatedly invited to rest his head under the roof of a white-shirted P.M. or aristocratic J.P. Rarely, however, he would assent, and the assent was almost certain to be followed by a sudden and mysterious disappearance. He was happy among a crowd of drovers, and was,



if anything, a drover himself. He did not hide the fact that Lord Clanmorris was his brother; on the contrary, he drew attention to the relationship in many ways, but he liked to act up to the character of the reckless bushman. His clothes were generally old, his hats in particular being

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The Bingham Mausoleum near Ardrahan in County Galway. Picture: [Visit Galway](#)

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curiosities in that respect. He had an aversion to strong drink, until quite recently, but always carried among his traps fully a score of bottles filled with chemical mixtures which he thought did him good. On the whole he was passably well liked."

For more than two years, Bentinck remained in the asylum, until his death on 5 August 1892. His inquest papers stripped away his privileged past and named him simply as a "station hand".

An inquest report, written by Superintendent of Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum Richard Scholes, stated: "I knew the deceased patient Bentinck Yelverton Bingham who was admitted January 28th 1890 suffering from General Paralysis of the Insane. In the course of his decline he has latterly suffered from prolonged attacks of convulsions. For the last week he has lain unconscious from these attacks and he died this morning August 5 1892 at about 8.30am. The cause of death was General Paralysis of the Insane."

A further report by Frederick Virth states: "I am an attendant at this asylum. I knew the deceased patient Bentinck Yelverton Bingham since 13th January last, on which date he was received into Hospital Ward from



The Church of Ireland in Ardrahan, County Galway, commemorates members of the Bingham family, including Bentinck. A brass plaque at the church, right, was erected by his mother. There is also a stained glass window dedicated to Bentinck and Burton.

Pictures: [Wikipedia](#), [Historic Graves](#)

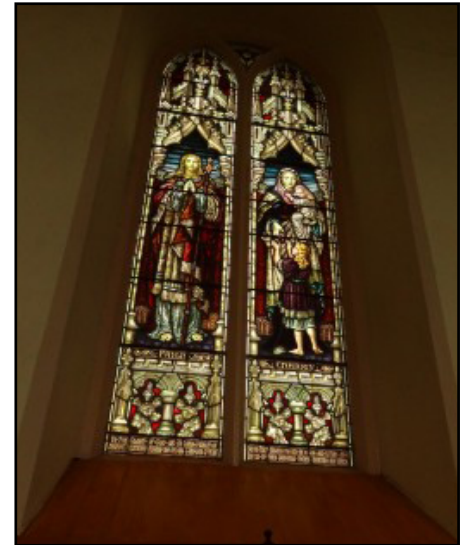
No2, and was put to bed. After about a fortnight he was able to get up and go about a little. On 15 May last he was again put to bed, although he took his food well he gradually got weaker. He has been in a sinking condition for the last three days, he died in my presence this morning the 5th August 1892 at 8.30am. The body was viewed after death."

Unlike so many inmates of Woogaroo, who were laid in unmarked graves within the asylum grounds, his family refused to let Bentinck's name be forgotten. His brother and sister paid for his burial at Toowong Cemetery and ensured that a headstone marked his place.

Burton was executor of Bentinck's will, which left 3,637 pounds (over AU\$1 million in today's money). Burton went on to marry Frances Matilda Persse in Ireland in 1895.

The Mausoleum

The family's memory was enshrined in the Bingham Mausoleum at Ardrahan, County Galway. Built in 1890 in the Gothic Revival style, it was erected for Bentinck's father. It is



located in Cregaclare Demesne and set within the walls of a ruined late medieval church.

A grand testament to endurance, the mausoleum was designed to house generations of Bingham. The structure, together with the church and ecclesiastical enclosure, is protected as a national monument. Open to visitors, it offers a rare glimpse into the family's history.

The Bingham Mausoleum held the remains of Lord Clanmorris, his wife, and his brother. These remains were removed in 1945 to be reburied in the Church of Ireland churchyard in Ardrahan, County Galway.

That church holds significant historical and familial connections to the Bingham family. Established in 1809, it served as a central place of worship for the local landlord families. Plaques within the church commemorate various members of the Bingham family, including Bentinck.

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A brass plaque reads: "In loving memory of Bentinck Y. Bingham, died August 5th 1892. This tablet is erected in loving memory by his mother, Ann."

Bentinck's brother Burton died just six years after Bentinck. Their family commissioned two stained glass windows for the church in their memory. The inscription reads: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Burton Percy Bingham who died Dec 10 1898 aged 45 years and of Bentinck Yelverton Bingham who died Aug 5 1892 aged 37 years. Erected by their sorrowing mother, brothers and sisters."

The Fall of the Big House World

Bentinck's short life coincided with the twilight of his class. He was born into a family that still commanded thousands of acres and respect from their tenants. By the time of his death, however, the winds had shifted. The Irish Land Acts were transferring land to farmers. Within a generation, the Clanmorris houses were gone or diminished, the great estates broken up, their former grandeur reduced to ruins, holiday rentals, and memories.

The family title, however, lives on and there have been some notable descendants.

Notable Descendants

The current, 8th Baron Clanmorris, is Simon John Ward Bingham, born in 1937.

The author Charlotte Bingham is the and sister of the 8th Baron Clanmorris.

Her father, John Michael Ward Bingham, the 7th Baron Clanmorris, served in the Second World War with the Royal Engineers. After the war he worked for MI5 in a counter-intelligence role and — drawing on this experience — became a prolific novelist of thrillers, crime and spy stories.

Over his career he published numerous novels and short stories and is widely regarded as an important influence on



Visiting Bentinck's refurbished grave on the QIA/Friend's of Toowong Cemetery Irish tour in March 2024, and, inset, the grave before its makeover. Pictures: Mary Allen and [Findagrave.com](https://findagrave.com)

the modern spy novel; he is often cited as the inspiration behind John le Carré's character George Smiley, played by Gary Oldman in the movie *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*. His wife, Madeleine Bingham, was also a novelist.

Bentinck's niece Zara Eileen Pollok, the Countess of Gowrie, married Alexander Hore-Ruthven who became 1st Baron Gowrie, and later Governor-General of Australia. Known as Lady Gowrie, she is remembered for her work with children. Queensland's Lady Gowrie childcare centres are named after her.

The Hon. Edward Barry Stewart, was a Royal Navy officer, was Bentinck's nephew, the younger son of the 5th Baron Clanmorris. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for leading his destroyers with exceptional courage at the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

A Life in Context

Bentinck's life bridged two worlds: the aristocratic Ireland of big houses and baronies, and the tough colonial

frontier of Queensland. Bentinck was the aristocrat who dropped out — the younger son of an Irish lord who turned his back on polite society to roam the outback. A well-liked wanderer with a taste for solitude and a flair for the dramatic, he preferred campfires and drovers' banter to drawing rooms and dinner parties. He dressed like someone who didn't care what anyone thought — faded clothes and battered hats. He was known to vanish suddenly and follow his own rhythm, avoiding alcohol and taking alternative medicines. This idealist, misfit, and romantic eccentric's memory is once again alive in Queensland, a place he clearly loved.

His grave in Toowong is a reminder that the Anglo-Irish story was not confined to Ireland — it scattered across the globe. And in this scattering lies the truth of the Bingham. They were soldiers, landlords, patrons, and wanderers. Some were remembered with reverence, others with bitterness. But all were tied together in the great arc of Irish history.

Beoga and McCarthy to play Lefty's Music Hall

Acclaimed Irish band Beoga will make their long-awaited Australian return in February 2026, performing headline shows and festival appearances alongside a special run with global superstar Ed Sheeran on his massive national stadium tour.

The five-piece, celebrated for their fusion of Irish traditional music with contemporary pop and folk influences, will join Sheeran on stage each night in some of Australia's largest venues. In between stadium dates, Beoga will step into the spotlight with their own headline performances and festival appearances, giving Australian audiences an intimate chance to experience the band's electrifying live energy.

Beoga have shown that Irish traditional music can take fresh new directions. That world-facing potential was proven by the popularity of their collaborations 'Galway Girl' and 'Nancy Mulligan' with Ed Sheeran on his all-conquering '+' album. 'Galway Girl' has been streamed over 1.4 billion times on Spotify alone.

Beoga released their new album *Phases* in June earlier this year before performing at Glastonbury and Coachella Festivals. With a Grammy nomination, international tours, and collaborations with artists including Ed Sheeran, Beoga have earned a reputation as one of Ireland's most exciting and genre-blurring acts. Their sound blends accordion, fiddle, keyboards, guitars, and vocals into a vibrant, modern take on Irish roots music.

Beoga play Lefty's Music Hall, Brisbane, on Thursday, February 19.

From the banks of the Shannon in Foynes, Co. Limerick, Gearóid McCarthy brings the heart of Ireland to every stage he steps onto. His warm, powerful voice and outstanding



performances create an instant bond with audiences, with songs rooted in tradition and truly alive in the moment. Music isn't just something he performs, it's a living connection, and brings people together across oceans and generations.

His love for Irish music was born at home, where our most cherished songs were sung to him by his father, and that passion has carried him from local sessions in Ireland to stages across the world, where his voice, full of stories and soul, captivates crowds time and again.

Gearóid's success began with RTÉ's *Class Act* and *The All-Ireland Talent Show* with 'Mad For Road'. His All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil singing titles marked his gift as a storyteller through song, and he featured with the Celtic Legends in over 40 countries, but it's his heartfelt authenticity that keeps his audiences spellbound.

His original song "Going Out For One," topped the charts in seven countries, and his heartfelt "A Place Called Newfoundland," resonates far beyond Ireland. These reveal Gearóid's unique ability to weave



personal roots with universal themes, and his gift for carrying the Irish spirit wherever he goes has won him fans across the globe.

Gearóid McCarthy embarks on his first-ever solo tour of Australia in January 2026 bringing his unmistakable voice and the soul of Ireland to a whole new audience. Prepare for laughter and tears, warmth, passion, and a true sense of home on every Australian stage. A bridging of continents through the timeless magic of Irish music.

Gearóid plays on Thursday, 15 January at Lefty's Music Hall, Brisbane.

Tickets for both shows from troubadourpresents.com.

Queensland Irish Association

Christmas Party 2025



QIA invites Members and Friends to an
Irish entertainment Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, 6th December from 12 noon at

West's Rugby Club, Sylvan Rd, Toowong

Entertainment by Brendan Williams

Dancing by QIA Dancers

Community carol singing

Good food and beverages available

FREE entry and all are welcome!



RSVP to Mavis Williams on (07) 3849 8271