



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

February 2021

Exciting line-up to celebrate St Patrick's Day in Brisbane

Welcome to the February Newsletter of the QIA.

We are bursting with good news in the lead-up to St Patrick's Day on 17th March 2021.

St Brigid's Dinner

The St Brigid's Dinner, to be held this Saturday, at Easts Leagues Club, is a sell-out, with a long waiting list. The guest speaker will be Fiona Hodges from Orange Sky, and Harriet Sexton-Morel from the Embassy of Ireland in Canberra will be attending.

The MC is again Gary Jenkenson. The entertainment will again include the QIA Pipe Band and the QIA Dancers. The success of the Dinner is a great tribute to the organizing committee: Michelle Fitzpatrick, Margaret Stacey and Michelle Hayes, and a band of enthusiastic volunteers.

The Bunting Festival

Comhaltas, a leading Irish cultural organization in Ireland and around the world, advises hosting of the annual Remembering Bunting Festival, will be held online this year from 5th to 7th February, 2021, and features a wonderful line-up of events and musical performances.

Comhaltas advises: "In case you're unsure who Edward Bunting is, he was a historical musical figure born in Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, and began



The craic was mighty as members of Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band played seasonal tunes at our December drinks meet-up at Grand Central Hotel. More photos of the evening are on page 2.

formal music studies in Drogheda at the young age of seven. By age 11, he became organist apprentice at St Anne's church in Belfast, whilst residing at the home of the famous Belfast McCracken family. At age 19, with the shared interests and support of siblings, Mary Ann and Henry Joy McCracken, he was hired to transcribe the music presented at the Belfast Harp Festival in 1792. From 1817 to 1819, Edward was the church organist at St. George's Church, High Street, Belfast.

"In addition to organising a second

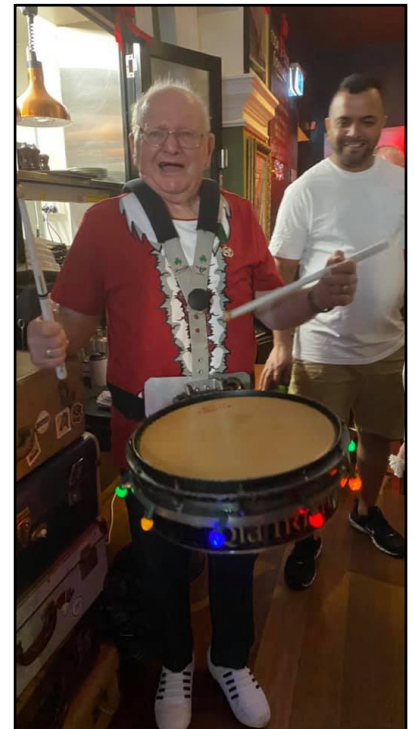
festival in 1813, Bunting went on to become a prolific collector of traditional songs and tunes. His three volumes of the Ancient Music of Ireland were published in 1796, 1809 and 1840 respectively. Lost for many years, these collective works of approximately 250 items have preserved precious history and heritage in addition to invaluable clues and commentary that would reveal the living art practices and perceptions of the day.

"Bequeathed to Queen's University,

Continued on page 3



Our Members were in fine voice at our December drinks meet-up at the Grand Central Hotel, singing and clapping along to festive tunes by QIA Pipe Band. And there was even a surprise appearance from Santa and Mrs Claus. Pictures: Mary Allen



Continued from page 1

Belfast in 1916, by his grandchildren through Charlotte Milligan Fox, Secretary of the Irish Folk Song Society, his contribution to traditional music cannot be understated and his story, our story, continues to live on through the music of today both knowingly and unknowingly!"

For more information on the line-up of events, go to:

Twitter: @CeolBuntingFest

Facebook:

@RememberingBuntingFestival

Website:

www.rememberingbuntingfestival.com

QIA Drinks at the Grand Central Hotel

On Friday, 12th February, 2021, the QIA will host Drinks at the Grand Central Hotel, across from Anzac Square, from 4pm. Members will have the opportunity to catch up, and a cohort of

pipers and drummers from the QIA Pipe Band will add an Irish touch to the event.

St Patrick's Eve Dinner

This is the highlight of the Irish cultural year. The St Patrick's Eve Dinner will be held, with strict event protocols in place, at the Pullman Hotel, King George Square, on Tuesday, 16th March 2021, commencing at 6.30pm.

The attached flyer gives a sample of what to expect. Cost is still \$150 per person, and your urgent attention to respond is requested.

The Governor of Queensland, the Hon Paul de Jersey AO, will be in attendance. We expect the Toast to "Australia Our Nation" will be proposed by Kerry O'Brien, the noted journalist and TV presenter.

Members, accept the invitation NOW.

St Patrick's Day Parade

Because of Covid, unfortunately, the

parade for this year has been cancelled.

St Patrick's Day Mass

A special Mass for St Patrick's Day will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, at 10am on Wednesday, 17th March, 2021. All are welcome to attend.

QIA Drinks on St Patrick's Day

The QIA will host Drinks on St Patrick's Day, Wednesday, 17th March, at the Grand Central Hotel, on Ann Street across from Anzac Square, Brisbane, from 1pm. A cohort from the QIA Pipe Band will ensure an Irish flavor to the event, as will, no doubt, a spot of Guinness.

Keep safe and enjoy the events outlined above.

*Jeff Spender,
President,*

Queensland Irish Association

Northern Ireland Executive T:buc COMHALLTAS Queens University Belfast

Dún Uladh Cultural Heritage Resource Centre presents...

Remembering Bunting Festival
Free online 5 - 7th February 2021

Save the Dates

Entertainment that enlightens and inspires

Free online weekend event | music, special guest speakers & more
www.rememberingbuntingfestival.com | Further information coming soon

Booking Form – 2021 St Patrick's Eve Dinner

>>>>> ENTRY BY PREPAID BOOKING ONLY <<<<<

CLOSING DATE: Friday 5th March 2021 (Strictly)

I wish to attend the 2021 St Patrick's Eve Dinner
at the Pullman Hotel Brisbane, King George Square
Tuesday 16th March 2021
at 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

Cost per person \$150.00

Direct Deposit: Queensland Irish Association

BSB: 014-010 Account: 411572417

Reference: Your surname - as reference

Cheques payable to "Queensland Irish Association"

Post to: PO Box 12745 GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Queensland Irish Association
since 1898

St Patrick's Eve Dinner

Tuesday
16 March 2021

Pullman Brisbane Hotel
King George Square
6.30 for 7.00 pm

Join Distinguished Guests, Irish and Queensland representatives to continue a 123 year old tradition of celebrating Irish heritage & culture in Queensland.

\$150.00 per person
Booking enquiries: please contact
stpatricksevedinner@hotmail.com

Enjoy an evening with fine food, Guinness, beer, wine, soft drink, entertainment, guest speakers and Irish camaraderie



SURNAME

GIVEN NAME

GROUP

1. _____
2. _____
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10. _____

Please return completed booking form to: stpatricksevedinner@hotmail.com

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Queensland Irish Association

Members' Friday Gathering



Invitation to members and potential members of QIA

Join us on Friday, 12th February from 4pm at
Grand Central Hotel, 270 Ann Street, Brisbane

Special performance by
Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band

*Numbers are limited so bookings are essential,
by email to irisheventsbn@hotmail.com*

