



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

April 2026

Celebrating the success of St Patrick's events

It has been a hectic and very successful period spanning the feast day of Saint Patrick. After perhaps the best St Patrick's Day Parade for many years, we had a most successful St Patrick's Eve Dinner at the Main Auditorium of the City Hall.

The evening was highlighted by the presence of Archbishop Mackinlay and the Premier of Queensland, David Crisafulli MP, as well as the presentation of Life Membership of the Queensland Irish Association to Rodney and Robin Sullivan by Ireland's Ambassador to Australia, Her Excellency Fiona Flood.

The QIA owes great thanks to the organising committee for the Dinner, particularly Robert Ward and Paul Hogan.

Our Vice President Graham Moloney continues to be a superb MC.

After the St Patrick's Day Mass on 17th March at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen, the QIA celebrated a quite magnificent lunch at Wests Rugby Club. Tom Kimmet, the troubadour extraordinaire, regaled a very large audience with hours of Irish song, and the QIA Dancers made a strong impression.

After the success of the lunch, on 22nd March, a large group attended the Ipswich General Cemetery to visit significant Irish graves. We thank the Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery and Haunts of Brisbane for partnering with us for this suc-



At the 2026 QIA St Patrick's Eve Dinner at Brisbane City Hall were, back from left, QIA Director Paul Hogan, Darling Downs Irish Club President Gerry McCann, QIA Director Mary Allen, Hon Martin Daubney AM KC, Archbishop of Brisbane Most Rev Shane Mackinlay, Madonna Jarrett MP, Senator Paul Scarr, Former QIA President Bob Ward, Sandra McCann, Dr Barbara O'Shea MP, Glenice Spender, Minister Kevin Boxer Moran TD, QIA President Hon Jeffrey Spender KC, HE Ambassador Fiona Flood, Cr Vicki Howard, ABC presenter Loretta Ryan and QIA Director Mavis Williams. More photos on page 11. Pictures: Mary Allen

cessful event.

All in all, what can be termed the festival of Saint Patrick was a great success, and I believe the QIA is in very safe hands for the future.

Since reinstatement in 2017, we have revived our reputation as the leader and cultural custodian of Irish heritage in Queensland; every function we have organised has been a sound achievement; our assets are grown from under \$3 million to more than \$3.5 million so that we are financially secure. The one big gap has been our

continuing search for a permanent home.

Upcoming events at the moment are somewhat disappointing in terms of booking numbers and so we really urge members to attend the Catalpa 150th Anniversary Screening at the Brisbane Square Library and John Finnegan lecture at The Commissariat Store Museum. Please support both events.

Best regards,

Jeff Spender,
President,

Queensland Irish Association.

Queensland Irish Association

The Forgotten Irish Explorer



RHSQ
The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Queensland Irish Association
& The Royal Historical Society of Queensland present
The Forgotten Irish Explorer John Finnegan,
a lunchtime talk by author Alan Finegan

at The Commissariat Store Museum,
115 William Street, Brisbane
on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 at 12.30pm

Entry is free to QIA and RHSQ members, \$10 all others.

Tickets: johnfinneganirishtalk.eventbrite.com.au

Commemoration for 1916 volunteer Ryan

You are invited to attend a Commemoration Ceremony in Nudgee Cemetery on Easter Monday (6th April), to honour the 1916 Volunteer, William (Dan) Ryan. The ceremony will take place at 10am.

This courageous man played his part in Ireland's fight for independence, being one of many volunteers who stepped up to fight in the Dublin GPO during the 1916 Easter Rising.

He had been working as a barman in Dublin at the time of the rising, an

occupation he continued in afterwards, until his migration to Brisbane in 1928. And in Brisbane he worked again as a barman in various hotels, including for a long time in the Alliance Hotel, Spring Hill. He died after a long illness in 1958 and was buried in Nudgee Cemetery

And so, we will gather at his gravesite in Nudgee Cemetery on this Easter Monday and pay tribute to him again.

by Joe Thompson

DAVID ROY WILLIAMS PRESENTS

THE highkings

THE ROCKY ROAD TOUR

AUSTRALIA 2026

WED 14 OCT

PRINCESS THEATRE

THEHIGHKINGS.COM

TICKETS FROM DAVIDROYWILLIAMS.COM

927 ENTERTAINMENT

Calendar

5 April 2026

The Irish Welcome You tour by Friends of Toowong Cemetery, Toowong Cemetery, 10.30am. See www.fotc.au.

6 April 2026

Easter Commemoration for 1916 Volunteer William (Dan) Ryan, Nudgee Cemetery, 493 St Vincents Road, Nudgee, 10am.

19 April 2026

The Catalpa Rescue screening, Brisbane Square Library Community Meeting Room, 266 George Street, Brisbane, at 2pm. RSVP to Honora Gee on 0408 531 636 or email qiahistoricalculturalcommittee@gmail.com

30 April - 3 May 2026

Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, New South Wales.

1 - 3 May 2026

Koroit Irish Festival, Koroit, Victoria.

20 May 2026

Queensland Irish Association and Royal Historical Society of Queensland present The Forgotten Explorer, John Finnegan by author Al Finegan. The Commissariat Store Museum, 115 William Street, Brisbane. 12.30pm. RSVP: www.queenslandhistory.org/events

31 May 2026

Celtic Council of Australia Qld Junior Celtic Games, Moorlands Park, Auchenflower, 9am - 12pm.

5 - 8 June 2026

National Celtic Folk Festival, Portarlinton, Victoria.

16 June 2026

Bloomsday in Brisbane, Queen Street Mall. 12pm.

11 October 2026

Brisbane Celtic Festival, Moorlands Park, Auchenflower. Details TBC.

14 October 2026

The High Kings, The Rocky Road Tour, Princess Theatre, Brisbane. Tickets: davidroywilliams.com

First Friday of the month

Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band play at Friday Irish Sessions in Gilhooley's, Brisbane. See www.facebook.com/QIAPB.

Second Wednesday of the month

Tara Hall Dining Club, The Ship Inn, Sidon Street, South Brisbane. Contact Secretary Roger Thornton rjthornton8@bigpond.com or 0408 878 938

Last Saturday of the month

Tigh Gaelach luncheon at Easts Leagues Club, Coorparoo between February and November at 11am. Contact President Michelle FitzPatrick on mitchfitzpatrick@hotmail.com or 0403 384 223

Author Al Finegan to reveal story of forgotten explorer

*Meet Alan 'Al' Finegan, the author of *The Forgotten Explorer*, who will present a talk on the remarkable but often overlooked castaway and convict explorer John Finnegan. Al's research re-examines the life and legacy of this early figure in the history of Moreton Bay and the discovery of the Brisbane River.*

In his talk, Al will explore the extraordinary story of John Finnegan (1789–1853) — a survivor of the Irish Rebellion of 1798 who was transported to New South Wales for larceny and endured the hardships of convict life, shipwreck, betrayal and years living among Aboriginal people at Moreton Bay. Al's research argues that Finnegan's contribution to the exploration and early settlement of Brisbane has been vastly underestimated. He suggests that John Oxley took the credit for the discovery of the Brisbane River and the choice of the original settlement site, leaving Finnegan's role largely forgotten for nearly two centuries. Al's work seeks to restore recognition to one of the great but overlooked figures in the early history of Brisbane.

In researching his book, Al encountered the many variations in the spelling of John Finnegan's name in colonial records. Like most Irish convicts of the time, John Finnegan was illiterate and would simply have spoken his name when asked, leaving clerks to record it as they heard it. Al notes that a similar situation occurred within his own family history. His great-great-grandfather, arrested in Monaghan, Ireland for sheep stealing and transported in 1848, was also illiterate. When asked his name he would have said "Finnegan," but



it was recorded as Finegan.

Al's grandmother's maiden name was Sands and she was a relative of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands.

Al brings a varied and accomplished career to his historical work. After finishing Year 12 he joined the Army, serving for 30 years in both the Regular Army and the Army Reserve and retiring with the rank of Major. During this time he served in the Officer Cadet Training Unit, where he taught military history.

In 1968 Al graduated as an Air Traffic Controller and spent the next twelve years working in control towers in Brisbane, Townsville and New Guinea. In his spare time he was active as a SCUBA diving instructor and enjoyed the sport of spearfishing.

In 1987 Al graduated as a secondary school teacher in Mathematics and History. He then spent a year teaching in a Catholic Mission school deep in the Solomon Islands, followed by three years at the International Secondary School in Fiji. While in Fiji he coached a first-

grade rugby side from the bottom of the ladder to the Fijian Grand Final.

Returning to Australia, Al spent the next 20 years working as a private computer project manager on major projects from the Northern Territory to New South Wales. His career culminated in his role as Program Manager for the Royal Australian Air Force's \$3 billion F/A-18 Hornet Upgrade, overseeing fifteen individual projects over a ten-year period.

Throughout his life Al has maintained a keen interest in history. He has published three books, including *The Battle for Guadalcanal*, which he wrote while in the Solomon Islands using historical documents discovered at the school where he was teaching. He has also written his father's war story and a family history. It was his father's fascination with the story of the castaway John Finnegan that inspired Al to research and publish *The Forgotten Explorer*.

Al is now retired lives on Bribie Island, a place with family connections where he spent much time as a youngster. He has been married to his wife Judith for more than 59 years and together they have four children, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

• Queensland Irish Association has teamed up with The Royal Historical Society of Queensland to present *The Forgotten Irish Explorer* at The Commissariat Store Museum, Brisbane, on 20 May at 12.30pm. Entry is free for QIA and RHSQ Members, \$10 all others. Bookings at johnfinneganirishtalk.eventbrite.com.au

Brisbane Saint Patrick's Day Parade 2026



Monica Norris, as Molly Malone, who won the Jan Dooley Best Parade Participant Award holding her plaque with, from left, QIA Life Member Garry Burke, QIA Director Paul Hogan, QIA Director Mary Allen, Monica Norris, QIA President Jeff Spender, and QIA Director Seamus Sullivan. Monica acts as Molly Bloom at our Bloomsday in Brisbane events. Pictures: Mary Allen



Saving Private Brennan: Three Irish brothers at war

By Mary Allen

On High Street in Kilkenny in the early 1900s, Mary Brennan kept a busy house and shop after the death of her husband, a butcher. To support her family she ran a newsagent's and boarding house, raising seven children in all. The daughters helped around the house and shop, while the boys gradually scattered into the wider world. None of them could have imagined how the First World War would test that family.

Two of her sons emigrated to Brisbane before the war. The eldest, Thomas Vincent Brennan, born in Kilkenny in 1879, was a thoughtful and literary man with a love of poetry. In Brisbane he joined the Queensland Police and worked in the Criminal Investigation Branch compiling the Police Gazette. Like many Irish migrants he remained deeply connected to the city's Irish community, becoming an active member of Queensland Irish Association. His younger brother Joseph Brennan also settled in Brisbane and moved in the same Irish circles.

When the war began in 1914, the two brothers enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in December that year. Joseph joined the 9th Battalion, one of the infantry units sent to the Gallipoli Campaign, while Tom served with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade Field Ambulance, caring for wounded soldiers in the Middle East. Back in Kilkenny, Mary Brennan now had two sons at war.

Then the first terrible news came. Joseph was wounded during the campaign and died of his injuries on 4 July 1915 in Alexandria, Egypt, at only twenty years old. Back in Ireland, Mary Brennan received the telegram every mother dreaded.

But fate had not finished with the Brennan family. Her youngest son



Private Anthony Brennan. Picture: [Kilkenny People](#)

Anthony — known as Tony — had secretly enlisted in Ireland with the Royal Irish Regiment. At just 17 years and 2 months old, he was still under age when he joined and had lied about his age to get into the army. When Mary discovered what he had done she fought desperately to stop it. She sent his birth certificate to the authorities to prove he was too young and appealed through political channels to have him withdrawn. The case was even raised in the British Parliament, exposing how the recruiting officer had falsified the boy's age.

But Anthony had already left Richmond Barracks in Dublin with a draft of soldiers bound for the front. By the time officials acted, it was too late. The youngest Brennan son was already on his way to the trenches in France. Tony was about to face the horrors of the Western Front.

Serving with the Australian forces in the Middle East, Tom carried the grief of Joseph's death deeply. A poet

by nature, he poured that sorrow into verse, writing a lament titled *Our Nameless Dead*, mourning not only his brother but the countless soldiers whose lives were lost in the early years of the war.

In *The Age* newspaper on 27 November 1915, there was an article, headlined: "A Brisbane soldier-poet. *The Nameless Dead* by Mr Tom Brennan". It said: "Many Queenslanders will remember Mr. Tom Brennan, a young Irishman who was for some time attached to the C.I Branch (Counter Intelligence), Brisbane, and who enlisted soon after the war. Mr. Brennan, who was a member of the Queensland Irish Association, is the writer of the following fine verses, which are reproduced from the London "Daily Chronicle." He was in the Army Medical Corps attached to the Australian Light Horse in the Dardanelles. His brother Mr. Joseph Brennan, recently died in Alexandria from wounds received while taking part with the Australian forces, in the fighting in the Peninsula. A third brother, Mr Anthony Brennan, is in the trenches in France, having joined the Royal Irish Regiment some months ago. The three brothers are sons of Mrs. Brennan, stationer newsagent, Kilkenny, Ireland."

(To those of our comrades who perished in the Dardanelles, and who, through the pilferage of identification discs by enemy snipers, were unrecognisable, buried "nameless" on the hillside just behind the trench line where these lines were written).

OUR NAMELESS DEAD

Comrade of knapsack or bandolier!

*Tread light, we pray, when you pass
this way,*

*For sake of the brave ones slumbering
here,*

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Saving Private Brennan: Three Irish brothers at war

Continued from page 6

Nameless in death to the Judgement Day.

Tread light lest the tramp of your martial host
Or the rattle of rifle or bayonet-blade,
Should ring down the night to their silent post,
And rouse them too soon for the Grand Parade.

Close-buried they lie, yet they perished lone,
And Death scattered them wide on the warworn track
And we found them far out, in their Fate, unknown,
And rev'rent and sadly we brought them back,
And we laid them to rest on this lonely slope,
With the sword they had won for their funereal-pall,
'Neath the star-hung beacons of Faith and Hope,
While the night-wind whispered its sentry-call.

And we fashioned a slab for each sacred tomb,
And in rough-hewn letters their Tale engraved,
While in grim salute came the far-in boom
Of the guns whose pathway their lives had paved,
And we hollowed a space in the solemn stone
For the names they'd gloried, which none could tell,
Save God, to whose Silence their souls had flown,
And the cold earth which guarded His secret well.

And we banished a tear as the final end
Of the last sad sepulchre sank home,
For the anguished cries to a silent God
Of the dear ones left in the years to come—
Of the Mothers waiting in hopes so vain
In the homes made lonely far o'er the



The unmarked grave of Thomas Vincent Brennan in South Brisbane Cemetery. Picture: Thanks to [Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery](#)

sea,
Where they'd list for the "step at the door again,"
And the fond embrace that could never be.

And we wondered the while—when on History's page,
With Heroes' life-blood, their country's fame,
Was lettered in fire, for each future age
To kindle ever in quenchless flame
What honoured place in that glorious tale
With their Nation's patriot Dead would share
The comrades brave which Death's solemn veil
Left nameless asleep in the silence there.

Tom survived the conflict and returned to Brisbane in late 1919. During his service he had risen to Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, been Mentioned in Despatches, and been awarded the Military Medal. Yet the war had taken its toll on his mental health. Only months after returning home he died in Brisbane on 7 September 1920, aged 40, and is

buried, poignantly, in an unmarked grave in South Brisbane Cemetery – Our Nameless Dead. The Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery plan to apply to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to have the grave marked.

Queensland Irish Association published a notice of his funeral in The Brisbane Courier on 8 September 1920, inviting Members to attend. It said: 'The Members of the QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of the late Thomas Vincent Brennan, M.M., late Quartermaster Sergeant, 5th Light Horse, to move from the Funeral Parlour of Foley, Cremin Ltd, Stanley Street, South Brisbane, THIS (Wednesday) AFTERNOON, at 4 o'clock, to the South Brisbane Cemetery.'

For Mary Brennan the war had taken two of her sons — Joseph buried in Egypt and Thomas laid to rest half a world away in Australia.

Anthony survived the trenches and eventually returned to Ireland, but the country he came home to was torn by violence. The actions of the Black and Tans during the Irish War of Independence left him deeply embittered. He soon left Ireland altogether and moved to London.

The story of the Brennan brothers reads almost like something from a war film: three sons from a single house drawn into the same conflict on different fronts, and a mother desperately trying to save her youngest boy. For Mary Brennan, the war was not fought in distant deserts or muddy trenches — it came to her door in the form of telegrams, long silences, and the knowledge that two of her sons would never come home.

• **Local author Tim Lycett is writing a book about Tom Brennan and is looking for more information about his involvement with Queensland Irish Association and life in Brisbane. If you have information, email mary@queenslandirish.com.au.**

Lambs, legends, and local chocolate: Easter in Ireland



The Irish National Stud and Gardens, Co Kildare.

In Ireland, spring and Easter mean recalling ancient traditions, celebrating nature's rebirth and indulging in chocolate treats.

Whether your Easter is religious, chocolate focused or simply a celebration of the arrival of spring, you'll find that the island of Ireland makes the perfect Easter break destination.

Indulge in an artisan chocolate experience

Tucking into an Easter egg is a seasonal delight for young and old so why not make it extra special by seeking out a craft chocolate experience in Ireland. The island's craft chocolate scene is thriving as more people discover the exceptional confectionary that results from the combination of premium dairy produce and the skills of Irish



Newborn lamb in Ireland.

At Lorge Chocolatier in picturesque Kenmare, County Kerry, Master Chocolatier, Benoit Lorge leads a small team making handmade chocolates. He also runs chocolate-making classes that are a fun, hands-on way to find out what goes into making his delicious gourmet treats. Hazel Mountain Chocolate,

located on the edge of the famous Burren landscape in County Clare, is one of Ireland's bean to bar chocolate factories. You can drop into the factory any time to watch the artisan chocolate being made or book a 45-minute immersive experience and get up close to the magic. And in the gorgeous setting of the Mourne Mountains in County Down, NearyNógs Stoneground Chocolate Makers share their passion for ethically sourced beans, sustainable processes and sublime chocolate in a Master Craft Chocolate Experience that combines a taste journey with storytelling.

Get up close to spring's new life
As spring paints the Irish landscape

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Lambs, legends, and local chocolate: Easter in Ireland

Continued from page 8

with colour and renewed growth, there is a wonderful opportunity to take a moment to appreciate the new life that the season brings. And there is nowhere better to do this than at Ireland's renowned National Stud. Each spring the stud welcomes some 300 new thoroughbred foals, and a guided tour will take you to see the mares and foals as the new arrivals playfully explore their surroundings. Follow the tour with a visit to the stud's marvellous Japanese Gardens as they awaken after winter and walk the Path of Life that traces the human journey from birth to death. A stroll through the raw beauty of adjacent St Fiachra's Garden, which commemorates the patron saint of gardeners, is also a delight in spring when ducks, rabbits, squirrels and other wildlife will be busy with their spring chores.

There is nothing more indicative of spring in Ireland than fields full of frolicking lambs and for those looking to get up close to these cuties, there are farms that offer the chance to hold, feed and cuddle them. In County Kerry, Aedán's Farm offers a Hold a Baby Lamb experience where you can hold and bottle-feed a lamb. The farm is located on stunning Slea



Sheep with Skellig islands in the background, County Kerry.

Head on the Dingle Peninsula and also presents sheepdog demonstrations. In the fields beside the farm, amazing Neolithic beehive structures link back to Ireland's ancient past and are fascinating places to visit as part of your farm experience.

Explore early Christian heritage sites

The island of Ireland is dotted with important early Christian heritage sites which draw many visitors, especially around the holy time of Easter.

One of these is the atmospheric sixth century monastic settlement at Glendalough, nestled in a valley in the beautiful Wicklow Mountains. Founded by St Kevin, it was one of the great centres of learning in early Christian Ireland. The ruins of the monastic buildings now create a tranquil space that is perfect for pilgrims and those seeking a place for quiet reflection.

On Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, Kylemore Abbey is a striking neo-Gothic building that was built as a token of love and later became home to an order of Benedictine nuns. A visit here is a chance to combine an exploration of spiritual heritage with immersion in the beauty of the Connemara landscape and the ordered splendour of the abbey's Victorian walled gardens.

For those seeking connection to Ireland's ancient past, a visit to the Beaghmore Stone Circles in County Tyrone will take you back over 4,500 years to arrangements of standing stones that are said to be linked to the lunar calendar. Follow the Solar Walk from the stones to nearby OM Dark Sky Park to discover more about the astronomical importance of the area.



Kylemore Abbey, Co Galway.

Words and pictures:
www.ireland.com

The High Kings bringing ‘The Rocky Road Tour’ to Australia

Ireland’s leading folk group, The High Kings, are set to excite fans once again with the announcement of their Rocky Road Tour 2026.

As global ambassadors of Irish heritage and storytelling, The High Kings have consistently brought the timeless tradition of folk music to audiences worldwide, earning them chart-topping success and widespread acclaim.

With their signature blend of classic tradition and modern edge, The Rocky Road Tour promises to be a vibrant showcase of Irish culture, energy, and musicality.

Following a record-breaking 2024 – including a sold-out world tour, a feature on Disney’s critically acclaimed *Only Murders in The Building*, and over 5 million weekly streams – the band are showing no signs of slowing down.

But it was their inclusion on the soundtrack of *Sinners* — the current #1 movie worldwide, starring Michael B. Jordan and directed by Ryan Coogler — that marked a defining moment in their global recognition. The film’s soundtrack, already topping international streaming charts, was curated by Oscar- and Grammy-winning composer Ludwig Göransson



(*Oppenheimer*, *The Mandalorian*, *Black Panther*), a long-time admirer of The High Kings’ distinctive vocal blend and musicianship.

After attending their sold-out show at The Troubadour in Los Angeles earlier this year, Göransson selected two tracks — “The Rocky Road to Dublin” and “Go Lassie Go” — to feature prominently in the film’s score.

The Rocky Road Tour 2026 will build on this global success, offering audiences a high-energy live show

that reinforces The High Kings’ place at the forefront of Irish folk. With a renewed focus on storytelling, musicianship, and connection, the tour reflects the group’s ongoing commitment to honouring Ireland’s folk legacy while pushing creative boundaries.

Tickets for The Rocky Road Tour 2026 in Australia will go live on Thursday 2nd of April 2026. For more information, go to davidroy-williams.com/tours/thehighkings/

Melbourne Irish folk-punk outfit release new single ‘Easter’

For Irish communities across the world, Easter carries a weight far beyond the calendar. It marks a moment in 1916 when ordinary men and women took an extraordinary stand, setting in motion events that would ultimately reshape Ireland’s future.

Melbourne Irish folk-punk band Madigan’s Wake honour that history with the release of their single *Easter*, to coincide with the anniversary of the Easter Rising, a defining moment in Ireland’s path to independence and a story that continues to resonate deeply

within the global Irish diaspora.

Easter reflects on the events of the 1916 uprising in Dublin and the courage of those who took part. Far from a history lesson set to music, it stands as a tribute to memory and identity.

It is a reminder that the stories of those who fought and fell continue to echo across generations and oceans.

Blending traditional Irish instrumentation with the urgency and spirit of punk, Madigan’s Wake have built a reputation for songs that draw

from Irish history, migration and the enduring pursuit of justice and belonging.

Their debut album earned London Celtic Punks’ Best Debut Album of the Year in 2023 and established the Melbourne five-piece as a powerful new voice within the global Celtic punk community.

Listen to *Easter* here www.submithub.com/link/madigans-wake-easter. Follow Madigan’s Wake at <https://linktr.ee/MadigansWake>

QIA Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner 2026



Irish Film Festival Australia launches short film contest

The Irish Film Festival Australia is excited to announce the launch of its first-ever Short Film Competition as part of the 2026 festival season. Open to both fiction and documentary, the competition welcomes all genres — from drama and comedy to animation, experimental, and everything in between.

Winning entries will be screened during the festival and receive prizes to be announced. Eligible films must either explore Irish themes, stories, characters, or locations, or feature a principal participant with Irish heritage. Submissions must be original works under 15 minutes, completed after 1 January 2024, and uploaded in MP4 format (minimum 1920x1080 px) via FilmFreeway. All films must include English subtitles or commentary where necessary.

A \$20 AUD entry fee applies, and submissions close on 31 May 2026.

For full terms, conditions, and to view last year's program, visit the festival website, irish-filmfestival.com.au. Filmmakers are encouraged to submit via www.filmfreeway.com/Irish-FilmFestivalAustralia2026 for the chance to be featured in the 2026 program.



Celtic Council of Australia (Queensland) Inc
ABN 83 434 304 383

proudly presents



JUNIOR CELTIC GAMES

Moorlands Park, Auchenflower, Brisbane

Sunday 31 May 2026 9.00am to 1.00pm



Ages up to 16 years permitted

**FREE
ADMISSION**

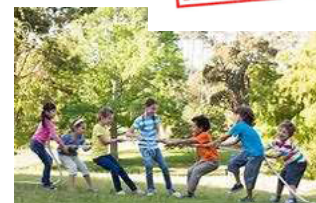
WHAT'S ON

Kids Celtic Games

- Kilt Races ● Novelty Races & Games
- Tossing the Caber ● Tug-O-War
- Introduction to Gaelic Football

Prizes: Best Celtic dressed Boy and Girl

- Raffle, Prizes, Giveaways



WHAT'S THERE

Light Refreshments available from food vans on site.
Sausage Sizzle, Ice-Cream, Coffee, Soft Drinks etc

WHAT TO BRING

Hats, Umbrellas, Chairs/Blanket, Water, Sunscreen
and Picnic Lunch if desired.



HOW TO GET THERE

PUBLIC TRANSPORT 50c Fares

Train: Auchenflower Train Station

Bus: Coronation Drive, such as routes 444 or 445. Get off at a stop near Land St or Wesley Hospital

CityCat Ferry: Get off at the Regatta Ferry Terminal.
10-minute walk to Moorlands Park

Information contact

CCAQ President Mavis Williams CyC

email: mkw.pinklady.dua@hotmail.com

Phone: 07 3849 8271

fb: <https://www.facebook.com/celtic.council.aus.qld/>

Proudly sponsored by



QIA Irish Tour of Ipswich General Cemetery



We had many new faces at the QIA Irish Tour of Ipswich General Cemetery on 22 March, organised in partnership with Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery and Haunts of Brisbane. Pictures: Mary Allen



QIA St Patrick's Day Lunch at Wests Rugby Club



Saint Patrick's Day Lunch at Wests Rugby Club, Toowong. Pictures: Thanks to Jenny Bowles



QIA Dancers Melora, Declan and Rachel at the St Patrick's Day Lunch. Pictures: Thanks to QIA Dancers



Queensland Irish Association

Bloomsday in Brisbane 2026



Join us for Bloomsday 2026 on Tuesday, 16th June
for readings and music

at Queen Street Mall at 12pm
with BYO drinks after at Gilhooley's

The most significant day on the Irish literary calendar

For enquiries email mary@queenslandirish.com.au

Queensland Irish Choir St Patrick's Day Concert



At the Queensland Irish Choir St Patrick's Day Concert in Hills Church, Everton Hills, on March 7 were, from left, Glenice Spender, QIA President Jeff Spender, Queensland Irish Choir President Morag Wilson, QIA Director Mary Allen, and Sarah O'Kane and Claire Moore of QIA Historical and Cultural Committee.

Pictures: Mary Allen



Having a Function

We can add a whole lot more to your evening

Photo's (6inX8in) printed the same night and returned before the function finishes. We will do PR photos of the event at no extra cost. (subject to numbers) Studio lights if requested will be set up before guests arrive. There is no additional cost beyond the price of the photo's. This is a great way to have a memory of the evening.

Good Times Network Photography
 Phone 0401450977
 www.goodtimesbrisbane.com



Contact us

We welcome content from Members and friends in this newsletter.

If you have photos, 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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Queensland Irish Association

Catalpa 150th Anniversary



Join us for a screening of *The Catalpa Rescue*
to mark the 150th anniversary of the most daring escape
in Irish-Australian history

at Brisbane Square Library Community Meeting Room,
266 George Street, Brisbane
at 2pm on Sunday, 19 April 2026

*Strict RSVP due to limited numbers to:
Honora Gee on 0408 531 636 or
email qiahistoricalculturalcommittee@gmail.com*