



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

April 2025

Well done and thanks for a successful St Pat's season

The board of the QIA is very pleased to announce that we have sold 37 Baxter Street, Fortitude Valley, for \$2.3 million. We paid \$1.9 million when we purchased the building.

The contract was signed earlier this year, went unconditional about a month ago and settlement is to be made today, Monday, 28th April, at 2pm. I want to extend my thanks particularly to Paul Hogan, who was intimately involved in the selling of Baxter Street, but also arranged for the transfer of the books and paintings stored there (apart from those already in secure storage at Willawong) to be put into secure storage; and has arranged for the sale or disposal of all the other remaining items (tables, chairs and desks) at Baxter Street and has spent a lot of time and effort in securing this most advantageous sale for the QIA.

Seamus Sullivan and Sean Ryan worked prodigiously to assist in the clearing of the many items stored at Baxter Street and I'm grateful for their considerable help.

It is important for our senior members to note that the Seniors Lunch will be held on Saturday, 14 June at 12pm at Coorparoo RSL, 45 Holdsworth Street, Coorparoo. Please notify Mavis Williams on (07) 3849 8271 of your intention to attend.

Also keep in mind the date for Bloomsday in the Queen Street Mall, it will be held at 12.30pm on Monday, 16 June in the stage area of the mall and followed by BYO lunch at Gilhooley's.



Queensland Irish Association arranged for Brisbane City Hall to be lit up in the colours of the Irish flag on the night of our Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner.

Picture: Mary Allen

It has been a very busy and very successful period around St Patrick's Day and I am grateful to the members for the tremendous support they gave to the parade, Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner, and the St Patrick's Day lunch at Wests

Rugby Union Club which followed the Saint Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen.

*Jeff Spender,
President,*

Queensland Irish Association.

Queensland Irish Choir St Patrick's Day Concert



Queensland Irish Choir performing to a large crowd at The Hills Church Auditorium in Everton Hills at their Saint Patrick's Day Concert. Pictures: Mary Allen



Brisbane to host first Celtic Junior Games



Children having fun at the first Brisbane Celtic Festival in Moorlands Park in 2024.
Picture: Mary Allen

Get ready for a high-energy celebration of Celtic culture as the Brisbane Junior Celtic Games take over Moorlands Park in Auchenflower on Sunday, 18 May from 9.30am.

Hosted by the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland (CCAQ), this free event is an unmissable day of sport, tradition, and community, welcoming boys and girls up to the age of 16.

With a focus on the eight Celtic Nations — Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Asturias, and Galicia — the games offer a lively program of activities that blend fun and cultural heritage.

The morning kicks off with the Junior Kilt and Tartan Races at 10am, followed by a Gaelic football skills workshop, a chance to try out the

Junior Caber Toss, and a classic Celtic Tug of War. Those keen to show off their heritage can take part in the Best Dressed in Celtic Attire competition.

With free entry, all participants need to do is bring their energy, enthusiasm, and a water bottle.

Organisers strongly recommend using public transport, as parking will be limited, with easy access from Auchenflower Train Station, bus routes via Coronation Drive, and the nearby Regatta Ferry Terminal.

From fierce competition to cultural pride, the Brisbane Junior Celtic Games promise a thrilling day of fun and tradition for young Celts and their families.

For further information go to www.ccaq.org.au.

Calendar

1 - 5 May 2025

Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, New South Wales.

18 May 2025

*Celtic Council of Australia
Queensland Celtic Junior Games
at Moorlands Park, Auchenflower.
9.30am to 3pm.*

31 May 2025

*Ipswich Pipe Band Competition,
from 12pm to 5pm at Ipswich
Showgrounds.*

14 June 2025

*Senior Members' Lunch (BYO),
Coorparoo RSL, 45 Holdsworth St,
Coorparoo, 12pm.*

16 June 2025

*Bloomsday 2025 at Queen Street
Mall Stage, Brisbane CBD, from
12.30pm, with BYO lunch after in
Gilhooleys.*

21 June 2025

*Queensland State Pipe Band Cham-
pionships and Scottish Festival,
from 10am to 5pm, at Brisbane
Boys' College, Toowong.*

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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ST PATRICK'S EVE DINNER 2025

Brisbane City Hall was bathed in green, white and orange light for the 2025 Queensland Irish Association St Patrick's Eve Dinner, which was held on Sunday 16 March 2025.

King George Square resounded with the music of the Pipes and Drums of the QIA Pipe Band, under the skilful direction of Pipe Major Bruce Grice.

Inside, the magnificent Main Auditorium was once again the superb setting for a grand celebration of the feast of St Patrick, in the 127th year of the Association.

A capacity crowd of QIA members and guests enjoyed the brilliantly decorated Auditorium, which was filled with an ambience of excitement, camaraderie and joy.



Once again on the eve of St Patrick's Feast Day, QIA rejoiced and celebrated with its Irish cultural heritage with music, dance and song, as well as wonderful speeches and anthems.

QIA President Hon Jeffrey Spender KC welcomed distinguished guests including:

Ms Emer Higgins TD, Irish Minister of State, Dublin

His Excellency Tim Mawe, Ambassador of Ireland

The Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD

The Honourable Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the Federal Parliament

Senator Paul Scarr

The Honourable Martin Daubney AM KC, Chancellor Australian Catholic University

Most Rev Archbishop Jeremy Greaves, Archbishop of Brisbane

Very Rev Father Gerard McMorrow

Queensland Icon Hugh Lunn, renowned author, journalist and war correspondent



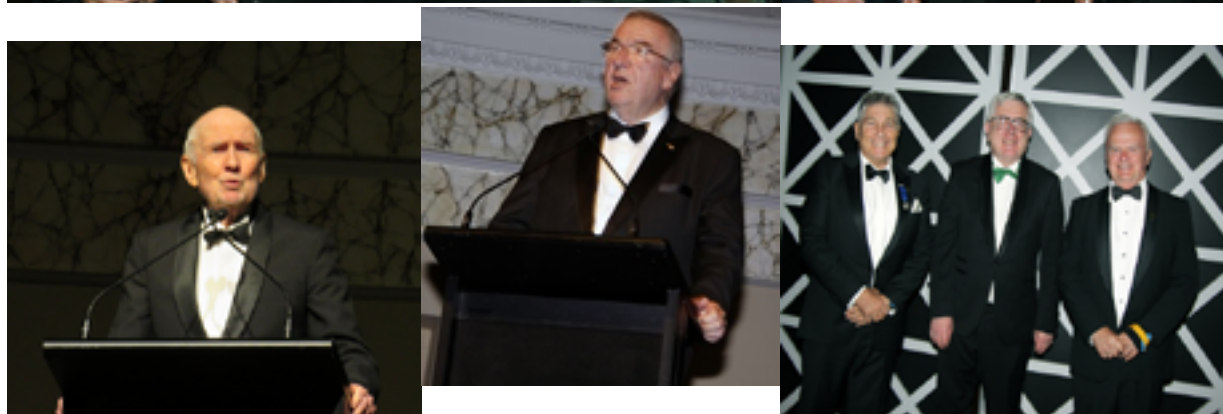
Apologies were received from the Prime Minister, Leader of the Federal Opposition, Lord Mayor and Brisbane Archbishop Coleridge. The Premier of Queensland David Crisafulli was represented by the Hon Steve Minnikin MP, State Opposition Leader Steven Miles by Barbara O'Shea MP and Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner by Central Ward Cr Vicki Howard.

The Address of Welcome from QIA President Hon Jeffrey Spender KC received warm responses from Governor Dr Jeanette Young and Federal Speaker Milton Dick.

QIA Co-Patron Irish Ambassador Tim Mawe presented Life Membership badges to former President Christopher Begley and current Director Paul Hogan.

The toast to "Australia Our Nation" was proposed by Queensland icon Hugh Lunn. Hugh is a multi-winner of the prestigious Walkley Award for journalism and retired war correspondent; he is also the renowned author of "Over the Top with Jim" and a collection of other books.

Visiting Irish Minister Emer Higgins TD proposed the toast to "The Day We Celebrate"; she recalled her previous time in Australia as a backpacker in Fortitude Valley, and the prior visit of Hildegard Naughton TD. Emer emphasised the historic ties and shared qualities and experiences that enrich the connections that exist between Ireland and Australia; the influence of the Irish in Australia, and the opportunities to combine to address challenges locally and on an international level.



Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Honourable Martin Daubney AM KC responded to both toasts with his customary insight, wit and aplomb.

Irish-born Very Rev Fr Gerard McMorrow gave the final address, reinforcing the theme of historical and cultural ties between Ireland and Australia.

The Queensland Irish Association Irish Dancers and QIA Pipe Band once more gave a vibrant and entertaining display of

Irish culture in music and dance. The singing and Irish music of troubadour Tom Kimmert further contributed to the ambience of the evening.



Stalwart Master of Ceremonies Graham Moloney skilfully managed the packed function programme within its allotted time.

Sincere gratitude is due to all those above, the management and staff of Brisbane City Hall caterers Epicure, Paul Hogan, Garry Burke, Patrick Leahy, Brian Kilmartin and helpers of the St Patrick's Eve Dinner Committee, and particularly, to Brisbane City Council, whose significant support ensured the success of the 2025 Dinner.

Robert Ward and Paul Hogan

2025 St Patrick's Eve Dinner Committee

RAFFLE

Sincere thanks to Claire Moore and the volunteers who ran another very successful raffle at the St Patrick's Eve Dinner. And well done to all who won prizes.

PHOTOS FROM 2025 ST PATRICK'S EVE DINNER

2025 Dinner attendees who are interested in photos from the event can contact official photographer Rick Cornwell of GOODTIMES NETWORK PHOTOGRAPHY on 0401 450 977 or email goodtimephotos@hotmail.com



Filming The Today Show on Saint Patrick's Day



Queensland Irish Association was asked to take part in the filming of The Today Show on Channel Nine on Saint Patrick's Day. Filming took place at Finn McCool's Irish Bar in Fortitude Valley. Thanks to all who took part. Pictures: Mary Allen



From Tayto to blaa, connect with Ireland's food history

Connect with Ireland's culture and join us on an Irish food adventure through the centuries

Ireland's food has a rich and interesting history that stretches back millennia, and to celebrate, we've got a potted history of everything from ancient salmon to the mighty crisp sandwich... Let's eat.

1. The mighty spud (or potato as it's also called!)

Was Ireland's first potato washed ashore from Spanish Armada wrecks in 1588? Perhaps. Or maybe Sir Walter Raleigh introduced it, after the Spaniards brought it home from the Americas in the 1570s. Whatever its origin, the potato was cheap and easy to grow and thrived in the Irish climate, driving the island's population from one million to 8.2 million. But the dependence on the potato came at a cost; potato blights hit in



Mount Congreve Gardens, monthly vegetable boxes, Co Waterford.

1845, and by 1851, the Great Famine had seen one million die and another million emigrate. Today, the potato is still central to the Irish diet, with tra-

ditional potato dishes such as boxty (potato pancakes) and farls (potato bread) on menus around the island.

2. The smartest food pairing

We're used to food pairings in Ireland – Guinness and oysters, anyone? But dig a little deeper, and you'll find some intriguing food matches within Ireland's legend and lore. Did you hear the one about the salmon of knowledge? When a mythical speckled salmon gained all the world's knowledge after eating nine hazelnuts that fell into the Well of Wisdom, warrior Fionn Mac Cumhail gained all that wisdom by inadvertently becoming the first person to taste this salmon.

This connection between hazelnuts and salmon can also be found in the site of Ireland's earliest human settlement. Mountsandel Fort in County Derry overlooks a busy salmon run



Sheridans Cheesmongers Shop, South Anne St, Dublin City.

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From Tayto to blaa, connect with Ireland's food history



The Butter Museum, Cork City.

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on the River Bann. Preserved in low-acidity soil here, archaeobotanical remains of fish bones and charred hazelnut shells in hearths used by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers have been carbon dated to 10,000 years ago.

3. The first dairy farmers

One reason Ireland's first settlers relied greatly on fish and nuts plus other plants and small animals like wood pigeon, hare or wild boar was the island's lack of larger mammals. Radiocarbon dating of milk lipid traces absorbed into shards of pottery confirms that, in 3500 BC, Ireland was home to some of the earliest cattle and dairy farms in the world. Today, Ireland is still famous for its high-quality dairy produce, from chocolate to cheese.

4. Butter them up

In the 18th century, battalions of



Ballymaloe House, Cork.

naval fleets regularly sheltered in Cork's deep harbour to load up on salted butter, beef and pork. This was shipped to the West Indies and Australian colonies and fed the British navy during the American War of Independence and Napoleonic Wars. The Cork Butter Exchange (now The Butter Museum), famed for its quality control, became the world's largest butter market, and you find out all about it in a fascinating museum that occupies the building today.



The Big Fish, Lagan Weir, Belfast, Co. Antrim. © 2021 Rob Durston

From Tayto to blaa, connect with Ireland's food history

5. Bringing the bacon

Irish people eat more pork today than any other meat, and that love is nothing new: the Annals of Clonmacnoise record 1038 as a good year for the acorns that fattened domestic pigs, who also fed on woodland beechnuts, chestnuts and whitethorn haws up to late medieval times. Later, the pig moved indoors, ate cooked spuds and whey, and became known as the 'gentleman who paid the rent' thanks to the value of their brined and smoked meat. In 1820, one Henry Denny set up shop in Waterford where he developed and patented new techniques for curing bacon; his 'sandwich method' gave us the rasher (aka streaky bacon). Waterford is also home to a much-loved bread roll, known as the blaa (which has protected geographical indication). And the best way to eat a blaa? With streaky bacon, of course.

6. Alive, alive oh!

The Molly Malone who died of a fever is fictional, but Dublin's anthem about a fishwife who sold cockles and mussels "alive, alive oh!" details the once-common sight of shellfish street-traders in Dublin's "Fair City". Today, mussels are a common feature on Irish menus and are best enjoyed fresh from the sea in places such as Kilmore Quay in County Wexford and Roaring Water Bay in West Cork. Cockles, meanwhile, are popular in fine dining restaurants, and you'll see them paired with fresh fish dishes in restaurants such as Uno Mas in Dublin and the Mourne Seafood Bar in Dundrum, Northern Ireland.

7. The People's Republic of Food

Modern Irish food culture has firm roots in County Cork. Ireland's first farm-to-fork restaurant was opened in 1964 by the Irish Farmers Journal's cookery correspondent, Myrtle Allen, in east Cork's Ballymaloe House. Her



Bacon blaa. Picture: Viking Trail. © Keith Fitzgerald

daughter-in-law Darina helped her give cooking classes in the 1970s, before opening the world-famous Ballymaloe Cookery School in 1983. Meanwhile, Ireland's artisan food movement was kick-started in 1976 by the self-taught Veronica Steele's experimentations with farmhouse cheese-making in west Cork's Beara peninsula; her Milleens cheese appeared on menus at Ballymaloe House and Cork city's Arbutus Lodge, where chef-owner Declan Ryan had secured Ireland's first Michelin star in 1974.

8. Birth of the ultimate crisp sandwich

Once upon a time, crisps (aka "potato chips", Stateside) came un-

flavoured, with just a small packet of salt for seasoning. In 1954, crisp history was made off Dublin's Moore Street when the first ever cheese'n'ion-flavoured crisps were produced under the sharp eye of Joe "Spud" Murphy, founder of Tayto crisps. It's hard to nail when the iconic crisp sandwich itself was invented – ambitious if arguably substandard experimentations with crisp sandwiches may even predate the brand itself – but it surely reached the greatest heights of recognition when, in 2015, it took pride of place on Irish airline Aer Lingus's in-flight menu for one glorious year.

*Words and pictures:
www.ireland.com*

Cemetery tour visits a QIA founding father

Among the graves visited at the Queensland Irish Association (QIA) tour of South Brisbane Cemetery in March was that of Andrew Joseph Thynne, founder of Queensland Irish Volunteers (QIV), which was the immediate precursor to the QIA.

The QIV was founded in 1887 under the leadership of Thynne, who was a leading lawyer and cabinet minister. He also went on to found the legal firm Thynne and MacCartney, which still exists today.

Andrew Joseph Thynne (1847–1927) was a prominent figure in Queensland's legal, political, and military spheres. An Irish Catholic born in Ennistymon, County Clare, Ireland, Thynne migrated to Queensland with his family in 1864. He initially joined the Queensland civil service before pursuing law, being admitted as a solicitor in 1873.

Thynne's military career began in 1867 when he enlisted as a private in the Queensland Volunteer Defence Force. Demonstrating dedication and leadership, he ascended to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, eventually commanding the Volunteer Corps of the Queensland Defence Force.

The Queensland Irish Volunteers comprised Irish immigrants and their descendants committed to both their heritage and the defense of Queensland. Thynne played a pivotal role in this unit, earning respect and loyalty from its members. However, tensions arose when the government appointed Lieutenant Colonel K.J. Hutchinson, a British regular army officer, to oversee the volunteers, replacing Thynne. This decision led to widespread dissatisfaction, culminating in mass resignations within the QIV.

At a subsequent dinner for Captain



P.J. Stephens, who had protested the appointment, the idea of forming an association for Irishmen was proposed, leading to the establishment of the Queensland Irish Association (QIA) in 1898. Thynne played a major role in the QIA's formation.

Beyond his military endeavors, Thynne had a distinguished political career. He was appointed to the Queensland Legislative Council in 1882, serving until its abolition in 1922. During his tenure, he held various ministerial positions, including Minister for Justice and Attorney-General. Thynne was instrumental in advancing agricultural education, contributing to the establishment of the agricultural college at Gatton.

His commitment extended to

education, serving as vice-chancellor (1916) and later chancellor (1926) of the University of Queensland. Additionally, Thynne was involved in numerous organizations, such as the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade and the Boy Scouts Association, reflecting his dedication to public service.

Andrew Thynne's legacy is multifaceted, encompassing significant contributions to Queensland's military, political, and educational landscapes. His leadership within the Queensland Irish Volunteers and his role in the formation of the Queensland Irish Association underscore his commitment to the Irish community in Queensland. Thynne passed away on 27 February 1927 in Brisbane.

His legacy lives on in the QIA.

QIA Irish Tour of South Brisbane Cemetery



On March 23rd, QIA teamed up with Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery for a tour of Irish graves. We also held a centenary commemoration for Captain Prof Daniel O'Carroll. Pictures: Mary Allen



QIA Irish Tour of South Brisbane Cemetery



Forty people took part in the tour and commemoration, including relatives of Captain O'Carroll who had flown in from Ireland, America and Melbourne especially for the occasion. Pictures: Mary Allen





Southport Parish group join us for Saint Patrick's Day lunch

This report was written by John and Christine Wintour for the Southport Parish Newsletter and is reproduced here, along with the photo collage above, with their kind permission.

Monday 17 March, a spectacular journey was enjoyed by 39 parishioners from our Parish and beyond in honouring St Patrick's Day.

The bus departed on time at 8:30am for St Stephen's Cathedral where we joined the Queensland

Irish community in celebrating Mass with our own Father Gerard. On our way to Brisbane, we heard Irish music and participated in an Irish quiz for which prizes were awarded.

The beautiful Mass included Irish bagpipers and four Eucharistic Ministers from our parish churches who helped with communion for this Irish-themed service. Afterwards, morning tea was provided in the Francis Rush Centre.

Back on the bus, we headed to Western Districts Rugby Football

Club with the President of the Queensland Irish Association and his wife. At the Toowong venue, we literally kicked up our heels by dancing and singing along to Irish music. Later, we were entertained with wonderful world-class Irish dancers, more bagpipes, and Irish culture.

On our return, overwhelmed by the consensus of opinion that this was a great day, with your future support let us make this a repeated event in 2026.

John and Christine

Saint Patrick's Day Lunch at Wests Rugby Club



Saint Patrick's Day Lunch at Wests Rugby Club



Queensland Irish Association celebrated our annual St Patrick's Day Lunch at Wests Rugby Club in Toowong. A large group joined us from the Gold Coast. Pictures: Mary Allen



QIA takes part in Saint Patrick's Day Parade



A huge thank you to our very own Saint Patrick, who once again was the leading star of the Brisbane Saint Patrick's Day Parade. As well as the float, QIA had walkers taking part in the parade. Pictures: Mary Allen





Queensland Irish Association

Bloomsday 2025



Join us for Bloomsday 2025 on Monday, 16th June
for readings and music

on Queen Street Mall Stage at 12.30pm
with BYO drinks after at Gilhooleys

The most significant day on the Irish literary calendar

For enquiries call 0419 673 126
or email enquiries@queenslandirish.com