



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

June 2025

Time to renew your membership of QIA

After a successful Seniors' Lunch at the Coorparoo RSL last Saturday, and the wonderful celebration of Bloomsday in the Mall on Monday, it is now time to renew your subscription to the Queensland Irish Association.

Except for those Members who have joined the Association in the last three months, Members are asked to renew their Membership (cost \$20) by using the unique link in the cover email that accompanies this Newsletter.

Senior Members (those who have completed 30 years of continuous Membership, who are designated 'Senior Members' on their Membership cards) are exempt from paying an annual fee. It is, nonetheless, hoped that Senior Members make a (tax-deductible) donation by a bank transfer of \$20 to the Queensland Irish Heritage Trust Fund using their surname as a reference. The bank account of the Heritage Trust Fund is BSB 084 009, Account 686 131 442.

New Membership cards will not be issued, as the cards recently provided to Members are everlasting, rather than annual. It is, of course, necessary to renew your Membership each year.

I have very good news to impart as a result of the sale of 37 Baxter Street, the investment property that was sourced for the Association by our late Life Member Mark Morrissey. Mark had hoped for a redevelopment proposed over a 10-year timeline, which would eventually provide us with a permanent home. The necessary contingencies did not occur, but our Treasurer, Brad Tallon, has predicted



QIA sponsored the Celtic Junior Games, organised by the Celtic Council of Australia - Qld, at the Celtic Nations Standing Stones in Auchenflower on May 18. Picture: Mary Allen

that as a result of the sale, the Association will record a profit this financial year of approximately \$450,000.

This means we have the financial basis for our continuing task of finding a new permanent home for the Association.

Please renew your Membership, or make a donation as a Senior Member to the Heritage Trust Fund, to keep up the good work.

Many thanks,

**Jeff Spender, President,
Queensland Irish Association.**



Celtic Winter Concert

**Queensland Irish Choir presents
an afternoon of Celtic music and song**

Saturday 26 July 2025

2.00pm

Hills Church Auditorium

79 Queens Road, Everton Hills

Doors Open 1.30 pm

Tickets: <https://www.qldirishchoir.org/events>

\$25 Adults \$10 under 15 years

At the Door – if not previously sold out



**Enquiries
0493 455 487**





At the last Board of Directors meeting in the QIA's Baxter Street building in April were Secretary Claire Moore, Directors Paul Hogan and Mavis Williams, Vice-President Seamus Sullivan and President Jeff Spender. Picture: Mary Allen

Queensland Irish Choir presents Celtic Winter Concert

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 26th, 2025 and join in an unforgettable afternoon as The Queensland Irish Choir proudly present their Celtic Winter Concert!

As well as their usual selection of wonderful Irish and other Celtic choral music, they will be showcasing the individual talents of their gifted choristers and celebrating their contribution to the choir.

Don't miss this heart-warming musical journey. Whether you're a fan of Celtic traditions or simply looking for a unique and uplifting experience, the Celtic Winter Concert is the perfect way to enjoy a magical afternoon.

The concert takes place on Saturday, 26 July from 2pm to 4pm at Hills Church, 79 Queens Road, Everton Hills, QLD 4053. Doors open at 1.30pm.

Tickets, at \$25 for adults, \$10 for children and \$125 for a group of six, are now available through the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1407467>

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

Calendar

21 June 2025

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

02 July 2025:

British & Irish Lions vs Queensland Reds

Kick-off: 7.45pm

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

19 July 2025:

British & Irish Lions vs Australia

Kick-off: 7.45pm

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

26 July 2025

Queensland Irish Choir Celtic Winter Concert, 2pm, Hills Church Auditorium, 79 Queens Road, Everton Hills.

3 to 5 October 2025

Australasia Gaelic Games Championships

Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association, Willawong.

4 October 2025

CelticFest, Warwick, Queensland.

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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O'Donovan Clan to gather in West Cork

The O'Donovan Clan has taken a big step on the way to their goal of reclaiming their ancestral castle in West Cork.

The O'Donovan Clan Cultural Association has successfully achieved its initial fundraising goal of \$5,000 USD, paving the way for the establishment of non-profit entities in both Ireland and the United States. This milestone marks the first step in the Clan's ambitious plan to purchase and preserve their ancestral home, Castle Donovan, located near Drimoleague in West Cork.

Built around 1560 by Donal O'Donovan, Castle Donovan served as the principal seat of the O'Donovan Clan. The structure, now a National Monument, underwent extensive conservation efforts by Ireland's Office of Public Works between 2001 and 2014. Currently listed for sale at €200,000, the castle presents a unique opportunity for the Clan to reconnect with their heritage.

To further this initiative, the Clan has launched the O'Donovan Heritage Fund, aiming to raise the necessary funds for the castle's acquisition and ongoing preservation. The association is also planning its inaugural Assembly, scheduled for September 5-7, 2025, in West Cork.

The event will feature an Annual General Meeting at the West Cork Hotel, genealogy and history lectures, roundtable discussions, and a Sunday banquet commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 2000 O'Donovan Millennial Gathering.

Highlights of the Assem-



Son of the O'Donovan Clan leader, Murrough O'Donovan's work on show in West Cork. Picture: [Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre](#)

bly include a private tour of Michael Collins House in Clonakilty, focusing on the O'Donovan influence on Collins, and a screening of the film "Rebel Wife" with a Q&A session featuring William Rossa Cole. These events aim to celebrate the Clan's rich history and foster a sense of community among O'Donovans worldwide.

Organisers are hoping the event will draw O'Donovans from across Ireland and the wider diaspora, including Australia, New Zealand, and Asia. Registration and membership materials went live on 1 June, with the association's development team preparing 'Save the Date' notices for Irish organisations worldwide.

For anyone with O'Donovan roots — or just a love of Irish history and heritage — this September's Assembly in West Cork promises to be a gathering worthy of the Clan's storied name. More info at www.odonovanclan.org.

Adding to the cultural buzz in West Cork, Murrough O'Donovan — son of Chief-

tain Teige O'Donovan — is currently artist-in-residence at Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre. A gifted sculptor, his current work, inspired in part by an Australian Aboriginal author, runs until July 19.

Murrough said: "Through this residency I wish to expand my research base in trees and their significance culturally and spiritually to indigenous peoples around the world, particularly currently and historically. Taking inspiration from Irish author Manchán Magan and Australian Aboriginal author Tyson Yunkapatorra, I hope to explore how our loss of these cultural ties to the landscape can be tied to the processes of ecological destruction and how reconnecting with certain aspects of indigenous culture and thinking could potentially help us create a more sustainable culture that can eventually co-exist with the natural world." More info at westcorkartscentre.com.

save the date!
5-6-7 September 2025
O'DONOVAN CLAN
Cultural Association
Inaugural Assembly in
West Cork, Ireland



Meet & mingle with
O'Donovans from Ireland
and the Diaspora!

Presentations, social
events, launch of our new
Association, and more!

Book now!
Details on
our website



odonovanclan.org

QIA-sponsored Celtic Junior Games



Celtic Council of Australia - Qld held the Celtic Junior Games at the Celtic Nations Standing Stones in Moorlands Park on May 18th. The event was sponsored by Queensland Irish Association. Pictures: Mary Allen



Bushranger Ned Kelly returns in web experience

Artefacts belonging to Australia's most notorious bushranger, Ned Kelly, can now be seen in near forensic detail in *Mouthful of Dust*, an interactive web experience presented by State Library Victoria.

Mouthful of Dust showcases 3D scans of the armour, rifle, boot, death mask and Jerilderie Letter, enabling users to examine the items in stunning detail. Viewers can travel inside the suit of armour and look out through Ned's helmet; or see Ned's engravings on the rifle butt, including a dedication to his father Red Kelly – a convict from County Tipperary. Leading Victorian writers, including Sarah Krasnostein and Grace Chan, have produced new short works inspired by the 3D scans, adding fresh perspectives and interpretations of Ned Kelly's story, as well as the role of the Library, and to a certain degree, Australia's colonial past. The new writings and their recordings, voiced by the writers themselves, accompany the 3D scans, which viewers can interact with or enjoy as stunning short films.

Almost 5,000 photographs of the items were used to generate the 3D representations through a process called photogrammetry, which analyses the similarities between photographs taken from different perspectives. The result is an experience of the objects that would be otherwise impossible – parts of the Kelly collection are on permanent display at the Library and housed under strict preservation settings to ensure their survival.

Responding to spatial photography of the rifle, Sarah Krasnostein writes: 'When taking aim, Ned steadied the stock's brass plate near his accelerating heart, the metal warmed by fear and rage. Zoom in on the exterior until it yields and you find yourself, suddenly, inside the stock, shot through the rust-red artery of the barrel back through time.'

Edward 'Ned' Kelly, born to Irish



Ned Kelly's armour. Credit: State Library Victoria

parents in Victoria in 1854 – the same year the Library was established – is an icon of Australian history, culture and identity. His troubled story and defiant words continue to divide, provoke and inspire. His short life was a series of crises and his story remains intertwined with the Library. The crude suit of armour, rifle and the Jerilderie Letter are among the Library's most famous collection items.

Kelly was sentenced to hang by Library founder and Irishman, Cork-born Sir Redmond Barry, at the old court across from the Library on La Trobe Street. Kelly's armour is now exhibited in the Redmond Barry Reading Room.

The title of the web experience, *Mouthful of Dust*, are words from the Jerilderie Letter and evoke the dust in which Kelly, his collaborators and enemies now rest, as well as the power of words which allow this story to live on.

State Library Victoria CEO Paul Duldig said: "Ned Kelly has long been a source of inspiration for Australian authors and artists. *Mouthful of Dust* continues that tradition with a diverse group of award-winning writers com-

missioned to produce new imaginative perspectives on one of the most well-known and divisive figures in Australian history. The Kelly collection is very popular with our users, and these incredible 3D scans provide never-before-seen access inside these incredible artefacts."

State Library Victoria Chief Digital Officer Paula Bray said: "*Mouthful of Dust* is a visually rich and interactive experience, and a key example of how leading-edge technology can breathe new life into historic collection items. When Ned Kelly's armour was taken off display for relocation to the Redmond Barry Reading Room, we took the rare opportunity to conduct photogrammetry scans of the items. The scans allow any user – researchers, creatives and the public – to explore the collection in ways which would never have been possible before."

Mouthful of Dust features new writings from Sarah Krasnostein, Nam Le, Grace Chan, Wesley Enoch and Cameron Hurst of *The Paris End*.

You can experience *Mouthful of Dust*, which runs until 31st December 2026, at www.slv.vic.gov.au/mouthful-of-dust

Belfast tenors to sham-rock in Oz



Picture: shamrocktenors.com

Direct from London's West End, Shamrock Tenors are Ireland's most exciting new music sensation.

And now they're coming to Australia.

Jack, Jamie, Tom, Matthew and Raymond shared on social media: "AUSTRALIA! You've waited long enough. We're finally coming down under, including the Sydney Opera House!"

Featuring performers from both sides of the community across the province of Ulster, with vocalists from London's West End along with the country's best multi-instrumentalists, their show takes you on a journey through Ireland's most beloved classic songs, in beautiful five part harmony. With all your favourites including Danny Boy, Whiskey in the Jar, The Parting Glass, and Wild Rover this is a show for

all ages, performed with that cheeky Irish charm!

2024 saw the Shamrock Tenors headline their first ever Northern Irish national tour. Starting with a sold out show at the Grand Opera House in Belfast, they continued to sell out the entire tour months in advance, including a return to the Grand Opera House for another sold out performance.

They also headlined the BBC's 2024 St Patrick's Day coverage across the entire UK and Ireland, with the launch of their debut concert special on BBC2 and BBC4, to coincide with the announcement of their debut West End show at the Adelphi Theatre in London. Later in 2024 the special will have a National Pledge Release on PBS across North America which will be followed by the groups debut North American Tour.

Their first two singles have shot straight to number 1 on the iTunes World Music Charts, whilst their performances online have received over 30 million views. They've traveled to over 30 countries as a group, including Irish festivals in the USA and sold out shows in iconic venues such as the Ulster Hall, Belfast, and Birmingham Symphony Hall, England, and sang to over 20,000 people in Trafalgar Square, London.

So grab a drink, sit back and get ready to be transported to the Emerald Isle. Irish music as you have never heard it before!

Shamrock Tenors play in Noosa on 23 August, Toowoomba on 24 August, Cairns on 26 August, Ayr on 27 August, Gold Coast on 29 August, Caloundra on 30 September, and Brisbane on 1 October. Tickets from www.shamrocktenors.com.

Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance returns to Australia

Following a triumphant 2024 world tour with more than 250 dates, Lord of the Dance continues to captivate audiences, seamlessly blending tradition with cutting-edge innovation. State-of-the-art technology, dazzling special effects, and updated costumes bring a glamorous, contemporary energy to this re-imagined production.

The 2025 Australian tour will showcase 40 of the world's most outstanding young dancers, under the direction of Michael Flatley, with music composed by Gerard Fahy.

Michael Flatley said: "Australia has always held a special place in the heart of Lord of the Dance. It's incredible to see how this show continues to evolve while staying true to its roots, and I know Australian audiences will be blown away by this spectacular new production."

Michael Flatley first stunned audiences with Riverdance at Eurovision



Lord of the Dance returns to Australia. Pictures: Supplied

1994, before revolutionising Irish dance with Lord of the Dance in 1996. Since then, the production has sold out more than 1,000 theaters,

arenas, and stadiums worldwide, with over 60 million people experiencing its magic in 60 countries across every continent. Lord of the Dance has played in legendary venues such as Madison Square Garden, London's O2 and Wembley Arenas, Paris' Accor Arena, and the historic Temples of Baalbek in Lebanon. In 1998, the show set a record with 21 consecutive sell-out performances at London's Wembley Arena — a feat it still holds today — earning Flatley a place on Wembley's prestigious Square of Fame. He has also set Guinness World Records for the fastest tap speed at 35 taps per second and for being the highest-paid dancer in history.

The timeless story of Lord of the Dance unfolds in the dreams of the Little Spirit, where the noble Lord of the Dance must battle the evil Dark Lord and his army of Warlords. The temptress Morrighan threatens



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Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance returns to Australia



Lord of the Dance returns to Australia in 2025. Pictures: Supplied

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to come between The Lord and his true love, Saoirse, while Erin the Goddess gives voice to the emotions expressed through dance. With high-energy choreography, spell-binding storytelling, and breathtaking music, the production continues to push the boundaries of Irish dance and remains one of the most exhilarating stage experiences of all time.

Produced in Australia by TEG Van Egmond and Big Deal Touring, Lord of the Dance is an experience like no other — blending history, innovation, and pure exhilaration into one breathtaking show.

This amazing new production will open in Melbourne on Saturday, August 30th, with a second date there on August 31st, before travelling to Brisbane on September 3rd, Newcastle on September 4th, and Sydney on September 5th and 6th.

Tickets are now on sale from [TICKETEK](https://www.ticketek.com.au).



Michael Flatley, left.

Joycean joviality abounds at Dublin's Bloomsday Festival

Bloomsday is a festival like no other, celebrating the genius of James Joyce and his beloved city of Dublin.

From 11–16 June 2025, visitors stepped into the Dublin of Joyce through an eclectic mix of over 100 events that made up the world-famous Bloomsday Festival.

Named after Leopold Bloom, the lead character in Joyce's seminal novel *Ulysses*, the festival commemorated Bloom's experiences in Dublin city on 16 June 1904.

Dublin, a UNESCO City of Literature, continues to honour Joyce as one of its literary giants whose influence on modern literature was profound. Each year, thousands of literary enthusiasts and Joyce fans flock to the city for the festival — and this year was no exception. Even those who had never read *Ulysses* found something to enjoy, with events spanning readings, music, theatre, walking tours, films, and a host of other festivities.

There is a deep connection between Dublin's landscape and *Ulysses*, and one of the best ways to appreciate it was on a walking tour. The Bloomsday *Ulysses* Walking Tour: James Joyce's Dublin offered a great introduction to the places and characters in the novel, while those seeking a more in-depth Joycean experience joined the Footsteps of Leopold Bloom Walking Tour.

Dressing up was a fun way to get into the spirit of the festival, and the streets were full of Dubliners and visitors alike in Edwardian costume. Across key *Ulysses*-related sites, street theatre performances by Balloonatics recreated famous scenes from the book. Among these locations was Sweny's Pharmacy, dating from 1847, which welcomed people in for a cup



of tea, a bar of lemony soap — just like Bloom bought — and a communal reading.

Food and drink featured strongly in the novel, particularly Bloom's

breakfast, which was recreated at special Bloomsday Breakfast events in Belvedere College — in the very rooms where Joyce studied from 1893

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to 1898. The meal was accompanied by dramatic readings, songs, and performances from *Ulysses*. Bloom's famous lunchtime gorgonzola sandwich and glass of burgundy, which he ate in Davy Byrne's, could also be enjoyed at the gastro pub on festival days.

Villages outside Dublin staged a number of events too, including *Ulysses aWake* — a play blending drama, comedy and music — in Blackrock, along with readings, music, performances and walking tours in Ringsend, Sandymount, Ballsbridge, Portobello and Ranelagh.

The festival was spearheaded by the James Joyce Centre in Dublin, where events and exhibitions run year-round, with special displays added for Bloomsday. Fans of Joyce also visited the Martello Tower in Sandycove, featured in chapter one of *Ulysses*, now open to the public as a museum featuring memorabilia from the author's life.

And to raise a glass to the great writer, many headed to Mulligan's — one of the oldest pubs in Dublin, dating back to 1782 — or nearby Kennedy's on Westland Row, established in 1850. Both were watering holes frequented by Joyce in his writerly heyday.

Words & Pictures: www.ireland.com



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Published by Irish editor Mary Allen in Queensland.
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