



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

October 2023



President Jeff Spender speaking at Queensland Irish Association's 125th Anniversary Lunch at Brisbane City Hall.

Congrats to Séamus, who is to receive President's award



Congratulations to Queensland Irish Association Vice-President Séamus Sullivan, who is to receive Ireland's Presidential Distinguished Service Award for his support for the Irish community in Australia.

The award will be presented by President Michael D. Higgins at a ceremony in Áras an Uachtaráin, Dublin, in the coming months.

Séamus is one of 13 win-

ners of this year's awards and is the only one from the Irish diaspora in Australia.

Séamus is a former President of the QIA. He co-founded Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association and was President of the Australasian Gaelic Athletic Association for 40 years.

He co-founded, is a former president and current committee member of Brisbane

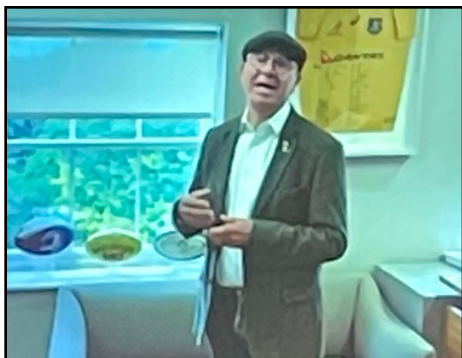
Irish Festival. He was also one of the founding members of Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland.

Séamus was nominated for the award by a small group of friends, most of whom are volunteers with the QIA.

Included in this newsletter, you will find the Notice of Meeting, Agenda and Proxy Form for our Annual General Meeting.

Continued on page 2

Congrats to Séamus, who is to receive President's award



Ambassador of Australia to Ireland, H.E. Gary Gray in his video message to QIA.

Continued from page 1

The Annual General Meeting of the QIA will be held at Wests Rugby Union Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong at 11am on Saturday, 18th November 2023.

This is a must-attend function for all QIA Members and will also include membership card distribution.

After the meeting, there will be lunch available for Members to purchase, together with all manner of wines, beers and soft drinks. We hope as many Members as possible can remain for a celebratory luncheon.

We are delighted to share with you a copy of the Ambassador of Ireland to Australia, H.E. Tim Mawe sent to Queensland Irish Association to thank us for the use of our premises as a pop-up Irish consulate during the FIFA Women's World Cup earlier this year.

We are grateful to the Ambassador of Australia to Ireland, H.E. Gary Gray, for his brilliant letter of congratulations to the QIA, and in particular his video shown to Members, at our hugely successful 125th Anniversary Lunch at City Hall.

Our Christmas party will be held on December 2nd at Wests Rugby Club in Toowong, at 11am. Please keep this date free and full details of the Christmas party will be included in the next newsletter.

*Jeff Spender,
President,
Queensland Irish Association.*



11 August 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Spender, KC

President,

Queensland Irish Association

P.O. Box 12745

George St.

QLD 4003

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Dear President,

I am writing to thank you for the invaluable support and contributions that you and the QIA provided in the lead up to, and throughout Ireland's participation in, the FIFA Women's World Cup.

The turnout of community support of 20,000 proud fans in the Suncorp Stadium for our game in Brisbane, speaks volumes of the Irish community here in Australia. The reliable sea of green heard chanting before, during and after these matches - and at every celebration in between - is a reminder of the importance of community to our people, and the great pride that we take in seeing our country represented on a global stage.

The success and the visibility of Ireland throughout the World Cup is a mark of achievement not only for the community - but equally by the community.

Although our participation in the World Cup was undoubtedly more brief than we had hoped for, we are incredibly proud of the work that the Girls in Green put in during the matches themselves, and equally through the many years, of training that led to their World Cup debut.

As we reflect on the past few months, encompassing not only the World Cup itself, but also the immense work put in across the board in preparation for it, we are extremely grateful for partners like you who have shared our vision and who have generously contributed to our successes.

In particular, I appreciate the generosity of the QIA in providing a premises to the embassy to act as a pop-up Consulate during the days around the Ireland v Nigeria game. It was an important contribution to enhance our capability to respond to emergencies arising.

I look forward to continuing to strengthen these partnerships, both new and old, as we strive to keep this positive momentum in our future endeavours.

I hope that you too have derived satisfaction from the occasion of Ireland playing in Brisbane in front of such a large Irish crowd as well as from the broader success of the tournament so far and the impact it has had across Australia and beyond.

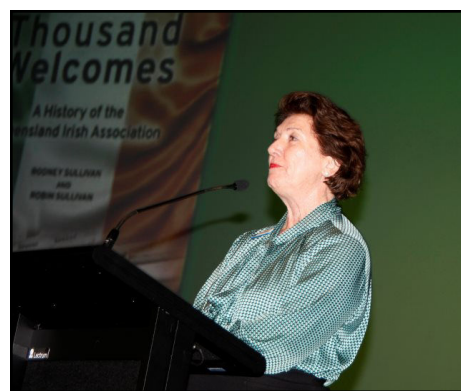
Once again, I would like to thank you most sincerely for being an integral part of our journey. We are deeply appreciative of your support, and look forward to celebrating our shared achievements in the time ahead.

Yours sincerely


Tim Mawe

Ambassador

QIA 125th Anniversary Lunch at Brisbane City Hall



QIA 125th Anniversary Lunch at Brisbane City Hall



QIA 125th Anniversary Lunch at Brisbane City Hall



Launch of Irish Film Festival Australia in Brisbane



Among the guests the launch of the Irish Film Festival Australia in Brisbane were Queensland Irish Association President Jeff Spender and his wife Glenice.
Pics: Irish Film Festival Australia on Facebook

QIA sponsored screening of Pray For Our Sinners



Irish Film Festival Director Enda Murray with members of the Queensland Irish Association at the screening of Pray For Our Sinners. Pic: Supplied

Thank you to Members who attended our sponsored screening of Pray For Our Sinners on Sunday, October 15th at Dendy Cinemas, Coorparoo.

The film confronts Ireland's recent history of brutality against children and women, from corporal punishment to mother and baby homes.

It was screened as part of the Irish Film Festival Australia. Festival director Enda Murray said: "A heartfelt 'thank you' to one of our Gold Sponsors, the Queensland Irish Association!"

"The QIA's incredible support is an invaluable part of our festival, and we're thrilled to have them as a partner in this celebration of Irish cinema."



QIA Director Paul Hogan with Darling Downs Irish Club President Scott Torcetti and speakers Mary Eilich and Tom Delany.

Toowoomba hospitality shines at Darling Downs Irish Club Annual Dinner

QIA Director Paul Hogan was delighted to attend the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc Annual Dinner 2023 on October 14th.

An evening of friendship and music took place at the Vista Room in Club Toowoomba.

There was a two-course meal and music by Sharon Matheson, renowned professional Pedal and Lever Harpist. Gerry McCann also played later in the evening.

Guest speakers were Tom Delany and Mary Eilich, two long-standing Irish-born members of the club. They spoke

about their journeys and creating a new, successful life after their departures from the Emerald Isle.

This was followed by a Q&A session.

The club very much wishes to celebrate its Irish-born members and the contributions they make to both the club and the broader community.

Paul Hogan said: "It was a lovely evening. There was some good Darling Downs Irish hospitality."

Thank you for the invitation to Darling Downs Irish Club President Scott Torcetti, to the board and all the members.



QIA Vice-President Séamus Sullivan with Cellena Connolly-Moynihan, Second Secretary at Embassy of Ireland, Canberra, outside the QIA premises in Fortitude Valley when it was being used as a pop-up consulate.

Calendar

Saturday, 18th November, 11am
Queensland Irish Association AGM,
Wests Rugby Club, Toowong.

Saturday, 2nd December, 11am
Queensland Irish Association
Christmas Party, Wests Rugby Club,
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.
With thanks to all our contributors.

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Faery Tale Meets Forest:

An interview with author Joanne McFall

By Lauren Shapiro

Author Joanne McFall grew up spellbound by her native Ireland, an island steeped in history and sprawling, emerald landscapes. In childhood, she revelled in traditional Celtic tales which foreground the natural world and its fantastical essence.

Celtic myths communicate profound reverence for the earth and the spiritual forces within every river, mountain, and forest. Over centuries of oral storytelling, Celtic mythology evolved into popular folktales and fables, eventually immortalising in written form.

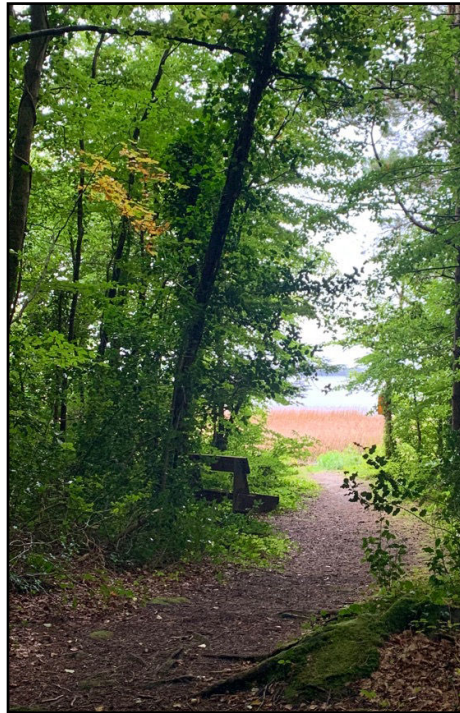
Like countless classic and modern Irish writers, the author's background formed her interest in mythology, nature, and ecological preservation. She knows first-hand how storytelling can change the way readers interact with the earth. In her recent collection of short stories, [*Beyond the Forest Floor and other Forest Tales*](#), the author uses mystical woodland settings to merge Celtic folklore with environmentalism.

While offering enchanting escapes, the stories remain rooted in promoting consciousness. As characters confront the fearful consequences of environmental change, the author plants seeds of eco-awareness in readers' minds. Her website, <https://beyondtheforestfloor.weebly.com/>, also allows readers to contribute to carbon removal projects and access links to environmental non-profits.

Beyond the Forest directly converses with Celtic texts, bringing their themes into contemporary relevance. Has this genre shaped your writing?

Immensely. All writers are influenced by landscape and other writing, consciously or subconsciously. The spirituality of Celtic literature is closely connected to others, like Indigenous cultural writing. Folk and faery lore, particularly Anglo-Irish tradition, have greatly influenced my use of the supernatural. Genres such as gothic, faery, and supernatural are major influences.

Like W.B. Yeats' romantic poetry, you har-

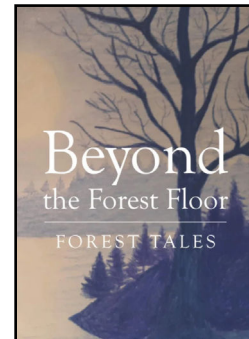


ness atmospheric imagery while engaging with Celtic mythology and folklore to explore humanity's connection to the earth. Has his work guided your creative process? What other literary influences inspired your storytelling?

Absolutely. W.B. Yeats is one of those giant figures who still influences so many writers. The Anglo-Irish writers had a special place - somewhere between traditional Irish and British culture - which enabled them to utilise this in their writing. Many people forget that they also had a 'lived experience' of Celtic spirituality, parallel to the many Irish lives that inspired them. Other literary influences include Leticia McClintock, Eamonn Kelly, Angela Carter, Marie and Seamus Heaney, John O'Donohue, Eddie Lenihan, Michelle Paver, and Éanna Ní Lamhna.

How has life in Ireland impacted your relationship with nature?

As with many other writers, both directly and indirectly. Directly, through growing up in rural southeast Ireland, a landscape filled with pastureland, rivers, forests, and mountains. Indirectly, through travels, living and working in other parts of the



Author Joanne McFall, below, in her book [*Beyond the Forest Floor - Forest Tales*](#), uses mystical woodland settings to merge Celtic folklore with environmentalism.



country and internationally, observing contrasting landscape features.

Your stories use techniques (like anthropomorphism) which encourage reflection about our modern world's dissociation from nature. What other considerations do you aim to highlight?

This, as with the techniques of many other writers, was not really planned; it just happened organically. Overall, the book is a light read, something appealing to all those interested in this type of fiction and who have a great love of and interest in the natural world, particularly forests. It also highlights the importance of family, community, and individuality.

Finally, will you continue exploring environmentalism in future writing?

Definitely, especially distinct landscapes both from Celtic and international lands and traditions.

Lauren Shapiro is a translator and language professional from Toronto, Canada. She is currently completing her Master's in Literary Translation at Trinity College, Dublin.



Entertainment

Book follows four generations of Mayo family

THE IRISH MERCHANT OF ALICANTE
– Newest novel by Irish author Michael Gerard

‘The Irish Merchant of Alicante’ might seem at first to be an odd name for my new historical novel but dig a little deeper and it makes sense. The story is about four generations of the Moore family who built the magnificent Moore Hall in Co. Mayo.

Chapter One sees young George Moore leave Ireland on a ship in 1754, bound for a new life in Spain as a merchant under the wing of his mother’s relatives – Wild Geese exiles from the Jacobite Wars. Being the second son, he could not inherit the Ashbrook estate in Straide, Co. Mayo and as a member of an aristocratic Catholic family he had no career prospects in Ireland under the terms of the Catholic-punishing Penal Laws – so he went to Alicante to learn the merchant trade.

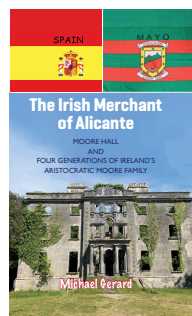
George found great success in Spain and by the time the Penal Laws were relaxed he was a wealthy owner of a merchant business with his own fleet of ships. He purchased some 12,000 acres of land in his native Mayo, sold his shipping company and returned to Ireland with his wife Catherine and four Spanish-born sons, where he built his dream home on the shores of Lough Carra in the early 1790’s – becoming the first Master of Moore Hall.

He had to take the Oath of Allegiance and follow the British imposed landlord system of leasing most of his land as small holdings to poor Irish tenant farmers.

Almost immediately his eldest son John was smitten by Wolfe Tone’s revolutionary ideals, and he joined the Society of United Irishmen.

John was one of the first members of the Irish gentry to march in support of General Humbert’s French expeditionary force in the 1798 Rebellion and was appointed the first President of an Irish Republic – Connaught, before losing his life in the failed rebellion.

His father George also became a casualty – dying from a stroke brought on



John Moore took part in the 1798 Rebellion alongside the French expeditionary army of General Humbert. John was proclaimed the first President of an Irish Republic during that Rebellion – namely the western province of Connacht. He was sentenced to transportation to the Australian colonies and died in captivity in Waterford, under questionable circumstances, while awaiting a ship. He was buried in Waterford. The remains of John Moore were reinterred in Mayo in 1961 at state military funeral, which was attended by President Éamon de Valera and the ambassadors of Spain and France.

by the stress of his son’s imprisonment and multiple trials.

The reins at Moore Hall then fell to his second son, George, a reclusive historian who was wooed and wed by Louisa Browne, a strong-willed beauty who was the niece of the notorious Denis Browne, High Sheriff of Mayo, who had prosecuted John for treason and hanged so many Mayo rebels that he was known as Denis of the Rope.

This marriage caused a split in the Moore family, including the self-imposed exile to London of George’s mother, Catherine, the family matriarch.

The third generation was led by George Henry Moore, a great horseman, celebrated horse trainer and popular Mayo MP at Westminster.

He firmly established the nationalist credentials of the Moore’s and was widely believed to have taken the Fenian oath.

In Parliament he became the champion of the Tenant Rights movement and won many concessions for Ireland from the ruling parties by cementing the Irish members block vote.

He led Mayo relief operations during the Great Famine and when his horse Coronna won the Chester Cup he used the winnings to charter a shipload of American grain to feed the starving people of Mayo.

George Augustus was the fourth generation Master of Moore Hall, a cantankerous bachelor, a failed painter, a Protestant convert, a poor steward of the estate during a period of heightened agrarian unrest, a successful novelist and early mentor of the Irish literary revival that led to the establishment of the Abbey Theatre.

My mission was to bring the reader along to witness the up-close lives of four generations of the Moore family as they navigated through the complex allegiances to family, religion, the Empire and growing Irish nationalism – while the power and influence of their landlord class was slipping away.

Available on www.amazon.co.uk and amazon worldwide

More details on Michael Gerard and his books on www.MichaelGerardAuthor.com

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Queensland Irish Association Friendly Society Limited

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18 November 2023

Notice is hereby given that the 120th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of members will be held
at Wests Bulldogs Rugby Club, 65 Sylvan Road, Toowong, Brisbane
on Saturday 18 November 2023 commencing at 11.00am
for the purpose of giving consideration to the following:

1. Reading and confirmation of minutes;
2. To receive and consider the Directors' Report, Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the financial period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;
3. To consider the recommendation of the Board of Directors that His Grace Archbishop Mark Coleridge and His Excellency Tim Mawe - Ambassador of Ireland be appointed joint patrons of the Association for the ensuing year;
4. To consider the recommendation of the Board of Directors that RWM Chartered Accountants be appointed Auditors of the Association for the ensuing year;
5. Confirmation of Election of Directors
 - (i) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for President – Jeffrey Spender
 - (ii) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Vice President – Seamus Sullivan
 - (iii) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Treasurer – Bradley Tallon
 - (iv) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Director – Mary Allen
 - (v) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Director – Michele Burke
 - (vi) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Director – Paul Hogan
 - (vii) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Director – Eric McMahon
 - (viii) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Director – Claire Moore
 - (ix) To confirm election of unopposed candidate for Director – Mavis Williams
6. To transact any other business that may properly be brought before the meeting in accordance with the registered rules and by-laws of the Association;

By order of the Board

VOTING

National members who have paid their subscriptions for the year ending 30 June 2024 are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting of members. Members may be required to produce their 2024 membership cards and sign a register of Members Attending this Meeting in order to attend this Annual General Meeting.

Queensland Irish Association

Phone: (07) 3067 3064

Email: enquiries@queenslandirish.com

Website: www.queenslandirish.com



NOTES

A copy of the Constitution can be obtained from the Association by requesting the Secretary at enquiries@queenslandirish.com

Copies of the statutory financial reports and statements, including the independent auditor's report, are also available from the Secretary.

NOTES IN RELATION TO PROXIES

A proxy form is available on request from the Secretary. A member who is entitled to vote at the meeting may appoint one proxy. A proxy need not be a Member of the Association.

Any member wishing to make a vote by proxy at a general meeting of the Association must make application in writing for a form of proxy to the Secretary of the Association at email: enquiries@queenslandirish.com or PO Box 12745 GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

No appointment of proxy will be valid unless received by the Association at the above address at least three (3) clear days before the holding of the above meeting.

Members should be aware that a vote recorded on a form of proxy will not be counted in certain circumstances as provided in the Association's constitution.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The following nominations have been received for the Board of Directors:

President:	*Hon Jeffrey Spender KC
Vice-President:	*Mr Seamus Sullivan
Treasurer:	*Mr Bradley Tallon
Directors:	Ms Mary Allen
(6 required)	*Ms Michele Burke
	*Mr Paul Hogan
	*Mr Eric McMahon
	*Ms Claire Moore
	*Mrs Mavis Williams

* Denotes Incumbent Directors

As the number of nominations is sufficient to fill the several positions on the Board of Directors, a ballot is not required.

Mr John J Leahy
Returning Officer

Queensland Irish Association

Phone: (07) 3067 3064

Email: enquiries@queenslandirish.com

Website: www.queenslandirish.com

**QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION FRIENDLY SOCIETY LTD.
ACN 087 649 367**

**120th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023**

**Commencing at 11.00am at
West's Bulldogs Rugby Union Club
65 Sylvan Road, Toowong, Brisbane**

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Appointment of Scrutineers**

President to appoint two scrutineers who will be requested to confirm number of members attending AGM as recorded in Attendance Register.
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Notice of Meeting (to be confirmed) as circulated and read by members**
- 5. Minutes of 119th Annual General Meeting, 27th November 2022, circulated and read by members, to be confirmed.**
- 6. President's Report**
- 7. Treasurer's Report**
- 8. To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following Ordinary Resolutions:**
 - 1) That the Annual Report including the Directors' Report, financial Report and Statements, Directors' Declaration and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 be received and accepted.
 - 2) That the recommendation of the Board of Directors be received that the Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane and the Ambassador of Ireland be appointed Joint Patrons of the Association for the ensuing year.
 - 3) That the recommendation of the Board of Directors be received that RWM Chartered Accountants be appointed Auditors of the Association for the ensuing year.
 - 4) Confirmation of Election of Directors
 - (i) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Hon Jeffrey Spender KC as President be confirmed.
 - (ii) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Mr Seamus Sullivan as Vice-President be confirmed.
 - (iii) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Mr Bradley Tallon as Treasurer be confirmed.

- (iv) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Ms Mary Allen as Director be confirmed.
- (v) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Ms Michele Burke as Director be confirmed.
- (vi) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Mr Paul Hogan as Director be confirmed.
- (vii) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Mr Eric McMahon as Director be confirmed.
- (viii) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Ms Claire Moore as Director be confirmed.
- (ix) That the election of unopposed Board candidate Mrs Mavis Williams as Director be confirmed.

9. General Business

10. Deceased Members

QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION FRIENDLY SOCIETY LIMITED
ABN 49 087 649 367

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
18 November 2023

PROXY FORM

The Secretary
QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION FRIENDLY SOCIETY LIMITED
ABN 49 087 649 367
PO Box 12745
BRISBANE GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

enquiries@queenslandirish.com

I/We

.....
(please print)
Of

.....
(please print)

being a National Financial Member (Member No.....) of Queensland Irish Association Friendly Society Limited ABN 49 087 649 367, hereby appoint:

Name of proxy
Address of proxy

or, in his/her absence:

Name of proxy
Address of proxy

Proxy instructions

To instruct your proxy how to vote, insert X in the appropriate column against each item of business set out below. If you do not instruct your proxy how to vote on a resolution, your proxy may vote as he/she thinks fit or abstain from voting.

I/We instruct my/our proxy to vote as follows:

Resolution	For	Against	Abstain
1. That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 27 th November 2022 be read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting	[]	[]	[]
2. That the Annual report including the Director's Report, Financial Report and Statements, Director's Declaration and Auditor's Report for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 th June, 2023 be received and accepted.	[]	[]	[]
3. That the recommendation of the Board of Directors that His Grace Archbishop Mark Coleridge and His Excellency Mr Tim Mawe Ambassador of Ireland be appointed joint patrons of the Association for the ensuing year be accepted	[]	[]	[]
4. That the recommendation of the Board of Directors be accepted that RWM Chartered Accountants be appointed Auditors of the Association for the ensuing year be accepted	[]	[]	[]

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 5. (a) That the election of unopposed candidate for President – Jeffrey Spender be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (b) That the election of unopposed candidate for Vice-President – Seamus Sullivan be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (c) That the election of unopposed candidate for Treasurer – Bradley Tallon be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (d) That the election of unopposed candidate for Director – Mary Allen be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (e) That the election of unopposed candidate for Director – Michele Burke be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (f) That the election of unopposed candidate for Director – Paul Hogan be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (g) That the election of unopposed candidate for Director – Eric McMahon be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (h) That the election of unopposed candidate for Director – Claire Moore be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |
| (i) That the election of unopposed candidate for Director – Mavis Williams be confirmed. | [] | [] | [] |

This proxy must be signed by each appointing Member or the Member's attorney. Proxies given by companies must be executed in accordance with the Corporations Law or signed by an authorised officer or attorney.

Dated:

COMMON SEAL

SIGNATURE(S)

.....

NAME (print)

.....

ADDRESS

.....

This proxy and any power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed (or a certified copy) must be lodged at the registered office of Queensland Irish Association Friendly Society Ltd ABN 49 087 649 367 or PO Box 12745, BRISBANE GEORGE STREET 4003 or by email to enquiries@queenslandirish.com no later than 4.00pm on Tuesday 14 November 2023 being not later than three (3) clear days before the meeting.

Notes:

1. A Member who is entitled to vote at the meeting may appoint one proxy.
2. If you require an additional proxy form, the Association will supply it on request.
3. A proxy need not be a Member of the Association.
4. If you mark the abstain box for a particular item of business you are directing your proxy not to vote on your behalf for a show of hands or on a poll and your vote will not be counted when determining the required majority on a poll.