



Queensland Irish Association

# Newsletter

April 2023

## We're on a high after great Saint Patrick's season 2023

We would like to express our thanks to our members and friends, who turned up in droves and helped make March, the busiest month in our calendar, a tremendous success.

We had great turn outs for all our events, including a sold-out Saint Patrick's Eve dinner.

### Brisbane St Patrick's Day Parade

Congratulations to the Saint Patrick's Day parade committee for organising what is reckoned to be the biggest parade in many years. The QIA was well represented with the Pipe Band and the QIA dancers participating. QIA members marched with the 1914 Fiat truck for the second year running.

### St Patrick's Eve Dinner

The Pullman Hotel was the venue again this year for a sold-out Saint Patrick's Eve dinner.

Guests and speakers included Queensland Premier Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Employment Simon Coveney TD, who was representing the Irish Government, His Excellency Tim Mawe, Ambassador of Ireland, Lord Mayor of Brisbane Adrian Schrinner, and leader of Queensland LNP, Mr David Crisafulli.

Mark Morrissey was recognised with life membership for his role in helping to re-establish the QIA in recent years.



**LIVING IT UP: Stilt walkers join the revellers in Brisbane City Botanic Gardens following the Saint Patrick's Day Parade.**

Former Wallaby captain Andrew Slack gave an outstanding speech and toast, it was witty and entertaining.

It was wonderful to see so many members bring their families along, it was a great mix of people, from teenagers upwards. All in all, it was a very memorable night.

### St Patrick's Day Lunch

We hosted a Saint Patrick's Day lunch-time gathering at West's Rugby Club, Toowong.

The talented Tom Kimmet enter-

tained us with music and song. It was a free event and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the day among fellow members and friends.

### Queensland Irish Choir

To round off the month of festivities, on Sunday, 19th March, Queensland Irish Choir held an afternoon of Irish music, song and dance at Cherside Kedron Community Church. Guest performers included QIA Dancers and the QIA Pipeband.

*Continued on page 3*



# Civic reception for 125th anniversary and book launch





# St Patrick's Day lunch gathering



If you have a suitable story or pictures you'd like published in a future edition, email [newsletter@queenslandirish.com.au](mailto:newsletter@queenslandirish.com.au)

Editor and design: Mary Allen.

With thanks for their assistance to: Good Times Photography, Bob Ward, Lord Mayor's office.

## Unmasking Mary

A public talk and presentation, Unmasking Mary, will be given by Pat Ryan about her grandmother Mary Deeney and her family's part in the fight for Ireland's freedom.

This free event will be held on Easter Monday, 10th April, from 12 noon at the TLC Building, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane. See poster on page 9 for further details.

## New banner to mark 125 years

We are marking our 125th year with a modern new banner on our website and on our social media accounts, which can be seen at the bottom of this page. It was professionally designed free of charge by our Public Relations Officer Mary Allen, who is also a graphic designer and editor.

Our Facebook group, Friends and Supporters of Queensland Irish Association, now has more than 1,000 members, which is a great success.

To celebrate this landmark, we had an online competition to give away a copy of our book *A Hundred Thousand Welcomes* to people who signed up to our Facebook group on the last week in March.

If you don't yet have a copy of our book, you can order one by contacting Michele Bourke, by phone on 0438 763 439, or by email to [sales@queenslandirish.com](mailto:sales@queenslandirish.com)

*Jeff Spender,  
President,*

*Queensland Irish Association*

# QIA 125

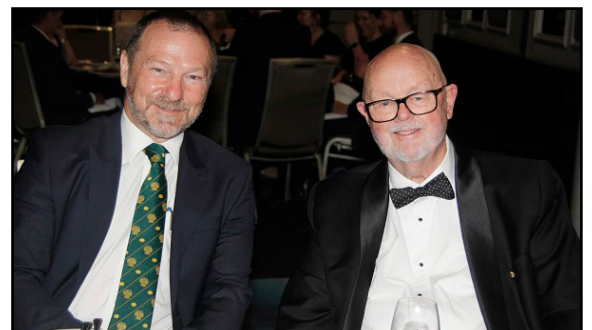




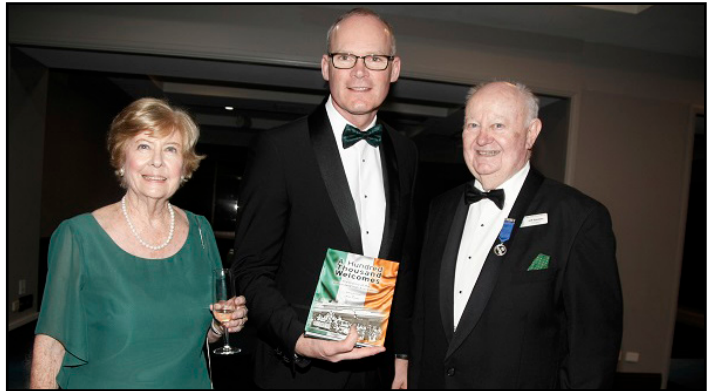
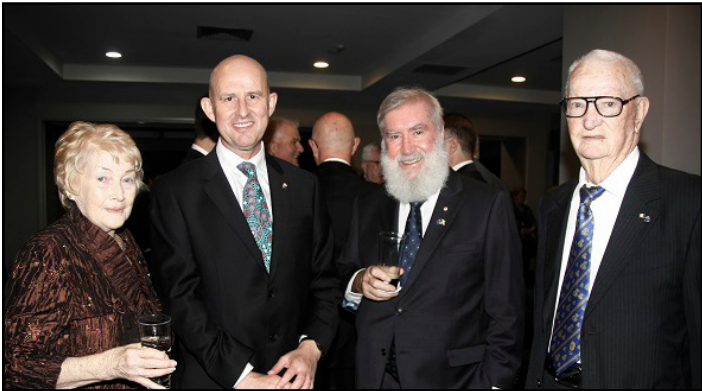
---

---

# Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner at Brisbane Pullman Hotel









# QIA leads the way at Brisbane St Patrick's Day Parade





---

---

# Easter ceremony to honour Irish rebel William Ryan

by Mary Allen

mary@queenslandirish.com.au

A commemoration will be held at the grave of Irish rebel William Ryan in Nudgee Cemetery, on Easter Monday.

Mr Ryan was one of the rebels who fought as a volunteer in the Dublin GPO during Easter Week 1916.

He migrated to Brisbane in 1928 and worked as a barman in various hotels in Brisbane, including for a long time in the Alliance Hotel, Spring Hill.

He died after a long illness in 1958 but until 2016, the site of his burial was not known to his family.

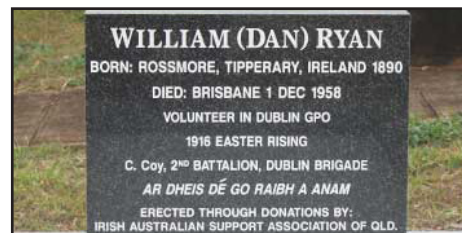
A relative of William Ryan's in Tipperary contacted the Embassy of Ireland in Canberra, hoping to find out where he was buried.

QIA member Joseph Thompson, who was then secretary of the Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland (IASAQ), took up the task of locating the grave.

After an exhaustive search and investigation, Mr Thompson was able to grant the Ryan family's wishes, locating the unmarked grave in Nudgee Cemetery.

The Irish community in Australia contributed funds through IASAQ to place a headstone on William Ryan's grave, with the generous assistance of stonemason and QIA member Peter Wrafter.

At the request of Mr Ryan's family in Ireland, a commemorative service was held at his grave for the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin. About 130 people were present, the Irish flag was raised, the Proclamation of the Republic of Ireland was read and the crowd sang the Irish national



The GPO in Dublin, where William Ryan fought, in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising (top); William Ryan's gravestone at Nudgee Cemetery, and the centenary of the Easter Rising ceremony at William Ryan's grave in 2016.

anthem, Amhrán na bhFiann.

The Easter Rising was a six-day insurrection by Irish rebels against British rule.

It began on April 24, 1916, when republican groups seized a number of prominent buildings in Dublin, raised an Irish Republic flag over the General Post Office (GPO) and holed up.

For six days, 1,600 rebels fought off a 20,000-strong British army. The insurrection left almost 500 dead and thousands injured. About 1,500 Irish

men were interned in Wales, while 16 rebel leaders were imprisoned and executed.

Mr Ryan was one of the many rebels who fought at the GPO in Dublin on the first day of the rebellion.

The ceremony on Easter Monday, April 10, will take place at Nudgee Cemetery at 11.30am and will include a reading of the Proclamation of the Republic of Ireland, the singing of the Irish national anthem, the story of William Ryan and laying of flowers.



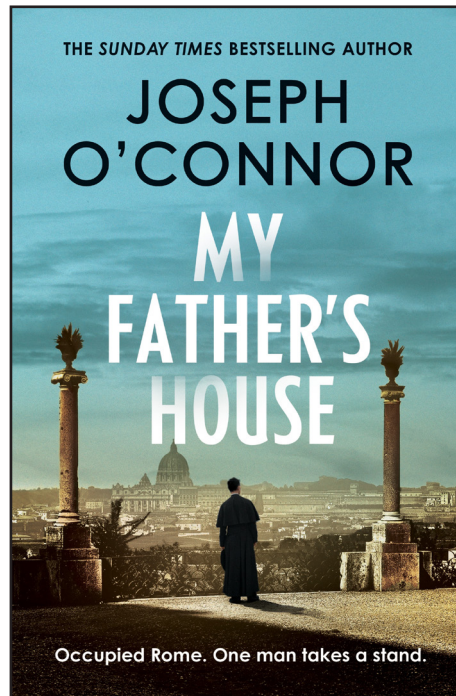
# Entertainment

Each newsletter we will aim to bring you books and music we recommend. This month we're recommending *My Father's House* by Irish author Joseph O'Connor.

Novelist, screenwriter, playwright and broadcaster, Joseph O'Connor was born in Dublin. He is the author of nine novels including *Star of the Sea*, *Ghost Light* (Dublin One City One Book novel 2011) and *Shadowplay*.

Among his awards are the Prix Zepher for European Novel of the Year, France's Prix Millepages, Italy's Premio Acerbi, an American Library Association Award and the Irish Pen Award for Outstanding Achievement in Literature. His work has been translated into forty languages. In 2014, he was appointed Frank McCourt Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Limerick.

Based on the true story of an Irish priest, Hugh O'Flaherty, who dedicated himself to helping those escaping from the Nazis. His home is Vatican City, the world's smallest state, a neutral, independent country within Rome where the occupiers hold no sway.



Here Hugh brings together an unlikely band of friends to hide the vulnerable under the noses of the enemy. *My Father's House* is a powerful literary thriller from a master of historical fiction.

Joseph O'Connor has created an unforgettable novel of love, faith and sacrifice, and what it means to be truly human in the most extreme circumstances.

Listen to Joe [here](#) on RTÉ.  
[www.josephoconnorauthor.com](http://www.josephoconnorauthor.com)



## Music

### Tim Rogers & The Twin Set – Tines of Stars Unfurled

Australian songwriter Tim Rogers delivers a sequel to hit 1999 hit album *What Rhymes with Cars and Girls*.

This latest album went straight to number one in the Australian Album Charts and includes a nod to the Irish language on track nine with the song *Tá Brón Orm*.

The album is available to purchase or stream now.

Listen to an interview with Tim by clicking [here](#)

[www.tim-rogers.com.au](http://www.tim-rogers.com.au)

*If you would like to share what you're reading or listening to, please email us at [newsletter@queenslandirish.com.au](mailto:newsletter@queenslandirish.com.au)*

Queensland Irish Choir in action on Sunday, 19th March, when they held an afternoon of music, song and dance at Chermiside Kedron Community Church.



## Dates for your calendar

### 10 April 2023

11.30am - *William Ryan Commemoration, Nudgee Cemetery*

12pm - *Unmasking Mary, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane*

### 31 July 2023

*Ireland v Nigeria – FIFA Women's World Cup, Lang Park, Brisbane*





# *Unmasking Mary*

---

**Daughter of Ireland, Mother,  
Revolutionary, Grandmother**

---



**From Derry to Dublin: one  
woman's fight for freedom!**

**Public Talk and Presentation**

## The Story

At the opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ireland's march towards armed insurrection against British rule swept my grandmother Mary, her brother Dan, and her future husband James onward in the rush towards Dublin, Easter 1916.

As the Decade of Commemorations draws to a close, it is time to find Mary and tell her story through the eyes of her grand-daughter, records from the military archives, eye-witness accounts, family history and memory. It is time to speak of the dramatic events forged by men and women like my indomitable grandmother, Mary Deeney.

## The Presenter

Pat Ryan is a long-term member of Oral History Queensland and a long-time broadcaster and presenter for The Irish Program on Radio 4EB.

Her professional career spanned senior roles in public and community sectors. Pat continues to be involved in the community.

**FREE EVENT, Easter Monday, 10 April at 12 noon.**

**TLC Building, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane.**

**Light afternoon tea – bring a plate.**

This paper was first presented to the 24th Australasian Irish Studies Conference at Flinders University, Adelaide, 2019.