

Geelong Irish Society Inc

July 2011 Newsletter

Editor - Rhonda Morris-Pieper

P. O. Box 1785 Geelong Vic 3220

geelongirishsociety.org.au & Look for us on 



Contact Phone No's - Tony Strain 0403 670 162 - Rhonda 0403 365 964

rhondamorrispieper@gmail.com

Editorial

Hi Everyone, I'm back! Editing the newsletter that is. Did you miss me? Ha ha!

After last year I thought for sure, along with many others, that the Geelong Irish Society was on it's last legs, but here we are again. I know that many of our members are elderly and can't give us the support we need, but I also know that most of you have children or grandkids that might be able to help.. Many new Irish immigrants don't even know about us possibly because the original members are not saying anything, or so it seems to me. The best publicity is word of mouth, so please talk to others about us and our struggle to survive. I've said it before and I'll say it again, the origins of this town are steeped in Irish history. We were here before most of the other nationalities, that are around today. Yes I say, 'we,' because, although I am a 3rd generation Australian, I cherish my Irish heritage and my great grandfather, who came over to work the land with his parents and siblings in 1862 and farmed at Sutherlands Creek, near Anakie. After meeting my Scottish great grandmother they settled at Leigh Road (now Bannockburn) to start a life together.

SO SPREAD THE WORD, PEOPLE! WE ARE FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL! HELP US FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

Your committee appointed at the AGM are as follows:-

President — Tony Strain; **Vice-President** — Joe Pearl
Secretary — Rhonda Morris-Pieper; **Treasurer** — John Rowe
Committee Members — Wendy Pearl & Owen Sharkey

Upcoming Bus Trip to The Quiet Man

We are going to the **Quiet Man Pub** on **Sunday 7 August** for the **Irish Jam Session**.

Leaving RSL at 4.30pm with a couple of pick ups on the way up to Flemington.

Please contact Rhonda for more details if you are interested in joining us.

We have had this bus trip in the past and everyone had a wonderful time, so come along and join in the fun. I know a lot of our new members have young kids but I think this is a night to escape the kids and have an adults night out.

Bus will be approximately \$15 per person and everyone is expected to pay for their own meal and drinks. If you play an instrument, bring it along and join in the session.

Nick Hoare (Obituary)

The Geelong Irish Society would like to pass on our Deepest Sympathy to the Hoare family on the passing of Nick, who was a founding member of the Society. He and his family have been great supporters of the Irish Community over the years. He was a quiet and gentle man and one of the last true Gentlemen. He will be sadly missed by all the Irish Community.



Family Fun Day which was held on 22 May

A great time was had by all. Several of the families that came, signed up as members and indicated their willingness to assist in future events etc.



A Letter from the GEELONG IRISH SOCIETY INC. COMMITTEE

Fellow Irish,

As you may or may not know The Geelong Irish Society (GIS) has, over many years, provided many good times for Irish living in the area. It has been a society that has kept the Irish flag flying high in Geelong, It has helped people in aging years and helped young people settle in the area. It has always promoted sports and dancing. It has helped educate children of their parents yesteryear.

Currently there are more Irish in Geelong than there has been in many years. Most of who are leaving Ireland due to their current economic situation. A society such as this one is a hugely valuable tool for such people and being able to network with fellow Irish can make life a lot easier from finding jobs to accommodation etc.

The GIS is currently running on a bare minimum committee and a bare membership. It has been decided that this year is the GIS final year of operation, there will be no presence at any St Patrick's day celebrations or Pako Festa's. Once the club has folded it will be very difficult to resurrect.

So we are asking every Irish person in Geelong to do at least one of the following:-

- Purchase a membership
- Let the committee know what we should do to create more interest
- Let us know how you can help?
- Support events
- Forward this letter to friends or other Irish you may know of.

If you choose to do nothing this is an indication to us that maybe there is no need for an Irish Society in Geelong?

Let's hope this isn't the final chapter of our proud history in Geelong.

Yours Sincerely

Geelong Irish Society



IRISH AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL

Four members of the GIS Committee were invited to the Celtic Club in Melbourne on the 6 June for a farewell reception for His Excellency Mairtin O'Fáinín and wife Anne who are retiring and heading back to Ireland on 1st August.

It was good to see the them again. They are a wonderful couple and will be sadly missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of meeting them.

We hope to have a similar relationship with the incoming Ambassador who, we believe, will be announced next month.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are due as of 1st April 2011, so if you have not paid since that date, it is now due, if you could pay as soon as possible.

Special prices for members are available at most events this year, but you will need to be a paid up member to qualify.



Finbar Furey and Brendan Grace

Several members and friends of the GIS went to the Furey & Grace Show. Finbar Furey is a singer, songwriter formerly of The Clancy's Brothers & Furey Brother. He plays the tin Whistle, Guitar and Uilleann Pipes.

We all had a fantastic time, with side splitting laughter at the performance of funny man, Brendan Grace and after the interval we were mesmerised by the musical talents of Finbar Furey.

After the show, everyone was very excited when Brendan Grace, Frank Gillespie (his son-in law) and two of their crew, came back to Irish Murphy's Hotel for a well earned Guinness and both Brendan and Frank signed the wall of the foyer along with the signatures of Paul Furey, David Arthur and Irish Ambassador, Mairtin O'Fáinan. Unfortunately, Finbar Furey was unable to join them, as he was too tired after the show and playing again in Frankston the next night he wanted to get a good nights rest.

We look forward to a future show of Brendan Grace, if he comes back to Australia. It will be worth the wait!



An Irish Blessing

*May the wings of the butterfly
kiss the sun...*

*And find your shoulder to light
on...*

*To bring you luck, happiness and
riches...*

Today, Tomorrow and beyond!

