

BELFAST ICON IN BRISBANE

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INSIDE



Clive Palmer



Brothers NRL bid



Dancing to London

Back To The Future DeLorean joins St Patrick's Day parade

PLUS
Pictures from
Saint Patrick's
celebrations



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Fáilte

Welcome from editor Mary Allen

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Everyone loves a pipe band. Except maybe Isla and Thor, who were snapped at the Victory Hotel in Brisbane with RAAF Amberley Pipes and Drums. Pic: Jeff Ram Photographer

Bags of fun at Irish festival

IRISH Queenslanders came out in their tens of thousands to cheer on the Saint Patrick's Day parade in Brisbane. People who emigrated here joined those whose parents, grandparents and great-grandparents made the journey years earlier, and those with no Irish blood who just wanted to join the fun.

The Brisbane Irish Festival is a non-profit organisation that is backed by the kind generosity of Queensland businesses, Irish, state and city government bodies. It is organised by a dedicated group of volunteers who, throughout the year, put in a lot of hard work in organising a festival to be proud of. I was honoured to be invited to be a part of the organising committee this year and I'd like to say well done to those who put in so much hard work, your efforts were worth it.

Started by the Dooley family in 1989, this year marked the 25th anniversary of contemporary

parades in Brisbane. It was the first parade for this magazine and we brought the theme of Back to the Future, complete with the DeLorean 'time machine'. In the movie Back to the Future 2, Doc and Marty travelled in time from 1989, 25 years into the future to 2014 so it was wonderful that the theme tied in so well with this year's anniversary parade. DeLorean cars were built in Belfast. See page 4 for details.

A new event for this year was the Lansdowne Club Saint Patrick's luncheon at the Queensland Cricketers' Club. Hundreds attended, including guest speakers, mining magnate Clive Palmer and author William McInnes. Mr Palmer, who arrived in a leprechaun hat, spoke with great fondness and knowledge about Ireland's history (see page 5).

See inside for photos from Saint Patrick's Day celebrations around Queensland.

All the best, Mary

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Cad é an scéal?

- On page 5, Clive Palmer reveals his Irish ancestry and the love story that saw his family move to Australia.
- On pages 13, Caloundra is hosting its second Celtic festival, which attracts Queensland's top Irish acts, including McGuinness & Co.
- On pages 14 & 15, the fighting leprechauns, Brothers are making an NRL bid. We talk to bid chief Justin Barlow.
- On page 17, pictures from the 25th annual Brisbane Saint Patrick's Day parade open our entertainment section.
- On page 21, the very best of Queensland's Irish dancers are heading to London for the 2014 World Championships.
- On page 26, we have a new boxing column, written by Queensland Welterweight Champion and WBF Asia Pacific Champion, Paddy Murphy.

What's the story?

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Shamrock Civil smash FebFast target

A TEAM from Shamrock Civil took on the FebFast Challenge where entrants give up an addiction to raise money for solutions that address youth addictions.

Most participants give up cigarettes, alcohol, caffeine, mobile phones or sweets for the month of February.

The team from Shamrock Civil were hoping to raise \$3,500 but smashed that target.

CEO Brendan Kealy said: "In total, we had 24 staff members participating with \$5,734 raised, putting us in ninth place in the country."

David takes hiatus from Overland to Oz drive

SINCE July 2013, we have been following the journey of David O'Connor and his drive from his native Tramore in Ireland, Overland To Oz in each edition of Irish Queenslander and online at www.facebook.com/Irish-Queenslander. While David's trusty four-wheel drive is now in Brisbane and has been put into storage, he has gotten himself a short-term marketing job in Kuala Lumpur. He says: "The downside is that I have put my trip on hiatus for a little while. On the upside, this news will make my creditors happy and it will be a chance up update my blog." We look forward to his arrival in Australia and will pick back up on the story then.

Diaspora centre to be set up in Ireland

A NEW diaspora centre is being set up in Ireland to tell the stories of emigrants. A new National Diaspora Centre is to be built recognising the huge number of Irish people who have emigrated through the centuries. Cabinet approval was given to the venture, which the Irish Government believes has the potential to become a major tourism attraction. The centre would cost between €5 million and €26 million to set up.

stories in brief

Nuacht

DeLorean delights and Queensland goes green

THE Irish Queenslander DeLorean DMC-12 that turned heads in the Saint Patrick's Day parade is owned by sci-fi fan Brad Gaffy from Seven Hills in Brisbane.

Over the course of five years, Brad has put together a nearly-exact replica of the time machine car made famous in the Back to the Future movies. In the movie, scientist Dr Emmett 'Doc' Brown built a time machine "with style" out of a DeLorean.

Brad bought the car from America and had it shipped to Australia. It cost him \$12,000 and he has spent at least that again customising it.

He said: "There's about 15 DeLoreans in Brisbane now so when I'd turn up, I wanted mine to stand out. People are happy to see it - everyone loves the movie."

The cars were manufactured by in 1981-82 in Belfast. The factory employed over 2,000 workers at its peak and 9,000 cars were built in 21 months.

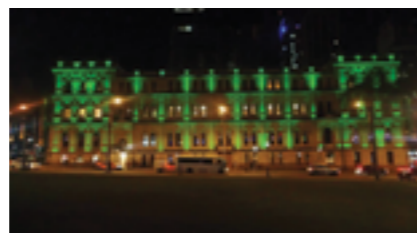
The factory was set up by former head of General Motors America, John DeLorean.

He sought lucrative incentives from governments to pay for constructing the company's manufacturing facility. To gain these, he looked to build his first factory in a country or area where unemployment was particularly high. One candidate was the Republic of Ireland, although the country's then Minister for Industry, Desmond O'Malley, decided not to support the project.

A deal in Puerto Rico was about to be agreed when DeLorean took up a last-minute offer from the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board. Besides taking some early seed capital from Hollywood stars Sammy Davis Jr and Johnny Carson, DeLorean Motor Company relied on the British government for about US\$120 million of its US\$200 million start-up costs.



The DeLorean representing Irish Queenslander was a star attraction at Brisbane parade, above, and, below, owner Brad Gaffy in the driver's seat. Pics: Jeff Ram Photographer



The fountain on Queen Street in Ayr, Treasury Casino and the Wheel of Brisbane went green to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Casino and wheel pics: Anna McKinlay

The assembly plant brought jobs and new hope to war-torn Belfast. The workforce consisted of both Catholic and Protestant workers and the factory had separate entrances for each group as it sat in the middle of the two communities, Catholic Twinbrook on one side and Protestant Dunmurry on the other.

The dream didn't last long and the factory went into receivership in 1982.

John DeLorean died in 2005. His tombstone shows a depiction of his DMC-12 with the gull-

wing doors open.

The car is known worldwide as a Belfast icon.

Queensland landmarks took part in the global greening campaign for Saint Patrick's Day, including the Treasury Casino in Brisbane, the Wheel of Brisbane and a fountain in Ayr, Burdekin.

Burdekin Shire Council said: "Council is getting into the Saint Patrick's Day spirit and have turned the fountain in Queen Street green!"

Burdekin is located between Townsville and Bowen.

Palmer reveals his Irish history at Lansdowne Club luncheon

CLIVE Palmer revealed his amazing Irish family history in a speech at the Lansdowne Club Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon at Queensland Cricketers' Club on March 14.

The politician and mining magnate is the owner of Mineralogy which has iron ore, nickel and coal holdings. In 2013, his net worth was estimated to be US\$895m.

In 2012, he announced that he was constructing a replica of Belfast-built RMS Titanic, the Titanic II.

At a resort which he owns in Coolool on the Sunshine Coast, Mr Palmer has created a simulated Jurassic Park which boasts over 100 animatronic dinosaurs.

In 2013, in a bid to contest the Federal Election, he formed the Palmer United Party which won a seat in the division of Fairfax in Queensland.

Mr Palmer was born in Melbourne but was mostly raised on the Gold Coast when his family moved to Queensland.

He is very proud of his Irish links and spoke of them at the lunch, where he showed up in a leprechaun hat.

"Today, I returned from Tasmania, a place where 170 years ago my ancestor was transported for starting a revolution against the British at the end of the 1840s. When he was arrested at the age of 24, he and his mates had hijacked a British ship, shipping potatoes from Ireland to England, and brought her around to the west coast of Ireland. He was sentenced to 15 years transportation to Tasmania.

"His fiancée, who had never been in any trouble, went to a drapery store in Dublin, stole some material and waited outside to be arrested - this is all in the court record. When she was brought before the magistrate and asked why she had taken it, she stated that she wanted to join her fiancé in Tasmania. She had a sympathetic judge who gave her what she wanted - a sentence for 15 years transportation to Tasmania.

"His ship had left and when he arrived, he was sent to Port Arthur for the next 10 years. It wasn't till he was released 10 years later that he met his fiancée from Ireland on the streets of Hobart. They married and had eight children, and I'm happy that they did!"

He also spoke about four famous Irish Australians, former Queensland Premier TJ Ryan, outlaw Ned Kelly, gold prospector Paddy Hannan and former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd.

"Paddy Hannan walked hundreds of miles from Perth to Kalgoorlie in the

hot sun when there were no roads, to discover Australia's biggest gold field. Do you think he would have walked that far in the hot sun if there had been a mining tax?" he quipped, and went on to joke about Kevin Rudd.

"The greatest Irish Australian, I'm told, was an Irish Queenslander. In 2007, you gave us an Irish Prime Minister in Kevin Rudd. I talked to Kevin about his Irish roots, and he remembered that famous statement, *In order to find his equal, an Irishman has to talk to the Almighty.*"



Clive Palmer at the Lansdowne Club luncheon.



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Live music returns on Friday nights

THE Irish are renowned for their love of live music, a sentiment shared by the Queensland Irish Association.

Friday evenings will now be a celebration of musicality at The Irish Club with live music to be performed from 7pm each week. There is no cover charge.

Friday, 4 April - Celtic Fusion
Friday, 11 April - Green Velvet
Friday, 18 April - Black Stove
Friday, 25 April - Green Velvet

And for music lovers, if you're interested in getting fit the fun way, Zumba the Latin-inspired dance craze is held in the Tara Ballroom every Monday night.

It is led by Zumba dance teachers Shannkar and Navi and costs \$12 for adults and \$10 for students.

Irish favourites added to lunch and dinner menu

STARTED in March, the Irish Club has a new menu for lunch and dinner with Irish favourite menu items.

These include Dublin Coddle (sliced pork sausages with sautéed onions, carrots, root vegetables and fresh thyme, served with mash potato and soda bread), Beef and Guinness Pie (prime beef, mushrooms and onions in a mouth-watering Guinness sauce topped with fresh puff pastry and served with vegetables or beer battered chips and garden salad), Roast of the Day and Chef's Special Salad (cos lettuce, capsicum, red onions, shallots, beetroot, and carrot tossed in coconut and sweet chilli dressing topped with pistachio and cashew nuts).

Visitors can also enjoy the daily specials which are available in the bistro for lunch and dinner.

Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner 2014



VIPs and distinguished guests mingled in the Shamrock Room prior to the Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner and gathered for a group photo.



Simon Coveney, TD (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine), Robert Ward and QIA President Chris Begley.



QIA President Chris Begley with QIA Life Member Bill Hanley.



Chief Justice Paul de Jersey, Anglican Bishop Jonathon Holland and Ireland's Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, TD.

Clubs invite you for fine dining, interesting talks and great company

TIGH GAELACH Gourmet Club meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the Irish Club from 7pm onwards commencing with pre-dinner drinks – champagne, wine, beer and soft drinks.

Below are the dates covering dinners for the next four months:

- Wednesday, April 30 – observing ANZAC DAY – Member to talk on her trip to the battlefields in France.
- Wednesday, May 29 – Guest speakers "Basil over Time" – Barbara Flynn and Monica Finn-Cohen
- Wednesday, June 25 – AGM and election of committee
- Wednesday, July 30 – Christmas in July (Secret Santa – gift to the value of \$10).

The committee and members

of Tigh Gaelach Gourmet Club invite ladies to attend our monthly dinners on the highlighted dates and in line with the themes shown in the program. Birthday roses are presented to our lady members when their birthdays are celebrated within a particular month's activities.

For further information, please phone Margaret Stacey on 3366 5496 or Patsy Gerrard on 3396 7320.

Bookings are to be made at Reception, Irish Club, 175 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane on 07 3221 5699. Please book by COB the Friday before the dinner. Dietary requirements to be advised.

Tara Hall Dining Club also meet on the last Wednesday of the month. As this is the same

date as the ladies event, it is convenient for couples to attend.

President Neil O'Driscoll invitation:

We would like to invite male members and their friends to join in what is a fantastic night out. Some of our members' partners come along on the same night to the ladies' dining club.

If you wish to attend please contact me, Neil O'Driscoll via my email, neil1953@bigpond.net.au and I will add your name to our mailing list and you will receive a reminder the week before each dinner. We meet upstairs around 6.30pm and then go to our dining room around 7pm.

We would love you to come along and help rebuild this club to its previous glory days.

Abhaille

News from around Ireland



CORK

RENEWED calls have been made for flood defence measures to be put in place for Cork City, which experienced some of the worst tidal flooding in memory in February, with its main streets under three feet of water. The Office of Public Works is designing flood defences for the city.



Flooding in Patrick Street, Cork.

BELFAST

The future of one of Belfast's architectural gems has been secured after Belfast City Council voted to approve a decision to have it listed.

100 years ago, 89 Durham Street was at the forefront of the city's fight against TB when it was built as the Central Tuberculosis Institute.

The two-storey red stone building now lies empty.

LIMERICK

Country music superstar Garth Brooks put special arrangements in place to ensure Limerick people were able to secure tickets for

his fourth concert at Croke Park on July 28. In February, dozens of Limerick people queued for days and were left disappointed when they failed to secure tickets for the first three concerts, which sold out within 90 minutes.

KERRY

Pensioner Jimmy Breen spent almost six hours and 360 kilometres in a taxi, three hours in a queue and €500 in cash to get a new driving licence. The south Kerry pensioner is one of a growing number of people being forced to pay for a taxi to travel long distances to Tralee, to renew

driving licences that now require a special photograph.

WATERFORD

Waterford City Council has received two national awards for the Medieval Museum for Best Public Building and Best Heritage Project. The museum, opened in 2012, preserves several medieval structures within its walls.

SLIGO

A Sligo woman who lost her fiancé to suicide while the couple were living in Australia in 2011, has spoken at a mental health awareness event. Blathin

Sweeney recalled the journey home from Australia after her fiancé Paul Rennick had died, saying: "I had no plan, no notion of where my life was going." She wants to keep the memory of Paul alive through working with suicide prevention charity Renna-fix Group.

MAYO

Killala has been chosen as the landing site a fibre optic undersea link to New York. Emerald Networks plans to develop a high speed fibre optic transAtlantic cable which will link the stock exchanges in London and Frankfurt with New York.

DUBLIN

The Government has ruled out purchasing an historic building on the northside of Dublin once used by former war veterans. Legion Hall in Killester is believed to be one of the last remaining British Legion Halls in the Republic of Ireland but it has become dilapidated.

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Irish Australian Support Association Queensland News

by Rita Stott, Coordinator



www.iasaq.com.au



Guests enjoying the IASAQ St Patrick's Ball at the Irish Club. Pic: Jeff Ram. You can view and buy photos from this event at <http://jeffrey.fotomercant.com/galleries/brisbane-irish-festival-ball> with a donation from each sale going to IASAQ.

Workshop to address mental health issues

RÓISÍN BROUDER, the founder of Emeralds Camogie Club in Brisbane, is running a mental health awareness initiative and is inviting anyone interested to a Mental Health Awareness Workshop on Saturday, April 5 at Queensland Irish Club.

Róisín says: "There is no cost to attend, thanks to the support of several Irish community organisations. Irish Australian Support Association Queensland have sponsored this event, Queensland Irish Club have offered the venue hire for free and Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association will cover cost of food provided on the day. It is supported also by Irish Queensland magazine."

The workshop is intended to give people tools they can use in how the approach or identify mental health issues affecting their lives. Róisín says: "I want this workshop to

give people some knowledge and insight into what we, our friends or our family face, or may face at some point in the future."

Róisín, who works as a nurse at the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane, attended a two-day Youth Mental Health First Aid workshop last year run by Clinical Nurse Specialist in Mental Health and a Mental Health First Aid Master Instructor Geoffrey Ahern and found it really beneficial. She says: "I really learned a lot, despite thinking I knew enough being a nurse. I kept in contact with Geoffrey and have organised for him to come up from Melbourne to conduct our workshop."

Topics which will be covered on the day include anxiety, depression, suicide, alcohol, fitness, mental health awareness and mental health first aid. To book, email vicepresident. brisbanehurling@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON

Drop-in luncheon

EVERY second Tuesday at 11.30am at the centre. \$8 per person. Come along and bring a friend - all welcome.

Outreach

IF you are aware of anyone in hospital or care home who would like a visit, don't hesitate to call the centre.

Irish Mums Group

EVERY Monday at 10am. Call Rita for details of venue. Come along for a catch-up. Children range in age from infants to prep-age.

Call in for a cuppa

THE centre is open 9.30am to 4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. CLOSED WEDNESDAY. We are opposite Park Road Station and Boggo Road Busway. The kettle is always on the boil!

Welcome booklet

WE have a Welcome to Brisbane booklet for new arrivals, full of all sorts of information about living here. To download it, go to <http://bit.ly/ZESHOZ>

ABOUT IASAQ

SINCE the Association was formed five years ago, our services have grown to include a wide range of activities and support services including:-

- Networking with elderly in the community, aged care home, hospital and hostel visits;
- Seniors' lunches;
- Excursions;
- Promoting fellowship and social gatherings;
- Assistance with legal and court matters;
- Immigration advice and support;
- Special interest groups such as for mothers, seniors and backpackers;
- Fundraisers for special causes.

For more information on any of the above, contact Rita Stott, Coordinator, Irish Australian Support Association Queensland, 5 Abingdon Street, Woolloongabba, Qld 4102. Email: info@iasaq.com.au Phone: 3391 1300 Mobile: 0432 087 328

Scheme helps survivors of institutional abuse

A NEW scheme has been launched to assist people who, as children, experienced abuse in institutions in Ireland and who received awards through the Residential Institutions Redress Board or Irish courts.

It will be managed by a statutory body established under the Residential Institutions Statutory

Fund Act, 2012, called Caranua, and is supported by a fund of €110 million committed by Irish religious congregations.

The overall aim of the scheme is to bring about improvements in the living conditions and wellbeing of eligible survivors. Caranua will provide a dedicated information and advice service

to eligible survivors, will work with public bodies to ensure that survivors have their statutory entitlements and will fund the provision of additional health, housing and education services, based on successful applications from survivors.

There are 15,000 people potentially eligible to benefit from

Caranua, of that 8,500 are in Ireland, 5,000 are in the United Kingdom and the remainder live in other parts of the world, mainly in Canada, Australia and the United States.

Information on the scheme is available on www.caranua.ie. Application forms are available in Irish embassies.

What's on

breabach



April 3

Live music



7pm Fridays



New menu at the bistro



For further details, contact
The Irish Club,
175 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane
Phone: (07) 3221 5699
www.queenslandirish.com
reception@queenslandirish.com

at the club

Horsing around at Finnegan's Wake

DID you hear about the horse that walked into a bar? The bartender says 'Hey buddy, why the long face?'

Well, the horse was the only one with a long face in Clifton in the Darling Downs on March 1.

The town played host to Finnegan's Wake parade, and it all kicked off by a horse walking into O'Shanley's Irish Pub for a drink.

Based on the prose work by James Joyce, the event is already in its 11th year. It is organised by publican Kathleen O'Shanley, originally from Armagh, who went on to explain the story of Finnegan's Wake.

"Finnegan was a miserable old person who went to all the wakes, including the ones he wasn't invited to. Not wanting to miss out on his own one, he held a wake while he was alive."

The parade re-enacts the wake, with Finnegan paraded through the town enjoying a drink and accompanied by marching bands, vintage cars and Irish Wolf-



A horse kicks off the 11th annual Finnegan's Wake. Pic: Irish Queenslander

hounds, as well as participants adorned in their finest funeral clothes. Priests, nuns and a pope made an appearance too!

The parade travels up Clifton's main street, finishing at O'Shanley's Irish Pub. This year saw a slight hiccup when the popemobile broke down and the pope had to hop out and push it.

The role of Finnegan was

played by 4WK radio personality Jim Campbell.

Kathleen was very happy with the outcome, saying "A big thanks to all who took part. It was by far the best one."

Kathleen and her husband Fletch are retiring so this year's parade is possibly the final one.

They bought the 120-year-old hotel in 2003.



The role of Finnegan was played by 4WK radio personality Jim Campbell. The parade marched through Clifton. Pic: Irish Queenslander



Shane O'Callaghan is cycling from Australia to Cork. You can follow his trip at www.facebook.com/longwaytocork

Shane is cycling from Australia home to Ireland

HAVING worked in Australia for the last few years, Shane O'Callaghan from Cork decided to get on his bike and head back home. Literally.

He is cycling from Sydney to Cork, is currently in northern Queensland and aims to finish the trip before the end of 2014.

On the way, he will cycle through Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, France and the UK. And, in his own words: "Finally home to Ireland, more importantly, to Cork!"

Along the way, he will be raising money for Cork ARC Cancer Support. He says: "We're making good progress towards the fund-raising target of €20,000, thank you to all who have donated so far. My life, like so many others, has been touched by cancer and I know what great work Cork ARC Cancer Support do."

To donate, go to www.justgiving.com/longwaytocork



by Bob Kiernan

www.bobinoz.com

House price rises and hotspots

WE have some geezer who has been wandering around Australia predicting that 2014 will see dramatic house price falls here, he is quoting a minimum of 27% in Sydney.

Should we believe him? After all, he is also trying to sell a book on the subject.

Predictions are fun, but you can't beat cold hard facts from the past if you want absolute accuracy. So, today I'm looking at what did happen to house prices here in Australia in 2013.

Here are those facts from the Australian Bureau of Statistics which you can read in full if you visit the ABS.

Residential property price rises Dec. Quarter 2012 to Dec. Quarter 2013:

Sydney 13.8%
Melbourne 7.9%
Brisbane 5.7%
Adelaide 3.4%
Perth 8.7%
Hobart 4.9%
Darwin 5%
Canberra -0.3%
Weighted average of eight capital cities 9.3%

So, property prices have certainly picked up since I last wrote about the subject almost a year ago.

So, what for 2014?

Well, the 'geezer' I referred to earlier is American economist Harry S. Dent Jnr and he says the property bubble will burst big time following an even bigger



A rainforest walk in Buderim on the Sunshine Coast.

burst in the market over in China.

Fitch, a well-respected global ratings company, doesn't agree but does expect slower growth for Australia this year of around 4%.

I'll tell you what I think will happen to property in 2014 in a post I will probably write at about the same time next year. But what's selling fast?

Hot property

According to a recent article in News.com.au, the 10 most popular places for houses sold over the

last 12 months in Australia were:

Pakenham, VIC
Port Macquarie, NSW
Berwick, VIC
Dubbo, NSW
Point Cook, VIC
Frankston, VIC
Mildura, VIC
Craigieburn, VIC
Canning Vale, WA
Orange, NSW

Nothing in the top 10 for Queensland then, although I can tell you that Buderim in the Sunshine Coast came top in the full

list which you can see at news.com.au (<http://bit.ly/1jzaEqK>). That full list also had nothing at all for any of our other states or territories.

Just to save you all grabbing your atlases, Point Cook, Frankston, Craigieburn, Berwick and Pakenham are all within driving distance of Melbourne city centre, but something like 25 to 60 kilometres or so away.

I've been to Frankston, it has a little creek and it's also by the sea.

Mildura, despite the fact it is in Victoria, is nearer to Adelaide than Melbourne, but close to neither.

Orange and Dubbo are both a fair distance from Sydney, being around 250 to 300 kilometres away and Port Macquarie, which is on the coast, is even further at almost 400 kilometres away.

I drove through Dubbo a few years back, you have to cover a lot of road before you get there.

Canning Vale, the most popular suburb in all of Western Australia, on the other hand, is pretty close to Perth CBD, being about 20 kilometres away.

The overwhelming message though is the southern end of the country is more popular than the north. And perhaps the underlying message is that city centre living is becoming too expensive so people are choosing to live in outer suburbs, or in some cases, quite some distance from our capital cities.

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Newcomers Brisbane helping you to settle and stay in Australia

NEWCOMERS Brisbane is a one of a kind event targeting the combined Employment, Education, Visa and Settlement needs of Australia's newly arrived and settled migrants, as well as temporary international workers, foreign students and the corporate expat community currently residing in Queensland.

The event will connect you with experts on visa services, employment opportunities, education options and a host of settlement services, helping you settle into life in Australia.

COMPETITION

Every attendee that registers



online will be in with the chance to win a fantastic wine tasting and two-course lunch, while touring the picturesque 'Scenic Rim' located in the Tambourine Mountains.

HOW TO REGISTER

The Newcomers Brisbane event takes place on April 5 in the Traders Hotel, 159 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000.

Register online for FREE ENTRY at their website, www.newcomersaustralia.com/events/brisbane

Is Maith Liom

The best stories from our Facebook newsfeed - give it a Like at www.facebook.com/IrishQueenslander

YOUR local Coles will soon be stocking Tayto! Get in there quick before all that's left is Salt and Vinegar!!!

Eamon Eastwood's Taste Ireland has signed a contract with Coles, to stock a range of Irish favourites including Tayto crisps, Barry's Tea, and Club Orange, in 600 of its stores across Australia.



Irish Queenslander on tour... it's amazing where this magazine shows up, here it is with the Queensland GAA boys who are down in Melbourne for the Melbourne 7s (pictured).

UTV are planning to open a new TV channel in the Republic.

The new channel will be based in Dublin with additional news gathering and reporting presence in Cork, Galway, Waterford and Limerick.

UTV plans to have the new channel on air in early 2015, creating 100 jobs.

It's all over. Over at round 5. Prazak won. Well done to Shannon, onwards and upwards. A true fighter in every sense of the word. Queensland's Shannon O'Connell lost out to Diana Prazak in a WBC Super Featherweight World Title Fight in Melbourne.

Irishman arrested for snorkelling in Melbourne fountain.

A snorkeller was spotted in the fountain outside the National Gallery of Victoria. He was in the moat wearing blue flippers and black shorts.

Could you be tempted to go back home?

Dublin's Hubspot specialise in



software and services that help people generate sales leads in a way that's different to traditional marketing, and with 700 employees already, they're looking to expand. Firstly, they need to find the right talent to bring the company forward, with particular skills in sales and marketing. They have reached out to Irish living abroad in the UK, Canada and Australia in particular and nearly 15% of the workforce already at Hubspot have returned from abroad, demonstrating the success they've had at reversing the trend of emigration.

Graham Linehan confirms, no more Fr Ted's.

The writer of the ever-popular Irish TV series explained, "I would never bring Dougal back. Someone suggested to me a way of doing it but I am totally a different person now. We have said everything we have to about the imaginary world of priests."

"It's now reached the point where Danny fears there won't be enough young men left to line out for the hurling team after six members of the team all emigrated to New Zealand last month because there is no work for them at home."

Broadford in County Clare, like all Irish towns, is suffering. After five punishing years of recession, that has decimated jobs in the surrounding towns and villages,

the population of approximately 1,000 people has been cut in half.

It's been 15 years since Dusty Springfield, real name Mary O'Brien, born to an Irish family in London, died of cancer.

She was best known for songs like Son Of A Preacher Man and Going Back, famously featured in the ESB ad. In 1987, the Pet Shop Boys resurrected her career by duetting on What Have I Done To Deserve This? She loved Ireland and was very proud of her heritage. Her ashes were scattered off the Cliffs of Moher.

Shout out to our readers in Mount Isa - watch where you go for a dip!!

A battle between a snake and a crocodile at Lake Moondarra, 19km north east of Mount Isa, was captured on camera. The snake is seen strangling its prey in a tight coil before swallowing it whole. Locals now think twice before taking a dip in the lake.

With a choice between that girlfriend and a bunion, we think he's better off with the bunion.

'Patrick' posted a picture of his foot and bunion on a small ads site, saying (sic) "My girlfriend said she will leave me if I don't get rid of the bunion on my foot because she finds it ugly. Please message me with home remedies I can do to get rid of it because I'm Irish and don't want to pay a lot for the doc, thanks all!"

It's 220 years since the Battle of Vinegar Hill in 1804, when 233 convicts, mostly Irish and led by Philip Cunningham, a veteran of the Irish Rebellion of 1798, escaped from a farm intent on capturing ships to return to Ireland.

Martial law was declared in New South Wales and the rebels were hunted by colonial forces until they were sequestered on 5 March on a hill outside Sydney. Infantry opened fire, killing 15. A day-long pursuit left at least another 15 convicts dead. Eight were tried and executed and were buried in Waverley Cemetery.



They've swapped hurleys for golf clubs - great fun is being had at Brisbane Hurling and Camogie Club's golf fundraiser at Victoria Park.

An interesting chapter in the history of the Irish in Queensland.

IN THE 1860s the American Civil War was raging and the mills in the north of England were crying out for a new suppliers of wool. The government of the new colony of Queensland, keen to get the produce from the rich farmlands of the Darling Downs, began construction of the rail line from Ipswich to Bigges Camp, the first line in Queensland. This year marks the 150th anniversary. The line was designed to get Queensland's agricultural riches to port as quickly as possible. Construction between Ipswich and Toowoomba saw up to 2,000 men working on the line. The workers, enticed from Europe with big pay packets, were tasked with back-breaking work. While many were from Ireland and Scotland, a number were from northern Germany. In the railway camps, they used to fly their flags. The Irish had a green flag with a harp on it.

Celtic stars head for Caloundra

THE Caloundra Power Boat Club hosted a highly successful Celtic Festival last year. This year the Club will again host Celtic entertainers of international and national renown to stir the spirits of Caloundra's Celtic pioneers and immigrants.

In the 1800s, Caloundra's most notable pioneer, Scottish explorer William Landsborough, settled Golden Beach on the property he called 'Loch Lamerough'.

The venue beside the Pumicestone Passage provides the unique tranquil waterfront background that has attracted many pioneers and immigrants with a Celtic background to settle in the area.

Festival visitors will have the chance to immerse themselves in Celtic culture by entering a competition to win a \$5,000 Back Roads Touring voucher to visit either Ireland, Scotland or Wales, sponsored by Trade Travel and the Caloundra Power Boat Club

Bands and singers performing over the weekend will include Murphy's Pigs, McGuinness & Co, Sasta, Sunas, The Barley-



shakes, The Jar, Celtic Fusion, Brides, The Kelly Family Band, Maleny Céili Band, The Famous Jimmies, Mick McHugh, Katherine Allan and Robbie Dunn... got to be the best line-up of bands in Australia...mark it in your diary

International Irish chef Robbie Dunn will be demonstrating the art of Celtic cuisine, along with singing some traditional Irish

songs on Saturday at 2pm and 6pm, and Sunday at 12pm and 2pm.

From the Scottish highlands to the Wicklow Mountains and Galway Bay, Robbie will be using a variety of foods, creams, wines, brandies and liqueurs. Robbie will share his beautiful foods and recipes with you.

Come to the festival and join in



Caloundra Celtic Festival features McGuinness & Co, left, Sasta, top and Murphy's Pigs, above.

"the craic" for a unique experience of food, laughter and song you will not forget.

The Caloundra Celtic Festival 2014: 12noon - midnight Friday 13th, Saturday 14th and noon - to 4pm Sunday 15th June.

FREE ENTRY at the Caloundra Power Boat Club, Golden Beach.

Get along and join with fellow Celts over this fantastic weekend!

CALOUNDRA Celtic Festival

GOLDEN BEACH, CALOUNDRA - FREE ENTRY!

13+14+15 JUNE 2014

FREE SHOWS & ENTRY

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| MURPHY'S PIGS FRI 13TH - 7PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) | McGUINNESS & Co SAT 14TH - 12:30PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) | IRISH DANCERS SAT 14TH - 3.15PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) | THE BARLEYSHAKES SAT 14TH - 4PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) | THE JAR/CELTIC FUSION/ BRIDES SAT 14TH - 7.15PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) | SASTA SAT 14TH - 9.30PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) |
| THE KELLY FAMILY BAND SAT 14TH - 12PM (FOLK STAGE) | MALENY CEILI BAND (W/DAVYD) SAT 14TH - 2PM (FOLK STAGE) | THE FAMOUS JIMMIES SAT 14TH - 3.30PM (FOLK STAGE) | MICK McHUGH SAT 14TH - 7PM (FOLK STAGE) | SUNAS SUN 15TH - 12PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) | KATHERINE ALLAN SUN 15TH - 1.30PM (SHAMROCK STAGE) |

* CHEF FROM DUBLIN ROBBIE DUNN RETURNS FOR THE FESTIVAL

Woorim Park, The Esplanade, Golden Beach
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Brothers bidding

THE mighty fighting leprechaun may soon be seen in the National Rugby league competition (NRL) if an enterprising bid to join a possibly expanded competition is successful.

The bid proposal will be submitted at the end of September 2014 which, if expansion takes place, could see the Brothers club playing in the NRL in 2017.

It would be structured so that all profits would be siphoned back into the club or local rugby league.

Brothers NRL bid chief Justin Barlow answered some questions from Irish Queenslander's Craig Thomson about the Leprechauns' proposal.

What is the Irish connection? Why the leprechaun logo?

"Over a hundred odd years ago, Brothers clubs were formed as

an avenue for past students from Christian and Marist Brothers to still play together with their friends after school, as opposed to the 'zone rules' which made you play in the area you lived. Many of these young gentlemen did not grow up in the areas they were living as a lot of them attended boarding schools, so this was a great way for them to have a group of mates and a community to grow up in.

"The Irish connection comes from the association with the Christian schools, they were known as 'the fighting Irish' because of how successful the clubs were. They adopted the leprechaun as their mascot and logo. The Catholic association has long since evaporated, as the clubs are fully inclusive for everyone."

How do you plan to affiliate all



Past Brothers Rugby League Football Club, more commonly known as 'Brothers', 'The Brethren' or as 'the Leprechauns', were a rugby league club in Brisbane that played in the top level of football since their foundation in 1929 until they closed in 1998. Traditionally the club's home ground was Corbett Park in Grange.

the Brothers clubs in Queensland together?

"The Brothers clubs are already affiliated formally through an association called the Confraternity of Brothers Clubs, an organisation that works on community initiatives and promotes the values and ethics of the brand. What we are looking to achieve is a pinnacle representation of all Brothers clubs that unites, elevates and supports their own individual work. We will work closely with the Confraternity and feedback from all clubs."

Why would someone in North Queensland follow a club mainly playing in Brisbane, when they can follow the Cowboys? Actually go to home games, for example.

"That choice is always up to the individual. Plenty of people already support clubs that fall outside of where they live. Attending home games only makes up one piece of the puzzle for fans, they make their choices based on an emotional connection to that club and what the club's heart and soul is about, not just location."

"We want to work on a strategy that can deliver elite rugby league to multiple regions. As we are already operating in over 17 communities throughout Australia, we are not bound by geography and should we be successful, our success won't be to the detriment of any particular area or region."

Where would the clubhouse be?

"Initially, we are looking at basing the club at the traditional home of Brothers, the old Corbett Park in Agincourt Road, The Grange. It is currently operating as the Brothers Grange Community Club and we have established an agreement to use the office facilities there. From a commercial point of view, we are already looking at huge savings there, which is vital as a start up."

"We would look to play eight of our home games at Suncorp Stadium to allow us to have a connection to the growing Brisbane fan and corporate markets. It would also have Rugby League as the only national code with two teams in Brisbane."

"To make sure that we are delivering a genuine grassroots strategy we would then look to take the remaining four games to regional areas where a Brothers club is present, the local council supports us and the sporting infrastructure is up to NRL playing and broadcaster standards. This is places like Rockhampton, Cairns, Darwin and Mackay. Where places do not yet have the required facilities, like Gladstone, Innisfail, Ingham, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Ipswich, Logan, Wagga and many more, they can use us as the vehicle that allows them to lobby state and federal governments to invest in community sporting infrastructure upgrades. Also, on a smaller scale creating jobs and opportunities across

to join the NRL



Bid founder Justin Barlow, left, with Brothers Premiership winner Peter Gill and the minibus Justin and the bid team are using on their travels.

many regional communities, not one huge investment to benefit just one area."

Your bid looks to have all the boxes ticked, a ready built fan base, but how are you going to "sell" the brand to those already associated with it?

"Simple, by operating and behaving in a way that is genuine and humble and that is for the greater good. We are setting the organisation up as a not-for-profit or fan-owned model whereby any profits the club generates will go back into the club, or member facilities or directly into grassroots projects into many regions. No individual or entity will walk away with a dividend."

How do you plan on "selling the brand" to those not affiliated with the Brothers brand?

"We are not necessarily looking to sell to those not affiliated with the club, we want them to further their connection to their current club loyalty through us. We are after our Brothers fans all over the country, we have our volume, it is in place, and we just want to mobilise them."

"With our strategy of taking games to the regions, the clubs we play against can work on the local rivalries to build their own fanbase. For example, say we go into Rockhampton and we

are playing a club like Penrith, we just want to connect with our Brothers fans in the region, the Panthers can work through the rest of the community to grow their own fanbase. We can assist all clubs grow along with our growth, we want to work in unison with the other clubs, not against them. Many clubs already play games in regional areas but it is very short term and a bit of a fly in, fly out. Because we have a club that is in place and ingrained in the community, we can help deliver year-long community and commercial programs that are long-term and ever present. No other code can deliver this."

Do you plan a Gold Coast Suns type, "young list watch them grow" style or are you going to try for established players from other clubs?

"We may need a few more senior players to start with. You look at the who has come through the Brothers system it is pretty impressive, Cameron Smith, Corey Parker and Josh Pappali have come through Logan Brothers, Sam Thaiday, Townsville Brothers, Jonathan Thurston, Toowoomba Brothers, Billy Slater, Innisfail Brothers and the list goes on and on."

"What we will be more interested in is developing strong ethics and values underpinned by a winning attitude. You look at the

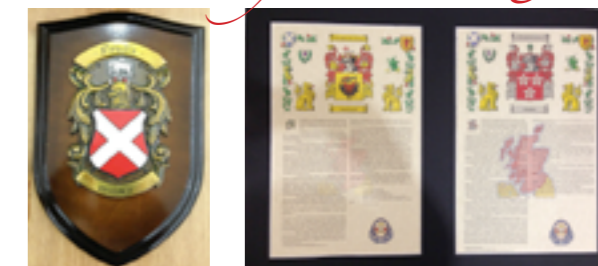
Club locations

BROTHERS League clubs can be found all over Queensland with locations in Brisbane, St Brendan's (Moorooka), Mustangs Brothers (Jimboomba), Logan, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Capricorn Coast, Emerald, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Mt Isa, Townsville, Ingham, Innisfail, Cairns and in Northern Territory at Darwin.

Do you plan on trying to tap into the expat Irish community?

"We think they may be drawn to our concept. I lived in Dublin for a period and still have many friends there. I have nothing but happy memories of my time there so I would certainly welcome the Irish community to get behind us. I am desperate to get my hands on some good soda bread so any help there would be great!"

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You say tomato, I say tomato

SO you think you can speak Irish? Don't worry, I don't: that's why I'm interested in (re)learning it, which is what this series of articles is about. You may not be able to wheel and deal with the mountain men at the Maam Cross Horse Fair, but can you sit down and chat about rudáí éagsúla with a few heads in passable Irish? That's all I aspire to. If ever I feel the need for a tree change back to Joyce County or na hOileáin beyond i gConamara I'll bone up a bit more, but for now I'm grand.

So for our fledgling Irish class, or Seisiún Gaeilge as we'd prefer it be known, the bould Karl and I actually have a student lined up, a friend of ours who we're going to start on an beginner's course, as much to help ourselves with our Irish, as bestow some on him. That sounds like we know what we're doing, but I assure you that's not the case. Pat (he's off to a flying start with the name) is Californian, and is part of our informal Spanish-language Tertulia (get-together) we've been holding for the past few years here in Brisbane. He's good at languages, I can vouch for that. But what would someone who's never spoken any Irish make of it? That's what intrigues me. And how would the two of us get on teaching it to him?

One fine afternoon recently in a cafe at King George Square at the abovementioned Tertulia, prompted by a Mexican friend



Daaart or Dort?

who had heard an Irish blessing online or some such Paddy-whackery, and mildly lubricated by a couple of hump-day pale ales, myself and Karl let fly with a rendition as Gaeilge of said blessing, only to immediately find out something that we hadn't expected. We were speaking different dialects. We couldn't agree on how to say the words, the simplest of words of our mother Irish. He pronounced "beidh" by, I said beg. He pronounced "breá" braw, I made it out to be, ahem, bra. Of all the obstacles I had been expecting, this was not one.

Y'see, Karl grew up speaking Connemara Irish, whereas I learned mine in CBC Monks-town (Baile na Manach), in Dun Laoghaire, southside Dublin, which probably makes mine the maligned "civil-servant" Irish. Dark insinuations about the authenticity of my brogue flew from Karl's outraged lips, and we realised that this could be trickier than we had at first thought. "Sure half of my teachers in Dublin were bona fide culchies themselves. My Irish accent can't be that off, can it?", I asked the Galwegian to little avail.

Although in fairness I do remember, however, that Dad, who was from Clifden, Connemara, spoke Irish a lot different to the way that I was taught it in school.

I'm happy to accept that there would be a wide disparity in how Irish is pronounced for some words in Ireland. We all don't pronounce English words the same so why would Irish be any different? Sure in Dublin, a word as recent as "the Dart" (1984) can be pronounced "the daart" in Roddy Doyle territory or the "the dort" in Killiney and Dalkey, where I grew up. That's just one word, and that's just Dublin. I have become much more accepting of a broad range of pronunciations as I get more into languages. It'd be strange, and ultimately sad, if Irish wasn't similar. It'd mean it wasn't really alive to us. It's only a sign of a dead language that there would be no legitimate discrepancies in pronunciation. Think of Ulster Irish, alien as it sounds still to my ears. Are they pronouncing stuff wrong? No!

And so the lesson we learned very quickly was that we needed a strategy to cope with pronunciation discrepancies if we were going to try and speak to others.

You think you're speaking the same language until you speak it with someone who grew up far from where you did, and you realise the whole thing is banjaxed, it really is. Living languages are like that. Bígí sásta.



Celtic Thunder tour goes on after death of singer George

CELTIC THUNDER will go ahead with their Australian tour in May, despite their deep sadness at the loss of principal singer George Donaldson, pictured.

George passed away on March 12 at his home in Glasgow, Scotland.

The cause of death was a massive heart attack, he was 46 years old. His wife, Carolyn, and daughter, Sarah (13), who he described as the 'light of my life', survive him.

George Donaldson joined Celtic Thunder in 2007 and was an original member of the internationally successful group.

He was preparing to join his Celtic Thunder brothers to tour Australia in May, something he always looked forward to. In recognition of this, and as George would have wanted, Celtic Thunder will respect his wishes and will honour their commitment to tour Australia.

Celtic Thunder look forward to paying homage to George with their fans. For dates, see Craic on pages 18 and 19.



Helping you to settle and stay in Australia



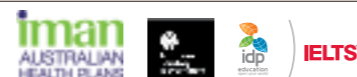
Newcomers Brisbane is a one of a kind event targeting the combined Employment, Education, Visa and Settlement needs of Australia's newly arrived and settled migrants, as well as temporary international workers, foreign students and the corporate expat community currently residing in Queensland. The event will connect you with visa experts, employment opportunities, education options and settlement services.

Date: Saturday 5th April • **Time:** 10:00am - 4:00pm

Venue: Traders Hotel, 159 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000

Register online for **FREE ENTRY** at www.newcomersaustralia.com/events/brisbane

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WINTERMOON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Rural festival features The Barleysakes, Joe Lynch, Sunas, Thornlands, The Kelly Family Band.

Cameron's Pocket, Qld

2-5 MAY

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Artists include Damien Dempsey, Eleanor McEvoy, Barleysakes, Coolfinn Mac and Fásta.

Canberra, ACT

17 - 21 APR

GOLD COAST RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Costumed performers, food and drink, fun for kids and music including Sasta.

Broadbeach, Gold Coast

2 - 4 MAY

CALOUNDRA CELTIC FESTIVAL

Music including McGuinness & Co, Sasta, Murphy's Pigs food, wine, stalls, fun for everyone.

Caloundra

13-15 JUN

Festivals

Craic

What's happening...

Australian Celtic Festival

ANNUAL festival highlights include Irish folk songwriter Mick McHugh, winners of 2013 Celtic Artists of the Year, Murphy's Pigs, winner of the Australian Celtic Album of the Year as well as the Australian Celtic Song of the Year, Saoirse, Sophie and Fiachra, and Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band.

Glen Innes, New South Wales
1-4 MAY



BRISBANE

EVERY MON
Irish Mums Group
10am, Irish Australian Support Association Qld (IASAQ)

EVERY TUE
Drop-in luncheon
11.30am, IASAQ

EVERY 2ND THU
Singer/songwriter night
Foxy Bean

EVERY FRI
Live Music Session
7pm, Queensland Irish Club
Live Music Session
8.30pm, Foxy Bean
Live Music Session
8.30pm, Celtic Corner Manly

EVERY SAT
Irish Program
12.30pm, Radio 4EB FM
Live Music Session
8.30pm, Foxy Bean
LAST SUN OF MONTH
Tullamore Tree
2pm, Grand View, Cleveland

TUE. 1. APR
Kodaline
Hi-Fi

THU. 3. APR
Breabach and Mick McHugh
Queensland Irish Club

SAT. 5. APR
Mental Health Workshop
Queensland Irish Club

THU. 24. APR
Julian Clary
The Tivoli

SAT. 26. APR
Petula Clark
QPAC

FRI. 2. MAY
Hugh Laurie
QPAC

WED. 7. MAY
Arctic Monkeys
Entertainment Centre

MON. 12. MAY
Michael Buble
Entertainment Centre

FRI. 23. MAY
Celtic Thunder
Entertainment Centre
James Vincent McMorrow
QPAC

SAT. 24. MAY
Queensland Rose Selection
Queensland Irish Club

TUE. 27. MAY
Gary Numan
The Tivoli

WED. 28. MAY
Gary Numan
The Tivoli

29 MAY - 8 JUN
Jimeoin
Powerhouse

SAT. 31. MAY
Dancing with the Gaelic Stars
presented by Shamrocks GFC
and Souths GFC
Queensland Irish Club

GOLD COAST

EVERY SAT
Live Music
6.30pm Harrigan's Drift Inn

EVERY SUN
Live Music
1pm, Harrigan's Drift Inn
Live Music
1pm, D'Arcy Arms

SAT. 12. APR
Jimeoin
Southport RSL Club

SAT. 19. APR
Tony McGuinness
D'Arcy Arms

FRI. 25. APR
Simply Irish: A Night of Musical Elements
Zamia Theatre, Nth Tamborine

SAT & SUN. 2 & 3. MAY
GC Renaissance Faire
Pratten Park, Broadbeach

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Vivid Festival

Vivid is the Southern hemisphere's largest festival of light and music. It includes three concerts by electronic legends Pet Shop Boys in the only Australian performance of their Electric world tour. You can also see Irish troubadour James Vincent McMorrow at the Opera House.

Sydney
23 MAY - 9 JUNE

SAT. 24. MAY
Celtic Thunder
Jupiters Casino Theatre

SUNSHINE COAST

EVERY THU
McGuinness & Co
8pm, O'Malleys, Mooloolaba

1ST AND 3RD TUE
Irish Jam Session
Halse Lodge, Noosa Heads

THU. 17. APR
Jimeoin
The J, Noosa

FRI. 18. APR
Jimeoin
Caloundra Events Centre

CAIRNS

EVERY FRI & SAT
Live Party Bands
PJ O'Brien's

CONDON

EVERY WED
Irish Wednesday Shenanigans
3pm, Irish Finnegan's

HERVEY BAY

EVERY FRI & SAT
Live Music
Hoolihans

MACKAY

SUN. 18. MAY
Celtic Thunder
Convention Centre

MARYBOROUGH

WED. 21. MAY
Celtic Thunder
Broлга Theatre

PORT DOUGLAS

EVERY SUN
Live Music Session
4pm, Paddy's Irish Pub

ROCKHAMPTON

EVERY FRI & SAT
Live Music
O'Dowd's Irish Pub

MAY 20
Celtic Thunder
Pilbeam Theatre

TOOWOOMBA

1ST AND 4TH TUE OF MONTH
Trad Irish Music Session
7pm, Irish Club Hotel

TOWNSVILLE

1ST SAT EVERY MONTH
Irish Tunes Session
5pm, Molly Malones

SAT. 17. MAY
Celtic Thunder
Entertainment Centre

NEW SOUTH WALES

EVERY SAT
Live Music
9.30pm, Mary G's, Lismore

KODALINE

Brisbane Hi-Fi

Dublin rockers Kodaline bring hit singles like Give Me A Minute and All I Want to Brisbane's Hi-Fi.

1 APR

JIMEOIN

Queensland

Northern Ireland comedian Jimeoin brings Yes, Yes, Whatever to the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

12 APR - 8 JUN

CELTIC THUNDER

Queensland

The Australian tour continues after the shock death of George Donaldson. Details in listings.

13 - 24 MAY

GARY NUMAN

Brisbane Tivoli

Expect a full house as the British electro pioneer is bringing a mix of new and old songs to Brisbane's Tivoli.

27 & 28 MAY

On tour

Simply Irish: A Night of Musical Elements

Zamia Theatre. 22 Main Street North Tamborine (Tamborine mountain) Friday April 25th Doors open 7pm Enquiries 0412 676 446

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Doc J
Sunday Roast
Live Music 1pm-5pm

Tony McGuinness
Performing
Easter Saturday



Guest speaker Clive Palmer enjoying a Guinness and music by McGuinness & Co.



Lizzie Melson, Trish Duell and Pierette Whiteside.



Clem and Kim Hill.



Mary Allen, Seán Ó Riordáin and Sister Angela Mary.



Judith Read and Annabelle Thomas.



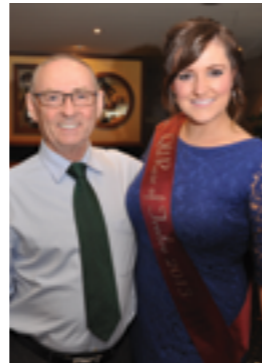
Chris McGill and Eamon Gaffney.



Eileen Gaffney, Anne Pheland and Ciara Phelan.



Josh Verhoeven and Matt Marshall.



Bill Concannon and Sorcha Holmes.



Bill Concannon addressing the guests.



Guest speaker William McInnes and Jeff Ram.



Eileen Gaffney and Maurice Holland.



Dancers hotstep to London

LONDON will play host to the World Irish Dance Championships 2014 from April 13 to 20.

The event will mark the first time that London has hosted the championships, which will welcome between 15,000 – 20,000 people to the city.

Competitors from Queensland will be among those participating in the championships. Clare McNeill-Arnall from the McNeill Academy of Irish Dance on the northern Gold Coast will be attending the event and reporting for Irish Queenslander magazine.

Clare, who is originally from London, emigrated to the Gold Coast in 2001. She has been a qualified Irish dance teacher since 2009 and now runs the McNeill Academy of Irish Dance.

Clare was born into a family who hailed from Galway and Wexford and who were firmly entrenched in the Irish dancing scene in London. Her elder sister was a world champion figure and céilí dancer with The Griffin O'Loughlin School.

Clare's dancing success started from a very young age. She first danced and recalled at the All Irelands at age eight; a significant accomplishment given her young age as the youngest group at that time was the under-11 age category. That same year, she went on to compete at the world championships. During her dancing career, Clare has won many Feis' and was placed seventh at the Great Britain and British Nationals.

After qualifying as a teacher, Clare initially taught with a Brisbane-based school in 2010, but due to her desire to teach on the Northern Gold Coast and progress her own dancers' skills, she established The McNeill Academy of Irish Dance, initially teaching private Irish dance classes in her home studio. She expanded to group classes in 2013, teaching at several locations, due to an increasing demand from the



Clare McNeill-Arnall from McNeill Academy of Irish Dance with her dancers who put on a Saint Patrick's Weekend display at Harrigan's Drift Inn at Jacob's Well. Clare will be reporting from the World Dance Championships in London.

northern Gold Coast Irish and expat community.

The McNeill Academy is focused on being a supportive, fun and nurturing school, achieving results through emphasis on core skills, rhythm, timing, and the traditional aspects of Irish dancing.

While in London, Clare will be reporting on the many Queensland Irish dancers who will be attending the 'worlds' which are going to be held at The London-Hilton Metropole hotel. These dancers have qualifying via the Queensland State Champi-

onships last August. Now they compete against the rest of the world.

Dancers representing Queensland include:

Liam Clark and Jacqueline Schweive from Walker / Kick School;

Xartiese Holdsworth, Sharnae Senior and Carrie Vaughney from Crocker School;

Olivia Lloyd, Madeleine Walsh and Katelyn Dempsey from Lynagh Studio;

Greer Hutchison, Teneale Ryder and Celia Shawcross from Scoil Ard Rince.



High hopes for Celia

CELIA SHAWCROSS from Cannon Hill in Brisbane is one of the dancers from Queensland travelling to the World Championships in London.

The 23-year-old full-time uni student began dancing at the age of seven. She says: "I started dancing because my mother saw Michael Flatley and she signed me up!"

She dances under the tutorage of Breda Peirce of Scoil Ard Rince, at their classes in Margate.

Celia says: "Scoil Ard Rince has always had a great reputation, with dancers achieving many titles. It was always my dream to dance at the World Championships and make the recall (top 50). Under Breda's instruction, I have been able to achieve this."

Celia will be heading to London on April 3 and this will be her third time in the world championships.

She says: "I will be in the Senior Ladies section this year. Last year, I was placed 34th in the worlds in Boston. I hope to better that."

20 Ceisteanna

Queensland life is sweet as...

1. What part of Ireland are you from?
Cork City.

2. When and why did you move here?
Came over in February 2007 on a one-year working holiday visa after finishing college... seven years on, I'm still here!

3. Best thing about living in Queensland?
The weather - with an average 300 days of sunshine per year, it's a fairly good spot to live in.

4. Favourite Irish venue here and why?
The Irish Club in the city on St Patrick's Day - great craic and you always make lots of 'new best friends'.

5. Favourite Irish food/drink?
My Mother's roast dinner (I just can't make it like she does) plus Ritz is the drink I miss.

6. Pint or schooner?
Glass of vino please.

7. When's the last time you visited Ireland?
Went home for six weeks over Christmas.

8. What do you miss/like most about Ireland?
I miss my family the most and my friends from way back.

9. How do you compare the life-style between the two countries?
Both are great places to live really. Yes, I know it's always raining at home but that makes us appreciate the outdoors lifestyle here even more. Same language, drive



About Caroline O'Connor

CAROLINE came out to Australia in 2007. She fell in love with the place and seven years on, is still happily living in Brisbane. After studying business and economics, she always had a passion for starting her own business and finally turned that vision into a reality in 2013 by setting up Clover Chocolates. For expatriate Irish (and any other chocolate lovers) who miss the unique and delicious chocolate from the Emerald Isle, you can now get luxury, hand-made Irish chocolate. Clover Chocolates has sourced only the finest award-winning chocolates from boutique chocolatiers in Ireland. Product range includes Hot Chocolate Swirly Sticks, Luxury Lollipops, Authentic Clover shaped Salted Caramels, Celtic Design Crème Mints and much more. See www.cloverchocolates.com.au and to keep up with all the latest places stocking Clover Chocolates, please check out the Clover Chocolates Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CloverChocolates>.

on the same side of the road and sure, having the craic is in our DNA too, which the Aussies really love, hence we fit in well here.

10. Do you see yourself ever moving back?
I'd never say never but Brisbane has become my second home now really.

11. Wallabies or Lions?
Eh... can I pick shoes instead? I really love shoes :)

12. ACDC or U2?
U2

13. Best holiday you've had since you moved here?
The Whitsundays. I just love it there - it's a picture perfect sanctuary!

14. Your advice to new emigrants?
Bring more money than you think you'll need! Australia is a very very expensive country to live in.

15. Have you had a scary wildlife encounter?
Yes! I'll never forget the first time I came across a Huntsman spider, 'twas seriously around the size of my head!!!

16. Penneys or Kmart?
Penneys, always Penneys!!!

17. What car do you drive?
A banger! It's a big old Subaru Liberty - good boot space though so handy for my markets and deliveries.

18. What's on your Oz bucket list?

To upgrade said banger to a red VW Beetle... Plus, I would like to own my own home here and have the financial freedom to be able to travel back to Ireland when I want to or fly family and friends out here to visit and see this great land. I do a lot of travelling here but haven't made it to WA yet (except for the airport) so I'd like to go and see the place. Also, I would like to build up an immunity to the mosquitos... they still eat the life out of me on a daily basis!

19. Favourite Irish saying?
I will, ya!

20. Can you say something in Irish?
Ba mhaith leat aon Clover Chocolates?

O'air

Recruitment News

Thinking about Australian citizenship?

AFTER travelling down the long and winding road that is the Australian Immigration system, you have obtained your permanent residency and now wonder "What next?". Unless you never intend to travel outside of Australia again, you are going to come across a particular dilemma: Should you apply for Australian citizenship?

It is a big step, but it's not as scary as you think! First of all, Australia allows multiple citizenships so you do not have to give up your Irish passport. This is an important consideration as not every country allows this. Secondly, once you are an Australian citizen you only need to worry about when your passport expires. There are no applications for visas or a need to update the



MIGRATION ADVICE
by Philip Duncan
Registered Migration Agent
AMVL Migrations
MARN 0427769

Department of Immigration.

In order to be eligible for Australian citizenship you must first meet the residence requirements, which are:

- 12 months as a permanent resident; and
- Being lawfully resident in Australia for four years immediately prior to lodgement (lawful residence does include time spent on temporary visas such as Student, Working Holiday, 457, Partner, Bridging Visa, etc) prior to grant of permanent residency); and
- Absences from Australia of no more than one year in the last

four years and no more than 90 days in the 12 months immediately before applying.

The fastest and most accurate way to check your eligibility date is to call the Department of Immigration's Citizenship section on 131 880.

When you have met the residence requirements, you can lodge an application and the Department of Immigration will then organise a date for you to sit the Citizenship Test. This is a computer-based, multi-choice exam based on a specific booklet which you are advised to study before you go. You can even take a practice test online if you want. The test is about showing that you understand the privileges and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen, not about

Don Bradman's test score batting average.

Once you have passed the test, Immigration will run a check with the Australian Federal Police to make sure you meet the character requirements, and if all is well, they can then approve your application.

The final step is to attend a Citizenship Ceremony, where you will be asked make a pledge of commitment to Australia and our laws in order to become an Australian citizen. Congratulations, you're now an Aussie! You can then go and apply for an Australian passport which you will need whenever you travel overseas.

If you have any concerns about how to apply or if you are eligible, we would suggest that you seek professional advice.

Irish migration expert Liz joins team at AVP

IF we ever wondered just how many Irish people were in Australia, we just need to look at the St Patrick's Day celebrations. The young and young at heart gathered together to celebrate the place they call home. Many of these people now see Australia as their second home but face many challenges to remain here due to complex visa laws.

Liz O'Hagan is a registered migration agent since 1999 and has specialised in assisting Irish residents secure Australian visas for the last 15 years.

"I entered the industry after my partner (now husband) was refused a visa. My father, who is from Leitrim, was employing a lot of Irish people and I wanted them looked after. I didn't want any other Irish person to go through what we had."

In 2001, Liz moved to Ireland and became the first registered migration agent based permanently in the country. In her 12 years there, she successfully as-

sisted thousands of Irish residents with their visa applications. She became a regular contributor to Irish print media, including on radio station Newstalk.

In 2007, Liz joined forces with Byron Pugh and her Brisbane-based business and they worked together for a number of years. Now, Liz and Byron have joined together again at AVP Brisbane, along with fellow agent Teri Pearce.

"I'm really excited about the future," says Liz. "As a migration agent working with Irish people on a daily basis, I appreciate the anguish people go through trying to stay in Australia, while emotionally their heart is still in Ireland.

"It's a tough time but I always remember this is peoples' lives, peoples' futures and my role is to provide honest advice in a personal manner."

Liz can be contacted on 0420 907 109 or Byron on 0412 857 586.

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Saint Patrick's Day celebrations at the Irish Club Hotel, Toowoomba



Queensland Pops Celtic Celebration at Caloundra and the Gold Coast

Pictures: Katherine O'Malley



Dancers from Thistle Highland Dance Studio at Caloundra.



Di Trehearn, Wendy Randshaw, Jenny Griffin, George Randshaw, Sarah Trehearn and Olivia Tighe at the Gold Coast Arts Centre performance.



Queensland Police Pipes and Drums at Caloundra.



Kathleen Procter-Moore with conductor Patrick Pickett at the Gold Coast.



Murphy's Pigs with Celtic soprano Kathleen Procter-Moore at the Gold Coast Celtic Celebration performance.

mirt

Sports from around Queensland



Brisbane lift trophy at first State of Irish



Philip Peglar goes for a try.



Club captain Ryan Smith and president Richard Donovan lift the trophy.

THE inaugural 'State of Irish' rugby match between the Brisbane Irish and Sydney Irish Rugby Clubs played out on February 22, with the Surfer's Paradise Rugby Club as congenial hosts.

A minute's silence was held in honour of Jack Ryan, nephew of Simon Kaye.

Surfers Paradise turned on a cool, cloudy afternoon for the match. The Brisbane Irish came out displaying excellent expansive rugby, scoring two tries or more in three of the four quarters played. Their pre-season training, concentrating on fitness and the basic skills of the game, meant the Brisbane Irish were able to dazzle the opposition with fast, skilful support play and bustling forward play. Highlights of the game included a three try haul by player/coach Reg Tayler, some penetrating runs by the tight five and the accurate passing and support play by the backs.

To their credit, the Sydney Irish did not submit to the onslaught

but continued to defend valiantly and as the game progressed, mount some spirited forays into Brisbane territory.

The Brisbane Irish were eventual winners of the State of Irish trophy, with a comprehensive eight tries to one (42-7) victory. Tries scorers Shane Murphy, Richard Otte, Philip Peglar, Ryan Smith, Reg Tayler, Aiken Walker (Brisbane Irish) and Garry Meaney (Sydney Irish).

Most importantly, the game was played in a convivial spirit with both clubs vowing to carry on the tradition, with Sydney hosting the clash in 2015. Post-game celebrations, again hosted by the Surfer's Paradise Rugby Club, saw an exchange of club memorabilia and the obligatory post-game competitions. The celebrations carried in into the early hours in Fiddler's Green pub in Surfer's Paradise.

This event was highly successful. Bring on the State of Irish 2015.



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Focus Sparks win softball premiership in Redcliffe



Focus Sparks, the first-ever Minor Premiers at Focus Softball Club. For more info, go to www.focussoftball.com

FOCUS Softball Club team Sparks won the Redcliffe Softball C Grade Minor Premierships and moved into the finals series. They were runners-up in the grand final on March 15.

The team has a strong international and Irish contingent. Coach Susan Fee is from County Down, assistant coach Jackie is from England while there are Irish, English, Bulgarian and Australian players on the team.

Redcliffe Leagues Softball Association President Stephen Fee, from Belfast, says: "It's been an amazing time for Focus Softball Club, with six out of eight teams getting into finals, and six junior players have been picked to play for Redcliffe softball in April's Queensland Under 15 State Championships.

"Our Senior Focus Men's team also won the Men's B Grade Minor Premiership as well. The club has been given some help towards buying new equipment by Queensland Government.

Stephen says: "The club got a grant for \$6,500 for new equipment which will help to improve the standard of training and support we already offer to our players."

Irish

Boxing news with Paddy Murphy



Brown gives Hogan a tough challenge

I'm Paddy Murphy, a professional boxer from Camlough, South Armagh. I'm privileged to be writing a column on Irish boxing in Queensland.

I've lived in Australia for over five years and train under the supervision of Gareth Williams at The Boxing Shop, Nathan. I also work for an Irish company, Kenny Constructions in Brisbane and I've recently started playing Gaelic football with Shamrocks GFC.

Brisbane saw two Irish fighters in action during March. I watched as Adrian McCann joined myself and Dennis Hogan in the professional ranks with a second round KO in his debut at the Mansfield Tavern. Adrian, from Clonoe, County Tyrone, fighting at welterweight, looked composed from the offset and landed the harder, cleaner punches in a one-sided first round. A thunderous left hook to the body early in the second round had his opponent Matthew Walker on the canvas and unable to continue. Adrian had a decorated amateur career and fought internationally in many countries around the world including Austria and Canada. He's definitely one to look out for.

Dennis "Hurricane" Hogan from County Kildare defended his Australian Middleweight



Dennis Hogan v Leroy Brown at The Irish Club on March 16. Pic: Mick Richards

Title for the second time with a unanimous points decision over Leroy Brown. In a rugged battle that had the crowd on their feet throughout, Dennis prevailed, winning 98-92, 98-92, 97-93 on the judges' scorecards. Dennis controlled the first half of the fight comfortably but had to dig deep to close out the win after a brave fight back from Brown in the latter stages. Dennis now has his sights set on bigger and better things and we'll hear soon about his international targets with fights planned for New York and Dublin.

I've been out of action since

December with a hand injury but I've been training hard and looking forward to making my return in May. I'm fighting an experienced boxer, Jason Kanofski from Logan. An application has been submitted to the Australian boxing board to make this fight for the Australian welterweight title. Should this be the case it will be my biggest fight to date and I'm sure there will be a great Irish contingent behind me on the night.

Tickets will be available through myself or The Boxing Shop. Find us on Facebook and Twitter.



Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association News

by Jaime O'Donovan, President



www.gaelicfootballqld.com.au

Séamus leaves big shoes to fill

SEASON 2014 brings new faces and change to the Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association (QGFHA).

This year we welcome seven new members to the QGFHA committee, including a new executive committee. It is a privilege to be elected president of the association and I am looking forward to the year ahead.

Séamus Sullivan, who has been the president for multiple years and a founding member of the association, has left big shoes to fill. We are lucky that Séamus is still involved within the association and can guide the new committee to achieve our goals. On behalf of the committee and the members of the association, we would like to thank Séamus and the 2013 committee for all of their hard work. It is very much appreciated.

Although the year is new we have already seen a lot of great events happen with the GAA community. The association has continued to run the Go Games for children under 12. Fiona Whelan has been instrumental in getting the Go Games up and running and the association welcomes any new families and young people who would like to participate in the games.

Go Games run every second Sunday, commencing at 9.30am



The Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band entertain the crowds at the St Patrick's Family Sports Festival at Willawong in March.

on June 22 at Gaelic Park in Willawong.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, we have a Masters competition that has been playing out at Willawong every second Saturday at 4.30pm. The next game is on April 5. The competition is for new and old players who are over the age of 35. Last year, our Masters travelled to Melbourne to compete in a challenge match against the Masters team in Victoria. This year, they hope to travel to Auckland. Once again, we welcome any new players who would like to give Gaelic football a go.

In the off season, new dressing sheds and referee rooms have been built at our grounds. With this refurbishment, the association is now able to provide our members with great facilities on

game day. A lot of our members and supporters have assisted in the renovation and we can't thank them enough for all their hard work.

We welcome the Gold Coast Gaels to the 2014 competition. It is great to see a new addition and fresh faces to the competition. The Gold Coast Gaels have worked hard to ensure they have the facilities to host teams at the Gold Coast and the Brisbane-based teams are looking forward to competing against them at the Gaels' home ground.

Queensland had four teams travel to Melbourne for the Pearse's 7-a-side tournament early this year. We were represented by Emeralds and Na Fianna hurling teams and Souths and Harps men's football teams. Na Fianna had a great competi-

tion and competed in the final, however, were just unable to get over the line. Although the results on the field did not go our way, it was great to see all the Queensland teams supporting each other, which shows what a great Gaelic community Queensland has.

The association would also like to thank all of those who were involved in organising the Irish Festival Day. It is great to see all the families, supporters and club members attend the day for fun activities and a laugh.

Good luck to all the teams who will start competing in the Carpenter Cup league from the end of March.

We welcome any new players or supporters to come out to Gaelic Park and look forward to a successful year, both off and on the pitch.



Among the Queensland teams that travelled to the Melbourne 7s were Harps, left, and Na Fianna, right with their sponsors Clonakilty Puddings. Pics: Darken Sportz



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Pictures: Irish Queenslander



Members of Brisbane Celtic Supporters Club with, front far right, Piper Joe McGhee and Celtic FC legend Willie Wallace.



Bronwyn Moodie, Paul Flannery, Paul Johnston and Sereh Gunn.



Hayley McNeill and Nicola Donnelly.



Lesley, Toddy and Erin McCormack.



Mike Fisher, and Nadine, Cillian, Darcy and Jamie MacAninch.



Melissa McInerney, Barry McGuire, Dave O'Shaughnessy, Niall Cunningham, Kevin Murphy, Liam MacDonald, Alan Reid, Ryan McGrory and Garcy Murphy



Gerry, Sheona and baby Ryan McGuigan



Margaret Lynch and Olive Wallace.



Maria Coffey and Sandra Downey.



Paul Kelly and Stephen Murphy.



Irish and Scots to face off

HI Folks, hope you are all well. European Qualifying Draw 2016

The ballot has been drawn in Nice, France. However, one would never believe who has been selected in the same qualification section? None other than Ireland and Scotland! Both countries join Poland, Georgia and newcomers Gibraltar. Oh, did I nearly forget? The mighty Germans are also there and, of course, are favourites to win the group.

The top two teams will go through and the third team will go into a play-off with all the other third-placed teams. So, basically, it looks like the fight for second spot will be won by Scotland, Ireland or Poland.

Already, there is tremendous interest in the Ireland versus Scotland games. The fans are clamouring for tickets. The Irish coaching team of Martin O'Neil and Roy Keane were pictured with Scotland's Gordon Strachan have a bit of fun after the draw was made, but both managers know that the results between their countries will be crucial in who qualifies for the finals.

At this moment, I honestly could not pick the winner. Scotland has improved immensely since Strachan took over the reins, and we know that O'Neil and Keane will be very demanding on the Irish squad. O'Neil was manager of my old club Celtic, and it was suggested that he was responsible for Strachan taking over his place at Celtic Park. He had recommended the wee Scot to Celtic's majority shareholder, Irishman Dermott Desmond. Also, Roy Keane played at Celtic after his departure from Man United, so you can understand that Celtic FC have been instrumental on all the main figures involved in the quest to reach the finals.



Scottish-born former Ireland international Ray Houghton visited Aviva Stadium in March to make the draw for the quarter-final of the FAI Junior Cup competition.

The international friendlies saw Ireland lose at home 2-1 to Serbia. Shane Long scored the goal and suggested that he will be the player to eventually take over from Robbie Keane as the main striker. A tough assignment? Meantime, Scotland won in Poland 1-0. Another moral-boosting result for the Scots.

What's happening in the Premier League? The biggest headline goes to Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew. Sadly, it wasn't for exceptional management skills. He head-butted Hull City's David Meyler during Newcastle's 4-1 win at Hull. The football world was aghast to see him sticking the nut on Meyler, as they clashed going for a ball that was kicked out of play near the Newcastle technical area. An immediate red card was shown. No one was hurt and it was over in seconds. Just a mad moment from Pardew, who will get drawn and quartered for his misdeemeanour.

Man City won the first tournament of the season (League Cup) 3-1 against Sunderland. They are still favourites, along with Chelsea, for the Championship, but, how can you ignore Liverpool's fantastic run of victories which now put's them right into contention. Arsenal's not out of it but in

my opinion, they won't overcome the other three teams.

Kevin McNulty from Brisbane wrote and asked me, who was the best player I played with during my time at Celtic. Very difficult as there were so many fabulous players at the club when I first signed, but I've chosen two.

The first was Kenny Dalglish who was also my teammate when we were both about 14 or 15 years old, playing for a top youth side in Glasgow. Even as a young lad, he had tremendous ability. At Celtic, he could change the game with just a little bit of magic, just one move and an opportunity would open up, and bang - the ball is in the back of the net!

I also had the honour and privilege of playing alongside the great Jimmy Johnstone. He was nearing the end of his Celtic career when I signed for the club. It's really hard to explain just how amazing he was. When he was on song, defenders stayed away from him because he would make them look stupid. Remember, he was only five feet two inches. If you've never seen him play, his modern equivalent would be Lionel Messi. I'm serious, he was that good. He was also a really nice guy, very down to earth. It was an honour to know him.

Till next time, Andy Lynch.

Your chance to ask Andy Lynch a question

Do you have a question you'd like to ask Andy or a subject you'd like him to discuss in the next edition?

Email your question to editor@irishqueenslander.com, marking the subject line Andy Lynch.



Underage hurling starts at Willawong

WITH the great success of Go Games Gaelic Football for children, Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association is now bringing you underage hurling. Training takes place on Sundays from 10.30am to 11.30am at Gaelic Park, 308 Bowhill Rd, Willawong. The hurling is open to both boys and girls aged 18 and under, and it caters to all skill levels.

It's completely free of charge and hurling gear is available to borrow. For further details contact Director of Academy Coaching Kieran Long on 0417730615 or email brisbanehurling@yahoo.com

Doubts of future of International Rules

THE INTERNATIONAL Rules Series (IRS) might need to be put on ice if this year's scheduled series in Australia is not successful, the Gaelic Athletic Association's president says.

GAA President Aogán Ó Fearghail said he had doubts about the future of the IRS, suggesting whether it continued would depend on how strongly the AFL and its players supported the concept at this year's scheduled series.

"I think the International Rules Series may well have run its course for now and may have to be parked for a while, not scrapped," Ó Fearghail said.

Gold Coast Gaels secure training grounds

NEW Gaelic football team Gold Coast Gaels got their first win under their belts on March 8 with a 1:12 - 0:8 win over Shamrocks GFC in Brisbane.

The team has also secured a venue for training and matches, Robina Roos Australian Rules Football Club. If you are interested in joining, you can contact the team on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Gold-CoastGaels



Clare player Aaron Cunningham, back left, Cian Moley, Matthew Ryan O'Callaghan, Ollie Ryan O'Callaghan and Emer Moley at the Foxy Bean.



Fergal Waters at the Foxy Bean.



Cormac and Gavin Murphy at Mick O'Malleys.



Michelle and Ruth Cahill at Mick O'Malleys.



Mark McAteer.



Eanna Mannion.



The Guthrie family at Mick O'Malleys.



Clare hurler Aaron Cunningham meets Brisbane Lion AFL player Pearce Hanley at Lions training grounds in Coorparoo. Pic: Irish Queenslander

Liam visits Queensland

IT'S the most coveted hurling trophy in Ireland and provided delight all over Queensland when the Liam MacCarthy Cup visited in January.

All-Ireland champions Clare have been touring with the trophy after last September's triumph.

Clare hurler Aaron Cunningham and Michael O'Neill, the chairman of the Clare Hurling Supporters Club, went on a tour of Queensland with the cup.

Along the way, they stopped off at Mick O'Malley's in Brisbane,

where hundreds had their photos taken with the cup.

They took a trip to watch Brisbane Lions in training and Mayo native star player Pearce Hanley took time out to enjoy a quick game of hurling with Aaron. The former Mayo footballer showed he had some skill with a hurley too.

The Clare visitors presented Pearce with a signed jersey. They were interviewed on camera for Brisbane Lions TV.

The Clare group also visited the Foxy Bean in Woolloongabba.



Marie Reynolds, Abbey Devitt and Linda Cahir at Mick O'Malley's.



Conor Long with mum Mel and dad Kieran at Mick O'Malleys.



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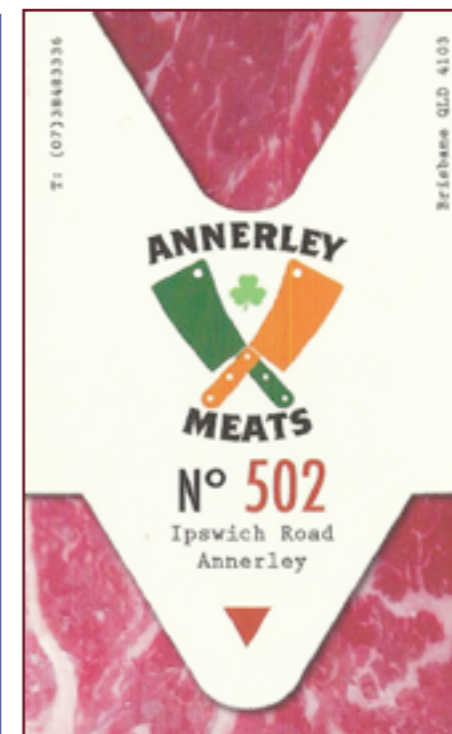
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