

# An Scéala

Nuachtlitr na Cumann Gaeilge na Tasmáin Irish Association of Tasmania Newsletter

**February 2009**

## Lá Fheile Bhríde faoi shona daoibh!

**Happy St. Brigid's Day to all our readers!**

Brigid was born in Co. Kildare around the mid-fifth century and is one of Ireland's three patron saints. She was noted for tending the sick, including lepers, and her great generosity to the poor. She had her convent at Kildare on ground given by the King of Leinster. Growing there was a large oak tree and this is where the name comes from - The Church of the Oak Tree (cill - church, dair - oak).

She was a nun-cowgirl when young and is often depicted with a cow lying at her feet. Brigid is the patron of blacksmiths, healers and poets. She died c. 525 AD and some traditions have it that she is buried along with Patrick and Colmcille, Ireland's two other patron saints, at Downpatrick, Co. Down.

In the Old Celtic Calendar St. Brigid's Day, 1<sup>st</sup> February, heralds the Spring and signifies new growth and new life. It is appropriate therefore that a newsletter should spring into life again to advise Irish Association members, past, present and future, of events which relate to our community.

It is hoped to cover a broad spectrum of matters Irish, from music to local artists' work, cultural celebrations to Gaelic football, and importantly, meetings!

Whatever the subject, if YOU or your organisation, wish to publicise any event, please, in the time honoured fashion, advise the Secretary via email [secretary@irishtas.org.au](mailto:secretary@irishtas.org.au) or if by post, The Secretary, Irish Association of Tasmania Inc., GPO Box 670. Hobart 7001.

You may also pass on any correspondence to The New Sydney Hotel, 87, Bathurst Street, Hobart.

The newsletter will also be available for advertising; rates are being evaluated and will be made known as soon as possible.

In an effort to contact as many readers as possible this edition is being distributed in hard copy (as well as via the web site: [www.irishtas.org.au](http://www.irishtas.org.au)) so that there is something tangible which, if left on a table or the fridge door, also might be read by others.

So it is, with thanks to previous producers of the newsletter for their efforts, and with some humility, that this is put together on your behalf.

# Irish Music in The New Sydney Hotel

## Fleadh Cheoil 2009

**Did you know that Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument as its emblem?**

The Irish have a rich musical heritage and, the world over, celebrate their culture with a Fleadh Cheoil (flar kyoil - lit. festival of music).

Hobart, with its Irish history traceable back to the first settlements, is no exception and proudly displays its *duchas* (birthright) with the Hobart Fleadh Cheoil, a pageant of Irish traditional music, dance, art and literature.

The New Sydney Hotel, home of The Irish Association of Tasmania (IAOT) will be the venue for this celebration over the long weekend 6th –9th March 2009.

One of the highlights is the Literary Brunch which takes place on the Sunday morning when anybody can share their favourite piece of literature. The best reading wins the Margaret Ryan Memorial Trophy, named in honour of a much loved member of the Association. This is open to everyone and includes a cooked break-fast courtesy of The New Sydney.

Details of performers are not finalised yet but will include local musicians and singers as well as some guests from interstate.

### Fleadh Poster Competition.

The Fleadh has seen some fine posters over the years and these have become very collectable. Now is your chance to design a poster for the Fleadh. Entries must be original, A3 size and submitted to the Secretary IAOT or The New Sydney Hotel.

**Closing Date 17<sup>th</sup> February**

### Beginners Music Classes

After hearing some of the Irish sessions have you ever gone home and wanted to learn to play but felt it was too fast or not the right place for you to learn? Well now is your chance. Every second and fourth Monday of the month there is a class specifically aimed at encouraging you to pick up the instrument of your choice and learn a few tunes with others in the same situation - So far we have had flutes, banjos, whistles, fiddles, mandolins, and bodhrans and guitars.

You don't have to read music as the classes are aimed at learning slowly by repetition.

Former All-Ireland finalist Brian (the Flute) Owens, who takes the classes, has taught at all levels for



*Known as The Brian Boru Harp the harp is in Trinity College Dublin. A replica of the harp was made by Gillfan Weiss, South Australia.*

many years and is committed to helping others achieve the same fun and happiness in playing and sharing music together. For more information contact The Secretary IAOT or The New Sydney Hotel (62 34 45 16). These lessons are free and there is no need to book in advance. Simply turn up at The New Sydney Hotel, 7.30pm, Monday 9 and 23rd February. Classes last about 1 3/4 - 2 hours and are held in "The Chapel Room".

### Irish Association of Tasmania: Calendar of Events

Sun	1	Feb	Feast of St Bridgid, Patron Saint of Ireland	
Mon	2	Feb	IAOT Quiz Night Registration	7.45pm
Sat	7	Feb	Irish Music Session	c.3.30pm
Mnn	9	Feb	Beginners' Irish Music Classes	7.30pm
Sat	14	Feb	Irish Music Session	c.3.30pm
Sat	21	Feb	Irish Music Session	c.3.30pm
Mon	23	Feb	Beginners' Irish Music Classes	7.30pm
Sat	28	Feb	Irish Music Session	c.3.30pm
Mon	2	Mar	IAOT Quiz Night Registration	7.45pm
Fn	6	Mar	Fleadh Cheoil Opening Concert	8.00pm
Sat	7	Mar	Fleadh Cheoil events/concerts	All Day
Sun	8	Mar	Fleadh Cheoil Literary Brunch/Concerts	All Day
Mon	9	Mar	Fleadh Cheoil Farewell Session	c.4.00pm
Mon	9	Mar	Beginners' Irish Music Classes	7.30pm
Sat	14	Mar	Irish Music Session	c.3.30pm
Tue	17	Mar	<b>Feast of St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland</b>	
Tue	17	Mar	St. Patrick's Day Breakfast and Concert	7.00 am

**Thank you! The Irish Association of Tasmania** wishes to thank Gary and Cheryl Lawrence for their support over the years, and Alistair and Holly Derham of The New Sydney Hotel for their ongoing support

Brian wishes to thank Mick Lynch and Peter Grubb for the massive support in getting the music classes going, and all their efforts in support of the renaissance of this newsletter. Ed.

**Deadlines** Every effort is being made to produce **An Scéala** regularly and punctually. The deadline for the March issue is 6pm Friday 20th February.

**The Irish Association of Tasmania**  
187 Bathurst Street, Hobart, Tasmania