

Na Scéalta

Nuachtán na Cumann Gaeilge na Tasmáin Irish Association of Tasmania Newsletter

Dramatic First for Hobart Fleadh

An historic dramatic first took place at the Saturday Night Concert of The Hobart Fleadh with the performance of a Brendan Behan play, *The Big House*.

The Hobart Irish Players entertained Fleadh goers when they opened the proceedings.

Set in Ireland shortly after The Uprising, Behan's play was originally commissioned by The BBC in 1957.

It is hoped that the suc-



Grannies Growl and Grunt entertain the audience.

Photograph, with permission, by Brian Owens

cess of the play will encourage further future performances.

The Hobart Irish Players were directed by John Hale.

The musical accompaniment was by Annie Parsell, accordion, Brian Owens, flute and whistle and Jeremy Sibson, bodhrán.

Margaret Ryan Memorial Trophy

The Sunday Literary Brunch, now an integral and popular part of the Fleadh was very well attended and saw ten readers compete for The Margaret Ryan Memorial Trophy.

The panel of judges which included Margaret's brother, Gerry, was hard pressed to make a decision, given the high standard of readings.

They ranged from *The*

Tain, (The Cattle Raid of Cooley), European literature's oldest written epic, through to the modern writings of Ireland's prize winning poet Séamus Heaney.

Readers who were commended in the judging were Billy Moore, Brian Owens and Claire Dormer, with thanks to all who participated.

The Winner of The Margaret Ryan Memorial

Trophy 2009 is Anne Scott.



Anne Scott, The Margaret Ryan Memorial Trophy winner is congratulated by Gerry Ryan

Photograph, with permission, by Brian Owens



Aibreán 2009

April 2009

Na Scéalta Mission Statement

- Na Scéalta aims to maintain the highest standards of equality and maintain a policy of non-discrimination
- Na Scéalta aims to provide accurate information and reports of events concerning The Irish Association of Tasmania Inc.
- Na Scéalta aims to achieve proper and appropriate use of language and grammar in both English and Irish.
- Na Scéalta aims to be available in the week before the month of issue.

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New Committee elected for Irish Association of Tasmania

At 12 noon on Saturday, 7th March at The New Sydney Hotel, The Irish Association of Tasmania held its Annual General Meeting for the year 2008.

The well-attended meeting accepted the previous minutes and financial report. The 2008 Committee stood down and a new Committee was elected.

The new Committee positions are as follows;

President	Michael Lynch
Vice-President	Nick Moony
Treasurer	Joan Crossin
Secretary	Peter Grubb
Members	Brian Owens Claire Dormer Billy Moore Tom Dunlop Seán O'Moore



The IAOT 2008 AGM was held at 12 noon, Saturday 8th March at The New Sydney Hotel Photographed, with permission, by Brian Owens.

Readers are advised that the subscription rates for membership remain as before, viz., \$10 per individual aged over 18 years, and \$20 for a family membership.

The newly elected Committee dec-

lared its intent to hold regular and appropriate meetings and it was voted to hold the first meeting in early April.

Thanks to all who turned up. It does help the democratic process.

Notes from IAOT Committee Meeting held on 1st April

The newly elected committee held its first meeting at 7pm Wednesday, 1st April at The New Sydney Hotel.

Matters discussed included finances, membership recruitment,

and feedback from the Fleadh.

Many favourable comments regarding the quality of The Fleadh were recorded.

In particular The Irish Association

wishes to express its gratitude to its very generous sponsors.

They were Alistair Derham of The New Sydney Hotel, Gerry Ryan, The Vantage Hotel Group and Victoria Hadley.

News about Na Scéalta

Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Thank you to all those readers who have expressed their comments about *Na Scéalta*.

Such a positive response (100%) is very encouraging and it is hoped to implement some of the suggestions in the next issue.

The reason this issue has been released a little later than expected was in response to IAOT's request to be able to report directly from the first Committee Meeting.

The next meeting, as reported above, is to take place so that *Na Scéalta* can be published in time for release by May.

Also to be ratified are advertising rates so that persons or businesses might avail themselves of our specialised yet diverse circulation.

Please feel free to contribute articles or photographs for publication. They can be sent to or dropped off at The New Sydney Hotel. *Eagarthóir*

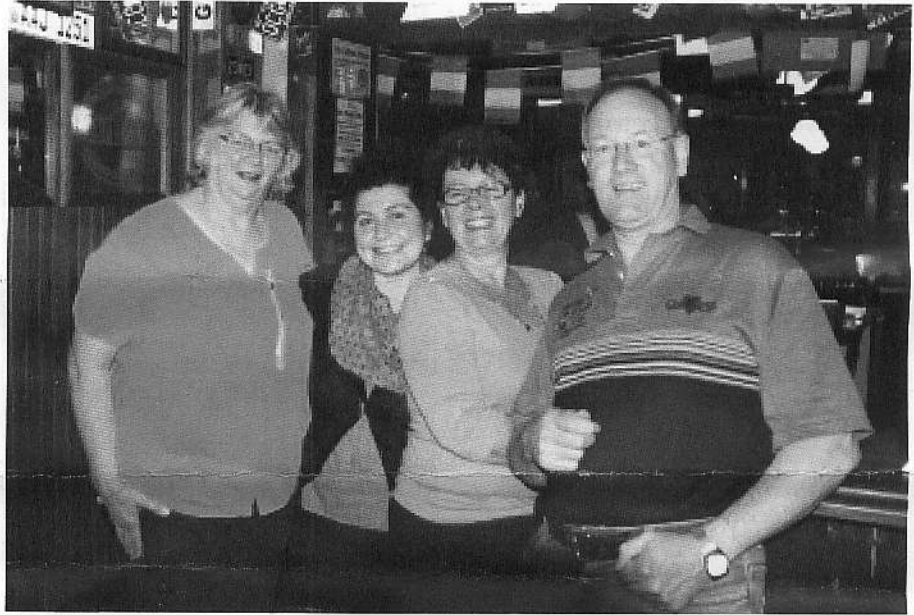
St. Patrick's Day Celebrations a great success

The Irish Community of Hobart turned out in force to celebrate the feast of St. Patrick.

The New Sydney Hotel once again presented its long established Champagne Breakfast and many diners kick started their day by attending. They were treated to a concert of Traditional Irish Music played by Brian Owens and Peter Grubb who were joined by Jeremy Sibson.

That evening there was standing room only as The To'rags and Rakish Paddy played a fabulous concert.

Thank you for the top class service to Alistair Derham and the fantastic team at The New Sydney Hotel.



Early morning risers gathered at The New Sydney Hotel for a champagne breakfast and Concert. Pictured here are Margaret Grubb, Anna Brooks, Joan Crossin and Peter Grubb. Photograph, with permission, by Brian Owens.

Irish Calligraphy Classes

Ireland boasts some of the finest manuscripts ever written.

Perhaps the best known is *The Book of Kells* which is permanently on display in Trinity College, Dublin.

The script is called *Irish Half-uncial* and can be used as a forma-

tive script given its perfect weight and structure.

Brian Owens, who already teaches Beginners' Irish Music Classes, has taught Calligraphy for many years throughout The British Isles.

He is prepared to run a series of classes for those who might like to

learn the script and how to make simple greetings cards incorporating Irish salutations.

Costs would be low, as Alistair at The New Sydney Hotel has offered, free of charge, the use of a room as *The Scriptorium*.

Please reply to *Na Scéalta* or the New Sydney Hotel.

Tune of the month - An Cailín deas crúite na móo

An Cailín deas crúite na móo translated means "The Pretty Girl milking her cow".

As happened last month this tune is one taught recently by Brian Owens at The Irish Music classes.

It was suggested that the *Na Scéalta* readership might be interested so here it is.

It is found in the Bunting Collection of 1796

Key: A minor AN CAILÍN DEAS CRÚITE NA MÓO Song/Chiu

Am G Em Am G Am
Am G Em C Em Am
C G Am C G Am
G C Em Am Em Am

Irish Music in The New Sydney Hotel

Phew! What a month that was!
According to many seasoned Fleadh goers The 2009 Fleadh which took place over the March long weekend was considered one of the best.



Brian Owens, Peter Grubb & Jeremy Sibson playing at The St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

Photograph, with permission, by Anna Brooks

Just over a week later on St. Patrick's Day, early morning diners were treated to a breakfast concert from Brian Owens and Peter Grubb who were joined later by Jeremy Sibson.

As the day continued there was more music when Brian teamed up

with young guitarist Ryan Garth for an impromptu session. It was quite an odd scene as they continued playing while Mal Brooks set up the PA around them for the evening concerts.



Ryan Garth pictured playing at The New Sydney Hotel on St. Patrick's Day

Photograph, with permission, by Brian Owens.

The Craic is back continues to give musicians a chance to try new line ups or new material. In the form of small blackboard concert, *Fear a tí*, Tom.Meldrum urges

would-be performers to use it or lose it. The next *Craic* will be Wednesday 15th April.

Beginners' Irish Music Classes

Brian *The Flute* Owens continues to teach classes on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at The New Sydney Hotel.

The classes now begin at 7.00pm to accommodate public holidays when the pub must close at 9.00pm.

If you want to come along, the lessons are free. There is no need to register. All instruments are welcome.

Although music for the tunes is provided you don't have to be able to read music as the tunes are taught in the traditional manner through repetition.

So, if you want to give it a go, just come along and enjoy some music in a comfortable atmosphere!

Irish Association of Tasmania Calendar of Events

Sat	4th	Apr	Traditional Irish Music Session	3.30pm
Mon	6th	Apr	IAOT Quiz Registration	7.45pm
Sat	11th	Apr	Traditional Irish Music Session	3.30pm
Mon	13th	Apr	Beginners' Irish Music Classes	7.00pm
Wed	15th	Apr	<i>The Craic is back!</i>	8.30pm
Sat	18th	Apr	Traditional Irish Music Session	3.30pm
Thu	23rd	Apr	Anniversary of Battle of Clontarf 1014 - Brian Boru	
Sat	25th	Apr	Traditional Irish Music Session	3.30pm
Mon	27th	Apr	Beginners' Irish Music Classes	7.00pm
Tue	28th	Apr	IAOT Committee Meeting	7.00pm
Fri	1st	May	Lá Bealtaine—May Day	
Sat	2nd	May	Traditional Irish Music Session	3.30pm
Sat	2nd	May	Haggis.com	8.30pm
Mon	4th	May	IAOT Quiz Registration	7.45pm
Sat	9th	May	Traditional Irish Music Session	3.30pm
Sat	9th	May	The To'rags	8.30pm
Mon	11th	May	Beginners' Irish Music Classes	7.00pm
Sat	18th	May	Traditional Irish Music Session	3.30pm

If you think your friends might like to join the Irish Association of Tasmania, simply invite them to leave their name and address at The New Sydney Hotel, Hobart. Memberships \$10 ind, \$20 fam. *Support The Irish Association of Tasmania!*

Footnotes

Did you hear that René Descartes, the famous French philosopher ("I think, therefore I am") dropped into The New Sydney the other week in a time machine.

Alistair asked "A pint of the usual?" to which he replied "I think not"... and he vanished!

Thank you again to Alistair Derham, Mick Lynch, and Peter Grubb for their contributions, advice and assistance in putting this issue to bed.

Deadlines are working successfully so will be similar this month. The deadline for the May Issue is **6pm, Friday, 24th May.**

Go raibh maith agaibh, Sin é!

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