

## **It's our birthday! [www.irishtas.org.au](http://www.irishtas.org.au) is one year old.**

As a result of the State Government's decision not to further host community web sites, the Irish Association was left without a means to communicate through the medium of the Internet. In September 2006 the committee decided that a new web site was needed and I agreed to see what could be done.

The result was that [www.irishtas.org.au](http://www.irishtas.org.au) was born in October 2006.

In the first year, we have had 1600 unique visitors and 36000 hits to our pages. The peak activity was during the Fleadh Ceol when the number of hits doubled the average.

Irishtas has proved to be a successful means of communicating with our members and the world at large. All of the Irish Associations in Australia are linked to our pages as are a number of Australian and overseas organizations supporting Irish culture and music. It has resulted in gaining new members not only in Tasmania but also from Ireland as well. Visitors from overseas and interstate have found their way to the New Sydney and the Association through the information on the web site.

A web site can only be as good as the content it contains. In this regard it is the members and friends who must provide the content. Events and occasions can pass our notice if timely advice is not provided to the webmaster. Also the site becomes of little interest if new material is not available on a regular basis.

I urge all members to let me know of events that are occurring or will occur and provide information and photographs or other material suitable for publishing on the web site. This material can be forwarded to [webmaster@irishtas.org.au](mailto:webmaster@irishtas.org.au) or provided to a committee member. Also any suggestions for improving the web site would be most welcome. I am looking forward to more great years.

Richard Davoren

Ps.

We are now nearly five years old and in the last 12 months 15,882 visits to our pages were recorded, 3180 in March 2011.