



02 – 17 march 2024



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HAPPY St Patrick's Day



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with value.



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ST. PATRICK'S WKND.

The party is at Murphy's, right now.

See for yourself!

Jameson
IRISH WHISKEY

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IRISH MURPHY'S

Message from the president of the St Patrick's Day Parade Association Incorporated

On behalf of the St Patrick's Day Parade Incorporated, welcome to the 13th Brisbane Irish Festival.

Running from the 2nd to the 17th of March 2024, the Brisbane Irish Festival will see almost every Irish group that operates in Greater Brisbane gather or perform, to celebrate all that is fantastic about both our timeless Irish heritage and our current Irish-Australian way of life.

The Festival will kick-off with a party (is there any better way to start!), the Brisbane Irish Festival Charity Ball, in aid of the Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland (IASAQ). And the Festival will officially end with landmarks all over Brisbane lit up in green on the 17th and 18th of March. In between there are events that provide corporate, cultural, sporting and community connection: see page 12 – 13 for the complete list. But the largest event, bringing everyone together, is the Parade that kicks off at 10.30am on Saturday, 16 March.

I love the diversity on display in the parade. The history embodied in the Queensland Irish Association, Erin go Bragh and the flags of the 32 counties. The music emanating from school bands, community bands and a bunch of Cork men singing from the back of truck. The skills of the gaelic football, hurling, camogie and rugby teams. The grace of the Irish dancers, the Queensland Roses and stilt walkers. The animal magnetism of the Irish Setters and Wolfhounds. And the spirit of the community groups that march proudly, year after year.

The Parade theme this year is Myths and Legends. From a land steeped in history, saints and scholars, there is a rich folklore, some of which is detailed in this program and will be incorporated into the parade. And we will also recognise and honour other cultures, with a Welcome to Country and by inviting other ethnic groups to showcase their culture with food stalls in the Botanic Gardens

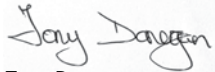
But none of this could happen without the financial support we receive. We would like to recognise Brisbane City Council, the Queensland Government, Irish Government and Star Entertainment Group for their event funding. We ask you to support our

sponsors – Irish Murphys on Elizabeth St, Gilhooleys on Albert St, St Joseph's College on Gregory Terrace, St Patrick's College at Shorncliffe, and The Prince Consort Hotel in Fortitude Valley, as well as all those who have taken advertisements in this program. To each of these entities, we appreciate your backing and hope your support for us is recouped many times over.

I would like to sincerely thank every member of the Parade Committee and every volunteer on the day of the Parade that gives their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to ensure we have a fantastic event each year. We were all delighted when one of our members – Seamus Sullivan – was given the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, recognising his 50 years of selfless service to the Irish-Australian community in South East Queensland. It is fantastic that the Irish Government saw and recognised the achievements of a humble man, quietly operating 16,000km away. See page 19 to learn more.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to acknowledge my aunt, Pauline Donegan, who passed away in January this year. Well known to many in the Irish-Australian community because of her long tenure as Vice President of the QIA, it is because Pauline and her husband Shay (James) came to Brisbane in 1982 that my family chose to follow when we emigrated in 1986. And it is also because of her that I am involved with the Parade today. Pauline was an amazing woman – and a supportive and loving aunt – and I will always remember her laugh, her stories and that beaming smile. Grásta ó Dhia ar a hanam (God grace her soul).

Go raibh míle maith agaibh,



Tony Donegan
Uachtarán/President
St Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc.





Premier of Queensland



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Welcome to the 2024 Brisbane Irish Festival and St Patrick's Day Parade.

This year's parade theme of 'Irish Myths and Legends' headlines the festival's celebrations which honour Ireland's rich heritage of folklore, enchantment, and narrative traditions, that have made an enduring global contribution.

For more than 200 years, Queensland has welcomed the Irish to our great State including their love of music, dance, and literature. There have also been captains of industry, nuns, charity workers, highly skilled teachers and nurses, and most importantly, wonderful people who have become an integral part of our community.

From Queensland's earliest days, Irish migrants and people of Irish heritage have made an indelible mark on Queensland's political, social and economic landscape – from Queensland Premier Thomas Joseph Byrnes, the Royal Red Cross recipient, nurse Teresa McGrath, founding Castlemaine brewer Nicholas Fitzgerald, influential architect of the 'Queenslander' Richard Gailey and health trailblazer Sister Elizabeth Kenny.

By the 1890s, a quarter of Queensland's population were of Irish descent, and they were well-served by several new organisations and community groups focused on their interests.

Brisbane's annual St Patrick's Day parade started in 1885, while the Queensland Irish Association was formally established in 1898.

Today, our state is a beacon of multiculturalism, as we continue to foster a society where people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds feel a sense of belonging and can positively contribute to society. We are ensuring a prosperous future for all Queenslanders for generations to come, including the more than 560,000 Queenslanders who identify with having Irish ancestry.

In 2023–24, the Queensland Government is investing more than \$15 million to continue promoting Queensland as a unified, harmonious and inclusive community.

This year's Brisbane Irish Festival will celebrate Ireland's profound cultural gifts and influence with several much-loved traditions including the annual Charity Ball, St Patrick's Day Mass, and the joyous and vibrant St Patrick's Day Parade.

I thank the St Patrick's Day Parade Association and their partners for organising these events in the inclusive and generous spirit of the Irish people.

From the Emerald Isle to Queensland's sandy shores, I wish everyone attending the Brisbane Irish Festival good health, great craic, and many happy memories shared.

STEVEN MILES MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND



MESSAGE FROM
The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane
Councillor Adrian Schrinner

Welcome to the 2024 Brisbane Irish Festival.

Each year we enjoy hundreds of cultural events across our suburbs and the Irish festival is one of the most anticipated.

With more than 153,000 Brisbane residents having Irish ancestry and over 5000 being born in Ireland, we are thrilled to paint the town green once again as we celebrate the traditions and cultures that make our city an even better place to live.

This year's St Patrick's Day parade focuses on the myths and legends that add to Ireland's rich heritage.

From Leprechauns to four leaf clovers - we look forward to hearing the stories behind the Emerald Isle.

I wish you all the best for this fantastic celebration.

Events like this make Brisbane even better.

Enjoy the festivities and keep an eye out for our lucky green landmarks glowing to celebrate with you!



Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor of Brisbane

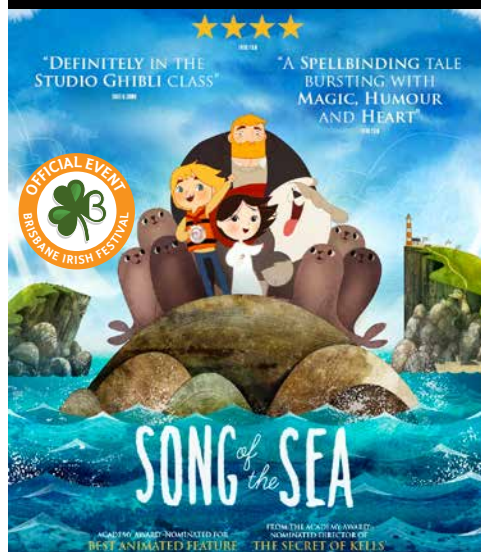


MOVIE SCREENING

SAT 16TH MARCH (after the parade)

Elizabeth Picture Theatre

Time 12:30 – 2:00pm



IRISHTOWN 2024

St. Patricks Weekend Double Header

Live Murphy's Pigs

(Saturday Only)

Limerick & The Shamrock Dancers
Tyrone Noonan MacGowan Tribute

(Sunday Only)

Nightmare Rangers
QLD Irish Pipe Band

DJs

The Potbelleez

Tyrone Noonan

Mammon

Faint One

THE
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CONSORT

**Book your
table today!**

SAT 16 & SUN 17 11AM TIL LATE FREE ENTRY

Queensland Irish Choir

St. Patrick's Day Concert

Sunday, 10th March, 2023 at 2.00pm

Chermside–Kedron Community Church, Cnr. Gympie and Rode
Roads, Chermside.

Musical Director: David O'Keeffe

Accompanist: Tim Li

Guest Performers: QIA Pipe Band and QIA Dancers.

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/COTQP>

(At the door if not previously sold out)

\$25.00 Adults \$10 under 15 years.

Enquiries: 0493 455 487



Message from the Ambassador of Ireland to Australia

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig ar Ghaeil is cairde Gael i Brisbane agus nios/aide i Queensland

St Patrick's Day is great day to stop for a bit and to think a little about Ireland and how it is to be Irish. We are a country of just 5 million people and have become a modern European country with a global outlook.

Irish people are to be found everywhere in the world and this gives us a global connection that helps our international relations and diplomatic engagement.

Our history shapes this principled engagement in the world but does not define us. At home and abroad, we cherish community and the connections between people. We are thinkers, makers and creators. We are interested in building the best tomorrow we can for everyone.

Research on the perceptions of Ireland in Australia shows up that the most identifiable features of Irish people is that we are friendly and good humoured as well as being independent and fair. No surprises there.

These qualities are important in how Australians see themselves too, and maybe explains why we get on so well together. Australians like our sociable approach to life and we come across as being good people to hang out with. Again no surprises there.

This year, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Brisbane and beyond, I'm sure that our good-natured, easy-going sense of fun and belonging will be on full display.

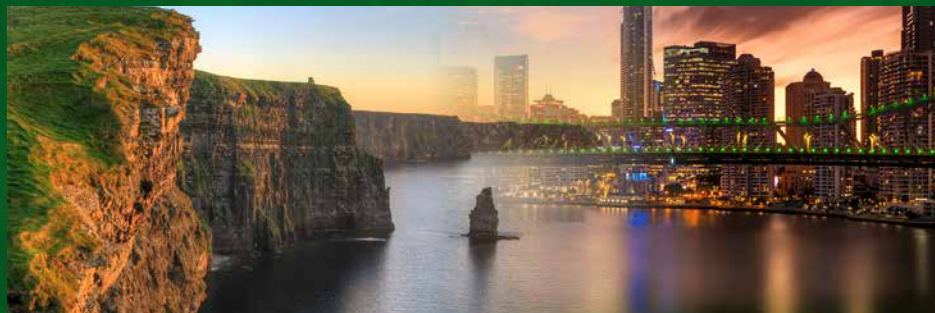


And as we are having that good time and enjoying the craic, let's take a moment to appreciate who we are as a people, the influences that have shaped us and how we can bring the best of ourselves to Australia to build a better tomorrow for ourselves and for everyone else.

And let's also take a moment to appreciate the sense of community amongst Irish people and to acknowledge the many volunteers who give of their time to support that community. For today's event, I want to offer a special word of thanks to the St Patrick's Day Festival committee who have delivered another great programme of events for us all to enjoy.

Happy St Patrick's Day

HE Tim Mawe
Ambassador of Ireland



Gilhooleys

Irish Pub and Restaurant



Brisbane's #1 home for St. Paddy's Day!

SATURDAY

16TH MARCH - Parade Day

10:30am
Limerick

12:30pm
Amaidi

3:30pm
The Stowaways

7:00pm
The Jar

9:30pm
Brisbane All
Stars

All-Day
Irish Dancers

SUNDAY

17TH MARCH - St. Paddys Day

10:30am
Amaidi

12:30pm
The Stowaways

3:30pm
The Jar

7pm
MunsterBucks

10:00pm
Tales of Strangers

All-Day
Irish Dancers
Leprechaun Tossing

Message from the President of The Queensland Irish Association



JEFF SPENDER

The Queensland Irish Association wishes everyone a happy St Patrick's Day.

I congratulate the Committee of the Brisbane Irish Festival for coordinating a magnificent series of events, supporting the celebration of St Patrick's Day, including, of course, the St Patrick's Day Parade, on Saturday 16 March 2024.

The Queensland Irish Association is a proud supporter of the Parade, and this year, the 126th year since the QIA was founded in 1898, will be no different.

Last year marked the publication of "A Hundred Thousand Welcomes, the History of the Queensland Irish Association". Authored by the distinguished historians, Rodney and Robin Sullivan, and published by Boolarong Press, this outstanding record of "one of the oldest and most successful ethnic organisations in Australia and the chief custodian of Irish culture and heritage in Queensland", has been a great publishing success.

A Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the QIA, and the book launch of "A Hundred Thousand Welcomes", was held on



3 March 2023, followed by an outstanding St Patrick's Eve Dinner hosted by the QIA on 16 March 2023 (which was honoured by the presence of the Minister of Transport in Dáil Éireann, Simon Coveney, as well as the Premier of Queensland, Anastasia Palaszczuk, and the Irish Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Tim Mawe, as some only of the most distinguished guests). The Association maintained its support of Irish culture in Queensland by a performance of excerpts of "Ulysses" by James Joyce in the Queen Street Mall on 16 June 2023, "Bloomsday".

This year's St Patrick's Eve Dinner, which promises to be the biggest and best of the modern era, will be held in the magnificent Main Auditorium of the Brisbane City Hall from 6 pm on Saturday 16 March 2024 – the eve of St Patrick's Day. The Toast to "Australia our Nation" will be proposed by Father Frank Brennan SJ AO. It will be a great night.

On St Patrick's Day itself, Sunday 17 March 2024, the QIA will stage the St Patrick's Day Gathering at West Rugby Union Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong from 12 noon. Admission is free, and Members and friends of the QIA will have access to great food with a traditional Irish menu, as well as drinks, including Guinness. Entertainment includes some Irish favourites from Tom Kimmitt, together with an enthusiastic sing-a-long.

The Brisbane Irish Festival is a fitting tribute to Saint Patrick. The festival celebrates, in its many manifestations, the pride of Irish heritage and culture.

Jeff Spender

President of the Queensland Irish Association



Queensland Irish Association

since 1898

announces a move to an Exciting New Venue at
Brisbane City Hall Main Auditorium
for

St Patrick's Eve Dinner 2024

Saturday
16 March 2024
6.00 for 6.45 pm

Join Distinguished Guests, Irish and
Queensland representatives to continue a
126 year old tradition of celebrating Irish
heritage & culture in Queensland.

\$1,600.00 per table
(\$160 per person)

Booking enquiries to:

stpattricksevedinner@hotmail.com

Dress Code: Black Tie or Lounge Suit/After-Five Wear

Terms and conditions and Government health directives apply. Please do not
attend if you are unwell. You may nominate a replacement to attend in your place.



THE QIA ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Sunday 17 March from 11:30

The Queensland Irish Association invites
members and friends to join us for a lunch and
drinks at the Western Districts Rugby Football
Club, 65 Sylvan Road, Toowong.

- ✓ Great food with a traditional Irish menu.
Drinks available.
- ✓ Entertainment includes the QIA Dancers and
Irish entertainment by Tom Kimmet.
- ✓ Admission is free. For enquiries, please
contact Claire Moore on 0419 673 126.



IRISH AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND



HOW TO CONTACT US



info@iasaq.com.au



0432 087 328



5 Abingdon Street
Brisbane, QLD, 4102

Follow us on
social media
[@irishsupportqld](#)



THE IRISH AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

Founded in Brisbane over ten years ago, we support Irish and Irish
Australian families and individuals in time of need or distress.
We operate as a confidential referral and resource organisation.
Our mission is to provide appropriate and valued support to our
community, when needed.

We ensure that the Irish Diaspora:

- feel supported in times of isolation, vulnerability and crisis.
- people of all ages feel connected to their culture and heritage.

We treat every case with the utmost respect and privacy.

- Bella Celtic Dancers • Carolan Academy • CM Dance • Ceilidh Dance Studio
- City of Cairns Irish Dancers • Dalriada • Eireann Academy
- International Dance Affair • Jackson Studio • Kick Dance • Lynagh Irish Dancing
- McNeill Academy • MFK Academy • Munro School
- Oxenham Studio • Phoenix Dance • QIA Dancers • Scoil Ard Rince
- Shaw Academy • Summers School • TAPA • Watkins Academy
- Trish Williams School • Young-Goss Academy

Happy St Patrick's Day

from the



*Learn Irish Dancing from
Queenslands finest Studios!*

Contact: queenslandstatesecretary@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/AIDAQueensland/

Message from the president of the Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland



NICOLA HOLLY

Reflecting on the past year, IASAQ has experienced tremendous growth and positivity while remaining steadfast in our mission to support the Irish community in Queensland during their times of need. Our organisation continued to rise to the challenges that the Irish emigrant community in Queensland experience. Isolation, domestic and family violence, housing insecurity, informational needs, and mental health issues were the main issues.

We are grateful to every single person who has approached us for support or assistance this year. It's not easy being on the other side of the world, but that's where we aim to step in. We thank everyone who has partaken in our programs; our Seniors Group, or the JALOS (*just a little older*) as we call them, our Parents Group, and our weekly Knit n' Knatter Group. It also brings us great joy to witness the return of Irish people on working holiday visas to Australia. It makes me reflect on the anticipation of arriving Down Under all those (many!) years ago and being excited for the opportunities and experiences this special country holds.

Our staff members are the backbone of our organisation, serving as the frontline workers who tirelessly support the Irish community. Their wealth of knowledge, passion, and dedication is commendable, and we are fortunate to have exceptional individuals on our team. To Finn, Jennifer and Debra, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued hard work and the positive energy and great humour that you bring to IASAQ.

One of the things that I'm most proud about is that at IASAQ we present inclusive, meaningful events that celebrates what it means to be an Irish immigrant in Australia today. Our Charity Ball continues to be a great night out, our Charity Golf Day, St. Brigid's Day event and cinema nights have also been well received, and we're looking forward to them this year. We offer a weekly mental health support group in the IASAQ Office, visa information sessions and this year we've began an Irish language school for children to ensure the next generation can speak as Gaeilge!

The IASAQ Board continues to focus on growth, development, and good governance. Being on the board of IASAQ is a great honour and responsibility. It's a demonstration of your commitment to your community. Everyone on the Board is a volunteer, and they offer their time and experience because they know vital IASAQ is to our community. I would like to take this time to thank our current and past board members; Johnny, Michelle, Paul, Paudie, Tony, Eoin, Brendan, Sharon, Ciaran and Nigel for the incalculable amount of work they do.

I would like to also thank the wider Irish community for their support and to all our dedicated volunteers and members. Whether you've been a client, attended one of our programs or events, or even engaged with us on social media, you've made a positive impact within our organisation. It's the people that make IASAQ special; our members, our staff, our volunteers, the Board, and most importantly the people we assist and the community that supports us.

Personally, it has been a beautifully rewarding experience being President of IASAQ this year. I take immense pride in my role here, and I'm grateful to lead an organisation that has such standing, meaning and value. We are vital to the Irish Australian community and I'm so incredibly proud of all we've achieved recently. IASAQ wishes you a Happy St Patrick's Day – enjoy the celebrations and take care!

Nicola Holly
Uachtarán/President

Irish Australian Support
Association of Queensland



FESTIVAL EVENTS

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



02
March



BRISBANE IRISH FESTIVAL CHARITY BALL

Time 6:00 pm - 11:59 pm

Venue Victoria Park Complex

Organiser Irish Australian Support Association of Qld

06
March



THE GUARD MOVIE SCREENING

Time 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Venue Elizabeth Picture Theatre

Organiser The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Incorporated

10
March



IRISH HISTORY TOUR AT TOOWONG CEMETERY

Time From 10:00 am

Venue Toowong Cemetery

Organiser Queensland Irish Association

10
March



FAMILY FESTIVAL DAY

Time 11:00 am - 6:30 pm

Venue Gaelic Park, Willawong

Organiser Queensland Gaelic Football

10
March



ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

Time 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Venue Kedron Community Church

Organiser Queensland Irish Choir

16
March



ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Time 10:30 am - 11:30 pm

Venue Brisbane City

Organiser The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc.





16
March

SONG OF THE SEA MOVIE SCREENING

Time 12:30 – 2:00pm

Venue Elizabeth Picture Theatre

Organiser The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc.



16
March

ST PATRICK'S EVE DINNER

Time 6:30 pm - 11:59 pm

Venue Brisbane City Hall

Organiser Queensland Irish Association



16 & 17
March

GILHOOLEYS ST PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS

Time From 10:30 am

Organiser Gilhooleys Irish Pub & Restaurant, Albert St & Charlotte St



17
March

MASS ON ST PATRICK'S DAY

Time 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Venue Cathedral of St Stephen

Organiser The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Incorporated



17
March

THE QIA ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Time From 11:30am

Venue Western Districts Rugby Football Club

Organiser Queensland Irish Association



17 & 18
March

LIGHTING THE CITY GREEN

Venue Brisbane City

Organiser The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Incorporated



Brisbane St Patrick's Day Parade



Picnic in the Park

Offering food, drinks and crafts from 8:00am to 2:00pm so the craic is to be had before and after the parade!

LIVE IRISH MUSIC ON THE ROTUNDA FROM THE BLARNEY STONES FROM 11AM

Many thanks to the Hackworth Group for the market stalls and entertainment in the park.



The Jan Dooley St Patrick's Day Parade Best Float Award

In 2018 we were excited to announce “**The Jan Dooley St Patrick's Day Parade Best Float Award**” for the most outstanding float on show. We look forward to see who will be the most outstanding in 2024.

Past winners

- 2023** The Australian Irish Dancing Association – Queensland
- 2022** St Patrick's College Shorncliffe
- 2019** Queensland Irish Dance Association
- 2018** The QIA Pipe Band

Parade Patrons

The 2024 St Patrick's Day Parade patrons are Dr. Thomas (Tom) Dooley and James Patrick (Jim) Morrissey. Tom and Jim with the late Jan Dooley and others brought about the rebirth of the Brisbane St Patrick's Day Parade in 1990 after a 49 year hiatus. Over the years they have been a strong advocate and force within Queensland's Irish community through business, sport and celebration.



Tom Dooley



Jim Morrissey





GEORGE ST



ALBERT ST

**SATURDAY
16TH MARCH**

10:30 am - 11:30 pm

Start and ends outside
the Botanic Gardens on
Alice st, Brisbane City.

EDWARD ST

ALICE ST

MARGARET ST

PARADE
START AND
FINISH

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



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BY FIONA HODGES

Every culture has their own stories, tales of caution and heroic adventures, of how mountains were made and seas created. Stories, proverbs, ballads and songs told by the fire filled with superstitions, ideals and premonitions. Two of the lasting myths of the Irish people is that we can both sing and tell a good story, and I would counter one could be true for every diaspora today.

First stories from the land of Eire were preserved and recorded in 11th century Ireland by Christian monks, making Irish Mythology one of the best-preserved branches of Celtic Mythology. Later, in the 1930's, the third president of Ireland Eamon De Valera paid story collectors to travel Ireland recording stories from Gaeligeoir (Irish speakers). The endeavour resulted in 12,000 hours of recordings and over 2 million manuscripts held in the Department of Folklore (Roinn Bealoideas) at University College Dublin.

Many years ago, the Seanchaí (an Irish Storyteller) would recite ancient lore and wisdom, steeped in pagan traditions, fear of faeries and the Bean Sidhe. Tales of tragic lovers, magical bulls, wicked step mothers and feats of youthful and unbelievable strength. These stories were told to keep people believing in deities old and new, keep their loved ones well and alive, and prevent them from doing the wrong thing or wandering off the beaten path. A framework to help Irish at the time make sense of their surroundings, identity, and values.



Irish Mythology can be measured in four cycles:

Mythological Cycle

The arrival and subsequent disappearance of Ireland's first people, the god-like Tuatha De Dannan. The 'People of the Goddess Danu' were supernatural people in human form, skilled in magical arts.

The Tuatha De Dannan gave rise to the Aos Sidh, more contemporary mythical Irish creatures such as leprechauns, changelings, faeries and the Bean Sidhe. These magical creatures are found where the Otherworld is accessible – Faery hills and rings, along with lakes, rivers hills and mountains. Fiercely protective of their space, they are known to seek vengeance on those who trespass. There is still a strong sense of Fairy Faith (Creideamh Sidh) in Irish people, with tales still circulating of unfortunate farmers building or knocking down sacred sites on land.

Ulster Cycle

Around the 1st century, details quests and feats of ancient heroes, mostly of Ulster in the north, and Leinster in the East. Here we find the reign of Conchobar mac Neasa, and his nephew Cu Chulainn, previously known as Setanta.

Fenian Cycle

The tales and journey of Fionn mac Cumhaill and his warrior band the Fianna, where Fionn burnt his finger on of the Salmon of Knowledge, passing all the world's knowledge through Fionn's feisty thumb.

Historical Cycle

The Cycle of the Kings, reciting the history and genealogy of ancient Irish royals, recounted by medieval Irish bards (poets). Here we find heroes like Brian Boru, and Suibhne – cursed by St Ronan Finn to become half man, half bird and live his days in the woods. This tale has been retold by more recent bards such as Seamus Heaney and Trevor Joyce.





2024

Children of Lir

BY TONY DONEGAN

The King of Lir lived in a castle and had four children: a daughter named Fionnuala and three sons: Aodh, Fiachra and Con. The queen had died and the children missed her terribly. They had no mother to tell them stories, or play games or hug them to sleep. The king hated to see his children so sad, so he decided to marry again so they could have a mother.

He married the beautiful Aoife, but she did not have the kind heart the king thought she did. She grew jealous of the love the king had for his children. She wanted the king all to herself and so decided she need to get rid of them. She asked a druid to help, and together they came up with a horrible spell.

There was a large lake near the castle and one day when the children were in the water, Aoife pulled out a wand and waved it over them. There was a flash of light and the children turned into beautiful white swans. One of the swans opened its beak and said "What have you done to us?" It was Fionnuala's voice!

Aoife said "I have put a spell on you. You will be swans for 900 years. The first three hundred you will spend here, then 300 years on the Sea of Moyle and 300 on the Isle of Glora. After that, the spell can only be broken by the sound of a church bell" When the children did not come home that night, the king went looking for them. He could not believe it when four swans started to call out "Father, father." They told him of Aoife's awful spell. The king begged Aoife to reverse it, but she refused. He banished her from the kingdom and spent the rest of his days by the lake, talking to his children.

When the king died, the swans were heartbroken. They no longer talked or sang. After 300 years they travelled to the cold and rough Sea of Moyle and, 300 years after that, to the Isle of Gora. After 900 years had passed, they heard a church bell and the spell was broken. A monk at the church could not believe it when he saw the swans turn into one very old woman, and three very old men. Fionnuala hugged her three brothers, but soon after they all died of old age.

The monk buried the four of them in the one grave. That night, he dreamt of them flying up through the clouds to be with their mother and father.

Pronunciations:

Lir = leer

Fionnuala = Fin-uool-ah

Aodh = Aid

Fiachra = Fee-ik-rah

Aoife = E-fa

2023

a year of Irish music talent loss

BY ERIC McMAHON

Ireland is a country renowned worldwide for its contribution to the arts. It punches well above it's weight on the international stage in this regard.

For many Irish people sadly, 2023 will be remembered as the year we mourned the deaths of many Irish music greats the likes of which will never be seen again – Séamus Begley, Johnny Fean (Horslips), Seán Keane (The Chieftans), Mark Shean (The Script), Christy Dignam, Sinéad O'Connor and Shane MacGowan. All were a once in a generation group of artists who not only mastered their craft but also made a massive impact nationally and internationally.

We pay tribute to three of the above artists - Christy Dignam, Sinéad O'Connor & Shane MacGowan.

Christy Dignam, the lead singer of Aslan, died aged 63 on 13 June.

Dignam grew up in Finglas in north Dublin. In 1982, he formed the rock band Aslan alongside Alan Downey, Joe Jewell and Billy McGuinness, as well as Tony McGuinness, the band's former bassist.

Aslan became one of the most popular bands on the Irish music scene after they released their first album *Feel No Shame* in 1988. The band split up in the late '80s and subsequently reformed in 1993.

A hard-working class band similar in many respects to Cold Chisel, they toured the length and breadth of Ireland regularly.

Legendary singer Sinéad O'Connor's death was announced on 27 July at the age of 56.

Sinéad was born in Glenageary, County Dublin, in December 1966.

The singer, who also used the names Magda Davitt and Shuhada Sadaqat after converting to Islam, released her first critically acclaimed album *The Lion And The Cobra* in 1987.

O'Connor's 1990 song 'Nothing Compares 2 U', from her second album, shot the Dublin-born singer to the top of the global charts, spending four weeks in the number one slot in the US Billboard Hot 100.

An individual well ahead of her time in many respects O'Connor used her stardom to draw attention to issues such as child abuse, human rights, racism, organised religion, and women's rights – issues many of her peers choose to ignore. Admirably, she also refused to conform with the stereotypical role expected of a young female performer at that time.

President Michael D Higgins commented - *"What Ireland has lost at such a relatively young age is one of our greatest and most gifted composers, songwriters and performers of recent decades, one who had a unique talent and extraordinary connection with her audience, all of whom held such love and warmth for her. May her spirit find the peace she sought in so many different ways".*

Shane MacGowan died aged 65 on 30 November.

The hugely influential musician, songwriter and singer was best known as the lead singer and songwriter of The Pogues.

Shane was born in Kent, England in December 1957, to Irish parents. He lived briefly in Tipperary as a young child before the family moved back to England when he was six.

The Pogues toured widely in Ireland, but were also hugely popular abroad with an Irish diaspora in England, United States and Australia where their wistful and romantic songs about Ireland found a wide audience.

Despite the loss of such an immense pool of Irish talent the Irish music scene is in good health and has seen a resurgence in recent times. Artists such as Lankum, Fontaines DC, The Mary Wallopers, Lisa O'Neill to name but a few are helping keep the Irish music flag flying on a global stage. Without doubt they can thank all who came before them for helping pave the way.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.





seamus sullivan

Recipient of the
Presidential Distinguished
Services Award

Pictured with President Higgins
presenting the award to
Mr. Seamus Sullivan

BY MARGARET STACEY, D.UA AND GARRY BURKE

Seamus was born in Tipperary and emigrated to Brisbane in 1972, He has been an integral part of the growth and development of Irish Culture in Queensland ever since. Over the past 30 years he has been assisting those in personal crisis.

According to his peers, Seamus helps anyone who approaches him for assistance and continuously offers his support to Brisbane residents facing difficult situations. This includes issues such as alcohol, substance abuse, the death of loved ones and domestic violence.

Seamus is a founding member of the Irish Support Association of Queensland, which provides outreach and support to the Irish community in Queensland. He was also instrumental in introducing Gaelic Football to the state 40 years ago, serving as the President of Gaelic Football and Hurling Association of Australasia.

He co-founded, is a former President and current committee member of the Brisbane Irish Festival, who organise the St Patrick's Day Parade in Brisbane. He is former President and currently the Vice President of the Queensland Irish Association.

Forever active within the community, Seamus spends most days volunteering at the Gaelic grounds in Brisbane. He led the huge effort into repairing the grounds and restoring the club rooms after the devastating floods in 2011 and again in 2022. Despite the fields and club rooms

being ravaged, games recommenced within months on both occasions.

Seamus was recognised by the Brisbane City Council in 2020 with a Citizen of the Year award and has been described as the "humble hero" and it is wonderful to see his positive influence in the community recognised. He is driven by his desire to help others, and it is fantastic that the Lord Mayor has recognised his work in the community through this award.

Seamus has given his life to serving the Irish diaspora. At the invitation of the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, he recently travelled to Ireland where he was awarded the prestigious Presidential Distinguished Services Award.

The Awards recognise the service given to Ireland or to Irish communities abroad by those who live outside Ireland. Celebrating the achievements of Ireland's global family, in 2023 thirteen people were chosen to receive the Award. Seamus, we are proud of you and so pleased that your service has been recognised at the highest level in Ireland.

Maith thú féin and comhghairdeas! (well done and congratulations).

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

FROM



IRELAND'S FAVOURITE BLACKPUDDING

Available at Woolworths 



QIA DANCERS

WISH ALL A VERY

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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As I was a goin' over the far
famed Kerry mountains,
I met with captain Farrell
and his money he was
counting, I first produced
me **Pistol** and I then
produced me rapier, Saying
"Stand and deliver" for he
were a bold deceiver...

A CREATIVE MARKETING AGENCY
WITH AN **IRISH HEART**

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CREATIVE

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ENJOY



Many thanks to all the 2024 parade participants

There is no parade without the wonderful parade participants filling the streets with song and dance every year. The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc. thanks all the parade participants for their passion, practice and hard work in painting the town green again in 2024. Remember to cheer them on!



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Irish Myths and Legends Quiz

1. According to folklore, what did St. Patrick chase out of Ireland?
2. What did the stepmother turn her stepchildren into, according to the myth, The Children of Lir?
3. Who fell in love with Niamh and went to live in Tír na nÓg?
4. What river in Ireland is said to have been home to the Salmon of Knowledge?
5. How many children did King Lir have?
6. What was Cú Chulainn's name when he was a young boy?
7. For how long did King Lir's children live as swans?
8. What did Setanta use to defeat Culann's hound?
9. According to legend, where was Finn McCool's home?
10. From which king in Irish folklore did the evil gods steal the Harp?
11. According to legend, what should you find at the end of the rainbow?
12. The Pookas are one of the most feared creatures in Irish folklore, but what is their superpower?
13. With which season was the goddess Brigid associated?
14. The Blarney Stone supposedly has magical powers. What gift will you get if you kiss it?

Answers on Page 24



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COLLEGE
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As an acknowledgement of our Irish Heritage, the four Houses of Ambrose Treacy College are named after the four provinces of Ireland.

www.atc.qld.edu.au





Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association

Invites you
to our annual

Festival Family day



Sunday 10th March at 11:00am

Gaelic Park 308 Bowhill Road, Willawong

- ✱ NOVELTY RACES ✱ LIVE MUSIC ✱ QIA PIPE BAND ✱
- ✱ IRISH DANCING ✱ GAELIC EXHIBITIONS ✱ GAMES ✱
- ✱ CRAIC AGUS CEOL ✱
- ✱ LICENSED BAR & BBQ/KITCHEN OPEN ALL DAY ✱

Raffle tickets on sale for the support of
Cathal Mitchels family. Draw to take place
16/03/24. Scan to buy raffle tickets ►



\$10 entry for adults. No eskys or dogs.

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Acknowledgments

The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc. would like to thank our generous sponsors listed below. Your support is not something we take lightly and is very much appreciated.



Special Thanks

Go raibh maith agaibh – Thank You

The St Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc. and Committee would like to thank those involved for all the support and help provided, and to all program contributors and advertisers of the Brisbane Irish Festival.

2024 St Patrick's Day Committee Members

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The St Patrick's Day Parade Association is a not-for-profit organisation.



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www.brisbaneirishfestival.com.au



P22 Quiz answers

1. Snakes, 2. Swans, 3. Oisín, 4. River Boyne, 5. 4 Children, 6. Setanta, 7. 900 Years, 8. A Hurley and slotar, 9. The Giant's Causeway, 10. Dagda, 11. A pot of gold, 12. They can change shape., 13. Spring 14. The gift of the gab!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the St Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc. or its members.



parade day

after party

join us saturday 16 mar

Gates open 10am

the irish are taking over BRUNSWICK STREET MALL
live entertainment across 2 stages

THE GATHERING LIMERICK TARTAN SHAMROCK



pop up bars * IRISH PIPE BANDS * IRISH DANCERS



the irish are taking over BRUNSWICK STREET MALL!

ST. PATRICK'S

DAY



SUNDAY 17 MARCH



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ACROSS 2 STAGES

THE GATHERING LIMERICK TARTAN SHAMROCK



pop up bars, qld irish pipe band, IRISH DANCERS

doors open 10am

events

02

March

BRISBANE IRISH FESTIVAL CHARITY BALL

Time 6:00 pm - 11:59 pm

Venue Victoria Park Complex

06

March

THE GUARD MOVIE SCREENING

Time 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Venue Elizabeth Picture Theatre

10

March

IRISH HISTORY TOUR AT TOOWONG CEMETERY

Time From 10:00am

Venue Toowong Cemetery

10

March

FAMILY FESTIVAL DAY

Time 11:00 am - 6:30 pm

Venue Gaelic Park, Willawong

10

March

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

Time 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Venue Kedron Community Church

16

March

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Time 10:30 am - 11:30 pm

Venue Brisbane City

16

March

SONG OF THE SEA MOVIE SCREENING

Time 12:30 - 2:00pm

Venue Elizabeth Picture Theatre

16

March

ST PATRICK'S EVE DINNER

Time 6:30 pm - 11:59 pm

Venue Brisbane City Hall

16 & 17

March

GILHOOLEYS ST PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS

Time From 10:30 am

Venue Gilhooleys Irish Pub & Restaurant, Albert St & Charlotte St

17

March

MASS ON ST PATRICK'S DAY

Time 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Venue Cathedral of St Stephen

17

March

THE QIA ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Time From 11:30am

Venue Western Districts Rugby Football Club

17 & 18

March

LIGHTING THE CITY GREEN

Venue Brisbane City

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



PLEASE
CONSIDER
DONATING TO
THE PARADE
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