



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

December 2024

Queensland Irish Association wishes all our members a Merry Christmas & a safe and successful 2025

This year concluded with a magnificent Christmas party at Wests Rugby Union Club on Sunday, December 8th.

The event was our most successful Christmas party yet. Our thanks go to Mavis Williams, who has been extraordinarily successful in organising many functions, including this one.

We want to thank Tom Kimmert for his significant contribution to the entertainment on the day, Jeff Goward for his role as piper, and a special thank you to Morag, Barbara and Ray from the Queensland Irish Choir for their extensive bracket of Christmas carols.

(See pages 8 and 9 in this newsletter for a full spread of pictures from our Christmas party.)

We now look forward to the new year and, in particular, two major functions coming up.

The Saint Brigid's Day Dinner will be held at the Royal on the Park on Saturday, the 1st of February 2025.

Members should also start organising tables for the Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner in 2025, which will be held in the Main Auditorium, Brisbane City Hall on Sunday, 16th March 2025.

The Governor of Queensland has already indicated her intention of attending. We anticipate a sell out for the Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner so Members should move quickly to book a table.

We include a flyer for the Saint



Enjoying the QIA Christmas lunch were Bruce Williams, back left, and Mavis Williams, back right, with Jessica and Petar Grulovic and their children.

Patrick's Eve Dinner (on page 14 of this Newsletter) and a booking form is attached to this Newsletter email which can be filled out electronically, plus a

copy is also available to print off on page 15.

**Jeff Spender, President,
Queensland Irish Association.**

QIA Annual General Meeting at Coorparoo RSL



QIA President Jeff Spender speaking at our 2024 Annual General Meeting. Photographs: Thanks to Bob Ward and Mary Allen

Queensland Irish Association's Annual General Meeting on November 9th, 2024, at Coorparoo RSL & Community Club saw an impressive turnout.

Many Members stayed on afterwards to have lunch and enjoy the hospitality of the venue.

We thank everyone who attended and express our appreciation to Coorparoo RSL's staff.





Irish Community November Remembrance Mass thanks

On Sunday, November 3rd, 2024, our Annual Mass on the Gold Coast was celebrated at our new venue - St Joseph the Worker Church, Labrador, and, as in previous years, Fr John Maher was our celebrant.

The large attendance was again appreciative of this opportunity to come together and pray for the peaceful repose of deceased relatives and friends, a number of whom could possibly have passed away in the past year.

We are grateful to Fr Gerard, Parish Priest of Southport Catholic Parish who gave us permission to have our Mass at St Joseph the Worker Church and also to have the use of the Lumen Christi Centre afterwards for our tea/coffee get-together. The Centre is a great asset of the Parish and proved to be the ideal venue for us.

We also wish to thank all those volunteers who helped out beforehand and on the day.

Joseph Thompson

Irish Community November Remembrance Mass

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Contact us

We welcome content from Members and friends in this newsletter.

If you have news or an article you would like to see included, email the editor, our public relations officer Mary Allen, at mary@queenslandirish.com.au

You can also reach us through our website, www.queenslandirish.com.au, and on our social media pages.

Another great way to interact with QIA is by joining our Facebook [group](#), Queensland Irish Association Friends and Supporters.

Editor and designer: Mary Allen.

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Having a Function

We can add a whole lot more to your evening

Photo's (6inX8in) printed the same night and returned before the function finishes.
We will do PR photos of the event at no extra cost.
(subject to numbers)
Studio lights if requested will be set up before guests arrive.
There is no additional cost beyond the price of the photo's.
This is a great way to have a memory of the evening.

Good Times Network Photography
Phone 0401450977
www.goodtimesbrisbane.com

Calendar

Sunday, 5th January

QIA directors' Nollaig na mBan (Women's Little Christmas) celebration at Chocolate Elements, South Brisbane.

Monday, 6th January

Nollaig na mBan (Women's Little Christmas).

Saturday, 18th January, from 2pm

QIA History and Culture Committee meeting. Muse Cafe, Level 2, Queensland Museum, South Brisbane.

Saturday, 1st February 2025

St Brigid's Dinner at Royal on the Park, Brisbane.

Saturday, 8th February 2025

St Brigid's film screening of *Waving Goodbye to Dinosaurs*, plus light tea, Brigid Centre, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly.

Saturday, 8th March, 2025

Queensland Irish Choir St Patrick's Day Concert, Hills Church, Everton Hills, Qld.

Saturday 15th March 2025

Brisbane Saint Patrick's Day Parade, starts 10.30am at Alice Street, Brisbane.

Sunday, 16th March 2025

QIA St Patrick's Eve Dinner 2025, Brisbane City Hall, St George's Square, Brisbane. Details in this Newsletter.

Monday, 17th March 2025

Saint Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen. Further details to be announced.

Thursday, 1st May - Monday 5th May 2025

Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, New South Wales.

Saturday, 4th October 2025

CelticFest, Warwick, Queensland.



Queensland Irish Association

*Celebrating Irish women peace makers
in the season of Brigid*



Join us on Saturday, 8th February at 2.00pm at

The Brigid Centre,
Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

Documentary film screening of
'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs'

The story of Northern Irish Catholic and Protestant women who unite to ensure their policies are reflected in the Good Friday Agreement.

Followed by light afternoon tea
Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP and further information:

Michele Bourke on 0438 763 439 or mtcbourke@bigpond.com

Claire Moore on 0419 673 126 or claire_moore@bigpond.com

Entrance at Cecil St, Indooroopilly - Disability accessible - Parking in Central Ave, Indooroopilly

QIA to celebrate women who waved goodbye to war



Queensland Irish Association's Saint Brigid's celebration screening in 2024. Picture: Mary Allen

Queensland Irish Association is set to screen *Waving Goodbye to Dinosaurs* documentary as part of our 2025 Saint Brigid Celebration.

Following on from the success of the Association's *Finding Brigid* documentary screening to celebrate St Brigid's Day in 2024, it is hoped that this year's screening will again attract a large crowd.

Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs looks at the time when peace talks were proposed to negotiate an end to the decades-old sectarian conflict that had left thousands dead and tens of thousands wounded, and women in Northern Ireland decided to take matters into their own hands. The film vividly shows the story of Catholic and Protestant women who united to form an all-female political party, won seats at the negotiating

table, and fought to ensure that their policies around human rights, equality, and inclusion were reflected in the Good Friday Agreement.

The documentary features interviews with members of the Women's Coalition, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator George Mitchell and civil rights campaigner Bernadette Devlin.

Join this cinematic experience at The Brigid Centre, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly, on Saturday, February 8th at 2pm.

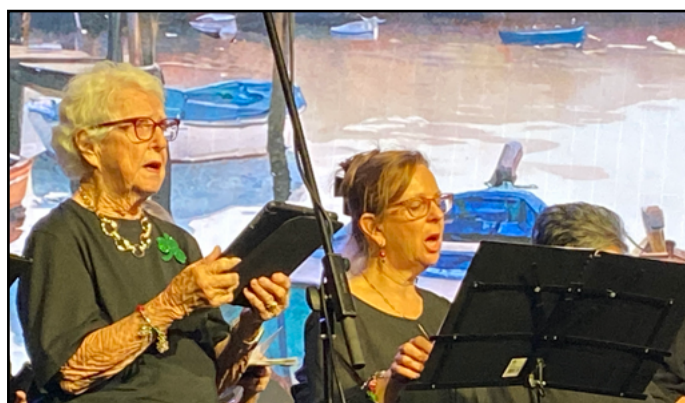
Attendees will have the opportunity to delve into the documentary's rich narrative and indulge in a light afternoon tea.

All are welcome.

For further details and RSVP, contact QIA Director Michele Bourke on 0438 763 439.



Queensland Irish Choir's The Light of Christmas



QIA sponsors Irish Film Festival Australia 2024



Calling all ladies in red, Chris de Burgh is back!

Frontier Touring and Act 3 Presents are thrilled to announce the return of Chris de Burgh as he celebrates a remarkable and rare career milestone – half a century as a recording artist – by bringing his 50LO Tour 2025 to Australia in May!

“After my 50-year career, I’m thrilled to be returning to Australia after 16 years - some of my exciting tours and lasting memories are from being in Australia and I can’t wait to get there again.” - Chris de Burgh

The unmissable voice of ‘The Lady In Red’, ‘Missing You’ and other timeless classics, will perform his 50LO Tour 2025 at Brisbane’s Convention and Exhibition Centre on Saturday, 3rd May, and at The Star Gold Coast, on Sunday, 4th May.

Tickets via frontiertouring.com/chrisdeburgh.



Queensland Irish Association Christmas Party



Queensland Irish Association Christmas Party



Luxurious Christmas escapes on the island of Ireland

This Christmas, here's what visitors can expect on a luxury stay in a hotel on the island of Ireland.

Escape from the busyness of Christmas to a luxury hotel in Ireland where opulent comfort, fabulous festive food and entertainment, and the warmest of welcomes await.

Ashford Castle, County Mayo

Sitting by the shores of Lough Corrib, magnificent five-star Ashford Castle is the pinnacle of luxury with richly decorated rooms, and award-winning restaurants and spa. At Christmas, the lush decorations add to the castle's fairytale charm. A special three-day Christmas package (24–27 December) includes Christmas Eve dinner, a Christmas morning cruise with traditional music and hot whiskies, wine and gin tasting in the afternoon, festive movies in the cinema and the finest seasonal food served for lunches and dinners throughout. Seasonal entertainment and the chance to try outdoor expe-



Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down.

riences such as falconry or archery in the castle's 350-acre estate are also included in the package.

The Old Inn Crawfordsburn, County Down

Dating from 1614, this charming boutique hotel is the perfect place to spend an old-fashioned Christmas. Old world charm combines with modern-day luxury essentials to create a haven which is firmly rooted in sustainable practices and has achieved a Green Tourism Silver award. The hotel is offering A Merry Little Christmas Package that includes Christmas cocktails and canapes on Christmas Eve, a Christmas morning champagne breakfast and hearty traditional fare for lunch. Enjoy carols around the Christmas tree while sipping mulled wine and luxuriate in the Treetop Spa with forest views. For the bravehearted there is also the option of a Christmas Day sea swim at nearby Helen's Bay beach.



Killeavy Castle Estate, Killeavy, Co. Armagh.

Continued on page 11

Luxurious Christmas escapes on the island of Ireland



Lobby, Glasson Lakehouse, Glasson, Co. Westmeath.

Continued from page 10

Glasson Lakehouse, County Westmeath

If you long to get away from the Christmas madness, head to the tranquillity of Glasson Lakehouse in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands for some laidback luxury. Warmth and wellness are the essence of the two- or three-night Christmas packages that combine festive food with quiet relaxation. On arrival, enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. A Christmas Eve three-course meal and a five course Christmas Day lunch are the stars of the culinary delights but a range of festive activities and treats are on hand throughout your stay. Enjoy a board game, relax in front of a Christmas movie or work off the festive indulgence in the outdoor heated pool or with a cycle through the woodlands.

Marine & Lawn Slieve Donard, County Down

The opulent period elegance of the Slieve Donard hotel is matched by the spectacular beauty on its doorstep. A golden beach runs on one side, one of the world's top golf courses, Royal County Down, is on the other and

all are overlooked by the majestic Mourne Mountains. At Christmas the lavishly decorated hotel is a sight to behold. The hotel is offering a range of Christmas packages that include festive afternoon tea, Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day lunch, and an evening grazing buffet all using the best local produce such

as langoustines, dry-aged sirloin of beef and County Down turkey. Santa will make an appearance, of course, and keen golfers can give themselves the gift of a round on the championship links.

Killeavy Castle Estate, County Armagh

Award-winning Killeavy Castle Estate set in 350 acres of woodlands in the foothills of the Slieve Gullion mountain has as its centrepiece the gorgeous nineteenth-century castle. There is also a 45-guestroom boutique style hotel, a luxury gate lodge, and a first-class spa. In the run-up to Christmas the hotel is offering a range of festive dining options including afternoon tea in the castle beside a crackling fire in the hearth, and with live music. A special residential Boxing Day package lets you continue the Christmas festivities or take time to relax. Dinner, bed and breakfast, use of the spa and evening entertainment are included, and you can hire e-bikes to explore the beautiful surroundings.

Words & Pictures: www.ireland.com



The Old Inn, Boutique Hotel, Crawfordsburn, Co. Down.

The Corrs announce three Australian dates in 2025

Back by popular demand, Irish Celtic infused pop icons, The Corrs are returning to Australia in February 2025 for three very special shows, in Brisbane, Sydney and Yarra Valley, Victoria after a run of sold-out concerts in 2023.

Joining them will be Gabriella Cilmi for all shows, and Bachelor Girl for Brisbane.

Australian fans of The Corrs are some of the most loyal in the world with the band achieving sales in excess of two million albums locally since their 1995 debut album *Forgiven, Not Forgotten* crashed into the charts and stole our hearts.

After stunning the 13,000 strong crowd at the Hunter Valley's Hope Estate Winery for their *One Night Only* show in 2022 and their follow up national tour of Australia in 2023, The Corrs are thrilled to return in 2025 and bring their music to fans in Brisbane once again!

The band will be performing songs from their acclaimed, second album, 1998's *Talk On Corners*, featuring the global hits, *Only When I Sleep*, *I Never Loved You Anyway*, *So Young* and *What Can I Do*. Plus, a selection of their greatest hits.

The Corrs comment on the recent shows and their return "Australia has always held a special place in our hearts, and we're beyond excited to return for these special shows. We can't wait to share our music and celebrate with you all again!"

The Corrs are Ireland's first family of music, a multi-million selling sibling quartet who have conquered the world with a seamless blend of sleek pop rock, lush harmonies and Celtic folk trimmings.

Comprising Andrea (lead vocals, piano and tin whistle), Sharon (violin, piano, vocals), Caroline (drums, piano, vocals) and Jim (guitar, piano,



vocals) The Corrs have sold over 40 million albums worldwide since their debut *Forgiven, Not Forgotten* in 1995, spawning a dozen classic hit singles.

An enchanting mix of traditional Celtic music with a pop rock twist, The Corrs have written some of the biggest songs of the last three decades. *Forgiven, Not Forgotten* gave us the incredible title track, the exquisite *Heaven Knows* and of course, arguably one of the biggest contemporary songs of the modern era, *Runaway*.

Their second album, *Talk On Corners* led with *I Never Loved You Anyway*, *So Young* and *Only When I Sleep* and is their biggest selling album to date.

Dedicated fans from across the globe flocked to Australia to see The Corrs *Down Under*, with attendees making the trip to Australia from as far-flung destinations such as

Germany, India, the Middle East, various parts of Asia, South America, Sweden and of course Ireland, to name just a few fan origins!

They and their Australian counterparts all came to see The Corrs perform live in Australia in both 2022 and 2023! The band remain a global phenomenon, and with such high demand demonstrated for their previous concert tickets, the advice is to purchase tickets to the 2025 shows as soon as possible, they will move fast!

Don't miss the opportunity to witness the incredible talents of The Corrs performing live on Wednesday, February 19th at Riverstage, Brisbane.

This is an all-ages concert (Under 15s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian).

For ticketing and event information visit www.thecorrs2025.com.au and www.thecorrsofficial.com.



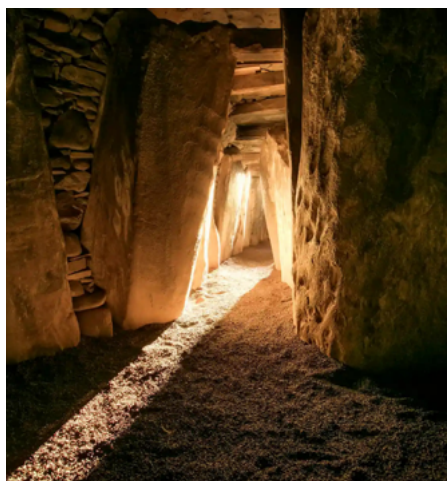
Winter solstice sheds light on ancient Irish wonder

Its breathtaking winter solstice illumination makes Newgrange a passage tomb of global significance. But did you know Ireland's quintessential wow moment is 5,000 years old?

Yep, 5,000 years. That's older than Stonehenge. It's older than the great Egyptian pyramids, too. And five millennia later, it hasn't lost any of its wonder.

But first things first: Newgrange can't be visited directly. If you're driving, set your course for the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre as opposed to Newgrange itself. Here, you'll find an interpretive centre where you can buy tickets, and proceed by shuttle bus for a guided tour of Newgrange and of the nearby passage tomb at Knowth. If you don't have a car, don't worry – day tours can be arranged from Dublin.

Arriving at the iconic tomb is a wow moment, to say the least. Standing outside the 80-metre mound, shored up with spiral-engraved kerbstones and white Wicklow quartzite, a guide reveals the myths and history behind the monument. Newgrange may have been designed as a tomb or a temple but in spite of the knowledge that archaeologists have



Winter solstice at Newgrange passage tomb.

garnered from the site since its discovery, it continues to surprise and intrigue.

Once the scene has been set for you as a visitor, you'll step inside the passage tomb itself, squeezing through standing stones carved with spiralling rock art and graffiti dating back to the 1800s (before Newgrange was taken into State care). Ducking under beams of wood, you'll emerge into the cool confines of a cruciform-shaped chamber, like a stony igloo

squirreled away within a hill.

This inner sanctum is where a lucky few (chosen by lottery from thousands of applicants annually) huddle together to witness the annual winter solstice illumination in December. In this moment, when megalithic engineering and nature come sensationally into sync, a shaft of light can be seen snaking 19 metres up the passageway, ultimately bathing the chamber in light. You'll get goose-bumps...

If you're not one of the lucky ones, don't fret. All visitors are treated to a simulated solstice, with an orange beam of light artificially showcasing the effect. It's a tantalising taster – little wonder legend suggests that this was the site where mythological hero Cú Chulainn was conceived.

Newgrange isn't the only passage tomb in Ireland, of course. In fact, it's not the only passage tomb at Brú na Bóinne. Together with nearby Knowth and Dowth, Newgrange was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. Not bad for a site that once looked destined to become a quarry!

Words & Pictures: Ireland.com

Queensland Irish Association

since 1898

St Patrick's Eve Dinner 2025

Brisbane City Hall Main Auditorium

Sunday

16 March 2025

6.00 for 6.45 pm

Join Distinguished Guests, Irish and Queensland representatives to continue a 127 year old tradition of celebrating Irish heritage & culture in Queensland.

\$1,600.00 per table of 10
(\$160 per person)

Bookings close **5/3/2025**

(unless sold out prior)

Booking enquiries to:

stpatricksevedinner@hotmail.com

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



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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Terms and conditions and Government health directives apply. No Refunds. Please do not attend if you are unwell. You may nominate a replacement to attend in your place.

Booking Form – 2025 St Patrick’s Eve Dinner v3_1

>>>> ENTRY BY PREPAID BOOKING ONLY <<<<<

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 5th March 2025 (Strictly)

Complete this form and email to: ***stpatricksevedinner@hotmail.com***

I wish to attend the 2025 St Patrick’s Eve Dinner at

Brisbane City Hall Main Auditorium

SUNDAY 16th March 2025 at 6.00 for 6.45pm.

Payment \$1,600 per table (\$160 per person)

- **EFT (preferred method)** / Direct Deposit:

Queensland Irish Association

BSB: 084-034 Account: 920759183

Reference: eg Your surname and postcode

(insert here)

- Cheques payable to “Queensland Irish Association”
Post to: PO Box 12745 GEORGE STREET QLD 4003

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

**Terms and conditions apply. Please do not attend if you are unwell.
No refunds. You may nominate a replacement to attend in your place.**



Please return completed booking form to: stpatricksevedinner@hotmail.com

GROUP LEADER/TABLE CAPTAIN

	SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	DIETARY
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
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