



May-June 2011 Newsletter

Hello everyone,

Welcome to another installment of the Wellington Irish Society newsletter.

This time we have lots of news to impart from all the usual sources.

Whether you're interested in the usual recipe section, what's in a name, GAA news, we've got it all.

Our recipe this month is for Chicken, Ham and Leek pie, as the winter approaches us, this can be an ideal meal to warm you up. If you have any recipes that you'd like to share with us, we'd love to publish them in the next newsletter. You can send your favorite recipe to us at secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com

Our Learning Irish page has also evolved and thanks to Brian O'Sullivan, we'll have a continuous source of learning. Brian has written a piece on teaching your children Irish and the best resources that are available.

It's that time of the year again for the Society AGM, and this year it will be on Sunday the 26th June at 3pm at the clubrooms. It's your opportunity to hear how the club has been performing over the past year and to elect a committee to carry the club forward for the next year.

For those of you who haven't paid your subscriptions yet, they can now be paid online at www.wellingtonirishsociety.com or you can also pay them at the AGM, we'll be open from 2pm on AGM day to receive late Subscriptions.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and if you have any feedback, please send it to secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com

Rgds
David Rynne
Secretary

Reminders:

AGM – 26th June 3pm

Subscriptions are now due – please use the forms at the back of the newsletter to submit.



Coming Events

Ceol Aneas 2011

2011 Dates: Friday 3 to Monday 6 June

Location: Nelson, New Zealand

Ceol Aneas is New Zealand's Irish music festival, based in Nelson, New Zealand and one of Australasia's major Irish music gatherings, attracting musicians and traditional Irish music lovers from around New Zealand and overseas.

Similar to the traditional Irish music summer schools in Ireland, The Ceol Aneas programme features instrumental tuition, meet the artist workshops, Ceili, concert featuring all tutors and numerous traditional Irish music 'sessions' around Nelson, running on into the small hours.

For lovers of Irish music, who are not registered for a tuition class, there will be a Ceili on Saturday night and a tutor's concert at The Suter Theatre on Sunday 5th June as well as the sessions in various venues around town. Keep an eye on the website www.ceolaneas.org for full programme details closer to the time.

You can contact the committee by emailing us at: info@ceolaneas.org

Wellington Irish Society – AGM 26th June 2011 3pm

This year's Wellington Irish Society Annual General Meeting will be held at the clubrooms on Sunday 26th June at 3pm.

You'll find a copy of the Draft financial performance for the year attached to this newsletter.

We'll be taking subscriptions from 2pm on the day, so if you'd like to attend the AGM but haven't paid your subs, you can arrive a little early and get your membership renewed.



Recipe Corner

Recipe Corner

Chicken, Ham and Leek Pie



Ingredients:

Short crust Pastry

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup ice water

Filling:

- 1 whole chicken, about 3 pounds
- 1 cup diced cooked ham
- 4 leeks (white and pale green parts only), washed and chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 cup half and half
- salt and pepper, to taste
- pinch ground nutmeg

Serves 4

Directions

To make the pastry, in a bowl, combine the salt and flour. Add the butter, and with your fingers, work the butter into the flour to a consistency of crumbs. Add the water slowly, and continue working it into the flour. Knead the dough with your hands until you can form a ball. Cover with waxed paper and refrigerate 20 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a large pot over medium heat, boil the chicken for 45 minutes. Strain and cool slightly. Joint the chicken, then cut the meat into thick slices or chunks. In a 1 1/2 quart deep-dish pie plate, alternate layers of chicken, ham and leeks. Season the layers with nutmeg, salt and pepper.

While the chicken is cooking, in a saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the onion and cook until soft, about 3 minutes. Stir in the flour and mustard. Add the chicken broth and cream slowly, and with a wooden spoon, stir until thickened. Pour sauce over meat and leeks.

Remove dough from refrigerator and roll out on a lightly floured board, or on a sheet of waxed paper, 1-inch larger than the size of the plate you're using. Dampen the edges of the dish, cover with pastry, and press the edges down well. Crimp with a fork. Make cuts in the crust to let the steam escape.

Bake in a preheated 350°F oven until crust is lightly browned, 25 to 30 minutes. Cover the pastry with waxed paper if the top browns too quickly.



Gaelic Games News

Hi everyone,

It's now the "off" season in Gaelic football in the Wellington Hutt Valley Season, that's doesn't mean that we've stopped playing football; we've only taken a small breather!

In fact we are continuing to train once a week in Ian Galloway club rooms and the ladies team are starting back as well.

Plans are in place to pay a visit to Christchurch in July to repay them for their trip up for the Owen McKenna cup. The Hutt Valley team took out the competition and are proud holders of the inaugural McKenna cup.

After the McKenna cup tournament, in association with the Wellington Irish Society we held a fundraiser for the family of Owen McKenna at the Irish Clubrooms. It was a hugely successful evening and we raised \$5k for the McKenna family.

We've also held the first Wellington "Drag of Tralee" at the establishment on Friday 13th. The Ballinasloe "Rose" Jacinta Myeare's (aka Keith Kenna) came out victorious.

We'd like to offer a special thank you to Peter Kelly from Butler's Chocolates for MCing the night and ensuring that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On a final note, the club is looking at starting up a Hurling tournament in the spring when the 7-aside competitions kick off in earnest. Keep an eye on our club website www.wellingtongaa.com for more details.

David Rynne
Vice President – Wellington GAA

Check out the latest fixtures and results at www.wellingtongaa.com
Wellington Gaelic Football & Hurling Association



Classic Cinema

Ryan's Daughter

PARAMOUNT CINEMAS – 25 Courtney Place, Wellington

Opens:

Saturday 4th June 2pm, Sunday 5th June 4pm,
Mon-Wed 6th-8th June 1pm

Running Length: 195 minutes

Cast: Robert Mitchum, Trevor Howard, John Mills

Robert Mitchum is an aloof widower who is returning from a trip to Dublin when he meets a woman who spills her idea of love to him. They marry, but never really connect in a physical way. He's 20 years older than her, and she's immature even for her age. When a shell-shocked soldier arrives to take over British garrison, an illicit affair is on the cards.

The town becomes scandalized by the affair, and she is decried as an adulterer and accused of crimes against the state.

Ticket Information: – 04 384 4080



Entertainment Book

Selling for **only \$60**, the Books are filled with even more exciting offers than ever before, worth over \$15,000. You can start using your Entertainment™ Book straight away, and it's valid until June 2012!

Best of all, your purchase will **support community fund-raising**. Entertainment™ Books are only available through groups who sell them as a fund-raiser, such as community organisations, schools, charities, and corporate groups.

Contact Wellington GAA (david.rynnne@hotmail.com or 021-02784187) to obtain your copy of this years' book.

New Zealand Irish Dancers want to buy your products

The Irish Dancing community in New Zealand is small but very dedicated with numerous World Championship medal holders and recallers who regularly make the journey across the ocean to Feisanna in Australia, America and Europe.

We want to help you get your business name into the NZ Irish Dancing community by offering advertising spots in the 2011 programme.

In 2011 the New Zealand Championships were scheduled to take place in the heart of Christchurch City.

Due to the devastating earthquake on February 22nd the city is no longer able to host with the Town Hall venue now marked for demolition, as well as the many hotels surrounding it.

Dancers and their families have changed their flights and accommodation and are now set to head back to the 2010 venue in Wellington.

Normally the New Zealand Championships are held in September or October to coincide with school holidays. The 2011 Rugby World Cup is also scheduled at this time so due to this special event the Championships are taking place 29th-31st July.

Price List

2011	NZD price for overseas vendors	Special for NZ Businesses!
Inside front cover colour	\$450.00	\$450.00
Inside back cover colour	\$450.00	\$450.00
Back cover colour	\$500.00	\$500.00
Full page b/w	\$300.00	\$150.00
Half page b/w	\$150.00	\$75.00
Quarter page b/w	\$60.00	\$40.00
Section Sponsorship	\$250.00	\$100.00
Full page colour	\$375.00	\$185.00
Half page colour	\$225.00	\$112.00
Quarter page colour	\$112.00	\$60.00

Closing date for advertising - June 30th

For more information contact us or check out our website;
www.irishdancenz.co.nz

Yours faithfully
Leeann Doyle T.C.R.G.
Webmaster for www.irishdancenz.co.nz

TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCING ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND, INC

Email tida@irishdancenz.co.nz

Super Veges!

CityLife Wainuiomata News

THE BIG DIG



CAN'T PASS THIS UP: It's not every day a gardener pulls out a vege this big, but that was exactly the case for Bull Ave resident Dorothy Forde on Friday. Mrs Forde was stunned to uncover a parsnip she says weighs a whopping six pounds (2.8kg).

"The top of it is as broad as a bread and butter plate," she says.

Mrs Forde says her husband Danny usually does gardening but had to give it up due to ill-health. It was her son Peter who planted this giant specimen, though she says there was nothing special about how it was fertilised.

"We used garden refuse and grass clippings from the compost."

She planned to cut it up and maybe use it for soup as well as side vegetables.

"It'll probably last us a week and then some."

Photo: Jamie Adams / CCN150411:1Aparsnip01

WINNER

of the 2011 Rodney Walshe Ireland Essay Competition

The Rodney Walshe Ireland Essay Competition commenced in 1990 and has become probably the most valuable of its type organised annually for New Zealand schools and colleges. Over its twenty one years, the number of entries, their quality and range of topics and the interest of students throughout New Zealand has grown consistently.

This year the overall standard of entries was exceptionally high and for the first time a Certificate of Exceptional Merit has been awarded.

The first prize winner of a trip to Ireland for a one month stay in July is **Zoe Higgins of St Margaret's College, Christchurch** for her essay entitled "**Rhyme nor Region: The History of the Limerick**".

Second prize has been awarded to Harriet Robinson-Chen of Takapuna Grammar School, Auckland for her essay entitled "Durable Pigments".

Third prize has been won by Lisa Crow of Otago Girls' High School, Dunedin for "George Boole: A Madman in All the Right Ways".

Second and third prize winners each receive a piece of Waterford Crystal.

Special Certificates of Merit and Book Tokens, valued at \$100, have been awarded to:

Rosie Cann of St Margaret's College, Christchurch
Sean Folan of St Patrick's College, Wellington
Nathan Garry of Dunstan High School, Alexandra
Molly Lyons of Villa Maria College, Christchurch
Alex Purvis of Onslow College, Wellington
Karri Shaw of New Plymouth Girls' High School, New Plymouth

The Honorary Consul General of Ireland, Rodney Walshe ONZM, will personally present the prizes to the top three winners and to the first time winner of the Certificate of Exceptional Merit.

The judges are: - Noelle McCarthy, Columnist and Broadcaster
Gordon McLachlan, Author
Rodney Walshe, Honorary Consul General of Ireland

To read the winning essays, visit the "Scholarships" section of our website www.ireland.co.nz



Notices

Congratulations

Congratulations to Nancy and Johnny Grealish who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to Jim McDonnell who has celebrated his 80th birthday, well done.

Deepest Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Jim “Scrubber” Healy who passed away peacefully at the Woburn Masonic Home on the 26th May aged 91.

Get Well

Our thoughts are with Olive O’Riordan for a speedy recovery from her recent illness.

If you want to have any announcements for this page, please send them to secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com



Riddle Me This?

Last Month's Answers:

1. Nothing. Nothing is greater than God, nothing is more evil than the devil, the poor have nothing, the rich need nothing and if you eat nothing you'll die
2. Man (or woman). Crawls on all fours as a baby, walks on two legs as an adult and uses two legs and a cane when they're old.
3. The letter e. End, timE, spacE, Every place
4. A river.
5. Tomorrow or the future.
6. The stars.
7. A watermelon.
8. The letter 'n'.
9. It states, "There are only three words in *the English language*. What is the third word?" The third word of that phrase is of course "language." Don't get angry at me, I didn't make it up :)
10. A coffin

This Month's Teasers

1. The more you have of it, the less you see. What is it?
2. What has a head, a tail, is brown, and has no legs?
3. What English word has three consecutive double letters?
4. What's black when you get it, red when you use it, and white when you're all through with it?
5. You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?
6. I am always hungry,
I must always be fed,
The finger I touch,
Will soon turn red
7. Ripped from my mother's womb,
Beaten and burned,
I become a blood thirsty killer.
What am I?
8. I know a word of letters three. Add two, and fewer there will be
9. I give you a group of three. One is sitting down, and will never get up. The second eats as much as is given to him, yet is always hungry. The third goes away and never returns.
10. I have four legs but no tail. Usually I am heard only at night. What am I?



Wheaten Wheaten Terrier Terrier



The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is a breed of dog originating from Ireland and bred to be an all-purpose farm dog whose duties would have included herding, watching and guarding livestock, and vermin hunting and killing. Today they are more popular as a family pet as opposed to a working dog.

The wheaten is given its name from the striking soft wheaten coloured coat. The Soft Coated Wheaten is an elegant long legged terrier, the "teddy-bear" soft cuddly dog that is a delightful and faithful companion. It is a good family dog, orienting to the group rather than to one family member. It is happy and steady in temperament, carrying itself with an air of self-confidence. They are an alert dog that shows interest in the environment. They are less aggressive than other terrier breeds, and often become a member of your family, who demands their own couch or comfortable chair, than the family working dog as it was on the misty hills of the Emerald Isle.

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is the Peter Pan dog of the terrier breeds. Always looking for something new and exciting, always happy and jovial, it is the dog that simply will not grow up. With warm and friendly personalities – and impish humor – one can imagine Wheatens as leprechauns in disguise. Wheatens constantly delight and frustrate their owners with new antics. They must be the centre of attention at all times, and if there is nothing going on they will come up with something.

Wheatens are great with children but do not like cats. This is a legacy of their hunting genetics. They make excellent watch dogs as they have an assertive bark but would more likely lick an offender than attack. They have a non-shedding non-allergic coat so are great for people with asthma and do not malt over your expensive furniture and carpet.

Wheatens are extremely intelligent dogs; As a result they are not great obedience dogs as they bore easily with repetitious commands and require much "fun time" to keep training enjoyable. Off-leash work is often confounded when the wheaten discovers something far more interesting than "Fetch!" and runs off to investigate.

The Wheaten Terrier grows to around 50cm in height and around 20 kilograms and would usually live to approximately 13 years of age.

There are varieties of coat, the traditional long haired, and the shorter American coats are the most popular. These two are both available and common in New Zealand, although potential owners undergo strict assessment prior to purchase as only the best people are lucky enough to become Wheaten owners.

They are recognized as a breed in Ireland by the Irish Kennel Club in 1937, 1943 by the British Kennel Club and 1973 by the American Kennel Club. The breed has proved very popular in the USA like here as a great family dog. Coincidentally, the relation of the Wheaten Terrier, the Portuguese water dog is the chosen breed of dog to occupy The White House with President Barak Obama and family.

In Ireland, they were commonly referred to as the "Poor Man's Wolfhound", their tails used to be docked to avoid taxes and was often kept to a specific size

Attached are two photos of Wheatens here in Wellington. Maggie with a long haired coat, and Ted with a shorter coat. Both are brilliant.



Club Contacts

The following are the contact details of the Committee in 2010-11

Role	Name	Phone Number	Email
Club Patron	Ted Ramsbottom		
Club President	Margaret Grealish		margaretgrealish@yahoo.com
Vice Presidents	John Whitty		johnwhitty@paradise.net.nz
	Jim Henderson		plastercoat@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer	Conor Healey		conor.healy@paradise.net.nz
Secretary	David Rynne	04-3890426	secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Committee Members	Aislinn Ryan		aislinnryan84@gmail.com
	Tony O'Riordan		
	Paul Murray		
	Jim Maguire		Jm.flooring@xtra.co.nz
	Jim McMeekin		
	Lilian Mackey		
	Kerry Dwyer		greenink@xtra.co.nz

For details of hall hire please ring the club on 384-8535 and leave a message with your number. We will ring you back with details.
Alternatively, check the club website for online bookings.

Please send any Newsletter details to Secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com

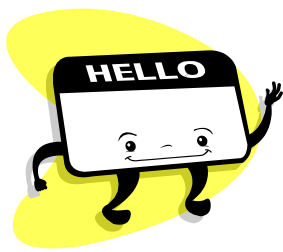
Club Contact Details

Phone Number **04-3848535**

Address: 10 Fifeshire Avenue
Cambridge Terrace
Wellington

Postal Address Wellington Irish Society
PO Box 449,
Wellington

Email Address Secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com



Whats in a Name?

Keane

Kean, Kane, Keene -O'Chathain

If you're a Keane, you could be related to some outstanding sports personalities, or a famous playwright, says Shauna O'Halloran.

The popular Irish surname Keane is widely thought to be the anglicised version of the original name O'Cathain. First anglicised to O'Cahan, with many O'Cahans still recorded as recently as the turn of the 20th century, the modern day Keanes are found mostly in Munster and Connacht, with their Kane and O'Kane cousins from Ulster.

Many still maintain that two great septs of O Cathain from opposite ends of the country were entirely separate, yet there is a line of thought that believes the Keanes of Thomond were a minor branch of the O Cathains of Ulster. In the 1600s,

Ulster man Donnell Ballagh O'Cahan, was one of the inaugurators (one who performed the ritual of ordaining a chieftain) of O'Neill of Tyrone, and joined him in the battle against the English, although he later changed his allegiance to be knighted by James I. Apparently, it was in vain, since O'Cahan spent his final years as a prisoner in the Tower of London until his eventual death in 1617.

The Thomond O'Cahans, meanwhile, or the O'Keanes as they were known to many, were the suppliers of a number of distinguished officers to the armies of France and Spain throughout the 18th century. Munster Keanes over the years have been numerous and notable, including celebrated anthropologist August Henry Keane (1833-1912) and renowned soldier John Lord Keane. The variation of the surname that uses no 'e' is thought to be from a quite separate sept again, this time hailing from County Waterford and the original name of O Cein.

Playwright John B. Keane, who died in 2002, was one of our finest writers, probably best known for his play, *The Field*. In the present times, there are still many Keanes keeping the name at the forefront of Irish celebrity, most remarkably in the sporting field. Roy Keane is a former Irish international soccer player who represented his country for 14 years, and famously left the 2002 World Cup after an 'incident' with manager Mick McCarthy. Since retiring from playing, Keane went on to manage football teams, including a spell at Sunderland which saw him take the club from 23rd place (second from bottom) in the Championship to win the league and be promoted to the Premiership in his first season.

Robbie Keane is the current Captain of the Irish soccer team, with over 100 caps and holding the title of Ireland's all-time record goal scorer in international football.

Shauna O'Halloran

Courtesy of <http://www.irelandofthewelcomes.com>



Pat McCarthy, former editor of *NZ Catholic* newspaper, invites enquiries from anyone interested in joining a 13-day pilgrimage to Ireland, leaving on September 16.

He says it promises to be an inspiring and enjoyable journey, combining visits to sacred sites with the scenic beauty of the Emerald Isle and the legendary Irish conviviality.

Some highlights will be: The holy site of Glendalough (founded by St Kevin); the medieval city of Kilkenny; the shrine of Knock (where the Virgin Mary appeared in 1879); the monastic centre of Clonmacnois; Dublin and the famous Book of Kells; the first convent of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy; Waterford, home of the celebrated crystal and place where the Christian Brothers were founded; Cork, where the Presentation Sisters began; plus Killarney, Galway, Tralee, Kylemore Abbey, Blarney Castle and much more.

The chaplain will be Fr Kerry Prendeville, SM, currently with the Okaihau Community pastoral team, serving several parishes in the Far North.

The cost (from Auckland) will be NZ \$7,690 on a twin-share basis, plus a tipping fund of NZ \$150. A single room will cost NZ \$750 extra.

Pat's contact details are: Phone (09) 480-4463; email patsuzie@slingshot.co.nz

Wellington Irish Society (Inc)

Annual Subscription Invoice

Please complete and return this application to the Irish Society

Member Details

Name	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Date	

Membership Type – Please select one:

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------------|
| Family (2 Adults & Children under 18 yrs) | \$45.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Retired Couple | \$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Single (Waged) | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Single (Retired/Unwaged) | \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Subscription Due Date – 1st April 2011

Membership Period is 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

NOTE: An online version is available at:
<http://www.wellingtonirishsociety.com/membership.html>

Payment Details
<p>1. Send a cheque to the Irish Society at PO Box 449, Wellington</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>2. Pay online to the society bank account 06-0513-0058515-00</p> <p>Please use your name and "subs" as the reference.</p>

Raising Your Kids As Gaeilge

I've always felt that the Irish language offers people of Irish descent a fantastic opportunity to link with their heritage and a unique culture. It also adds a personally relevant 'resonance' or 'quality' to a world that is becoming increasingly uniform through the dominance of the English language.

It's not uncommon for many Irish expats to develop a hitherto unexpressed interest in their native tongue when they go to live overseas. Surrounded by a population that have a different upbringing to our own, prompts us to think more about national identity and develop an interest in refamiliarising ourselves with our own culture. For those of us who raise children overseas, it's often even more important as we want to ensure cultural connections are maintained so that our cultural birthright can be passed onto our sons and daughters. Language is probably one of the best ways of doing this.

There are a number of effective ways to help bring your children up *as Gaeilge*. First, however, there are a number of rules (basic common sense really) that should be considered.

(1) Be consistent

If you decide to speak to your children in Irish, then you have to be consistent about how you do this. This depends enormously, of course, on your own personal interest in - and commitment to - the language. Some families simply want to use certain Irish expressions or vocabulary within the home (e.g. *leithreas*, *siopa*, *go raibh maith agat*, *slán* etc.) to give their children a flavour of the language. This is an excellent means of giving children a familiarity of the sounds associated with the language and provides an important access point to their Irish culture should they wish to explore it themselves when they are older. Where a family decide to raise their children through Irish, however, it's critical that at least one parent speaks only in that language. Stability and routine is very important for kids and where a parent uses more than one language, it just doesn't work and, eventually, the secondary (or less used language) just gets dropped by the wayside. Having at least one parent consistently speaking *as Gaeilge* establishes its importance within the household. As an example, in our house, I only speak to my kids in Irish. Because of their Maori heritage, they study through immersion Maori at school. Although my partner understands Irish, she speaks to our kids in English as we made a conscious decision to do so to ensure that they were competent in that language as well (in terms of reading/writing as opposed to speaking which they pick up automatically from friends etc.).

In our experience, our children are very comfortable with this approach and slip easily from one language to another as required. In fact, on the rare occasions I do speak to them in English (if we have visitors etc.) they really don't like it because it's not familiar or 'normal'.

(2) Don't make the experience negative.

As we live in a country that's not our own, it's not possible (or right) to isolate our kids from other influences in that country. In New Zealand, because their lives are surrounded by English, Irish speaking kids will naturally lapse into English. It's important to recognise that this is a fact of life and that they are not to blame for it. It's also important, therefore, not to express anger with kids for not speaking *as Gaeilge*. This would be unfair, cause resentment and - over time - resistance to the language. Where kids speak English or express frustration at speaking Irish, it's best to acknowledge it but then, brush on.

Again, as an example, when my kids don't know a word or expression in Irish they'll often slip in the English equivalent. I've, personally, found that the best way to deal with this is to quickly repeat/correct the word in Irish and move on without breaking the conversation.

Resources for Children in Irish:

Resources are a necessity to help you teach and support your children with the language. It's also pretty important for those of us who need to brush up on our own fluency. These days there are a variety of Irish language resources available for kids on the internet (predominantly books but more products are becoming increasingly available as well). The main publisher of Irish books and materials is probably *An Gum* (The Scheme). This used to be a section within the Irish Department of Education but was transferred to *Foras na Gaeilge*, the national institution for the Irish language. Their catalogue is available at <http://www.forasnagaeilge.ie>.

Three other important publishers for Irish books for kids are listed below and all have catalogues on their websites:

- **Cló Iar-Chonnachta** (West Connemara Publishing') who have a webpage at <http://www.cic.ie>
- **Cló Mhaigh Eo** (Mayo Publishers) at <http://www.leabhar.com>
- **Futa Futa** (Based in An Spidéal/Spiddle, Co. Galway) <http://www.futafata.com>

Books and other products from these suppliers are sold through a number of Irish bookshops like **Liam Russell** in Cork or **An Siopa Leabhar** in Dublin. **Easons** also have a very good range of Irish book resources. The books can usually be purchased online at the publishers sites but also at a number of other internet sites (such as e.g. <http://www.cuplafocal.ie>, <http://www.siopagaeilge.ie> etc.).

I used to pick up my books when I was back home so I could examine them to make sure they were at the right level of vocabulary or complexity for what I needed. These days, however, the catalogues for (young) children's book are

usually good enough to do that online. It is important, however, to actually view a sample of the book in order to choose the appropriate book for a child's language level and age interest (i.e. a 3 year old won't want the same book as a 9 year old).

I've found it best to shop around online as some publishers/bookshops insist on including Value Added Tax (VAT) even when selling them overseas whereas others are a bit more realistic and don't include it.

Other products that are great for kids are included below. Just be aware, however, that you actually have to invest time to introduce these products to your kids until they are sufficiently familiar with them to use them themselves:

- **DVDs:** For younger kids you can get a lot of regular cartoons like '*Tec an Tarracoir*' or '*Clifford*' on DVD but one cartoon that my kids really enjoyed (and me, I have to confess) was *Buailí (an fear sneachta)*. This was originally a French cartoon that they dubbed into Irish for Irish television. I was able to get the VHS version (back in the day!) for my kids but the DVD version, unfortunately, seems to be unavailable. To check the current range of products available, it's probably most effective to go online to 'You Tube' and enter the words "cartoon" and "*as gaeilge*".
- **CDs:** Younger kids love music and it's an excellent way of introducing easy vocabulary. There are, literally, hundreds of different CDs available for kids but anyone who's been stuck in a car listening to children's music tapes will know that it's critical to find something that won't drive parents crazy over an extended trip. Again, it's important to choose something suitable for the vocabulary level of the child. One that our family really enjoyed was *Óró na Casadaigh* – a collection of Irish songs from our schooldays but this is more of an intermediate- to advanced- level collection. Personal taste and circumstances should dictate which CD is suitable for your child.
- **Computer Games:** For Irish language computer games, the key producer seems to be **Fios Feasa** (<http://www.fiosfeasa.com>). They have a great range. For absolute beginners (kids) *An Chéad Choiscéim* (the first step) was excellent. They also have two brilliant **Ruairí CD-ROMs** which are excellent for younger kids (and keep them off your back for an hour). Again, you need to be aware that kids interest in these drops dramatically after they are 8/9 years old. I once passed on a copy of their Fionn Mac Cumhail computer game to a 10 year old and he just looked at it with contempt before returning his attention to Star Wars Battlefront II. The competition for keeping kids interest is pretty fierce!

Irish in Wellington

In Wellington, there are very limited opportunities for kids to learn or use Irish, however, the **Hutt Irish Society** occasionally run a lovely programme called **Glór na nÓg** where kids are taught Irish songs (in Irish) and poetry.

Within Wellington City itself, there are a small group of people who meet up on an informal basis to speak Irish (at an upper-intermediate to advanced level).

Known as the **Grúpa Comhrá**, there is no set meeting time or structure. Mostly it offers Irish speakers an opportunity to talk and improve their language skills in a very relaxed setting (usually, weather permitting, there is a walk involved as well). The current *Cathaoirleach* (Chair) is Sinead Donnelly and she can be contacted at sinead.donnelly@hotmail.com if you are interested in attending.

I hope this article was of interest. For any queries on the above, please feel free to contact me at info@irishimbass.com.

Slán go fóill!

Brian O'Sullivan

New Irish Passport Fees for Over 65s

Effective 11 April 2011, the passport fee for an Irish citizen aged 65 and over is \$150 (previously these were issued free of charge).

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Wellington Irish Society (Inc)



This Month's Quote

Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something.

Plato

428 BC - 348 BC