



May-Jun 2012 Newsletter

Kia ora,

Welcome to the latest Wellington Irish Society newsletter.

The AGM is coming up so I hope you've kept Sunday 1st July free to make the annual trip to the club to have your say on the last year and to help select a committee for the oncoming year. We had a great turnout last year and would love to see you all there again this July.

The Irish Rugby Team is in NZ at present, and it's not going too well so far! Join us at the club to cheer them on for the last 2 tests; we might even sneak the win!

As the cold weather sets in for another winter, the recipe for Irish Farmhouse Broth should keep you toasty and warm.

We've also got some information on the inventor of the Torpedo, a good Mayo man no less! Also we've a bio on Ireland's greatest hero Brian Boru.

Read on for more!
David Rynne
Secretary

Reminders:

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

Wellington Irish Society AGM

Sunday 1st July 2012 @ 3pm

Doors will be open from 2pm to allow for Subs payments.



Coming Events

19th Australasian Irish Studies Conference

7-10 November
University of Otago
Dunedin

The Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand encourages and supports the study of Ireland and of the Irish Diaspora in Australia, New Zealand and internationally, by facilitating the exchange of information and ideas among its members.

This year's conference is hosted by the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

www.otago.ac.nz/ciss/irishconf2012

Ireland V All Blacks Tour

16 June v Ireland at Rugby League Park, Christchurch
23 June v Ireland at Waikato Stadium, Hamilton

Join us at the Wellington Irish Society Clubrooms to cheer on the boys in green for their remaining 2 test matches against the All Blacks.

We're open from 6.30pm on both nights so drop in, bring a few friends and enjoy the night (and maybe an Irish victory)

Film Night

Join us this Sunday 24th June for the next film night

We are showing Caoine Art O'Laoighre at 6.30pm

We'd love to see you there.

Music Nights

We're working on setting up a monthly Ceili Trad night so stay tuned for more information.



Recipe Corner

Recipe Corner

Irish Farmhouse Broth



Ingredients

1 tablespoon butter
2 leeks
4 buttercream potatoes
2 carrots
1 turnip
1 stick celery
½ head cabbage
1l beef or chicken stock
½ cup green peas
¼ cup pearl barley
Fresh parsley leaves
Freshly ground black pepper and sea salt to taste

Clean the leeks removing the outer layer of skin and cutting off the top and the root. Half them lengthwise leaving the top part intact, then rinse thoroughly. When ready, chop them finely along with the carrots, turnip celery and cabbage. Meanwhile, bring the stock to a boil then turn the heat down to low.

Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat, and put the leeks, carrots, turnip celery and peas in it, then add the vegetable broth.

Bring the mixture to a boil then cook it at a low heat until the peas and carrots are soft, or approximately 30-45 minutes. Then add the cabbage and the barley and leave it simmering for another 30 minutes. Peel and cube the potatoes, and boil them until tender. Portion the drained but still hot potatoes into soup bowls, and add the broth; finally decorate the plates with some fresh parsley leaves and crisp-cooked bacon.

Serves: 6

Ready in: 1 hour 15 mins



Gaelic Games News

Hi everyone,

The GAA season is cranking back to life a couple of months ahead of schedule. Our players are so committed we've had to cancel the off season and start back winter training. Last Tuesday was our first day back and it was great to see 30+ players turn out in artic conditions.

Training will continue on Tuesday evenings in Tewhea Artificial pitches in Newtown. Starting time is 8.30pm sharp.

On the admin side of things, we held our AGM at the Wellington Irish Society on Friday 1st June and had a mighty turnout.

Donal Kavanagh after 3 years at the helm has stepped down as President but will continue as a committee member. We'd like to offer him a special thank you for his excellent service to the GAA in Wellington and his continued participation.

Trevor O'Halloran takes up his role as President for the Next 12 months and it promises to be another busy year, we're starting a full NZ league for the first time and that promises to raise the healthy rivalry between the main NZ centres.

The mixed 7s will start back again in November so if any of your children or grandchildren are keen to play, make sure they check out www.wellingtongaa.com.

Davey Rynne
Vice President – Wellington GAA

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



Notice Board



The Irish Society has hundreds of books available to read at the club rooms. If you'd like to borrow one for a couple of weeks please feel free to drop in and sign out a book of your liking.

Details available from the Bar People



Deepest Sympathies to the family, relatives & friends of Nell Delaney.

Nell was well known among the Irish Community in New Zealand.

Nell had reached the age of 97 years.

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE OVERDUE!



**The Wellington Irish Society Subscriptions are again now due.
The membership year runs from 1-4-2012 to 31-3-2013**

**You can use the membership form at the back of this
newsletter to rejoin or you can do so online at**

www.wellingtonirishsociety.com/membership.html



The Gathering 2013 is a celebration of being Irish.

Irish people abroad, whether Irish born or bred or simply "Irish in spirit", are being invited to come home next year to gather at some of the many events which will celebrate the best of Ireland.

The Gathering is supported by the GAA so Roscommon GAA will be playing it's part in assisting with, and organising events. In order to inform as many people as possible about what will be happening in the county, we are compiling a contact list of Roscommon people abroad.

To sign up to the list simply send an email with your name and location (City, State or Country) to abroad@gaaroscommon.ie

Updates on The Gathering will be published on www.gaaroscommon.ie and on www.thegatheringireland.com

be part of it.



Rose of Tralee 2012

Alana Marshall

Taranaki Rose

After an 18-year drought, Taranaki has a winning rose.

New Plymouth's Alana Marshall was crowned New Zealand's Rose of Tralee ahead of seven other contestants in Wellington on Saturday night.

She will now take part in the Festival of Kerry international competition in Ireland next month.

Taranaki last provided the national Rose of Tralee winner in 1994 and Ms Marshall said it felt good to win for her province and have the opportunity to represent her country.

"I convinced myself I wouldn't win but I had four tables, so 40 people, in support," she said. "When they announced I had won they all got up on their chairs and were screaming and clapping.

"It was an incredible experience and really special to have my 85-year-old granddad there cheering me on as well," she said.

Miss Marshall said it was peer pressure from friends and family that had persuaded her to enter the competition.



Rose of Tralee competitors,

left to right, Jess Segal, Wellington GAA, Grace Campbell, Southland, Natalie Sangster, Waikato, Louise Thomas, Otago, Alana Marshall (the winner) from Taranaki, Siobhan Kelly, Auckland, Trisha Mulvey, Christchurch and Catriona Young, Hutt Valley. On Petone Beach.



Famous Irish People

Louis Brennan – inventor of the guided missile

Louis Brennan was a mechanical engineer and one of Ireland's most prominent inventors.

He worked on the development of the helicopter and monorail, but his biggest success was inventing the world's first guided missile.

This was a kind of torpedo that could be fired underwater and controlled remotely using a wire.

Brennan was born in 1852 in Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland.

He moved to Melbourne, Australia in 1861. As a child he loved puzzles and finding out how things worked. When he found out how his toys worked, he would think of alternative uses for them.

When he left school he became an engineer. He learnt his trade working for Alexander Kennedy Smith who was a renowned mechanical engineer and an officer in the Victoria Volunteer Artillery Regiment. He later became Mayor of Melbourne.

Idea for a steerable torpedo

In 1874, young Brennan first came up with the idea for a steerable torpedo. Surprisingly, it was a cotton reel that inspired his idea.

He realised that if you tug the cotton from underneath, the reel would move in the opposite direction. The faster the cotton was tugged, the faster the reel would move. He thought of things that needed to move fast and not return.



Replica Brennan torpedo

When he realised the sister outfit of his employer's regiment was the Victoria Torpedo Corps, he put two and two together and developed his first guided torpedo. He spent the next few years working on the invention after receiving a substantial government grant.

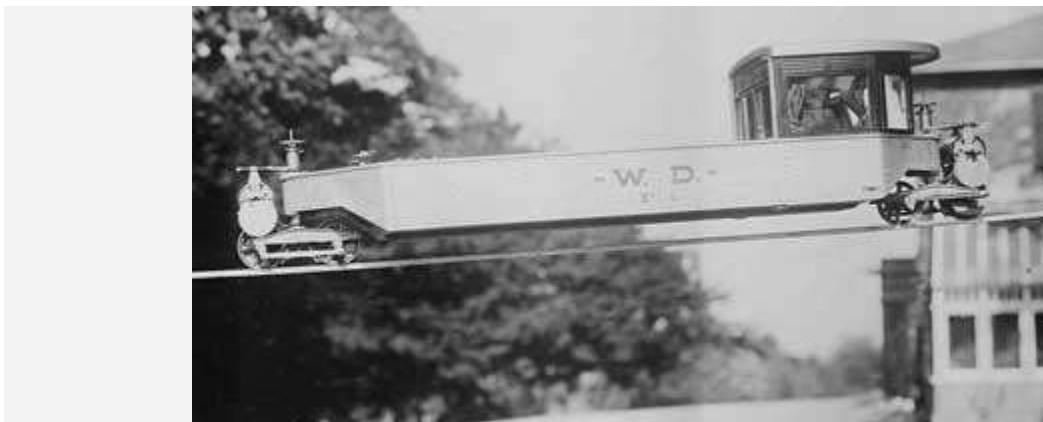
Brennan returned to Ireland

In 1877, he patented the Brennan torpedo. He went back to Ireland to test the concept in County Cork.

In 1880 he took his invention to the British War Office, which saw its potential for defending harbours and channels. They purchased the patent for £100,000 (about £7.5m in today's money) and Brennan became superintendent of the Brennan Torpedo Factory.

The range of the missiles was limited by the length of the wire used to guide them but they were able to reach up to 3km. They contained explosives and the British navy used them to defend their harbours in Britain, Ireland, Hong Kong and Malta.

Other inventions

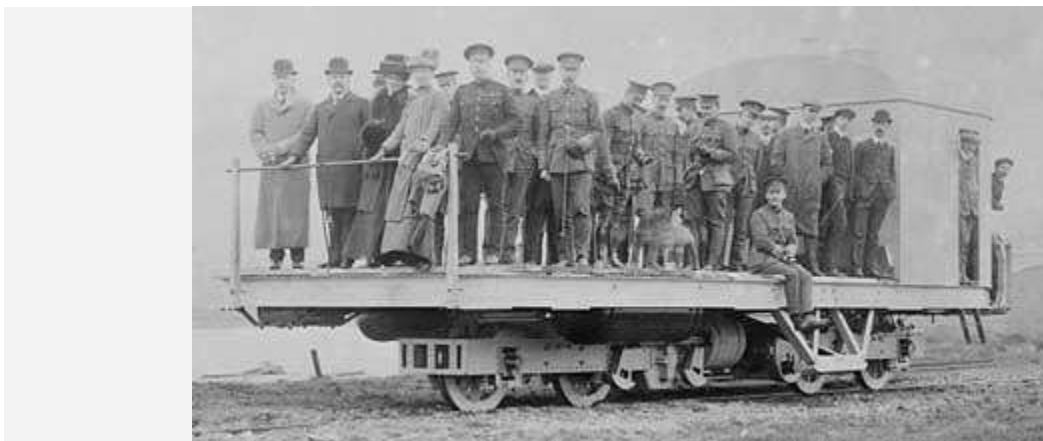


Brennan's monorail

Brennan also worked as an inventor for the British military. He was interested in transport and created an innovative monorail system that was kept balanced using a gyroscope. He demonstrated his invention without any problems but it was never taken on due to fears that it could fail.

He suffered a similar disappointment when he spent seven years working for the air ministry trying to invent a workable helicopter only for the government to stop funding the project.

He died in 1932, aged 79, after being hit by a car.



Men and officers on Brennan gyroscope car

2012 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 have grown consistently.

The first prize winner is Kerrienne Fanning of James Hargest College, Invercargill for her essay entitled "Genetically Irish".

Second prize has been awarded to Jamie Adams of Otago Girls' High School, Dunedin for her essay entitled "Dublin to Dunedin".

Equal Third prize has been won by Maria Ji of St Cuthbert's College, Auckland for "Walk the Blue Fields" and by Richard Ngo of King's College, Auckland for "Irish – An Teanga Gaeilge".

In announcing the prize winners in the 21st Rodney Walshe Annual Irish Essay Competition, the judges, Gordon McLauchlan and Rodney Walshe, were impressed not only by the standard of writing of all entrants, but also by the wide and challenging range of subjects chosen, and their intrinsic connection with Ireland.

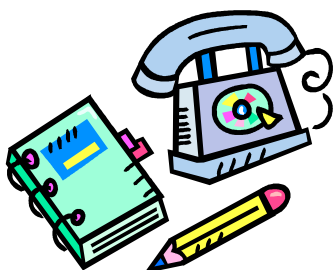
The judges were treated to an interesting array of dissertations including Gaelic and Maori language comparisons, the unique Irish DNA, Irish playwrights, Shanachie, Travelers, and of course many commenting on Irish humour and craic. The content of the winning essay is readily described by its title, "Genetically Irish"

The support for the competition continues to grow throughout the country with this year's winner being the first from Invercargill. The winner receives all-expenses paid visit to Dublin for one month, staying with an Irish family and attending a number of summer school courses.

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

The Honorary Consul General of Ireland, Rodney Walshe ONZM, will personally present the prizes to the top four winning students.

Four Takapuna Grammar School students have been awarded Certificates of Merit in this year's competition. Over the previous three years, the School has produced three Prize and five Certificate winners, a combined total of twelve, unequaled by any school in New Zealand. In recognition of this outstanding achievement, the Honorary Consul General has created a special Certificate which he will personally present to the school.



Club Contacts

The following are the contact details of the Committee in 2011-12

Role	Name	Phone Number	Email
Club Patron	Colleen O'Donovan		colleen@ihug.co.nz
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	04-5897109	secretary@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Membership Officer	Paul Murray		membership@wellingtonirishsociety.com
Committee Members	Kerry Dwyer		greenink@xtra.co.nz
	Tony O'Riordan		
	Paul Murray		
	Jim Maguire		Jm.flooring@xtra.co.nz
	Jim McMeekin		

**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



Riddle Me This!

Riddle Me This!

Last Month's Answers: 1. Standing on top of the world; 2. Black Underwear; 3. Needle & Thread; 4. A candle; 5. A Shadow; 6. A Key; 7. A Well; 8. Your Teeth; 9. Coal; 10. A Ship

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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What lives in the corner but travels the world?2. I'm white; I'm round, but not always around. Sometimes you see me, sometimes you don't. What am I?3. Toss me out of the window, You'll find a grieving wife, Pull me back but through the door, and Watch someone give life!4. I have an end but no beginning, a home but no family, a space without room. I never speak but there is no word I cannot make. What am I?5. I cannot be other than what I am Until the man who made me dies Power and glory will fall to me finally Only when he last closes his eyes | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Two in a whole and four in a pair And six in a trio you see And eight's a quartet but what you must get Is the name that fits just one of me?7. I appear in the morning but am always there. You can never see me though I am everywhere. By night I am gone, though I sometimes never was. Nothing can defeat me but I am easily gone. What am I?8. I live in a busy place in the city, I'll let you stay with me for awhile, If you don't feed me, I can get you into trouble. What am I?9. The first 2 letters of this English word refer to a male, the first three refer to a female, the first 4 to a great man and the whole word is a great woman. What is the word?10. I live above a star but never burn. I have 11 neighbors but they never turn. My initials are p, q, r and sometimes s. What am I? |
|--|---|



Brian Boru

(c. 940-1014)

Brian Boru was born around 940, the youngest of two sons of Cennedig, head of Dal Cais, one of the royal free tribes of Munster. Brian grew up during the worst days of tyranny when the Dalcassians had been driven in to the present county of Clare. Brian's brother, Mahon, being the eldest, succeeded Cennedig as chief of the Dalcassians. Being hemmed into Clare by the Norse Leader, Ivar of Limerick, Mahon was willing to accept terms but Brian, seeing almost all of the Dal Cais tribe including his mother brutally murdered by a Norse raid when he was only a child, refused to be any part of such a truce. He deserted Mahon with a group of soldiers. They lived in the hills of Munster attacking Norse settlements and disappearing in to the hills. His fame spread throughout the province and infuriated Ivar. Although having only a handful of men, Brian's skill as a tactician led him to defeat vastly superior numerical forces and led to rumours of a mighty Dalcassian army.

After a number of petty battles, Brian had trained an excellent Dalcassian army to face the Norsemen. The stories of his triumphs had led to vast numbers of young men volunteering to join his side. The feud between himself and Mahon ended. Mahon renounced his truce with the Norsemen and the two brothers rejoined forces. The two men triumphed so far that Mahon took the throne of Cashel in 963 and in 968 at Sulchoid in Tipperary, the two brothers completely overtook Ivar's forces and marched on Limerick while Ivar fled back to the Norse lands. The Norse tyranny in Munster thus collapsed and Mahon ruled peacefully for eight years. However, Ivar returned to Ireland and plotted the murder of Mahon. After Mahon's death, Brian not wanting a bloodbath between his forces and Ivar's, honourably challenged Ivar to open combat, which he won killing Ivar. Brian succeeded his brother as head of the Dal Cais and immediately took the field against his brother's enemies. In 978, he defeated the King of Cashel in battle. Step by step he established himself in the Kingship of Munster and fortified the province. In 983 and 988, his fleets ravaged Connaught and plundered Meath.

Meanwhile, another great leader had arisen in the North, Malachy the second, the Ui Neill King of Tara. Malachy was born in 948, became King of Meath and in 980, High King. This he achieved at the battle of Tara in 980 where he overthrew a Norse Army and took Dublin. A clash between the two men was

inevitable. At last, in 998, they met and divided Ireland between the two of them, Brian becoming the King of the South and Malachy of the North.

By 1002, the joint sway of Malachy and Brian could not last. Malachy, being unable to gather enough support to take on the mighty forces of Brian, allowed Brian peacefully to take over his lands. This was the greatest moment in the history of native Ireland. Brian, by his title, "Ard Ri", was claiming the monarchy of the whole Gaelic race. Before Brian, and Malachy, Ireland was divided in to a number of petty kingdoms, sometimes at peace, sometimes at war with one another. The Vikings themselves joined in the struggles between the Irish kingdoms and also fought bitterly among themselves. There was no one king up to this who was responsible for the defence of Ireland against the Vikings and had control over the entire island.

Brian had much to do as High King to lift Ireland out of the ruins of the Norse Age. He rebuilt ruined churches, built others, he sent overseas to replace lost books and artefacts and all that he possibly could to heal the wounds of the past two centuries of Norse pillage.

In 1013, the Leinstermen and the Dublin Vikings revolted against Brian. Mael Morda, King of Leinster, allied himself with the Dublin Vikings and went to war with Brian. The Dublin Vikings sought allies overseas. The great Sigurd, Earl of Orkney, came with a large contingent. While other Viking contingents came from as far afield as Iceland and Normandy. Brian gave them Battle at Clontarf on Good Friday, 1014 and defeated them. However, as the Vikings were retreating, one of their leaders, Bothair, murdered Brian.

After this, Malachy resumed his position as High King and the Dal Cais strength remained only in Munster. The Viking presence in Ireland continued after Brian's death but their military power was crushed. They remained in the country as traders and intermarried amongst the native Irish. Ireland was never again to have a King to control the entire of the island and the cost to Ireland and to Brian of crushing the Viking power in this country was a great one, for Ireland was never again to have a true "ARD RI".

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 2012

Membership Period is 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013

Payment Details
<p>1. Send a cheque to the Irish Society at PO Box 449, Wellington 6140 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>

Note:

You won't be eligible to vote at the AGM or receive Newsletters if you're not a financial Member

Wellington Irish Society (Inc)



This Month's Quote

Is fearr Gaeilge briste, na Bearla cliste

Broken Irish is better than clever English

Irish Saying