

Australian - Irish Heritage Association



NOTICE BOARD OF ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE & JULY 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRENDAN AWARD WINNERS

At the 2024 Link conference hosted by the Claddagh Association the AIHA were grateful to be offered the opportunity to present the prestigious Brendan Awards for 2022 and 2023 in a reception at Durty Nellies on Thursday 23 May. In the presence of Irish Ambassador Tim Mawe and his wife Patricia, Alanna Clohessy, MLC and other distinguished guests from WA and interstate, AIHA president Heather Deighan introduced the award explaining it was created in 1997 to recognise persons who have made an outstanding contribution to Australia's Irish Heritage. It is named after Saint Brendan of Clonfert (c. 484 – c. 577), who was believed to be the first European emigrant to North America having sailed across the Atlantic solo. The unsuspecting recipients were presented with a uniquely designed Irish Standing Stone award. An Honour Board of all recipients is on display in the Irish Club.

The recipient for 2022 is Eimear Beattie

Eimear was born in the Gaeltacht area of Donegal. She and her family were passionate GAA followers and she played camogie competitively. Eimear arrived in Perth in October 2001 staying for four months. After returning to Ireland and a stint in San Francisco she and husband Anthony emigrated to Perth in 2011.

With two young children she established Irish Families in Perth facebook page in October 2011. It grew from 20 members to 21,000 and has an offshoot in the Irish mums north of the river. Eimear acknowledges the assistance of the Claddagh Association. This led to eight weekly playgroups thanks to sponsorship from Perth businesses with every cent going towards paying the fees for the families and playgroups. The Irish Government provided funding at one stage. They help with inquiries on Irish people moving to Australia.

Eimear is a high school teacher at Girrawheen Senior High School. Eimear taught Irish language classes to children and has been coordinator of the annual Perth Saint Patrick's Day Mass. She featured in an Irish Times article in 2016 titled 'Raising kids abroad: how to keep them connected to home'. She was profiled in 'Oral Histories of Irish Immigrants in Western Australia', Volume 2, by Claddagh Association Inc in 2023.

The recipient for 2023 is Caroline McCarthy

Caroline grew up in Beaufort, Co Kerry. From an early age Caroline had a keen interest in all aspects of Irish heritage and culture. Upon moving to Perth in 2011 Caroline became a qualified Irish Dancing Teacher (TCRG). In 2017 Caroline founded the Torc Ceili Club where adults and children could learn Irish Dancing in a non-competitive social atmosphere. She teaches step dancing, sean-nos, ceili and set dancing. She has taught classes in the Irish Club, Maylands, suburban schools and even remotely and has held ceilis in Masonmill, Kidogo Arthouse and the Irish Club. She ran a successful pop-up Gaeltacht 'Anseo' in the Irish Club in 2021. She has promoted Irish culture through dancing in events like Fairbridge Festival with workshops and ceilis reaching outside the Irish community. Also Bickley Music weekend with Comhaltas, Fenians Festival, Rockingham Catalpa Adventure Festival, Geraldton's 'Halfway to St Patrick's Day' event. She has run the now-annual St Brigid's Festival in Kidogo Arthouse – a weekend event of all things Irish with music, dancing, butter-making, making St Brigid crosses and children's stories. She has been President of AIDA WA (Australian Irish Dancing Association), chairperson and secretary of Darkness into Light since 2018. Caroline has personally assisted expats in need.

We invite nominations for 2024, Details can be found on <https://irishheritage.com.au/awards/the-brendan-award/>
Full report in June AIHA quarterly Journal

THE FOURTH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

Meets fourth Tuesday of the month, with exception of December. At 7.30pm
June 25 'This is going to hurt' by Adam Kay, presented by Joe Purcell
July 23 No meeting due to members away.
Venue Irish Club Committee Room, 61 Townshend Road, Subiaco
Admission Free. All welcome. Light refreshments provided.
Contact Convener Mary Purcell, m.purcell@telstra.com

Non Political-Non Sectarian-Emphatically Australian



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Look us up on **Facebook**

NOTICES

The Journal – is our quarterly book publication edited by Teresa O'Brien. March edition features President Micheal D Higgins St Patrick's Day message 2024; Vale Tom Kearns; Stormont restored - Sinn Fein, Northern Ireland's First Minister; Dan Mulhall: Diplomat, Ambassador, Historian, Academic; Aichlinn O'Reilly: first Irishman to break 8 hour barrier in Busselton; Doctor Richard Robert Madden; A working life for Irish studies - Professor Peter Kuch reflects; Lowitja O'Donoghue: A great indigenous woman; Governor Charles Fitzgerald - hero and scapegoat; Ireland and Bangla Desh; AIHA Annual management report; St Patrick's Parade.
Email correspondence to journal@irishheritage.com.au.

Coming Up – Tour of Parliament House to commemorate AIHA 30th anniversary – limited to committee and volunteers; Mary Durack Memorial lecture

AIHA Supports

Radio Fremantle 107.9fm, **Voices of Ireland** launched 9 March. Broadcasting every Saturday, 8-10 am. Host Heather Deighan, president AIHA. Irish radio with interviews, news items, music and opinions. Currently in temporary recess.

Irish Theatre Players present a season of 3 x one-act plays in the Irish Club Theatre on June 13,14,15,16, 20, 21 and 22 at 7.30pm with a matinee on June 16 at 2pm. *"Kitchen"* by Van Badham, directed by Fiona Cahill, *"The Bear"* by Anton Chekov, directed by Michael McCall, *"Ashes to Dust"* by Yvette Wall, directed by Sean Byrne. Tickets \$25, WWW.Trybooking.com/CRXZN

Claddagh Association founded in 1997 is a voluntary, non-profit organisation with Gift Recipient Status. Supported by the Government of Ireland, local Irish organisations and individuals. <https://claddagh.org.au/> Membership \$10

Irish Scene free bi-monthly magazine is the go-to source of all activities in WA's Australian Irish community. Check out AIHA regular page. Available from Irish Club and Irish hospitality venues

Fremantle Fenian Festival - Membership \$25, due 1 January. BSB 633 000, A/C 160679791, Ref Your Name. 2026 will be the 150th Anniversary of the audacious escape from Fremantle prison of six Irish Political Fenians who had been transported to WA on the last convict ship The Hougoumont in 1868. They escaped on Easter Monday, 17 April 1876 on the 'Catalpa' American Whaler. We plan to organize a range of activities over the next 2 years building to a large 150th commemorative festival and invite you to be involved. Join us at the HOUGOUMONT HOTEL, 15 Bannister Street, Fremantle, 5.30 - 7.30pm, Thursday, 13th June 2024 in a vision and planning session and a social evening of Irish culture, music and poetry. Teleconference link available. RSVP 3rd June. info@feniansfestival.com.au

Irish Club, 61 Townshend Road, Subiaco. Bar, Lounge, Kitchen, Theatre, meeting rooms. Membership July 1 to June 30, \$60, conc \$50, additional family members \$25. <https://www.facebook.com/irishclubofwa/>

Royal WA Historical Society – Stirling House 49 Broadway Nedlands. Check website for regular talks and tours, 9386 3841, www.histwest.org.au Email admin@histwest.org.au

Irish-Australian Arts Round Up monthly newsletter issued by irishfilmfestivalaustralia@gmail.com

Anglo & Celtic Magazine – National round-up of Celtic nations activities in Australia. editor@angloandceltic.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Now Due 1 January, 2024

Family membership \$65 Concession (Centrelink and unwaged students with ID) \$55

Distant (200 kms from Perth) \$45 Membership fee includes tax deductible donation of \$20

Pay Online – you can register your details and pay via <https://irishheritage.com.au/membership/registration/>

Or Bank Transfer: Bank: Commonwealth, BSB: 066-192 Account No: 1054 6502

AIHA has approved charity and tax deductible status. Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR) allows our sponsors claim a tax deduction.

Membership rates are unchanged since 2014.

Members enjoy discounted rates to dinners and functions, exclusive events, quarterly Journal, voting rights, and opportunities to participate in activities which promote an awareness of Australia's Irish Heritage



AIHA Committee

President – Heather Deighan **Treasurer/ Membership** – Patricia Bratton **Secretary** – Tony Bray

Committee – Peter Conole, Gayle Lannon, Teresa O'Brien

Supported by a tier of volunteers. We need event coordinators please talk to us if you are interested!

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