



Bí bródúil as do theanga

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaelge na hAstráile

Nollaig 2011

4-12-2011

Nuacht ó Dheirdre

A chairde,
Níl ach roinnt seachtain fágtha sa téarma agus ba mhaith liom cuir in iúl daoibh go mbeidh oíche cheoil againn ag an lá deirneach, an triú lá déag de mhí na Nollaig, leis na grúpaí Ceilteacha eile. Má tá sibh ag teacht an féider libh an t-eolas sin a thabhairt dom go luath.

Beidh ranganna páistí ag tosú I mhí Feabhra. Táimid ag caint le roinnt daoine chun socrú a dhéanamh ar an áit is fearr. Nuair a bheidh sé sin socraithe againn beidh daoine á lorg againn go mbeidh suim acu sna ranganna. Idir an dá linn bheadh sé go híontach dá mbeadh

sibh in ann an t-eolas sin a thabhairt amach mar gheall iad. Má tá aon ceistanna ag éinne is feider libh glaoh a chuir orm ar 0405 210 149.

Bhí CBG (Crinniú Ginearaltá Bliantúil) an Club Celtic ar siúl le déanaí agus tabhairt said eolas dúinn mar gheall ar an forbairt nua. Níl a lán le rá faoi. Níl an club cinnte fós go bhfuil na pleananna ag dul ar aghaidh fós. Caitheadh said an ceist a phlé le KPMG i gceann cúpla mhí agus i ndiaidh sin beidh an club I ann níos mó



Articles Wanted

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eolas a thabhairt dúinn. Mar gheall ar sin níl aon rud sochraithe fós i dtaobh foirgneamh eile mar tá rudaí fós suas san aer, mar a dhéarfá!

Rud atá ag dul ar aghaidh go breá ná na hullmhúcháin don Daonscoil. Beidh ceilí ann an bhliain seo, rud nach tharla anuraidh agus beidh roinnt gnothaí difiriúil agus suimiúil ar ar lean Ich. 2) >

San Eagrán Seo..

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Key Dates for December 2011 - February 2012

13 Dec	Christmas Party (Musical Night)
8-15 Jan	Daonscoil
7 Feb	Teacher meeting
14 Feb	First class of term 1 2012

Information given here about term dates is for students in Victoria only, and Interstate students should check with their local teacher.

Irish Language classes each Tuesday during school terms 7:30 pm in the basement in the Celtic Club Melbourne

www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Nuacht ó Dheirdre

< (Lean as an chéad leathanach)

ar siúil comh maith. Ná dean dearmaid an foirm iarratais a thabhairt isteach comh luath agus is féidir.

Nollaig Shona and Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Duit!

Deirdre

News from Deirdre

There are only a few weeks left in the term and I would like to let you know that the last day of term will be a musical night on Tuesday 13th December. It will be from 7.30 - 9.30pm on the first floor of the club with the other Celtic Groups. If you are coming please us know as early as possible.

Something else that will be going on - classes for children. In February the Cumann will be starting a class for children. We are currently discussing venues with several people and when the best place is settled on we will be looking for people who would be interested in the classes. In the meantime, it would be brilliant if you could put the information out there. If anyone has any queries they can ring me on 0405 210 149.

The Celtic Club had its AGM recently and information was given out about the redevelopment of club. The club is not sure yet that it's going ahead. The question will be discussed with KPMG in a couple of months and after that the club will be sure. On account of that there is nothing decided yet in terms of a substitute building until the question is settled.

Something that **is** going ahead is the preparations for Daonscoil. There will be a ceili this year, something that did not happen last year. Also, there will be several different and interesting activities going on as well. Don't forget about your application and get it in as soon as possible!

May you have a Merry Christmas and a bright New Year!

Deirdre



Note from the editor

I would like to apologise for the delay in putting out the newsletter this time but there was some difficulty in getting articles to put in it. This is a problem each quarter and I am very grateful to all those who have made the effort, it is really appreciated.

As I have been unable to attend the Irish classes in the last six months and so persuade members to write something, and am unsure if I will be attending in the future, it has made it very hard to ensure that I get articles in order to produce the newsletter on time. Due to this, I have decided to step down as editor so this will be my last edition.

Thanks again to all the help that I have had during my very brief tenure.

Aisling

Micheál D. Ó hUiginn

Bhí an naoú hUachtarán de Phoblacht na hÉireann toghadh le déanaí. Michael D. Higgins (Micheál D. Ó hUiginn) is ainm dó. Is ionann an "D" do Daniel.

Ghlac sé a oifig ar an chéad lá dhéag de mhí na Samhna 2011. Bhí mé ag éisteacht an oíche sin leis an chraoladh ar Raidió na Gaeltachta ar m'fhón póca nuair a thug sé a óráid in-sealbhaithe mar Uachtarán. Am meán lae ab ea é in Éirinn ós rud é go bhfuilimid san Astráil anois a aon uair déag chun tosaigh ar an am in Éirinn.



Ceapaim féin gur iontach ar fad an rud é gur toghadh é. Is fear cultúrtha é, atá líofa sa Ghaeilge agus a bhfuil suim láidir aige i ngnóthaí Gaeilge aige.

Nuair a bhí sé mar Aire sna Rialtais chuir sé Bord Scannán na hÉireann ar bun agus an rud níos tábhachtaí dúinn a bhfuil ag foghlaim na Gaeilge, chuir sé stáisiún teilifíse na Gaeilge ar siúl - a bhfuil an t-ainm TG4 air anois.

Is maith an rud é ar son forbartha ár dteanga gur roghnaíodh M.D.H., beidh tionchar mór aige sa todhchaí. Chomh maith le sin, bhí meas níos mó agam air nuair a dúirt sé go mbeidh sé mar Uachtarán ar son na clanna Gaeilge a bhfuil cónaí orthu ar fud an domhain, ní amháin in Éirinn... "ár muintir atá lonnaithe i dtíortha ar fud an domhain mhóir".

Beidh sé deacair dó an grá céanna a thuilleamh, is a bhí tuillte ag an iar-Uachtarán Máire Mac Ghiolla Íosa in Éirinn agus thar sáile.

Cé go bhfuil sé seachtó bliain d'aois anois, tá dóchas mór agam go mbeidh an fuinneamh aige chun a phost a chomhlíonadh ar a dhícheall.

Rud eile a bhaineann leis. Thaispeáin sé i rith a shaol polaitiúil go bhfuil trua mhór aige do na daoine ar an runga is íseal sa tsochaí.

Beidh tionchar aige ar rudaí Ealaíne freisin. Is file é a bhfuil a chuid leabhair dánta foilsithe aige. Ar ndóigh, is banaisteoir í a bhean chéile Sabina Coyne.

Greg Burns



The Rainbow Serpent - An Ollipesit Ildathach

Our previous story about touring in the outback reminded me of a time when I too momentarily found myself on tour in the company of a group of young Irish folk. They had arrived on a tour bus and we all boarded the same boat for a trip up the Catherine Gorge in remote northern Australia.

The day was hot, crocodiles lay in the river, big ones. Prehistoric fearful monsters. And the aboriginal guide quietly spoke to us, of the great rainbow serpent whose body had created this great gorge and river, and whose abode lay in the deepest part of the river, way below us. And I think we were all half asleep in the heat as he spoke.

The rainbow serpent lay first in the great formless ocean, everything in the universe it held within itself, and one day it awoke and breathed on the waters, words, words that created the land, the sun and the moon, the stars and the trees, and all the animals and man. And on the last day when everything was made, it looked over its creation - and something was wrong. It was all so boring. Ah, it thought, and created - colour!



Now a similar story is told of creation from one end of the world to the other. And yes, traces are even found in the bible. Eventually, the great serpent became two, creating the male and the female. We all know the story of the serpent tempting Eve with all wisdom, which only the Serpent held within herself. And many readers will know this serpent of creation as the great Ourobouros, a serpent encircling the world with its tail in its mouth. Or the fearful Jormungard, who lies in the chaos at the far edge of the world still, and who Thor, Thundergod, tried to catch one day by baiting his hook with a head he'd ripped off a cow. He nearly succeeded too, but the giant who was with him panicked and cut the line, so they took home some whales for tea instead.

But I wasn't thinking of Jormungard, or Eve's serpent, or any of the other serpents of creation this day. I was thinking of the great Ollipeist of Ireland, who lives in loughs and turns up in all sorts of stories. Michael Dames, the Irish author, dubbed her the Great Swallower, an Australian friend re-dubbed her The Great Croc, because she goes around swallowing cows, the moon and the sun, and pretty much anything interesting that takes her fancy, including people. St Patrick was swallowed by her, as was Fionn mac Cumhaill, and his son, and many other warriors, who had to fight their way out again, often leaving their skin behind. St Patrick, naturally, is said to have finally done her in, with her bones still to be seen in Lough Derg. Or she slid down to the sea fleeing from him, her track making the river Shannon, just as she did the Catherine Gorge. Yet somehow she still lives with her mate in Lough Gur and a number of other lakes in Ireland and Scotland. In England though, as the Great Worm, she coils herself

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The Rainbow Serpent - An Ollipesit Ildathach

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around conical hills, just as the Rainbow Serpent does at Green Island on the final day of creation.

Oddly enough, the Rainbow Serpent of Australia is drawn with the horns of a stag on its head, but Australia has never had native deer, just as Ireland had no native snakes. Hints of ancient tales told down through the millennia, a story so old, so strong, that it has become part of us, part of our creation, creation itself.

I was half in the outback, half in Ireland, strange stories of the ollipeist shifting in colours through my brain. But eventually something impinged on me from the outside. Irish voices, three young Irish girls sitting on the seat beside me. Still half in my thoughts, I excitedly turned to them to say, how amazing, this is just like being in Ireland, the same great story. But wait, no, they weren't listening to our guide, they were talking amongst themselves. And it was all about what clothes they would wear that night, what colour to paint their nails, what boys on the tour with them were of especial interest. I had to pull up and laugh at myself, ancient tales yes, but still creation and life go on and on, in all the glorious colours of the rainbow.

Eilidh nic Aoidh



Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo

Éarlámh: Máire Mhic Ghiolla Íosa

IRISH LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Patron: Mary McAleese, President of Ireland

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, the Irish Language Association of Australia is a non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteer tutors and a voluntary committee of management. Its aim is to promote the Gaelic language as a second language within the Australian community, and to form networks with other cultural, heritage and Gaelic-speaking groups. Formally established back in 1992, the ILAA offers structured weekly language classes to students of all ages, nationalities, and walks of life, across a range of levels — absolute beginners, basic, intermediate, advanced — as well as the opportunity to practice and converse together in a supportive environment.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter; access to the library; and also enjoy weekly singing and informal conversation sessions; as well as participation in social events and residential language schools.



Bí bródúil as do theanga

Irish Language Association of Australia Inc., 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000.

Annual Membership Application or notification of change of address, telephone number, mobile, email.

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