



Bi bródúil as do theanga

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Samhradh 2015-16
1-12-2015

Thugamar féin an Samhradh Linn

A chairde,
Tá muintir na Fraince inár smaointe agus ár bpaidreacha sa ré chorrach seo don domhan.

Le nuacht níos fearr - beidh foireann sacair na bhfear ón bPoblacht agus an Tuaisceart ag dul go Euró 2016 sa Fhrainc.

Sa bhliain seo chugainn beidh muintir na hÉireann ar fud an domhain ag tabhairt Éirí Amach 1916 chun cuimhne. Is féidir na cuimhneacháin a bheidh ar siúl san Astráil a fháil ar ár leathanach Facebook.

Buíochas le Colin Ryan a thug bronntanas dúinn dá leabhar nua, "Teachtaireacht". (tá sé le fáil anois inár leabharlann). Is Astrálach é



Gúgán Barra - féach ar leathanach 3

Colin agus caithfidh go bhfuil sé ar an mbeagán Gaeilgeoirí idirnáisiúnta a bhfuil leabhar foilsithe aige as Gaeilge. Maith thú, a Colin!

Má tá suim agat freastail ar na ranganna TEG, bí i dteagmháil le Stuart. Seo bealach an-mhaith chun siollabas áirithe a leanúint agus

ullmhú don scrúdú an bhliain seo chugainn. Tá obair na gcapall á dhéanamh againn chun an cúrsa a chur ar fáil ar líne do mhic léinn ar fud na hAstráile.

Tá an cór ar siúl arís faoi cheannaireacht Róhan. Tosaíonn sé ar 6.45 roimh na ranganna.

San Eagrán Seo..

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Special liftout - Membership 2016

Key Dates for Dec, Jan, Feb 2015-16

8th Dec	Last class for term 4
15th Dec	Year end party, upstairs in Celtic Club
23rd-26th Jan	Scoil Teanga, Canberra
2nd Feb	First class of term 1
9th Feb	First committee meeting for 2016

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

www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

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

(ar lean...)

Beidh ár gcóisir na Nollag ar an 15 Nollaig ag 7.30 - thuas staighre sa Celtic Club. Seol teachtaireacht chuig "feedback@gaeilgesanastrail.com" led' thoil, chun cabhrú linn an líon daoine a aimsiú. Beidh fáilte roimh do chlann is do chairde. Sin an oíche dheireanach dúinn don bhliain seo. Bígí ann !

Táimid ag tnúth leis an Daonscoil i gCanberra. Ea-graithe ar an deireadh seachtaine, Lá na hAstráile, tráth an-mhaith a bheith sa phríomhchathair.

Guím gach síocháin agus sonas oraibh agus ar bhur gclanna i rith séasúr na Nollag agus 2016. Feicimid sibh ar ais ag na ranganna ar an 2 Feabhra.

A chairde, our neighbours in France are in our thoughts and prayers for what has been a difficult time in Europe. In happier French news, with the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland men's soccer teams qualifying for Euro 2016.

In 2016 the centenary of the 1916 rising will be marked throughout the world. Australian commemorations can be noted on our Facebook page.

Our thanks to Colin Ryan who gifted a copy of his new book to our library. Colin is Australian and must be one of the few international Irish speakers to have work published in our language. Good on ya Colin!

Please let Stuart know if you are interested in attending the TEG classes. It's a great way to follow a set syllabus and work towards the goal of an exam next year. We are hoping to deliver these classes online for students all over Australia.

The choir is starting back up under the leadership of Rohan. It starts at 6:45pm on Tuesdays before classes.

The Festive Function on 15 December, upstairs in the Celtic Club. Please email us at "feedback@gaeilgesanastrail.com" to help us with numbers. Family and friends welcome. We are looking forward to each class' performances! This will be our last night before the break. Be there!

Daonscoil – many of us are looking forward to our trip to Canberra. Held over the Australia Day weekend, it's a great time to be in the nation's capital.

I wish you and your families peace and joy over the festivities and throughout 2016. See you back at class on 2 February.

Ceallaigh

Bás Uinsinn

A chairde,

Ba mhaith liom comhbhrón ó chroí a dhéanamh libh ar bhás Uinsionn Uí Ghormáin. Méala mór is ea a bhás dá mhuintir is dá lucht aitheantais, go háirithe a chairde i gCumann Gaeilge na hAstráile.

Fear álainn, íseal-uasal ab ea Uinsionn. Bhí sé de phribhléid agam é a bheith im' rang ag an Scoil Samhraidh i 2013 agus arís i 2015.

'Dub' go smior ab ea é, de bhunadh lucht oibre na cathrach agus níor chaill sé riamh blas Bhleá Cliath ar a chuid cainte ná greann agus daonnacht na muintire as ar phréamhaigh sé.

Bhaineamar go léir taitneamh agus sult as a chomhluadar, a scéalta agus a chuid amhrán. Chuir sé go mór leis na scoileanna ar ar fhreastal sé agus braithfear uainn go mór é.

An uair dheireanach a rabhas ag caint leis is ag druidim le deireadh na scoile i mbliana a bhíomar. Shuíos in aice leis agus thosaigh sé ag eachtraíocht ar laethanta a óige, ar a chuid scolaíochta (trí mheán na Gaelainne) agus ar a mháthair, beannacht Dé léi, a dhein a seacht ndícheall chun go bhfaigheadh Uinsionn tabhairt suas maith. Bá léir dom ón gcomhrá sin go raibh sé an-cheanúil uirthi agus go raibh ardmheas aige ar a mháthair.

Go rabhadar beirt i gcomhluadar na naomh agus i gcomhluadar a muintire ar shlí na fírinne.

Le meas mór oraibh agus fé bhrón,

Miriam Uí Dhonnabháin.

Daonscoil an Fhomainn

Nuair a bhí mé in Éirinn le déanaí thapaig mé an deis chun freastail ar Daonscoil an Fhomainn. Gach bhliain bíonn an Daonscoil seo ar siúl i nGúgán Barra, Co Chorcaí, áit fíor álainn, ar an gcéad deireadh seachtaine de Dheire Fomhair. Bhí an t-ádh orm go raibh ár gcara Nóirín Uí Chatháin im' theannta.

Le comóradh céid Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 ag teannadh linn, roghnaíodh "Cumann na mBan" mar théama na Daonscoile. Thug Tadhg Ó Súilleabháin léacht suimiúil, eolasach dúinn dár teideal *Cumann na mBan ar fud Éireann*, ar oíche Dé hAoine tar éis do Liadh Ní Riada, MEP, an oscailt oifigiúil a dhéanamh.

Labhair Tadhg faoi bhunú agus éabhlóid an Chumainn ó Inghinidhe na hÉireann, ar 2 Aibreán, 1914; faoin ról tabhachtach a bhí acu san Éirí Amach 1916, i gCogadh na Saoirse agus i gCogadh na gCarad. Shaothraigh siad mar bhanaltraí, ag iompar armlón agus teachtaireachtaí, agus ag troid. Labhair sé freisin faoin easba aitheantais atá tugtha do na mná cróga seo. Sa dara léacht thug sé cur síos ar *Cumann na mBan in Iarthar Chorcaí*. Chomh maith bhaineamar taitneamh as amhránaíocht, dráma, siúlóid, bia thar bharr san Óstán, gan trácht ar cuideachta na nGaeilgeoirí a bhí i láthair.

Molaim an Daonscoil seo nó Daonscoil na Mumhan, a bhíonn ar siúl i mí Lúnasa d'éinne a bhíonn in Éirinn ag an am sin den bhliain. Siún.

The Irish Embassy in Canberra have generously provided us with an Emigrant Support Program (ESP) grant towards online lessons. These will be of immense benefit to our members who live outside Melbourne or who are unable to attend classes.

If your funds don't stretch to an Ireland visit, the next best thing is "Tracks and Trails" on TV (Mondays, 3pm SBS)

Last week featured the Burren, which is from series 2, so we have a bit of catching up to do as Irish viewers are currently watching series 5

If you can't wait that long, the full boxed set of all the series so far is available from RTE



Sadly, we have to dispel a rumour.

It had been reported earlier that with so many Irish speakers going to Canberra on flight QF 814 our old pal Alan Joyce had stepped in to organise a full Irish breakfast for the travellers, compliments of the airline.

No such luck. A Qantas spokesperson said "our policy is to offer menu choices that are fully approved by the World Health Organization"

Gaeilge in Indonesia

I never expected I'd need to use Irish during the three years I lived in Indonesia, but in fact an urgent need for it arose. I was working as a manager for Muslim Aid Indonesia (branch of a charity founded by British Muslims) and quite often had to give speeches or address meetings. Choosing the opening greeting is tricky; more and more Muslims (Indonesia is around 87% Muslim) use the Arabic salutation *As-salamu aleikum* (Peace be upon you); but a minority are not happy when non-Muslims use the same term – even though, rightly speaking, they are Jesus' own words, and the Aramaic he spoke is a close relative of Arabic. That leaves you with a choice of rather weak words in Indonesian, which I didn't care for, so in desperation, I emailed my cousin Robert in Dublin to ask for a proper formula in Irish.

And thereafter I'd open by saying *Beirigi bua agus beannacht*, prefacing it by saying I'd like to speak in the language of my ancestors.

It always went down a treat. Local languages, and the culture they express, are highly valued throughout Indonesia, and for most people, Indonesian is in fact a second, or even third language. My home base was in Jogjakarta, smack in the middle of Java, and the language of the streets is Javanese – almost as different from Indonesian as Irish is from English.

It's the first language of somewhere over 80 million people, and is probably spreading rather than contracting, as many Javanese have migrated to the outer islands, to farm or trade, and now whole villages or even towns in Sumatra or Borneo or Papua will be Javanese-speaking.

Social media have been a huge boon to local languages; Facebook has its highest penetration rate

in Indonesia of any country in the world, and friends and colleagues would often write their posts in Batak or Sundanese or Javanese or any one of a dozen other languages. The same goes for text messaging. The bigger local languages are taught at least at primary school level, and a few have regular magazines and radio programmes.

At home in Jogja, I lived with my partner and his younger sister, who stayed with us while she was finishing her Master's. Around the dinner table, the three of us would speak in three languages: Jon and I would speak in English; he and Fitri would converse in Javanese; Fitri and I would communicate in Indonesian. In my second year in country, I studied Javanese for long enough to at least follow the gist of family conversations, or do some basic transactions in the market. It's expected that foreigners will speak Indonesian; but a foreigner saying anything at all in a local language has the same entertainment value as a bear riding a tricycle.

Singing was the one other way that Irish culture, if not language, got an airing. Indonesians will sing at the drop of a hat, and expect others to do likewise. Whenever there was a celebratory event – finishing a successful village project; a large family gathering, it didn't matter – I'd inevitably get prodded onto the stage and have the microphone thrust into





my hands. You have to be careful with your material though – Indonesians like it light and jolly, which not too many Irish songs really are. (Cambodians, on the other hand, will lap up anything tragic, and call for more). Danny Boy would get puzzled looks; Molly Malone I wouldn't even try; but The Rose of Tralee would just about do it.



Indonesian is a magpie language, like English, and happily borrows (or steals) from any linguistic source. Words in common daily use come from Dutch (colonial times); Arabic (Islamic missionaries); Portuguese; English; French; Chinese – and that's only the start of it. I haven't yet come across any Irish words in Indonesian, but I'm sure they're there somewhere, and the hunt continues..

Mark

All memberships expire on 31st December, so you can renew now for 2016 using the form enclosed with this newsletter.

Our 2015 AGM took place on 23rd June in the Celtic Club and was attended by 20 members. The meeting opened with a short period of silence in memory of the young Irish lives lost in the recent balcony collapse in California. A book of condolence was also available for signing.

As always, the main business of the evening was the election of a new committee for the coming year, 2015-16, and the following people were elected.

President	Kelley McMenamin
V-P	Stuart Traill
Secretary	Rohan Walker
Treasurer	Gerry Halliday
Committee	Angela Daly, Mark Deasy, Eilis Kelly, Colin Mooney, Frank Mulqueen, Peter Rorke

Special thanks were expressed for work done by the retiring committee members (Robert, Helen, Kate, Greg) and a welcome extended to the new ones (Mark, Colin, Angela, Peter)

Teachtaireacht

An Rianach ó Coburg san club tofa: a ghearrscéalta foilsithe in Éirinn

Tá áthas an domhain orm ag oscailt an leabhar nua ó Chló Iar-Chonnacht i nGallimh, cnuasach ghearrscéalta le Colin Ryan ó Victoria. *Teachttaireacht* is teideal den leabhar seo. Ócaid neamhchoitianta: ceithre gearrscéalta déag, foilsithe as Gaeilge in Éirinn ag údar Astrálach.

Rugadh agus tógadh an Rianach in 1949 i Gordon in aice le Ballarat, an duine is sinne de chúigear páistí le Kevin Ryan agus Kathleen Darcy. Bhí sé ag fóghlaim Gaeilge sna seachtóidí agus bhí sé in a mhúinteoir i scoil scairte in Melbourne sna hochtóidí. Tá sé agus a chlann in a gcónaí i Coburg anois.

Duirt an foilsitheoir:

“Ionmholta malairt bhisigh, a dúirt an file fadó, agus an té a thabharfaidh faoin gcnuasach gearrscéalta seo ón Domhan Thíos, beidh siad ar intinn leis. Sa leabhar seo, an chéad cnuasach le Colin Ryan, cuirtear cor i nGaeilge na hÉireann lena chur in oiriúint do chúinsi na hAstráile.

Déantar trách ar lucht taistil, ar choirpigh, ar shaighdiúirí, ar na mairbh, ar dhaoine a chuaigh amú, ar dhaoine atá ag curadach daoine eile, nó a bhfuiltear sa tóir orthu féin. Mar a bheadh aisling ann, nó domhan osréalach éigin, déantar ionramháil ar théamaí ar nós an ghrá agus fhuatha, bás agus beatha, brón agus buairt ionas nach mbíimid cinnte riamh cé seasaimid – agus nil de rogha againn ach na sárscéalta seo a léamh an athuair.”

“In this collection of short stories, Colin Ryan, an Irish-language writer from Australia, makes his own of the language and gives it a unique Australian twist.

The stories touch on travellers, criminals, soldiers, the dead, people who have gone missing, people who are searching for others, and those who are being searched for. Like a dream, or a surreal alternate universe, themes of love and hatred are examined, life and death, sadness and anxiety, so that we are never really sure where we stand and our only option is to look again and revisit these perceptive stories.”

I see that the title story features An Stothaire agus an Coirnéal, The Tramp and The Colonel and ends with tintreach agus toirneach, lightning and thunder. At the minute, I am busy with the dictionary on the first story – about Salvation would you believe.



I am comforted by the remark above by the publisher, which I think means that readers fluent in Irish also find Colin’s stories puzzling and mysterious but that the energy spent pursuing his meaning is worth it. The dictionary meaning of the title is “A Message”.

Comhghairdeas a Cholín. Sin leabhar galánta. Tá tú anois i gclub tofa, club daoine a d’fhoilsigh leabhar as Gaeilge ón Astráil, mar atá Fionán MacCártha, Tomás de Paor, Louis de Paor, Mossie Scanlon agus Micheál de Barra.

Is féidir leat cóip a fháil ar phraghas maith, 8 euro.

www.cic.ie

Val Noone



Vifax explained

Some students have heard about vifax and want to know what it's all about. Here's a quick rundown.....

What is Vifax ?

Once a week the National University of Ireland at Maynooth (NUIM) make available some video clips from the previous evening's news on TG4. These are accompanied by a set of student exercises based on the news. Together they are referred to as Vifax. Go to website vifax.nuim.ie

Do they provide the answers as well ?

On the question sheets there is also a section called "treoracha agus freagraí" (directions and answers) The directions are intended for a teacher in a classroom environment, but most learners could work independently after some basic familiarisation.

How many levels are there ?

There are three levels - beginners (bun), middle (meán) and advanced (ard). The bun and meán levels share the same video clip each week but have different questions although they are often just re-phrased to suit the student's level.

NUIM also run the TEG exams, so is this good preparation material ?

There is no direct connection stated anywhere between the three Vifax levels and the TEG exams and likewise no link to the TEG syllabus but our teachers think it could be used. Absolute beginners would need to first understand the spelling and pronunciation system, which is also true for TEG itself, and like the TEG exams and online student material, the Vifax question sheets are entirely in Irish.

Is there a fee or do I have to register ?

It's all completely free and no registration is needed. Anybody can log on at any time and use the material at no cost,

Do they have a help line or email contact if I don't understand something ?

You can report problems to them about the Vifax website but you really need access to a local teacher to help with any queries on the subject matter. The material is meant to be used in conjunction with whatever course you are already enrolled in.

How long has it been running ?

Vifax commenced in October 2006 so it's now in its tenth season. During that time the basic concept has remained unchanged. A complete season generally runs from October through to about April the following year which ties in with the exam cycle in Ireland. All the video clips and question sheets used so far are still available online.

Can I download the video clips and watch them offline ?

Yes. The clips prior to Nov 2014 are in wmv format and the clips since then are in mp4 format. Both types can be easily saved for offline viewing. The documents are all in pdf format and can be printed or saved.

What do our own teachers make of it ?

Our teachers are very enthusiastic. The news clips feature many different people using everyday language and talking at normal speed, although if you save and replay them later with VLC media player there is an option to slow it down.

*Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo**IRISH LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.*

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, the Irish Language Association of Australia is a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteer tutors and a voluntary committee of management. The Cumann is non-political and non-sectarian. 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.

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

**This form can be used for membership renewal or to notify a change of details.
New members should use the form available on our website www.gaeilgesanastrail.com**

Renewal Update

Sloinne
(surname)

Guthán bh)
(phone)

Céad ainm
(first name)

ah)

Seoladh
(address)

Fón
(mobile)

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Ríomhphost
(email)

Membership fee is \$40 per annum and due each January. Class donation is \$4 per week.