

CHRISTCHURCH IRISH SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



This is the second newsletter since your new executive was voted at the end of May and it is part of a new pattern of communication.

We have continued to look at Who we are, What we are, and Where we are going, with interesting and informative patterns emerging. We have identified a pattern where over 60% of new members used to leave within two years of joining and we have accepted a plan to welcome and keep as many new members as possible.

At the November executive meeting the Membership Report will be tabled and it will be the substantive part of the answer the question we promised to look into; "Who Are We."

One detail that has emerged is that 31% of our current membership is made up of people who have joined in the last 18 months. I asked the executive what that meant for us, what do you think it means for us.

At the February meeting we will conclude our analysis of the twenty two points of Section 2 of the constitution, the section that spells out our purpose, and this will form the basis of our response to the question, "What Are We." For each of these 13 points I ask the executive, "Are we doing it" and "How can we do it better."

We have briefly looked at the third question, "Where Are We Going" and we will spend the early part of next year giving this more thought. One conclusion of our progress this year is to realise how important communication is to members and that we need a system that meets the needs of those who have access to email and the large percentage, 21%, of those who do not have an email address. At present this is being achieved by fairly regular news items that I send out on the info@christchurchirishsociety.co.nz email and by posting information each month to everyone else.

Next year everyone will receive two substantial and informative newsletters and we will email or post regular news-sheets on current and future activities. Part of our current plan is to start discussion on future events or activities six months before they happen and to this end we know that at the 2015 AGM the positions of Vice President and treasurer will become vacant.

There are three active interest groups functioning at present, The Shamrock Stars, The Walkers Group and the Bowls Club.

Our sincere thanks to Fiona who responded to the many requests for Irish language classes. The six very successful sessions have concluded and we hope to start them up again next year.

We know that the interest is there. Nollaig Shona Daoibh -

Sean Regan



OBITUARY



DESMOND FRANCIS HURLEY 1928-2014

Des was born on 11th October 1928, the third son in a family of 6 sons and 2 daughters born to Margaret & Mort. Hurley who farmed at Longbeach , a farming settlement about 30 miles south east of Ashburton. Des was educated in Ashburton by the Sisters of the Mission and the Ashburton Technical College. After leaving school at a younger age than usual (his two older brothers were serving in the Forces during the war years) Des worked on his parents' farm until just prior to his marriage to Marie (nee O'Grady) in 1951.

The following year he worked as a builders labourer then in 1952 they moved with their little 6week old daughter Helene to a farm in Yaldhurst, It was here they spent 34 very hard working but happy years rearing their family of 4 daughters and 1 son. It was during these first years in Yaldhurst that his good friend Jim McGowan introduced him to The Christchurch Irish Society, Des was a very diligent and hard working member right up until a few weeks prior to his final illness.

Des was involved in all aspects of developing and maintaining the health and good name of the Society and gave freely of his time helping built the upper extensions to our hall in Spreydon. Supported by his family he was involved in maintenance. administration, dancing, bowls, sporting activities and the social welfare of members and the continuations of National Competitions. He held the position of President for many years, was a Life Member and the standing Patron at the time of his death. The Christchurch Irish Society expresses its thanks for the outstanding contribution Des made to the Society over so many years. Our Sympathy goes to his much loved Marie and family. Des Hurley. R.I.P.

NEW PATRON

The executive is delighted to announce that *Marie Hurley* has accepted the position of Patron of the Society.

NATIONAL FEIS

Over Labour Weekend we hosted a very successful National Feis. Rodney Walshe the Consul General for Ireland in New Zealand was impressed by what he saw in the competitive dancing, music and instrumental the Ulster Cup, the football, hurling and camogie games. Shannon Dilger from the O'Neill dancers won the prestigious Ulster Cup and the \$2,500 travel scholarship sponsored by Rodney. Congratulations to Shannon, we wish you all the best when you compete at The Worlds next year.

SONS OF EIRE

When served with call-up papers by the New Zealand Armed Forces during 1940 & 1941, several Irish men living and working in N.Z. refused to recognise their call-up for military service on the basis they were not British subjects.

In May 1941 six Irish men from Wellington put their individual cases, for refusal to serve, to a tribunal held by the Armed Forces Appeal Board stating they were citizens of Eire.

Armed Forces Appeal Boards were convened throughout the country to hear the cases of Irish men living in N.Z. who had rejected military service for N.Z. which by November 1941 numbered over 300 Irish men.

I would like to make contact with anyone whose family had a connection to these "Sons of Eire".

Geraldene O'Reilly

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SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

CHRISTCHURCH IRISH SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS DINNER

**SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER - HALL OPEN from 12
Midday**



DINNER SERVED at 1pm. – Ham Potatoes, Peas, Salads & Desserts.

COST \$10.00 single, \$15.00 double \$20.00 family

BOOKINGS

All bookings, whether you pay by cash or by internet, must be made to Michael Malloch to get a number allocated for the dinner

Ph 3838141 or 0274376970 or Email mallochsm@xtra.co.nz

PAYMENT you can pay by **Cash** or over the **Internet**

Cash payments pay at the door **after** you have booked with Michael

Internet payments make payment to BNZ 02 0800 0911662 00

NB give your **Name** under Particulars. **NUMBER ATTENDING** under Code and **XMAS DINNER** as reference.

As spaces will be limited to 100 maximum, including children, we will be using a first in first served system for allocating places.

Lunch will be followed by an “**After Dinner Christmas Carols**” session led by Carol and Jo.



NEW YEARS EVE

If there is sufficient demand we will open the hall to celebrate the new year. If you would be interested in a function on 31st December give Michael a call on 03 3838141

ST PATRICK'S DAY 2015

Proposed agenda for St Patrick's celebrations:

Saturday 14th March -

4pm – Irish Society Hall- Bar opened

5pm - Irish stew, members may contribute

6pm - Ceili dancing and music items.

Sunday 15th -

St Patricks Day Service (for those who wish to attend) and Cup of tea / bar open after Mass at Irish Society Hall.

Monday 16th -

5-30pm Bar open at Hall onwards - Fish and chips, general meeting of friends.

Tuesday 17th -

7-30am Breakfast - Bar open, all day. Music sing-alongs open mic session - Pat Dugan entertains.

4pm Irish stew - continuing music and dancing

The final programme will be published early next year.

PICNIC

Field Day or in Kiwi language a picnic on **Sunday 25th January** at the hall and Spreydon Park. **11.00 am** start, children's events, fun races, face painting, ice creams, BBQ and if you want to bring your own special food put it on and cook your own. If the weather is against us we will go in to the hall. More details will be sent out after Christmas.

Michael Malloch for the Social Committee