



IRISH AUSTRALIAN WELFARE BUREAU & RESOURCE CENTRE NSW INC

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NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Dear Members & Friends

We hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and looking forward to the Christmas season.

Much has happened at the IAWB since our last newsletter.

The major event was held on 20 September 2006 when Michael Ahern TD, Minister for Trade and Commerce officially opened our premises at Bondi while Bishop David Cremin and Fr Tom Devereux blessed the premises.

We thank everyone who helped to make this a memorable occasion. It was wonderful to see so many of our members and friends come along to support the IAWB at this event. The refreshments for the evening were provided by P J O'Brien's, TasteIreland and Brady's Butcher. The musicians on the evening were Ciara McConville and Alison Boyd. The plaque which was unveiled by Michael Ahern TD was made and donated by Declan Maher. We express our gratitude to all those generous people.

On 19th October our new Ambassador Máirtín O'Fainín visited the IAWB accompanied by Pat Scullion, Consul General of Ireland. It was delightful to meet the Ambassador and his wife, Ann, who showed great interest in the work done by the IAWB.

AGM

Our AGM which was held on 17 Oct 06 was well attended by members of the IAWB. The newly elected committee are: Michael O'Sullivan, President; Frank Corcoran, Vice President; Margaret Duggan, Secretary; Betty Servis, Treasurer; Committee members are: Pat Costello, Liz Kenny, Terence McCaughan, Bernie Chamberlaine and Fr Tom Devereux.

We look forward to your support for this committee during the next 12 months.

Annual Mass

On Sunday, 5th November, our annual Mass in Rookwood. was well attended. Thank you to our celebrant Fr Tom, also Pat Scullion, Consul General of Ireland, Liz Kenny and Kathleen Aspill who did

readings, and Frank & Ita Corcoran for taking up the Gifts for the Offertory. Afterwards the rosary was recited, led by Brother Peter, at the gravesides.

Many thanks to the Cavan Association for their donation of flowers.

FUND RAISING FUNCTION

We held our major fund raising function at Harold Park Paceway on Friday, 1 December 2006. This was a very successful night for the IAWB. Our thanks to our sponsors for the evening who were:

The Irish Echo

Subakette Pty Ltd

Diona

Penrith Gaels, The Irish Club

Shamrock Developments International Pty Ltd

Waterpoint

Bondi Pipe Freezing

Lynch Contractors Pty Ltd

Our guests enjoyed wonderful food and excellent service. Congratulations to the management and staff at Harold Park who provided such excellent service to our guests.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas Party for Seniors was held on Wednesday, 6th December which commenced at 11 am. 50 people attended this lunch. Many thanks to our musicians who provided the entertainment Dara Daly, Myles Mooney and Kevin Doyle. We had the wonderful singers from the Irish Choir and of course Fr Tom who sang the Fields of Athenery. We had a number of very willing helpers on the day to whom we are very grateful.

Our Drop In Centre is now closed. It will reopen on 24th January.

THE PREMIER'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We were fortunate to acquire 20 tickets for the Premier's Christmas Concert which was held on Tuesday, 5 December at the Entertainment Centre. These tickets were distributed to 20 lucky seniors who enjoyed the show immensely. Our apologies to those seniors who missed out on getting tickets. We shall endeavour to increase the number of tickets we get for the next concert.

BEREAVEMENTS

Since our last newsletter we had the untimely death of Eimear Flattery from Co Meath. Eimear passed away on 14 October 2006 and her body was repatriated to Ireland.

We also had the death of Paul Cooney who drown while swimming in Coogee on Sunday, 29 October. His body was also repatriated to Ireland.

We express our deepest sympathy to Flattery and Cooney families.

OUR NEW LOGO

Many thanks to Ciara and Declan Maher who designed our new logo. We hope you like it.

LIBRARY

We have a wide range of books available in our library. People are welcome to come and read the books here or to borrow them.

We express our appreciation to a number of people who donated these books to the IAWB

WEBSITE

Visit our website at www.iawb.org.au. Please contact us if you wish to put something on our website.

TYRONE ASSOCIATION

What a wonderful surprise we got at the IAWB Committee Christmas Party when we were joined by Eamon Eastwood from the Tyrone Association who presented the IAWB with a cheque of \$5,500. This money was raised at the Tyrone Association Ball which was held on 2 December 2006. We appreciate the Tyrone Association's ongoing support for the IAWB.

CHRISTMAS MASS

We look forward to meeting you all at the Christmas Mass which will be celebrated at Hyde Park Barracks commencing at 10 am. This Mass will be broadcast live in Ireland by RTE.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 March 2007

We look forward to you visiting our tea tent and joining us for a 'cuppa' in Hyde Park at the St Patrick's Day Family concert.

23 June 2007

We will hold our annual fund raising dance at Penrith Gaels, The Irish Club where our annual 200 Club

Draw will take place. More details on the 200 Club Draw and fund raising dance later.

Welcome to Father Tom's mother Judy and her friend, Madelaine Forde. They have traveled from Ireland to spend the Christmas period with Father Tom here in Bondi. We wish them a very happy and enjoyable holiday.

A message from the President

Dear Members & friends

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to everyone.

It is that time of year again when we are all rushing about and busy preparing for the festive season. Please spare a thought for the less fortunate in our community. Many people can be lonely at Christmas and I ask you to consider calling in on a neighbour, maybe offer to take them shopping or to an appointment. It may be a family member you have not been in contact with for a while. Christmas is a time of joy so wouldn't it be great to make someone a little happier.

As Margaret is going to Ireland for Christmas the Drop In Centre will be closed but the telephones will be manned 24 x7. We wish Margaret a safe and happy holiday and say thanks for all the great work she has done for the Bureau.

We look forward to meeting you all again in the New Year.

Michael O'Sullivan



Mission Statement

Our aim is to provide confidential, sympathetic, caring support and service to needy individuals and groups within the extended Irish community.