



ISA NEWS AND EVENTS

April 2023

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear All,

I am delighted to welcome you to the April issue of our newsletter.

We have had a busy start to the year, and I have immensely enjoyed being out in the community and getting to know many of you on a more conscious level. The Irish spirit is alive and well here in Sydney and indeed across the state.

We had the pleasure of presenting our work to Minister Simon Coveney on his visit to Australia in celebration of "100 Years of Ireland in the World". It further cemented for us all, the importance of our work and the need for greater awareness of what we do and how we can assist people.

This serves as a timely reminder of the valuable support provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs' Emigrant Support Programme, for which we are immensely grateful. However, it's worth noting that we only receive partial funding, which amounts to 56% of our operating costs. This means that we heavily rely on the generosity of the community to fund the remaining 44%. As we strive to secure additional funding from potential donors, it's crucial that we acknowledge and express our gratitude to those who have already contributed to our organisation. Your support is now more critical than ever.

We were also delighted to be present at the Sydney St Patrick's Day Festival on Sunday 19th March, where we were blown away by the amount of people who came to say hello and drop in for a cup of tea. The weather was in our favour, albeit, a very warm day and it was a great day for the Irish Australian community. Well done to all involved for the organisation of such a symbolic and significant event.

I look forward to connecting with you all further over the coming months and I wish you all a lovely Easter.



Alan Humphreys, **ISA President**

SYDNEY ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL



Thank you Sydney St Patrick's Day Parade & Festival for an incredible 4 day festival that showcased the absolute best of what the Irish have to offer here in NSW. We know that a huge amount of work and preparation goes into these events, so well done to all involved.

We had a ball, from catching the film festival, to the greening of the Opera House, to walking in the parade, and hosting the tea tent at the main festival.

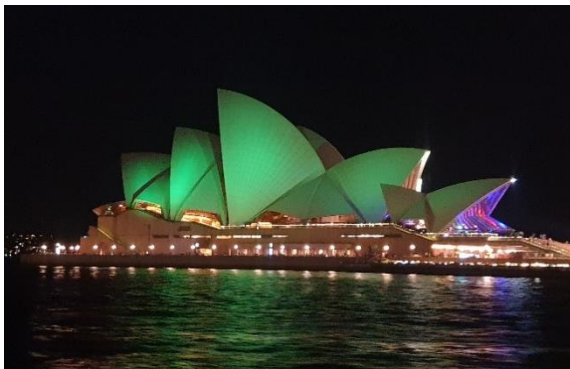
We were delighted to see so many people turn out for the festival and show their support. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and meet so many new people in the community.

We would also like to sincerely thank our volunteers, who, despite the heat, worked tirelessly to assist with the smooth running of the day.

The tea tent was made possible by the very generous donations from Taste Ireland, Paddy the Baker, Cakes by Emma, The Tea Cosy, The Mercantile Hotel - The Rocks and Sydney St Patrick's Day Parade & Festival.



To reduce the impact on resources, this newsletter is produced and made available online. If you'd like to receive future newsletters via email, please let us know at: admin@irishsupportagency.com.au



SYDNEY ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS

On Friday 17th March, St. Patrick's Day, Mass was held in St. Mary's Cathedral led by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Terry Brady.

This is a lovely way to mark the feast of our Patron Saint and it was great to see so many of our community coming together.



MINISTERIAL VISIT



This year, St Patrick's Day marked '100 Years of Ireland in the World', a century of the country's engagement as an active member of the international community in the promotion of democracy, peace and security.

As part of the Department of Foreign Affairs program, Sydney welcomed Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Employment Simon Coveney.

The ISA were honoured to be invited to the Consulate of Ireland, Sydney to present the work of the ISA to Minister Coveney and Consul General Rosie Keane.

We always look forward to strengthening our ties with the Consulate and the Government of Ireland, so we were delighted to be given an opportunity to showcase the breadth of our work.

RAFFLE

Thank you to Chris Moloughney of Emerald Travel who kindly sponsored the prize for our St Patrick's Day Raffle. The winner of the \$1000 travel voucher was Charlie Mola, who purchased her tickets at the SSPD Festival on Sunday 19th March.

Congratulations Charlie!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket.



A GENEROUS DONATION

On Friday 17th March, the ISA was overwhelmed to receive an incredibly generous donation of \$17,000 from The Mercantile Hotel - The Rocks and BOQ 210 George Street.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to James Dunne, Mick Comerford and Stephen Whelan of the Mercantile, who have always been fierce supporters of the ISA and the work that we do. We would also like to thank John Dickson of BOQ, a new supporter of the ISA, thank you so much.

The ISA is only partly funded (56%) by the Irish Government, so this donation will go a long way to enabling us to fulfil our mission of providing frontline support to anyone in the Irish Australian community who finds themselves in circumstances of vulnerability and distress.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EFFORTS



On Friday, 17th March, Blooms the Chemist in Randwick kindly hosted a fundraising bake sale in aid of the Irish Support Agency.

We are extremely grateful to Shauna McGrath and the Irish staff of Blooms, who have come together to support our work.

They all worked extremely hard to provide delicious baked goods and our committee member Paula Hannan was on hand to give people information on our organisation.

Through their efforts, over \$1200 was raised! Thank you all so much.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN

A Women's Mental Health Event

Sunday 30th April, Randwick Sustainable Classroom, 9.30am-2.30pm

This upcoming event will showcase a diverse group of experienced speakers who will share their unique insights on the multitude of factors that impact mental health.

At the ISA's mental health events, we place great importance on our lived experience panel, which provides a platform for courageous members of the Irish Australian community to share their personal journey with mental health challenges.



Guest Speakers:

- Helen Ward - Educator and Clinical Counsellor
- Loretta Cosgrove - Filmmaker and Founder of @Sydney Queer Irish
- Katie O'Donoghue - Relationship Coach with the Indigo Project
- Molly Benjamin - Founder of Ladies Finance Club
- Roisin Trainor - Founder of Mind Yourself, Mental Health First Aid Training and Wellbeing Practitioner

Ticket price includes lunch and refreshments.

→TICKETS - <https://drct-isa.prod.supporterhub.net/events/womenforwomen>

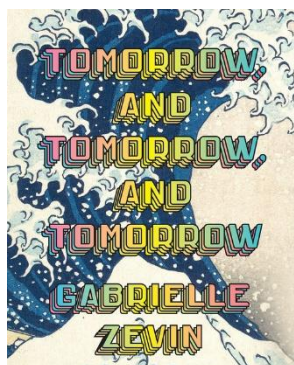
WORLD PRIDE



Comhghairdeas to all of those involved in the organisation of World Pride 2023 and a particular well done to Sydney Queer Irish for hosting fun, inclusive and educational events for the community here. We were delighted to celebrate with you all and we stand with you.

We are so proud of the work that you do, including creating a safe space for everyone.

BOOKCLUB



Our book club is held on the last Thursday of each month in the Gaelic Club. Each month, we choose one book to review, and seek to include all genres! It's a great way to meet like-minded people and everyone is welcome. We have just reviewed, Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, by Gabrielle Zevin. A surprising and recommended read!

If you would like to attend our next meeting, in person in the Gaelic Club on Thursday 27th April at 7pm, please email Una at project@irishsupportagency.org.au or call 0412 324 396.

LIFETIME OF STORIES

On Friday 24th February, the ISA launched their new Lifetime of Stories project, kindly supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Emigrant Support Programme.

Across 8 weeks (every fortnight), 7 members of the senior community are invited to participate in a storytelling experience, recalling memories from their lifetime. From growing up, to school life and to life in Australia, this will provide an opportunity to document all of the small and wonderful things that bring the tapestry of life together.



This initiative is also supported by our wonderful volunteers from Salesforce, who show up with openness, empathy and a listening ear.

WAVERLEY MONUMENT EASTER COMMEMORATION



On Easter Sunday, 9th of April, there will be a commemoration of the struggle for Irish Independence at The Irish Monument, Waverley Cemetery at 3.00pm. All welcome.

SENIORS BEFRIENDING SERVICE



The Befriending service provides personalised companionship for people in their own home or during outings and activities in the community. We have a number of volunteers who are interested in getting to know a settled senior within the Irish community, to share stories and experiences with, and to also feel that connection to home.

Befriending is provided by volunteers who are vetted and managed by ISA staff. If you are interested in becoming a participant, please call the ISA office on 02 9300 8019.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING-CAN YOU HELP?

Third party fundraising is one of the simplest and most powerful ways you can help us. Are you already planning on holding an event? Could you donate a percentage of ticket sales or your raffle proceeds?

However you choose to fundraise, you can ensure that the Irish Support Agency is there to offer tangible hope and support to people most in need of assistance in NSW.



If you have an idea for a fundraising initiative, please get in touch with Una on 0412 324 396 who would love to hear from you!

The Irish Support Agency NSW Inc is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 70 880 566 535. We acknowledge the financial support provided to us by the Emigrant Support Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland which enables us to make a significant difference to the Irish Community in New South Wales every year.



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs