

BALLARAT & DISTRICT IRISH ASSOCIATION

ABN 90 447 032 387

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BDIA Executive:

President: Brian Shanahan OAM

Secretary: Marlene Shanahan
20 Alfred St Nth, Ballarat

Treasurer: Helen Bath

Committee:

Jeanne Wheeler (Events)
Mary Darcy (Community Liaison)
Michael Taffe (History)
Phillip Moore (History)
Robert Bath (Community Liaison)



Welcome:

The Ballarat and District Irish Association looks forward to a very enjoyable and almost Covid free 2021. We welcome new Members. We believe that the more Members we have, the more enriched and interesting our Association will be.

Our Year began with an excellent St. Patrick's Eve Dinner. Our special guest at Dinner was the Mayor of Ballarat, Daniel Moloney. Thank you Daniel for joining us on the night and facilitating the Irish Flag raising ceremony the following day.

We plan to have a number of interesting events in the next few months, some jointly with other community groups, to celebrate the Irish contribution to Ballarat.

We will be keeping Members advised of our plans.

Brian Shanahan O.A.M. - President

Twilight Talks at BMI:

BDIA members have been attending local events including the "*Future Twilight Talks*" at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute, not only as members of BDIA but also as interested members of our community.

The first talk of the series, *The Growing City*, featured Mayor of Ballarat Councillor Daniel Moloney and RMIT planning expert Professor Michael Buxton. This was held Thursday 15th April and reported in The Courier Saturday April 17, page 5.

The second, "*Why Heritage Matters*" featured Wendy Jacobs, Architect and Heritage Consultant and local anesthetist Mike Whitehead. Mike talked through the trials and tribulations of restoring his 1867 Baptist Church. An article "*National TV audience for Dawson Street reno*" by Edwina Williams was published in the "Ballarat Times" on October 23, 2020 and featured on the ABC program "Restoration Australia".

Thursday 29th April will be "*A Creative City*" with Tara Poole, Coordinator of Creative Cities Ballarat and Paige Duggan, a local jazz artist.

Thursday 6th May will be "*Ballarat Business*" with Sara Quon, CEO of Sovereign Hill and Alicia Linley, co-owner of Mitchell Harris Wines.

More information can be found on the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute website and the events are also live streamed via YouTube.

Networking:

Networking within the community provides opportunities to explore collaborative events and two specific events are bubbling along nicely. More will be revealed shortly.

If you are aware of an event, or have any suggestions and ideas of a project, please do not hesitate to get in contact. We have had a couple of lovely emails with suggestions for events and/or gatherings specifically with music. One included possible venues and all were great ideas that we are exploring.

BRMC & Radio Interview:

We've been invited by BRMC (Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council) to participate in their regular segment on Voice FM. This is a welcomed invitation. Our President, Brian Shanahan OAM, will accept the invitation and we will notify you of the date and time of first spot.

Should you be interested, BRMC have a section at the bottom right of their home page where you can subscribe to their newsletter. It is always very informative and easy to read. Their website address is: <https://www.brmc.org.au/> We look forward to getting our website up and running and streamlining our newsletter as well as providing links to like organizations.

John (Jack) Jones - Can you help?:

We received an email looking for our assistance with any information regarding a Celtic Club in the Ballarat region circa 1900-1930.



Email: My great grandfather, Jack Jones, was born in 1878 in Gisborne, then lived and worked in the Ballarat/Sebastopol area from about 1900-1927. He was a miner and lived on a farm near Mt Clear. He moved to Melbourne in the early 1930s and remained there until his death in 1951.

The main reason for the question relates to what Jack is wearing besides his local connection. Does anyone have any information on what it is and what the connection might be? Any information or suggestions you may have would be greatly appreciated.

The distinctive Irish harp suggests a Celtic connection, and some may be aware of the *Irish Genealogy* website which has a wealth of information on the Harp. Here is the link <https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/irish-harp.html>

Ballarat Research Hub at the Eureka Centre:

As often happens, the email provided an opportunity to remind people of the "Ballarat Research Hub at Eureka (BRHAE). In contacting them we are pleased to provide the following information:

The Ballarat Research Hub at Eureka (BRHAE) presents the combined resources and services of the Public Record Office Victoria's Ballarat Archives Centre, Ballarat and District Genealogical Society and the City of Ballarat's Australiana Research Collection. BRHAE is located at the Eureka Centre Ballarat, 102 Stawell Street South, Eureka (Ballarat).



BRHAE is home to the Australiana Research Collection and provides researchers with access to public computers and printings, microfilm and microfiche collections and online databases such as Ancestry.com, Trove, Find My Past and the British Newspaper Archive.

From 3 May 2021, BRHAE will resume operating Monday to Thursday from 10am to 4.30pm, in compliance with government COVID-19 guidelines. While there is no longer a need to pre-book your visit, access to special Australiana Research Collection items may need to be arranged in advance.

The Ballarat Archives Centre is a service of the Public Record Office Victoria and is also located at BRHAE. Requests to retrieve and view records can be made through the website: prov.vic.gov.au Records will be delivered to BAC from

10am, if they have been ordered prior to 3pm, Monday to Thursday. Much of the Ballarat collection has been digitised and is available through the PROV website.

Ballarat and District Genealogical Society Inc. was formed in 1978 to help people discovered their family history. The BDGS s housed at BRHAE and much of it is accessible to the public, though some resources are only available to BDGS members. For more information refer to the website: www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

For information about BRHAE, phone Simon Jacks, Australiana Research Librarian on (03) 5329 1665, Email: simonjacks@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Many thanks to Anthony Camm, Centre Manager and Simon Jacks for their assistance.

Family History:



If you are looking at family history, you may try the “Irish Ancestry Group” with the Genealogical Society of Victoria. They are located in Melbourne but here is the link to their website: <https://www.gsv.org.au/activities/groups/iag.html> or you can get in touch with us for more contact details.

The plan is for our website to have a page with all the relevant links to the many websites available. But, there is a little fundraising/grant/donation action to happen first. We have submitted our EOI (Expression of Interest) Form in the 2021 Volunteer Grants with Catherine King MPs office. We await the community consultative committee’s decisions on successful applicants.

Letters to the Editor:

When I read your newsletter about the hotels around Ballarat in the small goldmining towns it reminded me of my grandparent’s house which was originally one of those hotels. Mum’s great grandfather, Henry came out from Cork, Ireland in 1870 and was a schoolteacher at Springmount (near Creswick). In 1874 he had a son Henry who was a miner at Broomfield (near Creswick). In 1920 when a lot of the mining work had dried up he purchased a closed hotel from the Ballarat Brewing Company. He had a lot of it pulled down & turned it into a house & business. He opened the hotel bar as a grocery store. Mum’s parents moved into the house and took over the business in 1938 when mum was 5. They lived there until 1980. The house is on a corner and is still occupied today. The owners have put a new roof on the house but the original veranda is still there. During the gold rush there was a hotel on each corner but over the years the other three were accidentally burnt down.

Lynne Beaumont

This is brilliant Lynne, thank you.

Irish Australian Song Library:

Have you discovered the “[Irish Australian Song Library](#)” website. It features lyrics, music and song notes of notable Irish Australian songs.

The website states that “*The aim is to provide a home for Irish Australian songs which can be a resource to musicians, students and fans of Irish culture*”.

It also states that: “*The site is hosted by the Irish National Association in Sydney and was made possible by the support of the Irish Consulate as part of the 1916 Easter Rising Commemoration program.*”

We were hoping to gain permission to include extracts from the “[history](#)” section prepared by *Dr Enda V Murray, Sydney, November 2016*. At date of circulation of this newsletter we have not received a reply to our email but have included links and hope that we can establish a contact soon. If you check it out, we hope that you will agree, it is a wealth of information and some great ideas for us to consider in relation to events here.

Mary Glowrey (1887-1957):

We have established a History Subcommittee and they will be submitting articles for our newsletters. Mary was born in Birregurra, was an outstanding doctor who established the Catholic Women’s League. From 1920 she spent 37 years in India where she set up healthcare facilities, services and systems. She is believed to be the first Catholic religious sister-in-vows to practice as a doctor. The Catholic Church is investigating her Cause for Canonisation.

EVENTS:



Date: Saturday, May 1st 2021 at 9:30pm
 Venue: Irish Murphy's, Ballarat
 Facebook event link: [\(15\) Live at Irish Murphy's Ballarat | Facebook](#)
 Price: Free



Jam Session at the Railway Hotel, Linton
 Last Sunday of the month 3-6pm
 Gold coin donation.



Date: Thursday, May 6 at 5:30 PM
 Event: [Talking History: The curious place of Mount Pleasant in the Ballarat story](#)
 Venue: Eureka Centre Ballarat

Thank you to Irish Murphy's for their support of BDIA.



Irish Murphy's is located in historical Sturt Street in the heart of Ballarat. Open 7 days a week. The bar offers a wide variety of craft, international and local beers as well as a selection of wines and ciders. The kitchen is open from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm for lunch and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm for dinner daily. Serving hearty Irish fare and traditional pub classics.



Date: Sunday, May 9 at 1pm
 Event: Journey to the Southern Cross
 Venue: Ballarat Mechanics' Institute – Ballarat Heritage Festival
 Website link: [Journey to the Southern Cross | Ballarat Heritage Festival – Ballarat Mechanics' Institute \(ballaratmi.org.au\)](#)



Ballarat Heritage Festival
 Website: [Ballarat Heritage Festival](#)
 7-30th May

Ballarat and District Irish Association Membership & Aims

At our recent meeting it was decided to include information to encourage people to take up membership. Mainly, **why pay \$20 and what do you get for your money?**

Some may recall the “BDIA Aims” attached to the initial Membership Form from our inaugural meeting in April 2018. They are reprinted below.

Membership also means that you get to have your say in what we are doing. Currently our Newsletter is circulated to all interested parties but as we grow, there will be “membership” discounts. There is a lot to do and your support is integral to what we can achieve.

Don't forget, that although membership is based on the financial year, any money received before 1st July 2021 will include the 2021-22 membership period as a bonus for time lost due to covid restrictions.

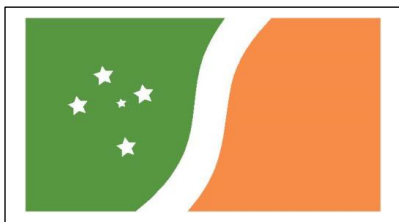
Ballarat's powerful and dynamic history is very much part of Australian history, with its stories of gold discovery, massive immigration, the diggers and life on the goldfields, Eureka Stockade and the stand for democracy, rapid urban and rural development, and finally the establishment of an elegant and prosperous city.

The contribution by people of Irish background to Ballarat's social, cultural and industrial development is substantial and needs to be presented, celebrated, promoted and enjoyed.

The Ballarat and District Irish Association

AIMS

- To create the social interaction of people interested in Australian Irish culture
 - To foster the involvement and presentation of Australian/Irish music, dance, literature and poetry
 - To support, facilitate and participate in special events and festivals
 - To present and support cultural, heritage and history workshops/seminars
 - To enhance the knowledge of and to encourage the development of a permanent record of the Australian Irish contribution to the development of the Ballarat region.
 - To assist interested members searching information concerning Irish/Australian ancestry and associated heritage
 - To compile information concerning travel to Ireland as well as various locations throughout Victoria and Australia that have Australian Irish heritage and cultural significance
 - To affiliate with complementary organisations – local, national and international
 - To seek funding for relevant programs
 - To organise a venue for regular meetings
 - To consider the establishment of an Australian Irish Resource Centre
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Ballarat and District Irish Association

The contribution by people of Irish background to Ballarat's social, cultural and industrial development is substantial and BDIA plans to present, celebrate, promote and enjoy this ongoing legacy.

Membership

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

What is your major interest in Irish and Australian Irish Heritage and Culture?:

MEMBERSHIP: \$20 per financial year

Payment by EFT: Name: BDIA, BSB: 633-000 Account: 163076391 Ref: Your Name
Payment by Cheque: Ballarat and District Irish Association Inc. c/- The Secretary

President:

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