

# BALLARAT & DISTRICT IRISH ASSOCIATION

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## WE'RE UNDERWAY, AGAIN:

Our **AGM** was held Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Mary McKillop Room next to the main hall at St Patrick's Cathedral. Whilst most planned events had been put on hold over the covid-19 restrictions it seemed that now we could hope and plan for the year ahead.

Here are the results of the election of **Committee Members**:

- Chairman – Brian Shanahan OAM
- Secretary – Marlene Shanahan
- Treasurer & VP – Helen Bath
- Assistant Sec & Events Co-ordinator – Jeanne Wheeler
- Committee: Mary Darcy, Patricia Fox, Phillip Moore, Robert Bath

## Membership Fee:

It was determined that our **Membership Fee** of \$20 per financial year would be extended this year. So, any memberships received from now will be for the 2021/22 financial year. Bonus months to make up for lost time.

## Remembering our last event 2020:

Our last event, prior to the Covid restrictions, was the St Patrick's Gathering on the 16 March 2020 at the BRMC Welcome Centre. It was a successful evening. The following letter was received from Ann Foley – CEO of BRMC in response to Phill Moore's thank you letter for her role as Guest Speaker and help with the use of the venue.

*Dear Phil*

*Thank you for your message. Teresa and the staff team are doing a wonderful job keeping in touch with people-clients, volunteers and partners and friends - to make sure that BRMC is able to support members through the COVID-19 in whatever way we can. Thanks for acknowledging that work. They are a wonderful team supporting BRMC every day, wholeheartedly as well as professionally. Most of our messages are now going out through social media, especially BRMC Facebook. All staff are contactable by email.*



*I'm glad you were able to hold that lovely event before the move to cancellation of gatherings and events due to health measures for COVID-19. I was happy to speak and give a small insight into BRMC background and work and can offer BIA some other opportunities to meet with BRMC. Our team can also offer presentations with more colour and detail when we have some AV capacity in the hall.*

*Thank you and the BDIA for your generosity in presenting a beautiful gift. What a beautiful book and detailed historical account. It's startling and evocative to read the names of those children and sad to read the detail of how in that moment of history they were swept up in the uprising. When I'm finished reading it that book will have a special place in our small but growing BRMC library.*

*I was also very glad to have the chance to have some longer chats with members. You clearly have a group of members who are keen to celebrate Irish culture, Australian Irish migration and also participate more widely in the intercultural scene. Congratulations on your hard work and the work of Marlene and your team.*

*We are developing the Ballarat Welcome Centre gradually as we find the resources to do so and I look forward to our office relocating soon to the ground floor and to working towards a master plan that will have the whole building open and better acoustics, temperature control and equipment for the BIA and other members to use. The whole job will take several years but we plan to re-open the hall when the pandemic situation allows and to have a range of meeting event and exhibition spaces and facilities available this year.*

*On a final note, Phil, the music was delightful last Monday and I'd like to offer the musicians further opportunities to play for BRMC member events such as the Twilight Markets and General Meetings. I think Teresa would also love to consider the musicians for future BRMC senior events. Would you mind passing on their details so we can follow up.*

*Kind Regards and wishing you and yours well and well supported over these challenging weeks and months to come. Don't hesitate to contact us.*

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### **St Pat's Eve Dinner 2021:**

Thank you to all who came along to The Lake View Hotel on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March for our St Pat's Eve Dinner. The celebration was planned as a casual family gathering of members, families and friends. As the word spread The Lake View moved us from downstairs to upstairs to accommodate the extra numbers. We started planning with 11 and ended up with 33 in attendance and another 5 unable to come on the night. We had an extra celebration as two members were celebrating special birthdays. Happy Birthday to Jeanne and Michael. We were joined by our new Mayor Daniel Moloney as well as visitors from Euroa. The successful night saw five new paid members and others interested in attending more functions. Possibly a trip to Euroa? Special shout out to the young barman Fletcher who also has an Irish connection.

*Photo's taken by Yvon Davis (Intercultural Advisor at City of Ballarat and part of the Harmony Festival team)*





**St Patrick’s Day Flag Raising:**

Any Google search will tell you what most already know – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March each year commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilís, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. In Ballarat the “17<sup>th</sup>” falls neatly in the celebration of “Harmony Fest”

This year, thanks to the “City of Ballarat” we also had the Irish Flag flown in Sturt Street for the day as another part of Harmony Fest. Hopefully you saw articles in both “The Courier” and “The Times” covering the St Patrick’s Day Flag Raising. We really appreciate the media coverage. Following is an outline of speeches made on the day. We were hoping to record them but the traffic noise ruled that out.





**Ballarat City Council Mayor – Daniel Moloney:**

*As we stand under this unfurling flag and listen carefully; you can hear in the breeze the songs, the stories and the poetry that connects us.*

*And in our hearts you can feel our ancestors calling from across the seas and throughout Australia.*

*It reminds us of what it is to be of Irish heritage on this special St Patrick's day. A day of great celebration throughout the world.*

*Daniel also explained his Irish heritage.*

**Phillip Moore - BDIA:**

*On this celebratory occasion we are reminded that amongst our Sturt Street avenue of honoured statues are two great Irish Ancestors; they are Peter Lalor and Thomas Moore.*

*Their early unveiling over a century ago was in both cases a wonderful cross-cultural event and as then and now these two exceptional men have been cherished by our Ballarat community and visitors for their great contribution to our lives.*

*I would ask Brian Shanahan (BDIA President) and Helen Bath (Vice President) respectively to speak briefly of Peter Lalor and Thomas Moore.*



**Brian Shanahan OAM – BDIA President**

***Peter Lalor** – It was on 30<sup>th</sup> November preceding the Eureka Stockade Battle of December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1854 that Irishman Peter Lalor came forward at a Monster Meeting at Bakery Hill to take leadership of diggers in their decision to stand and fight for their rights and liberties and their demands for democracy.*

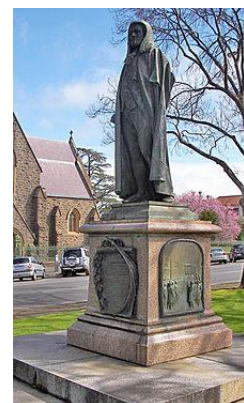
*These diggers came from over 20 different countries with the prospect for a new and better life.*

*On that day, Peter Lalor surrounded by the diggers, knelt and with his right hand pointed upwards, proclaimed in a loud voice*

*(Repeat after me) “We swear by the Southern Cross – to stand truly by each other – and fight to defend our rights and liberties”. And, at Bakery Hill “AMEN” came loudly from the assembled diggers.*

*This was the first oath on Australian soil to a flag that was not British that was sworn by men who in large measure owed fealty to Britain.*

*Whilst the battle was lost by the diggers at the Eureka Stockade a victory was won; as shortly after many of their demands were met. This event undoubtedly helped lay the foundations of Australian Democracy which we so cherish today.*



**Helen Bath – BDIA Vice President:**

*Thomas Moore* was known as the great poet, lyricist, writer and Patriot of Ireland. Among his many famous poems was “The Last Rose of Summer” written in 1805. The poem is very appropriate for Ballarat with its Begonias, roses and even Begonia Roses.

The inspiration for the Thomas Moore statue came from the Irish people of Ballarat, soon after the Robert Burns statue was erected by the Scots. It was sculpted by George Grant in 1889.



***The Last Rose of Summer***

*‘Tis the last rose of summer,  
Left blooming alone;  
All her lovely companions  
Are faded and gone;  
No flower of her kindred,  
No rose-bud is night,  
To reflect back her blushes  
Or give sigh for sigh!*

*I’ll not leave thee, thou lone one.  
To pine on the stem;  
Since the lovely are sleeping,  
Go, sleep thou with them;  
Thus kindly I scatter  
Thy leaves o’er the bed,  
Where thy mates of the garden  
Lie scentless and dead.*

*So soon may I follow,  
When friendships decay,  
And from love’s shining circle  
The gems drop away!  
When true hearts lie wither’d  
And fond ones are flown,  
Oh! Who would inhabit  
This bleak world alone?*







**Plans for a Website:**

Thank you to those who have “Liked” our [Ballarat Irish Association Facebook](#) page. Numbers are slowly growing. We currently have 156 people who like the page and 170 people who follow the page. We know that some people don’t use Facebook. We will be looking to get a grant to have a website built locally, so please be patient.

The following is an interesting article submitted for circulation.

**HOTELS IN THE BUNGAREE DISTRICT** – *An article by Maurice Hanrahan (BDIA Member)*



Maurice Hanrahan who is a member of the Bungaree Historical Society has been researching the hotels in the Bungaree District. Details of when each hotel was established, the hotel name and location, Licensees and closure date have been established.

In the first twenty years of settlement 44 hotels had been licenced in the Bungaree District. In addition there were 3 breweries and 1 distillery.

The first hotels were established near the early saw mills and along the first major roads to the goldfields which included Old Melbourne Road and Creswick

Road. As farms were established during the 1860's additional hotels were licenced to service the farming community. Hotels that had been licenced reached a peak of 44 licences issued by 1880.

The Cobb & Co coach commenced running between Melbourne and Ballarat in October 1853 and after reaching Gordon it passed along Old Melbourne Road (South Road) through Millbrook (Moorabool Creek), Dunnstown to Warrenheip. Traffic then branched off and passed through the township of Warrenheip to Eureka Street and on to Main Road, Ballarat. There were 14 hotels along South Road between Millbrook and the Warrenheip Road turnoff. There were an additional 3 hotels in the proximity of the Brewery Tap.

The locations of the hotels included Bungaree 7, Leigh Creek 4, Pootilla 2, Clarks Hill 2, Bullarook 1, Wallace 3, Springbank 3, Musk Creek 1, Claretown 3, Millbrook 4, Dunnstown 6, Warrenheip 8 (excludes Warrenheip township). In addition there were two breweries at Warrenheip and one at Leigh Creek and a Distillery at Dunnstown.

During the 1850's a Justice of the Peace could approve of a Publicans Licence for a Hotel. The first hearing of the Ballarat Licensing Court was in June 1859. The Bungaree Licencing Court was established in 1874.

### **Maximum number of hotel licences and Hotel Closures.**

The 10 year period from mid-1870's to mid 1880's was when most of the 44 hotels were still operating. Several of the very early established hotels were still in business and widespread closures had not commenced. The deep gold mines were at peak production and there was still a demand for timber and wagon transport. The farming population had increased dramatically.

The hotels were the location of most public meetings including the early Bungaree Council meetings, farewells, weddings, card tournaments and other sporting events. The hotels also provided accommodation.

Sporting teams including hurling and football were based at hotels for a hundred years prior to the erection of Recreation Reserves and modern facilities in the mid-21<sup>st</sup> Century. Often the football ground which was a paddock of a local farm had no facilities and the football team would dress in the hotel and after the game would return to the hotel to shower and change clothes.

The Bungaree Hurling team had the Hurlers Inn at Claretown as their base and after its closure in 1888 they moved to the Ormond (Springbank) hotel for the next 40 years.





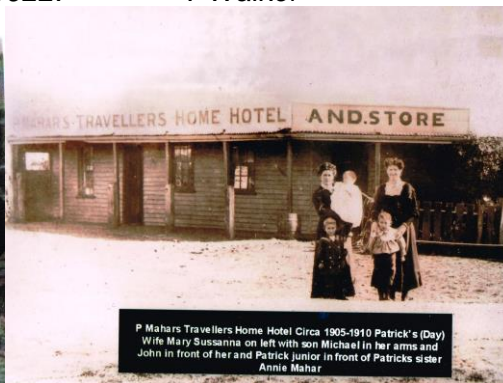
**Hotel Closures.** – article continues...

A large number of hotels closed in the twenty-five year period between 1895 and 1920. There was no single reason for this but a combination of several events which led to the closures. Six of the main reasons for population decline in the district and hotel closures were:

1. The Australia wide depression of the mid 1890's.
2. A sudden reduction in deep mining activities from 1890 onwards and a corresponding drop in the demand for timber and a reduction in commuting traffic to and from the goldfields.
3. Reduction in the fertility of the farm soils combined with the dry seasons and droughts of the 1890's saw a consolidation of some farms. Families who had sold their holdings were leaving the district. The commencement of farm mechanisation resulted in reduced requirements for farm labour and the amalgamation of farms.
4. The introduction of the motor car and solid tyre motor truck from around 1915.
5. The establishment of the Licence Reduction Board and the development of a fund to compensate the owner and licenced publican when the hotel licence was surrendered. World War 1 created additional pressure on the Licencing Board to reduce Hotel numbers particularly in 1915.
6. The Temperance Movement was particularly active throughout most of Victoria.

**District Hotels to close during the 25 year period 1899 and 1920.**

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Closure</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<i>Moorabool Creek/Millbrook</i>	1896 est	<i>T Keating</i>
<i>Warrenheip Hotel, Leigh Creek.</i>	1899	<i>J Gargan. (destroyed by fire)</i>
<i>Linlithgow Hotel, Warrenheip.</i>	1899	<i>W Kenna. (fire)</i>
<i>Manley's Waggoners Arms Pootilla</i>	1908.	<i>J Manley</i>
<i>Farmers Arms Millbrook.</i>	1901	<i>Keating/Britt Bros.</i>
<i>Carriers Arms Millbrook.</i>	1907.	<i>Britt Bros</i>
<i>McGraths Hotel Leigh creek</i>	1908.	<i>B Walsh/Brewing Co</i>
<i>Walkers Hotel, Bolwarrah</i>	1914.	<i>G Walker</i>
<i>Farmers Hotel Warrenheip</i>	1915.	<i>W Kenna</i>
<i>Racecourse Hotel, Bungaree</i>	1915.	<i>D McNeil.</i>
<i>Lake View Warrenheip</i>	1915.	<i>M McGrath</i>
<i>Travellers Home, Pootilla</i>	1920.	<i>P Maher.</i>
<i>Harp of Erin, Wallace</i>	1921	<i>Mr Barber</i>
<i>Fern Tree, Bolwarrah</i>	1922.	<i>T Walker</i>



P. Mahar's Travellers Home Hotel Circa 1905-1910 Patrick's (Day) Wife Mary Sussanna on left with son Michael in her arms and John in front of her and Patrick junior in front of Patrick's sister Annie Mahar



By 1922 there were no hotels in Clarks Hill, Pootilla, Bolwarrah or Millbrook. Closures continued however at a slower rate. Of the 44 hotels to hold a licence only four remain.

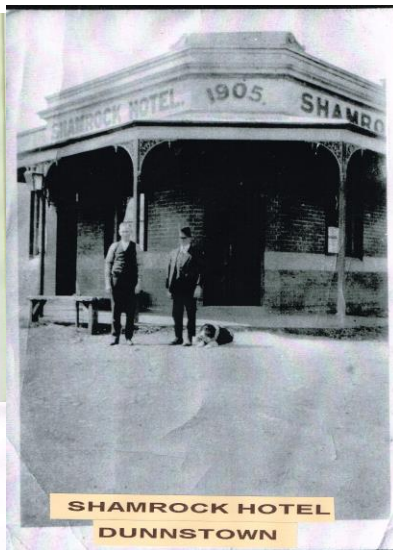
The Bridge Hotel, Bungaree, the Shamrock Hotel, Dunnstown, the Wallace Hotel and the Brewery Tap Hotel at Warrenheip are the only four hotels still in operation from the original forty-eight hotels that have been licenced.

Many of the hotel keepers were Irish and most of their clients were from Ireland or of Irish decent. This is reflected in the names of several district hotels which included the Shamrock hotel and Rock of Cashel at Dunnstown, the Blarney Castle at Warrenheip, the Hurlers Inn at Claretown, the Harp of Erin at Wallace, the Emerald Isle at Bolwarrah and the Ormond hotel at Springbank.

In 1882 the respected politician Mr Dan Brophy MLA who represented Ballarat East electorate which included the Bungaree district, jokingly stated *there were only two roads for Catholics-the straight and the crocked one. The straight leads to the public-house, the crocked away from it.*



RACECOURSE HOTEL  
CORNER BUNGAREE-CRESWICK ROAD  
AND BLACK SWAMP ROAD,  
BUNGAREE



SHAMROCK HOTEL  
DUNNSTOWN

The committee look forward to sharing more news and have a number of events and ideas in the planning process.

We hope that you will take up the great offer of extra months on your **Membership**. Payment of \$20 per person from now will include the 2021/22 period. **EFT** details as below:

Account Name: Ballarat & District Irish Association (BDIA)

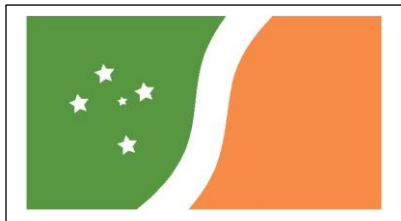
BSB: 633-000

Account: 163076391

Reference: Your name

A "Membership" form follows and we hope that you can help us grow our financial members as well as our Contact List of those interested in all things Irish Australian.

Please do not hesitate to share this newsletter with anyone you think would be interested.



## 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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