



**Bi bródúil as do theanga**

# An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaelge na hAstráile

Earrach 2013  
1-09-2013

## Coiste nua agus baill nua

**B**hí mo chlann agus mé féin in Éirinn do mhí lúil ar fad. Bhíomar ar muin na muice mar bhí an aimsir go hálainn agus nuair a bhíonn a leithéid sin d'aimsire ann, caithfear a rá go bfuil an oileán beag glas sin ar ceann de na tíortha is áille ar domhan.

Feictear na radharcanna cáiliúla, mar Aillte an Mhothair /Cliffs of Moher, i gContae an Chláir agus Sliabh Liag/Slieve League i nDún na nGall, go soléir ach ceapaim go bhfuil said álainn freisin i measc na scamaill agus an ceo.

Beidh an scéal ar fad le feicéail san eagrán seo chugainn, ach go díreach anois tá cúpla focal le rá agam faoi ru-



Bowling as Gaelge ! Cad atá ar siúl ?  
see page 5

daí atá ar siúl anseo. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a gabháil do na daoine a d'fhág an coiste agus do na baill nua den choiste.

Chomh maith, ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh na daoine nua (féach ar

leathanch 5) agus chun chur in iúil dóibh ( do na baill go léir) rud éigin a ullmhú le haghaidh an cóisir agus an oíche sóisialta i mí Nollag.

Greg

## San Eagrán Seo..

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### Key Dates for Sep-Oct-Nov 2013

5th Sep	Committee meeting
17th Sep	Last class for term 3
24th Sep & 1st Oct	Term break
8 Oct	First class of term 4
10 Oct	Committee meeting
5 Nov	Melbourne Cup holiday (no class)
7 Nov	Committee meeting

Information given here about term dates is for students in Victoria only and Interstate students should check with their local teacher.

[www.gaeilgesanastrail.com](http://www.gaeilgesanastrail.com)

**Irish Language classes each Tuesday during school terms 7:30 pm in the Celtic Club Melbourne**

## Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, Oidhreacht na nGael

**B**hí focail Máirtín Ó Direáin mar mhacalla trím' ceann, agus mé ar an mbealach thar sléibhte ghlas Chiarraí, in airde Gleann na nGealt na Riordánach, i dtreo chroílár Chorca Dhuibhne:

*"Faioseamh a gheobhadsa, Seal beag gairid, I measc mo dhaoine, Ar oileán mara, Ag siúl cois cladaigh, Maidin is tráthnóna, Ó Luan go Satharn, Thiar ag baile."*

Bhuel, fuair mé 'baile nua' sa cheantar stairiúil fiáin sin i mi Lúnasa, ag caitheamh an Luan go dtí an Satharn le 'Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne' i mBaile an Fheirtéaraigh, sráidbhaile atá 15 nóiméid amach ón Daingean agus ó 'Fungi na turasóirí' (deilf áitiúil)!

Ní cúrsa le haghaidh buntosaitheoirí a bhí ann, ach seachtain comhrá chun snas a chur ar do chuid Ghaeilge, agus cé go raibh eagla orm go raibh caighdeán an chúrsa ró-ard, feictear dom sa dheireadh gur tháinig gach dalta (líofa sa Ghaeilge nó níl ach cuíosach maith) ar an teanga ó dhearcadh éagsúla, chun go raibh seans ag éinne le bheith ina saineolaíthe ó am go ham. Mar fear Astrálach, ní raibh sé sin deacair! Bhí ranganna, siúlóidí, agallaimh, léachtaí agus ceol ann le linn na seachtaine, agus táim an-bhuíoch do mo mhúinteoir Brenda agus na daltaí eile mar gheall ar an taithí agus an craic! Tús maith, ar aon nós.

I ndiaidh sin, chuir cara dhil an Chumann seo, Mossie Ó Scanláin, lámh eile sa phróisias seo. Ba mhór an onóir dom, trí lá a chaitheamh leis i measc na gleannta, sléibhte agus oileáin Chorca Dhuibhne, go mór mór gach 'chuile uair a bhfuarthas cead isteach agus ticéidí dúinn saor in aisce! Bhí aithne (nó cluasaithe, ar a laghad) ag gach éinne ar an Gael-Astrálach sin... "Oh 'sea, bhuail mé leis..." "Tá cónaí air san Astráil, nach bhfuil...?" "Col seisear dom is ea é..." srl. Nuair a thugamar cuairt ar Ionad na Bhlascaoid i nDún Chaoin tráthnóna griannmhar amháin, sheol an bainisteoir muidne i dtreo an bhialann leis an ordú, "Tabhair gach rud is mian leo dóibh!" Alright mar sin, 'ag titim ibhfeoil' atáim, ach más é do thoil é...!

Ansin, creid nó ná chreid, cé hí atá os mo chomhair sa bhialann ach cara eile don Chumann, Nóirín Uí Chatháin! Leath a súile, shuigh muid le chéile ar bhord, agus tar éis tamaillín bhí ár gCór-mháistreá i mbun oibre, ag mealladh amhránaí 'Róisín Dubh' a ghuth a thabhairt ar iasacht do Dhaonscoil na Mumhan níos déanaí sa tseachtain! Laochra na Gaeilge an bheirt acu, gan stad gan faioseamh!

Is léir go bhfuil saol sochtangeolaíocht na Gaeltachta ag athrú fós (mar is dual d'áit ar bith), ag dul in olcas don Ghaeilge/Gaelainn, ach tá neart agus fuinneamh le brath sa phobal ag an am céanna. Dá bhrí sin, dóbair go n-athraíonn meon na ndaoine áitiúla faoi todhchaí na Gaeilge le athrú na haimsire! Ach saothraítear an chultúr agus an teanga fós (nó de thoradh sin) – bhí cheolchoirmeacha agus drámaí ann, agus leabhair as Gaeilge seolta go hoifigiúil gach oíche i rith mo thréimhse sa dúthaigh álainn sin. Pé scéal é, ní fios fós, ach táim sásta go bhfuair mé an deis chun blaisín beag saibhris na teanga a fháil, agus am a chaitheamh le muintir na Gaeltachta – má bhíonn seans aguibh féin, bigí ann!

**M**áirtín Ó Direáin's words were echoing through my head on my way through the green mountains of Kerry, high above Séan Ó Riordáin's *Gleann na nGealt*, heading into the heart of Corca Dhuibhne:

*"I'll find relief, For a short time, Amongst my people, On an island in the sea, Walking the shore, Morning and evening, From Monday to Saturday, Back at home."*

Well, I found myself a new home of sorts in that wild, ancient land back in August, spending Monday to Saturday with 'Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne' in *Baile an Fheirtéaraigh* ('Ballyferriter'), a village about 15 minutes away from *An Daingean* ('Dingle') and its famous dolphin Fungi!

Admittedly, this wasn't a course for beginners, but a conversation course that aimed to polish our Irish, and although I was worried that the required standard for the course was too high for me, I realised eventually that everyone had experienced the Irish language in a variety of ways and contexts, so that we were all experts on something from time to time, whether we were fluent speakers, or just 'ok'. As an Aussie, it wasn't hard finding something unique to share! There were classes, walks, interviews, lectures and music throughout the week, and I'm really grateful to my teacher, Brenda, and to the other students for the practice and the craic! It was a good start anyway.

After that, a very good friend of our Cumann, Mossie Ó Scanláin, helped me to continue this journey. It was a great honour to spend three days with him amongst the valleys, mountains and islands of Corca Dhuibhne, especially when we were always getting into tourist attractions for free! Everyone seemed to know him or had heard of him at the very least... "Oh yes, I've met him before..." "He's living in Australia, isn't he?" "We're second cousins...!", etc. When we visited the Blasket Island Centre in *Dún Chaoin* one sunny afternoon, the manager looked at us, sent us into the tea-room, and ordered the staff to "give them whatever they want!" Alright then, I'm packing it on a bit, but if you insist...!

Suddenly, believe it or not, who was standing in front of me but another friend of the Cumann, Nóirín Uí Chatháin! Her eyes widened in disbelief as we all sat down together to catch up, but after a short while our Choir-mistress was back at her best, trying to convince the singer of 'Róisín Dubh' to lend his voice to Daonscoil na Mumhan (another Irish-language course) for a couple of days later in the week! Mossie and Nóirín, a pair of tireless champions for the Irish language, without a doubt! It is clear that the socio-linguistic situation of the Gaeltacht is continuing to change (as is natural enough), and very much in favour of English.

(continued on page 5)

## Vicipéid - an Chiclipéid Shaor

**N**í chreidfeá an méid duine nár chual riamh faoin Vicipéid, nó 'Wikipedia' mar a ainmnítear í i mBéarla. Is Chiclipéid í atá le fáil ar an idirlíon. Ní hamháin ciclipéid digiteach atá i gceist anseo áfach, ach ceann saor ina chomhscríobhann na léitheoirí na hait a fheictear ann. Anois, tugtar breis is 68 milliún cuairt ar an suíomh idirlín gach uile mhí!

Tá an suíomh Vicipéid ag dul ó fheabhas go feabhas ó chuireadh tús leis i mí Eanáir 2001 i San Diego, sna Stáit Aontaithe. Ar dtús ba í Vicipéid Béarla amháin a bhí ar fáil ach de réir mar a chuaigh sé i méid, tháinig meadú ar na ciclipéidí i dteangacha eile agus i láthair na huaire tá Vicipéid le fáil i mbreis is dhá chéad seasca teanga agus ag fás atá an uimhir sin.

Ó am go chéile, léirítear imní i measc an phobail ó thaobh caighdeán na nalt de ós rud é gur féidir le duine ar bith cur leis. Ní gá bheith buartha afách, mar tá eagarthóirí ann a dhéanann athmheas orthu gach lá ó gach cearn den domhan.

Bunaíodh an t-eagrán Gaeilge tamall maith ó shin. Tá níos mó ná 10,000 alt scríofa san eagrán luachmhar sin. De réir statisticí Vicipéide, tá timpeall is céad scríbhneoirí Gaeilge ag cur leis go coitianta. Ón tús, bhain níos mó ná 7,000 cuairteoirí úsáid as an t-eagrán agus ní mór dom a rá nach mbíonn sé ach ag meadú. Éacht iontach atá ann go deimhin. Ach léiríonn statisticí Vicipéide éagsúla rud eile dúinn. Ar liosta na Vicipéidí, de réir an méid ailt atá le fáil, i gcomparáid leis na teangacha mionlacha eile, nílimid ach ar uimhir 93 ar an liosta de na suíomh is gnóthaí. Cuid de na teangacha atá níos airde sa liosta ná Waray-Waray, Gujarati, West Frisian, Low Saxon, Rupuarian agus Asturian! Ceist beo atá romhainn anois ná cad ina thaobh go bhfuil Vicipéid na teangacha neamhaithnide seo níos láidre agus níos toirtiúla ná cuid na Gaeilge?

Bíonn deacrachtaí go deimhin ag baint le lucht léitheoireachta Vicipéid. B'fhéidir go bhfuil easpa eolais ag an bpobail maidir le

Vicipéid, nach bhfuil an suíomh go mór i mbéal an phobail Gaeilge. Chomh maith le sin, is dóigh go mbraitheann cuid de na hait ar sean eolas a thagann ó ghlúin go glúin agus is annamh a scríobhadh síos í ar an gcéad dul síos gan tagairt ar ailt a scríobh ar ríomhaire! Ní mór a rá, leis, nach mbíonn bealach isteach chuig an gcóras teicneolaíochta ag gach éinne áfach.

Nó seans go mbíonn imeachtaí eile á dhéanamh acu - i gcomparáid leis na mílte a théann ar facebook gach lá, is beag duine a dhíríonn isteach ar Vicipéid!

Ach ar deireadh thiar thall is cuma cén áit sa domhan a bhfuilimid ag maireachtaint, cé gur ciclipéid atá ann, ba chóir go mbeimid in ann cur le marthain agus fás ár dteanga ar an idirlíon agus an t-eolas a chur ar fáil do dhaoine eile.

Tá an ciclipéid bunaithe ar bhogearraí "Vicí" agus tá sé an-éasca d'úsáideoirí dul i dtaithe air. Tá se mar coinníoll bunúsach go bhfuil duine ar bith in ann alt a scríobh. Má tá suim agat in ábhar *ar bith*, cuardaigh alt faoi sa Vicí agus cuir leis má fhaightear 'bearna' ann. Muna bhfuil alt ann, deis deas agat alt nua a chumadh. Ná bí amhrasach faoi d'eolas féin a thabhairt don domhan agus bain sult as do chuid teanga féin!

[http://ga.wikipedia.org/wiki/Príomhleathan\\_ach](http://ga.wikipedia.org/wiki/Príomhleathan_ach)

- Teresa Lynn



## Cumann membership – all your questions answered

### **W**hat exactly am I joining ?

You are joining *Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile*, The Irish Language Association of Australia.

### **Why do I need to be a member ?**

Because the weekly classes are organised by the Cumann for its members.

### **How much does membership of the Cumann cost ?**

\$40 for a year, and the year runs from January to December, same for everyone no matter when you join. There is no additional joining fee.

### **What exactly is the Cumann and how does it work ?**

It is a voluntary organisation founded in May 1993 and registered with consumer affairs dept in Victoria. The constitution is available on the website. Each year in June there is an AGM to elect a committee and office bearers. All members have voting rights and can stand for election to committee.

### **Is the Cumann a part of something else ?**

No, it is not a branch of anything. It is totally independent and has no affiliations with any other groups here or overseas. The Cumann's statement of purpose is centred entirely around the Irish language.

### **How much do the classes cost ?**

The tuition is totally free to members but you are asked to make a small donation of \$4 on the nights that you attend, which covers the cost of tea/coffee and also goes towards the rental of space in the Celtic Club. The teachers are all volunteers and receive no payments.

### **Do I get Celtic Club membership as well ?**

The Cumann itself has what's called corporate membership of the Celtic Club, and that allows Cumann members to be on the premises without being signed in. But that's the only benefit, so if you want full membership of the Celtic Club then you should contact them directly.

### **Do I get any proof of my Cumann membership ?**

Membership cards are issued showing your name, number and year. You should always bring your membership card with you when attending the classes.

### **What's the procedure for joining ?**

On your first visit you will be given a membership form or you can download it from the Cumann website. It is available in both Irish and English, so use whichever one you prefer. On the form all new applicants need to be proposed and seconded and declare that you agree to abide by the constitution, which is available on our website. The secretary will put your application forward at the next committee meeting, usually held at the start of each month, and after it's been approved you can then pay the fee and collect your membership card. In the meantime, of course you can still attend the classes each week.

### **Does the Cumann do other things besides the weekly classes ?**

There is an annual summer camp, known as Daonscoil, which is hugely popular, and a program of social events. See the past newsletters (also on the website) for details. In addition, members have access to a library of Irish language material.

### **When do I need to renew my membership ?**

Officially all renewals are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Some people like to pay in December and some prefer to wait until classes resume in the new year. Either is OK and once you pay you will be issued with a new membership card for the coming year. But note that while your renewal is overdue then you are not actually a Cumann member. You are also not covered by corporate membership of the Celtic Club (see above)

*So the moral is—renew your membership promptly and if you are unsure about your status look and see if you have this year's membership card in your wallet or purse. If you lose your card we can check the records and re-issue it*

### **Do I still need to be a member if I just attend occasionally ?**

Yes, because the classes are provided for the members of Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile. It's up to you how often you attend.

*Coming up in our next issue — what are all the different classes doing ?*

## Daonscoil 2014 agus cúrsaí eile

### *(continued from page 2)*

However, there's still strength and energy to be found amongst the people of the Gaeltacht at the same time. As a result, their attitude about the future of their native language seems to change and vary as quickly as the local weather! In any case, they work hard to sustain and preserve their culture and the language – there were concerts, plays and official book launches almost every night during my stay on that beautiful peninsula. In any case, the jury is out on the 'question' of the Gaeltacht, but I'm grateful that I've had the chance to experience some more of the richness of the Irish language and the generosity of the Gaeltacht folk. If you get the chance to go, just do it!

Robert Lindsey

### *(continued from page 1)*

Our AGM in June elected a new committee for 2013-2014 as follows

Greg Burns (President)  
 Stuart Traill (VP)  
 Mary Kelly (Secretary)  
 Orlagh Doyle (Treasurer)  
 Val Noone  
 Mossie Scanlon  
 Kelley McMenamin  
 Helen McKay  
 Kate Moody  
 Frank Mulqueen

And of course a big thank you to our retiring committee members namely

Gerry Halliday  
 Rohan Walker  
 David Lucy  
 Elizabeth Kelleher  
 Robert Lindsey

Don't forget that Daonscoil earlybird bookings need to be paid for by end of September. There is a form included with this newsletter and it can also be downloaded from our website. In our next issue I hope to tell you all about my recent holiday in Ireland and the wonderful people we met, so till then slán agus beannacht ! Greg

**F**áilte Romhaibh ! Welcome to the following twelve new members who have been approved by committee in the period since our last newsletter

Kenneth Beckett  
 Lisa Beckett  
 Muriel Cassidy  
 Sorcha Cullen  
 Elaine Foran  
 Karen Harte  
 Nicola Kilpatrick  
 Paul McMahon  
 Clare Murphy  
 Dominic McCann  
 Triona McCormack  
 Aisling O'Hara

That's a very healthy showing of new faces and with the warmer weather approaching we hope to see a return of those who have been "hibernating" during the winter months



Kelley McMenamin is organising a bowling night at Melbourne Central on 24th September

Contact [kelleymc95@gmail.com](mailto:kelleymc95@gmail.com)

Or see our facebook page



## An Scoil Scairte

**S**ular cuireadh Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile ar bun, bhí ranganna Gaeilge ar siúl i Melbourne.

Thárla go raibh ranganna faoi chúram ag Aine Szymanski ag an Australian Irish Welfare Bureau nuair a bhí seomraí acu i Smith St, Collingwood.

De réir mar a instear an scéal bhí an áit cúng go leor agus bhí orthu boird agus cófraí a bhrú as an mbealach chun rang a chur ar siúl.

Dúirt duine éigin, oíche amháin, “We’re hedged in here” agus láithreach bonn bhaist Áine an “Hedge School” ar an gcruinniú.

Thóg mise an “Scoil Scairte” nuair a bhí áit againn i Gertrude St, Fitzroy agus ansin d’aistrigh an scoil go áras nua i Northcote.

Lean an scoil go dtí cúpla bliain ó shoin nuair nach raibh ag freastal ach triúr nó ceathrar.

Tá an t-ainm beo fós agus b’fhéidir lá éigin go mbeidh an “Scoil Scairte” Melbourne faoi lán seoil aríst.

Éamon Ó Neachtain

**E**ven before Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile was founded Irish language classes were taking place here in Melbourne. The classes were under the direction of Áine Szymanski and held at the Australian Irish Welfare Bureau when it was located in Smith Street in Collingwood.

As the story goes the place wasn’t big enough to swing a cat and they had to shove tables and chests out of the way to hold a class.

One night someone said “We’re hedged in here” and right away Áine christened the gathering the “Hedge School”.

I took over the Scoil Scairte when we had a place in Gertrude street in Fitzroy and then later the school moved to premises in Northcote.

The school continued until a couple of years ago by which time only three or four were attending.

The name still survives and maybe someday we’ll see the Scoil Scairte underway again here in Melbourne.

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## Cré na Cille ar fáil le ceannach ar DVD

**T**á an scannán lán-fhada Gaeilge *Cré na Cille*, leagan d'úrscéal iomráiteach *Mháirtín Uí Chadhain*, ar fáil le ceannach ar DVD.

Tá an DVD ar fáil le rogha gan fotheidil nó le fotheideal i nGaeilge, Béarla, Fraincís, Spáinis, Gearmanaís agus Sínis, agus insíonn sé an scéal faoin éad is faoin bhfuath atá ag beirt deirfiúracha dá chéile.

Coimhlint a théann in olcas le haois, agus a leantar de fiú san athshaol.

Stiúrtha ag *Robert Quinn* agus léirithe ag *Ciarán Ó Cofaigh* do *ROSG*, comhlacht léirithe scannáin is teilifíse, insíonn sé an scéal faoin éad is faoin bhfuath atá ag beirt deirfiúracha dá chéile. Coimhlint a théann in olcas le haois, agus a leantar de fiú san athshaol.

Tá liosta de na suíomhanna agus siopaí ina bhfuil sé ar fáil anseo -

[www.ROSG.ie](http://www.ROSG.ie)

Dúirt Ciarán Ó Cofaigh, léiritheoir *Cré na Cille*: 'Aithnítear *Cré na Cille* mar phríomh-úrscéal comhaimseartha na Gaeilge. Leagann an athchóiriú scannáin béim ar eilimintí grinn an mhórshaothair seo agus tabharfaidh an DVD deis do lucht féachana leathan sult a bhaint as, in Éirinn agus thar lear. Níl aon dabht orainn ach go mbainfidh an lucht féachana taitneamh as an scannán, bíodh Gaeilge acu nó ná bíodh agus tá muid an

bhródúil as athchóiriú ar an úrscéal iomráiteach seo a chuir os comhair lucht féachana níos leithne'.

Tá formáid an DVD déanta do *PAL* agus *NTSC*, mar sin tá sé oiriúnach do chuil tír / réigiúin. Bheimis buíoch dá bhféadfá seo a scaipeadh.

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Julianne Ní Chonchobhair



*Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo**IRISH LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.*

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, the Irish Language Association of Australia is a non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteer tutors and a voluntary committee of management. Its aim is to promote the Gaelic language as a second language within the Australian community, and to form networks with other cultural, heritage and Gaelic-speaking groups. Formally established back in 1992, the ILAA offers structured weekly language classes to students of all ages, nationalities, and walks of life, across a range of levels — absolute beginners, basic, intermediate, advanced — as well as the opportunity to practice and converse together in a supportive environment.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter; access to the library; and also enjoy weekly singing and informal conversation sessions; as well as participation in social events and residential language schools.

Irish Language Association of Australia Inc., 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000.

**This form can be used for membership renewal or to notify a change of details.  
New members should use the form available on our website [www.gaeilgesanastrail.com](http://www.gaeilgesanastrail.com)**

Renewal     Update

Sloinne .....  
(surname)

Guthán bh) .....  
(phone)

Céad ainm .....  
(first name)

ah) .....

Seoladh .....  
(address)

Fón .....  
(mobile)

.....

Ríomhphost .....  
(email)

Membership fee is \$40 per annum and due each January. Class fee is \$4 per week.