



**Bí bródúil as do theanga**

# An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Samhradh 2023

1-12-2023

## 130 Bliain ag Fás, ar Fud an Domhain

**T** sé 130 bliain ó bhunaíodh Conradh na Gaeilge in Éirinn, an fóram chun an Ghaeilge a choimeád dá labhairt i measc na ndaoine.

Tá os cionn 200 craobhaca agus líon mór daoine cláraithe ar fud an domhain, agus iad go léir ag obair go dian chun an Ghaeilge a chothú ina limistéar féin.

Bhunaigh Dubhghlas de hÍde agus Eoin Mac Néill é 31 Iúil, 1893. Bhí an bheirt acu go mór chun tosaigh in Ath-bheochan na Gaeilge. Toghadh de hÍde mar chéad Uachtarán ar Conradh na Gaeilge, eagraíocht údaráisach cultúrtha in Éirinn ag an am. In dhiaidh Saoirse toghadh Dubhghlas de hÍde mar chéad Uachtarán na hÉireann.

Cuireadh Cumann Gaeilge na Astráile ar bun sa bhliain 1992 leis na cuspóirí agus prionsabail chéanna is a bhí ag Conradh na Gaeilge, chun an teanga Ghaeilge a leathnú ar fud na hAstráile. Bíonn ranganna ar fail le haghaidh gach leibhéal.

Mar thoradh ar Covid bíonn cuid de na ranganna ar Zoom



**Ba laoch í, Sinéad, ..Leathanach 4**

agus cuid eile go pearsanta sa Leabharlann Kathleen Syme i Carlton.

Leannan na seisiúin Pop-Up Gaeltachta rathúla ar aghaidh ag eatraimh thart ar mhí. Tá said seo eagraithe ag Ciara Donellan agus mealan siad slua maith Gaeilgeoirí óga (agus nach bhfuil chomh óg). Tá an chéad imeacht eile sceidealta do 7pm Dé Céadaoin 20 Nollaig ag The Last Jar, 616 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. Féach ar ár leathanach facebook le haghaidh sonraí.

Agus muid ag dul chuig an bpreas, tá plananna á ndéanamh chun ar gCrinniú Cinn Bhliana 2023 a cuireadh siar faoi dhó a thionól i mí na Nollag agus ghe-

obhaidh comhaltaí fógra go luath faoin ionad agus faoin dáta/am

Deis iontach chun buaileadh le baill eile den Chumann, nuacht faoi chúrsaí airgeadais a chloisint agus páirt a ghlacadh i dtoghchán an choiste nua agus fiú tú féin a ainmniú. Tá an coiste fíor thabachtach chun gnóthaí an Chumann a reachtáil, agus níl i gceist ach cruinniú uair sa mhí ar Zoom, agus tá sé tabhachtach chun go mairfidh Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile mar bhealach chun an Gaeilge a choimeád beo agus a chur chun cinn san Astráil.

Dominic

### San Eagrán Seo..

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**See our website for latest news about classes [gaeilge.org.au](http://gaeilge.org.au)**

## An Chéad Leabhar Dá Leithéid Riamh

**B**liain ó shin, d'fhoilsigh Mary Doyle agus ValNoone an chéad leabhar lán-Gaeilge scríofa agus foilsithe san Astráil, *Gaeilge Ghriandóite A go Z a hAon*, le Greg Byrnes, Robert Lindsey, Val Noone agus Colin Ryan. Anseo minigh **Val Noone** cén fáth a rinne sé tionscadal seo.

*Tá taithí agat le fada i gcursáí foilsitheoireachta, an raibh sé sin úsáideach ?*

Is onóir mhór dúinn, domsa agus do mo bhean chéile Mary, a bheith in ár bhfoilsitheoirí de *Gaeilge Ghriandóite A go Z a hAon*. Táimid bródúil as ár gcomhoibriú le Colin agus Greg agus Rob san leabhar an-stairiúil seo. Tá bua na dteangacha ag Colin agus Greg agus Rob. Is mise an ceathrú fear mar theangeolaí ach ba mhór an pléisiúr dom a bheith i mo éagarthóir agus clóchuradóir ar gach focal dá bhfuil ann.

*Cár thosaigh do thuras féin go Gaeilge?*

Sna nóchaidí bhí mé i mo uachtarán ar chomhairle Collingwood College, agus ar iarratas na dtuismitheoirí thosaíomar ar chlár “mother-tongue maintenance”, is é sin cothú máthairtheanga do Prep go grád 3 ó theaghlaigh Vítneamaigh, Síniú, agus Turcaigh: fuair siad marc níos airde san meánscoil ná daltaí eile. Ag an ám céanna bhí tionchar orm ag mo chaidreamh leis an bhfile Louis de Paor. B’shin an tréimhse, mar a dúirt an seanfocal: “A lia, leigheas thú féin.” Agus mé caoga sé bliana d’aois, thosaigh mé ag foghlaim Gaeilge mar iarracht ar stair chaillte a athghabháil agus ar son na bithéagsúlachta teangeolaíche.

*An ndearna Covid fadhbanna neamhthuirimeacha ?*

Nuair a bhuailomar le chéile, Colin, Greg agus Rob, in 2019, shocraíomar ar an leabhar seo a dhéanamh. Ag an am sin bhí gréasáin láidre idir na grúpaí Gaeilgeoirí san Astráil in Melbourne, Sydney agus Canberra, agus scoileanna samhraidh agus scoileanna geimhridh bliantiúla agus roinnt ciorcail chomhrá ann leis. Ach anois, toisc Covid-19, agus ár leabhar foilsithe, tá na gréasáin briste. Tiofaidh athbheochán bheag, b’fhéidir, agus, go pointe áirithe, tá súil agam go gcuideoidh ár leabhar leis sin.

*Tabhair cúpla buaicphointí dúinn chun an goile a bhualadh*

Leabhar ar fheabhas ar fad is ea *Gaeilge Ghriandóite A go Z*. I measc na 195 iontrála, mar shampla, tá: aimsiú i Sydney ag Greg Byrnes de shampla luath den Ghaeilge scríofa, is é sin, na lamhscríbhíní a thug an tAthair Daniel Power leis in 1826; achoimrí den trí leabhar leis an “buachaill ó Bhungaree”, Colin Ryan, atá foilsithe i nGaeilge; aimsiú ag Robert Lindsey den obair Ghaelach liteartha agus ealaíonta le Vincent Hearnese, a rugadh agus a tógadh in Clifton Hill céad bliain ó shin; 32 iontráil aonair faoi mhná, páirt-chuidiú ar son comhionannais inscne; leagan Gaeilge den ‘Ráiteas Uluru ón Chroí’, aistrithe le Tomás de Bhaldraithe.

- *Gaeilge Ghriandóite A go Z* nil costas ach \$25 postas san áireamh, ón [valnoone@iinet.net.au](mailto:valnoone@iinet.net.au). Fós, is earra inbhailithe í.

**A** year ago, Mary Doyle and Val Noone published the first-ever book in the Irish language written and published in Australia, *Gaeilge Ghriandóite A go Z a hAon*, by Greg Byrnes, Robert Lindsey, Val Noone and Colin Ryan. Here **Val Noone** explains why he took on this project.

*You have publishing experience. Was that useful ?*

My wife Mary and I are honoured to have worked with Colin, Greg and Rob in publishing this historic book. Of the team I am number four in language skills but I am proud to have typeset every word of the book.

*Where did your own journey into Irish begin ?*

In the 1990s I was chairman of school council at Collingwood College when we introduced a mother-tongue maintenance program for Prep to Grade 3 in Vietnamese, Chinese and Turkish. Those students got better marks in secondary than the others. At the same time I was influenced by my friendship with the Irish-language poet Louis de Paor who was then living in Melbourne. I decided to heed the proverb: “Physician, heal thyself,” and, at 56, started learning Irish.

*Did Covid make things difficult ?*

When we started this book four years ago the Irish-language networks in southeast Australia were in good shape but Covid-19 has shattered them. A small revival is happening this year. Perhaps our book can contribute to that.

*Give us a few highlights to whet the appetite*

Here are some highlights among the 195 entries in this classy book: Greg Byrne's discovery of hand-written Irish notes from Sydney in the 1820s by Father Daniel Power, a convict chaplain, summaries of three books in Irish by the Boy from Bungaree, Colin Ryan; Rob Lindsey's discovery of the literary and artistic works of the long-forgotten Vincent Hearnes who was born in Clifton Hill, a 100 years ago; Thomas de Bhaldraithe's translation into Irish of the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart'.

- *Gaeilge Ghriandóite A go Z* only costs \$25, postage included from [valnoone@iinet.net.au](mailto:valnoone@iinet.net.au). It is a collector's item.

Ever thought about writing In Irish but don't know where to start ? Check out this handy primer by Adelaide-based academic Dymphna Lonergan -

<https://tintean.org.au/2023/04/10/how-can-i-write-in-irish/>

Who knows, in a couple of years time we could be having our very own awards night for our talented local writers !

Below - The four authors brave a cold Melbourne day for the camera. L-R Robert Lindsey, Colin Ryan, Greg Byrnes and Val Noone.





## Ba laoch í Sinéad O'Connor ‘do mhná na hÉireann’

# B

## hí cártaí, bláthanna, nótaí agus bláthfhleasc (wreath) fágtha in ómós do Shinéad O'Connor

Tá cur síos déanta ar Shinéad O'Connor mar laoch ‘do mhná na hÉireann’ ag iad siúd a d’fhág bláthanna taobh amuigh dá seanbhaile.

Tá ómós ina measc cártaí, bláthanna, nótaí agus bláthfhleasc fágtha ag an teach i mBré, Co. Chill Mhantáin.

Fuair Sinéad bás ar an 26 Iúil, ag aois 56 bliana, tar éis do na póilíní í a fháil neamhfhreagrach i dteach i ndeisceart Londain.

Chuir Karen Kehoe bláthfhleasc le chéile don chuimhneachán lasmuigh dá teach ar son íospartaigh na mí-úsáide in Éirinn.

Bhí Sinéad oscailte faoin drochúsáid chorpartha a bhí á déanamh ag a máthair go minic.

Dúirt Ms Kehoe go raibh codanna den fhleasc ina siombal de shaol agus de thionchar Shinéad.

‘Léiríonn an croí an grá atá againn go léir do Shinéad agus léiríonn na rósanna bándearga an chaoi a ndearna sí iarracht rabhadh a thabhairt dúinn faoi gach rud a bhí ag tarlú,’ a dúirt sí.

‘Is ionann an Choróin Spíne (crown of thorns) agus an chaoi ar céasadh an Eaglais í.

‘Bhí sí i bhfad chun tosaigh ar a cuid ama, bhí sí ceart faoi gach rud. Is é an rud is lú atá orainn di anois ná beagán buíochais agus grá.’

Spreg Sinéad conspóid nuair a scar sí pictiúr den Phápa Eoin Pól II ar an seó grinn Meiriceánach Saturday Night Live i 1992, mar agóid ar mhí-úsáid san Eaglais Chaitliceach.

Thug Ms Kehoe macalla as an iliomad ómós don amhránaí agus gníomhaí a rugadh i mBaile Átha Cliath nuair a dúirt sí nár ghéill Sinéad riamh chun í féin a athrú.





‘Sheas sí go láidir léi féin,’ a dúirt sí. ‘Ba í an duine ba dhílis í.’

Chuaigh Michelle Buckley agus Geraldine Canning chun bláthanna a leagan ag an gcuimhneachán freisin.

Dúirt Ms Buckley gur inspioráid í Sinéad do mhná na hÉireann.

‘Sílim go bhfuil sí iontach ar gach slí. Is cinnte gur bean í do mhuintir na hÉireann, go háirithe do mhná na hÉireann.’

Dúirt Ms Buckley go raibh agóid phoiblí Sinéad ar Saturday Night Live ‘gan eagla’.

Dúirt sí: ‘Bean láidir í sin, bean gan eagla a rinne é sin, ag sracadh grianghraf an Phápa.’

Sheas sí suas dúinn. Sheas sí an fód ar son na hÉireann.

Nuair a bhí gach rud a bhí ag tarlú, an mhí-úsáid, sin go léir, níor stop sé. Ach labhair sí amach agus d’éist daoine.’

Tugtar cuireadh do Mhoslamaigh ar fud an domhain guí ar son Shinéad le linn Aifreann a sochraide.

Dúirt an Scoláire Shaykh Umar Al-Qadri go dtabharfaidh sé ómós do Shinéad trí phaidir Ioslamach a aithris ag an searmanas príobháideach.

Tá an Dr Umar Al-Qadri, atá ina phríomhfheidhmeannach Imam ag Ionad Ioslamach na hÉireann, ag tabhairt cuireadh do phobail Mhoslamacha ar fud an domhain guí ar son an amhránaí Éireannaigh chomh gar agus is féidir do 12 meán lae.

*(report and photos from extrag.ie)*



## What's In A Name ?

**T**he Irish language used to use (and arguably still uses) a patronymic naming system. This means that children were given a given name, and then were known by some descriptive of their ancestry\*. Originally, it was simply the father's name, but eventually the ancestor's name came to be passed on as an indicator of general family membership\*\*.

There are two basic words used:

“Mac”, which means “son”

“Óa”, which means “grandson”

Where you have two nouns next to each other in the Irish language, you get the genitive case, which is rendered in English as “*noun of noun*”. The concept that is conveyed in English with the “of *noun*” is conveyed in Irish by changes to the word itself. In technical terms, generally-speaking, you lenite or séimhiú the front of the word, and slenderise the end of it.

So, using the name “Niall” as an example:

Niall's son might take the patronymic “Mac Néill”

Niall's grandson might take the clan name “Óa Néill”

In modern times (meaning sometime in the last 400 years), we've shortened “óa” to simply “ó” for name purposes. With daughters, it gets more complicated, because the formula is “daughter of son/grandson”, which then puts “son” or “grandson” into the genitive. Since many common words are irregular in any language, “mac” and “óa” both have irregular genitives.

Niall's son's daughter is “Iníon Mhic Néill”

Niall's grandson's daughter is “Iníon Uí Néill”

In modern times, again, we've shortened “iníon mhic” to “nic” and “iníon uí” to “ní”, so:

The daughter of Pádraig Mac Néill has the surname “Nic Néill”

The daughter of Pádraig Ó Néill has the surname “Ní Néill”

Additionally, because the surnames were originally patronymics, and indicators of descent, a woman with an Irish-language surname doesn't take her husband's name exactly. Instead, if Bríd Ní Máille marries Pádraig Ó Néill, she will become Bríd Uí Néill (originally Bríd Bean Uí Néill, or “Bridget, Wife of the Grandson of Niall”); their daughters will have the surname Ní Néill and their sons will have the surname Ó Néill. Likewise, if the aforementioned Bríd marries Seumas Mac Néill, she will become Bríd Mhic Néill (or Bríd Bean Mhic Néill), and their daughters will have the surname Nic Néill and their sons will have the surname Mac Néill.

Of course, all of this only applies to people who *actually speak the Irish language* and, moreover, use it on forms and when giving their name. Many Irish people today don't do the former, and most don't do the latter. Their many millions of descendants worldwide very rarely do.

So, “Ó Néill” was anglicised as “O'Neil” and “Mac Néill” was anglicised as “MacNeil”, and children were usually just recorded with whatever surname was given to their father, and so in very short order all anglophone (English-speaking) Irish had only the anglicised version of the male version of the name; thus, most people in Ireland will have a surname with either “O'-” or “Mac-”/“Mc-” as a prefix.

\* It's a “descriptive name”, so while you might be described by who your parents are, you might also be described by the colour of your hair or where you live or, in later life, by your profession. These are not official/legal names.

\*\* And today, you get the father's name simply in the genitive, without a relationship word; thus Thomas, the son of Patrick, will be known locally as “Tómás Phádraig”. Again, this is not the official/legal name; Tomás might have the legal name “Tómás Ó Néill” (or even “Thomas O'Neil”), but be known by family and neighbours as “Tómás Pháid” (“Pat's Thomas”).





**D**ominic writes.....2023 marks the 130th anniversary of Conradh [na Gaeilge](#) the forum for the Irish-speaking community in Ireland.

Conradh na Gaeilge has over 200 branches and numerous individual members registered around the world - members that work hard to promote the use of Irish in their own areas. The main aim of Conradh na Gaeilge is to promote the use of Irish as the standard language in Ireland. It was established by Douglas Hyde and Eoin Mac Néill on the 31st of July 1893.

Hyde and Mac Neill were leading figures in the Gaelic revival. Hyde was the first President of the Conradh na Gaeilge, one of the most influential cultural organisations in Ireland at the time. After Independence Douglas Hyde went on to become the first President of Ireland.

[Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile](#) founded only in 1992 reflects the aims and principles of Conradh na Gaeilge by promoting the Irish Language in Australia. Currently there are classes ranging from beginners through intermediate to advanced speakers.

As a legacy of COVID the Cumann continues to deliver classes through 'Zoom' though some of the classes are now being delivered in person at the Kahleen Syme Library in Carlton.

The successful Pop-Up Gaeltacht sessions continue at approximately monthly intervals. These are organised by Ciara Donellan and attract a good crowd of young (and not so young) Irish speakers. The next event is scheduled for 7pm on Wed 20th December at The Last Jar, 616 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. See our facebook page for details.

As we go to press, plans are being made to hold our twice-postponed 2023 AGM in December and members will soon receive notification of the venue and date/time.

It will be a great opportunity to catch up with other members of the Cumann and receive updates on the status of the classes, the financial position of the Cumann and importantly to take part in the election of the new Committee - and perhaps to consider nominating to become a member of the Committee?

The Committee is important is critical to the survival of the Cumann and ultimately the continuation of the long tradition of Conradh na Gaeilge in promoting the Irish Language in Ireland; and Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile [in promoting the Irish Language](#) in Australia.

### For Your Diary

Canberra Irish Language Association (CILA) are planning a non-residential Irish language School on the Australia day long weekend in January.

Venue will be Canberra Irish Club at 6 Parkinson Street, Weston, ACT 2611

Teachers are currently being recruited and it is hoped the Irish embassy will be able to host a reception on opening night.

Further details are available on the CILA FaceBook page and website

**We extend condolences to the family of Br. Eoin Ó Neachtain, brother of Éamon and a well known face at our summer schools over the years.**

**Eoin passed away on 30th August at St Francis Hospice in Blanchardstown, Ireland.**

**Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam**

### Membershsip Reminder

**All Cumann memberships expire on 31st December so it would be appreciated if members could renew their membership promptly using any of the available options.**

**Membership is extremely good value at only \$45 p.a. and enables us to run classes and occasional social events.**

**We are, like many similar organisations, in a post-covid recovery phase so please put your membership renewal at the top of your "to do" list for 2024**

**Míle Buíochas !**

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

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile, the Irish Language Association of Australia is a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteer tutors and a voluntary committee of management. The Cumann is non-political and non-sectarian. Its aim is to promote the Irish language as a second language within the Australian community, and to form networks with other cultural, heritage and Celtic language 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., P.O. Box 594 North Melbourne VIC, 3051

**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.gaeilge.org.au](http://www.gaeilge.org.au)**

Renewal     Update

Sloinne .....  
(surname)

Guthán bh) .....  
(phone)

Céad ainm .....  
(first name)

ah) .....

Seoladh .....  
(address)

Fón .....  
(mobile)

.....

Ríomhphost .....  
(email)

Membership fee is \$45 per annum and due each January. Class donation is \$5 per week.