



Bí bródúil as do theanga

An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Geimhreadh 2011

1-06-2011

Nuacht ó Dheirdre

Tá Karolyne, a bhfuil an-ghnaoi uirthi mar Uachtarán ar scor ar feadh tamaill gearr mar gheall ar cúraimí oibre agus teaghlaigh. Sílimid go mbeidh si ar ais arís i gceann tamaill. Idir an dá linn is mise an tUachtarán Gníomhach go dtí an Cruinniú Ginearálta.

Comh maith le sin, beimid ag fágáil slán le Ambasadóir Máirtín O'Fainín agus a bhean cheile, Aine. Beidh siad ag imeacht tar éis a beith san Astráil ar feadh roinnt blianta agus ar a dtaisteal mórtimpeall na tíre d'éirigh leo bualadh le gach grúpa Éireannach i ngach stáit. Tá Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile buíoch bean-

nachtach do Mháirtín de bharr a thacaíocht do na Daonscoileanna agus na Scoileanna Gheimhridh thar na blianta. Go bhfios dom níor thug aon Ambasadóir cuairt ar aon Daonscoil nó gur tháinig Máirtín agus rinne sé é seo faoi dhó. Beidh deis againn ár mbeannachtaí a thabhairt dó ag ócáid oifigiúil ar 6 Meitheamh i gClub



Articles Wanted

Send any articles you wish published in the next newsletter to

**feedback@
gaeilgesanastrail.com**

na gCeilteach.

Tá téarma a dó beag-nach caite agus an aimsir fuaraithe. Seo é an tréimhse nuair a bhíonn sé dúshlánach teacht amach go dtí na ranganna. Bíodh sin mar atá is breá na daltaí a fheiceáil. Ag an am seo níl mórán ar siúl go dtí an Cruinniú Bliantúil (an dáta le fáil in áit eile sa Nuachtlitir). Más mian le éinne rud a chur faoi bhráid an Chruinniú ní (ar lean lch. 2) >

San Eagrán Seo..

<i>Nuacht ó Dheirdre</i>	1
<i>News from Deirdre</i>	2
<i>Cúpla lá i lár na hAstráile</i>	3
<i>Buntús Cainte – Conas úsáid a bhaint as?</i>	4
<i>Buntús Cainte – How best to use it?</i>	4
<i>AGM Notice</i>	5
<i>At the National Museum of Australia, Canberra</i>	5
<i>Library Update</i>	6
<i>Racing to the Hill of Allen</i>	6
<i>Arán Beoir</i>	7
<i>Membership form</i>	8

Key Dates for June - August 2011

6 June	Goodbye to Máirtín O'Fainín at the Celtic Club (open to members of the Cumann)
21 June	Last class of term 2
28 June	AGM
26 July	First class of term 3

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

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

www.gaeilgesanastrail.com

Nuacht ó Dheirdre

< (Lean as an chéad leathanach)

foláir é a bheith i lámh an Rúnaí roimh ré ionas gur féidir é a chur ar an réim gnóthaí má tá sé oiriúnach.

Le déanaí, bhí daoine ag lorg eolais faoi ranganna páistí. Tháinig cuid de na ceisteanna ó theaghlaigh atá tagtha go deireanach ó Éire agus gur mhaith leo leanúint leis an nGaeilge a bhí ag a leanaí ar scoil in Éirinn. Dá bharr sin, tá an Cumann ag machnamh ar an gcaoi is féidir na ranganna a chur ar siúl i Melbourne. Rud eile atá idir lámha ná turas go dtí Gaeltacht Chiarraige sa bhliain 2012. Beidh an costas timpeall \$7,000 le táille, bia, lóistín, ranganna agus roinnt turas san áireamh. Ar ndóigh níl anseo ach meastachán – braithfidh sé ar coinníollacha ag an am. Más mian leat, déan teagmháil liom trí shuíomh an Chumainn.

Deirdre Uí Ghiollaespáig

News from Deirdre

We've temporarily lost our most popular president, Karolyne, who has taken leave from the Cumann due to professional and domestic commitments but will be returning as soon as she can. We miss her already and hope to see her back sooner rather than later. In the meantime, I have been appointed by the committee as Acting President until the Annual General Meeting.



We're also losing our most popular Ambassador, Martin O'Fanin and wife, Anne. They're leaving after having served several years in Australia and during their time they managed to visit every Irish group in every state. The Cumann is especially grateful to Martin because it was very fortunate to receive funding for Daonscoil on many occasions thanks to him. Furthermore, to my knowledge no Ambassador has ever attended Daonscoil and he came twice! There will be an official farewell to them both at the Celtic Club on 6th June.

We're well into Term 2 and, with the cooler weather, it's that time of the year when going out to classes becomes a challenge, however, we're still getting high numbers and it's nice to see everyone. It's also a quiet time of year with not a lot going on between now and the Annual General Meeting the date for which is elsewhere in the Nuachtlitr. Any matters that need to be raised at that meeting must be submitted to committee before the AGM in order for it to appear on the agenda if deemed appropriate.

Several enquiries have been received about classes for children. Some of these have come from families with young children who have recently emigrated from Ireland and would like to keep up the Irish started at school. As a result, the Cumann is currently exploring the feasibility of running children's classes in Melbourne. We'll keep you posted. Also on the cards is a second trip to the Gaeltacht, Co. Kerry, in July/August 2012. The approximate cost for two weeks, including airfares, accommodation and meals, tuition and some outings, would be in the region of \$7,000. Obviously, this is an approximate amount at this time and may reduce significantly if there are any 'specials' on airfares over the next 12 months or so. Please contact me directly via our website with expressions of interest.

Regards Deirdre



Cúpla lá i lár na hAstráile

Um Cásca chuireamar in áirithe turas campála tríd an idirlíon. Chuaigh mé agus mo chairde go Alice Springs ar feadh cúig lá. Bhí dháréag chairde as Éirinn san iomlán agus Astráileach amháin.

Shroicheamar Alice Springs ar Aoine an Chéasta agus bhí gach áit sa bhaile mhór dúnta. Tar éis siúl timpeall na háite, fuaireamar bialann amháin oscailte agus d'fhanamar i mBrú óige an oíche sin. Oíche chiúin a bhí ann.

An mhaidin dár gcionn, d'éiríomar ar a leathuair tar éis a cúig mar bhí an bus réidh le dul. Ar an mbus

bhuaileamar le daoine eile ar an turas. Beirt as an

Ghearmáin, beirt as an Ollainn, duine amháin as Sasana, beirt Astráiligh agus beirt eile as Éirinn. Bhíomar sa bhus ar feadh cúig uaire ag tiomáint go Ulurú. Roimh dul timpeall Ulurú, stop tiománaí an bus agus d'inis sé scéal faoin gcultúr bundúchasach. Níl cosc ar Ulurú a dhreapadh, ach tá sé dímheasúil do na Bundúchasaigh.



Shiúlamar timpeall ag an mbun ar feadh cúpla uair. Tá deich ciliméadar ann ach b'álainn an siúl é.

An tráthrona sin bhíomar ag faire ar luí na gréine. Cócaráil an tiománaí an bia ar an tine ag áit cham-pála. Shuigheamar timpeall na tine ag ól beoir agus chuamar a chodladh sna málaí codlata. Dhúisíomar

an mhaidin ina dhiadh sin ar a leathuair tar éis a ceathair chun éirí gréine faoi Uluru a fheiscint.

An dara lá, chuamar go dtí Kata Tjuta. Grúpa de fhoirmíocht carraige móra atá ann agus tá an áit go h-álainn. Chaitheamar cúpla uair ag siúl timpeall na carraigeacha. Tá tríocha sé *domes* ag clúdach ceantair 21.68 km². Mt. Olga an pointe is airde.

Ina dhiaidh sin, stopamar ag feirm a bhfuil deich milliún acra ann. Tá sé cúig huaire níos mó ná Chontae Chorcaí. Thug mé geábh in héileacaptar timpeall na feirme, chonaic mé gaineamhlach agus talamh neamhthorthúil.

Ar an lá deireanach chuamar go Kings Canyon. Tá ballaí Kings Canyon níos mó ná 300 méadar ar airde. Rinneamar sé ciliméadar de shiúl cos agus tar éis an trí lá, ba bhuaic an turais é.

An tráthnóna sin in Alice Springs bhuaileamar le chéile i mbialann agus chaitheamar an oíche ag caint agus ag cur an turais ar fad trí chéile. Is baile mór garbh é Alice Springs. Bhí cúpla troid sa teach tábhairne agus thug an tiománaí rabhadh dúinn dul abhaile i dtacsáí.

Bhíomar tuirseach i ndiaidh an turais, ach bhí am ar dóigh againn agus tá a lán pictiúirí iontach againn.



Eamonn McCormack (Rang a trí)



Buntús Cainte – Conas úsáid a bhaint as?

Níl sé costasach, tá sé scríofa don fhoghlaimeoir fásta, níl aon gramadach ann agus, mar a deireann an t-ainm atá air, tá focail agus frásaí búnúsach agus úsáideach ann. Tá 195 ceachtanna ann, céimnithe ó bhun leibhéal go hard leibhéal.

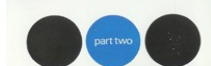
Cén tslí is fearr chun dul chun cinn le do Bhuntús Cainte? Bhí alt an mhaith san Fhuinneog Ghaelach cúpla bliain ó shin le Stú ar an ábhar sin, agus ba mhór an cúnamh dom é.

Chomhairligh Stú cúig ceachtanna in aghaidh na seachtaine a dhéanamh agus mar sin, beidh an cúrsa go léir críochnaithe agat tar éis 39 seachtaine. Tá Stú í bhfad níos cliste ná mise. Níor éirigh liom níos mó ná trí cinn a dhéanamh gach seachtain. Ach d'ainneoin sin, fuair mé a chomhairle an-úsáideach. D'éirigh liom na trí leabhair a dhéanamh laistigh de bhliain go leith. Seo é anseo an modh oibre.



Ar oíche Dé Domhnaigh, déan staidéar ar an gcéad trí cheacht go cúramach. Tógfaidh sé sin timpeall leathuair a chloig. Déan iarracht na frásaí agus an comhrá a thuiscint ach ná bí róbhualtha faoin ngramadach ar dtús. Tiocfaidh sé i ndeireadh báire duit.

Ansin, i rith na seachtaine, agus tú ag taisteal chun d'áit oibre gach maidin agus ar ais abhaile sa tráthnóna, éist go cúramach leis na trí ceachtanna in ord, arís agus arís eile. Éistfidh tú le gach ceacht timpeall 50 uair sula mbeidh an tseachtain caite. An tseachtain dár gcionn tabhair faoi na trí ceachtanna ina dhiaidh sin. Lean ort mar sin leis na ceachtanna eile ar fad.



Nuair a bheidh na ceachtanna go léir críochnaithe agat, éist leo arís as ord ag úsáid "shuffle" ag an iPod. Déan é sin chomh minic agus is féidir leat. Éist le fuaimeanna an teanga. Smaoinigh ar bhrí na bhfocal agus na frásaí a bhfuil tú ag éisteach leo (i nGaeilge amháin- ná bac leis an mBéarla). Tar éis tamaill, beidh tú ábalta gach rud sa cúrsa a thuiscint go héasca agus beidh stór mór focal agat!

Ruán

Buntús Cainte – How best to use it?

It's cheap, it's written for the adult learner, it has no grammar and, as the name would suggest, it contains useful words and phrases used in basic speech. There are 195 lessons, graded from basic to advanced.

What is the best way to progress with your Buntús Cainte? There was an excellent article written by Stuart Traill in Fhuinneog Ghaelach a few years ago on the subject and it helped me greatly.

Stu advised doing five lessons each week and, in that way, you could finish the whole course in 39 weeks. Stu is a lot cleverer than I am. I couldn't manage any more than three lessons a week. Despite that, I found his advice very useful. I managed to finish all three books in a year and a half. Here's how.

On Sunday night, study the first three lessons carefully. It will take you about half an hour. Try and understand the meaning of the phrases and conversations but don't be too worried about the grammar. That will come to you eventually.

Then, during the week while travelling to work and back home again, listen carefully to the three lessons in order, over and over again. By the end of the week you will have listened to each lesson about 50 times. The following week, do the next three lessons and continue until you have done them all.

When you have finished the whole course, listen to the lessons again out of order, using the "Shuffle" function on your iPod. Listen to the sounds of the language. As you are listening, think of the meaning of the words and phrases, but imagine them in Irish only, not in English. After a while you will be able to understand everything in the course easily and you will have a big vocabulary!

Rohan





Cruinniú Bliantúil
Toghchán an Choiste le haghaidh na bliana 2011-12
Annual General Meeting and
Election of Committee of Management

7:30 pm, 28th June, first floor, Celtic Club

BUSINESS

Opening remarks, apologies

Minutes of previous AGM

Matters and correspondence arising from previous AGM

Receive Annual Reports from Acting President and Treasurer

Election for Office Bearers and Committee Members

General Business and then any other business of which prior notice has been given

Refreshments

Financial members with enthusiasm, organisational skills, practical abilities, creative concepts and constructive ideas who are willing to put in time, effort and direct action to help administer the day to day affairs of the Cumann are invited to nominate for a position on the 2010/11 Committee.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary, Rohan Walker, rohan.c.walker@gmail.com All current financial members are eligible to nominate, attend, and vote at the AGM. Membership may be renewed immediately prior to the AGM if you have not done so already.

Financial members eligible to vote but unable to attend may obtain a postal vote from the Secretary. Nominations for the positions of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of the Committee will open on Tues 7th June 2011 and will close prior to the AGM on 28th June 2011.

Nominations may be lodged with the Secretary either in person or by mail and may be accompanied by renewal of membership.

REMEMBER - You must be a current financial member to nominate, attend and vote.

At the National Museum of Australia, Canberra

Not Just Ned - A True History of the Irish in Australia

Currently on and running until 31 July 2011



(You can explore your Irish heritage in the dedicated resource room within the *Not Just Ned* exhibition or online at: www.nma.gov.au/irish_family_history)

Conference: The Irish in Australia

1st to 3rd July

Full details available online on www.nma.gov.au/irish_conference

Library Update

We have some exciting additions to our library. First, there are two boxed sets of downloaded programs from Raidió na Gaeltachta. Each set contains a different selection of programs including news, sport and features. They are all normal CDs so you can play them in the car or make copies of any that particularly interest you before returning them.

For fans of Ulster Irish we now have a CD version of the tape-based course known as *Cúrsa Closamhairc Gaeilge*. This course has actually been in our library for a while but you can now choose which version you prefer – either tape or CD.

We also have made a boxed set of downloaded TV programs from TG4. All the programs have subtitles in English. They are a mixture of dramas and documentaries and include the first-ever televised debate in Irish between the three party leaders which took place just prior to this year's Irish general election. Please note that these are not DVDs so you won't be able to play them on a DVD player. These are special discs that require a program called Realplayer on your computer, but it's a free download if you don't already have it.

If it's DVDs that you prefer then we now have two more packs of the double-DVD set for *Turas Teanga* containing all 20 episodes of the TV series, and also two copies of the very useful CD-ROM called *Ceart*. This is a grammar checker which works quite well and has help screens in both Irish and English. Unfortunately it's suitable for use with PCs only, not Macs.

For our teachers we now have a boxed set of all the audio and documentation files from the *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge* (TEG) syllabus. This is becoming increasingly popular with adult learners in Ireland and worldwide. Some of our own classes are now using it. There are also bound copies available of all the classwork sheets for levels A1, A2, B1 and B2. Finally, we have also received, from an anonymous donor, a set of cassette tapes and the 1998 exam documents for NCVA Gaeilge at 3 different levels. The National Council For Vocational Awards, *Comhairle Náisiunta na gCáilíochtaí Gairmoideachais*, uses a syllabus similar to TEG but with an emphasis on vocational content. The exams contain four sections with separate marks for each – namely an oral, reading, writing and then listening test which is where the tapes come in. They run for about half an hour each and have now been converted to mp3 which teachers may find more convenient to use in class.

If you have any Irish language items that you no longer need or use, then we would be delighted to take them off your hands. Books, Magazines, DVDs, CDs, CD-ROMs, VHS tapes and cassettes are all very welcome.

Stuart Traill

Racing to the Hill of Allen

A wild longing is on you to race horses, the ranked host is ranged around (from the Summer Song of Fionn mac Cumhaill)

The Hill of Allen is a small hill, a few miles northish of Kildare. It sits like an island in a wide flat boggy area, so even though it's not a high hill, from the top you can see for miles in all directions. Fionn mac Cumhaill would sit on the top of this his hill, and watch as his Fianna raced across, around and over the whole of Ireland in the great hunt. He had inherited this hill from his father-in-law Tadg, the son of Nuada the great warrior-king of the Tuatha De Danann.

But there are other stories of this wonderful hill, how the gods and men would engage in furious horse races out and up from the Curragh of Kildare, across the flat land and up to the top of the hill.

It's a funny thing but today archaeologists in the British Isles are coming to a strange understanding, that these racecourses, large areas of firm flat land, are often many millennia old, and the most enduring of all human 'structures'. Towns, forts, houses, people even cities all come and go around them, but the racecourse stays rooted to its place, in space and through time. Just as the Curragh today is still a famous horse-racing area.

Anyway, finding things in Ireland is always tough. But I could physically see the Hill of Allen, so I made up my mind I was going to walk to the top to meet Fionn, mythologically speaking, even if my horse was a car. And as with so many rash decisions, so starts a small adventure. It took me three attempts to get there. The hill itself today has a road around the base of the hill for half of its circumference, but it's narrow, fast and dangerous with no pull-ins. Twice I spent hours driving round and round trying to find signs of a path to the top of the hill – surely I thought, there simply has to be one, doesn't there? And the more I failed, the more determined I got. On my third attempt, I went around the back of the hill and moved away from it a little, found a small dirt road going in the right direction and drove down it in the hope that it would eventually lead me



Racing to the Hill of Allen (continued)

up to the far side of the hill. But, my car dropped straight into a big rut, and there I was stuck, going nowhere. After a while, a farmer came along and, well he couldn't get home past me until he'd pulled me out, so there we were yanking a car out of a ditch. But, he said, what on *earth* were you trying to do!? To which I explained about my intentions to assail the Hill of Allen. Came that soulful look I got so used to. But bless his heart, he did explain.

The path up the hill, he said, has been blocked by the local council. They've rolled some massive boulders into the little pull-in on that narrow road, to stop people parking their cars and going for a walk on the path which is hidden behind them. So, he said, you'll have to find the boulders, then drive a long way further around to a spot where you can safely pull in, then walk back along the road to the boulders (which I did, and I have to say that walk along the road really was one of the most hair-raising moments in Ireland). But, he paused, you shouldn't go up there you know, it's *dangerous*. To which I simply smiled; everywhere I went in Ireland I was given this line, it seems to be a standard warning or disclaimer without the slightest substance, so I had long since learned to blithely ignore it. Which he clearly understood, and suddenly, he changed tack. Have you your binoculars? he asked. Fortunately my own family holds conversations like this too, changing state and focus so fast that your head whirls, keep up, keep up. Yees, I said, puzzled. (When you're chasing standing stones and such over the countryside, binoculars and a compass are indispensable.) Well, he said, keep a lookout, there's tree hawks up there. Now I'd never heard of tree hawks before, but then bird names are notorious for having different local versions on each side of every hill, so I didn't ask further as I figured if I saw them I would know their usual name. (But it only occurs to me as I write this, that for him to know about the hawks at the top of the hill, he must also have thumbed his nose at the local authorities and walked to the top of his hill...:-)

So there I finally was, walking up the slippery unkempt path to the top of the Hill of Allen. And to my delight I discovered that there were quite a few local families, kids, dogs, the lot, also out enjoying the walk through the forested slope. And in a very short time, I stood at the top of the hill. And what a shock that was! At the very top is a small fence, beyond which is a precipitous drop – from the very top to the very bottom of the hill, 676 feet straight down. The edge of a truly massive open-cut mine. Half the hill was simply gone, a huge gaping hole in the world, never to be replaced. The landscape and its stories destroyed forever, for momentary gain. I had been vaguely aware of the quarry in my attempts to find the path, but it was well hidden behind high fences, and I'd just presumed it was a small quarry, maybe a hundred metres across like I'd often seen in Scotland. But, no, this one is huge, just huge.

Later, I would learn of the ongoing fight for the Hill of Allen, how the council was blatantly disregarding the laws for their own ends, how the quarry was applying to further expand and destroy the rest of this sacred mythological hill, so central to the whole Leinster Kildare sacred space. How the fight was taken to the highest courts. Heroes and warriors still exist. Unfortunately it seems we will always need them.

This bitter-sweet moment at the top of the hill over I turned to go. And my eye was caught by something on a high tree. Ah, my shocked head exclaimed, there's two hawks! Ahhhgh, two hawks, t(h)ree hawks... well now, the laughs on me! And no, I never did get to see the third hawk, although I've no doubt at all he is there, flying high over Fionn's hill.

Eilidh nic Aoidh (Rang a trí)

ARÁN BEOIR

Oideas:

Buideál beoir amháin;
Tri cupán plúr (self raising);
Dhá spunóg bhoird siúcre;
Dhá lán taespúnóige salann.

TREORACHA

1. Oigheann @ 180 agus bealaigh an stán aráin
2. Corraigh an plúr in éineacht le siúcre agus salann
3. Doirt isteach beoir agus corraigh
4. Measc
5. Cuir isteach sa stán aráin
6. Bácail 50-60 noiméad

Is féidir leat cáis, im, nó luibheanna agus sundried tomatoes a chur leis.



Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo

Éarlaimh: Máire Mhic Ghiolla Íosa

IRISH LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Patron: Mary McAleese, President of Ireland

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.



Bí bródúil as do theanga

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

Annual Membership Application or notification of change of address, telephone number, mobile, email.

☐ New Membership ☐ 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.