



Bí bródúil as do theanga

# An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile

Fómhar 2008

1-03-2008

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## Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh

**T**á na ranganna don bhliain 2008 faoi lán seoil agus ar an gcéad oíche chuir Deirdre (Uachtarán) fáilte roimh gach éinne agus go háirithe ár mbaill nua. Faoi láthair tá ceithre ranganna againn.

Arís táimid faoi chomaoin ag Nóirín Uí Chatháin as ucht rang amhránaíochta a mhúineadh. Bíonn Nóirín linn i Melbourne ar feadh an chéad téarma gach bhliain. Guímid rath ar ár scoláirí go léir agus iad ag foghlaim agus ag feabhsú a gcuid Gaeilge.

Bhí an t-Aifreann Gaeilge, in onóir Phádraig Naofa, ar siúl ar an 2ú Márta agus lion maith daoine i láthair. 'Sé an t-Athair Pádraig Ó Cinnéide a léigh é i mbliana – sagart in



*The children take a bow at this year's Daonscoil, full story inside*

aois a hocht mbliana is ceithre scór a thagann ar cuairt ó Louisiana, USA gach Márta. Bail ó Dhia air.

Tréaslaimid Scoil na Gaeilge, Sydney as ucht an triú duais a bhaint amach sa Chomórtas Domhanda Gaeilge, curtha ar bun ag Glór na nGael in Éirinn – comórtas a thugann aitheantas do dhreamanna agus grúpaí a

dhéanann an dul chun chinn is fearr i rith na bliana ar son na teanga agus an chultúir thar lear.

Eagraíonn an grúpa seo an Scoil Gheimhridh i Sydney gach Meitheamh.

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge**

3 – 17 Márta 2008

*Gníomhaíochtaí as Gaeilge*  
Cór, Gearrscannán, Agallamh, Biongó

Máirt 11 Márta  
Am ; 7.30 i.n.  
Leibhéal 2, Club Ceilteach, 320 Queen St

The Melbourne branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is hosting a day of Irish culture, music, dance and song performed by local artists as well as many displays of Irish culture.

Date: 16 March 2008

Time: 10.00am

Location: Collingwood Town Hall,  
Hoddle Street

Contact: Mary Mc Bride

Phone: 9435 4435

Email: marymcbride01@yahoo.com.au

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**Cumann BBQ**

All members and their families are invited to a BBQ on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March on the banks of the Yarra, adjacent to the boathouse near Princes Bridge.

An excellent opportunity for socialising away from the classroom and getting to know new members.

Hamburgers, sausages, bread, soft drinks and wine will be supplied. For more gourmet food BYO !

Date : 30 March 2008  
Time : midday onwards

Please let Maurice or Sean know at class on Tuesday night or phone -

Maurice : 9720 7735

**Scoil Gheimhridh, Sydney**

Dáta : 6-9 Meitheamh, 2008

Sonraí (Details) ó

Éilis : 0424 718 538 nó 02 8904 0081

Ríomhphost : eilis@internode.on.net

Éilis Hurst,  
Rúnaí

Irish Language School Sydney  
Scoil na Gaeilge Sydney

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**Lá Náisiúnta**  
(National Day)

organised by the G.A.A.

Gaelic Park,  
Perry Rd,  
Keysborough  
Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
from 11am.

**Progress in Irish**

le Máiréad Ní Ghráda

MP3 recordings of every lesson,

by Réamonn Ó Cléirigh and Séamas Ó Neachtain

Provided for free use by anyone, not for profit, by The Philo-Celtic Society and Scoil Ghaeilge Ghearóid Tóibín

<http://www.philo-celtic.com/PII/Progress.htm>



## Daonscoil 2008 - a view from Canberra

**M**ar a deir an se-anfhocal: tús maith leath na hoibre. Agus bhí tús an-mhaith don bhliain dúinne siúd atá ag iarraidh an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim, gan aon agó, a chaith an dara seachtain i mí Eanáir ag freastal ar an Daonscoil.

Bhí an scoil ar siúl i mbliana arís in Lady Northcote Camp, atá an-oiriúnach dúinn. Tá áiseanna maith sa champa agus i dtólamh bíonn at-maisféar an-chairdiúil ann - cuireann na cuileoga áitiúla fáilte Uí Cheallaigh romhainn i gcónaí!

In iomlán bhí sé dhuine dhéag is trí fichhead cláraithe sa scoil, agus tháinig cuairteoirí eile le linn na seachtaine. Bhí daoine ann as Adelaide, Victoria, New South Wales agus Canberra.

Fadhb amháin a bhí againn an babhta seo ná go raibh easpa múinteoirí ann. Bíonn daoine óga de chuid na turasóirí mála droma ar fáil dúinn, de ghnáth, le cuidiú leis an múinteoireacht, ach i mbliana níor aimsíodh fiú duine amháin acu. Is mór an trua é sin, mar, chomh maith leis an múinteoireacht, tugann na hÉireannaigh óga seo fuinneamh agus eolas úrnu dúinn.

Bhí triúr de na gnáthmhúinteoirí ar iarraidh chomh maith. De bharr sin, b'éigean do dhaoine nua ranganna a theagasc, agus ba dhóigh

liom go ndearna siad sár-obair. Níl slí níos fearr teanga a fhoghlaim, ná í a mhúineadh.

Bhí an líon mic léann i gcúpla rang an-ard, trí dhuine is fichhead sa dara rang is airde, agus seacht nduine dhéag i Rang a Trí. Bhí craic agus spraoi sna ranganna céanna, áfach, ach caithfear a rá go mbíonn sé níos deacra comhrá a chur ar siúl leis an ngrúpa ina hiomláine nuair a bhíonn líon chomh hard ann.

É sin ráite, bí sé an-deas a fheiceáil go raibh go leor mic léinn ann ag déanamh a ndícheall an teanga a labhairt an t-am ar fad. Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste, agus arís is arís eile nuair a shuigh mé sa seomra bia le haghaidh béile bhí na daoine eile ag an mbord ag caint as Gaeilge.

Bhí 'Comhar na gComhar-sana' mar chuid den chlár, mar is gnáth, agus de bharr nach raibh ach líon an-íseal san ard rang, bhí deis ag na mic léinn i Rang a Ceathair an ról mar mheantóirí a ghlacadh. Dála na múinteoirí nua thuasluaite, rinne siad sár-obair.

Ag breathnú siar ar an tseachtain anois, bhí a lán buaicphointí. Thar aon ní eile, is cuimhin liom an dráma a léirigh an cúigear páistí ar oíche Aoine, drámú den scéal 'An Fear Sinséir'. Bhí sé an-deas na páistí a fheiceáil ag an Daonscoil agus ba riléir gur bhain siadsan an-sult as an tseachtain.

Bhí mé féin páirteach i ndráma eile, leagan amaideach de 'Hamlet', agus bhain mé an-sásamh as. Ghlac deichniúr againn ról ann agus ní raibh ach triúr as an ard rang ina measc. Cé go raibh gach focal as Gaeilge, rinne na haisteoirí ar bheagán Gaeilge an-jab agus bhí am ar dóigh againne, le linn na gcleachtaí agus ar "an oíche mhór" í féin.

Bhain mé úsáid as an se-anfhocal, 'tús maith leath na hoibre' cheana féin, agus cinnte bhí tús fíor-mhaith againn. D'oscail an t-ambasadóir Éireannach, a Shoilse Máirtín Ó Fainín, an Daonscoil, agus ba spreagadh an-mhór é dúinn nuair a labhair sé as Gaeilge faoin dul chun cinn atá déanta ag an teanga le fiche bliain anuas, in Éirinn agus san Eoraip.

Agus bhí ár gcéad lánúin Daonscoile againn! Bhuail MáireÁine Nic Mhánais le Seán Ó Curráin ag an Daonscoil den chéad uair, agus anois tá a gcleamhnas déanta acu. Saol fada dóibh dís.

Labhair mé le gach éinne a bhí sa champa le linn na seachtaine, agus ba léir dom go raibh siad ag baint suilt agus tairbhe as an scoil. Bhí sé go deas mo sheanchairde a fheiceáil arís, agus go deas freisin bualadh le daoine nua. Táim ag tnúth le cuid mhór acu a fheiceáil arís ag Scoil Gheimhridh in Sydney i mí an Mheithimh.

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*"Bhí sé an-deas na páistí a fheiceáil ag an Daonscoil agus ba riléir gur bhain siadsan an-sult as an tseachtain"*

## 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 arís.

Éamon Ó Neachtain

*The final night of Scoil Scairte in Gertrude Street*



**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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## An t-Ambasadóir Éireannach ag Daonscoil Victoria, 2008

**D**'fhreastail an file agus scoláire, Louis de Paor, ar an gcéad Daonscoil i 1995. I mbliana bhí sé mar phribhléid againn gur tháinig Ambasadóir na hÉireann, an tUasal Máirtín Ó Fainín, chugainn ó Canberra chun Daonscoil Victoria 2008 a oscailt go hoifigiúil sa Lady Northcote Camp ar 6ú Eanáir. Bhí áthas orainn fáilte a chur roimh a bheanchéile, Áine, a tháinig ina theannta freisin. Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile a d'eagraigh an triú scoil déag.

Chláraigh sé dhuine is ochtó agus bhí raon leathan aois eadartha - Gráinne, ceithre bliana d'aois ó Adelaide ag labhairt as Gaeilge, Béarla agus Ollannais agus Síle, a bhí ar saoire ó Bhleá Cliath, a raibh cúig bliana is ceithre scór slánaithe aici!

Bhí seachtain bríomhar ag na daltaí ó thaobh

oideachais, spioradáltais agus carthanacht. Bhí an-éileamh ar na "Roghanna", m.sh. Dráma, Rince, Amhránaíocht, Sean Gaeilge agus Gaeilge grian-dóite! Bhaineamar an-sult as leagan úrnua de "Hamlet" a chum Bearnaí.

I mbliana bhí rang ar fáil do na páistí don chéad uair. Cúigear a bhí ann agus bhláthaigh siad sa drama álainn a chuireadar ós ár gcomhair "An Fear Sinseir".

Ag deireadh na seachtaine bhí Gaeilge á labhairt ag gach uile dhuine – fiú iadsan nach raibh focal acu ag an tosach.

Ócáid ab ea í a thug deis do gach éinne le grá don teanga chun foghlaim óna chéile, obair le chéile agus muintearas a chothú. Táim cinnte go ndéanfaidh siad a ndícheall bheith ar ais ag L.N.C. an bhliain seo chugainn.

Ba stairiúil an rud é gur oscail an t-Ambasadóir an Daonscoil, ach bhí rud stairiúil eile nach raibh ar eolas againn ag an am, sé sin, go raibh Cupid gnóthach ag an gCampa. 'Siad Máire-Áine McManus agus Seán Curran an chéad lánúin a thit faoi dhraíocht an ghrá croí trí grá don teanga.

Bhuaileadar le chéile ag Daonscoil Victoria cúpla bliain ó shin agus ag an nDaonscoil is déanaí d'fhógraíodar go rabhadar geallta. Guímid saol fada suaimhneach orthu araon.

Ba mhaith linn aitheantas agus buíochas a thabhairt do Ambasáid na hÉireann i gCanberra as ucht an deontas flaithiúil a bhronn siad ar an gCumann i gcomhair na Daonscoile 2008.

Deirdre Gillespie

*"Ag deireadh na seachtaine bhí Gaeilge á labhairt ag gach uile dhuine – fiú iadsan nach raibh focal acu ag an tosach"*



*Deirdre making the presentation to the Ambassador and his wife Anne*

## Another successful Daonscoil

**D**aonscoil 2008, the 13<sup>th</sup> Irish Language Summer School, was recently held at Lady Northcote Camp at Bacchus Marsh in Victoria.

The summer school is organized by the Irish Language Association of Australia and this year was attended by people of all ages including a tri-lingual four year old who is proficient in Irish, Dutch and English and an eighty-five year old who travelled from Dublin to attend.

The first Daonscoil was attended by Irish Poet and academic Louis de Paor in 1995. This year we had our first visit from the Irish Ambassador to Australia Mr. Máirtín Ó Fainín and his wife Anne. When he opened the Daonscoil the Ambassador told us that as far back as 1922 it was difficult to keep the Irish language alive in Australia. He said that people then

needed to be watchful to keep it going. He contrasted those concerns with 2007 when the Irish President, Mary McAleese, said the language was now going from strength to strength on account of the work done by various groups around the world.

These comments are especially significant in light of the fact that the European Union has now recognized Irish as an official language. It is the most important cultural link that binds the various Irish speaking groups around the world.

It was an historic occasion when the ambassador opened the Daonscoil but there was another historic occasion that we did not know about at the time. That was that Cupid attended the camp ! It was Mary-Anne McManus and Seán Curran who came under the spell of love through the language.

From Sydney, they met at Daonscoil in Bacchus Marsh a couple of years ago and announced their engagement among the recent gathering of eighty-six participants.

We would like to acknowledge the financial support received from the Cultural Division of the Irish Embassy in Canberra for Daonscoil 2008

Deirdre Gillespie

*For information on Irish Language classes in Melbourne contact Deirdre via the Celtic Club on 03 9670 6472*

*“It was an historic occasion when the ambassador opened the Daonscoil but there was another ..”*

### Key Dates for March and April 2008

2nd March	Irish Language Mass, St Gregory's, Doncaster
11th March	Gníomháíochtaí As Gaeilge, Celtic Club
17th March	Saint Patrick's Day
18th March	Last class of term 1
25th March	no class
30th March	Riverside BBQ (see notice in this issue)
1st April	no class
8th April	Teacher meeting
15th April	First class of term 2

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



## Exclusive — Sydney newsletter editor speaks to our reporter

**L**ast issue we reported on the recent happenings up in Sydney. Hard working editor of An Cúpla Focal, Deirdre Ronai, talks now with our roving reporter from an Fhuinneog Ghaelach.

FG First of all Deirdre, congratulations on your new newsletter, An Cúpla Focal. How did you become editor ?

DR Instead of saying no straight away, I said I would think about it and the next thing guess what I am the editor.

FG How many issues have you put out so far and what have been the main challenges ?

DR Seán put together the first issue last year and then I put the other 3 issues out. Firstly I had to think about a banner which wasn't too much of a problem. Then I made a template but then I struck a problem with some of the pieces that I received on email. My computer didn't like them so my computer kept going on strike.

Really I don't know whether this was the computer or the screen reading program that I use. But hopefully now that I have finally got a new computer everything will flow.

FG Your group is now known as Scoil na Gaeilge Sydney. What prompted the name change ?

DR We decided on the name change so that we were an entity in our own right. This way we can open a bank account, apply for grants etc.

Also other groups and clubs will know who we are instead of saying we are the Irish Language group who meet on a Monday night.

FG Does all the material come from Scoil na Gaeilge members or do you plan to feature news from other Irish Language groups in NSW ?

DR At the moment the articles do come from members of the scoil but we will be approaching others in the future. Then we would know what is going on around the state.

FG How do you distribute An Cúpla Focal ?

DR At the moment I am sending out the newsletter by email. I also print off hard copies for those who are not on email and also for various groups in Sydney.

FG How many people work on a typical issue and what do they all do ?

DR I am it with assistance from Seán Curran as my proof reader. He also will go through articles for me.

FG Do you commission articles or wait to see what turns up by the publication date?

DR Usually I send out an email to the group to come to my aid but if I don't get enough articles then I target individuals to submit pieces.

FG What do you tell people who say "my Irish isn't really good enough to write anything"?

DR I accept articles in either Béarla nó Gaeilge. But I do encourage them to write in Irish and that it is edited so that it is as close to what they wanted to say as possible.

FG Your present format is 4 pages each quarter. In the long term would you like to have more pages per issue or publish more frequently ?

DR Personally I would like it to have more pages per issue.

FG What do you think is the main function of a newsletter like yours ?

DR To distribute information about what is happening. Also to pass on different ideas. By having a newsletter it lets people expand their skills and confidence by seeing a piece they wrote being published and then read by others with similar interests.

FG How do you tell the Irish community (and also the world at large) that An Cúpla Focal exists and encourage them to read it ?

DR We distribute to our members and to other groups. If anyone outside that network approaches us we put them on our distribution list.

FG And for anyone out there wanting to contribute an article, where should they send it and what are the deadlines ?

DR I will welcome any piece that someone wants to contribute.

If it is info regarding an event or function it has to be in by the end of January for March edition, end of April for June, end of July for September and end of October for December. All general articles can come to me at any time

deirdreronai@hotmail.com

FG Finally, many thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk to our readers.

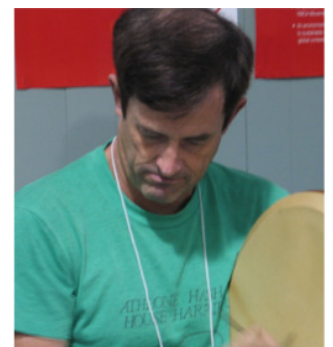
DR Tá fáilte romhat !

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*Sydney editor Deirdre Ronai was pictured recently at Daonscoil*

*"I said I would think about it and the next thing guess what I am the editor".*



*Proof reader and bodhrán enthusiast Seán Curran*

*Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile Teo*

Éarlámh: 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.

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 \$30 per annum and due each January. Class fee is \$3 per week.