



Bí bródúil as do theanga

# An Fhuinneog Ghaelach

Cumann Gaelge na hAstráile

Fómhar 2016  
1-03-2016

## Tá An Fómhar Ag Teacht

**T**á An Fómhar ag teacht agus san Astráil táimid ag tnúth le Lá le Pádraig! Conas a dhéanfaidh sibh an lá a cheiliúradh? Tá súil againn go labhróidh sibh cúpla focal (nó níos mó) as Gaeilge. Tá a lán imeachtaí ar siúl don phobal Éireannach. Chun tús a chur leis an gceiliúradh beidh Aifreann as Gaeilge ar siúl i gClifton Hill ar an 6ú Márta. Táimid ag comóradh tríocha bliain ó thosnaíodh an t-Aifreann i Melbourne. Tá fáilte roimh gach duine.

Beidh "Gala Dinner" agus Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain san Celtic Club. Beidh an Fhéile ar siúl san Edinburgh Gardens arís ar an 13ú Márta. Beidh stáinín eolais againn; labhair le duine ón gCoiste más



Ranganna ar líne le fáil anois ....leathanach 4

féidir leat lámh chuidithe a thabhairt ar an lá.

Fáilte ar ais roimh Nóirín, a stiúrfaidh cór an Aifrinn dúinn. Tar éis na hiomainn a chasadh arís cúpla uair beidh siad agat. Bealach

maith chun teanga a fhoghlaim ná an amhránaíocht.

B'fhéidir gur chóir duit smaoineamh ar pháirt a ghlacadh sa Choiste. Tosóidh an téarma i mhí Iúil agus bíonn cruinniú againn uair sa mhí. (ar lean..)

### Key Dates for Mar-Jun 2016

17th Mar	St Patrick's Day
22nd Mar	Last class of term 1
29th Mar, 5th Apr	Easter break, no classes
12th Apr	Committee meeting and first class of term 2
10th -13th Jun	Sydney Winter School and TEG exam level A1

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)

### San Eagrán Seo..

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Key dates for your diary</i>	1
<i>Scoil Teanga 2016</i>	2
<i>Albam Nua Le Enya</i>	3
<i>Ranganna ar-líne</i>	4-5
<i>Ball den Chumann ag Brigid-Fest</i>	6
<i>Canberra pulls off a winner</i>	7
<i>Special liftout Winter School 2016</i>	

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

## Scoil Teanga 2016

(.....from previous page)

Cén scileanna ar féidir leat a chur ar fáil don Chumann ? Bígí ag na ranganna - táimid ag súil go mór a bheith i measc cairde

Kelley

**O**ur President writes — Autumn is coming and in Australia we are looking forward to St Patrick's Day! How will you celebrate? We hope with a few Irish words. There are many events throughout the Irish community for you to enjoy. To open the season, we will have our annual Irish language Mass in Clifton Hill. This will be the 30th consecutive year in Melbourne. All are welcome.

In the Celtic Club there will be a Gala dinner and a 1916 Centenary Programme. The hugely popular Festival in Edinburgh Gardens is on again. We will have an information stall so please let our committee know if you would like to help out on the day.

We welcome back our friend Nóirín who will conduct our choir for the Mass. After repeating the hymns a few times, you'll have it. It's a great way to learn more of the language.

Please think about joining our Committee for next year. The term starts in July and the commitment is once a month. What skills can you offer to the Cumann?

Remember there is a radio programme for our community – details here:

[www.3zzz.com.au/program-guide/show/irish](http://www.3zzz.com.au/program-guide/show/irish)

Get to the classes, we're very much looking forward to being in the company of friends.

Kelley

**A**g an deireadh seachtaine fada Eanáir 2016, tionóladh an chéad Scoil Teanga i gCanberra faoi choirmirce Cumann Ghaeilge Canberra (CILA)

Chruinnigh timpeall trí scór díograiseoirí ó chian is ó chónagar – Sydney, Adelaide, Wollongong, Melbourne agus Perth freisin – ag YMCA Bush Capital Lodge in O'Connor, ACT, le deireadh seachtaine mhór mhaith a chaitheamh, sáite sa teanga, sa chultúr agus ar ndóigh sa chraic!

Deis ab ea é chun buaileadh le sean cairde agus dul in aithne ar dhaoine nua. Bhí sé d'áth orainn cuireadh a fháil go hAmbasáid na hÉireann tráthnóna Shathairn agus is ann a dhein a Shoilse, Nollaig de Faoite, an oscailt oifigiúil don Scoil Teanga. Thug an t-ambasadóir caint chroíúil, spreagúil ag díriú ar n-aighe ar guth a thabhairt d'ár dteanga agus gean a bheith againn d'ár n-oireacht uasal. Chuaigh an dearcadh dearfach sin i gcionn go mór ar na daoine óga áitiúla a bhí amhrasach faoin gcéim a bhí tógtha acu. Cuireadh fáilte mhór bríomhar romhainn, banna ceoil traidisiúnta ag seinm, blúiríní blasta agus rogha dí ar fáil – Guinness san áireamh – agus gach éinne go sona sásta ag cabaireacht lena chéile. Ócáid cheiliúrtha gan dabht.

Bhí leagan amach na scoile mar a bhíonn ag gach scoil – ranganna do gach leibhéal, Aifreann leis an Athair Micheál, tráth na gceist, scannáin, dhá chaint a bhí spéisíúil, spreagúil le Barney Devlin agus Val Noone, rogha idir rince Gaelach, cór, sean Ghaeilge agus sean chló agus ceolchoirm ina raibh meascán agus éagsúlacht álainn, lán de spioraid agus spórt. Spraio ar dóigh a bhí ann!

Thug an díospóireacht 'conspóideach' – 'Is í Canberra an Chathair is Deise le Cónaí Inti san Astráil – deis do gach uile dhuine an dul chun cinn a bhí déanta acu, maidir le scil sa teanga, a léiriú. Bhí an mhúinín acu chun iarracht a dhéanamh agus d'éirigh go geal leo.

D'éirigh go maith leis an Scoil Teanga mar gheall ar Kaaren Sephton agus a coiste a bhí fáilteach agus cabhrach, agus deontais ó Ambasáid na hÉireann agus Cairde na hÉireann. Thug Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile agus Scoil na Gaeilge Sydney tacaíocht ina theannta sin. Is mian linn buíochas a ghabháil leis na múinteoirí a mhúscail ar suim sa teanga.

Scoil an-rathúil a bhí ann tríd is tríd. D'ímíomar abhaile go muiníneach ag súil go "leanfaimid an lóchrann do las ár sinsear romhainn"

Bernadette agus Áine, rang a trí

## Albam Nua le Enya

**B**hí an t-ochtú halbam le Enya eisithe i 2015. Tháinig an t-albam seo tar éis tréimhse ocht mbliana, sos an-mhór dá lucht leanúna. Tá Enya ag gabháil gach amhrán agus seinneann sí a lán gléasanna ceoil. Chomh maith, scríobh sí na hamhráin.

Síleann na criticeoirí gur albam iontach é. Thaitnigh an t-albam le mórán daoine i Sasana, sa Ghearmáin, san Ísiltír, san Iodáil, i Meiriceá, i gCeanada agus san Astráil. Tá sé á gceannach ag muintir na hÉireann freisin.

Chuaigh Enya ar saoire ar feadh ocht mbliana. Uaireanta bhí sí ina cónaí sa Fhrainc, ach uaireanta eile bhí sí ag obair sa bhaile i nDún Laoghaire i mBaile Átha Cliath. Is é an t-oileán Sark in Oileáin Mhuir nIocht a spreag an inspioráid le haghaidh an albaim seo. Ansin bhreathnaigh Enya ar an spéir mhór dhorcha atá mar theideal an albaim, **Dark Sky Island**, agus teideal amhráin ann freisin.

Dar le Enya 'sé téama an albaim ná 'aistir'. Tá na hamhráin ilchineálach, ceolbhinn agus smaointeach. Mar shampla tá an chéad amhrán san albam, 'Humming' ceolmhar agus taitneamhach, agus níos moille cloisimid 'Dark Sky Island', amhrán suntasach, gan amhras.

Bhí **Dark Sky Island** eisithe ar CD, 'digital download' agus ar LP. Tá an t-albam go hálainn. Is ceoltóir breá, fós, í Enya.

Christine agus Dominic

### In our next issue

**Australian singer and songwriter Sia has a new album "This Is Acting", follow up to her 2014 smash hit "1000 Forms of Fear"**

**Read all about it in An Fhuinneog Ghaelach**

**T**he 8th album of Enya was released in 2015. This album came after 8 years, a very long break for her fans. Enya sings each song and plays many of the instruments. As well, she wrote the songs.

The critics think the album is wonderful. The album is popular with people in England, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, America, Canada and in Australia. The people of Ireland are buying it too.

Enya went away for a period of 8 years. Sometimes she lived in France, but at times she was working at home in DL in Dublin. Inspiration for this album came from the island of Sark, one of the Channel Islands. There Enya saw the big dark sky, which is the title of the album, **Dark Sky Island**, and title of a song on it.

Enya says that it is an album of the theme of journeys. The songs are varied, melodious, and thoughtful. For example the first song of the album is tuneful and catchy, while later we hear 'Dark Sky Island' a memorable song indeed.

**Dark Sky Island** was released on CD, digital download and LP. It is a beautiful album. Enya is still a fine musician.



## Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge – Ranganna ar Líne

**M**any of our readers will know that coming up in June is the first ever TEG exam in Australia. Our roving reporter caught up with Stuart Traill, VP of our Cumann and now the teacher for our own online TEG class to tell us what's going on.

**Stuart, thanks for talking to us. TEG has been in existence for nearly 10 years. Why has it taken so long to reach Australia ?**

When TEG was first announced in Ireland in 2007 (see newsletter issue 21) we, along with other Irish language groups in Australia lobbied for it to be made available here and were told "hold your horses, we'll get back to you soon" But in the meantime the National University of Ireland (NUI) apparently found other priorities, mainly in North America and Europe and so over the years we had just about given up on waiting for that elusive phone call. But last year the Sydney school asked them again and this time we got a firm commitment for an exam in June 2016.

**Who is this year's exam aimed at ?**

Level A1, which is this year's Sydney exam, is for beginners. That basically means people who are learning Irish as adults but completely from scratch. If you are in this category and have done a year's study by now, then you should be within striking distance. A pass, even at beginner level, will do wonders for your self-confidence and encourage you to take your studies further. And that's what teachers love to hear.

**Is it like the school exams in Ireland ?**

The TEG syllabus and teaching material are aimed at adult learners but when the exam day comes you will be sitting alongside all the other candidates in a big hall working your way through the questions, just like you did at school. It might sound scary but we can take you through a couple of sample exams beforehand to get you comfortable with the procedure.

**The exam has different parts right ?**

Yes, there are four in total. Reading, writing, listening and speaking. In the main they will be looking for one word answers at this level, but in the speaking part you are free to expand your answers and thus score extra marks. Speaking is considered the most important of the four parts at this level and it accounts for 40% of the total.

**How do students register and is there a cost ?**

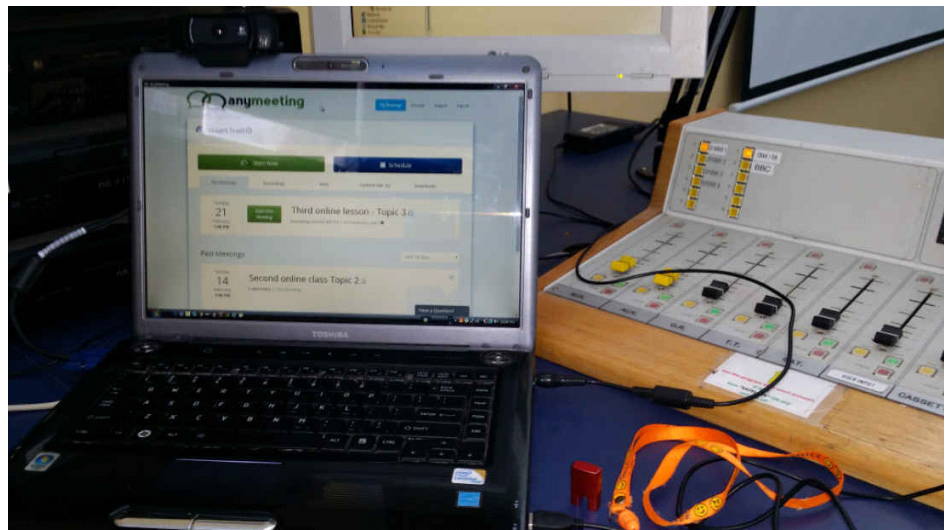
Go to the website [www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie) There is a fee of 100 euros to be paid. But remember you will also have to make travel arrangements to Sydney for the actual exam in June. The exam is on day one of the annual Sydney Winter School although attendance at the SWS itself is not a requirement.

**Do the other states have students already registered ?**

Yes, there is keen interest from all the main Irish language groups in Australia.

**And what about our own TEG class ?**

We currently have enough students to run a class specifically for the exam preparation, and late last year we got a grant from the Irish government's *Emigrant Support Program (ESP)* to offer online classes as well as our weekly classes in the Celtic Club. These online classes will benefit people who live too far away from a major city, so we have students enrolled from around the country. The technical description for them is webinars (web-seminars) and the software we use is called AnyMeeting.





### **Sounds a bit like video-conferencing or even Skype ?**

Yes, it's quite similar. But webinars have extra features, notably the ability for the presenter to "invite" all the attendees beforehand by setting a regular date and time, as well as the sharing of screens and documents during the meeting. There is also a chat box for anyone to type comments and there are facilities for making billing arrangements, although in our case we do not charge a fee.

### **Why not ?**

Firstly, the grant pays for most of our own costs but as long as you are prepared to pay for membership of our association and have registered for the actual exam then we feel you have demonstrated enough financial commitment. You now have *craiceann sa chluiche* as card players say.

### **Any teething problems so far ?**

On the technical side we ask people to use a headset with an attached microphone, as this reduces background noise and audio feedback. But not everyone can manage this. Our "how to" page also explains that tablets are no good, must be a computer.

The software itself is pretty good and does what it claims to do, although you can't type fadas directly into the text boxes that they provide for chat or for making notes. But text already containing fadas can be copied and pasted in from elsewhere so it's not a deal-breaker.

There is of course a limit to what you can cover during a single two-hour weekly online session so we pair students up to work with each other during the week on their preparation for the following week.

### **Any problems with the syllabus or material ?**

NUI have made a lot of study material available for free on their own website and it's generally well presented but beginners such as ours, or indeed from anywhere outside Ireland, may be put off by the fact that the worksheets are entirely in Irish so working on them in advance of class may be difficult. We provide translations for the students to get around this but it is an extra document that you will need to refer to and may still be a disincentive for some.

On the other hand, the book *Gaeilge Gan Stró – Beginners Level* covers basically the same syllabus but with much more accessible material (eg explanations in English) and some beginner students may prefer this. But the books have to be ordered from Ireland.

### **Can students record the online lessons ?**

The presenter in AnyMeeting has a recording facility but not the students. That said, anyone can still record sound and video straight off their computer screen with a separate program such as WM Capture. These programs are known as screen-scrapers and people have been doing this for years to bypass difficulties with downloading video, eg from TG4 or YouTube. But for just grabbing a quick screenshot use the PRTSC key near the upper right of your keyboard.

### **Where can you see the whole exam thing leading to in the future ?**

*What follows is just my personal opinion ....* As an adult learner myself I have always felt that our classes have suffered because we have never been able to have clear or even consistent boundaries between classes and no real educational pathway that students can see, let alone follow. A lot of people simply drop out because of this. Our student survey back in Sept 2009 (see newsletter issue 28) explored this very question and revealed that many students wanted a target to aim for but without any sign of TEG coming to Australia we were unable to offer one until now.

### **And are the interstate groups in a similar situation ?**

I strongly suspect so but we may find out soon enough. As part of the online class idea I am trying to get the other TEG teachers interstate to take part in a separate monthly video-conference to compare our progress and ideas. If this flies then it could lead to some co-ordinated long term planning by all Australian teachers of Irish towards national standards for our classes. That would be a huge leap forward .... *personal opinion ends here.*

### **Many thanks for talking to us Stuart, and best wishes to all the exam students**

Fadhb ar bith, and many thanks to Sydney school for making it all happen.



## Ball den Chumann ag BrigidFest

**B**uaileann Joe Prendergast an clog. OK, 8.30 anois, Dé Máirt, b'fhéidir mí Lunasa, 2015. Am sosa, cupán tae agus brioscaí. Bhí cupla focal le rá ag Stu faoin Scoil Teanga, oíche sóisialta agus araile. Ansin, d'fhiafraigh sé, "Aon scéal eile?"

Le spreagadh ó bheirt dhalta eile, thosnaigh Maeve O'Leary ag labhairt faoin a ceangal leis an Éiri Amach Cásca 1916, agus faoin suíomh idirlíon, "1916 Stories". Féach <<https://vimeo.com/123307713>>.

Tá scéal an shuimiúil ag Maeve: bhí a se-anmháthair, Lucy Smyth, agus a seanathair Tom Byrne, beirt, san Ard Oifig an Phoist i mBaile Átha Cliath ag am an Éiri Amach.

Bhuel, Dé Domhnaigh, 14ú Feabhra, thug Maeve oráid iontach faoi Lucy agus Tom – agus Con Colbert chomh maith – ag BrigidFest san Club Ceilteach. Bhí céad is caoga duine i láthair. Nuair a chríochnaigh Maeve a scéalta, bhí gach duine ag bualadh bos go díograiseach. Ócáid rathúil a bhí ann. Mar chruthú dearfa ar an lá ba mhaith liom trí scéal a insint.

A haon. Ag an lón, taréis na horáide, bhí mé ag caint le mo chara Mia Lia Boua-Kiernan. Rugadh í san Astráil ach tá sí ina cónaí anois in Philadelphia. Is stiúrthóir í den "One Love Movement", bunaithe ann chun cúnamh a thabhairt do mhuintir Cambodian-American díbrithe thar tír amach arais go dtí Cambodia. Féach <<https://vimeo.com/123307713>>. Bhí áthas an domhain ar Mia Lia ag éisteacht le Maeve agus áthas orm Maeve agus Mia Lia a chur in aithne dá chéile.

A dó. I measc na haíonna eile ag BrigidFest bhí Sara Kelly ón State Library of Victoria. Rugadh agus tógadh í i mBaile Átha Cliath. Dúirt sí liom, "Now that Maeve has explained about



TJ WESTROPP / ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY LIBRARY

the Cumann na mBan group retreating from the GPO down McWilliams Lane off Henry Street, I realise where that lane once was. I used to work in my parents' health food shop, Nourish, in Henry Street, just there." Le tríocha bliain anuas, bhí tuismitheoirí Sarah i mbun "Nourish," an chéad siopa "health foods" i mBÁC. Bíonn Sarah ag obair ar an teaspáinteas "1916 Easter Rising" ag an State Library of Victoria i dteannta a cara, Anna Welsh.. Féach <<http://blogs.slv.vic.gov.au/news/1916-easter-rising/>>.

A trí. Maidin Dé Sathairn seo chaite, mar is gnáth, bhí mé ag siopadóireacht ag Victoria Market. Ag Garden Organics, bhuail mé le Colleen Hartland, MLC ón Greens i Western Province. Dúirt Colleen liom, "That was a moving speech by Maeve O'Leary at BrigidFest".

**Val Noone**

## A Great Show by Canberra

**O**n the 'Long weekend' of January 2016 the inaugural Scoil Teanga took place in Canberra under the auspices of the Canberra Irish Language Association (CILA).

About 60 language enthusiasts from around Australia – Sydney, Adelaide, Wollongong, Melbourne and even Perth - gathered at the comfortable and well-appointed YMCA Bush Capital Lodge in O'Connor, ACT, to spend an intensive weekend immersed in the Irish language, aspects of Irish culture and, of course, to enjoy the craic! It was an opportunity to meet many familiar faces again and to make new friends. A few absolute beginners had been drawn to the school at quite short notice by local publicity. Initially they seemed rather daunted by what they had let themselves in for, but the Official Welcome and Opening, held at the Irish Embassy and hosted so generously by His Excellency Noel White, the Irish Ambassador, helped to dispel their anxiety somewhat.

The convivial chat accompanied by traditional music and refreshments that included Guinness, certainly helped to set the tone for the weekend.

For those who had attended language schools before, the format was familiar: the trivia quiz held on the first night challenged and helped us to get to know each other; Father Michael conducted mass in Irish each morning; several classes at 4 levels of ability were held each day, 1 and 2 combined, with electives of Old Irish, dance, music and choir offered. Willing mentors were available to help out on a one-to-one basis with any queries or concerns about our Irish language studies. Our hard work was fuelled by frequent tea/coffee breaks, excellent catering, and free time if we needed to recover.

We were fortunate to have two excellent talks in the evenings from Barney Devlin and Val Noone. Barney spoke on changes to the Irish language and their cause which prompted some interesting comments from both purists and supporters of common usage. On the film night, about five short films in Irish, selected from a DVD supplied by the Irish Film Board, delighted us with their themes and humour as well as tuning our ears and minds to the richness of Irish spoken by native speakers.

The tongue in cheek debate, 'Is í Canberra an Chathair is deise le cónaí inti san Astráil', gave the opportunity to display our improved language skills, developed under the expert tuition of our teachers. Each class had its particular handicap in the scoring system to ensure beginners and fluent speakers had an even chance. We were all encouraged - by various means - to take part to gain confidence and also to accumulate class points! It generated much fun and competition with Rang a trí eventually declared the winners on a recount!



The Ceolchoirm gave the opportunity to display 'cultural' talents. The set dancers were able to show their skills even though lacking any men! The poetry readers and choir entertained us by readings and songs (which we joined in); the accordion player, dancer, and the fiddle player gave us traditional music, but perhaps the most inspiring were the group of eight or so bodhrán players. Most were experienced but some were courageous beginners. Craic indeed!

It was a brave move on the part of the CILA to hold its first Scoil Teanga. It was made possible by a committed organising group (see photo above) led by Kaaren Shepton, and by grants towards running costs by the Irish Embassy and the Friends of Ireland Society. The Irish Language Association of Australia and the Irish Language School in Sydney, provided additional support. Both had run successful language schools many times previously in Melbourne and Sydney respectively. Our thanks go to the team of inspiring teachers.

It was a very successful weekend. We left feeling enthused and more confident in our abilities. And what about the beginners? They said it was best thing they had done in a long time.

Bernadette agus Áine, Rang a trí

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