



Newsletter – Edition 2 - 2023



# Merry Christmas To All!



Items of Interest	Message from the President/Editor
Message from President	<p>I am happy to report that the 2023 Inaugural ceremony of the opening of the Standing Stones Monument in Brisbane, by Celtic Council of Australia [Qld], was a great success for the Celtic Community of Queensland. The weather was kind, the VIP's were all present, and the Sentinels, of whom I was one, were all sworn in to guard the stones for the future.</p>
Photos from the Standing Stones Ceremony	<p>There were entertainers and Representatives from all the Celtic Societies, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Manx, Brittany, Galicia and Asturia who all performed and acquitted themselves well. There were the Celtic Nations Pipe and Drums, Dancers, Poets, Singers, and the various Tartans and costumes were a delight to the eye. To top it all off, the Jacaranda trees were in bloom, adding to the colour.</p>
Embroidery and member Badges	<p>The Blue QMS tent was erected with Manx items on display, side by side with the tents of other Celtic Societies, and there were food vans on hand. In all, it was a pleasant and successful day, and one long to be remembered. I have inserted a few photos for your interest, one of the Celtic Nations Monument plaque, which is attached to one of the Stones.</p>
Meetings and Get-togethers	<p>When you have a moment, please take the time to visit Moorlands Park, Auchinflower and view the Standing Stones for yourself. You can get to the Park by car, train, bus or ferry. The Committee hopes to hold one or two events there next year.</p>
Item of Interest	<p>It has been decided not to hold our annual Hop-tu-Naa event, this year, as it was so close to the Standing stones ceremony, but we will definitely hold it next year.</p>
Christmas Party details	<p>Meanwhile please make a note of our Christmas Party, to be held at Arana Leagues Club, Keperra, on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. See inside for further details of the day, and maybe enjoy a visit from Santa! Until next time.....</p>
Snippets from the Isle of Man	<p>Val Ashworth - QMS President and Newsletter Editor</p>
2024 QMS Picnic	
Arana Members Christmas function	
Other Celtic events	
Membership fees	
MCM Details	
Kid's page	

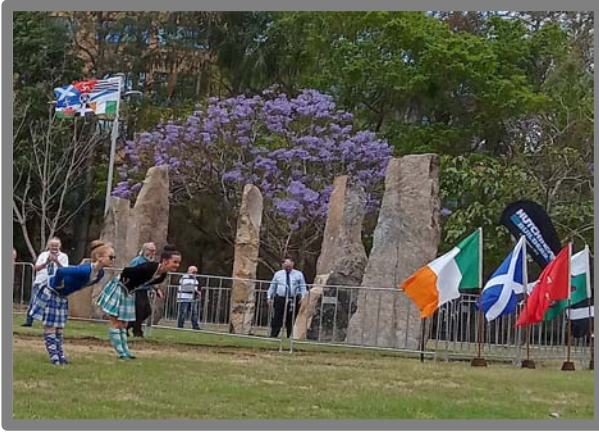
The first photo shows George Cowin holding the Manx flag, and President Val in her gown and scarf as a "Sentinel" of the Standing Stones. With them, is long standing member of the Queensland Manx Society, Dave Kemp, wearing a Manx ancient Hunting tartan. Dave came all the way from Toowoomba to witness the Celtic Community event. Manx Singers and Dancers, called "Phillip's Dog" performed really well, together with Singers, Dancers, Poets, Pipes and Drums of all the Celtic Societies .



The Celtic Nations Monument Plaque

### Manx Group Singers, Dancers & Musicians– Phillip's Dog





Irish Dancers performing alongside the Standing Stones. Jacaranda Tree in bloom, adding to the colourful order of the day.

### **EMBROIDERY WOVEN QMS BADGES AND MEMBERS NAME TAGS:**

If you wish to order any embroidery done on polo neck shirts, scarves, etc, with our QMS Logo, or need Membership badges printed, please contact Mrs Jan Blackburn, on 0414 764 848, or Mrs Val Ashworth on 0403 564 217.

### **MEETINGS & GET TO-GETHERS:**

The Committee are still working on outings for our members and will advise our decision in due course. I hope some of you participated in the free Cross River Rail tour. If you would still like to go [any time], please contact Cross River Rail on 1800 010 875 or email on [info@crossriverrail.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@crossriverrail.qld.gov.au) Meanwhile, if you have any ideas for a Members' outing you would like to share, please contact Val Ashworth on 0403 564 217, and the Committee will gladly look into it.

### **ITEM OF INTEREST FOR SOME OF US WHO HAVE REACHED A CERTAIN AGE:**

#### **THEY CALL US – 'THE ELDERLY'**

We were born in the 40-50-60'S  
We grew up in the 50-60-70's  
We studied in the 60-70-80's  
We were dating in the 70-80-90's

We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's  
We venture into the 80-90's  
We stabilise in the 2000's  
We got wiser in the 2010's  
And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020

Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades  
TWO different centuries...  
TWO different millennia.....

- We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls, to video calls to anywhere in the world
- We have gone from slides to You Tube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and What's App
- From the live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, Colour TV and then to 3D HD TV
- We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.
- We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones
- We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits and blue jeans
- We dodged Infantile Paralysis, Meningitis, Polio, Tuberculosis, Swine Flu and now Covid-19

- We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric

THEY COULD DESCRIBE US AS “EXENNIALS”: PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN IN THAT WORLD OF THE FIFTIES, WHO HAD AN ANALOG CHILDHOOD AND A DIGITAL ADULTHOOD.

WE'VE KIND OF “SEEN-IT-ALL”!

**OUR GENERATION HAS LITERALLY LIVED THROUGH AND WITNESSED MORE THAN ANY OTHER IN EVERY DIMENSION OF LIFE.**

IT IS OUR GENERATION THAT HAS LITERALLY ADAPTED TO 'CHANGE'. YES, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT -BUT WHAT A GREAT LIFE WE'VE HAD! Author unknown

## **QLD MANX SOCIETY - CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

*Please come and join us for the last event on our QMS Calendar - **our Christmas break up will be held at the Arana Leagues Club, on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, at 11.00 for 11.30 a.m. start. If you wish Santa to visit you, please bring a gift to the value of \$15.00, marked “male” or “female”, which is to be left on a special table provided. No perishable items, please. The menu will be traditional and the cost \$42. Arana will also provide a vegetarian meal at same price, if you have any dietary requirements. There will be Carols to be sung and entertainment, as well as a chance to have a good “chin wag” with fellow Manxies, friends and guests. Please let our Treasurer, Mrs Janis Blackburn know if you are coming, BY FRIDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, for catering purposes, email [Janqms@outlook.com](mailto:Janqms@outlook.com), stating dietary needs. When booking, please pay via the internet to the WESTPAC Bank using the BSB 034080 – A/C 183032, adding your surname and Initial. Also, after booking, you can choose to pay at the door on the day. Hope to see you there!***

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE ISLE OF MAN:**

### **TIN BATH RACES: Taken from the North America Manx Association – Fall 2023**

I was not aware of this, but the Isle of Man hosts the World “Tin Bath” Races, and this year, the weather co-operated and it was a splendid occasion. It is held in Castletown, where the town re-routed the traffic so that the harbour could fill with people who witnessed many a sinking! These baths are family treasures and many go back to the original race in 1971 when they were founded by the Castletown Ale Drinkers Society, featuring many local lads including one Tony Brown who went on to become Chief Minister of the Island. In addition to the tin bath races, there were some attempts at manned flight which predictably failed and resulted in more dunkings for the participants. Also held, are “snake races” featuring tyre inner tubes lashed together and powered by kicks. It was a fun day for all ages and if you can make it one day, when visiting the Island, it is well recommended.

### **HORSE TRAM SERVICE: - Isle of Man News**

Horse tram services along Douglas Promenade have been reduced due to concerns over safety. The services are only being provided for passengers who have pre-booked until the season ends on 29<sup>th</sup> October. It is because a government building, near to the horse tram stables, needs demolishing. The Department of Infrastructure wants to carry out the emergency demolition of 1-3 Tramway Terrace as soon as possible. Two inspections, following stormy weather, have recommended the building is taken down – scaffolding is in place to secure the building in the short term. The footpath, in front of it, and the car park, to the side, have also been closed as a precautionary measure.

Infrastructure Minister, Tim Crookall said: “The decision to demolish has been reached by taking into account specialist advice and the Department is now looking for a firm to carry out the work straightaway. This development is, of course, regrettable due to the building's age and relationship with the historic horse tram operation. I would add that the historic stable block to the rear of the building is unaffected by the demolition plan and is expected to remain in use for many years to come.

“While it is a great shame to have to reduce our service this close to the end of the season, the Douglas Bay Horse Tramway has had a fantastic year, in 2023, during which our team of dedicated staff and trammers have delivered more than 40,000 passenger journeys.”

## **QUEENSLAND MANX SOCIETY PICNIC – 2024;**

The QMS picnic will be held on **SUNDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024, at Jamieson Park, Reef Point Esplanade, Scarborough, around 11 a.m.** Bring your own picnic lunch or walk across the road and buy some Fish and Chips and enjoy your meal by the beach. You will need hats, chairs and drinks. Just look for the Manx Flag. See you there! **Please let our Secretary, Mr Nigel Jeffares know if you are coming by the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.**

## **ARANA LEAGUES CLUB – MEMBERS ONLY CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

To be held on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 5 p.m.** Chistmas Roast & Pudding, Live music & Carols, Best dressed prizes, visit from Santa. Book at Reception or Online.

## **OTHER CELTIC SOCIETY EVENTS:**

CCAQ Christmas Party, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 - 11.00 a.m. RSL, Coorparoo,  
Queensland Irish Association Christmas Party,  
26<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 - 11.30 a.m. - Toowong  
Queensland Irish Choir – 26<sup>th</sup> November, Chermside-Kedron Community Church, Cnr Gympie & Rode  
Roads, \$20 Adults - David O'Keefe, Conductor - 2 p.m.  
Welsh Society Christmas, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023 – Caloundra - 12 p.m.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

**Membership fees are due again. These have not changed - Single Membership is \$15.00 and Family Membership is \$20.00. Fees can be deposited in any Westpac Bank using the BSB 034080 and A/C 183032. Please send your membership fee to our new Treasurer, Janis Blackburn, email and address below:**

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### **PRESIDENT**

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### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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### **SECRETARY**

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### **Committee Members:**

Tony Ashworth, Betty Elmes, Michael Osborne, Doug Quayle, Norma Conwell, George Cowin

**Social Media & Website Director:** Doug Quayle

**Newsletter Editor:** Val Ashworth

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***Merry Christmas to all QMS Members and Families, and all our Celtic Friends!***



### *Fun Facts about Myrrh*

1. Myrrh is also called Sweet Cicely.
2. It has fern-like leaves and white flowers.
3. It tastes and smells of aniseed.
4. In times past, Manx people thought that Sweet Cicely blossomed for one hour on Christmas Eve.
5. At midnight, people went outside with lanterns to look for the blossoms.



### *The Legend of Christmas Myrrh*



#### **A Manx Fairytale** (Adapted)

In the village of Ballaugh, lived Margad a young servant girl. Late one Christmas Eve, she was left alone in the kitchen when her mistress had gone to bed. As there was no-one to stop her, she decided to see if the things that she had heard about Old Christmas Eve were true.

She had heard village folk say that the myrrh would bloom at midnight. So, she put a cloak round her and crept out the door into the cold frosty moonlit night. Midnight had just struck as she put her foot outside.

She stooped to look at the spot where the myrrh root was buried, and as she was looking, the earth began to stir and to crack, and soon two little green shoots pushed up to the air. She bent closer to see what would happen, and to her great wonder the leaves and stalks grew big and strong before her eyes. Then the buds began to show, and in a few minutes the lovely white myrrh flowers were in bloom and the garden was sweet with their fragrance.

Margad could do nothing but stare at them at first, but at last she dared to gather one small piece of the blossom, and she kept it for luck all her life. Always after that, when the neighbours asked if she believed in the wonders of the Old Christmas Eve, she would say:

'I know it's true because I've seen it for myself.'



<p><b>1.</b> Santa starts on the top of Snaefell, the highest mountain in the Isle of Main.</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Santa stops for a rest at the Laxey Wheel. It is the world's largest working water wheel.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Santa follows the Snaefell Mountain Railway down the mountain.</p>	<p><b>5.</b> Santa is beside the sea. He follows a horse pulling a tram along the street at Douglas.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Driving his sleigh very fast, he follows the riders in the famous motorbike race, the Tourist Trophy (TT). Can you see the TT sign?</p>	<p><b>6.</b> Santa's last stop is Castle Rushen. His sleigh lands beside the Manx flag on top of the castle. Good-bye Santa!</p>

