



Newsletter No. 1 June 2017

18th Annual Gathering Invitation and other important news

A note from our Chair

Hello again friends and supporters,

We invite you to the 18th Annual Gathering at the Irish Famine Monument, Hyde Park Barracks, Macquarie St, Sydney.

The event will be held on Sunday 27th August 2017 commencing around 12:00pm with formal speeches beginning at 12:30pm.

Our special guest speaker this year is Dr Jeff Kildea, who is an accomplished historian, lecturer and author of many books relating to Irish-Australian history. Further details about Jeff can be viewed via the web-link jeffkildea.com.

The format of the day will follow the usual arrangements with our Master of Ceremonies, Gerry Faulkner leading the proceeding with traditional Irish music provided by Cool Fin Mac.

Descendants of the orphan girls and other interested persons will be invited to lay a floral tribute during the ceremony to reflect on the famine and the Irish orphans' contribution to Australia. The day concludes with traditional Irish music and hospitality at 4pm.

Annual Gathering - Tickets

Members:	\$10.00 per person
	\$20.00 Family ticket
Non-members:	\$15.00 per person
	\$25.00 Family ticket

We encourage you to book your tickets online via our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/pg/GreatIrishFamineMemorial

or Eventbrite

<https://gifcc2017.eventbrite.com.au>

New Constitution and Membership Invitation

As you know we have held the ticket price for the event at \$10 for many years. As you can imagine the \$10 charge does not cover the costs of running the event. We also make a number of donations to our Outreach Programs from the small amounts we have accumulated over time. These funds are rapidly diminishing, and we have therefore introduced a small annual membership fee of \$5 per person to cover our running costs. For now, you can sign up for a membership via our ticketing page for the Annual Gathering. Stay tuned for further updates about registering for membership.

We wish to ensure the GIFCC and Irish Famine legacy continues long into the future, and we have therefore revised the [GIFCC Constitution](#). The revised constitution sets out our objectives and provides transparency around how the GIFCC functions. A copy of the Constitution is available on our website – see here: http://irishfaminememorial.org/media/filer_public/2017/06/02/GIFCC_Constitution_Nov2016.pdf

Membership Benefits

The \$5 per adult **annual membership fee** will help cover the costs of running the association and offer you:

- Reduced ticket price for all events
- Free entry to the Hyde Park Barracks Museum on the Annual Gathering day
- An increase in the number and type of events the GIFCC will offer each year. For example we will host a fundraising event "Stories by the fireside with Perry" – see page 2 for details
- A Quarterly Membership Newsletter
- A more user-friendly and informative website, including a newly developed Irish Famine Historical Hub continually updated to provide deeper and more comprehensive information about the Famine.

Exciting News

Our first official fundraising event “Stories by the fireside with Perry” will be held on 21st July 2017, from 6pm to 8pm at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney. The ticket price is \$35 per person. We will have stories from our historian Dr Perry McIntyre about the orphan girls, along with drinks and nibbles and of course fundraising raffles and prizes. The funds will be in support of our Refugee Scholarship. We look forward to seeing you there.

Buy tickets via our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/pg/GreatIrishFamineMemorial
or Eventbrite
<https://fundraisergifcc.eventbrite.com.au>

Refugee Scholarship and Donations

We have established a Great Irish Famine Refugee Scholarship to pay tuition fees for a current refugee student attending the Western Sydney University. The Great Irish Famine Memorial Refugee Scholarship recognises all those affected by the Great Irish Famine (An Gorta Mor, 1845-1850) and acknowledges the Irish Famine refugees who settled in Australia. The Famine refugee diaspora helped shape Australian culture and society and continues to influence contemporary Australian society. We have established this Great Irish Famine Refugee Scholarship to honour our past famine experiences and support current famine refugees who seek refuge and solace in our country. Through this education program funding we offer an opportunity for a current refugee to advance their education in the belief that they too will go on to contribute and shape Australia like our Irish famine orphan girls.

We need to raise a minimum of \$7,500 a year to cover one year’s tuition for one refugee student and \$30,000 per year to cover a full four year degree tuition fees. We encourage you to donate to this Great Irish Famine Refugee Scholarship. Receipts will be emailed to you and are a tax deduction.

Please use this link to make your donation
<https://give.westernsydney.edu.au/gifcscholarship>

Other Donations – Mamre and the GIFCC Association

Mamre Programmes

We also raise funds for the Mamre Project, an outreach programme that was established by the Sisters of Mercy at Mamre Homestead, St Marys, NSW, to

support African refugees, especially those from Southern Sudan. This programme comprises of classes in commercial cookery, English language, social and life skills, women’s health, food, nutrition and child care. At present the GIFCC Mamre Fund is assisting a farming and fresh vegetable production enterprise at Mamre.

To make a tax deductible donation to Mamre, please make a direct credit from your cheque or saving account to:

Irish Famine Memorial Fund – Mamre

BSB: 062 597

Account: 10680576

Identifier – Phone Number & Name

GIFCC Association

If you would like to make a donation to the GIFCC Association to help us with running costs and continuous development of our website and services, please make your donation by direct credit from your cheque or savings account to the account information below: (These donations are not tax deductible)

Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee

BSB: 062 030 Account: 10013868

Identifier: Phone number and name

We look forward to seeing you at our 1st official fundraising event on 21st July 2017 and at the 18th Annual Gathering on the 27th August 2017.

Warmest regards

Dr Patricia (Trish) Strong
Chairperson, GIFCC

chair@irishfaminememorial.org