



Newsletter No. 2  
6 November 2017

### Notice of Annual General Meeting and other news

Dear Members,

#### Notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee (GIFCC) will be held on 27 November 2017 at the Irish Consulate, Level 26, 1 Market, St Sydney.  
The AGM will commence at **5.00pm**

In order to gain access to the Consulate offices, please register your name and email address at: [contact@irishfaminememorial.org](mailto:contact@irishfaminememorial.org)

If you intend proposing any nominations of committee members, please advise and request nomination forms via the above email address.

Warmest regards

Dr Patricia (Trish) Strong, Chairperson GIFCC [chair@irishfaminememorial.org](mailto:chair@irishfaminememorial.org)

Thank you for your support of the recent **Stories by the Fireside with Perry** held at History House, the headquarters of the Royal Australian Historical Society in Macquarie Street. It was a very enjoyable and successful night with funds raised going to the Great Irish Famine Refugee Scholarship to support a refugee student at Western Sydney University.

Please remember this is ongoing and we welcome further donations which are tax deductible. The link is <https://give.westernsydney.edu.au/gifcscholarship>

What a fabulous day we had for the **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Commemoration at Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney**. About 300 attendees were bathed in glorious sunshine and were captivated by Dr Jeff Kildea's talk "I Was Only Nineteen" which followed his ancestor, Rosanna Flemming's journey from the Athy Workhouse, her voyage on the *Lady Peel* to Sydney, and her life in Australia. She became an indentured servant and finally a mother to nine children.



Many descendants of the orphan girls took the opportunity to lay a floral tribute at the monument and to reflect on the Irish orphans' contribution to Australia.



On 18<sup>th</sup> October the President of Ireland/Uachtar`an na h`Eireann, Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina Higgins visited the monument. They were accompanied by the Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Leader of the Opposition Luke Foley as well as some members of the GIFCC committee. Three descendants laid floral tributes.



Please not that the **Annual Gathering at Melbourne's Famine Rock** will be held on Sunday 19 November 2017. Those able to make it to Williamstown, Melbourne are most welcome.

**Irish Famine Orphan Girls  
Commemoration**

**FREE event of music and song  
in commemoration of the Irish Famine Orphan Girls**

**Entertainment**  
Vince Brophy, Maria Forde and Janet Kelly  
Uilleann piper Leo Kelly

**Guest speaker:** Jenny Gigacz on  
*Isabella Brown from Derry workhouse via the Diadem*  
Opportunity for tributes and laying flowers

**Sunday 19 November 2017 – 3pm start**  
**Standing Stone Famine Rock**  
**Burgoyne Reserve, The Strand, Cnr Stevedore Street, Williamstown**

During the Great Hunger in Ireland (1845-1852) over 4000 girls were sent to Australia as servants, and to help populate the colony; 1700 landed at Hobson's Bay. The Famine Rock at Williamstown commemorates their arrival.

## News from Ireland:

On 7 November 2017 a commemorative event will be held at Macdonagh Junction, Kilkenny, the site of the former Kilkenny Workhouse. This event will remember all who died in the Famine or who were in the Kilkenny workhouse, but it is specifically to commemorate those who died in the workhouse and were buried in the Workhouse Graveyard - 975 remains of people were found during an archaeological dig.

The event will be broadcast on their website and Facebook pages  
[www.kilkennyfamineexperience.com](http://www.kilkennyfamineexperience.com)



Two images of the workhouse as it is today as an enclosed workspace and food court



the memorial to the 975 found in the Famine Graveyard at Kilkenny workhouse & the plaque on the wall behind

