



GIFCC NEWSLETTER No 5 OCTOBER 2018

Dear Members and Supporters,

Welcome to the October 2018 edition of our Newsletter

BREAKING NEWS!!!

Former GIFCC Chair, the late Tom Power, has been awarded posthumously an Irish Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad.

The Award presentation will take place at Aras an Uchterann, Dublin on November 29th. Tom's widow Trish and their younger son, John and his wife Tomoe, will attend the ceremony and Trish will receive the Award on Tom's behalf.

This award recognizes the many years of work by Tom and the many people who served on Committees, helped to raise funds and supported the establishment of the Australian Monument to the Great Irish Famine at Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney and continue to support our current programs.

Well done everyone!!

RECENT EVENTS:

The 19th Annual Commemoration took place at the Famine Memorial at Hyde Park Barracks on Sunday August 26th. Despite the inclement weather - most unusual! – it was a great day. The rain fell prior to commencement of the proceedings but then held off for the rest of the afternoon. Our excellent MC was once again Gerry Faulkner who sang the Irish Anthem in both Gaelic and English. Joan Leach (GIFCC) sang the Australian Anthem. (Cont. page 2)

Notice of GIFCC Annual General Meeting

The GIFCC AGM 2018 will take place on Monday, November 5th at the Consulate of Ireland, 1 Market St, Sydney CBD. The meeting will commence at 5.30pm **sharp**

Nominations for election to the Committee for 2019 are required in writing by completing a nomination form.

Request a form by emailing: contact@irishfaminememorial.org

or by post to:

PO BOX 209, ROSEVILLE 2069

Nominations must be received by Thursday Nov 1st, either by post or email.

Registration:

For security reasons, the Consulate requires all attendees to register by emailing your name and phone contact to:

contact@irishfaminememorial.org

Note that the new Consul-General, Owen Feeney, will be in attendance from 5.30 - 5.45pm to meet the Committee and attendees.



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(Annual Commemoration, cont.)

Paul Lynch MP delivered an interesting address on The Contemporary Importance of Orphans.

An important segment of proceedings was the result of our Outreach Programs. Presentations were made to the following students:-

The inaugural Western Sydney University Great Irish Famine Refugee Scholarship was awarded to student of Nursing, Negar Zarei \$7500

The Western Sydney University Refugee Prize was awarded to Elsi Samano for exceptional work in her Bachelor of Medical Science \$1000

The Macquarie University History Prize was awarded to Caitlin Adams \$500

During the proceedings we enjoyed music by Tinker Duffy, Mike Kerin and Ged Corben and singer/songwriter Daniel Kelly.

Complimentary refreshments were enjoyed afterwards.

We are grateful to all our supporters, sponsors and volunteers without whom this event would be impossible. We are especially grateful to Sydney Living Museum's Director Mr Robert Campbell, Ms Susan Sedgewick and Mr Scott Cumming of the Hyde Park Barracks.

A video of the day can be viewed at:

<https://vimeo.com/286961568>

Our thanks to Yes Champion for his excellent videoing. Interviews can be viewed as follows:

<https://vimeo.com/287640140> Joan Leach
<https://vimeo.com/287742321> Eva and Randall
<https://vimeo.com/287649383> Enda Murray
<https://vimeo.com/287633123> Catherine & Bob Brazil
<https://vimeo.com/287006305> Robin and Donna



GIF/WSU Refugee Scholarship recipient Negar Zarei receives her certificate from GIFCC Chairperson Dr Patricia Strong. Scott Lyall, WSU Business Development Manager is in background.



Orphan girl descendant and GIFCC member, Joan Leach, at the wreath laying, August 26th



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2018 International Irish Famine

Commemoration:

This event will take place on Sunday October 28th at the Famine Rock Memorial at Williamstown, Victoria.

Dr Perry McIntyre, GIFCC Vice-Chair and Trish Power, GIFCC Hon Secretary, will be attending.

Committee report:

It has been a busy year for the Committee and has included PR and marketing at the St Patrick's Day event and two well-attended fund-raisers at History House, headquarters of the Royal Australian Historical Society. Work has proceeded on updating the website, establishing the GIF/WSU Refugee Scholarship, increasing our membership - currently about 160 members of which 100 are currently financial. We urge you to update your membership annually, i.e. pay your \$5 prior to June 30th for the following year. This membership fee of \$5 helps us defray costs, entitles you to a discount on events and you are eligible to vote at the AGM!!

We are indebted to the Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme for their financial assistance of our website development and maintenance costs. Further work is required before the new website goes on-line. We are also appreciative of the assistance and guidance of Scott Lyall, WSU Business Development Manager, in establishing the GIF/WSU Refugee Scholarship and also assisting in planning a Major Donor event being planned for April/May 2019.

In August 2019 we will be celebrating our 20th year of Annual Gatherings since the Governor General, Sir William Deane, unveiled the Monument in August 1999.

Dr Perry McIntyre continues to work diligently on our ever-expanding Orphan Database and is currently working to upload to the new website.

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DONATIONS

We remind you to consider a donation to our Outreach Programmes, the **Mamre Fund** and **GIF/WSU Refugee Scholarship**. These donations are tax-deductible. Alternatively, you may like to donate to the **GIFCC Inc.** to support our on-going costs. Donations to GIFCC are **not** tax deductible.

To make a donation, please go to: www.irishfaminememorial.org.au and then to the **How to Donate link**.

BEQUESTS

We invite you to consider making a **Bequest via your Will**. If you would like information regarding making a bequest, please email: contact@irishfaminememorial.org.au to request a **GIFCC Bequest Brochure**.

MEMBERSHIPS

We welcome **new memberships** anytime and remind everyone that **membership/renewal** for 2019 Financial Year was due on July 1st, 2018.

Request a membership/renewal form by emailing: memberships@irishfaminememorial.org

Forms and payment (\$5 p.a.) can be posted to: GIFCC, PO BOX 209, Roseville, 2069

Trivia Night:
This event has been
cancelled due to unforeseen
circumstances



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Excerpts from the *Illustrated London News* Vol 10 Jan - June 1847 - "Chronicle of Remark- able Events, December 21 1846 to July 1, 1847"

January 1 - Subscription opened for the relief of distress in Ireland and Scotland; headed by the Queen (Victoria) for 2000 pounds.

January 5 - Large purchases of Indian Corn made on the Continent for supply of Ireland.

January 11 - Alarming Food Riots in Dublin.

January 13 - Lamentable famine in the County of Cork.

January 16 - The Pope contributed 250 pounds to the Relief of the Distressed Irish.

January 18 - Lamentable distress at Bantry; 10 persons died of starvation.

January 19 - The Distress in Ireland and Scotland (etc) were the main topics of the Speech at the opening of Parliament by her Majesty in person.

January 22 - Frightful famine and fever at Skibbereen.

January 25 - Lord John Russell proposed to Parliament his measure for the Relief of Ireland.

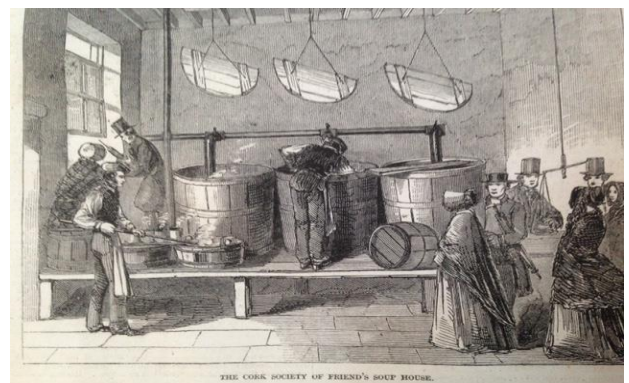
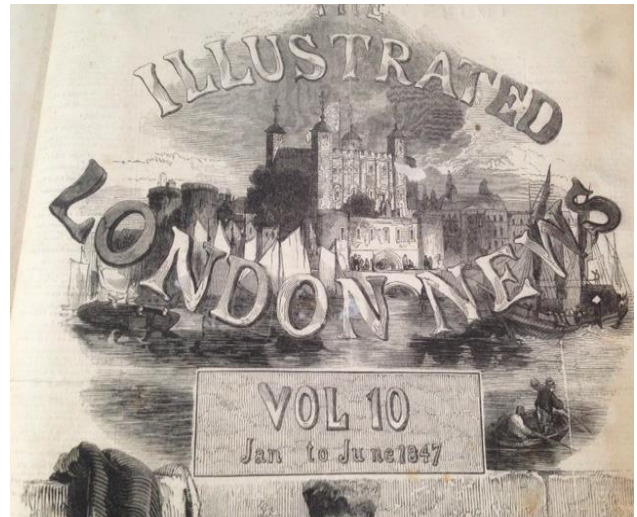
January 27 - Lloyd's books showed the recent loss of many grain ships on the west coast of Ireland.

January 30 - (New York) - large sum of money raised there for the distressed Irish.

(to be continued in future editions)

I am grateful to Mary Ann Fry (O'Keefe) for her generosity in lending me her edition of the *London Illustrated News* Vol 10.

Trish Power
Newsletter Editor



The Cork Society of Friends' (aka Quakers)
Soup House

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK AND
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS