



## **GIFCC NEWSLETTER No 8**

**October 2019**

***“Looking Forward and Remembering”***

***N.B. ~ GIFCC AGM ~ Nov 18<sup>th</sup>  
(see last page for details)***

Dear Members and Supporters,

### **2019 Symposium and 20<sup>th</sup> Commemoration**

The Committee thanks all who supported our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Commemoration and Symposium on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 people attended the Symposium held at The Mint. A similar number attended the Commemoration at the Famine Memorial at Hyde Park Barracks.

Although the format of the day was different to previous events, it proved to be very successful. The Mint's Gold Melting Room was an excellent venue for the Symposium; an added bonus was not having to worry about the weather! We enjoyed excellent catering at morning tea and lunch and were able to sit outside in the sun, mingle and enjoy Harpist Cliona Molins playing beautiful music during the lunch break.

GIFCC Chair, Dr Perry McIntyre, welcomed and introduced speakers, namely Beth Hise and Megan Martin from SLM and Sr Vivienne Keely from Mamre/Catholic Care Social Services. All three gave extremely interesting talks which will appear on the website soon.

On behalf of the GIFCC, Trish Power, GIFCC Secretary, officially launched the Great Irish Famine Refugee Scholarship Appeal and presented a cheque for \$1000 to Western Sydney University representative, Ross Newton. Trish also thanked Scott Lyall for his support and guidance in setting up the GIFR Scholarship and the Appeal.

### **Great Irish Famine Refugee Scholarship Appeal:**

***Take time to read details about the Appeal on the GIFCC website under ‘Make a Donation’ and please consider making a contribution to the Appeal.***

**2019 Scholarship and Prize winners**, Dina Hinna and Reem Qrma, were in attendance with their parents. Dr Jack Munday, former Chair of Historic Houses Trust, presented Dina and Reem with their certificates. Dina is studying for a Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Reem for Bachelor of Engineering.



*L to R: Trish Power, Dr Jack Munday, Dr Perry McIntyre(back), Reem Qrma, Reem's father, Dina Hinna, Dina's parents.*

Following the Symposium we proceeded to the outside of the Famine Memorial where a Commemoration ceremony took place. Descendent Joan Leach sang “Advance Australia Fair” followed by our inimitable M.C., Gerry Faulkner, who sang the Irish Anthem. Irish Vice-Consul, Rory Conaty, gave an address and he and Perry McIntyre laid flowers in tribute to victims of An Gorta Mor 1845-1850 and those who emigrated to Australia. Descendants also laid flowers.

During the ceremony, harpist Cliona Molins accompanied vocalist Jacquie MacPhee singing “*Courageous Girl*”, a beautiful song, music and lyrics by Cliona. Cliona has very generously ‘given’ this song to the GIFCC – so we will hear it again, for sure! Jacquie also sang the beautiful song “*She moved through the Fair*”. We sincerely thank both girls for their generous contribution to the day.



At the completion of the Commemoration, anyone supporting the event was given a voucher for a free drink generously donated by Fergal McAuley, Manager of PJ O'Brien's pub. A group gathered in the upstairs section of the pub and enjoyed an hour or two of socialising.



*Clockwise from top left: Chair Perry's introduction; V-C Rory Conaty and former Irish Ambassador Richard O'Brien; Harpist Cliona Mullins; Wendy Chapman, Brendan and Christine Walsh; Lunchtime in The Mint courtyard; Kevin Bowe (Volunteer), Breda Drumgoole (Treasurer) and Trish Power (Secretary)*





A very special thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped Cliona set up and move her harp at both venues, transported chairs, arranged seating, set up banners and performed numerous other tasks which helped the day run smoothly.

We also acknowledge the assistance of SLM staff and Pearl Catering.

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### **“Courageous Girl” by Cliona Molins:**

You can watch Cliona and Jacque performing the song during the Commemoration at the Memorial via Ves Champion’s video link below.

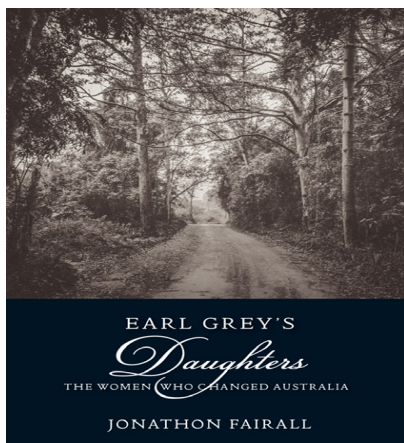
### **August 25<sup>th</sup> Video:**

We are very grateful to GIFCC Member *Ves Champion* for his time and excellent work in video-ing the August 2019 Event. Check out Ves’s video at:-

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6240471>

### **Recently published:**

*Earl Grey’s Daughters, The Women Who Changed Australia*, by Jon Fairall, tells the story of Eliza Dooley, an orphan girl, who arrived on the *Tippoo Saib* as part of the Earl Grey Scheme. It tells her life story in the context of what was happening in Ireland and in Australia at the time.



The author, Jon Fairhall’s wife is Eliza’s great great granddaughter, Wendy Chapman.

For more information, and to order books, visit [www.spsppublishing.com.au](http://www.spsppublishing.com.au) or email:-[wendy@spsp.com.au](mailto:wendy@spsp.com.au)

<https://www.facebook.com/earlgreysdaughters>

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## *Report from Ireland:*

Perry and Trish are currently in Ireland. Some of you will have seen Trish's posts on the GIFCC Facebook page. Perry is busy researching, attending conferences and they are both Perry and Trish are liaising with key people in connection with Famine Commemoration in Australia and globally. We are part of a very big family!!

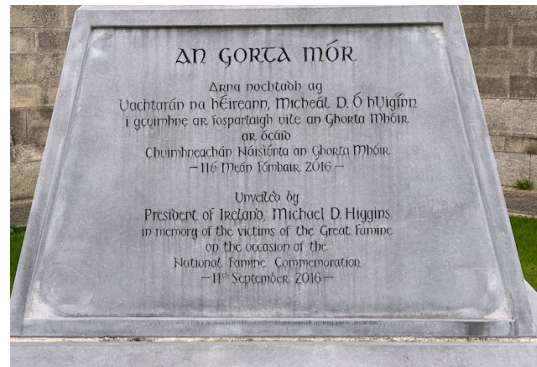
**'From Callan's Workhouse to Australia'** was the headline on the front page of the *Kilkenny People* newspaper of 27 September 2019. It was an article written by Kilkenny Local Studies Librarian, Nuala Roche, following contact with Diane Henson from Perth. Diane is a descendant of Margaret Walsh a workhouse orphan from Callan workhouse who arrived at Port Phillip as an orphan girl. Eighteen young women from Callan workhouse headed to Dublin to board the steamer to Plymouth on their way to Victoria on the Eliza Caroline on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1850. This is one of the many links we now can make between Ireland and Australia, facilitated by assistance from local studies libraries throughout the Republic of Ireland where most county libraries hold at least some surviving records of the Poor Law Unions in their counties. A great number of records survive for the six counties which are now Northern Ireland and they are housed in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [PRONI], Belfast. Local libraries such as Kilkenny are increasingly interested in making contact with descendants such as Diane who can bring 'home' stories of these young women who were considered 'lost'. GIFCC is working with most libraries to gather information.

Dr Perry McIntyre [contact@irishfaminememorial.org](mailto:contact@irishfaminememorial.org)



*Famine Memorial on the North Quay, Dublin: this memorial attracts many visitors from around the world.*

## *The Famine Memorial at Glasnevin Cemetery:*



### **A note regarding the GIFCC:**

We currently have 8 of 9 positions on the Committee filled. If you would like to become involved, please consider nominating for election to a position at the forthcoming AGM. Being on the committee is not all hard work! Rather, it is a lot of fun and very interesting as well! And since the Hyde Park Barracks has been closed, we hold our bi-monthly committee meetings in the comfort of the Grace Hotel in York Street, which is easy to access by public transport. Please note, you do not need to live in Sydney! Gerry Faulkner, who joined the committee last year, lives in the Central West of NSW.

### **~ GIFCC AGM ~**

**The GIFCC Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, November 18th at the Consulate of Ireland, 1 Market Street, Sydney at 5.30pm.**

*N.B. All attendees must be registered to gain entry.*

*All positions are open for nominations as follows:*

**Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, General Secretary, Membership Secretary and at least four committee members.**

*Request a NOMINATION FORM and/or register by email at:*  
**[secretary@irishfaminememorial.org](mailto:secretary@irishfaminememorial.org) before Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**N.B. Nominees must be financial Members of GIFCC.**

**Request a Membership Application Form or download from:**  
**[www.irishfaminememorial.org](http://www.irishfaminememorial.org)**

**Trish Power GIFCC Hon Sec**