

Presidents Report 25th July 2015

I am pleased to report that the past twelve months has been another busy year for the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland (Inc).

The CCAQ Christmas Party was held in the Coorparoo R.S.L. Club and there was very good representation from most Celtic Organisations and Associate groups. Approximately 80 guests were present.

The room and the tables were festively decorated and Santa arrived to distribute gifts to all. The entertainment was great and Christmas Carols were sung.

Next on the Yearly Calendar was our gala event, "Awards Evening", in April and held this year at Easts Leagues Club, Coorparoo.

It was a very successful and enjoyable evening. A very good attendance of 88 guests saw a total of six awards presented to Cornish, Manx, Scots and Welsh recipients.

Our Celtic entertainment was well received. We showcased a very young Harpist, Eilish McDiarmid, who supplied the music throughout the dinner time. A magnificent display of Highland Dancing by the Thistle Dancing Studio was followed by The Queensland Irish Pipe Band playing some very stirring music. The Band was led by Pipe Major Bruce Grice. Well done to all.

The Meal and Venue got 10 out of 10, from all who attended.

Our Guest Speaker was Mr Rory McCrudden (Barrister) from N.S.W., who spoke on Celtic History, Heritage and Customs.

Our third CCAQ event was a presentation to our loyal Patron Mr Bill Hanley OAM CyC.

This function was held at the residence of President Mavis and Bruce Williams. There were speeches by Mr Peter Nicol and Grace Roberts, (President of the Cornish Association).

Original CCAQ member Bruce Shaw was unable to attend, but sent a message of congratulations which was read out by Vice President Robert Ward.

President Mavis Williams presented Bill with a lovely gift of a Fountain Pen and a decorative Certificate for his many years of service as Patron of CCAQ.

Music was supplied by pipers, accompanied by Mr Alan Hancox on his electronic organ, Vocalist/Guitar Doug Thoresen and Small Pipes by Jack Dearie. A special segment was presented by Bill's grandson Dominic Ward, with Guitar, who sang a bracket of songs for him.

The afternoon was a wonderful event for bringing friends together, and fostering comradeships.

I'd like to say many thanks to all those people who went beyond their call of duty, to help make this event so successful.

We are hoping to continue holding an Annual CCAQ Friendship Day, in June of each year, to foster our Celtic Friendships, to make this Queensland Celtic Council, bigger and better, and to continue to enjoy each others company. As, in this world to-day, we must do this to survive, and keep this organisation active.

My focus is on making the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland, a group full of happiness, harmony, and peace together, and for it to continue to have only positive aspirations.

If we all pull together, this will happen.

As your President, I travelled to Glen Innes for the Australian Celtic Festival at the Australian Standing Stones, to represent the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland (Inc).

I also attended the Guardians Lunch, along with Grahame and Judy Jardine-Vidgeon. It was lovely to have their company at this special event.

We have been fortunate to attract an influx of members since our last general meeting. We now have approximately 135 Members.

I have met with the new State Member for Greenslopes, Joe Kelly (ALP) who replaced Ian Kaye (LNP).

Joe was very interested in our initiative to erect a Monument to the Celts in Brisbane. This project is making good progress and he has offered to continue to help us in achieving this. He has written to the Councillor for Community funding, on our behalf, to have them set up a meeting with us.

He has become a member of CCAQ Inc as well.

I am very hopeful we will get the result we are looking for with the Celtic Monument.

I hope all of you will get behind this project, and give all the support you are able to, as this will benefit all our Celtic Organisations.

CCAQ was well represented officially for the first time at Tartan Day this year. Thanks to all who gave their time to make it successful.

On the day we received another four applications for membership of CCAQ Inc.

CCAQ will be represented at another event - "Scotland in the Park", on Sunday, 19th July, 2015 (at The Greenbank Reserve Park, 720 Middle Road, Greenbank).

All of this will let you know that your Committee Members have been busy this past year, promoting the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland, (Inc).

I'd like to end my report by extending my Many Thanks to my Committee Members for their loyal support and help throughout the past year.

Thanking you all for your ongoing support.

President,

Mavis K. Williams.