



WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com



Mary Allen reading a letter from the Ambassador of Ireland, with Queensland Irish Association President Jeff Spender looking on, at the Association's 125th Anniversary Lunch at Brisbane City Hall last month.

Celebrating our community heroes

Welcome to our November edition which has been a pleasure to make as there are so many stories about amazing humanitarians.

I hadn't known about the story of Paul Strzelecki until I accidentally happened across it. 'The Famine' is and will probably always be a difficult subject for us Irish. More tragedy and suffering than we can even comprehend, never mind talk about. So it's no surprise that the legacy of this great Polish man who saved 200,000 starving children had been lost to history. He also wanted all his papers burnt upon his passing and to be buried in an unmarked grave too, such was his humility. That his story is now being heard is a credit to the Polish community in Australia, and especially Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, President of Kosciuszko Heritage, who has done so much to have his legacy celebrated on the 150th anniversary of his death. There are events happening to honour and remember him throughout November.

The day Princess Diana died is one many of us will never forget. I had just moved to London the day before, and was woken by my friend in the middle of the night telling me Diana had been in a crash and was hurt. We were watching TV live in disbelief as the news reporter announced that she was dead.

The next few weeks in London were surreal. Everyone was united in grief. People wept openly outside the palaces. She was a beauty without doubt but it was her beautiful heart that people loved. Her bravery. Her honesty. We may never see her like again. Now her Royal photographer is bringing an exhibition of candid photographs of Diana to Melbourne. It promises to be very special.

Then there's Irish-American Chuck Feeney. What an amazing human being he was. He made billions by building up a duty-free shopping empire. Many dream of the lifestyle he could have had - fame, accolades, glamour, mansions, limos. But Chuck had no interest in any of that, he lived a simple life and used his billions to help others, including here in Australia. He gave the vast bulk of his fortune before his recent death. Vale Chuck Feeney, a life well lived.

We are celebrating a community hero closer to home too. Séamus Sullivan, the vice-president of Queensland Irish Association, has devoted his whole life to the community. He works morning, noon and night to help others. I am over the moon that he is being given an Irish Presidential Award for his humanitarianism. It comes after a tough few years for him and nobody deserves it more.

In this issue

On page 7, Princess Diana's Official Royal Photographer brings an exhibition of her portraits to Melbourne.



Special feature on pages 10 & 11, we see what events the Scottish community has planned for St Andrew's Day.



On page 12, we pay tribute to Chuck Feeney, an Irish-American billionaire who gave away his fortune to help others.



On page 15, as we mark 150 years since his death, we examine the legacy of Paul Strzelecki, hero of the Irish Famine.



On pages 24 & 25, historic dance expert Dr Heather Clarke shares her expertise on the culture of the Isle of Man.



On page 27, Jim Harte, an Irish Showband legend, is bringing back the sounds of the 60s at a Fremantle concert.



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