

# Newsletter

Irish South African Association - Gauteng Chapter  
Issue 1 | June 2021



*Well hello there!*

Welcome to the first edition of our revamped Irish South African Association (ISAA) – Gauteng Chapter newsletter.

Put together by the wonderful ISAA Gauteng committee, our newsletter serves to keep you connected and bring some warmth to you and yours. Yes it's June, yes it's freezing, COVID numbers are on the rise, load shedding is back with a vengeance but... until we can meet face-to-face, read on friends, we've found you plenty to celebrate!

Beir bua agus beannacht,

*The Committee*  
ISAA Gauteng Chapter



# Happy Bloomsday!

**Bloomsday** is a celebration of the life of Irish writer, James Joyce, which is observed annually on 16 June (yep today!), the day his 1922 novel *Ulysses* takes place in 1904.



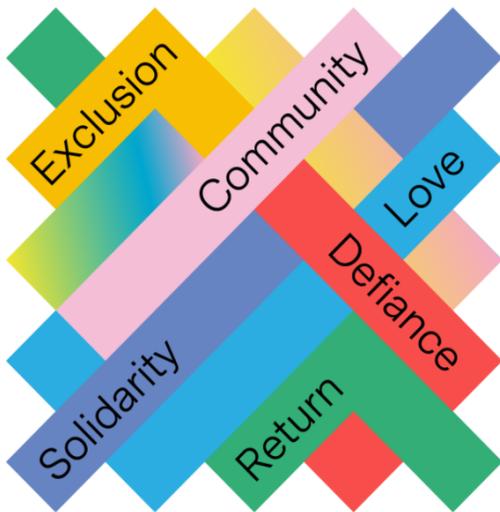
There are all sorts of celebrations taking place the world over, check out [Bloomsday Programme 2021 — Bloomsday Festival](#) and get involved!

# Out in the world

## Ireland's LGBTQ+ Diaspora

To mark the beginning of Pride Month, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and EPIC, the Irish Museum of Emigration, in collaboration with Dublin Pride launched a new exhibition “Out in the World: Ireland's LGBTQ+ Diaspora” on **Tuesday 8 June**.

Researched and developed by Dr. Maurice Casey, the DFA funded Historian in Residence at EPIC, the exhibition will be on display in EPIC in Dublin and also online at [www.outintheworld.ie](http://www.outintheworld.ie) until November.



Across the generations, Irish LGBTQ+ people have emigrated and found opportunities to live and love openly. Yet this journey was rarely a simple transition from an oppressive island to a liberal wider world. Irish LGBTQ+ emigrants often faced prejudice abroad. Home, once a place of shame and silence, could also become a welcoming site of return. This exhibition highlights 12 stories from the vast yet largely untold history of Ireland's LGBTQ+ diaspora.



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme  
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eacnamaíche  
Department of Economic Affairs

**EPIC** The Irish  
Emigration  
Museum

Stories from  
around the  
world



# Out in the world

## Ireland's LGBTQ+ Diaspora

I registered to attend the launch of the Out in the World exhibition on the 8th June. I really didn't know what to expect but was keen to see what they had produced. Well, I must say as a 69 year old Irish woman I was truly impressed with the scope of the stories. Some very sad and emotional and all I can say is - thank the universe we have chosen to respect and honour diversity in the 21st century with exhibitions and platforms like #outintheworld.

I had the privilege of meeting the infamous Panti (Rory O Neill ) when he visited South Africa a couple of years ago. He is one of the main activists for gay rights and I was shocked and surprised to hear about the fight and the struggle he endured to get to where we are today. Equally it was very sad to think that so many wonderful Irish Citizens felt they needed to get out of Ireland in order to live their lives as themselves not to mention the breakup of families and so called shaming.

It's been a long road and we must be grateful for the tenacity and courage of these wonderful people I think the least we can do is listen to their stories and engage where we can.

The Exhibition runs till November and every Friday at noon Irish time there is a live presentation. I for one will keep an eye on this wonderful exhibition!

#Proud to be Irish

Lorraine Keenan



Happy International Pride Month  
to all our LGBTQ+ members!



## What will your property be worth in 20 years?

KEZA RYAN

The unprecedented low cost of borrowing coupled with the major banks' appetite to take on low or no deposit loans have created an ideal buying environment, particularly for first-time buyers. The current approval rate across first-time buyers who required a zero-deposit loan is 79.3%. This is a clear indication that property ownership is more accessible to first-time buyers who previously could only afford to rent a property.

Home ownership makes so much sense in the long run; here are 3 reasons why:

### 1. **Owning a property is an investment into an asset**

While you may have taken out a rather large home loan in order to purchase the house, you are essentially putting that money back into the property and will probably sell it for more than you bought it for. It is important to realize though that you do not need to immediately go for your dream house. Start small, and work your way up to the house you've always wanted.

### 2. **Property ownership helps develop sound financial management**

Owning a house means you are forced to make monthly payments. When it comes to drawing up your budget, make sure that the home loan repayment is one of the top priorities. The suburbs, and even rural towns, have this kind of space, they also offer more bang for your buck."

### 3. **Eventually the good will outweigh the bad**

Initially the capital outlay for a house may seem excessive, however as the years go by, the loan will decrease and the appreciation in value will increase.

Property investment is still considered to be one of the biggest investment opportunities of all time. Buying a property can leave a dent in the bank account, but do not see it as a grudge purchase instead see it as an investment.

Ask me more...

**Keza Ryan**

Source: BusinessTech

**For all your real estate needs, rentals & sales, contact Keza Ryan on 078 575 3267**

*What's in this newsletter:*

**WHAT WILL YOUR PROPERTY BE WORTH IN 20 YEARS?**



We continue to bring theatre to your homes until you can return to ours.

Coming this month, three remarkable video streamed productions in association with **Cork Midsummer Festival**.

***The Everyman is your local theatre, wherever you are.***  
**We would be thrilled if you might share information about our programme on your channels and to your friends and colleagues.**

**SEE OUR FULL PROGRAMME [HERE](#).**

# Irish Dance (South Africa)



***Update by Sue Theron,  
Chairman, Irish Dance (South Africa)***

Irish dance teachers are still working hard at keeping classes going amidst the challenges – sometimes dancers are present in class and at other times they join us on Zoom when needing to isolate after any positive contact.

We have engaged with others teachers and regions of the world in the last year and our dancers have had the opportunity of participating in an on-line competition with dancers from Regional Europe and Asia, which is another developing region in terms of Irish dancing, as is South Africa. We were very proud of the excellent results achieved by our local dancers.

Each region in SA is working on holding an in-person competition within the given restrictions and all going well, we are hoping to be able to hold our national Championships in October.

Our dancer numbers have decreased somewhat in the last year and during lockdown and this is being experienced in all other countries so increasing our numbers globally is definitely something needing our focus and attention going forward.

Chairman: Susan Theron | email: [sueirish@mweb.co.za](mailto:sueirish@mweb.co.za)

PO Box 272, Paulshof, Sandton, 2056

Management Committee: Susan Theron, Bronwyn Parker, Taryn Harkness, Bernard van der Kuil

# SA Gaels update

The men's' and ladies SA Gaels teams have been in a very long COVID-induced hiatus now for 18 months. We had hoped to do a super league around the Lions Rugby tour but of course a 3rd wave has postponed that for now. Rest assured we will be back on the field in time, revamped and raring to go!

The one bit of good news we can share is that we were able to get back into primary schools and do some training in mid-April. The SA Gaels at its core is more about bringing top quality sports training to kids in township schools - the senior teams tours are a bonus but our main focus is the kids. Our Development officers who are the backbone of the Gaels said the kids' enthusiasm to get out and play was awe-inspiring, some kids even crying at the joy of being able to run around and kick a ball again. It's easy to forget amongst the bigger headline grabbing aspects of COVID that kids have been deprived of so many "normal" things in this time. We posted some pics on our Facebook page at the time which is the best place to follow the Gaels activities: <https://www.facebook.com/SAGaelsGAA>.

Unfortunately as I'm sure you are aware, when the 3rd wave started to appear, the Government put a ban on contact sports in schools so we are once again in limbo. Here's hoping we can see an O'Neills Gaelic football in flight again soon in SA!

Derek McCarthy

# Rugby update

It's all about the incoming British and Irish Lions tour at the moment, with seven Irish players making the cut for Warren Gatland's squad. With spectators unlikely to be allowed into the stadia, it will make for one of the strangest tours in history.

Lions tours are as much about the atmosphere generated by visiting fans as it is about the epic struggles on the pitch and one wonders what effect the lack of atmosphere will have on the matches themselves.

Irish fans have always been at the forefront of creating a vibe in the stadia and the bars before and after matches, so it's sad that we will have to wait another 12 years to see that again.

Lions tours are also battles of attrition, where dealing with injuries is part of the challenge for coaches. On this score, it seems as if the early injury worries are in the Bok camp, though there's a distinct Munster flavour to some of the injuries: Damian de Allende and RG Snyman suffered burns at a "fire pit incident" that involved petrol being thrown on a fire. Hard to believe that three Saffers (CJ Stander was also involved) would allow such a thing at a hallowed event like a braai. It seems an Englishman may have been involved ...

One wonders if they were cooking a few of these?



Picture credit: Owen Murphy

Despite these crazy times, we're sure the Irish community will be glued to their televisions to watch what should be three enthralling test matches.

Please be cautious during the series and avoid crowded venues to watch the games.

# Food & Wine round up...



Oneiric Wines, Elgin, Western Cape, represented by Shan Pascall have been sponsors of wines for the ISAA St Patrick's Day events in recent years.

We would like to share with our readers some background information on the history of the estate as well as the latest developments. ONEIRIC; pronounced "Oh!-ne-rik", loosely translated as "dream" is exactly that, a hidden gem tucked away in the cool climate Kogelberg Biosphere in the Elgin Valley, Western Cape (situated about an hour's drive from Cape Town and your half-way mark to Hermanus).

This family owned winery produces top quality wines of superior character. The wines grace the wine lists of many top end establishments in South Africa and abroad.

The premium wines from Oneiric are part of the First Quantum range which consist of a single varietal Merlot and a Bordeaux style blend, these wines are recognised amongst connoisseurs the world over, produced in limited quantities and released every five years.

**This month Oneiric hosts a zoom call with legendary Bok players to chat rugby, the Lions and wine - spacing is limited to 40 pax, if you'd like to join the zoom call please contact [shan@oneiric.co.za](mailto:shan@oneiric.co.za) for details.**

*"Oneiric wines is the Shangri-La of Elgin with 360 degree views and a Chardonnay and Cabernet you would swap your children for"*  
David Bullard 2014.



*Kearney's: A country venue with a touch of Irish flair*

Kearney's is a family run hospitality business with an Italian, Irish and South African background, located in Broederstroom, Hartbeespoort.

Boasting a tradition of friendly service, great value and a fun, family atmosphere, this pub is for you! Kearney's (previously The Gem) relocated to new premises about 3 years ago. We host live music, themed days, exciting promotions, karaoke and always show main sporting events on the big screen.

So whether you're game for a quick drink, a fabulous meal, a sports viewing bonanza or just a big night out, look no further than Kearney's.



Lanseria Road, Broedersstroom,  
Hartbeespoort

[reservations@kearneys.co.za](mailto:reservations@kearneys.co.za)

For bookings contact Gary on 082 475 3083

Open Monday - Sunday,  
10h00 - 22h00

Claire Sullivan

# And in closing...

<https://newsreader.ie/wanted-group-of-love-hungry-single-farmers-for-trip-to-find-wives-in-ukraine/>

*What could go wrong?!!*



Breda Kenealy