



Ambasáid na hÉireann | Nua-Shéalainne
Embassy of Ireland | New Zealand
Te Aka Aorere o Airangi | Aotearoa

BEALTAINE - JANUARY TO MARCH 2023

LE CHÉILE - CONNECTING IRELAND & AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Nuachtlitir Ambasáid na hÉireann Nua-Shealainne

Official Opening of the Embassy of Ireland



Minister Charlie McConalogue T.D. cutting the ribbon at the Embassy Opening.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Charlie McConalogue, T.D. officially opened the Embassy of Ireland to Aotearoa New Zealand on St Patrick's Day 2023.

Commenting on his visit and the opening the Minister said:
"It was an honour to officially open the Embassy to Aotearoa New Zealand this week, as well as visiting farms, thriving Irish community groups and political leaders. Congratulations to former Ambassador Ryan, Ambassador Connolly, Deputy Ambassador Foley and all the team for making this happen!"

This issue:

The Opening of the
Embassy

Visits from Ireland

Summer School 2023

St Patrick's Day 2023

Announcements, Events,
and Updates

OPENING OF THE EMBASSY CONTINUED

H.E. Jane Connolly, Ambassador of Ireland said:

“We are delighted to be officially opening the Embassy of Ireland to Aotearoa New Zealand - and what better time than St Patrick’s Day. It’s been just over six years since President Michael D. Higgins announced that the Government of Ireland would open up an Embassy for the first time in New Zealand.

As two like-minded countries, on the opposite end of the globe, the opening of the Embassy is a testament to the enduring links between our people over many generations, our strong commitment to international values, and appetite for more business links together”.

Ambassador Connolly also acknowledged the many people who have supported the Embassy since its opening:

“I would like to thank Ambassador Peter Ryan (New Zealand’s first resident Ambassador of Ireland) for his work in establishing the Embassy, the New Zealand Government for their support, Ambassador Nina Obermaier (EU Ambassador) who housed the Embassy team when they first arrived to New Zealand, and all the staff of the Embassy, past and present, for their contribution to the Embassy.



Minister Charlie McConalogue T.D. with members of the Embassy Staff, past and present:

Back row (L to R): Chris Nugent, Roisín Burns, Toni Neels, Minister McConalogue, Treena Daly, Séan O’Kane, Catriona Kaio, Emear O’Connell
Front row (L to R): Robyn Simpson, Marguerite McDermott, Ambassador Connolly, Deputy Ambassador Faran Foley.



VISIT OF MINISTER MCCONALOGUE T.D.



In February, the Government of Ireland announced the 2023 St Patrick's Day programme, which saw the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Government Ministers take part in an extensive international programme to promote Ireland and Irish interests around the world.

This year's programme saw the widest yet engagement by Ireland with Ministers reaching out to partner Governments and Irish communities on every continent. In all, 36 representatives of the State brought Ireland's message to 74 cities in 44 countries. We were delighted to have Minister Charlie McConalogue T.D. come to Aotearoa. This was also the first official Ministerial visit to New Zealand since the closing of the border and the opening of the Chancery in 2020. The visit is another tangible example of the strong relationship between Ireland and New Zealand and our close people-to-people links.

The Minister and his delegation, Mr Brendan Gleeson, the Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Darran Brennan and Mr Paul Whelan, spent a very busy week visiting farms and businesses in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington. Some of the highlights of the trip included the launch of Brian Friel's *Translations* translated into te reo Māori by Hēmi Kelly in Christchurch, the launch of *Ireland - Aotearoa New Zealand: Research, Development and Innovation Report 2023 - Current linkages and future opportunities*, an appearance on the AM show on TV3 and on RNZ, visiting some Māori run farms in the Wairarapa, the IBNNZ St Patrick's Day luncheon at Parliament with the Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Adrian Rurawe, and of course meeting the Irish community in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington, as well as the Official Opening of the Embassy. The Minister also laid a wreath at the Christchurch Earthquake Memorial, and oversaw the ceremonial handover event of two Inshore Patrol Vessels, HMNZS Rotoiti and Pukaki, procured by the Irish Government from the New Zealand Government.



VISIT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, JOE HACKETT



At the end of February, the Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Joe Hackett and Ambassador Gerard Keown paid a flying visit to New Zealand for Bilateral Consultations.

It was the first time that the Secretary General had visited New Zealand, and he met with his MFAT equivalent, Mr Chris Seed as well as Ministers and members of the Diaspora. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Secretary General to see first hand the strength of our relationship and like-mindedness we share with Aotearoa.

The Secretary General also gave a lecture to the NZ Institute of International Affairs in Wellington, as Ireland and New Zealand have shared values with a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The talk 'Small nations and international relations: Ireland's approach to foreign policy' can be viewed [online](#).

50 Years in the European Union

On 22 January 1972, then Taoiseach Jack Lynch and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Patrick Hillery, signed the Treaty of Accession to join the European Communities (EC). A May 1972 referendum subsequently ratified this Treaty and Ireland became a member of the EC on New Year's Day 1973.

Over the last 50 years, the European Union (EU) has brought many advancements in terms of equality, human rights and workers' rights over the past 5 decades.

Likewise Ireland has been proud to support key moments in the EU's own development, such as Ireland hosting a special European Council in Dublin in 1990 which paved the way for a reunified Germany in the EU.

The EU, which began as a peace project, continues to be a steadfast partner in fostering peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.



Click [here](#) for more information on EU50

ST PATRICK'S DAY 2023



Wellington St Patrick's Day Parade

As you know, St Patrick's Day is not longer just celebrated on one day and so it was this year, with many of our Irish clubs and societies getting off to an early start with St Patrick's Day celebrations across the motu and ensured the festivities continued throughout the week.

We were also pleased to attend the annual IBNNZ St Patrick's Day Luncheon at Parliament with Minister McConalogue hosted by the Irish Business Network and the Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Adrian Rurawhe.

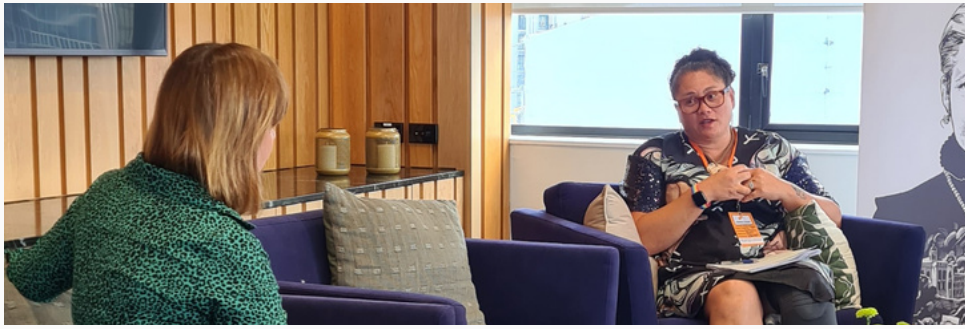
Some images from around the country: Christchurch Irish Society, Wellington Irish Society, Hutt Valley Irish Society, Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, Taranaki Irish, Waikato Irish and Auckland Irish/St Patrick's Festival NZ.



Auckland St Patrick's Day Festival



SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



In early February, to coincide with Brigid's Day, Ireland's celebration of creativity and influence of women and girls, we held our annual Summer School. The theme of this year's Summer School was 'Agents of Change - a reflection on the legacy, influence and role of women and girls'. It was particularly fitting as this year also marked the 130th anniversary of women getting the vote in Aotearoa.

We were delighted to have as our keynote speaker, Ambassador Louisa Wall, Ambassador for Gender Equality (Pacific)/Tuia Tāngata in conversation with Andrea Vance. It was a very uplifting conversation. We were also lucky enough to have some very interesting panellists including Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, Dr Forough Amin, Professor Sonja Tiernan, Logan Byrne, Órla Harkin, Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke, Loren Savage, Rebecca McKeown, Sophie Handford, and our diplomatic colleagues Caroline Lambert (EU) and Piakura Passfield, Acting High Commissioner for the Cook Islands.

Thanks to Culture Ireland and EPIC, we were also fortunate enough to have the Blazing a Trail: Lives and Legacies of Irish Diaspora Women exhibition on display. This exhibition celebrates the lives and legacies of 21 pioneering Irish diaspora women of the 19th and 20th centuries who blazed a trail in a wide range of fields from sports to politics.

We were also fortunate to have the Remakery Kitchen as our caterers. The Remakery are part of Common Unity, a community based urban development project that started off as a community māra kai (food garden) at a local kura (school), and grew into a sustainable, renewable venture that gives back to the community. Some of the staff and guests were a little dubious about a totally vegetarian menu but the yummy kai (food) soon won them over.

Overall it was an enjoyable weekend, with fun, laughter and love to balance out the serious issues discussed.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our colleagues at the Delegation of the European Union to Aotearoa.



Click [here](#) to watch the Summer School Video



SOUTHERN CELTS - CELINE KEARNEY

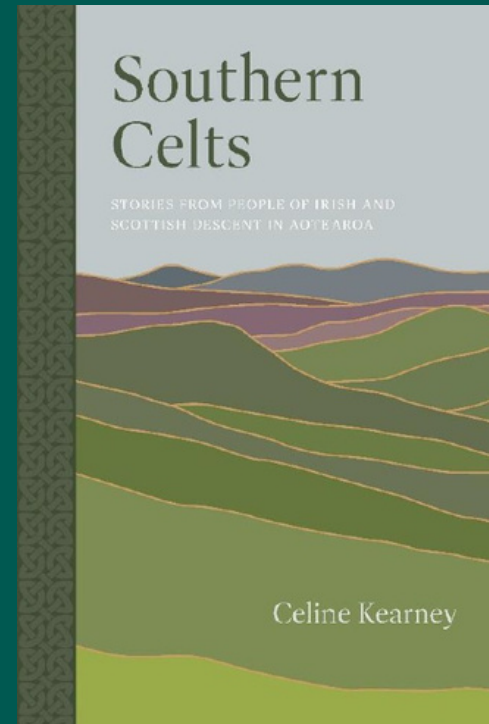
Drawing on her own family experience and insights from her PhD inquiry, Celine Kearney travelled around Aotearoa to interview New Zealanders with Scottish and Irish backgrounds. *Southern Celts* uses autoethnography and narrative to explore how these New Zealanders live out their cultural connections to their Irish and Scottish backgrounds. Interviews cross hemispheres and generations as well as geographic and cultural communities. They reflect the passage of time which brings constant change.

Southern Celts is a collection of interviews of New Zealanders who reflect on their connections to their Irish and Scottish cultural backgrounds. These narratives of individuals and families cover a range of related issues, including doing business, speaking and teaching Scottish and Irish Gaelic, playing music and singing, writing fiction and poetry, making documentaries, carving and sculpture, spirituality and religion, sport, and holding historical narratives of the Scots and Irish in public institutions.

Narrators also reflect on their understanding of how people with Scots and Irish backgrounds have related to indigenous Māori over the generations in Aotearoa. As we look to teach more of our own New Zealand histories in schools, these personal narratives offer rich insights for the way ahead.

About the author:

Celine Kearney is the granddaughter of three Irish-born grandparents, and one born to an immigrant Irish family in Central Otago. Born and brought up on the east coast of Otago, she has experience as a journalist and a researcher, and has taught English language to adults with migrant and refugee backgrounds, and international students for over thirty years. This is the second collection of her interviews to be published. An earlier collection of interviews of New Zealand women about their spirituality, *Faces of the Goddess*, drew on her own experience and understanding of nature-based Celtic spirituality. She travelled around the country between 2010 and 2013 to interview New Zealanders with Irish and Scottish backgrounds for her narrative inquiry, *Southern Celts*. Celine lives in Cambridge, Waikato.



Stories from People of
Irish and Scottish Descent
in Aotearoa

Published by Mary Egan
Publishing

4 APRIL 2023, RRP \$40.00



CONSULAR SERVICES

Passports

In 2022, the Passport Service saw extraordinary volumes of applications received and passports issued. This was a direct result of pent-up demand due to disruptions to travel throughout 2020 and 2021. A record one million Irish passports had been issued by November 2022, this being the first time that more than one million passports had been issued in a ten-month timeframe.

Although getting accustomed to a different way of applying for a passport can be daunting at first it has almost been 3 years since the launch of the online passport application service. This award winning service offers the convenience of an online application facility, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for Irish citizens at home and overseas.

As we head into the summer months in Ireland, if you're planning on booking international travel, check your passport now and apply early. While turnaround times are incredibly fast for the issuing of passports, international postal delays can mean passports take up to 10 weeks to arrive in New Zealand.



PASSPORT ONLINE
Now expanded to Australia, Canada,
New Zealand and the USA.
www.dfa.ie/passports

The advertisement features a red Irish passport on the left with the text 'An tAontas Eorpach European Union', 'ÉIRE IRELAND', and 'Pas Passport'. In the center, there are two sample passport cards. Below the main text, there are circular stamps for Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, and a USA postage stamp. The background is a light blue pattern of passport stamps. The bottom right corner features the harp logo and the text 'Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland'.

Foreign Birth Registrations

Did you know that if you have a grandparent born on the Island of Ireland, or one of your parents was an Irish citizen at the time of your birth, you are entitled to Irish citizenship?

You can apply for your citizenship through the Foreign Birth Registration online at: <https://www.dfa.ie/citizenship/>

It is worth noting that due to the complex nature of the Foreign Birth Registration and the pause in the Service due to the Covid-19 restrictions you should allow approximately 2 years for processing of your application at this time.

CONSULAR SERVICES

Working Holiday Agreement

After a long Covid19 induced hiatus the Working Holiday Scheme is back!

Ireland and New Zealand have a reciprocal agreement under which each country allows young citizens from the other to fund a holiday through casual work. The scheme is open to applicants aged 18-30.

It is a great opportunity to foster connection between New Zealand and Ireland. So, if you know of a young New Zealander who would like to sample life in Ireland please send them our way.

Application forms and information on how to apply can be found at <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/new-zealand/our-services/visas/working-holiday-authorisation/>

If you have any questions or queries on this, please feel free to contact the Embassy directly at wellingtonembassy@dfa.ie, and our friendly consular staff will be able to clarify.

Ambasáid na hÉireann | Nua-Shéalainne
Embassy of Ireland | New Zealand
Te Aka Aorere o Airangi | Aotearoa

WORKING HOLIDAY AUTHORISATION

DO YOU WANT TO WORK IN IRELAND?

What is the Working Holiday Authorisation Scheme?
Ireland is renowned worldwide for our warm welcome to visitors. The Government of Ireland operates a scheme that allows young New Zealand citizens to work, travel, and experience life in Ireland with a Working Holiday Authorisation.

Who is Eligible to Apply?
All New Zealand citizens aged between 18 and 30 are eligible to apply.

How Can I Apply?
Eligible New Zealand citizens wishing to travel to Ireland for a working holiday can apply directly through the Embassy of Ireland. Further information is available on our website www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/new-zealand

DFA.IE/IRISH-EMBASSY/NEW-ZEALAND @IRELANDINNZ @IRISHEMBASSYNEWZEALAND @IRELANDINNZ

Consular Information

For Consular Assistance regarding Passports, Citizen Enquiries including Foreign Birth Registration, Working Holiday Authorisations, Visa enquiries and much more...

PHONE

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8.30 TO 12.30PM

[+64 4 471 2252](tel:+6444712252)

EMAIL

ANYTIME

WELLINGTONEMBASSY@DFA.IE

GET UP-TO-DATE NEWS
BY FOLLOWING OUR SOCIALS



Government approves proposals for new role of Special Advocate for Survivors of Institutional Abuse and publishes Collaborative Forum report

The Special Advocate for Survivors will manage and facilitate consultation with survivors, their families and supporters to identify and discuss issues of concern for them. The primary role of the Advocate will be to represent the collective interests of those who suffered institutional abuse so that their views inform the delivery of measures as set out in the Government's Action Plan.

The appointment of the Special Advocate will be made by Minister O'Gorman following an independently-managed open recruitment process. Recruitment for the position will begin as quickly as possible.

This Advocate will be for all survivors, not only for those who were resident in former mother and baby home institutions and will include those who spent time in Magdalen Laundries and industrial schools.

The Advocate is working in conjunction with the State's network of Embassies and Consulates, to establish the views of survivors living outside the jurisdiction, as well as the mention of an Advisory Council of Survivors to reflect the views of those living outside Ireland.

The Special Advocate will be supported in their work by a small administrative team, independent of the Department, and by an Advisory Council of Survivors.

The Advisory Council will comprise of four pillars, each with three appointees, as follows:

- a pillar representing women who were in Mother and Baby and County Home institutions or Magdalen Laundries as adults;
- a pillar representing men and women who were resident in Mother and Baby and County Home institutions or Magdalen Laundries as children and/or adopted or boarded out;
- a pillar representing men and women who spent time as children in Industrial Schools or Reformatories and related institutions, and
- a pillar representing Irish Survivors Abroad.

The members of the Council will be appointed by the Special Advocate following an independent selection of candidates from a public call for expressions of interest. Further information on this process will be available following the appointment of the Advocate.

For more information please see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/73a71-government-approves-proposals-for-new-role-of-special-advocate-for-survivors-of-institutional-abuse-and-publishes-collaborative-forum-report/>

NOTICES

EMBASSY OF IRELAND Youth Council 2023

JOIN US TODAY! BÍGÍ LINN!



Comhairle na nÓg
Youth Council
Te Kaunihera Taiohi



Are you aged between 16 & 21?
We want to give young people a voice. You can work on issues important to today's youth.



Do I have to be Irish?
No! We accept all people. We want to reflect the diversity of modern Aotearoa and Éire (Ireland).



What does the Youth Council do?
As a member of the Youth Council you get to attend & organise events, receive mentoring, meet VIPs, meet up with your fellow Youth Council members and much more

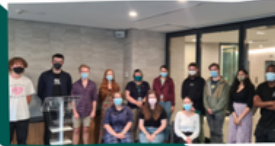


How do I join?
Send us a video, a poem, an essay, a drawing - that shows who you are and what motivates you. Don't forget to include your contact details: your name, your phone and email address.

**SEND YOUR
APPLICATION TO:**

By post: Embassy of Ireland
PO Box 11498, Wellington 6142

By email: YouthCouncilNZ@dfa.ie



Ambasáid na hÉireann | Nua-Shéalainne
Embassy of Ireland | New Zealand
Te Aka Aorere o Airangi | Aotearoa

WE ARE HIRING! CONSULAR OFFICER

Requirements:

- Professional experience in a customer facing role;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, being persuasive, working in a team but also dealing effectively with people in external organisations;
- Strong organisational skills, attention to detail, able to work under pressure and to manage multiple tasks;
- Deliver results, including by adapting approach if necessary;
- All applicants must have a permanent legal right to reside and work in New Zealand.

For more information please visit our website: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/new-zealand/>

Please send your CV & Cover Letter:

recruitmentwellington@dfa.ie Subject: Consular Officer Vacancy.

Applications must be received before 5.00pm on 28th April 2023.

Please note no applications will be accepted after this time.

Events

May 5-7

AUCKLAND
MAY 5
MEET THE ROSES
AUCKLAND IRISH CLUB

MAY 6
NATIONAL ROSE OF TRALEE
SELECTION
HILTON HOTEL



2019 New Zealand Winner
Sinéad Stayton

MAY 6
WELLINGTON
DARKNESS INTO LIGHT WALK
CIRCA PLAZA CABLE STREET

June 2-4

CHRISTCHURCH
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH IRISH
SOCIETY