



# GAA GAELIC PARK INC Reg No A0000461U

## NEWSLETTER ONE – FEBRUARY 2006

Welcome to the first newsletter for GAA Gaelic Park. The committee will issue a regular newsletter to keep you informed of what's happening at the Park and in football and hurling. If there's something you'd like included in the newsletter, contact Vice President, Georgia Spokes at [gkspokes@exemail.com.au](mailto:gkspokes@exemail.com.au) or phone 0418 502 507.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CON NOLAN**

I would like to thank the 45 members who attended the AGM on Wednesday 14th December 2005 at Gaelic Park.

The outgoing President, Jim Tully gave a report of the happenings for the year. Not having the league football final played at Gaelic Park and a club losing the league hurling final for playing an illegal player were major disappointments. While misunderstandings caused a lot of grief to the committee, it was not all doom and gloom.

The club finished the year with a visit from the Allied Irish Bank and the Irish Defense Forces Hurling and Football teams. The AIB hosted a reception in the Gaelic Park hall, attended by the touring party and invited guests. It was a most enjoyable evening. There was lots of praise from the visitors for the great facilities we have at Gaelic Park.

We were also honoured by a visit from the Irish compromised rules team who trained at Gaelic Park. A reception for them took place in the foyer.

Jim Tully thanked the committee for their support and for the support of those who helped out over the four years of his Presidency, especially the numerous volunteers. Jim decided not to seek re-election and on behalf of the members, I thank him and his wife Margaret, for his service.

Some of the many highlights of Jim Tully's years at the helm are:

- Reconstruction of the dam.
- Installation of cool room.
- Successful negotiation with Teltra to erect a mobile phone tower on site.
- New goal posts and nets on the main ground.
- Installing water pipes to both grounds from the dam.
- Changing the constitution to form one committee to run GAA Gaelic Park
- Holding the interstate games at very late notice.

The Treasurer, Dermot Lambe, reported that G.AA Gaelic Park was in a healthy financial position, but care must be taken, as a lot of fundraising functions held in the past are not viable these days. New ways will have to be found to raise funds. Dermot announced he'd stand down as Treasurer but as there were no new nominations, he agreed to stay on for the moment.

Our hard working secretary, Kathy Rohan did not stand for re-election after five years of dedicated service. De Arne Leonard, a footballer from Sinn Fein GAC was elected in her place. Correspondence for GAA

Gaelic Park must be addressed to the Secretary care of GAA Gaelic Park, 324-334 Perry Road Keysborough 3173. A post office box is being organised and will eventually replace the street address for correspondence. De Arne would prefer correspondence by email [[dearne.leonard@gmail.com](mailto:dearne.leonard@gmail.com)].

The first meeting for of the new committee was held at the Celtic Club on Monday 9th of January. There was a very good attendance of members. Nominations for the vacant positions were called and most were filled. It was heartening to see the younger members nominating for the committee, this is good for the future of the games and Gaelic Park. Two clubs did not nominate anyone for a position on the committee. There are still a few vacancies left.

The G.A.A. Gaelic Park committee meetings will be held at the Celtic Club on the first Monday of each month, except in the case of a public holiday, when the meeting will be moved to the following Monday.

Finally, congratulations to Garryowen and St. Kevin's GAC's on reaching 50 years as members of the Victorian GAA.

I am looking forward to a great GAA season for 2006.

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

A full committee, comprising of representatives from most clubs and those concerned with the Park has been elected. Your committee members are: Con Nolan (President), De Arne Leonard (Secretary), Dermot Lambe (Treasurer), Georgia Spokes (Vice President), Joe Hogan (Vice President), Jim Tully, Gabriel Manning, Sean McIntyre, Pauline McIntyre, Pat Gavin, Collins Connelly, Tomas Fahey, Nicola Ramsay, Julia Boyle, Bradley Hogan and Tony Hennessy.

The committee members have volunteered their time to ensure a successful year for the GAA of Victoria and Gaelic Park. The committee is keen to hear any suggestions members have for the improvement of facilities and/or the future development of Gaelic games in this state.

### **IRISH NATIONAL DAY – SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

A full day of football, hurling and entertainment is planned for Irish National Day at Gaelic Park. Members are encouraged to bring their friends and family to enjoy the day and help the GAA kick off its 2006 season.

1100	Garryowen V St Kevins	Women's Football
1230	Padraig Pearses V St Kevins	Men's Football
1400	Padraig Pearses V Sinn Fein	Women's Football
1530	Garryowen V Melbourne Shamrocks	Hurling

### **WORKING BEES**

We'll have two working bees to get the park ready for National Day and the season - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March – both starting at 10.00am. Please bring gardening tools. Lunch will be provided. We need your help!

### **ST PATRICK'S DAY**

The committee has decided not to run a ball this year owing to the poor response over the last two years, but Gaelic Park will be open from 8pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of March. BYO food - the bar will be open. The committee look forward to seeing as many members and friends as possible on the night. The function will be held in the foyer. No charge for entry.

Those who would like to reserve a table should contact Con on 9887 6116 or 0412 486 742.

## **BEREAVEMENTS**

Julia Panozzo, who was a member of Gaelic Park for two years, passed away recently. She was one of our volunteers who helped out in the kitchen. We only knew her a very short time but she became a friend to everybody. We extend our sympathy to Tony, her family and friends. RIP Julia.

John Hynes, who was a former member of the St. Kevin's and Padraig Pearce GAC clubs passed away in Detroit. John was a well-known and respected member of the Victorian GAA. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends. RIP John.

On behalf of the Hennessey and Panozzo families, we would like to thank you all for your wonderful support and sympathy at this sad time. We greatly appreciate the beautiful flowers, cards and the presence of so many of you at Julia's funeral. Julia thoroughly enjoyed meeting and mixing with so many friendly and welcoming people. She would have been so pleased with the overwhelming support you have all shown to me. Thank you again. Yours sincerely - Tony Hennessey

## **SUMMER SEASON**

GAA Gaelic Park Inc intends to establish a summer season for 2006/07. We're hoping to secure funding to install floodlights on the number one pitch. If that's not successful, we still believe a twilight competition is possible. So don't hang up your boots too early this year – there'll be more football and hurling just around the corner!

## **TRANSFERS**

Clubs must follow the appropriate process for the transfer of players from overseas, interstate or within Victoria. A hefty suspension was recently handed down to a player in Ireland who failed to comply with the transfer process when he travelled to Australia. So, if you are uncertain about the transfer process, please contact Secretary De Arne Leonard on 0408 332 763 instead of risking playing an ineligible player. The consequences are not worth it!

## **REFEREE COURSES**

The GAA of Victoria will be running a referee course during the year. The Association is keen to train as many future referees as possible. Clubs should encourage at least two players to attend the course. Remember – no ref, no game – so don't just sit back and expect someone else to do it. Please advise De Arne Leonard as soon as possible of the names of your club members who will be attending the course and we'll keep you up to date with the details.

## **MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

Member's fees are due on the 1st March. Your renewal form is included with this newsletter. It is important that the forms are filled in correctly with your name, address, email address and phone number where possible.

Please ensure GAA Gaelic Park Inc has your current contact details. The committee understands this can be difficult for travelling players, but if you want to be kept up to date about the Association and the game you play, then we need to know how to find you!

The committee intends to carry out most of its correspondence this year via email, so please ensure that if you have an email address, we know what it is!

## **RAFFLE**

GAA Gaelic Park Inc. has lost its major raffle sponsor. The fundraiser is very important for the success of football and hurling, particularly at state level. We therefore need help to secure a new sponsor for the major prize. We'd like to get the raffle up and running as soon as possible, so members and friends are urged to speak to anyone they know who may be able to help. Please contact Con Nolan on 0412 386 742 if you can help with the donation of prizes.

### **GAELIC PARK'S TURNING 21**

We are looking forward to celebrating our 21st. birthday on the 2nd of June 2006. It would be great if members made suggestions on how this important occasion should be celebrated. Those with ideas or who would be prepared to organise a function please contact Con at [eire@pacific.net.au](mailto:eire@pacific.net.au) or 9887 6116. Looking forward to hearing from our members and friends.

### **ST KEVIN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY & FUNDRAISER**

St Kevin's GAC will hold its annual Coburg Saints Fundraiser day at Hosken Reserve in Coburg North on Saturday 1st April. It involves an exhibition women's Gaelic football game, followed by a mens' football game with two quarters played with AFL rules and two quarters played under Gaelic rules. There'll also be plenty of activities for the family. The club's 50th anniversary will be held on Saturday, October 28th. For more details contact Pat Gavin on 0417 108 192.

### **JERRY'S ACCIDENT**

Jerry Fitzgerald, one of our dedicated volunteers, broke his leg last year. This year he's having an eye operation. Jerry is getting everything in order so that he is available to carry on his volunteer work for this season. He's the reason the park is open on time and the showers are turned on every Sunday. Jerry's a tireless worker at Gaelic Park; his expertise in machine maintenance is legendary – he's a 'Jerry of all trades'. Comeback soon Jerry, we all miss you and wish you a speedy recovery.

### **HELP! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**

As Jerry will be unavailable to do the ever-present maintenance at the park, we need some willing hands to fill his boots while he recuperates. People, who have experience with tractors and or mowers, please give us a call, as we need your services urgently. We also need people for general cleaning and maintenance of the grounds and cleaning of the bar and hall. Please offer to help in any way you can! Once a week, once a month, or on a one off basis, you will be most welcome. Help also is urgently needed with the running of National Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Ring Con 9887 6116 or 0412 386 742.

### **GARRYOWEN 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Garryowen invites past and present members, partners and friends of the club to join with us to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Saturday July 22nd from 7pm to 11:30pm at Merrimu Receptions, 1300 Dandenong Rd, Murrumbeena. Cost: \$75 per person (includes 3 course meal, Guinness, beer, wine, and soft drinks) For tickets contact Alysha on 0404 283 615 or email [garryowen@garryowengaa.com.au](mailto:garryowen@garryowengaa.com.au). RSVP June 30th

### **MELBOURNE SHAMROCKS**

Formed in 2004, we are Melbourne's only hurling dedicated GAA Club. We won our first trophy in 2005 when we captured the Championship. We're looking forward to 2006 and hope to add to our collection. Training: Tuesday and Friday evenings in Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield.

Contact: Joe Hogan 0404 346 421 Ian Collins 0406 424 880 Mick White 0407 828 613

### **NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Contributions to the next newsletter should be emailed to Georgia Spokes by no later than Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April. [Contact details on page 1]