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Welcome to this quarterly special edition of our newsletter!

This issue complements our Australian Celtic Festival Wrap-Up and the Celtic Honours Luncheon & AGM Wrap-Up. Each year, we'll be sending out two additional newsletters like this one to help fill the gaps and keep you even more informed about the Celtic Council of Australia (CCA) and all things Celtic across Australia.

In this edition we hear from Madeleine Smith who was supported by the CCA for her trip to Ireland for study, Tiffany Udo-Dean on Breton dance in Sydney, and Peter Grimes on Celtic boardgames.

CCA Supported Student goes to Ireland

My name is Madeleine Smith and thanks to the generous funding of the Celtic Council of Australia, this July I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies Celtic Studies Summer School.

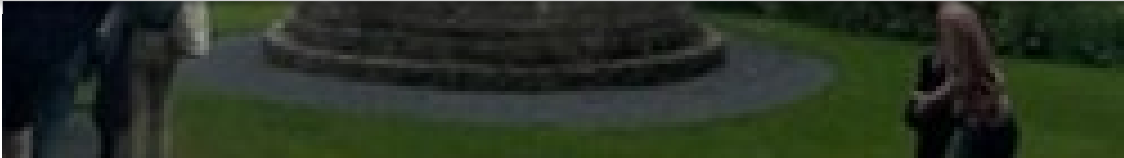
I am a student at the University of Sydney commencing an honours degree which will involve a strong Celtic studies component. I've always had a keen interest in the field of Celtic studies and the DIAS summer school provided an unparalleled opportunity to immerse myself in the languages, culture and history of the Celtic world!

The 2-week course was structured around intensive language instruction in the mornings, and I attended the classes on Early Modern Irish, led by Professor Gordon Ó Riain, and Old Irish, led by Dr Chantal Kobel. These classes, while intensive, were a fantastic immersion in the rich and complex linguistic heritage of Ireland and allowed for a fascinating comparison of how the Irish language developed over time. This experience will allow me to engage in a deeper level of linguistic analysis in my

In the afternoons, the first series of lectures was presented by Professor David Stifter of Maynooth university, who presented on the field of ancient Celtic languages, a field I previously had no exposure to. Following these lectures, Professor Ruairí Ó hUiginn delivered a series on the literary landscapes of the *Táin Bó Cúailnge*, the text I will be analysing in my thesis. This series was particularly relevant to my scholarly interests and provided many new avenues of investigation for me to follow!

Furthermore, the summer school field trip allowed us to experience the physical landscape of historic Ireland, as we visited several monastic sites including one of the best preserved round towers in the country. As someone who had never been to Ireland before, this field trip was an invaluable opportunity to become more familiar with the structures and landscapes that informed the texts and stories I study.





Breton Dance in Sydney

When Breton expat Tiffany Udo-Dean moved to Sydney in 2014, she was chagrined to not be able to find a Breton association where she could either take or give dance classes. After years of yearning, she finally took the plunge in March 2023 and created BZH Sydney with a friend.

2 years later, there is a growing group of about 12 people gathering monthly to learn la gavotte, l'andro and even some songs from Brittany. Each class ends around a drink of cider or apple juice as well as typical Breton foods such as crêpes or gâteau Breton.

Being able to share the culture and traditions from home, making new connections and bringing people together is at the core of the Breton spirit and creates a beautiful experience for all involved.

If you're interested, please follow the [Facebook page BZH Sydney](#) and or message them on Messenger. Classes are free and the next one will be on the 12th of September in Rouse Hill at 7pm.



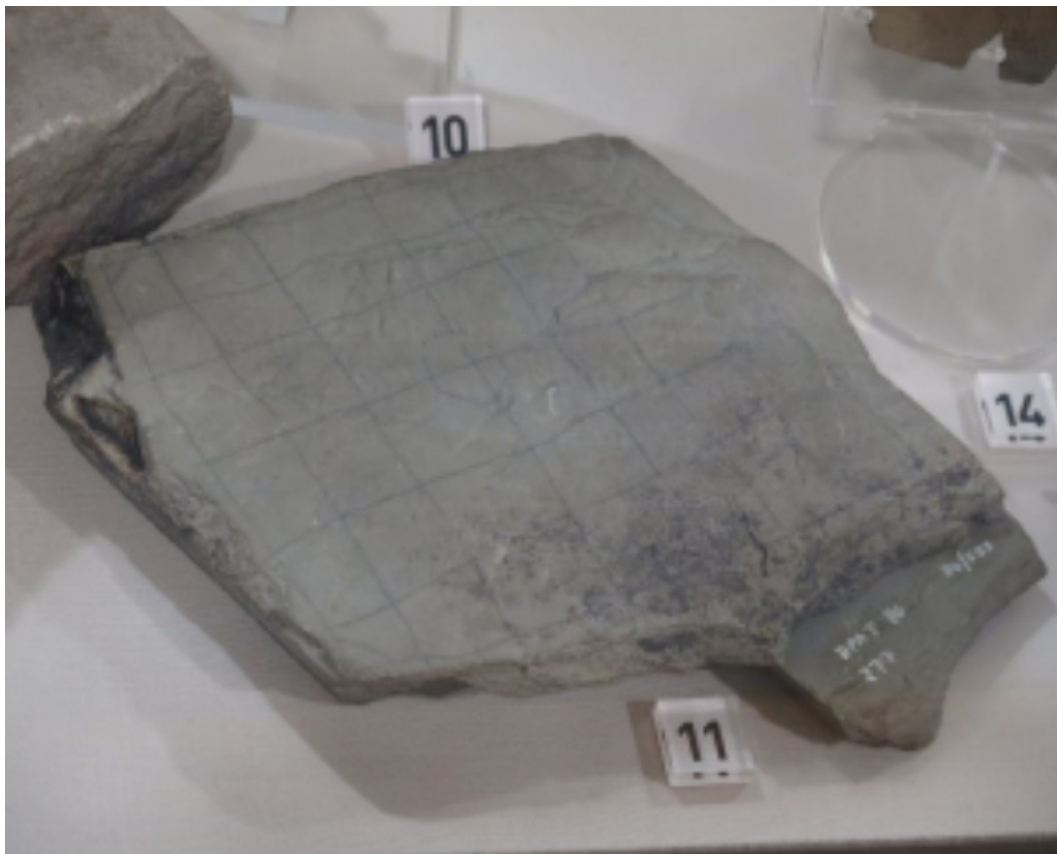
Celtic Board Games

Game boards and gaming pieces have been found all over the British Isles, finds dating from before the Roman invasion right up to the 11th and 12 centuries. Earlier finds, usually from graves generally only have the gaming pieces and rarely the remains of boards, as the boards were usually made of wood they tend to have rotted away but gaming pieces of stone, glass, bone etc, some beautifully carved have survived. Later boards have survived, including a wooden board found in 1932 during excavations of a Crannog at Ballinderry in Ireland and a board scratched roughly onto stone at Buckquoy in Scotland.

The Games In Mythology

Celtic Myth mention several different games played, the first Fidchell in Irish, Gwyddbwyll in Welsh is described as a game played on a chequered board with an equal number of opposing pieces and sounds similar to chess, indeed today the words are used in Irish and Welsh for the game chess, and in translations they are often translated as chess.

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