



24 June 2013

Friends and Supporters of the Irish Famine Memorial
Including descendants

Dear Friends,

Many of you have been supporters since the very beginning of the idea to raise a Memorial to the Earl Grey Famine orphan girls who immigrated to Australia during 1848 to 1850. The Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee (GIFCC) appreciates your ongoing support in your attendance at our annual events, providing information about individual orphan girls and financially.

In late August 2013 GIFCC is hosting the International Famine Commemoration in Sydney. The Memorial at Hyde Park Barracks was unveiled by Sir William Dean in August 1998 and each year we have a gathering there to remember the 4114 young women who chose to leave the workhouses throughout Ireland and undertake the long voyage to Australia. These women are remembered as Famine survivors and are the refugees of mid-nineteenth century Ireland. We remember them as well as those who did not survive. And, as a way to keep the memory alive, we also have three outreach programmes to assist modern day refugees to Australia.

With the assistance of the Irish Ambassador and the Irish Consul-General in Sydney and the Friends of Ireland in NSW Parliament we have booked the Strangers Dining Room for Friday night 23 August 2013 and will also hold a commemorative event at the Memorial at Hyde Park Barracks on Sunday 25 August commencing at 12.30. The Sunday Gathering will be attended by Hon. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and Chair of the Famine Commemoration Committee in Ireland.

On behalf of the Committee, the Friends of Ireland in Parliament, the Irish Ambassador and the visiting members of the Irish Parliament I invite you, members of your family and friends to attend some or all three events. Attached is a booking form with details and since numbers are limited for the dinner and seminar I suggest you book soon.

I look forward to your involvement and your positive response. Please email for a booking form.

Sincerely,

Dr Perry McIntyre
Chair GIFCC

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