



THE AUSTRALIAN IRELAND FUND GOVERNORS PROGRAMME

The Ireland Fund is a global network which has operations in 11 countries around the world including the US, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Monaco, China and of course, Australia. With our supporters, we have raised over US \$270 million for projects in the North and South of Ireland of a non political and non sectarian nature. Since its inception in Australia, we have raised over \$4.8 million and supported more than 80 projects.

The peace process is very fragile but we believe that a society can be restored and communities rebuilt. The Ireland Funds have been acting on this conviction for close to 30 years. We have been helping the Irish people restore, rebuild, and reinvigorate their homeland. That help has taken many, many forms. But consistently we have supported grass-roots initiatives - conceived and implemented by the experts, being Irish people themselves - in the areas of peace and reconciliation, community development and education.

The principal fundraising activities are a garden party held each year at Fairwater, the home of Lady Mary Fairfax, a garden party in Brisbane and a gala luncheon in Melbourne.

In 1997 the Governorship programme enabled us to sponsor a major project in Ireland, being undertaken by **Northern Ireland Children's Enterprise - NICE**. NICE was established with the financial support of Mr. Don Murphy of the United States. It grew out of a program from 1979-1989 to provide holidays for children in America, away from violence from the two communities in Ireland. NICE subsequently purchased a house at Ballycastle, 70 miles north of Belfast, to bring together children from both communities for weekend holidays. NICE activities are supported by volunteers who work with a Director and an Assistant Director, with funding support from The Ireland Funds and now the Department of Education.

The major project sponsored by The Australian Ireland Fund involved an extension of the work of NICE by the establishment of an activity centre for children from both communities, in the city of Belfast. At that centre, children from selected Catholic and Protestant schools, drawn on a 50/50 basis, are able to meet and have social interchange in a peaceful, non-threatening and trusting environment. The facility was named Australia House in recognition of our support. We encourage supporters to visit Australia House to see at first hand the important work being done there.

Another major project we support is **Springboard**, which complements NICE. Springboard works on the front line in one of the areas hardest hit by the troubles in Northern Ireland. It brings together unemployed 18-28 year olds from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds on training programmes aimed at developing mutual understanding and employment

outcomes. The programmes have not only achieved outcomes of 90% in employment / further education and training, but also facilitated an exchange of cultural beliefs, an understanding of communities and promotion of mutual respect.

We also support **Speedwell Trust**, which was established in 1991 and brings together Catholic and Protestant children, schools and their communities to develop mutual respect and understanding. They work through the medium of Environmental Education, learning to respect each other and the world we share. Speedwell is based in Mid-Ulster, a region known as the Murder Triangle and cares for children from communities which are bitterly divided by sectarian violence and distrust. At Speedwell, these children are given the opportunity to work together and develop friendships.

174 Trust was established in 1982 by a group of concerned Christians including members of two local churches, Duncairn Presbyterian and Antrim Road Baptist. Premises at 174/176 Antrim Road, Belfast were purchased and became the focus of a work dedicated to tackling many of the problems confronting the local community and addressing the real needs of those living in a materially and socially disadvantaged area.

In November 2003 we received a magnificent gift of a \$1 million donation from our most generous supporter and **Life Governor, Lady Mary Fairfax AM, OBE**. The donation was to establish the "Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust for Integrated Education". Lir Integrated Primary School of Ballycastle, the first to be assisted by the Sir Warwick Fairfax Trust, opened its doors in September 2004. We feel this donation will be of strategic importance and will pioneer new developments which can act as a catalyst for Integrated Education in Northern Ireland.

We commenced our **Governor Programme** in 1997, when, to enable funding to be provided to major projects, The Australian Ireland Fund decided to approach a number of supporters with an invitation to become Governors of the Fund, upon payment of a contribution of \$10,000, which is tax deductible. The support of the Governors is acknowledged in the Annual Report of The Australian Ireland Fund and in the international publication **Connect**. In addition, the contribution by Governors is acknowledged in the programmes for the various Fund functions, including the annual garden party at Fairwater.

Each year there is a Governors Dinner in Sydney hosted by Sir Anthony O'Reilly AO, the Chairman of the Ireland Funds, at which the guest-of-honour is the Irish Ambassador to Australia. At that dinner, Sir Anthony and the Ambassador provide personal briefings to Governors on developments in Ireland, with particular reference to the role being played by The Ireland Funds. In addition, special arrangements will be

made for Governors who might visit Ireland involving introductions to key civic and political leaders and inspection tours of the work being conducted by The Ireland Funds. Also, our friends and associates would be very happy to assist Governors with golf, sightseeing or other recreational activities in Ireland.

Our Governor's to date include: Mrs. Sallyanne Atkinson AO, Sir Ron Brierley, Mr. David Clarke AO, Mr. Pierce Cody, Mr. Peter Cosgrove, Mr. Charles Curran AO, Mr. Frank Curran, Lady Mary Fairfax AC, OBE, Mr. Michael Hannan, Mr. Frank Hargrave AO, Mr. Brendan Hopkins, Mr. Peter Hunt, Goldman Sachs JB Were, Mrs. Mary Lee, Mrs. Dympna Matthews, Mr. Craig & Ms. Julie McIntosh, Mr. Don Murphy, Dr. Marie Norton-Willson, Mr. Noel O'Brien, Mr. Jack O'Mahony, Mr. Rodney O'Neil, Sir Anthony O'Reilly AO, Mr. Cameron O'Reilly, Mr. & Mrs. Ron and Helen Porter, Mr. Richard Pratt AC, Mr. Paul Ramsay AO, Mr. William Roche AM, Ms. Julia Ross, Mr. Peter Ryan, Mrs. Toni Ryan and Mrs. Briegte Tuite.

As a gesture of our thanks to Governors we commissioned Waterford Wedgwood to design and dedicate a suite of Waterford Crystal to our Governors, aptly named "The Governor Suite". The Governor Suite of crystal is unique in that it cannot be purchased; it can only be owned by a Governor of The Australian Ireland Fund. The suite consists of eight stemware items for the first four years i.e. Champagne Flute, Tumbler, Claret, Goblet and for the 5th year an Ireland Fund Peace Trophy. These items have been presented to each Governor at a Governors Dinner or other special occasion.

Governors of The Australian Ireland Fund make a donation of \$10,000 to The Fund, on a tax deductible basis. Governors renew their contribution each year at \$10,000 per annum for the successive four years. After five years of the Programme a Governor is made a Life Governor.

We would like to build on the foundation of our Governor Programme and the important donation made by Lady Mary Fairfax. We encourage our supporters to help us continue and expand the vital work of the projects we are assisting.

The Directors of The Australian Ireland Fund and our grant recipients are most grateful for the generous support provided by our Governors.

For more information on the **Governor Programme** please contact Teresa Keating, Executive Director, The Australian Ireland Fund, Level 30, 40 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia tel: 02 8233 6225; email: tkeating@irlfunds.org www.irlfunds.org



The Governors Suite is an exclusive suite of crystal commissioned by The Australian Ireland Fund.

There are five items in the suite:

Flute Champagne

Tumbler

Wine

Goblet

Ireland Fund Peace Trophy

As a gesture of thanks it has been the practice of The Fund to present eight of the above stemware items to each Governor during each year of Governorships.

In the fifth year, the Governor is made a Life Governor of The Australian Ireland Fund and is duly presented with The Ireland Fund Peace Trophy.

Ireland Fund Peace Trophy

The Ireland Fund Peace Trophy is a classic Waterford Crystal Centrepiece which has been created to feature the exclusive design taken from the Governors Suite. The Centrepiece like the Governors Suite has been recorded in the archives at Waterford Crystal as exclusive to The Australian Ireland Fund.

The first presentation of The Ireland Fund Peace Trophy was to Charles Curran AO in November 1988. The presentation of the Peace Trophy was made by Dr. O'Reilly (now Sir Anthony) in his capacity as Chairman.

The first inscription was:

Presented
to
Charles Curran AO
Life Governor The Australian Ireland Fund
by
Dr. A.J.F. O'Reilly AO
Chairman
The Ireland Funds
November 1998

Governors of The Australian Ireland Fund make a donation of \$10,000 to The Fund, on a tax deductible basis.

Governors renew their contribution each year at \$10,000 per annum for the successive four years.

After five years of the programme a Governor is made a Life Governor.

The Governors Suite by



WATERFORD CRYSTAL



The Australian Ireland Fund Governors Programme



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