



# Nuacht ó Mzansi

ISSUE 1 2016

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## Contact Details

### Embassy Pretoria:

570 Fehrsen Street  
2nd Floor, Parkdev Building  
Brooklyn Bridge Office Park  
Brooklyn 0181  
012 452 1000

### Cape Town:

19th Floor  
LG Building  
1 Thibault Square  
021 419 0636/7

### Website:

[www.embassyofireland.org.za](http://www.embassyofireland.org.za)

### Twitter:

@IrEmbPretoria

## Ambassador's Welcome



Welcome to Nuacht ó Mzansi, the new newsletter from the Embassy of Ireland in South Africa.

This is our new way of keeping you up to speed with news and events in South Africa, Zimbabwe and the wider region. As this is the first edition, we focus quite a bit on introducing you to the Embassy team. We also look back to our St Patrick's Day celebrations in South Africa and Zimbabwe and to the wonderful 1916 centenary commemorations. We look at some of the work of Ireland's Embassies elsewhere in Africa. On a sadder note, we mark the departure of the Chairperson of one of the world's oldest Irish community associations, the Irish Association of Mashonaland.

We'll be publishing three editions per year from now on. We value your feedback and we'll be happy to hear from you about what you would like to see in the newsletter in the future. Don't forget, you can also follow us on twitter and find a lot of useful information on our website - you'll find the details elsewhere on this page.

Thanks for reading and we really hope you enjoy it.

## Meet our Diplomatic Team

We asked the diplomatic team about their background, what the challenges of a diplomatic life were and what they most liked about living and working in South Africa. Here's what they said.

### Tony

Hi I'm Tony McCullagh, Deputy Head of Mission since July 2013. I went to Drimnagh Castle Christian Brothers School (coincidentally, so did the Ambassador!). I manage the consular team, including our Cape Town office, and I also liaise closely with our Honorary Consul in Zimbabwe. I also have responsibilities in the Trade Promotion area. Moving from home to another country can be hard but so can moving back to Ireland at the end of a posting. An added difficulty for me is that, unlike during my previous posting in London, I do not have my wife with me here due to family and work commitments. This isn't ideal but we make the best of our time together both in SA and Ireland.

South Africa has great weather, spectacular scenery and wildlife, all of which feed into one of my main hobbies - photography. I am also keen on sports, mainly football, rugby, cricket (all of which I played in my younger days) and golf, which I still play - I am a member of Waterkloof Golf Club.

**Bronagh**

My name is Bronagh Carr, Head of Development at the Embassy. My job involves ensuring that all development funds provided by the Government and people of Ireland are spent well and impact positively on people and communities. I have been in South Africa since August 2015 having previously worked in Zambia, Ethiopia and Sudan as well as in Dublin. My favourite things about South Africa are too numerous to list but the sunshine and warm people come close to the top.

**Aoife**

My name is Aoife Lyons and I am the newest arrival on the Embassy Diplomatic team, having arrived in South Africa in September 2015. I am originally from a village called Ballyporeen in Tipperary (a place those of a slightly older vintage may recall it as Ronald Reagan country! Coincidentally Bob's mother is also from there).

I am currently responsible for Ireland's engagement in Zimbabwe along with other team members, for human rights engagement, for culture and for the Irish community. My favourite thing about living in SA so far is the weather – a big change from Ireland!

**Bob:**

I'm Bob Patterson, originally from Glanmire, just outside Cork City. I'm the longest serving member of the team here (almost four years), and my posting ends in August. I'm responsible for the Embassy's political and economic reporting and for public relations, so you can blame me if you don't like the newsletter!

The main challenge is moving from home to abroad and back on a regular basis. At the same time working abroad also has great attractions – I've been lucky to represent Ireland in Africa, Asia and Europe and have made incredibly good friends across the world. With just three months left, I'm trying to think what I'll miss most. It's a long list, from the food and wine, the scenery, the weather, the people and the Embassy itself. It's too hard to choose.



From Left: Tony, Bronagh, Aoife and Bob

## Trade and Economic Team

The Ambassador leads the Embassy's trade and economic team, providing support to Irish companies trading and investing in the South African market, in particular companies in the food, energy, engineering and ICT sectors.

The Embassy also works alongside Irish State Agencies such as Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland, IDA and Bord Bia, and also Ornuu, the Irish agri-food commercial co-operative which markets and sells dairy products on behalf of Ireland's dairy processors and dairy farmers. We'll focus on the work of the state agencies in future editions but in this issue we look at Ornuu.



Ornuu (formerly the Irish Dairy Board) opened a regional office in Port Elizabeth in 2013. It is currently operating in 26 African countries. Apart from its HQ in PE it has country managers in Algeria and Nigeria and sales teams in other countries including in Malawi. It targets its sales to meet local demands and preferences (Cheese in Algeria, Butter in Morocco, Kerrygold in South Africa, milk powder in Nigeria, DRC, Malawi, etc). Ornuu opened a state of the art milk powder packaging plant in Lagos in December 2015. It is currently developing a 5 year strategy with the aim of both expanding its operations into other countries and to increase its sales in existing markets.

Left to right: Tony McCullagh Embassy Pretoria, Stephen O'Mullan (Global Supply Chain manager, Ornuu) Bruce Denyer (General Manager, Ornuu Africa) and Barry Newman (Regional Manager, North and West Africa).

# Team Irish Aid

Ireland has provided development assistance to South Africa since 1994 following establishment of a democratic government. Since then development programmes have included support to sectors such as water, sanitation, health, education, justice, good governance, democracy and human rights. The focus of development assistance has been to contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality. Good progress has been made in a number of areas, but gaps and challenges still need to be addressed in order to improve the lives of the majority of the population.

Over the years the relationship between South Africa and Ireland has evolved. Ireland is particularly committed to the reduction of inequality and the promotion of the rights of women and girls. In South Africa we do this through strategic partnerships with civil society and other organisations that align with the National Development Plan. We also have a programme in Zimbabwe and a small regional



initiative. The Embassy is currently planning for a multi-annual whole-of-Embassy strategy 2017 -2020 that will build on policies of both countries (The Global Island: Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World; Ireland's policy on international development, One World, One Future and South Africa's [National Development Plan 2030 | South African Government](#)). Work has commenced on reviewing our development assistance and identifying new areas of support.

Ireland will continue to support South Africa to ensure that those people that are most disadvantaged and marginalised, particularly women and girls, benefit from inclusive growth and development.

***'Ireland is particularly committed to the reduction of inequality and the promotion of the rights of women and girls.'***

The different components of the programme are managed by the following Programme Managers: *Human Rights, Gender and HIV* – Tamara; *Education, Skills and Capacity Development for Economic Growth* – Rose; *Regional Initiative with a focus on Health and Rights* – Matela; *Zimbabwe Programme on Health, AIDS and Gender* – Joyce; and Belinda, the Programme Executive provides support across the team.

## Our Consular Team

The Embassy has provided passport and consular services since it opened in 1994, following the end of the apartheid era. Prior to 1994, consular services were provided by an Honorary Consul based in Johannesburg (many of you will remember the late Paddy and Deirdre Ryan with great fondness).

Our Consular Team comprises 5 local consular officers at the Embassy in Pretoria (Miriam, Doreen, Kim, Rumbi and Patricia) and Frank in our Cape Town office, all of whom report to Tony, our Deputy Head of Mission. One member of the team (Miriam) has been with the Embassy since it opened! In Zimbabwe, consular services are provided by our Honorary Consul, Gary Killilea, and his assistant Ms. Epie Chumba.



From Left: Patricia, Doreen, Kim, Miriam and Rumbi



Frank from our Cape Town Consulate

The Team's objective is to provide efficient and effective consular services to our customers. There are over 30,000 Irish citizens in South Africa and a further 1,000-1,200 in Zimbabwe, with smaller numbers in our other countries to which we are accredited – Lesotho, Mauritius and DRC. We also deal with visa applications from visa-required nationals who are resident in our countries of accreditation and who wish to visit Ireland for business, study or tourism purposes.

The Team is responsible for all consular related work. In addition to processing passport, citizenship (Foreign Birth Registration) and visa applications we also issue "*certificats de coutume*" (letters of freedom to marry) and other letters requested by our customers e.g. to confirm that Ireland recognises dual citizenship or to assist customers to convert Irish driving licences to a South African licence. We also provide emergency consular assistance to Irish citizens in difficulty or distress.

## Finance, Internal Audit and Administration

Our Finance, Internal Audit and Administration are considered to be the backbone of our organisation, ensuring that day to day activity of the office runs smoothly. Otilia leads the Finance Team, supported by Corina. Melody is responsible for our internal audit and also advises on internal Embassy systems and structures. Marize is the Personal Assistant to the Ambassador and is supported by Aaron and Freddy, the Embassy Drivers who are also involved with a number of administrative tasks along with our Office Assistant Anna.



Marize, Freddy, Melody, Otilia, Corina, Anna & Aaron

## Interview with Emma McCluskey of The Mashonaland Irish Association

Emma McCluskey is standing down as President of the Mashonaland Irish Association. We caught up with her in advance of her departure for pastures new.

### Hi Emma, how did you come to live in Zimbabwe and what surprised you the most when you arrived?

I came out to Zimbabwe from the Netherlands in August (of) 2011 to join my husband who was working here for an NGO. Two things surprised me at first; supermarkets were well stocked, including Weetabix and Marmite! Secondly it was so deliciously warm and skies were so blue that I sat out daily in the sun reading and soaking up my vitamin D.... until the sun goes down and it gets cold in the evenings!

### How big is the Irish community in Zimbabwe?

There's a large Irish community in Zimbabwe. I was very surprised by the numbers - roughly 400 members with Irish passports and up to 650 including friends of the Irish are also registered on our mailing list. I was welcomed immediately into the Irish Mashonaland Association community, which made my transition into life in Harare much easier. I had never joined an Irish Association before Harare. I know now that I will look for Irish associations wherever I go next. An important part of our work is assisting the very vulnerable and elderly members of the Irish community in Harare, many of them older missionaries.



### How did you become involved with the Irish in Mashonaland Association?

My first week, I went to see Gary Kilillea, our Honorary Consul to register with him. I was a bit nervous about being in Africa and thought it best to make sure the Irish authorities knew I was here (*eds. very sensible*). I asked him how I could find Irish people in Harare. He gave me Sr. Paulette Curran's number and within a day or two we met for a coffee and she introduced me to a few other Irish Mashonaland Association committee members.

### What have you most enjoyed about being President of the Association?

I enjoy getting the Irish and friends of the Irish altogether and under one roof for any of our events. It's wonderful to see people laughing and dancing together sharing

### The Irish Mashonaland Association, founded in 1891, is one of the oldest Irish Associations in the World. Do you know anything about its early members and activities?

The Association was founded in 1891 and in the early days St Patrick's Day was celebrated with events like diving for a bottle of whiskey in the Mukuvisi River! The St Patrick's Day events have always played a central role in the association's history. There has been a dinner dance, a sporting competition or a lunch like today for over 125 years now in Harare. The Irish have made a very pronounced mark on Harare, street names all over the city attest to this, from Belfast Road to Kildare Road and of course to Emerald Hill itself. One of the first Irish to settle in Harare then was Mother Patrick Cosgrove who established Emerald Hill which later became the site for the orphanage that we fundraise for today. Until recently a procession to visit her grave still held on every St. Patrick's Day.

### What was your favourite thing about living in Zimbabwe?

I'll miss feeling a part of an organisation team that made the events here possible. I'll be leaving my Zimbabwean Irish family behind and that will not only be hard but it will be a tough act to follow.

# St Patrick's Day Celebrations

St Patrick's Day was as usual an incredibly hectic time for the Embassy. Ambassador MacGabhann hosted a reception at the Residence on 16 March for 300 invited guests. Guests were piped in by Eddie Watson of the South African Irish Regiment of the South African National Defence Force and entertained throughout the day by St Raphael's Church Choir, Mamelodi.



Irish food and beverages were prominently on display. Per-nod Ricard sponsored a Jameson Whiskey Tasting while Guinness was also available. Bord Bia showcased a wide variety of cheeses and meats while a hearty Irish stew was also prepared and was very popular despite the later summer heat.

The South African Government was represented at the reception by Mr Muzi Shange, Director General at the Department of Energy. Mr Shange referred to the close ties between Ireland and South Africa, and the important bond of friendship formed by Ireland's support for the anti-apartheid struggle.



Ambassador MacGabhann spoke about the importance of the Irish diaspora and of relations with the Irish community for the Embassy, the increasing two-way trade and investment in goods and services that is worth well over €1 billion annually and Ireland's ongoing commitment to South Africa through the Irish Aid programme, focussing on tackling gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS and supporting skills and capacity development. He looked forward to a great sporting year and the visits of the Irish rugby and cricket teams in June and September.

## More St Patrick's Day Celebrations

The Embassy also hosted on 18 March a brunch for the Irish missionary community in Cape Town for 40 invited guests. The Ambassador in his remarks expressed appreciation on behalf of the Embassy and the people of Ireland for the work the missionaries have done in South Africa, particularly their role in the development of the Irish Aid development programme.

### Community

St Patrick's Day in South Africa and Zimbabwe just seems to get better and better every year thanks to the Irish South African Association and the Irish Association of Mashonaland. This year, some 1000 people attended the events in Cape Town, Durban, Harare and Johannesburg.

### Durban

It all kicked off at the ISAA Durban chapter St. Patrick's Day lunch on 13 March. The Durban chapter has been going from strength to strength and this year saw about 150 guests attending. Bronagh Carr, Head of Development, attended on behalf of the Embassy and spoke about the importance of engagement with the diaspora, particularly in the context of the 1916 centenary celebrations.



### Harare

The same day, Deputy Head of Mission Tony McCullagh was in Harare to attend the Irish Association of Mashonaland's celebrations. It was Tony's first time at this event, but not the first time the Mash Irish have celebrated St Patrick's Day (see the Association's invite to its very first event below). As always, it was a sell-out event with more than 240 guests, including many friends of Ireland such as the Ambassador of Australia, the EU and Dutch Deputy Heads of Mission, Belgian and Austrian Honorary Consuls as well as the Honorary Consul of Ireland in Harare, Gary Killilea. Fiddlicious provided the entertainment as only they know how.



**Cape Town**

St Patrick's Day was marked in some style in Cape Town by ISAA with some 300 guests including Ambassador MacGabhann and his wife Katherine Maguire attending. In his remarks, the Ambassador acknowledged the role of the Irish diaspora in South Africa and the work done by ISAA in promoting Irish community and cultural values throughout the year. He also emphasised the priority attached by the Embassy to reaching out to the Irish community in this 1916 centenary year, as well as the contribution of the local Chapter of Business Ireland Southern Africa (BISA) for their trade promotion work over the past year.



**Johannesburg**

There was a sell-out crowd at the Wanderers for the ISAA Gauteng St. Patrick's Day celebrations on 18 March. There were 300 guests at this sell-out event, which included Irish diaspora members and many friends of Ireland. The crowd was well entertained by Ballyhoo and the Duncan School of Irish dance and even the Ambassador was prevailed upon to say a few words.



With thanks to ISAA Gauteng, KZN and Western Cape for the use of their photos.

The Embassy entered a team (the “Zig and Zags”) in the ISAA Johannesburg St Patrick’s Day golf outing at the Wanderers. Unfortunately, they lived down to their name as their game was little better than the weather, as they finished last and took home their buckets and spades.



They might have had more success using these...

## Commemorating Easter 1916 in South Africa



As part of the worldwide Ireland 2016 Programme of Commemorations, the Embassy together with the Irish South Africa Association hosted 4 different screenings of the Documentary **'1916: The Irish Rebellion'** across South Africa on and around April 24, almost exactly a 100 years to the day when the Rising began in Dublin.





Of course, the strong connection between the participants in the Rising and South Africa was featured throughout, how could it not with Thomas Clarke having spent 8 years of his childhood in South Africa and with Roger Casement, John MacBride and Arthur Griffith all having spent time before the Rising in South Africa.

The opening night took place in the National Museum of Military History in Johannesburg and included the first opportunity to showcase the Exhibition of 1916, followed by two screenings the following day in the Bioscope theatre in Maboneng, Johannesburg.



Following the screening, Professor Briona Nic Dhiarmada enthralled the audience by detailing the complex process of making the documentary.

Then on to Cape Town where a huge crowd of over 500 people attended.

Guests included Albie Sachs and Louise Asmal, attended the screening in the Baxter Theatre. Both pictured below Ambassador MacGabhann, his wife, Katherine and daughter Elisa.



On Freedom Day, a screening took place in Durban. Throughout the South African screenings, the Embassy and the ISAA had the great pleasure of the presence of the director of the documentary, Professor Briona NicDhiarmada, who gave audiences a real insight into the making of the movie.

A big thank you to everyone who came along to support these screenings. The Embassy is planning some more 1916 events for later in the year and look forward to seeing you there.



# Trade and Economic News

## Mace Promotions

The Embassy supported the development of a partnership between MACE Promotions, an Irish company, and Vodacom, South Africa's largest telcoms company, which will provide 100 local jobs initially, mostly for women. This partnership is positive not only from the commercial perspective but also in contributing to inclusive economic development at community level.



## Shanahan Engineering



Ambassador MacGabhann attended the opening of new offices of an Irish company, Shanahan Engineering, on 13 June. The Ambassador welcomed the decision of Shanahan Engineering to increase its presence and investment in South Africa. He highlighted the opportunities that exist for Irish companies in Southern African and the availability of the Embassy in Pretoria to support their interests in the region.

## Business Ireland Southern Africa (BISA)

BISA is a voluntary association established in 2011 with the assistance and support of the Embassy for the purpose of promoting and assisting business interests and relationships between Southern Africa and Ireland. There are currently 4 Chapters of BISA – in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg in South Africa and in Harare, Zimbabwe. A fifth chapter is due to be established in Mozambique in August.

BISA is currently developing a strategy to take the association forward over the next 3-5 years. Individual Chapters held meetings in May 2016 to consider this issue, the results of which were fed into a Regional BISA meeting in Cape Town on 10 June at which a draft strategy was developed. This will be formally adopted at BISA's AGM in November.



# Rugby— Irish Rugby Team Visits S.A



The Ireland rugby team visited South Africa for a three-test series in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth in June. The team was targeting a first win in South Africa and a first series win by a northern hemisphere national touring side.

The tour began well as a 14-man Irish side performed heroics in Cape Town and achieved their first target. Unfortunately, the series win was not to be as South Africa came back strongly to take the second and third tests.

The Irish community came out strongly to support the team. The Embassy was at every game and also participated in a number of events, including fundraisers for Joost van der Westhuizen's J9 Foundation to tackle motor neuron disease and the Players Fund to assist those seriously injured playing rugby.

The tour has left some great memories and we hope that we'll be seeing the team back here again soon looking for that elusive series win.



Tony McCullagh and Ireland's Honorary Consul to Zimbabwe, Gary Kilillea captured on DSTV at the first test in Cape Town



# TravelWise: DFA's New Free Smartphone App



The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has launched *TravelWise*, a new free smartphone travel app available for download on iOS and Android. *TravelWise* has travel advice and consular information on 200 countries, including security, local laws, entry requirements, health and emergency contacts. Users can receive security alerts for a specific country or countries. The App also provides a secure and easy to use facility to register with the local Irish Embassy or Consulate. This is a voluntary online service which encourages Irish citizens travelling or living overseas, especially those in higher risk destinations, to register their contact details with the Department.

**TravelWise – now on iOS and Android!**  
@dfatravelwise [www.dfa.ie/travel](http://www.dfa.ie/travel)

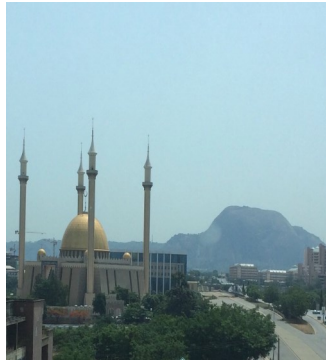
# News From Around Africa

## St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in Nigeria and Ghana

The Embassy in Abuja organised St Patrick's Day events in Abuja, Lagos and Accra, with around 700 invited guests joining for the celebrations. In Abuja, the guest of honour was Nigeria's Minister for the Environment and former UN Special Advisor on the post-2015 development agenda H.E. Amina Mohammed. Lagos hosted events on March 17<sup>th</sup> for the first time since the Embassy moved to Abuja in 2000 - a reflection of its increasing commercial importance of Lagos to a large number of Irish companies.



Minister for the Environment Amina Mohammed enjoying St Patrick's Day in Abuja with Ambassador Hoy



In Ghana, a few months after the first ever ministerial trade mission to the country was led by Minister for Agriculture, Food, the Marine and Defence, Simon Coveney T.D. in December 2015, it was appropriate that our guest of honour was Ghana's Minister for Trade Ekwow Spio-Garbrah.



## 2016 Commemorating Roger Casement's Time in Nigeria

In April, to commemorate the humanitarian legacy of Roger Casement in the centenary of his execution and particularly the time he spent in Calabar, Nigeria, the Embassy organised a meeting between the State Government, local communities and the private sector which agreed a set of principles to improve accountability, transparency and consultation in development projects in Cross Rivers State, in the Niger Delta.

## Uganda— Furthering the Trade Agenda: Sharing Knowledge and Experience

2016 has seen increased cooperation between Ireland and Uganda on trade promotion. The Irish Government supported training in Strategic Investment and Export Promotion for 16 participants from the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) in February.

The UIA is particularly interested in learning from the Irish experience of attracting high levels of investment, in creating jobs that are powering the economy, and in becoming one of the best small countries in the world to do business.

The training was undertaken by Brendan McDonagh from *International Development Ireland's* who has over 20 years of experience in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Ireland. His co-trainer, Mr David Ofungi, from Dero Capital Uganda, shared his expertise in the area of the developing bankable projects for targeted investors crucial to UIA's new strategic direction.

UIA Executive Director, Eng Dr Frank Sebbowa thanked the Embassy for its support and pledged that UIA *"will use the expertise gained during this training to develop viable projects targeted at potential investors from Ireland in order to increase trade and investment flows between the two countries."*

