



Newsletter 5 January 2019

Greetings and happy New Year everyone. Last year was not an easy one for some of us so we are hoping that 2019 brings a bit more peace and joy.

The news is that as from today (5.1.19) it is just 66 days to the launch of True to Ireland. We are now in the final stages of editing and peer review. We are also building a website which should be ready within a month www.true-to-ireland.com.

The main launch will be held at the Thistle Inn Hotel on the 13th of March at 5.30pm and there will be an event at the Levin Library Te Takere at 2pm on Saturday the 16th of March. We are looking at an additional events in Wellington as well as others are also being planned for Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin. I am open to any other suggestions about where to stage any other events.

On Thursday the 14th of March there will be a walking tour in Wellington to some of the key places that the Sons and Citizens of Eire frequented. More details nearer the time.

The Irish Ambassador Peter Ryan and the Minister of Agriculture, Damien O'Connor will officially launch the book. Damien as many of you know is also the MP for West Coast-Tasman – the region where my mother's side of the family come from – so he represents my NZ whakapapa.

You will all be invited to one of the events, but please understand that with the Thistle Inn we are limited by the capacity of the venue.

A special guest at all the functions will be Fr Eamon Aylward whom I have invited to come out from Ireland especially for the launch week. Fr Eamon has been a major contributor to the content of the book and he represents one of the main characters in the book – his uncle Maurice Leo Aylward. There are plans to take Eamon up to Opunake on Friday the 15th of March to see the grave of Maurice and meet some of the people from Taranaki. If you would like to meet Eamon, please email me as soon as possible.

Once I have the final details I will update you again – probably early February.

Cheers

Pete

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