



## NEWSLETTER TO IRELAND

24 February 2019

This is just a quick update on the book and what's happening in New Zealand to celebrate the finale of this 10 year project – well especially the last five year which have been pretty full on.

The book has finally been signed off and is now at the printers and I hope to see the first copies within the next week or so.

The special news is that the President of Ireland Michael D Higgins has written the foreword for the book. It was Ireland's ambassador to NZ, Peter Ryan who kindly arranged this on my behalf.

The web site [www.true-to-ireland.com](http://www.true-to-ireland.com) is up and running and has lots of information about the book and activities that have been organised here in kiwi-land to celebrate its completion. A copy of Micheal D's foreword is on the site as is a song about the book written by one of my mates. Have a listen

We are looking for organisations to link to our site – so please do if you can.

Fr Eamon Aylward is coming to NZ for these activities and it will be great to have him at the events

We are still trying to sort out a publisher and or distributor in Ireland. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested in publishing or distributing the book in Ireland please let me know.

I desperately want to sell the book in Ireland so any help in this regard would be welcome and I am happy to do a good deal!

My hope is that we will have launches/events in Ireland in July. The reason for this is that I have other work commitments here and can't get away for any length of time.

Here is the schedule of events. The reason for launching at the Thistle Inn is that was where the men often met. It is also the oldest hotel and beautifully restored. A great craic is coming on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March.

*Events to celebrate the publication and launch of Peter Burke's*

*True to Ireland*

**Monday March 11-** Private functions

**Tuesday March 12** touring in Wellington with Fr Eamon

*Private visit*

**Wednesday March 13**, 5.30pm, Thistle Inn Hotel, Mulgrave St Wellington

Official launch by Ireland's Ambassador to New Zealand, Peter Ryan and the NZ Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor.

*by invitation only*

**Thursday March 14**, 12.10pm – 1.00pm, National Library of New Zealand, Molesworth St Wellington

Talk by Peter Burke about his book. Family historian Fr Eamon Aylward from Dublin, genealogist, Geraldene O'Reilly and Lynette Wharfe who worked on the book as researchers, and editors will also be present

At 1.20pm there will be a walking tour – approx one hour to visit some of the places in Wellington of significance to the men

*Both events open to the public*

**Friday March 15** – all day Fr Eamon to visit Taranaki

Fr Eamon hosted by Kevin Bracken and Peter Burke will visit Maurice Aylward's grave at Opukane and later meet members of the Taranaki Irish Society

*Private function*

**Saturday March 16**, 2.00pm 3.30pm Te Takaretanga o Kura-hau-po (Levin Public Library)

Talk by Peter and others including Fr Eamon about the book and researching in Ireland and New Zealand

*Event open to the public*

**Sunday March 17**

10.15am – blessing of headstone of Paddy Sullivan at Otaki Cemetery by Fr Eamon

11.00am – Mass said by Fr Eamon at St Mary’s Otaki with a special dedication to all the Irishmen who were True to Ireland

*All welcome*

12.30pm – BBQ for book contributors, relations and friends at Lynette Wharfe’s home, 136, Huia St Waikanae

*Private function*

**Monday March 18**

Travel to Auckland via Napier and Tauranga

**Wednesday March 20**

Free day in Auckland

6.30pm – 8.30pm Book event at the NZ Genealogy Research Centre, 159 Queens Drive Panmure

*Event by invitation*

**Thursday March 21**

*Fr Eamon departs 3.00pm for Ireland*