



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2014 is a special year for the Association as it celebrates its diamond anniversary. Happy Birthday IWAI. Already there are a number of events organised by branches around the country.

As mentioned in the last edition of IWN, to celebrate our sixty years in existence, we are publishing an anniversary book. The book will be launched in October in various locations along the waterways. We owe a great gratitude to Past President Brian Cassells who kindly volunteered to take on the unenviable task of compiling this book.

Amendments to the Canal Bye-Laws were published for consultation on 6 January with a very short twenty one day period of return for submissions. There are major concerns on these amendments to the existing bye-laws, not just because of the impact on our members, but also on the waterways and communities we all know and love. The key objectives of the process must be to ensure that the canal regulations encourage and nurture the growth of domestic and international tourism on these fine navigations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank sincerely the IWAI sub-committee: Greg Whelan, Alan Kelly and John Dolan who have worked tirelessly on the submission to have it completed and lodged by the 3 February deadline. Thanks is also extended to members who have helped out in any way. Please see report on submission on page 7.

The Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Bill will be considered by the Houses of the Oireachtas this year. IWAI was asked to submit comments and questions to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The bill was examined in full and a submission was made to the department.

Credit is due to Martin Donnelly and his team for compiling a comprehensive submission in a very short timeframe. See page 3.

Again the topic of Dunrovin is to the fore front. A number of suggestions were received on the way forward for the site. All suggestions are currently being considered by the Executive

January 2014 started off as a very busy year. Apart from the above mentioned projects, we are also concentrating our energies on the following:

Maintaining and growing Membership

- Website Redesign
- Calendar of Events
- Action Plan Re Emergency Services
- IWAI Display in the Maritime Museum
- Storage for Archive Materials.
- Branch Web Site Training
- Preparations for AGM

The AGM this year will be held on the 25th April in the Bush Hotel Carrick-on-Shannon. Please come along, your support is much appreciated. It is a great opportunity to meet and chat to branch representatives and members. The evening finishes with supper and refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

In conclusion, by the time this publication comes to print, we will be preparing for the boating season ahead and I would like to wish all members a happy and safe boating season in 2014.

Carmel Meegan



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