





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ICA

Update from John O'Callaghan, Chief Executive.

ICA Membership Benefits – January 2011

We have negotiated the following benefits for ICA members – more are in the pipeline.

Company	Benefit	How do I get this benefit?
	10% discount on full priced stock at HICKEYS & HOME FOCUS (excluding gift cards and services)	Card to be supplied to ICA members (in late February) for use in store
	<p>€30 off car insurance, interest free monthly instalments and free <i>journeywise</i> cover plus €50 worth of prize bonds free for the duration of the policy.</p> <p>€30 off home insurance, interest free monthly instalments plus €50 worth of prize bonds free for the duration of the policy.</p> <p>over 50's life assurance – a free 20% discount dining card off food bills at selected restaurants all over Ireland plus a voucher for €25</p> <p>€50 worth of prizebonds for the duration of any of these policies.</p>	Dedicated group scheme line 1 890 22 22 44 for quick and efficient quotations
	20% OFF full priced stock at PACO shops	Just present your ICA membership card at the till to avail of the 20% discount at any of their 23 stores nationwide
Harvey Norman ®	5% discount on computer & electrical (excluding apple products) 10% discount on furniture and beds	Just present your ICA membership card
	10% off full priced stock	Just present your ICA membership card

Member Recruitment incentives.

The Board has agreed the following as incentives to recruit new members.

New Guilds - 50% of the membership fee is returned to the Guild as a start up fund.

Existing Guilds - 50% of the first fees of those new members who increase the number of members in the Guild over the previous year, will be returned to the Guild in the form of An Grianan vouchers. If you think that applies to your Guild this year, contact Central Office.

Rejoining - There are women out there who used to be members of the ICA but, for a range of reasons, may not be now. Encourage a former member, who has not been a member for two years or more, to rejoin, and 50% of their first fee will be returned to the Guild in the form of An Grianan vouchers.

Members from Closing Guilds - Where a member from a closed Guild joins a new Guild, so remaining in ICA membership, 50% of the first fee, in the year the member moves, will be returned to the Guild in the form of An Grianan vouchers.

New ICA members

Central Office is receiving dozens of enquiries from women interested in joining, mainly as a result of the ICA Bootcamp programme. While the programme has received mixed reviews from members, the predominant public reaction has been very positive. Membership enquiries are referred to Federation Liaison Officers, or directly to the Guild where a member specifies the Guild she wishes to join. Please look out for women interested in joining ICA and encourage them to do so.

An Grianan

Centenary Garden. The walled garden was renamed the Centenary Garden in November, as a permanent reminder of 2010. The garden survived the icy weather and the next step is a plan for the overall design.

New Museum with coffee shop. On schedule to open at the end of March.

Central Office

Office Hours From January 31st the office will be staffed from 9 to 5 every day.

Staff changes. Rebecca Ryan finished her work with us on January 13th and we thanked her for her contribution, especially to the establishment of the Development Unit.

Joanne Dunne & Emily Westbrooks have joined the staff team at Central Office. Joanne will be working on communications, coordination and website support, and Emily on membership and member benefits, policy and campaigns. Do welcome them if you phone or call to the Office.

Getting 'Back to Basics' in 2011

Love Irish Food Campaign. The ICA is endorsing the Love Irish Food campaign. The campaign promotes purchasing (and eating!) Irish Food, supporting our own producers and jobs in Ireland. The campaign will feature a number of great competitions exclusive to ICA members through 2011, with fabulous prizes to be won. Look out for media coverage on 14th February as we say: "ICA LOVE IRISH FOOD".

Love Irish Food Fayre at An Grianan – Easter Saturday 23rd April – where all that ICA and Love Irish Food do well will be on show. This event will be open to the public and we encourage as many members as possible to attend. Full details to follow.

Federation Cookery Demonstrations – working with sponsors Kinane Kitchens, Odlums and NEFF – are big cookery events to which members can invite friends and potential members to enjoy a fun evening where one of the key traditions of ICA is the agenda. The first date is 23rd February – Woodlands Hotel, Adare Co Limerick – more dates will be circulated and posted on the web.

Learning for Life

Aontas National Festival of Adult Learning 21st –25th February

As part of the Festival (and its biggest event) ICA will host Open Days at An Grianan each day, where courses and crafts will be demonstrated, and visitors will see what we offer and our wonderful facility. Come along and bring family and friends.

ICA shortlisted for the Aontas Star award (National Category)

We are currently being assessed for this award for our work, particularly at An Grianan. The Award will be announced on February 21st.

ICA Bootcamps. As a result of the ICA Bootcamp Programme we are receiving enquiries from groups for Bootcamp weekends. Ann and the team are developing a weekend/mid week break, where groups can pick & choose the mix of things they get to try. Contact An Grianan if your Guild (or family or friends) are interested.

[Check the website regularly for new courses and events at An Grianan](#)

ACWW European Area Conference April 4th – 8th. Bewley's Hotel Ballsbridge.

Still time to book – contact Central Office or complete and return a booking form.



Central Office: 58 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

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E: office@ica.ie W: www.ica.ie

Welcome back everyone to a new year.

With the Centenary Ecumenical Service at the Pro Cathedral, Dublin deferred due to the December weather to February 12th, I look forward to seeing many of you at there. Despite the astonishing weather in December, we did get to Farmleigh for the RTE "Home for Christmas" programme. Marie McGuirk, representing ICA, won the phone poll in this showcase event for ICA – congratulations Marie.

The ICA National Advisory Committee has worked to develop our **Reinvention & Modernisation Strategy** adopted by members in 2007. The NAC generated a focus on 'Back to Basics' in the 21st Century, a theme which is timely as the country works to recover. A detailed workplan is being developed.

As ever, ICA remains firmly non party political, but I know that we all share concerns about what has happened in Ireland, politically and economically. As we face into a **General Election**, I will be asking the leaders of all political parties to address the following four questions and the responses will be circulated and posted on the website.

If in Government:

1. What concrete steps will your party take to restore **confidence and trust in political leadership** in Ireland?
2. How will your policies ensure that health services, and services to the most vulnerable, are able to, and do, **deliver quality and accessible services** based on need?
3. What steps will you be taking to **rebalance the burden of national debt repayment**, so that everyone contributes fairly and according to their means, particularly alleviating the burden that has been placed on those on low fixed incomes?
4. How will you make sure that the **voice of civil society** is included in a meaningful way, as we all work to restore Ireland's credibility and capability, nationally and internationally?

This may be one of the most important elections of our lifetimes – politicians need to know our concerns, and we all need to be as informed as possible when we go to vote.

Finally, don't forget our South & East Regional Conference takes place in Waterford on March 12th and the ICA AGM will be held in Portlaoise on May 21st.

Anne Maria Dennison

Anne Maria Dennison National President
January 25th 2011

WIN A NEW WARDROBE to the value of €500!
with **Paco** together with the **ICA**



20 %
OFF

**FULL PRICED
STOCK**

WITH YOUR ICA CARD

Just present your ICA membership card at the till to avail of the 20% discount in any of our 23 Stores Nationwide.

ANTRIM, BANDON, BANBRIDGE, BLANCHARDSTOWN, CAVAN, CASTLEBAR, CARLOW, CLONMEL, CORK (Wilton S.C.) DROGHEDA (Shaws), DUNGARVAN, ENNIS, GALWAY, GOREY, KILKENNY, KILLARNEY, LIMERICK (Crescent & Parkway), LETTERKENNY, MULLINGAR, SLIGO, TRALEE, WATERFORD.

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE UNTIL 31st DECEMBER 2011

The prize includes:

€500 in PACO gift vouchers to be redeemed at a PACO Store near you.

Question: How many PACO stores are there nationwide? (a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 23

TO ENTER THE COMPETITION email your answer to competition@ica.ie or text PACO followed by your answer to 51444 Standard text rates apply: You may receive promotional texts in the future.

Paco

recently introduced the NEW Boutique collection in conjunction with TV presenter Pamela Flood, who is now the new Ambassador for the PACO brand.

The Boutique collection offers something special for every day and the range caters for women of all ages. Sizes range from small to XXL and the price points are very affordable.

In the past, PACO was well known for their famous colourful sweaters. TODAY PACO offers a fantastic range of

mix and match coordinates which includes outdoor jackets, trousers, blazers, gilets, dresses, denims, casual tops, shoes & accessories.

So if you remember PACO for their stripy sweaters, then you really need to TAKE ANOTHER LOOK. You'll be surprised how fashionable and affordable this brand has become.

A Personal Shopper is available in each of PACO's 23 stores Nationwide free of charge, offering one to one style advice to suit each individual's shape, age and profile.

www.pacostore.com

Terms and conditions: The prize is subject to availability. No cash alternative will be offered. Employees of PACO are not eligible to enter. Closing date for entries is 28th March 2011.

REALT ORDER FORM

I wish to order next 2 editions of Realt (March & May 2011)

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone No. _____ Number of copies: _____

Guild: _____ Federation: _____

Total Cost €5.00 (attached) €2.50 each copy

PLEASE ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE TO COLLECT YOUR ORDER AT OUR NEXT REGIONAL MEETING, ALTERNATIVELY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE REALT POSTED PLEASE ADD POSTAGE, (€1.90 for 2 editions x 1 copy €2.85 for 2 editions x 2-3 copies €3.80 for 2 editions x 4-5 copies)

Please return completed form to Marie O'Toole,
National Press Officer, 59 Church Ave., Portmarnock, County Dublin.
(cheques made payable to ICA)

Contact details - Email: marie.otoole@hotmail.com

01-8462592 (home) 087 0609275 (mob)

I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE INTERESTING ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPECIAL OCCASIONS YOU HAVE CELEBRATED SINCE JANUARY 2011. CUT OFF FOR MARCH EDITION IS 16TH FEBRUARY.

IF YOU HAVE PAID FOR A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT ÁRAS GARDEN PARTY AND NOT RECEIVED IT, PLEASE CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (CONTACT DETAILS ARE ABOVE)

ICA MAILING – JANUARY 2011

1. ECUMENICAL SERVICE

The service has been rescheduled and will now take place on Saturday 12th February 2011 at 3pm in St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Marlborough St. Dublin. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will officiate as will a representative from the Church of Ireland. It is hoped to have two of our own members who are Church of Ireland Ministers participate in this service.

The Choir will be the all female Pro-Cathedral Choir.

A beautiful service has been planned and this will be a fitting way to bring our Centenary Celebrations to a conclusion.

Some of you may like to call to the National Museum, Collins Barracks on the 12th before the Ecumenical Service to see the Exhibition of Crafts which continues until the end of February.

2. REGIONAL CONFERENCE WATERFORD

The next Regional Conference will be held in the Tower Hotel Waterford on Saturday 12th March, commencing at 10.30am. The hotel is situated in the centre of Waterford city. The National President, and the Chief Executive will address the meeting and two guest speakers will address the afternoon session.

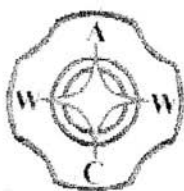
It is very important that all attendees bring their ICA membership cards with them as they will be asked to present them on the day.

Accommodation in the Tower Hotel:

B&B single room is €65, B&B for twin or double room for 2 people sharing is €89. 2 nights B&B and evening meal is €99 per person sharing. The hotel can be contacted by phone at 051 862300 or Email: reservations@thw.ie Lunch vouchers must be purchased on the morning before the meeting commences.

Other Hotels and B&Bs in Waterford City:

Dooley's Hotel, The Quay	-	051 8738531
Granville Hotel, The Quay	-	051 3004555
Treacy's Hotel Spa & Leisure Clubs	-	051 8773222
Waterford Marina Hotel, Canada St	-	051 856600
Portree Guest House, Mary St	-	051 874574
St Albans, Cork Road	-	051 358171



European Area Conference

The ICA is hosting the European Area Conference (EAC) of the Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW) from the 4th – 8th April 2011. The venue is Bewleys Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

It's a great honour for our Association to host this prestigious event. It will be attended by the World President of ACWW, Mrs. May Kidd, Scotland and the European Area President, Merja Siltanen, Finland. Delegates from the following countries will also be attending Albania, Bulgaria, England, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Norway, Romania, Scotland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Wales and a strong representation of ACWW members from Ireland.

ICA members who wish to attend the Tuesday or Wednesday session must pre-book, unfortunately we cannot facilitate members who just turn up on the day without booking in advance.

Full details of how to book are with your Guild Secretary. Final booking date is 15th March 2011.

Should you have any queries relating to the Conference please contact either Central Office or Marie O'Toole (087 0609275/ email: marie.otoole@hotmail.com) Secretary of the organising committee.

Anne Maria Dennison
National President