



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

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Another Great Clan Gathering coming up in June 2022!

Hi Everyone, Heading back to school, back to work. The nights are starting to get longer, (up North anyway). It was great to get those staycations in during the past couple of months though!.

Next year, when things should be much more "back to normal" why not make the O'Malley Clan Gathering, in Newport, County Mayo, from 24th to the 26th June 2022, part of your holiday.

We'll be organizing a fabulous weekend in County Mayo, so start planning for next years trip.

There'll be details of the events across the week-end up on the website in the months to come. It'll be great to welcome you all back!

Just hope the weather is good too!!



Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Maille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an article

that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



A Natural Farming Ambassador– Nia O'Malley

Galway Farmer Announced as 2021 Farming for Nature Ambassador



Galway farmer Nia O'Malley has been chosen as a Farming for Nature Ambassador for 2021.

Nia farms 60 hectares in the Slieve Aughty Mountains and is one of seven ambassadors chosen for the 2021 Farming for Nature public vote awards.

Now in its fourth year, Farming For Nature was set up with an aim to source, share and celebrate the stories of farmers across Ireland who manage their land in a way that sustains nature, while providing a livelihood for their family.

The ambassadors include beef, poultry, forestry, horticulture and tillage farmers who manage a wide range of very valuable habitats including species-rich grasslands and heaths, wetlands, woodlands and hedgerows.

Nia took over the family farm in 2010 and since then, she has worked incredibly hard to rebuild and regenerate the farm, doing so with respect and consideration for the natural landscape and wildlife of the area.

"Something you learn as a hill farmer is you have to adapt to the area – you can't just come in and change things as you wish," said Nia.

"You have to adapt to the land and work with the land, rather than forcing the land to adapt to your farming practices."

Farming in a Hen Harrier Special Protected Area, Nia joined the Hen Harrier Programme in 2018 where she was involved in a mountain grazing project.

The trial focused on increasing cattle grazing on areas of bog/heath that are dominated by Molinia grasses and pose serious fire risks.

A Natural Farming Ambassador– Nia O'Malley

"My involvement with the hen harrier project enabled me to look at my land differently and value what I might not have valued before," she said.

"The more you graze commonage, the more you will reduce the Molina grass growth and the more you will encourage other grass species to come up. This will eventually extend the grazing season on the mountain."

Nia currently manages a small herd of Galloway cattle who play a crucial role in grazing the mountain vegetation, fertilizing the land and regenerating the soil. She has planted hedgerows and areas of native woodland around the farm.

"I'm putting a lot into planting hedgerows and trees on the farm, which for me is a long-term thing – I might not see the real benefit of it.

"But my mother would have planted a lot of trees when she was here, and I'm benefiting from that now."

Dr Brendan Dunford of the Burren Programme, founder and committed volunteer with Farming for Nature said that this year's farming for nature ambassadors are, like their predecessors, just so engaging and inspirational.

"They provide a powerful and timely testimony as to how farming and nature can, and must, work in harmony – and that simple actions can make a big difference," he said.

"These farmers deserve our respect, gratitude and support: they embody all that's great about rural Ireland and they offer great hope at a time of climate and biodiversity crises."

The seven ambassadors will be featured at the annual Burren Winterage Weekend (www.burrenwinterage.com) in October when the winner of the public vote will also be announced.

Sixteen additional ambassadors will be announced and profiled over the coming months, bringing the FFN Ambassador network to a total of 66 wonderful farms located across the island.

The public are invited to vote for their favourite ambassador by visiting www.farmingfornature.ie. The deadline for voting is midnight Friday 22 October 2021.



Rocking the Podcast World from PA



Mark Hoover, left, and Ryan O'Malley host a podcast called "Rock This Way."

Mark Hoover, 44, who has lived in Duryea all his life, and Ryan O'Malley, 40, who grew up in Duryea and now lives in Pittston Twp., are co-hosts of a rock music podcast O'Malley named "Rock This Way."

Denny Laine of the Moody Blues, Alice Cooper and Talking Heads keyboardist Jerry Harrison are among the guests who have rocked their way since they debuted the podcast in 2018.

Listeners can find the podcast by visiting rock107.com and clicking on podcasts in the menu. Rock 107 is owned by Times-Tribune parent company Times-Shamrock Communications.

When Hoover — Rock 107 program director and afternoon DJ with a 23-year career — wanted a co-host for a rock talk podcast, O'Malley was his first choice. They knew each other from the Little League in Duryea. Though they didn't hang out because of the age difference, their mothers were friends and their grandparents were neighbors.

Hoover didn't partner with O'Malley for their mutual Duryea roots, but for their mutual love of rock music and their clash of genres. It didn't hurt that O'Malley was a local veteran rock writer for the website "Live Music News and Review."

"We meet in the middle on a handful of bands, Van Hagar, Def Leppard, Black Crowes," Hoover said.

"From there it goes off in different directions. That's the reason I asked Ryan. It's easy to sit in a room and talk to somebody who is going to agree with you all the time and vice versa. I wanted something different."

Rocking the Podcast World from PA

Consider they've both been to Paul McCartney concerts, but while Hoover digs McCartney's post-Beatles band, Wings, O'Malley prefers the Beatles.

"Ryan would go to Phil Lesh or Ratdog at Montage; if I had to work it for 107, I would leave after first song," Hoover said. "If a hair band was playing, like Warrant at Tink's, I'd go, he wouldn't."

While O'Malley has been to 80-plus shows of various Grateful Dead iterations, Hoover and his wife, Tami, took in 13 Motley Crew farewell tour shows.

Both Hoover and O'Malley were indoctrinated at very young ages by vinyl collections. Hoover got heavy doses of AC/DC, Zeppelin, the Cars, Mellencamp and Guns N' Roses from his older brother, Jeff, and cousin and neighbor Chuck Haddock's collection on Haddock's "giant stereo," as Hoover described it.

Meanwhile, O'Malley was down in his parents' basement playing video games, with the Doors, Beatles, Bob Dylan, Zeppelin and Simon and Garfunkel playing on his father's console stereo.

"I'm like 9 years old playing Mario on my video game system and listening to Sgt. Pepper," he said. "I didn't know Bob Dylan and Paul Simon were some of the best songwriters in modern music. I just wanted background music."

Their divergent tastes work well on the podcast.

"One of our early interviews was Ahmet 'Son of the Frank' Zappa, as I call him. He's quirky, off the wall, not Mark's style," O'Malley said.

Then Hoover had on Eric Bloom from Blue Oyster Cult.

"I never even heard most of the songs," O'Malley said. "What am I going to ask him, 'Hey, do you guys still play cowbell?' "

Hoover said they never know when a podcast will heat up. "Some are home runs, some surprising home runs, and other ones just don't do it. It depends on support from artist or venue."

O'Malley agreed. "One we think is great will only get a couple hundred views. Ones we thought were just OK got 1,200 people. It's like where did that come from?"

Classic rockers aren't usually riveting interviews. Having answered the same questions for decades, they can come off as disinterested. Interviews were further dumbed down during the worst of the pandemic.

"They were repetitious. Talking about COVID, everybody doing the same thing giving the same answers for three months," Hoover said.

Hoover and O'Malley have more fun with rockers when they don't talk shop, like the day Alice Cooper joined the podcast via Zoom sitting on his big yellow couch talking about golfing in Arizona, and Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen talking about his art show.

In the future, Hoover and O'Malley want to focus more on local musicians and venues. They had Dustin Douglass on just before he reopened the F.M. Kirby Center to live shows.

A Revamp of the NZ History Curriculum with Dr Vincent O'Malley

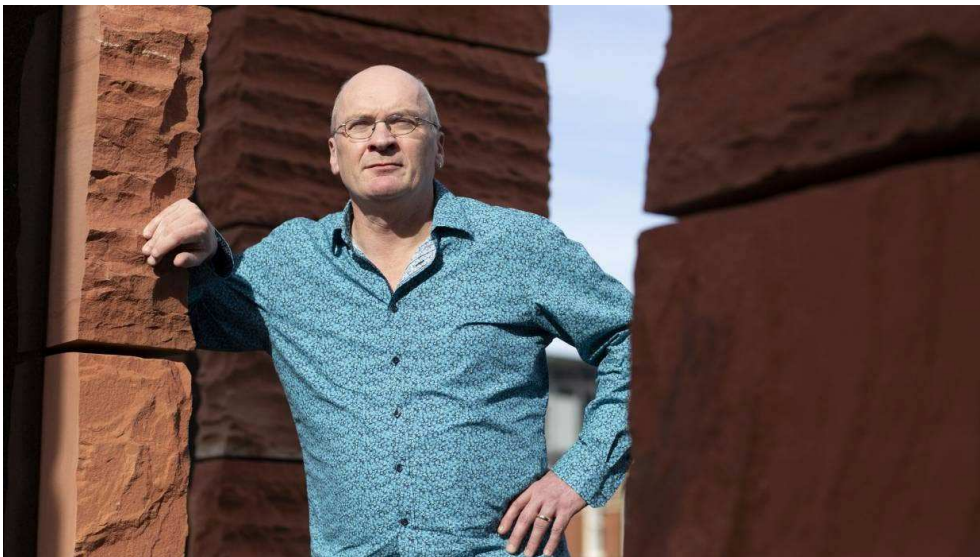
The Detail: Re-learning history in Aotearoa

The Detail is a daily news podcast produced for RNZ by Newsroom and is published on “Stuff” with permission. Search on stuff.co.nz to have a listen

In early 2019, the Government announced it would be revamping the history curriculum: from 2022, all students would study the history of Aotearoa New Zealand, every year, until year 10, when it becomes an optional NCEA subject.

The announcement was beyond the wildest dreams of many history teachers, considering that up until this point there was no obligation whatsoever on schools to teach their students about this nation's history.

However, building a curriculum from scratch presents its own difficulties - many of them exacerbated by the fact that Aotearoa's history - like every nation's history - is fraught and morally ambiguous.



Historian Vincent O'Malley on why it's important to remember the events of the past, even when they might make us uncomfortable.

Decisions have to be made about how certain issues or social phenomena are framed; some teachers felt understandably apprehensive at the prospect of teaching students about events which affected the lives of their ancestors - sometimes in tragic and enduring ways.

On today's episode of The Detail, Emile Donovan speaks to historian Dr Vincent O'Malley about the nuances and the pitfalls of the project; the wealth of history on our doorstep; and why it's important to remember the events of the past, even when they might make us uncomfortable.

“How can we know where we are going if we don't know where we come from?” he asks.

“History gives us a grounding, it gives us a sense of identity, it gives us a sense of belonging, and of place. And without that we have this kind of historical amnesia as a society, as a nation. And for New Zealand – well Pākehā New Zealand anyway – we've had that for a long time.”

He says engaging with that past helps us to engage more confidently in the future. “There are lots of ways that history is not only helpful, but essential, for young people to have a learning of.”

A Revamp of the NZ History Curriculum with Dr Vincent O'Malley

Although the decision to make New Zealand history compulsory was made two years ago, it was only in February of this year that the education ministry reported back with a draft curriculum.

It's fundamentally based around three ideas: that Māori history is the foundational and continuous history of Aotearoa New Zealand; that colonisation and its consequences have been central to our history and continue to influence all aspects of New Zealand society; and that the course of Aotearoa New Zealand's history has been shaped by the exercise and effects of power.

Prominent historians critiqued the draft curriculum, saying it missed out large swathes of Māori history pre-colonisation, and could fall into the trap of instructing children in *what* to think, rather than *how* to think.

But there is widespread acknowledgement that the level of knowledge of New Zealand's history among the population is, largely, woeful.

To test this theory, *The Detail* conducted a moderately difficult, completely unscientific pop quiz with some members of the RNZ newsroom.

1: During what century is it generally agreed that Māori first arrived on Aotearoa's shores?

2: What city is also known as Ōtepoti?

3: Where in the country is Ngāti Porou based?

4: Who was Hongi Hika?

5: What was the name of the ship Captain James Cook sailed when he first reached Aotearoa's shores?

The only question correctly answered by all the participants was the final one.

Vincent O'Malley says this widespread lack of knowledge isn't surprising.

"I know how few New Zealanders learnt any New Zealand history at school. I did an informal poll on Twitter years ago, and I got about 1500 responses, and two-thirds of people said they learnt no New Zealand history at all in school.

"As a nation we're a land of Tudor and Stuart history experts – we know more about that history than we do about our own. There are probably more New Zealanders who could name Henry VIII's six wives than could describe the three articles of the Treaty of Waitangi."

He says the new curriculum should be embraced - and may well see an interesting shift in knowledge, with students educating their parents.



The Treaty of Waitangi, held in the National Library of New Zealand



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The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.

The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for over 60 years now.

We hope with our new website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.

The O'Malley Clan DNA Project on Family Tree DNA

The most common queries we get at The O'Malley Clan Association are queries in relation to helping to trace peoples ancestors in Ireland. As we all know, written records can only take us so far, (if you're lucky you'll get back to the early 1800's or late 1700's).

Many of the Irish Census Records and other historic documents were destroyed during the early part of the 20th century and as a result it can be very hard to trace ancestors back beyond the 19th century. Church records are a help, but can be patchy at times.

One way of narrowing down the search is through DNA testing. The O'Malley Clan Association is involved in a project with Family Tree DNA to test as many O'Malleys as possible to try and expand our knowledge of our roots as much as we possibly can.

There's a specific page for the project on the Family Tree DNA website:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/omalley/about>

Check it out, there's lots of info there, and administrators also for any questions.

