

Pictured are newlyweds Colin Baggott from Limerick and his lovely wife, Clare Ward, from England. They were married recently at St Mary's Cathedral, with the reception at the Botanical Gardens Restaurant. In the right pic, baby Ciara, their daughter, makes three.

Irish pavement pounders multiply

Sydney, New York

MARATHON fever seems to be gripping the Irish Australian community, with a number of high-profile pavement pounders heading off to run marathons overseas in aid of various charities.

Last week we featured the story of Adrian Raftery, who has announced that he will be running the New York marathon in aid of the Heart Foundation, and in memory of his father, Mick.

Days after publication, Kerry-born Sydney Swan Tadhg Kennelly announced he was doing the same, also in memory of his father who died of heart disease. Tourism Ireland's Monica Nerney will also be heading across to the big apple as a charity runner.

Not to be outdone, the Irish Echo newsroom has decided to send a



Deputy ed Markham Nolan nears the finish of his first Dublin marathon

runner out onto the mean streets.

New deputy editor Markham Nolan has decided to take up a challenge closer to home, and plans to run the Sydney marathon in September. The main beneficiary of

his efforts will be Australian Multiple Sclerosis society, with a quarter of the funds raised going to the Irish Australian Welfare Bureau in Bondi. Markham's mother died in 2004 after a long battle with MS, and he ran the Dublin marathon in 2001, finishing in just under four hours and raising more than €2,000 for the Irish MS society.

This year he's shooting for the 3hr 30min barrier.

We'll be following Markham's progress in the Echo, which will include the City to Surf race on August 12, and started with an MS fun run last weekend in Sydney.

We'd encourage our readers to get involved, pledge your support to at least one of our Irish runners, and maybe even consider joining Markham in the City to Surf.

More news of this story as it, ahem, gathers pace.

of the bush and survive, assuming that he would be pardoned. Unfortunately for convict "bolters" had changed and his time of was added to his sentence.

Graham kept in touch with his Aboriginal family, and his skills made him valuable to the explorers and surveyors.

In May 1836 the brig Castle foundered off the Queensland coast and Graham was whisked off to guide the search. From his Aboriginal contacts he got a good idea where the wreck were and that among the survivors was the wife of the brig's dead captain.

Graham led the rescue party, and travelled alone to the interior. He bribed the natives into giving up three sails, which he delivered to the base. He returned for Mrs Fraser.

The relationship soured when Graham's second visit was just able to grab her and the waiting boat chased by the natives.

The "rescue" was the start of a colony and made headlines in Britain. Eliza Fraser claimed she and the other survivors were held forcibly and feared for

Immigrant ladies to take centre stage

Books & Cyberspace

THE ladies of Ireland are the historical focus at the moment, with an exhibition and honouring their contribution to the colony and a book detailing their arrival on Australian shores.

Quarantined, an Anchor Books release by Perry McIntyre and Elizabeth Rushen, details the trials and tribulations of the last shipment of "bounty women" brought out from Ireland to Australia in 1836 to redress the gender balance.

Of the 444 passengers on the Lady MacNaghten, 371 arrived alive in Australia, with 17 of the deceased making it as far as the quarantine station near Manly.

The rest of them died en route, from a range of horrific ailments.

Most of the human cargo came from Munster, and around 20 per cent of the passenger list was made up of the so-called "bounty women".

Held in quarantine for months, they were

pilloried in the press as being unsuitable for the colony.

The book tells their tale in grim detail, and also provides a precise history of as many as possible of the passengers.

In more modern form comes a slick online exhibition created by the Migration Heritage Centre, entitled A Place for the Friendless Female, which recounts the fate of those passengers who survived the trip.

The web slideshow takes you through their journey here, the scenes of arrival and how the ladies became immersed in and contributed to the colony.

It's worth guiding your mouses to the site: www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au



The quarantine story: no red-carpet arrival.

Software firm's Au

Victoria

ROAMING Victorian premier Steve Bracks paid a visit to the Dublin headquarters of Fineos Corporation, a leading bank and insurance software provider, recognising the strong Australian links the company has developed in recent years.

Fineos plans to expand its Melbourne Regional Capability Centre to employ more than 100 people over the next three years.

Mr Bracks met Fineos CEO Michael Kelly to thank him for selecting Melbourne as their Australian base.

Joining Mr Bracks on his visit was Her Excellency, Mrs Anne Plunkett, the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, along with senior Irish government officials.

Mr Kelly welcomed Mr Bracks, saying: "It is a tremendous compliment to Fineos to be recognised internationally as an innovative and successful software organisation."

"We very much enjoy doing business in the region and look forward to developing our presence in Victoria and Australasia."