

# ANGLO&CELTIC

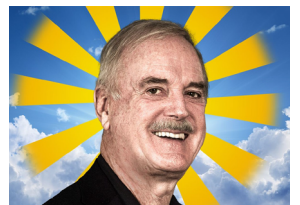
SERVING BRITISH, IRISH & CELTIC COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA

## Australia's Stonehenge gets new owners

### FEATURES



**Johnny Depp**



**John Cleese**



**Derry Girls**





Scottish & Celtic Festival

16 to 20 August 2023

## Historic Boondooma Homestead

8262 Mundubbera-Durong Road, Boondooma QLD 4613

### Entertainment includes

Noosa & District Pipe Band, Murrumba Pipes and Drums, Toowoomba Caledonian Society Pipe Band, Ishka, Brian Letton, Mouldy Haggis.

Moreton Celtic Fiddle Club, Darrel Craft, Irish dancer, Tom Kimmet, Rum City Highland Dancers, David Rowan, Hervey Bay Pipe Band, Aimee Robertson Dancers, Australian Celtic Women.

Compères: Merv Webster, Clarrie Weller

Walk ups welcome on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning

### CONTACTS

Caretaker on (07) 4168 0159  
info@boondoomahomestead.org.au

Patti Brown on 0408 070 769  
pattie\_mitsi@westnet.com.au

### ADMISSION

\$95 per person plus booking fee, for full festival. Children up to 15 years, FREE. Fee includes entry, bush camping and all entertainment. Day rates will be available.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:** Tickets will be available from 1 June 2023 by going to [www.boondoomahomestead.org.au](http://www.boondoomahomestead.org.au)

Sorry **NO EFTPOS** for food or alcohol purchases

### PIPES DOWN IN THE GARDEN

CEILIDH DANCING and combined band performances KIRKIN 'O' THE TARTAN on Sunday morning. Join us for the Boondooma Highland Games



### ALL CLANS WELCOME

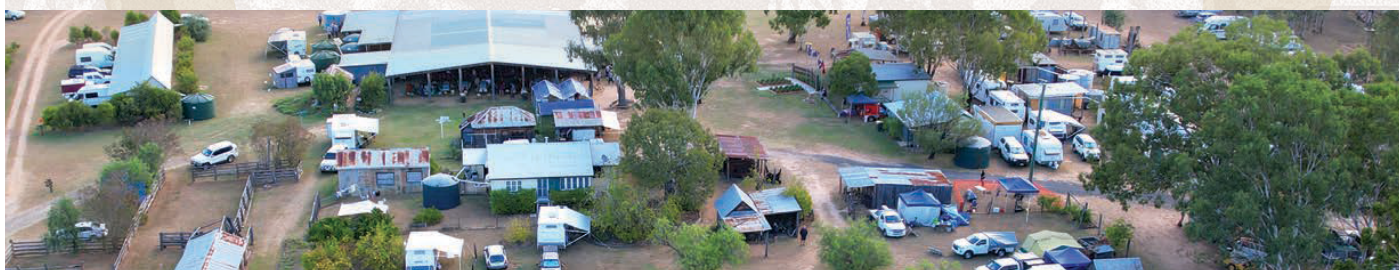
One free ticket per clan. Clan ticket available from web site

### STALLS

Welcome with own public liability insurance. \$20 per day, \$50 per full festival. Please phone 0408 070 769 to register your stall and then purchase stall ticket through web site - two people entry per stall

### BAR AND MEALS are available

**ACCOMMODATION** for 'Scots in the Bush' available at Lake Boondooma on (07) 4168 9694 or go to [www.lakeboondooma.com.au](http://www.lakeboondooma.com.au) and Manar Park on (07) 4161 2188.





# WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com

On page 4, Derry Girls' Jamie-Lee O'Donnell attends opening of exhibition on the popular TV show.



On page 5, Johnny Depp visits the home of his favourite writer Dylan Thomas in Wales.



On page 11, legendary comedian John Cleese brings his show about his life and afterlife to Oz.



On page 15, comedian Jimeoin is on tour in Australia. We look at his career and his Irish roots.



On page 22, Australian distillery owner David Prior launches a \$95k bottle of Scotch.



On page 23, daredevil Jackass star Steve-O jumps off the Tower Bridge in London.



Warwick's Mayor Vic Pennisi in his mayoral robes at 6.30am at -1-degree weather, making sure beloved local legend Thomas Byrnes was all decked out for the Jumper and Jazz in July festival. Thomas Joseph Byrnes was a Queensland Premier and one of the founding members of Queensland Irish Association.

## Stone cold in Warwick

Well, we've had our Christmas in July and it's the last stretch of winter now. And while it's not the "swimming in the North Sea" level of cold that some of us grew up with, we still find it chilly enough to don the cardies.

And how lovely to see the Mayor of Warwick looking after the statue of much-beloved Irish Australian politician Thomas Joseph Byrnes, by making sure he was suitably attired for the city's Jumpers and Jazz in July festival. Warwick is an Irish hub in Queensland and will be hosting CelticFest on September 30th and October 1st.

We love the offbeat and a bit of craic in this magazine. Once again, we have a lively mix of entertainment and cultural news and features for you, from the home countries and from right here in Australia. It's a far cry from mainstream media and purposely so.

The highlight of this month on the Celtic calendar has to be the Scots In The Bush festival at historic Boondooma Homestead in Queensland. It's four days of revelry and fun in a beautiful bush location.

And in Tassie, the Tascal Winter Ball Weekend looks like a stomper - combining historic prison visits with picnics and ceilidhs. What more could you ask for?

In this edition, you'll also find an article on the hilarious John Cleese, who is in town at the moment. He is a national treasure back

in the UK and anyone who grew up watching Monty Python and Fawlty Towers knows why.

We take a look at the life of tightrope artist Con Colleano. Born Con Sullivan, you guessed it, he had an Irish father. Sadly, his story had almost been forgotten but they've been resurrecting his memory in his birth town of Lismore, New South Wales.

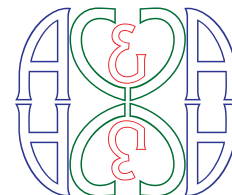
Johnny Depp is in this issue. It's both his and his bandmate Alice Cooper's interesting days out on tour in that UK that sees him featured here.

As if that's not enough, there's Derry Girls, Agatha Christie, Irn Bru Man and Steve-O from Jackass.

Plus, our exclusive cover story. Esperance Stonehenge, or Clonehenge as it's been sometimes called, has new owners. And one of them hails from Devon in England. A full-size Stonehenge replica in Western Australia - who knew? You learn something new about this wonderfully vast and varied country of Australia every day.

If you have an event coming up that you would like us to promote, get in touch. Very happy to help independent community groups and low-budget events. And if you're a business owner, consider advertising or sponsorship. This is a free and independent magazine, produced in Australia.

Don't forget to follow us on social media.



ANGLO&CELTIC

Issue 2

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Jamie-Lee O'Donnell, who plays Michelle Mallon in *Derry Girls*, with Mayor of Derry and Strabane Patricia Logue at the exhibition opening.

# See Erin's diary up close at the Derry Girls Experience

A new Derry Girls Experience has opened at Tower Museum in Derry, and it promises to be "cracker".

This colourful exhibition, inspired by the beloved TV show *Derry Girls*, is a delightful journey through the hilarious world of teenagers and school mates Erin, Clare, Michelle, Orla, and "wee English fella" James.

Visitors are treated to a treasure trove of *Derry Girls* memorabilia, including an impressive collection of props and costumes that transport them back to the iconic moments of the show. From the cast's school uniforms, meticulously recreated to every detail, to Erin Quinn's cherished diary, filled with teenage musings and comedic mishaps, the exhibition immerses fans in the hilarious and nostalgic atmosphere of the hit series.

The exhibition features sets that replicate the Quinn living

room and kitchen, allowing visitors to step into the heart of Erin's home. Spice Girls costumes from the third season bring back memories of the gang's unforgettable school performances, while the Child of Prague statue and Ma Mary's rosary beads add a touch of spiritual humour.

Principal Sister Michael's office and Erin's bedroom are digitally recreated, offering insights into the show's production and behind-the-scenes secrets. Interactive displays showcase interesting facts and trivia about the series, providing fans with a deeper understanding of the creative process that brought *Derry Girls* to life.

The exhibition opening was a star-studded affair, with *Derry Girls'* very own Jamie-Lee O'Donnell, who portrayed the indomitable Michelle Mallon, gracing the event. The original *Derry*

*Girls*, the friends of show creator Lisa McGee who inspired her to write the hilarious yet heart-warming series about her school memories, were also at the opening of the exhibition.

The show has been a massive success for Britain's Channel 4, winning multiple awards. It ran for three series, with the final episode aired on 18th May.

Mayor Patricia Logue expressed her delight at the exhibition, emphasizing its role in establishing a lasting legacy for the city.

The city has already capitalised on the popularity of the comedy with several other tourist attractions on offer in the city and district, including a city centre mural of the main cast on a large gable wall of Badger's Bar on Orchard Street.

The *Derry Girls* Experience will be open at Tower Museum until July 2024.

## AT A GLANCE

- *Derry Girls*, which first aired in 2018, follows four teenage girls - and "a wee English fella" - growing up in Derry during the 1990s.
- Fans of the show will be able to view parts of the original sets, including the Quinn living room and kitchen, as well as props like Spice Girls costumes, Erin's diary, the Child of Prague statue and Ma Mary's jumpers.
- Jamie Lee O'Donnell, who played Michelle in the hit series, attended the grand opening of the exhibition.
- It's on till July 2024 at Tower Museum, Derry.
- You can watch *Derry Girls* on Netflix.

# Johnny Depp visits author's birthplace in Swansea

Hollywood star Johnny Depp was left "dumbfounded" after visiting the birthplace of renowned Welsh writer Dylan Thomas in Swansea.

Depp, who has been a fan of Thomas since childhood, had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of his literary idol and see where it all began. The visit took place before Depp's gig with his band Hollywood Vampires at the Swansea Arena.

Depp said he has been a huge Dylan Thomas fan ever since his brother bought him a copy of 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog', a collection of short stories by the author.

"And then, of course, all the poetry, all of the stuff that just takes your head apart," he added.

Perhaps Wales's best-known writer, Thomas was born in 1914 in the front room of the house and is known for his poems, short stories, and plays.

During the visit, Depp

expressed his awe at being in the room where Thomas' masterpiece 'Under Milk Wood' was conceived, stating that it was a lot to take in.

The house, located in Uplands, Swansea, has been meticulously restored to its original appearance when Thomas resided there. It serves as a living museum run by volunteers, celebrating the life and works of the celebrated poet and writer.

Depp was given a tour by owner Geoff Haden, who showed him a restored window that overlooks Swansea Bay and inspired Thomas to write about "ships sailing across rooftops."

The visit had a profound impact on Depp, who has been inspired by Thomas' work throughout his career. He wrote in the visitors' book before leaving, "All respect always, Johnny."

Depp told news channel Nation Cymru: "During this visit you get to see where all



Johnny Depp at author Dylan Thomas's childhood home in Swansea. Pic: Dylan Thomas Birthplace on Facebook

of his thoughts came from, it's a lot to take in."

He added: "I'm still floating a little, having been in the room where Under Milk Wood began."

Volunteers at the house described Depp as "amazed" at the small size of Thomas' bedroom, where much of his writing took place.

"The visit had an obvious and a profound effect on Johnny," said volunteer Sarah Haden.

"In his words he was 'dumbfounded' to be able to walk in Dylan's footsteps and see where it all began. He was warm and generous with his enthusiasm for the birthplace and for Dylan."

# Alice Cooper goes t-shirt shopping for Depp



Manchester shop owner Jack Parkinson was shocked when rockstar Alice Cooper wandered into his shop and bought this t-shirt for bandmate Johnny Depp. Pic: Modern Streets on Instagram

Alice Cooper, the legendary shock rocker, caused a frenzy at Manchester's Afflecks Palace when he dropped by for a shopping spree. Traders were left starstruck as the School's Out singer explored the stalls, picking up a t-shirt for his bandmate, Johnny Depp.

Cooper's style radar led him to Modern Streets, where he fell in love with a skeleton-themed design that exclaimed: 'All My Friends Are Dead'. Sadly, the shorts weren't his size, but that didn't dampen his rock 'n' roll spirit. Instead, he snagged shirts as

gifts for Depp and his crew, spreading the love and supporting local businesses with a cool £100 spent.

Shop owner Jack Parkinson couldn't believe his luck as he chatted with the living legend. Cooper proved to be the epitome of down-to-earth, even offering to pay for the shirts instead of accepting freebies.

Cooper and Depp's band, The Hollywood Vampires, spent July touring in the UK and Europe. UK dates included Scarborough, Swansea, Manchester, Birmingham, London and Glasgow.



# Rocky story of Stonehenge replica gets a happy ending

Esperance Stonehenge, the only full-size replica of Stonehenge in the UK, has found new owners, three years after it went on the market. Tracey and Oliver Gillbard, a couple with a deep appreciation for ancient historical sites, have embraced the opportunity to become the custodians of this awe-inspiring attraction.

Hailing from Devon, England, Oliver has a special connection to Stonehenge, while Tracey, born and raised in Australia, shares his passion for ancient wonders.

Since taking over, Tracey and Oliver have injected new life into the site, which is a copy of how the intact Stonehenge would have looked from 2000BC, rather than how it currently looks.

Visitors can now enjoy a range of events, including Sound Healing sessions and breathtaking sunset viewings. With their creativity and enthusiasm, they have exciting plans in store for the future, promising more memorable experiences for visitors to come.

Esperance Stonehenge recently celebrated the Summer



Solstice with a spectacular performance. Two plays, *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, were performed there by a talented group of actors.

Like the original, the 'Clonehenge' is astronomically aligned with the summer and winter solstices to allow the sun's rays to shine through its altar stone. The circular layout amplifies sound, creating a truly mesmerizing experience for visitors.

Consisting of 137 stones made from Esperance Pink Granite, the monument weighs an astonishing 2,500 tonnes. Each stone was locally quarried and shaped, for

a similar project in Margaret River in 2008, funded by a millionaire. That project fell through. Kim and Jillian Beale, who owned a hobby farm across from the quarry, decided to build the replica on their property with their own money.

While the original Stonehenge took 1,000 years to build, the Beale's replica was completed between January and October in 2011.

The couple put it on the market twice, first in 2014 for \$5 million, then again when they retired in 2020 for less than half that price.

Esperance Stonehenge welcomes visitors every day and also offers drinks and

## AT A GLANCE

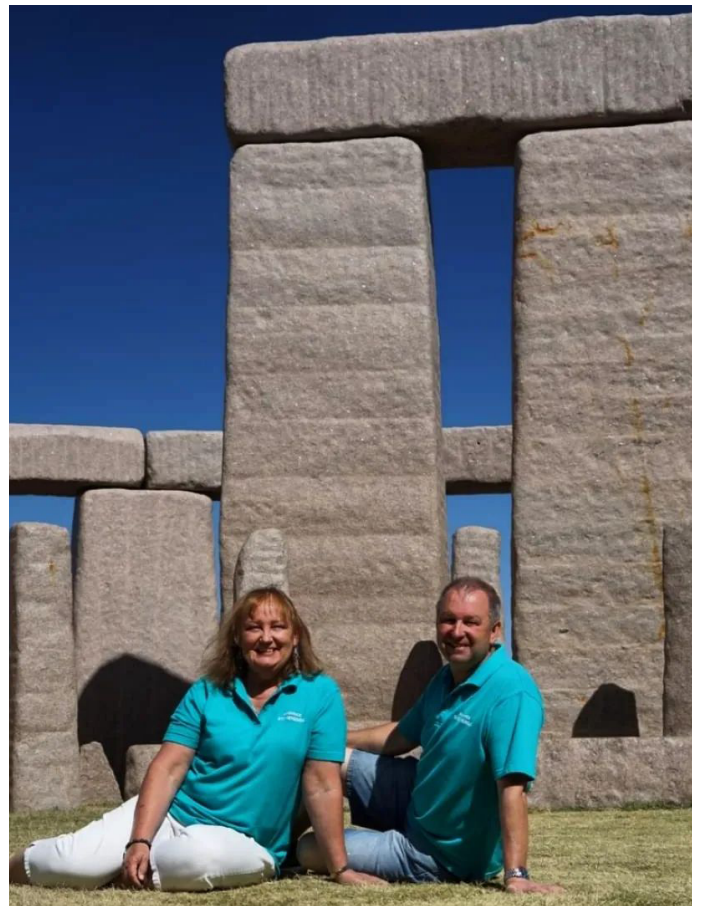
- A full-size Stonehenge replica was built at Esperance, Western Australia, in 2011.
- The tourist attraction brings in 16,000 visitors annually and also hosts weddings and theatrical events.
- Like the original, the replica is astronomically aligned with the solstice events.
- While the original Stonehenge took 1,000 years to build, construction on the replica took less than one year.
- Devon-native Oliver and his wife Tracey are the new owners of the attraction.

snacks, Devonshire tea. A range of crystals, souvenirs, and gifts are also available for purchase.

For more information on visiting, go to their website at [www.esperancestonehenge.com.au](http://www.esperancestonehenge.com.au)



**Esperance Stonehenge is a full-sized replica of Stonehenge in England. It was recently purchased by Oliver Gillbard, originally from Devon, and his wife Tracey. It is open to the public and for special events. Pics: [www.esperancestonehenge.com.au](http://www.esperancestonehenge.com.au) and supplied.**



# Ireland fans unite to spell out #COYGIG in Coogee

A heart-warming spectacle unfolded at Coogee Beach in Sydney as hundreds of Irish fans came together to spell out #COYGIG (Come on You Girls in Green), showing their unwavering support for the Ireland women's football team ahead of the Women's World Cup campaign.

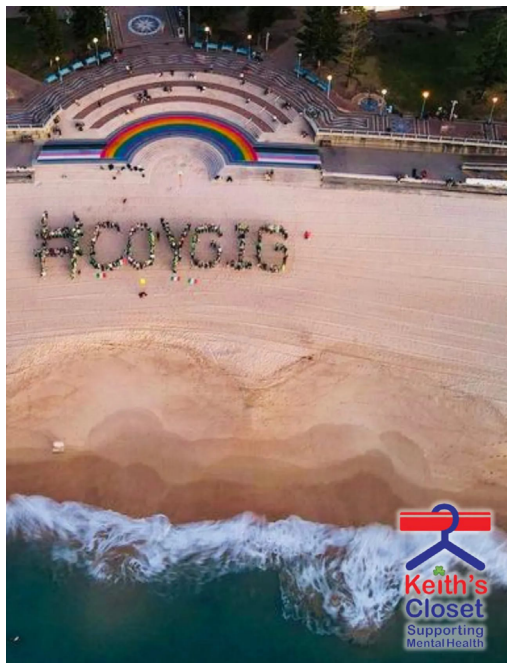
The striking visual display also carried a deeper purpose - raising awareness and funds for Keith's Closet.

Keith's Closet, founded by compassionate Irish Sydneysider Keith Donnelly, is a charity dedicated to supporting those accessing mental health services. The organisation provides a walk-in wardrobe experience, offering new and high-quality second-hand clothing, as well as toiletries, accessories, and homewares, to patients upon admission or discharge from mental health facilities.

Mental health nurse Keith told us: "It was a fantastic day with an electric atmosphere, and it was a credit to the Ireland fans who turned out in their hundreds. We are so grateful."

Keith hopes to soon make his charity initiative go nationwide. Donations can be made to Keith's Closet [here](#).

Unfortunately, the Ireland team were knocked out of the World Cup after putting on gutsy performances against Australia, Canada and Nigeria. They lost 1-0 to Australia in Sydney and 2-1 to Canada in Perth, with a brilliant goal taken by Katie McCabe from the corner. They also had a 0-0 draw with Nigeria in their final World Cup game in Brisbane.



The Lionesses on the beach in the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

# Bin chicken pitch invader disrupts England training

You'd think a bin chicken would be no match for a whole pride of Lionesses. In an unexpected turn of events during the England women's football team's training at the Sunshine Coast Stadium in Australia, the pitch was invaded by a mischievous bin chicken.

Lucy Bronze, the England defender, had a close encounter with the notorious bin chicken (Australian white ibis) as the team prepared for the Women's World Cup. The long-beaked intruder decided to join in on the action, amusing players and spectators alike.

As Bronze spoke to reporters about the ongoing discussions over performance-related bonuses with the Football Association (FA), the bin chicken's antics provided some light relief. Despite the frustration over the unresolved bonuses, Bronze and her teammates took the unexpected visitor in stride, capturing the spirit of Aussie humour.

Apart from the bin chicken's antics, the England team also experienced a heart-warming welcome from the Gubbi Gubbi people, the traditional custodians of the land in south-east Queensland.

The locals, along with the mayor of the Sunshine Coast and the British High Commissioner to Aus-



tralia, greeted the Lionesses warmly, setting the stage for a memorable tournament. With the bin chicken's unexpected appearance, the training session added an element of quirky humour to the otherwise serious preparations for the prestigious tournament.

England beat Haiti at Brisbane Stadium, the final score 1-0.

They also faced Denmark on July 28 at Sydney Football Stadium. England had a 1-0 win over Denmark in their crunch Group D clash. Lauren James's curled finish was enough for the Lionesses, but Keira Walsh was stretchered off with a knee injury.

England will play China in their final World Cup group game, facing their opponents for the first time since 2015. The game takes place on August 1 in Adelaide.

## AT A GLANCE

- Con (Sullivan) Colleano was known as the Wizard of the Wire.
- He was born in Lismore, New South Wales, to an Irish father, and a mother of mixed heritage, including Afro-Caribbean and Indigenous Australian.
- He was listed in the Guinness Book of Records as being the first person to successfully attempt a forward somersault on a tightrope.
- He performed in circus big tops all over the world.
- Hitler and Mussolini watched him perform and were so impressed, they granted him medals.
- His incredible legacy was celebrated with a tightrope show as part of NAIDOC Week in Lismore.



# Lismore celebrates legendary tightrope artist Con Colleano

In a captivating tribute to Con Colleano, an extraordinary tightrope artist with Irish, Afro-Caribbean and Indigenous Australian roots, his birth town of Lismore, New South Wales, recently hosted a breathtaking event, called The Xcrossing, during NAIDOC Week in July.

The event showcased the incredible talent of Colleano, born Cornelius (Con) Sullivan in 1899, the greatest tightwire artist of all time.

Con was the third of ten children of an Irish father, Cornelius Sullivan, and his wife Julia Robinson. Julia's father came from Saint Thomas in the Caribbean, and her mother was of mixed heritage, with one of her grandmothers being Indigenous.

His father was a bare-knuckle boxer and a circus performer, and he taught his children circus skills. As was common among acro-

bats at the time, they adopted a stage name, Colleano, and travelled in Queensland with their Colleano's All Star Circus.

Con practiced up to seven hours a day to hone his skills on the highwire, eventually perfecting the almost impossible feet-to-feet forward somersault on the tightrope.

He went on to great success on the vaudeville scene in Sydney, where he also secured work for the rest of his family. They then went on to perform with circuses in South Africa, the British Isles, and America, where the family settled.

Con met his wife, Winnie Trevail, a vaudeville performer, in Melbourne. It was around that time that he adopted a new look from the top and tails he had been performing in – a Spanish toreador outfit and persona. Throughout the 1920s and

1930s, Con travelled the world, dazzling audiences. His exceptional skills on the wire caught the attention of Adolf Hitler, who admired Con's performances so much, he issued him a German passport for unrestricted travel. Benito Mussolini, the Italian prime minister, also honoured him with a medal and praised his prowess. Little did they know of his true ancestry.

Aged 60, Con retired from his career due to failing eyesight. His gave his last performance in Honolulu in 1960. In 1966, he was elected to the Circus Hall of Fame. He died in 1973. He is in the Guinness Book of World Records as being the first person to ever successfully attempt a forward somersault on a tightrope.

Despite Australian Post issuing a stamp in his honour, his remarkable story remained relatively unknown, even to

the residents of his birth town of Lismore.

The Xcrossing featured a line-up of celebrated tightwire walkers, including Dylan Singh, a Wiradjuri wire walker and circus artist, who delivered awe-inspiring performances on highwires stretching 60 meters across Lismore Quad.

A speech was given by Deb Hescott, a family relative of Con, and Mark St Leon, a circus historian and author of 'Con Colleano, Wizard of the Wire'.

Simone O'Brien, co-director of The Xcrossing, expressed her excitement about making Con Colleano a household name through this event, which left a lasting impression on the community.

The performance successfully planted a seed of recognition and appreciation for Con Sullivan Colleano's incredible talent and heritage.



# Tascal WINTER BALL 2023

**Hobart Town Hall Saturday 19th August 2023**  
**Musicians: Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt**

## Dance through the Decades

**Doors open 7PM, Grand March 7.30PM**

### TICKETS

Adults \$55

16 & under \$25

Spectators \$30

Supper included

Programme link: <https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/39356/>

### HOW TO BOOK

Trybooking Online link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CGIRV>

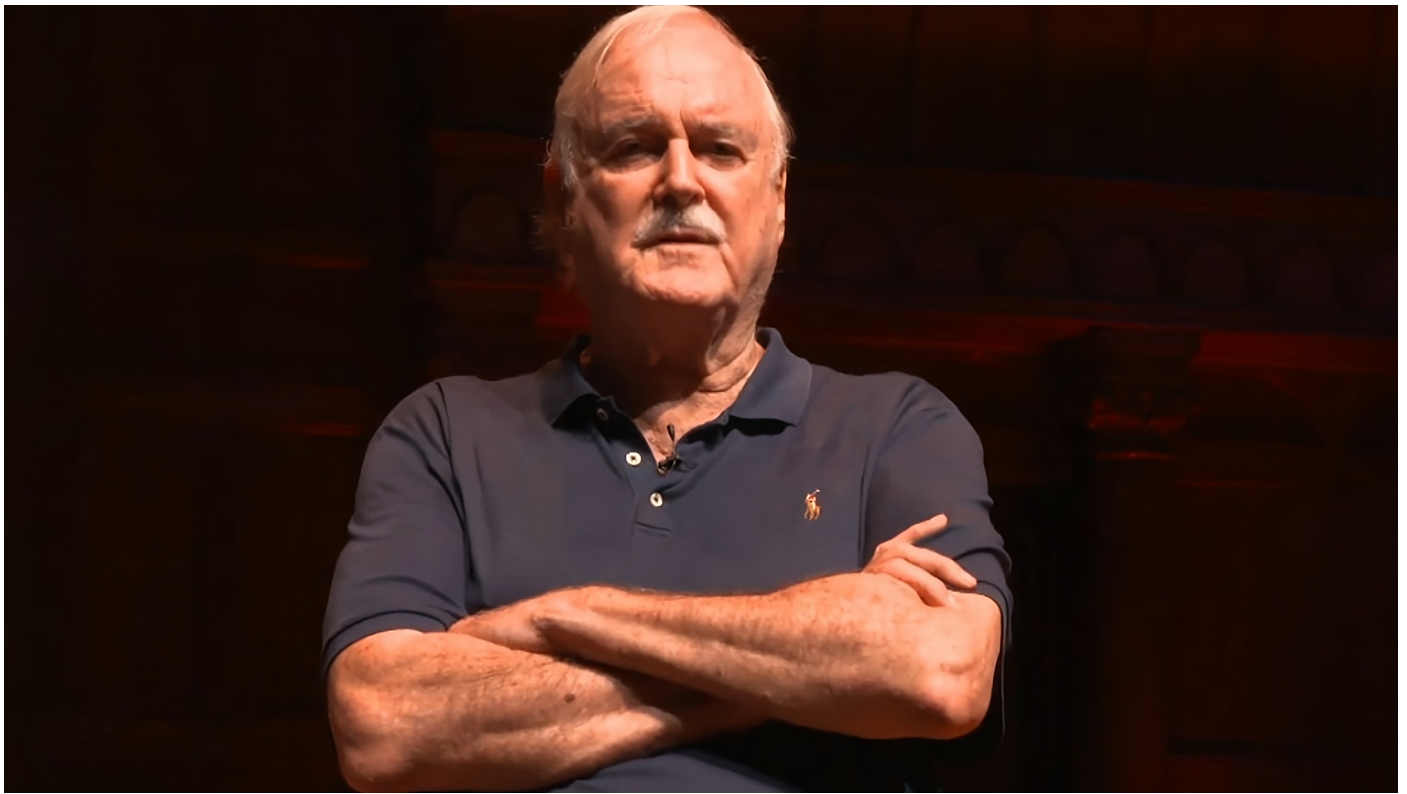
Contact: [tascaldance@gmail.com](mailto:tascaldance@gmail.com)



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# The Late John Cleese appears Down Under

One of the most influential and important comedians in entertainment history, John Cleese is touring Australia with his show *An Evening with the Late John Cleese* to Australia, with dates in July and August. The show will have John talking about his experiences in the afterlife and what the audience can expect when they get there.

At 83 years of age, Cleese's boundless energy and inimitable sense of humour will leave you in splits and thoroughly entertained.

John will also regale fans with stories and exclusive clips from his illustrious career that spans over 50 years. Cleese is a force behind some of the most ground-breaking comedy of the 20th Century.

He is loved the world over for his comedic antics in cult films such as *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life*,

## TOUR DATES

02 AUG Brisbane QLD  
05 AUG Sydney NSW  
06 AUG Sydney NSW  
08 AUG Canberra ACT  
11 AUG Newcastle NSW  
12 AUG Newcastle NSW

*The Life of Brian*, and *A Fish Called Wanda*. His voice was used in the *Shrek* movies and in he starred in *Harry Potter* and *The Philosopher's Stone*.

Few comedy troupes have reached the same fame of *Monty Python*, and a large part of that success was due to John Cleese and his impeccable timing and sense of humour.

Strongly opposed to so-called 'woke comedy' and political correctness, Cleese is now perhaps better known

for his social commentary, with the actor even due to appear in a documentary about cancel culture named *John Cleese: Cancel Me* soon for Channel 4 in the UK. In the TV show, he takes aim at the media elite who think they know better than ordinary Britons.

He jokes his new programme is for the "much neglected demographic" of viewers "who are completely out of touch".

"So, stay out of touch, with me!" he adds.

Never one to be overly obsessed with the establishment, Cleese's comedy has always prided itself on telling stories of ordinary people in ordinary situations behaving absurdly for no obvious reason. The British icon has vowed no one will be cancelled - and no topic will be too controversial for discussion.

As if that's enough, he

also plans a *Fawlty Towers* revival, more than 40 years after the original massively successful BBC series, about a stressed hotel owner in Torquay, Cornwall.

Cleese will reprise his role as Basil Fawlty and his daughter Camilla will also join the cast.

John told GB News: "It is going to be very, very different because if it's in the Caribbean it's going to be a multicultural cast which will be very interesting, and my Camilla will be playing the woman who is running the hotel at the time."

It seems John Cleese has limitless ambition. He is also working on a stage version of *Life of Brian*, a musical of *The Fish Called Wanda* and himself and, he told GB News: "Camilla and I have written a very good comedy on Hollywood stereotypes, I mean lookalikes."

## Festivals

### SCOTS IN THE BUSH

Scots and Celtic festival with pipe bands, live music, dancers, stalls.

Historic Boondooma Homestead, QLD

16-20 AUG

[TICKETS HERE](#)

### CRAIC FEST 23

Festival of Irish music at the Colmslie Hotel. Sasta, Murphy's Pigs, Munster Bucks, Tartan Shamrock.

Brisbane QLD

2 SEP

### IRISH AND CELTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

Irish and Celtic music, poetry, dance, Celtic markets.

Yass NSW

15-17 SEP

[TICKETS HERE](#)

### BONY MOUNTAIN FOLK FESTIVAL

The little festival in the bush with music, poetry, pipe bands.

Upper Wheatvale QLD

15-17 SEP

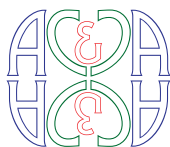
### CELTICFEST WARWICK

Dancing, pipe bands, traditional games, food and fun.

Warwick QLD

30 SEP - 1 OCT

As events are subject to change, please go to events' and artists' websites to confirm dates and full details. Paid advertisers get a website link. Email listings to [editor@angloandceltic.com](mailto:editor@angloandceltic.com)



# GIGS & REELS

Events and entertainment around Australia in August - by [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)

## HUNTER VALLEY HIGHLAND GAMES

Hunter Valley, VIC

Come experience the Hunter Valley Highland Games in beautiful Wine Country! After all, the original grapevines planted in the Hunter were planted by James Busby of Edinburgh. These games celebrate the deep connection between Australia and Scotland.

26 AUGUST

© [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)



1 AUG

Comhaltas Perth Trad Irish Music Lessons and Session (Every Tuesday)  
Victoria Park RSL, Perth WA

2 AUG

Australian British Chamber of Commerce Cyber Tech Seminar  
Sydney NSW  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Darwin NT  
John Cleese  
Brisbane QLD  
Monty Python's Spamalot (runs to 26 Aug)  
Gold Coast QLD

3 AUG

Bernadette Robinson DIVAS opening night (runs to 13 Aug)  
Sydney Opera House NSW  
Inspirational Carpets  
Brisbane QLD  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Maryborough QLD

4 AUG

Inspirational Carpets  
Sydney NSW  
Jimeoin  
Rooty Hill NSW  
Ross Noble  
Wagga Wagga NSW  
Tubular Bells For Two  
Sutherland NSW  
Yes, Prime Minister opening night (runs to 12 Aug)  
Tamworth NSW  
Billy Elliot: The Musical  
Broadbeach QLD  
Queensland Irish Association  
Happy Hour Drinks  
Normanby Hotel, Brisbane QLD  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Bundaberg QLD  
Ireland Funds Australia  
Brisbane Luncheon  
Brisbane QLD  
Balaklava Eisteddfod  
Balaklava SA  
Shambolics  
Adelaide Irish Club SA  
EltonBilly  
Kyneton VIC

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5 AUG

Imbolc Celebration  
Holgate NSW  
The Warrigah Scottish Society  
Ceilidh  
Collaroy NSW  
Jimeoin  
Wentworthville NSW  
Ross Noble  
Griffith Theatre, NSW  
Live Irish Bar Saturdays (every Saturday) at The Fiddler  
Rouse Hill NSW  
Society of Saint Andrew of Scotland  
Queensland Edinglassie Cocktails and Ceilidh  
Brisbane QLD  
John Cleese  
Sydney NSW  
Reel to Roma Scottish Dancing competition  
Roma QLD  
Inspirational Carpets  
Melbourne VIC  
City of Hobart Highland Pipe Band Winter Gathering  
Hobart TAS  
EltonBilly  
Warrnambool VIC  
Port Adelaide Caledonian Society Afternoon Tea  
Exeter SA  
Balaklava Eisteddfod  
Balaklava SA

6 AUG

John Cleese  
Chatswood NSW  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Wollongong NSW  
Albury/Wodonga Eisteddfod  
Albury NSW  
Jimeoin  
Canterbury NSW  
Billy Elliot: The Musical  
Broadbeach QLD  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Rockhampton QLD  
RealTIn  
Frankston VIC

7 AUG

Rhythms of Ireland  
Canberra ACT  
Tasmanian Whisky Week opens (runs to 13 Aug)  
Hobart TAS

8 AUG

John Cleese  
Canberra ACT  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Wyang NSW  
Ross Noble  
Redcliffe QLD

9 AUG

Rhythms of Ireland  
Sydney NSW  
Ross Noble  
Rockhampton QLD  
Australian Walsh Male Choir  
Open Rehearsals  
Crafty Squire, Melbourne VIC

10 AUG

Rhythms of Ireland  
Newcastle NSW  
Jimeoin  
Newcastle NSW  
Antarctic Monkeys  
Brisbane QLD  
Mackay Eisteddfod opens (runs to 19 Aug)  
Mackay QLD

11 AUG

Antarctic Monkeys  
Sydney NSW  
Jimeoin  
Newcastle NSW  
John Cleese  
Newcastle NSW  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Taree NSW  
Tubular Bells For Two  
Blue Mountains NSW  
Billy Elliot: The Musical  
Broadbeach QLD  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Cairns QLD  
EltonBilly  
Bendigo VIC  
Mackay Eisteddfod  
Mackay QLD  
Munno Para Caledonian Society Supper and Entertainment  
Grenville Hub, Elizabeth SA  
Ross Noble  
Bundaberg QLD

12 AUG

Jimeoin  
Club Menai NSW  
John Cleese  
Newcastle NSW

Ross Noble

Caloundra QLD  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Townsville QLD  
Blarney Stone at The Cardigan Bar  
Sandgate QLD  
Australian Welsh Male Choir presents Brewery Bash Sing-along at Brick Lane  
Dandenong South VIC  
The Snuts  
Melbourne VIC  
Antarctic Monkeys  
Melbourne VIC  
The Australian Van Morrison Show  
Smythsdale VIC  
EltonBilly  
Wendouree VIC  
A Tribute to Fleadh Cheoil at JB O'Reilly's  
Perth WA  
Traditional Music Workshops  
Coconut Grove NT  
Mackay Eisteddfod  
Mackay QLD

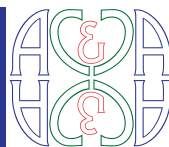
13 AUG

Rhythms of Ireland  
Port Macquarie NSW  
Aine Tyrrell  
Wingham NSW  
Bloomsday in Melbourne presents A Day With James Joyce: Dubliners  
Assembly Hall, Southbank VIC  
The Snuts  
Brisbane QLD  
Billy Elliot: The Musical  
Broadbeach QLD  
The Scottish Associations of South Australia Clan MacLeod  
Celebration Luncheon  
Glenelg SA  
Antarctic Monkeys  
Melbourne VIC  
A Tribute to Fleadh Cheoil at JB O'Reilly's  
Perth WA

14 AUG

John Cleese  
Canberra ACT  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Grafton NSW  
The Snuts  
Sydney NSW

# AUGUST 2023



Tours

■ English & Welsh artists/events/venues ■ Scottish artists/events/venues ■ Irish artists/events/venues ■ Other events



## QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION HAPPY HOUR DRINKS

The Normanby, Brisbane QLD

Queensland Irish Association is celebrating its 125th anniversary and attracting lots of new members. Happy hour drinks promises to be an evening of cocktails and craic. Open to all and free entry, from 5pm.

4 AUGUST

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15 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Tamworth NSW  
Melbourne Welsh Choir -  
Karralyka Morning Music  
Ringwood VIC

16 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Cessnock NSW  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Coff's Harbour NSW  
Society of Saint Andrew of  
Scotland Queensland Bagpipes  
and Beer  
Brewdog, Brisbane QLD  
Scots in the Bush  
Boondooma QLD

17 AUG  
John Cleese  
Sydney NSW  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Tamworth NSW  
Scots in the Bush  
Boondooma QLD  
Antarctic Monkeys  
Adelaide SA

18 AUG  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Sydney NSW  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Gosford NSW  
Sydney Folk Festival  
Sydney NSW  
Tubular Bells For Two  
Newcastle NSW  
Scots in the Bush  
Boondooma QLD  
Tara Folk Music Festival  
Tara QLD  
Tascal Winter Ball Weekend  
Hobart [TAS TICKETS](#)  
EltonBilly  
Warragul VIC  
Antarctic Monkeys  
Perth WA  
Perth Academy of Highland  
Dance Quiz Night Fundraiser  
Innaloo WA  
Ross Noble  
Perth WA

19 AUG  
Aisling Society of Sydney lunch  
at Sir Stamford Hotel  
Sydney NSW  
Perth Academy of Highland  
Dance Quiz Night  
Innaloo WA  
Sydney Folk Festival  
Sydney NSW  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Dubbo NSW  
Tara Folk Music Festival  
Tara QLD

Scots in the Bush  
Boondooma QLD  
South Australian Genealogy  
& Heraldry Society 50th  
Anniversary Dinner  
Norwood Hotel Adelaide SA  
Kryal Castle Highland  
Spectacular  
Ballarat VIC  
EltonBilly  
Wonthaggi VIC  
Ross Noble  
Perth WA  
Antarctic Monkeys  
Perth WA

20 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Goulburn NSW  
Sydney Folk Festival  
Sydney NSW  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Port Macquarie NSW  
Scots in the Bush  
Boondooma QLD  
Tara Folk Music Festival  
Tara QLD  
The Queensland Scottish  
Dancing Association 2023  
Competition  
Iona College, Brisbane QLD  
Kryal Castle Highland  
Spectacular  
Ballarat VIC

22 AUG  
Ross Noble  
Lismore NSW  
Irish Studies Association of  
Australia and New Zealand  
present A Hundred Thousand  
Welcomes: Opening Windows  
on Irish Queensland

Online - isaanz.org  
Australian British Chamber  
of Commerce presents The  
Implementation of the Free  
Trade Agreement  
Melbourne VIC

23 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Nowra NSW  
Ross Noble  
Ipswich QLD

24 AUG  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Canberra ACT  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Wagga Wagga NSW  
Ross Noble  
Kingaroy QLD  
Bernadette Robinson DIVAS  
opening night (runs to 27 Aug)  
Arts Centre Melbourne VIC

25 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Griffith NSW  
Queen It's a Kinda Magic  
Thirroul, NSW  
EltonBilly  
Mildura VIC  
Ross Noble  
Gold Coast QLD  
Gallus Winter Ceilidh  
Perth WA  
Two of Us - The Songs of  
Lennon & McCartney  
Melbourne VIC

26 AUG  
Hunter Valley Highland Games  
Saltire Estate, Lovedale NSW  
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic  
Wyoming NSW  
Brisbane Irish Rugby Football  
Club - 2023 Awards Night  
Brisbane QLD  
Ross Noble  
Cleveland QLD  
Bella Celtic Dance presents Feis  
CBD Irish Ceili  
Holy Spirit Catholic School,  
Townsville QLD  
EltonBilly  
Swan Hill VIC

Monkey Spanner  
Melbourne VIC  
Caledonian Society of WA  
Ceilidh  
Inglewood WA  
English Music Festival in  
Australia  
Hawthorn VIC  
Port Adelaide Caledonian  
Society Fred Adam Memorial  
Solo Playing Competition  
Exeter SA  
Lughnasa Bacon & Cabbage  
Night with Melbourne  
Comhaltas  
St Philip's Ch, Abbotsford VIC  
Scottish band ThistleDoo! at  
The Pipers Inn  
Currumbine WA  
Irish Bush Dance  
Keysborough VIC

27 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Bendigo VIC  
English Music Festival in  
Australia  
Hawthorn VIC  
Blackbird Feis  
Wollongong NSW

28 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Echuca VIC

29 AUG  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Albury NSW

30 AUG  
Ieuan Jones and the Sydney  
Welsh Choir  
Pitt St Uniting Church, Sydney  
NSW  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Benalla VIC

31 AUG  
Australian British Chamber  
of Commerce presents Rugby  
Lunch: Warm up for World Cup  
Four Seasons, Sydney NSW  
Rhythms of Ireland  
Wonthaggi VIC  
Ross Noble  
Mildura VIC

## ANTARCTIC MONKEYS

UK tribute band

10 AUG Brisbane QLD  
11 AUG Sydney NSW  
12 AUG Melbourne VIC  
13 AUG Melbourne VIC  
17 AUG Adelaide SA  
18 AUG Perth WA  
19 AUG Perth WA

## INSPIRAL CARPETS

English band

3 AUG Brisbane QLD  
4 AUG Sydney NSW  
5 AUG Melbourne VIC

## QUEEN IT'S A KINDA MAGIC

Queen tribute act

3 AUG Maryborough QLD  
4 AUG Bundaberg QLD  
6 AUG Rockhampton QLD  
11 AUG Cairns QLD  
12 AUG Townsville QLD  
More dates in gig guide

## ROSS NOBLE

English comedian

18 AUG Perth WA  
19 AUG Perth WA  
22 AUG Lismore NSW  
23 AUG Ipswich QLD  
25 AUG Gold Coast QLD  
More dates in gig guide

## RHYTHMS OF IRELAND

Dance show

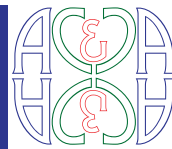
2 AUG Darwin NT  
7 AUG Canberra ACT  
9 AUG Sydney NSW  
10 AUG Newcastle NSW  
11 AUG Taree NSW  
More dates in gig guide



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# GIGS & REELS



## Tours

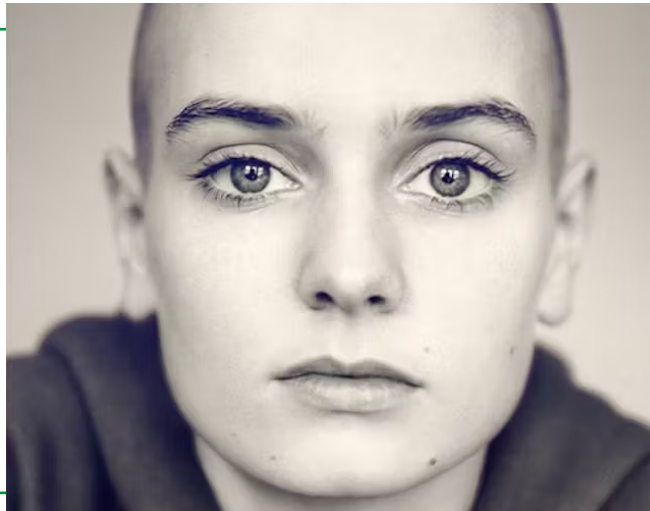
Events and entertainment around Australia - by [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)

### NOTHING COMPARES

#### STREAMING ON SBS

This documentary follows the career of the recently deceased Irish singer Sinéad O'Connor. An exploration of her rise to fame and her exile from the pop mainstream. The huge popularity of this documentary is made all the more poignant by the sad news of her recent death.

[WATCH IT HERE](#)



### UPCOMING TOURS AND FESTIVALS

#### SEPTEMBER

**Tours:**  
Rhythms of Ireland VIC, SA, NSW,  
Ross Noble VIC  
Culture Club WA, NSW, SA, QLD  
Dodgy VIC, SA, QLD, NSW, WA

**Festivals:**  
CraicFest Brisbane QLD  
Neurum Creek Music Festival QLD  
Groove Armada at Sweet Relief! QLD  
Townsville Eisteddfod QLD  
Folk by the Sea 2023 NSW  
Clans on the Coast NSW  
Jacaranda in the Highlands NSW  
Uranquinty Folk Festival NSW  
Irish Woolfest Boorowa NSW  
CelticFest Warwick QLD

#### OCTOBER

**Tours:**  
Rhythms of Ireland WA, ACT  
Bad Manners NSW, QLD, SA, VIC, WA  
Happy Mondays QLD, NSW, SA, VIC, WA  
Billy Elliot: The Musical NSW  
Tommy Fleming NSW, VIC  
The Corrs WA, QLD, NSW  
Sam Smith SA, VIC  
A Taste of Ireland QLD  
Il Divo NSW

#### Festivals:

Canberra Highland Gathering ACT  
The Wombats at Grapevine Gathering VIC, QLD, WA, SA, NSW  
Nanga Music Festival WA  
Armada Highland Gathering WA  
Illawarra Scottish Fair NSW  
Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival NSW  
Fleurieu Folk Festival SA  
Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering VIC

#### NOVEMBER

**Tours:**  
The Corrs SA, TAS, VIC  
Tommy Fleming VIC, QLD, SA  
Il Divo QLD, VIC, SA  
Sam Smith NSW, QLD  
The Coronas QLD, NSW, WA, VIC  
Def Leppard (supporting Motley Crue) VIC, QLD, NSW  
Robbie Williams NSW, QLD, VIC, SA  
Interpol and Bloc Party VIC, NSW, QLD  
A Taste of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas SA, VIC  
Coldplay WA  
EDEN NSW, VIC, QLD  
Gary Óg QLD, VIC, NSW, WA  
Deacon Blue WA, SA, VIC

#### Festivals:

Maldon Folk Festival VIC  
Bundanoon Folk Festival NSW  
Dermot Kennedy and Aitch at Spilt Milk festival ACT, QLD

#### DECEMBER

**Tours:**  
Robbie Williams WA  
Deacon Blue NSW, QLD  
A Taste of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas VIC  
Kraftwerk QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA

#### Festivals:

Daylesford Highland Gathering VIC  
Dermot Kennedy and Aitch at Spilt Milk festival VIC, WA  
Kraftwerk at Meredith Music Festival  
Meredith VIC  
Woodford Folk Festival QLD

#### 2024

**Tours:**  
Russell Brand at Wanderlust Festival in NSW, VIC, QLD  
Teenage Fanclub WA, NSW, QLD, VIC  
Niall Horan QLD, NSW, VIC  
The Human League QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA  
Louis Tomlinson NSW, QLD, VIC  
Simple Minds WA, QLD, VIC

### IRISH, CELTIC AND BRITISH RADIO PROGRAMMES

Sydney: Barry Mack's Irish Radio 99.3FM  
Friday 12pm - 2pm  
Sydney: Ireland Calling 88.1FM  
Saturday 8am to 11am  
Sydney: Celtic FM Sydney's 98.5FM  
Saturday 11am - 12pm  
Monday 4pm - 5pm

Melbourne: The Irish Program 92.3FM  
Saturday 11am - 12pm & 6pm - 7pm  
Melbourne: Irish Program 98.5FM  
Saturday 10am - 12pm

Melbourne: Celtic Folk Show 855AM  
Tuesday 3pm - 4pm

South Australia: Scottish Radio on 103.1FM  
Tuesday 12.30pm to 1.30pm, Saturday  
5pm - 6pm  
Radio Eireann Adelaide 103.1FM  
Tuesday 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Fremantle: Celtic Rambles 107.9 FM  
Saturday 8am - 10am

Brisbane: A Wee Bit O' Scotland 98.1FM  
Thursday 2pm  
Brisbane: The Irish Program 98.1FM  
Saturday 12.30pm

Bundaberg: Coral Coast Radio 94.7 FM  
Celtic Connections, Friday 12pm - 2pm  
Echoes of Ireland, Sunday 10am - 12pm

Mackay: Irish Country on 105.9 FM  
Sundays 8am to 10am

#### CULTURE CLUB

English band

5 SEP Perth WA  
8 SEP Sydney NSW  
9 SEP Melbourne VIC  
11 SEP Adelaide SA  
14 SEP Brisbane QLD



#### HAPPY MONDAYS

English band

19 OCT Brisbane QLD  
20 OCT Sydney NSW  
21 OCT Melbourne VIC  
24 OCT Adelaide SA  
25 OCT Fremantle WA



#### DEF LEPPARD

English/Irish band,  
supporting Motley Crue

8 NOV Brisbane QLD  
11 NOV Sydney NSW  
14 NOV Melbourne VIC



#### THE CORRS

Irish family band

25 OCT Perth WA  
28 OCT Bribie Is. QLD  
29 OCT Sydney NSW  
31 OCT Newcastle NSW  
2 NOV Adelaide SA  
4 NOV Launceston TAS  
6 NOV Melbourne VIC



#### ROBBIE WILLIAMS

English singer

16 NOV Sydney NSW  
18 NOV Mt Cotton QLD  
19 NOV Mt Cotton QLD  
22 NOV Melbourne VIC  
23 NOV Melbourne VIC  
25 NOV Geelong VIC  
1 DEC Swan Valley WA





# On the craic with Jimeoin

If you ask any Aussie to name a famous Irishman, chances are Jimeoin's name will roll right off their tongue. The acclaimed comedian, with his witty observations and soft Irish brogue, has become a stalwart of Australian comedy and a household name across the country.

Jimeoin McKeown (yes, that's his real name) performs to sell-out crowds across Australia with his witty, sharp take on the absurdities of everyday life.

Born in England, Jimeoin's family moved to County Derry in Northern Ireland when he was just one.

"I was born in England and went to Ireland when I was one and lived in Portstewart, Co. Derry. The year The Troubles started. My mum said it was me that started it."

Jimeoin moved to Australia at the age of 22, seeking a change from the gloomy winters.

"I was working on a building site in London, and I

had just done the winter and had enough of getting up in the dark and going home in the dark. Also, it was the bicentennial year and Sydney Harbour was on TV on Boxing Day. It never dawned on me that that was summer. I thought it was winter. And summer was even better."

Little did he know that his move would lead to a legendary career in comedy. His first TV show in the 1990s catapulted him to fame, and since then, he's been entertaining sell-out crowds.

At the beginning, Jimeoin had to slow down his voice to suit Australian audiences.

"I had to slow down big time but that suited me fine as then that way, I had more jokes. I hadn't seen a lot of stand-up before I started doing it myself so I didn't really have a style. I don't know if I have one yet. I just tell the jokes."

Jimeoin's journey has taken him from New York to New Zealand, Aspen to

Amsterdam, and even to the Middle East and the Far East. His popularity in Australia is unmatched, with regular appearances at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and successful tours nationwide. In a groundbreaking move, he ventured into the vast Australian outback, performing in hotels, theatres, swimming pools, and cattle ranches, earning him the title of the first comedian to tour the country's far reaches.

As a true comedy legend, Jimeoin has mastered the art of stand-up with unparalleled observational skills. His expressive eyebrows alone could land him a gig of their own. He has a knack for finding humor in everyday situations, leaving audiences in tears of laughter.

Even after years in the industry, Jimeoin remains as fresh as ever. His shows are a rollercoaster of laughter and silliness, drawing rave reviews from audiences and critics alike

## TOUR DATES

04 AUG Rooty Hill, NSW  
05 AUG Wentworthville, NSW  
06 AUG Canterbury, NSW  
10 AUG Newcastle, NSW  
11 AUG Newcastle, NSW  
12 AUG Menai, NSW  
17 AUG Shoal Bay, NSW  
18 AUG Shoal Bay, NSW  
19 AUG Prestons, NSW  
20 AUG Wamberal, NSW  
25 AUG Penrith, NSW  
26 AUG St Mary's, NSW  
01 SEP Dee Why, NSW  
02 SEP Hurstville, NSW  
03 SEP North Ryde, NSW  
07 SEP Castle Hill, NSW  
08 SEP Hornsby, NSW  
09 SEP Kingsford, NSW  
13 SEP Caringbah, NSW  
14 SEP Wollongong, NSW  
15 SEP Doyalson, NSW  
16 SEP Windsor, NSW  
23 SEP Cairns, QLD  
24 SEP Ingham, QLD  
11 OCT Southport Comedy Fest, QLD



Celtic Psychosis and friends enjoying themselves at Scots In The Bush festival. Pic: Celtic Psychosis

# Celtic shenanigans aplenty as Scots go bush in Boondooma

Get ready for a wild and uproarious celebration of all things Celtic at the Scots in the Bush festival.

From August 16th to 20th, 2023, Boondooma Homestead in South Burnett, Queensland, a heritage-listed complex built in the 1850s, will be transformed into a Celtic extravaganza.

The homestead was the centre of the original Boondooma Station, which was settled in 1846 by three young Scotsmen and the festival is held in their honour.

Prepare for a rollicking good time as we showcase an incredible line-up of performers who will rock your tartan socks off!

Tom Kimmert is ready to serenade you with his soul-stirring melodies, Ishka will

bring the thunder with their infectious rhythms, and the fabulous Dr Heather Clark will lead a ceilidh.

But that's not all! Darrel Craft, Murrumba Pipes & Drums, Noosa Pipe Band, Mouldy Haggis, Vince Pagett, Toowoomba Caledonian Society Pipe Band, Moreton Celtic Fiddle Club, Australian Celtic Women, Brian Letton, David Rowan, Hervey Bay Pipe Band, Rum City Dancers, and Aimee Robertson Dancers will keep the party going for four days. And the dynamic duo of Merv Webster and Clarrie Weller will be your comperes.

While you're at the festival, take a break from dancing a Highland fling to enjoy some delectable Scottish delicacies. Yes, there will

be Mouldy Haggis on the stage but they also have the real thing, mould-free, and Tony Coombes is doing the Address to the Haggis. They may even force you to eat the stuff.

But don't worry, there will be traditional treats too that'll make your taste buds do the Highland fling.

The Highland games are not on this year due to insurance problems. But that's not going to spoil the fun.

The Scots in the Bush festival is your chance to embrace your inner Highlander, unleash your wild side, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Join the fun at Boondooma Homestead from August 16th to 20th, 2023, for a rip-roaring good time.

## AT A GLANCE

- Scots In The Bush is a Scottish and Celtic festival held at a heritage-listed homestead in Queensland.
- Enjoy performances by renowned artists including Tom Kimmert, Ishka, Dr Heather Clark, Murrumba Pipes & Drums, and many more.
- The festival takes place over four days, so settle in and enjoy. Bring your tent, trailer, or caravan.
- It will take place from August 16th to 20th, 2023.
- Tickets are available from [www.boondoomahomestead.org.au](http://www.boondoomahomestead.org.au)



# Queensland Irish Association

*Happy Hour Drinks!*



Friends and Supporters of  
Queensland Irish Association

Join us on Friday, August 4th  
from 5pm at

*The Normanby Hotel, Red Hill, Brisbane*

for cocktails and craic at  
**Happy Hour Drinks!**

# From jails to jigs at Tassie ball weekend

Scots in Tasmania are getting ready to put on their dancing shoes and celebrate a truly extraordinary year at the Tascal Winter Ball Weekend 2023.

This year's event promises to be a whirlwind of fun as it commemorates the centenary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's formation in 1923. So, if you're in Tassie, mark your calendars for Friday, August 18th, through Sunday, August 20th, and get ready to be part of the historic festivities in Hobart.

On Friday evening, kick off the weekend with two exciting options.

You can choose to tour the Unshackled/Convict Memorial Hub at the Hobart Penitentiary Chapel Site. Delve into the city's dark past and experience a MONA-like digital history presentation that showcases Tasmania's convict heritage with a Scottish twist. Tales of crime and punishment abound at the Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site; all that remains of the two-acre sprawl that was the Hobart Prison Barracks – the processing centre for all 42,000 male convicts sent to Van Diemen's Land.

This immersive journey includes a tour of the historic chapel, courts, and cells.

Afterward, join the friendly supper at St George's Church Hall, where you can chat with fellow dancers and plan your exciting Saturday activities.

Alternatively, if you're itching to get those dance moves going, join the Ball Programme Walk-Through at St George's Church Hall. Brush up on some of the dances featured in the program, and indulge in a delicious supper. Whether you choose the tour or the walk-through, Friday night promises to set the tone for an unforgettable weekend.

The highlight of the weekend is the Saturday evening Gala event at the stunning Hobart Town Hall, a masterpiece of



Hobart City Hall plays host to the Winter Ball



Dancers enjoying a Tascal ball



Touring the Hobart penitentiary

history itself. The festivities begin with the Grand March led by the talented piper Geoff Jones, setting the stage for a night of dance through the decades. The lively music of Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt will keep you moving with non-stop energy and contagious enthusiasm.

The dance program features delightful Scottish dances from each of the ten decades, showcasing the evolution of formations and dance styles over the past century.

Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart, the founding figures of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, will be honoured through special dances. Don't worry if you're not an expert dancer; the joy and passion that Chris and Catherine bring to the music will inspire everyone to join in the fun.

Sunday brings an optional extra: a centenary toast at the Drink Tasmania Tasting House in beautiful and historic Richmond. Sample some of the finest Tasmanian whiskies, gins, or other spirits and raise a glass to the RSCDS and dancers worldwide. Afterward, head to the Richmond Town Hall for a relaxed and fun picnic day with friends and family. Bring your food to share, your dancing shoes, and musical instruments to jam along with Chris and Catherine.

The Tascal Winter Ball Weekend 2023 promises an unforgettable experience of dance, history, and celebration. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to be part of a very special year! Grab your tickets now and get ready to dance the night away and toast to a century of Scottish dance at its finest. It's going to be a weekend full of laughter, joy, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Tickets for the events are available for purchase, with prices starting at \$15 for the Ball Programme Walk-Through and \$55 for the Winter Ball. To book, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/CGIRV>



This year's Tascas Winter Ball Weekend will include a Richmond Picnic. Historic Richmond is the site of the oldest stone bridge in Australia, The foundation stone was laid in 1823. Pic: Anglo & Celtic

## TASCAL WINTER BALL EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

1.30pm - 3.30pm: Winter Ball Workshops. Learn the easy dances for the Hobart Winter Ball. If you've ever done ceilidh dancing or bush dancing, these classes will have you ready to strut your stuff at the Winter Ball. Pat Murnane Hall, Lenah Valley. Adult \$7, child \$5.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

6pm - 8pm: Choose Your Adventure!  
Option 1: Tour the Unshackled/Convict Memorial Hub at Hobart Penitentiary Chapel Site. \$25pp includes supper at St George's Church Hall.

6pm - 8pm: Option 2: Ball Walk-Through. Brush up on dances at St George's Church Hall. \$15pp, includes supper at St George's Church Hall.

8.15pm - 9pm: Supper at St George's Church Hall.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

7pm: Gather at Hobart Town Hall for the Grand Gala.

7.30pm: Grand March led by piper Geoff Jones.

Dance through the decades with musicians Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt. Tickets: Adult \$55, 16 years & under \$25, spectators \$30. Supper included.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

11am - 12pm: Optional whisky tasting, meet at The Drink Tasmania Tasting House in Richmond. Whisky paddle \$35, Gin paddle \$20, other spirits paddle \$20.

11am - 3pm: Picnic and Dance at Richmond Town Hall. Join musicians Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt. Bring picnic food to share, dancing shoes, a musical instrument, family and friends. Cost \$10.

## CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY



## WINTER BALL WORKSHOPS



LEARN THE EASY DANCES FOR THE HOBART WINTER BALL

Would you like to join in the fun of the Winter Ball but can't get to classes? If you're a past Scottish dancer, a bush dancer or you've done a bit of ceilidh dancing then join our workshops for learning the easier dances on the Winter Ball program. Two Saturday afternoon workshops so that you can come to the Ball and experience the immeasurable pleasure of dancing in the Town Hall Ballroom to world-class live Scottish music.

Pat Murnane Hall,  
188a Lenah Valley Rd, Lenah Valley  
Saturday 5th August  
Saturday 12th August  
1:30-3:30  
Adult \$7, Child \$5  
RSVP to [tasdancingfeet@gmail.com](mailto:tasdancingfeet@gmail.com) 0409 218 414

# Whodunnit fail as tourists get stuck at Agatha Christie manor

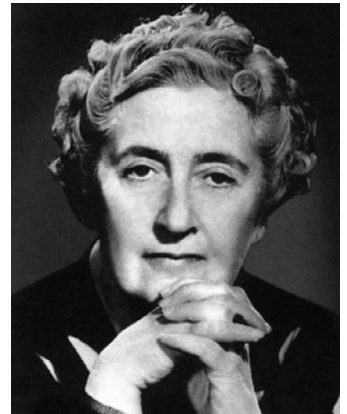
Greenway, the former residence of the iconic mystery writer Agatha Christie, became the stage for an unexpectedly dull whodunit—or rather, a “who-didn’t-do-it.”

Over 100 eager tourists found themselves trapped in the picturesque English countryside estate in Devon for several hours, after a tree cunningly fell, blocking the only road in or out.

As anticipation grew for a thrilling mystery to unfold, disappointment loomed like an unsolved puzzle. Despite the perfect setting and undeniable opportunity, not a single murder, theft, or scandalous plot emerged. No ingenious amateur sleuths emerged from the crowd, and no one devised a devilous alibi.

In a cruel twist, the stranded tourists resorted to sipping tea and playing croquet, their potential for criminal cunning wasted like an unread whodunit. We couldn’t help but wonder: Where were the femme fatales, the cunning culprits, or the quirky detectives?

Even Agatha Christie



**Greenway in Devon, the home of mystery writer Agatha Christie. Pics: left: Rod Allday, above: Flanker, Wikimedia Commons.**

herself would be baffled by the lack of criminal creativity. She often used Greenway as a muse for her murder settings, leaving us wondering why the visitors didn’t feel the urge to embrace their inner detectives—or villains!

Onlookers drew comparisons to Christie’s classic “And Then There Were None,” but the situation played out more like “And Then There Were None Who Did Anything Interesting.”

Social media buzzed with

humour and disbelief, yet the mystery of the missed opportunity remains unsolved.

As the fallen tree was finally removed, the tourists escaped unscathed. Alas, Greenway’s grounds were left unmarred by any criminal genius.

With a sigh of resignation, we must accept that this generation is more “meh” than “mystery.”

Greenway now stands closed due to storm damage, leaving us to ponder if the

next batch of visitors will rise to the occasion. Will they unravel the perfect crime or continue the trend of a perfectly ordinary day in the life of Agatha Christie’s former home?

Until then, the real mystery remains: What could have been—yet wasn’t.

Let’s hope the next group of tourists will embrace their inner sleuths and craft an unforgettable whodunit. Until then, the question lingers: Whodunit? Nobody.

## Filmmaker seeking old cassette recordings

Lights, camera, nostalgia! Irish filmmaker Austin Kenny is on a quest to uncover forgotten treasures for his upcoming emigration documentary.

Inspired by audio cassette tapes he stumbled upon in his parents’ attic, Austin’s new film aims to be a heart-warming look back at the joys and struggles of yesteryear.

Back in the late 1970s, when emigration meant leaving loved ones far behind, families in rural Ireland had to get creative to hear their voices again. Armed with audio cassette tapes and

makeshift recording methods, they sent heartfelt messages across the seas. The result? A treasure trove of memories capturing everything from new-born giggles to lively GAA commentaries.

“The documentary is inspired by an old college film that I made, which was based on old audio cassette tapes which I had discovered in the attic. My parents had kept them from the time that they had emigrated to Australia in the late 1970s. The concept of the cassettes came from the fact that the families back in rural Ireland had no access

to a nearby phone. So, the best way to hear a loved-one’s voice was to record them into the stereo speaker and post the tapes back,” Austin, a native of Dublin, said.

Austin’s earlier short documentary, *Tape Me Away From Home*, gave a glimpse into his own family’s journey. Now, with the backing of Midas Productions, he’s expanding the project and seeking contributions from others who possess their own time capsules of audio or video cassette tapes.

With the documentary,

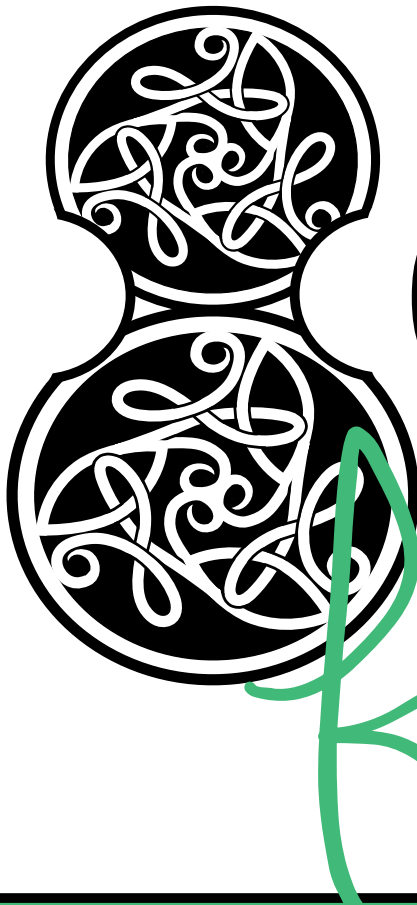
Kenny hopes to tug at heart-strings, evoke laughter, and maybe coax a tear or two with the tales he uncovers.

So, if you have dusty cassettes gathering memories in your attic, it’s time to dust them off and bring them to the spotlight. Share your cherished stories of days gone by and be part of a documentary that promises to capture the essence of emigration in a truly wistful way.

You can reach out to Austin Kenny on YouTube at [here](#) to play a starring role in this heart-warming trip down memory lane.



# Irish



&

# Celtic

# Music

*Festival*

**Join the Craic in Yass!**

**15, 16, 17 September 2023**

[irishcelticmusicfestival.com](http://irishcelticmusicfestival.com)



# Aussie distillery owner sells \$95k-a-bottle Scotch

Hold onto your wallets, whisky enthusiasts, because Bladnoch Distillery is unleashing 'The Samhla Collection' - a trio of ultra-rare single malts that'll make your taste buds and your bank account sing in harmony!

The mastermind behind this whisky extravaganza is none other than an Aussie daredevil, David Prior.

In 2015, the Melbourne entrepreneur and keen surfer became the first-ever Australian to own a Scottish whisky distillery. And it's not just any distillery, Bladnoch is Scotland's oldest working whisky distillery.

Now, David Prior is taking the whisky world by storm with 'The Samhla Collection' - a tribute to Bladnoch's journey and innovation.

So, are you ready to see how deep your pockets go? Hold onto your hat and your chequebook, because the prestigious 'The McClelland,' distilled in 1966, will set you back a whopping AU\$95,500!

But wait, that's not all! 'The Prior,' from the year 1990, captures David Prior's



David Prior is the owner of Bladnoch Distillery, which has launched its ultra-rare Samhla Collection.

visionary spirit and can be yours for just AU\$15,000 - a bargain investment in a piece of whisky history.

But don't worry, mates, if your budget's more "beer than champagne," Bladnoch's got you covered with

'The Sage.' Distilled in 2008 - the year David's daughter, Sage, was born - it's a steal at AU\$7,500.

'The Samhla Collection' is your chance to sip on excellence, innovation, and the spirit of an Aussie maverick.

Head over to [www.bladnoch.com/thesamhlacollection](http://www.bladnoch.com/thesamhlacollection) and secure your piece of the whisky pie.

Cheers to David Prior, the Aussie trailblazer taking Scotch whisky to new heights - one dram at a time!

## It's Irn Bru Man, saving the day in Dundee



Move over, Batman and Superman! Scotland has its very own superhero, and his name is Irn Bru Man.

Meet Stephen Reilly, a self-proclaimed fizzy drink fanatic who has transformed himself into the iconic Irn Bru Man. His superpower? The ability to guzzle down 100 cans of Scotland's beloved national drink every month.

Sporting a pair of orange underpants on his head and armed with an arsenal of weapons made from cans and bottles, Reilly patrols the streets of Dundee, ready to bring laughter and smiles to

its residents. But don't expect him to fight crime. Reilly's mission is solely to make people laugh.

"I love the drink because there is nothing else like it," Reilly explains. "And there are no other superheroes like me in the world."

His alter ego has garnered quite the following, with around 140k fans on social media. But despite his popularity, the only freebie he's ever received is a replacement pair of underpants.

Reilly's family fully supports his superhero double life, with his son Grayson even

aspiring to be his sidekick. However, his daughter Mia has her own ambitions and wants to become Princess Pepsi, urging her dad to create a costume for her.

While Reilly dreams of becoming the official mascot for Irn Bru and wishes for the makers of the drink to take notice of his unique creation, he maintains his sense of humour. "I'm far too powerful and fizzy for the Marvel Universe," he jokes. "They couldn't handle me."

You can follow Irn Bru Man's adventures on Tik Tok at @irnbruman

# Jackass star lands in hot water after jumping off Tower Bridge



Steve-O was arrested after leaping from Tower Bridge into the Severn River in London. Pic: Facebook.com/SteveO

Steve-O, famed for his wild antics on the infamous Jackass series, found himself in a tight spot with London police last month.

The daredevil, whose real name is Stephen Gilchrist Glover, took his dangerous stunts to new heights by leaping off London's iconic Tower Bridge into the River Thames.

Donning a Union Jack-themed outfit, Steve-O thrilled onlookers with his fearless jump, but it wasn't all fun and games. The police were waiting to detain him as soon as he resurfaced from the river.

Despite the drama, Steve-O managed to give a shoutout for his 'Bucket List' stand-up comedy tour before being whisked away in a police car.

Wimbledon-born Steve is widely known for his dangerous stunts, including snorting wasabi, locking himself in a full portable toilet and being sling shotted into the air, and even walking on a tight rope over hungry alligators.

He also stirred up controversy that same week in London by climbing onto the rooftop of a double-decker bus. In true Steve-O fashion, he posted about it on Facebook, saying: "The bus driver was really cool about the surprise, too."

While the police may have appreciated his enthusiasm, it seems Steve-O's antics can't help but attract attention - both from fans and law enforcement.

## British pub grub delights fans at Perth match

Football fever hit Australia as Premier League giants Tottenham and West Ham made their pre-season trips Down Under. While the matches brought thrilling on-field action, it was the culinary delights at Optus Stadium, Perth, that stole the show.

English-born retail sous chef Michelle Rose curated a mouth-watering menu inspired by traditional British pub grub. Fans were treated to delectable dishes such as The Duke of Wellington, featuring roast beef in green peppercorn and mushroom gravy stuffed into slider-sized Yorkshire puddings.

The footy-shaped scotch



Scotch eggs like these were served at Optus Stadium to Tottenham and West Ham supporters. Pic: Larry D. Moore, Wikimedia Commons

eggs, encased in pork sausage meat and breadcrumbs, were a crowd favourite.

The British invasion of Optus Stadium showcased fair dinkum British pub grub

at its finest. From the crunchy roast potatoes to the special barbecue sauce and brown sauce accompaniments, each dish was made with love and attention. The scotch eggs, a childhood favourite of Chef Michelle, were a labour of love, perfectly combining flavours and textures.

As the final whistle blew, the memories of the matches may fade, but the taste of The Duke of Wellington and the satisfying scotch eggs will linger on the taste buds of fans. The combination of great football and quirky British grub made this pre-season tour an unforgettable experience for Aussie fans.

