

# ANGLO CELTIC

ENGLAND • IRELAND • SCOTLAND • WALES • CELTIC NATIONS • ENGLAND • IRELAND • SCOTLAND • WALES • CELTIC NATIONS

## Festive flings in southern sunshine



**WIN concert tickets**



### FEATURES



**Shane MacGowan**



**Morrissey**



**Novo Amor**



# Y2K MILLENIUM NYE

PLAYING ALL YOUR FAVOURITE HITS FROM THE

# 2000'S

Dress in your favourite 2000's outfits  
& get ready to party the night away

295 BRUNSWICK STREET, FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

[WWW.FINNMCCOOLS.COM.AU](http://WWW.FINNMCCOOLS.COM.AU)

[1 FINNMCCOOLSFORTITUDEVALLEY](#)

[2 FINNMCCOOLS\\_FORTITUDEVALLEY](#)

[3 FINNMCCOOLSFV](#)



# WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, [editor@angloandceltic.com](mailto:editor@angloandceltic.com)



Christmas koala and kangaroo figures at a suburban house in Brisbane. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

## Have a koala-ty Christmas season!

For many of our readers who were born and grew up in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Celtic Nations, Christmas is a difficult time of year to be so far from home.

I've lived here a long time and am only just getting used to Aussie Christmas. But I always feel homesick when I see photographs of my home city of Cork decked out in its Christmas lights popping up on social media.

When you grow up in a country where Christmas is all about cold/frost/snow, curling up in front of the fire, feasting on roasts and spending time with family, Aussie Christmas comes as a massive culture shock.

But this is our home now and we have adopted new Christmas traditions. And in all fairness, Australia does it in style!

Driving around the suburbs checking out houses with so many lights that they're probably visible from space. Christmas parades in the city – something we never had back home. Santa photos at the beach. Sitting in a pool watching Christmas movies (you know, like Die Hard).

We have a two-page feature in this issue on some of the fun things you can get up to this Christmas and tell you what, Aussies certainly don't lack imagination when it comes to ways to make the season special.

Floating Christmas trees, Santa on water skis, cruising on a pirate ship, dive-in carols at the pool, boat parades – the more outlandish, the better, it seems.

We welcome The Scotsman Graeme McColgan as a columnist this month here at Anglo&Celtic.

Based in Sydney, Graeme manages to travel to festivals all over Australia. I saw him perform at CelticFest in Queensland earlier this year. He was belting out Ye Canny Shove Yer Grannie Off A Bus and it was going down a treat with the crowd.

Graeme will be celebrating New Year's Eve in Tasmania this year with his Hogmanay Hootenanny. We look forward to hearing all about it.

A big, big thank you to all who supported this magazine in 2023. Thanks to all who subscribed to our website and those who have signed up to our socials. And most of all, thanks to our advertisers.

So, Nollaig Shona Duit to the Irish, Nollaig Chridheil to the Scots, Nadolig Llawn to the Welsh, Nadelik Lowen to the Cornish, Nedeleg Laouen to the Breton, Nollick Ghennal to the Manx, Feliz Nadal to the Galician, Happy Christmas to the English, and have a bonza Aussie Chrissie!

### In this issue

On page 7, news breaks of Shane MacGowan's passing shortly after EPIC Emigration Museum pays tribute to his iconic lyrics.



On page 8, your chance to win two tickets to see Britain's Got Talent star Belinda Davids perform Whitney Houston songs.



On pages 10 & 11, our guide to the most fun and unusual ways to celebrate Christmas in Australia.



On page 17, we look at some upcoming festivals kicking off the new year, starting with Cygnet Folk Festival in Tasmania.



On pages 20 & 21, Glen Innes gets ready to mark the Summer Solstice at the Australian Standing Stones.



On page 22, Woodford Folk Festival is set to bring the magic to Queensland over Christmas and New Year.



### Book an ad

in our January edition



### They're a steal!

Ad prices start at just \$20

Proud media sponsor of



Clans on the Coast 2023



Find us on Instagram  
[angloandceltic\\_australia](https://www.instagram.com/angloandceltic_australia)



Follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/Anglo&Celtic](https://www.facebook.com/Anglo&Celtic)



We are on X as  
[@Anglo&Celtic](https://twitter.com/Anglo&Celtic)



Visit our sister title at  
[www.irishqueenslander.com](https://www.irishqueenslander.com)

# Ulster experts visit to help families trace their history

Two experts from Ulster Historical Foundation will help you unlock your Irish and Scots-Irish family history at Queensland Family History Society next February.

You can advance your knowledge of Irish research at this special morning. This event is your gateway to tracing your roots, connecting with your ancestors, and embracing your unique heritage.

The programme looks at the importance of gravestone inscriptions and funerary monuments in Irish research, Irish education and school records, and getting the most out of Griffith's Valuation.

Visiting expert Fintan Mullan is the Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation. A pioneer in the creation of online resources for Irish research, Fintan has maintained the Foundation's



**Fintan Mullan.**

prominence in digital database developments for Irish genealogy.

He has also managed the production of over 100 publications, including the popular *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors*, and has lectured extensively on Irish history and genealogy in the UK, US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Also giving the talk will



**Gillian Hunt.**

be Gillian Hunt, Research Officer with the Ulster Historical Foundation. Gillian is responsible for managing the Foundation's many genealogical activities. She also carries out research for clients and is a hugely experienced user of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the General Register Office.

Tickets for this event are limited, so secure your spot

now. Early bird pricing is available for a limited time.

Ticket prices are \$40 for members of Queensland Family History Society/Genealogical Society Queensland and \$50 for non members. From 12th December, ticket prices will be \$50 for members and \$60 for non members. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

Queensland Family History Society helps members to find their family history by giving affordable access to worldwide resources, expert help with research and information, online and in-person participation and helps members form social connections with others who have common interests.

You can visit the Family History Research Centre at 46 Delaware Street, Chermside/Geebung, Qld, or online at [qfhs.org.au](http://qfhs.org.au)

## Advance your knowledge of Irish family history research

with Queensland Family History Society & the Ulster Historical Foundation



Queensland Family History Society

**Friday, 16th February 2024, 9am-1pm**  
**Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Chermside**

Advance your knowledge of Irish research at this very special morning featuring guests from the Ulster Historical Foundation. This event is your gateway to tracing your roots, connecting with your ancestors, and embracing your unique heritage.



Program:

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History research
- The importance of gravestone inscriptions and funerary monuments in Irish research
- Irish education and school records: The records of the National Education system
- Getting the most out of Griffith's Valuation

Speakers: Fintan Mullan & Gillian Hunt, experts from the Ulster Historical Foundation

**Bookings:**  
Tickets for this unique event are limited, so secure your spot now to embark on an unforgettable journey of family history exploration.

Early bird pricing is available for a limited time.  
**\$40 Members QFHS/GSQ**  
**\$50 Non Members**  
From 12 December, ticket prices will be **\$50 for QFHS/GSQ Members** and **\$60 for Non Members**

Enquiries: [irish@qfhs.org.au](mailto:irish@qfhs.org.au)

# Bish, bosh, bash on board Jamie's cruise ship party

It was a bish, bosh, bash when Sydney hosted a culinary feast as English chef Jamie Oliver celebrated ten years of collaboration with Royal Caribbean International (RCI) aboard Ovation of the Seas.

The first Jamie's Italian at sea set sail in 2014 on Quantum of the Seas and has since become a culinary cornerstone on eight RCI ships.

The festivities kicked off with a brunch at Jamie's Italian, featuring Jamie's signature dishes like truffle arancini and Amalfi lemon cheesecake. Beyond the gastronomic delights, Jamie highlighted the common vision shared with Royal Caribbean when it comes to food and dining.

"Teaming up with Royal Caribbean allows us to serve top-notch dishes in an inviting setting, making dining at sea feel like a real family affair," Jamie remarked.

Royal Caribbean, celebrating its largest Australian season, showcased its commitment to locally sourced produce, including over 717,000kg of Aussie tomatoes, 13,000kg of basil, and 100,000kg of onions.

The event was a vibrant kickstart to Royal Caribbean's season, with around 250,000 passengers expected to cruise in 2023/24.

Jamie joyously declared: "I love being in Australia. What a place... this really is a dream for that little boy that grew up in a restaurant."



Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver in Sydney celebrating 10 years of his collaboration with Royal Caribbean. Picture: Rocket Weijers/Getty Images for Royal Caribbean

## King Charles added to Aussie \$1 coins

Check your pockets because you may have a picture of King Charles on your \$1 coins.

For the past seven decades, we've seen Queen Elizabeth II's face on our Aussie coins. Before Christmas, the effigy of His Majesty King Charles III will be gracing Australian currency, starting with the \$1 coin.

It's an historic moment for Australia, as it's the first time we've had a king's face on our coins since 1953.

The new effigy will have King Charles III looking to the left, while Queen Elizabeth II used to face to the right.

In 2024, we can expect other coin denominations featuring King Charles III. Collector and investment coins with the new royal effigy are expected to hit the shelves early next year. For coin collectors, it's a great



chance to own a piece of history.

Royal Australian Mint CEO, Leigh Gordon AO CSM said: "One of the most asked questions since The Queen's passing has been when The King will appear on our coins.

"As Australia's circulating coin manufacturer, we appreciate the importance of the transition, and we are applying our considerable skill and expertise producing Australia's coins bearing the new royal effigy."

All existing coins featuring the late Queen's effigy can continue to be used.

Professional Quality PennyWhistles

# Burke Whistles

created by Michael Burke

Precision Handcrafted Instruments  
Aluminum • Brass

[www.burkewhistles.com](http://www.burkewhistles.com)

**BurkeWhistles, Inc.**  
Michael Burke PennyWhistle Co.

# Quest to preserve archive of whimsical UK traditions

Folklore fans are rallying behind a campaign to preserve an extraordinary archive that chronicles the quirky and captivating traditions of Britain.

This remarkable collection, comprising more than 20,000 books, 4,000 tape cassettes, and 3,500 hours of reel-to-reel audio, is the life's work of 79-year-old folklorist David "Doc" Rowe, who has traversed the UK and Ireland since the 1960s.

His journeys have led him to observe a wide array of calendar customs, from the whimsical Straw Bear Festival to the eerie Krampus Run and the enigmatic Hunting of the Earl of Rone.

In an ambitious bid to immortalise the vast archive, a passionate team of filmmakers and preservationists is embarking on a crowdfunding mission.

British film directors Rob Curry and Tim Plester began a film project about Doc Rowe during lockdown, primarily driven by the urgency of preserving this priceless archive for posterity. Their aim is to create a permanent digital archive of all the materials related to folk traditions, currently residing on old video formats.

The campaign has garnered support from notable figures like musician Eliza Carthy, and authors Alan Moore and Neil Gaiman.

The film follows Doc as he tries to find a permanent home for it all, and cement not only his legacy but that of the customs he has dedicated his life to documenting.

Doc's vast collection is currently stored in Whitby, North Yorkshire, with the archive viewed as a time-traveling treasure trove. Many of the events recorded by Doc are delightfully eccentric.

The filmmakers said: "We want to feature as much of Doc's incredible footage as



The Christmas Krampus Run in Whitby was filmed by Doc Rowe (inset). Picture: Discover Yorkshire Coast



The Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, one of the rituals documented by Doc Rowe. Picture: Doc Rowe

we can in the film, but, in the spirit of 'being the change we want to see', we want to play a role in permanently securing Doc's legacy. Rather than just digitise the bits we need, we are therefore launching this crowdfunding to create a permanent digital archive of all the material related to folk traditions that is currently languishing on film stock and old video formats in Doc's hallowed archive in Whitby."

Once digitised, the archive will be safely housed in The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, the archive of the English Folk Dance and Song Society in London.

The documentary captures Doc's journey over the course of a year, during which he faced not only health issues but also a crossroads in life. The film celebrates the steadfast working-class communities preserving these traditions.

These traditions, rooted in history, embody an authentic community spirit, making their preservation of utmost importance in the face of modern challenges like gentrification and shifting community dynamics.

Learn more about the crowdfunding [here](#). Learn more about Doc Rowe [here](#).

## UNUSUAL EVENTS

- The Straw Bear Festival, held in Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, features a costumed "Straw Bear" figure that parades through the town, accompanied by music and dancing, as part of a centuries-old custom believed to bring good luck.
- The Krampus Run in Whitby, North Yorkshire, each December sees participants dress as the demonic Krampus, a companion of Saint Nicholas. Krampus festivals are popular in Europe.
- Hunting of the Earl of Rone in Combe Martin, Devon, sees locals chasing an effigy of an earl, a ritual that is puzzling in its origins.
- The Abbots Bromley Horn Dance features six "deer men" carrying reindeer antlers performing a dance that is believed to date back over a thousand years.
- Other folk traditions documented by Doc include Cheese Rolling, Morris Dancing, Bonfire Night, Maypole Dancing and Penny for the Guy.

# Fairytale choir made real in tribute to Shane MacGowan

The death has been announced of The Pogues front-man Shane MacGowan. He had been ill for some time.

A statement announcing the death was posted on The Pogues social media accounts. It read: "It is with deepest sorrow and heaviest of hearts that we announce the passing of Shane MacGowan. Shane died peacefully at 3am this morning (30 November 2023) with his wife Victoria and family by his side.

"Prayers and the last rites were read which gave comfort to his family.

"He is survived by his wife Victoria, his sister Siobhan and his father Maurice, family and a large circle of friends."

It had been hoped by fans that Shane would make it to his 66th birthday on December 25th, Christmas Day, as a campaign was underway to make his classic song Fairytale of New York this year's Christmas number one.

The Pogues have been the firm favourites to claim a first UK Christmas No.1 this year with 'Fairytale'. Originally released in 1987, it was beaten to the Christmas number one spot by Pet Shop Boys' cover of the Elvis Presley track Always on My Mind.

Fairytale of New York has been lauded as a global Irish emigration anthem. It is an undisputed Christmas classic, annually topping most played and most loved Christmas song lists.

It has +325M listens on Spotify and +87M on YouTube. Music body PPL officially named 'Fairytale' the most played Christmas song of the 21st century.

In the chorus of Fairytale of New York, Shane has a standout lyric on which most listeners join in: "...the boys of the NYPD choir were singing Galway Bay...". While people all over the world sing out that line, very few



Portrait of Shane MacGowan posted on his death announcement on X by The Pogues @poguesofficial.

people realise there never was an NYPD choir, nor did they ever sing 'Galway Bay'...

But as an ode to Shane and the Pogues, and Irish emigrants all over the world, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin recently created an NYPD choir, and have got them to sing Galway Bay.

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum wanted to bring this famed line to life, and celebrate the song Galway Bay, another timeless Irish classic, penned by Irish emigrant,

Arthur Colahan, as a tribute to his homeland.

And so just over a month ago, 36 years after the first release of Fairytale, a hand-picked group of retired NYPD officers, joined by a local amateur choir, gathered in a recording studio in the heart of New York City to lend their voices to the beloved Galway Bay. The result is a breathtaking rendition of this timeless Irish song, complemented by a music video that the Irish all over the world can resonate with.

Aileesh Carew, CEO of

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, said, "At EPIC, we take immense pride in highlighting the stories and accomplishments of Irish emigrants, demonstrating that Irish identity transcends the geographical boundaries of our island. With that in mind, what better way to celebrate this than by giving life to that famous line in Fairytale of New York, performed by retired NYPD officers, all of whom proudly share Irish heritage. This Christmas, we hope that the NYPD Choir's rendition of Galway Bay will be shared far and wide, both at home and abroad."

Retired NYPD Officer John Behan said of the song Galway Bay: "My grandfather used to play it at Christmas time, that was a song that he liked. He was a tough guy but he got soft when that music came on. He was a good man."

The piece is also a fitting tribute to the impact that the Pogues' Fairytale of New York has had - the song has been described as a cultural touchstone for many Irish emigrants.

Shane MacGowan recently said: "The Pogues could never have happened in Ireland. The Pogues needed to happen from the diaspora."

On Friday, December 1st, EPIC planned to launch a supporting exhibition titled, They Gave The Walls a Talking - The extraordinary story of The Pogues and Shane MacGowan.

Developed in collaboration with Hot Press music magazine and running until the end of January 2024, the exhibition delves into numerous themes, encompassing 'songs of emigration', 'the creation of 'Fairytale of New York', 'literary influences,' and much more.

Head to [YouTube to watch the video](#). Visit [www.epicchq.com](http://www.epicchq.com) to find out more about the exhibition.



The boys of The NYPD Choir singing Galway Bay. Picture: EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum



## WIN TWO TICKETS TO THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

Anglo&Celtic readers can win two tickets to see Belinda Davids live in Australia.

To enter, like our social media pages and share our competition post before 31st December 2023. More shares mean more entries, so tag your friends too.

All entries will be put into a hat and the winner will be announced in January 2024.

Here's a link to the posts/pages:

[Facebook](#) [Twitter/X](#)  
[Instagram](#)

# Britain's Got Talent star announces concert tour

Britain's Got Talent star Belinda Davids is bringing her The Greatest Love of All tour to Australia in May and June 2024.

After five years, the celebrated songstress and TV star is returning to Australia with her acclaimed tribute concert.

Whitney Houston's musical legacy is set to be brought to life in this critically-acclaimed tribute concert described as "mind-blowingly spot on".

Since her last visit to Australia in 2018, Belinda Davids' stardom has contin-

ued to rise, making her mark on the international TV scene with unforgettable appearances on Britain's Got Talent, Steve Harvey's Showtime at the Apollo, the BBC's Even Better Than the Real Thing and, most recently, awarded the 'Golden Buzzer' in Europe's Got Talent All Stars TV contest.

She will be accompanied on stage by her international live band and backing vocalists plus glorious state-of-the-art sound, lighting, vision and theatrical FX, promising a memorable, fun and nostalgic

evening of live music.

All Whitney Houston's greatest hits will be brought to life on stage, including Greatest Love of All, I Wanna Dance With Somebody, I Will Always Love You, I'm Every Woman, How Will I Know, Didn't We Almost Have It All, I Have Nothing, Run to You and more.

The Greatest Love of All starring Belinda Davids will have a limited tour across the country in May and June. Tickets are available now.

Visit [thegreatestloveofall-show.com](http://thegreatestloveofall-show.com) for tickets and

## TOUR DATES

MAY 17 Gold Coast QLD  
MAY 24 Perth WA  
MAY 25 Mandurah WA  
MAY 29 Adelaide SA  
MAY 31 Sydney NSW  
JUN 5 Newcastle NSW  
JUN 7 Melbourne VIC  
JUN 8 Melbourne VIC

more information.

\*NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTATE OF WHITNEY HOUSTON.



THE  
**Red Lion**  
TAVERN

Where Celtic Meets Country

*Celtic Christmas*

**MENU**

**MAIN COURSE**

Roast Lamb & Pork

Duck-Fat Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Parsnip

Butter-Roasted Brussel Sprouts w/Bacon

Yorkshire Pudding

Gravy & Apple Sauce



**DESSERT**  
Christmas Trifle

OR

Christmas Pudding w/Brandy Custard

New England Highway, Glencoe, New South Wales

# Floating trees and Santa on skis, it's Christmas Oz-style

Get ready to don your Christmas tshirt, embrace the scorching sun, and enjoy an Aussie-style Christmas that's as lively as it is entertaining!

Here's how Aussies do it with a dash of humour and a hearty dose of fun:

**Beach Bonanza:** Swap snow for sand and enjoy an Aussie Christmas at the beach with your family and mates. Picture picnics, barbies, and water shenanigans to cool off.

**Carol Karaoke:** Join Carols by Candlelight across Oz and croon classic carols under the twinkling stars. Melbourne's Sidney Myer Music Bowl hosts the big kahuna of these events.

**Christmas Lights Extravaganza:** Homes and neighborhoods transform into glittering spectacles, and there are friendly competitions for the most over-the-top displays. Seriously, some houses are visible from space.

**Boat Bling Parade:** It's not just the homes that light up – boats get a makeover too. They parade down rivers with more bling than a Hollywood star, while the locals enjoy a picnic on the shore, sipping cold ones.

**Street Fiesta:** The hot summer nights in Oz linger like an uninvited guest. Perfect for street parties! Hundreds of neighbours gather to revel in the warm air, and it's the perfect excuse for a sizzling barbie.

**Pageants with a Twist:** Aussie Christmas pageants are a whole new experience. Floats, bands, clowns, and dance troupes prance around, all leading up to the main event – Father Christmas himself, not stuck in a chimney but usually in some outlandish sleigh. Some of the best are in Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane.

**Santa's Hot Rod:** Forget



Geelong's Floating Christmas Tree features a sound and lights show that runs until January 7th.

Rudolph; Santa cruises the Aussie 'hoods on a fire truck, dishing out sweets on the Lolly Run. From bush to burbs, you'll spot him waving with a big Aussie "G'day!"

**Seafood Sensation:** In South Australia and Victoria, there is a twist on Christmas Eve. That's when they feast, with a seafood spread that'll make you say "Bonza!" Prawns, lobsters, oysters, and salads that'll knock your socks off.

**Sweet Indulgence:** Who cares if it's scorching? Dig into Christmas pudding, fruitcake, and pavlova. Because calories don't count at Christmas.

**Play All Day:** The sunny weather invites us to get outdoors for some good old

backyard sports, and a dip in the pool. Or head to the local park. Gather the crew for some fun and games.

**Santa's Surf Adventure:** In Oz, Santa swaps his North Pole attire for boardshorts and a tee. Expect to see "Surfing Santa" on your Christmas decorations, catching a wave.

**Native Bling:** Forget mistletoe and holly, Aussies fancy native plants for their Christmas decor – eucalyptus and wattle, anyone? They're woven into wreaths and centerpieces, giving festivities a uniquely Australian touch.

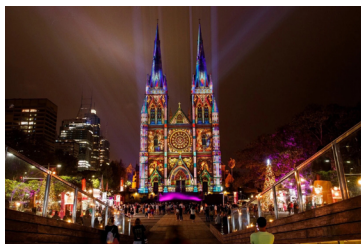
**Movie Time:** Who needs a cinema when you have outdoor movies for watching your fave Christmas flicks under the stars. Bring a picnic

blanket, and maybe some popcorn.

**Cricket Craze:** Boxing Day isn't about shopping here; it's all about the Boxing Day Test Match, an Aussie cricket tradition. Join the cheering crowd or watch it from home – either way, it's a ripper!

**Give a Hand:** Aussies are known for their big hearts. So, they spread some love through charitable acts, like donating to those in need and lending a hand to various causes.

So get out and grab yourself a Christmas-themed shorts and tshirt combo, and some wacky festive sunnies, and get ready for a festive experience that's as entertaining as it is unforgettable!



The National Water Sports Centre in Carrum, Victoria will have a Christmas ski show featuring Santa on a water ski. Lara in Victoria has a Christmas village, top left, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney has a light show, left, and Hunter Valley Gardens in Pokolbin will have over four million lights, bottom left.

# Events from Ho Ho Ho to Yo Ho Ho!

## Mandurah Pirate Ship Cruise

Yo Ho Ho and a bottle of rum, hop aboard The Pirate Ship for a Christmas cruise through Mandurah WA's beautiful inland waterways and canals. The Pirate Ship offers 360 degree views, BYO alcohol and a steering wheel for the kids. Runs from 1st December to 6th January.

## Carrum Christmas Ski Show and Movie

Enjoy a free Christmas ski show at Carrum VIC, with food trucks, merchandise, and even a special appearance from Santa Claus. Stick around for an outdoor movie. National Water Sports Centre, Sunday, 17th December from 2pm.

## Christmas Lights Spectacular at Hunter Valley Gardens

Explore over four million lights at Pokolbin NSW. Don't miss the rides, delicious food, and the famous New Year's Eve fireworks. Runs until 28th January.

## Geelong Lights Festival and Floating Tree

Enjoy the largest Christmas Lights Festival in Victoria with



Cruise Mandurah like a pirate this Christmas while taking in the lights along the canals.

over three million lights, thrilling rides, live performances, and Santa's visit. Christmas Festival of Lights at Adventure Park, Geelong runs until 31st December. And check out the Floating Christmas Tree Sound and Light Shows, Geelong until 7th January.

## Christmas At The Cathedral

Christmas at the Cathedral has become a Sydney tradition. It is an annual event which draws hundreds of

thousands of families, children, community groups and tourists together to experience the lights and sounds of Christmas. Amid the shimmering lights, stalls will serve up a mouthwatering array of food and there will be nightly music performances to captivate you.

St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney CBD from December 14th to 25th.

## Lara Christmas Village

A magical Christmas village

at Lara, Victoria is inspired by British and European Christmas markets. This mini-village has 50 charming houses, 'snow', a Christmas tree forest, and Santa visits. It will run at Mittagong Girl Guides Campsite from December 1st to 3rd.

## Dive-In Carols at Waterworld, City of Tea Tree Gully

Sing along with carols live-streamed from Civic Park Carols onto the big screen while you relax in heated pools or whiz down waterslides. You also get to meet the man himself, Santa. Sunday, December 17th at Waterworld, Ridgehaven SA.

## Midnight Mass at St Paul's, Melbourne

Of course, Christmas is not all about Santas and barbies. Places of worship across the country will be holding Christmas services, with some offering a traditional Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

One example is St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, which will celebrate Midnight Mass on December 24th, beginning at 11pm. Expect a traditional service with carols for all to sing.



# Welsh sensation Novo Amor upgrades debut Aussie tour

The captivating sounds of Novo Amor, the celebrated Welsh producer, multi-instrumentalist, and singer-songwriter, are set to resonate across Australia as he embarks on his first headline tour this December.

Presented by Untitled Group and XIII Touring, this eagerly anticipated tour promises to be a musical journey that touches the soul.

Known for his ability to weave poignant melodies, ethereal falsettos, and heartfelt lyrics, Novo Amor has entranced audiences worldwide. His music reflects the emotions of the human experience, making every song a personal and intimate encounter.

The Novo Amor project, led by Aberystwyth-born Ali Lacey, was born out of a desire to heal and defy the aftermath of a breakup.

His debut album, *Birthplace* (2018), was inspired by this tumultuous period in his life and garnered critical acclaim. It propelled him on a global tour, igniting a passionate following across online platforms and establishing him as a respected indie folk artist.

Novo Amor is more than just a musician; he's a storyteller. Ali Lacey's music is a reflection of his life, recorded in his Cardiff home-studio, where the sounds of the city blend with his compositions.

Debut album *Birthplace* was shaped by memories of a serene summer by a lake in upstate New York. It was an album of quiet hope and longing, transporting listeners to a world that has since evolved.

In contrast, Novo Amor's latest release, *Cannot Be, Whatsoever*, offers a refresh-

ing soundscape. It exudes immediacy and optimism, capturing the essence of the city that contrasts with the countryside-inspired *Birthplace*.

Novo Amor's music has matured and adapted to the changing landscapes of his life and experiences.

Novo Amor's journey didn't stop at *Cannot Be, Whatsoever*. In 2022, he released the ambient instrumental album *Antarctican Dream Machine*. This unique record was a product of his experiences while sailing with Greenpeace around Antarctica, shaped by the inspiration and beauty he encountered during those 21 days.

Now, as December approaches, Novo Amor is ready to share his enchanting music and storytelling with Australian audiences. Don't miss the opportunity to ex-

## TOUR DATES

DEC 7 Brisbane QLD  
DEC 8 Sydney NSW  
DEC 9 Melbourne VIC

perience his acclaimed voice and mesmerising live performances that have touched hearts across the globe.

Here are the tour dates for Novo Amor's Australian Tour 2023: Thursday, 7th December: The Tivoli, Brisbane, Queensland (venue upgrade); Friday, 8th December: Enmore Theatre, Sydney, New South Wales (venue upgrade); Saturday, 9th December: The Croxton, Melbourne, Victoria.

Prepare to be captivated and entranced by the spell-binding melodies of Novo Amor. It's a musical journey that you won't want to miss.



# Bringing community back, one ceilidh step at a time

G'day, mates!

Ever since I set foot on the sunny Australian shores, my mission has been simple: to share my passion for ceilidh dancing with all Aussies, and the journey has been nothing short of incredible.

With two decades of experience in calling dances, it's heart-warming to witness how ceilidh and bush dances, especially post-COVID, are weaving people and communities back together. Forget the formality of yesteryears; today, it's about fostering a lively, informal, and inclusive atmosphere.

At events and weddings I've organised, I've watched toddlers chuckling alongside wise grandmas, all caught up in ceilidh dance steps within moments of giving it a try. And if there are missteps? No worries – we share a laugh,

try again, and revel in the beautiful chaos.

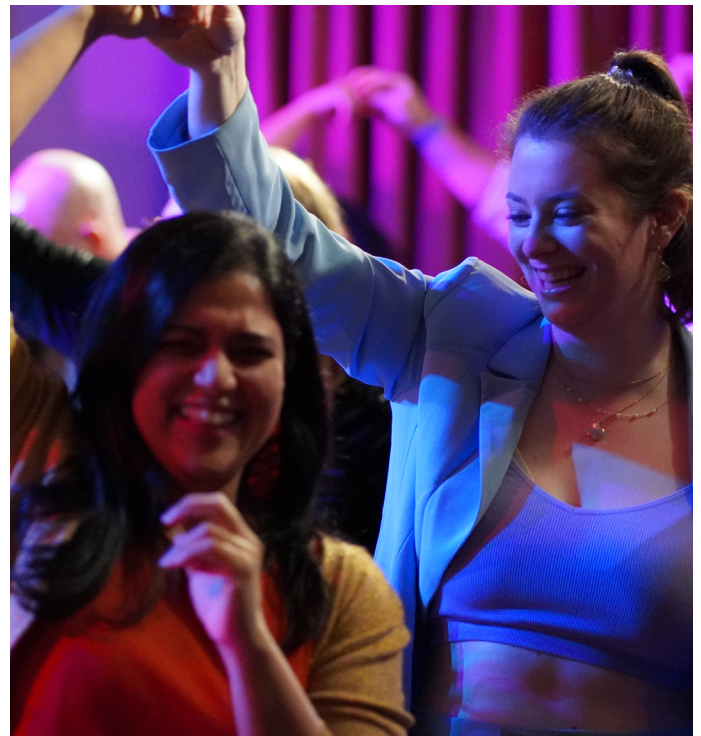
As a young dad, my motivation springs from wanting to pass on the ceilidh legacy to my kids. I want them to grow up cherishing the fantastic social benefits that community events like ceilidh and bush dances bring.

So, if there's a ceilidh happening in your neck of the woods, don't miss out! It will be "pure dead brilliant". And, if you find yourself in Launceston on New Year's Eve, come join our Hogmanay Hootenanny.

Feel free to reach out for more details about ceilidh dancing events happening across Australia.

Cheers to dancing, laughter, and pure, unadulterated fun!

Graeme McColgan  
The Scotsman



# Rock the festive season with Queen: It's A Kinda Magic



Following huge national tours of Canada, New Zealand and Australia earlier this year, Queen: It's A Kinda Magic is returning to the Gold Coast for two special shows to ring in the new year, on the 30th and 31st of December at The Star.

The internationally-renowned show, which has toured for 15 years, is bringing sparkling new costuming and some previously unperformed Queen tracks to the stage, allowing die-hard fans to rock the night away.

Fans can hit the dance floor and relive all their favourite songs from Queen – including Bohemian Rhapsody, We Will Rock You, We Are the

Champions, Don't Stop Me Now, and more.

Classically trained artist Dominic Warren continues in his role as the incomparable Freddie Mercury, singing and performing on both piano and guitar live on stage which has given him a deep appreciation for Mercury's impeccable talent.

"It's one thing to create these musical masterpieces, but a whole other thing to then be able to go and perform them in the unique, spectacular way that he did... he was a very special artist," says Warren.

Tickets are available now from Ticketek or The Star Gold Coast Box Office.

## Festivals



### DAYLESFORD HIGHLAND GATHERING

Pipe and drums, Highland dancing and more.

Daylesford VIC

2 DEC



### FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS

Scotland's Assynt and Jackie Marshall tour through Queensland.

QLD

1 DEC - 1 JAN

### NARIEL CREEK FOLK FESTIVAL

Small festival that focuses on traditional folk music and dance.

Nariel Creek VIC

26 DEC - 1 JAN

### WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL

Iconic cultural, music, arts, environment and performance event.

Woodford QLD

27 DEC 1 JAN

### MARYBOROUGH HIGHLAND GATHERING

161st Maryborough Highland Gathering with games and fireworks.

Maryborough VIC

1 JAN

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

# ANGLO & CELTIC

What's happening around Australia - by [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)

## Y2K MILLENIUM NYE

Brisbane QLD

Flashback to the Millenium! [Finn McCools](#) Fortitude Valley is throwing a Y2K bash this New Year's Eve. Relive the early 2000s vibes with iconic tunes, unforgettable fashion, and all the nostalgia. Get ready to party like it's 1999 and welcome 2024 in style!

31 DEC

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



**FRI 1 DEC**  
**Robbie Williams**  
 Swan Valley WA  
**18th Festival Of Folk Rhythm and Life**  
 Eldorado VIC  
**The Doors Alive**  
 Tweed Heads NSW  
**John Edward**  
 Adelaide SA  
**Morrissey**  
 Perth WA  
**Sydney St Patrick's Day Christmas Gala Ball**  
 Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney NSW  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Airlie Beach QLD  
**Stars & Stripes v Best of British**  
 presented by The Chain  
 Morley WA  
**Australian Historical Dance**  
 Samford QLD  
**Urban Drover at the Irish Club**  
 Canberra ACT  
**Belters Only**  
 Camperdown NSW  
**Shambolics and Celtic Sounds**  
 Adelaide Irish Club SA  
**Urban at the Irish**  
 Canberra ACT  
**National Cherry Festival (to 3 DEC)**  
 Young NSW

**SAT 2 DEC**  
**Queensland Irish Association Christmas Party**  
 Toowoong QLD  
**RSVP here**  
**John Edward**  
 Adelaide SA  
**Daylesford Highland Gathering**  
 Daylesford VIC  
**The Doors Alive**  
**Melbourne VIC**  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Horsham VIC  
**Deacon Blue**  
 Sydney NSW  
**Dermot Kennedy and Aitch at Spilt Milk festival**  
 Ballarat VIC  
**St Andrews Shindig**  
 Cronulla NSW  
**Jimeoin**  
**Mona Vale, NSW**  
**Gaelic Games Victoria Seamus Moloughney Invitational Tournament**  
 Melbourne VIC  
**Gaz Coombes**  
 Fremantle WA  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Sarina QLD  
**Bush Dance with Ishka Celtic Rock**  
 Pomona QLD  
**Summer Camp Festival feat Jessie Ware**  
**St Kilda VIC**  
**Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh**  
 Inglewood WA  
**Mackay & District Pipe Band presents St Andrew's Ceilidh**  
 North Mackay QLD  
**Jimeoin**  
 Mona Vale NSW

**Sinnach Rua**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**Great British Xmas Party 3**  
 Fremantle WA  
**British Rock Royalty - Fourth Annual Christmas Gala**  
 North Fremantle WA  
**Peter Byrne Forever Diamond**  
 Belmore NSW  
**Through the Faerie Realm - An Irish Dance Spectacular**  
 Broadbeach QLD  
**Comhaltas Sydney Kids' Christmas Concert at the Gaelic Club**  
 Sydney NSW  
**History Redcliffe Morning in the Park**  
 200 years since arrival of John Oxley  
 John Oxley Park, Redcliffe QLD  
**St Andrew's Day Celebration in honour of 60 years of Veronica Law school of dance**  
 Central Coast Leagues Club NSW

**SUN 3 DEC**  
**Irish Sundays (every SUN)**  
**Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley QLD**  
**The Doors Alive**  
**Melbourne VIC**  
**Dermot Kennedy and Aitch at Spilt Milk festival**  
 Perth WA  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Williamstown VIC  
**Jimeoin**  
 Caringbah, NSW  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Yppoon QLD  
**Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club Irish Music Session**  
 Mayfield NSW  
**Jimeoin**  
 Caringbah NSW  
**Mount Isa Irish Dancing Assoc End of Year Concert**  
 Irish Club, Mount Isa QLD  
**Australian Celtic Women Celtic and Christmas Carols Concert**  
 Forest Lake QLD  
**Fiona Rea live at Durty Nelly's**  
 Perth WA  
**Live Music Irish Session**  
 Mayfield NSW  
**A Celtic Enchantment**  
 Kangaroo Point QLD  
**Black Velvet Band**  
 Drayton QLD  
**A Celtic Blue Christmas at St Paul's Anglican**  
 Cleveland QLD  
**FolkFedNSW's End of Year FolkWrap23 at The Gaelic Club**  
 Sydney NSW  
**Celtics Family Christmas**  
**Bill Morris Oval, Beenleigh QLD**  
**Rince na hEireann Awards Function**  
 Palmerston City NT

**MON 4 DEC**  
**Kraftwerk**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**Morrissey**  
**Melbourne VIC**  
**Jai Paul**  
**Melbourne VIC**  
 © [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)

**The Barleysakes Duo**  
 Tathra NSW  
**The Band MAK at Harrigan's Pokolbin**  
 NSW

**TUE 5 DEC**  
**Deacon Blue**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Wonthaggi VIC  
**Morrissey**  
**Melbourne VIC**  
**Jai Paul**  
**Melbourne VIC**  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Captain Creek QLD  
**Playford English Country Dancing**  
 Tritton Hall, Marrickville NSW

**WED 6 DEC**  
**Kraftwerk**  
 Sydney NSW  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Barnsdale VIC  
**Jai Paul**  
**Melbourne VIC**  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Burnett Heads QLD  
**NORWOOD HOTEL IRISH FEAST TAKE OVER**  
 Norwood SA

**THU 7 DEC**  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Warragul VIC  
**Dermot Kennedy**  
 Sydney NSW  
**Novo Amor**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**Santa Claus The Panto (runs to 17 DEC)**  
**Irish Club Subiaco WA**  
**Irish Thursdays featuring The Gathering Irish band (every THU)**  
**Finn McCool's Surfers Paradise QLD**

**FRI 8 DEC**  
**An evening with Matt Scullion,**  
 Australian artist, debuting his new Celtic song  
**The Red Lion Tavern, Glencoe NSW**  
**Kraftwerk**  
 Melbourne VIC  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Sale VIC  
**The Jarrah Celts | Ceilidh Dance**  
 Kalamunda WA  
**Morrissey**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**Jimeoin**  
 Hornsby, NSW  
**Australian Historical Dance presents Community Folk Dance**  
 Samford QLD  
**Novo Amor**  
 Sydney NSW  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Beerwah QLD  
**Jimeoin**  
 Hornsby NSW  
**Aine Tyrrell**  
 Castlemaine VIC  
**The Jarrah Celts: Ceilidh Dance**  
 Kalamunda WA

**SAT 9 DEC**  
**Kraftwerk at Meredith Music Festival**  
 Meredith VIC  
**The Oddities and Curiosities Expo**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Traralgon VIC  
**Noasis**  
**Gold Coast QLD**  
**Elvis Tribute**  
**The Brit, Wingfield SA**  
**Gallus Christmas Ceilidh**  
 Curraburne WA  
**Jimeoin**  
 Richmond, NSW  
**Novo Amor**  
 Melbourne VIC  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Ballandean QLD  
**Central Coast Bush Dance & Music Association Christmas Contra Bush Dance**  
**East Gosford Progress Hall NSW**  
**St Andrew's Lodge 150th and Robbie Burns Dinner**  
 Adelaide SA  
**Jimeoin**  
 Richmond NSW  
**Sunset Blush Keep Me In Your Pocket Tour**  
 Irish Australian Association, Adelaide SA  
**The Heals at Durty Nelly's Irish Pub**  
 Perth WA  
**Melbourne Welsh Male Choir**  
 Christmas Concert  
 Ringwood North VIC  
**Christmas Ceili at The Gaelic Club**  
 Sydney NSW  
**Peter Byrne Forever Diamond**  
 Menai NSW  
**TASCAL Christmas Social**  
 Moonah TAS  
**Port Adelaide Caledonian Society**  
 Christmas Party  
 Adelaide SA  
**RSL Memorial Pipes & Drums Townsville Saint Andrew's Ceilidh**  
 Townsville QLD

**SUN 10 DEC**  
**The Oddities and Curiosities Expo**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas**  
 Shepparton VIC  
**Dermot Kennedy**  
 Brisbane QLD  
**The Fawkners**  
 Sorrento Portsea RSL VIC  
**Morrissey**  
 Sydney NSW  
**Lloyd Cole**  
 Hobart TAS  
**Let the Good Times Roll Festival (featuring Royal Blood)**  
 Central Coast NSW  
**Festival of Small Halls**  
 Talwood QLD  
**Melbourne Claddagh Dancers**  
 East Ivanhoe VIC  
**Adelaide Academy of Irish Dancing and Jump 'N Jip presents 100 Years of Disney**  
 Golden Grove SA

# GIGS & REELS



## Tours

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



## HOGMANAY

Nationwide

Venues across Australia are doing NYE Scottish style. [The Red Lion Tavern](#) in Glencoe, NSW, pictured, will have Hogmanay celebrations. Tasmania will celebrate Hogmanay in Campbell Town and Trevallyn. The Caledonian Society of WA will have a ceilidh in Inglewood.

31 DEC - 1 JAN

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

Jimeoin  
Mona Vale NSW  
Green Fieldz  
Seaford VIC  
Casual Sets  
Maroubra, NSW  
2023 McAleer Irish Dance School  
Concert - Be Our Guest  
Cranbourne East VIC  
Darling Downs Irish Club Christmas  
Party  
Toowoomba QLD  
A County Coogee Christmas Market in  
aid of Irish Support Association  
Coogee Beach Club NSW  
Welsh Carol Service  
Melbourne Welsh Church VIC  
The Herberbs  
Sorrento Portsea RSL, VIC  
Gaelic Gig for Gaza with Andy Irvine  
and more  
Gaelic Park, Keysborough VIC

MON 11 DEC  
Morrissey  
Sydney NSW  
Lloyd Cole  
Sydney NSW  
Royal Blood  
Brisbane QLD  
Andy Irvine  
Brunswick VIC

TUE 12 DEC  
Kraftwerk  
Adelaide SA  
A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Portland VIC  
Festival of Small Halls  
Koorablyn QLD  
Victorian Folk Music Club presents  
Sara and Silas  
Ringwood VIC  
Andy Irvine  
Newlyn North VIC  
St Kevin's GAA 12ish Pubs of Christmas  
St Kilda VIC

WED 13 DEC  
A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Hamilton VIC  
Scottish Chamber Orchestra  
Perth WA  
Lloyd Cole  
Melbourne VIC  
Royal Blood  
Sydney NSW  
Festival of Small Halls  
Austinville QLD

THU 14 DEC  
A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Colac VIC  
Ballarat Film Society presents  
Redemption of a Rogue  
Ballarat VIC  
Lloyd Cole  
Adelaide SA  
Royal Blood  
Melbourne VIC  
Festival of Small Halls

Macleay Island QLD  
Pacific Adventure at Finnian's Irish  
Tavern  
Port Macquarie NSW

FRI 15 DEC  
Kraftwerk  
Perth WA  
A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Ballarat VIC  
Lloyd Cole  
Brisbane QLD  
Baggy Trousers - The Sound of  
Madness  
Mandurah WA  
Guns 2 Roses (UK)  
Melbourne VIC  
Festival of Small Halls  
Esk QLD  
Country Witches Association  
Mullumbimby NSW  
The Healsys at Durty Nelly's Irish Pub  
Perth WA

SAT 16 DEC  
Celtic Christmas menu  
[The Red Lion Tavern](#), Glencoe NSW  
A Taste of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Bendigo VIC  
Guns 2 Roses (UK)  
Sydney NSW  
Noasis  
Canberra ACT  
Baggy Trousers - The Sound of  
Madness  
Perth WA  
Jimeoin  
Perth, WA  
Festival of Small Halls  
Marburg QLD  
Victorian Irish Dance Academy  
presents Celtic Rhythms  
Ringwood VIC  
Micky Bartlett's Irish Christmas  
Melbourne VIC  
The Young Ones cabaret at The Brit  
Wingfield SA  
Melbourne Welsh Male Choir  
Wonthaggi VIC

Jimeoin  
Perth WA  
Andy Irvine at The Gaelic Club  
Sydney NSW  
Country Witches Association  
Eumundi QLD  
Kellys Wayke at Golden Vine Hotel  
Bendigo VIC  
Fiona Rea & Nigel Healy: A Woman's  
Heart  
North Perth WA  
Trauma Christmas Party at Johnny  
Fox's  
Northbridge WA  
O'Brien Academy presents: A Global  
Christmas  
Hillarys WA  
Brunswick Scottish Society's Ceilidh  
Fleming Park Comm Hall, Brunswick  
East VIC

SUN 17 DEC  
Celtic Christmas menu  
[The Red Lion Tavern](#), Glencoe NSW  
Lloyd Cole  
Fremantle WA  
Guns 2 Roses (UK)  
Brisbane QLD  
Festival of Small Halls  
Rainbow Beach QLD  
Irish Support Agency NSW Celtic Christ-  
mas Fest 2023  
Gaelic Club Sydney NSW  
The Jarrah Celts at Murphy's Irish Pub  
Mandurah WA  
The Brit Christmas Cabaret with The  
Young Ones  
Wingfield SA

TUE 19 DEC  
A Taste of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Port Pirie VIC  
Royal Blood  
Adelaide SA

WED 20 DEC  
A Taste of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Port Lincoln VIC  
Guns 2 Roses (UK)  
Adelaide SA  
Canberra Irish Club Film Society  
screens The Man Who Invented  
Christmas  
Canberra ACT  
Andy Irvine  
Dorrigo NSW

THU 21 DEC  
A Taste of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Whyalla VIC  
Summer Solstice at the Australian  
Standing Stones  
Glen Innes NSW  
Royal Blood  
Perth WA  
Guns 2 Roses (UK)  
Perth WA  
Andy Irvine  
Nanango QLD  
Christmas Carols and Santa Visit at  
The Fiddler  
Rouse Hill NSW

FRI 22 DEC  
A Taste of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas  
Noarlunga VIC  
A Claymore Celtic Christmas  
St Kilda VIC

SAT 23 DEC  
Celtic Christmas menu  
[The Red Lion Tavern](#), Glencoe NSW

SUN 24 DEC  
Celtic Christmas menu  
[The Red Lion Tavern](#), Glencoe NSW  
Christmas Eve with the Blackwater  
Irish Band  
Maroubra NSW  
Christmas Eve at Durty Nelly's  
Perth WA

MON 25 DEC  
Christmas Day at The Galway Hooker  
Scarborough WA  
Christmas at Irish Finnegans  
Condon QLD  
Christmas Day Service  
Melbourne Welsh Church VIC

TUE 26 DEC  
Woodford Folk Festival (to 1 JAN)  
Woodford QLD  
Nariel Creek Folk Festival (to 1 JAN)  
Nariel Creek VIC  
Craig Fest at Irish Murphy's  
Brisbane QLD

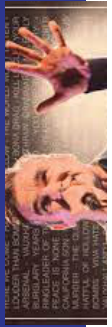
THU 28 DEC  
Beyond the Valley New Year's Festival  
feat Central Cee  
Hesse VIC  
Irish Community Christmas Picnic on  
the Beach  
Bunbury WA

SAT 30 DEC  
Licence 2 Thrill @ Murphy's Irish Pub  
Mandurah WA  
Queen It's A Kinda Magic  
Gold Coast QLD

SUN 31 DEC  
Hogmanay celebration  
[The Red Lion Tavern](#), Glencoe NSW  
Caledonian Society of WA Hogmanay  
Ceilidh  
Inglewood WA  
Tasmania Hogmanay Hootenanny  
Trevallyn TAS  
Hogmanay at The Church  
Campbell Town TAS  
Hogmanay Ceilidh at Burdekin  
Memorial Hall  
Home Hill QLD  
Wildlands (featuring Central Cee)  
Brisbane QLD  
Baggy Trousers Night Boat to Madness  
Brisbane QLD  
New Year's Eve Dinner at P.J.O'Brien's  
Melbourne VIC  
Queen It's A Kinda Magic  
Gold Coast QLD  
PJs in PJs NYE Party  
Cairns QLD  
Holly Humberstone  
Heaps Good Melbourne VIC  
Hawaiian NYE Party with Bo'Ness  
Harrigan's Calypso Bay QLD  
NYE 2023 Best of British Rock and Roll  
with Brit Beat Mania  
Westside HQ, Corinda QLD  
Y2K Millennium NYE  
Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley QLD  
[Website here](#)  
Great Gatsby NYE  
Finn McCool's Surfers Paradise QLD  
[Tickets here](#)

## MORRISSEY

1 DEC Perth WA  
4 DEC Melbourne VIC  
5 DEC Melbourne VIC  
8 DEC Brisbane QLD  
10 DEC Sydney NSW  
11 DEC Sydney NSW



## LLOYD COLE

10 DEC Hobart TAS  
11 DEC Sydney NSW  
13 DEC Melbourne VIC  
14 DEC Adelaide SA  
15 DEC Brisbane QLD  
17 DEC Fremantle WA



## ROYAL BLOOD

10 DEC Central Coast NSW  
11 DEC Brisbane QLD  
13 DEC Sydney NSW  
15 DEC Melbourne VIC  
17 DEC Kiama NSW  
19 DEC Adelaide SA  
21 DEC Perth WA



## NOVO AMOR

7 DEC Brisbane QLD  
8 DEC Sydney NSW  
9 DEC Melbourne VIC



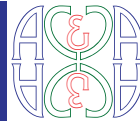
## ANDY IRVINE

11 DEC Brunswick VIC  
12 DEC Newlyn Nth VIC  
16 DEC Sydney NSW  
17 DEC Newcastle NSW  
20 DEC Dorrigo NSW  
21 DEC Nanango QLD  
3 JAN Brisbane QLD  
11 JAN Bathurst NSW  
Plus additional dates

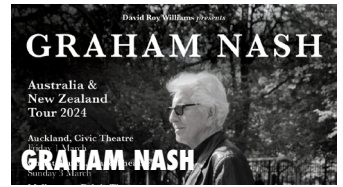


Advertisers in Anglo&Celtic magazine who book 1/4 page or over get free listings for that month plus e-links. Paid gig guide listings, at \$20+GST, get venue details and an e-link. Regular advertisers get priority for highlighted listings and features. Book at [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com) or by email to [editor@angloandceltic.com](mailto:editor@angloandceltic.com)

# GIGS & REELS



GIG ANNOUNCEMENTS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS



## JANUARY

**Tours:**  
 Jimeoin NSW, QLD  
 Bruno Major NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, WA  
 Paul Di'Anno WA, SA, QLD, VIC, NSW  
 Louis Tomlinson QLD, VIC  
 UB40 VIC  
 Faithless NSW, QLD, VIC  
 Mclusky VIC, VIC, SA, NSW, QLD, WA  
 Declan McKenna QLD, NSW, VIC, SA  
 Wallis Bird QLD, NSW, SA, TAS  
 Dire Straits Legacy VIC, QLD  
 Bad Boy Chiller Crew QLD, VIC  
 Andy Irvine NSW  
 Desolated WA, NSW, VIC  
 RAYE NSW  
 The Darkness SA

**Festivals:**  
 161st Maryborough Highland Gathering Maryborough, VIC  
 Lake School of Celtic Music, Song & Dance Korait VIC  
 Wildlands (featuring Central Cee) WA, SA  
 Scottish Weekender NSW  
 Illawarra Folk Festival NSW  
 Australia Day (nationwide)

## FEBRUARY

**Tours:**  
 RAYE VIC, NSW  
 UB40 WA, NSW, QLD  
 Louis Tomlinson NSW  
 The Darkness VIC, QLD, NSW, WA, ACT  
 Blanco White VIC, NSW, QLD  
 The Chemical Brothers QLD, NSW  
 Simple Minds NSW, VIC, SA, QLD  
 Paul Weller NSW  
 Shane Todd WA, QLD, NSW, VIC  
 Greeatea Peng QLD, NSW  
 Mogwai VIC, QLD, TAS, SA, NSW

Daniel O'Donnell VIC  
 Ralph McTell NSW, QLD, ACT, TAS, VIC  
 Luka Bloom VIC

**Festivals:**  
 Stomzy at Laneway Festival QLD, NSW, SA, VIC, WA  
 Tasmanian Highlands Gathering TAS

## MARCH

**Tours:**  
 Yussef Dayes WA, QLD, NSW, VIC  
 The Chemical Brothers VIC  
 Five QLD, VIC, NSW, SA, WA  
 Graham Nash VIC, SA, WA, NSW  
 The Human League QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA  
 Teenage Fanclub NSW, VIC, QLD  
 The Tumbling Paddies NSW, WA, VIC  
 Maisie Peters QLD, NSW, VIC  
 Tom Jones WA, SA, NSW  
 Elvis Costello NSW  
 Daniel O'Donnell VIC, NSW, QLD, SA, WA  
 Dylan QLD, NSW, VIC  
 Jimeoin NSW, ACT, VIC  
 The Streets WA, NSW, VIC, QLD  
 Black Country, New Road QLD, NSW, VIC, WA  
 From The Jam VIC, QLD, NSW, SA, WA  
 Ralph McTell VIC, SA  
 Luka Bloom QLD, VIC  
 Daoiri Farrell VIC  
 The Damned QLD, VIC, NSW, SA, WA

**Festivals:**  
 Nannup Music Festival Nannup WA  
 Port Fairy Folk Festival VIC  
 Sandford Bush Music Festival VIC  
 Saint Patrick's Day  
 St Kilda St Patrick's Festival VIC  
 Brisbane St Patrick's Festival  
 Sydney St Patrick's Day Festival  
 St Patrick's Festival WA  
 Tom Jones at A Day On The Green NSW

Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Croydon VIC  
 Elvis Costello at Bluesfest NSW  
 Tom Jones At Bluesfest NSW  
 Melbourne Celtic Festival VIC  
 Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival QLD  
 Golden Plains Festival, Meredith VIC

## APRIL

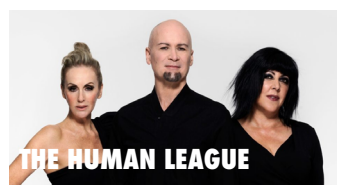
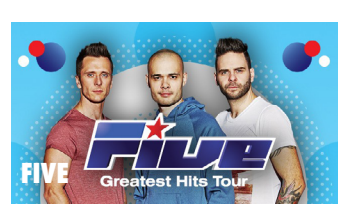
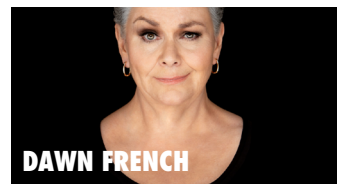
**Tours:**  
 Elvis Costello NSW, VIC  
 Tom Jones NSW  
 Riverdance WA, VIC, QLD, NSW  
 Jimeoin VIC  
 Dawn French WA, SA, NSW, VIC, TAS  
 Eireborne WA, NSW  
 Lebanon Hanover VIC, NSW, QLD, WA  
 Niall Horan QLD  
 Luka Bloom WA

**Festivals:**  
 Bundanoon Highland Gathering NSW  
 Ironfest NSW  
 The Thing (Viking Festival) ACT  
 Korait Irish Festival VIC

## MAY

**Tours:**  
 Niall Horan NSW, VIC  
 The SKIDS QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA  
 Eireborne ACT, QLD  
 Dawn French ACT, NSW, QLD  
 Peter Hook & The Light SA, QLD, NSW, VIC, WA  
 The Mary Wallopers VIC, NSW, WA, SA, QLD

**Festivals:**  
 Australian Celtic Festival NSW  
 Wintermoon Festival QLD  
 SA Medieval Fair SA  
 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival NSW



# Festival season off to a flying start with Cygnet

With early-bird tickets sold out in just a week, The Cygnet Folk Festival in Tasmania is not slowing down in its popularity among music enthusiasts.

One of the festival's headlining acts is **Dallahan** (pictured), a Scottish band known for their mesmerising fusion of traditional music from Scotland and Ireland, Balkan tunes, and North American melodies. With a unique blend of styles and influences, Dallahan takes audiences on a musical journey that spans the globe, all delivered with breathtaking virtuosity. Having graced stages in more than 20 countries, they are seasoned performers set to captivate the Cygnet crowd.

Irish artist **Wallis Bird** is also part of the festival lineup. Her music embodies a distinctive and dynamic form of alternative pop, blending effervescent 80s-inspired dreamy melodies with an empowering vitality and deep emotional resonance.

Join the festivities in Cygnet from 12th to 14th January and be part of a musical celebration that welcomes the world.

Laneway Festival 2024 is set to deliver an electrifying lineup, with British sensation **Stormzy** taking centre stage after a seven-year hiatus from Australia. Stormzy, renowned for his grime and hip-hop prowess, has soared to fame with his distinctive style, and fans across the country are eagerly anticipating his return. Born Michael Omari in Thornton Heath, Stormzy's Ghanaian roots add a unique flavour to his music.

The festival, scheduled for February, promises a thrilling musical journey with not one but three exclusive headliners, including Steve Lacy and Dominic Fike. Rumours



of **Raye**'s performance were confirmed, adding to the excitement. The lineup also boasts an array of talent, from British rapper **AJ Tracey** to Atlanta-based singer-songwriter Faye Webster, and New Zealand rock band Unknown Mortal Orchestra.

Kicking off in Brisbane and touring across Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Perth, Laneway Festival organisers are gearing up for an unforgettable series of events.

Prepare to be dazzled in Byron Bay, because the legendary **Sir Tom Jones** is about to ignite the stage at the monumental 35th anniversary of Bluesfest.

With an electrifying lineup that includes rock icon **Elvis Costello** and the soulful sounds of Jack Johnson, next year's Byron Events Farm celebration is shaping up to be unmissable.

Straight from the heart of Wales to the hipster capital of New South Wales, the iconic Tom Jones will enrapture audiences with his timeless hits that have been shaking hips and captivating

hearts for half a century. Boasting over 100 million records sold, Tom Jones is set to bring his unparalleled energy and charisma to classics like It's Not Unusual, Sexbomb, Delilah, and more. Brace yourself for a vocal journey that spans generations, a powerful testament to Jones's enduring influence on music's global landscape.

But the show doesn't stop there. The sensational **Elvis Costello & The Imposters** are back in action after a hiatus, ready to rock the crowd with their unmistakable sound.

From March 28th to April 1st, the stage will be set for Byron's most electrifying event, as Bluesfest turns up the volume on its 35th birthday bash. With 23 incredible acts lined up, the festival is pulling out all the stops. Get ready to groove to the soulful tunes of The Teskey Brothers, jam to the rockin' rhythms of The Dead South and The Paper Kites, and sway to **Newton Faulkner**'s folk-pop charm.

Red Hot Summer 2024 is set to bring back the nostal-

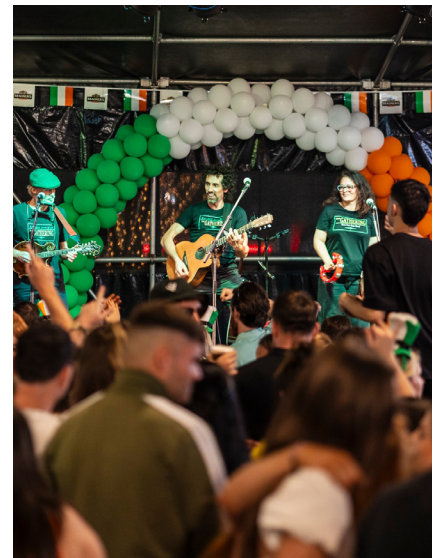
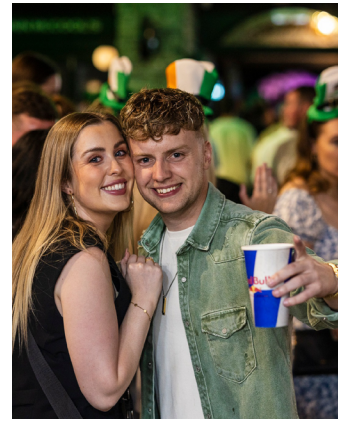
gia with a historic reunion of two iconic bands – Icehouse and **Simple Minds** – on the same stage. It's a thrilling blast from the past as they recreate their 1981 touring line-up.

During that remarkable year, Icehouse supported Simple Minds on their UK tour, and in return, Simple Minds opened for Icehouse during the Australian leg. The camaraderie between the bands was evident, and now they are ready to relive those magical moments together in Australia.

Jim Kerr, front man of Simple Minds, expressed his excitement, saying they had the best time back then, and they can't wait to do it all over again with their mates, Icehouse. The bond with their Aussie fans is strong, and they are eager to perform in some of the country's finest outdoor locations.

You can catch The Red Hot Summer tour on 10th February in Mornington VIC, 11th February in Yarra Valley VIC, Saturday, 17th February in Bribie Island QLD and 21st February in Perth WA.

# FinnsFest at Finn McCool's, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane



# Fans snap up Morrissey Oz tour pre-sale tickets

Manchester music legend Morrissey is coming to Australia this month, and fans were quick to snap up the pre-sale tickets.

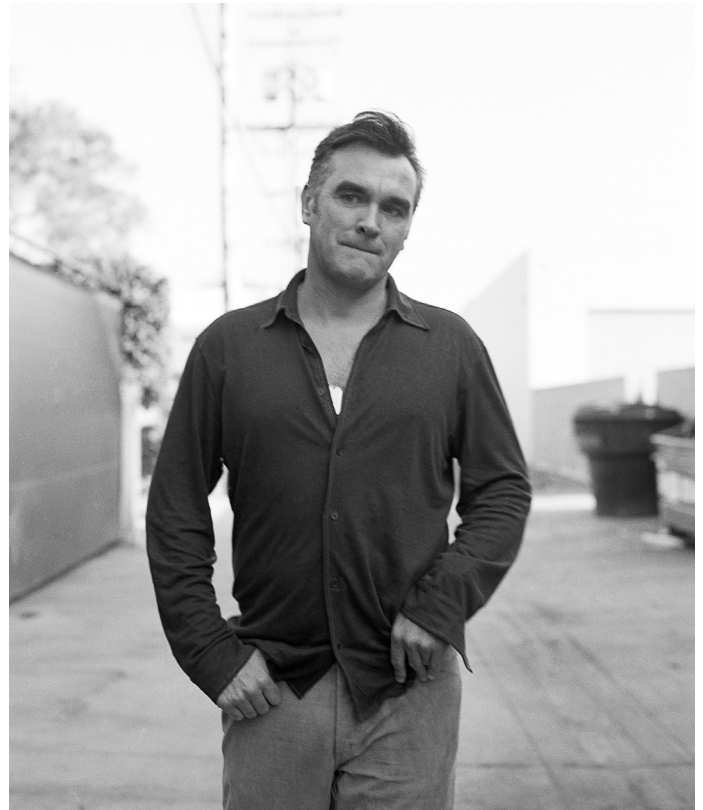
On his official Facebook page, Morrissey said: "SO BONA TO VADA! The world tour continues onward. Asia and Australia and New Zealand - 40 YEARS OF MORRISSEY is headed your way. See you soon."

His influence and music legacy are irrefutable. Morrissey has released 13 solo studio albums, achieved a string of No.1 records, and been presented with an Ivor Novello Award for Outstanding Contribution to British Music.

As lead singer of The Smiths, he marked forever the history of music with only four albums. As a soloist, he has consolidated a sound that still reverberates today with his

forthcoming album *Without Music The World Dies*, an explicit declaration of love for music, which has made him one of the most acclaimed voices of the last four decades.

When the debut single from The Smiths, *Hand In Glove*, first emerged 40 years ago, the musical landscape was forever changed and launched a rich catalogue of songs that includes anthems such as *This Charming Man*, *How Soon Is Now?*, *Suedehead*, *Irish Blood*, *English Heart*, and many more.



## TOUR DATES

DEC 1 Perth WA  
DEC 4 & 5 Melbourne VIC  
DEC 8 Fortitude Valley QLD  
DEC 10 & 11 Sydney NSW

# Royal Blood returning after five years

English rock duo Royal Blood is set to return to Australia and New Zealand this December, much to the excitement of fans. The duo, Mike Kerr and Ben Thatcher, last toured here in 2018.

They said on Twitter: "We're incredibly excited to be announcing these shows in Australia and New Zealand in December this year. We haven't toured over there since 2018 so we can't wait to get back out there. It's been far too long."

Their upcoming tour kicks off in Auckland, New Zealand on December 7 at Spark Arena before they head across the Tasman Sea for shows in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth.

Joining them on all Australian shows are Psychedelic P\*rn Crumpets and The



Buoys.

Royal Blood's return is especially significant as they come fresh from an extensive tour across Europe and the US, coupled with their latest album release, *Back To The Water Below*.

The album has received critical acclaim, with MOJO describing it as having "considerable light and shade" and NME calling it a "return"

for the duo. Known for their breakout year in 2014 and subsequent chart-topping albums, Royal Blood's electrifying live performances have earned them a dedicated fan base worldwide.

Don't miss this opportunity to catch the dynamic duo live on stage and experience their unparalleled chemistry in a series of unmissable shows.

## TOUR DATES

DEC 11 Brisbane QLD  
DEC 13 Sydney NSW  
DEC 15 Melbourne VIC  
DEC 19 Adelaide SA  
DEC 21 Perth WA

# Glen Innes welcomes you for Summer Solstice

Glen Innes, a picturesque town nestled in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, is set to host an enchanting celebration at the Australian Standing Stones this December. As the 2023 Summer Solstice approaches, an ancient and sacred tradition awaits, providing locals and visitors with an opportunity to connect with Celtic heritage and the rhythms of the sun.

The Australian Standing Stones pay tribute to the rich Celtic origins that have woven their way into the tapestry of Australian life. As the early Celtic people developed in the European homelands, the ancient standing stone monuments served as calendars to mark the time for sowing and harvesting, but also as abodes of rich myth and legend, and were centres to celebrate the movements of the sun and moon. People of the Celtic homelands dispersed worldwide, including to Australia. Glen Innes, in particular, has a deep-rooted connection to its Celtic heritage, with its first European settlers predominantly hailing from Scotland, as well as from Ireland, Wales, and Cornwall.

The idea for the Australian Standing Stones was ignited by the Celtic Council of Australia, aiming to establish a national monument to honour all Celtic pioneers who played a significant role in shaping Australia. The monument, inspired by ancient sites like the Ring of Brodgar and the Callanish Stones, were dedicated in 1992, becoming a testament to Australia's unique blend of cultures.

The Australian Standing Stones consist of 38 stones, including a circle of 24, symbolising the 24 hours of a day. Central to the monument are three stones representing all Celts.

The central stone, the Australis Stone, is for all Australians and symbolises the link between the old and new worlds.

The Gaelic Stone, to its north,

is for Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man.

The Brythonic Stone, to its south, is for Wales, Cornwall and Brittany.

The magic happens on solstice days, the shortest and longest days of the year. At dawn, the sunrise is marked by special stones; at sunset by other marker stones. These are special times to visit and experience the alignments at the monument. At solar noon, when the sun is highest in the sky, visitors can witness the shadows cast by the stones that mark these celestial events, providing a unique blend of science and tradition. The Australian Standing Stones become a living calendar, connecting us to the movements of the Earth and the sun.

If you visit during the 2023 Summer Solstice, you'll experience the day with the most daylight hours of the year, typically occurring on December 21st. The ceremony begins at 12.30pm often accompanied with a piper, leading up to the moment of solar noon, where an informative talk sheds light on the stones' solar noon measurements, and there are fundraising prizes to win as well. You can also become the shadow marker of the human sundial right beside the solar noon array.

At dawn, the Summer Solstice sunrise stone, within the circle to the southeast of the central Australis Stone, receives the sun's first rays at dawn on the summer solstice, and casts a shadow onto the Australis Stone.

At dusk, the last rays of the sun shine back down the Winter Solstice sunrise avenue, linking the two solstices at the end of day.

One stone hosts seven ground-level plaques marking the annual movement of the earth around the sun by depicting the changing length of the sun's shadow at solar noon throughout the year.

The four cardinal point stones, together with the Summer



*Piper Paul Hansen at the standing stones.*



*Solar noon markers - summer.*



*Ogham stone. Pictures: John Rhys Jones*



**Sunset at Summer Solstice through the avenue.**

**Pictures: John Rhys Jones /Australian Standing Stones Management Board**

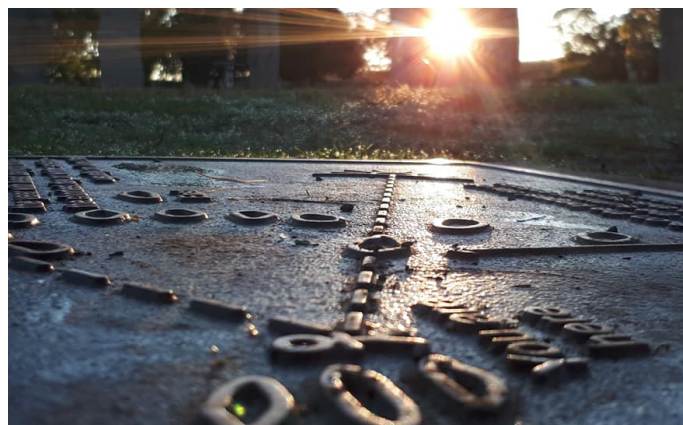
Solstice sunrise stone, depict the five stars of the Southern Cross, while the four cardinal point stones and the circle of 24 form a Celtic cross: and so together a Southern Celtic Cross.

Looking south outside the array is the distinctive flat stone – the Gorsedd Stone. Requested by the Welsh and Cornish communities, this ‘Throne’ Stone evokes Bardic festivals, Eisteddfods, where winners or ‘bards’ were installed on a stone stage symbolised by this stone.

To the east of the Gorsedd Stone is the tall, squarish stone – the Ogham Stone. This Stone was requested by the Irish community and is the heaviest stone at 38 tonnes. The inscription on the square edges consists of short, long and sloping lines in the Ogham alphabet, known from inscriptions dating to the 4th century AD.

The Ogham inscription translates into Gaelic as Gleann Maqi Aongusa, meaning ‘the Glen of the Sons of Angus’ or Glen Innes.

Tynwald Hill, on the hill to the south, acknowledges the



**Sunrise on the Summer Solstice at the Australian Standing Stones. And, below, Summer Solstice Stone shadow on Australis. Pictures: John Rhys Jones/Australian Standing Stones Management Board**



Isle of Man, and Tynwald – the longest continually-serving parliament in the world.

To the north of the Stones is The Hill of Tara, as a tribute to the ancient seat of the high kings of Ireland, and from where the Australian

Standing Stones flag flies to greet visitors.

The ancient Celts celebrated these solstice events, and today, their descendants carry on this timeless tradition, embracing the longest day of the year and the rich tapestry

of Celtic heritage.

So, make your way to the Australian Standing Stones in Glen Innes this December, where ancient traditions and the modern world come together in harmony. Experience the enchantment of the 2023 Summer Solstice, connecting with Celtic history and the natural world at its zenith. It’s an experience that promises to be both enlightening and magical.

While at the Australian Standing Stones, you can also try to lift Excalibur from the stone, check out the Celtic Family Wall, and relax with refreshments at The Croft Celtic Cultural Centre and Cafe that occupies Crofter’s Cottage, a tribute to Scottish ‘taigh dubh’ (traditional thatched cottage).

Take a drive or walk to Martin’s Lookout (400m south) for a stunning view of the town at the newly-installed Skywalk.

The Summer Solstice gathering at the Australian Standing Stones takes place on Thursday, 21st December 2023 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Watsons Drive, Glen Innes, NSW 2370. For more information, contact (02) 6730 2400 or email [tourism@gisc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@gisc.nsw.gov.au). This is a free public event.

# Woodford fest bringing the magic for 35 years



The rural town of Woodford in Queensland is gearing up for the largest gathering of artists and musicians in Australia.

This year will be the 35th Woodford Folk Festival and the 28th held at Woodfordia.

The Woodford Folk Festival is held annually over six days and six nights, from Dec 27th through to January 1st. More than 2,000 local, national and international artists, musicians and presenters put on over 438 acts to an audience of an estimated 132,000 people. The festival begins each year with the iconic Opening Ceremony and closes with the spectacular showcase, the Fire Event on New Year's Day.

The Woodford festival experience is deep, rich and colourful. It is based on a vision of inclusive and creative community, culture and tradition passed through generations, expressed through

story and ceremony. The site, a former barren dairy farm, has been lovingly regenerated with over 120,000 subtropical rainforest trees, orchids, ferns and sedges, planted to create a habitat for butterflies and wildlife.

Woodfordia is transformed into a village that hosts over 25,000 daily patrons, performers, stallholders, volunteers and organisers. As many as 2,680 volunteers across 162 departments are at the heart of the organisation and contribute to the setup and day-to-day running of the festival. During the event, the festival is actually the 67th largest town in Australia.

Each year construction begins in early December and continues up until Christmas Day. Over 450 contractors and volunteers build the village. Many come from around the world to be part of the festival build and then

stay for a week after to pull the event down.

The festival programme features concerts, dances, street theatre, writers' panels, film festival, comedy sessions, acoustic jams, social dialogue and debate, folk medicine, an entire children's festival, an environmental programme featuring talks, debates and films, art and craft workshops, circus performances and workshops, late night cabarets, parades and special events, including the spectacular Fire Event.

The festival streets are lined with restaurants, cafes, stalls, bars, street theatre and parades. Tree-filled campgrounds, butterfly walks, ponds and wildlife complete the picturesque site. The festival appeals to a diverse audience with all ages and many nationalities attracted each year. It's a magical experience, and one not to be missed.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### AUSTRAL

Winners of the Traditional Folk Album of the Year at the Australian Folk Music Awards for their debut album *Thylacine*, and nominated for a Music Victoria Award, Austral are a fully-charged, four-piece Australian tunes band combining didgeridoo, Irish pipes, high energy fiddling, journeying songs and energetic foot percussion.

### ANDY IRVINE

Singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, raconteur – Andy Irvine has been 'one of the towering talents on the international folk scene' for more than fifty years. Whether as a solo artist or as the linchpin of celebrated groups such as Sweeney's Men, Patrick Street, Planxty, Mozaik or Usher's Island, his dazzling mix of stories and songs never fails to create a pulsating, heartfelt performance.

### DALLAHAN

Forged in Scotland and Ireland's traditional music scene, but drawing on the music of the Balkans and North America, Dallahan take their listeners on a journey. Traversing styles and countries of the world in a dazzling live show, they create their own unique brand of world-folk delivered with stunning virtuosity.

### ASSYNT

Award-winning instrumental folk trio Assynt are former BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year finalists. Graham Mackenzie (fiddle), David Shedden (pipes/whistles) and BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award winner Pablo Lafuente (guitar) are inspired by the great piping, fiddle and Gaelic traditions of the Highlands of Scotland.

# Armadale Highland Gathering and Perth Kilt Run



Pictures: City of Armadale



# Firthcoming attraction: Love Actually returns to cinemas

Love Actually, the holiday masterpiece that gifted us Hugh Grant's dancing prowess, Colin Firth swimming in a lake (again\*) and love lessons galore, is back on the Australian big screen, turning our holiday season into a love-struck nostalgia fest.

The iconic British romantic comedy that became a Christmas tradition is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special theatrical re-release in Australian cinemas. Originally debuting in 2003, the film has become a cherished part of festive celebrations, and now fans have the chance to experience it on the big screen once again.

Directed and written by Richard Curtis, Love Actually weaves together eight heart-warming tales of romance, comedy, and the Yuletide spirit, featuring a star-studded cast that includes Colin Firth, Liam Neeson, Emma Thompson, Keira

Nightley, Hugh Grant and more. The film, known for its memorable scenes and enduring quotes, holds a special place in the hearts of audiences around the world.

The anniversary screenings, presented in a new 4K presentation, offer a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

The film's restoration in 4K is supported by an all-new 30-minute featurette, provides a fresh perspective on the making of this holiday classic. The featurette includes insights from the cast and filmmakers, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the film's creation and its lasting impact.

Australian audiences can catch the film in select cinemas starting on Thursday, December 7th, 2023, making it a perfect addition to the holiday entertainment line-up.

\*See BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* for iconic Firth lake scene.

**20TH ANNIVERSARY  
NEW 4K RESTORATION**

"Perhaps the most beloved holiday romantic movie of all time"  
*Glamour*

"Warm, bittersweet and hilarious"  
*BBC*

"Irresistible"  
*USA Today*

"Impossibly attractive cast"  
*Variety*

Hugh Grant, Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Keira Knightley, Liam Neeson, Bill Nighy, Laura Linney, Martina McCutcheon, Colin Firth, Rowan Atkinson

**loveactually**  
Very romantic. Very comedy.

## Northern Irish pub's ad wins Christmas

A low-budget Christmas advertisement from a bar in Northern Ireland has taken social media by storm, capturing the hearts of viewers.

Even John Lewis, a British brand of high-end department stores renowned for their big-budget, sentimental Christmas adverts, commented on the ad on TikTok: "We're not crying, you are. Merry Christmas."

Family-run Charlie's Bar in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, is being recognised for its heart-warming holiday message, resonating with audiences across social media platforms.

The ad, featuring Birdy's rendition of the Cherry Ghost song *People Help the People*, narrates a touching story of an elderly man finding warmth and companionship during the festive season.



A still from the heartwarming ad on Charlie's Bar TikTok.

With more than 550,000 views on the bar's Facebook page and an additional 600,000 views on Instagram, the ad's emotional impact is evident. TikTok users are also praising its effectiveness, with one commenting, "Having me bawling my eyes out."

The narrative follows an elderly man who, after plac-

ing flowers on a grave, and being ignored by passing strangers he tries to say hello to on the street, experiences a heartening welcome at Charlie's Bar, where he bonds with a young couple thanks to their friendly dog. The ad beautifully captures moments of connection, emphasising the message that

there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met yet – a quote from Irish playwright WB Yeats.

Beyond its emotional resonance, the ad also carries a significant message about the importance of reaching out to the elderly during the holiday season.

Social media users have expressed the significance of offering companionship to those who might be spending Christmas alone.

With more than 1.5 million combined views across various social media channels since its release, Charlie's Bar has not only produced a heartwarming ad but has also sparked meaningful conversations about community spirit and the power of storytelling during the festive season.

You can watch the advert [here](#).

# Irish road trip looks at legacy of Lady Gregory

In a captivating exploration of Ireland's rich tapestry, the documentary series, *Irish Road Trip with Miriam Margolyes*, has become a must-watch on SBS On Demand.

Originally introduced as a two-part special under the title *Lady Gregory: Ireland's First Social Influencer*, the series takes audiences on a mesmerising journey through the Irish countryside.

The acclaimed British/Australian actress and activist Miriam Margolyes and the distinguished Irish Senator Lynn Ruane (both pictured) joined forces to delve into the often overlooked history of Lady Augusta Gregory.

A patriot and influential figure in the 1920s, Lady Gregory's impact on Irish political and literary life is unveiled in this road trip, shedding light on a woman whose legacy deserves more recognition.

Lady Gregory was a remarkable Irish storyteller, playwright, and theatre manager. Alongside William Butler Yeats and Edward Martyn, she co-founded the Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre, where she wrote many plays. Lady Gregory also crafted books retelling captivating stories from Irish mythology.

Even though she was born into a class that supported British rule, Lady Gregory had a change of heart. Through her writings, she showed a shift towards cultural pride and Irish nationalism. This transformation mirrored the broader political changes happening in Ireland during her life. Her journey from supporting British rule to celebrating Irish culture reflects the dynamic and evolving times she lived in.

Lady Gregory's storytelling not only entertained audiences but also captured the spirit of a changing Ireland.

Miriam Margolyes, known



for her magnetic on-screen presence, guides viewers through the picturesque landscapes of Ireland in the

comfort of a camper van.

Together with Senator Lynn Ruane, they explore the multifaceted life of Lady Gregory

against the backdrop of three pivotal historical events – the famine, the Easter Rising, and the War of Independence.

The series not only captures the breathtaking scenery of Ireland but also weaves together the threads of history, illuminating the untold stories of Lady Gregory's era.

As Margolyes and Ruane navigate the roads that Lady Gregory once traveled, viewers are treated to a unique blend of entertainment and education.

Now available on [SBS On Demand](#), the series invites audiences to embark on a virtual journey, offering a deep dive into the hidden corners of Irish history.

A promotional poster for a 'Great Gatsby NYE Party'. The background is dark with green and gold accents. At the top, 'Great Gatsby' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'NYE PARTY' in large, bold, green letters. Below that, it says 'SUN 31 DEC' and '3-HOUR FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE PACKAGE'. The central image shows a man in a tuxedo and a woman in a white dress with a feathered headpiece, both holding martini glasses. At the bottom, it says 'PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED - OPEN UNTIL 5AM - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT' and 'TICKETS FROM \$99'. There are also small logos for 'FINN MCCOOL'S' and 'FINN MCCOOL'S SURFERS PARADISE'.



Koroit Lake School 2023. Photo: Vince Brophy (Supplied). And, below, Melbourne Céili Band. Picture: Supplied.

# Australia's most Irish village hosting annual Celtic school

Nestled in the heart of Australia's most Irish village, Koroit, the Lake School of Celtic Music, Song and Dance has become a beloved tradition.

This family-friendly event, now an annual highlight, transforms the picturesque Victorian village into a vibrant hub of music and culture. It's a celebration of all things Celtic, from music and song to dance and art.

The Lake School was born from a dream and a desire to immerse in Celtic traditions. In 1999, Koroit residents Felix and Christine Meagher, and Val Cookson, had a vision of taking their children to the Willie Clancy Summer School in Ireland, Ireland's largest traditional music summer school with daily classes taught by experts in Irish music and dance.

However, Felix, Christine and Val soon realised it was financially out of reach. That's when Jamie McKew, Director of the Port Fairy Folk Festival, had a brilliant idea: "Why don't you have it here?"



They successfully secured funding and the inaugural Lake School was held. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Lake School has blossomed into an event that welcomes approximately 500 people each year. The school is a not-for-profit, registered community organisation, reinvesting any profits back into the event's development.

The entire village of Koroit becomes involved in this cultural experience. Local businesses, venues, and residents get on board to make the Lake School a memorable experience. It's a true community effort, and that's what makes the event so special.

The Lake School in 2024 promises workshops, seisiúns, and concerts.

The students will find themselves in the midst of the festivities, surrounded by the stunning landscapes of Koroit. It's a chance to immerse in the rich culture, share in the craic, and make memories that last a lifetime.

Whether you're an experienced musician or a beginner looking to learn, the Lake School welcomes all.

Lake School takes place from January 2nd to 7th, 2024. Tickets are now on sale [here](#).

For enquiries, email [felix@bushwahzee.com](mailto:felix@bushwahzee.com)

## 2024 classes

- Instruments: Fiddle, cello, whistle, flute, uilleann pipes, guitar, DADGAD guitar, ukulele, mandolin, five-string banjo, concertina, piano accordion, harp, harmonica and bodhrán.

- There will also be dance, singing, songwriting, pub singers, Irish language, Kids Program, Youth Program with renowned film maker Ray Argall, Art Shed, poetry, Vintage Beginners, PA workshop, Calm By The Lake, and James Joyce Reading Group with Jeremy Meagher.

- Musical highlights include Slow Session with Mark and Lisa McDonnell, Irish music with Jody Moran, trad sessions outside Mickey Bourke's Pub, Louey's Blues Session, Banjo Pick, Youth Session, Gospel Singalong, Feature Concert with the Melbourne Céili Band, Blackboard Concert with Corey and Kym, and Op Shop Céili.

# New Year's celebrations are hottest tickets in town

As the world bids adieu to the old and welcomes the new, we look at New Year's traditions that are equal parts laughter and legacy.

From Ireland's cleaning crusade to Scotland's first-footing fiesta, these customs bring a dash of whimsy to the turning of the calendar.

## Fiery Celebrations

Fire takes the spotlight in Scotland. The famous fireworks and torchlight procession in Edinburgh are reminiscent of Hogmanay pagan and Viking celebrations where bonfires were lit, blazing tar barrels were rolled down hills and lit torches were tossed. Stonehaven's fireball swinging could rival any Cirque du Soleil act. Evil spirits, take cover!

The astonishing Allendale Tar Bar'l is Northumberland's sizzling hot New Year's Eve ceremony that has been celebrated for centuries. This weird tradition involves 45 local men carrying burning whisky barrels on their heads through the town.

In Wales, the New Year isn't complete without a soundtrack of fireworks and the crackling of bonfires.

## Clean Sweep

The Irish kick off the year with a bang, or should we say, a sweep. The early spring clean isn't just a chore; it's a declaration of war against post-Christmas gloom. Banging bread on doors to chase away bad luck? Well, that's just the Irish way of making an entrance.

Meanwhile, the Scots take it a step further with a decluttering mission. Before the clock strikes twelve, debts are paid, and homes are swept clean – both literally and metaphorically.

## Door Drama and First-Footing Fun

In Ireland, the first person



The Allendale Tar Bar'l in Northumberland, England. Pic: Visit Northumberland

through the door on January 1st holds the keys to the year's vibes. A dark-haired stranger means good fortune, but a red-headed woman? Cue the ominous music. It's like casting for the drama of the year.

Not to be outdone, the Scots put on a first-footing fiesta. The first person to enter a home after the bells toll is the VIP of the night. Dark-haired, bearing symbolic gifts, this character sets the tone for the year.

## Auld Lang Syne

When the clock strikes midnight in Scotland, it's not just about the bells. It's a full-blown musical with Auld Lang Syne as the anthem.

In parts of England, particularly in apple orchard regions, the tradition of wassailing takes centre stage. Villagers gather to sing to the apple trees, ensuring a fruitful harvest in the coming year. It's like a concert for crops, where the encore is a bountiful yield.

## Dreamy Superstitions

Irish singles have a dreamy

tradition of tucking mistletoe, holly, or ivy under their pillows on January 1st. Why? To dream up their future partners. It's like a botanical Tinder, but with a higher chance of actual sparks.

Meanwhile, Scots are busy saining their homes, blessing them with water from a river ford and burning juniper branches. Opening windows and doors? That's the ultimate invitation for a fresh start. Move over, Feng Shui!

## Table for the Departed

In Ireland, the New Year's Day dinner is not just for the living. Families set a place at the table for those who departed in the past year, leaving the door unlatched. It's a poignant reminder that some traditions are a bridge between the worlds.

On the Isle of Man, the New Year's Eve celebration, known as Oie'll Verrey, involves mummers going door-to-door in masked performances.

## New Year, New Me

The Manx are onboard the resolution train. From hitting

the gym to mastering the bagpipes, the Isle of Man is all about starting the year with a to-do list.

Forget Resolutions, the Welsh are feasting on New Year's Day. Welsh cakes are the stars of the show, ensuring that the year starts on a sugar high.

Brittany does feasts differently. The Feast of the Seven Meat Stew isn't just a meal; it's a prophecy of prosperity. Seven meats for seven flavours, and the promise of a year that's as diverse as your dinner.

## Twelfth Night

In some English households, the Christmas season isn't officially over until January 6th, known as Twelfth Night. It's a night of revelry and cake-cutting where hidden charms in the cake foretell the future. Move aside, crystal balls; cakes are the new fortune-tellers.

In Ireland, Women's Little Christmas, or Nollaig na mBan, is also celebrated on January 6th. It is a day for women to take a break from the holiday responsibilities.

# Robbie wins hearts with belters, ballads and banter



Robbie Williams at Mount Cotton, Queensland. Pictures: Anglo&Celtic

## REVIEW

### Robbie Williams Mount Cotton QLD

British expat forums had been abuzz for weeks with people looking for Robbie tickets. And others asking were they worth the price. Nobody left Mount Cotton in doubt about whether they were worth it.

Robbie is a born entertainer. He didn't just regale us with his belters (Let Me Entertain You, Rock DJ) and ballads (Feel, Angels), he also won hearts with his heartfelt chats with the crowd. It was rock opera meets Oprah, with a side of hilarious banter.

He chose the perfect set for Australian fans, including Kids, his duet with Kylie. He sang Take That's Back for Good, a challenging vocal usually sung by Gary Barlow. Robbie nailed it. He sang Don't Look Back In Anger by Oasis. He nailed it. He sang You're The Voice by John Farnham. And yep, nailed it.

Robbie is the most human superstar out there and fans love him for it.

Mary Allen



# Sparks fly with set of songs spanning five decades

## REVIEW

### Sparks Fortitude Valley QLD

Despite having hits since the 1970s and releasing dozens of albums, this was Sparks first-ever concert in Brisbane.

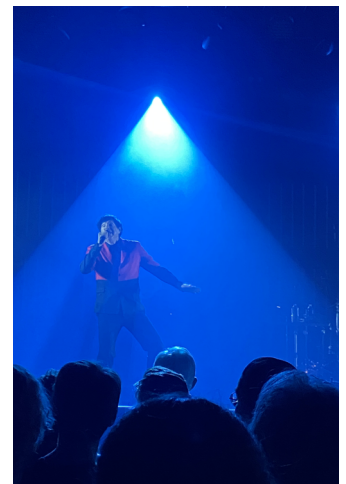
Anticipation couldn't have been higher than from fans of the iconic pop duo, beloved by British audiences.

Boasting a musical arsenal spanning five decades, each song a carefully crafted weapon in their sonic army, the band managed to find a balance of eras, sounds, hits and obscure tracks to please all. Each was delivered aplomb, with astonishing energy, gusto, and humour. Sparks are exciting, daring, clever, funny, sophisticated, cute and utterly unforgettable.

Mary Allen



Sparks at Fortitude Valley Music Hall, Queensland. Pictures: Anglo&Celtic



# Andy Irvine's Australian odyssey

Andy Irvine, an illustrious figure in the realm of Irish folk music, is poised to embark on an Australian tour, weaving together his legendary career and profound connection with the vast landscapes and warm hearts of the continent.

With a career spanning over 55 years, Andy's love affair with Australia began in 1984, evolving into a regular pilgrimage that continues to define his artistic soul.

As a key player in seminal bands like Sweeney's Men, Planxty, and Patrick Street, Andy Irvine has left an indelible mark on the Irish folk scene. His musical journey is interwoven with the echoes of Ireland and a distinctive troubadour style that resonates with audiences worldwide. Now, Australia becomes a stage for this living legend to showcase not just his music but the deep, personal connection he has cultivated with the land Down Under.

"I love the wide-open country, the huge drives through



empty spaces. 'Lonesome' is a word that always meant a lot to me," reflects Andy, capturing the essence of his affinity for the Australian terrain.

The solitude of Farewell to Ireland or the profound sense of being utterly alone in the Outback aligns with his appreciation for the epitome of 'lonesome' that Australia embodies.

For Andy, Australia is more than just a destination; it's a second home. His regular sojourns are driven by a deep "grá" (love) for the people, reminiscent of a time when friendliness prevailed over the relentless tick of the clock.

In his words, "Australia reminds me of earlier times in my life."

The folk legend's connec-

tion with Australia extends beyond the usual tourist trails. "I've probably seen more of Australia than most of the people who live there," he says.

This Australian tour is sure to be a celebration of that enduring connection.

## TOUR DATES

DEC 10 Keysborough VIC  
 DEC 11 Brunswick VIC  
 DEC 12 Newlyn Nth VIC  
 DEC 16 Sydney NSW  
 DEC 17 Newcastle NSW  
 DEC 20 Dorriggo NSW  
 DEC 21 Nanango QLD  
 DEC 27-30 Woodford QLD  
 JAN 3 Brisbane QLD  
 JAN 11 Bathurst NSW  
 JAN 12 Katoomb NSW  
 JAN 13 Bathurst NSW  
 JAN 14 Canberra ACT  
 JAN 17 Bermagui NSW  
 JAN 18 Yatta Yattah NSW  
 JAN 19 - 21 Wollongong NSW  
 JAN 22 Petersham NSW

## LAKE SCHOOL OF CELTIC MUSIC SONG & DANCE

January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Koroit, Victoria



MOYNE SHIRE



Cover image: Painting by Galina MacNeacall, Scotland (oil pastel)



<https://www.facebook.com/celticlakeschool/>

<https://www.lakeschool.com.au/>

## GAELIC GIG for GAZA

A full day of Irish acts playing for Palestine

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 2023  
GAELIC PARK, KEYSBOROUGH

special guest

**andy irvine**

alma road - tim scanlan & mana okubo  
the band she - eddie simmons

thar na tonnta - richy mckay - petie mckiernan  
bernadette & anthony (saoirse) - haydo

1PM-6PM - TICKETS 20\$ ON THE DOOR -

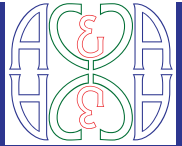
BAR OPEN - FOOD - RAFFLE

ALL PROCEEDS TO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS



# NOTICES

Business listings cost \$20+GST per edition or six editions for \$100+GST - name, type of business, contact details - max 30 words. Classified ads and family announcements cost \$30+GST, six editions for \$150+GST, maximum 50 words. Email your ad to editor@angloandceltic.com



## Classifieds

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

#### BurkeWhistles

Precision handcrafted professional quality PennyWhistles. Made from either aluminum or brass. Keys available from High E to Low C. 35 models from which to choose. Whistles are in tune and tunable.

[www.burkewhistles.com](http://www.burkewhistles.com)

## Business listings

### CULTURAL CLUBS

#### Queensland Irish Association

07 3067 3064

[enquiries@queenslandirish.com](mailto:enquiries@queenslandirish.com)

PO Box 12745, George St, QLD 4003

[www.queenslandirish.com](http://www.queenslandirish.com)

### DANCE CLUBS

#### Australian Historical Dance

Heather Clarke, Brisbane QLD

(07) 3289 4708

[heather@historicaldance.au](mailto:heather@historicaldance.au)

<https://www.historicaldance.au/>

### MUSIC

#### The Scotsman

Glasgow-born musician and dance caller.

Graeme McColgan

0476 565 062

[www.thescotsmanmusic.com](http://www.thescotsmanmusic.com)

@thescotsmanmusic

### ONLINE GROUPS

Connecting British and Irish Ex-Pats around Australia

[Facebook Group](#)

Sydney Raffles Luck of the Irish

[Facebook Group](#)

### PUBS

Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley

295 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD

4006

Phone: (07) 3166 2477

[finnmccools.com.au](http://finnmccools.com.au)

The Red Lion Tavern

8025 New England Hwy, Glencoe NSW

2365

0409 776 906

[Red Lion Facebook](#)

### REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Amir Ardat

Sales and Marketing Consultant

Ray White Aspley, Brisbane QLD

0488 997 581

[amir.ardat@raywhite.com](mailto:amir.ardat@raywhite.com)

[raywhiteaspley.com.au](http://raywhiteaspley.com.au)

### REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENTS

Enda O'Callaghan MARN 1383553

02 8095 6406

[Enda@WorkPermitsandVisas.com.au](mailto:Enda@WorkPermitsandVisas.com.au)

[www.WorkPermitsandVisas.com.au](http://www.WorkPermitsandVisas.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/WorkStudyTravelVisas](http://www.facebook.com/WorkStudyTravelVisas)

### WEBSITES

#### Irish Queenslander

News and events for the Irish community in Queensland

[www.irishqueenslander.com](http://www.irishqueenslander.com)

[www.facebook.com/irishqueenslander](http://www.facebook.com/irishqueenslander)

## BUSH DANCE

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER  
GO WILD FOR WILDLIFE FUNDRAISER

Proceeds to  
Noosa & Sunshine Coast Region  
Koala Rescue Team  
- Wildcare Australia



Raffle & Best Dressed Prize  
For Bookings Text:  
Michelle 0437 549 252

## ANGLO CELTIC

Issue 6

Mail: PO Box 64, The Gap, QLD 4061

Email: [editor@angloandceltic.com](mailto:editor@angloandceltic.com)

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

Publisher/editor/designer: Mary Allen  
Proofreader: Isla Corbett

Thanks to all our advertisers. Please support English, Scottish, Welsh, Celtic and Irish businesses, social, heritage and sporting clubs in Australia and help keep our rich culture alive.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed by contributors in articles, advertisements or any other printed material in Anglo & Celtic magazine or on our website and social media posts are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of Anglo & Celtic magazine. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, edit or amend submitted material in order to make it appropriate or suitable for publication. To gain permission to reprint any material that appears in Anglo & Celtic, contact us by email. Anglo & Celtic magazine takes no responsibility for products or services advertised in this magazine or on our website or associated media.

Tuilleadh eolais le fáil/contact details:  
Facebook: The Irish Program - Radio 4EB 98.1 FM  
Office: no 07) 3240 8686 [info@irishradio.com.au](mailto:info@irishradio.com.au) / [info@4eb.org.au](mailto:info@4eb.org.au)  
Street: Address: 140 Mann St, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Queensland.



# Queensland Irish Association

## *Christmas Party 2023*



Join us on Saturday, 2nd December  
from 12 noon at

*West's Rugby Club, Sylvan Rd, Toowong*

Christmas carols and entertainment  
Food and beverages available to purchase  
Guinness on tap



*RSVP to Mavis Williams [mkw.pinklady.dua@hotmail.com](mailto:mkw.pinklady.dua@hotmail.com)*

# ANGLOCELTIC

ENGLAND • IRELAND • SCOTLAND • WALES • CELTIC NATIONS • ENGLAND • IRELAND • SCOTLAND • WALES • CELTIC NATIONS

## Advertise in Australia's only British and Irish publication

### Your support means it's free for readers!



## SPECIAL RATES FOR LOW-BUDGET CLIENTS

QUALITY MONTHLY ONLINE MAGAZINE • AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING RATES  
SUPPORTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES • COMPREHENSIVE GIG GUIDES  
POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS • INDEPENDENT AND MADE IN AUSTRALIA



## Book on our website at [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)



Find us on Instagram  
[angloandceltic\\_australia](https://www.instagram.com/angloandceltic_australia)



Follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/Anglo&Celtic](https://www.facebook.com/Anglo&Celtic)



We are on X as  
[@Anglo&Celtic](https://twitter.com/Anglo&Celtic)

ENGLAND • IRELAND • SCOTLAND • WALES • CELTIC NATIONS • ENGLAND • IRELAND • SCOTLAND • WALES • CELTIC NATIONS