

ANGLO CELTIC

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**St David's
Day Special**



**St Piran's
Day Special**



Meet the Cymru crew



**The Hayland
Gathering**



doors open 10am

the IRISH are taking over BRUNSWICK street mall!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

SUNDAY 17 MARCH

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ACROSS 2 STAGES

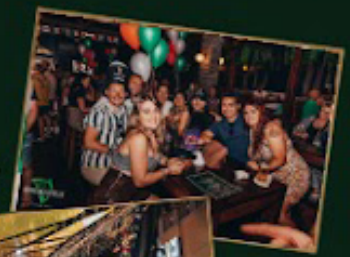
FEATURING

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WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com



Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus (Happy St David's Day)! St David's Day celebrations in the garden at The Croft in Glen Innes last year. John Rhys Jones (centre) of The Australian Standing Stones National Celtic Monument management board and friends gathered to enjoy the National Day of Wales. Picture: Supplied

Things are leaking up for St David's Day

Welcome to the February edition of Anglo&Celtic, and a special welcome to our Welsh and Cornish readers. We are celebrating your heritage and culture in this issue, with stories on St David's Day and St Piran's Day, and what your communities are doing to celebrate your special days!

Our cover stars in traditional Welsh costumes come courtesy of Sydney Welsh Choir, and you can find a guide to Australia's Welsh choirs and community groups on pages 16 and 17. We'll tell you why Wales is the land of the dragon, the leek, and the daffodil.

We also take a look at Little Cornwall in South Australia and the story of Saint Piran. In fact, we are jam-packed with saints this issue as we also feature the Matron Saint of Ireland, Saint Brigid, whose feast day is on February 1st.

Of course, we're not forgetting St Valentine. Yes, he's a big part of all our cultures, but when it comes to celebrating romance, the Anglo and Celtic peoples don't just stick to February 14th. They like to spread the love throughout the year with a huge array of traditional celebrations and ceremonies.

Speaking of people's love interests, the most popular story on Anglo&Celtic's social

media in 2023 was the announcement that Daniel O'Donnell was headed to our shores. Yes, the DOD has clearly still got the magic. Let's face it, what's not to love? Read more about Daniel's tour on page 13.

Another act who are most certainly Alive and Kicking are Scottish rockers Simple Minds. Jim Kerr and Co. are headed our way and you can catch them on page 28.

We also feature another much-loved singer songwriter, Ralph McTell. His anthem Streets of London tells the story of the homeless, the marginalised and the lonely moving through an uncaring world. It struck a chord with many who had emigrated to London, back in the days when returning home wasn't as easy or affordable as it is now.

It is a privilege to be the media sponsor for The Hayland Gathering. It's a Highland gathering on our country's flattest landscape, Hay Plains in New South Wales. It's the second year of the festival after a hugely successful 2023. Cheers to a Highland gathering that defies altitude!

And finally, congratulations to Jackie Keeble from Melbourne who won two tickets to see Belinda Davids in our Whitney Houston tribute show contest. Have a blast, Jackie!

FEATURES



Chemical Brothers



Daniel O'Donnell



Australian Celtic Women



Simple Minds

Proud media sponsor of



The Hayland Gathering 2024

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



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



Visit our sister title at
www.irishqueenslander.com

Welsh wit shines in Victoria with cheeky church signs

In the heart of Melbourne's bustling business district stands a historic gem – the Welsh Church, built in 1871, that radiates charm and humour. Renowned for its 'radical inclusivity,' this church doesn't just warm hearts; it tickles funny bones with its hilarious signs.

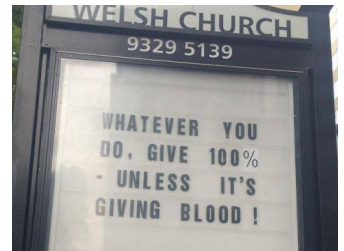
Originally from Llandudno, Rev. Siôn Gough Hughes, the witty mind behind the signs, shared that the signs are intended to make people think and show a different side to Christianity.

Indeed, these signs have garnered global attention in the media.

You'll find the Welsh Church at 320 La Trobe Street, Melbourne. For more information, go to their website at www.melbournewelshchurch.com.au. Pictures: [Facebook/melbwelshchurch](https://www.facebook.com/melbwelshchurch).



IT'S A SIGN: Melbourne Welsh Church is famed for its amusing signs.



Bangalow's O'Meara is outstanding in his field

The town of Bangalow in northern New South Wales has paid tribute to one member of local Irish-Australian family, the O'Meara's.

The Bangalow Parks Trust committee, who run Bangalow Showgrounds, dedicated what had been known previously as the polocrosse field as The O'Meara Fields, in honour of Michael O'Meara.

Michael is a Parks Trust committee member, Bangalow Show committee member, and former long-term president of the Bangalow Show Society.

The committee renamed the field in recognition of Michael's tireless work on the grounds and Parks Trust committee, as well as his family's long association with the Bangalow Show.

Michael has been involved with the Parks Trust for 35 years.



The O'Meara family were dairy farmers. Their ancestors first arrived in the Bangalow region in the 1880s, having travelled up from the Wollongong area.

They still maintain strong links to their Irish roots, especially with their Buckley relatives from County Cork.

Professional Quality Penny Whistles



Burke Whistles

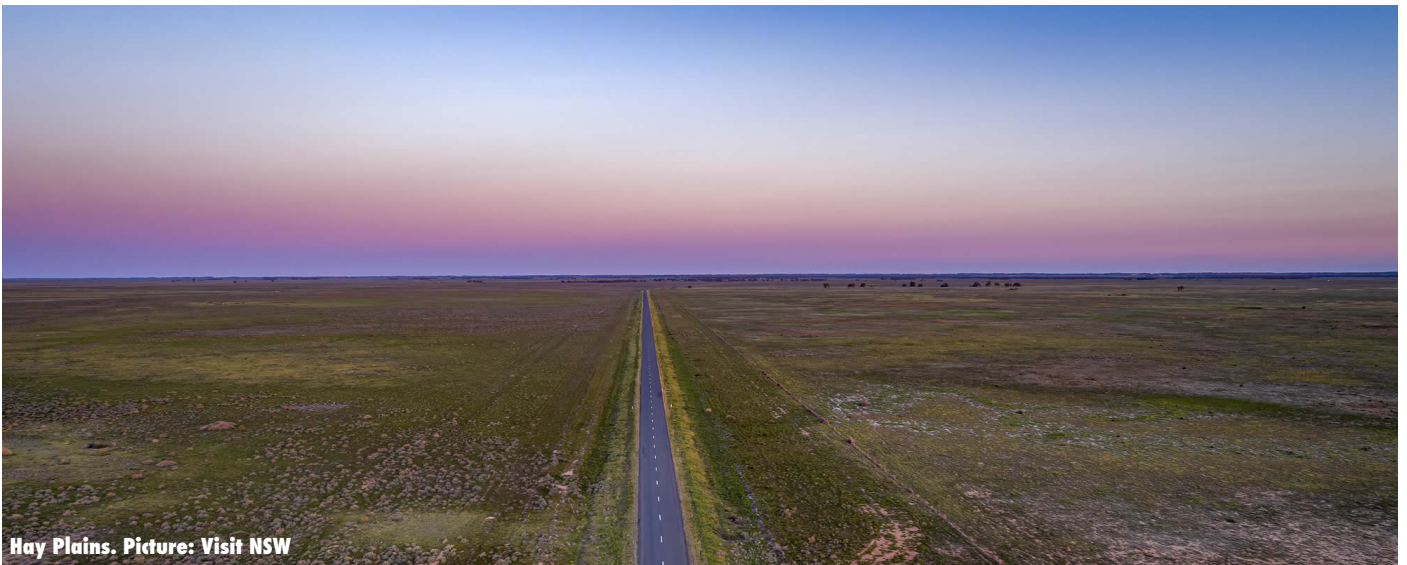
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Michael Burke Penny Whistle Co.



Hay Plains. Picture: Visit NSW

Hayland Gathering calls you to flattest place in Australia



Rather than a 'Highland' gathering, it's a Hayland Gathering that's calling you to the flattest place in Australia in March.

Hay Plains in New South Wales is a vast expanse of flat land and saltbush that is counted in the top three flattest places on earth.

Following the success of the first Highland gathering held in Hay in 2023, the town is looking forward to the Scottish community gathering once again.

The Hayland Gathering Convenor Kylie Kerr told Anglo&Celtic: "Following the success of 2023, our second Hayland Gathering is being held at Hay Oval on Saturday, 9th March 2024 with a street parade, pipe bands, the Riverina Highland Dancing Titles, Highland Muscle Heavy Event competition, as well as stalls, athletic events, and entertainment.

"We are then holding a traditional ceilidh at the Hay Services Club with The Scotsman and finishing off with fireworks."

The festival's street parade is a huge highlight, with dancers and music taking to the streets of the town.

Another highlight at the Hayland Gathering will be the Riverina Highland



Hay Highland and Scottish National Dancing, and, below, Kylie Kerr with The Scotsman Graeme McColgan.

Dancing Titles. Along with the competition, OzScot Australia will give a world-renowned display of choreography.

Golden City Pipe Band Bendigo will be joining the gathering again, for the street parade, display, and massed bands.

Yoga will meet Scotland at Hay Park for McYoga on Sunday, 10th March with Scottish-theme yoga mats. Kilts are optional!

Hay is in the Riverina area of NSW, about 700km west of Sydney and about 400km from Melbourne. The historic town boasts five museums.

See www.facebook.com/haylandgathering.



HEAR! HEAR! THE PLAINS ARE CALLING

Saturday 9th March 2024

Hay Oval

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Street Parade - 10am

Riverina Highland Dancing Titles

Highland Muscle Heavy Events

Athletics & Kids Events

Golf Tournament

Stalls & Food

Pipe Bands



Riverina Titles



haylandgathering@gmail.com | 0417 052 491

Queensland legend Séamus picks up Presidential Award

Ireland has awarded its highest diasporan honour to Queensland's Séamus Sullivan.

Queensland Irish Association Vice President Séamus travelled to Dublin in January to pick up his Presidential Distinguished Service Award for his support for the Irish community in Australia.

The award was conferred by President Higgins in Áras an Uachtaráin, followed by a dinner hosted by the Tánaiste Micheál Martin, with the Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, in Dublin Castle.

Séamus has contributed to the Irish Australian community in many different ways over the past 50 years, including assisting those in personal crisis, and promoting and sharing Irish culture in Brisbane, Queensland, and Australia. He has been awarded in the category of Irish Community Support.

Séamus was instrumental in introducing Gaelic football and hurling to Queensland 50 years ago, serving as the President of the Gaelic Football and Hurling Association of Australasia for over 30 years, while also the President of the Gaelic Football and Hurling Association of Queensland.

Séamus has also been a key driver of the annual St Patrick's Day Parade and Brisbane Irish Festival through



Séamus Sullivan, left and his family (daughter Marie Sullivan, son-in-law Alan Stocker and nephew Ciaran Murrin) with President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, front centre. Picture: Marie Sullivan

his role as President of the St Patrick's Day Parade Association. His work on the parade, along with his involvement in Gaelic Football, has introduced many people to Irish culture.

Séamus is a founding member and former President of the Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland, which provides support to members of the Irish Australian community in Queensland facing difficult situations such as alcohol and substance abuse, death of loved ones, domestic violence, and housing and financial crisis.

In recent years, Séamus

has been President of the Queensland Irish Association, and currently holds the role of Vice President, working tirelessly in promoting Irish culture in Queensland.

The Presidential Distinguished Service Awards for the Irish Abroad recognises the service given to Ireland or to Irish communities abroad by those who live outside Ireland.

Thirteen people have been chosen to receive a Presidential Distinguished Service Award for 2023, coming from fields such as law, science, the arts, and business.

The Presidential Distin-

guished Service Award for the Irish Abroad was established by the government in 2012, and to date 120 people have been conferred with the award.

This year has seen awards conferred on people across seven continents and Séamus is the only one from the Irish diaspora in Australia.

Séamus was born in Tipperary in 1942 and emigrated first to England, and then to Australia in 1972.

Séamus was recognised for his community work by Brisbane City Council in 2020, being presented with a Citizen of the Year award.

Irish visa numbers skyrocket by 105%, British by 90%

Australia is stealing the show as the dream destination for Irish and British adventurers.

The latest Australian Migration Trends Report spills the beans on a whopping 105.2% surge in Irish visa approvals, with 21,525 Irish souls grabbing their 'tickets to paradise' between 2022 and 2023, claiming a solid 9.6% of all Working Holiday

Maker visas. Ireland, the UK, and France accounted for a combined 38.6% of Working Holiday Maker visas. There were 38,177 visas (17%) snagged by British applicants, and 26,896 visas (12%) taken up by the French, with the Irish crew in third place with a 9.6% share.

Amid the Irish invasion taking centre stage, the numbers

still reveal a dip in overall visa numbers compared to the numbers of Irish arriving a decade ago.

There's a whopping 90% spike in visas for British applicants, hitting 38,177, and a whopping 166.6% rise for the French, clocking in at 26,896.

But, those increases are nothing compared to Taiwan

with a mind-blowing 202% surge in visas, leaping from 5,142 to 10,386 in 2021-2022.

The report hints at a decline in Working Holiday Maker visas compared to a decade ago.

For those with itchy feet, Australian working holiday visas are the golden tickets to unforgettable escapades!

Cornish community ready to celebrate Saint Piran

St Piran's Day is a spirited celebration that takes place on March 5th, honouring St Piran, who is the patron saint of Cornwall, a region in southwest England known for its rich Celtic heritage. This day serves as a joyous tribute to Cornish culture, history, and identity, drawing locals and enthusiasts alike into a lively tapestry of festivities.

At the heart of St Piran's Day is the legendary tale of St Piran himself, said to be an Irish abbot and saint who was tied to a millstone and cast into the sea. Legend has it that he miraculously washed ashore in Cornwall, discovering the rich tin deposits that would go on to shape the region's history. The white cross on a black background, the Cornish flag, is said to symbolise the colours of St Piran's millstone.

The day kicks off with vibrant parades, where locals proudly wear black, white, and gold – the symbolic colours of Cornwall. Flags flutter in the breeze, and traditional Cornish music fills the air as the parade weaves its way through towns and villages. Traditional Cornish pasties, a savory pastry filled with meat and vegetables, are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, offering a delectable taste of Cornwall's culinary heritage.

Cornish communities come alive with folk dancing, live music, and storytelling sessions. Locals gather to share tales of St Piran, Cornish folklore, and the unique history that sets Cornwall apart. Many people also participate in cultural events, art exhibitions, and activities that celebrate the distinct language, traditions, and folklore of Cornwall.

Cornish immigrant miners brought their customs to Australia with their influence still palpable. As well as bringing Cornish music and dance, in-



The Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival is held bi-annually in South Australia. Pictured are the festival's 2023 May Queen Chloe Paddick and May Princess Georgie-Lou McCracken. Picture: [Facebook/kernewek](https://www.facebook.com/kernewek)

cluding 'troyls' social dances, they also gave Australia its beloved Cornish pasty.

The Copper Coast in South Australia earned the moniker "Australia's Little Cornwall" due to its historical connections with Cornish miners who played a pivotal role in the region's mining industry during the 19th century. The area, encompassing towns like Moonta, Wallaroo, and Kadina, became a major copper mining hub in the mid-1800s.

Cornish miners flocked to the Copper Coast in search of opportunities. Their mining techniques, including the use of distinctive Cornish engine houses, significantly contributed to the success of the copper mines in the region.

The legacy of their presence is still evident today in the region's historic buildings, Cornish pasty shops, and events celebrating Cornish heritage.

Last year, the biannual Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival welcomed visitors to Little Corn-

wall to celebrate their unique Cornish heritage, traditions, and culture.

The Cornish Association of Victoria are looking forward to their St Piran's Day celebration. Ken Peak, secretary of the Association, told Anglo&Celtic: "Our plan is for a St Piran's Day activity to begin with a church service and then a pasty lunch at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, on the corner of Skipton and Darling Streets, Ballarat South in Victoria."

Meanwhile, the Cornish Association of New South Wales is planning to mark their 49th anniversary and St Piran's Day with lunch and celebrations at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club in Sydney.

In the Celtic heart of Australia, Glen Innes, there will be a flag-lowering ceremony. All are welcome to attend this free event and toast St Piran as the flag of Cornwall is lowered.

Light refreshments will be available for a gold coin donation.

ST PIRAN'S DAY EVENTS

2 MAR

Cornish Association of New South Wales
49 years and St Piran's Celebration
Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, West
Ryde NSW

3 MAR

Cornish Association of Victoria St
Piran's Day Celebration
Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall,
Ballarat South VIC

5 MAR

St Piran's Day Flag Lowering
Australian Standing Stones, Glen Innes
NSW
Cornish Association of South Australia
St Piran's Day Lunch will be held at the
Torrens Arms Hotel, Kingswood SA

- Cornish community groups: Cornish Assoc of NSW – www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw; Cornish Assoc of SA – www.cornishsa.org.au; Cornish Assoc of Victoria – www.cornishvic.org.au.

WHO WAS SAINT PIRAN?

Saint Piran is the Patron Saint of Cornwall, believed to have been a 5th-century Irish abbot.

Legend has it that Piran discovered tin while building his fireplace, making him a symbol of Cornwall's mining heritage.

The white cross on a black background, known as the St Piran's Flag, is associated with the saint and represents Cornwall.

Celebrated on March 5th, St Piran's Day honors the saint with events featuring Cornish music, dance, and the display of the iconic flag.

According to legend, Piran was thrown into the sea with a millstone around his neck but miraculously survived, emphasising his revered status.

Victoria unveils world's largest Cornish library outside Cornwall

The world's largest Cornish library outside of Cornwall has been unveiled in Castlemaine, and it's a treasure chest of history, miners, and Aussie pioneers.

Castlemaine Historical Society Inc (CHSI) hosted a celebration recently, marking the official launch of the Cornish Library. With around 90 attendees, including 28 spirited members of the Cornish Association of Victoria (CAV), the event was a triumphant ode to all things Cornish.

The Cornish Library proudly claimed the title of the world's largest collection of Cornish reference and genealogical material outside Cornwall. In a historic agreement, the library found a new home within the archives of CHSI, becoming a distinctive section with its own tale to tell.

This grand relocation had been heralded in a



The launch of the library at Castlemaine. Picture: Arthur Coates

significant announcement in 2021. CAV President Ken Peak announced the historic relocation and archiving of their extensive library to the Castlemaine Historical Society. The move was hailed as a pivotal agreement, securing the library's future as a standalone collection.

Mr Peak said: "More than

700,000 Australians identify themselves as having Cornish heritage. Many of these folk, like me, have Cornish ancestors who worked on the Central Victorian Goldfields."

The CAV Library, a rich archive cultivated over years, houses an unparalleled collection of resources, including books, journals, maps, and

more, making it a comprehensive repository of Cornish history and heritage. The decision to move the library was prompted by the need to find a suitable new home after its previous residence, the Oakleigh Baptist Church, required the space for other purposes.

In the spirit of maintaining the integrity of the collection, the CAV Committee ensured that the resources remained intact as a single collection during the transition.

"This is an excellent outcome and we look forward to working successfully with the Castlemaine Historical Society for many years to come," Mr Peak concluded.

The CAV is a vibrant association with 200+ members that meets monthly in Melbourne. For more information, go to <http://www.cornishvic.org.au/index.html>.

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.



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

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



Brigid 1500 Festival celebrates the matron saint of Ireland

Marking 1500 years since the passing of Ireland's foremost female saint, Brigid 1500 will celebrate the extraordinary life of St Brigid.

Taking place this month in County Kildare, Ireland, Brigid 1500 will bring together artists, performers, enthusiasts, communities and visitors to celebrate St Brigid in a contemporary way with a culturally rich program of events.

The program will engage with the values that St Brigid championed such as faith and spirituality, biodiversity and sustainability, arts and culture, social justice, peace, hospitality and education.

Highlights of Brigid 1500 will include a St Brigid's day concert that will feature leading Irish artists including Eleanor McEvoy, Moya Brennan of Clannad and Mary Coughlan.

Light shows will feature prominently in the festival. A candlelight pilgrimage and

ritual at St Brigid's well will take place and two grand fiery processional events will be held in the towns of Maynooth and Kildare. The tower on the Hill of Allen will be bathed in white light to symbolise hope for the new year.

St Brigid's relic, which has been absent from her Co. Kildare roots for nearly a millennium, made a triumphant return last month in time for the festival. The homecoming procession drew hundreds of onlookers to Kildare. Brigid, originally interred in a Kildare monastic church, became a pilgrimage shrine, but her remains were relocated to Downpatrick Cathedral during Viking raids, only to be lost and miraculously rediscovered in 1185.

Fast forward to the 1930s, when a fragment of her relic returned to Ireland in the care of the Brigidine Sisters from Tullow, Co. Carlow. Now, this precious piece

is enshrined in Kildare's St Brigid's parish church, marking a significant cultural and spiritual reunion.

St Brigid's Day and the Celtic festival of Imbolc, which marks the beginning of spring, are traditionally marked on 1st February but there is also a public holiday on the first Monday of February. In the run-up to St Brigid's Day it is customary to make a St Brigid's cross from rushes or straw to display in the home as protection from fire and evil.

Kildare is the place most associated with the saint as it was there that she founded a monastery. A visit to Kildare should include stopping at St Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower and dropping into the heritage centre to enjoy a virtual reality tour of the town's history. Here you will meet not only St Brigid but also the pre-Christian goddess Brigid, and other characters from Ireland's Celtic mythology.

WHO WAS ST BRIGID?

St Brigid is the Matron Saint of Ireland. Her feast day is February 1st. She is also the saint of babies, printing presses and sailors.

St Brigid was born with a celestial radiance. Legends tell of a column of fire rising from her head.

St Brigid performed miracles, including healing the sick.

St Brigid founded Kildare Monastery, a center of learning.

St Brigid obtained land for a convent from the King of Leinster by miraculously expanding her cloak to cover vast acres.

People remember her by weaving St Brigid's Crosses from bog reeds.

Derry Girls star lifts the cloak of mystery around St Brigid



Siobhán McSweeney features in the documentary *Finding Brigid*, which will be screened in Brisbane.

Actor Siobhán McSweeney has form in telling the story of formidable Catholic teachers – she played no-nonsense, cynical school principal Sister Michael in *Derry Girls*. So she had no hesitation in taking part in a documentary investigating the story of Irish educator St Brigid, who she said she had seen portrayed in Celtic fantasy books as “a kick-ass warrior poet and goddess”.

The documentary, *Finding Brigid*, unfolds on the eve of St Brigid’s Day 2023, the first time the day was designated a public holiday in Ireland. Siobhán goes on a quest to uncover the real Brigid, unraveling the tangled threads of fact and folklore.

Now, to celebrate its first

anniversary, Queensland Irish Association is set to screen *Finding Brigid* at a school named after the Saint in Brisbane.

St Brigid founded Kildare Monastery, a centre of religion and learning for both men and woman. Throughout her life, St Brigid became synonymous with acts of charity, hospitality, and the protection of women in need. Recognised for miracles and acts of healing, she holds a significant place in Irish Christian tradition.

The documentary takes viewers on a journey from the sacred wells of Ireland to the hallowed grounds of Glastonbury in England, exploring legends, myths, and the legacy of St Brigid.

As Siobhán encounters various figures, including Church of Ireland Bishop of Meath and Kildare, Pat Storey, and former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, the documentary navigates the complexities of Brigid’s existence as a historical figure, a Christian saint, and a goddess revered in pagan traditions.

Join this cinematic exploration of St Brigid at The Brigid Centre, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly, on Saturday, 10th February at 2pm.

Attendees will have the opportunity to delve into the documentary’s rich narrative and indulge in a light afternoon tea. For details and RSVP, contact Michele Bourke on 0438 763 439.

ST BRIGID’S DAY EVENTS

FEB 2

Brigid The Rebel - Brigid cross laying at the Irish 1798 Memorial Waverley Cemetery NSW

FEB 3

Brigid the Rebel - Cross Making workshop
Bronte Beach NSW
Brigid the Rebel - Book Launch
The Gaelic Club, Sydney NSW
Cairns Irish Association St Brigid’s Day Celebration
Manunda QLD
Lá Fhéile Bhríde - St Brigid’s Day lunch at Canberra Irish Club
Canberra ACT

FEB 4

Brigid The Rebel - Fashion Show
Bondi Pavillion NSW
Brigid The Rebel - Prankquean Concert
Bondi Pavillion NSW
St Brigid’s Festival Family Day
Kidogo Arthouse, Fremantle WA
Darling Downs Irish Club St Brigid’s Luncheon
Toowoomba QLD

FEB 10

Queensland Irish Association presents *Finding Brigid* screening
Indooroopilly QLD

FEB 11

BrigidFest
Batman’s Hill on Collins, Melbourne VIC

Dr Monique Ryan to address Melbourne BrigidFest

Melbourne’s eagerly awaited annual celebration of Saint Brigid, BrigidFest, is set to take center stage on Sunday, February 11th, at Batman’s Hill on Collins.

The event brings together the Irish and Australian communities for a day of festivities.

This year’s headliner is Dr Monique Ryan, the Independent Federal Member

for Kooyong, who will be delivering a keynote speech on ‘Women in Parliament - Doing Politics Differently’. The event holds particular significance in 2024, marking 1500 years of Brigidine observance.

Dr Ryan will share her transition from a successful career in pediatric neurology to politics, reflecting on the alignment of Brigid’s values

with her own. Dr Monique Ryan’s 2022 campaign drew together some 2000 committed volunteers to help her achieve election. She will talk about the transition to political life and what it’s like to be a member of Australia’s largest crossbench.

The Honorable Gabrielle Williams, a distinguished Minister in the Victorian Government, will introduce Dr Ryan.

Held from 12pm to 4pm, the festival offers a two-course lunch at \$72 per ticket. For enquiries, reach out to Karen Fogarty at 0418 201 605.

With tickets selling quickly, those interested can secure their place at [TryBooking](#). Don’t miss out on this opportunity to be part of a day filled with cultural celebration at BrigidFest.

Honouring The Black Watch: Scotland's call for support

A retired army major from Scotland's oldest Highland Regiment, The Black Watch, has reached out to the Australian Scottish community for help to fund memorial projects in Dundee.

Major (Retd) Colin Gray, President of the Dundee Branch and Trustee of The Black Watch Regimental Trust, contacted Anglo&Celtic for assistance in reaching out to the Australian Scottish community. He said: "I am hoping that the expat Scottish community can assist in fundraising for Black Watch memorials in Dundee, Scotland."

The Black Watch is a historic infantry regiment formed in 1739. Renowned for its distinctive dark tartan kilts, it played significant roles in various conflicts, including the Napoleonic Wars, Crimean War, both World Wars, and modern conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The regiment maintains strong ties to Scottish culture, wearing traditional Highland dress. In 2006, it merged with other Scottish regiments to form the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Black Watch Museum is housed within the historic Balhousie Castle in Perth, Scotland, the origins of which are said to date back to the 12th century. A visit to the ancestral Home of The Black Watch brings the history of the regiment to life, through artefacts, paintings, photographs, personal stories and interactive displays.

Two memorial projects in Dundee are in need of financial support to preserve and enhance the homage to this illustrious regiment.

Project A – Powrie Brae Memorial Refurbishment

At Powrie Brae, Emmock Road, Dundee, the Black Watch Memorial, a testament to the fallen soldiers of the



Powrie Brae memorial overlooking Dundee. Pictures: Supplied

4th and 5th Dundee and Angus Battalions during World War II, requires immediate refurbishment. The statue, unveiled by HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1959, has seen the hands of time dim its glory.

Black Watch Veterans, Peter Fotheringham and Barry Mason, are joining forces to uplift, level, and revitalise the surroundings. This effort

needs £6,462 (\$12,416) for materials, gardening services, and stonemasonry.

Project B – Black Watch Parade Walkway

On Black Watch Parade, a ground-breaking proposal aims to create a captivating walkway telling the story and history of The Black Watch. From modern metal sculptures to etched paving stones

narrating significant events, this project envisions an immersive experience. Estimated at £80,000 (\$153,694), the funds will support artists, materials, and the realisation of this transformative walkway.

It is hoped that the total target of £86,462 (\$166,110) will be raised through events, corporate contributions, personal donations, and online.

Bank transfers are welcomed to The Black Watch Regimental Trust Account (Sort Code: 83-47-00, Account Number: 11477506), with cheques addressed to The Dundee Memorial Fund at Black Watch Castle & Museum, Hay Street, Perth, PH1 5HR, Scotland.

Donors can allocate their contributions to specific projects by referencing "Powrie Brae" or "BW Parade" followed by their full name.

The goal extends beyond financial aid, seeking a collective effort to preserve the rich heritage of The Black Watch.

You can donate at Just Giving fundraising page at [A Fundraising Appeal - JustGiving](#).

You'll find the website for The Black Watch Museum at theblackwatch.co.uk.



Black Watch Parade Walkway in Dundee.

Wild Geese taking flight as Celtic Club reveals new home

Melbourne's Celtic Club has revealed the location of their new clubhouse, which had been kept closely under wraps.

It's been almost six years since the Celtic Club closed. The club's committee has scouted and secured a new location at 29 Sydney Road, Brunswick, Melbourne – the current site of the Sarah Sands Hotel. The club is set to re-emerge in March 2024 as 'The Wild Geese', a charismatic bistro pub and Celtic Club member's bar.

The new venue, easily accessible by tram and train, promises to be a vibrant hub for enthusiasts of Irish culture. The ground floor will house the Wild Geese Bar, featuring a bistro and bar area, as well as a spacious meeting room/private dining room. Ascend to the first floor, and members will discover an exclusive space with a bar, function room, library/private dining room, and an outdoor parlour area, all complemented by member discounts and the convenience of a lift for those with mobility concerns.



Former hotel will be the new home of the Celtic Club in Melbourne. Picture: [Facebook/sarahsandsotel](https://www.facebook.com/sarahsandsotel)

Renowned Belfast chef John Paul Dargan will take the helm in the kitchen, crafting a menu that pays homage to Irish ingredients, with an emphasis on seafood and grill items. The restaurant will offer a full Irish traditional breakfast on weekends, a tempting Sunday roast, and an Irish High Tea on weekday afternoons.

Dining at The Wild Geese will be an immersive experi-

ence with an extensive range of Irish whiskeys, boutique gins, signature cocktails, and even house gin and vodka with bespoke recipes. As the club gears up for its reopening, a schedule of entertainment and a line-up of local and international sporting events are in the works, promising a diverse range of activities to suit a broad audience.

President Pat McGorry AO

expresses the club's excitement about hosting members in their new home, with a hopeful nod to celebrating their inaugural St Patrick's Day weekend at the revamped venue.

He said: "We are very much looking forward to hosting our members at our new home and with some Irish luck we would like to host our very first St Patrick's Day weekend at our new venue."

Irish Club of WA meets to discuss club's future

The Irish Club of Western Australia is discussing its future due to worries about underutilisation of the clubhouse.

Honorary Consultant Marty Kavanagh and Minister Stephen Dawson chaired a meeting at the Irish Club in Subiaco, on Wednesday, 31st January to discuss the future of the Irish club.

On their Facebook page, the club shared: "The Irish Club is currently underutilised. It is a multimillion-dollar asset of the Irish Community which is not used by the community it exists to serve. We need input from right across the Irish community here in Perth to see how we can make the club the vibrant



The Irish Club of WA clubhouse in Subiaco needs community support.

place that it can be. A place we can all call our own.

"Whether you are an individual who has been here 50 years or just stepped off the boat, a member of an

Irish Organisation, an Irish business owner or otherwise, you and any interested others are more than welcome to attend. We would also love to see some of our younger

diaspora attend as your opinion is vital to the future of the club."

The Irish Club of WA was founded in 1950, to create a hub for Irish emigrants to have a place to socialise and build a sense of community in a foreign land.

The Irish Club boasts four unique, different and well-equipped spaces across two levels suitable for private functions and events of all types, including a theatre.

Among the upcoming events at the club are Daoiní Farrell performing for two nights only, on March 23rd and 24th.

For more information, visit the club's website at www.irishclubofwa.com.au.

Victorian town transforms into Nepal for Neeson film

The picturesque town of Walhalla in regional Victoria has undergone a magical metamorphosis into a Nepali village for the filming of *Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky*, starring Northern Irish legend Liam Neeson.

The town, about 180 kilometres east of Melbourne, is bedecked with vibrant prayer flags and a fresh coat of paint, giving it an authentic Nepali vibe.

The film, a sequel to the 2021 hit *The Ice Road*, promises a high-octane adventure through Nepal's treacherous mountain scape for Neeson's character, Mike McCann.

Russell Wright, President of the Walhalla Mountain Rivers Tourism Association, enthusiastically shares the behind-the-scenes magic, describing how the town's main hotel and surroundings have been revamped into a Nepali haven. From repainted buildings to an open-air market in the car park, Walhalla is now an unexpected slice of Nepal in the heart of Australia.

As the transformation took shape in just a week, on-lookers and locals couldn't help but be captivated by the cinematic spectacle. With nearly 600 local job opportu-



Walhalla in Victoria was transformed into a Nepali Village for the filming of Liam Neeson's movie *Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky*. Picture: Facebook/Walhalla

nities and a hefty \$30 million economic boost anticipated, the film is not only creating movie magic but also stirring excitement in the local community.

People have been sharing snaps and videos online of Liam Neeson spotted filming. One local eatery, Walhalla Witchery, even had a visit from the man himself. Posting a photo of their staff with Liam on [Facebook](#), they said:

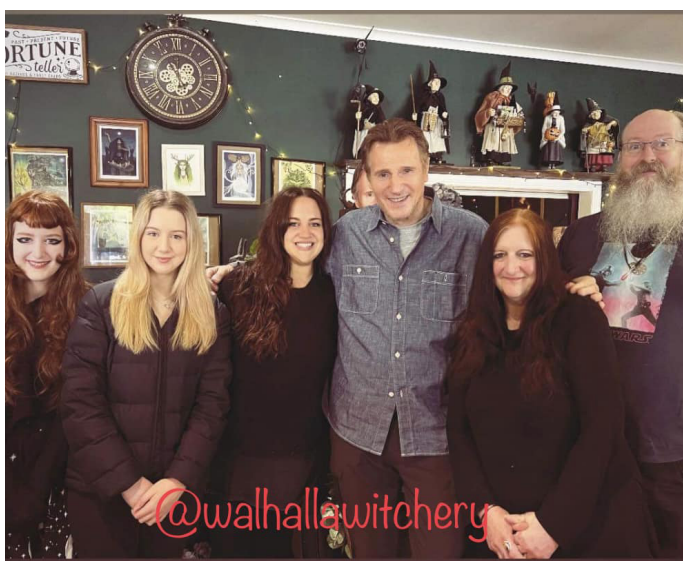
"This is not a card board cut out!! Thank you Mr Liam Neeson it was such a pleasure to meet you!"

Although some may wonder why the film wasn't shot in Nepal itself, it is thought to be due to the logistical challenges in executing a major international production in the mountainous Himalayan country.

As the town of Walhalla embraces its newfound role

as 'Little Nepal,' the film industry eagerly anticipates the release of *Ice Road 2: Road to the Sky*, directed by Jonathan Hensleigh and featuring a star-studded cast of Australian actors.

The cinematic blend of Liam Neeson's Irish charm and the enchanting transformation of an Australian town into a Nepali oasis promises an unforgettable viewing experience.



Liam Neeson, fourth from left, with the crew at Walhalla Witchery eatery. Picture: [Facebook/Walhalla Witchery](#)



During lunch breaks during filming, the road was open so locals could wander through and take photos. Picture: Facebook/Walhalla



Ireland Calling radio show organised a cruise on Sydney Harbour to celebrate Women's Little Christmas. Pictures: Supplied

Sydney Irish cruising for Nollaig na mBan

In Ireland on January 6th, after the hustle of the holidays, women take charge of the fun with a celebration called Nollaig na mBan, or Women's Little Christmas.

It's a day when women traditionally would get a break from the holiday chaos, and men would step up to handle the household chores, including cooking a feast of goose.

As the Twelve Days of Christmas wrap up on January 6th, known as the Feast of the Epiphany or Old Christmas, women would hang up their aprons. Instead of chores, the day is filled with friendship, joy, and unique customs. Pubs become lively hubs as groups of friends, sisters, mothers, daughters, and aunts gather for laughter and celebration. It's a girls' night out, time for women to kick back and enjoy some final Christmas cheer of the season.

Though the tradition had been dying

out across the country, it stayed alive and was widely celebrated in Cork and Kerry, and it is now enjoying a revival throughout Ireland and even spreading worldwide among Irish expats. Right here in Australia, its popularity is growing.

Events that took place to celebrate in Australia this year included an [Ireland Calling](#) radio show Nollaig na mBan Women's Christmas Cruise on Sydney Harbour. Tina King-Garde from Ireland Calling told Anglo&Celtic that a fantastic day was had by all.

There was also a Nollaig na mBan open mic evening in aid of the Irish Support Agency at The Gaelic Club in Sydney and a Women's Little Christmas celebration at the Irish Club of WA.

Women's Little Christmas is more than a day off; it's a lively celebration reflecting the resilience and spirit of Irish women.



Pitch-perfect pride as Welsh celebrate Saint David's Day

Wales has certainly made its mark on Australia. From Australia's first female prime minister (Julia Gillard born in Barry) to department store giants (David Jones born in Carmarthenshire) and pop stars (Kylie Minogue's mother was born in Maesteg), and that's just the start.

Australian towns are named after their Welsh counterparts (Cardiff, Swansea, Neath and Aberdare), and even a whole state (New South Wales was named by Captain James Cook, the British explorer, when he first landed in Australia in 1770 as the eastern coastline, with its cliffs and headlands, reminded him of the Welsh landscapes. Sometimes, Australia doesn't seem so far from 'the green, green grass of home'.

Mever is the connection stronger than on March 1st, when Australia's Welsh community celebrates Wales' national day, Saint David's Day, or Dydd Dewi Sant, with events happening up and down the country. We meet some of Australia's Welsh community groups.

Choral singing has become a vibrant and cherished tradition that thrives in Welsh communities, and its one that Welsh migrants brought to Australia with them. No surprise then that Australia has



Sydney Welsh Choir rehearse at West Ryde. Picture (and front page picture): Thanks to Sydney Welsh Choir

its fair share of Welsh choirs.

Sydney Welsh Choir

Sydney Welsh Choir, since its establishment in 1978, has been a vocal ambassador of Welsh culture in New South Wales. Comprising around 30 members from diverse backgrounds, the choir's repertoire spans traditional Welsh tunes and global performances. Recently, they

had the privilege of hosting Welsh singer John Ieuan Jones. Catch them rehearsing at West Ryde Community Centre Hall, and for more information, visit www.sydnewywelshchoir.com.

Cantorion Sydney

Boasting 45 male members, Cantorion Sydney showcases a wide-ranging repertoire from Welsh traditionals to opera choruses. Their performances extend beyond concerts to weddings, dinners, and charity events. Rehearsing at the Welsh Church of Sydney, they collaborate with various ensembles, fostering a rich musical experience. Learn more at www.cantoriionsydneychoir.com.

Australian Welsh Male Choir

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Australian Welsh Male Choir, with 50 members, honors the legacy of Welsh male choirs. They've

toured globally, including the Royal Albert Hall, marking historical milestones. Join them on Sunday, February 25th, at St Mary's Basilica Geelong, or on Friday, March 1st, for their 50th Anniversary Concert at Frankston Arts Centre. More details at www.awmc.org.au.

Victoria Welsh Choir (Vic Welsh)

In its 45th year, Vic Welsh, a traditional Welsh men's choir, enchants audiences with 15 concerts annually. Collaborations with renowned artists and their commitment to Welsh language contribute to their rich legacy. Catch them at the St David's Day Concert on Sunday, 25th February, at Monash University. Learn more at www.vicwelshmen-choir.com.au.

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir

Established in 1984, the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir



Mornington Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir were formed in 2018.



Melbourne Welsh Male Choir will have a St David's Day celebration in Kew on March 3rd.

blends Welsh choral traditions with an Australian twist. With Mitchell Meyer as their new music director, the choir is set to captivate audiences on Sunday, March 3rd, at MLC James Tatoulis Auditorium in Kew. Details at www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au.

Mornington Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir

Formed in 2018, this choir revives the Welsh ladies' choir tradition, embodying the cultural essence of Wales. Join them in celebrating Welsh choral heritage on the Mornington Peninsula. Explore more at www.mpwlc.com.

Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir

A diverse group of 26 members, the Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir meets weekly, promoting Welsh culture through song. They embrace varied musical genres, in-



The Welsh Society of Western Australia's recent Christmas lunch.

cluding Welsh, English, Latin, Spanish, Maori, and Italian. Stay updated on their events at www.welshladieschoir.com.au.

Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir Inc.

Originating in 1886, this Queensland-based choir has evolved into an organisation with five ensembles. They contribute to Ipswich's cultural scene, recently participating in the 140th anniversary of the Blackstone United

Welsh Church. Learn more at www.cambrianchoir.org.au.

Welsh Society of Western Australia

Celebrating more than fifty years, the Welsh Society of Western Australia fosters Welsh culture in Perth. Beyond St David's Day festivities, they organise a variety of events throughout the year, maintaining a diverse and inclusive membership. Explore more at www.wawelsh-society.org.au.



Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir at the Blackstone United Welsh Church in Queensland.

ST DAVID'S DAY EVENTS

FEB 25

Victoria Welsh Choir St David's Day Concert
Monash University VIC
St David's Day with The Australian Male Welsh Choir
Saint Mary of the Angels Basilica, Geelong VIC

MAR 1

Australian Welsh Male Choir St David's Day 50th Anniversary Concert
Frankston Arts Centre VIC
St David's Day Flag Raising
Melbourne Welsh Church VIC
St David's Day Flag Lowering
Australian Standing Stones, Glen Innes NSW

MAR 2

Gymanfa Ganu 2024
St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

MAR 3

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir
St David's Day Celebration
MLC James Tatoulis Auditorium, Kew VIC

WHO WAS SAINT DAVID?

St David, the patron saint of Wales, was a Welsh bishop born in the 6th century.

Known for founding monasteries and churches, St. David became renowned as a teacher and preacher.

Legend has it that during the Synod of Brefi, the ground beneath him rose, creating a small hill, while a white dove settled on his shoulder.

St David's Cathedral, located in Pembrokeshire, stands on the site of the monastery he founded.

St David's symbol is the leek, and his emblem is a white dove.

St David's Day, celebrated on March 1st, involves various traditions, including wearing leeks or daffodils, attending parades, and enjoying traditional Welsh cuisine.

You old softies! St Valentine facing Celtic competition

Thought to originate from Roman pagan festivals featuring sacrifices to the god of fertility, Valentine's Day has undergone a significant transformation. The celebration has evolved into a highly commercialised occasion, now closely associated with extravagant bouquets of roses, chocolates, and the exchange of greeting cards.

The association of St Valentine with love and romance gained prominence in the Middle Ages and evolved over time. The process of Christianisation often involved integrating existing festivals and traditions into the Christian calendar, adapting their themes to align with Christian values.

The association of Valentine's Day with romantic love can be traced back to the medieval period. St Valentine, an Italian Christian martyr, was commemorated on February 14th. The day became linked with romantic love during the Middle Ages, and by the 18th century, exchanging handwritten notes or "valentines" had become a popular custom in England. This tradition gradually spread, leading to the widespread celebration of Valentine's Day as a day to express love and affection to one's romantic partner.

But there are many other celebrations of love in England and Celtic lands too. In fact, there are enough to see you through the whole year!

Love Spoons

In Wales, a tradition involves the exchange of "love spoons" on romantic occasions, including weddings and engagements. These intricately carved wooden spoons were traditionally given by a suitor to a young woman as a token of his affection. Each spoon had different symbols, and the carving itself was considered a demonstration of the suitor's skills.



Among the love traditions is the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival in Co. Clare, Ireland, where singles mingle in the hope of meeting a life partner. Picture: Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival

St Dwynwen's Day

Celebrated on January 25th, St Dwynwen is the Welsh patron saint of lovers. On this day, Welsh couples exchange cards and gifts to express their love for each other. It is considered the Welsh equivalent of Valentine's Day.

Celtic Handfasting

While not exclusive to Valentine's Day, handfasting is a traditional Celtic ceremony representing a temporary or permanent betrothal. Couples would join hands and have them tied together with ribbons or cords, symbolising their commitment. Handfasting has experienced a resurgence in popularity, often used in contemporary pagan or Celtic-inspired weddings.

Matchmaking Festival

Lisdoonvarna, a small town in County Clare, Ireland, is perhaps the most famous for its traditional matchmaking festival. Historically held in September, the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival has been a long-standing tradi-

tion, drawing people from far and wide. Although the festival has evolved over the years, it still includes music, dancing, and the opportunity for singles to meet with professional matchmakers.

May Day

May Day in England, celebrated on May 1st, has pagan origins and it is linked with fertility and love. In some regions, the Maypole dance is performed, where people dance around a decorated pole, and this may have romantic undertones. The day marked the beginning of warmer weather and was seen as a time of courtship.

Beltane

Celebrated in Scotland and the Isle of Man on May 1st, Beltane is a Celtic festival marking the beginning of the warmer season. It's associated with fertility, love, and the union of the goddess and god. Traditionally, couples would jump over bonfires for good luck and fertility,

and handfasting ceremonies (temporary or permanent betrothals) were performed.

Bealtaine

Similar to Beltane, Bealtaine is an ancient Irish festival celebrated around May 1st. It involves lighting bonfires and has associations with fertility and love. In some areas of Ireland, especially in the north, settlers from Scotland and England brought the tradition of dancing around the Maypole to Ireland. Today, the village of Holywood in County Down has the only surviving permanent Maypole in Ireland.

Calan Mai

In Wales, May 1st is celebrated as Calan Mai, which translates to "the first of May". Similar to Beltane, it's a day associated with love and courtship. Young people would go into the woods to gather flowers, and the person who brought back the most beautiful bouquet was considered the most desirable.

THE
Red Lion
T A V E R N
Where Celtic Meets Country

Valentine's Dinner

2 Glasses of sparkling wine on arrival

Starter

2 x Tomato & Irish Gin Soup

Mains

Baked chicken breast, stuffed with basil pesto, Camembert cheese and wrapped in prosciutto, served with seasonal greens

Pan seared, oven baked salmon portion, served with blistered cherry tomatoes and broccolini

Desserts

Bailey's Panacotta
Guinness Chocolate Mousse

\$79 per couple

Bookings essential

0409 776 906

*Live music
by
Connor Rust*



Spectacular new venue for Saint Patrick's Eve Dinner

Queensland Irish Association is planning the biggest and best St Patrick's Eve Dinner of the modern era.

This year, the Association is taking over the spectacular Main Auditorium of the Brisbane City Hall to host the St Patrick's Eve Dinner on Saturday, 16th March 2024.

The night, the most prestigious on the Irish calendar in Queensland and now in its 126th year, promises:

- A five-hour drinks package for beer, Guinness, red and white wines, and soft drinks.
- A three-course dinner, catered by Epicure at Brisbane City Hall.
- Entertainment by the QIA Dancers and the Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band.
- Toast to Australia Our Nation proposed by human rights lawyer Father Frank Brennan SJ AO.



- Distinguished Irish and Australian guests.
- Community singing of Irish favourites.

Bookings close on Wednesday, 6th March. Email stpatricksevedinner@hotmail.com.

As part of their St Patrick's Day celebrations, the Association has collaborated

with Friends of Toowong Cemetery to organise an Irish History Tour.

This will be a guided walk and talk on the lives of the prominent Irish people buried in the cemetery as you visit their grave sites, among them founding members of the QIA.

There will be fascinating stories on this two-hour walk. The tour will take place on Sunday, 10th March at 10am. Meet at the flagpole at the Frederick Street/main entrance to the cemetery.

Those taking part may make a cash donation to Friends of Toowong Cemetery on the day to help them with their work preserving monuments.

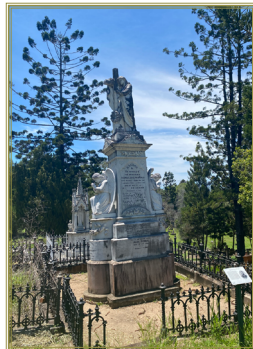
This year's St Patrick's Day Parade in Brisbane will take place on Saturday, 16th March at 10.30am, and as always, QIA is to the fore.

They are looking for walkers to take part and represent the Association in the parade. They will walk behind the QIA float that carries Saint Patrick. Everyone is welcome! Turn up on the day and assemble at the gates of the City Botanical Gardens on Alice Street from 10am.



Queensland Irish Association

Irish History Tour



Queensland Irish Association
&
Friends of Toowong Cemetery
invite you to

Irish History Tour at Toowong Cemetery

on Sunday, 10th March at 10am

Cash donation welcome to Friends of Toowong Cemetery on the day.

More info: [Friends of Toowong Cemetery - inquiries@fotc.au](mailto:Friends_of_Toowong_Cemetery_inquiries@fotc.au)

This tour will involve two hours of walking/standing.
Bring comfortable, enclosed shoes and clothing suitable for the weather.
Meet at the flag pole near the main entrance at Frederick Street, Toowong. Parking available in cemetery.



Queensland Irish Association

Finding Brigid screening



Oil on canvas by Barry McGuire, Ireland
Supported by Margaret Stacey D.Ua and Michelle Fitzpatrick D.Ua,
St Brigid's Dinner Committee

Join us on Saturday, 10th February at 2pm at

The Brigid Centre, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

Documentary film screening
& light afternoon tea
Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP and further information:

Michele Bourke on 0438 763 439 or mtcbourke@bigpond.com

Claire Moore on 0419 673 126 or claire_moore@bigpond.com

Entrance at Cecil St, Indooroopilly - Disability accessible - Parking in Central Ave, Indooroopilly

Queensland Irish Association

since 1898

announces a move to an Exciting New Venue at
Brisbane City Hall Main Auditorium

for

St Patrick's Eve Dinner

2024

Saturday

16 March 2024

6.00 for 6.45 pm

Join Distinguished Guests, Irish and Queensland representatives to continue a 126 year old tradition of celebrating Irish heritage & culture in Queensland.



\$1,600.00 per table

(\$160 per person)

Booking enquiries to:

stpatricksevedinner@hotmail.com

Dress Code: Black Tie or Lounge Suit/After-Five Wear



Terms and conditions and Government health directives apply. Please do not attend if you are unwell. You may nominate a replacement to attend in your place.

Blue Wiggle set loose at Scottish Weekender



There was a Wiggle set loose with the haggis at Glenworth Valley's Scottish Weekender. Anthony Field was taking a wee break from being the Blue Wiggle, and was decked out in a green kilt instead. Fear not, host Mary Kiani kept in control of events and no haggis was harmed during proceedings. You can read all about the Scottish Weekender in New South Wales in our January edition and on our [website](#).



Friends Shona, Morag and the Scottish Weekender organiser, singer Mary Kiani.



Yer aff yer heid!

What a year 2023 has been – a whirlwind of incredible gigs, fab festivals, and crackin' ceilidhs that have left hearts singing and feet tapping. This was all topped off with our inaugural Hogmanay Hootenanny in Tassie where the sound of pipes soared across Launceston, pure dead brilliant!

Now, as I settle down to chart the course for the next six months of my musical journey, one thing strikes me with the force of a Highland storm – Australia is vast. I mean, truly vast.

Take, for instance, the upcoming Hayland Gathering this March, a mere 750km each way. To put that in perspective, if I were back home in Glasgow and casually mentioned, "Aye Angus, I'm just takin' the motor over to Amsterdam for a gig, be back Monday," they'd likely think I'd gone aff ma heid! And here I am, not even leaving New South Wales.

Aside from the physical

effects of the heat on a ginger Scottish lad like myself, the sheer scale of this country has been one of the biggest eye-openers. But you know what? There's a silver lining in every thundercloud.

Despite the miles that stretch like endless moors between me and home, these events offer me a wee taste of Scotland. Whether it's the chorus of voices singing along to Caledonia or the mad scramble as people try to keep up with the Orcadian Strip the Willow, each moment brings a piece of home closer, making the distance just a tad easier to bear.

So here's to the vastness of Australia, to the adventures that lie over the horizon, and to the comforting embrace of Scottish tradition in a land that never ceases to amaze.

You can also help support a fellow Scot by purchasing my new album, Distant Shores, at www.thescotsmanmusic.com.

Graeme McColgan
The Scotsman

THE SCOTS MAN
0476 565 062
www.thescotsmanmusic.com @thescotsmanmusic

THE SCOTS MAN
UPCOMING GIGS

FEBRUARY		
2	LIVE AT THE WHARF	ULVERSTONE, TAS
4	PENGUIN BEER CO.	PENGUIN, TAS
15	IGAS DINNER	SYDNEY, NSW
16	KILDERKIN DISTILLERY	BALLARAT, VIC
17	THE WHISKERY	DRYSDALE, VIC
18	MURPHY'S GEELONG	GEELONG, VIC
MARCH		
8	RIVERINA HOTEL	HAY, NSW
9	HAYLAND GATHERING	HAY, NSW
21	ST ANDREWS SOCIETY	MELBOURNE, VIC
22	LAUNGESTON UKULELE JAMBOREE	LAUNGESTON, TAS
23	LAUNGESTON UKULELE JAMBOREE	LAUNGESTON, TAS
MAY		
3-5	AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL	GLEN INNES, NSW
4	RED LION TAVERN	GLENCOE, NSW
25	SUNSHINE COAST UKULELE FESTIVAL	KENILWORTH, QLD
26	SUNSHINE COAST UKULELE FESTIVAL	KENILWORTH, QLD

WWW.THESCOTSMANMUSIC.COM



Pictures: Supplied

Brisbane Irish gather for community lunch



In a heartwarming celebration of festive cheer, the Irish community in Brisbane came together for a delightful gathering at the Irish Community Christmas Lunch in December at the Gaelic football and hurling clubhouse in Willawong.

Sixty community members joined the joyous occasion, creating a wonderful atmosphere filled with laughter and friendly banter.

Séamus Sullivan, a prominent figure within the community, took centre stage, extending warm wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy new year to all in attendance.

For Séamus, this holiday season held special significance as he was preparing to embark on a journey to Ireland to receive a prestigious award from the President of Ireland, recognising his lifetime of dedication to the Irish diaspora.

The clubhouse radiated festive spirit, adorned with vibrant Christmas decorations that added to the joyful ambiance.

The gathering indulged in a traditional Christmas hot lunch of turkey and ham with dessert of plum pudding and ice cream, savouring the flavours of the season.

Organised by volunteers, these communal lunches are a cherished tradition for the Irish community in Brisbane, occurring throughout the year and welcoming everyone. This was the group's second Christmas lunch of 2023, having also embraced the Aussie tradition of celebrating Christmas in July.

The event not only brought the community together but also highlighted the warmth and unity that defines their shared experiences, making it a truly memorable occasion for all involved.

The next lunch will be held on Thursday, 29th February. If anyone is interested in attending the regular lunches, email editor@angloandceltic.com and we will pass along your details to the organisers.



Festivals

CELTIC CHUCKLEFEST

Irish v Scottish comedy. Buckle up for an evening brimming with Celtic hilarity, craic, and banter.

WA, SA, NSW, VIC

1 - 8 FEB

SCOTS DAY OOT

New Scottish celebration with pipe band contest, Highland dancing competition and displays.

Longford TAS

18 FEB

NATIONAL MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Discover diverse cuisines, captivating performances, and more at this three-day event that brings together over 170 communities.

Canberra ACT

16 - 18 FEB

ADELAIDE FRINGE FESTIVAL

Arts fest including Best of British comedy, and Irish concert with Dave Clark & Kate Townsend.

Adelaide SA

16 FEB - 17 MAR

COBARGO FOLK FESTIVAL

Among the highlights at the folk and roots festival will be The Bushwackers, Lisa O'Neill and Manus McGuire

Cobargo NSW

1 - 3 MAR

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

ANGLO & CELTIC

What's happening around Australia - by www.angloandceltic.com

SUPERBOWL LVIII AT FINN MCCOOL'S

QLD

Irish meets American at this HUGE Superbowl event at Finn McCool's. The party will extend into the Brunswick Street Mall. Massive screen, pop up bars, promo girls, American inspired menu and personalised jerseys by Coors.

MON 12 FEB

© www.angloandceltic.com



THU 1 FEB
Saint Brigid's Day
Nationwide

RAYE
Melbourne VIC
UB40 with Ali Campbell
Fremantle WA
The Darkness
Fremantle WA

Texas
Sydney NSW
Jersey Guys (UK)
Melbourne VIC
Celtic Chucklefest
Albany WA
Lansdowne Club Australia Landing
Pad Drinks
Sydney NSW

FRI 2 FEB
Louis Tomlinson
Sydney NSW
RAYE

Sydney NSW
Balmoral Winter Workshop
Online www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org
Scottish Australian Heritage Council
Lachlan Macquarie Commemorative Dinner
Sydney NSW

Queensland Ska Festival
Coolangatta QLD
Jersey Guys (UK)
Melbourne VIC
David Keenan
South Gippsland VIC

Sunny Coast Rude Boys, Baggy Trousers and Setting Sons
Coolangatta QLD
Celtic Chucklefest
Esperance WA
Fleetwood Mac by Candlelight
Perth WA
TUSK The Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show
Adelaide SA

Brigid The Rebel - Brigid cross laying at the Irish 1798 Memorial
Waverley Cemetery NSW
Darling Downs Irish Club Irish Sing-along Session
Towomba QLD
La Fhèile Bhrìde - St Brigid's Day Lunch at Canberra Irish Club
Canberra ACT
Scottish Australian Heritage Council
Lachlan Macquarie Commemorative Dinner
Sydney NSW

SAT 3 FEB
Hunter Valley Scots Burns Night
Teralba NSW
The Warringah Scottish Society
Burns Night

Collaroy NSW
Robbie Burns Supper
St Ives NSW
Burns in the Ballroom
Townsville QLD
Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
74th Annual Robert Burns Supper
2024

Melbourne VIC
The Darkness
Melbourne VIC
UB40 with Ali Campbell at Jammin Festival
Sydney NSW
Queensland Ska Festival
Brisbane QLD
Jersey Guys (UK)
Penrith NSW
Lisa O'Neill

South Gippsland VIC
James Joyce, A Life Book Launch by Gabrielle Carey
The Gaelic Club Sydney, NSW
Celtic Chucklefest
Kalgoorlie WA
A Game of Two Halfs - Britpop v Ska at Rosemount Hotel
Perth WA

Brigid The Rebel - Cross Making workshop
Bronie Beach NSW
Brigid The Rebel - Book Launch
The Gaelic Club, Sydney NSW
Cajrms Irish Association St Brigid's Day Celebration
Manunda QLD
Ballarat Cornish Association of Victoria meeting
Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, Ballarat South VIC
Melbourne Claddagh Dancers Day of Dance
Ivanhoe East VIC
Gaal Glitterball 2024 at Adelaide
Gaal
Adelaide SA

SUN 4 FEB
Irish Sundays with Tales of Strangers
Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley QLD
Laneway Festival (with Stormzy)
Brisbane QLD
UB40 at Jammin Festival
Gold Coast QLD
Claymore and Darren Coggan
Archie's Creek VIC
Brigid The Rebel - Fashion Show
Bondi Pavilion NSW
Brigid The Rebel - Prankquean Concert
Bondi Pavilion NSW
St Brigid's Festival Family Day
Kidogo Arthouse, Fremantle WA
Darling Downs Irish Club St Brigid's Luncheon
Towomba QLD

MON 5 FEB
Laneway Festival (with Stormzy)
Sydney NSW
Learn Scottish Country Dancing with Scots on the Rocks
Sydney NSW

TUE 6 FEB
Celtic Chucklefest
Rockingham WA

WED 7 FEB
The Darkness
Brisbane QLD
Ralph McTell
Tweed Heads NSW
Lisa O'Neill
Melbourne VIC

THU 8 FEB
Simple Minds
Sydney NSW
Ralph McTell
Brisbane QLD
Jersey Guys (UK)
Canberra ACT
Celtic Chucklefest
Geraldton WA
Australian British Chamber of Commerce Summer Drinks
Sydney NSW
Australian British Chamber of Commerce Summer Drinks
Perth WA

FRI 9 FEB
Paul Weller
Sydney NSW
BritPop 90s at The Brass Monkey
Cronulla NSW
The Darkness
Canberra ACT
Ralph McTell
Sydney NSW
Jersey Guys (UK)
Sydney NSW
Lisa O'Neill
Bendigo VIC
Celtic Chucklefest
Harrisdale WA

SAT 10 FEB
Laneway Festival (with Stormzy)
Adelaide SA
The Darkness
Sydney NSW
Paul Weller
Sydney NSW
Ralph McTell
Canberra ACT
Queensland Irish Association
Finding Brigid screening
Indooroopilly QLD
RSVP
Jersey Guys (UK)
Campbelltown NSW

Simple Minds at Red Hot Summer Tour
Mornington VIC
U2 The Achtung Baby Show
Sydney NSW

SUN 11 FEB
Irish Sundays with Tales of Strangers
Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley QLD
Simple Minds at Red Hot Summer Tour
Yarra Valley VIC
Laneway Festival (with Stormzy)
Melbourne VIC
Paul Weller
Sydney NSW
Researching your Irish and Scots-Irish Family History (by SA Genealogy & Heraldry Soc/The Ulster Historical Foundation)
Unley SA

Jersey Guys (UK)
Cremorne NSW
Brigidfest 2024 with Dr. Monique Ryan, MP
Melbourne VIC
A Tribute to Michael Lyons - An Irish Day
Club Candell Park, Bankstown NSW

MON 12 FEB
Laneway Festival (with Stormzy)
Perth WA
Paul Weller
Sydney NSW
Social Scottish Dancing Beginners Course
Wentworthville NSW

TUE 13 FEB
Simple Minds
Melbourne VIC
Celtic Chucklefest
Adelaide SA

WED 14 FEB
Valentine's Dinner with live music by Connor Rust at The Red Lion Tavern
Glencoe NSW
Bookings: 0409 776 906
Simple Minds
Adelaide SA
Shane Todd
Fremantle WA
Celtic Chucklefest
Victor Harbor SA

THU 15 FEB
The Smyths
Fremantle WA
Ralph McTell
Ulverstone TAS
Mogwai
Northbridge WA
Jersey Guys (UK)
Brisbane QLD

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Scots Day Oot!
Longford Village Green
Sunday 18th February 2024



GIGS & REELS



Tours

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



TASMANIAN HIGHLANDS GATHERING

Miena TAS

Get ready to embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of Tasmania at the first-ever Tasmanian Highlands Gathering. This festival is set to be a grand celebration of Gaelic, Celtic, and Scottish heritage, it's going to be a Highland extravaganza

23 - 25 FEB

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Celtic Chucklefest
Gawler SA
Celtic Connections at the Oxford Scholar
Melbourne VIC
Australian British Chamber of Commerce Summer Drinks
Brisbane QLD
Australian British Chamber of Commerce Summer Drinks
Melbourne VIC

FRI 16 FEB
The Smyths
Perth WA
Greentea Peng
Brisbane QLD
Shane Todd
Brisbane QLD
Ralph McTell
Invermay TAS
Queen by Candlelight
Adelaide SA
Aine Tyrrell
Northcote VIC
Jersey Guys (UK)
Tweed Heads NSW
National Multicultural Festival (to 18 FEB)
Canberra ACT
Celtic Chucklefest
Mount Barker SA
Auld Alliance
Ballarat VIC

SAT 17 FEB
Simple Minds at Red Hot Summer Tour
Sandstone Point QLD
The Smyths
Adelaide SA
Gallus Ceilidh Band
Kalamunda WA
Shane Todd
Sydney NSW
Ralph McTell
Hobart TAS
52nd Gosford Opening Social
Karingong NSW
Magwai at Tent Pole Festival
Mr Duneed Estate VIC
Aine Tyrrell
Hepburn Springs VIC
Jersey Guys (UK)
Hornsby NSW
Celtic Chucklefest
Morphett Vale SA
Researching Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors
Nambour QLD
Melbourne Cornish Association of Victoria meeting
Darebin NW Uniting Church, West
Preston VIC

Townsville Highland Dancing Festival 2024
Townsville QLD
Gallus Ceilidh Band Run to the Hills Ceilidh
Kalamunda WA
Brunswick Scottish Society Ceilidh
Melbourne VIC
Concert for Julian Assange
Gaelic Club Sydney NSW

SUN 18 FEB
Irish Sundays
Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley QLD
Simple Minds
Gold Coast QLD
Shane Todd
Melbourne VIC
Scots Day Oat
Longford TAS
Magwai
Melbourne VIC
Jersey Guys (UK)
Kingsford NSW
Shambolics
Auburn, Clare Valley SA

MON 19 FEB
Ballfolk Dance with La Voie de Wallaby
New Town TAS

TUE 20 FEB
Blanco White
Melbourne VIC
Greentea Peng
Melbourne VIC
The Animals
Newcastle NSW
Australian Celtic Women
The Bug, New Farm Bowls Club,
Brisbane QLD
RSVP

WED 21 FEB
Simple Minds at Red Hot Summer Tour
Perth WA
Blanco White
Sydney NSW
Canberra Irish Club Film Society
screens Titanic
Canberra ACT
Greentea Peng
Sydney NSW
Magwai
Brisbane QLD
The Animals
Woolongong NSW
Celtic Chucklefest
Woolongong NSW
The Struts
Sydney NSW

THU 22 FEB
The Smyths
Brisbane QLD
Blanco White
Brisbane QLD
Ralph McTell
Sale VIC
Luka Bloom
Brunswick VIC
The Animals
Paddington NSW
Jersey Guys (UK)
Wyong NSW
The Struts
Adelaide SA

FRI 23 FEB
The Smyths
Melbourne VIC
Tasmanian Highlands Gathering (to 25 FEB)
Miena TAS
Magwai
Hobart TAS
Ralph McTell
Cawes VIC
Luka Bloom
St Kilda VIC
The Animals
Rozelle NSW
Celtic Chucklefest
Adamstown NSW
Ashes To Ashes: The David Bowie Experience
Geelong VIC
U2 The Achtung Baby Show
Melbourne VIC
Darling Downs Irish Club Members Night
Toowoomba QLD
Total Commitment
Doo-Bop Brisbane QLD

SAT 24 FEB
The Smyths
Sydney NSW
Ralph McTell
St Kilda VIC
The Struts
Sydney NSW
Luka Bloom
St Kilda VIC
Siennach Rua
Canberra ACT
Jersey Guys (UK)
Adelaide SA
The Plastic Age
Polish Club, Brisbane QLD
Society of St Andrew of Scotland
Darling Downs High Tea
Toowoomba QLD
Celtic Chucklefest
Davistown NSW
Voxneon

Brisbane QLD

SUN 25 FEB
Irish Sundays with Tales of Strangers
Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley QLD
Magwai
Adelaide SA
The Animals
Tweed Heads NSW
Jersey Guys (UK)
Adelaide SA
Luka Bloom
Archies Creek VIC
Irish Concert with Dave Clark, Kate Townsend & friends
Auburn SA
TARA—Tuatha Dé Danann (to 2 MAR)
Adelaide SA
Victoria Welsh Choir St David's Day Concert
Monash University VIC
St David's Day with The Australian Male Welsh Choir
Saint Mary of the Angels Basilica,
Geelong VIC
The Struts
Brisbane QLD

TUE 27 FEB
The Chemical Brothers
Brisbane QLD
Magwai
Sydney NSW
Celtic Chucklefest
Maitland NSW
The Struts
Melbourne VIC

WED 28 FEB
Ralph McTell
Hamilton VIC
The Animals
Adelaide SA
Celtic Chucklefest
Wodonga VIC
The Struts
Melbourne VIC

THU 29 FEB
The Chemical Brothers
Sydney NSW
Daniel O'Donnell
Melbourne VIC
Aine Tyrrell
North Perth WA
Cymande
Perth WA
Pop Will Eat Itself
Brisbane QLD
Celtic Chucklefest
Orange NSW
Irish Community Lunch
Willawong QLD

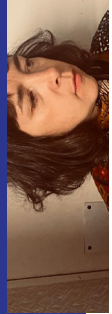
SIMPLE MINDS

8 FEB Sydney NSW
10 FEB Mornington VIC
11 FEB Yarra Valley VIC
13 FEB Melbourne VIC
14 FEB Adelaide SA
17 FEB Bribie Island QLD
18 FEB Gold Coast QLD
21 FEB Perth WA



LISA O'NEILL

3 FEB Meeniyan VIC
7 FEB Melbourne VIC
9 FEB Bendigo VIC
2/3 MAR Cobargo VIC
9/10 MAR Adelaide SA



THE DARKNESS

1 FEB Fremantle WA
3 FEB Melbourne VIC
7 FEB Brisbane QLD
9 FEB Canberra ACT
10 FEB Sydney NSW



THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS

27 FEB Brisbane QLD
29 FEB Sydney NSW
2 MAR Geelong VIC



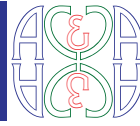
LOUIS TOMLINSON

2 FEB Sydney NSW

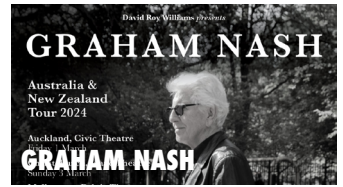


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GIGS & REELS



GIG ANNOUNCEMENTS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS



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, TAS, NSW
 Daoiri Farrell VIC
 The Damned QLD, VIC, NSW, SA, WA
 Pop Will Eat Itself NSW, VIC
 James Bay NSW, ACT, WA, QLD
 Morcheeba WA, SA, VIC, NSW, QLD
 Nik Kershaw and Go West QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, TAS, WA
 Australian Celtic Woman MAR 9 Sandgate Town Hall, Sandgate QLD [BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

Festivals:
 Nannup Music Festival Nannup WA
 Port Fairy Folk Festival VIC
 Sandford Bush Music Festival VIC
 Lost Trades Fair Toowoomba QLD
 Lost Trades Fair Bendigo VIC
 St Kilda St Patrick's Festival VIC
 Brisbane St Patrick's Festival
 Sydney St Patrick's Day Festival
 St Patrick's Festival WA
 Kidogo Irish Aboriginal Festival WA
 Tom Jones at A Day On The Green NSW
 Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival 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
 Cobargo Folk Festival NSW
 WOMAdelaide SA
 Liverpool Plains Military Tattoo NSW

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 SA, WA

Festivals:
 Bundanoon Highland Gathering NSW
 Maclean Highland Gathering NSW
 Ironfest NSW
 The Thing (Viking Festival) ACT
 Koroit Irish Festival VIC
 Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience VIC
 Pandemoneum (featuring Placebo, Deep Purple, Psychedelic Furs) VIC, NSW, QLD
 Mixtape Festival featuring East 17, Phats & Small, Big Brovaz, Booty Luv, Urban Cookie Collective QLD, VIC, NSW, SA, WA
 Blackbox, Tecnotronic and N-Trance NSW, VIC, QLD, WA

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
 Ben Howard WA, SA, VIC, NSW, QLD

The Mary Wallopers VIC, NSW, WA, SA, QLD

Festivals:
 Australian Celtic Festival NSW
 Wintermoon Festival QLD
 SA Medieval Fair SA

JUNE

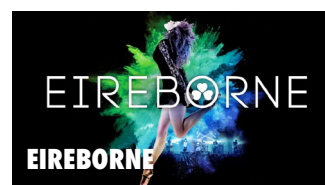
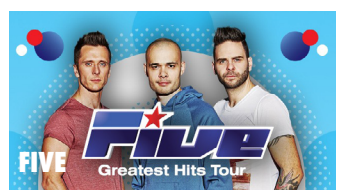
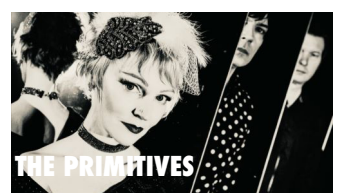
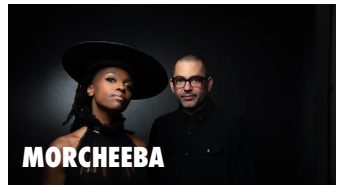
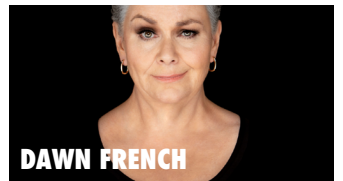
Tours:
 Dr Jane Goodall's Reasons for Hope Tour VIC, NSW
 Led Zeppelin IV Live NSW, QLD, WA, ACT, VIC
 Jimeoin VIC
 The High Kings QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, SA, WA
 A Taste of Ireland WA, QLD

Festivals:
 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival NSW
 Townsville Folk Festival QLD
 Sussex Inlet Viking Festival NSW
 National Celtic Festival Portarlinton VIC
 10th Townsville Tartan Weekend QLD
 Robert Burns Celtic Festival 2024 Camperdown VIC
 Clydesdale Spectacular 2024 Boonah QLD
 Scottish Week 2024 Sydney NSW

JULY

Tours:
 A Taste of Ireland QLD
 Jimeoin NSW
 Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC

Festivals:
 Aberdeen Highland Games NSW
 Willie Smith's Mid-Winter Festival TAS
 Abbey Medieval Festival QLD
 Tynwald Day
 Melbourne Tartan Festival Gala Dinner VIC
 Irish Support Agency NSW Christmas in July Ball, Sydney NSW



Shane Todd brings the tea with new show Mummy

Irish comedian **Shane Todd** is set to return with a bang this month, bringing his new show *Mummy* to Australia and New Zealand.

Last year, Irish comedy superstar Shane Todd has sold out shows across America and Canada, been tour support for Kevin Hart, and enjoyed continued success with his hugely popular *Tea With Me* podcast.

Shane also launched a new podcast series *We're Not F**cking Historians*, which is an alternative guide to Irish history and is hosting the BBC New Comedy Awards in Belfast. He is also set to appear in the new series of *The Stand Up Sketch Show* for ITV.

His tenth solo show, *Mummy*, offers his trademark observational storytelling with a sassy bite.

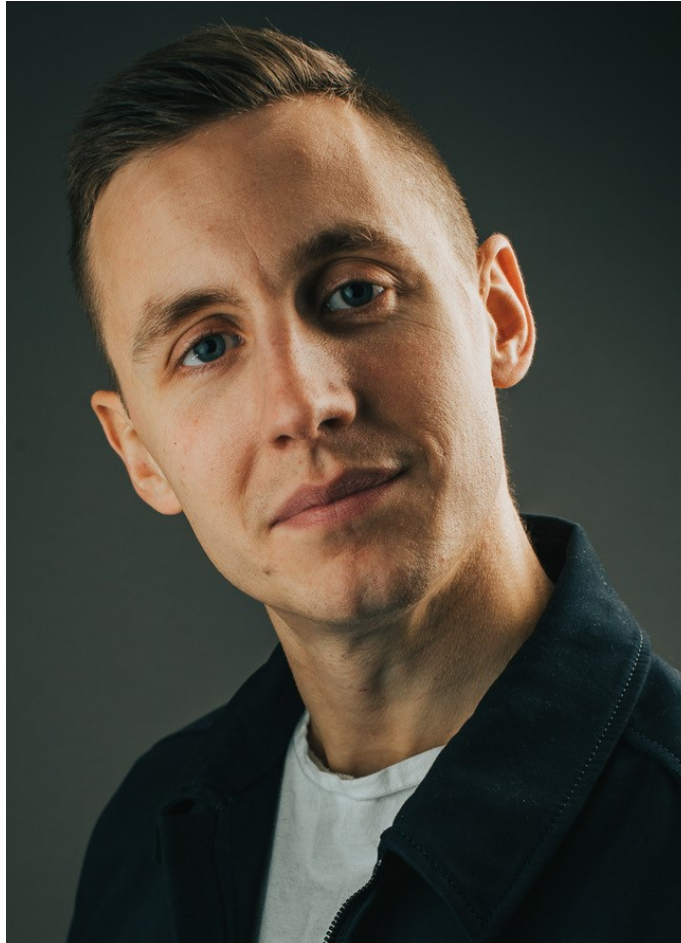
Don't miss your chance to see Shane Todd make his innovative mark when he performs live in your city this month: 14th Fremantle, 16th Brisbane, 17th Sydney and 18th Melbourne.

Pop Will Eat Itself are set to return to Australia to play a greatest hits set for the first time ever.

The career-spanning set list will include *Ich Bin Ein Auslander*, *Everything's Cool*, *Can U Dig It?*, *Def Con One*, *Wise Up! Sucker*, *There is no Love Between Us Anymore*, *Their Law*, *Dance of the Mad*, *XY & Zee*, *Bulletproof*, and more.

Extra special guests are fellow Grebos and UK indie-dance heroes, **Jesus Jones**, who will also perform a greatest hits set including *Right Here Right Now*, *Real Real Real*, *International Bright Young Thing*, *Who? Where? Why?*, *Info Freako*, *Never Enough*, *The Devil You Know + More*.

They play in Brisbane on 29th February, Sydney on



Irish comedian Shane Todd.

1st March, Melbourne on 2nd March and Perth on 3rd March.

Sixties British legends **The Animals** have announced their 60th Anniversary *We Gotta Get Out of This Place* tour – the band's final tour of Australia.

The Animals were "one of the most important bands" in British music. The Beatles and Rolling Stones were the headliners, whilst The Animals were the backbone of blues!

The Animals' impact and influence is undeniable. They created some of the most iconic songs in popular music history including *We've Gotta Get Out of This Place*, *The House of The Rising Sun*, *Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood*, *It's My Life*, *Don't Bring Me Down*, *Boom Boom*

and more, all of which will be performed on this Greatest Hits Final Tour.

British music ruled the airwaves in 1964. The Animals became the second British band to top the American charts after The Beatles. Featuring original member John Steel alongside Danny Handley, Bobby Ruiz and Barney "Boogie" Williams, music fans can expect a fantastic concert of the Best of The Animals.

You can catch them in Newcastle on 20th February, Wollongong on 21st February, Paddington on 23rd February, Rozelle on 24th February and Tweed Heads on 25th February, all in New South Wales. They'll perform in Adelaide on 28th February, Albury, New South

Wales on March 1st and Doncaster, Victoria on March 2nd at Wanstock 2024.

Laneway Festival 2024 is set to deliver an electrifying line-up, 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 flavor to his music.

The festival, taking place this month, 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 line-up 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.

On the home front, Laneway 2024 showcases Australian favourites like Angie McMahon, Dope Lemon, and Confidence Man. Over a third of the artists will be making their Australian debut, adding a fresh dimension to the festival experience.

Laneway Festival organisers are gearing up for an unforgettable series of events. Don't miss your chance to be part of this musical extravaganza and witness Stormzy's triumphant return.

Taking place across two weeks, there'll be six stops to Laneway Festival in 2024. Beginning with Brisbane on February 3rd and Sydney on the 4th, before flying to Auckland on February 6th, then back to Adelaide on the 9th, Melbourne on the 10th, and wrapping up in Perth on February 11th.

parade day after party

Join us Saturday 16 Mar

Gates open 10am

the Irish are taking over BRUNSWICK STREET MALL
live entertainment across 2 stages



THE GATHERING

LIMERICK

TARTAN
SHAMROCK

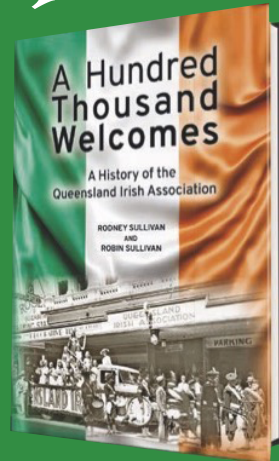


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QI125



To celebrate 125 years of Queensland Irish Association, we have released a book which traces the history of one of the most successful ethnic organisations in Australia. The paperback edition is \$39.99 (plus postage). The limited-edition hardback edition is \$100 (plus postage). You can order a copy by contacting Michele Bourke, by phone on 0438 763 439, or by email to sales@queenslandirish.com

Melbourne Comhaltas Irish Weekend in Queenscliff



Join us for a weekend of traditional Irish music, song & dance. Workshops will be at beginner, intermediate & advanced levels in many instruments. Workshops & sessions led by renowned professionals from all over Victoria. Music sessions held each night.

Save the date!

Details to follow

THURS 11TH-MON 15TH APRIL 2024
QUEENSCLIFF TOWN HALL & WHITEHALL GUESTHOUSE, LEARNMOUTH STREET

FOR MORE INFO:
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LIVE EVERY SATURDAY

THE IRISH RADIO SHOW

12PM on 98.1FM

For more than 30 years the Irish Community Radio Program has been broadcasting from the studios of 4EBFM 98.1, Brisbane's only fulltime ethnic broadcaster.

You can listen to the best in Irish Music and all the latest news and events from Ireland and Irish Australia.

The program runs for 1 hour and all programs are produced and presented by volunteers. New members and presenters are most welcome.

Is stáisiún raidió comhphobal 4EBFM ag creidleadh ar fud an t-Éireann agus ar fud an Astráil agus ar fud an domhain ar an t-Idirlíon.

Bliain Clár Mhuinín na hÉireann ar aer ar an Satharn ó 12:30 In. go ceann na míne. Eile leis an scoth ? ceol, nuacht, agallaimh is móran eile.

Cumtar an uile chláir le saorláitha. Ma speis agat i raidió Gaelach cad chosgo nach bain triail as ansio ar 4EBFM.

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Tuilleadh eolais le fáil/contact details:
Facebook: The Irish Program - Radio 4EB 98.1 FM Fon: (07) 3240 8600 (cifig/
office) nó (07) 3240 8686 (studio)Riomphost / Email: irish@4eb.org.au
Seoladh/Address: 140 Main St, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Queensland





Beloved Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell to tour Australia

Australian fans of Irish singing sensation Daniel O'Donnell have a reason to rejoice as the beloved artist is set to make his long-awaited return to the region in 2024. Daniel O'Donnell, known for his enchanting performances and charismatic stage presence, is gearing up to deliver what he promises will be the concert of a lifetime.

Making the announcement, Daniel said: "This is a wee message to all of our friends in Australia. I'm delighted to be able to tell you that we're finally getting back to tour in Australia next March. That's March 2024."

He added: "We have a new album out, we'll be singing some songs from that.

But we'll be singing a lot of the old favourites. So I hope you'll be able to join us for our tour in Australia next March."

This exciting announcement marks Daniel's return to Australian and New Zealand shores after a considerable hiatus, leaving fans eagerly anticipating his upcoming tour. The tour is expected to feature a delightful repertoire of Irish standards and timeless classics from the world of popular music.

With a track record of selling out concerts worldwide, the demand for tickets is expected to be high. Daniel's enduring popularity in Australia is further bolstered by his latest album, *How Lucky I*

Must Be, which has resonated with fans and critics alike.

Notably, Daniel O'Donnell holds a remarkable distinction as the only artist to chart an album in the UK every year since 1988, an unparalleled 35-year streak. His close connection with fans and unwavering dedication to his craft have solidified his status as a legendary performer.

As Daniel reflects on his illustrious career, marked by numerous hit albums, global tours, and philanthropic endeavours, he remains passionate about sharing his music, laughter, and joy with audiences worldwide. With no signs of slowing down, Daniel O'Donnell is set to

TOUR DATES

FEB 29 Melbourne VIC
 MAR 1 Melbourne VIC
 MAR 3 Tweed Heads NSW
 MAR 4 Tweed Heads NSW
 MAR 5 Brisbane QLD
 MAR 8 Sydney NSW
 MAR 9 Wollongong NSW
 MAR 10 Newcastle NSW
 MAR 12 Adelaide SA
 MAR 14 Perth WA

continue his worldwide tour, leaving an indelible mark on music and the hearts of his adoring fans for years to come.



Simple Minds team up with Icehouse in blast from past

Exciting news for Scottish Australian music lovers! Red Hot Summer 2024 is set to bring back the nostalgia 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.

Iva Davies of Icehouse reminisced about their first overseas journey and the special connection they formed with Simple Minds. Having shared the stage before, they are thrilled to co-headline the tour next year and create new memories together.

The Red Hot Summer tour series two for 2024 will also

feature Noiseworks, Daryl Braithwaite, and Bachelor Girl.

Simple Minds also added five more Australian shows as part of their Global Tour this February. They will play Melbourne on February 13th, Adelaide on February 14th, Broadbeach in the Gold Coast on February 18th and two shows at Sydney Opera House on the same day on February 8th.

The Red Hot Summer Tour takes place in Mornington Racecourse on Saturday, 10th February. On Sunday, 11th February, you can catch it at Rochford Wines, Yarra Valley.

On Saturday, 17th Febru-

TOUR DATES

Simple Minds:

FEB 8 Sydney NSW

FEB 13 Melbourne VIC

FEB 14 Adelaide SA

FEB 18 Gold Coast QLD

Red Hot Summer Tour:

FEB 10 Mornington VIC

FEB 11 Yarra Valley VIC

FEB 17 Bribie Island QLD

FEB 21 Perth WA

ary, it will be at Sandstone Point, Bribie Island QLD. On Wednesday, 21st February, the last stop will be Kings Park in Perth WA.



Picture: Supplied

Australian Celtic Women sing Songs of the Heart

Do you have Celtic heritage or just love Celtic music? Then be sure to check out the Australian Celtic Women show 'Songs of the Heart' at Sandgate Town Hall on Saturday, 9th March and at The BUG at New Farm Bowls Club on February 20th.

Australian Celtic Women bring together an all-female musical ensemble to transport you back to rolling hills and misty moors, with their heavenly voices, tantalising harmonies, dazzling costumes, and whirlwind fiddle playing.

Stunning visual effects and choreography, combined with the richness of Celtic instruments, provides an unforgettable performance full of warmth, memories, and exhilaration, leaving the

audience crying out for more.

With each member having years of experience in opera, musical theatre, folk, pop, and Celtic music between them, they bring together all the best elements of musical entertainment into one show.

The group were formed to celebrate the richness of our unique Australian-Celtic heritage, while also showcasing women in Celtic music and providing an opportunity for the audience to experience high-class entertainment.

Combining award winners from various areas of music and performance, from fiddle, to harp, opera and musical theatre, their harmonies have been reviewed as "out of this world".

This show highlights 'Songs of the Heart' from across the

TOUR DATES

FEB 20 The BUG, New Farm Bowls Club, Brisbane QLD

MAR 9 Sandgate Town Hall, Sandgate QLD

[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

Celtic nations, and with Saint Patrick's Day only a week after the Sandgate concert, you'll hear songs and tunes from Ireland, along with crowd favourites.

To date, Australian Celtic Women have brought their live show to various Celtic festivals around the country, including Australian Celtic Festival, Scots in the Bush and CelticFest. They have been the support act for Paul Anderson (the King's Fiddler

direct from Scotland) and are currently working on regional and international tour dates, including a trip to China later this year.

With their love of Celtic music and heritage, experience, exuberance and stage craft, they have succeeded in bring together all the best elements of Celtic music in one show.

The Sandgate Town Hall concert will include special guests. This is a show not to be missed! Get your tickets while they are still available. Tickets from \$25 at <http://trybooking.com/CNVXP>.

Whether you were born in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, or the other Celtic lands, or just have the music calling out to you from your ancestral roots, this is a performance not to be missed!



Legendary Ralph McTell to perform Streets of Oz Tour

Returning to Australia for the first time in five years, UK musical legend Ralph McTell will perform his much-loved classics from his illustrious career that spans over six decades, armed simply with his songs, his guitar and his stories. Playfully titled the Streets of Oz Tour, the iconic Streets of London singer-songwriter will travel the country throughout February and March, performing at seventeen venues across Victoria (including Port Fairy Folk Festival), New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory.

The unassuming singer-songwriter is a prolific touring and recording artist with a knack for illuminating the present and the road ahead with a strong connection to a

shared, storied past.

McTell is an artist who has always defined his own artistic term, his music emanating grace, experience and learning, natural poise and deep substance with harmonic and melodic riches contained in voice, songs and six stringed guitar glory.

Audiences all over the world still flock to hear and sing along to the timeless classic that catapulted him to global fame. Fondly abbreviated to "Streets", the melodic beauty and cold hard truth of the song keeps it forever relevant.

McTell also tells his incredible life stories to enraptured audiences with song and banter. From hitch hiking with Rod, then known as Mod Stewart, playing Isle of Wight Festival alongside

Jimi Hendrix and Sly Stone, a crap game with Tom Waits in LA, an Ivor Novello and numerous folk awards.

But, it's McTell's excellence as a finger-picking guitarist and writer of pointed, empathetic songs that has always guided him. His songs have covered a broad stylistic waterfront including the blistering early autistic awareness of Michael In The Garden, priceless immigrant lament From Clare To Here. Bentley & Craig, the social injustice ballad born on the streets where he was raised, led him to support the ultimately successful campaign for a posthumous pardon.

Many more songs besides, as worthy of attention as his most famed composition, are threaded through his fastidious and measured life work.

TOUR DATES

FEB 7 Tweed Heads NSW
 FEB 8 Brisbane QLD
 FEB 9 Chatswood NSW
 FEB 10 Canberra ACT
 FEB 15 Ulverstone TAS
 FEB 16 Invermay TAS
 FEB 17 Hobart TAS
 FEB 22 Sale VIC
 FEB 23 Cowes VIC
 FEB 24 St Kilda VIC
 FEB 28 Hamilton VIC
 MAR 2 Bendigo VIC
 MAR 3 Clarence Park SA
 MAR 7 Main Ridge VIC
 MAR 9 Port Fairy Folk Festival VIC
 MAR 10 Port Fairy Folk Festival VIC

Prepare to be enthralled! Check ralphmctell.co.uk for updates.



Irish troubadour Luka Bloom returns for 15th Aussie tour

Much-loved Irish troubadour Luka Bloom is a master of the concert stage, and he's coming to Australia for his 2024 tour, *50 Songs In 50 Years*.

His incredibly gifted electro-acoustic guitar playing guarantees an impassioned live performance of his original, poetic and melodic songs.

Luka's concert arsenal includes both tender and dynamic original material and a surprisingly eclectic selection of other people's work.

Over the years, he has brought his inspiring lyrics and sumptuous melodies to clubs, theatres, festivals, bars and arenas all over the world, but he has a special place in his heart for Australian audiences.

Luka shares with us his thoughts on returning down under for his 15th tour.

"On Friday the 20th November, 1992, I did my first gig in the Southern Hemisphere. It was in the Enmore Theatre in Sydney.

"My love for Australia was born, and it has never dimmed, or faded, not in the slightest.

"Over 14 tours, I have loved every show, every town or city I have played in. It is always fun and always an adventure.

"When my 15th tour of Australia begins in February 2024, it will be five years since my last visit in 2019. Too long.

"But there it is; so much has happened in our world.

"Approaching 70 now, I am closer to my final visit to Australia than my first one. Every gig counts these days. They always did, but especially now. Every oppor-

tunity to sing in Australia is precious to me. I am grateful for the welcome you have given me, and my songs. And cannot wait to return.

"This tour will be long, with cities I have never before sung in, like Cairns, Townsville.

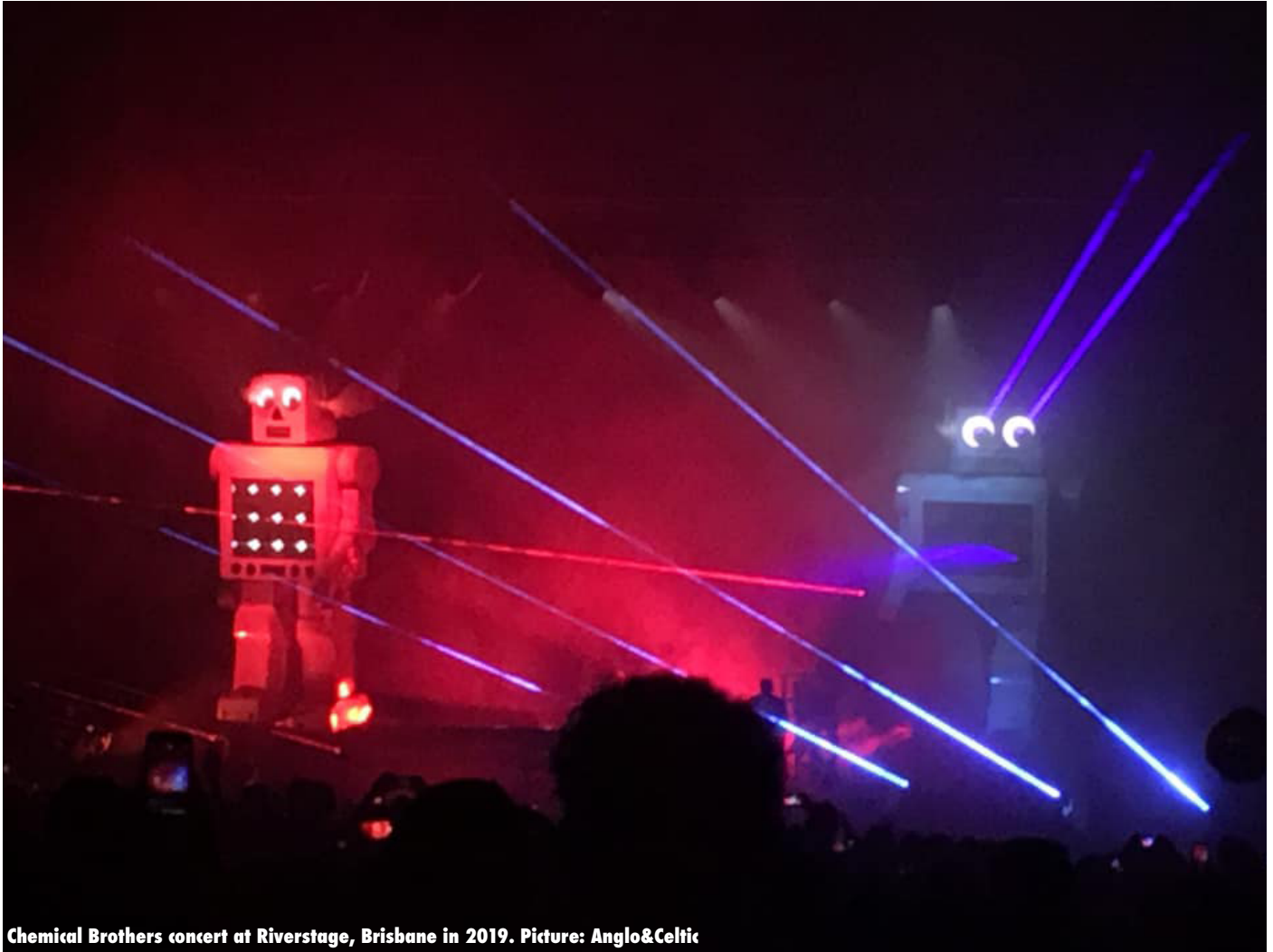
"It will be great to make some new friends and meet the friends I know already."

Since the last tour, Luka has recorded four albums. Live in De Roma is from a concert in the great Roma Theatre in Antwerp; Bittersweet Crimson is a studio album from Windmill Lane; Out of the Blue is an instrumental album recorded in 2021, and Wave up to the Shore is a collection of 50 songs from across 50 years.

Luka adds: "We have some catching up to do, in the great red land. I can't wait."

TOUR DATES

FEB 22, 23, 24 Melbourne VIC
 FEB 25 Archies Creek VIC
 MAR 1 Franklin TAS
 MAR 2 Ulverston TAS
 MAR 3 Launceston TAS
 MAR 5 Euroa VIC
 MAR 6 Yackandandah VIC
 MAR 8 Canberra ACT
 MAR 9, 10 Port Fairy Folk Festival
 MAR 11 Queenscliff VIC
 MAR 15 Newcastle NSW
 MAR 19 Mooloolaba QLD
 MAR 21 Townsville QLD
 MAR 22 Cairns QLD
 MAR 24 Brisbane QLD
 MAR 27 Sydney NSW
 MAR 29 Milton NSW
 APR 2 Adelaide SA
 APR 4 Perth WA
 APR 5 Mandurah WA
 APR 6, 7 Fairbridge WA



Chemical Brothers concert at Riverstage, Brisbane in 2019. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

Chemical Brothers bringing mind-bending show to Oz

One of the most acclaimed and innovative electronic duos in the world, The Chemical Brothers, will bring their world-renowned live shows to Australia this February and March.

With show direction by the iconic Smith & Lyall, these mind-bending shows, their first visit to our shores since 2019, will hit Brisbane, Sydney and Geelong.

Kickstarting the party will be special guest DJs The Presets DJ Set (Sydney and Geelong), Anna Lunoe (all shows) and James Holroyd (all shows).

Having just announced their tenth studio album, *The Chemical Brothers*, Tom

Rowlands and Ed Simons, are reminding us of their legendary status in the electronic music scene.

Their first full-length album since 2019's *No Geography*, the duo released *For That Beautiful Feeling* in September.

The project delivers the iconic sound of The Chemical Brothers, a record that hunts for and captures that wild moment when sound overwhelms you and almost pulls you under yet ultimately lets you ride its wave, to destinations unknown. That transcendent state that they evoke like no one else in modern music - it's The Chemical Brothers at their

very best. *For That Beautiful Feeling* features the singles, *No Reason*, *Live Again* (feat. Halo Maud) and *Skipping Like A Stone* ft. Beck.

For three decades, they have defined the cutting edge of electronic dance music both on their multi-platinum selling records and with their hugely lauded hallucinogenic live shows which have played to millions at festivals and arenas all over the world. With huge global hits, *Hey Boy Hey Girl*, *Galvanize*, *Go* and *Block Rockin Beats*, these are instantly recognisable tracks that make The Chemical Brothers a household name worldwide.

Last in Australia in 2019,

TOUR DATES

FEB 27 Brisbane QLD
FEB 29 Sydney NSW
MAR 2 Geelong VIC

performing sold-out headline shows across the east coast, The Chemical Brothers have been busy touring the world. Embarking on headline tours and festivals sets across the UK and Europe, the duo are only building further anticipation for their dedicated Australian fans.

Hey Boy Hey Girl, Superstar DJs, here we go...

Australia Day sees nationwide parade of pipe bands



Lithgow Highland Pipe Band Inc playing at Portland in New South Wales.

Picture: www.facebook.com/LithgowHighlandPipeBand



City of Adelaide Pipe Band taking part in the Respecting Country Parade in Adelaide on Australia Day.

Picture: www.facebook.com/CityofAdelaidePipeBand



Redcliffe Scottish Pipe Band took part in celebrations at Caboolture Historical Village, Queensland. Picture: Sharon Mongan/www.facebook.com/redcliffepipeband



ACT Emergency Service Agency Pipes and Drums after their Australia Day gig.

Picture: [ACT ESA Pipes and Drums Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ACTESAPipesandDrums)



Golden City Pipe Band Bendigo had an Australia Day payout at Lake Weeroona, Victoria.

Picture: www.facebook.com/goldencitypipeband



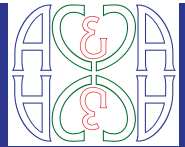
Canobolas Pipe Band taking part in the Australia Day celebrations in Orange, New South Wales. Picture: [Canobolas Pipe Band Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CanobolasPipeBand)



The Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band had the pleasure of opening the Australia Day celebrations at Victory Park, Castlemaine, Victoria. Picture: www.facebook.com/CastlemaineHighlandPipeBand

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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



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ANGLOCELTIC

Issue 8

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

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Queensland Irish Choir St Patrick's Day Concert

2.00pm Sunday 10 March 2024
Doors Open 1.30 pm

Chermside-Kedron Community Church
(Cnr Gympie and Rode Roads)

Enjoy an afternoon of
Irish Music,
Song and Dance

Musical Director: David O'Keeffe
Accompanist: Tim Li

Guest Performers
QIA Pipe Band
QIA Dancers

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<https://www.trybooking.com/GOTQP>
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Enquiries

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