

ANGLO CELTIC

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Off galavanting in Glen Innes



FEATURES



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WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com



The Human League playing at Fortitude Valley, Brisbane during their Australian tour. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

Together in Electric Dreams

We are lucky to have so many British and Irish bands touring Australia. It's a feast these days compared to when I first came to this country from Ireland in 1999.

But, as you may have heard, several festivals have been cancelled this year. And the live music scene is struggling with sluggish ticket sales. No surprise, of course, we are all feeling the squeeze of inflation.

Many of the community events featured in this magazine are free or have affordable ticket prices. So the opportunities are still there to get out and make the most of life.

And, of course, this magazine is free too, with affordable and flexible advertising rates.

Brittany in France will be celebrating St Yves' Day this month. There will be pipe bands, Celtic dancing, songs, and partying.

It's astonishing to look at the photographs from the celebrations in the Anglo and Celtic nations of their national days and see how much we all have in common. Our cultures, while different, all share celebrations around the changing of the seasons, and many similar traditions. This would come as no surprise

to many Australians, who see us as a small collection of islands far, far away. After all, the UK and Ireland could fit into Australia 31.4 times, with room left over.

I went to see The Human League in Brisbane in March. The audience was a mix of mostly English people, with plenty of Scots, Welsh and Irish too. Lots from northern England, unsurprisingly because the band are from Sheffield. Everyone was chatting, singing and dancing. It had the same buzzing atmosphere that was also at The Happy Mondays and Morrissey tours recently. I look forward to the next time, at the Peter Hook & The Light tour. Mancunians really know how to party!

Another great event coming up on May 11th is the Brit and Irish Party at Tea Gardens in Bondi Junction. Swanned and Lost & Found are bringing 200 Brits and Irish together for a sesh. Swanned is a British and Irish app helping expats find mates and dates. Lost & Found Sydney runs events and meet ups.

If you have a story you'd like featured in this magazine, get in touch by email to editor@angloandceltic.com.

On page 5, Sydney Regency Weekends gives you the chance to live like the other half did in days gone by.



On pages 8 & 9, Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes readies to celebrate Ireland and the Isle of Man.



On page 11, Bretons in Australia and across the world are gearing up to celebrate Saint Yves' Day on May 19th.



On page 12, Celts delight as Portarlington in Victoria celebrates two decades of the National Celtic Folk Festival.



On page 25, Peter Hook & The Light bring the sounds of Joy Division and New Order on tour across Australia.



On page 29, David Walliams, star of Little Britain and acclaimed children's books author, is coming to Australia.



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Queensland Irish Association

Bealtaine gathering



Queensland Irish Association
invites Members and friends to

Bealtaine family-friendly gathering

on Saturday, 11th May from 12pm to 4pm
at

The Causeway Bar,
Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley

*Great Irish food and drinks available to purchase
Flower theme to celebrate Ireland's May Day/summer festival*

Wear a flowery dress/shirt/shorts

Admission is free

Enquiries/RSVP to mary@queenslandirish.com.au

Grab your chance to live like the other half for a weekend

Have you ever wanted to step back in time and experience the opulence and excitement of a Regency party?

Join Sydney Regency Weekends at historic Exeter Village Hall from May 17th to 19th for the third annual A Regency Affair.

It will be held in the Southern Highlands, a region in New South Wales known for its picturesque landscapes, cool climate, and charming villages. The area is renowned for its natural beauty, including rolling hills, lush forests, and stunning gardens, making it a popular destination for tourists and locals alike.

Here, history, music, and merriment await. From a lavish opening dinner to a lively ball and a day filled with workshops and activities



Dancing around the Maypole at A Regency Affair. Picture: Facebook/[Sydney Regency Weekends](https://www.facebook.com/SydneyRegencyWeekends)

at a private National Trust property, every moment promises delight.

Indulge in delectable meals and treats throughout the

weekend, including a charming picnic in a nearby National Trust garden on Sunday. Engage with guest speakers, craft workshops, and outdoor adventures that capture the spirit of the era.

There will also be guest speakers, craft workshops, and outdoor activities, including croquet.

Limited discounted tickets

are available for volunteers eager to lend a hand.

Sydney Regency Weekends is a not-for-profit group who promote the culture of England and Australia during past times by running weekend re-enactments.

For more details, visit Sydney Regency Weekend's website at www.sydneyregencyweekends.org.au

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Carriage rides were one of the activities on offer at A Regency Affair weekend in 2023. Picture: [Facebook.com/sydneyregencyweekends](https://www.facebook.com/sydneyregencyweekends)

Embracing Beltane traditions with blossoms and bonfires

Beltane, or Bealtaine, celebrated on May 1st, is an ancient Celtic festival that heralds the arrival of summer with joyous rituals and festivities, intertwined with gathering flowers and the observance of May Day.

Originating in pre-Christian times, Beltane was a time to honour the sun god Belenus, symbolising the growing strength of the sun as summer approached. Bonfires played a central role, believed to ward off evil spirits and bless the land for fertility and abundance. Alongside these fires, people would often dance around the Maypole and gather flowers from the countryside to adorn altars, homes, and themselves.

In England, Maypole dancing is a big part of the celebrations, with children circling the pole intertwining long coloured ribbons, representing fertility.

Cultural historian Dr Heather Blasdale Clarke, who will be a special guest at Queensland Irish Association's Bealtaine gathering, told Anglo&Celtic: "The Maypole decorated with flowers and ribbons is ancient, but the addition of long ribbons is modern. If you look at pictures before the mid 1800s, you'll see people are dancing around the pole, not holding the ribbons.

"The tradition of the ribbons dates from the mid-1800s. I believe it was developed as an exercise for school children."

Flowers held symbolic significance during Beltane, representing the blooming fertility of the earth. Participants would venture into the countryside to collect blossoms, particularly primroses, bluebells, and hawthorn flowers. These added colour and fragrance to the celebrations and were believed to carry blessings for abundance in the coming season.

May Day customs also in-



The lighting of the Bealtaine Fire on the Hill of Uisneach is one of Ireland's oldest traditions. Picture: Uisneach.ie

volve the crowning of a May Queen or King, a young child who would lead a celebratory parade. Both Beltane and May Day serve as reminders of the earth's vitality and the promise of new beginnings that come with the arrival of spring and the burgeoning of summer. They are celebrations deeply rooted in nature, highlighting the interconnectedness between humans and the natural world.

Today, Beltane continues to be celebrated by modern Pagans and those interested in reviving ancient traditions.

In Scotland, Beltane is honoured with the lighting of bonfires, dancing, and performances of traditional Gaelic songs. Some choose to climb hills at dawn to greet the first light of summer, echoing ancient rituals that honoured the rising sun.

Ireland's version of Beltane, Bealtaine is one of the oldest recorded Irish festivals. It has been celebrated for centuries and is deeply rooted in Irish folklore and mythology.

The festival has experienced a resurgence, with communities gathering to

rekindle the old customs.

The Bealtaine Fire Festival will take place on Satur-

day, 11th May on the Hill of Uisneach located in Co. Westmeath, Ireland. The hill is the spiritual and mythological centre of Ireland and was once the site of the coronation of the High Kings of Ireland. In ancient times, a great assembly would gather to witness the fire being lit by the High King.

Here in Australia, Queensland Irish Association (QIA) will hold a Bealtaine family-friendly gathering in Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley on Saturday, 11th May.

It will be flower themed, with those coming along invited to wear flowery dresses, shirts, shorts, and accessories. There will be children's activities, music and dancing, and a discussion about the Maypole, with Dr Heather Blasdale Clarke. RSVP for the event on QIA's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/qia) page.

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 Dan Burt & Dobbin The Wonder Horse
 Morris Dancers
 Preston's Historic Punch & Judy
 The Fayre Guisers Mummings Players
 Hedgehog
 Ruby Moon
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 The Shambolics
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Adelaide Hills Council South Australia

Australia, UK and Ireland in top 10 unhappiest countries

Australia, the United Kingdom, and Ireland have found themselves sharing a rather unwanted spotlight on the global stage.

These countries, celebrated for their rich cultures and picturesque landscapes, have unexpectedly landed among the unhappiest nations worldwide, according to the latest revelations from the Global Mind Project's annual Mental State of the World [report](#).

With surveys spanning 71 countries, including these nations, the report offers a revealing glimpse into the mental health landscapes in the wake of what happened during the Covid years.

Australia's ranking, snagging the sixth spot on the list of the world's unhappiest nations, is a stark reminder of the ongoing struggle to restore mental wellbeing to pre-Covid levels. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom finds itself precariously perched near the bottom, and Ireland sits uncomfortably at eighth place, underlining the pervasive nature of this phenomenon in developed societies.

The report also sheds



Australia came sixth in the rankings of unhappiest countries. Picture: [Facebook/Australian Koala Foundation](#)

light on a myriad of factors contributing to the decline in mental wellbeing, painting a complex picture of modern-day challenges.

One standout revelation is the detrimental impact of smartphone usage, particularly among younger generations. The younger individuals were when they first acquired a smartphone, the worse their mental health outcomes

tend to be in adulthood.

It also pointed to processed foods wreaking havoc on mental health. This dietary menace, prevalent in affluent nations like the UK and the US, represents a silent threat to our collective wellbeing. It's a wakeup call, urging us to confront the dietary habits that undermine our mental health and take steps towards healthier food choices.

The 10 happiest countries in the world: 1. Dominican Republic; 2. Sri Lanka; 3. Tanzania; 4. Panama; 5. Malaysia; 6. Nigeria; 7. Venezuela; 8. El Salvador; 9. Costa Rica; 10. Uruguay.

The 10 unhappiest countries in the world: 1. Uzbekistan; 2. UK; 3. South Africa; 4. Brazil; 5. Tajikistan; 6. Australia; 7. Egypt; 8. Ireland; 9. Iraq; 10. Yemen.

Kookaburra ruffles feathers in Suffolk

The Suffolk countryside has become the stage for an unexpected comedy act – a kookaburra, the Aussie native bird renowned for its raucous laughter-like calls, has taken up residence near Sudbury in England.

The sheer distance between the kookaburra's rightful habitat and its new digs in Suffolk, at more than 9,000 miles, adds a delightful layer of absurdity to the story.

It's like finding a penguin in the Sahara – unexpected, slightly bewildering, but undeniably entertaining for all involved.

This isn't just a one-time cameo either. No, this kook-



A kookaburra has been spotted in Suffolk. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

aburra has been pulling off its avian escapade for about nine years now, and it seems to have settled into its role as the star of the show. The bird was first spotted in the area back in 2015.

Jack Cripps, a spokesperson for Suffolk Wildlife Trust,

commented: "It would be an escapee; however, it's not known from where the bird escaped."

Our feathered friend is living its best life far from its Aussie roots.

These birds are skilled hunters, snatching up snakes

and insects like it's nobody's business. They also eat frogs, lizards, mice, beetles, and worms. This varied diet has no doubt helped the escapee to thrive in the UK.

With a lifespan of over 20 years, this kookaburra isn't just a passing fancy; it's a long-term resident, ready to keep the laughs coming for years to come.

So, if you find yourself wandering through the Suffolk countryside, keep your ears open for that distinctive cackle – you just might stumble upon the world's furthest-flung Aussie, spreading joy and laughter wherever it goes.

Discover the magic of the Australian Celtic Festival

In the lush hills of Glen Innes, where the standing stones stand sentinel, a vibrant celebration awaits. From May 2nd to 5th, the air will thrum with the spirit of the Celts as the 32nd annual Australian Celtic Festival unfolds. It's time to dust off your kilts, tune your fiddles, and join in the revelry as we honour the rich traditions of Ireland and the Isle of Man.

The annual festival in New South Wales, thwarted only once in 32 years, in 2020 thanks to Covid restrictions, returned with renewed vigour, ready to do justice to Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Prepare for a weekend brimming with talent and tradition. Special guests from the Emerald Isle and the Isle of Man will grace the stages, their melodies weaving tales of old. From the haunting strains of Gerry O'Connor's fiddle to the enchanting harmonies of Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle, the festival promises a feast for the senses.

But it's not just the headliners that dazzle; local artists add their own flair to the mix. Crowd favourites like Murphy's Pigs and The Gathering will have toes tapping and spirits soaring. And let's not forget the Irish and Highland dance troupes, whose nimble feet tell stories of love, loss, and triumph.



Clans on the march among the standing stones at the Australian Celtic Festival. Pictures: Anglo&Celtic

For aspiring bards and minstrels, the busking competition beckons. Take to the streets of Glen Innes and let your talents shine.

And wee ones will have their own corner of the festival. From the Celtic Kids Marquee to the Kids Knight School, adventure awaits at every turn.

A new delight will be the Jousting Village, where knights will clash in contests

of skill and valour. Marvel at the Celtic dogs and horses on display, and cheer for your favourites in the special Celtic Dogs competition.

And for the gastronomes, the Celtic Food Trail beckons. From the humble pub to the finest restaurant, indulge in Celtic-inspired dishes that will tantalise your taste buds and warm your soul. And don't miss the Celtic Kitchen Marquee, where culinary wizards

conjure delights before your very eyes.

For those joining just for the day, ample parking awaits, and courtesy buses stand ready to whisk you away to the heart of the festivities. So come, don your kilts, and celebrate your Celtic heritage in style.

[Tickets](#) are selling fast, with some events already sold out. Local residents enjoy a 40% discount on ticket sales.



Glen Innes shows its autumn colours for Celtic festival



Autumn foliage and street scenes in Glen Innes. Pictures: Anglo&Celtic



Berry Celtic Festival brings you knights and bagpipes

Embark on a journey to a realm of Celtic enchantment at the Berry Celtic Festival 2024!

Prepare to be immersed in a tapestry of sights, sounds, and sensations that will transport you to a world where chivalry reigns supreme and merriment knows no bounds.

At the heart of this grand spectacle lies the electrifying jousting tournament, where gallant knights clash in a symphony of steel and skill, their noble steeds thundering across the field in a display of bravery and valor that will leave spectators breathless with anticipation.

Berry is a small town located on the South Coast of New South Wales. It's situated approximately 145 kilometers south of Sydney. Known for its charming atmosphere, historic buildings, and picturesque countryside, Berry attracts visitors for its quaint shops, cafes, and regular events like the Berry Celtic Festival.

The adventure begins with the exhilarating Grand Street Parade at 9.30am, a vibrant procession of pipers, clansmen, and medieval revelers winding its way through the streets of Berry, filling the air with the stirring strains of Celtic music and the infectious



Heavily-armored noble knights put on a show at Berry Celtic Festival. Picture: [Shoalhaven Tourism](#)

beat of drums.

As the parade concludes, attendees will find themselves at the Berry Showground, where a world of wonder awaits. Explore the bustling marketplace, where artisans ply their trade and craftsmen spin tales as captivating as the threads they weave. Indulge your senses with the

tantalizing aromas of hearty fare and sweet treats that beckon from every corner, tempting visitors to sample the delights of the Celtic kitchen.

Tickets for this extraordinary event are available now! Secure your spot online at [https://events.humanitix.com/berry-celtic-festival-5hg-](https://events.humanitix.com/berry-celtic-festival-5hg-2b5xe)

[2b5xe](#). General admission is \$15 for adults, with children under 15 years admitted free of charge.

Mark your calendars and join the fun on Saturday, May 25th, 2024, for a day of adventure, excitement, and enchantment that promises to capture the imagination and ignite the Celtic soul.

First Brisbane Celtic Festival to be held at Standing Stones

Celtic Council of Australia Queensland will host the first Brisbane Celtic Festival on Saturday, October 13th, kicking off at 10am.

The new Celtic event will be held at the Celtic Nations Monument Brisbane Standing Stones which opened in 2023 in Moorlands Park.

This will be a celebration of the culture, music, clothing, traditions, language, food, and drink of the Celtic nations of Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Galicia and Asturias.

For more information, go to www.ccaq.org.au.



The Brisbane Standing Stones in Moorlands Park. Picture: [Anglo&Celtic](#)

Portarlington celebrating two decades of Celtic fest

Get ready to don your kilts and dance to the fiddle because the National Celtic Folk Festival is returning to Portarlington's shores from June 7th to 10th, and this year, it's celebrating its 20th anniversary!

The festival promises an unforgettable showcase of folk and Celtic culture, bringing together enthusiasts from far and wide for a jubilant celebration.

Originating more than 40 years ago in Geelong, the festival has evolved into Australia's premier Celtic gathering, drawing crowds with its vibrant energy and rich traditions. Now firmly established in Portarlington, the festival has become a beloved institution, embodying the spirit of Celtic heritage.

This year's line-up is more exciting than ever, with a diverse array of cultural showcases spanning Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Cornish, Manx, Breton, Galician, and Asturian influences. From mesmerising music to enthralling workshops and captivating performances, the festival promises a dynamic program that caters to all ages and interests. Among the first artist announcements are festival favourites from across Australia and the world.

Artists include all-Ireland winning fiddle player Dylan



A scene from last year's National Celtic Folk Festival. Picture: [Facebook/NationalCelticFestival](https://www.facebook.com/NationalCelticFestival)

Carlos from County Roscommon in Ireland, John McCartin from County Leitrim in Ireland, who was nominated for the Irish national broadcaster RTE's Folk Award in 2024, and Orlaigh McAuliffe from London, who is one of the leading flute and whistle players in Irish traditional music.

Also performing will be Tim Scanlan and Mna Okubo, Rich Davies, Oceanique, Kejafi, Half Light, Apolline, Amaidi, The Boylans and Claymore.

Spread across 10-plus venues, festival-goers can immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of Celtic culture, enjoying live folk and Celtic music, theatre performances, jam sessions, traditional dances, and more. But the festival isn't just about music – it's a feast for the senses.

Explore artisan markets brimming with unique treasures, savour culinary delights from local food trucks, and join in interactive workshops and dance sessions that promise to ignite your

passion for Celtic traditions. There will also be hurling, Highland games, workshops, and master classes.

Festival Director Una McAlinden is thrilled to mark this event, promising an unforgettable experience for all attendees. With surprises and special events planned to commemorate the festival's 20th anniversary, there's no better time to join in the celebration.

Visit nationalcelticfestival.com for more details and to purchase tickets.

The spirited rise of English and Welsh whisky

As we celebrate World Whisky Day on May 18th, 2024, it's not just Scotland taking the limelight.

England and Wales are witnessing a resurgence in whisky production.

In centuries past, England boasted a flourishing whisky tradition, but by the 19th century, increased taxes and Scottish competition dimmed its light. Yet, in the late

20th century, a renaissance began. The English Whisky Co's St George's Distillery, opened in 2006, marked a turning point. Today, distilleries dot England's map, from The Lakes Distillery in the scenic Lake District to East London Liquor Company in the bustling capital.

Wales, too, witnessed a whisky resurgence. Penderyn Distillery, founded in 2000,

reignited Welsh whisky's flame. Nestled in the Brecon Beacons, Penderyn pioneered premium single malts with innovative methods like the unique Faraday still.

Meanwhile, Australia's whisky scene is gaining recognition for its innovative approach, with distilleries across the country producing unique and flavourful expressions.

And let's not forget Ireland, home to the iconic Irish whiskey, where traditional craftsmanship meets modern innovation.

There's a diverse world of whiskey waiting to be explored beyond Scotland's borders.

World Whisky Day is the perfect time to raise a glass and celebrate the global whisky community. Sláinte!

Wingham fun takes flight with bonnie Scottish fest

Nestled 20 minutes west of Taree along the serene mid-north coast of New South Wales lies the picturesque township of Wingham, where the Manning River meanders lazily past a fighter jet!

With a history steeped in Scottish influence dating back to the early 1800s, Wingham pays homage to its resilient forebears who weathered the storms of adversity, from pandemics to floods and droughts, to shape the town's character. Today, descendants proudly uphold their Scottish heritage, a legacy reflected in the town's annual Scottish Festival.

Wingham is also home to a Cold War-era Vampire Jet mounted on a column, donated by Manning River Branch of the Air Force Association to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force. It can be found in the town's Central Park, where the Scottish festival will take place.

On June 1st, 2024, the 17th Scottish Festival invites locals and visitors alike to celebrate the vibrant tapestry of Scottish culture. Central Park will transform into a bustling Highland fair, alive



Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival attracts clans from all over Australia. Picture: [Visit NSW](#)

with the skirl of bagpipes and the spirited dance of kilts.

From the electrifying massed bands parade to the thrilling Highland dancers and the heart-pounding caber toss competitions, the festival will pulse with energy and excitement. Guests can relive history with the Highland Rose Jacobite Re-enactment Group or test their strength in the traditional tug-o-war.

And it's not just about the

adults – the wee lassies and lads can partake in their own kilted dashes, adding a dash of adorable to the festivities. But the fun doesn't stop there; even furry friends can join in the merriment with the best dressed dog competition.

As the sun sets on Saturday's festivities, the celebration continues on Sunday at the Wingham Presbyterian Church with a soul-stirring concert. From the harmonious

melodies of the Kantabile Chamber Choir to the toe-tapping tunes of Celtic Folk, the concert promises an afternoon of musical enchantment for the whole family.

So, mark your calendars and join the revelry in Wingham – a celebration of Scottish spirit, resilience, and community that welcomes all to share in its rich heritage.

For full details, go to www.bonniewingham.com.

Humble spud is the star in Trentham

Perhaps the most versatile of all foods, the potato deserves its own festival. Just ask the people of Trentham in Victoria.

For 16 years now, they've been hosting The Great Trentham Spudfest, a vibrant annual festival that celebrates the humble potato in all its glory. The 2024 festival will be showcasing the region's finest offerings and products over two days of festivities on May 4th and 5th.

Streets will be lined with stalls offering spud-inspired delicacies, fresh regional produce, and artisanal crafts.



Visitors enjoying potatoes at Spudfest. Picture: [Visit Hepburnshire](#)

Visitors can enjoy guided bus tours of the old heritage-protected Spud Huts.

The inaugural Spudfest Ceilidh will be a lively celebration of Celtic music, food,

and, of course, dancing.

Embark on a culinary adventure with Spudfest, a dinner showcasing spudtastic dishes at various venues throughout the region.

Spudfest is an opportunity to connect with local farmers and artisans. From farm tours to self-guided trails, visitors can get a behind-the-scenes look at the region's agricultural heritage and sample fresh produce straight from the source.

With activities for all ages, including kids' games and live music, The Great Trentham Spudfest promises a weekend of fun, food, and festivities that will leave attendees craving more.

Keep an eye out for more details at www.trenthamspudfest.org.au.

Food and fun mash up at Robertson Potato Festival

Get ready to peel back the layers of fun at the home of The Big Potato and blockbuster movie Babe!

The Robertson Potato Festival, where spuds take centre stage in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, is a weekend extravaganza that promises a mash-up of potato-themed activities and entertainment that will leave you craving more.

From making mash or moonshine, to cooking and competitions; there'll be opportunities to explore and celebrate the diversity and importance of spuds.

From mastering the art of mashing to distilling your own potato moonshine, there's no shortage of quirky experiences to sink your teeth into. Get your hands dirty with hands-on workshops on potato growing and cooking, or strut your stuff in the Hessians on the Field fashion event, where potato sacks transform into high-fashion statements.

Irish country meets Aussie charm as the Mountain Dew Band takes the stage alongside Dublin-born crooner Peter Byrne, channelling the spirit of Neil Diamond. And prepare to rock out with Dragon, the internationally acclaimed band set to light up the festival on Sunday.

Join Julie Goodwin, the culinary queen herself and inaugural MasterChef winner, as she works her magic on the Master Spud cooking stage. Plus, don't miss out on the chance to showcase your furry friends in the pet competitions.

From the adrenaline rush of the Spud Olympics to the hilarity of the Tough Spudder obstacle course, there's something for everyone at this potato-packed fiesta. And be sure to snag a selfie with Seb, the festival mascot.

For all the juicy details, head to www.potatofestival.com.au.



Hessians on the Field fashion competition of potato sack clothing.



Mountain Dew Band. Pictures: potatofestival.com.au



Seb the Robertson Potato Festival mascot, above left. The Big Potato, above. Picture: VisitNSW

ROBERTSON'S PROUD IRISH HERITAGE

- The area was settled by John Hanrahan, a well-educated man who was born in County Tipperary, Ireland in 1815, and immigrated to Australia in 1840.

- Drawn to the untamed beauty of the Southern Highlands, Hanrahan and fellow Irish settlers cleared the land and planted crops.

- John Hanrahan grew the very first Robertson potatoes marketed in Sydney in 1865 – 112 potatoes, weighing 112 pounds. Eventually Robertson became renowned for its potatoes. Lush pastures also supported a thriving dairy industry.

- A tradition of crafting Mountain Dew - illicitly distilled spirits known as poitin in Ireland - persisted among the Irish settlers for many years.

- The 1994 movie Babe was filmed on farms and in large potato sheds in the area.

- Robertson is home to The Big Potato. Built in 1977, it is 10 meters long, four meters wide, and has a hollow interior so visitors can enter inside.

Dublin up on names as we find Australia's twinsies

It's no surprise, considering its colonial history, that Australia is full of place names from the British Isles. While some have since been changed, many remain. Here's where you can find some familiar place names when travelling through this great southern land.

DUBLIN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Nestled along the main highway just 70km north of Adelaide, South Australia, lies Dublin – a charming town with a rich tapestry of history and community.

Despite its modest population (241 as per the 2006 Census), Dublin serves as a hub for nearby communities, including the beloved weekend retreat, Thompson Beach.

Travellers passing through often make a pit stop here to stock up on supplies, drawn by the town's renowned butcher and top-notch fruit and veg store. The bustling general store, supermarket, and DVD shop offer a one-stop-shop experience, while the New Dublin Hotel beckons weary travellers with its popular bar and warm hospitality.

And for those in need of a refuel, the BP Roadhouse stands ready with fuel and meals, making Dublin a cherished gem along South Australia's highway.

Dublin's origins harken back to its namesake, the capital city of Ireland, as bestowed by the Governor of South Australia, Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, honouring his birthplace.

EDINBURGH SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Venture to the outer northern suburbs of Adelaide, South Australia, and you'll stumble upon Edinburgh – a vibrant community shaped by its ties to the defense industry. Established in 1997, Edinburgh's landscape is dominated by the RAAF Base

Edinburgh, serving as a vital



centre for the Air Warfare Centre and surveillance operations across Australia's airspace. The suburb's industrial precinct, Edinburgh Parks, adds to its dynamic character, reflecting its transformation from wartime munitions manufacturing to a thriving hub of innovation and progress. Named after the iconic capital of Scotland, Edinburgh embodies resilience and adaptation, symbolizing the enduring spirit of its namesake.

NEWCASTLE NEW SOUTH WALES

Newcastle is a vibrant city in the Hunter Region, known for its picturesque coastline. Newcastle was founded in 1804 as a penal settlement during the early days of British colonisation. The settlement was established to exploit the region's abundant coal resources, and coal mining became the primary industry in the area. The city was named after Newcastle upon Tyne in the northeast of England. Both cities share a common heritage as centers of coal mining and maritime trade. The name Newcastle was chosen to reflect the similarities between the two locations and the importance of coal to their economies.

Newcastle boasts a range of attractions, including beautiful beaches, historic sites like Fort Scratchley, bustling cafes, restaurants, and nightlife.

CARDIFF NEW SOUTH WALES

Nestled within the Lake Macquarie LGA of New South Wales, lies Cardiff – a bustling town infused with Welsh heritage and Aussie spirit. Established in the 19th century amid the coal-mining boom, Cardiff's evolution mirrors its Welsh namesake, with thriving schools, commercial centres, and a vibrant community spirit. Home to a diverse population, Cardiff offers a mix of ameni-



The tropical Douglas Shire in Far North Queensland. Picture: [Facebook/Douglas Shire Council](#)

ties, from bustling shopping precincts to sporting clubs and industrial estates, making it a dynamic hub of activity in the Hunter region.

Named after the capital of Wales, Cardiff embodies the spirit of resilience and community, bridging the gap between continents with its rich history and vibrant present.

BELFAST - PORT FAIRY VICTORIA

Port Fairy, historically known as Belfast, stands as a coastal gem in south-western Victoria, Australia. Nestled along the Princes Highway in the Shire of Moyne, Port Fairy traces its roots to a settlement established in 1835. Originally named Belfast in

homage to the birthplace of James Atkinson, a Sydney solicitor, the town later adopted its current moniker after the ship 'Fairy' sought shelter in its harbor in 1810. Proclaimed Victoria's first municipality in 1852, Port Fairy boasts a rich maritime heritage, with whalers and seal hunters frequenting its shores in the early 19th century.

Today, Port Fairy charms visitors with its coastal beauty, historic charm, and vibrant community life, making it a cherished destination along our southern coast.

DOUGLAS SHIRE QUEENSLAND

Douglas Shire, located in Far North Queensland, offers a tropical twist to its Isle



Dublin in South Australia. Picture: [Facebook/Newdublinhotelsa](#)

of Man namesake. Covering vast coastal areas and inhabited by approximately

12,000 residents, Douglas Shire thrives on tourism, agriculture, and natural wonders. With its main centers, Port Douglas and Mossman, Douglas Shire embraces the unique beauty of the Australian tropics.

The Douglas Shire derives its name from Sir George Ferguson Bowen Douglas, who was the Governor of Queensland from 1859 to 1868.

He played a significant role in the early governance and the development of Queensland during its formative years.



Port Fairy in Victoria used to be called Belfast. Picture: [Facebook/I AM Port Fairy](#)

Irish day proves a Corker at Queensland winery

There were yowies, yarns and Irish charm as Woongooroo Estate in Mount Arthur, Kilcoy, recently hosted its inaugural Luck of the Irish Day, and boy, was it a cracker!

Owned and operated by the Close family, this vineyard and cellar door/cafe is known for its wines, food, and knack for throwing a ripper of a party. Phil Close, the owner and manager, couldn't have been happier with how the day turned out: "We held our first Luck of the Irish Day on Monday, 15th April with the Bribie Island Social Seniors. There was a group of 35 in total. The day was a fabulous success, and all had a great time. The food and activities were certainly enjoyed by all."

Entertainment was in full swing with The Archer Jammers belting out Irish tunes, bush poetry with a dash of Irish flair, and even some spud-throwing shenanigans. Attendees sported their finest Irish garb, competing for the title of best-dressed while indulging in a hearty Irish stew and, of course, wine tasting.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Phil teased, "We have another three coming up in the next month or two, and once the word spreads, we'll be beating them back from the doors - to be sure, to be sure!"

Ireland may have leprechauns, but Kilcoy has its own mythical creatures. Ask about the local yowie sightings - these ape-like bush creatures have been causing a stir here since the 1800s. Check out Woongooroo Estate's website for a collection of Yarns from Yowie, who apparently has a taste for wine too.

So, whether you're in it for the wine, the Irish luck, or the chance to spot a yowie, Woongooroo Estate promises a day filled with laughter, legends, and maybe even a little bit of magic.



Irish Day visitors and the local yowie at Woongooroo Estate. Pictures: Supplied & [Facebook/WoongoorooEstate](https://www.facebook.com/WoongoorooEstate)

Bretons in Australia ready to celebrate St Yves' Day

St Yves' Day, celebrated on May 19th, honours Saint Yves (or Yves Hélor), the patron saint of Brittany.

Born in 1253 in Brittany, Saint Yves dedicated his life to serving the poor and needy, gaining a reputation for his advocacy for justice and fairness. His feast day is celebrated with religious ceremonies, processions, and cultural events across Brittany, particularly in his birthplace of Tréguier.

Brittany's Celtic heritage dates back to ancient times when Celtic tribes settled in the region around 500 BC. These tribes, notably the Veneti, formed a distinct Celtic culture characterised by their language, customs, and traditions. Over time, Brittany developed as a Celtic stronghold, with its own distinct identity separate from the rest of France.

The Celtic influence in Brittany is evident in various aspects of its culture, including language, music, dance, and folklore. Breton, a Celtic language closely related to Welsh and Cornish, is still spoken by a minority of residents today. Traditional Breton music, such as the bagad and fest-noz, showcases Celtic musical traditions, while Breton folklore is rich with tales of mythical creatures and legends tied to Celtic mythology.

Born of the region's desire to bring together the full diversity of Breton culture, since 2009 the Fête de la Bretagne has enabled Bretons and friends of Brittany to get together to dance, sing, celebrate and share their identity with as many people as possible. The aim is to give everyone a taste of Brittany. So, every year in May, for 10 days or so around Saint Yves' Day, all kinds of events are organised in Brittany, the rest of France and around the world. Concerts, street



BZH Sydney celebrate Breton culture with meet-ups and dance classes. Picture: [Facebook/BZHSydney](https://www.facebook.com/BZHSydney)



A scene from the 2023 Fete De La Bretagne. Picture: [fetedelabretagne.com](https://www.fetedelabretagne.com)

performances, storytelling, hikes, fest-noz: hundreds of events have been enjoyed by the public. From May 17th to 26th, 2024, the festival hopes to highlight the diversity of Brittany through a collection of events in Brittany and across France. Full details of the programme are available at www.fetedelabretagne.bzh

Here in Australia, to celebrate St Yves' Day, there will be an exclusive and intimate night at Adelaide's A Prayer for the Wild at Heart restaurant, featuring dishes inspired by Brittany.

SA See(a)food Through The Lens Of Brittany will treat

you to the elegant French cooking of Breton-born chef Stéphane Brizard and the wild seafood of South Australia will combine for one night, showcasing the extraordinary freshness and quality of local waters over a four-course dinner.

Host Emily Raven will regale you with adventures of the high sea in hospitality, sea shanties and stories of the one that got away.

More information and booking details [here](https://www.afoodthroughthelensofbrittany.com).

The Australian Standing Stones Management Board in Glen Innes, New South Wales, will conduct a flag lowering ceremony to honour

BRETON EVENTS

11 MAY

SA See(a)food Through The Lens Of Brittany at A Prayer for the Wild at Heart, 5.45pm.
Adelaide SA

17 MAY

BZH Sydney Breton dance class, 7pm at Mungerie Community Hall.
Rouse Hill NSW

19 MAY

Flag lowering, talk, toast to Saint Yves and Breton food. 4pm.
Glen Innes NSW

St Yves. Join in the celebration, hear about St Yves' exploits, enjoy a toast to the Patron Saint with some traditional Breton food.

This is a free event. Light refreshments will be served. Gold coin donation welcomed. A raffle will also be held. More information [here](https://www.bzhhsydney.com).

BZH Sydney promotes the culture, economy and tourism of Brittany in Sydney. They hold regular events and Breton dance classes. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/bzhhsydney.



Cairn de Barnenez is one of the oldest megalithic monuments in Europe. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Brittany putting the mega in megalithic monuments!

Stonehenge and Newgrange, step aside: Brittany's megalithic marvels are here to rock your world! Join the quest through time and uncover the colossal wonders that make Brittany's history larger than life and a 'oui' bit special.

Brittany boasts a rich heritage of Celtic and megalithic monuments that date back thousands of years. These ancient structures provide insight into the cultural and religious practices of prehistoric peoples in the area.

CAIRN OF BARNENEZ

Most impressive of them is the Cairn of Barnenez, often referred to as the "pre-Celtic Parthenon". This Neolithic structure is one of the oldest known megalithic monuments in Europe, dating back to around 4800 BC. The cairn consists of a large mound of stones covering several burial chambers and is considered to be an exceptional example of early monumental architecture.

The cairn is located close to the sea on the Kernéléhen



The restored cairn of the dolmen La Table des Marchands in Locmariaquer (Morbihan, Brittany, France). Picture: [Myrabella/Wikimedia Commons/CC BY-SA 3.0 & GFDL](#)

peninsula. It is one of the oldest man-made structures in the world. It is also remarkable for the presence of megalithic art.

LA TABLE DES MARCHANDS

Located in Locmariaquer, Morbihan, the La Table des Marchands is a well-preserved cairn and passage tomb that dates back to around 4000 BC. The site is renowned for the intricate engravings on the rear

slab of its central chamber. Situated at an elevation of 45 feet, the entrance to the tomb is precisely oriented to 140° southeast, aligning with the sunrise on the winter solstice. The La Table des Marchands also offers a breathtaking view of the nearby bay, adding to its allure.

Within the central chamber lies a large capstone adorned with the image of a quadruped and an axe, showcasing the artistic craftsmanship of its ancient



Megalithic passage grave of Table des Marchands. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

creators. The rear slab of the chamber is notable for being covered with intricate hooks or shepherd's crooks, further adding to the mystery and intrigue surrounding the site.

Adjacent to La Table des Marchands stands the imposing Brise Menhir, a monumental standing stone measuring 20 meters in height and weighing an impressive 350 tons.

Nearby, Les Pierres Plates, a passage tomb with an L shape, adds to the richness of



La Roche-aux-Fées, the largest dolmen in France, sits in the village of Essé, in Ille-et-Vilaine. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

the archaeological landscape.

CARNAC STONES

The Carnac Stones are thousands of standing stones arranged in rows, alignments, and also dolmens. This exceptionally dense collection of megalithic sites consists of more than 3,000 prehistoric standing stones, including alignments, dolmens, tumuli (burial mounds), and single menhirs (standing stones). These structures, believed to have been erected between 4500 and 3300 BC, are considered the largest such collection in the world. Most of the stones are located within the Breton village of Carnac. The purpose of the Carnac Stones remains a subject of debate among archaeologists, with theories ranging from religious rituals to astronomical alignments.

LA ROCHE-AUX-FÉES

La Roche-aux-Fées located in the village of Essé in Ille-et-Vilaine, is a remarkable dolmen (gallery grave) dating back to 2500 to 2000 BC. It is renowned as the largest dolmen in France.

This impressive stone formation measures 64 feet in length, 20 feet in width, and 13 feet in height, weighing around 500 tonnes. Legend has it that its name, which translates as The Rock of the Fairies, stems from a belief that the stones were placed by fairies. This grave offers insights into ancient burial practices.

In addition to the megalithic sites, Brittany has a strong Celtic heritage, with evidence of Celtic settlement dating back to the Iron Age.

The region was inhabited by Celtic tribes known as the Veneti and the Osismii, who left behind artifacts such as coins, pottery, and fortifications.

The Celtic and megalithic monuments of Brittany provide a fascinating glimpse into the ancient history and culture of the region, attracting visitors from around the world.

To protect these ancestral monuments, local towns are pooling their resources in an attempt to have the megaliths of Brittany listed as a UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites.



Neolithic menhirs near Carnac. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)



Dolmen de Mane-Kerioned is a burial chambers in Brittany. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Festivals

AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL

AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL

Year of Ireland and The Isle of Man.

Glen Innes NSW

02 - 05 MAY



THE ENGLISH ALE

Parade and wicker man and more, celebrating the change of seasons.

Adelaide Hills SA

19 MAY



BALLARAT HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Annual festival explores hidden treasures and untold stories.

Ballarat VIC

17 - 26 MAY



SYDNEY FLEADH

Celebrate the joy of traditional Irish music and song.

Sydney NSW

24 - 26 MAY



BONNIE WINGHAM SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

Town celebrates its Scottish heritage with annual festival.

Wingham NSW

01 JUN

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

QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION BEALTAINÉ

Brisbane QLD

This Irish community family gathering will celebrate Bealtaine with a flower theme. Special guest will be Dr Heather Blasdale Clarke. Music and dancing. [RSVP](#)

11 MAY

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WED 01 MAY

Niall Horan
Sydney NSW
Eireborne
Canberra ACT
Nothing But Thieves
Brisbane QLD
May Day Dance Up The Sun with Brangragon Morris
All Nations Pk, Northcote VIC
May Day Morris down dance
Mount Coot-tha QLD

THU 02 MAY

Irish Thursdays featuring The Gathering
Finn McCool's Gold Coast QLD
Australian Celtic Festival (to 5 MAY)
Glen Innes NSW
The SKIDS
Brisbane QLD
Jimeoin
Bunbury WA
Mahalia
Adelaide SA
Tesseract
Brisbane QLD
Sionnach Rua
Murwillumbah NSW
The Australian British Chamber of Commerce Wine Tasting with The Royal Exchange
Sydney NSW

FRI 03 MAY

Niall Horan
Melbourne VIC
Eireborne
Toowoomba QLD
The SKIDS
Sydney NSW
Austral
Melbourne VIC
Dawn French
Canberra ACT
Wintermoon Festival (to 6 MAY)
Cameron's Pocket QLD
Jimeoin
Margaret River WA
The Kooks
Brisbane QLD
Tesseract
Sydney NSW
Lloyd Langford
Sydney NSW

SAT 04 MAY

Niall Horan
Melbourne VIC

Eireborne

Gold Coast QLD
SA Medieval Fair
Paracombe SA (to 5 MAY)
Medieval and Rare Trades Festival (to 5 MAY)
Gumeracha SA
The Great Trentham Spudfest (to 5 MAY)
Trentham VIC
Robertson Potato Festival 2024 (to 5 MAY)
Robertson NSW

The SKIDS

Melbourne VIC
Jimeoin
Albany WA
The Warringah Scottish Society Tartan Night
Collaroy NSW
Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia Chieftain's Ceilidh 2024
Yokine WA
Ringwood Caledonian Society Autumn Social
Ringwood VIC
Brunswick Scottish Society and the Scottish Societies & Clans of Victoria
Highland Ball 2024
Brunswick VIC

U2 The Achtung Baby Show

Gold Coast QLD
Mahalia
Melbourne VIC
Nothing But Thieves
Melbourne VIC
Eire's Got Talent
Irish Club, Subiaco WA
Tesseract
Melbourne VIC
Lloyd Langford
Sydney NSW

SUN 05 MAY

Australian Celtic Festival
Glen Innes NSW
Jimeoin
Mandurah WA
Labour Day Eve at Finn McCool's with Tales of Strangers
Fortitude Valley QLD
Melanie C DJ set
Brisbane QLD
Melanie C DJ set
Caloundra QLD
Austral
Adelaide SA

MON 06 MAY

May Day
NT
Labour Day
QLD
Mahalia
Sydney NSW
May Day Monday at Fox and Hounds
Wongavallen QLD

TUE 07 MAY

Nothing But Thieves
Adelaide SA
The Kooks
Sydney NSW
Gerry O'Connor Workshop
Annerley QLD
Tesseract
Adelaide SA

WED 08 MAY

Eireborne
Brisbane QLD
Dawn French
Sydney NSW
The Mary Wallopers
Brisbane QLD
Mahalia
Brisbane QLD

THU 09 MAY

Dawn French
Sydney NSW
Ryan McMullan
Melbourne VIC
Gerry O'Connor Workshop
Pimpama QLD
Tesseract
Perth WA
The Australian British Chamber of Commerce Autumn Sundowner
Brisbane QLD

FRI 10 MAY

Eireborne
Wyong NSW
The SKIDS
Adelaide SA
Jimeoin
Bendigo VIC
The Mary Wallopers
Sydney NSW
Gerry O'Connor
Brisbane QLD
Australian Historical Dance Community
Folk Dance
Samford QLD
Ryan McMullan
Sydney NSW

DJ Sami Virji

Perth WA
The Cripple of Inishmaan (to 25 MAY)
Campbelltown NSW

SAT 11 MAY

Queensland Irish Association Bealtaine
12pm to 4pm, Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley QLD [RSVP](#)
Eireborne
Sydney NSW
Gerry O'Connor Workshop
St Lucia QLD
The SKIDS
Perth WA
DJ Sami Virji
Melbourne VIC
Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers Untamed
Ceilidh
North Melbourne VIC
75th Warwick Caledonian Debutante Ball
Warwick QLD
Jimeoin
Shepparton VIC
The Mary Wallopers
Melbourne VIC
Yoxneon
Bulli NSW

SA See(a)food Through The Lens of Brittany at A Prayer for the Wild at Heart
Adelaide SA
Lloyd Langford
Perth WA
Brit and Irish Party
Tea Gardens Bondi Junction NSW
Commonwealth Day in the Park
Beryl Roberts Park, Coopers Plains QLD

SUN 12 MAY

Australian Celtic Women and Gerry O'Connor, 1pm, Beenleigh Theatre, Beenleigh QLD. [TICKETS](#)
Irish Sundays at Finn McCool's
Fortitude Valley QLD
Eireborne
Sutherland NSW
A Taste of Ireland
Wyoming NSW
Norwood Hotel: Finn MacCool's Irish Feast
Adelaide SA
The Kooks
Fremantle WA
Melanie C DJ set
Perth WA

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GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



BERRY CELTIC FESTIVAL

Berry NSW

A street parade, markets, jousting knights, and pipe bands for you to enjoy in the charming and historic town of Berry.

25 MAY

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Lloyd Langford
Perth WA

MON 13 MAY
The Mary Wallopers
Melbourne VIC
Engelbert Humperdinck
Brisbane QLD

TUE 14 MAY
Dawn French
Gold Coast QLD
Engelbert Humperdinck
Brisbane QLD

WED 15 MAY
Eireborne
Bendigo VIC
The Mary Wallopers
Adelaide SA

THU 16 MAY
Eireborne
Narre Warren VIC
Dawn French
Brisbane QLD
The Mary Wallopers
Perth WA
Dan McCabe
Brisbane QLD
DJ Sami Virji
Adelaide SA
Engelbert Humperdinck
Gold Coast QLD
Steve Hughes
Adelaide SA

FRI 17 MAY
Eireborne
Melbourne VIC
Jungle
Melbourne VIC
Regency Affair at Exeter Village (to 19 MAY)
Exeter NSW
Lloyd Langford
Brisbane QLD
DJ Sami Virji
Brisbane QLD
BZH Sydney Breton dance class
Rouse Hill NSW

SAT 18 MAY
Eireborne
Geelong VIC

Deborah Francis-White, The Guilty
Feminist
Adelaide SA
Blacktown City Medieval Fayre (to 19 MAY)
Blacktown NSW
DJ Sami Virji
Sydney NSW
Engelbert Humperdinck
Adelaide SA
Dan McCabe
Sydney NSW
Celtic Muse - Ancient Irish Ballads and Dances
South Hobart TAS

SUN 19 MAY
Irish Sundays at Finn McCool's from 4pm
Fortitude Valley QLD
St Yve's Day flag lowering at the Australian Standing Stones
Glen Innes NSW
Irish Sessions at The Northern Star
Hamilton NSW
Jungle
Brisbane QLD
Ryan McMullan
Brisbane QLD
Trades & Crafting at Victory Village at Riverbend
Tiaro QLD
Spirit of Alba at The Duke of George
Perth WA
Chaotic Ceilidh
Sydney NSW
World Whisky Day
Nationwide
Glengarry Scottish Gala & Market Day
Glengarry VIC

MON 20 MAY
Deborah Francis-White, The Guilty
Feminist
Perth WA
Engelbert Humperdinck
Sydney NSW

TUE 21 MAY
Peter Hook & The Light
Adelaide SA
Jungle
Sydney NSW
Engelbert Humperdinck
Sydney NSW

Blacktown City Libraries presents Film
Club: The Banshees of Inisherin
Blacktown NSW

WED 22 MAY
Peter Hook & The Light
Brisbane QLD
Ben Howard
Perth WA
Jungle
Sydney NSW

THU 23 MAY
The Snuts
Melbourne VIC
Deborah Francis-White, The Guilty
Feminist
Sydney NSW
Engelbert Humperdinck
Melbourne VIC

FRI 24 MAY
Peter Hook & The Light
Sydney NSW
Ben Howard
Adelaide SA
Voxneon
Sydney NSW
Ryan McMullan
Perth WA
Dan McCabe
St Kilda VIC

SAT 25 MAY
Peter Hook & The Light
Melbourne VIC
Ben Howard
Melbourne VIC
U2 The Achtung Baby Show
Mulwala NSW
Berry Celtic Festival (to MAY 26)
Berry NSW
The Snuts
Sydney NSW
Deborah Francis-White, The Guilty
Feminist
Melbourne VIC
Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh
Inglewood WA
Engelbert Humperdinck
Perth WA
Dan McCabe
Perth WA
The Animals
Melbourne VIC

SUN 26 MAY
The Snuts
Brisbane QLD
Crossroads Gathering
Adelaide Irish Club SA

MON 27 MAY
Reconciliation Day
ACT
Deborah Francis-White, The Guilty
Feminist
Brisbane QLD

TUE 28 MAY
Peter Hook & The Light
Perth WA
Dr Jane Goodall's Reasons for Hope
Tour
Perth WA
Deborah Francis-White, The Guilty
Feminist
Canberra ACT
The Animals
Adelaide SA

WED 29 MAY
Ben Howard
Sydney NSW
Tom Grennan
Sydney NSW
The Animals
Renmark SA

THU 30 MAY
Tom Grennan
Melbourne VIC
The Australian British Chamber of Commerce Perth Meet the Member and Wine Tasting
Perth WA

FRI 31 MAY
Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival (to 8 JUN)
Wingham NSW
Dr Jane Goodall's Reasons for Hope
Tour
Adelaide SA
Ben Howard
Brisbane QLD
Australian Historical Dance Community
Folk Dance: Medieval
Arana Hills QLD
The Animals
Launceston TAS

Tours

DAWN FRENCH

03 MAY Canberra ACT
08 MAY Sydney NSW
09 MAY Sydney NSW
14 MAY Gold Coast QLD
16 MAY Brisbane QLD



EIREBORNE

01 MAY Canberra ACT
03 MAY Toowoomba QLD
04 MAY Gold Coast QLD
08 MAY Brisbane QLD
10 MAY Wyong NSW
11 MAY Sydney NSW
12 MAY Sutherland NSW
More dates in gig guide



THE KOOKS

03 MAY Brisbane QLD
07 MAY Sydney NSW
12 MAY Perth WA



NIALL HORAN

01 MAY Sydney NSW
03 MAY Melbourne VIC
04 MAY Melbourne VIC



PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT

21 MAY Adelaide SA
22 MAY Brisbane QLD
24 MAY Sydney NSW
25 MAY Melbourne VIC
26 MAY Melbourne VIC
28 MAY Perth WA



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GIGS & REELS

GIG ANNOUNCEMENTS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS



JUNE

Tours:
 Dr Jane Goodall's Reasons for Hope Tour VIC, NSW
 Led Zeppelin IV Live NSW, QLD, WA, ACT, VIC
 Absolute Bowie NSW, 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 Portarlington VIC
 10th Townsville Tartan Weekend QLD
 Robert Burns Celtic Festival 2024 Camp-erdown VIC
 Clydesdale Spectacular 2024 Boonah QLD

Scottish Week 2024 Sydney NSW
 2nd Annual NT Irish Music Festival NT

JULY

Tours:
 A Taste of Ireland QLD
 Jimeoin NSW
 Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC
 Hugh Cornwell NSW
 Absolute Bowie QLD, SA, WA
 Celtic Illusion VIC, TAS
 Seven Drunken Nights - The Story of The Dubliners VIC, NSW, ACT

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
 Bonfire Night at Sandstone Point Hotel QLD
 Christmas in July
 The 47th Australian Winter School QLD

AUGUST

Tours:
 Hugh Cornwell NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, WA
 The Mersey Beatles NSW, QLD, VIC, SA
 The U2 Show Achtung Baby VIC
 Celtic Illusion VIC, SA, NSW
 Seven Drunken Nights - The Story of The Dubliners NSW, QLD

Festivals:
 Royal Queensland Show QLD

Highland Spectacular VIC
 Hunter Valley Highland Games NSW
 Mackay Blue Water Fling QLD
 Balaklava Eisteddfod SA
 Darwin Beer Can Regatta NT
 Henley on Todd Regatta NT
 Tasmanian Whisky Week TAS
 Balinup Medieval Festival WA
 Scots In The Bush QLD

SEPTEMBER

Tours:
 Iron Maiden WA, SA, VIC, NSW
 David Walliams NSW, QLD, SA, VIC

Festivals:
 Folk by the Sea Kiama NSW
 Neurum Creek Music Festival QLD
 Irish and Celtic Music Festival Yass NSW
 Clans on the Coast NSW

OMD to play Australia for first time since 1987!

British electronic synth pioneers **Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark (OMD)** are set to make their triumphant return to Australia for the first time since 1987.

OMD will tour Australia in February 2025 with their Greatest Hits tour.

Celebrating 45 years in music, former school friends Andy McCluskey and Paul Humphries, will play their catalogue of hits that include some of the most beloved songs of the 80s - including If You Leave from the Pretty



in Pink soundtrack, Enola Gay, Secret, Souvenir, So in Love, (Forever) Live and Die, Electricity, Joan Of Arc (Maid

TOUR DATES

12 FEB Perth WA
 15 FEB Adelaide SA
 20 FEB Melbourne VIC
 23 FEB Brisbane QLD

Of Orleans) and many more, alongside songs from their stellar 14 studio albums including their latest release, Bauhaus Staircase, which came out in 2023.

"Finally!!! The wait is over!" said Andy McCluskey.

"We have tried and tried to get back to Australia for nearly forty years. We are so excited to be able to say that we are definitely going to play live again down under. We cannot wait! This is going to be so special. As it's been such a long time since we were live in Australia we will be playing every single one of our hits and a few extra classics too!"

Tickets go on sale to general public on Friday, May 3rd at this link: www.destroy-allines.com/tours/omd

Mother's Day melodies as Celtic musicians team up

Australian Celtic Women and Irish fiddle player Gerry O'Connor are joining forces for a Mother's Day concert, promising Queensland audiences a day filled with the magic of Celtic music.

Australian Celtic Women, an all-female musical ensemble comprising award-winning musicians and singers, will take to the stage alongside Gerry O'Connor, a renowned musician from Dundalk. Together, they'll transport audiences back to their Celtic roots with their enchanting performance.

With [Australian Celtic Women](#), you can expect stunning visual effects, angelic voices, and a plethora of Celtic instruments including fiddles, bagpipes, bodhrans, tin whistles, drums, percussion, and keyboards. The combination of these elements creates an unforgettable experience filled with warmth, memories, and exhilaration, leaving the audience yearning for more.

Joining them will be Gerry O'Connor, who is celebrated worldwide for his vibrant playing style and pulsating rhythm. Having been taught by his mother, Rose, who came from a long line of fiddle players, Gerry's musical journey is deeply rooted in his family's traditions. He is known for his solo work as well as for being a founding member of bands like Lá Lugh, Skylark, and Oirialla, each contributing significantly to the Irish music scene. His collaborations with prominent figures in Irish music, including members of The Chieftains, Boys of the Lough, Planxty, De Dannan, and Bothy Band, have further solidified his reputation as a masterful musician.

Having recorded numerous albums and received accolades such as the prestigious Ródaíocht Bardic



Australian Celtic Women. Picture: Stephen Coles Photography/Supplied



Fiddle player Gerry O'Connor. Picture: Supplied

Award at the 2018 All Ireland Fleadh, Gerry brings a wealth of experience and talent to the stage.

His current tour through Australia is delivering not only mesmerising performances but also insightful workshops and lectures, enriching the Australian music

scene with the beauty of Irish traditional music.

Australian Celtic Women have a busy schedule at Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes, New South Wales, from May 2nd to 5th before the Queensland gig.

Miranda Peatey of Australian Celtic Women told

TOUR DATES

02 MAY Glen Innes Services Club
7pm
Glen Innes NSW
03 MAY Waterloo Station 1pm and
Fire & Feasting Ceili 5pm
Glen Innes NSW
04 MAY Chapel Theatre
Glen Innes NSW
12 MAY Beenleigh Theatre 1pm
Beenleigh QLD

[TICKETS](#)

Anglo&Celtic: "We have one concert with Gerry at the Chapel Theatre at Glen Innes and then he's coming back with us to Brisbane and we're performing a Sunday matinee on Mother's Day, 12th May, at the Beenleigh Theatre."

[Gerry O'Connor](#) performed in Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney in April. He will be playing and doing workshops in Glen Innes and Queensland in May. Proudly sponsored by Culture Ireland, (Cultur Eireann), promoting Irish arts worldwide.

Niall Horan's The Show set to soar with guest Birdy

Niall Horan, the globally renowned icon hailing from Ireland, has been thrilling fans in New Zealand and in Brisbane in April with his highly anticipated 'The Show' tour, and now it's the turn of Sydney and Melbourne.

This tour, coinciding with the release of his latest studio album *The Show*, marks a significant moment for Niall as he returns to captivate audiences down under after his last visit during the Flicker World Tour in 2018.

The excitement surrounding the tour is palpable, evident from the overwhelming demand during the presale period, prompting the addition of a second Melbourne show at the Rod Laver Arena on Saturday, May 4th.

Niall's delight at returning to Australia was made clear. He shared: "I have said it many times, but I do mean it when I say that the times I have spent down under are some of the best periods of my life. I have had amazing shows in Australia and New Zealand, and I cannot wait to be back in 2024."

"My favourite thing in the world is being on tour. Performing my songs for my fans and sharing those incredible moments together are the reason why I write music in the first place. This is going to be my best tour yet, and I cannot wait to see all you 'lovers' in 2024."

Niall rose to fame as a member of the chart-topping boy band One Direction. With the group, he achieved unparalleled success, selling over 80 million records worldwide and embarking on numerous sold-out tours. Known for their infectious pop hits and devoted fan-base, One Direction solidified their status as one of the most influential acts of their generation. Niall's contributions



as a singer and songwriter played a significant role in shaping the band's sound and success, setting the stage for his thriving solo career.

Since the monumental success of his debut album *Flicker* in 2017, Horan, hailing from Mullingar, County Westmeath, has been on an unstoppable trajectory, delivering multiple hit singles that have resonated with audiences worldwide. Tracks like *Slow Hands*, *Nice To Meet Ya*, and *This Town* have solidified his status as a chart-topping artist. His latest album, *The Show*, has already garnered acclaim, with singles like *Heaven* and *Meltdown* captivating listeners with their infectious melodies and heartfelt lyrics.

With *The Show* tour, Niall

aims to provide solace and connection to his devoted fans, promising an unforgettable experience filled with surprises, laughter, and heartfelt performances.

Joining him on this musical journey is English singer Birdy, hailing from Lymington, Hampshire, whose ethereal vocals and captivating stage presence are set to enchant audiences as the opening act.

Last August, Birdy, famed for her soulful rendition of Bon Iver's *Skinny Love* at just 14, unveiled her fifth album, *Portraits*.

In 2012, her debut album topped the ARIA chart with enchanting covers like *Skinny Love* and *Cherry Ghost's People Help The People*.

While known for indie folk, *Portraits* delved into

TOUR DATES

01 MAY Sydney NSW
03 MAY Melbourne VIC
04 MAY Melbourne VIC

synth-pop, echoing influences from icons like Bowie, Bush, Madonna, and Prince. Birdy infused a Gothic feeling reminiscent of PJ Harvey and Portishead, departing from her piano-centric ballads.

Niall Horan expressed his excitement about having Birdy join him on tour, emphasising the importance of creating memorable experiences for fans. "Thrilled to have Birdy joining me for the Australia and New Zealand dates," he announced.

Get your tickets [here](#).

Peter Hook & The Light to perform Substance live



Peter Hook & The Light make a triumphant return to perform both New Order and Joy Division's Substance compilations, sequentially and in their entirety, in Australia this month.

Bassist and co-founder of Joy Division and New Order, Peter Hook has carved a loyal and inimitable following globally, as he brings both the Joy Division and New

Order canons to life.

Released in 1987, New Order's Substance features the 12-inch mixes and b-sides of all their singles including Blue Monday, Bizarre Love Triangle, Temptation, Ceremony and True Faith. Factory Records' 200th release, it remains the best-selling New Order album.

Released in 1988, Joy Division's Substance features all

the non-album singles, Transmission, Atmosphere (and b-side She's Lost Control) and Love Will Tear Us Apart. Factory Records' 250th release, it also includes Warsaw, Digital and Dead Souls.

This will be the most total appreciation to date of the Joy Division and New Order catalogue and cannot be missed!

Tickets [here](#).

TOUR DATES

21 MAY Adelaide SA
22 MAY Brisbane QLD
24 MAY Sydney NSW
25 MAY Melbourne VIC
26 MAY Melbourne VIC
28 MAY Perth WA

Scottish punks SKIDS coming for first tour

For the first time ever, iconic Scottish punks, SKIDS are coming to Australia for a Greatest Hits Tour (Into the Valley, The Saints are Coming, Working for the Yankee Dollar, Masquerade, Sweet Suburbia and more) to celebrate their 45th anniversary.

SKIDS weren't your archetypal 1-2-3-4 punk band, they were different. Their songs resonate as much, if not more, today. Since reforming SKIDS and recently celebrating their 45th anniversary,



Picture: [skidsofficial.com](#)

they have proven to be a force of nature. With a catalogue to die for, Richard Jobson's ability to connect with his audience remains a constant, while his voice re-

mains strong and passionate.

They had top 20 hits, a gifted guitar hero and were an influence on U2 and the Manic Street Preachers.

SKIDS are at the peak

TOUR DATES

02 MAY Brisbane QLD
03 MAY Sydney NSW
04 MAY Melbourne VIC
10 MAY Adelaide SA
11 MAY Perth WA

of their powers and still a mighty live force. Join them and celebrate the SKIDS legacy as they fire up a set full of their crowd-pleasing anthems. Tickets [here](#).

Sixties legends The Animals give Australia a final encore

The Animals have announced their Encore performances on 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 and 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.

John Steel first formed The Animals when he and Eric Burden met as art-school dropouts. According to folklore 'animals' described their wild stage act and the name stuck. The Animals performed fiery versions of the staple rhythm-and-blues repertoire, covering songs by artists such as Jimmy Reed, John Lee Hooker, Nina Simone.

In June 1964, the transatlantic number-one hit The House of the Rising Sun was released, creating perhaps the first folk-rock hit. It topped the charts in the UK, US and Canada and tells a cautionary tale of a person's life

gone wrong in New Orleans.

The track was reportedly recorded in just one take with producer Mickie Most.

The other well-known hits The Animals still perform today are all classics in every sense of the word.

We Gotta Get Out of this Place was chosen as the anthem for the US armed forces during the Vietnam War and is still sung by high school kids on the last day of school.

"They're not pop songs, they're not la la la song," says John Steel when asked about the legacy of The Animals canon. "They're songs about the dark side of life."

Tickets [here](#).

TOUR DATES

25 MAY Melbourne VIC
 28 MAY Adelaide SA
 29 MAY Renmark SA
 31 MAY Launceston TAS
 01 JUN Hobart TAS
 02 JUN Burnie TAS
 06 JUN Brisbane QLD
 07 JUN Tweed Heads NSW
 08 JUN D'Aguilar QLD
 09 JUN Caloundra QLD
 12 JUN Sutherland NSW
 14 JUN Chatswood NSW
 15 JUN Thirroul NSW
 16 JUN Springwood NSW
 19 JUN Wyong NSW
 20 JUN Kingsford NSW
 22 JUN Campbelltown NSW
 23 JUN Penrith NSW
 25 JUN Mandurah WA
 26 JUN Perth WA
 28 JUN Warragul VIC
 29 JUN Bendigo VIC
 30 JUN Frankston VIC
 03 JUL Narre Warren VIC
 05 JUL Warrnambool VIC
 06 JUL Ballarat VIC
 07 JUL Geelong VIC
 09 JUL Adelaide SA

Engelbert Humperdinck waltzes in for tour



Engelbert Humperdinck will take his last waltz across Australia this May, which will see shows in major capital cities.

The English icon, hailing from Leicester, will perform a set chock-full with greatest hits and crowd favourites: Release Me, The Last Waltz, A Man Without Love, Can't Take My Eyes Off of You and Quando, Quando, Quando.

Now aged 87, the legend has called this, his farewell tour, The Last Waltz.

Engelbert boasts a career spanning over 50 years and with sales in excess of 140 million records, including 65

TOUR DATES

13 MAY Brisbane QLD
 14 MAY Brisbane QLD
 16 MAY Gold Coast QLD
 18 MAY Adelaide SA
 20 MAY Sydney NSW
 21 MAY Sydney NSW
 23 MAY Melbourne VIC
 25 MAY Perth WA

gold albums and 35 platinum, four Grammy nominations, and a Golden Globe.

Tickets are available at www.engelbert.com/tour.



Smash hit tribute to The Dubliners roving this way

Direct from the West End and having sold out venues worldwide, Seven Drunken Nights – The Story of The Dubliners is undertaking its biggest ever tour, which will include 20 shows in Australia.

It all started for The Dubliners back in 1962 – Seven Drunken Nights tells the story of a career spanning 50 years and invokes the spirit of Ronnie Drew, Luke Kelly, Barney McKenna, John Sheahan, Ciaran Bourke and Jim McCann.

Leading the ultimate feel-good Irish show, this talented cast of musicians and singers bring the music of this iconic group back to life.

So much more than a juke-box musical celebration of The Dubliners, the show stars its charismatic writer and director Ged Graham, whose narration warmly guides the audience through the

fascinating life of the group, in between stunning performances of so many of their celebrated classics, including The Irish Rover, The Leaving of Liverpool, Belle of Belfast City, Dirty Old Town, The Banks of the Rose, Star of the County Down and The Town I Love So Well.

In addition to glowing reviews, Seven Drunken Nights has also received praise from the families of The Dubliners. Ged Graham said, "It was very nerve-racking meeting relatives of The Dubliners, as I didn't know how they would react. But meeting Luke Kelly's brother, Paddy, early on during the first tour was just brilliant. He and his family have been so supportive of the show. Likewise, Barney McKenna's sister came to see the show when we toured Ireland and was very complimentary of how we told the

story. Their support means so much to everyone involved with the show."

With the 2024 UK and Irish leg of Seven Drunken Nights being the biggest so far, the show is also set for its record year internationally, performing nearly 300 shows during 42 weeks on the road.

Such success has been a life-changing experience for Ged Graham, who said, "I can't quite believe it. Seven Drunken Nights seems to have touched so many people who have become real fans of the show, reigniting their love of The Dubliners. It's had a massive impact on my life, giving me the confidence to write more and be involved in many other productions, including the runaway success Fairytale of New York. It truly is a great privilege to bring the music of The Dubliners to the stage

TOUR DATES

17 JUL Narra Warren VIC
 18 JUL Brunswick VIC
 19 JUL Bendigo VIC
 20 JUL Ballarat VIC
 21 JUL Frankston VIC
 23 JUL Ringwood VIC
 24 JUL Geelong VIC
 25 JUL Moonee Ponds VIC
 27 JUL Canberra ACT
 28 JUL Springwood NSW
 30 JUL Orange NSW
 31 JUL Wyong NSW
 01 AUG Newcastle NSW
 02 AUG Port Macquarie NSW
 03 AUG Byron Bay NSW
 04 AUG Caloundra QLD
 06 AUG Brisbane QLD
 07 AUG Toowoomba QLD
 08 AUG Cleveland QLD
 09 AUG Noosa QLD

every night and keep their legacy alive."

Tickets [here](#).

The Irish Tenors bringing 25th Anniversary Tour to Australia

The Irish Tenors will return to Australia this September for their 25th Anniversary Tour. They will play dates in Sydney, Adelaide, Tweed Heads, Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne.

The Irish Tenors have been touring together since 1998, with sold-out shows at Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, The Hollywood Bowl, and major concert halls throughout the world. Their faces and voices are familiar to audiences around the world, including on the Ellis Island recordings that have sold more than a million CDs and DVDs.

Since they first joined voices, The Irish Tenors have made countless traditional treasures breathe with new life. Moreover, they've proven themselves gifted interpreters of a wide range of material, with such songs as My Heart Will Go On (from Titanic), Fairytale Of New York (previously recorded by Kirsty MacColl and The Pogues), and Jimmy Kennedy's South Of The Border (Down



Mexico Way). These songs live comfortably in their repertoire alongside Danny Boy, Whiskey in the Jar and Fields Of Athenry.

The Irish Tenors powerful vocal line-up of Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Declan Kelly are unquestionably the leading brand of this genre. All classically trained singers, each having performed in leading concert halls across the world, together

they combine to produce a sound and concert experience, which touches hearts and stirs the emotions. Happy songs of celebration and humour, mixed with touching melodies and songs that warm the heart.

They are surely versatile, but for many, Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Declan Kelly are synonymous with Irish music. There is an aching bittersweet quality

TOUR DATES

20 SEP Sydney NSW
21 SEP Adelaide SA
22 SEP Tweed Heads NSW
25 SEP Brisbane QLD
28 SEP Perth WA
29 SEP Melbourne VIC

to much of Ireland's musical heritage, a melodic loveliness and emotional intensity that brings a tingle to the spine and a tear to the eye. The dazzling technique and depth of feeling that defines this musical genre, amplified to the third power, is the hallmark of The Irish Tenors.

The Irish Tenors tour constantly, thrilling old fans and winning new ones all around the globe. In the United States, they are one of the most successful Irish touring acts ever, second only to U2.

The Irish Tenors are the acknowledged Godfathers of Irish repertoire.

Tickets on sale from Thursday, May 2nd from www.davidroywilliams.com.

Celtic Illusion celebrates 10 magic years

Step into a world where magic, music, and dance intertwine to create an unforgettable experience. Celtic Illusion, now celebrating its 10th anniversary with a Reimagined show and Australian tour, breaks barriers and captivates audiences with its spellbinding illusions and mesmerizing choreography.

Prepare to be transported to a realm of awe-inspiring entertainment, where Irish dance meets grand illusion, and influences from Fosse to Michael Jackson collide in a dazzling display of talent. From the moment the curtain rises, you'll be immersed in a breathtaking array of variety unlike anything else in the world.



Featuring new spellbinding illusions, fresh choreography, and a musical score that evokes both tears and chills, the Reimagined tour promises an exhilarating journey

for all who attend. Leading the charge are former lead dancer of Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, Anthony Street, and the extraordinary Georgia May, whose talents

TOUR DATES

JUL & AUG - VIC & TAS
JUL & AUG - SA
AUG - NSW

in dance and illusion shine brightly on stage.

Joined by a cast of champion dancers recruited from across the globe, including veterans of productions like Lord of the Dance and Riverdance, Celtic Illusion delivers a theatrical masterpiece that will leave you spellbound long after the final curtain falls. Don't miss your chance to experience this unparalleled fusion of art forms - [Celtic Illusion](http://www.celticillusion.com) is a show that must be seen to be believed.

Big laughs from Little Britain as David Walliams heads down under



TEG Dainty and The Entertainment Lab are thrilled to present the world premiere of An Audience with David Walliams. The first-of-its-kind event for David Walliams will come to Australian fans first, touring theatres around the country this September and October.

The nine-city tour will kick off in Sydney on Saturday, 7th September, before heading to Canberra, Brisbane, Adelaide, Newcastle, Melbourne, Hobart, and then Perth.

Brace yourself for an outrageously cheeky evening with one of Britain's best-loved comedians in this delightful new live show experience from David Walliams.

Expect wickedly funny tales, beloved characters, and a glimpse behind the curtain at never-before-seen moments from Walliams' storied career, all served up

with his signature wit and charm.

From his iconic characters in Little Britain and Come Fly with Me to his hilarious storytelling in best-selling books like *The Boy in the Dress* and *Gangsta Granny*, David Walliams' comedic brilliance has captivated audiences of all ages over the past two decades.

David said: "Audiences down under are the best. Matt (Lucas) and I had the greatest time touring Little Britain in Australia, and so I am delighted to be back on the stage here. I have never done a show like this before, which makes it all the more exciting. I promise there will be lots of laughs, stories I have never told before and a chance for you to ask me anything you want. I will be expecting some rude questions! And I can't wait to see you all there."

David Walliams is one of Britain's entertainment icons. Little Britain, his creation with Matt Lucas which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, has won numerous international awards including three BAFTAs and now plays in over 100 countries. It was followed by one of the most popular comedies of all time, *Come Fly with Me*. David was also a judge on the ITV hit talent show *Britain's Got Talent* since 2012, and on Australia's *Got Talent* in 2022.

David has revolutionised reading for children and has become one of the most influential children's writers today.

Since the publication of his ground-breaking first novel, *The Boy in the Dress* in 2008, Walliams has seen unprecedented growth with global sales exceeding 56 million copies, and his books

TOUR DATES

7 SEP Sydney NSW
10 SEP Sydney NSW
12 SEP Canberra ACT
15 SEP Brisbane QLD
18 SEP Gold Coast QLD
21 SEP Adelaide SA
25 SEP Newcastle NSW
5 OCT Melbourne VIC
8 OCT Hobart TAS
12 OCT Perth WA

translated into 55 languages across 40 titles. Collectively across his titles, David has celebrated 79 weeks at number one in the overall book charts and 241 weeks at number one in the Children's charts – an achievement no other children's writer has reached.

Tickets are now on sale at www.tegdainty.com.

Tour celebrates fifty years of Tubular Bells



Robin A Smith has collaborated with Mike Oldfield on Tubular Bells 2 and 3. Credit: www.robin-smith.co.uk

Following its successful sold-out 50th Anniversary run in the UK and Europe, Tubular Bells in Concert is now heading to Australia in August 2024.

The Gold Anniversary of Mike Oldfield's trailblazing magnum-opus will be performed by an expansive live group, featuring and arranged by Mike Oldfield's long-term collaborator, Robin A Smith.

The concert will see Tubular Bells performed in full, along with further Oldfield compositions, including Moonlight Shadow, To France, Family Man, and excerpts from Ommadawn.

Tubular Bells was the debut studio album by English multi-instrumentalist, composer and songwriter Mike Oldfield conceived in 1971 and finally released in 1973. Oldfield, who was just 17 years old when he started composing the music, recorded and played almost all of the instruments on the album. It gained worldwide acclaim when the opening theme was used for the soundtrack of the horror film, The Exorcist, and the album went on to become the highest selling instrumental album of all time.

Robin A Smith has worked with Mike Oldfield for more than 25 years, collaborating on Tubular Bells 2 and 3 including live performances at Edinburgh Castle, Horseguards Parade in London, The Millennium Bell in Berlin, and the 2012 London Olympics Opening Ceremony. Robin has also worked with diverse artists including Rod Stewart, Goldie, Andrea Bocelli, Enrique, The 2 Cellos, and Luciano Pavarotti.

Robin said: "The show was premiered at the Royal Festival Hall in London in August

TOUR DATES

3 AUG Sydney NSW
4 AUG Wollongong NSW
7 AUG Wyong NSW
8 AUG Newcastle NSW
9 AUG Tweed Heads NSW
10 AUG Toowoomba QLD
11 AUG Brisbane QLD
14 AUG Caloundra QLD
15 AUG Canberra ACT
16 AUG Geelong VIC
17 AUG Melbourne VIC
18 AUG Adelaide SA
19 AUG Frankston VIC
21 AUG Bendigo VIC
23 AUG Bunbury WA
24 AUG Perth WA

2021 to great acclaim as an early celebration of and tribute to Mike – who in my view is one of England's greatest composers in the last century. Along with the musicians, it's a real privilege to be performing this extraordinary work. It's as fresh today as it was when Mike created it in 1971 – and I love having the chance to bring it to new audiences as well as those who, like me, are still captivated by it whenever they hear it.

"The wonderful thing about Tubular Bells is that it never seems to age. It takes you on a journey through progressive rock and electronica, blues, folk, jazz and classical and along the way evokes such melodic beauty and drama. We've had plenty of tears from the audience and so many wonderful stories of their first experience with Tubular Bells."

Mike Oldfield will not appear at these performances.

Tickets are now on sale from www.davidroywilliams.com.

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Blionn Clár Mhuinir na hÉireann ar aer ar an Satharn ó 12:30 l.n. go ceanna uaire. Eist leis an scoth 7 ceol, nuacht, agallamh is mórán eile.

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Listen any time at www.4eb.org.au

Tuilleadh eolais le fáil/contact details:

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- keep up to date with Celtic music, dance, art and language events around the state
- make new connections in the Celtic community
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Date confirmed for The Young Offenders' return

The BBC has shared a new look at the fourth season of The Young Offenders.

The hit Irish comedy last aired in 2020 and follows the lives of delinquent teens Conor MacSweeney (Alex Murphy) and Jock O'Keeffe (Chris Walley) in Cork City.

The new photo features serial bike thief Jock in handcuffs, Conor with his long-suffering mother Mairéad (Hilary Rose), and local thug Billy Murphy (Shane Casey).

The new season will launch on BBC One and iPlayer.

Shane Casey shared on his Facebook page: "Delighted to be Back! Season 4 will be on BBC1 on the 10th of May at 9:30".



ANGLO&CELTIC

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