

# ANGLO CELTIC

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# WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com

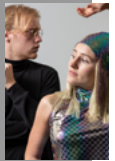


There was traditional music and dance at Queensland Irish Association's Bealtaine gathering in Brisbane in May. Australian Historical Dance performed Anglo and Celtic dance steps. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

On page 5, Boonah in Queensland is gearing up for show celebrating Clydesdale horses and Scottish culture



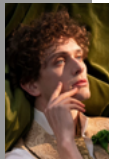
On pages 10 & 11, James Joyce's novel Ulysses will come to life across Australia as communities mark Bloomsday



On page 25, comedian Eric Idle bringing Always Look on the Bright Side of Life, Live to a city near you



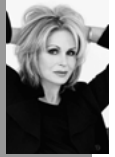
On page 26, a ballet that tells the story of legendary Irish wit Oscar Wilde is coming to Sydney and Melbourne



On page 27, the Eurovision Song Contest is bringing its biggest stars on tour, including Ireland's Linda Martin



On page 30, Absolutely Fabulous icon Joanna Lumley discusses life, television and travel on her Aussie tour



# Stirrup some fun at Clydesdale show

In this edition, we are celebrating Clydesdale horses, which were brought to Australia by early European settlers, particularly Scottish immigrants.

The breed originated in Lanarkshire, where they were used for agricultural work, transportation, and heavy hauling. Scots brought their knowledge of horse breeding and their preference for Clydesdales to Australia. These horses were valuable assets for various industries in the developing colonies.

The town of Boonah, on the Scenic Rim in Queensland, will celebrate these beautiful giants, along with Scottish culture, at its Clydesdale Spectacular this month. This edition's gorgeous front page picture is from [Facebook.com/clydiespectacular](https://www.facebook.com/clydiespectacular).

Speaking of giants, literary behemoth Ulysses will come to life across the country this June on Bloomsday. This annual literary event commemorates and celebrates the life and work of Irish writer James Joyce and his novel Ulysses. The event is named after Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of Ulysses, and the day on which the events of the novel take

place – 16th June 1904, in Dublin. Bloomsday has grown into a global phenomenon, with celebrations taking place around the world.

There have been some very exciting tour announcements in the past few weeks. From Joanna Lumley to Bear Grylls to the stars of the Eurovision Song Contest, it's a smorgasbord of entertainment. Eric Idle is coming back to our shores after a bout with pancreatic cancer – it must be his habit of always looking on the bright side of life that's powering the comic genius.

Happy 8th birthday to Finn McCool's in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. They have been consistent supporters of this magazine and we are very grateful to them. They are a business that's genuinely interested in giving back to the Irish community. They'll be celebrating their birthday all day on Friday, 28th June, with headliners 'kick-arse Irish band' The Gathering and other live acts and DJs.

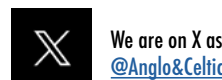
If you have a story you'd like featured in this magazine, get in touch by email at editor@angloandceltic.com.

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Full details and prices are in our media pack at [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)



# Top of the morning in Top End as NT parties Irish-style

Darwin is gearing up to celebrate the vibrant culture of Ireland.

The NT Irish Association will host its second annual Irish Music Festival at The Darwin Ski Club.

Festival-goers are in for a day packed with fun and an incredible music line-up of local and nationwide talent. It will feature The Lost Backpackers from Sydney, A Bunch of Celts from Melbourne, Banna Ceoil, Pat McKernon from Melbourne, and McCarthy's Lore.

That's just the beginning! Bringing the infectious energy of Irish dancing will be a host of talented local dance schools.

They've got a tonne of activities to keep the little ones entertained, so you can always have the craic. And let's not forget about the food – indulge in mouth-watering traditional Irish favourites, perfectly paired with icy-cold schooners of Magners and Guinness.

Get ready to make memories at the NT Irish Music Festival! For further details, go to [Facebook.com/NTIrishassociation](https://www.facebook.com/NTIrishassociation).

## DATES & DEETS

09 JUN  
Darwin Ski Club, The Gardens NT  
Tickets from [Meshix](#)



NT Irish Festival returns in June. Picture: [Facebook/NTIrishassociation](#)



Jones Village Bakery will supply Welsh pancakes to the Australian market. Picture: [Jones Village Bakery](#)

## Welsh pancakes embark on flipping epic journey

A Welsh bakery has secured a mouth-watering contract to supply pancakes to Australia.

Jones Village Bakery, nestled in the heart of North Wales and celebrating its 90th birthday bash, is unleashing its heavenly pancakes down under!

Thanks to a hefty Stg£2 million investment in a state-of-the-art pancake production line, this bakery is now cranking out pancakes like there's no tomorrow. These yummy, American-style beauties come in three delectable flavours: buttermilk, blueberry, and lemon.

These flapjacks are crafted in the quaint village of Wrexham, North Wales, then frozen to preserve their deliciousness. Next stop? Australia, mate!

Once they touch down on Aussie soil, these pancakes will be distributed far and wide, gracing the tables of cafes, restaurants, and even catering companies serving the mighty mining industry.

So, whether you're sipping a latte in a trendy Melbourne café or digging into brekkie in sunny Brisbane, keep an eye out for these fluffy Welsh delights.

# Saddle up for Scottish fun at Clydesdale Spectacular

The Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular is the richest Clydesdale show in the southern hemisphere.

Held in June each year in beautiful Boonah, Queensland, it showcases the gentle giants of the horse world, majestic Clydesdales, recognised in Australia as 'the breed that built the nation'.

Over two action-packed days, a full programme of Clydesdale competition will take place in the main arena at the Boonah Showground, including led, carriage and harness classes.

The programme also features rare trades demonstrations that focus around the heavy horse: harness making, blacksmithing, wheelwrights, carriage rides, and whip plaiting.

Additional highlights include the Queensland Whip Cracking Championships, the World Billy Boiling Championships, wood chopping, working dog displays, Friesian Horse Troupe performances and bush poetry.

In tribute to the Scottish descendants who moved to the region and brought with them their beloved Clydesdale breed, the event includes Pipes and Drums, Calling of



Scottish heritage will be on display at the Clydesdale Spectacular in Boonah, Queensland. Pictures: [Facebook.com/clydespectacular](https://www.facebook.com/clydespectacular)

the Clans, the Clydesdale and Clan class, and traditional Scottish caber tossing. There'll be whisky, haggis burgers and more. Scots are encouraged to attend in their clan kilts.

Scottish pipes and drums bands who play throughout both days lend a colourful

atmosphere to this fabulous event, with every performance proclaiming the Scottish ancestry of the Scenic Rim.

The Amberley Pipes & Drums, and the Warwick Thistle Pipe Bands are faithful regulars, with other guest bands appearing.

## DATES & DEETS

15 & 16 JUN  
Boonah Showgrounds, Boonah QLD  
Tickets from  
[clydesdalespectacular.com.au](https://www.clydesdalespectacular.com.au)

The Scottish Caber Toss is a popular crowd highlight at the show, with all comers welcome to test their strength and accuracy.



# Rockingham festival recalls daring escape of six Fenians

Dropping anchor in Rockingham Foreshore in March and April, the Catalpa Adventure Festival set sail for two exhilarating days, with grandeur reminiscent of its historical counterpart – the daring mission to liberate six Irish political prisoners aboard the American whaling ship Catalpa.

The Catalpa Escape is a pivotal part of Rockingham's history and one of the most daring prison breaks of all time. This escape had international repercussions and connected Rockingham to Ireland and the USA for years to come.

The audacious escape that unfolded on 19th April 1876, became immortalised as the tale of the 'Fremantle Six.'

The story began amid political turmoil in Ireland, where



Catalpa Escape Memorial in Rockingham, above, and, above right, recalling the story of the Fremantle Six at the Catalpa Adventure Festival. Pictures: [Facebook/ City of Rockingham](#)



fervent nationalists, Fenians, rose up against British rule. Six men – James Wilson, Thomas Darragh, Martin

Hogan, Michael Harrington, Thomas Hassett, and Robert Cranston – found themselves transported across the seas to Fremantle Prison. They were forced to do hard labour, yet their spirits remained unbroken, fueled by the dream of liberty.

Their salvation came in the form of George Anthony, a whaling captain with a heart set on freedom. A scheme had been hatched and funds raised among the Irish-American community to free the prisoners. George Anthony was asked to captain the ship. Leaving New Bedford in Massachusetts in 1875, with a daring plan devised by Irish sympathisers, Anthony sailed the Catalpa across perilous oceans to reach the distant shores of Australia.

Two Irish men had travelled to Australia ahead of time incognito to make plans for the bold escape to take place. They informed the prisoners of the plan and cut telegraph lines on the day of the escape. Perth Regatta Day was chosen for the escape. It was an important social day for the colonists and that meant prominent authority figures would be away in Perth celebrating.

Months of meticulous

planning culminated in a fearless rendezvous. The Fenians slipped away from their captors, travelled 30km to Rockingham and boarded the Catalpa under the cover of darkness. After a four-month journey, the Catalpa sailed into New York. There was a huge celebration among the Irish-American community.

After an inaugural event in 2023, this year, the Catalpa Adventure Festival marked 148 years since the prisoners' escape took place. Festival-goers revelled in Gaelic football matches, Irish music, and historical re-enactments; the legacy of the 'Fremantle Six' lived on. There was also the Catalpa Dash, a 30km cycle recreating the 1876 escape of the Irish prisoners from Fremantle Prison. The riders, dressed in period costumes, "escaped" Fremantle and rode to the festival on the Rockingham foreshore.

Rockingham Mayor Deb Hamblin said the Catalpa story was a treasured part of the city's history. "Not only does it celebrate the strong bonds between Australia and Ireland, it helps illustrate the ties that stretch across the oceans from Rockingham to the United States, which have continued to deepen."

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# Camperdown's Robert Burns festival embraces Celtic kin

From this year, Camperdown's iconic Robert Burns Scottish Festival will be renamed to the Robert Burns Celtic Festival. It will be held from the 21st to the 23rd of June.

Enjoyment of Robert Burns' artistry and appreciation of his independent philosophy saw enthusiastic embracement among his Celtic neighbours, especially the Irish, in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Given the substantial Scottish and Irish migration to southwest Victoria in the 19th century, the committee has chosen to adjust the description of its festival to reflect this. Hence, they now have a new name that captures Burns Beyond Scotland, 'The 2024 Camperdown Robert Burns Celtic Festival'. This change to a Celtic festival expands their ability to include performers from Ireland, Wales, and England while retaining connections to regular Scottish performers.

## CELTIC CONNECTIONS

- Early Scots immigrants shaped Camperdown's cultural landscape, bringing with them a rich tapestry of art, music, and literature.
- Inspired by Scottish naval hero Admiral Adam Duncan, Camperdown was named during a kangaroo hunting excursion with Governor Charles Latrobe and prominent settlers.
- Camperdown boasts the oldest surviving statue of Robert Burns, Scotland's beloved bard. Crafted in Scotland, the statue found its way to Australia in the 19th century.
- Robert Burns Celtic Festival in Camperdown celebrates Celtic culture with music, dance, and traditions.



Picture: [facebook.com/RobertBurnsCelticFestival](https://www.facebook.com/RobertBurnsCelticFestival)

The Robert Burns Celtic Festival is a winter literary and music festival, celebrating Scotland's national poet and the Celtic culture in poetry, song, music, and dance, in and around the historic buildings of Camperdown.

Dr John Menzies OAM, chair of the festival, is delighted to announce that The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir will be coming to Camperdown to perform at the festival finale concert.

Dr Menzies said: "Since its inception, the choir has grown into one of Australia's acclaimed male choirs, known for the quality and spirit of its four-part harmonies. The choir is steeped in choral traditions but is still proudly Australian and has many members from diverse nationalities. It honours its Welsh roots by singing at least 25% of its repertoire as Welsh songs, with at least half of these in the Welsh language, Europe's oldest living language. The choir has travelled and performed internationally, including London's Royal Albert Hall." The 2024 Robert Burns

Celtic Festival will also host the President of the Robert Burns World Federation, Mr Neil McNair. He will be in Camperdown for the festival as part of his international tour, and it is hoped he will Address the Haggis at the gala dinner and speak at the festival lectures.

Among the performers booked to perform at the festival are The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, Fiona Ross, exciting young band Apolline, The Twa Bards, Merran Moir, Pete Daffy and Band, and Universal Music Group. Hugh and Janet Gordon, festival favourites, will be back on Saturday night.

A new component will be a choir competition, and with the formation of Camperdown's own Celtic Choir, invited choirs will perform on the Saturday.

Returning is the ever-popular gala dinner and festival lectures, At the Statue with the Twa Bards, and the festival finale concert on the Sunday. A series of concert performances and music will be at the Theatre Royal, Killara, and local businesses.

## DATES & DEETS

21 - 23 JUN  
Camperdown VIC  
Email [info@camperdownburnsfestival.com.au](mailto:info@camperdownburnsfestival.com.au)  
[camperdownburnsfestival.com.au](https://www.camperdownburnsfestival.com.au)

The Schools Arts project, Street Activation, market stalls, and 'music in the Avenue' will continue, and look out for flash mob moments and random performances over the weekend!

Organisers are excited to have the Australian Irish Dance Company feature at the Saturday afternoon concert in the Theatre Royal, helping them to diversify into their first Celtic year. Along with Highland and Irish dancers, will be the Warrnambool Pipes and Drums.

Peter Daffy will head a Celtic Ceilidh Band bringing together a troop of wonderful musicians to perform over the weekend.

A family ceilidh dance on Saturday night is promising to be great fun.

Festival coordinator Catherine O'Flynn has been busy ensuring the line-up of musicians will not disappoint.



North West Morris side Jacaranda Morris dancing up the sun on May 1st at Mt Coot-tha, Brisbane. Picture: [Facebook/JacarandaMorris](https://www.facebook.com/JacarandaMorris)

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# SCOTS IN THE BUSH

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Caretaker, (07) 4168 0159  
[info@boondoomahomestead.org.au](mailto:info@boondoomahomestead.org.au)

*This event will feature some of Australia's best Scottish and Celtic Artists, Ceilidh Dancing and Highland Games*

# Somerset cafe's naked Morris dancers unravel controversy

In a quaint cafe and community hub in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, known for its cozy vibes and crafty concoctions, a tempest in a teapot brewed over an unexpected display that's left some locals blushing and others chuckling into their scones.

At the heart of the matter? Naked nudinits - nude Morris dancers, a policeman and a vicar - not flesh and blood, mind you, but rather woolly creations lovingly crafted by the nimble fingers of a local knitting group.

The Hive Café and Haberdashery's proprietor, Mike Alford, intended these quirky figures to tickle the funny bones of passersby and raise funds for charity. Yet, as well as having the locals in stitches, it seems the figures have also stirred the tea.

A lady made a complaint, fretting about her grandkids catching an eyeful of the knitted genitals en route to school.

With two schools near The Hive, the worried grandmother took to Facebook to voice her concerns. Her post quickly went viral, getting more



The naked nudinits, as they've been christened, have caused a stir at a cafe in Somerset. Picture: [Hive Cafe](#)

than 400 comments, mostly defending the nudinits.

Responding to the kerfuffle, Mike tactfully draped modesty panels over the nudinits.

Locals rallied to free the knitted nudies from their censorship strips, setting up a Free The Hive Five campaign on social media.

Now, for a small charity donation, visitors to the cafe can sneak a peek at the dolls' knitted nudey bits.

All this fuss has boosted

foot traffic and drawn attention to the cafe.

Indeed, the controversy sparked an unexpected surge in donations for the charity they are fundraising for, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a vital lifeline for the community.

Since the social media squabble, folks have been flocking in, wallets in hand. Turns out, nudity sells - for a good cause, at least.

For those eager to support

the cause or get their own taste of the nudinits buzz, a donation page has been set up, ensuring Shepton Mallet's crafty controversy continues to weave its magic for a worthy cause.

You can donate to the Just Giving fundraiser [here](#).

The Hive Five will soon be going into retirement as the knitters group will be unveiling another display at the cafe, this time inspired by Glastonbury music festival.

## Brisbane and Straddie to host National Morris Ale

The National Morris Ale will be held in Brisbane this year, and it is gearing up to be a lively event, with registrations now open for Morris dancers across the country.

The main ale will take place along the Brisbane River, with an extension available for those who would like to travel across Moreton Bay to North Stradbroke Island.

On Friday, 27th September, festivities will kick off with a meet and greet at Brisbane City YHA hostel.

Saturday, 28th, will feature workshops, followed by a lively dance procession along South Bank, with stops at galleries, City Beach, and pubs along the way. The main ale

### DATES & DEETS

27 - 29 SEP  
Brisbane QLD  
29 SEP - 1 OCT Extension  
North Stradbroke Island, QLD  
Enquires: Email to  
[nationalmorrisale2024@gmail.com](mailto:nationalmorrisale2024@gmail.com)

venue will be the Soapbox Beer microbrewery, promising a grunge ale experience.

On Sunday, 29th, participants joining the extension will ferry to beautiful and relaxing Stradbroke Island for a stay at the island YHA hostel. On Tuesday, the extension tour concludes with a ferry back to Brisbane.



Last year's Morris Ale in Fremantle, WA. Picture: [Marlee Morris](#)

# James Joyce celebrations blooming across country

Bloomsday, celebrated on June 16th, is a vibrant homage to James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* that captivates literature enthusiasts worldwide.

*Ulysses* is set in Dublin on a single day, June 16, 1904. The story follows the experiences of three main characters: Stephen Dedalus, Leopold Bloom, and Molly Bloom.

Leopold Bloom, a Jewish advertisement salesman, navigates the streets of Dublin, encountering various people and situations.

Stephen Dedalus, an aspiring writer and a fictional alter ego of Joyce, embarks on a personal and intellectual journey throughout the day.

Molly Bloom, Leopold's wife, concludes the novel with a famous and sensual soliloquy known as "Molly's monologue".

*Ulysses* is celebrated for its richly layered narrative, dense symbolism, and innovative literary techniques. It is considered one of the most influential and challenging works of modernist literature.

The Bloomsday festivities unfold in Dublin, where the streets come alive with the spirit of the book. People dressed in Edwardian-era attire traverse the landmarks mentioned in the novel, immersing themselves in its early 20th-century setting. Readings, performances, and discussions take place



throughout the day, transporting listeners into the lives and thoughts of the book's characters.

The celebrations extend beyond Dublin's borders, with events held in cities around the world, uniting Joyce enthusiasts globally. Queensland Irish Association will hold readings and music on Queen Street Mall in Brisbane.

And in Canberra, at the Irish Club in Weston, The Irish Community Players will present an original play based on the first Bloomsday established by four Irishmen in 1954. Called *The First Bloomsday*, you can catch it

on Sunday, 16th June from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Bloomsday is more than a literary festival; it celebrates Irish culture and identity. Through Joyce's work, participants delve into Dublin's history, social fabric, and vibrant personality. The day invites everyone to engage with the novel on their own terms, offering public readings, music, street theatre, and culinary experiences inspired by the book. Bloomsday's international appeal showcases the enduring power of literature to connect people across cultures and time.

Bloomsday has become

## DATES & DEETS

16 JUN

Bloomsday in Melbourne seminar  
Arcadia Hotel, South Yarra VIC

Queensland Irish Association  
Bloomsday in Brisbane [NSVR](#)  
Queen Street Mall, Brisbane QLD

Pranqueans Joyce Jam [Tickets](#)  
The Gaelic Club, Sydney NSW  
Beckett's Bloomsday Celebration  
Glebe NSW [beckettsbanding.com.au](#)  
Bloomsday at Florabel  
Eden NSW [florabel.com.au](#)

The First Bloomsday  
Canberra Irish Club ACT [Tickets](#)

a cultural phenomenon that showcases the enduring power of literature to bring people together and ignite the imagination.

It is a celebration of artistic expression, intellectual exploration, and the beauty of Dublin.

Each year, as June 16th approaches, anticipation builds among Joyce enthusiasts worldwide, eager to participate in this extraordinary event and pay tribute to one of the greatest literary works of the 20th century.



Bloomsday in Brisbane 2023 celebrations. Pictures: Tony Robinson / Queensland Irish Association

# Thrilling play at heart of Bloomsday in Melbourne

What began as a modest gathering to celebrate Bloomsday in Melbourne in 1994 has evolved into a theatrical extravaganza, blending literature, history, and comedy.

Originating with a breakfast of Kidneys at the State Library of Victoria, Bloomsday quickly found its footing, thanks to dedicated Joyceans and the Yeats Society of Victoria. Over time, it transformed into a grand event, with patrons exploring Joyce's Dublin through street theatre and engaging seminars.

As the crowds grew, so did the challenges of navigating Melbourne's streets, prompting a shift to theater venues for the annual play, seminar, and dinner. Yet, the essence of Bloomsday remained intact: a deep dive into Joyce's world and Melbourne's own rich tapestry.

From St Kilda to Williamstown, the city became a stage for Joyce's narrative, revealing hidden histories in its nooks and crannies. Landmarks like the first morgue in Williamstown and the Trades Hall took on new significance, echoing themes from Ulysses in unexpected ways.

But Bloomsday isn't just about exploration – it's about entertainment. Actors bring Joyce's characters to life, dissecting the novel's humour, seriousness, and subversive politics with gusto. From fully mounted plays to films and oratorios, each performance adds a fresh perspective to Joyce's legacy.

Internationally acclaimed, Bloomsday Melbourne earned accolades from the New York Times and even performed at the James Joyce Centre in Dublin.

Its essence remains rooted in joy – the joy of theatre, of discovery, and of sharing Joyce's world with enthusiasts and newcomers alike.



This year, Bloomsday presents Samuel Beckett and the Rainbow Girl – a tale of genius, love, madness, and violence.

It's late 1920s Paris and Lucia, muse and only daughter of notorious banned novelist James Joyce, is poised to succeed as a daringly original dancer. Into this dysfunctional artistic household arrives alluring young Dubliner Samuel Beckett – enigmatic, hyper-educated, a writer seeking his own literary voice. He finds himself drawn into the older writer's web... and at the same time becomes the reluctant subject of Lucia's increasingly obsessive amorous gaze.

A series of romantic misunderstandings, at first comic but increasingly tragic, strip Lucia of her nascent career and, her family and love interest both lost to her, she spirals into madness.

Samuel Beckett and The Rainbow Girl runs from June 13th to 23rd at St Martin's Theatre in South Yarra.

Then on Sunday, June 16th, the annual Bloomsday lunch and Joycean seminar will take place, it's a deep dive into the themes of Joyce's work and celebrates literature in all its forms.

So, whether you're a seasoned Joycean or a novice explorer, all are welcome to join in for a Bloomsday adventure.

## DATES & DEETS

13 - 24 JUN

St Martin's Theatre, Melbourne VIC

[www.bloomsdayinmelbourne.org.au](http://www.bloomsdayinmelbourne.org.au)

BLOOMSDAY IN MELBOURNE PRESENTS  
**SAMUEL BECKETT  
& THE RAINBOW GIRL**  
GENIUS, MADNESS, SEX & VIOLENCE IN 1920S PARIS  
BY STEVE CAREY & DIRECTED BY CARL WHITESIDE

13-23 JUNE 2024  
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28 ST MARTINS LANE, SOUTH YARRA  
[WWW.BLOOMSDAYINMELBOURNE.ORG.AU](http://WWW.BLOOMSDAYINMELBOURNE.ORG.AU)

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# Highlands rail experience named in world's best list

A captivating rail journey through the Scottish Highlands has propelled Scotland onto National Geographic's prestigious 'Best of the World - Top 20 Travel Experiences' for 2024.

The Royal Scotsman train excursion through the Highlands clinched the 14th spot, making it the sole UK destination to grace the coveted annual list.

The allure doesn't end there; among other remarkable experiences highlighted are horseback safaris in Kenya, bear watching in Alaska's Katmai National Park, diving with sharks in Western Australia, hiking a volcano in Panama, and wandering tea trails in Sri Lanka.

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, lauded the recognition, emphasizing the breathtaking landscapes as a prime draw for visitors. He underlined Scotland's commitment to responsible tourism, fostering sustainability and preservation of natural, social, and cultural assets. The comprehensive 'Best of the World 2024' guide, a collaborative effort between National Geographic's global edi-



Scottish Highlands. Credit: VisitScotland / Kenny Lam

torial teams, provides an authoritative suite of must-do, must-stay, and must-consume recommendations for immersive engagement with destinations.

National Geographic praises the Royal Scotsman train's elegant traversal through Scotland's wild, scenic Highlands, where new suites boast interiors reflecting the captivating landscapes. Departing from Edinburgh's iconic Waverley Station, the

two- to seven-night rail journeys traverse the heart of the Highlands, from Perthshire to Inverness to the rugged west coast.

Guests can explore castles, stargaze in Cairngorms National Park, savor whisky at revered distilleries, and even take a refreshing dip in a loch during stops. Notably, the Scottish Highlands earned a place in National Geographic's 'Best of the World' for 2023 in the 'nature' cate-

gory, solidifying its status as a premier global destination.

The Royal Scotsman offers a variety of Highland journeys, weaving through picturesque locations such as the Cairngorms, Culloden, the Kyle of Lochalsh, and more. For further insights into Nat Geo's Top 20 Travel Experiences list, as showcased in their best of the world guide 2024, visit [NatGeo.com/Best-OfTheWorld](https://www.natgeo.com/Best-OfTheWorld).

Words: Visit Scotland

## Clan MacNicol leading Townsville Tartan Weekend

The 10th Annual Townsville Tartan Day in Queensland is tuning up, ready for a celebration that brings together Scots and Scottish enthusiasts alike for a day of festivities.

This free event is the main event of Townsville Tartan Weekend, running from 14th to 16th June.

This year, Clan MacNicol takes centre stage, with Clan Chief Scorrybreac leading the festivities.

The weekend kicks off with a meet and greet on Friday. Then on Saturday, it's Scots in the Park, with heavy games, pipe bands and clan

### DATES & DEETS

16 JUN  
Flinders Street, Townsville QLD.  
Parade begins 10.30am.  
[www.facebook.com/Townsvillescots](https://www.facebook.com/Townsvillescots)

tents at Corcoran Park. Plus a Clansmen's Ceilidh at Townsville RSL on Saturday night from 6pm.

Townsville Tartan Day on Sunday will see with a grand procession on Flinders Street, culminating in the Kirkin' of the Tartans. The Clan Parade showcases the largest display of Clan Banners in Australia.



# Bowral's Polin count high as Bridgerton stars visit

The quaint town of Bowral in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales is reeling after a star-studded visit from Bridgerton's newest romantic leads, Nicola Coughlan and Luke Newton. The pair, known collectively as "Polin" and playing the beloved characters Penelope Featherington and Colin Bridgerton, graced Bowral as part of the celebrations for the release of Bridgerton Season 3 on Netflix.

Bowral was transformed into a picturesque Regency wonderland, perfectly echoing the opulence and charm of the series. The visit in April by actors Nicola, from Galway in Ireland, and Luke, from Brighton in England, added an extra layer of excitement to the event, with fans flocking to catch a glimpse of the new hot couple of the ton.

Bong Bong Street and other select locations were lavishly decorated in Bridgerton style, creating a stunning backdrop for a week-long celebration. The streets and gardens of Bowral were filled with Regency-themed activities, making visitors feel as if they had stepped straight into the world of Bridgerton.

Bowral's Empire Cinemas became the focal point for fans, hosting exclusive free screenings of the first episode of Bridgerton Season 3. Over two days, enthusiastic audiences were treated to an early viewing, with every screening drawing a full house. The presence of Nicola Coughlan and Luke Newton at some of these screenings sent waves of delight through the crowd.

The festivities culminated in a grand garden party at the magnificent Milton Park Country House Hotel & Spa, where the grounds were a scene of Regency elegance, complete with guests in period costumes and delicious refreshments. Nicola and



**Bridgerton stars Luke Newton and Nicola Coughlan with showrunner Jess Brownell in Bowral.**  
Pictures: [Facebook.com/DestinationSouthernHighlands](https://www.facebook.com/DestinationSouthernHighlands)



Luke, along with showrunner Jess Brownell, mingled with fans, sharing behind-the-scenes stories and posing for countless photos.

## Bridgerton Experience comes to Melbourne

The Queen's Ball: A Bridgerton Experience is an immersive Bridgerton party with period costumes and stunning decor. Enjoy music inspired by the Bridgerton soundtrack and be captivated by the performances around you in this interactive experience in Melbourne.

Be transported to Bridgerton's English Regency era with stunning decor and period costumes. Indulge yourself with a selection of crafted cocktails and enjoy the various photo ops and prove you attended the

most exclusive ball of the season.

Prepare to mingle with other distinguished guests as you sip on cocktails and partake in an evening of music and dance. Rumour has it that Her Majesty Queen Charlotte is looking for the diamond of the season, but will you be the one to win her favour?

Running on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until June 23rd at the Fever Exhibition and Experience Centre in Brunswick, tickets are available at [feverup.com](https://www.feverup.com)



British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell, centre, with British actors Ben Miller, left, and Sally Phillips, who star in Austin. Picture: [Facebook.com/UKinAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/UKinAustralia), British High Commission, Canberra

## Sydney gearing up for exciting Scottish Week

Scottish Australian Heritage Council invites you to Scottish Week 2024 from Friday, 28th June to Tuesday, 2nd July in Sydney.

They shared: "Come and enjoy what is one of Australia's premier Scottish heritage events. The Honoured Guest for Scottish Week is John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac, Chief of Clan MacNicol."

The events include a Burns dinner, history talks, a visit to an historical site, Kirkin' o' the Tartan at the Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Annandale, the council's traditional luncheon at New South Wales Parliament House, and concluding with an inspection of the Scotland-Australia Cairn at Mosman.

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council was founded in 1981 to foster that heritage and culture brought to Australia by Scottish immigrants.

A booking form will be available shortly at the council's website at [www.scotfishaustrianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scotfishaustrianheritagecouncil.com.au).

## Tucking into slice of comedy

The British High Commission in Canberra is abuzz with excitement as they anticipate the premiere of *Austin*, an Australian comedy featuring acclaimed British actors Sally Phillips and Ben Miller.

High Commissioner Vicki Treadell recently had the pleasure of meeting Sally and Ben at a King's Birthday Party event. The trio posed

behind a magnificent cake decorated with the Union Jack.

*Austin*, set to premiere on June 9th on ABC iView and ABC TV, tells the compelling story of a best-selling children's author who, after being recently cancelled, faces a meltdown when approached by *Austin*, a neurodivergent young man

claiming to be his son. Set primarily in Canberra and showcasing its beauty, the eight-part series puts the city in the spotlight. This poignant and humorous journey highlights the author's path to redemption through this unexpected relationship.

Tune in on Sunday, June 9th at 8pm to enjoy this heartwarming comedy.

## Never Closer moves to Belvoir mainstage

Belvoir theatre is thrilled to present 'Never Closer', an astonishing debut play by Grace Chapple.

Set against the tumultuous backdrop of the Irish Troubles, *Never Closer* tells an unforgettable story of home, friendship, the tough choices between leaving or staying, and the profound possibility of forgiveness.

Northern Ireland, 1987. Deirdre is caught in a web of arguments, torn between nations, and haunted by the lives she never lived. On Christmas Eve, her old school friends gather in her kitchen,

and their long-simmering differences threaten to ignite into conflict. The tension peaks when one of them arrives with a surprise fiancé – an Englishman.

After a successful run in the 2022 25A season, this gripping drama will move from the intimate downstairs theatre to the Surry Hills, New South Wales theatre's mainstage from May 25th to June 16th, 2024.

This is a unique opportunity to experience a thoughtfully crafted new play by an Australian writer exploring her ancestral roots.



### DATES & DEETS

25 MAY - 16 JUN  
Belvoir Theatre, Surry Hills NSW  
[www.belvoir.com.au](http://www.belvoir.com.au)



Artist's impression of Titanic II arriving into New York. Picture: [Bluestarline.com.au](http://Bluestarline.com.au)

# Clive Palmer plans to infuse Titanic II with Irish elements

Australian mining magnate Clive Palmer has unveiled updated plans to rebuild the Titanic, an ambition that has seen several starts and stops since its first announcement in 2012.

Speaking at the Sydney Opera House, Mr Palmer said the project, dubbed Titanic II, aims to create a modern replica of the infamous cruise ship, blending historical accuracy in design with state-of-the-art safety, navigation, and technology.

Clive Palmer's vision for Titanic II is to deliver an "authentic Titanic experience" that captures the opulence and splendour of the original ship's voyage, offering passengers a luxurious journey back in time. This ambition is underscored by a commitment to high standards in design and passenger experience, with the new vessel featuring the same interior and cabin designs as its predecessor but incorporating advanced safety and technological improvements.

Mr Palmer, who has Irish heritage, plans to infuse



Clive Palmer speaking at the Titanic II project relaunch press conference at Sydney Opera House. Picture: [Bluestarline.com.au](http://Bluestarline.com.au)

Titanic II with rich Irish cultural elements, reflecting the heritage of many original Titanic passengers. The ship will feature Irish dancing and traditional music, aiming to recreate the authentic third-class experience.

An amusing discovery during the ship's design phase revealed a large area designated for storing potatoes, underscoring the simplicity of the original third-class provisions. Mr Palmer plans to honour this historical

detail by offering a variety of potato dishes, symbolising the humble yet hearty fare of the time.

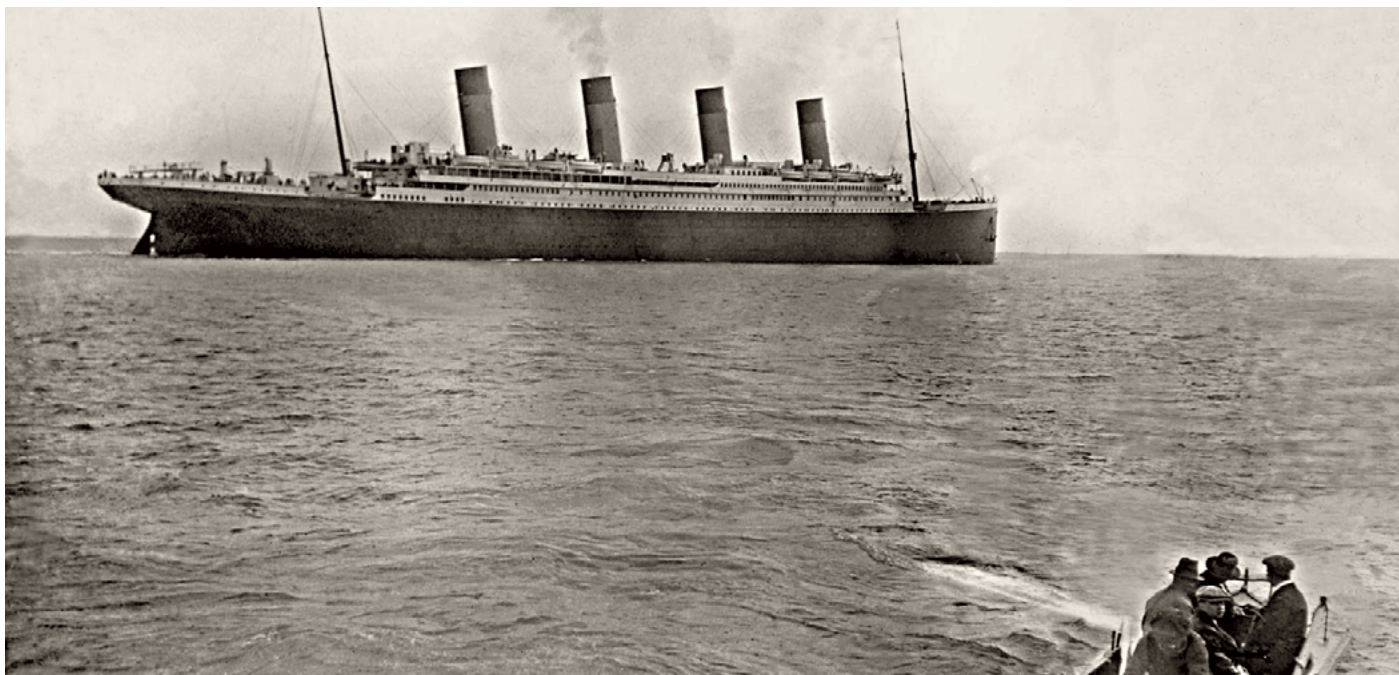
At the 2014 Lansdowne Club Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon in Brisbane, Mr Palmer shared his ancestors' story. He said that his Irish great-grandfather was transported to Tasmania for revolting against British rule and hijacking a ship. His fiancée, eager to join him, committed a minor theft of material from a drapery store, ensuring

her own transportation. They reunited and were married in Tasmania.

Mr Palmer expects the construction of Titanic II to cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion, indicating the project's grand scale and his commitment to realising this dream. Scheduled for a maiden voyage in June 2027, the Titanic II plans to retrace the original route from Southampton, England, to New York, providing an experience steeped in early 20th-century luxury while ensuring passengers' safety and comfort with modern amenities and technologies.

This ambitious project reflects Palmer's interest in creating a unique and luxurious cruising experience that honours the legacy of the original Titanic while leveraging his substantial wealth to bring a long-held dream to fruition. The Blue Star Line chairman said that design plans for Titanic II were being finalised.

"We are very pleased to announce that after unforeseen global delays, we have



One of the final pictures of the Titanic, taken in Cork Harbour on April 11th, 1912. Picture: [Francis Browne via Wikimedia Commons](#)

reengaged with partners to bring the dream of Titanic II to life. Let the journey begin," Mr Palmer said.

"The government lockdowns sent the cruise industry into a long-term shutdown, but shipping is back in full business with passenger numbers now surpassing pre-Covid levels.

"We are getting the best shipbuilders, designers, and engineers in the world back on deck to build Titanic II," Mr Palmer added.

The project enjoys the continued support of world-leading, Finnish-based ship design and marine engineering company Deltamarin.

"Blue Star Line will create an authentic Titanic experi-

ence, providing passengers with a ship that has the same interiors and cabin layout as the original vessel, while integrating modern safety procedures, navigation methods, and 21st-century technology to produce the highest level of luxurious comfort," Mr Palmer said.

The ship will follow the original journey of the Belfast-built Titanic, carrying passengers from Southampton to New York, but she will also circumnavigate the globe, enchanting people while attracting unrivalled attention, intrigue, and mystery in every port she visits.

Titanic II will weigh approximately 56,000 tonnes, have nine decks, and will

be designed to recreate the grandeur of its namesake.

The vessel will have an overall length of 269 metres and a width of 32.2 metres. It will feature 835 cabins including 383 first class, 201 second class, and 251 third class rooms, catering for up to 2,435 passengers. Titanic II will be powered by a diesel engine and will feature four smoke stacks like the coal-powered Titanic.

"In 1912 the Titanic was the ship of dreams. For over a century Titanic's legend has been powered by mystery, intrigue, and respect for all she stood for," Mr Palmer said.

For more information, go to the Titanic II website at [www.bluestarline.com.au](http://www.bluestarline.com.au).

## TITANIC TALE FROM BELFAST TO CORK

**BELFAST:** The Titanic was built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was one of the largest and most renowned shipyards in the world at the time.

**LIVERPOOL:** The ship was owned by the White Star Line, a British shipping company headquartered in Liverpool, England. Titanic was registered in Liverpool, and the name "Liverpool" was displayed on its stern.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** The Titanic began its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, on April 10th, 1912.

**CORK:** Queenstown (Cobh) in Cork, Ireland, was the final port of call on April 11th, before Titanic headed out into the Atlantic Ocean. The ship was moored offshore, near Roche's Point. Additional passengers boarded via tender boats.

The Titanic set out for New York but sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on April 15th, off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. It was reported that the ship had struck an iceberg. More than 1,500 passengers and crew died.

## New Titanic exhibition making Australian debut in Brisbane

'Titanic. The Human Story' will make its Australian debut in Brisbane this July, after sold-out runs in London, New York, and DC.

The immersive journey, which features over 200 artefacts and personal items from Titanic passengers and crew will take visitors through the history and legacy of the most infamous ship of all time.

'Titanic. The Human Story' is a unique narrative experience, a tale

of the people aboard history's most legendary ship on its maiden and final journey.

Travel back to 1912 through photographs, handwritten letters, wayward keepsakes, and other personal belongings telling countless stories about fates and heroic deeds on board.

As you listen to survivor testimonies on your audio guide, you will have a chance to observe recreated

interiors at natural size, witnessing the stark contrast between a lavish first-class suite and a humble third-class cabin.

Past and present come together in this emotional journey, a trip through time that brings us closer to the truth of the historic Titanic, where reality is stranger than fiction.

The exhibition will run from July 19 at Uptown, Brisbane, and tickets are available at [feverup.com](http://feverup.com).



Bridgerton was filmed at Royal Crescent in Bath, Somerset. Picture: [Visit England/Joanna Henderson](#)

# Revealing England's lavish period drama locations

Films and TV series are powerful motivators for travel, and the incredible impact of 'The English Period Drama' on tourism has led to it being crowned with the Outstanding Contribution to Tourism accolade at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence.

Popular shows like Bridgerton, whose third season has just dropped on Netflix, and Downton Abbey take viewers on a journey through iconic English countryside, coastlines, and cities, while also shining the spotlight on England's culture, history, and heritage. With almost a third of potential visitors to the UK keen to visit locations used in filming, film and TV tourism is an increasingly valuable part of the UK's global tourism market, often taking visitors to less-explored regions and boosting local economies.

From The Crown to Pride & Prejudice, here are some must-visit sites for period drama aficionados.

## **Bridgerton, Royal Crescent, Bath, Somerset**

With its wonderful Georgian



**Belvoir Castle was used to replicate Windsor Castle in The Crown.**

Picture: [Visit England/RJ Brown](#)

architecture, Bath was a natural choice for the filming of the Netflix Regency drama series Bridgerton. Following the release of the first season, the City of Bath noted that at least £1.5 million would be generated for the local economy due to the success of Bridgerton, one of Netflix's most-watched series of all time. Fans of the sumptuous drama can visit its Bath filming locations on a Bridgerton Experience walking tour, led by an experienced guide

who also provides insights into the history of the area and life in the early 1800s. The exterior of the Featherington household – whose members include Penelope (Irish actor Nicola Coughlan), Eloise Bridgerton's best friend – was shot on the iconic Royal Crescent in Bath, lauded as one of the greatest examples of Georgian architecture anywhere in the UK. Number 1 Royal Crescent is the name of the crescent's townhouse museum, which

invites visitors to step beyond the famous Palladian façade and see what life was like for the wealthy and their servants in 18th-century Bath. For those who wish to stay overnight, The Royal Crescent Hotel and Spa has occupied houses numbers 15 and 16 on this famous street for the last 50 years. The hotel won the gold VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2022 Large Hotel of the Year Award and offers a luxury spa, beautiful bedrooms, fine dining, and an acre of carefully tended gardens. [www.visitengland.com/where-was-bridgerton-filmed](http://www.visitengland.com/where-was-bridgerton-filmed)

## **The Crown, Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire**

The no-expense-spared Netflix series The Crown features some of England's most regal locations, all providing a lavish backdrop for the story of Queen Elizabeth II's life. Proudly standing on a hilltop in the Vale of Belvoir, the interior rooms of the 19th-century Belvoir Castle were used to replicate Windsor Castle in The Crown.



The fictional Clyvedon Castle in *Bridgerton* was filmed at Castle Howard, in the heart of Yorkshire. Picture: [Pwojdacz/Wikimedia Commons](#)

After meandering through the castle's formal gardens and getting lost in its opulent galleries and rooms, visitors to this Leicestershire icon can take in a bird's eye view of the surrounding landscape. The Belvoir estate also offers a number of homestays and glamping spots for overnight stays. [www.visitengland.com/where-was-crown-filmed](http://www.visitengland.com/where-was-crown-filmed)

### **Downton Abbey, Highclere Castle, Hampshire**

With all that drama playing out in such a grandiose setting, it's no wonder Downton Abbey has become an international TV hit. Highclere Castle in Hampshire (aka Downton Abbey) has been home to the Carnarvon family since 1679 and was designed by Charles Barry, the same architect who constructed the Houses of Parliament and stately homes such as Bowood House and Harewood House. Highclere Castle welcomes visitors to tour the castle, visit the Egyptian Exhibition, and explore the surrounding grounds and gardens. Due to the Downton Abbey effect, Highclere Castle also introduced overnight stays in a Georgian Grade II-listed gatehouse known as London Lodge. [www.visitengland.com/where-was-downton-abbey-filmed](http://www.visitengland.com/where-was-downton-abbey-filmed)

[visitengland.com/where-was-downton-abbey-filmed](http://www.visitengland.com/where-was-downton-abbey-filmed)

### **Pride & Prejudice, Chatsworth House, Peak District**

The 2005 film adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice* saw Chatsworth House taking the leading role as the iconic Pemberley. It is also believed that Jane Austen may have based her idea of Pemberley on Chatsworth House and written the novel while in the nearby town of Bakewell. Visitors may recognise the grand staircase and ceiling of the Painted Hall, where Lizzie Bennet (Keira Knightley) and the Gardiners start their tour of Pemberley. Meanwhile, the Sculpture Gallery was used in the scene where Lizzie sees the bust of Mr Darcy (Matthew Macfadyen). Today, Chatsworth House is renowned for the quality of its art collection, which spans 4,000 years. Visitors can see works of art from ancient Roman and Egyptian sculpture, and masterpieces by Rembrandt, Reynolds, and Veronese, to pieces by outstanding modern artists, including Lucian Freud, Edmund de Waal, and David Nash. [www.chatsworth.org](http://www.chatsworth.org) / [www.visitpeakdistrict.com](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com)

Words: VisitEngland.com



Much of the exterior shots of Downton Abbey and most of the interiors are both filmed at Highclere Castle, Hampshire. Picture: [Visit England](#)



Chatsworth House in the Peak District was used as Mr Darcy's home in *Pride & Prejudice*. Picture: [Visit Peak District](#)

# Quirkiest museums in the UK and Ireland

Explore a world beyond the ordinary with eccentric collections in the UK and Ireland. From canine collar chronicles to exhibitions on butter and lawnmowers, these museums offer a delightful escape into the curious and bizarre.

## **The Dog Collar Museum Kent, England**

Embark on a journey through the ages as the [Dog Collar Museum](#) in Leeds Castle, Kent showcases a remarkable collection of canine accessories dating back to medieval times. Witness the evolution of dog collars, reflecting changing styles and purposes, and gain insight into the timeless bond between humans and their four-legged companions.

## **The Museum of Witchcraft and Magic Cornwall, England**

Broomsticks at the ready to venture into the mystical at the [Museum of Witchcraft and Magic](#) in Cornwall. Unravel the enigmatic world of witchcraft, folklore, and the occult as you delve into a vast collection of spellbooks, ritual objects, and witchcraft-related memorabilia.

## **The Museum of Childhood Edinburgh, Scotland**

Be a big kid for a day and discover a treasure trove of nostalgia at the [Museum of Childhood](#) in Edinburgh. This enchanting museum celebrates the joys of youth through an extensive collection of toys, games, and childhood memorabilia from across generations and cultures.

## **Headhunters Barber Shop and Railway Museum Fermanagh, Northern Ireland**

In an unexpected mash-up, the [Headhunters Barber Shop and Railway Museum](#) seamlessly blend Irish railway history with a barbershop twist. Step into Enniskillen's past as you queue up for a trim, surrounded by relics



The Butter Museum in Cork.



Museum of Brands in London.



The Fan Museum in Greenwich.

from the golden age of trains. All aboard for a truly unique experience!

## **The Museum of British Surfing Devon, England**

Yes, it's cold. No, it's not Surfer's Paradise. But you can ride the waves of history at [The Museum of British Surfing](#) in Braunton, North Devon. Explore the evolution of British surfing culture through a collection of vintage surfboards, memorabilia, and exhibits that capture the essence of coastal life.

## **Teapot Island Kent, England**

Nestled in the picturesque Kentish village of Yalding, [Teapot Island](#) isn't just any museum – it's posh with a capital 'T! Boasting the UK's largest teapot collection (over 8,400 and brewing!), it's a dream for pottery enthusiasts. And what's tea without treats? Their cafe serves up everything from fish and chips to posh afternoon tea.

## **National Leprechaun Museum Dublin, Ireland**

Ah begorrah! In a world of myths and legends, the [National Leprechaun Museum](#) emerges as a beacon of whimsy and enchantment. Immerse yourself in captivating storytelling and magical Irish folklore. You may go in thinking leprechauns are a crock, but you'll leave feeling on top of the morning after enjoying tales that are gold!

## **The Devil's Porridge Museum Easttriggs, Scotland**

The [Devil's Porridge Museum](#) is where devilry meets munitions! Despite its misleading name, this museum honours the heroic efforts of workers at HM Factory Gretna during World War I. Dubbed "Devil's Porridge," the explosive mixture of gun cotton and nitro-glycerine produced there fueled crucial shell propellants. Built hastily in 1915 due to an ammunition shortage, the factory attracted nearly



**Headhunters Barber Shop and Railway Museum in Enniskillen. Credit: [Facebook/Headhuntersmuseum](#)**

12,000 women from across the nation to contribute to the war effort.

**The British Lawnmower Museum  
Merseyside, England**

Experience the cutting edge of eccentricity at [The British Lawnmower Museum](#) in Southport, Merseyside. This unique museum showcases a collection of vintage lawnmowers, telling the story of lawn care innovation over the years.

**The Butter Museum  
Cork, Ireland**

Why does the people of Cork call it the Real Capital of Ireland? You'll find the answers at [The Butter Museum](#). Cork once had the largest butter market in the world, with ships sailing from her port to far-flung places across the world, including to here in Australia. No wonder the city's people had capital notions. Hands-on exhibitions help visitors explore Cork's butter industry from its gripping past to its creamy present.

**The Museum of Brands  
London, England**

Take a trip down memory lane at [The Museum of](#)

[Brands, Packaging & Advertising](#) in London. Explore the evolution of consumer culture through a vast collection of vintage packaging, advertisements, and iconic brands that shaped British society. It's a nostalgia fest!

**The Fan Museum  
Greenwich, England**

Uncover the art and history of fans at [The Fan Museum](#) in Greenwich, London. This museum features a stunning collection of handcrafted fans from around the world, showcasing the cultural significance and craftsmanship behind these elegant accessories.

**National Wool Museum  
Llandysul, Wales**

Flock on over to the [National Wool Museum](#), where sheep thrills await! Get ready for shear delight as you explore the woolly wonders of Wales. Their exhibits showcase the craftsmanship that made Welsh wool famous worldwide - from shirts to shawls, you'll be woolly impressed. Follow the journey from fleece to fabric and try your hand at traditional techniques. Don't be sheepish, it's an adventure ewe won't want to miss!

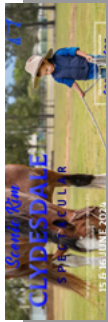


**King Charles and Queen Camilla visiting Teapot Island museum in Kent. Credit: [Facebook/TeaPotsIsland](#)**



**Telling stories around a crock of gold at the Leprechaun Museum. Credit: [Facebook/leprechaunmuseum](#)**

# Festivals



## CLYDESDALE SPECTACULAR

Clydesdale and heavy horse experience featuring a Scottish Highland Gathering.

Boonah QLD

15 & 16 JUN



## TOWNSVILLE TARTAN WEEKEND

Includes parade with largest display of Clan Banners in Australia. Honoured clan: MacNicol

Townsville QLD

14 - 16 JUN



## BLOOMSDAY

Readings of James Joyce's Ulysses, music and poetry to celebrate Bloomsday.

Nationwide

16 JUN



## ROBERT BURNS CELTIC FESTIVAL

Celebrating Camperdown's connection to the Bard and Celtic settlers.

Camperdown VIC

21 - 23 JUN



## MELBOURNE TARTAN FESTIVAL

Celebrate a whole month of Scottish events, music, talks, whisky tasting, plus the iconic parade.

Melbourne VIC

OPENS 30 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](mailto:editor@angloandceltic.com)

# ANGLO&CELTIC

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

## FINN MCCOOL'S 8TH BIRTHDAY

Brisbane QLD

Join in an evening of non-stop entertainment starting from 5pm at Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley. Dance to performances from Jordan Hill, The Gathering and DJ on the decks.

28 JUN

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



SAT 01 JUN

Ipswich Competition – Pipe Bands Queensland  
Ipswich QLD  
Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival  
Wingham NSW  
Sydney Thistle Highland Pipe Band Ceilidh  
Sydney NSW  
The Animals  
Hobart TAS  
70s v 80s v 90s at Quinns  
Rocks SC  
Perth WA  
The New Order World Goth Day at subclub  
Melbourne VIC

A Taste of Ireland  
Hobart TAS  
Limerick at Waxys  
Gold Coast QLD  
Paddyoke Irish Karaoke  
Southend, Maroubra NSW  
St Albans Irish music weekend  
Hawkesbury NSW

SUN 02 JUN

The Animals  
Burmie TAS  
A Taste of Ireland  
Launceston TAS  
Rhythm Kitchen  
The Brothers Public House,  
Melbourne VIC

MON 03 JUN

Western Australia Day  
WA  
Arts National Canberra Guest:  
Gemma Black Lecture on The Book of Kells  
Canberra ACT  
Hamilton Eisteddfod (to 19 JUN)  
Hamilton VIC

TUE 04 JUN

Dr Jane Goodall's Reasons for Hope Tour  
Melbourne VIC  
Ukelele Night  
Celtic Club Melbourne VIC

WED 05 JUN

The Greatest Love of All starring Belinda Davids  
Newcastle NSW  
The Ireland Funds Australia Women In Leadership and Philanthropy Reception  
Sydney NSW

THU 06 JUN

Jimeoin  
Horsham VIC  
Townsville Folk Festival (until 9 JUN)  
Townsville QLD  
Dr Jane Goodall's Reasons for Hope Tour  
Sydney NSW  
Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir at service to commemorate the Allies landing at Normandy Shrine of Remembrance,  
Melbourne VIC  
The Animals  
Brisbane QLD  
A Taste of Ireland  
Darwin NT

FRI 07 JUN

Jimeoin  
Warrnambool VIC  
Celtic Sounds  
Adelaide Irish Club, Adelaide SA  
National Celtic Festival (to 10 JUN)  
Portarlington VIC  
The Animals  
Tweed Heads NSW  
The Greatest Love of All starring Belinda Davids

Melbourne VIC

Merriva Festival of the Fleeces (to 9 JUN)  
Merriva NSW  
2024 Australian Highland Cattle Society National Show (to 9 JUN)  
Geelong VIC

SAT 08 JUN

Sussex Inlet Scandinavian and Viking Festival  
Sussex Inlet NSW  
Jimeoin  
Ballarat VIC  
Jack Murphy Memorial Society Gala Ball  
Newcastle NSW  
The Animals  
D'Aguilar QLD  
Voxneon  
Caloundra QLD  
The Greatest Love of All starring Belinda Davids  
Melbourne VIC  
The Australian Highland Cattle Society 2024 National Show (to 9 JUN)  
Geelong VIC

SUN 09 JUN

Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Newcastle NSW  
2nd Annual NT Irish Music Festival  
Darwin NT  
The Animals  
Caloundra QLD  
New Romantics The 80s Experience at Clovercrest Hotel  
Modbury North SA

MON 10 JUN

Kings Birthday  
ACT, NSW, NT, SA, TAS, VIC  
A Taste of Ireland  
Margaret River WA

TUE 11 JUN

Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Maryborough QLD  
A Taste of Ireland  
Albany WA

WED 12 JUN

A Taste of Ireland  
Bunbury WA  
Choir in a Pub  
Celtic Club Melbourne VIC  
The Animals  
Sutherland NSW  
English Country Dancing by Rose and Wattle Dance Group  
Nedlands WA

THU 13 JUN

Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Caloundra QLD  
It's A Sin: Songs of Love and Shame  
Perth WA  
A Taste of Ireland  
Perth WA

FRI 14 JUN

10th Townsville Tartan Weekend  
Townsville QLD  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Tweed Heads NSW  
Australian Historical Dance  
Anglo-Celtic dance  
Samford QLD  
The Animals  
Chatswood NSW  
Bish Bash Bosh Best of British at Old Courthouse  
Fremantle WA

SAT 15 JUN

2024 Tartan Spectacular festival and Pipe Bands Queensland State Championships  
Toowoong QLD  
Clydesdale Spectacular 2024

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

# GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



## NATIONAL CELTIC FESTIVAL

Portarlington VIC

Join in the monumental 20th anniversary of the National Celtic Folk Festival in Portarlington! This year promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

7 - 10 JUN

© www.angloandceltic.com

**Boonah QLD**  
A Taste of Ireland  
Mandurah WA  
**Led Zeppelin IV Live**  
Brisbane QLD  
The Animals  
Thirroul NSW  
John Deegan  
Oonoonba NT

**SUN 16 JUN**  
Father's Day  
UK and Ireland  
Bloomsday  
Ireland & International  
Irish Sessions at The Northern Star  
Hamilton NSW  
Irish Australian Support & Resource Bureau Irish Culture Celebration Fundraiser  
Avondale Heights VIC  
Games & Pastimes at Victory  
Village at Riverbend  
Tiara QLD  
The Animals  
Springwood NSW

**TUE 18 JUN**  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Toowoomba QLD

**WED 19 JUN**  
The Animals  
Wyong NSW  
A Taste of Ireland  
Charters Towers QLD

**THU 20 JUN**  
The Animals  
Kingsford NSW  
A Taste of Ireland  
Townsville QLD

**FRI 21 JUN**  
The High Kings  
Brisbane QLD

**Robert Burns Celtic Festival 2024 (to 23 JUN)**  
Camperdown VIC  
A Taste of Ireland  
Prosperine QLD  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Thirroul NSW  
The Most Wuthering Heights  
Day Ever  
Nationwide

**SAT 22 JUN**  
The High Kings  
Sydney NSW  
A Taste of Ireland  
Mackay QLD  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Sydney NSW  
Mid-Winter Scottish Night & Ceilidh at Abercrombie House  
Bathurst NSW  
Winter Solstice at Fox and Hounds  
Wongawallan QLD  
The Animals  
Campbelltown NSW  
Medieval Irish Celtic Knights  
2024 Solstice Tavern Night and Twilight Markets (to 23 JUN)  
Brisbane Valley QLD  
Choral Gala Letters from Ireland  
Orange NSW  
2024 Frost and Fire: A Winter Wonderland Adventure!  
Forbes NSW

**SUN 23 JUN**  
The High Kings  
Canberra ACT  
A Taste of Ireland  
Rockhampton QLD  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Canberra ACT  
The Animals  
Penrith NSW

**MON 24 JUN**  
A Taste of Ireland  
Gladstone QLD

**TUE 25 JUN**  
The Animals  
Mandurah WA

**WED 26 JUN**  
A Taste of Ireland  
Maryborough QLD  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Albury NSW  
The Animals  
Perth WA  
English Country Dancing by Rose and Wattle Dance Group  
Nedlands WA

**THU 27 JUN**  
A Taste of Ireland  
Bundaberg QLD

**FRI 28 JUN**  
The High Kings  
Melbourne VIC  
A Taste of Ireland  
Caloundra QLD  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Melbourne VIC  
The Reflex - The Australian Duran Duran Experience  
Rozelle NSW  
Absolute Bowie  
Sydney NSW  
Australian Historical Dance  
Community Folk Dance:  
Scottish Ceilidh  
Arana Hills QLD  
The U2 Show Achtung Baby  
Mandurah WA  
The Animals  
Warragul VIC  
Scottish Week 2024  
Sydney NSW  
Australian Historical Dance  
Scottish Ceilidh

**Arana Hills QLD**

**SAT 29 JUN**  
The High Kings  
Adelaide SA  
A Taste of Ireland  
Toowoomba QLD  
Absolute Bowie  
Melbourne VIC  
Melbourne Colonial Dancers  
Golden Jubilee Ball at Preston Town Hall  
Melbourne VIC  
Clan Campbell presents Braw Scots Dinner and Ceilidh  
Brisbane QLD  
Tennents Tartan Day Tattoo: A Gathering of Clans  
Wongawallan, QLD  
The Animals  
Bendigo VIC

**MON 30 JUN**  
Melbourne Tartan Festival (to 30 JUL) Melbourne VIC  
Kirkin' 'O The Tartan at the Scots' Church  
Melbourne VIC  
The High Kings  
Perth WA  
A Taste of Ireland  
Logan QLD  
The Rambling House  
Irish Club, Perth WA  
Led Zeppelin IV Live  
Perth WA  
Geelong Ladies Welsh Choir and Vic Welsh Choir - Making Musical Memories  
Potato Shed, Geelong VIC  
Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia Family Winter Ceilidh 2024  
Perth WA  
The Animals  
Frankston VIC

## Tours

### ABSOLUTE BOWIE

28 JUN Sydney NSW  
29 JUN Melbourne VIC  
05 JUL Brisbane QLD  
06 JUL Adelaide SA  
12 JUL Perth WA  
13 JUL Fremantle WA



### THE HIGH KINGS

21 JUN Brisbane QLD  
22 JUN Sydney NSW  
23 JUN Canberra ACT  
28 JUN Melbourne VIC  
29 JUN Adelaide SA  
30 JUN Perth WA



### ARC PRESENTS LED ZEPPELIN IV LIVE

09, 14, 21, 22, 26 JUN NSW  
11, 13, 15 JUN QLD  
23 JUN ACT  
28 JUN VIC  
30 JUN WA



### A TASTE OF IRELAND

01 JUN Hobart TAS  
02 JUN Launceston TAS  
06 JUN Darwin NT  
10 - 15 JUN WA  
19 JUN - 07 JUL QLD



### THE ANIMALS

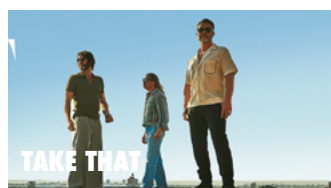
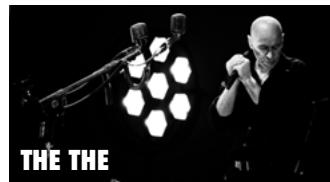
01, 02 JUN TAS  
06, 08, 09 JUN QLD  
07-23 JUN NSW  
25, 26 JUN WA  
28, 29, 30 JUN VIC



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# GIGS & REELS

GIG ANNOUNCEMENTS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS



## JULY

**Tours:**  
 A Taste of Ireland  
 Jimeoin  
 Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis  
 Hugh Cornwell  
 Absolute Bowie  
 The Animals  
 Celtic Illusion  
 Mo Gilligan  
 Seven Drunken Nights – The Story of The Dubliners  
 The Life and Music of George Michael

**Festivals:**  
 Aberdeen Highland Games NSW  
 Willie Smith's Mid-Winter Festival TAS  
 Abbey Medieval Festival QLD  
 Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair NSW  
 Tynwald Day, Glen Innes NSW  
 Melbourne Tartan Festival Gala Dinner VIC  
 Irish Support Agency NSW Christmas in July Ball, Sydney NSW  
 Bonfire Night at Sandstone Point Hotel QLD  
 The 47th Australian Winter School QLD  
 The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever

## AUGUST

**Tours:**  
 Hugh Cornwell  
 The Mersey Beatles  
 Ride  
 The U2 Show Achtung Baby  
 Aslan  
 Seven Drunken Nights – The Story of The Dubliners  
 The Two Johnnies Podcast

The Jesus and Mary Chain  
 Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells Live  
 Celtic Illusion  
 Griff  
 Belle and Sebastian/Badly Drawn Boy

**Festivals:**  
 Royal Queensland Show QLD  
 Hunter Valley Highland Games NSW  
 Mackay Blue Water Fling QLD  
 Balaklava Eisteddfod SA  
 Tasmanian Whisky Week  
 Scots in the Bush QLD  
 Highland Spectacular VIC  
 The Henley on Todd Regatta NT  
 Townsville Medieval and Fantasy Festival QLD  
 Darwin Lions Beer Can Regatta NT  
 Ballingup Medieval Carnivale WA  
 Newcastle Medieval Festival NSW

## SEPTEMBER

**Tours:**  
 Iron Maiden  
 Andrew Strong performs The Commitments  
 David Walliams  
 The Irish Tenors

**Festivals:**  
 Neorum Creek Music Festival QLD  
 Folk by the Sea NSW  
 Clans on the Coast NSW  
 National Morris Ale 2024 QLD

## OCTOBER

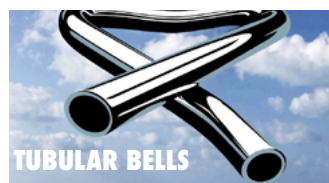
**Tours:**  
 David Walliams  
 Joanna Lumley

UB40  
 Passenger  
 Smokie  
 Kim Wilde  
 Buzzcocks & Modern English  
 The Doors Alive  
 John Edward  
 Coldplay  
 Take That  
 Eric Idle  
 Ash

**Festivals:**  
 Canberra Highland Gathering ACT  
 Brisbane Celtic Festival QLD  
 Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering VIC

## NOVEMBER

**Tours:**  
 Buzzcocks & Modern English  
 The Doors Alive  
 Smokie  
 Coldplay  
 Take That  
 Eric Idle  
 Hozier  
 John Edward  
 The Sweet  
 Eurovision On Tour  
 The The  
 Jon Ronson's Psychopath Night  
 James Blunt  
 John Bishop



# Looking on Bright Side of Life with comic Idle

Eric Idle is coming to Australia for: "An evening of gluten-free comedy".

His new show, coincidentally called Always Look on the Bright Side of Life, Live! is a nostalgic one man musical reflecting his love of comedy, music, life and what he calls "Mock and Roll". It's a weird hybrid of comedy and music, with tributes to George Harrison and Robin Williams and a salute to The Rutles, the Beatle parody movie he created which was the world's first ever documentary about the pre-fab four whose legend will last a lunchtime.

Eric Idle, star of stage, screen and crossword puzzle, has often been compared to Noel Coward. But never favourably.

He has been in show



business since 1961. "Unfortunately, I can't find the exit" he says. "My role in life seems to be cheering people up," he adds glumly.

His song Always Look on the Bright Side of Life,

coincidentally the title of his best-selling Sortabiography, has been the Number One most requested ditty at British funerals for over twenty years. He performed it live before two billion people at the London 2012 Olympic Games closing ceremony and coincidentally it also appears in The Tony Award winning Best Musical of the Year 2005 Broadway hit Monty Python's Spamalot, which he wrote with John Du Prez, and which returned to Broadway last November with rave reviews and packed houses and is about to tour North America again. His latest book The Spamalot Diaries an intimate look at the making of that show is published by Crown in October.

In 2007 Spamalot opened in Melbourne the same year Eric and John premiered Not The Messiah, He's a Very Naughty Boy a comic oratorio based on The Life of Brian at the Sydney Opera House, with a full orchestra and chorus, which then toured Australia and New Zealand.

Eric is a rare survivor of pancreatic cancer, and proudly supports PanCAN, and Standup2Cancer and this will be his first full tour of the antipodes since surviving. On his last visit to Australia in

## TOUR DATES

31 OCT Hobart TAS  
02 NOV Canberra ACT  
04 NOV Melbourne VIC  
06 NOV Brisbane QLD  
09 NOV Gold Coast QLD  
11 NOV Newcastle NSW  
13 NOV Sydney NSW  
18 NOV Perth WA  
20 NOV Adelaide SA

November 2022 he performed a sold out show at the State Theatre in Sydney with Shaun Micallef and closed the Just for Laughs Festival that year coincidentally singing his theme song with all the comedians at the Sydney Opera House.

He has lived in LA since 1994 with his wife Tania and daughter Lily, where they experienced the earthquake, and decided to stay. He has a son Carey who very smartly lives in the Sunshine Coast, from a previous wifetime to Lyn Ashley, an Australian actress. He has written several novels and plays and he was in several movies but he forgets which.

Oh and he was in Monty Python.

Tickets are on sale now from [www.bohmpresents.com](http://www.bohmpresents.com)



**Irish Australian Support  
& Resource Bureau Inc**

*Irish Culture Celebration Fundraiser*

RAFFLE MUSIC DANCE BBQ IOO CLUB DRAW

Tickets available on the day, prize list below

By Eamon Spillane, Mick Ryan and more

By Christine Ayres, Dance School

\$2 Sausage and Rissole Sizzle

\$20 Tickets, Call ahead to purchase

**St Martin DePorres Hall, Avondale Heights, 1 - 5 pm Sunday June 16th**  
\$20 Entry.

Please call 0394823865 or email [admin@iasrb.org](mailto:admin@iasrb.org) to RSVP and pre-purchase raffle tickets.





Raffle prizes kindly donated by, Taste Ireland, The Wild Geese, Buck Mulligans, The Drunken Poet, Jimmy O'Neil's, Claddagh Jewellery and many more.

Please support the important work of the Irish Australian Support and Resource Bureau by participating in this fundraiser event! All donations received will support the aims of our organisation, to assist and aid those in need or distress in the Victorian Irish Community.

# Wilde story taking to stage in Oscar ballet



Callum Linnane as Oscar Wilde. Pictures: Simon Eeles

Get ready for a showstopper as it's just been announced that a new ballet celebrating the legendary Dublin wit, Oscar Wilde, is set to take centre stage in Melbourne and Sydney next year.

This ballet promises to be a dazzling production, specially crafted for The Australian Ballet by the visionary choreographer Christopher Wheeldon.

Oscar Wilde was a sharp-tongued Irish poet and playwright who once took London's high society by storm. His words were pure gold, and his wit was as quick as a fox. But, hold onto your top hats, because Wilde's life was a rollercoaster of glamour, scandal, and triumph.

In 1895, he found himself at the heart of a sensational 'celebrity trial,' and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Wheeldon, known for his mesmerising choreography, has masterfully woven Wilde's personal journey with his iconic tales into a dance extravaganza that's set to leave you breathless.

With a sensational score by Joby Talbot and jaw-dropping costumes by Jean-Marc Puissant, Oscar promises to be a visual and auditory feast like no other.

The Australian Ballet last

## TOUR DATES

13 - 24 SEP Melbourne VIC  
08 - 23 NOV Sydney NSW

collaborated with Wheeldon on his award-winning musical, *An American in Paris*. His unique choreography makes him one of the most sought-after and highly regarded choreographers of his generation.

The ballet pulls back the curtain on Wilde's life – his dazzling successes, his flirtations with moral ambiguity, and his ultimate fall from grace, which landed him behind bars. David Hallberg, the artistic genius behind The Australian Ballet, believes Wilde's story still resonates today, reminding us of the importance of embracing our true selves.

The [Australian Ballet](#) said on their website: "This story of an infamous dandy and his tales will be a sensational addition to our repertoire."

So, if you're in Melbourne, make a date with history from 13th to 24th September at the Regent Theatre. And for our friends in Sydney, the ballet heads your way from 8th to 23rd November, at the Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House.



LIVE EVERY SATURDAY

**THE IRISH RADIO SHOW**

**1 2PM 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 trádáil ar fud airdheisceart Queensland. An Astráil agus ar fud an ghloine ar an t-áisiún.

Bliain Clár Mhuinir na hÉireann ar aer ar an Satharn ó 12:30 l.n. go ceann uaire. Éist leis an scéth ? ceol, nuacht, agallamh is mórán eile.

Comtar an uile chár le saoráil. Má spéis agat i raidió Gaeilch cad chluige nach bain triail as anseo ar 4EBFM.

Listen any time at [www.4eb.org.au](http://www.4eb.org.au)

#### Tuilleadh eolais le fáil/contact details:

Facebook: The Irish Program - Radio 4EB 98.1 FM Fon: (07) 3240 8600 (oifig/office) nó (07) 3240 8686 (studio/Roomphost) / Email: [irish@4eb.org.au](mailto:irish@4eb.org.au)  
Seoladh/Address: 140 Main St, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Queensland



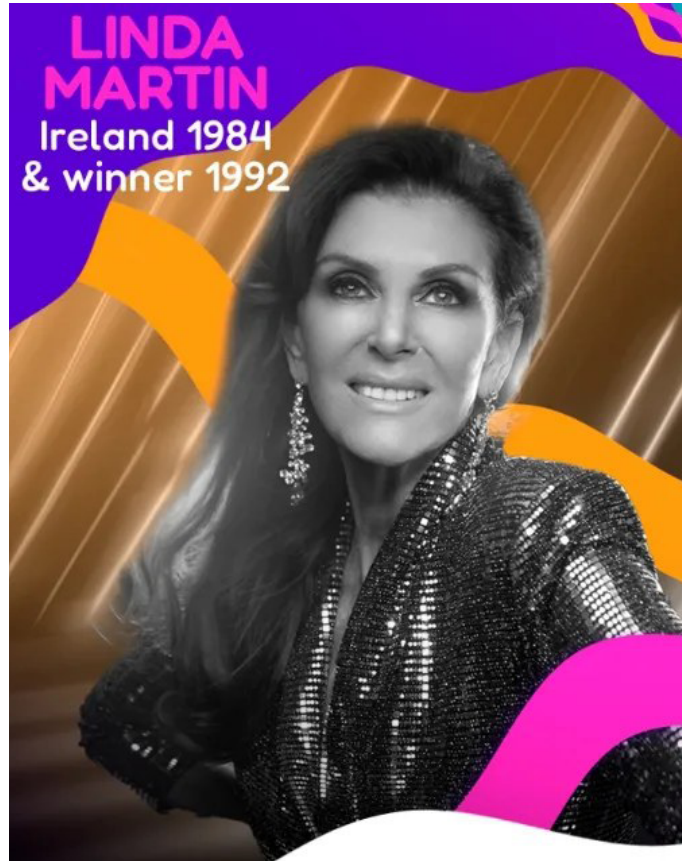
# Eurovision to take song contest stars on tour

A worldwide tour is planned with the mission to bring the Eurovision Song Contest to everyone who could attend the big live show in May.

The Eurovision Song Contest is more than a feeling – therefore Eurodrama Entertainment, SL is presenting Eurovision On Tour to create an opportunity for as many people as possible to join the live Eurovision experience.

Many Eurovision legends such as winner Emmelie de Forest, Linda Martin, Destiny, Nicki French, Rosa Lopèz and Senhit will perform in Europe and Australia from October to January. This time frame was chosen to not interfere with the national pre-selections and pre-events.

“The idea was first presented in 2019. After a worldwide pandemic plus two years of negotiation, Eurodrama Entertainment, SL could secure the exclusivity and name using right from the EBU (European Broadcast Union) to organise the first world tour of the Eurovision Song Contest,” explains Senhit, who represented San Marino and who will also be one of the hosts of the tour. Visitors can expect a



unique, interactive show with participants from recent and past years. In almost three hours, the audience will relive the greatest moments from the 68 editions of the biggest live music show on earth.

Apart from the concert zone, where the show will take place, a fan zone with stage props, legendary outfits and a replica of the iconic glass trophy will be displayed.

“After the show is before

## TOUR DATES

13 NOV Brisbane QLD  
15 NOV Melbourne VIC  
17 NOV Sydney NSW

the party and together with some of the OGAE clubs we will dance the night away,” adds Destiny, participant in for Malta in 2021, as some presidents of the OGAE clubs have partnered up with the tour to host the official after parties. OGAE (Organisation Générale des Amateurs de l’Eurovision) is an international network of Eurovision Song Contest fan clubs. All benefits will be given to the clubs to help them to keep organising and financing local Eurovision events.

Tickets are on sale at <https://eurovisionontour.tv>.

LINE UP:

Linda Martin (Ireland, 1984 – 1992)

Jalisse (Italy, 1997)

Nicki French (United Kingdom, 2000)

Rosa Lopèz (Spain, 2002)

Emmelie de Forest (Denmark, 2013)

Suzy (Portugal, 2014)

# UB40 bringing their reggae vibes to Australia

Prepare for a reggae-fuelled revolution as UB40, the world’s top-selling reggae group, storms Australia this October. Celebrating 45 years of chart-topping hits, UB40 promises an explosive return to our shores, joined by Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter, Eagle-Eye Cherry.

UB40’s Red Red Wine Tour kicks off in Gold Coast, QLD on 12th October, then heads to Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and concludes in Perth, WA on



20th October. Experience the infectious beats of UB40 classics like Red Red Wine, Can’t Help Falling In Love, Food for

Thought, Please Don’t Make Me Cry, and Kingston Town, alongside fresh tracks from their album UB45 which was

## TOUR DATES

12 OCT Gold Coast QLD  
13 OCT Brisbane QLD  
16 OCT Sydney NSW  
17 OCT Melbourne VIC  
18 OCT Adelaide SA  
20 OCT Perth WA

released worldwide in April.

With more than 100 million albums sold globally, UB40’s legacy continues to captivate audiences with their timeless sound. Tickets from [Ticketek](https://www.ticketek.com.au).

# The Jesus and Mary Chain bring Glasgow Eyes to Oz

One of the most influential bands of their generation and beyond, The Jesus and Mary Chain mark their 40th anniversary in 2024 with a return tour to Australia this August.

From the moment the Reid brothers (Jim and William) first pressed the record button on their Portastudio in the early 1980s, the intense, sometimes brutal, often darkly romantic music they made has always felt like past, present and future smashed together, alchemising into something startling.

Consistently defying musical boundaries, blending intense melodies with raw emotion to create a mesmerising sonic experience, JAMC anthems such as *Just Like Honey*, *April Skies* and *Happy When It Rains* are timeless statements of artistic excellence, shaping the post-punk landscape with a legacy that continues to inspire awe and reverence.

From their origins on the outskirts of Glasgow, The Jesus and Mary Chain have gone on to influence many of music's greatest minds and are consistently referenced as a chief source of inspiration for the likes of My Bloody



Valentine and Nirvana. 1985's *Psychocandy* is widely considered to be one of the most influential post-punk records ever released.

With their new album, *Glasgow Eyes*, the duo continues to seamlessly fuse electronica and rock with as much innovation as they've always had, embracing their punk roots while maintaining their anarchic spirit.

As outsiders who shaped the very fabric of British music history, The Jesus and Mary Chain stand apart yet are one of the most influential acts of the modern era.

Jim Reid states, "We've never fit in anywhere, and that's just fine with us. We are the party, and that's all that matters."

More information and tickets from [www.themarychain.com](http://www.themarychain.com)

## TOUR DATES

01 AUG Sydney NSW  
03 AUG Brisbane QLD  
04 AUG Melbourne VIC  
06 AUG Adelaide SA  
08 AUG Perth WA

[www.themarychain.com](http://www.themarychain.com) and [www.sbmpresents.com](http://www.sbmpresents.com).

## Pet Shop Boys expected to announce Aussie tour

Hot on the heels of the release of their new album, Pet Shop Boys are expected to announce tour dates in Australia.

Discussing their *Dreamworld: The Greatest Hits Live* tour, singer Neil Tennant said in an interview with [Word In Your Ear](#) podcast: "On this tour we're doing, we've still got Australia and New Zealand and Japan to do."

The duo went on to further confirm that discussions were ongoing about an upcoming



**Pet Shop Boys.** Credit: Tom Walker Studio

Australian tour when they were interviewed on TV programme *The Project* in April.

Neil said: "We're planning to do a tour in Australia. I think maybe next year."

"What I should say is we're in discussion about coming to Australia next year," he added.

Pet Shop Boys released their new studio album, *Nonetheless*, on Parlophone Records on April 26th.

It is their 15th studio album and features ten new songs recorded in London last year with producer James Ford. Pet Shop Boys are the most successful duo in UK music history, selling more than 50 million albums worldwide.

# The High Kings returning to rule over Australian hearts

The High Kings from Dublin are a traditional folk group who bring new life to a new generation of Irish and Celtic music fans. They make their triumphant return to Australia following their sold-out tour in 2022.

The High Kings are Finbarr Clancy, Darren Holden, Paul O'Brien and Brian Dunphy, who have held the position as the distinctive voice of Irish folk music across the world for the last 15 years. Together, they continue to sell out venues worldwide to an ever-growing army of loyal fans.

Having surpassed 1.5 million monthly listeners on Spotify and achieved two platinum albums, 2023 saw The High Kings celebrate 15 years together by releasing 15 new tracks and their eighth studio album, *The Road Not Taken*.

Renowned for their captivating harmonies and timeless melodies, *The Road Not Taken* is a collection of original songs that breathe new life into traditional folk music,



blending the old with the new. The album is a groundbreaking collaborative effort featuring household names such as The Script, Kodaline, Picture This, Sharon Corr, and a guest appearance from the legendary Journey frontman Steve Perry.

As they continue to go from strength to strength, The High

Kings remain firmly rooted in Irish tradition and classic folk music. Their brand-new tour will be a feast of well-known hits and spectacular musicianship, and they look forward to seeing you soon.

More information and tickets are available from [metropolistouring.com/the-high-kings/](http://metropolistouring.com/the-high-kings/)

## TOUR DATES

21 JUN Brisbane  
22 JUN Sydney  
23 JUN Canberra  
28 JUN Melbourne  
29 JUN Adelaide  
30 JUN Perth

# Aslan to play intimate tour dates

After a tumultuous 2023, Irish legends Aslan are returning to Australia for three special and intimate shows.

Aslan is an Irish rock band formed in Dublin in 1982. They gained popularity in the 1980s and 1990s with hits like *Crazy World* and *This Is*.

Christy Dignam, the lead vocalist of Aslan, had a public battle with health issues, including cancer. Despite his health struggles, he continued to perform with the band and was widely supported by fans and fellow musicians. Christy died in June 2023, aged 63.

Now, after 40 years of playing with Christy, Joe Jewell, Alan Downey, and Billy McGuinness know it's



not the same and never will be, but they have decided to continue bringing their music to you.

The band said that this is their way of letting their mem-

ories of over four decades live on and keeping Aslan alive within each of them, together and for you all.

They are looking forward to seeing you again and wel-

## TOUR DATES

22 AUG Melbourne VIC  
23 AUG Sydney NSW  
24 AUG Perth WA

come Lee Tomkins, who will be singing their Aslan songs and has been a huge support in making this happen.

Aslan said: "We are delighted to be adding Australian dates to our tour, Aslan + Lee Tomkins! This is our first visit to Australia on our new journey. We can't wait to bring our music and songs to the other side of the world."

Go to [www.troubadourpre-sents.com](http://www.troubadourpre-sents.com) for further details.

# Enjoy an ab fab night out with icon Joanna Lumley

The legendary Joanna Lumley will embark on her first-ever live tour of Australia, *Me & My Travels*, in October.

Joanna will take to the road for the five-city tour, starting at the Concert Hall, QPAC in Brisbane, and will then perform at major venues around the country throughout October.

Joanna's new show, *Me & My Travels*, will take audiences through her hilarious and interesting adventures from her incredible career spanning more than four decades, recounting some never-before-heard stories. Later in the show, she will be joined on stage by friend and producer Clive Tulloh, who will put to Joanna the questions that you've always wanted to ask – submitted by the audience – making the show a unique and hilarious night to remember.

On announcing *Me & My Travels*, Joanna said: "The thought of this tour in October, travelling across Australia, has completely taken over my waking hours. It's utterly thrilling to start planning the stories I can tell, and the rapture (and gratitude, to be fair) with which I shall greet the audiences. Nothing like this has come my way before, and I may have to



Joanna Lumley. Picture: Supplied/RANKIN

be dragged off with a hook at the end of each show. Oh people! This is especially for you from me, with masses of love. I think it will be fabulous."

Joanna Lumley – icon, national treasure, activist, comedy actress, and all-round top girl – is barely off our TV screens and appears to have been a permanent fixture in our sitting rooms since she burst onto our screens as Purdey in *The New*

*Avengers* in 1976. Now, in a nationwide Australian tour, she will take us through the random journey that started in London in the swinging 60s. Beginning as a model and from there to an acting career that included *Coronation Street*, *On the Buses*, *Dracula*, and as a brain-washed Bond Girl in *Blofeld's* lair in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. Joanna's breakthrough role as Purdey propelled her to instant

## TOUR DATES

09 OCT Brisbane QLD  
11 OCT Melbourne VIC  
16 OCT Adelaide SA  
19 OCT Perth WA  
22 OCT Sydney NSW

fame and created one of the "must-have" hairstyles of the 1970s – the Purdey bob. She became a pin-up figure for a generation of British males who grew up watching her as the high-kicking action girl.

Alongside iconic hairstyles, Joanna started to develop a nice sideline as an adventurer and activist; popping up all over the globe, she was often seen gasping at the Northern Lights, turning her bra into espadrilles, and finding the source of the Nile.

Then as Patsy Stone in *Absolutely Fabulous*, she became a degenerate role-model for a generation. Winning two BAFTAs, Joanna emerged as one of the best comedy actresses of her generation. For 25 years, the adventures of Patsy and Edina have sporadically lurched across our screens.

This intimate night with Joanna tells some of these tales and more. For tickets, go to [www.tegdainty.com](http://www.tegdainty.com)

# John Bishop back at it with stand-up tour

Comedy superstar John Bishop is returning to Australia for the first time in over six years with a brand new show, *Back At It*.

After two years spent TV presenting, stage acting, podcast hosting, dog walking, and decorating the spare room, John is back doing the thing he loves most: standing on stage and making people laugh.

John said: "I'm delighted

to be returning to Australia with my new show. The juices are flowing again, and the response from the UK audiences has been incredible. I'm looking forward to seeing many more of you out there on the road."

John Bishop has had an incredible career. Within three years of his first ever comedy gig in 2000, John was playing to sold-out arena audiences across the country



and released the fastest-selling stand-up DVD in UK history.

Since then, he has achieved huge success with a

## TOUR DATES

25 NOV Sydney NSW  
26 NOV Melbourne VIC  
28 NOV Brisbane QLD  
06 DEC Perth WA

number of his own comedy, entertainment, and documentary shows, including John Bishop's Australia.

Tickets: [BohmPresents.com](http://BohmPresents.com)

# Gigging next door to Alice as Smokie set to tour Australia

Get ready for a legendary journey with Smokie! With a remarkable 45-year legacy and more than 30 million album sales worldwide, the iconic British rock band is set to embark on their Greatest Hits Australian Tour, promising fans an unforgettable experience.

Hailing from Bradford in England, Smokie rose to fame with chart-topping hits like *Living Next Door to Alice*, *Lay Back in the Arms of Someone*, and *Needles and Pins*.

Their music has transcended generations, becoming bona fide pop classics cherished by millions.

Their tour will showcase a spectacular line-up of their greatest hits, including Australian Top 10s such as *Living Next Door to Alice*, *Lay Back in the Arms of Someone*, and *Needles and Pins*.

Throughout their illustrious career spanning over four decades, Smokie has achieved remarkable success, with countless hit singles and albums that have topped charts around the world.



Pictures: Facebook/Smokiemusic

The band's resilience was tested when tragedy struck in 1995, resulting in the loss of their lead singer, Alan Barton. However, with the addition of new frontman Mike Craft, Smokie continued to thrive, captivating audiences with their energetic performances and enduring hits.

Over the years, line-up changes occurred, but the

band's commitment to their music remained unwavering.

Today, with Pete Lincoln as lead singer and guitarist, Smokie continues to captivate audiences worldwide. Their ability to evolve with the times while staying true to their signature sound has solidified their status as rock icons.

Grab your tickets [here](#).

## TOUR DATES

18, 19 & 29 OCT Melbourne VIC  
 20 OCT Adelaide SA  
 23 OCT Perth WA  
 25 OCT Brisbane QLD  
 26 OCT Tweed Heads NSW  
 27 OCT Toowoomba QLD  
 01 NOV Sydney NSW  
 02 NOV Canberra ACT

# Belle and Sebastian heading our way

With their twelfth studio album, *Late Developers*, adding to an already beloved catalogue of music, Scottish indie icons Belle and Sebastian will be bringing it all to Australian fans on a long-awaited tour this August, their first time down under in more than six years.

The release of *Late Developers* showcased Belle and Sebastian's continued artistic growth and songwriting talent. A band that has consistently remained in sync and in rhythm with each other and a core creative vision, Belle and Sebastian's current oeuvre has been a joy for longtime and new fans alike.

Since their debut in 1996



with the seminal record *Tigermilk*, Belle and Sebastian have been an integral player in the development of an indie-pop sound synonymous with music coming out of the

UK over the course of the following decade.

Joining Belle and Sebastian will be English singer-songwriter Badly Drawn Boy, marking his first trip down

## TOUR DATES

21 AUG Brisbane QLD  
 22 AUG Sydney NSW  
 23 AUG Melbourne VIC  
 25 AUG Adelaide SA  
 27 AUG Perth WA

under in more than 20 years.

Releasing his first album in ten years – *Banana Skin Shoes* – in 2020, Badly Drawn Boy (aka Damon Gough) re-entered radars with a collection of material to remind new and old fans alike of his exemplary songwriting skill.

[Tickets](#) are on sale now.



# Glasweigan to Tasweigan

Over the last few weeks, I've been learning the Billy Connolly song, I Wish I Was In Glasgow, a thought that crosses my mind often. Despite growing up in the serene hills of Perthshire, it was in Glasgow, where I was born, that I truly found a sense of belonging and warmth unlike any other. So, when the time came to bid farewell to the UK and embark on new adventures, I couldn't help but wonder if I'd ever find that same sense of home again.

London and Sydney were magnificent in their own right, but something was missing – that indescribable feeling of being wrapped in a Glasgow hug, of feeling like you're part of something bigger than yourself. Little did I know, Tasmania – where locals are affectionately known as Taswegians – would be the unexpected remedy for my homesick heart.

For any expat longing for a taste of home, Tasmania should be your next port of call. Not only is it a bit easier on the wallet than a flight to Glasgow (trust me, I've checked), but it's also a



Tasmania's lush landscapes. Pictures: The Scotsman/Supplied

haven for foodies and whisky aficionados alike. Driving through Tas's countryside feels like a journey through the lush landscapes of Perthshire, albeit with a touch less rain and a few extra degrees of warmth.

But it's the people of Tasmania who truly steal the show. Warm and welcoming, they embody the spirit of community that I thought I'd left behind in Glasgow.

Pull up a stool at one of the local pubs – real pubs, mind you, with crackling open fires and not a pokie machine in sight – and you're bound to strike up a conversation with a friendly local. Whether they're sharing local secrets, spinning a yarn wilder than a Tassie devil chase, or simply greeting you with a warm smile and a hearty "G'day"...

In Tasmania, it's less about the Celtic connection (though you'll find that in abundance) and more about the restoration of faith in humanity. With each visit, I feel a weight

lift from my shoulders, the stresses of daily life melting away as I immerse myself in the warmth and hospitality of the Tasmanian people.

So, to my fellow expats yearning for a taste of home, I say this: pack your bags and head to Tassie. You'll find more than just stunning landscapes and delicious whisky – you'll find a community that welcomes you with open arms and, who knows, you might just find a little piece of home nestled amidst the Tasmanian wilderness.

*The Scotsman*  
Graeme McColgan

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## ANGLO&CELTIC

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# Meet first emus born in Scotland

Bird Gardens Scotland, a haven for avian enthusiasts nestled in the serene Borders, is celebrating the arrival of three adorable baby emus—the only ones of their kind in Scotland!

Founded with a mission to conserve and protect rare and threatened bird species, Bird Gardens Scotland serves as a sanctuary for feathered friends from around the globe.

As symbols of the unique challenges faced by Australian wildlife, emus serve as quirky ambassadors, shedding light on issues like conflicts in agriculture and the devastating impact of bushfires.

In a twist on traditional parenting roles, it's the male emu who takes charge of egg incubation, braving



**Daddy emu with one of the three babies, the only ones of their kind in Scotland. Pictures: [Facebook/BirdGardensScotland](https://www.facebook.com/BirdGardensScotland)**

Scotland's wild weather with unwavering determination. Despite facing off against the infamous 'Beast from the East' and other tempestuous storms, this feathered father remained resolute in his duty,

ensuring the safety of his brood.

Now, with the arrival of the trio of fluffy chicks, the real adventure begins as they embark on their journey under the watchful eye of their



proud papa.

The sanctuary shared on their Facebook page in May: "Baby emus doing well. Getting stronger by the moment, they're feeding well and dad is doing a fab job!"

As the sole representatives of their species in Scotland, these charismatic newcomers are poised to capture hearts and imaginations, serving as ambassadors for Australia.

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