

# ANGLO CELTIC

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Issue 16

October 2024



# Pluck of the Irish

Victoria's Tesselaar Tulip Festival celebrates Irish Weekend

# FLEURIEU FOLK FESTIVAL

25 - 27 OCT 2024

WILLUNGA - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

COMING OF AGE - 18 YEARS

THREE

SPECTACULAR DAYS OF

- FOLK • CELTIC • AMERICANA •
- BLUES • ROOTS • BLUEGRASS •
- COUNTRY • WORLD • ACOUSTIC •

FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM  
 ALAN REID (SCTLD) • EDWINA HAYES (UK)  
 GOLDHEIST • TUCK SHOP LADIES  
 ANNA WEATHERUP • CHRIS FINNEN  
 FELICITY DOWD • JEN LUSH BAND • MONIQUE CLARE  
 THE STETSON FAMILY • THE WEEPING WILLOWS  
 TIM SCANLAN & MANA OKUBO

ADELAIDE EMPIRE BAND • ADELAIDE MORRIS MEN • BEATRICE COLE  
 CAJUN SWAMP BAND • CHLOE SEA • CRAIG ATKINS • DON MORRISON  
 DUSTBOWL CHIC • GOLONKA • GREAT AUNT • GREEN FIELDZ  
 HANNAH ACFIELD • HEDGEHOG MEDIEVAL MUSIC • HIT 'N MISS  
 HOT FOR JOE BORDER MORRIS • JAMES BENNETT  
 JOSHUA BATTEN • KANE VINCENT • MAST GULLY FELLER  
 MCHARG CREEK • RAILWAY BOB • SALLY'S UKULELE  
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B24



# WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com

On page 5, Scottish folk legend Alan Reid will be among the headliners at Fleurieu Folk Festival in South Australia.



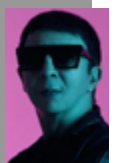
On pages 8 & 9, two Aussies have been inducted as Bards in Cornwall, and Cornish mines move closer to UNESCO listing.



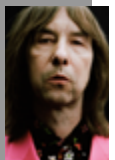
On pages 16 & 17, get ready for a bloomin' good time at the Tesselaar Tulip Festival's Irish Weekend.



On page 26, British electro legends Soft Cell are heading down under for their first ever Aussie tour.



On page 30, get ready to have a good time, as Scottish band Primal Scream comes to our shores for a tour.



Power in action at the Hunter Valley Highland Games held at the Saltire Estate in August. Organisers shared: "We're still buzzing from the amazing vibes at the Highland Games. It was incredible to see so many familiar faces and new friends come together, making the day truly special." Picture: [Facebook/HVHighlandGames](#)

# Samhain meets Spring down under

Halloween is always a strange time of year in Australia. A celebration that's themed around the closing in of night, celebrated here when spring is blooming all around and we can feel the days getting longer and hotter. It sure is an upside-down world down under.

After much resistance, Australia has taken Halloween to its heart and celebrations this year include a new Halloween festival in Sydney. We look at Samhain celebrations here and in Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

But, of course, it's spring, with flowers blooming all around. So, we are celebrating the colourful season of new life too with a

look at the spectacular Tesselaar Tulip Festival in Victoria, who will max the craic this month with their Irish Weekend.

South Australia is coming together to party at the Fleurieu Folk Festival this month. The festival is celebrating its 18th birthday with an impressive lineup of folk, Celtic and other acts from around the world. Among the highlights are Alan Reid from Scotland and Edwina Hayes from the UK.

Get your stories in early for our upcoming editions. The November edition is filling up fast. Send your stories to editor@angloandceltic.com.



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Scarlett Robin North-West Morris Dancing side from Adelaide will perform at Fleurieu Folk Festival. Picture: [Facebook/Scarlett Robin](#)

# Fleurieu festival lights up with folk favourites

The Fleurieu Folk Festival is back for its 18th year this October in the picturesque town of Willunga on the Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia. As the largest folk music event in the state, the festival offers a weekend packed with music, dance, and cultural activities.

This year's lineup features an impressive array of local, interstate, and international artists.

This year's festival has an exciting new addition. Festival director Valerie Corfield told Anglo&Celtic: "This year we also have Dougstock Stadium where 10 local acts have been invited to perform on Saturday and Sunday."

Scottish folk legend Alan Reid, a former member of the Battlefield Band, is set to perform, offering a rich repertoire of traditional Scottish tunes and original compositions that have delighted audiences worldwide.

UK folk singer Edwina Hayes, known for her heartfelt songs and engaging presence, will also take the stage.



Scottish folk legend Alan Reid. Picture: [www.alansongsreid.com](#)

Hayes has toured extensively in the UK and Australia, and her return to the Australian folk scene is highly anticipated. Her previous performances at festivals like Port Fairy Folk Festival have earned her a dedicated following, and her set at Fleurieu is expected to be a highlight of the weekend.

For those who enjoy a fusion of Celtic and global sounds, Tim Scanlan & Mana Okubo bring a blend of ancient Celtic melodies with

modern beats. This duo, featuring Scanlan's multi-instrumental talents and Okubo's dynamic fiddle playing, promises to deliver an unforgettable performance that bridges cultures and genres.

Adding to the festival's English connections, the Adelaide Empire Band will perform traditional English dance tunes, inviting festival-goers to join in the lively atmosphere. The band is known for its rollicking big band sound.

## DATES & DEETS

25 - 27 OCT  
Willunga SA  
[fleurieufolkfestival.com.au](#)

Traditional English dance will also be showcased by the Adelaide Morris Men and Scarlett Robin, with their vibrant and energetic Morris dances.

With workshops, dance sessions, blackboard concerts, and even a Busk Stop for impromptu performances, the Fleurieu Folk Festival is more than just a music event; it's a celebration of community, culture, and the enduring appeal of folk traditions. The festival also features local food, wine, and market stalls, making it a true feast for the senses.

The 2024 Fleurieu Folk Festival is set to be a weekend to remember.

Second Early Bird tickets are available until October 2nd.

# Ellie dances her way to global glory in Scotland



**Ellie Murgha came third in the Juvenile World Championships in Scotland. She also danced in front of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at the Braemar Gathering, where she won Under 16's dancer of the day. Picture: [Facebook.com/Speyside Highland Dancers - City of Casey](https://www.facebook.com/SpeysideHighlandDancers-CityofCasey)**

Townsville Highland dancer Ellie Murgha has placed third in the Juvenile World Highland Dancing Championships at Cowal, Dunoon, Scotland. This makes Ellie the first Far North Queensland Highland dancer to qualify for the World Championships and be placed in the top six.

This remarkable achievement adds to her growing list of accolades, having also won the British Overseas Championship Under 16 in Musselburgh, Scotland.

Ellie's journey in 2024 has been nothing short of extraordinary. She claimed multiple titles, including the British Open Champion and Bute Open Champion. Ellie won the Canadian Open Championship 14 Years in July and is currently the Queensland, Australian and Commonwealth Champion.

Ellie is one of a group of Australian dancers who travelled to Scotland in August to take part in competitions. Ellie performed for HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla at the Braemar Gathering on September 7th.

Ellie's mother, Jessica and her grandmother, Leanne, both accomplished Highland dancers themselves, have been key influences, making Ellie a third-generation cham-

panion in this demanding and elegant art form.

Ellie's mother is a teacher at Aviemore Highland Dancers in Townsville. Her success is a testament to her dedication and the strong support system around her, including her teacher, Cathy Rees, of Speyside Highland Dancers, who has played a pivotal role in Ellie's growth as a dancer.

Cathy Rees shared on Facebook: "Ellie had an amazing season in Scotland claiming some impressive titles along the way. Most of all she learnt resilience, determination, gained confidence as a person, grew her passion for Highland dance... and had fun travelling and enjoying the many sights in Scotland too. I am so very proud of these accomplishments and being part of Ellie's journey to the World Championships."

As Ellie continues her Highland dancing journey, she remains a source of pride for the Far North Queensland Highland dancing community, which has likened the excitement surrounding her achievements to the fervour of the Olympic Games.

There is no doubt that Ellie will continue to represent Australia on the global stage.

## Mary Durack Lecture to focus on gender equality

The Irish-Australian Heritage Association WA is to hold its annual Mary Durack Memorial Lecture this month.

Launched in 1995, the annual Mary Durack Memorial Lecture honours the pioneering work in Australia on many fronts by the Durack family and the Association's founding member and first patron, Dame Mary Durack AC DBE Australian author and historian (1913 - 1994).

Brothers Patrick (Patsy) and

Michael (Stumpy) Durack and Patsy's granddaughter Mary Durack are listed among the 100 People who Shaped our State, published by the West Australian in 2023.

This year's lecture will be delivered by Ashley McGrath, Chief Executive Officer of CEOs for Gender Equality. The talk will focus on gender equity in Australia and how it has evolved, with examples of pioneering

solutions to gender equity by Australian organisations and Government.

The talk will take place at the Irish Club Theatre, Townshend Road, Subiaco, WA on Sunday, 13th October at 3pm.

Bookings cost \$20 for non-members, \$15 for members and include Irish afternoon tea and a Q&A segment. Telephone 08 9345 3530, email [secretary@irishheritage.com.au](mailto:secretary@irishheritage.com.au).



**Ashley McGrath.**

# Sheela na gig inspires Brisbane sculpture

A larger-than-life, five-tonne, goddess-like bronze sculpture is the latest artwork to be unveiled as part of the multi-million-dollar public art pipeline for the iconic \$3.6b Queen's Wharf Brisbane.

Known for her focus on the body as an art form, Brisbane-based creative Justene Williams, said her five-year-old daughter Honore's fascination with tiny toy figurines, combined with ancient carvings of women called Sheela na gigs, found in Ireland and throughout Europe, inspired the almost five metre upscaled version of a superwoman, titled Sheila.

"My daughter is interested in superheroes and loves her plastic figurines, so I took that and gave the sculpture gravitas," Ms Williams said.

"I love to go big so this will be a giant monument to the female form," she said.

"The name Sheila riffs on the term used for an Aussie woman but it is also the female character carved in stone mainly in Europe from the 11th century, which has interpretations of protector, fertility and empathy and I wanted to immortalise those qualities.

"She will also feature a stainless-steel halo that is open to interpretation and self-reflection.

"The average person will see a big woman in a horse-stance with one arm open and the other closed fist; some people may giggle at the busty representation but I'm hoping everyone will stop and look."

A former dancer and cabaret performer, Justene Williams is an established artist over 25 years and is well known for her large-scale immersive live works, multi-channel video installations and photography.

"My work is often ephemeral, but this is permanent and



**Honore and her mum, artist Justene Williams, with a model of Sheila. The upscaled statue has now been unveiled at Queen's Wharf, Brisbane. Picture: Louis Lim**

I'm so excited for Sheila to be so prominent in such an important development for Brisbane," Ms Williams said.

Sheila stands at the Queen's Wharf Plaza on the riverside of the Commissariat Store and is one of four artworks now announced for the 7.5 hectares of public space within the entertainment and tourism precinct.

Art curator and Director of the Institute of Modern Art Liz Nowell, part of the Specialist Arts Advisory Council panel, led by highly regarded art figure Philip Bacon alongside leading Indigenous curator and arts administrator Avril Quail, likened Sheila to a "towering goddess-like figure".

"I like to think of her being the guardian of the Plaza, who will watch over the millions of visitors to Queen's Wharf Brisbane, including for the 2032 Olympic and

Paralympic Games," Ms Nowell said.

"The Arts panel felt she was a figure that everyone could relate to, from children to adults, as there is something playful about her, but her stance is empowered and impactful," she said.

"A lot of the works are installation or site specific, but Sheila offers a contemporary twist on figurative sculpture and I think people will respond really positively to her.

"I hope she becomes a familiar and much-loved icon – perhaps a meeting place, where visitors can congregate under her larger-than-life physique."

The Star Brisbane as part of the \$3.6+ billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct welcomed its first visitors in August, heralding a history-making, new era of tourism and entertainment in Queensland.



**Sheela na gig from Ireland in the British Museum. Picture: [Jononmac46/Wikimedia Commons](#)**

Brisbane's new multi-million-dollar public art gallery spread across the entire 12-hectare Queen's Wharf precinct will elevate the city's cultural reputation, showcasing stunning works from local, First Nations and international artists and complement the South Bank cultural hot spot across the river.

# Celts joining forces to host first Brisbane Celtic Festival

## DATES & DEETS

13 OCT  
Brisbane QLD  
Details [here](#).

Excitement is mounting for the first-ever Brisbane Celtic Festival. On Sunday, 13th October, Moorlands Park in Auchenflower will burst with the vibrant culture of the Celtic Nations.

This inaugural celebration of Celtic culture, organised by the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland and Brisbane International Tartan Day, promises to be a day of music, dance, and unforgettable traditions.

This free, family-friendly event runs from 9.30am to 4pm, featuring an array of performers including Tom Kimmel, enchanting Welsh tunes with Ceri McCoy,



Australian Celtic Women will perform at the first Brisbane Celtic Festival this month. Picture: [Facebook.com/AustralianCelticWomen](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianCelticWomen)

and Finbar & Friends. The Queensland Irish Choir, Moreton Bay Fiddlers, Dominic Ward, and modern Celtic band Limerick will also delight audiences with stirring tunes.

Headlining are the incredible Australian Celtic Women,

sure to enchant with their magical melodies.

The day promises more than just music. Dance enthusiasts can enjoy performances from the QIA Irish Dancers, Thistle Highland Dancers, and Manx Dancers. Pipe bands, including the Celtic

Nations Pipes and Drums and massed pipe bands, will bring powerful traditional music to life. To top it off, the Brisbane Lord Mayor will make a special guest appearance.

There's something for everyone, including fun competitions like the Best Celtic Dressed Contest, as well as children's games such as the kid's caber toss and Celtic shotput. Festival-goers are encouraged to wear kilts, tartan, or any Celtic attire to embrace the festive spirit.

The Queensland Irish Association will be among the many stands offering information. Visitors can also take a moment to admire the Celtic Nations Standing Stones within the park, a fitting tribute to the shared heritage of these ancient nations.

With limited parking, public transport is strongly recommended.



## Queensland Irish Association

### October Get-Together Drinks



Members and friends are invited to join us on Friday, October 18th from 4pm to 6pm at

The Lounge Bar, The Normanby Hotel,  
Red Hill, Brisbane

Food and drinks available to purchase  
The bar is on the Waterworks Road level

1 Musgrave Rd, Red Hill, Brisbane. Parking (on-site) at 18 Kelvin Grove Rd, Kelvin Grove.



## Queensland Irish Association

### Members Lunch



Join us on Wednesday, October 16th from 11.30am to 2.30pm at

Coorparoo RSL, Coorparoo QLD

Food and drinks available to purchase  
Seniors Specials available

RSVP by 9th October to Mavis Williams on 3849 8271

45 Holdsworth Street, Coorparoo, Queensland, Australia.

# Two Aussies inducted as Bards in Cornwall

The Gorsedh Kernow, a celebration of Cornish culture, has just wrapped up in Callington, a market town nestled in southeast Cornwall, England. This year's gathering, which took place from 31st August to 7th September, featured a vibrant week of events, culminating in the induction of 24 new bards, including two from Australia. The festival drew bards and cultural enthusiasts from across the globe.

Central to the festival was the Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture, which ran concurrently, offering workshops, exhibits, and performances celebrating Cornish heritage. The Gorsedh Kernow week-long programme included events such as a Cornish dance night, theatre performances, and music sessions. The festival featured traditional Cornish activities like Cornish Wrestling, storytelling, and choir performances. Throughout the week, there were intensive Cornish language courses and exhibitions on past Gorsedh events. It concluded with the Gorsedh Service in Cornish on Sunday, 8th September.

The induction of new bards, a solemn and traditional ceremony conducted in the Cornish language, honoured those who have contributed to the preservation and promotion of Cornish culture. Twenty-four new bards were welcomed into the College of Bards of Gorsedh Kernow on 7th September by the Grand Bard of Cornwall, Pol Hodge, Mab Stenak Veur, in recognition of their outstanding work in serving Cornwall.

The Australian inductees are Arthur Coates from Victoria and Robynne Sanderson from Broken Hill, New South Wales, for their services to Cornish identity in Australia. The ceremony was live streamed online.

In ancient Celtic times, the



The Gorsedh Kernow in Cornwall. Picture: James Kitto, [gorsedhkernow.org.uk](http://gorsedhkernow.org.uk).

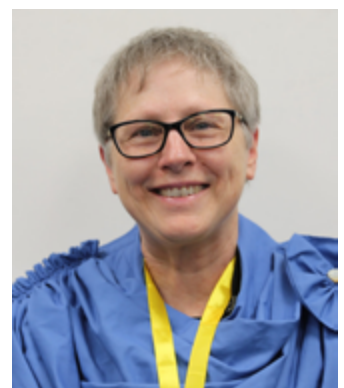


Australian Bards in Cornwall, above, and right, New Bards Arthur Coates, Skeusenner Ostrali – Photographer in Australia, and Robynne Sanderson, llewydh Bre Derrys – Musician of Broken Hill. Pictures: [gorsedhkernow.org.uk](http://gorsedhkernow.org.uk)

Bards were the chief holders of the history and genealogies of the nations. Bards swear on investiture that they will continue their work for Cornwall, and for the manifestation of the Cornish

Celtic spirit! Each Bard takes on a name in the Cornish language which is unique.

Australian Assemblies of the Bards are held most years. Gatherings are held biannually at Moonta, Walla-



roo or Kadina in South Australia, during the Kernewek Lowender festival. The next festival will take place in 12th to 18th May 2025. See [www.kernewek.org](http://www.kernewek.org) for more information.



Australian Cornish mining sites Burra and Moonta step closer to UNESCO World Heritage list. Picture: [facebook.com/australiancornishmining](https://www.facebook.com/australiancornishmining)

# Cornish mines step closer to World Heritage listing

The Albanese Government has added the Australian Cornish mining sites at Burra and Moonta to Australia's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

The two historic landscapes located in the Mid-North and Yorke Peninsula regions of South Australia offer outstanding universal value and are unparalleled in showing the first major transfer of Cornish hard-rock mining and Welsh smelting technology across the world in the 1840s.

The addition is supported by the South Australian Government, Regional Council of Goyder, Copper Coast Council and National Trust of South Australia to help ensure the protection and preservation of the mines and their distinctive high-pressure

steam engine houses, which are recognised as icons of Cornish mining technology and industrial architecture.

Tentative Listing is the first step in the World Heritage nomination process, providing international recognition at the highest level.

The nominated sites join the Cultural Landscapes of Cape York Peninsula and Murujuga on Australia's Tentative World Heritage List.

Australian places on the World Heritage List include Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Macquarie Island, the Sydney Opera House, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Naracoorte) in South Australia.

Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek said: "The Australian

Cornish Mining Sites of Burra and Moonta showcase our country's industrial history. I want to see them added to the World Heritage List alongside our other precious places like the Great Barrier Reef, and the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Naracoorte) in South Australia.

"Burra and Moonta were at the forefront of deep mining practices, especially the creative application of steam power.

"A World Heritage listing would help preserve and protect these precious sites, to be enjoyed by our kids and grandkids."

South Australian Minister for the Environment, Susan Close said: "I am delighted to see the iconic Australian Cornish Mining sites of Burra and Moonta getting the recog-

nition they deserve, moving one step closer to securing UNESCO World Heritage status.

"As a result of these mines, Cornish culture, language and literature has remained throughout this region, and we are proud to preserve and protect Burra and Moonta, 'Australia's Little Cornwall'.

"We are pleased to be working with the Australian Government, the Regional Council of Goyder, the Copper Coast Council and the National Trust of South Australia, and in partnership with the Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation to see this submission through."

Learn more at [burramoon-taworldheritage.com.au](https://burramoon-taworldheritage.com.au).



# Australia's first Halloween festival appears in Sydney

Sydney's haunted heart is about to awaken! This October, The Rocks, known for its eerie history, will host Australia's first Halloween festival: Ghost Festival. From October 31 to November 3, this historic district will transform into a haunted wonderland, blending Sydney's ghostly past with modern Halloween thrills.

By day, the Two-Faced Market is a lively place to shop, but by night, it turns sinister. Shadows flicker, and dark tales of the past come to life. Theatre group "Dead-

house" will roam the streets, telling chilling stories of the ghosts and murders that haunt The Rocks.

The Silent Zombie Disco on Tallowoladah Lawn will be the place to party. DJs will spin electrifying beats while zombie dancers take over the night under a haunting moonlit sky. A giant five-metre zombie head will host the lineup of DJs at this iconic Sydney location.

Foodies can explore First Fleet Park's Haunted Woods, a spooky culinary experience. 22 eerie cabins will

offer devilishly delicious food and drinks served in blood bags. Visitors can enjoy creepy culinary creations while eerie music and performers set the mood.

On Halloween night, don't miss the Ghost Festival Parade! Drawing inspiration from the elaborate New Orleans-style parades, this haunting spectacle will fill the streets with creatures, costumes, and eerie pageantry. Only those in costume will be allowed to carry the Ghost flag and walk the 1.5km parade route through The Rocks

## DATES & DEETS

31 OCT - 03 NOV

The Rocks NSW

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

and Circular Quay.

For a full transformation, Crossing Lane becomes a makeup zone where top artists will turn you into one of The Rocks' infamous spirits or a creature from New Orleans folklore.

The festival offers free entry and ticketed experiences.



# Pals shaken, not stirred by slain sailor's spirit in pub



The Rocks, Sydney's oldest neighbourhood, was settled shortly after the First Fleet arrived in 1788. Named for its rugged sandstone terrain, The Rocks became home to the colony's convicts, soldiers, and free settlers. Many of these early inhabitants were from Britain.

In the early years, The Rocks was a rough and often lawless area, filled with makeshift dwellings, taverns, and a bustling port. The settlers, including a significant number of convicts, played a central role in shaping the community. Over time, The Rocks developed into a working-class neighbourhood.

By the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, the area faced waves of redevelopment, including efforts to



The ghost at the Fortune of War pub. Picture: [Facebook/TheRocks](#)

clear slums and modernise. However, its rich history and unique character were preserved, leading to The

Rocks becoming a heritage area, celebrating its roots as a cornerstone of Sydney's colonial past. Today, The Rocks is a vibrant blend of historic sites, cultural attractions, and modern amenities, with its heritage echoing through its narrow streets and old buildings.

The Rocks is known for its ghost stories. One recent ghost spotting was above the Fortune of War, Sydney's oldest bar.

Five friends were having drinks at the bar last June when they snapped a picture with an apparition in an upstairs window.

As the story went viral online, on radio, and on TV, reaching millions of people, additional ghost sightings in The Rocks were reported, causing the hashtag #ghostintherocks to trend.

The Rocks neighbourhood precinct released a statement saying that it was the ghost of a sailor who was murdered in the early 18th century.

They said: "In the heart of The Rocks, above the Fortune of War bar, where the ghost was spotted, was once a sailor's hostel with a reputation for illicit activities, including a rumoured brothel where a sailor met a tragic end at the

## GHOSTS OF THE ROCKS

The Russell Hotel – Room 8 is haunted by a sailor murdered by a sex worker. His spirit only appears to women.

Cadman's Cottage – Haunted cottage where a man tried to dispose of his boss's dismembered body by the water.

The Dead House – This former morgue saw many notorious inquests.

The Big Dig – The remains of George Legg were discovered in a shark's stomach. Later, archaeologists uncovered a shark's skeleton at the site of his former home.

Reynold's Cottages – Haunted by William Reynolds' son, who died after a leg amputation. Reynolds Sr. also met a tragic end here.

The Old Sydney Gaol – The former site of Sydney Gaol, where executions took place on Gallows Hill.

Harbour Rocks Hotel – The spirit of Eric, a seafarer who lost his love Scarlett to tuberculosis, wanders Harrington Street in search of her.

hands of a prostitute. Legend has it that the sailor's spirit lingers, in the buildings."

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# Uncover Scotland's witch trail this Samhain season



Halloween season is nearly here which means it's time to delve into Scotland's world of witches. Uncover the stories and tales of mythical witches and women accused of witchcraft and learn how they left their mark on Scotland's turbulent history.

Delve into superstitions and folklore, witchcraft markets, historic landmarks, and haunted attractions, and more with an interactive map from VisitScotland.

The national tourism organisation is inviting visitors to discover some lesser-known spooky stories, dark history, truly magical places and find ways to live like a modern-day witch through the trail and map.

Witches and witchcraft make for a formative chapter in the story of Scotland covering history, women's rights, superstition and the supernatural. There are numerous local tales spread across Scotland about witches and witchcraft based in both fact and legend.

The trail and map highlight a variety of these locations and attractions all with links to themes associated with witchcraft including a love of nature and modern takes on the lore. They can be enjoyed year-round as part of a longer holiday or on a day trip.

The downloadable guide features 15 locations and is hosted on [VisitScotland.com](https://www.visitScotland.com).

Experiences on the map include:

## Calanais Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis

Standing for over 5,000 years, the Calanais Standing Stones have a rich culture of magical folklore. One legend tells how a fairy cow came to give milk to the starving people of Calanais. All was well until a rumoured witch seeking more than her share



brought the giving to an end by milking the cow dry before vanishing. The stones are thought to have inspired Outlander's magical Craigh na Dun.

## The Witchery by the Castle, Edinburgh

Located in an impressive 16th century building at the gates of Edinburgh Castle, this unique and atmospheric hotel and restaurant takes its name from the hundreds of women and men burned at the stake as witches on Castlehill. Today, visitors can dine in the luxurious surroundings of the original oak-panelled dining room and unwind in one of the lavishly decorated suites. Castlehill also features The Witches' Well, a drinking fountain dedicated to those who lost their lives after being accused of witchcraft.

## Kirkwall Witchy Walk, Orkney

This island was once a hotbed of allegations and accusations. Peer into Marwick's Hole where those accused of

witchcraft were imprisoned at St Magnus Cathedral and walk in the footsteps of the condemned to Gallow'Ha on a guided tour with Spiritual Orkney.

## Blair Castle, Perthshire

This castle has a fascinating history of visitors, including Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie, and an alleged witch. Legend has it that the mountains overlooking the castle have acted as a hiding spot for a powerful witch who could shape shift into wildlife. Visitors should keep an eye out for creatures on a stroll around the grounds.

## East Neuk Seaweed, Fife

Seaweed is believed to have been used by local wise women and healers of times gone by. East Neuk Seaweed offer various hands-on workshops in the coastal locations throughout Fife that highlight the healing properties and nutritional value of this sea vegetable. Dip your toes into the clear waters of Scotland

and learn how to forage for and cook with wild seaweed.

## Abbotsford, Scottish Borders

The home of 19th-century novelist and poet, Sir Walter Scott boasts a world-famous collection of rare books on witchcraft, demonology, and popular superstitions. Visitors to Scott's stunning library can see his treasured "Witch Corner" overlooking the River Tweed. Find out how the facts inspired the fiction in some of the writer's most iconic novels and explore how Scott used Abbotsford to help him bring the past to life.

Giles Ingram, Chief Executive of Abbotsford, said: "Due to the popularity of Witch Corner, Abbotsford are currently building a sculpture trail inspired by the stories found within these books; from tales of witchcraft, to ourisks, elves, fairies and other mystical beings."

View the [map](#) and [blog](#).

Words and picture:  
[VisitScotland](https://www.visitScotland.com)

# Book linked to Ireland's first witch burning goes on show

The Red Book of Ossory, a 14th-century manuscript now on display at St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny, is steeped in Ireland's medieval history, particularly the infamous witch trial of Dame Alice Kyteler. Compiled by Bishop Richard de Ledrede, the manuscript is a mix of religious texts and poetic works that reveal the complex and often dark landscape of the time.

The book contains important information such as documents of legal interest and the provisions of the Magna Carta. It has returned to its home in St Canice's Cathedral to mark its 700-year anniversary.

Bishop de Ledrede arrived in Kilkenny from the papal court at Avignon in 1317, determined to assert his authority and root out heresy. His most notorious act was the prosecution of Dame Alice Kyteler in 1324, accusing her of witchcraft and sorcery.

Dame Alice, the daughter of a Flemish merchant, married four times, each marriage increasing her wealth. However, after the death of her fourth husband, William Outlaw, suspicions grew among her stepchildren, who accused her of using sorcery to kill their father and of engaging in devil worship. These accusations quickly escalated, and Alice found her-



St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny, Ireland. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

self at the centre of Ireland's first recorded witch trial.

The charges against Alice were vivid and horrifying: concocting potions from the remains of sacrificed animals and unbaptised boys, consorting with a demon lover, and poisoning her husbands. Despite the severity of these accusations, Alice evaded execution by fleeing to England, where she disappeared from historical records.

The same bishop who spearheaded this witch hunt also contributed to the Book of Ossory, composing 60 poems intended for the priests and choristers of St Canice's

Cathedral. These poems were meant to be sung, replacing the secular and sometimes bawdy songs of the time with spiritual verses. The manuscript, now preserved in St Canice's, offers a glimpse into the religious and social tensions of the period.

While Dame Alice managed to escape, her servant, Petronilla de Meath, was not so fortunate. Under torture, Petronilla confessed to witchcraft and was burned at the stake – the first recorded execution for witchcraft in Ireland. She was the first person in history to be burned at the stake for the heresy of witch-

craft. Her tragic fate marked the beginning of a dark chapter in Irish history, where fear and superstition often led to brutal consequences.

Bishop de Ledrede's writings have been immortalised in the red, velum-bound manuscript, The Red Book of Ossory. It provides valuable insights into the Church's power and influence in medieval Ireland. St Canice's Cathedral, where the book is now on display, offers visitors a chance to see this historical manuscript up close, providing a tangible connection to one of Ireland's most infamous witch trials.

## Finn McCool's is a favourite Irish haunt

Fortitude Valley in Brisbane is set for a frightful night at Finn McCool's House of Horrors on November 2nd!

Brisbane's go-to Irish bar, Finn McCool's invites all to join them for spine-chilling fun with spooky cocktails, live DJs, and amazing prizes for the best costumes.

They're open late, so come dressed to impress and dance the night away!

Then on November 5th, Finn's will be offering an un-

forgettable Melbourne Cup Day experience.

Watch the race live and loud on the big screen, while enjoying live music from Mat McCouat that promises to keep the energy high all day long. Indulge in our delicious food and beverage packages, take part in our sweeps and enter to win best dressed!

The festivities kick off at 11am, so gather your friends and get ready to make

### DATES & DEETS

02 NOV  
Fortitude Valley QLD  
[finnmccools.com.au](http://finnmccools.com.au)

this Melbourne Cup one to remember.

Packages start from only \$80.

Further details at [www.facebook.com/Finnmccools-fortitudevalley](http://www.facebook.com/Finnmccools-fortitudevalley)



# Irish migrants brought Halloween to America

Halloween is coming – but did you know it is Ireland we have to thank for the most popular customs and traditions at the most unearthly time of year?

The Irish are famous for concocting a bewitching cauldron of mystery and merriment at Halloween time, and little wonder, Ireland is where it all began.

Trace Halloween to its origins and you will arrive right back in the mists of Ireland's Ancient East and the Celtic festival of Samhain, a great celebration of fire and feasting that marked the end of the season of light and the beginning of the dark days of winter.

At this moment of transition, the Celts believed there was an interaction between the worlds of the living and the dead and that spirits could move between them. Fearing that all manner of beings might pull them into the otherworld before their time, the Celts would disguise themselves in costumes to confuse and scare off the roaming ghosts, fairies, hobgoblins and demons.

The modern practice of dressing up at Halloween is firmly rooted in these old pre-Christian Celtic customs, as is the tradition of lighting



The Celtic festival of Samhain. Picture: [ireland.com](http://ireland.com)

bonfires, which began on hilltops in Ireland with clans and communities gathering to light huge ceremonial Samhain fires.

One of the biggest Celtic festivals of fire was at the peak of Tlachtga, or the Hill of Ward in present day County Meath. Recent archaeological excavations suggest the hill was used for feasting and celebration over 2,000 years ago and old manuscripts reveal that the Celts lit a fire here from which all the fires in Ireland were rekindled.

To this day the area around the Hill of Ward, and the nearby Hill of Tara where the High

Kings of Ireland ruled, remains one of the centres of Irish Halloween traditions. The Púca Festival, a twenty-first-century Samhain celebration, is held in County Meath and neighbouring County Louth every year.

Celebrating Ireland as the birthplace of Halloween, Púca events normally include an impressive re-enactment of the symbolic lighting of the Samhain fire, live music and performance, amazing light installations and more.

Lit up pumpkins with ghoulish faces is another much-loved aspect of Halloween. The practice of carving them began in Ireland, where turnips and

large potatoes served as the original Jack-o-lanterns.

In fact, the name of the Halloween decoration comes from an Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack who played a trick on the Devil. As a punishment for his trickery, the Devil doomed Jack to wander eternity with only a burning ember from the everlasting fires of Hell inside a turnip to light his way.

Irish immigrants eventually brought the tradition to America, home of the pumpkin, and the winter squash has now become integral to the Halloween festivities.

Trick or treating is another Halloween tradition originating in Ireland, in this case with children and the poor going from door to door to ask for food, kindling or money. They sang songs or offered prayers for the soul of the dead in return for food, usually a soul cake which was a flattened bread that contained fruit. This tradition was known as 'souling'.

The custom of dressing in costumes and making house visits to request small presents of sweets, fruit and money is alive and well in Ireland today, and in many other countries around the world.

Words: [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com)

## Ghosts and tailless sows haunt Wales

Calan Gaeaf, the first day of Winter, is celebrated in Wales on the eve of October 31st as Nos Galan Gaeaf. In medieval times, Calan Gaeaf was a harvest festival, while Nos Galan Gaeaf marked the night when the veil between the human world and the spirit realm was believed to be at its thinnest, known as 'Ysbrydnos'.

On Nos Galan Gaeaf, spirits were thought to roam freely, with ghosts appearing at midnight on every stile across the land. The most

famous of these apparitions included the Ladi Wen (White Lady) and, particularly in North Wales, the Hwch Ddu Gwta, or 'The Tailless Black Sow'. The Hwch Ddu Gwta was a particularly frightening ghost. As night fell, local men would dress in pig skins and chase children home from village bonfires, threatening to catch the last child to make it home. This frightening game served both to scare the children and to ensure they returned home promptly.

Additionally, men dressed



in rags, masks, or even women's clothing would go from door to door collecting coppers, fruit, and nuts, often drinking in local pubs afterward. This practice was believed to repel evil spirits and might also have been a

tactic to encourage people to hand out treats.

Another tradition involved locals writing their names on stones and throwing them into a bonfire, or coelcerth. The next morning, the ashes were inspected, and if a stone with your name was missing, it was considered an ominous sign of impending death.

A grand bonfire remains a central feature of Welsh Nos Galan Gaeaf celebrations, preserving the spirit of these ancient customs.

# Pipes, power and a pirate bar await in Williamstown

Join in a day filled with the stirring sounds of bagpipes, the grace of Highland dancers, and the strength of athletes displaying their skills in a mini-heavy games event at Williamstown Highland Gathering in Melbourne.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore a variety of stalls offering authentic Celtic food, drink, merchandise, and crafts, with plenty of activities to amuse the children all day.

Highlights of the Williamstown Highland Gathering:

- Celtic Music: Immerse yourself in the playing of the bagpipes and Celtic folk music on the stage and all day in the Pirate Bar.
- Celtic Dancing: Watch dancers of forms of Celtic dancing and all ages perform traditional and modern Celtic dances.
- Heavy Events: Cheer on athletes as they showcase their skills in classic and traditional events.
- Cultural Displays: Learn about Scottish and Celtic history and heritage through interactive exhibits and demonstrations.
- Unique Merchandise: Take home a piece of the Highlands with crafted goods.

The Williamstown Highland Gathering is a family-friendly event that celebrates the rich cultural tapestry of the Celtic people. It's a perfect day out for anyone interested in experiencing the warmth and excitement of Highland Scottish hospitality.



## DATES & DEETS

26 OCT  
Williamstown VIC  
[facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames](https://facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames)

This much-anticipated gathering will be on Saturday, 26 October 2024, at the historic Seaworks precinct in Williamstown, a short train ride from Melbourne Central.

The fun kicks off at 9am on Saturday, 26th October, running until 4pm, at Seaworks, Williamstown, Melbourne Victoria. Entry fees are free for children under 16, all concession holders \$20, adults \$25.

The Williamstown Highland



Pictures show entertainment at the 2023 Williamstown Highland Gathering. Credit: [facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames](https://facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames)

Gathering is an annual event that brings together the best of Scottish and Celtic culture in Melbourne.

The Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation of dedicated volun-

teers giving access to all who identify with and want to celebrate Scottish heritage and culture.

Tickets are available to purchase at [melbournehighlandgames.org.au/williamstown-highland-celtic-gathering](https://melbournehighlandgames.org.au/williamstown-highland-celtic-gathering)



# Ah begonia! Flower fest finds its lucky charms

Get ready for a bloomin' good time at the Tesselaar Tulip Festival's Irish Weekend from October 13th to 15th. This vibrant event promises fun, music, dancing, and even a sprinkle of leprechaun magic amidst a sea of tulips in full bloom.

The celebrated Tesselaar Tulip Festival, now in its 69th year, has enchanted visitors with a spectacular showcase of vibrant blooms. Held annually in stunning Silvan in Melbourne's Dandenong Ranges, this year's festival is a celebration of colour, community, and natural magnificence. The blooms, spread across five acres, transform the fields into a vibrant kaleidoscope of colour, with everything from traditional buds to rare and exotic varieties on show. Visitors can discover more than a million spring flowering bulbs, including over half a million tulips.

To celebrate the tulip, they have Turkish Days (to celebrate its origin), Dutch Days (a lively historical and family connection), Food Wine and Jazz (celebrating the local area), Rock the Fields (a rockin' good time), Children's Days (with celebrity guests) and at the end of the rainbow, and their Irish Weekend (for the craic).

In addition to the breathtaking floral displays, the festival offers a diverse program of events and activities for all ages and interests. From cultural performances featuring live music, traditional dance performances, and cultural demonstrations celebrating Dutch culture and foods, to family fun with live shows from Sesame Street's Elmo and Friends, Peppa Pig, interactive Australian Wildlife Shows, Fairy Storytelling, Face Painting, Tractor Rides, and Dance Workshops. Food lovers can indulge in a variety of culinary delights from food stalls offering both international flavours and local favourites.

Paul Tesselaar, a third-generation flower farmer, expressed his excitement for this year's event: "Last year's Tulip Festival was a tremendous success as



*Ah begorrah! Look out for leprechauns.*



*Irish pipers will roam the grounds*



*Music and dance will bring flair to the festival*

visitors flocked to our farm to soak up the fields of beauty and wonder we pour all our care into. We love welcoming guests to not only enjoy the magic of the tulips but to celebrate the enduring legacy established by our grandparents nearly seventy years ago and enjoy those brilliant Dutch traditions and experiences. We've curated an exceptional program that promises something special for everyone, and with family budgets under pressure more than ever, we provide an accessible activity with children 16 and under always free."

On October 4th, there is an awesome line-up of family fun, including live shows from Sesame Street - Elmo and Friends for Week One of the holidays, and Week Two welcomes Peppa Pig. The Fairy will tell intriguing tales in the Fairy Garden, and visitors can touch and learn about Australian wildlife from Black Snake Productions, participate in free Dance Workshops, and enjoy a variety of craft workshops for a small fee.

Children can test their powers of observation on a Treasure Hunt, participate in fun Dutch and garden games, ride the Tulip Train, indulge in traditional Dutch foods and other treats, visit market stalls, and of course, be surrounded by sensational tulips.

Rock The Fields Weekend takes place on the 5th and 6th of October, where festival-goers can put on their dancing shoes and enjoy rocking tunes amidst the blooms, with live music from the 50s and 60s and delicious, funky food trucks.

To top off the festival, Irish Weekend will be held on the 13th to 15th of October. It's time to get out and enjoy spring while the tulips continue to bloom!

Visitors can sit back and enjoy a Guinness or Kilkenny while listening to top musical entertainment from The Kerrys and Tim Scanlan & Mana Okubo. Irish Pipers will be roving the



fields all weekend, and there will be Irish dancing performances from The Victorian Irish Dancing Academy at 10.30am, 12.45pm, and 3pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

There will also be a touch of Dutch with clog dancing Workshops at 11am and 1.30pm, where visitors can see how it's done and give it a whirl. The Historic Cheese Market performance at 12pm and 2.30pm showcases how Dutch cheeses were bought and sold.

As visitors stroll through the historic gardens, they can

## DATES & DEETS

13 - 15 OCT  
Silvan VIC

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

enjoy the sculpture collection, pass through pockets of the Netherlands, indulge in traditional Dutch foods and beautiful garden displays, visit the fairy garden (The Tulip Fairy tells her tales at 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, and 3pm), buy a bunch of tulips, ride on the Tulip Tractor around the colourful fields, and so much more.



The Kerrys Band will perform at the Irish Weekend. Picture: [Facebook.com/TheKerrysBand](https://www.facebook.com/TheKerrysBand)





# Don't be sheepish, join in the Patchewollock fun

The Patchewollock Music Festival is gearing up for its 10th annual event, and this year promises to be a true celebration of the quirky, community-driven atmosphere that has made it a staple on the festival calendar. From October 18th to 20th, the tiny town of Patchewollock in Victoria, with its iconic pub and sheep yard, will once again host a weekend packed with music, storytelling, and quirky activities that set this festival apart.

The festival has grown since it was born of an idea in a pub in 2012, when a couple of locals decided they needed live entertainment in their part of the world. What was meant to be a one-off event celebrating the "Year of the Farmer" became so successful that it evolved into an annual tradition, drawing music lovers from across the country. Past performers include legends like Neil Murray, Nicky Bomba, Sara Storer, and Eric Bogle.

This year's lineup includes Raechel Whitchurch, Greg Nunan and The General Jacksons, The Parle Brothers, Irish tunes with Old Melbourne Road, The Tuck Shop



**Sheep racing is one of the star attractions at Patchewollock Music Festival. Pictures: [facebook.com/PatchewollockMusicFestival](https://www.facebook.com/PatchewollockMusicFestival)**

Ladies and Danny Walsh Banned.

One of the most beloved elements of the Patchewollock Music Festival is its balance between the traditional and the wonderfully offbeat. While you'll find the typical festival fare of live music, workshops, and bush poetry, it's the unique touches that make the event stand out.

Case in point: the sheep race that stops a nation - the Patchewollock Gold Cup. With a coloured jacket and cuddly toy on board each sheep, see if you can pick the woolly winner.

The festival also offers bush tucker tastings and yarn-spinning sessions. There's a sense of authenticity to the whole affair, with a focus on con-

## DATES & DEETS

18 - 20 OCT  
Patchewollock VIC  
[TICKETS](#)

necting visitors to the rugged beauty of the Australian bush. And let's not forget the venue: the local Patchewollock Hotel, a beloved watering hole where festival-goers gather to swap stories and catch up over a cold drink. Whether you're there for the sheep race, the bush ballads, or just to soak up the friendly, laid-back atmosphere, there's something for everyone.

As the festival marks its 10th year, organisers promise that it will be better than ever, with surprises in store to celebrate the milestone. If you've never been to Patchewollock, this is the year to make the journey and experience the charm of a festival that truly captures the spirit of Australia's country life. And keep an eye out for a roving TikTok filming the festival fun.

More information at [www.patchewollockmusicfestival.com.au](http://www.patchewollockmusicfestival.com.au).



# Canberra celebrating a century of Scottish spirit

The Canberra Highland Gathering is set to be a grand celebration of Scottish culture on October 12th.

This year, the gathering will feature pipe bands performing throughout the day, solo piping and drumming competitions, and traditional Highland dancing.

The Tartan Warriors will showcase their strength in Scottish heavy athletic events, and attendees can explore their Scottish roots at clan tents. With 35 stalls, the event will also offer a variety of food, including traditional Scottish fare, and a range of market stalls.

Athol Chalmers, President of the Canberra Highland Society and Burns Club, shared his excitement: "It's going to be bigger and better than ever. We have about 35 stalls this year which is more than we've ever had."

"Last year, for the first time we had solo piping and drumming, and we had about 50 entries. This year we are expecting more."

The festivities will continue in the evening with a traditional ceilidh at the Canberra Burns Club, featuring a local Celtic band, Highland dancing,



**Historical reenactment and, top, massed bands at the 2023 Canberra Highland Gathering. Picture: [facebook.com/canberrahighlandgathering](https://www.facebook.com/canberrahighlandgathering)**

ing, piping, and drumming. This year's gathering also marks a significant milestone – the club's 100th anniversary.

Athol Chalmers highlighted the celebrations: "In the evening after the Highland gathering, we have our traditional ceilidh. The weekend's not finished then because on Sunday, the club celebrates its 100th birthday, a huge achievement for the Burns Club. Oldest club in Canberra, second-oldest business

in Canberra, so we've got a whole lot of events this year celebrating our centenary. But by good fortune, it turns out the 100th birthday is the 13th of October which is the day after the Highland Games. Celebrations at the club that day will see birthday cake, more Highland dancing, more pipe bands, and a drop of whiskey or two to celebrate the anniversary."

Canberra Burns Club has a rich history, starting in 1924 when Scots in Canberra, then

## DATES & DEETS

12 OCT  
Canberra ACT  
[canberragathering.com.au](http://canberragathering.com.au)

a small city, established it to preserve their culture. Over the years, the club has faced challenges, including wars and the Depression, but has remained resilient by continually reinventing itself.

The club's move to Kambah in 1991 marked a significant growth period, with membership skyrocketing. The Burns Club has always maintained its Scottish roots while supporting the local community. The Burns Club Pipe Band has been active since 1937.

The club's recent purchase of the Belconnen golf club symbolises its ongoing growth.

Organisers are encouraging attendees to make a weekend of it by participating in both the Highland Gathering and the anniversary celebrations at the Burns Club.

The weekend promises to be a vibrant showcase of Scottish culture, tradition, and community spirit.

# Ah shucks! Irish love Aussie oyster champ

Australia's own Gerard "Doody" Dennis has brought his incredible oyster-shucking skills back to the world's oldest and most famous oyster festival – the Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival in Ireland. Known for his enthusiasm, determination, and charm, Doody has become a fan favourite since first competing in this prestigious event.

The Australian Embassy Ireland said on their [Facebook](#) page: "Doody is fan favourite at the festival who brings plenty of Passion, energy and Aussie flair to the Oyster Shucking competition held in Galway annually."



The Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival, now in its 70th year, is one of Europe's longest-running

food festivals and the most internationally recognised Irish event outside of St Patrick's Day. Launched in 1954 by Brian Collins, the festival draws thousands of visitors from around the globe each September to sample Galway's famous native oysters and to witness the fiercely competitive World Oyster Opening Championships.

This year, Doody returned to Galway for his second time to represent Australia, following his back-to-back victories at the Narooma Oyster Festival in New South Wales. As one of the few Australians to have competed in the World Oyster Opening Championships, Doody's presence was a significant moment of cultural pride, not just for the oyster industry but for Australia as a whole.

In Australia, Doody's shucking prowess is well known, particularly in his home state of New South Wales where he has mastered the art of opening Rock Oysters. His journey from the oyster farms of the New South Wales South Coast to the bright lights of Galway is a story of dedication, skill, and love for the humble oyster. His participation in the Galway festival brought a unique Aussie flavour to an event steeped in Irish tradition.



**Australian oyster-shucking champion Gerard 'Doody' Dennehy returned to Ireland for the second time to take part in the Galway International Oyster and Seafood Festival.**  
Picture: [www.facebook.com/GalwayOysterFestival](http://www.facebook.com/GalwayOysterFestival)

The festival itself has come a long way from its humble beginnings, when just 34 guests attended the first banquet. Now, it hosts competitors from more than 20 countries, all vying for the coveted World Champion Oyster Shucker title. The event has become a staple in Ireland's cultural calendar, featuring not only shucking competitions but also seafood trails, street parades, and top-class entertainment, attracting celebrities like director John Huston, golfer Christy O'Connor Jr, and Irish Rugby legend Brian O'Driscoll.

This year, Doody took to the stage on Saturday, 28th September, competing against the world's best oyster shuckers. The competition began with a vibrant parade through Galway's Eyre Square, where crowds waved flags from around the world, and Doody's supporters were encouraged to bring along their Australian flags to cheer him on.

Doody's return to Galway is a testament to the growing relationship between Australia and Ireland in the world of oysters.

**Celtic Council of Australia (Queensland) Inc**  
ABN 83 434 304 383  
*proudly presents*

**BRISBANE CELTIC FESTIVAL**  
Moorlands Park, Auchenflower, Brisbane  
**Sunday 13 October 2024 9.30am to 4pm**

**WHAT'S ON**  
Celtic Music and Dance from the Eight Celtic Nations  
Massed Pipe Bands  
Tartan Clothing & Kilts: please wear  
Kids Celtic Games  
Prizes: Best Celtic dressed child & adult

**WHAT TO BRING**  
Hats, Umbrellas, Chairs/Blanket, Water and Picnic Lunch if desired.  
Light Refreshments available from food vans on site. Variety of vendor tents.

**HOW TO GET THERE**  
Train: Auchenflower Train Station  
Bus: Coronation Drive, such as routes 444 or 445. Get off at a stop near Land St or Wesley Hospital  
CityCat Ferry: Get off at the Regatta Ferry Terminal. 10-minute walk to

**Standing Stones  
Celtic Nations Monument**

**Information contact**  
<https://www.ccaq.org.au/brisbane-celtic-festival-2024>  
CCAQ President Mavis Williams CyC  
email: [mkw.pinklady.dua@hotmail.com](mailto:mkw.pinklady.dua@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 07 3849 8271

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# Red Hugh's royal funeral reenacted in Spanish city

A Spanish city came to a standstill in honour of Red Hugh O'Donnell, an Irish clan leader who died more than 400 years ago. The streets of Valladolid filled with thousands of onlookers on September 13th and 14th, as an elaborate re-enactment of O'Donnell's funeral was held, continuing a tradition that began in 2022.

Red Hugh O'Donnell, the chieftain of the O'Donnell Clan, was a central figure in Irish history. He led the Nine Years' War, joining forces with Hugh O'Neill, the Earl of Tyrone, in a bid to drive the English out of Ireland. With support from Spanish forces, O'Donnell fought at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601, one of Ireland's most significant battles. Unfortunately, the battle ended in a devastating defeat for the Irish-Spanish alliance, resulting in Red Hugh's journey to Spain in search of further support from King Philip III.

While in Spain, Red Hugh fell ill, with some speculating he was poisoned by a British



**Red Hugh O'Donnell's funeral reenactment in Valladolid, Spain. Pictures: [facebook.com/hispanoirish](https://www.facebook.com/hispanoirish)**

agent. He passed away in 1602 and was given a royal burial in Valladolid at the Chapel of Marvels, a resting place usually reserved for Spain's nobility.

In 2020, Spanish archaeologists began a search for Red Hugh's remains near a Santander bank in Valladolid, where the old chapel once stood. While the search was unsuccessful, the fascination with Red Hugh's legacy continued to grow.

In 2024, the streets of Val-

ladolid once again echoed with the sound of bagpipes, as the empty coffin representing Red Hugh O'Donnell was carried through the city in a horse-drawn carriage, flanked by torchbearers in period costume. The ceremony was organised by the Hispano-Irish Association, with its president Carlos Burgos saying: "The king of Spain wanted to give him a royal funeral, so that's what we tried to remember."

He added that Valladolid

people have taken Red Hugh into their hearts as a "true hero".

Plans are also underway to formally twin Red Hugh's hometown of Lifford in County Donegal, Ireland, with Simancas, Spain. The twinning project is expected to strengthen cultural ties between the two towns and further commemorate Red Hugh's lasting impact.

Red Hugh's re-enacted funeral has become a major event in Valladolid, drawing interest from both Spanish locals and international visitors alike. Burgos hopes that more Irish people will visit Valladolid in the future to experience the commemoration of their national hero.

Red Hugh was born in Lifford, County Donegal, in 1572 and died in Simancas, Spain, in 1602. Plans are underway to twin the two towns. Lifford celebrates Red Hugh's birthday each year on October 30th.

The brave clan chieftain's legacy continues to resonate across Europe.

# Festivals

## WILLIAMSTOWN HIGHLAND GATHERING

Gathering of the clans, dancing, music, heavy games, markets.

Williamstown VIC

26 OCT

## CANBERRA HIGHLAND GATHERING

Celebrate Scottish heritage at the Kambah Oval.

Canberra ACT

12 OCT

## IRISH WOOLFEST BOOROWA

Celebrate Irish culture, featuring the iconic Running of the Sheep.

Boorowa NSW

06 OCT

## SYDNEY HIGHLAND GATHERING

Scots College hosts pipe band and highland dancing contests.

Sydney NSW

27 OCT

## TABLELANDS FOLK FESTIVAL

More than 50 acts will entertain you on this magical escape from life. Headliners include Austral.

Yungaburra QLD

25 - 27 OCT

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

# ANGLO&CELTIC

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

## BRISBANE CELTIC FESTIVAL

Auchenflower QLD

Celebrate the magic of the Celtic Nations with a spectacular lineup of events and activities, all set against the majestic backdrop of the Celtic Nations Monument in Moorlands Park.

13 OCTOBER

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



01 OCT

The 77th Annual Mackay Eisteddfod (28 SEP to 12 OCT)  
Mackay QLD  
The Reytans  
Adelaide SA  
While She Sleeps  
Gwynneville NSW

02 OCT

Grace Petrie  
Melbourne VIC  
Mackenzey Mackay  
Sydney NSW

03 OCT

The Reytans  
Brisbane QLD  
Grace Petrie  
Canberra ACT  
Mackenzey Mackay  
Brisbane QLD

04 OCT

The Reytans  
Sydney NSW  
While She Sleeps  
Hindmarsh SA  
Grace Petrie  
Sydney NSW  
Great Brits Reunion Party feat. Quadrophonics and The Urban Hymns  
Perth WA

05 OCT

Australian Historical Dance  
Community Folk Dance: Jane Austen Ball  
Dayboro QLD  
Desert Knights Medieval Fantasy Festival  
Port Augusta SA  
David Walliams  
Melbourne VIC  
The Reytans  
Melbourne VIC  
Two of Us - The Songs of Lennon and McCartney  
Kensington Park SA  
The U2 Show Achtung Baby - The 20 Years Tour - U2's Greatest Hits  
Perth WA  
Highland Harmony - Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band  
Bundaberg QLD  
While She Sleeps  
Melbourne VIC  
Australian Celtic Women  
Wamuran QLD  
Mackenzey Mackay

Melbourne VIC

06 OCT

Armadale Highland Gathering and Perth Kilt Run  
Armadale WA  
Book Fair at The Celtic Club  
Melbourne VIC

07 OCT

Labour Day  
ACT, NSW, SA  
King's Birthday  
QLD

08 OCT

David Walliams  
Hobart TAS  
Tourist  
Brisbane QLD  
Jorja Smith  
Melbourne VIC  
Kathryn Clements - Mary Black  
Tribute  
Ringwood VIC

09 OCT

Joanna Lumley  
Brisbane QLD  
Tourist  
Melbourne VIC  
Beth McCarthy  
Brisbane QLD  
Robbie vs Ed by JoeBo  
Perth WA  
Celtic Talks at the Croft - Stone crosses in the Celtic lands  
Glen Innes NSW

10 OCT

Tourist  
Sydney NSW  
Jorja Smith  
Adelaide SA  
Steve Hughes  
Rockingham WA

11 OCT

Australian Historical Dance  
Community Folk Dance  
Samford QLD  
Joanna Lumley  
Melbourne VIC  
Canberra Irish Set Dance Weekend (to 13 OCT)  
Hall ACT  
2024 Seniors Celebration Lunch  
Celtic Club, Melbourne VIC  
Tourist  
Perth WA  
The Beatles: 50 Years On

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

Maryborough QLD

Caligula Enjoy The Silence Tour  
Melbourne VIC  
Stephen K Amos  
Sydney NSW  
Halloween Trivia Night  
Westbury TAS  
Come and Try Morris Dancing at the Black Sheep  
Hawthorn VIC  
Celtica  
Broomie WA  
Steve Hughes  
Burswood WA

12 OCT

Canberra Highland Gathering  
Canberra ACT  
The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band presents: A Wee Fling  
Coburg VIC  
David Walliams  
Perth WA  
Stephen K Amos  
Dee Why NSW  
UB40  
Gold Coast QLD  
Joanna Lumley  
Melbourne VIC  
The Best of The Bee Gees  
Perth WA  
Caligula Enjoy The Silence Tour  
Sydney NSW  
Seventh Wonder (Fleetwood Mac tribute)  
Adelaide SA  
Beth McCarthy  
Melbourne VIC  
Oasis vs Blur Tribute Night  
Quinn's Rocks WA  
Odyssey - The Ultimate Tribute Festival (with tributes to Billy Joel, Fleetwood Mac, Elton John and more)  
Adelaide SA  
Steve Hughes  
Bunbury WA  
Darling Downs Irish Club Annual Dinner  
Toowoomba QLD

13 OCT

Brisbane Celtic Festival  
Auchenflower, Brisbane QLD  
UB40  
Brisbane QLD  
Beth McCarthy  
Sydney NSW  
Celtica  
Port Hedland WA  
The Rambling Irish

Lane Cove National Park NSW  
Combined Clans Luncheon at the Fogolar Furlan Centre  
Felixstow SA  
Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club at St George's Church  
Travancore VIC  
Steve Hughes  
Manjimup WA

14 OCT

Joanna Lumley  
Hobart TAS  
Celtica  
Karratha WA

15 OCT

Jorja Smith  
Sydney NSW

16 OCT

UB40  
Sydney NSW  
Joanna Lumley  
Adelaide SA  
Celtica  
Mandurah WA  
Queensland Irish Association  
Members Lunch  
Coorparoo RSL, Coorparoo QLD

17 OCT

Passenger  
Perth WA  
Kim Wilde  
Brisbane QLD  
UB40  
Melbourne VIC  
Joanna Lumley  
Adelaide SA  
Stephen K Amos  
Windsor NSW  
Irish Film Festival (to 20 OCT)  
Sydney NSW  
Celtica  
Albany WA  
Queensland Irish Association  
Members Drinks  
Normanby Hotel, Red Hill QLD

18 OCT

Pig 'N' Whistle Pig Pub Crawl (to 20 OCT)  
Brisbane QLD  
Smokie  
Melbourne VIC  
Kim Wilde  
Twin Towns NSW  
UB40  
Adelaide SA  
Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival (to

# GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



## FLEUIREU FOLK FESTIVAL

Willunga SA

South Australia's largest and friendliest folk music event. Headliners include Felicity Urquhart & Josh Cunningham (pictured), Alan Reid (Scotland), and Edwina Hayes (UK).

25 - 27 OCTOBER

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20 OCT)  
Kangaroo Valley NSW  
Melbourne Cemetery Gothic Picnic  
Melbourne VIC  
The 10th Annual Patchewollock  
Music Festival (to 20 OCT)  
Patchewollock VIC  
Stephen K Amos  
Wollongong NSW  
Robbie Williams Tribute plus 90s  
Hits by JoeBo  
Perth WA  
Celtica  
Margaret River WA

Joanna Lumley  
Sydney NSW  
Celtica  
Kalgoorlie Boulder WA

22 OCT  
Kim Wilde  
Perth WA  
Joanna Lumley  
Sydney NSW  
Dire Straits Experience  
St Kilda VIC  
Celtica  
Merredin WA

Brisbane QLD  
The Doors Alive  
Sydney NSW  
Smokie  
Brisbane QLD  
The U2 Show Achtung Baby - Stuck  
In A Moment - The U2 & INXS Story  
Brisbane QLD  
Stephen K Amos  
Liverpool NSW  
Best of British  
Fremantle WA  
Celtica  
Subiaco WA

John Edward  
Newcastle NSW  
Craigmore Halloween Market  
Elizabeth Park SA  
Boofest Halloween Market  
Northcote VIC  
The Queensland Piobaireachd  
Group Monthly Gathering  
Ipswich QLD  
Happy Oiche Shamhna at the Irish  
Club Hotel  
Toowoomba QLD  
29 OCT  
Thom Yorke  
Melbourne VIC

19 OCT  
Passenger  
Brisbane QLD  
Smokie  
Melbourne VIC  
Dr Who Month and Murder in the  
Marketplace at Fox and Hounds  
Wongawallan QLD  
Kim Wilde  
Sydney NSW  
Joanna Lumley  
Perth WA  
Dire Straits Experience  
Sydney NSW  
The Best of The Bee Gees  
Geelong VIC  
City of Newcastle RSL Pipe Band  
Centennial Ball  
Newcastle NSW  
The U2 Show Achtung Baby - The  
20 Years Tour - U2's Greatest Hits  
Sydney NSW  
Home and Away charity event  
Irish Club of WA, Subiaco WA  
Stephen K Amos  
Hornsby NSW

23 OCT  
Passenger  
Melbourne VIC  
Smokie  
Perth WA  
Joanna Lumley  
Sydney NSW  
Dire Straits Experience  
Brisbane QLD  
Celtica  
Bunbury WA  
Michael Daves & Jacob Jolliff  
(USA) at The Gaelic Club  
Sydney NSW  
Nubya Garcia  
Melbourne VIC

26 OCT  
Bill Bailey  
Wollongong NSW  
Williamstown Highland Celtic  
Gathering  
Seaworks VIC  
Society of St Andrew of Scotland,  
Darling Downs Branch Gala Dinner  
Toowoomba QLD  
Caledonian Society of WA Hallow-  
een Ceilidh  
Inglewood WA  
Buzcocks & Modern English  
Adelaide SA  
The Doors Alive  
Perth WA  
Smokie  
Tweed Heads NSW  
Kim Wilde  
Melbourne VIC  
Modern English  
Adelaide SA  
John Edward  
Sydney NSW  
Trick or Treat at Kyril Castle (to  
27 OCT)  
Dunnstown VIC  
The Beatles: 50 Years On  
Cairns QLD  
Nubya Garcia  
Fremantle WA  
Halloween Ceili at The Gaelic Club  
Sydney NSW

30 OCT  
Stephen Fry  
Adelaide SA  
Coldplay  
Melbourne VIC  
Take That  
Perth WA  
Bill Bailey  
Bunbury WA  
Thom Yorke  
Melbourne VIC  
Busted  
Melbourne VIC  
Celtic Conversations: Lunch at the  
Celtic Club with Steve Carey  
'Is James Joyce Dead'  
Melbourne VIC

20 OCT  
Irish Sessions at The Northern Star  
Hamilton NSW  
Smokie  
Adelaide SA  
Kim Wilde  
Wollongong NSW  
UB40  
Perth WA  
The U2 Show Achtung Baby - Stuck  
In A Moment - The U2 & INXS Story  
Canberra ACT  
Scottish Luncheon  
Bathurst NSW

24 OCT  
Irish Film Festival (to 27 OCT)  
Melbourne VIC  
Buzcocks  
Gold Coast QLD  
Kim Wilde  
Adelaide SA  
Bill Bailey  
Geelong VIC  
Attrition  
North Perth WA  
Stephen K Amos  
Castile Hill NSW  
Nubya Garcia  
Sydney NSW

27 OCT  
Stephen Fry  
Perth WA  
Buzcocks & Modern English  
Fremantle WA  
Bill Bailey  
Canberra ACT  
Smokie  
Toowoomba QLD  
Attrition  
Hobart TAS

21 OCT  
Passenger  
Sydney NSW

25 OCT  
Australian Historical Dance Com-  
munity Folk Dance: Bush Dance  
Arana Hills QLD  
Tablelands Folk Festival  
Yungaburra QLD  
Nimbin Roots Festival (to 27 OCT)  
Nimbin NSW  
Fanguary at Currumbin Wildlife  
Park (to 26 OCT)  
Currumbin QLD  
Buzcocks & Modern English

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## Tours

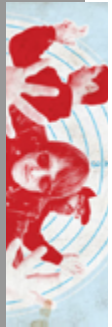
### KIM WILDE

17 OCT Brisbane QLD  
18 OCT Tweed Hds NSW  
19 OCT Sydney NSW  
20 OCT Wollongong NSW  
22 OCT Perth WA  
24 OCT Adelaide SA  
26 OCT Melbourne VIC



### ASH

06 OCT Perth WA  
08 OCT Adelaide SA  
10 OCT Brisbane QLD  
11 OCT Melbourne VIC  
12 OCT Sydney NSW



### TAKE THAT

30 OCT Perth WA  
02 NOV Barossa Valley SA  
06 NOV Melbourne VIC  
07 NOV Sydney NSW  
09 NOV Hunter Vly NSW  
10 NOV Mt Cotton QLD



### COLDPLAY

30 OCT Melbourne VIC  
31 OCT Melbourne VIC  
02 NOV Melbourne VIC  
03 NOV Melbourne VIC  
06 NOV Sydney NSW  
07 NOV Sydney NSW  
09 NOV Sydney NSW  
10 NOV Sydney NSW



### THOM YORKE

29 OCT Melbourne VIC  
30 OCT Melbourne VIC  
01 NOV Sydney NSW  
02 NOV Sydney NSW



# GIGS & REELS

TOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS



JACK AND MICHAEL WHITEHALL



THE SMYTHS



BEAR GRYLLS



THE MURDER CAPITAL



THE PRODIGY



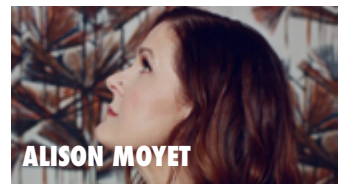
JOHN BISHOP



THE THE



JAMES BLUNT



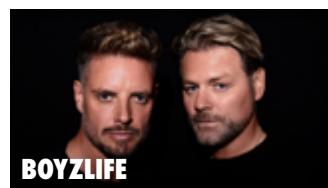
ALISON MOYET



THE SCRIPT



STEPHEN FRY



BOYZLIFE



HOZIER

## NOVEMBER

Tours:  
 Buzzcocks & Modern English  
 The Doors Alive  
 Smokie  
 Thom Yorke  
 Busted  
 Gary Og  
 The U2 Show Achtung Baby - Stuck In A Moment - The U2 & INXS Story  
 Stephen Fry  
 Coldplay  
 Take That  
 Guy Fawkes at Fox and Hounds  
 Eric Idle  
 Bill Bailey  
 Damien Leith: Irish Classics  
 The Best of The Bee Gees  
 Brisbane Shakespeare Festival  
 No Such Thing As A Fish presents Thundersnerds  
 Hozier  
 Raven  
 John Edward  
 Sean Shibe Scotland Unbound  
 Yard Act  
 Eurovision On Tour  
 The Dropkick Murphys  
 The The  
 Matt Maltese  
 Myles Smith  
 Jon Ronson's Psychopath Night  
 Glass Animals  
 James Blunt  
 Artemas

The Coronas  
 The Cult  
 John Bishop  
 Nathan Carter  
 The Killers  
 Crowded House

Festivals:  
 Irish Film Festival  
 British Film Festival  
 Maldon Folk Festival  
 Beechworth Heritage Festival  
 Maleny Music Festival  
 Beltane Fire Community Gathering  
 Ska and British Music Festival 24  
 Scots On Show  
 Mount Roland Folk Festival  
 Victorian Medieval Festival at Kyril Castle  
 Brit Fest  
 Bundanoon Folk Festival  
 St Andrews Day

## DECEMBER

Tours:  
 Fat White Family  
 James Marriot  
 Jamie Webster  
 Dan and Phil  
 The Killers  
 Crowded House

Festivals:  
 Daylesford Highland Gathering

Hogmanay  
 Becky Hill at Wildlands Festival  
 Woodford Folk Festival

## JANUARY

Tours:  
 Beans on Toast  
 Bear Grylls  
 You Me At Six  
 The Script  
 The Druids  
 Rufus Wainwright  
 Primal Scream

Festivals:  
 Maryborough Highland Gathering  
 Lake School Koroiit  
 Cygnet Folk Festival  
 Scottish Weekender  
 Burns Supper  
 Timeless Summer Tour  
 Illawarra Folk Festival  
 Tamar Valley Folk Festival  
 Newstead Live Music Festival  
 Deloraine Celtic Music Weekend

## FEBRUARY

Tours:  
 Troy Hawke  
 Jersey Guys  
 OMD  
 The Smyths



TIMELESS SUMMER



TORVILL & DEAN



SARAH MILLICAN



STEVE BACKSHALL



TOCC



DROPKICK MURPHYS



THE DRUIDS



BLINDBOY



OMD

# Queensland's Hottest Ginger 2024 at Finn McCool's



**FINN MCCOOL'S** **BOOK NOW**

## MELBOURNE CUP DAY

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER · FROM 11AM

FOOD & BEVERAGE PACKAGES	PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED & SWEEPSTAKES MAT MCCOULT FROM 2:30PM
--------------------------	--

CONDITIONS APPLY

november 2nd

# HOUSE OF HORRORS

open 'til late

Prizes for Best Dressed | Spooky Cocktails | Live DJs All Night

# Soft Cell to perform first-ever Aussie tour

Sometimes you feel you've got to... run away. And that's what 80s iconic synth-pop band Soft Cell will be doing in April 2025 with their first-ever tour of Australia.

With an announcement that will have all fans of the decade donning their fluro and leathers, Brit synth-pop band Soft Cell will be touring Australia for the very first time in April 2025, performing their classic album *Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret* in its entirety, including hits like the iconic *Tainted Love*, the fan favourite *Where Did Our Love Go*, and more!

In addition to the band's hits, Marc Almond will perform his solo hits from a career that spans over 40 years.

The duo will be finger-clicking their way across both coasts of Australia in April, making sure fans in Perth don't miss out on this much-anticipated series of gigs.

Marc Almond said: "I have always wanted to go to Australia. Over my 45-year career (yes that long) fans have always asked me when it might happen, so overjoyed to say that it is happening. And to perform both as Marc Almond with my solo hits, and then transform into Soft Cell on the same night will be another first. Everyone tells me Australians love to party and it promises to be something very special."

Four decades deep into their career, Australian fans will finally be able to hear and experience the music of Soft Cell live.

Soft Cell, the English synth-pop duo consisting of Marc Almond and David Ball, achieved significant success in the 1980s. They are best known for their 1981 hit *Tainted Love*, which topped the



charts in 17 countries and became one of the best-selling singles of the year, including Australia where it reached the Top 10 singles chart. Their debut album, *Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret*, also went platinum and included other hits like *Bedsitter* and *Say Hello, Wave Goodbye*.

In the UK, Soft Cell had twelve top 40 hits, including *Torch* (number 2), *What* (number 3), and *Bedsitter* (number 4)<sup>1</sup>. They released four top 20 albums between 1981 and 1984.

After Soft Cell initially split in 1984 Marc Almond pursued a successful solo career. He released several albums that showcased his versatility, including *Marc and the Mambas*, which delved into more experimental and cabaret-style music. His collaborations with artists like Gene Pitney on the hit *Something's*

*Gotten Hold of My Heart* further cemented his status in the music industry.

Almond's influence extends beyond music. His bold, androgynous image and open discussion of his sexuality have made him a cultural icon. His work has inspired a generation of musicians and artists who admire his fearless approach to both his music and personal expression.

Dave Ball founded his second electronic duo, *The Grid*, with Richard Norris in 1988. *The Grid* helped define the burgeoning UK acid house scene of the early 1990s with singles such as *Flotation*, *Crystal Clear* and *Texas Cowboys*, as well as the million-selling single *Swamp Thing*.

Over the decades, Soft Cell have come to be known as one of the true pioneers of

## TOUR DATES

10 APR Perth WA  
13 APR Sydney NSW  
15 APR Brisbane QLD  
17 APR Melbourne VIC

Brit synth-pop music. With 25 million sales, six UK top 10 singles and a BRIT Award to their name, they've cast a huge influence over music culture ever since the 80s, setting the synth-pop standard for Pulp, Erasure and the Pet Shop Boys to follow and inspiring the industrial scene before it exploded in the '90s. They have since gone on to be sampled on Rihanna's smash *S.O.S.* and laying the groundwork for the current alt-pop music scene.

Tickets are now on sale from [www.destroyalllines.com/tours/soft-cell](http://www.destroyalllines.com/tours/soft-cell).

# Bryan Adams to do it for you, Australia

Everything he does, he does it for you and the latest thing Bryan Adams is doing for you is bringing his So Happy It Hurts Tour to Australia and New Zealand in February 2025.

Perhaps the world's most famous Canadian, Bryan was born to an English couple who emigrated to Canada from Plymouth, southwest England, in the 1950s.

From his very first concerts in Australia in 1984, Adams is a long-time live favourite down under. No stranger to being on the road, he is one of the best-loved performers of the last four decades, achieving a string of #1 hits in over 40 countries. The songs are legendary: Summer of '69, (Everything I Do) I Do It For You, Heaven, Run To You, Please Forgive Me, 18 til I Die and many more.

With many an accolade, Adams is the recipient of numerous awards, including a GRAMMY for Best Rock Performance (with 16 nominations), not to mention

nominations for three Academy Awards and five Golden Globe, American Music Awards, and a Companion of the Order of Canada. He has duetted with icons Tina Turner, Sting, Rod Stewart, and Mel C.

The So Happy It Hurts AU/NZ arena tour begins with two shows in Christchurch and Auckland, followed by performances in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane. Joining Adams as special guest on all shows – and his first time performing in AU/NZ – is English singer and songwriter James Arthur. One of the world's biggest streaming artists, Arthur has over 40 million monthly listeners on Spotify alone, and recently scored the #1 spot on the UK Album charts with 2024 release Bitter Sweet Love. Arthur first broke through with 2016's Say You Won't Let Go, officially the UK's most streamed song that year. Other hit singles include Impossible, Can I Be Him, Sun Comes Up, Naked, Emp-



ty Space, Rewrite The Stars, Falling Like the Stars, Train Wreck, and Lasting Lover, all certified Platinum.

Currently on tour in Europe, in August Bryan Adams launched Bad Records, his own independent label, releasing a limited-edition double A-side 7", digital single and video of two songs, Rock And Roll Hell and War Machine. In 2023, Adams re-recorded some of his biggest songs with double album Classics, he later released a three-album box set from his

## TOUR DATES

06 FEB Melbourne VIC  
07 FEB Adelaide SA  
09 FEB Perth WA  
12 FEB Sydney NSW  
13 FEB Brisbane QLD

residency at The Royal Albert Hall. He released his 16th studio album, So Happy It Hurts, in 2022.

Tickets are now on sale via [frontiertouring.com/bryanadams](https://frontiertouring.com/bryanadams).

# Bad Manners Can Can bring the ska back



UK ska legends Bad Manners are coming to Australia on their 50th Anniversary Tour.

Fronted by the larger-than-life Buster Bloodvessel, Bad Manners have a huge set of non-stop pop ska classics - Lip Up Fatty, Special Brew, Walking In The Sunshine, Lorraine, Just A Feeling, My Girl Lollipop, Inner London Violence and the ultimate knees up Can Can.

Bad Manners quickly became the favourites of the ska movement through their wild on-stage antics, sheer joviality and obnoxious amounts of energy.

Bad Manners were at their

peak most popular during the late 1970s and early 1980s, during a period when other ska revival bands, such as Madness and The Specials, The Beat and The Selecter, filled the charts. Bad Manners spent a staggering 111 weeks in the UK Singles Chart between 1980 and 1983. One of the main reasons for their notoriety was bald outsized frontman, Buster Bloodvessel, whose wild onstage antics resulted in them being banned from Top of the Pops.

Keeping the flame alive, UK originators Bad Manners are ensuring ska remains as

## TOUR DATES

04 APR Perth WA  
05 APR Adelaide SA  
10 APR Brisbane QLD  
11 APR Melbourne VIC  
12 APR Sydney NSW

strong as ever not only as a heritage movement, but also one attracting new fans.

Expect a set full of chart-busters, sing-a-longs and one of the best ska parties around as Buster and the boys deliver a feel-good show.

[Tickets](#) are on sale now.

# The Stranglers celebrating five decades with Oz tour



The Stranglers playing at Brisbane's The Tivoli in 2023.

British iconic punk and new wave rockers, The Stranglers are returning to Australia next March to mark their monumental 50th anniversary!

First formed in 1974, The Stranglers no bullsh\*t attitude was embraced by the punk movement of the late 70s. But their musicianship and menace transcended the genre, creating a sound unique to themselves.

Their distinctive sound – combining dark aggression with melodic brilliance and effortless cool – has earned them recognition as one of the most credible and influential bands to emerge from the punk era. With 24 UK Top 40 singles and 19 UK Top 40 albums, their six-decade career is nothing short of legendary.

Fans can expect a setlist packed with hits from their extensive 50-year catalogue,

## TOUR DATES

19 MAR Sydney NSW  
20 MAR Brisbane QLD  
22 MAR Melbourne VIC  
23 MAR Adelaide SA  
25 MAR Perth WA

including timeless classics like Golden Brown, Always the Sun, No More Heroes, and Peaches.

The band's 50th anniversary milestone serves as a testament to their enduring legacy. With a rich musical history and a forward-thinking approach, The Stranglers remain an enduring force in the ever-evolving world of rock music. Don't miss the chance to see them live and join in the celebration of this incredible milestone!

More info at [www.thestranglers.co.uk](http://www.thestranglers.co.uk).

# Are We There Yet? James Marriott returns!

British indie-rock musician James Marriott will make his anticipated antipodean return this December.

The multidisciplinary creative will visit Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne before a final show at Perth's Astor Theatre.

From uploading acoustic covers to YouTube in 2012, James became a popular YouTube personality, amassing millions of followers who tune in daily for his music, comedy and relatable personality. Since launching his independent music career in 2020 with debut single 'slow down', James Marriott has experienced an incredible trajectory.

After racking up more than 20 million streams, the Brighton-based alternative musician took the time to perfectly craft his debut EP and released his first major body

## TOUR DATES

04 DEC Brisbane QLD  
06 DEC Sydney NSW  
08 DEC Melbourne VIC  
11 DEC Perth WA

of work Bitter Tongues in 2022, which solidified James Marriott as a multi-faceted artist & creative. Drawing from artist inspirations like Phoebe Bridgers, The Strokes and The 1975, Bitter Tongues is a genre-inclusive theatrical music piece in which James tackles his own heartbreak, sexuality, love, and his creative identity on social media.

James Marriott returns down under a year after making his celebrated Australian debut in 2023 and selling out headline shows in Sydney and Melbourne, having well and truly emerged onto the alt-rock scene as



one to watch. Touring the EP consistently across the UK on his own headline tour plus supporting Jake Bugg at London's Royal Albert Hall and performing at The Great Escape and Neighbourhood Weekender, James has

cemented his direction as an artist and creator. His first full length album Are We There Yet was released in 2023 to acclaim from fans and critics alike. Visit [frontiertouring.com/jamesmarriott](http://frontiertouring.com/jamesmarriott) for more information.

# The Primitives crash into town with Lovely tour

UK indie pop legends The Primitives are coming to Australia for a national run of shows in early 2025, following their recent celebration of the 35th anniversary of their glorious debut album, *Lovely*, and an appearance at this year's Glastonbury Festival.

After a false start earlier in 2024, Troubadour is proud to announce the rescheduled debut Australian tour for UK indie pop legends, The Primitives. The band have recently been celebrating the 35th anniversary of their acclaimed debut album, *Lovely*, and topped off the festival season with an appearance at Glastonbury.

The Primitives emerged from the UK independent music scene of the mid-1980s with a sound that distilled the shimmering guitar chime of The Byrds, the buzzsaw style of The Ramones and 60's girl group melodies into two-and-a-half-minute pop gems.

After topping the indie singles chart several times, their widely-acclaimed first album, *Lovely*, made them one of the UK's most revered alternative rock acts, while the international success of the single *Crash* saw them cross over to a mass audience. Further



chart success followed, along with two more studio albums, *Pure and Galore*, plus extensive tours of Europe and the US, before the band called it a day in 1992.

The band were reunited in 2009 by the untimely passing of original bass player Steve Dullaghan, reforming to play a show in his memory later that year in their hometown Coventry; their first time on stage together for 17 years. Bolstered by the success of this and of a secret show

in London, they went on to tour the UK in April 2010, followed by shows in the US and mainland Europe.

In 2011 The Primitives released the *Never Kill A Secret EP* through Fortuna Pop! The record featured two new songs and two covers of female fronted pop obscurities, the latter two being a taster for the covers album *Echoes and Rhymes*, released on Elefant records in 2012.

An album of new original Primitives songs entitled

## TOUR DATES

19 FEB Brisbane QLD  
20 FEB Melbourne VIC  
21 FEB Sydney NSW  
23 FEB Adelaide SA  
25 FEB Perth WA

*Spin-O-Rama* was released in 2014 and was showered with lavish praise. The general opinion being that it sounded like an alternative follow-up to their classic 1988 debut album *Lovely*.

The Primitives went back into the studio in late 2016 to record tracks for the *New Thrills EP*, which was released in May 2017.

In 2022 the band released the limited edition single *Don't Know Where To Start* - their first new material in six years. There was also a US release of the single on HHBTM Records. This was followed by a digital only single *I Won't Care*, released in May 2023.

Since reforming The Primitives have toured the UK multiple times, performed in Europe, the US and Japan.

Tickets are now on sale at [troubadourpresents.com/events/the-primitives/](http://troubadourpresents.com/events/the-primitives/)

# Supergrass bringing I Should Coco on tour

Britpop legends Supergrass are bringing their *I Should Coco* | 30th Anniversary Tour to Australia in June 2025. The three-date east coast run will be their first headline shows on our shores in 17 years which will see the band perform their iconic UK #1 debut album *I Should Coco* in full plus additional hits.

"15th May 2025 marks 30 years since 'I Should Coco'. Supergrass are thrilled to announce their return to per-

## TOUR DATES

07 JUN Melbourne VIC  
08 JUN Melbourne VIC  
10 JUN Sydney NSW  
11 JUN Brisbane QLD

form the debut album live, in its entirety, for the first time. Dynamic pricing not included," said founding member Mick Quinn.

The English rockers will bring their catalogue of hits including *Caught By The*



*Fuzz*, *Alright*, *Moving*, *Pumping On Your Stereo*, *Mansize Rooster* and *St Petersburg* to audiences across Australia. Since forming in Oxford UK in 1993, Supergrass have

received nods from the BRIT Awards, NME Awards, Q Awards and Ivor Novello Awards and are widely recognised as one of the most influential bands to emerge during the 1990s.

They first broke onto the Britpop scene with their Mercury-nominated UK #1 debut album *I Should Coco* in 1995 with its fourth single *Alright* catapulting the band to global success.

Tickets from [frontiertouring.com](http://frontiertouring.com).

# Get Loaded up on Scottish legends Primal Scream

One of the most influential and exciting live bands in modern music – Scottish pioneers Primal Scream – will return to Australia in January 2025 for their first shows down under since 2018.

Responsible for one of music's most groundbreaking albums in 1991's Mercury prize-winning *Screamadelica*, the legends behind a string of hits such as *Movin' on Up*, *Rocks*, *Country Girl*, *Loaded*, *Kill All Hippies*, *Come Together*, *Swastika Eyes* and many more will return this summer for headline shows in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth.

With their influence cited by Fontaines D.C. to Dua Lipa in 2024, Primal Scream return in celebration of *Come Ahead* – their new studio album, due for release via BMG on 8th November.

Led by singles *Love Insurrection* – described by MOJO as “a call for peace, love and understanding from within a funky disco fug” –



and the brooding *Deep Dark Waters*, *Come Ahead* is the band's 12th full-length record and their first new music since 2016's *Chaosmosis*. 11 new songs that find the group's

principal songwriter, vocalist and frontman Bobby Gillespie preparing to release some of the most personal songwriting of his band's career. Says Gillespie: “I'm very

## TOUR DATES

10 JAN Melbourne VIC  
11 JAN Sydney NSW  
13 JAN Brisbane QLD  
14 JAN Adelaide SA  
16 JAN Fremantle WA

excited about this album in a way that you would be making your first record. If there was an overall theme to *Come Ahead* it might be one of conflict, whether inner or outer. There is also a thread of compassion running through the album. The title is a Glaswegian term. If someone threatens to fight you, you say, ‘come ahead!’ It's redolent of the indomitable spirit of the Glaswegian, and the album itself shares that aggressive attitude and confidence. They have a word for this up there, *gallus*. *Come Ahead*'s quite a cheeky title too.”

Tickets via [frontiertouring.com/primalscream](https://frontiertouring.com/primalscream).

# The Longest Johns sail in with sea shanties

Prepare to be swept off your feet and into the roaring tides of adventure as the world's most beloved sea shanty crew, The Longest Johns, make their long-awaited voyage to Australia!

This isn't just any tour – this is a full-blown, barnacle-busting, all-hands-on-deck musical odyssey!

For over a decade, this Bristol-based band of buccaneers have been bringing the ‘rock n roll of 1752’ to rooms full of smiling, swashbuckling fans the world over.

Now, after 12 years of charting courses through treacherous waters, from the foggy shores of Europe to the bustling harbours of North America, The Longest Johns

## TOUR DATES

13 MAY Perth WA  
15 MAY Adelaide SA  
16 MAY Melbourne VIC  
17 MAY Brisbane QLD  
19 MAY Sydney NSW

are ready to bring their raucous, rollicking sea shanties down under.

In May, the crew will dock in a city near you, ready to unleash their four-part vocal harmonies with fiddles and drums in tow. With five albums under their hefty belt buckles, including their latest, *Voyage*, released earlier this year, The Longest Johns are on a mission to turn every



Aussie venue into a maritime tavern to be filled with roaring sing-alongs and the clinking of flagons.

The Longest Johns have not only graced the stages of

international folk festivals but have also amassed a staggering 400 million streams, half a million YouTube subscribers, and over 200,000 hours of Twitch views. They've partnered with some of the biggest names in gaming including Ubisoft, *Sea of Thieves*, *Ship of Fools*, *Wanderworld* and even laid down the soundtrack for *No Man's Wife*, a new film from the co-producers of the *Fisherman's Friends* films.

Expect to be swept away by iconic tunes like *Drunken Sailor*, *Hammer and The Anvil*, *Wellerman*, and even sea-shanty-infused classics like *Proud Mary* and *Santania*.

Tickets now on sale from [destroyalllines.com](https://destroyalllines.com).

# Brisbane launch for book about saga of Irish nun

A true story stranger than fiction, *Sister Liguori: The Nun Who Divided a Nation* by Jeff Kildea, will be launched in Brisbane this month.

When an Irish Catholic nun, fearful she was about to be murdered by her mother superior, fled her convent in Wagga Wagga and sought the protection of the Orange order, it sparked a sectarian war that divided the Australian nation. Arrested as a lunatic at the request of her bishop, she was declared sane by the Lunacy Court and released.

Then followed one of the most controversial court cases of the 1920s, *Partridge v. Dwyer*, in which the ex-nun sued Bishop Dwyer for damages. The hearing attracted the attention of the press

## DATES & DEETS

09 OCT  
Auchenflower QLD  
RSVP: [anthony@connorcourt.com.au](mailto:anthony@connorcourt.com.au)

across Australia and around the world. Each day the gallery was packed; hundreds queuing in the rain to get a seat.

Meanwhile, in parliament, demands by opposition members for an inquiry into Catholic convents led to threats of violence between Catholic and Protestant MPs. When the nun's brother kidnapped her off a suburban Sydney street, intending to take her back to her family in Ireland, the police intervened. But when the brother



left the country without charge, the opposition moved a censure motion that threatened to bring down the Labor government.

Jeff Kildea is a retired barrister and honorary professor

in Irish Studies at the University of New South Wales. In 2014 he held the Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at University College Dublin. He has written extensively on the history of the Irish in Australia.

*Sister Liguori: The Nun Who Divided a Nation* is available from Connor Court Publishing ([connorcourtpublishing.com.au](http://connorcourtpublishing.com.au)) for \$34.95.

The book will be launched by Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (Jesuit priest, human rights lawyer and academic) at The Holy Spirit Church, 17 Harriett Street, Auchenflower 4066, on Wednesday, 9th October, at 6pm. If you would like to attend, RSVP by 8th October to email [anthony@connorcourt.com](mailto:anthony@connorcourt.com) or [jfkildea@icloud.com](mailto:jfkildea@icloud.com).

# Celebrate 10 years of Irish film magic

The Irish Film Festival Australia is back for its biggest year yet, celebrating a milestone 10th birthday from October 17 to November 24. This year's festival promises to be more exciting than ever, with an impressive array of Irish films and documentaries lighting up screens across five major Australian cities, as well as being available online nationwide.

The festivities kick off in Sydney at Dendy Cinema in Newtown from October 17 to 20, followed by Melbourne's Cinema Nova in Carlton from October 24 to 27. From November 1 to 3, Perth audiences will get their turn at Luna Cinema in Leederville, while Brisbane joins in at Dendy Cinema in Coorparoo from November 15 to 17. Finally, Canberra wraps up the in-person screenings at Dendy Cinema from November 22 to 24.

If you can't make it to the cinema, don't worry – the



The crew behind the '24 festival. Picture: [facebook.com/irishfilmfestau](https://facebook.com/irishfilmfestau)

Irish Film Festival will also be streaming online from October 17 to November 3, allowing viewers across Australia to enjoy the very best of Irish cinema from the comfort of their homes.

This year's festival promises

a carefully curated selection of movies and documentaries that will make you laugh, cry, and feel deeply connected to the rich tapestry of Irish life. From heartwarming tales to hard-hitting dramas, the diverse lineup reflects the

## TOUR DATES

17 - 20 OCT Sydney NSW  
24 - 27 OCT Melbourne VIC  
01 - 03 NOV Perth WA  
15 - 17 NOV Brisbane QLD  
22 - 24 NOV Canberra ACT

growing popularity of Irish talent on the global stage.

As always, the Opening Night Film and Party is one of the most anticipated events, and this year's celebration promises to be bigger and better than ever. Keep an eye on your inbox and social media for the big reveal!

Whether you're watching from the city or streaming online, this is a festival not to be missed. Get ready for a celebration of Irish storytelling that will stay with you long after the credits roll.

For more details and tickets, visit [irishfilmfestival.com.au](http://irishfilmfestival.com.au).

# The Druids prepare to cast their spell across Australia

Hailing from Ireland, The Druids are renowned for their captivating live performances and have established themselves as a touring sensation, having extensively toured the USA, UK, Scotland, and Europe. Their music transcends boundaries, weaving tales of Irish history and culture into an emotional journey for their audience.

The Druids are not just musicians; they are storytellers, guiding their listeners through the rich tapestry of Ireland's past and present with each note they play. Their performances are immersive experiences, blending traditional melodies with modern influences to create a unique and unforgettable sound.

The band's popularity has soared internationally, with appearances on major television and radio programs in the United States, including Good Morning America, expanding their reach and captivating new audiences with their authentic Irish sound.

Winners of the prestigious



Irish Folk Music Award for Best Live Act, the band has been enchanting audiences since their formation in 2008 by founding members Mick O'Brien and Gary Lawlor.

Over the years, the band has evolved with the addition of master accordion player Neil Harney from Athlone and Dublin guitarist Kevin Rooney, who preserves the

timeless tradition of Irish guitar playing.

**FAST FACTS:**

- 1 - Winners of the Irish folk music awards.
- 2 - 16 years on the road with five albums.
- 3 - Appeared in America to TV audience of 128 million.

Tickets are now available for the Australian tour from [Troubadour Presents](#).

## TOUR DATES

23 JAN Brisbane QLD  
24 JAN Penrith NSW  
25 JAN Sydney NSW  
26 JAN Canberra ACT  
29 JAN Darwin NT  
30 JAN Adelaide SA  
31 JAN Melbourne VIC  
01 FEB Perth WA

# Skittish sketches to get crowd in stitches

Foil Arms and Hog are returning to Australia with their new show, Skittish – a mix of sketch comedy, audience participation and improvisation.

With over one billion views you may know the lads from their online videos, but their live show is where they're at their best.

With celebrity fans that include Woody Harrelson, Emma Thompson and Mr. Bean himself, come and see why Foil Arms and Hog have become one of the world's most renowned sketch groups.

After sell-out shows at the London Palladium, New York Town Hall and the Sydney Opera House, the Irish trio



embark on their biggest world tour yet.

In Skittish, Foil Arms and Hog serve up a hilarious mix of sketches, from the weird—like a milkman turning up at a funeral—to the wonderfully random, like a man eating crisps in the dark at a fake fringe show. Their sketches

are packed with energy, including A Very Irish Song, which gently pokes fun at stereotypes in the most playful way.

Audience interaction is a big part of their magic. They love bringing people into the act, turning audience stories into off-the-cuff skits that keep

## TOUR DATES

09 JUN Perth WA  
12 JUN Sydney NSW  
14 JUN Brisbane QLD  
16 JUN Melbourne VIC

everyone on their toes. It's this unpredictable, spontaneous style that's won them fans of all ages, delivering sharp, yet family-friendly comedy.

With nearly a million YouTube followers, they're a hit online – but seeing them live is an experience you won't want to miss!

Tickets from [BohmPresents](#).

# The Murder Capital to slay on debut Australian tour

Irish post-punk five piece The Murder Capital have announced an Australian tour in 2025, the band's first time performing down under.

They'll be playing tracks from their 2019 debut album *When I Have Fears* and 2023's *Gigi's Recovery*, along with new material including *Can't Pretend To Know*. Recorded in Los Angeles earlier this year with producer John Congelton (St Vincent, Angel Olsen, Sharon Van Etten), the single points to a new era of The Murder Capital, carrying a new focus and clarity. With punchy drums and the perfect level of distortion, it's a gloriously gritty track to sink your teeth into.

Frontman James McGovern shared: "Can't Pretend To Know is a whip of a tune that we made to feel like a hurricane of colour and breathlessness. A surreal look at childhood innocence and all its replacers, those



delicate bridges we burn as we move through the strange ways of our youth. Moulded by everything we come into contact with. Learning lessons from toys. Playing the parts that are asked of us."

The Murder Capital was formed in Dublin where all five members met while studying at music college. Consisting of James McGovern on

vocals, Damien Tuit and Cathal Roper on guitar, Gabriel Paschal Blake on bass and Diarmuid Brennan on drums, the band began releasing music in 2018. With their debut single *More Or Less* blowing up online, the group quickly began to work on their 2019 debut album *When I Have Fears*, now boasting over 15 million Spotify streams. Their

## TOUR DATES

03 APR Melbourne VIC  
04 APR Brisbane QLD  
05 APR Sydney NSW  
07 APR Perth WA

2023 album *Gigi's Recovery* received widespread acclaim, reaching Number 1 in Ireland and breaking the Top 20 in the UK album charts.

*Gigi's Recovery* was followed by a massive festival season including defining sets at Coachella, Glastonbury, Reading & Leeds and Rock En Seine. The band embarked on tour across the US, the UK and Europe, selling out Dublin's 3 Olympia Theatre. The Murder Capital has supported the likes of US rock idols Pearl Jam and are about to embark on a tour with Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds.

Tickets from [troubadourpresents.com](https://troubadourpresents.com).

## Celebrate St Pat's with The Tumbling Paddies

**the TUMBLING paddies**

TRUBADOUR PRESENTS

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND TOUR MARCH 2025

TUE MAR 11 The San Fran, Wellington  
WED MAR 12 The Tuning Fork, Auckland  
FRI MAR 14 The Triffid, Brisbane  
SAT MAR 15 Selina's, Sydney  
SUN MAR 16 St Patrick's Festival, St Kilda, Melbourne  
MON MAR 17 Metro City, Perth

TICKETS FROM: [troubadourpresents.com](https://troubadourpresents.com)

Irish band The Tumbling Paddies will be bringing their high-energy sound to Australia in March 2025, just in time for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Known for their lively blend of traditional Irish folk with modern influences, The Tumbling Paddies have become one of the most exciting acts to come out of Ireland in recent years.

The Tumbling Paddies are celebrated for their ability to bring the energy of Irish pub music to life on stage, with infectious tunes that get audiences dancing and singing along. Hailing from County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, the band has been captivating audiences with their unique style, which mixes traditional Irish instruments like the accordion and fiddle with rock and pop

## TOUR DATES

14 MAR Brisbane QLD  
15 MAR Sydney NSW  
16 MAR St Kilda VIC  
17 MAR Perth WA

elements. Their music brings a fresh take on the Irish sound, combining classic folk storytelling with vibrant melodies and catchy hooks.

The tour starts with Brisbane's iconic The Triffid on Friday, March 14, followed by Selina's Coogee in Sydney on Saturday, March 15. The band will also headline the St Patrick's Day Festival in St Kilda on Sunday, March 16, before wrapping up at Metro City in Perth on Monday, March 17. Tickets from [troubadourpresents.com](https://troubadourpresents.com).

# Scottish Borders set the scene for Tudor romance

A Borders Ballad by Wendi Davidson immerses readers in the rugged and turbulent world of the Anglo-Scottish Borders during the early sixteenth century. Following the catastrophic Battle of Flodden Field in 1513, the novel paints a vivid picture of a lawless era comparable to the American Wild West, where feuds and alliances intertwined in a complex dance of betrayal and revenge.

The story revolves around Richard, a Scottish nobleman sent to Northumberland as a peace hostage, and Alina, who journeys to the court of the young Henry VIII in London. Their burgeoning romance is marred by intrigue and betrayal, making their eventual reunion both poignant and fraught with challenges. Davidson's narrative is rich with action – tournaments, kidnappings, and duels – while also offering insightful glimpses into Tudor life and the harsh realities of Border existence.

Davidson, a former botany graduate from the University

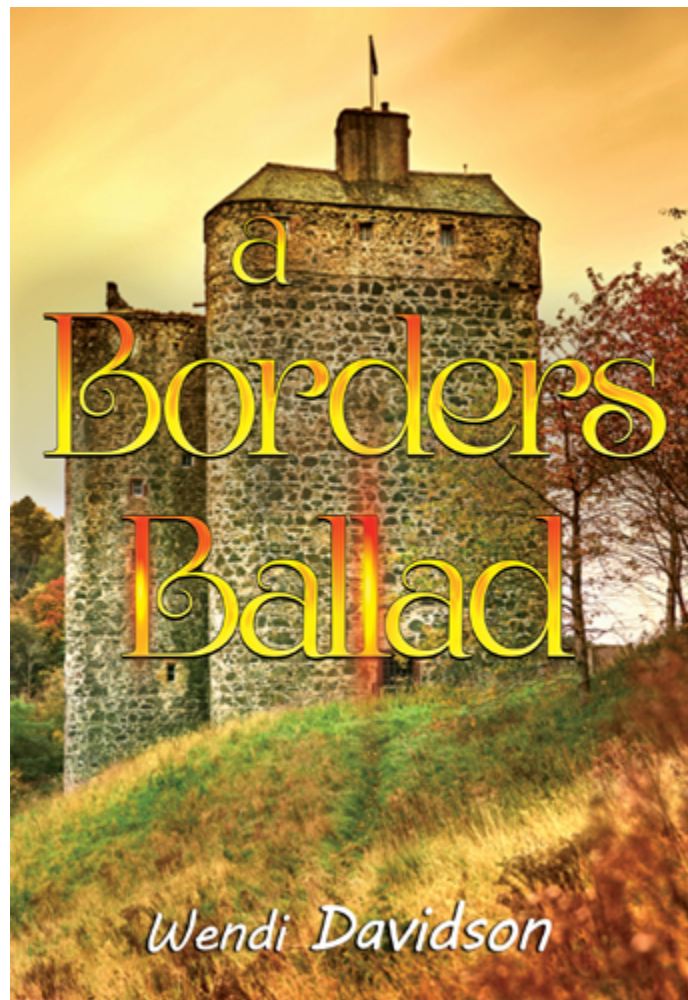


**Wendi Davidson, author of A Borders Ballad.**

of St Andrews and a botanical painter, developed a deep fascination with the Scottish Borders' history while working as a tourism officer. Her background in the literary and cultural scene, including her role in launching The Edinburgh Book Festival and The Edinburgh Folk Festival, infuses her writing with a unique blend of historical accuracy and engaging storytelling.

A Borders Ballad offers a fresh and entertaining perspective on a period often depicted in darker tones.

A Borders Ballad is especially crafted for descendants of Scottish Border and



Northumbrian immigrants in the USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as anyone fascinated by the early sixteenth-century history and culture of England and Scotland.

Fans of Nigel Tranter's

historical fiction will find much to enjoy in this novel.

For those in Australia, the book is available through major retailers such as Amazon AU, Booktopia, Fishpond, The Nile, James Bennett, ALS, and Peter Pal.

## The life, death and life of Maggie Dickson

Margaret (Maggie) Dickson was an ordinary young woman who lived a simple life in a fishing village and sold fish and salt in Edinburgh. If not for a remarkable event, Maggie would have lived her life and been buried in the local cemetery at Musselburgh in the parish of Inveresk, never to be heard of again.

Her story has been told in a recently-released novel from Brisbane author Carmel McMurdo Audsley.

"It is 300 years since Maggie died on the gallows, but people still talk about her today, for one astonishing reason," Ms Audsley said. "On the journey from Edinburgh back to her village



at Fisherrow, sounds could be heard coming from her coffin. Maggie had survived the hanging."

Maggie was an attractive young woman who longed for excitement. When her husband went missing, she left her two young daughters with a friend and set out to find him. Just a few days into her journey she fell ill and was given refuge, and a job, at an inn in a market town. She enjoyed the life of a single woman, free from the responsibilities of raising a family and being a fishwife. She had a relationship with a young man, and when she became pregnant, she tried to hide her condition for fear of the shame and punishment meted out to women who bore children out of wedlock. When the child died, she

was accused of the heinous crime of infanticide, convicted and sentenced to a public hanging.

When Maggie emerged from her coffin, some people ran away in fright, thinking she was a ghost. Others flocked to her, believing that she had a special power that connected her directly to the afterlife.

Read about her life, death and life in *Suspended* which is available for kindle and as a paperback from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) stores worldwide.

• Carmel Audsley is a Brisbane author who writes historical fiction set in Scotland and Australia. *Suspended* is her eleventh novel.

# NOTICES & LISTINGS

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

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

## Business listings

### CULTURAL CLUBS

#### Queensland Irish Association

07 3067 3064

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

PO Box 12745, George St, QLD 4003

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

#### The Australian Irish Heritage Association WA

PO Box 1583, Subiaco, WA 6904.

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

#### Celtic Council of Australia Queensland

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

[Instagram.com/ccaq.qld](https://www.instagram.com/ccaq.qld)

[facebook.com/celticcouncilaus.qld](https://www.facebook.com/celticcouncilaus.qld)

### DANCE

#### Australian Historical Dance

Heather Clarke, Brisbane QLD

(07) 3289 4708

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

<https://www.historicaldance.au>

### GENEALOGY

#### Queensland Family History Society

46 Delaware Street, Cheramide/Geelong, QLD.

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

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#### Anglo&Celtic Events

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#### Connecting British and Irish Ex-Pats around Australia

[Facebook Group](#)

#### Friends and Supporters of Queensland Irish Association

[Facebook Group](#)

#### Sydney Raffles Luck of the Irish

[Facebook Group](#)

### PUBS

#### Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley

295 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD

4006

Phone: (07) 3166 2477

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

#### The Red Lion Tavern

8025 New England Hwy, Glencoe NSW

2365

0409 776 906

[Red Lion Facebook](#)

### REAL ESTATE AGENTS

#### Amir Ardat

Real Estate Agent

Belle Property Aspley, QLD

0488 997 581

[www.belleproperty.com/aspley/](http://www.belleproperty.com/aspley/)

[amir-ardat](#)

### REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENTS

#### Enda O'Callaghan MARN 1383553

02 8095 6406

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

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

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

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### WEBSITES

#### Irish Queenslander

News and events for the Irish community in Queensland

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

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



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

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- make new connections in the Celtic community
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# Queensland Irish Association

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