

ANGLO CELTIC

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Issue 18

December 2024

Tartan tidings



Friends from Celtic Nations unite for first Brisbane Celtic Festival



Queensland Irish Association

Afternoon Tea



Members and friends are invited to
afternoon tea and meeting
to plan QIA History and Culture Committee
events for 2025

on Saturday, 14th December at 2pm at

*Cafe, Queensland Art Gallery,
Stanley Place, South Brisbane*

All are welcome.



WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com



The annual Sydney Highland Gathering was held at The Scots College in October. The college shared: "It was a great day of honouring Scottish heritage. The day consisted of Highland dancing and Pipe Band competitions, as well as food and market stalls." Picture: [facebook.com/thescotsadvantage](https://www.facebook.com/thescotsadvantage)

Deck the halls, it's Christmas!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

In this issue, we tell you about some fascinating Christmas and New Year traditions from the home countries. Did you know that Christmas was banned in Scotland for nearly 400 years? The Grinch would be impressed. And in Ireland and the Isle of Man, people would hunt that cutest of all birds, the wren, to bring good fortune? Some of our traditions make the Aussie traditions, like surfing Santas in budgie smugglers and Santas dishing out lollies on fire engines, seem positively normal. 'Tis not just the season for Christmas parties,

and we feature plenty of those, but also festivals. Woodford is the most famous, but if you fancy something quieter, Nariel Creek Folk Festival will welcome you with an Irish ceili this year. Daylesford Highland Gathering will see heavy games return after three decades, and in Maryborough, you just have to witness the dancer on a giant drum as you welcome in the new year.

Solstice is always a special time. We tell you about the amazing winter solstice at Newgrange in Ireland, and also what's happening at our summer solstice in Glen Innes. All the best, Mary.

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Having a Function

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www.irishqueenslander.com

Irish ceili to thrill festival goers at Nariel Creek

DATES & DEETS

27 DEC - 02 JAN
Nariel Creek VIC
[Facebook page](#)

The Nariel Creek Folk Festival, the oldest continually running folk festival in Australia, is set to bring the Upper Murray's unique sounds and dances to life at Nariel Recreation Reserve in Victoria.

Celebrating its rich folk heritage, the small festival will take place over several days, offering a variety of activities for all ages. Their motto is 'Play Music, Dance, Relax and Enjoy!'.

December 27 kicks off with an 8pm dance at Cudgewa Hall, where festival-goers can enjoy the lively atmosphere.

On December 28th, join the Irish Ceili Dance with the Melbourne Ceili Band at Cudgewa Hall from 3.30pm to 6pm. For children, craft, music, dancing, and circus activities are held on the Green from 10.30am.

The following day, December 29th, the kids' activities continue in the same time slot. Meanwhile, music lovers can join workshops starting at 10am at Ian's Session



Seat, featuring Ray teaching button accordion, followed by DADGAD guitar from 1pm and learning traditional music by ear from 2pm.

December 30th offers kids activities, another evening dance at Cudgewa Hall at 8pm, and on New Year's Eve, a blackboard concert on the Green runs from 3pm to 7.30pm. Later that night, the festivities continue with a dance on the Green from 8pm to midnight.

New Year's Day features a family picnic and blackboard concert on the Green



Nariel Creek Folk Festival hosts dance and music sessions for happy campers. Pictures: [Facebook/Nariel Creek Folk Festival](#)

starting at 1pm, followed by a 7.30pm dance to round off the evening. January 2nd is the closing day, with an 8pm

dance at Cudgewa Hall.

For more details, contact +61 419 599 542 or email NarielFestival@gmail.com.

British-style panto is set to save Christmas

Christmas means Panto time! "Oh no it doesn't." Oh yes it does!

Treat yourself to a traditional British-style Pantomime encouraging full audience participation in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

Bring the whole family to take part in the chaos that is Santa & the 7 Christmas Fairies, a truly traditional, British-style Christmas Panto with full audience interaction starring Jackie Love, Sophie Perkins, James Rogers and



Cherie Lange, supported by a fabulous cast of local and emerging young artists.

Come along to help the Christmas fairies, reindeer and elves assist Santa and

Mrs Claus in saving Christmas 2024.

Catch the performance on December 20th in Brisbane State High School Performing Arts Centre, South Brisbane,

DATES & DEETS

20 DEC Brisbane QLD
21 DEC Bribie Island QLD
22 DEC Nambour QLD
www.bpacdance.org.au

Qld; 21st at Bribie Island Recreation Hall, Bongaree, Qld, and 22nd at Lind Lane Theatre, 16 Mitchell Street, PO Box 262, Nambour, Qld.

Tickets are on sale now. For more details, see www.bpacdance.org.au.

British Chamber hosts Christmas meet-ups

For over a century, the Australian British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) has been the go-to organisation for fostering business relations between Australia and the UK. By offering a vast range of networking opportunities, including CEO boardroom lunches and multi-city conferences like their flagship Catalyst events, ABCC provides members with the chance to forge meaningful connections.

As 2024 winds down, the Chamber is inviting members to wrap up the year in style with their upcoming Christmas parties. These festive celebrations provide a perfect blend of business and fun, with events taking place in Perth, Sydney, and Melbourne.

Kicking off the holiday spirit, the Perth Christmas Party will be hosted at the vintage-style social darts venue, Flight Club, on December 3rd. This popular location, awarded "Best Themed Venue" by the Australian Hotels Association WA in 2022, promises an evening of darts, drinks, and canapés. Sydney's party follows on December 4th at the trendy Diageo Bar, where guests



Australian British Chamber of Commerce 2023 Christmas Drinks in Melbourne. Pictures: Britishchamber.com

can enjoy cocktails, great company, and the chance to network with fellow business professionals.

Melbourne rounds off the celebrations with an elegant evening hosted by Law Squared on December 5th, offering expertly prepared cocktails and festive drinks.

These events aren't just about holiday cheer – they provide valuable networking

opportunities in a relaxed, fun environment, allowing professionals to connect with new contacts while celebrating the accomplishments of the past year. Whether you're a Chamber member or a guest, these parties are sure to sell out, so secure your tickets early for a night of festive fun and fruitful connections! For details, visit www.britishchamber.com.

DATES & DEETS

03 DEC Sydney NSW

04 DEC Sydney NSW

05 DEC Perth WA

www.britishchamber.com



Australian British Chamber of Commerce Christmas drinks in Brisbane in 2023, above and left.

Sydney and Boston unite for global Irish festival

Critically acclaimed, multi-platinum singer/songwriter Dermot Kennedy announces MISNEACH, a brand-new annual global music festival and celebration of Ireland's rich musical heritage to coincide with the St Patrick's Day celebrations in March 2025.

MISNEACH (pron. mish-nyach, meaning 'Courage' in Gaelic) will be held next March across two cities central to the Irish diaspora and with thriving Irish culture; Sydney, Australia on March 16 and Boston, USA on March 18-19. The twin festivals will form a vital new part of each city's St Patrick's Day celebrations, providing a renewed focus on contemporary and traditional Irish music through line-ups curated by Dermot Kennedy in partnership with Ireland Music Week.

"For so many years now I have watched the St Patrick's Day celebrations in so many different cities with a massive sense of pride," explains Dermot; "I've always been so moved by the way Irish history and culture is celebrated all over the world. But I've also had the feeling that, for a country so rich in culture, I didn't see it being represented fully in these events worldwide and I wondered, could we change that?"

"With this inaugural year we hope to begin an annual tradition that will enrich the St Patrick's day celebrations



MISNEACH

\ MISH-NYACH \

DERMOT KENNEDY

around the world with music and the arts, by showcasing some of the best new and established Irish musical talent, as well as musical talent of the Irish diaspora. We will also be giving back to the communities in Ireland and the host cities. I've been lucky enough to feel the love that the world has for Ireland and its music, and I'm so excited to be starting something very special."

Featuring contemporary and traditional Irish artists, as well as participants from all over the world representing the Irish diaspora, this first edition of MISNEACH will see Dermot playing headline shows alongside showcases with a spotlight on rising/local artists in Sydney and Boston respectively, together with independent Irish talent

sponsored by Culture Ireland in partnership with Ireland Music Week. In Boston, there will be a MISNEACH showcase show at the Brighton Music Hall on March 18th before Dermot headlines a multi-artist bill at TD Garden on the 19th. The Sydney edition of the festival will be a full outdoor festival at The Domain to take advantage of the late summer weather on March 16th, following the city's official St Patrick's Day parade.

Curated and imagined by Dermot Kennedy, the vision for Sydney and Boston is to celebrate and cultivate the creativity, power and resilience of Ireland through the one thing that has always united Irish people; music.

Paying it forward has always been a priority for

DATES & DEETS

16 MAR
Sydney NSW

www.frontiertouring.com/misneach

Dermot, and this festival is no exception. A portion of proceeds from the festival profit in Sydney will benefit Barretstown who provide vital services and camps to children with serious illnesses, as well as Ireland Funds Australia, who fund community level projects supporting peace, culture, education and community development. Proceeds from the Boston festival will benefit Irish suicide prevention charity Pieta as well as a local charity in each city.

Tickets from www.frontiertouring.com/misneach.

Kick-start your Gaeilge skills this summer



Dr Pamela O'Neill, principal, Australian School of Celtic Learning.

Irish language enthusiasts are in for a treat this January, with the return of the Scoil Gaeilge Samhraidh (Irish Summer School), taking place from Monday, 20th January to Monday, 27th January 2025 at the serene Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville, New South Wales.

This week-long immersion program offers the perfect opportunity to embrace the beauty of the Irish language while enjoying the peaceful surroundings of Carmel House.

For those unable to commit to the entire week, there's an option to join for the long

weekend, from Friday, 24th to Monday, 27th January. The retreat promises not only an enriching educational experience but also the chance to connect with fellow learners in a supportive environment. For more, see www.celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com.



Heavy games returning to Daylesford after 30 years

The Daylesford Highland Gathering, a celebration of Scottish culture, returns on December 7th at Victoria Park in Daylesford, Victoria.

The festival begins with a lively street march down Vincent Street, featuring a parade of pipe bands in full swing.

Visitors will be treated to traditional Highland dancing, piping, and drumming competitions, along with a range of Scottish food, drink, and cultural displays.

After a 30-year hiatus, the beloved heavy games, which showcase feats of strength, will also make a highly-anticipated comeback.

Events include Light Hammer (Victorian Championship), Heavy Hammer (Victorian Championship), Stone Put, Light Weight for Distance, Weight Over Bar and Caber Toss.

The gathering promises a fun and family-friendly day with something for everyone. Stalls selling Scottish-themed crafts and food will be available, and a range of local vendors will offer their products. Live entertainment, featuring

DATES & DEETS

07 DEC
Daylesford VIC
daylesfordhighland.com

both traditional Scottish music and contemporary performances, will ensure that the atmosphere remains electric throughout the day.

Attendees can immerse themselves in the culture while exploring the picturesque town of Daylesford, renowned for its spa resorts and artisan shops. With its deep Scottish roots and sense of community, this festival is a must for anyone keen on experiencing a genuine taste of Scottish heritage in Australia.

The Daylesford Highland Gathering has proudly celebrated and shared Scottish culture, music and dance for more than 70 years.

Established in 1952 by Dan McKinnon, the gathering has a long-standing history of bringing people interested in the Scottish culture from within Australia and internationally.



After a 30-year hiatus, heavy games are returning to Daylesford Highland Gathering. Pictures: facebook.com/DaylesfordHighlandGathering

Let your hair down at Woodford Folk Festival



The Woodford Folk Festival is held annually over six days and six nights, from Dec 27th through to January 1st. More than 2,000 local, national and international, artists, musicians and presenters grace the stages of Woodfordia.

The festival begins each year with the iconic Opening Ceremony and closes with the spectacular showcase, on New Year's Day. This year will be the 37th Woodford Folk Festival and the 30th held at Woodfordia.

It is the largest gathering of artists and musicians in Australia.

The Woodford festival experience is deep, rich and colourful. It is based on a vision of inclusive and creative community, culture and tradition passed through generations, expressed through story and ceremony. The site, a former barren dairy farm, has been lovingly regenerated with over 120,000 subtropical rain forest trees, orchids, ferns and sedges, planted to create a habitat for butterflies and wildlife.

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

Each year construction begins in early December and continues up until Christmas Day. Nearly 1000 volunteers and contractors build the village. Many come from around the world to be part of the festival build, enjoy the festivities, and then stay for a week after to pull it all down.

The festival programme features concerts, dances, street theatre, writers' panels, film festival, comedy sessions, acoustic jams, social dialogue and debate, folk medicine, an entire children's festival, an environmental programme featuring talks, debates and films, art and craft work-

DATES & DEETS

27 DEC - 01 JAN
Woodford QLD
www.woodfordfolkfestival.com

shops, circus performances and workshops, late night cabarets, parades and special events including the spectacular fire event.

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

Each year a 120 page booklet is published to help patrons navigate the extensive festival programme and venue.

For more information, go to www.woodfordfolkfestival.com.

HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the artists from the UK and Ireland, and with UK/Irish influences, who are playing.

ARIS

Thoughtful retelling of songs from the Irish and other Celtic traditions, and original compositions.

Breandan An Piobaire

Breandan teaches Irish and sings in the sean-nos style, as well as playing a variety of Irish instruments.

Claire Evelynn

Celtic harpist and experienced healer.

Good Guy Hank

Alternative Americana outfit from the heartlands of Scotland.

Homebru

Unique blend of contemporary Celtic folk with intricate compositions, fiery improv and infectious spirit.

Iontach

Anglo Celtic and Scandi tunes to delight audiences.

Chloe Matharu

Award-winning Scottish-Indian singer/songwriter and harpist from the west coast of Scotland.

Melbourne Ceili Band

A mix of Irish expats and Aussie musicians, the band has a uniquely Australian sound featuring the didgeridoo.

Mickey & Michelle

Chamber-folk tapestry of original Celtic music infused with vocal harmony and fiery improvisations.

Sam Lee

Mercury Prize-nominated English singer and inventive arranger.

Dressing of the Graves to honour ancestors' lives

The Copper Coast's Cornish festival, Kernewek Lowender, has shared its plans for the 2025 Dressing of the Graves at the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia.

Dressing the Graves is a unique and very moving ceremony to honour and reflect upon the Cornish community's ancestors buried in the cemeteries of the Copper Coast. Families nominate an ancestor and during the ceremony, a story of that ancestor's life is read out, and flowers, prepared by local school children, are placed on the grave by the nominator or a relative.

The honouree must be interred at one of the following cemeteries: Greens Plains, Paskeville Road where the ceremony will take place on

DATES & DEETS

13 MAY Greens Plains SA
 13 MAY Wallaroo SA
 14 MAY Kadina SA
 14 MAY Moonta SA

Tuesday, May 13th; Wallaroo on Spencer Highway, where the dressing will also take place on May 13th, Kadina on Russack Road where the ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 14th May and Moonta, on Russack Road, where the ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 14th May.

During the dressing, honourees will be celebrated with a verbal recounting of their life and experiences, followed by the laying of flower tributes



and a storyboard laid by local school children. A plaque with the festival logo will be permanently added to mark the occasion.

A book is produced with the citation curated about the honourees' lives are made available to purchase at the festival. Dressing the graves celebrates the lives

and contributions of our past residents, from the most humble, to those of notoriety and everyone in between. The honourees are often nominated by descendants, current owners of their property and keen local history researchers and genealogists.

For more information, go to facebook.com/kernewekcc.

www.burkewhistles.com



A child in traditional clothing takes part in the Dressing of the Graves ceremony in South Australia. Pictures: facebook.com/DressingTheGravesCopperCoast

Crack open a cold one and dream of a bright Christmas

Celebrating Christmas in Australia feels like a wonderful fusion of old-world traditions and a fresh, sun-soaked twist.

Back in the UK and Ireland, Christmas is all about frosty mornings, dark nights lit by cosy fires, and steaming hot cups of tea (or something stronger) as the wind howls outside. You can hear the crunch of frost underfoot as and see your breath as you gather around for a midnight church service. In Australia, however, the heat transforms the entire holiday experience. We've still got the Christmas lights and decorations, but instead of wrapping up in scarves and coats to wander the streets, we're more likely to be wandering in flip-flops, enjoying the neighbourhood displays as the warm evening breeze drifts by.

Traditions like Carols by Candlelight remain, but here, we're spread out on picnic blankets under clear, starry skies at outdoor events – a far cry from the candlelit churches of the UK. Melbourne's Sidney Myer Music Bowl hosts one of the biggest carols events and you'll find them in most communities across Australia.

While roast dinners remain a cornerstone of many Aussie Christmas tables, the barbecue often takes centre stage. Seafood platters piled high with prawns and lobster are paired with fresh salads, which add a distinctly Aussie



Father Christmas at the National Pharmacies Christmas Pageant in Adelaide. Credit: facebook.com/christmaspageant

flavour to the feast. We might still have Christmas pudding or fruitcake for dessert, but the pavlova has become a much-loved addition for many.

The spirit of Father Christmas is very much alive and well and he might roll through the neighbourhood on a fire truck, tossing lollies to excited kids. And let's not forget surfing Santas at the beach.

Boxing Day is another tradition that we hold onto, but instead of wrapping up for brisk walks or sales, here it's synonymous with the Boxing Day Test Match. Cricket fans unite, either at the MCG or in front of the telly with cold drinks in hand.

Even the decorations

have adapted to the Aussie climate. Where once we would've draped mistletoe and holly, here native eucalyptus and wattle find their place in wreaths and centrepieces, bringing a uniquely Australian touch to the season.

Some traditions have been imported from America. Pageants, which are popular in cities like Adelaide, Perth, and Brisbane, feature floats, bands, and dancers but instead of chilly streets lined with overcoats like the US, you'll find sun hats and sunscreen among the crowds.

So while we might be trading snow for sand, and mulled wine for ice-cold beers, there's no mistaking the timeless joy of Christmas

DATES & DEETS

01 DEC
Lord Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting
Brisbane QLD

01 - 21 DEC
Martin Place Christmas Markets
Sydney NSW

07 DEC
Christmas Pageant
Perth WA

22 DEC
Christmas Twilight Market
Longford VIC

– wherever we are in the world.

The Irish Players bringing Christmas panto fun to Perth

The Irish Players are bringing a Christmas pantomime to the Irish Club in Subiaco, WA.

Written by Alan P Frayn and directed by Denice Byrne, The Twelve Days of Christmas will open on Thursday, December 5th.

In the enchanting village of Old Dimpley Bottom, the Royal family are planning a grand Festive Ball to bring

joy to all the villagers.

To mark this splendid occasion, a giant advent calendar with 12 doors is constructed on the Village Green, with one door to be opened each day until Christmas.

However, the festive spirit is threatened when Wizbad, the wicked wizard, steals the keys to the advent calendar and scatters them across

the globe. Aided by the good Fairy, our characters embark on an exhilarating race against time, traveling to diverse and exciting locations, from South America to Ireland, in their quest to retrieve the missing keys.

Will they manage to collect all the keys and save the festivities in time for Christmas? Or will Wizbad ruin Christ-

DATES & DEETS

05 - 15 DEC
Subiaco WA
[TICKETS](#)

mas? Find out and join in the adventure at the Irish Club of WA, 61 Townshend Road, Subiaco WA 6008.

Experience the magic of solstice at standing stones

DATES & DEETS

21 DEC
Glen Innes NSW
gleninneshighlands.com

Glen Innes, a picturesque town in New South Wales' Northern Tablelands, is preparing for its Summer Solstice celebration at the Australian Standing Stones.

This unique event, held at a national monument dedicated to the Celtic pioneers of Australia, invites visitors to connect with ancient traditions and the natural rhythms of the sun.

Inspired by ancient standing stones like those in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, the Australian Standing Stones have become a symbol of Celtic heritage in Australia. These stones serve not only as a tribute to the Celtic communities that helped shape the country but also as a living calendar. The stones are aligned to mark key solar events such as the solstices, just as they did for ancient Celts.

The Summer Solstice gathering focuses on solar noon, when the sun is at its highest



During the solstice period in December, the first rays of sunrise over the Australian Standing Stones light up the Summer Solstice Sunrise Stone and cast a long, early morning shadow onto the central Australis Stone. Picture: facebook.com/australianstandingstones

point. Visitors can witness the shadow cast by the stones as it crosses a marker plaque at 12.30pm, an ancient practice that aligns us with the Earth's natural cycles. The event also includes a special talk that sheds light on the importance of these solar measurements, connecting science and tradition in a fascinating way.

The magic begins early as the first rays of the sun strike the Summer Solstice sunrise stone, casting a shadow on

the central Australis Stone. By sunset, the last light of the day shines down the Winter Solstice sunrise avenue, linking both solstices in a beautiful cycle of renewal.

After the official ceremony, visitors are encouraged to explore the area, try their hand at lifting Excalibur from the stone, or enjoy refreshments at the nearby Croft Café. With stunning views from Martin's Lookout and the newly-installed Skywalk,

and a playground, there's plenty to do for all the family while soaking in the magic of the solstice in Glen Innes.

This free event celebrates the longest day of the year, on Saturday, 21st December 2024, from 12 to 1pm, and offers a unique way to honour Australia's Celtic roots.

For more information, contact Glen Innes Severn Council at (02) 6730 2400 or email tourism@gisc.nsw.gov.au.

Esperance Stonehenge invites you on a Sound Journey

Esperance Stonehenge invites you to join them for an incredible evening with Lisa Alexander on a Sound Journey.

Lisa said: "Please join me for this very special Sound Journey at Esperance Stonehenge, which includes therapeutic sounds created to rebalance and replenish every part of your being."

It will take place on Sunday, December 1st 2024, from 5pm to 6.15pm.

Esperance Stonehenge is a full-scale replica of the original Stonehenge in the UK, located near Esperance on

DATES & DEETS

01 DEC
Esperance WA
[TICKETS](#)

the southern coast of Western Australia. It was constructed from 137 locally sourced pink granite stones, arranged in a precise replica of how archaeologists believe the original Stonehenge looked when first built around 1950 BCE. The replica is aligned with the summer and winter solstices.





Christmas in Covent Garden, London, as seen in the film *Last Christmas*. Picture: VisitBritain.org

Christmas films to inspire you to explore Britain

With heart-warming tales of connection and togetherness, these popular Christmas films not only evoke the holiday spirit, but can inspire travellers to explore Britain's diverse landscapes. From quaint snow-covered cottages to regal central squares, these locations have played starring roles in festive hits and serve up a visual feast alongside the traditional Christmas turkey.

Last Christmas: Christmas Eve in London

Set against the vibrant backdrop of London, *Last Christmas* weaves a tale of personal growth and romance. Iconic locations like Covent Garden, Regent Street and Piccadilly Circus come alive with twinkling Christmas lights that capture the city's holiday spirit. Featuring some of the capital's most popular shopping destinations and festive shop fronts, visitors should also look out for Cecil Court, a charming narrow street near Leicester Square packed



Gloucester Cathedral at Christmas, a location setting for *Harry Potter*. Picture: gloucestercathedral.org.uk

with bookshops and antiques stores.

Paddington 1, 2 & 3: Heart-warming London adventures

Though not a traditional Christmas film, *Paddington* warms hearts during the festive season. Paddington Station's iconic statue and picturesque backdrop invite travellers to embark on their own adventures. From the

leafy streets of North London to manor house grandeur in Hertfordshire, the film's locations inspire wanderlust. The Notting Hill residence of the Brown family was effectively portrayed in Primrose Hill (close to London Zoo and Camden Lock). Hatfield House in Hertfordshire played the role of the interior corridors of the Geographers Guild. To coincide the release of the new *Paddington* in

Peru movie, fans can now journey through Paddington's iconic stories at the new Paddington Bear Experience in London. Join the little bear in solving puzzles, complete challenges, and explore themed environments from his world in this interactive adventure.

The Holiday: Rural Surrey in the limelight

Director Nancy Meyers' hit festive flick *The Holiday* uses several idyllic locations to depict the quintessential English country setting where stars Cameron Diaz and Jude Law find romance. The villages of Shere and Godalming in Surrey, where the British part of the film was shot, look exactly the same in real life as they do on the screen, with cobblestone streets and houses with colourful shutters and moss-covered roofs. Visitors can even enjoy a drink at the historic White Horse pub in Shere, which featured in several scenes. And while the characterful Rosehill Cottage was only developed

Christmas films to inspire you to explore Britain



Christmas in Cardiff. Doctor Who TV Series is filmed on location here. Picture: www.visitcardiff.com/christmas

for filming, it was inspired by Honeysuckle Cottage in the small picturesque commuter village of Holmbury St Mary.

Bridget Jones' Diary: A Cotswolds love affair, Snowhill, Gloucestershire

Although primarily set in London, Renee Zellweger's first meeting with Mark Darcy – played by the inimitable Colin Firth – in Bridget Jones' Diary is set against the snow-dusted backdrop of the Cotswolds. The village of Snowhill, near Broadway, provided the setting for a party at her parent's home, with the crew using fake snow as filming took place in the middle of summer. Packed with stone cottages and with hills rising up on three sides, the region is known for its unspoilt beauty, whatever the season.

Harry Potter: Spell-binding Britain

Another Christmas favourite, Harry Potter has put Britain firmly on the map for film-location hopping. Head to King's Cross station's Platform 9 3/4, to York's own wonky timber-framed version of Diagon Alley, the giant cauldron located in Wiltshire's Lacock Abbey, and creep around the



St Barnabas' parish church, Snowhill, Gloucestershire, from the film Bridget Jones' Diary. Picture: [Stephen McKay/Snowhill](http://StephenMcKay.com/Snowhill)

cloisters of Gloucestershire Cathedral – the corridors of Hogwarts. Check out Oxford, the 'city of dreaming spires', with the famous Bodleian Library doubling up as the one at Hogwarts, while the vaulted Divinity School next door became Hogwarts Hospital – admitting students with broomstick injuries and back-firing spells. Budding wizards can also take part in broomstick flying lessons at Northumberland's Alnwick Castle. For a full experience, the Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter gives fans the opportunity to check out original sets, animatronic creatures and special effects.

Doctor Who TV Series: Welsh wonders

The landscapes of Wales have played host to the iconic British science fiction TV series, Doctor Who. This popular long-running show has embarked on adventure-packed journeys across the country, especially in the cherished Christmas specials. Cardiff, the vibrant capital of Wales, has emerged as the epicentre of a few Doctor Who productions, welcoming the TARDIS to its city streets and parks. Visitors can stroll through the very locations where the Doctor's adventures unfolded, like Roald Dahl Plass in Cardiff Bay, a public plaza paying homage to writer Roald Dahl. This pic-

turesque setting has graced the screen in multiple Doctor Who episodes, as well as the medieval architecture and expansive grounds of the majestic Caerphilly Castle.

The Princess Switch: Switched Again: Edinburgh and Glasgow's festive fantasy

Vanessa Hudgens returns in the sequel to the feel-good 2018 Netflix hit The Princess Switch. Scotland provides the backdrop, with the atmospheric surroundings of the 12th century Glasgow Cathedral and Mimi's Bakehouse in Leith among the locations transformed into the fictional world of Belgravia for filming. To fully embrace the Christmas spirit and feel like a royal, stay in accommodation like the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow, where a harmonious blend of Victorian design and contemporary amenities await. Alternatively, in Glasgow, One Devonshire Gardens, a Hotel Du Vin, is renowned for its exceptional dining experiences. In Edinburgh, travellers can opt for The Witchery, situated just beside Edinburgh Castle, or the Balmoral Hotel, which offers scenic views of the city.

Words: VisitBritain.org

Huge turnout for first Brisbane Celtic Festival



Queensland Irish Association directors



Musicians



Thistle Highland Dancers

Under authentically Celtic cloudy skies, the first-ever Brisbane Celtic Festival, held in October, was a smashing success. The event drew thousands to Moorlands Park in Auchanflower, site of the Celtic Nations Standing Stones, where vibrant Celtic culture took centre stage against a backdrop of blooming jacarandas. Australian Celtic Women and Limerick MCB headlined the festival, enchanting the crowd with their spellbinding melodies and rousing tunes. Traditional performers such as the Queensland Irish Choir, Moreton Bay Fiddlers, and pipe bands filled the air with stirring music. The massed bands put on a spectacular performance, thrilling the crowd.

Dancers from the QIA Irish Dancers, Thistle Highland Dancers, and Manx Dancers entertained with their high-energy routines on stage, while Scottish Country Dancers put on displays at the grounds. The whole park was filled with impromptu performances and sessions by musicians and dancers throughout the day.

The festival wasn't just about music and dance – it offered something for everyone. Families enjoyed competitions like the Best Celtic Dressed Contest, while kids engaged in fun games like the caber toss and Celtic shot put. The Brisbane Lord Mayor, Adrian Schinnerer made a special appearance, performing the official opening with Celtic Council of Australia Queensland President Mavis Williams.

Stalls from groups like the Queensland Irish Association and CelticFest Warwick were popular, providing information and cultural insights, while festival-goers in kilts and tartans roamed the park, celebrating their Celtic heritage. The atmosphere was lively, joyous, and thoroughly Celtic, making the day one to remember.

The event, organised by Celtic Council of Australia Queensland and International Tartan Day Brisbane, was free of charge. It celebrated the rich culture of the eight Celtic Nations: Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Asturias, and Galicia.

Huge turnout for first Brisbane Celtic Festival





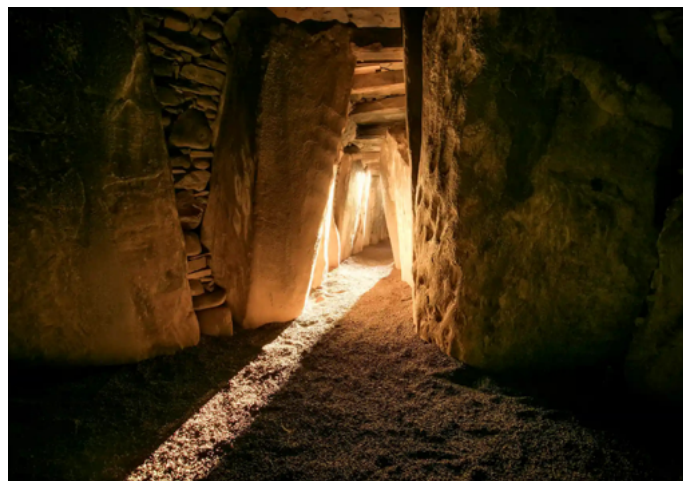
Winter solstice sheds light on ancient Irish wonder

Its breathtaking winter solstice illumination makes Newgrange a passage tomb of global significance. But did you know Ireland's quintessential wow moment is 5,000 years old?

Yep, 5,000 years. That's older than Stonehenge. It's older than the great Egyptian pyramids, too. And five millennia later, it hasn't lost any of its wonder.

But first things first: Newgrange can't be visited directly. If you're driving, set your course for the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre as opposed to Newgrange itself. Here, you'll find an interpretive centre where you can buy tickets, and proceed by shuttle bus for a guided tour of Newgrange and of the nearby passage tomb at Knowth. If you don't have a car, don't worry – day tours can be arranged from Dublin.

Arriving at the iconic tomb is a wow moment, to say the least. Standing outside the 80-metre mound, shored up with spiral-engraved kerb-



Winter solstice at Newgrange passage tomb. Pictures: Ireland.com

stones and white Wicklow quartzite, a guide reveals the myths and history behind the monument. Newgrange may have been designed as a tomb or a temple but in spite of the knowledge that archaeologists have garnered from the site since its discovery, it continues to surprise and intrigue.

Once the scene has been set for you as a visitor, you'll step inside the passage tomb itself, squeezing through

standing stones carved with spiralling rock art and graffiti dating back to the 1800s (before Newgrange was taken into State care). Ducking under beams of wood, you'll emerge into the cool confines of a cruciform-shaped chamber, like a stony igloo squirrelled away within a hill.

This inner sanctum is where a lucky few (chosen by lottery from thousands of applicants annually) huddle together to witness the annu-

al winter solstice illumination in December. In this moment, when megalithic engineering and nature come sensationally into sync, a shaft of light can be seen snaking 19 metres up the passageway, ultimately bathing the chamber in light. You'll get goosebumps...

If you're not one of the lucky ones, don't fret. All visitors are treated to a simulated solstice, with an orange beam of light artificially showcasing the effect. It's a tantalising taster – little wonder legend suggests that this was the site where mythological hero Cú Chulainn was conceived.

Newgrange isn't the only passage tomb in Ireland, of course. In fact, it's not the only passage tomb at Brú na Bóinne. Together with nearby Knowth and Dowth, Newgrange was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. Not bad for a site that once looked destined to become a quarry!

Words: Ireland.com

Holiday customs keep Christmas spirit alive

Did you know that Christmas was banned in Scotland for centuries due to the influence of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century? The Scottish Reformation aimed to purify religious practices, and Christmas, with its associations to Catholic traditions and perceived pagan elements, became a target.

In 1640, the Scottish Parliament passed a law officially banning the celebration of Christmas, considering it “a time of superstitious observation.” For nearly 400 years, the holiday was not widely observed in Scotland. It wasn’t until 1958 that Christmas became a public holiday again. Before that, most Scots would work on Christmas Day.

Some islands in the Celtic lands still follow the “Old Calendar,” particularly when it comes to festivals and holidays rooted in ancient traditions. These islands hold on to customs that predate modern calendar reforms, particularly the Gregorian calendar adopted by much of Europe in the 16th century. The switch to the new calendar meant that many traditional holidays were shifted by days or even weeks, but some communities preserved their original dates.

One notable example is the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. Here, the people observe “Old Christmas” on January 5th.

In Wales, the Mari Lwyd is a pre-Christian tradition still practiced in some parts, especially around Christmas and New Year. A horse’s skull, often decorated and draped with ribbons and a white sheet, is carried door-to-door by a group of singers. The group engages in a form of verbal sparring with the householders, who must “battle” the Mari Lwyd with witty verses. This custom



Hunt the Wren in the Isle of Man. Picture: [Facebook.com/CultureVannin](https://www.facebook.com/CultureVannin)

is believed to bring good luck for the coming year.

Christmas in Wales is called Nadolig. It includes traditional Welsh carols, known as plygain carols, which are performed in a special pre-dawn service on Christmas morning.

In Ireland, Wren Day (Lá an Dreoilín) is celebrated on December 26th, St Stephen’s Day. Traditionally, people would hunt the wren, considered the “king of all birds” in Irish mythology, and parade it around the village. Today, this is often done with fake birds, and participants, known as Wren Boys, dress in colourful costumes, visit homes, and perform music.

The Isle of Man has a similar custom called Hunt the Wren. Participants parade with a decorated wren effigy, symbolising a ritual to bring good fortune and drive away evil spirits for the new year.



Wren Boys on St Stephen’s Day in Dingle, Ireland. Picture: [National Library of Ireland/WikiCommons](https://www.nationallibraryireland.ie/wikicommons)

Kick off the new year on a high in Maryborough

The 162nd Maryborough Highland Gathering is set to kick off this New Year's Day, January 1st, 2025, bringing with it a sense of history and excitement that has echoed through the generations.

Born during the gold rush and shaped by the hands of Scottish prospectors and businessmen who longed to recreate the New Year traditions of their homeland, the Gathering has grown into Australia's oldest continuous sporting event.

With over 160 years of heritage behind it, the Maryborough Highland Gathering is not just a local event; it draws crowds from all corners of the country eager to celebrate in true Scottish fashion.

This year's event promises to be as lively as ever, starting with the grand street march at 11am, where both Highland Pipe Bands and Brass Bands will fill the air with stirring music. The iconic Max Martin Memorial 120-metre Maryborough Gift, now one of Australia's most prestigious footraces, is set to draw both local and interstate competitors, alongside the adrenaline-pumping athletics events. From the 70-metre dash to the 1500-metre middle-distance race, men and women of all ages will battle it out for glory, with bookmakers on hand to keep things interesting.

Traditional Highland sports will be in full swing, with caber tossing and the sheaf toss testing both strength and precision. In the true spirit of the gathering, the sight of the massed Highland dancers will once again enchant the crowd, with two stages dedicated to performances throughout the day.

The much-loved "Girl on the Drum" will take centre stage once more, a spectacle that has captivated audiences for over 35 years. Her graceful movements atop a bass drum, hoisted by three sturdy Scotsmen, set to the powerful sound of a full pipe band, create an unforgettable scene.



Girl on the Drum



The historic Princes Park



Athletics events

And it's not just about the competition. The picturesque setting of Princes Park will be transformed into a festival ground with sideshows, novelty stalls, and rides to entertain the younger crowd. Princes Park Grandstand is the jewel in the crown of this precinct. It is an iconic landmark in Maryborough.

For those with a taste for Scottish flair, there's a chance to be crowned the most appropriately dressed patron, and with massed Highland bands providing stirring music, the atmosphere is set to be electric. The day winds down with a free evening concert and fireworks display, a fitting finale to welcome the new year in style.

Reflecting on its rich history, the Maryborough Highland Gathering has endured through the ages, only pausing during the war years of 1942-45.

Founded in 1857 by Scottish squatters, prospectors, and businessmen who had journeyed from Scotland to Victoria's gold fields, the Gathering was a way to keep their heritage alive in their adopted home. Blending Scottish traditions with Australian sports and activities, the event has grown and evolved, maintaining its popularity well into the 21st century.

From humble beginnings on the gold fields to becoming a mainstay of New Year's celebrations in Victoria, the Maryborough Highland Gathering continues to honour its origins while embracing the modern Australian spirit.

As the 162nd event approaches, it is clear that this unique blend of sport, culture, and tradition remains as beloved as ever.

The 162nd Maryborough Highland Gathering will take place in Princes Park, Maryborough on Wednesday, 1st January 2025 from 9am to 10pm. For more information, visit Maryborough Highland Society's website at www.highlandsociety.com.au.



One spectacular event at Maryborough Highland Gathering is a dancer on top of a drum. Pictures: [facebook.com/Visit.Maryborough](https://www.facebook.com/Visit.Maryborough)



Festivals

DAYLESFORD HIGHLAND GATHERING



Piping, drumming, dancing and the mighty Highland Games.

Daylesford VIC

07 DEC

MARYBOROUGH HIGHLAND GATHERING

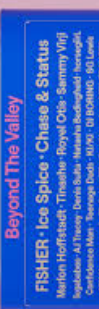


The gathering is Australia's oldest continuous running cultural event.

Maryborough VIC

01 JAN

BEYOND THE VALLEY 2024



An annual celebration of music, arts & camping, this music festival returns for its ninth edition

Barunah Plains VIC

28 DEC - 01 JAN

WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL



An iconic cultural, music, arts environment and performance event with 2000 performers and 400 acts.

Woodford QLD

27 DEC - 01 JAN

NARIEL CREEK FOLK FESTIVAL



The Nariel Creek Folk Festival comes to life with traditional folk music, musical exploration and dance.

Nariel Creek VIC

27 DEC - 02 JAN

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

ANGLO&CELTIC

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

BLACK AND WHITE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Fortitude Valley QLD

Ring in the New Year in style at Finn McCool's Black and White NYE Party! Join in from 6pm for an unforgettable night of music, drinks and dancing. Dress to impress to see in 2025!

31 DECEMBER

© www.angloandceltic.com



01 DEC

John Edward
Sydney NSW
Esperance Stonehenge - An evening with Lisa Alexander for a Sound Journey
Esperance WA
Nathan Carter
Perth WA
Freddie White at The Gaelic Club

Sydney NSW
Irish National Association AGM and Gaelic Club AGM

Sydney NSW
Crowded House
Perth WA
Balkan & Celtic Dance Night
Katoomba NSW
Celtic Blue Christmas
The Anglican Parish of Cleveland

Cleveland QLD
Terribly British Car and Bike show 2024

Queanbeyan NSW
English Irish Welsh Interest Group 2024
Genealogical Society of Queensland, Wishart QLD
Cornish Association of South Australia Annual Christmas Concert

Woodcroft SA
Australia's Silent Film Festival - The Trials of Oscar Wilde at State Library of New South Wales
Sydney NSW
"Heroes" & Low Symphonies by Philip Glass

Melbourne VIC
Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir
Booval QLD

02 DEC

Fat White Family

Melbourne VIC

The Cult
Sydney NSW
British Chamber Christmas Party
Perth WA
Traditional Irish Session - The Bald Rock
Rozelle NSW

03 DEC

Fat White Family
Sydney NSW
The Cult
Sydney NSW
Irish Set Dance!
Plympton Glenelg RSL
Plympton Park SA

04 DEC

James Marriot
Brisbane QLD
Fat White Family
Brisbane QLD
Jamie XX
Melbourne VIC
Crowded House
Sydney NSW
The Celtic Club Choir Christmas
Melbourne VIC
Australian British Chamber Christmas Party
Sydney NSW
Australian British Chamber Christmas Party
Brisbane QLD
Celtic Connections Singing Session at Mick O'Shea's Hotel
Hackham SA

05 DEC

Jamie Webster
Sydney NSW
Crowded House
Sydney NSW
Jamie XX
Melbourne VIC
Australian British Chamber

Christmas Party

Melbourne VIC
Irish Theatre Players present The Twelve Days of Christmas (to 15 DEC)
Irish Club, Subiaco WA
Irish Community Christmas Lunch
Willawong QLD

06 DEC

John Bishop
Perth WA
James Marriot
Sydney NSW
The Killers
Sydney NSW
Shamrock N Shenanigans at The Irish Club Acoustic Sessions
Adelaide SA
"Heroes" & Low Symphonies by Philip Glass
Sydney NSW

07 DEC

Dan and Phil
Brisbane QLD
Daylesford Highland Gathering
Daylesford VIC
Jamie Webster
Brisbane QLD
The Killers
Sydney NSW
Crowded House
Sydney NSW
Jamie XX
Meredith VIC
Celtic Music Session at The Gov
Hindmarsh SA
The British Rock Show... at The Vault!
Port Kembla NSW
Party Cats 2024 Christmas Cabaret
The British Working Men's Club
Wingfield SA
Victoria Welsh Choir
Camberwell VIC

2024 Queensland Manx Society Christmas Luncheon
Keperra QLD
Christmas Ceili at The Gaelic Club
Sydney NSW

08 DEC

James Marriot
Melbourne VIC
Queensland Irish Association Members Christmas Party
Westis Rugby Club, Toowoong QLD
Adelaide Academy of Irish Dancing presents Magical Musicals
Golden Green SA

Jamie Webster
Perth WA
Crowded House
Sydney NSW
Jamie XX
Sydney NSW
Celtic Blue Christmas at The Anglican Parish of Cleveland
Cleveland QLD
Gawler Celtic Music Session at The Bushman Hotel
Gawler SA
The Cambrian Show Choir
Booval QLD
United Welsh Church Carol Service at United Welsh Church, Blackstone QLD

09 DEC

Dan and Phil
Sydney NSW
The Killers
Brisbane QLD
Jamie XX
Sydney NSW
Blackwater Irish Band - The Bald Rock
Rozelle NSW

10 DEC

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GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events

TASSIE HOGMANAY HOOTENANNY NYE 2024

HOGMANAY

VIC, NSW, QLD

Celebrate the new year Scottish style! There will be Hogmanay parties in Trevallyn, Tasmania, at The Church in Campbell Town Tasmania and in Inglewood, Western Australia.

31 DECEMBER

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Crowded House
Melbourne VIC
Irish Set Dance!
Plympton Glenelg RSL
Plympton Park SA

11 DEC
James Marriott
Perth WA
Irish Support Agency Seniors
Christmas Lunch
Penrith Gaels Cultural and
Sporting Association NSW
Celtic Connections Singing
Session at Mick O'Shea's Hotel
Hackham SA

12 DEC
Dan and Phil
Perth WA
The Killers
Melbourne VIC
Irish Dance Group
VRI Hall, Warragul VIC
The QUO Story
Musicland Melbourne, Fawkner
VIC

13 DEC
Australian Historical Dance
Community Folk Dance
Samford QLD
The Killers
Melbourne VIC
Crowded House
Newcastle NSW
Jamie XX
Brunswick Heads NSW
Shamrock N Shenanigans The
Irish Club Acoustic Sessions
Adelaide SA
Peter Tilbrook - 60's British
Invasion Show
Gingers Vintage Lounge Bar,
Goodwood SA
The Rocking Byrds presents

70's British Invasion
The Juniors, Kingsford NSW
The Australian Alice Cooper
Christmas Show at The British
Working Men's Club
Wingfield SA

14 DEC
The Killers
Melbourne VIC
Crowded House
Brisbane QLD
Voxneon
Avalon NSW
A Celtic Christmas with
Amarach
Victoria Park WA
Queensland Irish Association
History and Culture Committee
Afternoon Tea
South Brisbane QLD
Celtic Music Session at The Gov
Hindmarsh SA
Balmain Sinfonia | Celtic
Fantasy
Balmain NSW
The Brit Xmas Party featuring
The Long Road at The British
Working Men's Club
Wingfield SA
Britpop Vs Ska
Maylands WA
Long Way South at Bucketty's
Brewing Co
Brookvale, Sydney NSW

15 DEC
Irish Sessions at The Northern
Star
Hamilton NSW
Darling Downs Irish Club
Christmas Party at the Irish
Club Hotel
Toowoomba QLD
Dan and Phil
Melbourne VIC

Sunday Sessions with the
Blackwater Irish Band
Southend Hotel, Maroubra
NSW
Welsh Society of the Sunshine
Coast AGM and Christmas
Gathering at Brightwater
Tavern
Mountain Creek QLD
Another Celtic Christmas at The
Red Lion Tavern
Glencoe NSW

16 DEC
Dan and Phil
Adelaide SA

17 DEC
Irish Set Dance!
Plympton Glenelg RSL
Plympton Park SA

18 DEC
Celtic Connections Singing
Session at Mick O'Shea's Hotel
Hackham SA

19 DEC
Irish Dance Group
VRI Hall, Warragul VIC

20 DEC
Shamrock N Shenanigans The
Irish Club Acoustic Sessions
Adelaide SA
Raw Brit
Oakleigh Carnegie RSL,
Oakleigh VIC

21 DEC
Summer Solstice at Australian
Standing Stones
Glen Innes NSW
Claymores Celtic Christmas
Melbourne VIC
Celtic Music Session at The Gov

Hindmarsh SA
Love Actually in Concert (to
24 DEC)
Melbourne VIC

25 DEC
United Welsh Church Christmas
Service at United Welsh Church
Blackstone QLD

27 DEC
Woodford Folk Festival (to
01 JAN)
Woodford QLD
Shamrock N Shenanigans The
Irish Club Acoustic Sessions
Adelaide SA
Nariel Creek Folk Festival (to
02 JAN)
Colac Colac VIC

28 DEC
Celtic Music Session at The Gov
Hindmarsh SA
British Rock Show
Camelot Lounge, Marrickville
NSW
Beyond The Valley 2024 (to
01 JAN)
Barunah Plains VIC

31 DEC
Hogmanay - New Year's Eve
Party at The Church
Campbell Town TAS
Caledonian Society of WA
Hogmanay Ceilidh
Inglewood WA
Hogmanay Hootenanny 2024
Trevallyn TAS
Lower Burdekin Celtic Dancing
Assoc. Hogmanay Ceilidh
Home Hill QLD
Becky Hill at Wildlands Festival
Brisbane QLD

FAT WHITE FAMILY

02 DEC Melbourne VIC
03 DEC Sydney NSW
04 DEC Brisbane QLD
06 DEC Meredith VIC



DAN AND PHIL

07 DEC Brisbane QLD
12 DEC Perth WA
15 DEC Melbourne VIC
16 DEC Adelaide SA



JAMIE WEBSTER

05 DEC Sydney NSW
06 DEC Melbourne VIC
07 DEC Brisbane QLD
08 DEC Perth WA



JAMES MARRIOTT

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



JAMIE XX

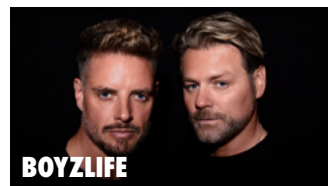
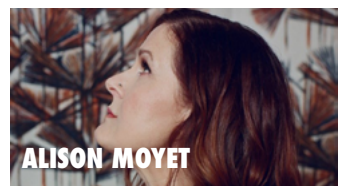
04 DEC Melbourne VIC
05 DEC Melbourne VIC
07 DEC Meredith VIC
08 DEC Sydney NSW
09 DEC Sydney NSW
13 DEC Brunswick NSW



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GIGS & REELS

TOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS



JANUARY

Tours:
 Rufus Wainwright
 Becky Hill
 Steve Backshall
 Primal Scream
 Beans on Toast
 Paul Smith
 Bear Grylls
 You Me At Six
 The Script
 Calum Scott
 The Druids
 Damien Rice
 Soft Play
 Tony Hadley
 Jack & Michael Whitehall
 Elephant Sessions
 CMAT
 Hak Baker

Festivals:
 Maryborough Highland Gathering VIC
 Lake School Kororo VIC
 Wildlands Festival WA
 Nollaig na mBan/Women's Little Christmas
 Cygnet Folk Festival TAS
 Scottish Weekender NSW
 Illawarra Folk Festival NSW
 Robbie Burns Day
 Tamar Valley Folk Festival TAS
 Timeless Summer Tour
 Deloraine Celtic Music Weekend TAS
 Newstead Live Music Festival VIC

FEBRUARY

Tours:
 Tony Hadley
 Bear Grylls
 Soft Play
 Perth WA
 The Script
 Calum Scott
 The Druids
 Damien Rice
 Jack & Michael Whitehall
 Troy Hawke
 Bryan Adams
 Jersey Guys
 OMD
 The Smyths
 The Prodigy
 The Primitives
 The Corrs
 The Songs of Elton John and George Michael
 Porter Robinson

Festivals:
 Tasmanian Highlands Gathering TAS
 Cobargo Folk Festival NSW
 Nannup Music Festival WA
 Frankston VIC

MARCH

Tours:
 The Songs of Elton John and George Michael

Sarah Millican
 PJ Harvey
 Graham Norton
 Max Fosh
 Kneecap
 The Tumbling Paddies
 Fatboy Slim
 New Order
 Ben Elton
 Bob Geldof

Festivals:
 Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic VIC
 Saint Patrick's Day
 Misneach

APRIL

Tours:
 Blindboy Podcast
 Bob Geldof
 Boyzlife
 The Murder Capital
 Bad Manners
 Ministry of Sound
 The Songs of Elton John and George Michael
 Soft Cell
 The Black Charade

Festivals:
 CresFest VIC
 Bundanoon Highland Gathering NSW
 The Hayland Gathering NSW
 Rowany Festival NSW
 120th Maclean Highland Gathering NSW



Jesus Christ Superstar begins Australian run

The iconic global phenomenon, Jesus Christ Superstar has opened in Australia with a mesmerising new production that has garnered unprecedented reviews and accolades as it has toured US and UK.

Featuring lyrics and music by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the show is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of Judas. The legendary score includes I Don't Know How to Love Him, Gethsemane and Superstar.

This must-see musical will feature one of Australia's most well-respected musicians and acclaimed recording artist, Michael Paynter (Sydney and Melbourne) and international stage sensation Robert Tripolino (Perth), as Jesus. Joining them are the dynamic musical theatre star Javon King as Judas and soul and blues powerhouse, Mahalia Barnes, as Mary. Globally renowned comedian, singer, and writer Reuben Kaye will play Herod and rock theatrical star Peter Murphy will portray Pilate (Sydney and Perth).

The producers have announced a Perth season of the production from February at Crown Theatre, a Melbourne season at the Princess Theatre from March and a Brisbane run at the QPAC from June.

It is currently on in Sydney season at the Capitol Theatre, with performances up until 29th December.

In the title role of Jesus will be international recording artist Michael Paynter. Michael is a member of classic Australian band Icehouse, as well as the guitarist and vocalist in Australian icon Jimmy Barnes' band, and performs live with Bachelor Girl, Killing



Heidi, Delta Goodrem, Reece Mastin and many others. He has toured extensively in Australia and internationally, sharing arena and stadium stages with artists such as John Farnham, 5 Seconds of Summer, Miley Cyrus, Seal, Hall and Oates, and The Script.

Javon King, who astounded audiences last year for his role as Seaweed J. Stubbs in the Australian tour of Hairspray, will play Judas. His theatre credits include The Inheritance at fortyfivedownstairs and Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls at Chapel off Chapel, for which he won a Green Room Award for Best Supporting Actor, and Javon toured the USA and internationally as Angel in the 20th and 25th Anniversary tours of Rent.

Powerhouse soul and blues vocalist Mahalia Barnes will take on her first stage role as Mary. Mahalia and her

band The Soul Mates play to capacity crowds around the country, touring nationally and internationally alongside artists such as Bruce Springsteen, The Roots, Mavis Staples, Joe Bonamassa, Bryan Adams and Tom Jones. She has recorded, toured and collaborated with the likes of Joe Bonamassa, Liam Gallagher, Beth Hart, and George Benson.

Producer John Frost, on behalf of his co-producers, said: "I am delighted that Michael, Javon and Mahalia are joining the cast of this award-winning production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Jesus Christ Superstar. Superstar is a loved and cherished rock opera, and they are all extraordinary singers and musicians who will bring their unique experience and talent to these roles. I'm so looking forward to hearing them singing in rehearsals those classic songs like Heaven On

TOUR DATES

06 NOV - 12 JAN Sydney NSW
13 FEB - 02 MAR Perth WA
16 MAR - 11 MAY Melbourne VIC
From JUNE Brisbane QLD

Their Minds, What's the Buzz and I Don't Know How To Love Him."

A global phenomenon that has wowed audiences for decades, Superstar's iconic 1970s rock score was originally released as a concept album and opened on Broadway in 1971. The original Australian production opened at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney in May 1972, followed by seasons at the Palais Theatre, Melbourne and other cities, playing for more than 700 performances. The original London production ran for over eight years.

Tickets at jesuschristsuperstarmusical.com.au.

Bob Geldof sharing songs and stories on Aus stages

An Evening with Bob Geldof: Songs and Stories from an Extraordinary Life is coming to Australia on the 40th anniversary of the legendary Live Aid concert. One concert. Two continents. Fifty giants of rock. Broadcast live to the entire world. On behalf of the starving in Ethiopia in the worst famine of the 20th century.

It is also the 50th anniversary of the iconic Boomtown Rats, the Dublin band founded by Geldof, who came out of Ireland to join the Sex Pistols, the Clash and the Ramones and others to change the face of music forever.

It is no coincidence that from being the Irish punk to the global Live Aid maestro, Geldof was intent on a hugely positive creative disruption. This legendary figure in music, political, media and business activism will take audiences on a profound journey across the milestones of a remarkable life.

From the slaughterhouse worker writing hit songs among the gutted cattle, to the heavy-duty road digger operator, to the Arctic gold miner, the Canadian illegal immigrant, the underground newspaper writer, the English teacher in Spain, to the first Irish band and first new wave band to have a UK and Australian and New Zealand number one record, global platinum and multi-million selling songs, to the inventor of the TV show Survivor, to



the founder and chair of financial firms, founder and chair of the giant Band Aid charity, to the advisor of prime ministers, presidents and popes. From the lost boy of a motherless, absent-father family in a rainy South Dublin suburb to the Queen Elizabeth knighted, Nobel nominated, multi-award winning musical and political global icon Bob shares the madness, passions and principles that have shaped his public and private lives. It's been quite a ride. And he isn't stopping.

But, just this once, he will stop at a theatre near you so you can hear it all from the legend himself.

The show will blend acoustic performances of Bob's most beloved songs with compelling anecdotes, giving insights into both his personal evolution and the backstage moments that have defined a generation. Enhanced with multimedia presentations, the evening offers a unique chance to engage with Bob's charismatic presence and relentless advocacy for justice and change.

The event also marks a celebration of Bob's impactful initiatives, including the revolutionary Live Aid and Live 8 concerts, which together dramatically altered the landscape of international aid,

TOUR DATES

15 MAR Sydney NSW
16 MAR Newcastle NSW
19 MAR Melbourne VIC
20 MAR Hobart TAS
22 MAR Canberra ACT
25 MAR Adelaide SA
01 APR Brisbane QLD
03 APR Tweed Heads NSW
05 APR Perth WA

trade, and policy, setting a precedent for celebrity-led activism. This tour promises an evening of inspiration, music, and intimate storytelling.

Head to tegdainty.com for ticketing and tour info.

Program for National Folk Festival is live

The 2025 National Folk Festival schedule is now live with more than 100 acts across 13 venues.

The program is brimming with incredible performances, dances, and workshops, created to celebrate and connect audiences, artists, and communities. Artists include Irish Mythen from Ireland,

Will Pound and Jenn Butterworth from the UK, Chris Stout and Catriona McKay from Scotland (pictured), Daoiri Farrell from Ireland, Amaidi, Australian Morris Ring, Celtic Piping Club, Maypole with Molly, and Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers.

The festival is 'Australia's home and heart of folk for

DATES & DEETS

17 - 21 APR
Canberra ACT
folkfestival.org.au

over 54 years' and is held every Easter at Exhibition Park, Canberra.



Start the new year at Field Day with Chase & Status

Field Day has your New Year's Day sorted once again. Say farewell to 2024 by partying into the night with your crew to some of electronic music's hottest names. Going back to where it all began, Field Day 2025 features a 100% dance music line-up on January 1st at The Domain in Sydney.

Field Day promoters said: "We're so happy to be going back to our roots and bringing back a 100% Dance music line-up for Field Day 2025. We want to make it as easy for people to have fun, celebrate the new year and get back to the dance floor and are pleased to offer starting tickets \$50 cheaper than last year. We hope to see you there spreading love and positive vibes."

London electronic duo Chase & Status, pictured, are heading back to Australia following their recent co-headline tour with fellow Field Day act Luude in April 2024. Composed of Saul Milton and Will Kennard, Chase & Status are known for drum'n'bass tracks like Baddadan and Disconnect.



Party starter Christian Benson aka Luude has quickly risen to the forefront of a new wave of producers to come out of Australia. Performing a B2B DJ set with Perth electronic band Pendulum, attendees are in for the set of a lifetime. Formed in 2002, Pendulum boast three platinum albums including 2010's

Immersion.

A stack of international artists will be joining Field Day for the Australian summer. From Germany comes horsegiRL and BUNT., along with Italian hit makers MEDUZA, Amsterdam's JYOTY and French duo Jersey. Escaping the unforgiving UK winter are Wilkinson, Joy (Anonymous),

DATES & DEETS

01 JAN Sydney NSW
fieldday.com.au

Ben Hemsley, Hannah Laing, D.O.D and Issey Cross. Finally, heading over from the US to the Field Day stages are RL Grime, Avalon Emerson and Cassö.

Field Day also boasts some of the finest home-grown talent. Adelaide born, London based Sonny Fodera is a house music DJ and producer who has collaborated and remixed artists such as Calvin Harris and Glass Animals. Sam Alfred has quickly become one of the country's most exciting DJs, with a signature house and techno sound reminiscent of the 90s.

With more artists to be announced, Field Day is the place to be this New Year's for true dance lovers. Field Day is celebrating 23 years of being Australia's biggest and friendliest New Year's party.

Tickets via www.fieldday.com.au or www.moshtix.com.

Oakenfold leads Ministry of Sound Testament tour

After incredible sold-out tours in 2023 and 2024, Ministry of Sound are journeying back to the underground in April 2025 with the biggest Testament tour yet.

Presented in specially curated sessions (90s & 00s), Testament celebrates the golden era of clubbing, taking over venues, clubs and warehouse spaces where dance music fuelled generations of unity on the dance floor.

Returning to some of our most loved dance floors including the truly epic White Bay Power Station in Sydney, which opened its doors for the first time to a large-scale music event of

TOUR DATES

04 APR Brisbane QLD
 04 APR Sydney NSW
 05 APR Sydney NSW
 05 APR Melbourne VIC
 06 APR Gold Coast QLD
 06 APR Perth WA
 11 APR Brisbane QLD
 12 APR Melbourne VIC
 13 APR Sunshine Coast QLD
 13 APR Perth WA

Testament in 2024, two day sessions at The Court in Perth, along with The Timber Yard [Melbourne], The Station [Sunshine Coast] and Miami Marketta [Gold Coast]. Testa-



Paul Oakenfold



Roger Sanchez

ment will also land in a new warehouse space in Brisbane, at Superordinary.

Headliners include Paul Oakenfold (UK), a true legend of dance music known especially for his accolades in trance, Grammy award-win-

ning Roger Sanchez (USA), Felix Da Housecat (USA), Graeme Park (UK), Krafty Kuts (UK), Plump DJs (UK), Smokin Jo (UK) and Utah Saints (UK). Tickets at <https://arep.co/p/ministry-of-sound-testament-2025>

Roachford brings greatest hits Then & Now on tour

One of the most compelling and consistent soul artists the UK has produced, Roachford, finally returns to Australia for the First Time Since 2004 for the Then and Now Greatest Hits Tour.

Andrew Roachford MBE is someone who channels the energy of James Brown before going on stage each night, and who, on record, summons up the spirit of everyone from Al Green to Joe Cocker. When he sings... you listen, and he is always performing... always playing live somewhere... being a true artist.

Andrew said: "Every time I've played in Australia has been special and the Aussie audiences have the best energy!! My fans in Australia have been asking me for a long time to come back and play and now finally I



am! Can't wait to rock the house!!"

Roachford has released 11 studio albums and several greatest hits collections, been sought-after as a songwriter by the likes of Michael Jackson, Joss Stone and Chaka Khan, and consistently

toured on his own and with contemporaries including Terence Trent D'Arby and The Christians. For the past 10 years, he has also been part of Mike + the Mechanics, recording and touring with Mike Rutherford's post-Genesis band.

TOUR DATES

16 MAY Fremantle WA
17 MAY Adelaide SA
23 MAY Melbourne VIC
24 MAY Sydney NSW
25 MAY Brisbane QLD

One of the best soul men around, Roachford has the unique ability to harness the two-way energy between musician and audience. His latest album *Then & Now* is an insightfully curated compilation of recently written new music and revisited hits. Join him as he performs all his greatest hits including *Cuddly Toy*, *Only to Be with You*, *Lay Your Love on Me*, *This Generation*, *Love Remedy* and more. Tickets via metropolis-touring.com/roachford-2025.

CMAT to play two headline Aussie dates

Making her way to Australia for *A Day On The Green*, CMAT has announced two additional headline shows.

Irish country-pop, rising star CMAT (Ciara Mary-Alice Thompson) will be playing two exclusive headline shows in Melbourne at the Corner Hotel and Sydney at the Factory Theatre in January. These two performances coincide with her highly anticipated appearance at *A Day On The Green* with The Teskey Brothers.

"People of Melbourne and Sydney! You asked - REPEAT-EDLY - and I, CMAT, have listened. Very excited to announce two CMAT full-band headline shows at The Corner and Factory Theatre!"

These shows are CMAT's debut in Australia with the charismatic Irish singer-songwriter taking the world by storm in recent years, with

TOUR DATES

14 JAN Melbourne VIC
16 JAN Sydney NSW

the likes of Elton John and Robbie Williams singing her praises. It's her unique blend of indie-pop and country, blending the storytelling tradition of classic country with a modern pop sensibility, that has captured ears. And her witty personality has won them over.

Her 2022 debut, *If My Wife New I'd Be Dead*, won the Choice Music Award for Irish Album of the Year and her latest album *Crazymad, For Me*, featuring singles *Stay For Something* and *Where Are Your Kids Tonight*, earned her nominations for a Brit Award, the prestigious Ivor Novello Award for Best Album and a Mercury Prize



nomination for Album of the Year. Her latest standalone single is the instantly catchy

Aw, Shoot.

Tickets are now on sale at mg.live/cmatt.

Hogmanay Hootenanny returning to Tasmania

Prepare to kick off the new year in true Scottish style at Tasmania's most electrifying Hogmanay ceilidh! This year, Hogmanay Hootenanny is going bigger and better, ensuring an evening filled with energetic dances, traditional music, and unforgettable merriment.

From lively classics to 200 year-old heartfelt ballads, The Stovies will deliver an unforgettable performance filled with infectious energy and incredible three-part harmonies.

Serenading you with the best pipes in Tasmania is the St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band's Pipe Major, Sally-Anne Richter. An incredible talent, Sally-Anne will bring the Scottish highlands to the Launceston hills with a sound that fills your heart with joy.

Join the exhilarating dance floor for a ceilidh. The ceilidh

DATES & DEETS

31 DEC
Trevallyn TAS
[TICKETS](#)

will be led by Graeme McColgan, The Scotsman, with more than two decades of experience teaching dancing around the world, he is capable of getting even the most uncoordinated of folks up on the dance floor. He will guide you through traditional Scottish dances. No experience necessary, just bring your two left feet and a sense of humour.

Ceilidh music will be provided by award winning accordionist, Iain MacLeod. A one man ceilidh band (plus drummer) whose jigs and reels will have you spinning around the dance floor with



vibrant ceilidh music from his first note.

All ticket holders will enjoy a supper plate of haggis, neeps, and tatties, award-winning Scottish/Tasmanian shortbread, and a lovely nip of single malt whisky (or Irn-Bru).

Dress in Celtic formal attire and enjoy the warm spirit of a Scottish Hogmanay party.

Get ready for a night of unforgettable fun and celebration at Max Fry Memorial Hall in Trevallyn.

Graeme McColgan said: "We can't wait to ring in the new year with you at the most spectacular Hogmanay Hootenanny yet! Bring your friends, family, and maybe even your pet Nessie - aye, it's going to be a belter!"

Letz Zep will have you seeing Page and Plant

TOUR DATES

22 MAY Penrith NSW
23 MAY Sydney NSW
24 MAY Thirroul NSW
25 MAY Tweed Heads NSW Twin
27 MAY Brisbane QLD
29 MAY Adelaide SA
30 & 31 MAY Melbourne VIC

"I walked in, I saw me" (Robert Plant).

Letz Zep, from the UK, have earned their international reputation as the world's best tribute to the world's greatest ever rock band, Led Zeppelin and "if you close your eyes, you would think it was Led Zep themselves".

All the great music of Led Zeppelin, performed with integrity and style. Set list includes Stairway to Heav-



en, Immigrant Song, Black Dog, Rock and Roll, Kashmir, Whole Lotta Love, Ramble On, Heartbreaker, Good Times Bad Times, Dazed and Confused and loads more.

Both Jimmy Page and Robert Plant have attended

Letz Zep shows. They were so impressed by Letz Zep, they invited them to perform at the official launch party of Led Zeppelin's 'Mothership'.

Letz Zep possess the considerable musical ability required to produce

a completely convincing recreation of Led Zeppelin in their prime, complete with the "tight but loose" raw excitement that was the trademark of a Led Zeppelin concert.

Tickets now on sale from [Total Touring](#).

Comic Ben Elton goes forth on Aussie tour

Ben Elton exploded onto the comedy scene more than 30 years ago, hosting Channel 4's ground-breaking Saturday Live. Since then Elton has achieved huge success as a stand-up comic, author, playwright, actor and director. He's written television shows such as *The Young Ones*, *Blackadder 2*, *Blackadder Goes Forth*, *The Thin Blue Line*, the famous 'exam' episode of *Mr Bean* and many more, as well as writing and directing two feature films: 2000's *Maybe Baby* and 2017's Australian-made *Three Summers*. In 2018, he wrote Kenneth Branagh's critically acclaimed biopic of William Shakespeare *All Is True* which starred Judi Dench and Ian McKellen. Earlier this month, the live theatre production of his hit BBC TV series *Upstart Crow* opened at The Gielgud Theatre in London's West End.

A highly respected author, Elton has published 16 best-selling novels, six of which became number one best-sellers. Elton is also

TOUR DATES

13 & 14 MAR Perth WA
 15 MAR Melbourne VIC
 18 MAR Adelaide SA
 21 MAR Sydney NSW
 26 MAR Canberra ACT
 28 MAR Thirroul NSW
 29 MAR Newcastle NSW
 01 APR Brisbane QLD
 04 APR Gold Coast QLD
 07 APR Perth WA

widely known for his writing for the stage which includes three smash-hit West End plays and the global phenomenon *We Will Rock You* based on the music of British rock legends Queen. A serial award winner, he has won three BAFTAs, two Laurence Olivier Awards, The Royal Television Society Writer's Award, The Golden Dagger UK Crime Writer of the Year Award, The Critics Circle Award for Best Musical and the Eurovision Golden Rose D'Or Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tickets from [Live Nation](#).



Pack your trunk to go see Elephant Sessions



Elephant Sessions return to Australia in January playing material from their latest album *For the Night*, which entered the UK charts at number three and won them the BBC Scotland trad album of the year, plus some new tracks played for the first time in Australia.

Known for their blistering live shows and appearances at such Australian festivals as Bluesfest, Port Fairy Folk Festival, Womad and more, the chart-topping band from the Highlands of Scotland bring their fusion of electronica and indie folk music to venues across the country in an

TOUR DATES

03 JAN Brisbane QLD
 04 JAN Coolangatta QLD
 05 JAN Brunswick Heads NSW
 08 JAN Newcastle NSW
 09 JAN Sydney NSW
 10 JAN Melbourne VIC
 11 JAN Cynnet TAS

upbeat frenzy of mandolin, fiddle, drums and bass that will see audiences bouncing and dance floors shaking.

Further details and tickets from www.elephantsessions.com.

Festival of Small Halls tours from Woodford to Cygnet

TOUR DATES

03 JAN Carrick TAS
 04 JAN Rowella TAS
 08 JAN Gunns Plains TAS
 09 JAN Stanley TAS
 10 JAN Parkham TAS
 15 JAN Broadmarsh TAS
 16 JAN Swansea TAS
 17 JAN Surges Bay TAS
 18 JAN Koonya TAS
 19 JAN Sandford TAS
 11 & 12 JAN Cygnet TAS

With the weather heating up, Festival of Small Halls has got cooler climates on their minds, which is why they're thrilled to announce their Summer Tour 2025: Woodford Folk Festival to Cygnet Folk Festival featuring Susan O'Neill and Monique Clare!

Festival organisers said: "We're excited to be returning to the Apple Isle for our sixth tour of Tasmania, bringing Irish songwriter Susan O'Neill and powerhouse cellist Monique Clare to ten rural and regional communities across the state



Susan O'Neill (IRE)

Monique Clare (AUS)

in January.

From the East Coast beaches in Swansea, to the wild north west in Stanley, each show is hosted by a community that will be opening up their hall to fill it with great

folk, incredible music, and fantastic food.

"Whether you've joined us before or this will be your first time, expect unforgettable performances and a celebration of the vibrant spirit of

our regional towns."

Susan and Monique will also be performing at Woodford Folk Festival and Cygnet Folk Festival.

More information at festivalofsmallhalls.com.

New Model Army marching in for first tour

New Model Army are coming to tour Australia and New Zealand for the first time in 2025.

Formed in Bradford, UK in 1980, New Model Army are storming through their fifth decade and show no signs of letting up.

New Model Army's 16th studio album *Unbroken* was released in January 2024 to critical acclaim and reached top positions in official album charts all around the world.

Full of guitars, searing vocals and with the emphasis on bass and drums which characterises all their work, *Unbroken* has quickly been embraced by fans who find the band as powerful and

TOUR DATES

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

poetic as ever on the new record.

It's also a huge year in touring for the band with their calendar featuring in excess of 100 live performances, in over 20 different countries, in 2024.

Passionately independent New Model Army continue to thrill fans spanning generations with their live shows and



recorded work.

They recently released a live double concert album *Sinfonia* in September 2023 – a unique performance recorded with the Sinfonia

Leipzig Orchestra at the Tempodrom venue in Berlin. New album *Unbroken* is out now.

Tickets for tour dates are now on sale at troubadourpresents.com.

Welsh choirs setting the stage for Joyful Tidings

This holiday season, let the harmonious voices of Welsh choirs transport you to a world of festive joy and timeless Christmas spirit!

Join Victoria Welsh Choir as they celebrate with an afternoon of beautiful carols and holiday classics that will warm your heart as they present Joyful Tidings - A Christmas Concert.

The Choir shared: "Under the direction of Rushan Hewawasam, our all-male choir brings together over 40 passionate voices to create a powerful and moving musical experience. Expect to hear a mix of beloved carols filling St Johns Anglican Church with rich harmonies that capture the true essence of Christmas."

This is more than just a concert – it's an opportunity to gather with loved ones, embrace the festive season, and share in the joy of music that unites us all. Whether you're a regular at their concerts or a first-time visitor, Joyful Tidings promises to be an uplifting experience that will leave you filled with the holiday spirit.

The Choir added: "Don't miss this magical event! Bring your family and friends, and let's celebrate the season together with music, warmth, and community. We look forward to sharing this special concert with you!"

The concert will be held at St Johns Anglican Church, 552 Burke Rd, Camberwell VIC 3124, on Saturday, December 7th 2024, starting at 2.30pm. Tickets cost \$25 each – book online now to secure your spot! Reserve your tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/CWXMB>.

Meanwhile in Queensland, Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir is hosting its Cambrian Family Christmas 2024, on Sunday, December 1st, at 3pm in The Cambrian Centre,



Victoria Welsh Choir. Picture: facebook.com/VictoriaWelshMaleChoir

10 South Station Road, Booval. Gold coin entry.

The Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir was founded in 1886 and is reputed to be Queensland's longest continuously-performing choir.

Everyone is invited to join their Christmas celebration. The Choir shared: "As we reach the Christmas season we invite everyone in our extended Cambrian Family to join us in an afternoon of laughter and song to send off our year!"

Also at the same venue, The Cambrian Show Choir invites you to celebrate the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.

They shared: "You'll forget that It's (not) Cold Outside, when we jump into Yuletide Remix'd! Don't Worry, Be Happy, this Winter Wonderland is full of Joyful, Joyful nostalgia that will have even the meanest Mr Grinch dancing like the Sugar Plum Fairy.

"From popular hits like Last

Christmas, to classic carols of our Youth Choir days, you will hear your favourite carols re-imagined as we share in stories of our festive experiences abroad. There is something for everyone to unwrap!

"So come along, Deck the Halls, and have your Merry Little Christmas, remix'd!"

Yuletide Remix'd is on Sunday, 8th December at 2.30pm.

Further details at www.facebook.com/BlackstoneIpswichCambrianChoirs.

In Sydney, Cantorion Sydney Male Voice Choir will perform a Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's Presbyterian Church, North Sydney, on Sunday, December 15th, 10am.

Cantorion Sydney sings classical, folk and sacred music in the male voice choral tradition. The Choir is made up of rich male voices which sing many familiar, uplifting and often moving

DATES & DEETS

01 DEC
Cambrian Family Christmas 2024
Booval QLD
[RSVP](#)

07 DEC
Victoria Welsh Choir
Camberwell VIC
[TICKETS](#)

08 DEC
The Cambrian Show Choir
Booval QLD
[TICKETS](#)

15 DEC
Cantorion Sydney Choir
North Sydney NSW
[INFO](#)

songs, creating unique and enjoyable sounds. For more information, go to www.cantorionsydneychoir.com.

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.queenslandirish.com

The Australian Irish Heritage Association WA

PO Box 1583, Subiaco, WA 6904.

www.irishheritage.com.au

Celtic Council of Australia Queensland

www.ccaq.org.au

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

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finnmccools.com.au

The Red Lion Tavern

8025 New England Hwy, Glencoe NSW 2365

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[Red Lion Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RedLionFacebook)

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ANGLO&CELTIC

Issue 18

We are based in The Gap, Queensland, Australia.

Email for postal address.

Email: editor@angloandceltic.com

Website: www.angloandceltic.com

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- contribute to Celtic Culture in Queensland
- keep up to date with Celtic music, dance, art and language events around the state
- make new connections in the Celtic community
- wear your family tartan or traditional Celtic clothes!

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Queensland Irish Association

Christmas Party 2024



Join us on Sunday, 8th December
from 12 noon at

West's Rugby Club, Sylvan Rd, Toowong

Food and beverages available to purchase
Guinness on tap



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