

ANGLO CELTIC

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Glenworth Valley set to host third fun-filled Scottish Weekender



Haggy New Year



Queensland Irish Association

*Celebrating Irish women peace makers
in the season of Brigid*



Join us on Saturday, 8th February at 2.00pm at

The Brigid Centre,
Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

Documentary film screening of
'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs'

The story of Northern Irish Catholic and Protestant women who unite to ensure their policies are reflected in the Good Friday Agreement.

Followed by light afternoon tea
Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP and further information:

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

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

ENTRANCE AT CECIL STREET - DISABILITY ACCESSIBLE - PARKING IN CENTRAL AVE, INDOOROOPILLY



WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com



Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band performing at the 41st annual Australia Day cockroach races at the Story Bridge Hotel in Brisbane in 2024. Picture: [facebook.com/StoryBridgeHotel](https://www.facebook.com/StoryBridgeHotel)

Bang your drum to celebrate women

Welcome to the January 2025 edition of Anglo&Celtic, where we proudly shine a spotlight on the remarkable women celebrated in the Celtic calendar early in the year.

We explore Women's Little Christmas, an Irish tradition on January 6th, where women take a well-deserved day off at the end of the Christmas season, gathering to celebrate their contributions in style. It's a day for relaxation and camaraderie, often featuring tea, music, and storytelling. Events marking the day are planned in Sydney and Brisbane.

Wales's own Saint Dwynwen's Day, on January 25th, brings the spirit of love and devotion, akin to Valentine's Day, with its unique Welsh flair.

St Brigid's Day follows on February 1st, honouring Ireland's patroness with celebrations of creativity, renewal, and women's leadership. Brigid is associated with fertility,

healing, and poetry. Celebrations in Australia include a documentary screening by Queensland Irish Association on the women who helped bring peace to Northern Ireland.

Our cover story is Mary Kiani's Scottish Weekender in Glenworth Valley, blending traditional Burns Night festivities, ceilidhs, and live music with vibrant Scottish heritage. From addressing the haggis to lively ceilidh dances, this event sets the tone for January's cultural offerings. All done with Mary Kiani's flair. Vivacious Mary, known as the "Scottish Songbird," shot to fame for her contributions to dance and pop music during the 1990s. She first gained prominence as the lead vocalist for The Time Frequency. She also pursued a successful solo career, releasing several international hits.

Here's to a great start to 2025 inspired by the indomitable spirit of women!

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Having a Function



We can add a whole lot more to your evening. Photo's (maximum) printed the same night and returned before the function finishes. We will do PR photos of the event at no extra cost. (subject to numbers) Studio lights if requested will be set up before guests arrive. There is no additional cost beyond the price of the photo's. This is a great way to have a memory of the evening. Good Times Network Photography Phone 0401450977 www.goodtimesbrisbane.com



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Visit our sister title at www.irishqueenslander.com

Having a Field day at the Scottish Weekender

There's some Wiggle room left at The Scottish Weekender 2025 but be quick to grab your tickets.

Join Mary Kiani and friends for a fantastic Scottish festival gathering in the stunning Glenworth Valley/Peats Ridge, New South Wales.

Anthony Field, the blue Wiggle who has Scottish heritage, made an appearance at last year's event.

Now in its third year, this one will be bigger than ever.

Attendees can bring the kids, family and friends all along for a weekend of Scottish fare, fun and flings, in this unique takeover of one of the most beautiful Central Coast scenic landscapes, just one hour and 10 minutes north of Sydney by car.

Mary is planning the most delicious food from a variety of amazing Scottish cooks. Enjoy fish and chips and other battered delights on the Friday night, and Saturday night will see award-winning Scottish chef Karen McPherson (of The Turnberry Hotel Ayrshire) prepare and deliver the best Burns Supper. All Burns supper traditions will be followed – address the Haggis, toast the haggis with a nip of whisky, address the lassies, reply to the laddies, and songs and poetry from Robert Burns.

A highlight will be the Robert Burns Memorial Solo Piping Contest.

There will be a fully charged ceilidh with a live band, The Scottish Weekend-ers, featuring first-class musicians (fiddle/accordion and guitar). Plus, pipes and drums by festival friends Barry Grey and Pipes of Distinction, and, of course, vocals by Scottish singer Mary Kiani.

Mary first gained prominence as the lead singer for Scottish electronic dance music group The Time Frequency during the early 1990s. Their single Real Love was one



Mary Kiani with special guest Anthony Field of The Wiggles at last year's Scottish Weekender. Pictures: [The Scottish Weekender](#)

of the rave anthems of the Nineties. Mary's soaring and captivating vocals contributed to the success of the band's hit songs.

Prior to her time with The Time Frequency, Mary had a career as a session and backing vocalist. She toured alongside renowned artists like Donny Osmond, John Reid, The Nightcrawlers, Paul Young, Hue & Cry, China Crisis, and even lent her vocals to The Simpsons' The Yellow Album. She also had the honour of supporting the legendary Prince during a UK tour.

Mary runs many events throughout the year. A passionate Scot from Glasgow, she loves belting out Flower of Scotland and getting folk together.

Speaking about the Scottish Weekender, Mary said: "The event will offer so many experiences over the weekend to cater to any level of

excitement, so check out the offerings and see you in the Valley in January 2025 for the third Scottish Weekender!". The three-day ticket includes all food and entertain-



DATES & DEETS

17 to 19 JAN
Glenworth Valley NSW

www.scottishweekender.com.au

ment but camping fees are to be paid and booked directly with Glenworth Valley.

Mary adds: "It's a beautiful and perfect piece of land to have this gathering and if you haven't been before, I'm sure you will agree when you're there."

Three-day ticket includes: Friday chip shop supper, a giant fire pit every night to gather round for a sing-along, live music, Saturday lunch, traditional Burns supper, ceilidh, DJ, Sunday hangover breakfast, teas, and coffee.

Revellers who don't want to set up their own tent and want a bit more comfort can get in touch with Kenny to arrange glamping at simplepleasurescamping.co/glenworth-valley-glamping. Revellers are also welcome to bring their own camper vans.

For tickets, go to www.scottishweekender.com.au.

Best of folk flying into Tassie for Cygnet fest

The 2025 Cygnet Folk Festival is set to take place from January 12th to 14th, bringing a rich blend of international and local talent to Tasmania's picturesque Huon Valley.

Among the headline acts are UK and Ireland-based performers like Beans on Toast, an Essex-born folk artist; Scottish harpist Chloe Matharu; Elephant Sessions, blending Scottish traditional music with electronica; and Ireland's Susan O'Neill, known for her haunting, soulful voice. Attendees can expect a vibrant celebration of folk traditions with music, dance, and cultural displays. The festival offers not only live music performances but also a vibrant array of workshops, street performances, and cultural displays. Here are some of this year's artists:

Elephant Sessions

Elephant Sessions returns with their latest album, *For the Night*, which won the BBC Scotland trad album of the year. The chart-topping band from the Highlands of Scotland brings their fusion of electronica and indie folk in an upbeat frenzy of mandolin, fiddle, drums, and bass that will see audiences bouncing and dance floors shaking.

Good Guy Hank

From the harmonious heartlands of Scotland and the musical metropolis of Melbourne, Australia, Good Guy Hank bring all of the heartbreak, joy, and everything in between with soulful voices, lightning mandolin, country fiddle, and three-part harmonies galore! This alternative Scottish-Americana outfit will have you dancing, singing and crying all in the one set of original charismatic bangers!



High-energy Australian Celtic music band Austral will be performing at Cygnet Folk Festival.

Harry Bird

Original, entertaining and thought provoking, Harry Bird is a modern day troubadour with a knack for storytelling and "genius song-writing" (RnR Magazine, UK). Expect rhythmic guitar, soul stirring vocals, free-wheeling anecdotes and good humour from this Glasgow based, folk-singing circus and theatre musician steeped in stagecraft, versatility and playfulness.

Susan O'Neill

Susan O'Neill is a songwriter of many depths. With a timeless voice that is equal parts balm and blowtorch, she is audacity personified. She has been a long-time collaborator on the Irish scene, with the release of *In The Game*, her collaboration album with Mick Flannery, being the most recent.

Chloe Matharu

Chloe Matharu is an award-winning singer songwriter and harpist from the west coast of Scotland. Many of her songs draw on her time as a navigational



Susan O'Neill from Ireland.

officer in the Merchant Navy, inspired by the natural world as experienced at sea. On tour she performs solo with her harp, singing in English, Scots and Welsh.

Beans on Toast

Essex born folk songwriter Beans on Toast is a unique performer. Twisting an age-old genre with a DIY approach and contemporary

DATES & DEETS

12 to 14 JAN
Huon Valley TAS
www.cygnetfolkfestival.org

concerns has earned him the title of a cult figure who tells it like it is. A festival favourite (he's played Glastonbury every year since 2005) and a prolific writer and performer. He's written and recorded 17 albums and he's played every bar, club, venue, pub, festival, party and honky-tonk you can think of.

Interstate performers include Amaidi, Austral, Hat Fitz and Cara, Tim Scanlan and Mana Okubo, and Morrigan & Wilding.

Local performers include City of Hobart Highland Pipe Band, Jolley Hatters Morris Dancers, The Young Ireland Collective, Grassroots Union Choir of Tasmania, Vince Brophy & Tony Newport, Kernewek Tasmania Songs Tunes and Tales of Cornwall, Fiona Henwood, Matthew Dames, and Anna Talbot.



Koroit Lake School 2024. Photo: Vince Brophy / facebook.com/celticlakeschool.

Australia's most Irish village hosting annual Celtic school

Nestled in the heart of Australia's most Irish village, Koroit in Victoria, the Lake School of Celtic Music, Song, and Dance continues to be a cherished tradition, celebrating its 26th anniversary from January 2nd to 7th, 2025.

This family-friendly event transforms the village into a bustling hub of Celtic culture.

Born in 1999 from a dream shared by Felix and Christine Meagher and Val Cookson, the Lake School began as a vision to bring a slice of Ireland's Willie Clancy Summer School to Australia. Unable to afford the trip to Ireland, the trio was encouraged by Jamie McKew, Director of the Port Fairy Folk Festival, to create their own version locally. With secured funding, the first Lake School was a success, and the event has since grown into a staple of Koroit's cultural calendar, welcoming around 500 attendees annually.

The 2025 program is packed with workshops, sessions, and concerts. The immersive week offers something for all levels, whether you're a seasoned performer



or a beginner. Local businesses and residents get involved in making the festival a lively, unforgettable experience, with spontaneous sessions cropping up all over town.

The 2025 Lake School offers opportunities to learn from tutors – outstanding musicians, singers and dancers from Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Geelong, Ballarat and Warrnambool! Learn to play Irish flute, fiddle, tin whistle, uilleann pipes, bodhrán (Irish drum), guitar, banjo, harp, and study song

writing. Play in a ceilidh band. Join a Celtic band! Play, session and sing with hundreds of musicians from all around Australia.

The school, a not-for-profit community organisation, re-invests its earnings into future events, ensuring that the festival continues to evolve while staying true to its roots.

Set against the backdrop of Koroit's beautiful scenery, it's a celebration of Celtic heritage that draws people from all walks of life to share in the joy of music and culture.

DATES & DEETS

02 - 07 JAN
Koroit VIC

www.lakeschool.com.au

You can immerse yourself in the culture whilst attending one or more daytime classes which include Mandolin, Fiddle, Concertina, Choral Singing, Flute, Guitar, Pub Singers, Slow Session, Whistle, Banjo, Irish Music, Pipes, Irish Language, Banjo, Harp, Ukelele, Bodhran, Set Dancing, Lake Singers, Poetry, and Youth Program.

Special events in the evenings include Welcome BBQ, Mark and Lisa McDonnell - Slow Session House Party, Youth Session, Songwriters Session, Bluegrass Pick, Spud Poet Night, Blackboard Concert, Op Shop Ceilidhe, Grand Hooley Presentation Night, Starts on the Lake Concert, and Youth Ensemble Performance.

For more information or to secure tickets, visit Bushwah-zee.com or email Felix at felix@bushwahzee.com.



The Ireland Calling Radio Show Nollaig na mBan cruise on Sydney Harbour in 2024. Picture: [Ireland Calling Radio Show](#)

Women get together to celebrate Little Christmas

Nollaig na mBan, or Women's Christmas, is a time-honoured Irish tradition that puts the spotlight on the hard-working women who keep families running through the festive season. Celebrated on January 6th, the day is a well-deserved break for women, as the men of the household take over all the chores while the ladies kick back, relax, and enjoy some well-earned indulgence. It's a day filled with laughter, storytelling, and a little bit of mischief, as the women of Ireland gather to toast to another year of family, friendship, and perseverance.

Originating in rural Ireland, Nollaig na mBan was a vital part of Irish life when households were often large, and Christmas was an overwhelming flurry of preparations. On this day, the women, after weeks of shopping, cooking, and hosting, would hang up their aprons and celebrate Christmas on their own terms. Traditionally, they would gather in homes or local pubs, enjoy tea, cake, or something a bit stronger, and take the opportunity to



Queensland Irish Association will celebrate Nollaig na mBan with coffee and treats at Chocolate Elements. Picture: [Chocolate Elements](#)

let their hair down in each other's company.

Today, the celebration continues not just in Ireland but around the world, where Irish communities have kept the tradition alive. It has also evolved into a day for acknowledging women's achievements, celebrating female solidarity, and raising awareness for women's causes.

Whether it's through small gatherings, charity events, or raising a glass to toast the women who make the world go round, Nollaig na mBan

is a festive reminder to take a moment to honour the women who've worked behind the scenes, keeping the spirit of Christmas alive. So, this January 6th, take a cue from the women of Ireland, and celebrate their resilience, strength, and timeless tradition of Nollaig na mBan.

Queensland Irish Association will be celebrating the day for the first time with a small morning gathering at Chocolate Elements in South Brisbane on Sunday, January 5th. This Scottish-run chocolaterie makes delicious

DATES & DEETS

04 JAN Ireland Calling Radio Show Nollaig na mBan high tea cruise, Sydney Harbour NSW

05 JAN Queensland Irish Association Nollaig na mBan morning coffee at Chocolate Elements ***BOOKED OUT*** South Brisbane QLD

chocolates, as well as hot chocolate and great coffee.

This new event proved popular, and was fully booked quickly. QIA plans to host a larger gathering in 2026.

The Ireland Calling Radio Show Sydney team will celebrate the day with a three-hour high tea cruise on Sydney Harbour, on Saturday, 4th January.

After a hugely successful event in 2024, they are delighted to host the second Nollaig na mBan High Tea Cruise. Bookings are now closed for this event, with enquiries welcome directly to the organisers. Details at www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1320801.

Clan Grant's head Sir Michael will be 2025 Bundanoon Chief

The President and Committee of the Bundanoon Highland Gathering are delighted to announce that Lord Strathspey has accepted the offer to be their Chieftain of the Day in 2025.

Sir Michael Grant of Grant, Lord Strathspey, 34th Chief of Clan Grant, was born in Edinburgh in 1953.

He spent his early years in Scotland, with family summer holidays in West Wittering, on the south coast of England.

Sir Michael attended Prep School in Gloucestershire, followed by Harrow (1964-70) and then Oriel College, Oxford (1971-74), where he graduated with an MA in Modern History.

A Chartered Surveyor by profession (MRICS), Sir Michael has enjoyed a career in Project Development, Asset Management, Sales and Lettings. He has travelled extensively, working on projects throughout Europe, America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Now retired, Sir Michael's interests span a wide range of subjects including property, design, architecture and art. He has a particular passion for cars (old and new) and continues to enjoy walking, sailing and kayaking.

As a person who likes to travel and connect with others, Sir Michael's vision is to "Think Global" when it comes to building and growing the Clan Grant community. His wish is to promote the Clan traditions throughout the world, strengthening bonds and preserving the Clan Grant history – for this generation and the next.

As the Chief of Clan Grant, Sir Michael takes particular pride in the Clan Grant history. Inspired by two 18th Century paintings of the Grant Champion and Piper by the artist Richard Waitt, he has reintroduced the Grant 1714 tartan, one of the earliest tartans on record.



DATES & DEETS

05 APR
Bundanoon NSW
www.brigadoon.org.au



The Grant tartan and, left, Sir Michael Grant. Pictures: Supplied

New Grant tartan inspired by paintings

The Grant 1714 tartan, one of the earliest recorded, has been revived and authorised by Sir Michael Grant of Grant, Lord Strathspey, 34th Chief of Grant. Its origins trace to 1704, when Alexander Grant directed clansmen to don "Highland Coates trewes and short hose of tartaine of red and Greine sett broad springed," recorded in the Court Book of the Regality of Grant.

Although no fabric remnants survive, clues from two 1714 portraits by artist Richard Waitt reveal ceremonial red and green tartans, likely woven by the same weaver.

Inspired by these works, Lord Strathspey collaborated with tartan historian Peter MacDonald to reconstruct the pattern.

MacDonald's extensive analysis re-



sulted in a pattern woven by Lochcaron of Scotland, using historic shades typical of the early 18th century. Registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans, the Grant 1714 tartan is

now available in light, middle, and heavy weights as well as custom-made garments and accessories.

More information at www.lochcaron.co.uk.

Tasmanians tuning up for annual Celtic music sesh

Tasmania has many first-, second- and third-generation Irish and Scottish families and, as a result, it has a thriving community of musicians who regularly meet around the state to play traditional Celtic music together, collectively known as Session Players Tasmania.

Their primary aim is to promote traditional music by giving players across the state a place to communicate and collaborate. They also plan to develop educational resources and events for current trad players to learn something new and to help anyone wishing to pick up an instrument and dive into this infectious style of music.

The group shared: "Currently our state has many enthusiastic players and we



Deloraine Celtic Music Weekend. Pictures: [Facebook.com/Session Players Tasmania group](https://www.facebook.com/SessionPlayersTasmania)

want to inspire and nurture the next generation to ensure Celtic music continues to be played and enjoyed in Tas-

mania for years to come."

They hold regular sessions in Hobart, Launceston, Deloraine and Yolla.

Every year, Session Players Tasmania organises Deloraine Celtic Music Weekend and it's on again in 2025, running from January 24th to 27th.

It includes fiddle, flute/whistle, mando/banjo, Anglo concertina, bodhran, guitar, beginner trad and singing workshops. They are also including slow sessions, trad sessions and singing sessions along with a Tutor's Concert and a céilí, plus a few more little surprises.

DATES & DEETS

24 - 27 JAN
Deloraine TAS
fassessions.com

Organisers are excited to announce their musicians for 2025 are Ruth Boylan, Allan Evans, Ewen Baker, Oscar West, Matthew Dames, and Anna Talbot.

They shared: "Hope to see you all there. Last year was fabulous thanks to you guys."

For updates, check [Session Players Tasmania's Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/SessionPlayersTasmania).



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Brigid legacy remembered as Celts celebrate Imbolc festival

Imbolc, also known as Saint Brigid's Day, is celebrated on February 1st in Ireland and the Celtic Nations, marking the halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox. Traditionally, Imbolc signified the beginning of spring and the stirring of new life. In ancient times, it was a festival of light and fertility, with a focus on the return of the sun and the hopeful end of winter's harshness. It honours Brigid, a goddess in pre-Christian Ireland associated with fire, poetry, healing, and smith-craft, who later became venerated as Saint Brigid in the Christian era.

Customs around Imbolc involve various rituals for protection, luck, and welcoming of the new season. In Ireland, a central tradition is the crafting of the St Brigid's Cross, woven from reeds or rushes and shaped in a distinctive four-armed design. These crosses are often hung above doors or in homes to invite blessings and protection for the coming year. Another practice is to leave a cloth, known as Brat Bhríde, outside overnight on St Brigid's Eve to be blessed by the saint. It's believed the cloth would hold her healing powers, useful for



Making a three-armed Saint Brigid's cross from reeds at a Beltane Fire Society event for Imbolc 2024 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Credit: [Lirazelf on Wikimedia Commons](#)

curing illnesses or protecting the household.

In rural areas, people once practiced rituals that centred on the home and hearth, aligning with Brigid's association with domestic life and the hearth fire. Families would

sometimes prepare a small bed or "Brideog" (a doll representing Brigid) to invite her spirit into the home. In some places, children dressed up and went door-to-door with the Brideog, symbolising the welcoming of spring.

Modern Ireland celebrates Imbolc and St Brigid's Day with festivals, crafts, music, and prayers, blending ancient traditions with contemporary customs. St Brigid's Day has also become a celebration of Irish women, inspired by the powerful symbolism of Brigid as both goddess and saint, representing strength, nurturing, and renewal in Irish culture.

In Scotland, Imbolc customs are closely related to those in Ireland, especially given the shared reverence for Brigid, known there as Bride. Scottish lore speaks of Bride as the "bringer of light", with tales of her spreading warmth to drive away winter. Some Scottish communities mark Imbolc by crafting Bride dolls or setting out a "Bride's bed" near the hearth to invite her blessings into the home – practices that echo Irish customs.

On the Isle of Man, Imbolc is called Laa'l Breeshey, or St Brigid's Day. Here, people traditionally light small fires or candles as a symbol of hope and renewal, reflecting Brigid's association with fire and light. Some Manx customs also involve blessing the land and livestock, reflecting the rural community's focus on new growth.

In Wales, Imbolc is sometimes linked to St Dwynwen's Day, celebrated in January, although it's not a direct equivalent. Some Welsh traditions align with early spring practices, such as blessing homes and livestock in February, but Imbolc itself is less widely observed there in modern times.

Across these Celtic regions, Imbolc has recently seen a revival, often celebrated in contemporary festivals that combine ancient customs with music, crafts, and community gatherings, honouring the spirit of renewal and Brigid's legacy.



The launch of Brigid | Spirit of Kildare, a programme of events and activities to celebrate and commemorate Saint Brigid in Ireland in 2025. Picture: [Facebook.com/Spirit of Brigid](#)

QIA celebrates women who waved goodbye to war



Queensland Irish Association's St Brigid's Day screening in 2024. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

Queensland Irish Association (QIA) is set to screen the *Waving Goodbye to Dinosaurs* documentary as part of their 2025 Saint Brigid Celebration.

Following on from the success of the Association's *Finding Brigid* documentary screening to celebrate St Brigid's Day in 2024, it is hoped that this year's screening will again attract a large crowd.

Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs looks at the time when peace talks were proposed to negotiate an end to the decades-old sectarian conflict that had left thousands dead and tens of thousands wounded, and women in Northern Ireland decided to take matters into their own hands. The

film vividly shows the story of Catholic and Protestant women who united to form an all-female political party, won seats at the negotiating table, and fought to ensure that their policies around human rights, equality, and inclusion were reflected in the Good Friday Agreement.

The documentary features interviews with members of the Women's Coalition, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator George Mitchell, and civil rights campaigner Bernadette Devlin.

Join this cinematic experience at The Brigid Centre, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly, on Saturday, February 8th at 2pm.

Attendees will have the opportunity to delve into the



documentary's rich narrative and indulge in a light afternoon tea. All are welcome.

For further details, contact QIA Director Michele Bourke on 0438 763 439.

ST BRIGID'S DAY EVENTS

01 FEB
St Brigid's Dinner
Brisbane QLD

02 FEB
Brigid The Rebel - Brigid cross laying at the Irish 1798 Memorial
Waverley Cemetery NSW
St Brigid's Festival Family Day
Kidogo Arthouse, Fremantle WA

03 FEB
Brigid the Rebel
Bronte Beach NSW
Brigid the Rebel - Book Launch
The Gaelic Club, Sydney NSW
Cairns Irish Association St Brigid's Day Celebration
Manunda QLD
Lá Fhéile Bride - St Brigid's Day lunch at
Canberra Irish Club
Canberra ACT

04 FEB
Brigid The Rebel - Fashion Show
Bondi Pavilion NSW
Brigid The Rebel - Prankquean Concert
Bondi Pavilion NSW
Darling Downs Irish Club St Brigid's Luncheon
Toowoomba QLD
Australian Celtic Women St Brigid's Day Celebration
New Farm Bowls Club QLD

08 FEB
Queensland Irish Association Season of Brigid Celebration
Indooroopilly QLD

09 FEB
BrigidFest - Feile Bride 2025
Melbourne VIC

Fremantle family day to honour Irish patron saint

Join Torc Céilí Club at Kidogo Arthouse, Fremantle, for a wonderful day out for all the family celebrating Saint Brigid.

They'll be celebrating the season of Imbolc and honouring the great St Brigid - the patroness of women, poets, farmers, and healers.

Gather all your friends and family for a day rich with all the wonders of Irish culture.

From music, dancing, singing, poetry, and story-telling, to learning how to make St Brigid Crosses, and a pop-up Gaeltacht, they have activities for all the family.

It's happening on Sunday, February 2nd from 12pm to 5pm at Kidogo Arthouse, Bathers Beach, Fremantle.

Tickets are now on sale at www.trybooking.com/CXHEP.



Scots tucking into haggis to honour poet Robbie Burns



In the heart of Ayrshire, Scotland, amid the toil of farming, a poetic genius emerged from humble origins.

Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, began weaving verses at the tender age of 15, channelling the essence of solidarity, fairness, equality, and liberalism into his works – a voice that would resonate for centuries.

In 1786, Burns found himself on the brink of emigration to Jamaica, seeking a better life. Fate intervened when his debut collection, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, became an unexpected sensation, selling out all 612 copies in a month. The *Heaven-Taught Ploughman* transformed into a literary luminary, captivating Edinburgh society with his verses.

As fame embraced Burns, his financial fortune lagged. Attempts at farming and a stint as an excise officer drained his health, culminating in his premature death in 1796 at the age of 37.

Nevertheless, his legacy endured, and in 2009, a Scottish television poll

crowned him the greatest Scot of all time.

Burns penned the timeless New Year anthem, *Auld Lang Syne*, a global ode to reminiscence. His patriotic masterpiece, *Scots Wha Hae*, echoed as Scotland's unofficial anthem for nearly two centuries and remains the Scottish National Party's party song.

In a poetic twist, even boxing legend Muhammad Ali marvelled at Burns' prowess, musing, "they told me his work was very, very neat, so I replied: 'But who did he ever beat?'"

Among Burns' supernatural creations, *Tam O'Shanter* stands tall. Narrated at Burns Suppers, this 1791 poem unfolds a night of revelry, witches, and the Devil himself, showcasing Burns' talents in blending folklore with the art of storytelling.

As the world prepares to celebrate Burns Suppers on the anniversary of his birth, the spirit of Robbie Burns lives on.

Robbie Burns Day, celebrated on January 25th, is an

annual event honouring his life and poetry.

Across Australia, Robbie Burns Day is marked by lively gatherings, festive feasts, and a rich display of Scottish arts. Australians with Scottish heritage and those simply eager to partake in the festivities join hands in commemorating Burns' literary contributions and culture.

The celebrations typically kick off with a traditional Burns Supper, a hearty feast featuring haggis, neeps (turnips), and tatties (potatoes), accompanied by the recitation of Burns' famous *Address to a Haggis*. This culinary centrepiece is often ceremoniously presented, with a bagpiper leading the procession.

Spread across Australia, a variety of events will pay homage to Burns, showcasing a blend of Scottish music, dance, and poetry. Ceilidh dances, accompanied by the sounds of bagpipes and fiddles, fill the air as attendees don their tartans and kilts, embracing the lively spirit of Scottish tradition.

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

17 JAN

Scottish Weekender Burns Supper
Glenworth Valley NSW

19 JAN

Chocolate Elements' Alternative Burns Supper
Brisbane QLD

23 JAN

Burns Night in Sydney at The Fox Hole, also Fri 24th and Sat 25th January
The Rocks, Sydney NSW

24 JAN

Society of St Andrew of Scotland Burns Supper
Spring Hill QLD

25 JAN

Burns Supper at The Church
Campbell Town TAS
St Andrew's Society of WA Burns Supper
Perth WA
Burns Supper at Bribie Island Golf Club
Bribie Island QLD
51 ACU Swan Regiment Burns Supper
Fundraiser
Bullcreek WA
Burns Night 2025 at the RACV Club
Melbourne VIC
Burns Night Dinner at Bundanoon Hotel
Bundanoon NSW
Blasta Burns Supper 2025
Burswood WA
Robert Burns Luncheon
Newtown, Toowoomba QLD
Central Coast Scots Burns Supper
Kangy Angy NSW

26 JAN

Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band Robbie Burns Night
Tenterfield NSW

01 FEB

Hunter Valley Scots Burns' Night Supper & Ceilidh
Argenton NSW
Burns Supper 2025
Townsville QLD
Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Burns Supper
Melbourne VIC
Robbie Burns Night at The St Ives Club
St Ives NSW
Scots Down Under Burns Supper
Perth WA

Two Scottish Elvises rocking up in Parkes

In the town of Parkes, where Elvis is celebrated like nowhere else in Australia, two Scottish Elvis impersonators are ready to steal the show! Yes, you heard right – two Scots donning their jumpsuits and crooning their way into the hearts of festival-goers.

Johnny Lee Memphis, a seasoned Elvis tribute artist, is no stranger to the King's crown, having won the Ultimate Elvis Tribute contest. However, he's not alone – Ross Cummings, aka "Scottish Elvis," may have only recently discovered his inner King, but he's already a hit on the scene.

Ross grew up in a town called Greenock which is 40 minutes from Glasgow.

Together, these two are bringing a bit of Highland flair to the rock 'n' roll festival. It's not just about the songs – it's the style, and, of course, the undeniable charm of a Scottish accent.

The iconic Parkes Elvis Festival is a celebration of Elvis Presley's life and music held annually in Parkes, New South Wales, to coincide with the birthday of The King in January.

Recognised as one of the top three festivals and events in Australia, the gathering attracts tens of thousands of Elvis fans and is said to have a global reach of 599 million. The festival continues



Scottish Elvis Ross Cummings, above left, and Johnny Lee Memphis will both be performing at Parkes Elvis Festival. Pictures: [Parkes Elvis Festival](#)

to grow, with more than 200 events across five fabulous, fun-filled days. From Wednesday to Sunday, events take place at venues in and around Parkes.

It attracts headline international and national Elvis tribute artists, and more than 24,000 national and international visitors to central west New South Wales.

The theme for the 2025 Festival is Elvis' 1967 musical comedy *Easy Come, Easy Go!*

Parkes Elvis Festival is proud to be officially endorsed by the estate of Elvis Presley, Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc.

You can catch the Scottish Elvises rocking at various stages around the festival,

DATES & DEETS

08 - 12 JAN
Parkes NSW
parkeselvisfestival.com.au

and it's sure to be a blend of cultures like never before.

Let the kilts sway and the hips shake – Scottish Elvis is in the building.

Changes to border rules for entering the UK

Are you planning to travel to the UK soon?

From January 2025, visitors from non-European visa free countries, including Australia, will need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) to travel to the UK.

Eligible Non-Europeans will need an ETA to travel from 8th January 2025.

An ETA costs Stg£10, and permits multiple journeys to

the UK for stays of up to six months at a time over two years, or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.

If you are a dual citizen with British or Irish citizenship, you do not need an ETA. Prove your permission to travel using your British passport or Irish passport.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/4ejKJnZ>



The UK Border at Heathrow Airport. Picture: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Australian Welsh Male Choir tours to red centre

The Australian Welsh Male Choir, a choir of approximately 60 members singing in the spirit of the great male choirs of Wales, embarked on an exciting Outback tour from the Mornington Peninsula recently to celebrate their 50th anniversary. They recreated their much-loved Singing In The Pub events in various outback towns, pubs, and community halls across Australia.

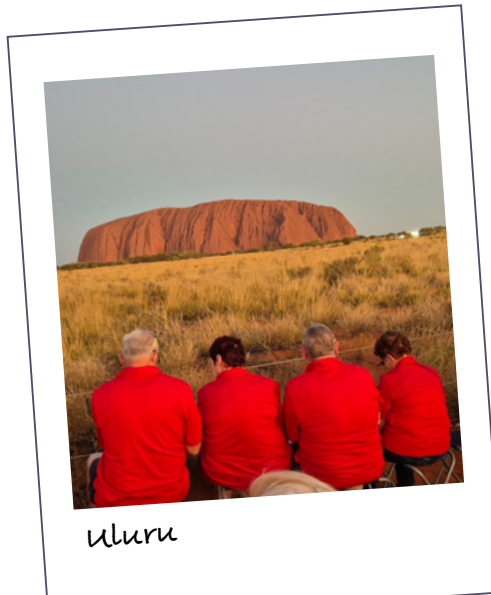
The tour saw them perform in Ballarat, Bordertown, sing along the banks of the Murray River at Murray Bridge, give a concert in Adelaide, and croon in Coober Pedy. One of the highlights was performing at the renowned Desert Song Festival at Ormiston Gorge, singing at the Palace Hotel, spiritual home of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, and at an Uluru sunset. They then made their way home via Sydney, Canberra, and the iconic Ettamogah Pub.

In addition to pub singing, the choir presented concerts in Adelaide, Bordertown, Port Augusta, Uluru, at the Desert Song Festival in Alice Springs, Ormiston Gorge, Broken Hill, Sydney, and Canberra before wrapping up the tour at the Ettamogah Pub.

The Outback Pub Tour brought back memories of previous tours, like when they traveled to China, Taipei, and Hong Kong in 2017. During that tour, a delay at Melbourne Airport led to an impromptu rehearsal when Musical Director Tom Buchanan OAM found a piano, much to the delight of their talented accompanist Michelle Nguyen and fellow passengers.

This time, they didn't travel by plane but in their own bus – "not quite Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, but close!"

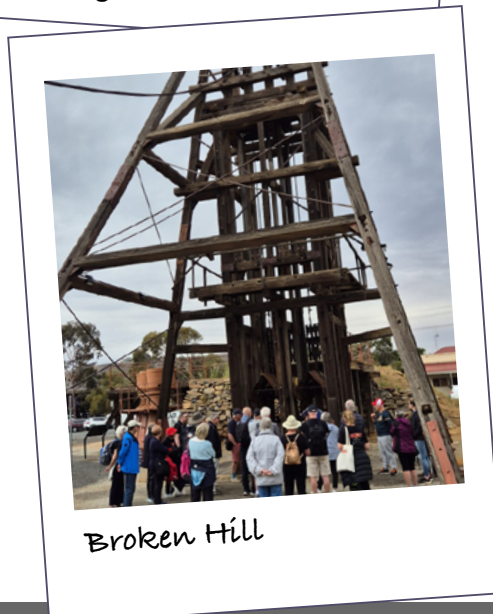
Their first stop was Melbourne's Bricklane Brewing Victoria Market, followed by Singing In The Pub at Ballarat's iconic Craig's Royal Hotel, built in 1853. The hotel, famous for hosting poets, princes, and prime ministers, welcomed them warmly, and young Molly from



Uluru



Big Koala at Dadswell Bridge



Broken Hill

Brecon, working in Australia for just nine months, joined in to sing Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau after being moved to tears during Calon Lan.

The tour continued to Bordertown, where they performed at the Bordertown Civic and Arts Centre in a concert organised by the Bordertown Rotary to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The song Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines was a crowd favourite. After the concert, some audience members joined the choir for more pub singing at the Bordertown Hotel.

Stops along the way included a photo opportunity at the Big Koala at Dadswell Bridge and a visit to Coonalpyn, part of South Australia's silo art trail. They admired the stunning murals and even the mosaic-decorated public toilets. In Murray Bridge, they enjoyed lunch at the River Side Café 24 before a quick song on the banks of the mighty Murray River.

In Adelaide, they performed a joint concert with the Metropolitan Male Voice Choir of South Australia at Flinders Street Baptist Church and had a lively Singing In The Pub at their hotel. On the road again, they stopped at Port Germain, home to South Australia's silo art trail, and learned about the town's rich farming and wartime history.

In Port Augusta, the choir sang with the local Desert Voices at the Western Hotel, enjoying another night of Singing In The Pub before continuing to Coober Pedy, where they performed at the Desert Cave Hotel. Their journey took them past Spud's Roadhouse and Woomera, where they explored Coober Pedy's opal mines and red earth landscapes.

Their next stop was Uluru, where the ancient monolith took their breath away. The choir marveled at its significance to the local Anangu people and sang beneath the striking domes of Kata-Tjuta. They continued

Australian Welsh Male Choir tours to red centre



Singing at Ormiston Gorge Tjoritja/West Macdonnell National Park.
Pictures: [facebook.com/AusWelshChoir](https://www.facebook.com/AusWelshChoir)

Staying at the Palace Hotel Broken Hill.

to Alice Springs, where they performed at the Desert Song Festival, alongside Men Aloud at the Araluen Theatre and sang at Ormiston Gorge, one of the tour's most unforgettable moments.

On their way back, they stopped at Marla Roadhouse, where they met fascinating travelers, including backpackers from Brazil and Ireland, and Nigel Rowe, a journalist cycling around Australia. Their journey continued through remote country, and at Cobar, they performed in a historic mining town with stops along the way in Wilcannia, the land of

the Barkinji people.

In Broken Hill, the choir stayed at the Palace Hotel, famous for Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. They wrapped up their tour with a joint performance with local choristers, raising funds for Landcare Broken Hill. Their last day included visiting the Line of Lode Miners Memorial, a somber reminder of the harsh realities of mining life.

After weeks of singing, traveling, and making lifelong memories, the choir concluded their Outback adventure, grateful for the chance to bring their music to the heart of Australia.



Underground in Coober Pedy.

Fire up for old-world New Year traditions

As the world waves goodbye to the old and embraces the new, we dive into New Year's traditions that combine laughter and legacy in spectacular fashion.

FIRE STARTERS

Fire takes centre stage in Scotland, where the renowned fireworks and torchlight procession in Edinburgh evoke the fiery spirit of Hogmanay's pagan and Viking origins. Here, bonfires are lit, blazing tar barrels are rolled down hills, and lit torches are tossed high into the air. Stonehaven's fireball swinging rivals any Cirque du Soleil performance as locals swing flaming spheres through the streets, chasing away any lingering evil spirits!

Meanwhile, in Northumberland, England, the Allendale Tar Bar'l ceremony showcases a sizzling hot New Year's Eve tradition, where 45 local men carry burning whisky barrels balanced on their heads through the town, creating a spectacle that's both bizarre and captivating.

As the new year dawns in Wales, the night sky resonates with the sound of fireworks crackling above and the warmth of bonfires, wrapping everyone in a cocoon of celebration.

A CLEAN START

The Scots add to the ritual with their own de-cluttering mission. Before the clock strikes midnight, debts are settled and homes are swept clean – both literally and metaphorically – to start the year with a fresh slate.

In Ireland, the New Year kicks off with a bang – or should we say, a sweep! The traditional early spring cleaning isn't merely a household chore; it's a bold declaration against post-Christmas gloom.



Stonehaven fireballs ceremony in Scotland. Credit: [MrPurple at English Wikipedia](#)

Irish families bang bread on doors to drive away bad luck, turning what could be an ordinary task into a joyous proclamation of good fortune.

The first person to step through the door on January 1st holds the key to the year's fortune in Ireland. A dark-haired stranger symbolises good luck, while a red-headed woman brings a more ominous omen. It's as if the doorway becomes a stage for the year's unfolding drama.

Meanwhile, the Scots host their own first-footing fiesta. The first person to enter a home after the midnight bells toll is the evening's VIP, ideally dark-haired and bringing symbolic gifts that set the tone for the months ahead.

WASSAILING APPLES

When the clock strikes midnight in Scotland, the occasion transforms into a full-blown musical celebration, with "Auld Lang Syne" echoing through the night as the anthem of the year's end. In parts of England, particularly in the apple orchard regions, the tradition of wassailing comes alive. Villagers gather to sing to the apple trees, ensuring a fruitful harvest in the upcoming year. This is not merely a song; it's a harmonious wish for abundance, with the encore being the promise of a bountiful yield.

Irish singles embrace a whimsical tradition of tucking mistletoe, holly, or ivy beneath their pillows on January 1st, hoping to dream of their future partners.

Scots focus on saining their homes, blessing them with water from a river ford while burning juniper branches. Opening windows and doors is the ultimate invitation for fresh beginnings, giving a new meaning to the concept of welcoming change.

In Ireland, the New Year's Day dinner transcends the living. Families set a place at the table for loved ones who departed in the previous year, leaving the door unlatched as a poignant reminder that some traditions forge connections across worlds.

On the Isle of Man, the New Year's Eve celebration, known as Oie'll Verrey, features mummers going door-to-door, performing masked dramas that bring the community together. The Manx enthusiastically embrace the resolution trend, making the Isle of Man a hub of ambition for the year ahead.

MEAT YOUR DESTINY

Forget resolutions; the Welsh prioritise feasting on New Year's Day, with Welsh cakes taking centre stage to ensure the year begins on a sweet note.

In Brittany, the Feast of the Seven Meat Stew isn't just a meal; it's a vibrant prophecy of prosperity, combining seven meats to reflect a year filled with diverse experiences.

In many English households, the Christmas season doesn't wrap up until January 6th, known as Twelfth Night. This evening is marked by revelry and cake-cutting, where hidden charms within the cake predict the future.

In Ireland, Women's Little Christmas, or Nollaig na mBan, is celebrated on January 6th, offering women a well-deserved break from holiday duties with a day of relaxation and fun.

Celebrating love the Welsh way on St Dwynwen's Day

Saint Dwynwen's Day, celebrated on January 25th, is Wales's own version of Valentine's Day, honouring Saint Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of lovers.

Dwynwen's story dates back to the 5th century and combines folklore, faith, and an enduring message of love. According to legend, Dwynwen was a beautiful princess and daughter of Welsh king Brychan Brycheiniog. She fell in love with a man named Maelon Dafodrill, but due to unfortunate circumstances, they were unable to be together.

Heartbroken, Dwynwen fled to the woods to pray, asking God to relieve her of her love for Maelon. In response, an angel visited her, offering a magic potion that would erase her feelings. However, when Maelon drank the potion, he was turned to ice.

Distressed, Dwynwen again prayed, and God granted her three wishes. First, she



wished Maelon would be thawed, which was granted. Her second wish was that God would answer the hopes of all true lovers; finally, she wished that she herself would never marry, dedicating her life to God. Dwynwen became a nun and eventually established a convent on Llanddwyn Island, off the coast of Anglesey, where a chapel

in her honour still stands.

Today, Saint Dwynwen's Day is celebrated across Wales as a day to express love and affection. Couples exchange cards, flowers, and small gifts, similar to Valentine's Day traditions, but with a Welsh twist.

Many people visit Llanddwyn Island on Anglesey, where the ruins of her chapel



St Dwynwen's Church at Llanddwyn island, left. Credit: [Wiki-media Commons](#). And, above, an illustration of Saint Dwynwen.

remain, as well as a holy well believed to be sacred. Legends say the well's fish can predict the future for those seeking insight into their romantic fortunes.

St Dwynwen's Day has become a cherished occasion in Wales, reviving a unique piece of Welsh heritage and celebrating love in a distinctly Welsh way.

Watch Shetland Viking fest Up Helly Aa live

Lerwick in Scotland will ignite in a blaze of Viking splendour on January 28th, as Up Helly Aa roars back to life and it will be streamed live online.

This Shetland spectacle marks the close of Yule, the Norse festival of winter, and it's much more than just a festival – it's a vibrant, torch-lit homage to Shetland's Viking heritage and deep community spirit.

The day kicks off at dawn as the Jarl's Squad, led by the honorary Jarl chosen for his dedication to Shetland's traditions, marches through town. Dressed in detailed Viking regalia – helmets, shields, and all – they're a sight to behold. Their morning is filled with visits to local landmarks, schools, and hospitals, spreading the



Up Helly Aa Viking festival in Shetland, Scotland. Credit: [facebook.com/promoteshetland](#)

spirit of Up Helly Aa across Lerwick. But the magic really ignites come nightfall.

As darkness descends, over 900 "guisers" (festival-goers in elaborate costumes) gather, torches in hand, to light the streets with a blaz-

ing procession. Led by the Jarl's Squad and their Viking longship – the galley – they march through the night toward the ceremonial burning site. Torches are cast, and the galley bursts into flames, filling the night sky with a

fiery glow. The roaring blaze against Lerwick's winter backdrop is breathtaking, an age-old tradition symbolising the end of winter.

Between January and March every year, communities across Shetland come together for a series of these spectacular fiery celebrations. Shetland has a rich Viking heritage. The islands were part of the Norse world for several centuries. These Vikings established communities, and their influence is evident in the language, culture, and place names of Shetland. The islands were ruled by Norway until the 15th century.

Check out [Shetland.org](#) for the full scoop on the festivals. You can watch Up Helly Aa Lerwick on live stream on January 28th [here](#).

Festivals

MARYBOROUGH HIGHLAND GATHERING



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

Maryborough VIC

01 JAN

CYGNET FOLK FESTIVAL



Showcase of eclectic music genres featuring Australian and international talent, dance, poetry, master classes and workshops.

Cygnets TAS

10 - 12 JAN

SCOTTISH WEEKENDER



Scottish Weekender/Burns Supper and ceilidh in the valley.

Glenworth Valley NSW

17 - 19 JAN

TAMAR VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL



The festival consists of music sessions, concerts, themed concerts children's activities, poetry, dance.

George Town TAS

17 - 19 JAN

ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL



An exciting three summer days of folk, world, roots, bluegrass, gypsy and Celtic music.

Wollongong NSW

17 - 19 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

DELORAINE CELTIC MUSIC WEEKEND

Deloraine TAS

Session Players Tasmania presents open sessions, bush dancing, concerts, singing sessions, plus flute, whistle, mandolin, banjo, concertina, guitar, bodhran and singing tuition.

24 - 27 JAN

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01 JAN

Maryborough Highland Gathering
Maryborough VIC

02 JAN

Lake School Koroit (to 07 JAN)
Koroit VIC

03 JAN

Elephant Sessions
Brisbane QLD
Festival of Small Halls
Carrick TAS

04 JAN

Becky Hill at Wildlands Festival
Perth WA
Lola Young at Wildlands Festival
Perth WA
Rufus Wainwright
Fremantle WA
Ireland Calling Radio Show
Sydney Nollaig Na mBan high tea cruise
Sydney NSW
Queensland Irish Association
Nollaig na mBan morning coffee
South Brisbane QLD
Elephant Sessions
Coolangatta QLD
Festival of Small Halls
Rowella TAS

05 JAN

Elephant Sessions
Brunswick Heads NSW
Lola Young at Wildlands Festival
Adelaide SA

06 JAN

Nollaig na mBan/Women's Little Christmas
Ireland

07 JAN

Becky Hill
Melbourne VIC

08 JAN

Becky Hill
Sydney NSW
Rufus Wainwright
Sydney NSW
Elephant Sessions
Newcastle NSW
CMAT at A Day On The Green
Burswood Park, Perth WA
Festival of Small Halls
Guns Plains-TAS
Lola Young
Sydney NSW

09 JAN

Steve Backshall
Perth WA
Elephant Sessions
Newtown NSW
Festival of Small Halls
Stanley TAS
Lola Young
Melbourne VIC

10 JAN

Cygnets Folk Festival (to 12 JAN)
Cygnets TAS
Rufus Wainwright
Melbourne VIC
Primal Scream
Melbourne VIC
Elephant Sessions
Melbourne VIC
CMAT at A Day On The Green
Barossa Valley SA
Festival of Small Halls
Parkham TAS

11 JAN

Steve Backshall
Adelaide SA

CMAT at A Day On The Green
Mount Duneed VIC
Primal Scream
Sydney NSW
Elephant Sessions
Cygnets TAS

12 JAN

Rufus Wainwright
Hobart TAS
CMAT at A Day On The Green
Bowral NSW

13 JAN

Steve Backshall
Brisbane QLD
Primal Scream
Brisbane QLD

14 JAN

Rufus Wainwright
Brisbane QLD
Primal Scream
Adelaide SA
CMAT
Melbourne VIC

15 JAN

Beans on Toast
North Fremantle WA
Steve Backshall
Newcastle NSW
Paul Smith
Melbourne VIC
Jack & Michael Whitehall Live
Wollongong NSW
Festival of Small Halls
Broadmarsh TAS

16 JAN

Steve Backshall
Sydney NSW
Primal Scream
Fremantle WA
Paul Smith
Melbourne VIC
CMAT

Sydney NSW

Jack & Michael Whitehall Live
Sydney NSW
Festival of Small Halls
Swansea TAS

17 JAN

Scottish Weekender (to 19 JAN)
Glenworth Valley NSW
Beans on Toast
Collingwood VIC
Illawarra Folk Festival (to 19 JAN)
Wollongong NSW
Caligula perform Depeche Mode's Violator
Sydney NSW
Steve Backshall
Canberra ACT
Paul Smith
Gold Coast QLD
Festival of Small Halls
Surges Bay TAS

18 JAN

Beans on Toast
Newtown NSW
Steve Backshall
Melbourne VIC
Paul Smith
Brisbane QLD
Caligula perform The Human League Dare
Sydney NSW
CMAT at A Day On The Green
Pokolbin NSW
Festival of Small Halls
Koonya TAS
Carl Cox & Eric Powell's Mobile Disco
Sydney NSW

19 JAN

CMAT at A Day On The Green
Mount Cotton QLD
Chocolate Elements' Alternative Burns Supper

© www.angloandceltic.com

GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



TIMELESS SUMMER TOUR

VIC, NSW, QLD

The inaugural concert series features Boy George of Culture Club, Bonnie Tyler, Tony Hadley (formerly of Spandau Ballet) and Starship featuring Mickey Thomas.

24, 25, 27 JAN

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Brisbane QLD
Tamar Valley Folk Festival (to 21 JAN)
Tamar Valley TAS
Jack & Michael Whitehall Live Newcastle NSW
Carl Cox & Eric Powell's Mobile Disco Melbourne VIC
Festival of Small Halls Sandford TAS

20 JAN
Australian School of Celtic Learning Scoil Gaeilge Samhraidh (to 27 JAN)
Mt Carmel Retreat Centre NSW

21 JAN
Paul Smith Adelaide SA

22 JAN
Damien Rice Adelaide SA
Paul Smith Perth WA

23 JAN
Bear Grylls Perth WA
The Druids Brisbane QLD
Paul Smith Perth WA
Hak Baker Melbourne VIC
Burns Night in Sydney at The Fox Hole, The Rocks (to 26 JAN)
Sydney NSW

24 JAN
You Me At Six Brisbane QLD

Timeless Summer Tour Yarra Valley VIC
Newstead Live Music Festival (to 27 JAN)
Newstead VIC
The Druids Penrith NSW
Society of St Andrew of Scotland Burns Supper Spring Hill QLD
Deloraine Celtic Music Weekend (to 27 JAN)
Deloraine TAS
Paul Smith Sydney NSW

25 JAN
Robbie Burns Day Timeless Summer Tour Hunter Valley NSW
The Script & Calum Scott Hunter Valley NSW
Burns Supper at The Church Campbell Town TAS
St Andrew's Society of WA Burns Supper Perth WA
Burns Supper at Bribie Island Golf Club Bribie Island QLD
51 ACU Swan Regiment Burns Supper Fundraiser Bullcreek WA
Burns Night 2025 at the RACV Club Melbourne VIC
Burns Night Dinner at Bundanoon Hotel Bundanoon NSW
Blasta Burns Supper 2025 Burswood WA
The Druids Sydney NSW
Damien Rice Melbourne VIC

Paul Smith Sydney NSW

26 JAN
Australia Day You Me At Six Sydney NSW
The Script & Calum Scott Mount Cotton QLD
Deloraine Celtic Music Weekend (to 28 JAN)
Deloraine TAS
Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band Robbie Burns Night Tenterfield NSW

27 JAN
You Me At Six Melbourne VIC
Soft Play Melbourne VIC
Timeless Summer Tour Sandstone Point QLD

28 JAN
Bear Grylls Melbourne VIC
Tony Hadley Adelaide SA
The Script Wollongong NSW
Damien Rice Bendigo VIC

29 JAN
Bear Grylls Sydney NSW
You Me At Six Adelaide SA
The Druids Darwin NT
Jack & Michael Whitehall Live Canberra ACT
Calum Scott Sydney NSW

Soft Play Sydney NSW

30 JAN
The Script Sydney NSW
The Druids Adelaide SA
Damien Rice Canberra ACT
Tony Hadley Hobart TAS
Soft Play Brisbane QLD
Jack & Michael Whitehall Live Canberra ACT

31 JAN
You Me At Six Perth WA
Jack & Michael Whitehall Live Sydney NSW
Calum Scott Melbourne VIC
British Chamber Business Breakfast with British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell Melbourne VIC
The Druids Melbourne VIC

01 FEB
Hunter Valley Scots Burns' Night Supper & Ceilidh Argenton NSW
Burns Supper 2025 Townsville QLD
Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Burns Supper Melbourne VIC
Robbie Burns Night at The St Ives Club St Ives NSW
Scots Down Under Burns Supper

Tours

PRIMAL SCREAM

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



THE SCRIPT

25 JAN Hunter Vly NSW
26 JAN Mt Cotton QLD
28 JAN Wollongong NSW
30 JAN Sydney NSW
01 FEB Geelong VIC
02 FEB Barossa Vly SA
05 FEB Perth WA



BEAR GRYLLS

23 JAN Perth WA
28 JAN Melbourne VIC
29 JAN Sydney NSW
01 FEB Brisbane QLD



STEVE BACKSHALL

09 JAN Perth WA
11 JAN Adelaide SA
13 JAN Brisbane QLD
15 JAN Newcastle NSW
16 JAN Sydney NSW
17 JAN Canberra ACT
18 JAN Melbourne VIC



DAMIEN RICE

22 JAN Adelaide SA
25 JAN Melbourne VIC
28 JAN Bendigo VIC
30 JAN Canberra ACT
01 FEB Thirroul NSW
03 FEB Sydney NSW
04 FEB Newcastle NSW
06 FEB Brisbane QLD



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GIGS & REELS

UPCOMING TOURS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS



JACK AND MICHAEL WHITEHALL



THE SMYTHS



JERSEY GUYS



THE MURDER CAPITAL



THE PRODIGY



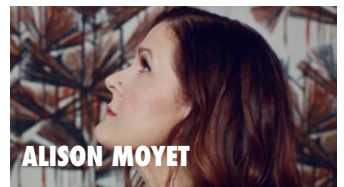
THE STRANGLERS



OASIS



THE LONGEST JOHNS



ALISON MOYET



ROB BECKETT



THE PRIMITIVES



BOYZLIFE



SOFT CELL

FEBRUARY

Tours:

Tony Hadley
 Bear Grylls
 Soft Play
 Dizzee Rascal
 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
 Panti Bliss
 The Kooks
 Rudim3ntal

Festivals:

Tasmanian Highlands Gathering TAS
 Cobargo Folk Festival NSW
 Nannup Music Festival WA
 Saint Brigid's Day

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
 3 Bucks Left
 The Kooks
 Róisín Murphy
 Danny Bhoy
 Kasabian

Festivals:

Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival VIC
 Saint Patrick's Day
 Misneach, Sydney NSW

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
 Ben Elton

Feeder

Gavin James
 Gilbert O'Sullivan

Festivals:

CresFest VIC
 Bundanoon Highland Gathering NSW
 The Hayland Gathering NSW
 Rowany Festival NSW
 120th Maclean Highland Gathering NSW
 Koroit Irish Festival VIC
 National Folk Festival ACT
 2025 Fantasy Medieval Fair SA

MAY

Tours:

Chris de Burgh
 Gilbert O'Sullivan
 Myles Smith
 The Blow Monkeys
 The Longest Johns
 Roachford
 Letz Zep
 Alison Moyet
 The Songs of Elton John and George
 Michael

Festivals:

Australian Celtic Festival NSW
 Copper Coast Cornish Festival SA
 Berry Celtic Festival NSW
 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival NSW



GRAHAM NORTON



TORVILL & DEAN



SARAH MILLICAN



STEVE BACKSHALL



TOCC



NEW ORDER



FATBOY SLIM



BLINDBOY



OMD

The Frames and Kneecap joining Misneach line-up

Curated by critically acclaimed, multi-platinum singer/songwriter **Dermot Kennedy**, MISNEACH is a new annual global music festival and celebration of Ireland's rich musical heritage, coinciding with St Patrick's Day celebrations in Sydney and Boston in March 2025.

Celebrating contemporary and traditional Irish music and thriving Irish culture – as well as featuring two of Australia's most popular artists – organisers are thrilled to reveal the incredible line-up joining Dermot Kennedy in The Domain, Sydney on Sunday, 16th March.

Acknowledged as one of Ireland's most successful music acts of their generation, **The Frames** are thrilled to celebrate their 35th anniversary with an Australian exclusive appearance at MISNEACH. The show will mark their first appearance in Australia since they toured with Bob Dylan in 2007.

Formed in 1990, after lead singer Glen Hansard, pictured, was signed by Island Records, the band became as known for their electric live gigs as for their consistently excellent albums, five of which landed in the Irish Top 10. Never content to repeat themselves, The Frames have remained artistically restless, creating a catalogue of music where rousing anthems can coexist with moments of strangeness, intimacy, and stillness.

MISNEACH will bring together the musicians who formed the core of The Frames sound from 2001's *For the Birds* to the present day: singer Glen Hansard and co-founding member violinist Colm Mac Con Iomaire, bassist Joseph Doyle, and guitarist Robert Bochnik. They will be joined by drummer Tim Neuhaus.

Two-time ARIA winner and multi-Platinum national treasure **Matt Corby** will



also take to the stage at MISNEACH. Corby's 2023 album *Everything's Fine* scored three ARIA nominations, plus a nomination for Triple J's Australian Album of the Year. No stranger to accolades, Corby's latest and most adventurous record pulls together a decade of musical threads and production nous, to reveal a body of work that glides even deeper into his R&B roots, while embracing aspects of vintage funk, hip-hop and playful soft rock motifs.

One of the most exciting groups to ever come out of Ireland, **Kneecap** are taking the world by storm in 2024 with their blend of socially conscious lyrics and thrilling energy. This year, the trio have brought their bass-heavy bouncing tunes to festivals across Europe including two now infamous sets at Glastonbury, before making their debut trip to Australia this March. Whether in the studio or up on the big screen (their movie is Ireland's Oscar entry) Kneecap have become unlikely figureheads of a movement to save their mother tongue.

Revered Sydney-based

singer **Meg Mac** saw her most recent and third album, *Matter of Time*, take out the coveted #1 position in ARIA's National Album Chart upon its release back in 2022, as well as earning a nomination for J Awards' Australian Album of the Year. With multiple sold-out tours under her belt, including a mesmerising closing night as part of Vivid Festival at the Sydney Opera House, the acclaimed Roll Up Your Sleeves singer lends her vocals to MISNEACH with a set fans won't want to miss.

West Coast modern Irish folk three-piece **Amble** are on a heady rise, following a year of sold-out shows across Ireland, the UK, and North America over the past 12 months. Members Robbie Cunningham, Oisín McCaffrey and Ross McNeerney create a genuine, authentic connection with their magical sound, recently heard on their major label debut EP, *The Commons*, out now. The trio just announced their biggest headline world tour to date for 2025 – and their appearance at the Sydney edition of MISNEACH marks their debut appearance in Australia.

DATES & DEETS

16 MAR
Sydney NSW

www.frontiertouring.com/misneach

Also joining the line-up will be "one of Ireland's most intriguing songwriters", **Sorcha Richardson**; Dublin four-piece outfit **The Scratch** who have moulded triumphant melodies with the groove and intensity of metal; a songwriter of hidden depths, with a timeless voice, **Susan O'Neill**; "Ireland's next great band" electrifying Cork five-piece **Cliffords**, led by singer Iona Lynch; and finally, rising Irish hip-hop artist and Burner Record co-founder **FYNCH**.

With a lineup this exciting, there's only one place to be on St Patrick's Day eve. Alongside epic market stalls and a range of mouth-watering food and beverage outlets – including Guinness on tap – MISNEACH will bring the magic to The Domain.

Tickets to MISNEACH are on sale now – head to frontiertouring.com/misneach for more info.



Queen of the avant garde announces Australian tour

Ireland's electronic indie pop queen Róisín Murphy is coming down under in March 2025 for her first Australian headline shows in over five years.

With her indomitable artistic spirit, Róisín Murphy is one of electronic pop's most ingenious and forward-thinking voices. Murphy first became known in the '90s as part of the successful pop duo Moloko but has since forged an illustrious and critically acclaimed career as a solo artist.

Murphy dove headlong into the music scene after her family decamped to Manchester when she was just a teen, and while she was there she discovered her own love of fashion through thrifting trips with her mother, who was an antiques dealer by trade.

A chance meeting with

local bassist Mark Brydon led the pair to form the celebrated group Moloko, and the first thing she said to him upon meeting – "Do you like my tight sweater? See how it fits my body!" – became the title of the project's unforgettable 1995 debut. After four albums and a career that included the indelible hit *Sing It Back*, Moloko split following the release of 2003's *Statues*, Murphy moved to London and kick-started a new era of creativity, huddling with producer Matthew Herbert for the beguiling and glitch-tastic *Ruby Blue* in 2005. It was an indelible debut record that immediately set one rule in place when it came to her work: Expect the unexpected.

There's been the lush pop broad strokes of 2007's ahead-of-its-time *Overpowered*, the rubbery electro of

2015's *Hairless Toys*, and the hissing-steam exultations of *Take Her Up To Monto* from 2016 – and, of course, 2020's utterly massive *Róisín Machine*, a deeply felt ode to dubby-disco, techno and house and finding her biggest audience yet in the process. With the release of her sixth solo album *Hit Parade*, a full-length collaboration with wily Hamburg producer DJ Koze, Murphy continues to surf her own musical waves with utter aplomb, as she's done throughout her entire career.

Murphy is an incomparable live performer. She was the first singer to play Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and has shared stages at the most prestigious festivals across the world, including headline appearances at Glastonbury West Holts Stage, Homobloc, Coachella and Primavera Sound.

TOUR DATES

07 MAR Melbourne VIC
08 MAR Adelaide SA
11 MAR Brisbane QLD
13 MAR Sydney NSW

The Mercury Music Prize nominated artist will play The Fortitude Music Hall, Brisbane on Tuesday, 11th March and Enmore Theatre, Sydney on Thursday, 13th March. Tickets via frontiertouring.com/roisinmurphy.

Róisín Murphy is also confirmed to play WOM-Adelaide, Adelaide South Australia on Saturday, 8th March. Tickets via womelaide.com.au.

Murphy will also play Live at the Gardens, Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne on Friday 7th March. Tickets via liveatthegardens.com.au.

Myles Smith promising an 'unforgettable' May tour

With his mesmerising live performances and soul-stirring melodies, English singer-songwriter and DIY phenom Myles Smith is on a meteoric rise.

The man behind streaming sensations Solo, Stargazing and My Home, with over 135 million global streams, 600K followers on Instagram, 6.3 million monthly listeners on Spotify, and almost 850K followers on TikTok, Myles Smith is one of the UK's fastest rising stars.

Originally due to play a November 2024 tour of Australia and New Zealand, it has been rescheduled to May 2025.

Earning more than one billion streams in 2024 thanks to his smash hit single Stargazing – the best-selling 2024 single release by an English artist this year – the Luton, London-based singer has been one of England's biggest breakout stars. With a new EP titled A Minute that dropped on November 8th, Smith is in red hot demand.

"Hey Australia and New Zealand! I've got some news to share with you all. We're moving our shows to May of next year. I know this might be a bit of a bummer, but trust me – it's all for a good reason! I want to make sure that when I finally get back to you, the shows are bigger and better than anything



you've seen before. We're adding more music, more surprises, and making sure it's truly worth the wait. Juggling everything it takes to pull this together hasn't been easy, but I promise I'm putting in the work to bring you an unforgettable experience. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding – I can't wait to see you all in May, and I'll be counting down the days until then. Much love and gratitude, Myles"

Ticket holders for the originally announced November 2024 dates will be automatically transferred to the new 2025 shows – ticket purchasers will be contacted directly with further details, including refund information if unable to attend the new shows. The AU/NZ shows will now take place in this run, the rescheduling providing an opportunity to upgrade previously sold out shows and ensuring even more fans can secure tickets.

See frontiertouring.com/

TOUR DATES

05 MAY Melbourne VIC
06 MAY Melbourne VIC
09 MAY Sydney NSW
12 MAY Brisbane QLD
13 MAY Brisbane QLD

[mysmith](https://mysmith.com) for more information.

Currently working on his debut album, Myles Smith is just getting started...

Skerryvore to headline Melbourne Celtic Festival

Melbourne Celtic Festival is excited to announce their headline artists.

Three-time winners of Scotland's Live Act Of The Year award, Skerryvore are one of their country's leading forces in a thriving live music scene, having reinvented and reignited Scottish roots music with a modern alt-pop flavour that has connected with a multicultural global audience.

Skerryvore will headline the festival's all star evening line-up in The Hall, joined by Australia's leading Scottish rock band Claymore, and Australian Folk Band of the Year Austral.

Melbourne Celtic Festival will be held on Monday, 17th March from 12pm to 11pm at Mission to Seafarers, Docklands. [Tickets](#) are now on sale.





Busker turned star, Gavin James returns

With a career that's earned him two billion streams, one Diamond and 45 Platinum and Gold records across the globe and two No.1 albums in Ireland, Gavin James has come a long way from his early days busking on Grafton Street.

His international touring has resulted in more than 250,000 ticket sales.

It's been an incredible

journey so far for the Irish singer/songwriter, having played sold out shows across the globe, supported the likes of Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith and performing at major festivals across the world including Coachella and more.

In addition to his musical achievements, Gavin has ventured into the hospitality industry. In November 2024, he acquired Doyle's

TOUR DATES

10 APR Brisbane QLD
11 APR Melbourne VIC
12 APR Sydney NSW
13 APR Perth WA

Corner bar, an iconic pub in Phibsborough, Dublin, which dates back to 1873.

Tickets from [Moshitix](#).



History gets a little saucy on Esmé tour

TOUR DATES

31 JAN Sydney NSW
14 FEB Brisbane QLD
15 FEB Melbourne VIC

English born and raised in Australia, award winning writer, creative, and sex historian Esmé Louise James is best known as the creator of Kinky History!

With over 3 million followers on social media, Esmé has delivered education with a side of frivolity to the masses. Kinky History has spawned a globally best-selling book and a chart-topping podcast series, and now, The Eggplant Tour, Esmé's debut live tour, will be taking her phenomenal insights around Australia in February 2025. With a best-selling book, a chart topping podcast series, Esmé's live show experience will be a night to remember.

Tickets on sale now at www.bohmpresents.com

Panti Bliss wigs out with a fabulous live tour



Australia, get ready! The 'Queen of Ireland,' Panti Bliss, brings the fabulously unapologetic comedy *If These Wigs Could Talk* this summer. This essential, record-breaking show celebrates a lifetime lived outside the margins, filled with ferocious activism, outrageous escapades, and bold performances.

Legendary drag queen Panti Bliss takes a pause to reflect on a place in today's changing world, delivering salacious stories, fiery commentary, and hilarious self-reflection. The journey spans

from rural Mayo to Tokyo's vibrant underground, with tales of raising hell along the way.

As a trailblazer in Ireland's Marriage Equality Campaign and the subject of the award-winning documentary *The Queen of Ireland*, Panti has ignited headlines, shared stages with U2, sparred with right-wing personalities, undertaken diplomatic missions, and inspired a famous remix by the Pet Shop Boys.

Following sold-out performances at The National Theatre of Ireland and London's

TOUR DATES

04 - 09 FEB Melbourne VIC
11 - 12 FEB Brunswick VIC
25 - 26 FEB Sydney NSW

Soho Theatre, this big, bold, and brilliant show invites audiences to laugh at sparkling failures and celebrate hard-earned triumphs.

Tickets and further information from www.troubadourpresents.com/events/panti-bliss/

Dear World, Scottish wit Danny Bhoy is returning!

Scottish comedy superstar Danny Bhoy will return for his 12th tour of Australia in March. His tour will start in Hobart on 8th March before heading to Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Danny Bhoy said: "This is the sequel to my 2015 show 'Dear Epsom...' My favourite ever show. It's a hybrid of stand up and theatre, but really that just means I get to sit down for bits of it."

From his first appearance at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival back in 2003, Danny quickly became a favourite of Aussie audiences.

His success down under tells only a part of his incredible story, as he now regularly sells out some of the biggest theatres around the world with his unique observational storytelling style of comedy. In 2025, fresh from

TOUR DATES

08 MAR Hobart TAS
18 - 23 MAR Adelaide SA
25 - 26 MAR Perth WA
08 - 20 APR Melbourne VIC
23 - 24 APR Sydney NSW
27 APR Penrith NSW
29 - 30 APR Brisbane QLD

it's completely sold out run at this year's Edinburgh Fringe, he brings his latest show 'Dear World...' to our shores.

It's the sequel to his 2015 smash hit show 'Dear Epsom...' which he describes as a hybrid of stand up and theatre, and it's sure to delight audiences around the world as much as it did in his hometown.

Dear World... is a 70 minute show, with no interval.

Tickets on sale from bohmpresents.com.



Feel the bass drop as Dizze Rascal hits down under



Dizze Rascal, one of the pioneers of the grime scene, is set to ignite stages across Australia with his We Want Bass tour. Known for hits like Fix Up, Look Sharp, Bonkers, and Dance Wiv Me, Dizze has been a driving force in British rap since his groundbreaking 2003 album Boy in da Corner. With his mix of grime, hip-hop, and electronic music, he's consistently redefined the music landscape, winning multiple awards and maintaining a loyal global fan base.

This highly anticipated tour marks a thrilling return for Dizze, who promises to bring his signature high-energy performances and infectious beats to audiences across the region. From his debut tracks to his latest hits, fans can expect a set list filled with crowd-pumping anthems

TOUR DATES

01 FEB Melbourne VIC
02 FEB Melbourne VIC
04 FEB Sydney NSW
05 FEB Adelaide SA
07 FEB Brisbane QLD
08 FEB Sydney NSW
09 FEB Byron Bay NSW

and raw, magnetic stage presence. Whether it's the bass-heavy sound of Holiday or the frantic energy of Bassline Junkie, Dizze Rascal's shows are legendary for getting the crowd involved and keeping them hooked.

With new shows recently added, don't miss your chance to witness one of grime's most influential stars live in action.

More information at the official Dizze Rascal website.

Step it out Mary 'cause The High Kings are back!

TOUR DATES

11 SEP Brisbane QLD
12 SEP Sydney NSW
13 SEP Melbourne VIC
18 SEP Adelaide SA
19 SEP Perth WA
20 SEP Fremantle WA

The High Kings from Dublin have announced their brand-new show, *Step It Out World Tour* with Australian dates in September 2025.

The *Step It Out World Tour* combines the infectious energy of the well-known songs mixed with a lively celebration of music and dance! Expect an unforgettable night packed with hits, heartfelt harmonies, and the energetic spirit of Irish tradition.

The High Kings' re-imagined version of *Step It Out Mary* in 2023 shattered streaming records for the band, alongside the very popular *Chasing Rainbows*, showing that The High Kings enduring appeal transcends generations, attracting fans of all ages. 2023 also saw



The High Kings release their eighth studio album *The Road Not Taken*.

In addition, The High Kings did their phenomenally successful *The Road Not Taken* tour which saw them playing to their largest audiences ever.

Now, The High Kings have

announced the *Step It Out World Tour*, which will kick off in Germany, followed by shows across the UK, Ireland, Scotland, USA and Australia, before heading back to the UAE again.

Speaking about the brand-new tour The High Kings said: "Our *Step It Out World Tour*

blends beloved traditional Irish folk songs with our latest hits that are redefining the genre worldwide. Get ready for a two-hour roller-coaster of emotions that only folk music can deliver!"

Tickets are now on sale from metropolistouring.com/the-high-kings-2025

3 Bucks Left bring stone-mad craic to Oz

Get ready for a night of laughter and unforgettable comedy as legendary Irish group 3 Bucks Left bring their raucous show down under in March 2025!

Whether you're a long-time fan, or new to the world of 3 Bucks Left, this show promises to be a side-splitting experience you won't want to miss. Gather your friends and family for a night full of laughs, banter, and the kind of comedy that will have you talking for weeks.

Also joining the 3 Bucks Left show on this tour is none other than original Hardy Bucks legend Martin Maloney AKA Eddie Durkan.



3 Bucks Left was created by childhood friends and "total, utter piss-takers". This satire is laden with comedy and pathos throughout, inspiring many other acts in its

wake. Now a decade later, it remains one of Ireland's favourite comedy shows.

It's been a wild ride of ups and downs. Crude, lofty, self-deprecating introspection,

TOUR DATES

01 MAR Adelaide SA
02 MAR Perth WA
04 MAR Melbourne VIC
05 MAR Brisbane QLD
06 MAR Sydney NSW

coupled with rowdy philosophies. Such misadventures are not for the faint of heart. Ruggedly charming, extremely funny, riding close to the wind.

One night of stone-mad gaine craic, pure hilarious goin's on, and some philosophical reflection.

Tickets are now on sale from [Troubadour Presents](https://troubadourpresents.com).

The Kooks hit festival and venues across Australia

Beloved UK band The Kooks are returning to Australia for a huge tour in 2025. Promising to be a stellar run of shows, The Kooks are taking over some of the country's finest venues with a very special guest from the US, singer-songwriter Briston Maroney.

These upcoming shows mark The Kooks' biggest Australian tour to date since their return to our shores after a sold-out run in 2022 celebrating the 15th anniversary of their debut album *Inside In/Inside Out*.

World-renowned for their distinct brand of indie rock, The Kooks are one of the few mid-Noughties indie bands not only still standing, but still experiencing career highs. Breaking through with adored hits from their debut album like *Naive*, *Seaside* and *She Moves in Her Own Way* and hitting the jackpot again with tracks *Bad Habit* and *Sweet Emotion* from 2014's *Listen*, The Kooks have continued to release critically acclaimed albums whilst keeping up with a restless tour schedule.

A festival legacy like not other, The Kooks have played Coachella, Sziget, Summerfest, Lollapalooza and many



more, amongst their busy history of their own headline tours across the globe.

Preceding the tour, The Kooks will appear at *Party in the Paddock* in Launceston.

One of the main characters of modern indie Briston Maroney will be heading down under as support. Hailing from Knoxville, Tennessee, this will be his first time playing to Australian fans, ready to belt out raw gems like *Small Talk*, *Freaking Out On The Interstate*, *Caroline* and

latest single *Monday*.

Since breaking through in 2017 with his debut EP *Big Shot*, Maroney continues to garner love from all corners of the industry. He's supported the likes of *Wallows* and *Liz Cooper & The Stampede* and played renowned festivals *South By South West* and *Austin City Limits*. Calling all indie lovers, don't miss your chance to catch The Kooks with special guest Briston Maroney across Australia in February and March.

TOUR DATES

07 FEB Launceston TAS
20 FEB Sydney NSW
27 FEB Melbourne VIC
01 MAR Brisbane QLD
02 MAR Wollongong NSW
04 MAR Adelaide SA
06 MAR Perth WA

Tickets are now available from www.untitledgroup.com.au.

Australia Day concert to be set on land and water

Start planning for *Australia Day Live 2025*, a spectacular concert staged on land and water as the sun sets on our national day. It's an unmissable celebration of music, lights and dazzling fireworks to entertain the nation.

Set against the iconic Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge backdrop, the night turns to magic as you experience live musical performances choreographed to a flotilla of yachts and water craft. The heart of Sydney will light up



with striking imagery on the Sydney Opera House sails and stunning pyrotechnics over the harbour.

An all-star line-up of Australian artists will entertain the crowds on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt with

DATES & DEETS

26 JAN Sydney Opera House
Sydney NSW
7.30pm - 10.30pm
www.australiaday.com.au

powerful renditions of iconic Aussie hits. Expect much-loved characters and stories that reflect the diversity of our cultures, lifestyles and the quirkiness that makes our country so special.

Fire it up as Kasabian set to ignite Australian stages

Renowned UK alt-rockers Kasabian have announced their highly anticipated return to Australian shores. Performing down under for the first time in a decade, they'll be bringing their distinct brand of electro-rock to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane joined by special guests Blossoms.

Known for their cult listening catalogue featuring swarm of hits like *Fire*, *Underdog*, *Shoot The Runner*, *You're in Love with a Psycho* and *Clubfoot*, Kasabian's legion of fans will experience a career spanning set for the ages!

Electrifying in their live performances, Kasabian's infectious high-energy and guitar anthems will have audiences down under hypnotised, with *The Guardian* calling them, "A fearsome live act." Coming off a barnstorming set at Glastonbury Kasabian will have crowds roaring in Melbourne at The Forum before playing a tremendous set at Sydney's Enmore Theatre, then capping off the tour in Brisbane at the Fortitude Music Hall.

Forming in 1997 in Leicester UK, Kasabian are one of the biggest names in British alternative rock. With 6 UK number one albums under their belt, the band have



sold over 5.5 million albums worldwide and won multiple NME Awards, Q Awards and a BRIT Award. Impressing fans all over the world with their live shows and festival performances, Kasabian have also headlined Glastonbury, Reading and Leeds Festival, V Festival and T In The Park.

Launching onto the scene in 2004 with their debut album *Kasabian*, the rockers have since released seven more studio albums to great acclaim, including *Empire* (2006), *West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum* (2009), *Velociraptor!* (2011), *48:13* (2014), *For Crying Out Loud* (2017), *The Alchemist's Euphoria* (2022) and their

brand new album released in July this year, *Happenings*.

Selling more than 100,000 live tickets this year, UK indie pop pioneers Blossoms will be jumping on as support. With five studio albums under their belt, four of them reaching Number 1 on the UK charts, the band continue to garner plenty of love with admired gems *Charlemagne*, *There's A Reason Why (I Never Returned Your Calls)*, *Your Girlfriend* and *How Long Will It Last?*. Landing on the scene in 2016, the band quickly made a name for themselves after winning a BRIT Award for their debut album *Blossoms* along with multiple Mercury Prize nominations.

TOUR DATES

11 MAR Melbourne VIC
12 MAR Melbourne VIC
15 MAR Sydney NSW
16 MAR Sydney NSW
18 MAR Brisbane QLD

Currently touring the UK with their Number 1 charting new album *Gary*, Blossoms are ready to bring the magic of their live shows to Australian fans, with *The Guardian* describing their sets as 'funky indie-pop singalongs which send the crowd wild'.

Don't miss your chance to see these alt-rock legends.

Tickets from [Destroy All Lines](#).



**SATURDAY
12TH APRIL
2025**



**HAY OVAL,
NSW**

Feeder returns to fill Aussie fans' indie rock appetite

Much celebrated, multi-platinum selling indie rock icons, Feeder, announce their triumphant return to Australia – their first in 14 years.

Feeder delivered two monster albums in a row, 2001's *Echo Park* and 2002's *Comfort In Sound*, establishing themselves as one of the UK's biggest and most-loved bands. But that was merely the beginning. While most of their peers faded away, Feeder cemented their place as one of the most enduring artists in modern rock with multiple number 1 albums in the UK charts, 20 million plus sales worldwide and a legacy of unforgettable live performances.

Always masters of marrying the light and the dark, Feeder illuminate the shadowy corners of their world to uncover something poignant and uplifting. Their anthemic alt-rock songs packed with



emotional depth and intensity have earned a devoted fan base around the globe. Their genius is more than evident on their brand new double album *Black/Red*.

Equipped with an unrelenting barrage of rock anthems such as *Buck Rogers*, *Feeling*

a *Moment*, *Just a Day*, *Just the Way I'm Feeling*, *Come Back Around* and *High*, Australian fans are set for an incredible treat when the Feeder juggernaut rolls across the country in April.

Tickets are now on sale from the phoenix.au.

TOUR DATES

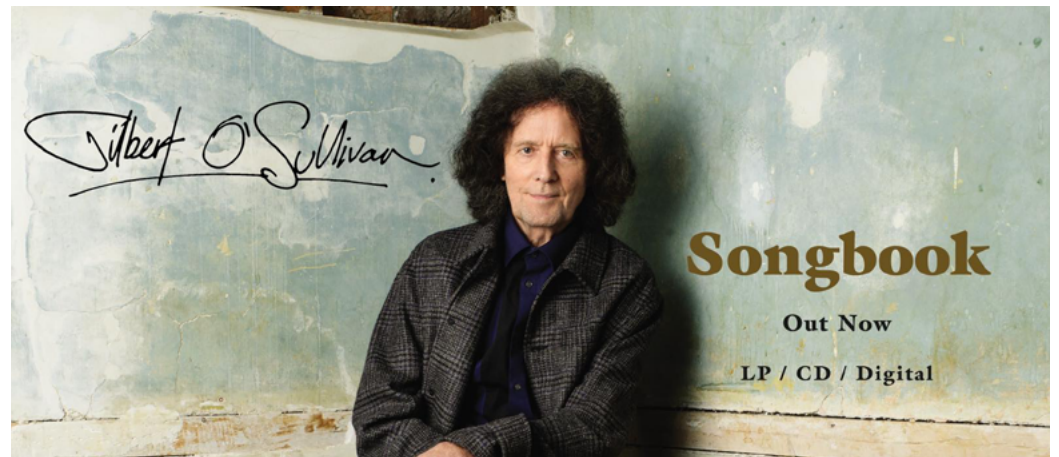
05 APR Perth WA
06 APR Adelaide SA
09 APR Melbourne VIC
10 APR Sydney NSW
11 APR Brisbane QLD

Gilbert O'Sullivan performs iconic songs

TOUR DATES

29 APR Perth WA
01 MAY Melbourne VIC
02 MAY Twin Towns NSW
04 MAY Sydney NSW
06 MAY Canberra ACT

Gilbert O'Sullivan, the iconic Irish singer-songwriter, is set to enchant Australian audiences in May 2025. Known for his remarkable ability to blend melodic pop with heartfelt, introspective lyrics, O'Sullivan rose to fame in the 1970s with chart-topping hits such as *Alone Again (Naturally)*, *Clair*, *What's in a Kiss*, *Nothing Rhymed*, and *Get Down*. His unique sound, characterised by its tunefulness and unpretentious sentiment, has earned him a special place in the hearts



of music lovers around the world.

Today, O'Sullivan remains a beloved figure in the music industry, celebrated for his enduring appeal and the timeless quality of his songs. His performances continue to captivate audiences with a blend of nostalgia and

musical brilliance, offering a memorable experience that resonates with fans both old and new.

This upcoming tour promises to be a spectacular showcase of O'Sullivan's greatest hits, delivering an unforgettable night of music. Don't miss the chance to experience the

magic of Gilbert O'Sullivan live – his exceptional talent and charming stage presence are sure to leave audiences spellbound. Join us in celebrating one of the Seventies' most iconic singer-songwriters!

Tickets: abstract.net.au/event/gilbert-osullivan/

Irish author Eamon finished his first book in Brisbane

Cork author Eamon O'Leary has penned his first book at age 72, and he tells Anglo&Celtic about his trip down memory lane of life in Ireland.

"This time last year I was in Brisbane having a wonderful time with my daughter and her family. I also put the finishing touches to my first and, at the ripe old age of 72, probably my last book - I'm a Big Boy Now.

"At 72, I'd say I'm one of the oldest people to have their first book published."

Eamon is a regular on RTE Radio1 where he reads his vignettes in the Word in Edgeways slot on the Rising Time Programme.

I'm a Big Boy Now is a passport to an Irish boyhood in a less frantic, more adventurous age, reliving a time of skinned knees and home-made go-karts, clean dirt, Saturday night baths and the kind of sweets that'd nearly cost you your teeth, back when it always seemed to snow at Christmas, the summers were long and golden and friendships were forever.

The book is in four parts. It starts with The Dubs, then Heading West, then The Kingdom and finally The Real Capital!

Eamon, tell us more about your book.

"Well, try to imagine a world before the internet. Before smartphones. Before a hundred channels on a flat-screen TV, and a round-the-clock news cycle pumping out endless, depressing stories. Imagine a world that quiet. That peaceful. That completely different from the here and now. In I'm A Big Boy, I'll take you into that world. The world of an Irish childhood in the late 50s and 1960s. An age when we gathered our mates by walking around to their places. When we rode our bikes together for hours.



When we found adventure, or mischief, or both, any chance we could - and if it wasn't there, we invented it. "A time of cowboys, hop-scotch, playing football on the road, and all the lessons that go into becoming a Big Boy. Even towards the end, the dreaded Lesson About Girls.

"You'll meet my family - Ma, Da, and The Brother as I chronicle, not just the lessons and adventures that turned me into a Big Boy, but also the air of the time and place that was 1960s Ireland. As we travel from Dublin to Kerry, from Roscommon to Cork, all the laughs are amplified, all the privations normalized, through the eyes of someone who was just trying to have as much fun as possible.

"Setting the house on fire was just a mistake!"

When did you start writing?
"After retiring, I soon realised I needed something more than hacking up the golf course to keep me occupied and got a notion to start writing short stories. Unfortunately, I'm ashamed to admit, I was at an immediate disadvantage because at school I didn't see the point in studying English. I was

one of those geniuses who thought being able to speak the language was sufficient! Therefore, metaphors, hyperbole, onomatopoeia and the rest of the gang were and still are a bit of a mystery."

Where do you get your ideas for a story?

"The first seed is usually sown when I'm out walking. After germinating, the story can rattle around my head for weeks before it's time to get it on my computer.

"And then the torture begins. I'm not able to type and it's agony using, at snail's pace, the two-finger method of typing. Punctuation is always a problem! When finished, I close the file and let it hibernate for at least three months."

Why let it hibernate?

"It's a tip I picked up at an early stage and it's amazing the changes one makes on reopening the file. I've learned that the secret to success is edit, edit, and then edit again."

You mention success. How have you done?

"Thankfully, it turns out I'm far better with the pen than I am with the putter or driv-



er and many stories have caught the eye of editors on both sides of the Atlantic. The most notable success was winning an international competition with the dark story, No Answer."

Where did the idea for the book come from?

"Well, my Da worked for Córas Iompair Éireann, the forerunner of Irish Rail and Bus Éireann. Every time he got promoted and got the princely monthly increase of two and sixpence, he was transferred. That was the practice and the time and so, like nomads we covered the length and breadth of the country. I'd no shortage of material.

"I'm fortunate in that I found a publisher who covered all the costs and they will make a few bob if it sells. Anyone hoping to make money from publishing a book is in dreamland. I'll be happy to take four copies, put a little note in each and put them away for my grandchildren. And who knows when they grow up and read it, maybe one of them might proudly say 'My Granda wrote this'."

Anything else to add?

"Yeah, I'm still playing terrible golf."

The book is available for purchase in stores or online via [Amazon Australia](https://www.amazon.com.au).

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

Classifieds

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BurkeWhistles

Precision hand crafted professional quality PennyWhistles. Made from either aluminium or brass. Keys available from High E to Low C. 35 models from which to choose. Whistles are in tune and tunable.

www.burkewhistles.com

Business listings

CULTURAL CLUBS

Queensland Irish Association

07 3067 3064

enquiries@queenslandirish.com

PO Box 12745, George St, QLD 4003

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)

[facebook.com/celtic.council.aus.qld](https://www.facebook.com/celtic.council.aus.qld)

DANCE

Australian Historical Dance

Heather Clarke, Brisbane QLD

(07) 3289 4708

heather@historicaldance.au

<https://www.historicaldance.au>

GENEALOGY

Queensland Family History Society

46 Delaware Street, Chermside/Geebung, QLD.

+61 7 3355 3369

www.qfhs.org.au

MUSIC

The Scotsman

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Graeme McColgan

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www.thescotsmanmusic.com

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ONLINE GROUPS

Anglo&Celtic Events

[Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/angloandceltic)

Connecting British and Irish Ex-Pats around Australia

[Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/brishirishexpats)

Friends and Supporters of Queensland Irish Association

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

Sydney Raffles Luck of the Irish

[Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/sydneyraffles)

PUBS

Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley

295 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Phone: (07) 3166 2477

finnmccools.com.au

The Red Lion Tavern

8025 New England Hwy, Glencoe NSW 2365

0409 776 906

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

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Amir Ardat

Real Estate Agent

Belle Property Aspley, QLD

0488 997 581

www.belleproperty.com/aspley/amir-ardat

REGISTERED MIGRATION AGENTS

Enda O'Callaghan MARN 1383553

02 8095 6406

Enda@WorkPermitsandVisas.com.au

www.WorkPermitsandVisas.com.au

www.facebook.com/WorkStudyTravelVisas

WEBSITES

Irish Queenslander

News and events for the Irish community in Queensland

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ANGLO&CELTIC

Issue 19

We are based in The Gap, Queensland, Australia.

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Email: editor@angloandceltic.com

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

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