

# ANGLO CELTIC

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Issue 22

April 2025



# Arise, Saint George

Australia's English community celebrates Saint George's Day

**MOORLANDS PARK  
AUCHENFLOWER, BRISBANE**

# CELTIC JUNIOR GAMES

**SUNDAY 18 MAY 2025**

- Best dressed in Celtic attire competition!
- Kilt and Tartan Running Race
  - Gaelic Football exercises
    - Junior Caber Toss
    - Celtic Tug of War

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# WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, [editor@angloandceltic.com](mailto:editor@angloandceltic.com)



Brisbane City Hall lit up in the colours of the Irish flag for Queensland Irish Association's 127th annual St Patrick's Eve Dinner. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

## By George, let's get celebrating!

Welcome to the April edition of Anglo&Celtic, where we are celebrating England and Saint George's Day.

There's so much to love about England's culture, but perhaps most of all, we love how they don't take life too seriously, enjoy dressing up in daft costumes and have some of the wackiest festivals you could ever dream up!

Have a look at page 32 for details of festivals involving throwing knobs and black puddings, shin-kicking competitions and snail races. No surprises really from the country that spawned Monty Python.

Here in Australia, we are having St George's Day celebrations too, including an annual trip to Kings Creek Vineyard. This year, there will be a Robbie Williams tribute show, and we all know how much Rob is loved in Oz so it should be a great day.

Details have come out about Brisbane's first

Celtic Junior Games, happening next month, and after the success of the children's competitions at the first Brisbane Celtic Festival in 2024, it's sure to be a huge success.

At this year's Bundanoon Highland Gathering, things will be getting welly out of hand – literally! A welly-throwing competition will see kilted warriors and gumboot-wielding daredevils take to the field, hurling rubber footwear. Whether you're a seasoned tosser or just in it for the bootiful chaos, this is your chance to kick up some fun.

Finally, congratulations to the Irish community across Australia for spectacular St Patrick's Day celebrations this year. They included Queensland Irish Association lighting up Brisbane City Hall in the colours of the Irish flag. And they suited it perfectly!

If you have a story you'd like included, email [editor@angloandceltic.com](mailto:editor@angloandceltic.com).

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# Raise at glass to Saint George at beer festival

Bacchus Brewing Co. is bringing a taste of England to Queensland with its annual St George's Day Beerfest, a weekend-long celebration of traditional English ales, hearty fare, and great company. Taking place over the Anzac Day weekend, the festivities will kick off on Saturday, 26 April, with an encore session on Sunday, 27 April, ensuring everyone has a chance to raise a glass to England's patron saint.

This much-loved annual event has grown into a staple of the Bacchus Brewing calendar, drawing beer lovers from across Queensland. The centrepiece of the festival is its 20 taps pouring an exclusive selection of English-style ales and ciders.

Among the highlights are the traditional brews from Harvey's Brewery in Sussex, one of England's oldest and most respected breweries. Thanks to a unique collaboration with Bacchus Brewing, beer lovers in Australia can savour Sussex Ale, Georgian Dragon, Lewes Castle Brown, and Sussex Old Ale, all brewed locally using authentic English ingredients and recipes.

Of course, no English beer



Ross Kenrick, owner of Bacchus Brewing Co. in Capalaba, Queensland. Pictures: [Bacchusbrewing.com.au](http://Bacchusbrewing.com.au)

festival would be complete without classic pub food. On Saturday, Salts Food

Truck will be serving up their legendary burgers, while the Bacchus Kitchen will be dishing out a Ploughman's lunch, pizzas, and ribs. Sunday's menu will feature a visit from London Spuds, offering a taste of the UK's beloved baked potatoes with all the trimmings. To add to the festivities, Redlands Coast Distillery next door will be crafting special drinks to mark the occasion, providing an extra tippie for those looking to explore beyond beer.

The story of Bacchus and Harvey's Brewery goes back to 2015, when their brewmaster Ross Kenrick, on a trip to the UK, was invited for a personal tour of Southern England's most famous brewery, Harvey and Son Ltd

## DATES & DEETS

26 - 27 APR  
Capalaba QLD  
[bacchusbrewing.com.au](http://bacchusbrewing.com.au)

by their head brewer, Miles Jenner.

After a wonderful day touring this 200+ year-old brewery and sampling their ales, Ross cheekily enquired if there was a possibility of them sharing their Best Bitter recipe for him to brew something similar in Australia. Miles said he was probably happy to share the recipe, but since it contained several proprietary ingredients, not least their 200+ year old house yeast strain, it wouldn't be of much use if Bacchus Brewing Co. really wanted to recreate their beer. After some excited discussions, Miles said: "Leave it with me, I'll see what I can do".

On returning to Australia, Ross kept in touch and finally got the news that exceeded his highest hopes... In a world-first, not only did Harvey's agree to share the recipe and a further three (including their World Beer Cup "World's Best" Brown and Mild Ale recipes), they also agreed to airfreight all the proprietary ingredients so Bacchus Brewing Co. could recreate their beers here in Australia.

Ross said: "We can't thank Harvey's enough for entrusting us with this great honour, and we look forward to sharing the results with you all..."

With free entry, an unbeatable selection of beers, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, Bacchus Brewing Co.'s St George's Day Beerfest is set to be a weekend of great drinks, great food, and great company – just as a proper English celebration should be!



Packed house at the distillery for a comedy night recently.

# Red and white all over as Australia toasts St George

In 2025, St George's Day celebrations across Australia are set to offer a variety of events.

St George's Day remembers St George, England's patron Saint. The anniversary of his death is seen as England's National Day. According to legend, St George was a soldier in the Roman army who slayed a dragon and saved a princess!

## VICTORIA

### St George's Day Dinner at Gables on Finch, Malvern East

The Royal Society of St George Victoria Branch will host a grand St George's Day Celebration and ANZAC Commemoration Dinner at Gables on Finch in Malvern East. Held on Saturday, April 26, from 6.30pm to 10.30pm, the evening will feature drinks and canapés on arrival, a delicious multi-course meal, and the traditional Baron of the Beef ceremony. Nostalgic songs from the past will add to the atmosphere, making this a fitting occasion to celebrate England's patron saint while honouring the spirit of ANZAC. Open to members and the wider community, the dinner is a wonderful way to mark the day in style. Tickets via Humanitix.

## QUEENSLAND

### Fox & Hounds Country Inn St George's Day, Wongawallan

For a more immersive experience, the Fox & Hounds Country Inn in Wongawallan will bring the legend of St George to life with a spectacular re-enactment of the famous dragon-slaying tale. Taking place on Saturday, April 5, from 5.30pm, the event promises medieval-themed entertainment, a hearty feast, and live performances to celebrate England's national day in



St George's Day celebrations at The Duke Bar & Bistro in Perth. Picture: [facebook.com/thedukeperth](https://www.facebook.com/thedukeperth)

style. Known for its authentic English pub atmosphere, the Fox & Hounds provides the perfect backdrop for a St George's Day gathering filled with history, fun, and fantastic food.

### Cool Britannia and Symphony Quartet at Miami Marketta, Gold Coast

Get ready for an electrifying night of nostalgia and musical brilliance as Cool Britannia, the ultimate Britpop heavyweights, take the stage on Saturday, April 19, featuring The Symphony Orchestra Quartet! Cool Britannia is set to transport audiences back to the iconic era of 90s Britpop, delivering a powerhouse performance featuring the hits of legendary bands such as

Oasis, Blur, The Stone Roses, The Verve, Happy Mondays, James, Stereophonics, Ocean Colour Scene, Inspiral Carpets and much more! This promises to be a night of unbridled energy and anthems that defined a generation. Opening the night are Every Breath You Take, Australia's number one tribute to The Police. This amazingly talented trio will play all the hits, Roxanne, Walking on the Moon, Message in a Bottle and much more.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### The Duke Bar & Bistro – St George's Day Celebration, Perth

For those in Perth, The Duke Bar & Bistro is the place to be on April 27. The festivities include a traditional Sunday Roast, a la carte menu

options, and an afternoon of live entertainment. Morris Dancers will take the stage at 3pm, followed by live acoustic music from 4pm, ensuring a lively and thoroughly English celebration. Food and drink specials will run throughout the day, making it an ideal gathering spot for those wanting to raise a toast to St George.

### The Woodvale Tavern – St George's Day Quiz Night, Woodvale

If you fancy testing your knowledge, The Woodvale Tavern is hosting a St George's Day Quiz Night on April 23. This event will challenge teams with trivia spanning British history, pop culture, landmarks, and famous faces. Hosted by English quizmaster Robbie Burns, the night promises plenty of laughs, friendly competition, and great prizes, including a hamper full of English goodies. English food and drink specials will be available, along with steak specials to satisfy hungry quiz-goers. To secure a spot, bookings can be made online.

### Last Drop Elizabethan – St George's Day Medieval Festival, Bedfordale

For a truly medieval celebration, the Last Drop Elizabethan in Bedfordale will be pulling out all the stops on April 27. The event will feature medieval fighters performing on the village green, live music, a traditional Sunday roast, and a variety of outdoor games. Guests are encouraged to dress in medieval attire to take part in the costume competition. With its old-world charm, the venue offers a perfect setting for a St George's Day celebration that feels like stepping back in time. Entry is free, with food and drinks available for purchase throughout the day.

# Arise, Saint George for a day out at the winery

Kings Creek Vineyard in Balnarring, Victoria, is gearing up for its annual St George's Day celebration on Saturday, April 26, following the success of last year's event.

The 2024 festivities drew a lively crowd, with attendees enjoying traditional English fare, live music, and a vibrant atmosphere.

Reflecting on the previous year's celebration, the vineyard owners, Ian and Kim Chapman, expressed their gratitude to its patrons, stating: "Mass thank you to everyone who came to our St George's Day event; what an awesome afternoon and so lovely to chat to so many fellow pommies."

The event featured a British Bake Off competition, inviting participants to showcase their baking skills, with free entry encouraging widespread involvement.

Local businesses played a significant role in enhancing the 2024 celebration. Rob's British Butchers expressed excitement about the transformation of Kings Creek Vineyard into a festive venue for St George's Day, contributing traditional British delicacies to the event.

Additionally, These Scones provided freshly baked scones, adding an authentic touch to the culinary offerings.

The success of the 2024 event has set high expectations for this year's celebration.

A highlight of the day this year will be a live performance from a Robbie Williams tribute act, bringing the hits of one of Britain's biggest pop stars to the Mornington Peninsula. Alongside the tribute set, a Brit cover session will keep the atmosphere lively, with well-known songs from across the decades.

Food will be another key feature, with the Bigger than Texas food truck serving up a menu of British favourites. Roast beef and pork rolls will be on offer, accompanied by mushy peas and curry sauce, as well as a BBQ wings and ribs combo.



*Ian and Kim Chapman, owners of the winery.*



*Live music at the 2024 event.*



*Attendees had an awesome afternoon.*

## DATES & DEETS

26 APR  
Balnarring VIC  
TICKETS

For those with a sweet tooth, Yvette from These Scones will once again be selling her signature scones with generous lashings of jam and cream. A selection of wines, beer, cider, and soft drinks will be available at the bar, and guests are reminded that BYO alcohol is not permitted. Adding to the British theme, a raffle will be held during the afternoon, featuring a range of UK-inspired prizes.

Kings Creek Vineyard, known for its cool-climate wines, has been part of the Mornington Peninsula's wine industry since the 1980s.

Having purchased Kings Creek in August 2021, Kim and Ian Chapman have been continually working on the extensive grounds and vines to ensure a tranquil and serene habitat is maintained for all their guests to enjoy.

The picturesque setting will provide a fitting location for the celebration, with rolling vineyards and open spaces creating a relaxed atmosphere.

Tickets for the 2025 St George's Day celebration are priced at \$10 and are available for purchase [online](#). Given the popularity of last year's event, early booking is advised to secure attendance.

Kings Creek Vineyard's commitment to celebrating British heritage continues to resonate with the community, offering an annual event that brings together music, food, and camaraderie in a quintessentially English fashion.

British-themed events are run throughout the year, and as well as St George's Day, the winery has also hosted events like Brit Day and celebrated the Platinum Jubilee.

# Arise, Saint George for a day out at the winery



The English crew enjoying St George's Day 2024 at Kings Creek Winery. Pictures: [facebook.com/Kingscreekvineyardwinery](https://www.facebook.com/Kingscreekvineyardwinery)



# Brisbane to host first Celtic Junior Games



Children having fun at the first Brisbane Celtic Festival in Moorlands Park in 2024. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

Get ready for a high-energy celebration of Celtic culture as the Brisbane Junior Celtic Games take over Moorlands Park in Auchenflower on Sunday, 18 May from 9.30am. Hosted by the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland (CCAQ), this free event is an unmissable day of sport, tradition, and community, welcoming boys and girls up to the age of 16.

With a focus on the eight Celtic Nations – Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Asturias, and Galicia – the games offer a lively program of activities that blend fun and cultural heritage.

The morning kicks off with the Junior Kilt and Tartan Races at 10am, followed by a Gaelic football skills workshop, a chance to try out the Junior Caber Toss, and a classic Celtic Tug of War.

## DATES & DEETS

18 MAY  
Auchenflower QLD  
[www.ccaq.org.au](http://www.ccaq.org.au)

Those keen to show off their heritage can take part in the Best Dressed in Celtic Attire competition. With free entry, all participants need to do is bring their energy, enthusiasm, and a water bottle.

Organisers strongly recommend using public transport, as parking will be limited, with easy access from Auchenflower Train Station, bus routes via Coronation Drive, and the nearby Regatta Ferry Terminal.

From fierce competition to cultural pride, the Brisbane Junior Celtic Games promise a thrilling day of fun and tradition for young Celts and their families.



Winners of the Junior Caber Toss at the Brisbane Celtic Festival in Moorlands Park in 2024. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

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# Hey Hay, Riverina readies to march to Scottish beat

The Hayland Gathering is gearing up for a spectacular return in 2025, with an exciting new venue and an action-packed program celebrating Scottish heritage in the heart of the Riverina. On April 12, the event will take place "On the Greens" at the Hay Services Club & Fitness Centre, ensuring a fantastic experience with all-weather options covered.

The festivities begin with a street parade down Lachlan Street, filling the town with the stirring sound of bagpipes and the sight of kilts swaying in time. From there, the action moves to the gathering grounds, where the Riverina Highland Dancing Titles will be held inside the club. Competitors of all ages will showcase their skills in the intricate and energetic art of Highland dance, while outside, the Highland Muscle Heavy Events Competition will see athletes take on iconic challenges like the caber toss and stone put.

Throughout the day, visitors can browse market stalls offering Scottish-inspired food, crafts, and memorabilia, or take part in the highly anticipated shortbread competition. Children's activities and athletic events will ensure fun for the whole family.

It will be tee time at the third annual Hayland Gathering Golf Tournament. With \$600 in prizes to be won, the fun tees off at 11am. Players are advised to get their kilts and clubs ready for a fun day out.

As the sun sets, the celebration continues with the Hayland Gathering Ceilidh at the Hay Services Club. Kicking off at 7pm, this lively evening promises an unforgettable mix of music, dance, and traditional Scottish hospitality. A two-course buffet roast dinner will be served, setting the stage for entertainment by The Scotsman Music and



Hay Marching Girls took part in the 2024 Hayland Gathering street parade. Picture: Hayland Gathering

## DATES & DEETS

12 APR  
Hay NSW  
[facebook.com/haylandgathering](https://facebook.com/haylandgathering)

Auld Alliance, as well as performances by Highland dancers Elie Roe Daniel and Alice Gill. The night will include the ceremonial Address to the Haggis, and, to close the event in style, a dazzling fireworks display by Anthony Slattery Fireworks.

Hay is often said to be one of the flattest places in Australia. The surrounding Hay Plains are famous for their vast, featureless landscapes that stretch as far as the eye can see, with barely a tree or hill to break the horizon. This extreme flatness gives Hay its iconic, endless sky views and dramatic sunsets, making it a unique part of the Riverina.

The 2025 Hayland Gathering is shaping up to be a must-attend celebration for Scots and festival lovers alike.

**THE HAYLAND GATHERING**

**SATURDAY 12TH APRIL 2025**

**Lachlan Street Parade**  
10.30am  
Tennis Courts to IGA Carpark

**On the Greens HAY SERVICES CLUB**  
From 11.30am  
Pipe Bands  
Highland Dancing  
Highland Muscle Heavy Events  
Golf Tournament  
Kids activities  
Stalls

**Fun for all the family**  
**Traditional Ceilidh 7pm**

Entry by gold coin donation

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# Cheers to change at new look Adelaide Irish Club

The Adelaide Irish Club has unveiled a fresh new look, with major renovations completed just in time for St Patrick's Day celebrations. These saw the club packed with revellers enjoying the club's Irish Pipe Band, Celtic musicians and Irish dancing.

In a newsletter, the Irish Australian Association (IAA) shared that the main hall's bar has been completely refurbished thanks to the hard work of volunteers. The club said: "Some people said it could not be done! Some people said it would never be done! But thanks to our fantastic volunteers – especially during demolition – it is done!"

Special thanks were extended to Eddie Howlett, George Mulvaney, Ted Muldoon, Sean Hinchey, Vince Sheehy, and Denis Carey, who put in the hard yards to bring the new bar to life. Alongside this, the reception



Adelaide Irish Club has unveiled its new face-lift, with major renovations completed just in time for a busy run of St Patrick's Day events. Pictures: [Facebook.com - Adelaide Irish Club](https://www.facebook.com/AdelaideIrishClub)



area and main hall have been given a fresh coat of paint, with Tony Lynch and Will Roe credited for their efforts in revitalising this space.

A new flag has also been raised above the club, symbolising renewal, while a modern light-box sign now brightens up Carrington Street, making the venue more visible than ever.

Further improvements include new balcony lighting.

With the renovations complete, the club is encouraging people to make use of the refreshed space, highlighting its Corporate Partner Program for businesses wanting to advertise on the club's website.

Membership renewals are also open, with the club emphasising the importance

of continued community support.

"Our members are the heart and soul of our community," they said.

With a new look and a packed schedule of events, the Adelaide Irish Club is well-positioned for an exciting year ahead.

You can sign up for membership at [www.irishclub.org.au](http://www.irishclub.org.au).

## THE AUSTRALIAN-IRISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

### 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CATALPA COMMEMORATION



Information 9367 6026  
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 Also on Facebook  
 Encouraging and promoting  
 an awareness of Australia's  
 Irish heritage

At Catalpa Wild Geese Memorial, Palm Beach, Rockingham  
 11am Easter Monday, 21 April, 2025

Free public event of oration, song, theatre and verse dedicated to the escape of six Irish Political Fenian Convicts on the 'Catalpa' American Whaler on Easter Monday, 17 April 1876

Special guests from Federal, State and Local Government including Mayor Deb Hamblin and councillors; Hon Stephen Dawson MLC - Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation and the Digital Economy, Medical Research and Minister for the Kimberley, and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council; Hon Madeleine King, Federal Minister for Resources; Michael Malone Business Leader; Anne Golden of *Fenians Fremantle Festival*; actor Michael Sheehy; WA Irish Pipers, and members of AIHA committee; produced and researched by David McKnight. *With improved outdoor sound system!*

This event has been registered with the National Trust for the annual National Heritage Festival which runs 18 April to 18 May.

*Ample parking in town centre, 8 min walk via Harrison St, right into Val St to Esplanade*

# Celtic festival sees dogs dressed to the canines

The Australian Celtic Festival is gearing up to transform Glen Innes into a vibrant celebration of all things Celtic, and this year, the spotlight isn't just on tartan-clad dancers and booming bagpipes – it's also on some very dapper dogs. With the festival's beloved dog fashion parade returning, expect to see plenty of proud pooches strutting their stuff in kilts.

The festival returns from May 1 to 4, 2025. This year, the spotlight shines on the vibrant cultures of Brittany, Cornwall, and Wales.

The festival starts with a Celtic Cultural Symposium on Thursday, May 1, at the Highlands Hub, followed by the official opening ceremony at Glen Innes Town Hall on Friday, May 2.

On Friday evening, attendees can enjoy the Friday Night Céilí, featuring world-renowned fiddler Gerry O'Connor from Ireland, along with performances by the Australian Celtic Women, the Ian Hayden and Friends Ceili Band, and the Manx



**A Celtic Dog Parade will be held at 2pm on Saturday, May 3, at the Australian Celtic Festival. Dress up your dog and enter the festival's Celtic Dog Parade for some fun! Picture: [australiancelticfestival.com](http://australiancelticfestival.com)**

Dancers of Brisbane.

The main events on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, will take place at the Australian Standing Stones National Celtic Monument. Festival-goers can look forward to live music and dance performances across three stages, pipe bands, highland games, strongman events, wrestling, jousting, re-enactment groups, and a Celtic

Kitchen marquee. A dedicated Celtic Kids marquee will offer activities for younger attendees, and over 75 market, food, and beverage stalls will showcase Celtic-inspired crafts and fare.

Saturday evening will feature the Saturday Night Craic, with performances by Murphy's Pigs and Siannach Rua's Great Irish Songbook. Additional highlights

## DATES & DEETS

01 - 04 MAY  
Glen Innes NSW  
[www.australiancelticfestival.com](http://www.australiancelticfestival.com)

include the Australian Celtic Dance Championships on Saturday, and a Fashion Parade and Awards event, where attendees can showcase their Celtic attire.

# An afternoon with poetry, stories, and song

For over 25 years, Irish poet Tony Curtis has been captivating Western Australia with his words, wit, and music. Now, the Australian Irish Heritage Association invites you to spend an unforgettable afternoon with this award-winning wordsmith by the river.

Hailing from Dublin, Curtis is not just a poet but a storyteller, musician, and performer, bringing poetry to life in ways that stir the heart and spark the imagination. His extensive body of work, spanning decades, reflects a deep connection to Ireland, its landscapes, its people, and the universal truths of life. His most recent collection, "On Gifting Black Feath-



ers" (2024), continues his tradition of weaving words with wisdom and warmth.

Settle in at the Dôme Pavilion, Deep Water Point, Mount Pleasant on Thursday, April 3rd, from 2-4pm,

where Tony will not only share his poetry but also the stories behind them. Expect an afternoon of music, laughter, and literary magic, as well as a special introduction to the works of Irish-Australi-

## DATES & DEETS

03 APR  
Mount Pleasant WA  
[secretary@irishheritage.com.au](mailto:secretary@irishheritage.com.au)

an poet Roland Robinson. Entry is just \$10 at the door, and you can order from the Dôme menu. Whether you're a longtime admirer or a newcomer to his work, this is an afternoon that promises to delight, inspire, and transport you into the heart of Irish poetry and heritage.

For more information, contact [secretary@irishheritage.com.au](mailto:secretary@irishheritage.com.au).

# Bundanoon giving it some welly with boot toss contest



**WELLY WANGING:** New to Brigadoon in 2025, this is where the rubber really meets the road! Have a go tossing that worn out Wellie as far as you can. Picture: [Facebook.com/Brigadoon1978](https://www.facebook.com/Brigadoon1978)

The Bundanoon Highland Gathering, affectionately known as Brigadoon, is set to return on April 5, marking its 44th annual celebration, and this year, a brand-new event is set to steal the show – the Boot Tossing Competition! This exciting addition promises plenty of laughs and a

test of skill as participants compete to see who can fling a boot the farthest. It's sure to be a crowd-pleaser and a highlight of the day's festivities.

The event transforms the tranquil village of Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales into a

vibrant hub of Scottish culture and tradition. The day's celebrations will commence at 9am with a lively street parade, featuring over 25 pipe bands, clans, and Scottish societies. Following the parade, the official opening ceremony will take place at 10am on the Bundanoon Oval, led by the Chieftain of the Day.

Attendees can look forward to a spectacular massed pipes and drums display. Organisers said: "The sheer pageantry of the display has to be seen to be appreciated; the magic of the occasion leaves one breathless."

Throughout the day, the festival will offer a variety of traditional Scottish activities and entertainment. Highland dancing competitions will captivate audiences with their grace and precision, while the Australian Highland Heavyweight Championships will showcase feats of strength in events such as caber tossing and stone putting. The Bundanoon Stones are always a highlight of the day.

At the Oval, there will be more than 80 specialist stalls selling everything Scottish, from pies and shortbread

## DATES & DEETS

05 APR  
Bundanoon NSW  
[www.brigadoon.org.au](http://www.brigadoon.org.au)

to clan memorabilia and souvenirs. For those interested in exploring their Scottish heritage, the Clan Village will provide insights into various clans and their histories.

Children can enjoy the Bonnie Bairns competition, storytelling sessions, and a range of games designed especially for them. A selection of food stalls will offer both traditional Scottish fare, including haggis, and international cuisines to satisfy all palates.

The day will culminate in a massed pipes and drums finale at 4pm. Tickets for Brigadoon 2025 are now available for purchase online. Prices are: Adults \$25, Concession \$20, Children (5 to 17 years) \$10, and Family (two adults and two children) \$60. Group pricing is also available for groups of 20 to 50 people at \$20 per person. Tickets on sale at [www.brigadoon.org.au](http://www.brigadoon.org.au).

Australian Irish Heritage Assoc. Presents  
*An afternoon with Irish Poet Tony Curtis*

Author of collections ....  
On Gifting Black Feathers, 2024  
Between the Tides, 2021  
The Syncline, 2021  
By Bus to Christmas, 2020  
This Flight Tonight, 2019  
Approximately in the Key of C, 2015  
Pony, 2013  
Aran Currach, 2013  
Sand Works, 2012  
Folk, 2011  
The Well in the Rain, 2011  
An Elephant called Rex, 2010  
What Darkness Covers, 2003  
The Book of Winter Cures, 2002  
Days like These - 3 Irish Poets, 2007  
Three Songs of Home, 1999  
This Far North, 1994  
Behind the Green Curtain, 1988  
The Shifting of Stones, 1986

Tony has been a regular visitor to WA and a popular entertainer of poetry, story-telling and music for AIHA over 25 years. He was born in Dublin, and educated at the [University of Essex](http://www.universityofessex.ac.uk) and at [Trinity College Dublin](http://www.trinitycollege.edu). In 1993 he won the Poetry Ireland/Friends Provident National Poetry Competition. In 2018 he won the 2018 O'Shaughnessy Poetry Award presented by the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also works in education under the Skagit River Poetry Project schools programme. Tony is a member of [Aosdána](http://www.aosdana.com). <https://www.tonycurtisirishpoet.com>

At Dome Pavilion, Deep Water Point, 100 The Esplanade, Mt Pleasant (by the river)  
On Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 2 to 4pm  
Donation \$10 at door. Order from Dome menu.  
Expect poems and the stories behind them, guitar, an introduction to works and life of Irish-Australian Poet Roland Robinson. Enquiries [secretary@irishheritage.com.au](mailto:secretary@irishheritage.com.au)

# Koroit festival pays udderly hilarious ode to Dairy Girls

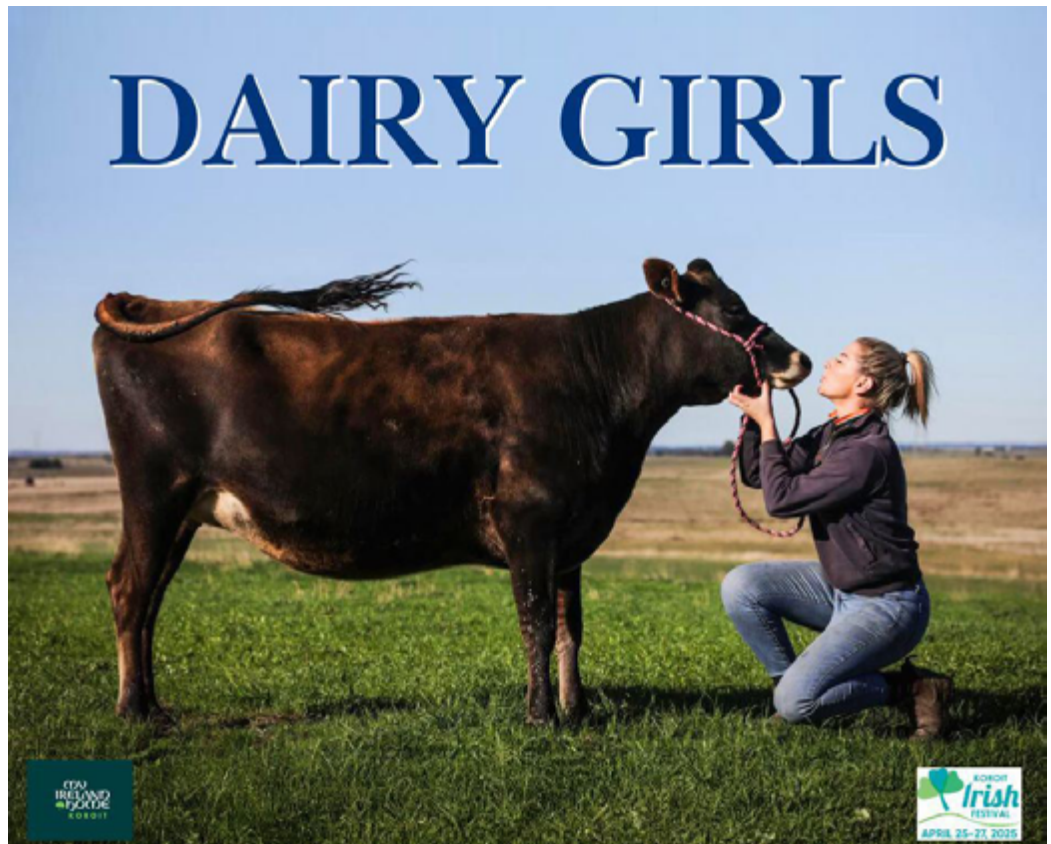
The 2025 Koroit Irish Festival is going all out this year with a celebration that brings together two great icons – Dairy Girls and Derry Girls! In a festival first, organisers are paying tribute to the incredible women in the dairy industry while also honouring one of the greatest Irish TV shows of all time.

A special display will take centre stage at the festival, shining a spotlight on Dairy Girls and imagining where its famous characters might be if they found themselves in Koroit. Would Erin be starting an underground newspaper about local scandals? Would Sister Michael be judging the Spud Trilogy with her signature deadpan expression? Fans of the show are encouraged to dress up as their favourite characters for the festival's Fashions on the Field competition, with prizes for the best-dressed.

Alongside the Dairy Girls tribute, the festival is calling on real-life Dairy Girls to step forward and share their stories. Whether you milk cows, work in a dairy factory, or grew up on a dairy farm, if you have a connection to Koroit, you're invited to be part of this special tribute. The festival will feature an honour wall displaying the faces and stories of Koroit's Dairy Girls, with local Rachael McGrath proudly serving as the poster girl for the initiative.

All Dairy Girls are encouraged to come dressed in their finest dairy clothes, and they'll be joined by the Dairy Girls lookalikes in the festival's famed Street Procession on Saturday, April 26. If you want to be part of the celebration, simply buy a festival ticket and get involved.

For those looking to be featured on the honour wall, send a hi-res photo (both horizontal and vertical), your name, role in the dairy industry, and your link to Koroit to



The Koroit Irish Festival has announced Billy Dwyer as its Ambassador in 2025. Picture: [koroitirishfestival.com.au](http://koroitirishfestival.com.au)

info@koroitirishfestival.com.au.

With a mix of laughter, nostalgia, and a deep appreciation for both dairy and Derry, this year's festival is shaping up to be an absolute cracker!

The festival is set to bring a lively celebration of Irish culture to the heart of Victoria's most Irish town from April 25 to 27. With music, dance, storytelling, and some uniquely Koroit traditions, the festival promises an unforgettable weekend of entertainment for locals and visitors alike.

Excitement is already building as the festival organisers announce key highlights.

This year's Festival Ambassador has been named as Billy Dwyer, a much-loved local who embodies the spirit of Koroit. With a deep connection to the town and its Irish heritage, Billy will represent the festival in the lead-up to

the event and throughout the celebrations. A stand-out feature returning in 2025 is "Kortraits," an art exhibition dedicated to capturing the people and places of Koroit.

Of course, no Koroit Irish Festival would be complete without the legendary Spud Trilogy. This much-loved tradition will once again challenge competitors to prove their skills in spud picking, peeling, and eating. With past champions like Robert Dowling setting the bar high, contestants will need to bring their best to claim victory.

Beyond the competitions, festival-goers can enjoy an impressive line-up of Irish musicians, cultural workshops, street entertainment, and, of course, a chance to experience Koroit's warm hospitality.

A new addition this year is a céilí.

Organisers shared: "Every

## DATES & DEETS

25 - 27 APR

Koroit VIC

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

year we aim to bring you all the regular fun you love, but also something new.

"In 2025, it will be the first ever Koroit Irish Festival Céilí. It will be held at the Koroit Theatre on Saturday, April 26 from 8pm, and everyone is invited.

"Experience the magic of céilí dancing, with your festival ticket all you need. Star performer Rhys Crimmin will be running the show."

Whether it's joining in a céilí dance, sampling some hearty Irish fare, or simply soaking in the atmosphere, the festival is set to be a highlight of the 2025 events calendar.

# Peel yourself away for a spuddy good weekend

## DATES & DEETS

03 - 04 MAY  
Trentham VIC  
[trenthamspudfest.org.au](http://trenthamspudfest.org.au)

Forget gold – Trentham was built on potatoes, and in 2025, it's doubling down on its claim as Australia's spud capital with the Great Trentham Spudfest! On May 3 and 4, this quiet country town will erupt into a mash-up of live music, farm-fresh feasting, and good old-fashioned potato-based revelry. Expect Celtic tunes, potato-sack races, and more ways to cook a spud than an Irish grandmother could dream of. Whether you like them fried, mashed, or turned into something questionably artistic, this is the weekend to embrace your inner tater-lover.

**Day 1: Street Fair Extravaganza**

On Saturday, May 3, from 10am to 4pm, Trentham's streets will come alive with the much-anticipated Street Fair. The town centre will be divided into four distinct precincts, each bustling with activities that cater to all ages. Visitors can indulge in a variety of spud-based culinary delights, explore stalls showcasing fresh regional produce, and admire the craftsmanship of local artisans. Live music performances will provide a festive backdrop, ensuring a lively atmosphere throughout the day. Children and adults alike can participate in numerous interactive activities, making it a day filled with fun and community spirit.

**Day 1 Evening: Family Ceilidh Celebration**

As the sun sets on the first day, the festivities continue with a Family Ceilidh at The Mechanics Trentham. This high-energy event promises an evening of toe-tapping



Trentham celebrates its Irish heritage and the humble spud. Pictures: [Facebook.com/trenthamspudfest](https://www.facebook.com/trenthamspudfest)

Celtic music, traditional dance, and hearty laughter. Suitable for all ages, the ceilidh offers attendees a chance to immerse themselves in authentic Irish cultural traditions, fostering a sense of community and shared joy.

**Day 2: Discovery Day Adventures**

Sunday, May 4, from 10am to 4pm, is dedicated to Discovery Day, encouraging visitors to delve deeper into the region's offerings. Attendees can embark on food trails leading to farm gates brimming with fresh produce or join historical tours that narrate the rich tapestry of Trentham's past. For those eager to learn more about local agriculture, tours of renowned local farms are available. Additionally, The Great Spud Scavenger Hunt offers a fun and engaging way to explore the town, while various venues serve up spudtastic dishes, ensur-

ing that the humble potato remains at the heart of the celebration.

The Great Trentham Spudfest not only celebrates the region's agricultural roots but also weaves in the vibrant threads of Celtic and Irish culture, offering attendees

a rich tapestry of experiences. Whether you're a food enthusiast, a music lover, or a history buff, Spudfest 2025 promises a memorable weekend filled with community spirit, cultural appreciation, and, of course, plenty of potatoes



# World Champion Pipe Major heading for Maclean festival

The Lower Clarence Scottish Association is proud to announce that PM Stuart Liddell, one of the world's premier pipers, will be visiting Maclean for the 2025 Maclean Highland Gathering, after guiding his band, Inveraray & District Pipe Band, to success at the Grade One World Pipe Band Championships in 2024.

PM Stuart Liddell hails from Inveraray, Scotland and started piping at the age of nine. Stuart was originally taught by his grandfather, the late Pipe Major Ronald McCallum M.B.E. and later, Arthur Gillies. He has also had tuition from Jim Henderson and Hugh MacCallum.

One of the most gifted pipers in the world today, he has won three Clasps at Inverness, the Senior Piobaireachd at Oban five times, both Gold Medals, is a three-time Glenfiddich Piping Champion and has won the Donald MacLeod Memorial in 2016 and, most recently,



The Springbank Invitational in Campbeltown 2023.

Stuart is founder and Pipe Major of the Inveraray & Dis-

trict Pipe Band, winners of the Grade 1 World Pipe Band Championship in 2017, 2019 and 2024. Previously he was

## DATES & DEETS

19 APR  
Maclean NSW

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

a member of the Scottish Power Pipe Band for seven years, subsequently joining the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band from Vancouver, Canada with whom he played for 10 years.

The Lower Clarence Scottish Association would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Mr Barry Ryan, together with the assistance provided by Andrew & Amy Roach and the Queensland Highland Pipers Society.

The recital will be held at the Former Maclean Services Club 36-38 River Street, Maclean from 7.30pm on Saturday, 19 April. The event is free, and no bookings are required. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the world's best in person.

## Robertson Potato Festival paused indefinitely

The potato-growing town of Robertson in the Southern Highlands has seen its annual potato festival, usually held in April or May, paused, with organisers citing funding difficulties and unpredictable weather being among the reasons.

A statement on the festival's website, [potatofestival.com.au](http://potatofestival.com.au), says: "After several years of bringing the community together to celebrate the humble spud through top-notch cooking demonstrations, live music, Hessian fashion and unique festival content, the Robertson Potato Festival is taking an indefinite break.

"Despite our best efforts, ongoing challenges such as unpredictable weather and insufficient financial support have made it unsustainable

for us to continue delivering the high-quality experience our attendees have come to love."

Organisers thanked the local community for their support of the festival.

"We would like to thank everyone who has supported the Robertson Potato Festival over the years – from our sponsors and vendors to the incredible visitors who celebrated with us rain or shine. Your enthusiasm has been the heart and soul of this event.

"For now, we're giving our spuds a well-earned rest, but who knows what the future may hold. If the right circumstances align, we'd love to see the festival sprout again."

Organisers thanked the public for their understanding and encouraged people to continue celebrating spuds.



The 2024 Hessian fashion winners at Robertson Potato Festival. Picture: [Facebook.com/RobertsonPotatoFestival](https://www.facebook.com/RobertsonPotatoFestival)

# Herring funerals? It's Easter the Celtic way!

Easter in the British Isles and Celtic nations is a time of deep-rooted traditions, blending Christian observance with much older customs that have lingered through the centuries.

While church services and Easter eggs are familiar sights, each region has its own way of marking the occasion, with some quirks that have stood the test of time.

In England, the rolling of Easter eggs down hills is a well-loved pastime, particularly in places like Avenham Park in Lancashire. Thought to symbolise the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb, this simple yet competitive activity remains a firm family favourite. Meanwhile, in Gloucestershire, the curious tradition of 'heaving' or 'lifting' saw women lifting men in chairs on Easter Monday, a practice dating back to the 17th century.

Scotland's Easter customs often revolve around food, with Simnel cake, a spiced fruit cake topped with marzipan, making an appearance. Originally baked for Mothering Sunday, it became an Easter staple, with its eleven marzipan balls symbolising Christ's disciples (minus Judas). In some parts of the



Flower bedecked graves at Eglwys y Santes Fair Churchyard on Palm or Passion Sunday is known in the Welsh-speaking districts as Sul y Blodau (Flowering Sunday), for on this day it has been the custom since at least the Middle Ages to decorate the graves in the churchyards with beautiful and fanciful flower arrangements as a preparation for Easter. Picture: [Eric Jones, Wikimedia Commons](#)

Highlands, it was once believed that sunrise on Easter morning would reveal Christ dancing, leading people to gather at dawn to witness the spectacle.

Over in Wales, 'Sul y Blodau' or 'Flowering Sunday' sees families visiting and decorating the graves of loved ones on the Sunday before Easter. It is a solemn yet beautiful tribute, honouring

both the season of renewal and those who have passed.

In Ireland, a rather dramatic custom of the past was the 'funeral' of a herring, symbolising the end of Lenten abstinence from meat. But today, Easter in Ireland is more about feasting, family gatherings, and plenty of chocolate eggs, proving that some traditions evolve but never truly disappear.



Simnel cake, an Easter staple in Scotland. Picture: [James Petts on Wikimedia Commons](#)

## ANZAC parades to remember sacrifices

ANZAC Day, observed annually on April 25, honours the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who served and sacrificed in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

The day marks the anniversary of the Gallipoli landings during World War I in 1915. In 2025, ANZAC Day falls on a Friday, and parades and events are scheduled across the country.

A significant number of British and Irish-born soldiers

served with the ANZACs during World War I, particularly at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

For information on ANZAC Day 2025 events, see official RSL websites:

RSL NSW: [rslnsw.org.au](https://rslnsw.org.au)

RSL QLD: [rslqld.org](https://rslqld.org)

Australian War Memorial (Canberra): [awm.gov.au](https://awm.gov.au)

RSL VIC: [rslvic.com.au](https://rslvic.com.au)

RSL SA: [rslsa.org.au](https://rslsa.org.au)

RSL WA: [rslwa.org.au](https://rslwa.org.au)

RSL TAS: [rsltas.org.au](https://rsltas.org.au)

RSL NT: [rslnt.org.au](https://rslnt.org.au)



Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band marching in the 2024 ANZAC parade in Brisbane. Picture: Queensland Irish Association



Queensland Irish Association was asked to take part in the filming of The Today Show on Channel Nine on Saint Patrick's Day. Filming took place at Finn McCool's Irish Bar in Fortitude Valley. Pictures: [Queensland Irish Association](#)

# From parties to TV, QIA's March was lit!

March has been a whirlwind of Irish pride, culture, and celebration for the Queensland Irish Association (QIA). From a national TV appearance, to lighting up Brisbane City Hall in green, white and orange, to a jam-packed St Patrick's Day and a moving historical commemoration, there's been no shortage of craic and camaraderie.

The festivities kicked off in spectacular fashion with the Brisbane St Patrick's Day Parade, where the QIA's float with Saint Patrick himself proudly drove through the streets, joining over 700 participants and 40 floats. Leading the parade along with the Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band and QIA Dancers, the sea of green was a sight to behold as thousands lined the streets to cheer on the spectacle.

On St Patrick's Eve, the QIA held its 127th annual



**Forty people took part in the QIA's Irish Tour and centenary commemoration of Captain Prof. Daniel O'Carroll in South Brisbane Cemetery, including relatives of Captain O'Carroll who had flown in from Ireland, America and Melbourne especially for the occasion.**

St Patrick's Eve Dinner at Brisbane City Hall. The sold-out event was graced by the presence of the Governor of Queensland, as well as guests of honour from Ireland and Australia, and featured the illumination of the City Hall in the colours of the Irish flag, adding a vibrant touch to the celebrations.

St Patrick's Day itself saw

the QIA featured on The Today Show on Channel Nine, bringing the celebrations into homes across Australia. Filming at Finn McCool's in Fortitude Valley, the QIA, alongside dancers, musicians, and Gaelic sports players, showcased the best of Irish culture at dawn after one of the busiest weekends of the year. QIA Director Mary

Allen was interviewed about what it means to see the Irish celebrated around the world, and QIA President Jeff Spender told an Irish joke.

Later that day, the Association held a packed St Patrick's Day Lunch.

Rounding out the month, history took centre stage as the QIA led a tour of South Brisbane Cemetery, honouring Irish graves and holding a Centenary Commemoration for Irish freedom fighter Captain Prof. Daniel O'Carroll. Captain O'Carroll's descendants travelled from New York, Kilkenny in Ireland, and Melbourne to pay their respects. The ceremony featured a talk on his legacy and a moving rendition of The Valley of Knockanure.

There's never a dull moment when you're part of the QIA. Sláinte to another 127 years of keeping the Irish spirit alive in Queensland!

# Festivals



## MACLEAN HIGHLAND GATHERING

Celebrating Scottish culture with pipe bands, dancing, and traditional games.

Maclean NSW

18 - 19 APR



## FANTASY MEDIEVAL FAIR

Award-winning Fantasy Medieval Fair returns for a Weekend of Enchantment and Adventure.

Mount Gambier SA

05 - 06 APR

## CRESFEST

A vibrant roots and folk music festival that showcases live performances across various venues in the historic town.

Creswick VIC

04 - 06 APR



## THE HAYLAND GATHERING

This event celebrates Scottish heritage with traditional games, music, and dancing.

Hay NSW

12 APR



## NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

A massive celebration of folk music, dance, and culture featuring artists from Australia and beyond, held over the Easter weekend.

Canberra ACT

17 - 21 APR

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

# ANGLO&CELTIC

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

## BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING

Bundanoon NSW

Known as 'Brigadoon', this beloved annual festival celebrates Scottish culture. Enjoy a day of Scottish music, dancing, and family fun in the beautiful Southern Highlands.

05 APR



01 APR  
Blindboy Podcast  
Brisbane QLD  
Bob Geldof  
Brisbane QLD  
Vittorio Angelone  
Melbourne VIC  
Ben Elton  
Brisbane QLD

02 APR  
Blindboy Podcast  
Sydney NSW  
Vittorio Angelone  
Melbourne VIC  
Bhan Tre  
Warrnambool VIC

03 APR  
Boyzlife  
Melbourne VIC  
Blindboy Podcast  
Melbourne VIC  
The Murder Capital  
Melbourne VIC  
Bob Geldof  
Tweed Heads NSW  
Ben Elton  
Brisbane QLD  
Vittorio Angelone  
Melbourne VIC

04 APR  
Boyzlife  
Newcastle NSW  
Seventh Wonder (Fleetwood Mac tribute)  
Ballarat VIC  
Bad Manners  
Perth WA  
CresFest (to 06 APR)  
Creswick VIC  
The Murder Capital  
Brisbane QLD  
The Songs of Elton John and George Michael  
Warragul VIC  
Ministry of Sound  
Brisbane QLD & Sydney NSW  
Ben Elton  
Gold Coast QLD  
The U2 Show Achtung Baby - THE DESIRE TOUR - U2's Greatest Hits Sale VIC

Comhaltas Melbourne Irish Music & Dance Weekend (to 06 APR)  
Queenscliff VIC  
Jimeoin  
Pakenham VIC  
Vittorio Angelone  
Melbourne VIC

05 APR  
Sex Pistols feat. Frank Carter  
Melbourne VIC  
Boyzlife  
Sydney NSW  
Bundanoon Highland Gathering  
Bundanoon NSW  
Ross Day of Dance  
Ross TAS  
Seventh Wonder (Fleetwood Mac tribute)  
Ringwood VIC  
Bad Manners  
Adelaide SA  
The Murder Capital  
Sydney NSW  
The Songs of Elton John and George Michael  
Hobart TAS  
Ministry of Sound  
Sydney NSW & Melbourne VIC  
St George's Day Celebration at The Fox & Hounds  
Wongawallan QLD  
Bob Geldof  
Perth WA  
Feeder  
Perth WA  
Medieval Fantasy Festival (to 06 APR)  
Mount Gambier SA  
Jimeoin  
Melbourne VIC  
Vittorio Angelone  
Melbourne VIC

06 APR  
Sex Pistols feat. Frank Carter  
Adelaide SA  
Blindboy Podcast  
Perth WA  
Ministry of Sound  
Gold Coast QLD & Perth WA  
Feeder  
Adelaide SA  
Jimeoin

06 APR  
Sex Pistols feat. Frank Carter  
Adelaide SA  
Blindboy Podcast  
Perth WA  
Ministry of Sound  
Gold Coast QLD & Perth WA  
Feeder  
Adelaide SA  
Jimeoin

Geelong VIC  
Vittorio Angelone  
Melbourne VIC

07 APR  
The Murder Capital  
Perth WA

08 APR  
Sex Pistols feat. Frank Carter  
Sydney NSW  
Boyzlife  
Wollongong NSW  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC

09 APR  
Sex Pistols feat. Frank Carter  
Brisbane QLD  
Boyzlife  
Penrith NSW  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Feeder  
Melbourne VIC

10 APR  
Boyzlife  
Gold Coast QLD  
Gavin James  
Brisbane QLD  
Bad Manners  
Brisbane QLD  
Soft Cell  
Perth WA  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Feeder  
Sydney NSW

11 APR  
Sex Pistols feat. Frank Carter  
Fremantle WA  
Boyzlife  
Brisbane QLD  
Gavin James  
Melbourne VIC  
Bad Manners  
Melbourne VIC  
The Black Charade  
Perth WA  
Ministry of Sound  
Brisbane QLD  
Danny Bhoy

Melbourne VIC  
Feeder  
Brisbane QLD  
Jimeoin  
Upwey VIC

12 APR  
Ministry of Sound  
Melbourne VIC  
Boyzlife  
Adelaide SA  
Gavin James  
Sydney NSW  
Bad Manners  
Sydney NSW  
The Hayland Gathering  
Hay NSW  
The Black Charade  
Adelaide SA  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Black Vinyl - UK tribute band  
Clarkson WA  
The Libertines  
Sydney NSW  
Jimeoin  
South Morang VIC

13 APR  
Boyzlife  
Perth WA  
Gavin James  
Perth WA  
Rowany Festival  
High Range NSW  
Soft Cell  
Sydney NSW  
Ministry of Sound  
Sunshine Coast QLD & Perth WA  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Jimeoin  
Healesville VIC  
Mornington Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir Càn y Mor: Songs of the Sea and Soul  
Mt Eliza VIC

14 APR  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC

15 APR  
Soft Cell

# GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



## KOROIT IRISH FESTIVAL

Koroit VIC

A three-day community celebration in Australia's Most Irish Town, Koroit in Victoria. Expect a lively tribute featuring music, dance, and plenty of craic in the historic township.

25 - 27 APR

© www.angloandceltic.com

**Brisbane QLD**  
Ed Gamble (to 20 APR)  
**Melbourne VIC**  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
CASA (Cornish Assoc. of South Australia) meeting  
Unley SA  
Tom Allen  
Melbourne VIC  
The Libertines  
Melbourne VIC

**16 APR**  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Tom Allen  
Melbourne VIC  
Queensland Highland Pipers' Society present 2025 International Piping Recital with Stuart Liddle  
MBE  
Queensland Multicultural Centre  
Brisbane QLD

**17 APR**  
National Folk Festival (to 21 APR)  
Canberra ACT  
Soft Cell  
Melbourne VIC  
The Black Charade  
Brisbane QLD  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Daoiri Farrell  
Wollongong NSW  
Tom Allen  
Melbourne VIC  
The Libertines  
Brisbane QLD

**18 APR**  
Good Friday  
Nationwide  
Sydney Royal Easter Show (to 21 APR)  
Sydney NSW  
Bendigo Easter Festival (to 21 APR)  
Bendigo VIC  
Sonder Music Festival (to 21 APR)  
Tallaroek VIC

**120th Maclean Highland Gathering (to 19 APR)**  
Maclean NSW  
The Black Charade  
Melbourne VIC  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Daoiri Farrell  
National Folk Festival, Canberra ACT  
Tom Allen  
Melbourne VIC

**19 APR**  
Holy Saturday  
Nationwide  
The Black Charade  
Sydney NSW  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Daoiri Farrell  
National Folk Festival, Canberra ACT  
Jimeoin  
Tweed Heads NSW  
Tom Allen  
Melbourne VIC  
Rag'n'Bone Man  
Sydney NSW

**20 APR**  
Easter Sunday  
Nationwide  
Danny Bhoy  
Melbourne VIC  
Daoiri Farrell  
National Folk Festival, Canberra ACT  
Tom Allen  
Melbourne VIC  
Rag'n'Bone Man  
Byron Bay NSW

**22 APR**  
Easter Monday  
Nationwide  
Tom Allen  
Perth WA

**23 APR**  
Danny Bhoy  
Sydney NSW

Daoiri Farrell  
Gaelic Club, Surry Hills NSW  
Ed Gamble  
Perth WA  
St George's Day Quiz Night at Woodvale Tavern  
Woodvale WA  
Rag'n'Bone Man  
Melbourne VIC

**24 APR**  
Danny Bhoy  
Sydney NSW  
Daoiri Farrell  
Petersham NSW  
Tom Allen  
Brisbane QLD

**25 APR**  
ANZAC Day  
Nationwide  
Jimeoin  
Warragul VIC  
Daoiri Farrell  
Avoca Beach NSW  
2015 Fantasy Medieval Fair  
Mount Gambier SA  
Koroit Irish Festival (to 27 APR)  
Koroit VIC  
Daoiri Farrell  
Avoca NSW  
Australian Historical Dance Galop for Gold! Dances from the Gold Rush  
Arana Hills QLD  
St Albans Folk Festival (to 27 APR)  
St Albans NSW  
Tom Allen  
Sydney NSW  
Rag'n'Bone Man  
Adelaide SA

**26 APR**  
Jimeoin  
Frankston VIC  
Ed Gamble  
Sydney NSW  
The Songs of Elton John and George Michael  
Gippsland VIC  
The U2 Show Achtung Baby - THE DESIRE TOUR - U2's Greatest Hits

**Adelaide SA**  
In Conversation With Jameela  
Jamil  
Sydney NSW  
The Royal Society of St George  
Victoria Branch St George's Day Dinner  
Malvern East VIC  
St George's Day Beerfest Weekend at Bacchus Brewery  
Capalaba QLD  
100% Scottish Comedy at Loft  
West End  
Brisbane QLD

**27 APR**  
Danny Bhoy  
Penrith NSW  
Daoiri Farrell  
St Kilda VIC  
In Conversation With Jameela  
Jamil  
Brisbane QLD  
St George's Day Medieval Festival at Last Drop Elizabethan  
Bedfordale WA  
St George's Day Celebration at The Duke  
Perth WA  
Rag'n'Bone Man  
Perth WA

**28 APR**  
In Conversation With Jameela  
Jamil  
Melbourne VIC

**29 APR**  
Gilbert O'Sullivan  
Perth WA  
Danny Bhoy  
Brisbane QLD  
Ed Gamble  
Brisbane QLD

**30 APR**  
Danny Bhoy  
Brisbane QLD  
Daoiri Farrell  
Bendigo VIC  
Ed Gamble  
Brisbane QLD

## BOB GELDOF

01 APR Brisbane QLD  
02 APR Toowoomba QLD  
03 APR Twin Towns NSW  
05 APR Perth WA



## DANNY BHOY

08 - 20 APR  
Melbourne VIC  
23, 24, 26 APR  
Sydney NSW  
27 APR Penrith NSW  
29 APR - 02 MAY  
Brisbane QLD



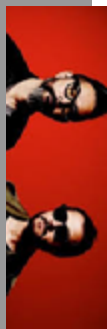
## SOFT CELL

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



## FEEDER

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



## GILBERT O'SULLIVAN

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



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# GIGS & REELS

UPCOMING TOURS & FESTIVALS



New Order playing at Riverstage in Brisbane in March. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

## MAY

### Tours:

Chris de Burgh  
Gilbert O'Sullivan  
Daoiri Farrell  
Myles Smith  
The Blow Monkeys  
The Longest Johns  
Roachford  
Letz Zep  
Alison Moyet  
The Songs of Elton John and George Michael  
Ed Gamble  
Jimeoin  
Dan McCabe

### Festivals:

Australian Celtic Festival NSW  
Copper Coast Cornish Festival SA  
Berry Celtic Festival NSW  
Southern Samhain Ball, Loganholme QLD  
Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival NSW  
SA Medieval Fair Paracombe SA  
Gumeracha Medieval and Rare Trades Festival SA  
Southern Samhain Ball QLD  
The Great Trentham Spudfest VIC  
Victorian Pipe Band Championship  
Caledonian Débutante Ball, Warwick QLD  
McLeish Estate Vintage Festival NSW  
The Australian Welsh Male Choir  
MCAA Festival, Adelaide SA

## JUNE

### Tours:

Alison Moyet  
Jimeoin  
Inhaler  
Supergrass  
Foil Arms and Hog  
Torvill & Dean

### Festivals:

Tasmanian Highlands Gathering  
Queensland State Pipe Band Championships  
Celtic Junior Games QLD  
National Celtic Folk Festival VIC  
Barossa Winter Flame Festival SA  
The Australian Welsh Male Choir  
Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival VIC  
Bloomsday  
RISING Melbourne

## JULY

### Tours:

Jimeoin  
Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis  
Absolute Bowie  
10cc  
Herman's Hermits  
EMF  
Antarctic Monkeys  
James May

### Festivals:

Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair NSW  
Aberdeen Highland Games NSW  
Medieval Festival at The Abbey QLD  
Mackay Bluewater Fling QLD

## AUGUST

### Tours:

10cc  
EMF  
The Mersey Beatles  
Antarctic Monkeys  
Herman's Hermits  
James May  
Bloc Party

### Festivals:

Newcastle Medieval Festival NSW

## SEPTEMBER

### Tours:

Herman's Hermits  
The High Kings  
Smokie  
The Mary Wallopers

### Festivals:

Belfast International Tattoo  
Australian Highland Dancing Festival NSW

## OCTOBER

### Tours:

Smokie  
Rob Beckett  
James Blunt  
Oasis  
Midge Ure

### Festivals:

CelticFest Warwick  
Halloween

## NOVEMBER

### Tours:

Smokie  
Rob Beckett  
James Blunt  
Oasis  
Cliff Richard  
David Gray  
Midge Ure  
Jarlath Regan  
Steve Wilson

### Festivals:

CelticFest Warwick  
St Andrew's Day

# Scottish icon Midge Ure bringing back the hits

## TOUR DATES

09 OCT Perth WA  
 11 OCT Adelaide SA  
 12 OCT Brisbane QLD  
 14 OCT Hobart TAS  
 16 OCT Sydney NSW  
 17 OCT Melbourne VIC

Acclaimed musician and songwriter Midge Ure is set to bring his extensive catalogue to Australia for an unmissable national tour this October; with all the hits from his accomplished solo career, as well as his work in bands such as Ultravox, The Rich Kids, Thin Lizzy and Visage. Touring Australia for the first time since 2020, Midge Ure's return is an overdue one for longtime fans; for those who have yet to experience this globally revered musician perform, it is the perfect time to become initiated into the fold.

As a musician, Midge has been a key part of various significant moments in music history; along with his own solo commercial successes and work with numerous bands over the years, Midge's work in co-writing and producing *Do They Know It's Christmas?* for Band Aid enshrined him alongside Bob Geldof as one of the most important figures in British music.

Midge's career as a touring artist has continued to flourish through the decades into the 2020s, marking his 70th birthday with a one-night-only live music event at London's iconic Royal Albert Hall. Titled *Celebrating 7 Decades: A Life In Music*, the event was an acknowledgement of Midge's life and journey through music and creativity; a perfect way to celebrate a birthday, but also an untouchable set of contri-



butions to popular music.

The show, recorded and released as *Live At The Royal Albert Hall* in 2024, reinforced Midge's cultural and musical legacy, and became further inspiration for him to keep the celebrations going, in bringing the 'Catalogue' tour to Australia.

"I performed live long before I was ever allowed anywhere near a recording studio and as much as I love spending time writing and recording, live music remains my first love. This Catalogue tour will allow me to not only play a wide selection of hits from my past but perform some of the most requested favourites. Revisiting these moments from my musical life is something I am really looking forward to sharing."

Midge Ure's career is one

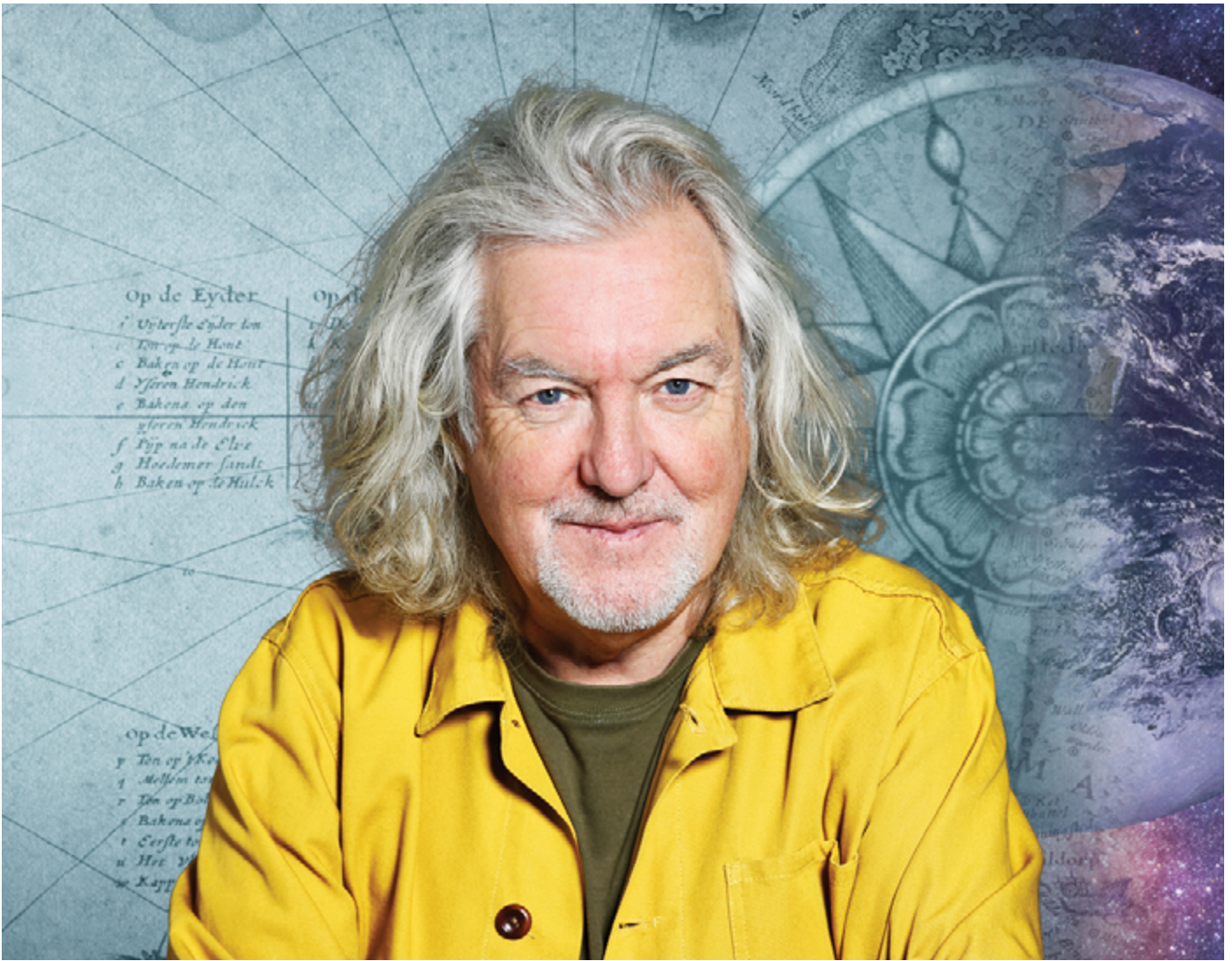
marked with multiple accolades and life accomplishments, not limited to receiving a slew of internationally renowned awards including the Ivor Novello, Grammy and BASCAP Awards, as well as being appointed OBE for his contributions to music and charity.

Over the years he has contributed to countless number 1 hit singles and records in the UK and beyond; including Silk's *Forever & Ever* (which managed to beat out ABBA's *Mama Mia* on Valentines day in 1976); seven consecutive top 10 UK albums over 6 years for Ultravox; Visage's *Fade To Grey* which hit number 8 in the UK and number 1 in Germany; his own solo number 1 hit *If I Was* and UK Number 2 album *The Gift* in 1984; and of course the leg-

endary 1984 Band Aid single *Do They Know It's Christmas?* which has sold more than 12 million copies since its release in 1984.

Midge has worked as a musical director for legendary concerts such as The Prince's Trust, *Night of the Proms*, *Wicked Women for Breakthrough*, and *In Honour Of Nelson Mandela*; performed alongside the likes of Phil Collins, Mark Knopfler, Sting, Elton John, Eric Clapton and Sir Paul McCartney for the *Music for Montserrat* benefit in 1997 and was a driving force behind the legendary 2005 *Live 8 Concert* which featured just about every major performer from across the globe.

Tickets for all dates are now on sale from [Destroy All Lines](#).



# James May revs up to tell tales of explorers

James May will premier a landmark live theatre show in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, bringing to life the stories of the extraordinary explorers who traversed the deserts, scaled the mountains, sailed into the unknown. The live show combines theatrical techniques and James's charismatic storytelling to create an evening of compelling intellectual entertainment.

From Ice Age migrations to space travel, the stories of famous, infamous and unknown explorers will come to life in

a theatrical style, presented by British television presenter and award-winning journalist James May.

James May is best known as a co-presenter of the motoring programs *Top Gear* and *The Grand Tour*, and as the host of the *Our Man in...* TV series.

Few endeavours have captured the imagination and spirit of humanity as profoundly as exploration. Audiences will embark on an awe-inspiring journey through time and space. They will discover the stories of those

who risked (and sometimes gave) everything, driven by insatiable curiosity and an unquenchable thirst for discovery, pushing back the boundaries of the unexplored regions of the world, and now, the universe.

Live on stage, James May will unravel the breathtaking tales of humankind from the earliest wanderings of ancient hunter-gatherers to the intrepid, often obsessive explorers, among them Lief Ericson, John Cabot, James Cook's navigator Tupaia, Stanley and Livingstone,

## TOUR DATES

29 JUL Perth WA  
31 JUL Adelaide SA  
02 AUG Canberra ACT  
07 AUG Brisbane QLD

Gertrude Bell, through to the moon walkers, space exploration and the seemingly impossible challenges of interplanetary and intergalactic travel.

Tickets are now on sale from [Ticketek](https://www.ticketek.com.au).

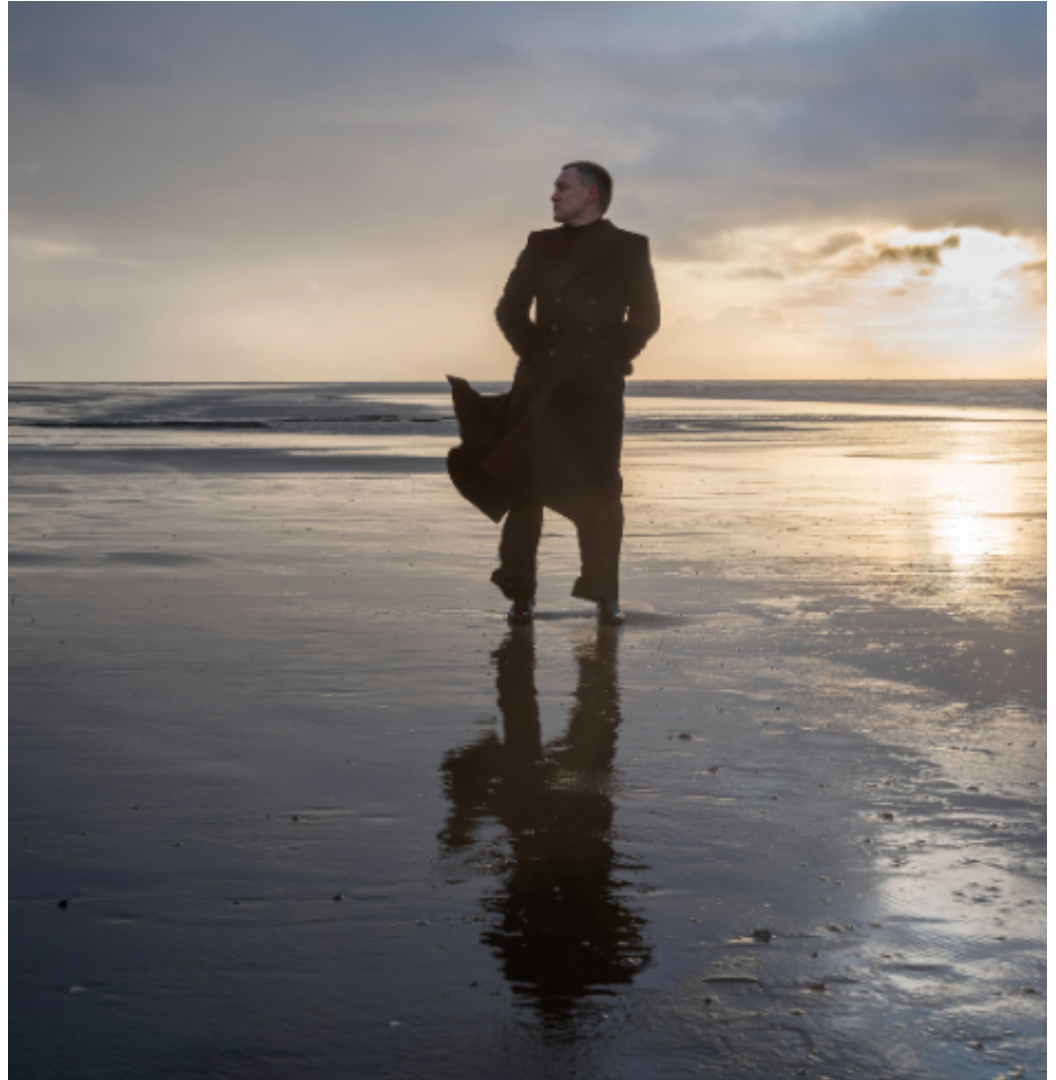
# David Gray brings Past & Present hits on tour

David Gray is making his long-awaited return to Australia this November, bringing his Past & Present World Tour to Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. The English singer-songwriter, originally from Sale, Cheshire, shot to fame with his groundbreaking 1998 album *White Ladder*, which blended folk, rock, and electronica to create one of the most successful British records of all time. Now, more than two decades later, he continues to captivate audiences with his unmistakable voice and deeply personal songwriting.

The singer shared on his social media: "Hello Australia. The Past & Present Tour is coming your way this November with shows scheduled in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Our last trip down under was superb, and I reckon these gigs are going to be pretty special!"

Gray's latest album, *Dear Life*, released in early 2025, marks his 13th studio record. Written over several years and recorded in a makeshift studio in Norfolk, the album sees Gray reuniting with producer Ben de Vries to explore themes of love, loss, and renewal. Initially conceived in 2019, its production was delayed by Covid restrictions and Gray's rescheduled *White Ladder* Anniversary Tour, which brought him back to Australian shores in 2022 for a series of sold-out arena shows. With *Dear Life* finally released, Gray is ready to share its music with fans in a live setting for the first time.

The Past & Present Tour will see Gray perform a mix of new material and beloved classics, from *Babylon* and *Sail Away to My Oh My* and *Please Forgive Me*. While his sound has evolved over the years, Gray's ability to blend



poetic lyricism with raw emotion remains at the heart of his music. Artists from Adele to Ed Sheeran have cited him as an influence, yet Gray himself has remained steadfast in carving his own path, committed to artistic integrity rather than commercial trends.

Born in 1968, Gray spent his early years moving between England and Wales before pursuing music in the early '90s. While his first three albums garnered critical praise, it wasn't until *White Ladder* – recorded in his London flat on a shoe-string budget – that he found widespread success. Initially self-released, the album be-

came a slow-burning phenomenon, eventually selling over seven million copies worldwide and earning Gray a place in British music history.

Following a 22-date North American tour, Gray will bring the Past & Present Tour to Australia, starting at Perth's Riverside Theatre on November 4 before heading to Adelaide's Thebarton Theatre on November 7, Melbourne's Palais Theatre on November 9, Sydney's State Theatre on November 12, and finishing at Brisbane's QPAC Concert Hall on November 15.

With a career spanning three decades, Gray remains

## TOUR DATES

04 NOV Perth WA  
07 NOV Adelaide SA  
09 NOV Melbourne VIC  
10 NOV Melbourne VIC  
12 NOV Sydney NSW  
13 NOV Sydney NSW  
15 NOV Brisbane QLD  
16 NOV Brisbane QLD

one of the UK's most enduring and influential artists. Fans can expect an emotional, electrifying live performance from an artist whose music has stood the test of time. Tickets from [Frontier Touring](#).

# Wake up and grab tickets to Bloc Party Silent Alarm tour

UK indie rock royalty Bloc Party are reuniting with fans down under, announcing a headline tour hitting Australia in August joined by special guests Young The Giant. Bloc Party are celebrating 20 years as a band, and the 20th anniversary of their critically acclaimed debut album, *Silent Alarm*.

Fans in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane will experience *Silent Alarm* alongside Bloc Party's greatest hits. With almost two decades and six albums worth of material, fans will be spoilt for choice with favourites in live form including *Banquet*, *Helicopter*, *This Modern Love*, *Flux* and more.

Described as a "defining moment in 21st century British guitar music" by *Clash Magazine*, Bloc Party's debut album remains as integral to the cultural zeitgeist as it did when it came out in 2005. *Silent Alarm* fills sweaty indie dance floors with its propulsive beats, sharp guitar work and catchy pop hooks. It won



NME Album of the Year in 2005 and Indie Rock Album of the Year at the 2006 PLUG Awards along with nominations for Best Alternative Act at the MTV Music Awards and the 2005 Mercury Prize.

Ready to amplify Australian stages again following their sold-out co-headline tour with Interpol in 2023, Bloc Party are set to electrify audiences with their genre-bending catalogue of hailed gems.

## TOUR DATES

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

Critically-acclaimed US rockers Young The Giant will be heading down under as support, playing Australia for the first time in 14 years. Known for their dynamic performances and genre-defying sound, the chart-topping band continue to captivate audiences worldwide with their much-loved anthems including *Cough Syrup*, *My Body and Mind Over Matter*. With more than 1.8 billion music streams and a legion of fans, they'll be bringing their multi-platinum discography and anthemic melodies to cities across the country this August.

Join Bloc Party in celebrating their 20-year anniversary as they perform *Silent Alarm* and their greatest hits.

Tickets from [Ticketek](#)

# Raise a glass as McLeish Estate turns 40

McLeish Estate is marking 40 years in the Hunter Valley with an unforgettable Vintage Festival on Saturday, May 24 – and you're invited to the party!

Guests will be greeted with a complimentary glass of NV Duke Cuvee or McLeish Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc 2024, served in a limited-edition 40th anniversary Spiegelau festival glass to take home.

Then, it's time to feast – Chef John Ralley will be serving up a spectacular wild venison and seafood paella, slow-cooked in wine barrels, alongside a two-course lunch.

For those keen to get their hands (and feet!) dirty, vin-



tage activities include grape stomping and wine barrel rolling. And to keep the celebrations going, Patrick

McMahon will provide live music throughout the day.

The festival runs from 11am to 5pm at McLeish

## DATES & DEETS

24 MAY  
Pokolbin NSW  
[www.mcleishestatewines.com.au](http://www.mcleishestatewines.com.au)

Estate, Pokolbin, New South Wales, with tickets at \$120 for members and \$130 for non-members.

Need a lift? Bus transfers are available from the Hunter Valley (\$25pp) and Newcastle (\$40pp).

For those who can't wait, McLeish Wines is also hosting exclusive wine dinners on April 1 and 8 at Urban Restaurant & Wine Bar as part of Newcastle Food Month.

# Steve Wilson's sonic odyssey touching down in Australia

Acclaimed musical innovator and six-time Grammy nominee, Steven Wilson, will bring his highly-anticipated The Overview Tour to Australia this November.

His arrival in Australia will follow a massive run of UK, European and American dates and celebrates the release of his eighth solo album, *The Overview*.

Australian fans can expect a captivating live experience from one of contemporary music's most boundary pushing, genre bending artists. Accompanied by accomplished and seasoned veterans including Nick Beggs on bass (Mute Gods, Steve Hackett), legendary jazz keyboardist, Adam Holzman (Miles Davis, Ray Manzarek), Craig Blundell on drums (Steve Hackett, Frost) and Randy McStine on guitars (Marco Minnemann, The Fringe) this world-class line-up will bring the expansive, progressive soundscapes to life in a way that can only be experienced in a live setting.

*The Overview* is a 42-minute conceptual journey inspired by the "overview



effect" of astronauts viewing Earth from space, and marks a return to the long-form, progressive style Steven Wilson redefined with the iconic Porcupine Tree and his earlier solo work. Featuring two ambitious tracks and immersive spatial audio production, *The Overview* blends progressive

sprawl with cinematic electronics and lush, immersive vibes all wrapped in spatial audio wizardry.

It's a bold addition to his repertoire which also includes six Grammy nominations, three consecutive UK Top 5 albums and a string of iconic remixes for artists including

## TOUR DATES

12 NOV Perth WA  
13 NOV Adelaide SA  
15 NOV Melbourne VIC  
16 NOV Sydney NSW  
17 NOV Brisbane QLD

Pink Floyd, The Who, King Crimson and Tears For Fears.

The Australian tour promises to be a thrilling and dynamic experience. Expect a set packed with *The Overview*'s mind-bending sprawl alongside cuts from his acclaimed and peerless career.

It's vast, it's other worldly and it's been too long since Wilson last hit Aussie soil.

Fans have been yearning for his return and it's set to be unforgettable and simply unmissable.

Don't miss this rare chance to see Steven Wilson live this November, performing music that challenges and inspires in equal measure.

Tickets for the tour are now available from [www.teamwrktouring.com/tours/steven-wilson](http://www.teamwrktouring.com/tours/steven-wilson).

## 'Yer man' off Instagram, Jarlath delivers lols

After two years of making us laugh out loud into our phones, hundreds of millions of views, thousands of seats filled across Ireland and the UK, Jarlath Regan is finally here in Australia with a totally new barnstorming stand-up show like nothing you've ever seen before.

You've watched his clips on Instagram, you've shared his stand-up with your friends and family on TikTok, now it's time to see Jarlath Regan's funny bits live and in person. The brand new stand-up show from the man behind some of the most hilarious viral standup comedy clips is

## TOUR DATES

11 NOV Melbourne VIC  
13 NOV Sydney NSW  
15 NOV Auckland NZ  
17 NOV Brisbane QLD  
19 NOV Perth WA

finally here. After selling out every single seat on his "Yer Man" tour in 2024, Jarlath is on the road again and travelling around the world with a completely fresh, never-before-seen stand-up comedy show guaranteed to have you "In Bits".

Tickets from [Bohm Presents](http://Bohm Presents).



# The Mary Wallopers are really not folking around

Currently in the midst of a riotous UK tour performing songs about “f\*\*\*ing and drinking and hanging landlords,” acclaimed Irish outfit The Mary Wallopers are thrilled to announce their live return to Australia this September!

In between inducing mosh pits at Glastonbury and selling-out serious venues across the UK, US, Europe and beyond, it’s been a heady rise for the Dundalk outfit, their packed live schedule over the past two years seeing their popularity ascend sky high. Quickly establishing themselves as a live phenomenon not to be missed, the band are set to return to our shores for five massive shows in Perth, Brisbane, Sydney, Thirroul, and Melbourne.

Led by brothers Charles and Andrew Hendy, The Mary Wallopers first shot to fame back in 2020, thanks to their lockdown YouTube shows, which saw the group build a makeshift pub in their home, livestreaming (often hilarious) trad sessions. Since then, and thanks to relentless gigging across the globe and the band’s irreverent, gleeful



rebelliousness, the Wallopers have reached new heights.

The Mary Wallopers take on century old songs and new blistering originals and are truly one of a kind. The upcoming tour follows the band’s acclaimed 2024 second album Irish Rock ‘n’

Roll, and recent EP Home Boys Home.

Tickets to The Mary Wallopers via [frontiertouring.com/themarywallopers](https://frontiertouring.com/themarywallopers).

Hearts out, arms aloft, live on stage The Mary Wallopers are full of fire and incendiary energy.

## TOUR DATES

09 SEP Perth WA  
12 SEP Brisbane QLD  
13 SEP Sydney NSW  
17 SEP Thirroul NSW  
19 SEP Melbourne VIC

## Belfast’s funniest export lands in Melbourne

Following the success of his ginormous UK tour, Vittorio Angelone is coming to Melbourne Comedy Festival!

Having started comedy in 2018, Vittorio has already cultivated a huge online following from stand-up clips and podcasts, regularly amassing millions of views on various platforms.

As well as co-hosting Mike & Vittorio’s Guide to Parenting alongside fellow comedian Mike Rice, he released his first comedy special in September 2023 which has already amassed over 100

## TOUR DATES

TO 06 APR Melbourne VIC

thousand views. Wow!

Following his five-star, sold-out, award-nominated debut, his new show looks inward to find out who exactly he thinks he is.

Vittorio is the co-creator of viral YouTube show Fin vs The Internet. As seen on the internet, unless your algorithm hasn’t blessed you thusly.

Tickets from [Bohm Presents](https://BohmPresents.com).



# Irish Mythen added to Easter folk festival

## DATES & DEETS

17 - 21 APR  
Canberra ACT  
[www.folkfestival.org.au](http://www.folkfestival.org.au)

The National Folk Festival is set to bring a rich celebration to Canberra this Easter, with a line-up of acclaimed musicians, lively dances, and immersive workshops.

Among the stand-out performers is Irish Mythen, whose powerhouse vocals and captivating stage presence have made the artist a festival favourite. Irish Mythen will also take part in *Restrung*, a special collaboration where Irish's music will be re-imagined with string arrangements by Mickey and Michelle, with opportunities for string players to join daily rehearsals.

Celebrated songwriter David Francey, known for his storytelling through song, will also take to the stage, alongside the multi-ARIA-winning Josh Pyke.

Scottish duo Chris Stout and Catriona McKay will showcase the expressive beauty of fiddle and harp, while Will Pound and Jenn Butterworth will bring high-energy harmonica and guitar tunes steeped in tradition. Ruth Moody, a founding member of The Wailin' Jennys, adds her soaring vocals and multi-instrumental talents to the mix.

Dance will also take centre stage, with festival-goers invited to step back in time at the Bridgerton Ball, an elegant evening of Grand English Country Dancing. The Masked Heritage Ball will offer another chance to embrace tradition, with David De Santi & The Good Tunes Band providing the



**Irish Mythen will deliver an Australian exclusive performance at the National Folk Festival.**

soundtrack, and dance caller Susie Bolliger leading the steps.

And then there's the Queer Céilí, which is a joyful, inclusive celebration led by Amaidí. The Trad Rave will feature late-night beats, folk tunes, and electronic energy featuring Elias Alexander.

Those keen to play the tunes themselves can join David De Santi in the Session Bar to learn and perform folk dance tunes from his Good Tunes collection.

With over 350 events, the festival promises a packed program of music, dance, and community gatherings. Discounted tickets are available until April 3, before full gate prices apply.

For those eager to immerse themselves in the sounds and rhythms of our culture and heritage, this year's National Folk Festival offers an Easter weekend of unforgettable experiences.

**CHELSEA YACHT CLUB**  
CELTIC MUSIC @CYC  
THE SUNSET SESSIONS  
2025  
Feb 23rd, March 30th, April 27th, May 25th,  
Jun 29 TBC, July 27 TBC, Aug 31st, Sept 28th,  
Oct 26th, Nov 30th  
BYO Snacks & Food - Club Bar Open

Last Sunday of the Month 4pm - 7pm  
\$5 Cover Charge  
Queries / Contact Jim McAlinden  
0400 267 894 or [jim@mcAlinden.id.au](mailto:jim@mcAlinden.id.au)

Artwork by Ade Kelly

# International acts flock to CresFest this month

## DATES & DEETS

04 - 06 APR  
Creswick VIC  
[cresfest.com.au](http://cresfest.com.au)

Creswick is tuning up for another foot-stomping, fiddle-playing, toe-tapping weekend as CresFest 2025 rolls into town from April 4 to 6. This charming gold rush-era town will come alive with music spilling from pubs, halls, and street corners, with a line-up packed full of Anglo and Celtic acts ready to get the crowd dancing. Whether you're here for the Irish jigs, Scottish ballads, or something entirely unexpected, one thing's certain – Creswick knows how to throw a festival, and you won't leave without a song stuck in your head.

### International Highlights:

**Chris Stout & Catriona McKay (Scotland):** This duo brings a contemporary touch to traditional Scottish music,



**Will Pound and Jenn Butterworth will perform at Cresfest 2025.**

combining fiddle and harp to create evocative soundscapes.

**Fiona Ross (Scotland):** Renowned for her authentic interpretation of Scottish folk songs, Fiona Ross adds depth to the festival's Celtic

offerings.

**Geoffrey Williams (England):** An innovative artist blending soul, funk, and blues, Geoffrey Williams introduces a unique British flavour to the festival.

**Will Pound (Wales) and Jenn Butterworth (Scotland):** Jenn and Will formed their duo in 2018. Since then their music has become an internet sensation! Their live performances take the listener on an emotional journey with an eclectic mix of high energy tunes and uplifting songs.

### Local acts:

**Out of Hand:** A contemporary Celtic band from Victoria, Out of Hand consists of two sets of siblings who share a passion for their Celtic heritage. Their performances blend traditional tunes with original compositions, featuring toe-tapping melodies and lilting harmonies.

**Thursday's Child:** This five-piece vocal band specialises in high-quality a cappella

singing and storytelling.

Drawing influences from around the world, they create a fresh and exciting sound.

Other festival acts include Apolline, Tim Scanlan and Mana Okubo, and U3A Celtic Band.

CresFest offers attendees a comprehensive cultural experience, with performances spanning various genres and traditions. The festival's program includes workshops, community choirs, and street bands, fostering a sense of community and participation.

Set against the historic backdrop of Creswick, the festival utilises multiple venues throughout the town, enhancing the immersive atmosphere.

Tickets for CresFest 2025 are available in various options, including weekend passes and single-day admissions.

For more information on the line-up and to purchase your tickets, visit the official CresFest [website](http://cresfest.com.au).



**Chris Stout & Catriona McKay.**



Amaidi will perform their neo-trad rave sounds at The National Celtic Folk Festival. Picture: [facebook.com/AmaidiMusic](https://facebook.com/AmaidiMusic)

# National Celtic Folk Festival drops stacked talent line-up

The National Celtic Folk Festival has dropped its first wave of artists for 2025, and it's already shaping up to be a massive celebration of Celtic music and culture. From fiery fiddles to foot-stomping folk, the lineup features some of Australia's finest talent, ready to bring Portarlinton to life over the June 6-9 long weekend.

Leading the charge is Amaidí, Australia's neo-trad rave sensation, fusing Irish and Scottish roots with cutting-edge sounds. Homebru, Tasmania's Celtic folk powerhouse, promises wild, intricate tunes, while Melbourne's Tolka blends tradition with award-winning innovation. Anna Scianti brings her electrifying blues and slide guitar, and rising stars Bo'Ness – with their strong Scottish heritage – are set to make a big impact.

Other must-see acts include Sydney's Arís, a fresh take

## DATES & DEETS

06 - 09 JUN  
Portarlinton VIC  
[nationalcelticfestival.com](https://nationalcelticfestival.com)

on Irish trad, the spellbinding harp and cello duo Monique Clare & Loni Fitzpatrick, and the powerful Galician folk stylings of Louzco Fouzco. Rounding out the first announcement are the Mast Gully Fellers, delivering Australian bar-room folk, and the Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers, keeping centuries-old traditions alive.

And other headliners just announced are Tulua, a young traditional music band from Ireland. Since getting together in 2019, they have garnered a strong following, and before their album release in 2023 they played at some of the biggest festivals in the world, including Mil-

waukee Irish Fest, la Crosse Irish Fest, CastleFest Holland and TempleBar Tradfest. They are becoming one of Ireland's finest emerging traditional music bands.

Also playing is Caoimhín, a producer, singer, and multi-instrumentalist forging a soulful new Gaelic sound, blending elements from the Irish tradition with alternative genres and concepts such as downtempo electronica, nu-disco, psychedelia and nature-based spirituality.

With a voice like a complex coffee, Gráinne Hunt will enchant audiences with her heart-melting vocals and emotional songs, making her a standout amongst Ireland's vocalists and songwriters. Her two original records delve into personal experiences, evoking pain and longing, and comparisons have been drawn to Tracy Chapman, Natalie Merchant and Dolores Keane. Gráinne's latest

original album *This Secret* was recorded in Nashville with Grammy-nominated Thomm Jutz.

Beyond the musical performances, the festival offers a rich tapestry of cultural experiences. Attendees can participate in workshops, masterclasses, visual arts projects, and themed events. The bustling festival market will feature over 80 stalls, including food trucks, artisan markets, Celtic crafts, and interactive demonstrations. Additional attractions include ancient rituals by open fires, Highland cattle exhibits, and Gaelic football displays, ensuring there's something for everyone.

Tickets are now available, and with both free and ticketed components, there's an opportunity for all to engage with the festivities.

For more details and to secure tickets, visit the official festival [website](https://nationalcelticfestival.com).

# Kiely brings his Never Been Here Before Tour

## TOUR DATES

05 APR Melbourne VIC  
06 APR Brisbane QLD  
08 APR Sydney NSW  
10 APR Perth WA

Hailing from a quaint town in Co. Cork, Ireland, Darren Kiely's folk-infused pop sound originates from his inherited love of traditional Irish music, intertwined with modern influences such as The Lumineers, Mumford & Sons, and Noah Kahan.

At just five years old, Darren learned the tin whistle, and at eight years old he picked up the fiddle, eventually teaching himself to play the guitar as well. Darren began singing in 2019, quickly garnering attention for his raw and fervent vocals and emotive delivery. After winning numerous honours at a national level in Irish traditional music, Darren found his way to NYC in 2022 to continue developing his own



music and sound, and soon after headed to the songwriting hub of Nashville.

Signing to Free Flight Records, Kiely's unique presentation of folk-infused pop and lush storytelling, which echoes the backdrop of the Irish countryside where he was raised, is the forefront of his debut EP, *Lost*. The sev-

en-track project explores the triumphant war of overcoming self-doubt, struggling to find himself, questioning emotions and seeking answers, while his follow up EP, *From The Dark*, Kiely takes his craft to new heights as he explores the harsh realities that come with growing up and moving on. *Lost* features the track

*Mom & Dad*, which debuted in the Top 40 on the Irish Singles Chart and Top 5 on the Irish Homegrown chart, as well as fan-favorite *Sunrise* which reached No.1.

Kiely took his new music on the road where he sold out shows across his home country and in North America.

Tix from [Live Nation](#).

## Southern Samhain Ball celebrates autumn

Queensland's Pagan community is set to celebrate the changing seasons with the inaugural Southern Samhain Ball on May 3 at Club Noir, Loganholme. Hosted by the Queensland Pagan Collective, this unique event aligns with the Southern Hemisphere's seasonal cycle, honouring Samhain's deep-rooted traditions.

Samhain, an ancient Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest and the transition into winter, is also a time for reflection and ancestral connection. Recognised as the point in the year when the veil between worlds is at its thinnest, the event will feature a well-known medium offer-



**Spiral Dance from South Australia will be performing at the Southern Samhain Ball. Picture: [facebook.com/SpiralDanceBand](https://www.facebook.com/SpiralDanceBand)**

ing messages to select guests, adding a spiritual dimension to the evening.

In keeping with tradition, the Southern Samhain Ball will include a ritual led by a designated guardian. This year, the role falls to Samyo,

a respected figure within the community, known for his contributions to the Beltane Community Gathering in Landsborough. Organisers say his presence will add a sense of continuity and spiritual guidance to the cel-

## DATES & DEETS

03 MAY  
Loganholme QLD  
[Humanitix.com](https://www.humanitix.com)

ebation. As the Queensland Pagan Collective embarks on what it describes as the beginning of a nine-year cycle, the ball represents not just a night of festivity but a chance to strengthen community bonds. Guests can expect an evening rich in symbolism, ritual, and connection, marking the start of a new tradition in the Pagan calendar.

See the [Facebook](#) Event.



Ralph Fiennes as Odysseus in *The Return*.

# Fiennes choice of British movies now screening

The British Film Festival is bringing the best of British film to Australia, with selected highlights now showing and coming soon to cinemas.

## **The Penguin Lessons**

*Previews on Sunday, 6 April*  
The Russell Hobbs British Film Festival presents a premiere preview screening of Peter Cattaneo's *The Penguin Lessons*, based on Tom Michell's witty and moving memoir of the same name. Enjoy a glass of Prosecco on arrival before immersing yourself in this delightful adaptation.

Starring two-time Oscar nominee Steve Coogan, this poignant dramedy from Oscar-nominated director Peter Cattaneo explores an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

Inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman

who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976, Tom (Coogan), expecting an easy ride, discovers a divided nation and a class of unteachable students. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside-down.

Premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival, this story of wit, warmth and humour, counterintuitive discoveries and cute penguin antics, is a heartwarming tear-jerker for the whole family.

## **The Return**

*Now showing*

After 20 years away, Odysseus (Ralph Fiennes) washes up on the shores of Ithaca, haggard and unrecognizable. The King has returned from the Trojan War, but much has changed in his kingdom.

His beloved wife Penelope

(Juliette Binoche) is a prisoner in her own home, hounded by suitors vying to be king. Their son Telemachus faces death at the hands of these suitors, who see him as merely an obstacle to their pursuit of the kingdom.

Odysseus has also changed - scarred by his experience of the Trojan war, he is no longer the mighty warrior from years past - but he must rediscover his strength in order to win back all that he has lost.

## **Conclave**

*Now showing*

The pope is dead. The throne is vacant.

From director Edward Berger, *Conclave* follows one of the world's most secretive and ancient events - selecting the new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the

unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

## **Small Things Like These**

*Previews from 30 March, Release Thursday 10 April*

In his first role since his Oscar-winning turn in *Oppenheimer*, Cillian Murphy returns to his roots in the intimate Irish historical drama *Small Things Like These* with a masterclass performance in subtlety and nuance. Based on the award-winning novel of the same name by Claire Keegan, the quietly affecting drama is a worthy adaptation and a searing exploration of morality.

# See snails sprinting and knobs flying in England

England is home to some of the quirkiest sports on the planet, where the competition is fierce, the rules are bizarre, and the prizes include a bucket of glory. If you've ever wanted to watch a man wrestle in gravy, see athletes race with sacks of wool on their backs, or cheer on a snail with Olympic-level determination, this is your guide to England's most entertaining alternative sports.

## World Snail Racing Championships

In the sleepy village of Congham, Norfolk, slow and steady wins the race – literally. Every July, over 200 snails line up at the starting post, ready to inch their way across a 13-inch course while excited 'trainers' cheer them on. It's tense. It's thrilling. It's possibly the only sporting event where a well-placed lettuce leaf could be considered performance enhancement.

## World Gravy Wrestling Championships

Things get seriously messy in Stacksteads, Lancashire, where competitors in fancy dress wrestle in a pool of thick, brown gravy. It's part strength, part slapstick, and entirely ridiculous. Victory is awarded not just to the strongest grappler, but also to those who put on the best show. Who knew Sunday dinner's finest sauce could become a full-contact sport?

## Dorset Knob Throwing Festival

The Dorset Knob Throwing Festival is an annual event in Dorset, celebrating the county's famous hard, dry biscuits known as Dorset Knobs. The event, which began in 2008, features various knob-themed games, including Knob throwing, knob eating, knob painting and the knob and spoon race. The festival is



The Snail Racing World Championships in Congham, Norfolk. Picture: [Festival's official Facebook page](#)



Two fine gents showing off their knobs at the Dorset Knob Throwing Festival. Picture: [facebook.com/DorsetKnobThrowing](https://facebook.com/DorsetKnobThrowing)

held in Cattistock and attracts thousands of visitors.

## Woolsack Racing in Tetbury

Ever wondered what it's like to carry a 60-pound sack of wool up a steep hill at breakneck speed? No? Well, the people of Tetbury have been doing exactly that for centuries. The annual woolsack races pay tribute to the town's historic wool trade, proving once and for all that fitness fads are overrated when you can just lug

a massive bag of fleece up a hill instead.

## The Black Pudding Throwing Championships

Forget darts – this is how the English take aim. Every year in Ramsbottom, Lancashire, contestants hurl black puddings (a type of blood sausage) at a stack of Yorkshire puddings perched on a ledge. The goal? Knock down as many as possible. Legend has it the tradition dates back to the War of the Roses when hungry soldiers ran out of

weapons and resorted to flinging their food instead. Whether or not that's true, one thing is certain—this is the most deliciously bizarre battle in England.

## The Cotswold Olimpick Games

Since the early 1600s, the town of Chipping Campden has hosted its own version of the Olympics – but with events you won't find in Paris 2024. Contestants take part in the Shin-Kicking Championship, where they stuff their trousers with straw and attempt to boot each other into submission. There's also the Pudding Race, Sack Race, and the highly competitive Pike Drill, because nothing says sport like pretending to be a 17th-century soldier.

So if you're looking for sports that are equal parts hilarious and competitive, England has you covered. Whether it's slippery, silly, or downright dangerous, these alternative sports prove that winning isn't everything – but making a fool of yourself in the process certainly helps.

# NOTICES & LISTINGS

Business listings cost \$20+GST per edition or six editions for \$100+GST - name, type of business, contact details - max 30 words.  
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## Business listings

### CULTURAL CLUBS

#### Queensland Irish Association

07 3067 3064

enquiries@queenslandirish.com

PO Box 12745, George St, QLD 4003

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

#### The Australian Irish Heritage Association WA

PO Box 1583, Subiaco, WA 6904.

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

#### Celtic Council of Australia Queensland

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

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

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### 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/Geelong, QLD.

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### MUSIC

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

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#### Friends and Supporters of Queensland Irish Association

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

#### Sydney Raffles Luck of the Irish

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### PUBS

#### Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley

295 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Phone: (07) 3166 2477

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

#### The Red Lion Tavern

8025 New England Hwy, Glencoe NSW 2365

0409 776 906

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

### REAL ESTATE AGENTS

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

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

### WEBSITES

#### Irish Queenslander

News and events for the Irish community in Queensland

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

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