

ANGLO CELTIC

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Issue 24

June 2025



Edinburgh express

Scotland's spectacular tattoo rolling into The Sunshine State



Queensland Irish Association

Bloomsday 2025



Join us for Bloomsday 2025 on Monday, 16th June
for readings and music

on Queen Street Mall Stage at 12.30pm
with BYO drinks after at Gilhooleys

The most significant day on the Irish literary calendar

For enquiries call 0419 673 126
or email enquiries@queenslandirish.com



WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com



Penrith RSL Pipe and Drums performing at the Anzac Day Dawn Service 2025 at Penrith, New South Wales. Picture: [Facebook/Penrith RSL Pipes and Drums](#)

Keep her lit this winter solstice

We are all rugged up here in Australia and celebrating the short, winter days with a vast array of winter and solstice celebrations.

The Celtic bonfire traditions from back home came across the seas with waves of immigrants and have mixed with other traditions across Australia to form unique and thrilling winter festivities.

It's great to see Cracker Day making a comeback. It's a community celebration based on British and Celtic traditions that had been widespread at one time but was cancelled due to fire and safety issues. Totally understandable too with the local climate.

Aussies would speak with nostalgia about their great childhood memories of this community celebration. But now, it's being brought back under more controlled conditions and expanding to become a festival of light and of communal fireworks and bonfires. It's wonderful to see how cultural traditions evolve.

It's very sad to see the vibrant group Friends of Ireland Canberra winding up after 40 years. It serves as a reminder that we need to go out and support our cultural groups. Use them or lose them.

If you have a story you'd like included, email editor@angloandceltic.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

- Queensland Irish Association
- CelticFest Warwick
- Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley
- Scots in the Bush, Boondooma Homestead
- Melbourne Celtic Festival
- TEG Dainty / Riverdance
- The Australian Irish Heritage Association WA
- Queensland Family History Society
- Enda O'Callaghan MARN 1383553
- Petar and Jessica Grulovic
- Australian Celtic Women
- Burke Whistles
- Fleurieu Folk Festival

Anglo&Celtic is a free, independent, family-run magazine created with one simple goal: to celebrate the rich heritage, music, stories and spirit of the English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Celtic communities in Australia.

We don't receive grants. We're not funded by any organisation.

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Royal Edinburgh Tattoo set to dazzle Brisbane



Brisbane is set to host the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for the first time in its history, with performances scheduled for February 12 and 14, 2026, at Suncorp Stadium. This exclusive Australian engagement marks the Tattoo's first return to the country since 2019 and coincides with its 75th anniversary, themed *The Heroes Who Made Us*.

The 2026 show promises to be a full-scale production, celebrating the past while envisioning the future. Audiences will be taken on a journey through the Tattoo's storied history, featuring music, dance, and precision performances that have defined the event over the past 75 years.

Over 1,000 performers from around the globe will participate in this emotionally charged stadium spectacular.



The line-up includes the iconic massed pipes and drums, comprising UK military musicians, the renowned Top Secret Drum Corps, and performers from the Australian Defence Force, among many others. The show will blend traditional Scottish heritage

with bold, contemporary choreography, enhanced by cutting-edge lighting and immersive sound design.

This event represents one of the Tattoo's most ambitious international stadium productions to date. As the Tattoo makes its Brisbane debut, it

DATES & DEETS

12 & 14 FEB 2026
Brisbane QLD

www.edintattoobrisbane.com.au

offers audiences a unique opportunity to experience a world-class performance that has captivated millions worldwide.

Tickets for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Brisbane are expected to be in high demand. For more information, visit www.edintattoobrisbane.com.au.

Experience the grandeur of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo as it brings its unparalleled spectacle to Brisbane, celebrating a legacy of tradition, honour, and global unity.

Tickets from [Ticketek](https://www.ticketek.com.au).

Queensland to put on “a show like no other”

Queensland Government is celebrating securing the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, bringing the world-famous event to Brisbane for the first time.

The event is expected to deliver \$39 million for Queensland’s economy, attracting visitors from across the world, in a major coup for the State.

The tour will feature performances from over 1,000 artists at Suncorp Stadium.

The world-famous event is held annually at Edinburgh Castle and is rooted in centuries-old Scottish tradition, featuring massed pipes and drums, Highland dance, and stunning displays blending military precision with performance. The Brisbane edition is the exclusive Australian leg of the Tattoo’s 75th anniversary show, *The Heroes Who Made Us*, celebrating the event’s rich history and spotlighting local heroes.

Since its inception in 1950, the Tattoo has visited Australia on only four occasions via Sydney and Melbourne but has never ventured into Queensland until now.

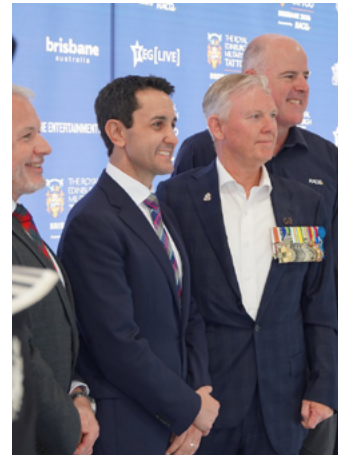
The Crisafulli Government is delivering a visionary 20-year plan for Queensland’s tourism industry and developing new experiences to attract visitors to the Sunshine State.

Premier David Crisafulli said hosting the event was a major coup for Queensland.

“The Tattoo is one of the world’s most spectacular outdoor events, so attracting it to Queensland for the first time is no small feat,” Premier Crisafulli said.

“From bagpipes to bugles, Queenslanders will be able to experience the best military performances from across the globe.

“Hosting the Tattoo means the eyes of the world will be fixated on our incredible State, and Queensland is



Government officials, including Queensland Premier David Crisafulli, top right picture, and performers and guests at the media conference to deliver the news that Edinburgh Military Tattoo is coming to Brisbane. He shared: “We told the world we were developing a 20-year tourism plan for Queensland and now a world icon is coming!” Pictures: Supplied and facebook.com/DavidCrisafulliMP

looking forward to putting on a show like no other.”

Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation Andrew Powell said the event would be one of the most popular ever staged in the State.

“The Tattoo will be a huge drawcard for Queenslanders and interstate guests alike, all of whom want to see a piece of history and have a world-class experience,” Minister Powell said.

“Bringing an event of this magnitude to Queensland

provides amazing economic opportunities, which flow across the hospitality industry, small businesses, and retailers.

“Hosting the Tattoo reinforces Brisbane’s reputation as one of the world’s leading tourism destinations.”

Celebrating Joyce with readings and plays

DATES & DEETS

16 JUN
Worldwide

www.bloomsdayfestival.ie

Each year on June 16, literature lovers around the world celebrate Bloomsday – a tribute to James Joyce’s modernist masterpiece *Ulysses*. The novel follows Leopold Bloom, Stephen Dedalus and Molly Bloom across one ordinary, yet extraordinary day in Dublin in 1904.

From Molly Bloom’s famous soliloquy to Bloom’s meandering thoughts and encounters, *Ulysses* has become a literary pilgrimage for readers, writers, and academics alike. On June 16, fans step into Joyce’s world through public readings, performances, and other festivities that honour the rich language and structure of the novel.

And while Dublin may be the spiritual home of Bloomsday, Australia is fast becoming one of its liveliest outposts – with events popping up across the country in 2025.

Circe’s *Carnival of Vice* is a new theatrical production by Bloomsday in Melbourne, diving into the hallucinatory “Circe” episode of *Ulysses*. It runs from June 11 – 22 at fortyfivedownstairs. There will also be a Bloomsday Seminar and Lunch in Melbourne with scholarly talks, conversation, and food. It takes place on Saturday, June 14 at Swiss Club of Victoria. For further info, go to bloomsdayinmelbourne.org.au.

In Sydney this year, there is a whole Bloomsday festival taking place, titled Bloomfest. The Bloomfest Festival Launch, presented by Prankqueans, was held at Waverley Library, Denison Street, Bondi Junction, on Friday, May 30.



Queensland Irish Association celebrating Bloomsday in Brisbane. Pictures: Anglo&Celtic

On Friday, June 13, at 7pm, the Bloomfest Joycean Soirée, James Joyce’s Feisty Females, will be presented by Prankqueans at Gertrude & Alice, Hall Street, Bondi Beach.

A Bloomfest Re-enactment of Paddy Dignam’s Funeral and Wake will be presented by Prankqueans on Saturday, 14 June. The Funeral will be held at 3.30pm at Waverley Cemetery, and the Wake, at 6pm at The Gaelic Club.

On Sunday, June 15, at 5.30pm, there will be a Bloomfest Closing Concert presented by Prankqueans at High Tide Room, Bondi Pavilion.

For tickets, go to prankqueans.com.

In Queensland, Bloomsday in Brisbane in Queen Street Mall will feature lunchtime readings and live Irish music, hosted by the Queensland Irish Association.

It takes place on Monday, June 16, at 12:30pm at the Queen Street Mall Stage. Further information from facebook.com/QldIrish.

In Toowoomba, the Blooms-

day Reading and Lunch 2025 will be held on Sunday, 15th June from 11.30am. It will take place at James Joyce Seat, Railway Street.

The James Joyce Seat was placed in Federation Park in 2004, a gift to the city from the [Darling Downs Irish Club](http://DarlingDownsIrishClub). It contains a brick from a Dublin house occupied by Joyce.

The inscription on the seat includes a quote from *Ulysses* that refers to the Irish people who emigrated en masse: “Would the departed never

nowhere nohow reappear? Ever he would wander, selfcompelled, to the extreme limit of his cometary orbit, beyond the fixed stars and variable suns and telescopic planets, astronomical waifs and strays, to the extreme boundary of space, passing from land to land, among peoples, amid events. Somewhere imperceptibly he would hear and somehow reluctantly, suncompelled, obey the summons of recall” *Ulysses*, James Joyce (1882-1941).



Clydesdales take the reins in Beaudesert



Amberley Pipes & Drums at Clydesdale Spectacular. The band has supported and played at Clydesdale Spectacular since its inception in 2013. Picture: [facebook.com/clydespectacular](https://www.facebook.com/clydespectacular)

The 2025 Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular is set to be an unforgettable celebration of heritage, horsepower, and Highland culture, taking place on June 14 and 15 at the Beaudesert Showgrounds in Queensland. This year's event promises an expanded program, featuring not only the majestic Clydesdale horses but also a vibrant blend of music and Scottish traditions.

Kicking off the festivities on Friday, June 13, is the inaugural Country Music Concert, headlined by Queensland's own Luke Geiger. The evening begins with DJ Stanfield spinning classic country and pub hits, followed by Geiger's live performance. DJ Stanfield returns to the stage afterward, ensuring the party continues into the night. Tickets for the concert are available through the official website.

The weekend's main event showcases the grandeur of the Clydesdale breed, with highlights including the Marley Draught 11-horse team and demonstrations by renowned teamster Terry Goodear. Adding a Scottish flair, the Fassifern Highland

DATES & DEETS

14 - 15 JUN
Beaudesert QLD
[clydesdalespectacular.com.au](https://www.clydesdalespectacular.com.au)

Gathering features massed pipe bands, Highland dancing, caber tossing, and clan displays, celebrating the region's rich Celtic connections.

Visitors can also enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities, food stalls, and opportunities to learn about the history and significance of the Clydesdale horse in Australia's development.

The Clydesdale has a long history in the Scenic Rim dating back to the 1800s when Arnold Wienholt had the Wienholt Clydesdale Stud in Maryvale, a stud of some 400 horses. The Clydesdale breed in Queensland and in the Scenic Rim has been kept alive by the Ehrich Families and their enormous history and passion for the breed.

The 2025 Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular offers an experience not to be missed. For tickets, visit the official [website](https://www.clydesdalespectacular.com.au).



Milla Marrable celebrates the 2025 Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular with Bobby and Bluey. Pictures: Supplied

Irish-Australian heritage hub parties as mortgage paid off

DATES & DEETS

21 & 22 JUN
Crossley VIC

facebook.com/StBrigidsCrossley

There's big news coming out of Crossley, Victoria, where the Friends of Saint Brigid's Association has officially paid off the mortgage on the historic Irish precinct – and they're marking the moment with a weekend full of celebration and community spirit.

To honour the achievement, a series of free, ticketed events will be held at Saint Brigid's, Crossley, on Saturday and Sunday, 21 and 22 June.

Saturday evening begins with a ceremony and light show at 7pm, followed by a family céilí dance at 7.30pm. Guests are encouraged to



Friends of St Brigid's were delighted to welcome HE Ambassador Tim Mawe, Ambassador of Ireland to Australia, fourth from left, to visit the precinct in April. Picture: facebook.com/StBrigidsCrossley

BYO drinks and bring a plate of supper to share.

On Sunday, the festivities continue with a "Stories to Share" luncheon at midday, offering sandwiches, tea and coffee, followed by a 2pm

community concert featuring local music, stories, and performances that celebrate the region's deep Irish-Australian heritage.

All events are free but ticketed, and bookings can

be made via [TryBooking](https://www.trybooking.com).

Donations are welcomed at checkout, and a limited number of camping sites are also available – registration required at the same link.

Anglo&Celtic ran a feature in our February 2025 edition to draw attention the heritage hub's call for [support](#). We also featured a story explaining the Irish [heritage](#) of the area dating back to an influx of Irish migrants in the 1840s, and we promoted their fundraising [Concert on the Hill](#).

While the mortgage is now fully paid, fundraising continues to secure the precinct's long-term future. To support their efforts and learn more, visit www.stbrigidscrossley.org.au.

For Crossley's Irish-Australian community, it's not just a win – it's a milestone of identity, heritage, and heart.

Farewell friends as Canberra Irish society winds up after 40 years

After four decades of celebrating Irish heritage, culture and community in the nation's capital, the Friends of Ireland Society (Fol) Canberra – Cairde na hÉireann – will officially wind up by the end of this month.

Founded in the 1980s, the not-for-profit cultural group has been a welcoming space for anyone with a love of Ireland, regardless of ancestry. Over the years, the society became known for hosting events that brought together Canberra's Irish and Irish-Australian community – from Bloomsday celebrations and Irish film nights to history

talks, concerts, and joint events with the Embassy of Ireland and other Irish-Australian groups.

But like many long-standing cultural societies, Friends of Ireland has faced the difficult reality of declining membership and a shortage of new volunteers to carry on the work. Despite efforts to engage younger generations, the society has struggled to maintain the energy and numbers needed to keep going.

At a Special General Meeting held on 15 May 2025, members voted overwhelmingly in favour of winding up the society by the end of



The Friends of Ireland musicians, Seinnimis Ceol, playing at the Canberra Hospital as part of their Christmas music performances in 2023. Picture: www.facebook.com/FriendsOfIrelandAU

the financial year. A second motion – to donate remaining funds and equipment, including the group's camera, to the Canberra Irish Language Association (CILA) – was also passed.

President Máire O'Callaghan expressed both gratitude and sadness in her farewell message, reflecting

on the friendships forged over 40 years and thanking the many people and organisations who have supported the society.

"Fol couldn't have been the inclusive, friendship, historical and cultural society it has been for 40 years without your support. Fol is a community," she said.

Celtic folk fest cooks up a tasty selection

The National Celtic Folk Festival in Portarlinton from June 6 to 9, isn't just about the music and dancing – this year, the festival promises an unforgettable line-up of unusual and exciting events that will leave visitors in awe. If you're looking for something out of the ordinary, you'll find it here.

One of the most intriguing highlights is the Celtic Skiffs Challenge. Sailing into tradition, for the first time St Ayles Skiffs are set to highlight at the Festival with timeless craft and competitive spirit.

These traditional wooden boats, once a staple of Celtic coastal communities, will be paddling through the waves on Portarlinton's bay. Teams will battle it out for glory while showcasing their skills on the water. The skiffs will give spectators a chance to witness the thrill of competitive rowing with a Celtic twist.

Over the long weekend, more than 60 national and international acts will perform across multiple venues, offering a rich tapestry of experiences for all ages. The

DATES & DEETS

06 - 09 JUN

Portarlinton VIC

www.nationalcelticfestival.com

festival's diverse program includes traditional and contemporary folk music, dance performances, storytelling, workshops, and cultural exhibitions. Highlights include the Heavy Games, showcasing feats of strength with events like caber tossing and hammer throwing, and a thrilling hurling match between Geelong and Melbourne teams, marking the first full-scale hurling clash at the festival.

Culinary enthusiasts can indulge in gourmet offerings, including a special collaboration with renowned Irish chef Declan McGovern, who will blend traditional Irish flavours with local produce in exclusive cooking demonstrations.

For those with an eye for the quirky and creative, don't miss the Celtic Crafts Market. Here, you'll find artisans showcasing the best of Celtic



Irish chef Declan McGovern will give cooking demonstrations at the National Celtic Folk Festival, and, below, St Ayles Skiffs will make their first appearance at the festival. Pictures: facebook.com/nationalcelticfestival

craftsmanship, from intricate jewellery and woven tartans to handmade pottery and wooden carvings.

The festival will also feature a Whisky and Ale Tasting Experience where attendees can sample the finest Celtic beverages, including Scottish whiskies and Irish ales, paired with traditional bites.

And for those with a love of the mystical, the Celtic Storytelling Circle is bound to captivate. Step into a circle of traditional Irish and Scottish storytellers as they spin tales of myth, magic, and ancient warriors, all under the stars.

A dynamic lineup of international and local talent celebrates the depth and diversity of Celtic music. Irish acts feature prominently, with genre-pushing Gaelic music producer Caoimhín, the emotive singer-songwriter Gráinne Hunt, and the acclaimed traditional group Tuluá all making the trip from Ireland. Representing the homegrown scene are some of Australia's most exciting

Celtic-inspired artists, including neo-trad rave sensation Amaidí, Tasmanian folk favourites Homebru, and the innovative Melbourne-based Tolka. Blues slide guitarist Anna Scionti and Scottish-heritage duo Bo'Ness will also take the stage, alongside the up-and-coming Irish ensemble Ceoltóirí Naarm, this year's designated "Face of the Festival." Audiences can also look forward to performances by the Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers, The Raglins, Hiraeth, Bhan Tre and more.

So whether you're interested in traditional boat races, hands-on crafts, or indulging in Celtic spirits, the National Celtic Folk Festival has something delightful waiting around every corner.

Families are warmly welcomed, with children under 12 enjoying free entry and a range of activities designed to engage young minds in Celtic traditions.

Tickets are available now at www.nationalcelticfestival.com.





Drum Major Angus Cornwall leads members of Townsville and Mackay bands at the street parade for Townsville Tartan Day 2024. Picture: facebook.com/Townsvillescots

A wee bit of Scotland taking over Townsville

For one dazzling weekend this June, the sounds of pipes, the swirl of tartan, and the thunder of heavy hammers will transform Townsville into the Highlands of the north.

Townsville Tartan Day is one of Australia's most vibrant celebrations of Scottish culture – and it's growing stronger each year. Presented by the Townsville Scottish Community Inc., this free, family-friendly series of events is packed with music, heritage, kilts and cabers, and a warm Highland welcome for all.

The festivities begin on Friday evening with the much-loved Clansmen's Ceilidh at the Townsville RSL on Charters Towers Road, Hyde Park. Guests will be treated to lively ceilidh dancing to the music of talented accordionist Iain McKenzie and the powerful vocals of Scottish

bass-baritone Brian Bisset. A light supper of hot and cold platters will be served. With just 120 seats available, tickets must be purchased in advance by Thursday, 5 June.

Saturday's festivities begin with Scots in the Park, a free family day at Corcoran Park, Hermit Park, from 10am to 4pm. Designed in the spirit of traditional Highland Games, the event will be officially opened at 11am by Glenys Ashton, President of the Clan Forsyth Society of Queensland Inc. – the Honoured Clan for 2025. Expect plenty of action, with Scottish Heavy Games taking centre stage and professional competitors travelling from Brisbane to compete alongside locals. Pipe bands and solo pipers and drummers will entertain between events, while clan tents from Clans Buchanan,

Edmonstone and Forsyth will share space with displays from the Scottish Country Dancing group and the Townsville Scottish Community. Afternoon tea will be available.

On Sunday, the celebration continues in the city centre with Townsville Tartan Day at Flinders Square, from 8.30am to 1pm. The event marks the 11th year of celebrating the 1782 repeal of the English ban on wearing tartan. It kicks off at 9am with a dramatic massed band performance marching through Flinders Street, followed by the Kirkin' o' the Tartans ceremony, where participants are invited to bring their tartan for blessing. Entertainment continues throughout the morning with more music from Iain McKenzie and Brian Bisset, plus Scottish dancing displays and solo

DATES & DEETS

20 - 22 JUN
Townsville QLD

facebook.com/Townsvillescots

performances by pipers and drummers. The ever-popular Clan Parade will take place at 10.30am, and all Scottish-breed dogs are welcome to join in the march. The Family History Association of North Queensland will be on hand to offer genealogy advice and add clans to the growing 'Clans in Townsville Tree'. Anyone wanting to walk with their clan in the parade must register by 18 June.

More information is available on the Townsville Scottish Community Inc. Facebook page, or by contacting Marie Gibson at 0413 456 542 or mlg7@optusnet.com.au.

Melbourne turns tartan as Scots hit the streets

Melbourne's Scottish community will take centre stage this winter, as the Melbourne Tartan Festival returns across June and July with a program that reflects the depth and breadth of Scottish heritage in Australia. From traditional music and dance to historical tributes and family-friendly fun, the festival invites everyone from lifelong Scots to curious newcomers to explore a culture that continues to shape the city's identity.

The festivities kick off on Saturday, 14 June with the 64th Australian Commonwealth Championships hosted by the Victorian Scottish Dancing Members Association at Phoenix Park Community Centre, Malvern East. This event showcases top-tier Highland dancing talent and includes workshops with Canadian dance expert Joy Tolev on 15 and 16 June.

On Friday, 27 June, the Ceilidh Dance at Collingwood Town Hall invites everyone to join in a night of spirited dancing, accompanied by live music.

The following Sunday, 29 June, the Kirkin' o' the Tartan service at The Scots' Church on Collins Street honours the repeal of the Act of Proscription, a significant moment in Scottish history.

A highlight of the festival is the Melbourne Tartan Day Parade on Sunday 6 July at 2pm. More than 200 pipers, drummers, dancers, and clan representatives will march down Collins Street, starting from the Old Treasury Building and concluding with a recital at Regent Place. Earlier that day, enjoy pop-up performances at the Old Treasury Building terrace and other city locations.

For a taste of Scottish culinary tradition, attend the Robbie Burns Night dinners at Il Duca Restaurant on 8 and 9 July, featuring a four-



DATES & DEETS

14 JUN - 28 JUL
Melbourne VIC
melbournetartanfestival.com.au

course meal with haggis and entertainment.

Music enthusiasts won't want to miss Highland Harmonies from Distant Shores on Sunday, 13 July at Kew Court House, where Graeme McColgan and The Stovies will perform heartfelt Scottish ballads.

The festival culminates with the Gala Dinner & Concert at Melbourne Town Hall on Saturday, 19 July, offering a gourmet dinner, fine wines, and performances by renowned Celtic rock band Claymore.

Finally, lace up your running shoes for The Big Melbourne Kilt Run on Sunday, 27 July at The Tan Track, a fun run encouraging participants to don kilts and celebrate Scottish heritage.



Melbourne Tartan Festival Gala Dinner and Concert. Pictures: [facebook.com/MelbourneTartanFestival](https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneTartanFestival)

Canter down to Camperdown

Get ready for a whirlwind of music, dance, poetry, and community spirit at the 2025 Robert Burns Celtic Festival in Camperdown! The festival committee is putting the final touches on a program packed with new surprises, while also bringing back many of your favourite events.

Festival Chairperson Dr. John Menzies OAM is excited to announce that the festival's musician lineup is officially locked in.

Dr John Menzies said "Festival musicians have now been booked and the performers coming to Camperdown include The Melbourne Male Welsh Choir who are returning as our headline act in 2025. A great combination of Australia's best known Scottish and Celtic musicians are now confirmed to perform at the festival, including Luke Plumb and Peter Daffy, Fiona Ross, The Raglins, MacCrimmin, Elonera, Peter Daffy & Friends Celtic Band, Janet & Hugh Gordon, The Reformers, Harpistry, Merran and Peter Moir, The Twa Bards, Kym Dillon, The Corby Family Celtic Band, Tuniversal Music Group, Warrnambool Pipes and Drums, the Lakes and Craters Concert Band, The Australian Irish Dance Company and Geelong Scottish Highland Dancers."

It's all happening from June 27 to 29 in the heart of Camperdown, and the festival is shaping up to be one for the ages. On Friday night, the Gala Dinner kicks off the weekend, with a mouthwatering three-course meal, entertainment from the festival's top musicians, and the traditional Addressing of the Haggis. Tickets are \$85, but be quick – numbers are limited and bookings close on June 26 or when sold out.

Throughout the weekend, music events will unfold, with a special Saturday night ceilidh keeping the energy high and dancing shoes moving. But it doesn't stop there! The Festival Lectures at the Killara Centre on Saturday will feature four fantas-



DATES & DEETS

27 - 29 JUN

Camperdown VIC

www.camperdownburnsfestival.com.au

tic guest speakers, and you can catch it all for just \$25.

The Choir Concert at the Theatre Royal on Saturday is sure to be another crowd-pleaser. After last year's success, the festival is welcoming seven regional choirs, plus the festival's own choir, conducted by the talented Kym Dillon. The concert will conclude with all eight choirs performing together – a powerful music experience for just \$10.

The grand finale of the weekend happens on Sunday, 29 June with the Festival Finale Concert at the Theatre Royal. Get your tickets early for \$30 or pay \$35 at the door.

And here's the best part: all events (except the Gala Dinner) are FREE for under 18s! Just make sure that those under 13 are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Schools Program in Camperdown Mercy Regional College and Terang Schools will get the community involved in the lead-up to the festival, with poetry, art competitions, and storytelling at the local kinder.

But wait – there's more! On Saturday and Sunday, enjoy free entertainment in Camperdown's Town Square: Piping, Highland dancing, kids' activities, market stalls, and shortbread judging at the Courthouse. The Ambrose Cup at the Camperdown Golf Club will also be a highlight, and you won't want to miss the whisky tasting at the Hampden Hotel.

Tickets are on sale online at TryBooking (<https://www.trybooking.com/CXRJT>), or in person at Laffs in Camperdown. This year's festival promises to be another unforgettable celebration of all things Celtic, right in the heart of Camperdown.

Canter down to Camperdown for Celtic festival



Some of the performers in action at the Camperdown Robert Burns Celtic Festival last year. Pictures: [facebook.com/RobertBurnsCelticFestival](https://www.facebook.com/RobertBurnsCelticFestival)





Supreme Exhibit Larimar of Amrabull Park AI at the 2024 show. Picture: www.australianhighlandcattle.org

Get moooving to the Highland Cattle Show

Get ready for a heifer-lot of fun – the 2025 Australian Highland Cattle Society (AHCS) National Show is rolling into Mount Pleasant, South Australia, from June 6 to 8, and it’s shaping up to be utterly spectacular.

Having held the 2024 show in Geelong, the event returns to the grass-roots farming community of Mount Pleasant, where you can expect good old fashioned hospitality and a true sense of family. Building on the core values of the AHCS, education and fellowship is the main focus of the 2025 National Show.

Friday will be dedicated to education and show practice, with participation from local agricultural schools. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the Highland breed, and showcase their parading skills in a

schools-only Parader Workshop. They encourage all to grab some lunch and take the time to watch students in action, as many of these kids will have been handling and parading animals for a number of years.

Saturday, they are introducing additional classes for Graded Females and Market Steers, to be judged along with the Highland Steers. It is hoped the addition of these classes will allow more people to exhibit their animals and increase participation at the show. The Paraders and Junior Judging Classes will also be judged on Saturday, along with the calf and Costume Classic classes.

Sunday will open with the stirring sounds of bagpipes filling the air, setting the stage for the judging of Stud Classes. Family, friends and

Highland enthusiasts from around the world can enjoy both Saturday and Sunday judging via a live stream.

The Mount Pleasant Farmers Markets will be held Saturday morning, bringing a large group of regular attendees to the showgrounds.

There are catered social functions for exhibitors, helpers and volunteers, all located within walking distance of the showgrounds.

The AHCS warmly invites all newcomers and novices interested in showing their own cattle, or those looking to get involved in the cattle-showing world, to step up and join them at the show. There will be plenty of opportunities to learn and time to practice ring-craft before Sunday’s event. The Highland show community is incredibly supportive and always ready

DATES & DEETS

06 - 08 JUN
Mount Pleasant SA

www.australianhighlandcattle.org

to offer a helping hand when needed. Don’t hesitate to reach out to AHCS in advance if you need assistance – they’re there to help!

Mount Pleasant is a small town on the northern edge of the Adelaide Hills in South Australia, and about an hour’s drive from the Adelaide CBD.

There is limited accommodation in Mount Pleasant. There are camping spaces available at the Mount Pleasant Showground, and [Campify](#) have a range of caravans that can be booked and delivered to site.



Gold Coast Eisteddfod. Picture: [Gold Coast Eisteddfod](#)

How Eisteddfod fever took hold down under

The Eisteddfod is one of the oldest and most treasured traditions in Welsh culture – a festival of literature, music, and performance with roots reaching back to at least the 12th century. The word itself comes from Welsh, meaning “to sit together,” but it has long meant much more: a coming together of artists, poets, singers, and communities to celebrate creativity and language.

There are several eisteddfodau held in Wales, but two are especially prominent. The Urdd Eisteddfod, held in late May or early June, is a youth-focused event celebrating young talent in everything from solo singing to spoken poetry. Meanwhile, the National Eisteddfod of Wales, held in early August, is the largest, featuring the famed Gorsedd ceremonies – where bards in flowing robes crown

the winning poets and chair the top writers in an arena of thousands.

Events are conducted in the Welsh language, reinforcing the strong link between the Eisteddfod and the preservation of national identity. Even today, it’s a space where Welsh culture is not just displayed, but lived – through traditional harp competitions, choral performances, folk dancing, and modern theatre.

Eisteddfodau are democratic, community-rooted festivals. Whether you’re an 8-year-old reciting a poem, a choir competing in song, or an adult bard with a lifetime of craft, the spirit is the same: to uplift artistic expression and celebrate shared heritage.

Modern eisteddfodau often embrace contemporary art forms too, with rap, street dance, and experimental mu-

sic sitting alongside ancient verse. For Welsh people, the Eisteddfod isn’t just a festival – it’s part of who they are.

The Eisteddfod tradition in Australia began in the 19th century, brought over by Welsh immigrants and soon adopted more broadly. These community festivals celebrate performance and competition in music, speech, dance, and drama. Over time, Eisteddfodau have become an important part of Australia’s cultural and educational landscape, offering young performers a platform to develop and showcase their talents. Today, they’re held in towns and cities across the country, from regional centres like Tamworth and Rockhampton to major events in Canberra and Ballarat. Australian Eisteddfodau now reflect a rich mix of cultural influences.

UPCOMING EISTEDDFODAU

Toowoomba QLD: 07 MAY – 04 AUG
Gold Coast QLD: 19 JUL – 17 SEP

Tamworth NSW: 01–21 JUN
Dubbo NSW: 30 MAY – 21 JUN
Albury-Wodonga NSW/VIC: 01–14 AUG
Ballarat VIC: 14 JUN – 30 AUG
Warrnambool VIC: 02–06 JUN
Speech & Drama (Primary)

Hobart TAS: 27 MAY – 08 JUN

Canberra ACT: 23–29 AUG Piano;
05–07 SEP Singing

For information on Eisteddfodau in Australia, go to www.eisteddfod.org.au.



The Sussex Inlet Viking Festival. Pictures: facebook.com/vikingfestivalsussex

Vikings invade Sussex Inlet for raucous rally

They raided, they traded, and the Vikings left their mark on Great Britain and Ireland. From the Scottish isles to the Irish coast and deep into Anglo-Saxon England, Viking incursions reshaped languages, place names, and even royal bloodlines. Towns like York, Dublin, and even parts of Scotland owe their foundations to Viking settlements.

Sussex Inlet, a picturesque town on the South Coast of New South Wales, is set to roar back into the age of the Norse with the return of its annual Viking Festival on Saturday, 7 June at Ellmoos Reserve. This celebration honours the town's unique Scandinavian heritage, most notably the legacy of Danish pioneer Jacob Ellmoos, who arrived in 1880 and played a



key role in shaping the early township.

Visitors can expect a full day of immersive experiences that bring the Viking era to life. More than 30 historical re-enactors will camp on-site in a traditional Viking village, complete with authentic tents, open fires, cooking displays, and handmade crafts. The clash of shields

and the thunder of boots will echo through the grounds as skilled warriors recreate battle scenes and showcase Viking games, drawing crowds with their energy and theatricality.

Adding to the festive atmosphere will be live music across two stages, featuring a mix of local talent and crowd favourites to keep spirits

DATES & DEETS

07 JUN
Sussex Inlet NSW
[TICKETS](#)

high. For families, two dedicated kids' zones will offer free rides and entertainment, making it a welcoming event for all ages.

The day wouldn't be complete without something delicious to eat, and more than 40 food stalls will be on hand offering everything from Scandinavian treats to local Aussie fare.

Tickets start at \$35 for adults and \$25 for children, with all activities included. More details and bookings are available at ticketebo.com.au.



Bounty Day on Norfolk Island, where the locals gather to give thanks for the arrival of the descendants of the HMS Bounty to their island.
 Picture: [Norfolk Island Tourism](#)

Norfolk Island to mark Anniversary Bounty Day

This month, Norfolk Island will commemorate a significant chapter of its colonial past – the 200th anniversary of its Second Settlement, establishing the island as a brutal penal colony on 6 June 1825. Originally created to house the worst of the worst reoffending convicts from New South Wales and Van Diemen’s Land, the second penal settlement soon gained a reputation as one of the harshest in the British Empire.

The anniversary will be marked with a rich program of commemorative events, tours and re-enactments, all designed to honour the lives impacted by this chapter of history. Visitors will be invited to step back in time and experience the island as it was during the 19th century, with storytelling and interpretation giving voice to both the con-

victs and administrators who once walked its shores.

Although remote, Norfolk Island’s history is deeply tied to the broader Anglo and Celtic migration stories of Australia. Many of the convicts and soldiers sent to the island hailed from England, Ireland and Scotland – and their descendants can still trace their heritage to those early days of penal servitude. The architecture and layout of the Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historic Area, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed convict site, bears testament to the military precision and Georgian sensibilities of its British builders.

The 200-year milestone coincides with Anniversary Bounty Day on 8 June, the island’s annual celebration of the arrival of the Pitcairn Islanders – descendants of the

HMS Bounty mutineers and their Polynesian companions – who settled on Norfolk in 1856. While the Second Settlement ended in 1855, the Pitcairners arrived just one year later, creating a rare overlap where two distinct yet interconnected stories of displacement, migration, and cultural inheritance converge.

With celebrations taking place on 9 June, this alignment is expected to attract both local and international visitors, particularly Australians and New Zealanders with ancestral ties to convicts, guards or early settlers. The commemorations are being promoted as an opportunity to reflect on the darker legacies of colonial punishment, while also celebrating the endurance and cultural identity of the island’s people.

Tours such as As Night

DATES & DEETS

06 JUN
Second Settlement Anniversary

08 JUN
Anniversary Bounty Day

Norfolk Island
www.norfolkisland.com.au

Falls on Hell in Paradise will offer immersive night-time experiences in the ruins of the penal settlement, while special Bounty Day events will include traditional re-enactments, costumed processions, and community feasts. Events are supported by the local government and tourism bodies, with more details at norfolkisland.com.au.

Sun hitting the stones as Aus marks winter solstice



Winter solstice 2024 at Esperance Stonehenge. Picture: facebook.com/esperanystonehenge

As the sun reaches its northernmost point on Saturday, 21 June, marking the winter solstice, communities across Australia will gather to honour this ancient astronomical event with ceremonies steeped in Celtic tradition.

In Glen Innes, NSW, the Australian Standing Stones – a national monument celebrating Celtic heritage – will host a dawn ceremony beginning at 6am. Attendees will witness the solar noon shadow crossing the central marker at 11.55am, a design feature aligning with the sun's path. This free public event includes a talk on the stones' solar alignment and the role of the Guardians of the Stones. The Croft Café will be open for lunch, offering a warm respite for visitors. More info at Glen Innes Severn Council's [website](#).

On the opposite coast, Esperance, Western Australia, offers a unique experience at its full-sized replica of [Stonehenge](#). Built to mirror the original's alignment, the structure allows the setting sun on 21 June to cast rays

through the Heel Stones onto the altar stone at 4.45pm.

In Hobart, Tasmania, the [Dark Mofo](#) festival will run from 5 to 15 June, culminating in the renowned Nude Solstice Swim on 21 June. This bold event invites participants to embrace the cold and welcome the return of longer days. The festival also features the Winter Feast, live performances, and art installations, celebrating themes of darkness and rebirth.

In Queensland, British pub [Fox & Hounds](#) in Wongawallan is celebrating winter solstice on 21 June. They'll be marking the shortest day of the year with a Yule log, burning of the Wicker Man and Morris dancers.

[NYX](#) is a five-day Winter Solstice celebration at Glen Gordon Station, featuring music, arts, workshops, and cultural events. It runs from 20 to 23 June at Ravenshoe, Cairns, QLD.

Celebrate the winter solstice under the stars with live music, bonfires, and entertainment at the Forbes Ski Dam, NSW. [Frost and](#)

[Fire](#) festival takes place on 21 June from 4pm – 10pm.

The [Mansfield Lantern Festival](#) in Victoria on Saturday, 21 June is a family-friendly event featuring a lantern parade, live music, and community celebrations at the foot of Mt Buller. The fun kicks off at 4pm.

[Northey Street City Farm](#) in Windsor, QLD, is holding its annual Winter Solstice Festival on Saturday, 28 June from 2pm. Expect an afternoon of workshops, live music, ethical markets, and a lantern parade to celebrate the solstice.

Scenic Wandering Foods in Boonah, QLD, will be having its [Winter Solstice Gathering](#) on Saturday, 21 June. Part of Scenic Rim Eat Local Month, this gathering includes local food, music, and community activities.

A midwinter celebration featuring a wicker man bonfire, Viking fighters, circus performers, live music, and artisan markets will take place at Newbridge, NSW. The [Newbridge Winter Solstice Festival](#) is on Saturday,

DATES & DEETS

20 - 23 JUN
NYX Festival
Ravenshoe, Cairns QLD

20 JUN
West End Winter Solstice Twilight Market
West End QLD
Hills Winter Solstice Eve
Mount Barker SA

21 JUN - 20 JUL
Maldon in Winter Festival (to 20 JUL)
Maldon VIC

21 JUN
Solstice at Australian Standing Stones
Glen Innes NSW
Winter Solstice at Esperance Stonehenge
Esperance WA
Nude Solstice Swim/Dark Mofo
Hobart TAS
Winter Solstice at Fox & Hounds
Wongawallan QLD
Mansfield Lantern Festival
Mansfield VIC
Frost and Fire
Forbes NSW
Winter Solstice Gathering
Boonah QLD
Newbridge Winter Solstice Gathering
Newbridge NSW
Winter Solstice Festival
Camperdown NSW
Solstice in the Square
George Town TAS
ErinEarth Winter Festival
Wagga Wagga NSW
Winter Solstice Celebration at
Baroona Farm
Milton QLD
Fleurieu Folk Festival presents A
Winter Solstice
Willunga SA

22 JUN
Tribe & Dance Winter Solstice
Maleny QLD

28 JUN
Winter Solstice Festival
Northey Street City Farm, Windsor QLD

21 June.

A Winter Solstice Festival will also be held at Camperdown, NSW, on 21 June. An urban farm festival with workshops, live music, food stalls, and community activities. It takes place at [Pocket City Farms](#).



The East Gippsland Winter Festival is a whole month of events around the winter solstice and Celtic celebrations. Pictures: egwinterfest.com.au

East Gippsland fires up for a winter festival

The East Gippsland Winter Festival returns from June 20 to July 20, 2025, offering a diverse array of events that celebrate art, culture, food, and community spirit.

Experience winter in East Gippsland as the region comes alive in a month-long festival of luminous art, epic winter feasts, trestle bridge soirees, lively music, dark skies, roaring fires and cold plunges.

Incorporating Winter Solstice and the Winter School Holidays, the fifth annual East Gippsland Winter Festival will present one of the largest winter festival programs anywhere in Australia, offering something for all ages and a memorable winter getaway with family or friends. Choose from over 100 different events, right across East Gippsland.

Expect beautiful hand-made lanterns, projection



art that augments reality, live music in unexpected places, engaging pop-up events, long lunches and winter feasts in spectacular locations, creative hands-on workshops, wellness experiences overlooking lakes, on-foot adventures and much more.

Here's a glimpse of just some of what's on the program:

The Art of Dining (June

20 – July 20): An exhibition of food and cooking-related pencil drawings by local artist Cecile Michel, displayed across various East Gippsland restaurants, cafes, and wineries.

Bluey & Bingo Shine a Light on Endangered Animals (June 20 – July 20): An illuminated lantern display at Beachcomber Holiday Units, celebrating Australian endan-

DATES & DEETS

20 JUN - 20 JUL
East Gippsland VIC
egwinterfest.com.au

gered animals with interactive QR codes linking to fun facts.

Lakes Lights (July 12): A one-night-only event in Lakes Entrance featuring giant artist-made lanterns, projection art, transforming the foreshore into a magical illuminated wonderland.

Bruthen Medieval Market (June 21): A family-friendly medieval-themed market showcasing local artists, growers, and businesses, complete with unique stalls, food vans, and children's activities.

For the full program and to book tickets, visit the East Gippsland Winter Festival [website](http://egwinterfest.com.au).

Winter Flame to light up the Barossa Valley

The Barossa Valley is set to ignite with the return of Winter Flame, a captivating torch-lit parade celebrating Scottish heritage and culture.

Scheduled for Saturday, June 21 at 6pm, this free community event promises an evening filled with the stirring sounds of bagpipes, dynamic Highland dancing, and feats of strength by Highland athletes.

Organised by the Barossa & District Pipe Band, the parade will start at 6pm from Jane Place in Tanunda. Participants will march along the main thoroughfare, culminating at the intersection of Murray Street and Basedow Road.

The spectacle features massed pipe bands from across South Australia, Highland dancers, and formidable Highland strongmen and women, all illuminated by flaming torches that create a mesmerising atmosphere.

Winter Flame has grown into the band's most significant annual event, drawing increasing numbers of participants and spectators each year. The sight of kilted musicians and dancers performing under torchlight offers a unique experience that resonates with audiences of all ages.



Winter Flame has grown into the Barossa & District Pipe Band's most significant annual event and it is held to coincide with the winter solstice. Pictures: www.facebook.com/barossapipeband

Winter Flame 2025 not only celebrates Scottish traditions but also fosters community spirit in the heart of South Australia's wine country. The event is held mid-June to coincide with the winter solstice celebrations. Residents and visitors alike are invited to witness this spectacular event.

Organisers are seeking the assistance of volunteers to

act as bearers to carry the torches during the parade. As expected, this is a very important part of the parade and they require participants be over the age of 18 for safety reasons. They have responsible marshals in attendance before and after the parade, to handle the lighting and also extinguishing of the torches.

If you are interested in be-

DATES & DEETS

21 JUN
Tanunda SA
barossapipeband.com.au

ing part of this unique event, please contact the band on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/barossapipeband) or via email at info@barossapipeband.com.au.



Tartan Muscle taking part in Winter Flame. Picture: [Tartan Muscle](https://www.facebook.com/tartanmuscle)



Volunteers are sought as torch bearers for the parade.

Cracker Night making a dazzling comeback



Maitland City Council is bringing Cracker Night back in the form of Luminous, a spectacular winter festival in June. Pictures: [Maitland City Council](#)

Cracker Night, once a staple of Australian winter celebrations, is making a comeback, bringing nostalgia, fireworks, and community spirit to towns that have long held dear the tradition. Cracker Night in Australia blended British traditions: the patriotic fireworks of Empire Day on Queen Victoria's birthday and the fiery bonfires of Guy Fawkes Night and solstice. Over time, Australians made it their own. The celebration was often held on 30 June, coinciding with the middle of winter, when families gathered for warmth around bonfires and enjoyed the sparkle of fireworks lighting up the chilly night sky.

For years, Cracker Night was celebrated across the country, but by the 1970s,

safety concerns and regulations led to the decline of the event. In some states, the celebration was banned. While the tradition faded, the spirit of Cracker Night lived on in the memories of those who had grown up with it, and in recent years, certain towns have worked to revive the tradition in a modern, safe, and controlled format.

In Maitland, New South Wales, Cracker Night is experiencing a renaissance. On 20 and 21 June, the city will host Luminous, a spectacular winter festival designed to rekindle the community feel of Cracker Night. Featuring dazzling lighting installations, fire performances, live music, and a fireworks show, Luminous offers a safe, family-friendly way for locals

to relive the excitement of Cracker Night. The event is an excellent example of how traditional festivals are being re-imagined to suit modern safety standards.

Rowena in New South Wales will hold its Cracker Night celebration on Sunday, 8 June at the Rowena Town Hall grounds. This community-run event celebrates with fireworks and fun.

Cracker Night in Wollombi, New South Wales, is a cherished annual event held at the historic Wollombi Tavern during the June long weekend. This features live music, hearty pub fare, and a spectacular fireworks display.

In the Northern Territory on Territory Day, celebrated on July 1, residents can legally use fireworks for a

DATES & DEETS

07 JUN

Kangaroo Valley Bonfire Night
Kangaroo Valley NSW
Cracker Night
Wollombi NSW
Twilight Market, Fireworks & Bonfire
Portland NSW
Southern Lights Festival at Coal Creek
Community Park
Korumburra VIC

08 JUN

Rowena Cracker Night
Rowena NSW
Wyangala Bonfire and Fireworks
Spectacular
Wyangala NSW
Firecracker Night at Settlers Arms
St Albans, Hawkesbury NSW

14 JUN

Mylor BonFireworks
Mylor SA

20 & 21 JUN

Maitland Luminous
Maitland NSW

21 JUN - 20 JUL

Maldon in Winter Festival
Maldon VIC

28 JUN

Burning of the Barrel at Glandore Estate
Wines
Pokolbin NSW

01 JUL

Territory Day
Various locations across NT

05 JUL

Sandstone Point Bonfire Night
Sandstone Point QLD

19 JUL

Killarney Bonfire Night
Killarney QLD

01 AUG - 10 AUG

Orange Region Fire Festival
Orange NSW

five-hour period, commonly known as Cracker Night. It commemorates the Territory achieving self-government in 1978. There will also be large fireworks displays in Darwin, Alice Springs, and across the territory.

O'Donovan Clan to gather on home turf

DATES & DEETS

05 - 07 SEP
Cork Ireland

www.odonovanclan.org

The O'Donovan Clan has taken a big step on the way to their goal of reclaiming their ancestral castle in West Cork.

The O'Donovan Clan Cultural Association has successfully achieved its initial fundraising goal of \$5,000 USD, paving the way for the establishment of non-profit entities in both Ireland and the United States. This milestone marks the first step in the clan's ambitious plan to purchase and preserve their ancestral home, Castle Donovan, located near Drimoleague in West Cork.

Built around 1560 by Donal O'Donovan, Castle Donovan served as the principal seat of the O'Donovan Clan. The structure, now a National Monument, underwent extensive conservation efforts by Ireland's Office of Public Works between 2001 and 2014. Currently listed for sale at €200,000 (\$AU320,613), the castle presents a unique opportunity for the clan to reconnect with their heritage.

To further this initiative, the clan has launched the O'Donovan Heritage Fund, aiming to raise the necessary funds for the castle's acquisition and ongoing preservation. The association is also planning its inaugural Assembly, scheduled for September 5 to 7, 2025, in West Cork.

The event will feature an Annual General Meeting at the West Cork Hotel, genealogy and history lectures, round-table discussions, and a Sunday banquet commemorating the 25th anniversary



Son of the O'Donovan Clan leader, Murrough O'Donovan's work on show in West Cork. Picture: [Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre](#)

of the 2000 O'Donovan Millennial Gathering.

Highlights of the Assembly include a private tour of Michael Collins House in Clonakilty, focusing on the O'Donovan influence on Collins, and a screening of the film "Rebel Wife" with a Q&A session featuring William Rossa Cole. These events aim to celebrate the clan's rich history and foster a sense of community among O'Donovans worldwide.

Organisers are hoping the event will draw O'Donovans from across Ireland and the wider diaspora, including Australia, New Zealand, and Asia. Registration and membership materials go live on 1 June, with the Association's Development team preparing 'Save the Date' notices for Irish organisations worldwide.

For anyone with O'Donovan roots – or just a love of Irish history and heritage – this September's Assembly in West Cork promises to be a gathering worthy of the clan's storied name.

Adding to the cultural buzz in West Cork, Murrough

rent work is inspired in part by an Australian Aboriginal author, runs until July 19.

Murrough said: "Through this residency I wish to expand my research base in trees and their significance culturally and spiritually to indigenous peoples around the world particularly currently and historically. Taking inspiration from Irish author Manchán Magan and Australian Aboriginal author Tyson Yunkapatorra I hope to explore how our loss of these cultural ties to the landscape can be tied to the processes of ecological destruction and how reconnecting with certain aspects of indigenous culture and thinking could potentially help us create a more sustainable culture that can eventually co exist with the natural world."

See westcorkartscentre.com

save the date!
5-6-7 September 2025
O'DONOVAN CLAN
Cultural Association
Inaugural Assembly in
West Cork, Ireland

Meet & mingle with
O'Donovans from Ireland
and the Diaspora!

Presentations, social
events, launch of our new
Association, and more!

Book now!
Details on
our website

odonovanclan.org



The community bonfire on Bonna Night in Togher, Cork City. Picture: [Cork City Council](#)

Tradition of Bonfire Night in Cork is lit

Bonfire Night in Cork, Ireland, traditionally celebrated on St John's Eve (23 June), is a centuries-old folk custom that was once widely observed across Ireland but holds a particularly strong cultural connection in Cork City. Locally, it's often just called Bonfire Night or Bonna Night, and it blends pagan midsummer fire rituals, particularly honouring the goddess of summer Áine, with Christian symbolism, marking the eve of the feast day of St John the Baptist.

Historically, large bonfires were lit on hillsides, crossroads, and in neighbourhoods across Cork to mark the summer solstice and protect the community from evil. These fires were believed to bless crops, ward off disease, and bring good luck for the coming season. The ashes from the fires were sometimes sprinkled on fields for fertility.

Children would gather materials for weeks beforehand – old wooden crates, pallets, and furniture – and



Bonfire Night in Cork is now a community event with fun activities. Picture: [Anglo&Celtic](#)

guard their stash from rival streets. It was as much about community spirit as tradition, with families and neighbours coming together around the fire. Sometimes there'd be singing, dancing, storytelling, and informal feasting.

By the late 20th century, concerns about safety, pollution, and antisocial behaviour led to restrictions on the practice.

In 2007, a pilot Bonfire

Night Project was initiated, whereby five safe, family-friendly events were organised in the City's parks. The project, supported by Cork City Council, involved local community groups, youth groups and the An Garda Síochána (Irish police) putting together a diverse range of fun activities on the night in each park as an alternative to the illegal bonfires. The project was very well

received and continues to this day, having made a very significant impact on reducing the number of problem fires throughout Cork.

Bonfire Night remains a potent symbol of Cork's identity, mixing community pride and deep-rooted Irish tradition. It's a rare surviving remnant of Ireland's ancient midsummer fire customs, showing how even urban traditions can echo the distant past.

Festivals

NATIONAL CELTIC FESTIVAL

Celtic music and culture, featuring Amaidi, Homebru, and Gráinne Hunt, workshops and stalls.



Portarlinton VIC

06-09 JUN

TOWNSVILLE TARTAN BLUE

Scottish celebration featuring street parade with largest display of Clan Banners in Australia.



Townsville QLD

22 JUN

MERRIWA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES

Family-friendly festival celebrating rural traditions and the iconic 'Running of the Sheep'.



Merriwa NSW

06-08 JUN

CLYDESDALE SPECTACULAR

Richest Clydesdale show in Southern Hemisphere, plus Fassifern Highland Gathering.



Beauesert QLD

14-15 JUN

HAMILTON EISTEDDFOD

A prestigious performing arts competition featuring music, dance, and speech & drama.



HAMILTON EISTEDDFOD

Hamilton VIC

02-16 JUN

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

ANGLO&CELTIC

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

TARTAN SPECTACULAR

Toowong QLD

The Tartan Spectacular at Brisbane Boys' College is a free event with in excess of 20 pipe bands, River City Titles, Highland dancing, drum majors, Scottish stalls, clan stalls, food, plus a large bar.

21 JUN

© www.angloandceltic.com



01 JUN

Alison Moyet
Melbourne VIC
Jimeoin
Kalgoorlie WA
Beth Gibbons
Melbourne VIC
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) (to 08 JUN)
Brisbane QLD
Mount Kimbie
Adelaide SA
Toowoomba Eisteddfod (07 MAY - 04 AUG)
Toowoomba QLD
Tamworth Eisteddfod (01-21 JUN)
Tamworth NSW
Dubbo Eisteddfod (30 MAY - 21 JUN)
Dubbo NSW
Hobart Eisteddfod (27 MAY - 08 JUN)
Hobart TAS
Bastille Festival
Adelaide SA
The Caledonian Castaways
George Lane, St Kilda VIC

02 JUN

Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival
Mornington VIC
Warrnambool Eisteddfod (02-06 JUN) Speech & Drama (Primary)
Warrnambool VIC

03 JUN

Inhaler
Perth WA
James Vincent McMorrow
Sydney NSW
Beth Gibbons
Brisbane QLD

04 JUN

Alison Moyet
Perth WA
RISING Melbourne (to 15 JUN)
Melbourne VIC
Mount Kimbie
Brisbane QLD
The Ireland Funds Australia Young Leaders Corporate Breakfast
Surry Hills NSW

05 JUN

Jimeoin
Beauesert QLD
Inhaler

Brisbane QLD

James Vincent McMorrow
Melbourne VIC
Trivia Night with the 2025 Queensland Rose of Tralee
Brisbane QLD
Perth Irish Business catch up
Leederville WA
Beth Gibbons
Hobart TAS
Mount Kimbie
Melbourne VIC
Dusty The Musical - In Concert
Brisbane QLD
Dark Mofo
Hobart TAS

06 JUN

The Songs of Elton John and George Michael
Mandurah WA
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Townsville QLD
Jimeoin
Ipswich QLD
Inhaler
Sydney NSW
Scoil Gheimhridh Sydney 2025 (to 09 JUN) Irish language school
Stammore NSW
National Celtic Festival (to 09 JUN)
Portarlinton VIC
Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces (to 08 JUN)
Merriwa NSW
Fozo Farm Annual Bonfire (to 08 JUN)
Neergabby WA
2025 National Show of the Australian Highland Cattle Society (to 08 JUN)
Mount Pleasant SA
Winter Solstice (to 09 JUN)
Penrith NSW

07 JUN

Jimeoin
Boonah QLD
James Vincent McMorrow
Brisbane QLD
Bayside Divas sing Celtic Connections
Sandgate QLD
South Australia Rose of Tralee Grand Selection Night
Adelaide SA
Supergrass
Melbourne VIC
The Songs of Elton John and George Michael

Perth WA

Jacob Collier
Adelaide SA
Mount Kimbie
Melbourne VIC
PomTown Perth British Party at The Camfield
Perth WA
Hunter Valley Scots Club Caledonia Night
Argenton NSW
Cracker Night
Wollombi NSW
Twilight Market, Fireworks & Bonfire
Portland NSW
Kangaroo Valley Bonfire Night
Kangaroo Valley NSW
Heavy Horse Festival (to 08 JUN)
Jondaryan QLD
Sussex Inlet Viking Festival
Sussex Inlet NSW
Bounty Day
Norfolk Island
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Cairns QLD

08 JUN

Supergrass
Melbourne VIC
Jacob Collier
Adelaide SA
Mount Kimbie
Perth WA
Cracker Night
Rowena NSW
Wyangala Bonfire and Fireworks Spectacular
Wyangala NSW

09 JUN

Foil Arms and Hog
Perth WA
Inhaler
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Gladstone QLD

10 JUN

Supergrass
Sydney NSW
Inhaler
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Rockhampton QLD

11 JUN

Supergrass
Brisbane QLD
Circe's Carnival of Vice (to 22 JUN)

Melbourne VIC

Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Mackay QLD

12 JUN

Foil Arms and Hog
Sydney NSW
NT Irish Festival
Darwin NT
Faulry Towers - The Original Dining Experience
Orange NSW

13 JUN

Bloomfest Joycean Sairée
James Joyce's Feisty Females presented by Prankqueans
Gertrude & Alice, Hall St, Bondi Beach NSW
Jimeoin
Toowoomba QLD
Streams of Whiskey (The Pogues Tribute) at Loch Lamond
Brunswick East VIC
Best of British at the Old Courthouse
Fremantle WA
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Gold Coast QLD

14 JUN

Queensland Irish Association June Member's Lunch
Coorparoo RSL, Coorparoo QLD
Bloomfest Re-enactment of Paddy Dignam's Funeral & Wake at Waverley Cemetery and The Gaelic Club
Sydney NSW
Foil Arms and Hog
Brisbane QLD
The Songs of Elton John and George Michael
Caloundra QLD
Torvill & Dean
Brisbane QLD
Jimeoin
Cairns QLD
Craig Fest at Irish Murphy's
Brisbane QLD
Bloomsday Seminar and Lunch
Melbourne VIC
The Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular (to 15 JUN)
Beauesert QLD
Melbourne Tartan Festival - The Victorian Scottish Dancing Members Association 64th Australian Commonwealth Championships
Malvern East VIC

GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



POMTOWN PERTH

Perth WA

Perth's biggest British party is back, taking over The Camfield with music acts and DJs, proper British bevs, classic British scran and a massive atmosphere in a huge venue.

07 JUN

© www.angloandceltic.com

Society of St Andrew of Scotland
Queensland Battle of Bannockburn
Luncheon
Brisbane QLD

Ballarat Eisteddfod (14 JUN - 30
AUG)

Ballarat VIC
Mylor BonFireworks
Mylor SA
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Maryborough QLD

15 JUN

Torvill & Dean
Brisbane QLD
Darling Downs Irish Club Blooms-
day Reading and Lunch
Toowoomba QLD
Bloomfest Closing Concert
presented by Prankqueans
High Tide Room, Bondi Pavilion
Bondi NSW
The Australian Welsh Male Choir
Mt Martha Concert, Mt Martha
Bowling Club, VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - The
Victorian Scottish Dancing Members
Association workshop with Joy
Tolev (Canada)
Melbourne VIC

16 JUN

Torvill & Dean
Brisbane QLD
Foil Arms and Hog
Melbourne VIC
Bloomsday in Brisbane
Brisbane QLD
Melbourne Tartan Festival - The
Victorian Scottish Dancing Members
Association workshop with Joy
Tolev (Canada)
Melbourne VIC

17 JUN

CASA (Carnish Assoc. of South
Australia) Pasty Tea
Unley SA
Faulty Towers The Dining
Experience
Pelican Point, Bunbury WA

18 JUN

Torvill & Dean
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Taree NSW

19 JUN

Torvill & Dean (2 shows)

Melbourne VIC

The U2 Show Achtung Baby - THE
DESIRE TOUR - U2's Greatest Hits
Redcliffe QLD

20 JUN

Seventh Wonder (Fleetwood Mac
tribute)
Newcastle NSW
Jimeoin
Blue Mountains NSW
Clansmen's Ceilidh
Townsville QLD

Maitland Luminous (& 21 JUN)
Maitland NSW
Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest
Experience (to 27 JUL)
Mount Cotton QLD
Solstice in the Square
George Town TAS
NYX Festival
Ravenshoe, Cairns QLD
Hills Winter Solstice Eve
Mount Barker SA
Hills Winter Solstice Eve
Mount Barker SA

21 JUN

Winter Solstice
Southern Hemisphere
Winter Solstice at the Australian
Standing Stones
Glen Innes NSW
Winter Solstice at Esperance
Stonehenge
Esperance WA
Winter Solstice at The Fox &
Hounds
Wongawallen QLD
Winter Flame
Tanunda SA
ErinEarth Winter Festival
Wagga Wagga NSW
Winter Solstice Fire & Ice Fest
Dubbo NSW
Winter Solstice Festival
Camperdown NSW
Mansfield Lantern Festival
Mansfield VIC
Frost and Fire
Forbes NSW
Winter Solstice Gathering
Boonah QLD
Newbridge Winter Solstice
Gathering
Newbridge NSW
Nude Solstice Swim/Dark Mofo
Hobart TAS
Winter Solstice Celebration at
Baroona Farm

Milton QLD

Torvill & Dean
Sydney NSW
Jimeoin
Blue Mountains NSW
Circe's Carnival of Vice
Melbourne VIC
Ceremony and light show followed
by ceili
St Brigid's, Crossley VIC
British & Irish Lions Tour (to 02
AUG)
Nationwide
Scots in the Park
Townsville QLD
Tartan Spectacular
Toowong QLD
The Highlands Pipes and Drums
Winter Ceilidh
Robertson NSW
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Thirroul NSW

22 JUN

Torvill & Dean (2 shows)
Sydney NSW
Central Cee
Brisbane QLD
PASS THE SHILLELAGH Informal
social afternoon at Claddagh
premises
Morley WA
Townsville Tartan Day
Townsville QLD
Tribe & Dance Winter Solstice
Maleny QLD
Corpus Christi Procession
Brisbane QLD, Sydney NSW,
Melbourne VIC, Hobart TAS
Stories to share luncheon and
community concert
St Brigid's, Crossley VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Wagga Wagga NSW

25 JUN

Palace
Sydney NSW
Central Cee
Sydney NSW
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Canberra ACT

26 JUN

Palace
Brisbane QLD
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Griffith NSW

27 JUN

Torvill & Dean
Perth WA
The Songs of Elton John and
George Michael
Rockhampton QLD
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Albury NSW
Voxneon
Sydney NSW
Darling Downs Irish Club June
Members Night
Toowoomba QLD
An Irish Night in Mandurah at Peel
Thunder Stadium
Mandurah WA
Ceili Mór at Buffalo Club
Fremantle WA
Robert Burns Celtic Festival (to 29
JUN) Camperdown VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival (to
27 JUL)
Melbourne VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Ceilidh
dance
Collingwood VIC

28 JUN

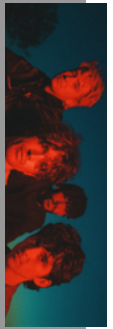
The Songs of Elton John and
George Michael
Mackay QLD
Torvill & Dean
Perth WA
Palace
Melbourne VIC
Central Cee
Melbourne VIC
Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh
Dance
Inglewood WA
Supernova 2025
Perth WA
Burning of the Barrel
Glandore Estate Wines, Pokolbin
NSW
Winter Solstice Festival at Northey
Street Farm
Windsor QLD
British & Irish Lions v Western
Force
Perth WA

29 JUN

Winter Family Ceilidh
Yokine WA
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Kirkin'
o' the Tartan service
Melbourne VIC
Palace
Adelaide SA

INHALER

03 JUN Perth WA
05 JUN Brisbane QLD
06 JUN Sydney NSW
09 JUN Melbourne VIC
10 JUN Melbourne VIC



TORVILL & DEAN

14 JUN Brisbane QLD
15 JUN Brisbane QLD
18 JUN Melbourne VIC
19 JUN Melbourne VIC
21 JUN Sydney NSW
22 JUN Sydney NSW
27 JUN Perth WA
28 JUN Perth WA



SUPERGRASS

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



PALACE

25 JUN Sydney NSW
26 JUN Brisbane QLD
28 JUN Melbourne VIC
29 JUN Adelaide SA
01 JUL Fremantle WA



FOIL ARMS AND HOG

12 JUN Sydney NSW
14 JUN Brisbane QLD
16 JUN Melbourne VIC



GIGS & REELS

UPCOMING TOURS & FESTIVALS



Caber toss at the Junior Celtic Games at the Celtic Nations Standing Stones in Moorlands Park, Brisbane, in May, organised by Celtic Council of Australia – Queensland. Picture: Anglo&Celtic

JULY

Tours:

Jimeoin
Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis
Absolute Bowie
10cc
Herman's Hermits
EMF
Antarctic Monkeys
James May
Palace
Central Cee
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Aslan

Festivals:

Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair NSW
Aberdeen Highland Games NSW
Medieval Festival at The Abbey QLD
Mackay Bluewater Fling QLD
International Tartan Day
British & Irish Lions Tour
Melbourne Tartan Festival
Sandstone Point Bonfire Night
Irish Music Festival NT
Medieval Festival at The Abbey QLD
Bastille Festival NSW
Killarney Bonfire Night QLD

Christmas in July
Darwin Viking Funeral NT
Gold Coast Eisteddfod

AUGUST

Tours:

10cc
The Mersey Beatles
Antarctic Monkeys
Herman's Hermits
James May
Bloc Party
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Shamrock Tenors

Festivals:

Newcastle Medieval Festival NSW
Tasmanian Whisky Week 2025
British & Irish Lions Tour
Gold Coast Eisteddfod
Albury-Wodonga Eisteddfod
Canberra Eisteddfod
Balingup Medieval Carnivale

SEPTEMBER

Tours:

Herman's Hermits
The Wombats
The High Kings
Smokie
The Mary Wallopers
The Wombats
Shamrock Tenors
Air Supply

Festivals:

Belfast International Tattoo
Australian Highland Dancing Festival NSW
Mary Poppins Festival QLD
Folk by the Sea NSW
Gold Coast Eisteddfod

OCTOBER

Tours:

Smokie
Rob Beckett
James Blunt
Oasis
The Wombats
Midge Ure
Ryan Adams
Shamrock Tenors
Tom Grennan

Big Country
John Edward

Festivals:

CelticFest Warwick
Halloween
Convict Culture Week NSW

NOVEMBER

Tours:

Smokie
Rob Beckett
James Blunt
Oasis
Cliff Richard
David Gray
Alan Davies
Midge Ure
Franz Ferdinand
Jarlath Regan
Steven Wilson
John Edward

Festivals:

CelticFest Warwick
St Andrew's Day



Franz Ferdinand announce their awaited return to Aus

Scottish rock band Franz Ferdinand are coming back to Australia this November and December, in support of their sixth studio album *The Human Fear*.

Last touring here in 2018, the multi-platinum selling band will bring their revered live show to Perth's Red Hill Auditorium, Brisbane's Riverstage, and Anita's Theatre in Thirroul.

The band will also play *Live At The Gardens*, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and *On The Steps* at Sydney Opera House Forecourt. They will be supported on all shows by local special guests Teenage Dads and Delivery, except for Thirroul which will feature support from Delivery only.

Released in January to widespread acclaim, *The Human Fear* showcases Franz Ferdinand at their most immediate, upbeat and

life-affirming. Produced with Mark Ralph, who previously worked with them on their 2013 album *Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action*, the new album is unashamedly going for the pop-jugular in classic Franz style, as displayed with singles *Night Or Day*, *Audacious* and *Bar Lonely*.

Ever since their beginnings, throwing illegal parties in condemned Glasgow buildings, Franz Ferdinand have been defined by a fresh, unfading, forward-facing outlook, a transgressive art-school perspective, but with a love of a big song, and *The Human Fear* undoubtedly continues in this tradition. This is the first studio album to feature members Audrey Tait and Dino Bardot, and sees Julian Corrie step forward to collaborate with Alex Kapranos and Bob Hardy on song-writing and creative

duties. Recorded at AYR studios in Scotland, the 11 songs on *The Human Fear* all allude to some deep-set human fears and how overcoming and accepting these fears drives and defines our lives.

Franz Ferdinand signed with Domino in 2003 and soon after released their second single *Take Me Out*, catapulting them onto the international stage and landing the number one spot in the triple j *Hottest 100* (2004). Now, more than two decades into their career, their music continues to resonate worldwide. Both commercially and critically acclaimed, Franz Ferdinand have become one of the UK's most successful bands, with more than 10 million albums sold, 2.5 billion streams, 14 platinum certifications, and a string of prestigious accolades including Brit, Ivor Novello, and Mercury Prize awards, along with

TOUR DATES

26 NOV Perth WA
28 NOV Melbourne VIC
29 NOV Brisbane QLD
02 DEC Thirroul NSW
03 DEC Sydney NSW

multiple Grammy nominations and two ARIA top 10 albums. They've sold more than six million tickets globally, known for their electrifying live shows, and have headlined major festivals including Reading, Leeds, Primavera, Big Day Out, Splendour In The Grass and Falls Festival. In 2022, they released *Hits to the Head*, a greatest hits compilation that serves as a powerful reminder of the global appeal and enduring popularity of their music.

Tickets via frontiertouring.com/franzferdinand.

Think Ahead and buy tix for lols with Alan Davies



Critically acclaimed stand-up comedian, actor, writer, and TV personality, Alan Davies returns to Australia in November and December, unveiling his new show, *Think Ahead*. It marks his first visit to Australia in a decade – notwithstanding a guest star role on *Have You Been Paying Attention* last year.

Alan Davies thinks he's Marty McFly but he's older than Doc Brown. He spends more time in the pharmacy than the gym. Subject to relentless eye rolls from his kids. What is he? A late middle-aged stand up on tour for the first time in a decade. Funnier than ever, he says.

Davies is a staple of British television, known for his performance as the eponymous hero of David Renwick's hugely popular, long-running TV series *Jonathan Creek*, and as a permanent panellist on *QI*. His talk show, *Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled*, recently reached its seventh

TOUR DATES

25 NOV Perth WA
 27 NOV Adelaide SA
 28 NOV Narre Warren VIC
 29 NOV Melbourne VIC
 01 DEC Hobart TAS
 02 DEC Newcastle NSW
 03 DEC Toowoomba QLD
 05 DEC Caloundra QLD
 06 DEC Brisbane QLD
 08 DEC Canberra ACT
 10 DEC Thirroul NSW
 13 DEC Sydney NSW

season. He is also one of the UK's best-loved comedians. His stand-up show *Urban Trauma* ran in London's West End and *Life is Pain and Little Victories* sold out in venues across Australia and the UK. His second memoir, *Just Ignore Him*, was published in 2020 and the third instalment will be published later this year.

Tickets from [Live Nation](#).

Loyle Carner's cooking up something soulful

English hip-hop artist Loyle Carner is heading back to Australia in December, bringing his ground-breaking hopefully! tour to four cities nationwide. The tour supports his fourth studio album, *hopefully!*, which drops on June 20 and showcases a new chapter in Carner's ever-evolving artistry.

Marking a decade in the game, Carner's latest work is a vibrant exploration of fatherhood, childhood and personal growth, shaped by his experiences as a parent and his efforts to set healthy boundaries. Stepping into new creative territory, he sings, produces, and performs with a band for the first time – with his young son even making appearances



throughout the record. It's an album full of warmth, introspection and emotional depth, and fans can expect a show to match.

Known for his deeply personal lyrics, genre-bending

sound, and powerful live performances, Carner has been twice short-listed for the Mercury Prize and has sold out iconic venues like London's Royal Albert Hall and Wembley Arena.

TOUR DATES

02 DEC Brisbane QLD
 04 DEC Sydney NSW
 06 DEC Melbourne VIC
 09 DEC Perth WA

He's also an advocate for neurodiversity – openly discussing his experiences with ADHD and dyslexia – and founded the Chilli Con Carner cookery school for young people with similar challenges. In 2023, he received an honorary doctorate from University of the Arts London for his contributions to culture and community.

Now, Australian fans will get to witness this new era live, tickets from [Live Nation](#).

Big Country bringing greatest hits on tour

Big Country, the legendary Scottish Celtic rock band, return for the first time since 2019 for The Greatest Hits Tour. The set-list will include In A Big Country, Chance, Fields of Fire, Look Away, Wonderland plus much more!

Featuring the band's de facto theme song – In a Big Country, their debut album, The Crossing, combined anthemic post-punk with folk-inspired guitar sounds to become the leading representative of 80's Celtic rock. It was a surprisingly influential mix that would inspire an entirely new wave of British rock artists who openly embraced their Celtic heritage. Big Country achieved major

TOUR DATES

09 OCT Brisbane QLD
10 OCT Sydney NSW
11 OCT Melbourne VIC
15 OCT Adelaide SA
17 OCT Perth WA

international success plus two Grammy nominations, and, for a time, rivalled fellow "big sounding" Irish and Scottish guitar rock acts U2 and Simple Minds.

Big guitars, big drums, big checks on their shirts, Big Country were well named!

Tickets from [Metropolis Touring](#).



Indie rockers The Lathums go from Wigan to Oz

British indie-rock band from Wigan, Greater Manchester, The Lathums are bringing their Wigan of Oz Tour down under in October.

Honesty, hope and heartbreak feature in the poetry-laced music of The Lathums. Everything sung from the heart, four young men from an overlooked town in England's north gathered as teenagers without ego or expectation and set about changing the lives of the people that gathered around them.

Under no influence yet emerging into long shadows cast by comparisons to The Smiths and Arctic Monkeys, The Lathums lit up the world with two consecutive UK No.1 albums – How Beautiful Life Can Be (2021) and From Nothing To A Little Bit More (2023) with the band releasing their third studio album Matter Does Not Define earlier this year, debuting at No.3 on The Official UK



Albums Chart.

Matter Does Not Define was written by the band, comprised of Alex Moore (vocals and rhythm guitar), Scott Concepcion (guitars, piano and vocals) Ryan 'Duz' Durrans (drums) and Matty Murphy (bass and vocals), in their native Wigan before recording at Kempston Street Studios, Liverpool. They completed their new masterpiece of equally introspective and pulse-quickening indie in the

company of both good friend and old college tutor John Kettle and producer Chris Taylor.

The Lathums catalogue of hits include Heartbreaker, Long Shadows, Reflections Of Lessons Left, Stellar Cast, No Direction, Fight On, The Great Escape, All My Life, Up The Junction, Sad Face Baby, Say My Name and Struggle.

On the live front, The Lathums have toured with The

TOUR DATES

08 OCT Fremantle WA
10 OCT Brisbane QLD
11 OCT Sydney NSW
12 OCT Melbourne VIC

Killers, Louis Tomlinson and played a whole run of festivals including SXSW, Glastonbury, Leeds and Reading, and Neighbourhood Weekender, and have had support from the likes of Brandon Flowers, Matt Helders, Miles Kane, Blossoms and more. The Lathums have proved themselves to be a band for all times and all people.

Propelled by the power in their songs and the sense of community fostered amongst loyal fans, see what all the fuss is about when The Lathums perform live in Australia for the very first time this October!

Tickets from [Frontier Touring](#).

Oh lairdy! Meet Sam Heughan of Outlander

TOUR DATES

21 & 22 JUN Sydney NSW
28 & 29 JUN Perth WA

Outlander fans, get ready – Scottish heartthrob Sam Heughan is heading to Australia this month, and he's bringing more than just his signature charm. As part of the popular Supanova Comic Con & Gaming pop culture convention, Heughan will appear at two major events in Sydney and Perth for a specially themed experience called *Kilted & Distilled: An Outlandish Adventure in Oz*.

Supanova, Australia's biggest celebration of pop culture, is famous for attracting celebrity guests from film and TV. This year, Outlander fans will have the chance to meet Heughan in person – the actor best known for playing the dashing Jamie Fraser in the long-running time-travel drama series based on the books by Diana Gabaldon.

Heughan will appear in Sydney on June 21 and 22 and in Perth on June 28 and 29. For superfans looking for



a VIP experience, the Lallybroch Pass offers something truly special. Ticket holders will enjoy exclusive access to Supanova across the weekend, but the real magic happens behind the scenes. They'll take part in a private meet-and-greet with Heughan, snap selfies with him using their own phones, and attend a whisky tasting where the actor himself will serve drinks from his award-winning

Sassenach Spirits collection.

The experience doesn't stop there. Fans will also get front-row seating at Heughan's solo Q&A panel, a professional photo-op, an autograph (with the option of a personalised quote), and access to Outlander group photo sessions. Co-stars David Berry (Lord John Grey) and Richard Rankin (Roger Wakefield MacKenzie) will also be at Supanova, with

special sessions and panels of their own – and Lallybroch Pass holders get priority access to those too.

Kilted & Distilled is shaping up to be one of the most unforgettable fan experiences of 2025.

Strictly limited tickets are on sale now via Ticketbooth.

Sydney: supa.fans/SYD-25Lallybroch;

Perth: supa.fans/PER-25Lallybroch.

Dusty The Musical brings icon to life on stage



Dusty The Musical – In Concert is the celebration and retelling of the extraordinary life and music of British icon, Dusty Springfield, one of pop music's greatest female stars, whose riveting journey was full of highs, lows, triumph and tragedy.

In the 1960s, Dusty took the world by storm with her revolutionary sensual soul singing, and for more than 60 years, her music has reached out across generations with a score of hits, including *I Only Want To Be*

With You, Wishin' and Hopin', The Look of Love, You Don't Have to Say You Love Me, I Just Don't Know What to Do With Myself and Son of a Preacher Man.

Dusty The Musical received rave reviews for both its Australian National Tour in 2006, and again with Melbourne's Production Company in 2016, with the story of the introverted Londoner, Mary O'Brien, who defies the odds to transform herself to become a legend, synonymous with the 60's era.

DATES & DEETS

05 - 08 JUN
Brisbane QLD
TICKETS

The sensational Amy Leh-pamer reprises her performance as Dusty Springfield; and this semi-staged reimagining will be directed by the esteemed Jason Langley from Sydney, alongside Melbourne choreographer Michael Ralph.

Wander into the Wizarding World in Enchanted Forest

A spellbinding new experience has arrived in Brisbane — and it's straight from the pages of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts. Deep within a secret outdoor location, the Forbidden Forest Experience invites fans of all ages to explore a magical woodland trail filled with wonder, creatures and enchantment.

This unique night-time walk-through transports visitors into the heart of the wizarding world. As the sun sets, the forest comes alive with interactive sets, dazzling lights, and soundscapes straight from the films. Whether you're dodging mischievous Nifflers or coming face-to-face with a Hippogriff, each turn of the trail offers a new moment of movie magic.

Expect familiar sights and spell-casting opportunities throughout the journey. Wand in hand, visitors can test their duelling skills or try



summoning a Patronus as they delve deeper into the immersive experience. The forest is brought to life with

lifelike creatures, including centaurs, unicorns and Aragog's spider clan — so best to keep your wits about you!

DATES & DEETS

20 JUN - 27 JUL
Mount Cotton QLD
hpforbiddenforestexperience.com

Located just outside Brisbane, the Forbidden Forest Experience is designed for all ages, with timed entry slots after dark. A themed village at the end of the trail serves up hot food, Butterbeer, and magical merchandise so the adventure doesn't end too quickly.

Created by Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment and Fever, this global hit has already mesmerised fans in the UK and US. Now it's Brisbane's turn.

For further information and tickets, go to <https://hpforbiddenforestexperience.com/Brisbane/>

British Council supports RISING Melbourne

RISING Melbourne has announced its 2025 program, featuring 65 events, 327 artists, 15 new commissions, and nine world premières. The festival, running from June 4 - 15, celebrates new art, performance, and music, transforming Melbourne into a vibrant hub of creativity and cultural exchange.

BLKDOG by Botis Seva will premiere from June 4 to 7. This Olivier Award-winning hip-hop dance production, supported by The British Council, delves into the struggles of youth through raw, autobiographical choreography. Seva's visionary work, accompanied by Torben Lars' powerful score, features seven dancers in a gripping, hallucinatory performance. The production's exploration of identity and mental health promises to be both



thought-provoking and visually stunning. Don't miss this exclusive Australian debut at The Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne.

Another highlight is The

ACT from June 11 to 14, supported by The British Council's Connections Through Culture programme. This innovative performance piece challenges traditional

DATES & DEETS

04 - 15 JUN
Melbourne VIC
2025.rising.melbourne

theatre norms, blending immersive storytelling with interactive elements. It is a collaboration between Amrita Hepi, a Bunjalung Ngapuhi artist and one of Naarm/Melbourne's pre-eminent voices in contemporary dance, and Tilly Lawless, a writer and sex worker who shares sharp and heartfelt insights into queer romance and the stigma faced by sex workers. Audiences will experience a unique narrative journey that explores themes of rebellion and societal change.

[Tickets](#) are on sale now! Don't miss out.

Irish legends Aslan return for Aus tour

After over 40 years together, Aslan suffered the sad loss of their front man, Christy. Joe, Alan and Billy decided to continue their journey to keep their band, songs and music alive, welcoming Lee Tomkins as their new frontman.

In 2024, the band were asked by Chris Martin of Coldplay to perform Aslan's hit song Crazy World on stage with Coldplay for two nights in Ireland's largest stadium, Croke Park, to 82,300 people!

Aslan began their new journey in March 2024 playing venues throughout Ireland in Cork, Wexford, Waterford, Galway, Limerick and two sold-out nights at iconic venue Whelans in Dublin. Their journey continued, taking them on tour in Australia and the UK.

They will be performing their first outdoor summer headline gig at West Lawn, Malahide Castle, Dublin, this May.

They released their latest



single, Hear Your Call, in March.

They are due to release their second new single before returning to Australia in July this year, to perform in Perth, Darwin, Sydney and Melbourne.

They will be headlining the NT Irish Festival on Saturday, 12 July at Darwin Ski Club.

Don't miss out on what promises to be a day bursting with music and laughter.

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

TOUR DATES

11 JUL Perth WA
12 JUL Darwin NT
18 JUL Sydney NSW
20 JUL Melbourne VIC

Darwin pumps up the craic for an Irish party

Get ready to celebrate the vibrant culture of Ireland in Darwin in an epic day that's sure to be a good craic.

The NT Irish Association, SRO Events & The Darwin Ski Club have announced the third annual NT Irish Music Festival, happening on Saturday, 12 July at Darwin Ski Club.

Experience an incredible music line-up, headlined by Aslan. And that's just the beginning!

Feel the energy of Irish dancing, performed by talented local dance schools.

They've got a tonne of activities to keep the little

DATES & DEETS

12 JUL
Darwin NT
[TICKETS](#)

ones entertained! And then there's the food – indulge in traditional Irish favourites, paired perfectly with icy-cold schooners of Magners and Guinness.

What started as a one-day celebration has grown into a must attend event of the dry season, bringing non-stop craic, live music, and all the Irish spirit you can handle.



Sam Fender's anthemic return down under

Returning to Australia this November after his sold-out, career-defining headline shows in 2022 and 2023, Sam Fender is back – bigger, bolder, and riding the momentum of a stratospheric year.

Fresh off the global success of his third studio album *People Watching*, which debuted at number 1 in the UK – the fastest-selling UK album of the year so far – Sam has cemented his place as one of the most compelling voices in modern rock. The album, which landed him his third BRIT Award for Best Rock/Alternative Act, was also named triple j's Feature Album, further solidifying his

TOUR DATES

14 NOV Melbourne VIC
19 NOV Brisbane QLD
21 NOV Sydney NSW
25 NOV Adelaide SA
28 NOV Perth WA

cross-continental impact.

Sam is from North Shields, near Newcastle, England. He found his passion for music in his teens and began releasing singles independently in 2017. Fender's style blends British rock with influences from classic American music, distinctive high tenor vocals and Geordie accent.

Tickets from [Secret Sounds](#).



Queen show celebrates Bohemian Rhapsody

After huge success and overwhelming popular demand, *Queen: It's a Kinda Magic* is returning to Australia, playing at 34 venues across the nation from this June to August, including a 'one night only' stop at Townsville Entertainment & Convention Centre on Friday, 6 June.

This tour is a special one as the team will be celebrating 50 years since the release of Queen's innovative and ground-breaking song *Bohemian Rhapsody*. After releasing the song, the band received mixed reviews due to its unconventional structure, absence of a repeating chorus, and division into multiple distinct sections. Now, critics say that *Bohemian Rhapsody* is one of the greatest songs of all time.

In 2004, Queen's iconic song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame and in 2018, *Bohemian Rhapsody* was announced as the most streamed song of the 20th century, surpassing Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit* and



Guns N' Roses' *Sweet Child o' Mine*.

In *Queen: It's a Kinda Magic*, classically-trained artist Warren Vernon-Driscoll will once again reprise his role as the incomparable Freddie Mercury, singing and performing on both piano and guitar live on stage as well as singing the hits audiences know and love.

"It's one thing to create these musical masterpieces, but a whole other thing to then be able to go and perform them in the unique, spectacular way that he did. He is a very hard artist to replicate but it's an honour to try!" said Vernon-Driscoll.

Queen: It's a Kinda Magic promises the full rock concert experience, bringing audio,

TOUR DATES

06 JUN Townsville QLD
07 JUN Cairns QLD
09 JUN Gladstone QLD
10 JUN Rockhampton QLD
11 JUN Mackay QLD
13 JUN Gold Coast QLD
14 JUN Maryborough QLD
18 JUN Taree NSW
21 JUN Thirroul NSW
24 JUN Wagga Wagga NSW
25 JUN Canberra ACT
26 JUN Griffith NSW
27 JUN Albury NSW

lighting and FX all specifically designed to be bigger, better and even louder than last time!

Tickets are now available for the Townsville show, but seats are selling extremely fast so be sure to get in quick!

For tickets and details of more tour dates in July and August in SA, WA, VIC and TAS, visit www.queenitsakindamagic.com.



Picture: shamrocktenors.com

Belfast tenors to sham-rock in Oz

Direct from London's West End, Shamrock Tenors are Ireland's most exciting new music sensation. They've been creating a huge buzz in the UK and Ireland, and now they're coming to Australia.

Jack, Jamie, Tom, Matthew and Raymond shared on social media: "AUSTRALIA! You've waited long enough. We're finally coming down under, including the Sydney Opera House!"

Featuring performers from both sides of the community across Ulster, with vocalists from London's West End along with the country's best multi-instrumentalists, their show takes you on a journey through Ireland's most beloved classic songs, sung in beautiful five-part harmony. With all your favourites, including Danny Boy, Whiskey in the Jar, The Parting Glass, and Wild Rover, this is a show for all ages, performed with that cheeky Irish charm!

2024 saw the Shamrock Tenors headline their first ever Northern Ireland tour. Starting with a sold-out show



at the Grand Opera House in Belfast, they continued to sell out the entire tour months in advance.

They also headlined the BBC's 2024 St Patrick's Day coverage across the UK and Ireland, with the launch of their debut concert special on BBC, to coincide with the announcement of their debut West End show at the Adelphi Theatre in London.

Their first two singles have shot straight to number 1 on the iTunes World Music Charts, while their performances online have received

more than 30 million views. They've travelled to more than 30 countries as a group, including Irish festivals in the USA and sold-out shows in iconic venues such as the Ulster Hall in Belfast, and Birmingham Symphony Hall, England, and have sang to more than 20,000 people in Trafalgar Square, London.

So grab a drink, sit back and get ready to be transported to the Emerald Isle. Irish music as you have never heard it before!

Tickets from www.shamrocktenors.com.

TOUR DATES

- 17 AUG Darwin NT
- 21 AUG Port Macquarie NSW
- 23 AUG Noosa QLD
- 24 AUG Toowoomba QLD
- 26 AUG Cairns QLD
- 27 AUG Ayr QLD
- 29 AUG Gold Coast QLD
- 31 AUG Wangaratta VIC
- 02 SEP Bairnsdale VIC
- 03 SEP Sale VIC
- 04 SEP Warrnambool VIC
- 05 SEP Swan Hill VIC
- 06 SEP Brunswick VIC
- 07 SEP Geelong VIC
- 08 SEP Sydney NSW
- 09 SEP Wyong NSW
- 10 SEP Moonee Ponds VIC
- 11 SEP Coffs Harbour NSW
- 12 SEP Tamworth NSW
- 13 SEP Western Sydney NSW
- 14 SEP Newcastle NSW
- 16 SEP Sutherland NSW
- 17 SEP Bateman's Bay NSW
- 19 SEP Nowra NSW
- 21 SEP Melbourne VIC
- 23 SEP Nunawading VIC
- 25 SEP Devonport TAS
- 27 SEP Launceston TAS
- 28 SEP Hobart TAS
- 30 SEP Caloundra QLD
- 01 OCT Brisbane QLD
- 04 OCT Bunbury WA
- 05 OCT Albany WA
- 06 OCT Perth WA
- 09 OCT Warragul VIC
- 11 OCT Bendigo VIC
- 12 OCT Adelaide SA

The King goes full kilt in the Whitsundays

Dust off your blue suede flip-flops and start working on your best “Thank ya very much,” because the Scottish Elvis Festival Down Under is shimmying its way to paradise in 2026.

From July 20 to 24 next year, the tropical haven of Daydream Island in the Whitsundays will be alive with the sound of hip-swivelling, sequin-flashing Elvis impersonators and their equally enthusiastic Aussie fans.

The star of the show? None other than Johnny Lee Memphis, Scotland’s own award-winning Elvis tribute artist and one of the best in the business.

He’ll be joined by a crew of crooning kings from around the world, all gathering for five unforgettable days of music, mayhem, and more rhinestones than you can shake a kilt at.

Enjoy some of the world’s best Elvis Tribute artists

DATES & DEETS

20 - 26 JUL 2026
Daydream Island QLD
www.sefdownunder.com

daily, and attend after-party entertainment nightly while being hosted by kilt-wearing, bagpipe-playing Scotsman in paradise.

Organisers shared on [Facebook](#): “The Scottish Elvis Festival Downunder on stunning Daydream Island is a once-in-a-lifetime experience... but we need YOU to make it happen!

“We have until 25 June 2025 to reach our ticket goal – or it’s curtains for the King in paradise. Don’t miss your chance to be part of something truly unforgettable.”

Book early if you want to be All Shook Up in the sunshine. Visit sefdownunder.com for tickets.



Johnny Lee Memphis. Picture: www.sefdownunder.com

Irish folk trio ambling back to Australia

TOUR DATES

11 FEB Fremantle WA
13 FEB Brisbane QLD
14 FEB Sydney NSW
19 FEB Melbourne VIC

Instruments in hand, three friends gather in a circle and sing the kinds of stories typically reserved for classic literature.

They not only channel the power of the bond between them, but they also tap into the serenity of the landscape around them.

Irish trio Amble harness a rare magic threaded into the fabric of their novelistic folk. Originally hailing from the



west of Ireland, the group – Robbie Cunningham (lead vocals/guitar), Ross McNerney (mandolin/bouzouki), and Oisín McCaffrey (vocals/guitar) – have unassumingly gone from quitting their day

jobs in rural Ireland to the doorstep of an international breakthrough buoyed by over 100 million streams and sold-out shows around the world.

Their relatability, intimate

storytelling, and authenticity marry seamlessly with no-frills acoustic instrumentation, calm-inducing soundscapes, and heavenly natural harmonies.

Tickets at [Live Nation](http://LiveNation).

Litha celebrates Celtic midsummer solstice

Each year, around June 20 to 21, the ancient Celtic festival of Litha, or Midsummer, returns with the turning of the wheel of the year. Celebrating the summer solstice, it marks the longest day and shortest night, a moment when the sun reaches its zenith in the sky. For the Celts, this was not just a meteorological event but a spiritually charged turning point, symbolising abundance, fertility, and the raw power of the sun.

Traditionally, Litha was observed with large bonfires, said to strengthen the sun and drive away evil spirits. Communities gathered on hilltops and sacred places, dancing around the flames, leaping through fire for luck and purification, and weaving flowers and herbs into garlands. Oak was the sacred tree of Midsummer, and people believed that herbs gathered during the solstice held especially potent healing powers.

In Ireland, ancient ring forts and hilltops – like the Grianán of Aileach in County Donegal – remain focal points for solstice gatherings. In the UK, Stonehenge draws modern pagans, druids, and curious visitors alike to witness the magical moment when the sun rises precisely over the Heel Stone, aligning with the ancient stones.

While Christianity later overlaid the festival with feasts like St John's Day, echoes of the older solstice traditions remain in folk customs, such as torch-lit parades, flower crowns, and the emphasis on light triumphing over darkness.

Today, Litha is embraced by modern pagans, druids, Wiccans, and Celtic heritage enthusiasts. Whether through spiritual ritual, music, feasting, or simply watching the



Three female druids on the morning of the summer solstice at Stonehenge after sunrise. They wear brown and green robes in sympathy with Mother Earth and carry wooden staffs. Their headdresses contain tree leaves (poplar and beech), ferns and honeysuckle. Picture: Andrew Dunn, [Wikimedia Commons](#)



Le Feu de la Fête de la Saint-Jean (the fire of the festival of St John), at Moulin Vert in Quimper, Brittany, France. Picture: Mouh2ijel, [Wikimedia Commons](#)

sun rise from a sacred hill, the customs surrounding Litha connect today's celebrants to ancient rhythms and the natural world's cycles—reminding us of the enduring human awe at the height of summer's power.

St John's Day, celebrated on June 24, is a Christian

feast day honouring St John the Baptist – but many of its traditions predate Christianity and are rooted in pagan midsummer festivals across Europe. When the Church established the feast, it aligned with the summer solstice, absorbing existing fire and fertility rituals, especially in

Celtic, Nordic, and Slavic cultures.

In Ireland, St John's Eve (June 23) was marked with "Bonfire Night", especially in the west. The tradition continues in Cork City. Families and communities lit huge fires on hilltops to protect crops and livestock, a custom rooted in older solstice traditions. People jumped over the flames for luck, scattered ashes over fields for fertility, and carried embers home to bless the hearth.

In Scotland, midsummer bonfires were also lit in earlier times, particularly in the Highlands, where customs merged with older Druidic fire festivals. Though largely faded today, some folk groups and neo-pagan circles honour the date with revived rituals.

In Brittany, le Feu de la Saint-Jean (St John's Fire) featured dancing, feasting, and torch-lit processions. Bonfires were lit at crossroads and near chapels. Some communities still maintain the custom in modified forms.

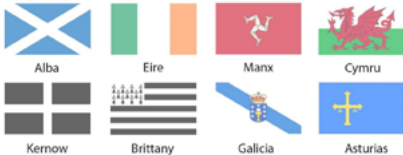


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- contribute to Celtic Culture in Queensland
- keep up to date with Celtic music, dance, art and language events around the state
- make new connections in the Celtic community
- wear your family tartan or traditional Celtic clothes!



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Australia

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Whithersoever you throw it, it will stand

Established 1914



The Queensland Manx Society Inc would like to invite you to celebrate Tynwald Day with a luncheon to be held

at the Arana Leagues Club

247 Dawson Parade,

Keperra 4054

On Saturday 5th July

Commencing at 11am for a 12pm lunch.

Menu

Chermoula Grilled Chicken Breast

Oven Baked Barramundi with Capers and Lemon Cream

And

Assorted Desserts

Should you have any special dietary needs please email Jan Blackburn

Janqms@outlook.com

Cost

\$45 per person

Please **RSVP no later than Friday 20th June** and make your payment via Bank Transfer at

QMS Inc. **Westpac BSB: 034-080 Account: 18-3032 (please use your surname as reference).**

We look forward to seeing you all again and enjoying a lovely catch up.

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Email for postal address.

Email: editor@angloandceltic.com

Website: www.angloandceltic.com

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

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Queensland Irish Association

June Members' Lunch



Members and friends
are invited to join us on

Saturday, June 14th
from 12pm at

Coorparoo RSL,
45 Holdsworth Street, Coorparoo.

Food and drinks available to purchase
QIA will provide a complimentary standard drink!

Guinness available

RSVP to Mavis Williams on 3849 8271