

ANGLO CELTIC

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Issue 25

July 2025



Watch out Wallabies

British & Irish Lions rugby squad make roaring start to tour



Celtic Winter Concert

**Queensland Irish Choir presents
an afternoon of Celtic music and song**

Saturday 26 July 2025

2.00pm

Hills Church Auditorium

79 Queens Road, Everton Hills

Doors Open 1.30 pm

Tickets: <https://www.qldirishchoir.org/events>

\$25 Adults \$10 under 15 years

At the Door – if not previously sold out



**Enquiries
0493 455 487**



**Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme**

As a Member of the Irish Diaspora
Department of Foreign Affairs



WELCOME

by editor Mary Allen, editor@angloandceltic.com



On June 7, a ceremonial parade was held at Government House, New South Wales, to honour the King's Official Birthday. Among the participants were Scots Old Boys Pipes and Drums, ADF Cadets, NSW Police Band, and the NSW Police Mounted Unit. Picture: www.facebook.com/ScotsAlumni

Here's to two years of stories

July 2025 is the second anniversary edition of Anglo&Celtic magazine. That's two whole years of stories highlighting the amazing culture of the English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Celtic people here in Australia.

The magazine is a labour of love, made entirely by just myself and my daughter Isla.

We have featured thousands of stories over the past two years and spread the word about community events, on social media, our website and in the magazine. We often run ads free of charge to help good causes and low-budget events.

Our website is particularly popular, with hundreds of subscribers. They get an email each time we publish a new story online.

Our social media presence is concentrated on Facebook, where we have a popular

[Anglo&Celtic Events](#) group where anyone can share their events.

We have always wanted to remain independent. We don't get grants and have solely relied on advertising to cover costs.

Going forward, because of the challenges we face selling advertising in a difficult economic environment, we have decided to change our format. From now on we will publish stories just on our website, rather than making a magazine as well. You can continue to read the entertainment news on our website, www.angloandceltic.com, and on our social media feeds.

Thank you to our wonderful community for all the positive feedback, encouragement, support and invitations to events!

All the best, Mary

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS:

- 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
- Queensland Irish Association
- Irish Club of WA
- Queensland Irish Choir
- Celtic Council of Australia Qld
- Australian Historical Dance
- Clans on the Coast
- The Hayland Gathering
- British Sweets & Treats
- Bundanoon Highland Gathering
- The Scotsman Graeme McColgan
- The Ireland Funds Australia
- Ireland Calling Radio 2RDJ Sydney
- The Irish Program on 4EB Brisbane
- Cultural Pulse
- Irish & Celtic Music Festival Yass
- The Russell Hobbs British Film Festival, Australia
- Troubadour Presents
- Maric Media
- Showtime Australia
- The Australian Standing Stones National Celtic Monument

Proud media sponsor of



Clans on the Coast 2024

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The Hayland Gathering 2024

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Clans on the Coast 2023



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We are on X as
[@Anglo&Celtic](https://twitter.com/Anglo&Celtic)



Visit our sister title at
www.irishqueenslander.com

Irish pub to host Lions street party

DATES & DEETS

18 & 19 JUL
Fortitude Valley QLD
www.finnmccools.com.au

Get your jerseys on and your vocal cords ready, because Lions pride is taking over Fortitude Valley in Brisbane this July in a celebration worthy of a try-line dive.

Finn McCool's, Brisbane's beloved Irish bar, is going all out on 18 and 19 July, transforming Brunswick Street Mall into a red-hot rugby fan zone to welcome the British & Irish Lions with two massive days of live music, big screens, and serious craic.

This is no ordinary pub party – it's a Brisbane-sized send-off for one of the most iconic rugby tours in the world. There will be live sets from The Gathering and



The Gathering will play at Finn McCool's British & Irish Lions Mall Takeover. Picture: facebook.com/Finnmccoolsfortitudevalley

Tartan Shamrock playing across two stages, pop-up bars pouring favourite brews to keep fans fuelled, and a giant outdoor screen ensuring revellers won't miss a minute of the action.

Whether fans are donning red for the Lions or green and gold for the Wallabies, this is a chance to soak up the tour buzz, sing loud, cheer louder, and make a few new mates in the process.

Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley is promising a week-end full of energy, music, pints, and fan spirit. A sea of rugby revellers will turn the Valley into a mini Dublin for two days of mayhem.

Wallabies' skills coach to join Ireland Funds' Brisbane lunch



Guests at an Ireland Funds Australia lunch in Hillstone St Lucia, Brisbane. Picture: facebook.com/IrelandFundsAustralia

The Ireland Funds Australia are looking forward to their upcoming Brisbane Supporters' Lunch on 18 July, in celebration of the British & Irish Lions Rugby Tour.

Irishman Eoin Toolan, Head of Analysis & Skills Coach with the Australian Wallabies, will be joining them, with more special guests to be announced.

They also have Catherine Murphy, ABC sports journalist and presenter, as emcee.

A spokesperson shared: "Please join us once again at the beautiful Hillstone St Lucia for an afternoon filled with new and old friends,

DATES & DEETS

18 JUL
St Lucia QLD
www.irelandfunds.org

great entertainment, a delicious three-course luncheon, beverages and, of course, Irish coffees!

"Let's have some fun whilst giving back!"

The lunch takes place on Friday, 18 July from 12.30pm to 4.30pm at Hillstone St Lucia Golf Links, Carawa Street, St Lucia, QLD. To book your tickets, [click here](#).

Lions begin tour with eight-try win in Perth



Welshman Jac Morgan arrives for his maiden British & Irish Lions Tour at Perth Airport, where fans came out in force to welcome the team to Australia. Picture: [facebook.com/BritishandIrishLions](https://www.facebook.com/BritishandIrishLions)

TOUR DATES

02 JUL Lions v Queensland Reds
Brisbane QLD
05 JUL Lions v NSW Waratahs
Sydney NSW
09 JUL Lions v ACT Brumbies
Canberra ACT
12 JUL Lions v Invitational Australia
& New Zealand
Adelaide SA
19 JUL Lions v Wallabies
Brisbane QLD
22 JUL Lions v First Nations &
Pasifika XV
Melbourne VIC
26 JUL Lions v Wallabies
Melbourne VIC
02 AUG Lions v Wallabies
Sydney NSW

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

The British & Irish Lions rugby union team have touched down in Australia for the first time in 12 years, with games taking place until 2 August. The tour began in Perth, where the Lions scored a comfortable eight-try 54-7 victory over the Western Force on 28 June.

Maro Itoje is skipper to the 38-man squad in his third Tour. The squad features 26 first time tourists, while nine

players are participating in their second Lions Tour. Tadhg Furlong and Elliot Daly were selected for a third Lions Tour.

Lions Head Coach Andy Farrell said: "I am very excited about working with this group and believe they have the capacity to achieve something special and add to the Lions legacy."

England captain Itoje was the youngest player on the

2017 tour of New Zealand. He has featured in all six of The Lions' last Test matches before the tour and was voted as the Lions' Player of the Series in South Africa, 2021.

The 2025 Lions Tour Captain Itoje said: "It feels amazing to be named Lions captain. I'm deeply honoured, humbled and I will do my best to do the role justice."

"I am very much looking forward to the challenge

ahead, it's going to be a great Tour."

The number of men from the island of Ireland is a record 15, edging past the 14 given the nod for the 2009 Tour to South Africa.

Scotland can boast eight members of Farrell's contingent. While Blair Kinghorn, who plays for French side Toulouse, becomes just the 12th player from an overseas club to make the grade.

Welsh choir joining forces with British Lions Choir

The Australian Welsh Male Choir and the British Lions Choir are joining forces for a concert so epic, it should probably come with a warning label: May cause goosebumps, spontaneous singing, and uncontrollable pride.

It's called World In Union, and no, it's not a new rugby team (though there may be some epic harmonies strong enough to tackle a wall). Think less scrum, more song!



More than fifty blokes belting out glorious anthems, foot-stomping favourites, and emotional classics – all with the vocal power of a dragon

after three cups of coffee.

It's happening on Sunday 27 July at 3pm at Collins Street Baptist Church in Melbourne.

DATES & DEETS

27 JUL
Melbourne VIC
[TICKETS](https://www.ticketek.com.au)

Grab your tickets now at [Try Booking](https://www.ticketek.com.au).

This is not just a concert – it's a full-throttle choral experience.

Sessions setting sail for second Australia trip

DATES & DEETS

03 - 09 FEB 2026

Sydney NSW

www.sessionsandsail.com

Sessions and Sail, a Scottish-born initiative blending traditional music with tall ship sailing, made its Southern Hemisphere debut in 2025 and is set to return to Australian waters in 2026. Founded in Shetland, Sessions and Sail has been offering voyages around the Scottish coast since 2018, combining the rich heritage of folk music with the adventure of sailing.

The inaugural Australian voyage took place from 25 February to 3 March 2025, aboard the 45-metre brigantine Søren Larsen, a Danish-built vessel from 1949 now based in Sydney. This journey marked the first time Sessions and Sail ventured into the Southern Hemisphere, bringing their unique blend of music and sailing to new audiences.

Following the success of the 2025 voyage, Sessions and Sail announced their return to Australia in 2026. The upcoming trip is scheduled for 3 to 9 February 2026, once again aboard the Søren



Sessions and Sail in Australia in 2025. Picture: [facebook.com/SessionsandSail](https://www.facebook.com/SessionsandSail)

Larsen. Participants will embark from Sydney Harbour, engaging in hands-on sailing under the guidance of Captain Marty Woods and his crew, while also participating in music sessions led by experienced Scottish and Australian folk musicians.

The 2026 voyage promises a week of immersive experiences, including music workshops, sailing activities, and communal sessions celebrating various folk traditions. With no prior sailing experience required, the trip is open to musicians and

enthusiasts of all levels, offering a unique opportunity to explore Australia's coastline through the lens of music and maritime adventure.

For more information and booking details, visit the official Sessions and Sail [website](#).

Penrith to host major new Highland festival in 2026

Get ready, Penrith! The very first Penrith Highland Festival is marching into town on Saturday 3 October 2026, and it's set to be a day to remember. Think tartan, thistles and thunderous pipes as the magic of the Highlands comes alive in a vibrant celebration of Scottish culture and community.

From the rousing sound of bagpipes to the mesmerising swirl of Highland dancers, you'll be swept up in the

rhythm and spirit of Scotland. There'll be clan displays, ancient games, and all the kilts you can handle. Prefer horsepower to history? Feast your eyes on classic cars and motorbikes, or hold your breath as knights clash on horseback in epic medieval re-enactments.

The fun doesn't stop there – thrill rides will keep the kids (and the young at heart) buzzing, and the whole event is packed into nine

DATES & DEETS

03 OCT 2026

Penrith NSW

[Facebook page](#)

action-filled hours of family-friendly entertainment.

Chieftain for the Day will be The Much Honoured Ian Young, Baron of Kilbirnie AM.

Bring your clan to Penrith!



Irish clan calling all the Aussie Sullivans

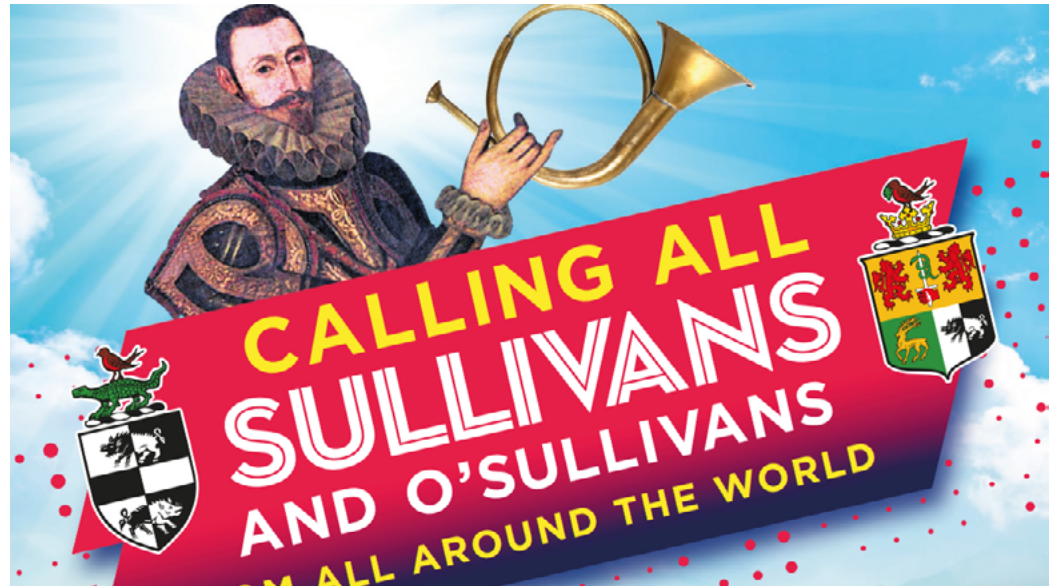
DATES & DEETS

30 MAY - 02 JUN
Castletownbere, Ireland
www.osullivanclan.org

The O'Sullivan Clan is calling all its members in Australia and worldwide to converge on the Beara Peninsula in West Cork, Ireland from 30 May to 2 June 2026, in an ambitious attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people sharing the same surname.

Organised by the O'Sullivan Clan in counties Cork and Kerry, the event aims to surpass the current record held by the Gallagher Clan of County Donegal, which saw 1,488 Gallaghers come together in 2007.

The gathering will be hosted by Kelly Sullivan, the Chieftain of the O'Sullivan



Clan, who was ceremoniously presented with the chain of office by the Cork and Kerry County Mayors on the steps of City Hall in Boston in 2023.

Attendees can look forward to a weekend filled with family-friendly events,

including music, entertainment, and educational tours of historical O'Sullivan sites. Participants are encouraged to wear jerseys representing their local sports clubs, counties, or countries to showcase their pride.

This event not only aims to

set a world record but also offers a unique opportunity for members of the O'Sullivan Clan to reconnect with their heritage and explore their ancestral homeland.

For more information and to register for the event, visit osullivanclan.org.

Scots in the Bush returns to Boondooma

Boondooma Homestead will come alive with the sights and sounds of Scotland from 13 to 17 August, as the much-loved festival Scots in the Bush returns for another five-day celebration of Celtic heritage in the Queensland bush.

Held annually at the historic homestead in the South Burnett region, the event draws musicians, dancers, history buffs, and tartan-clad travellers from across Australia for a spirited program of entertainment and cultural connection.

The 2025 line-up features an exciting mix of returning favourites and new faces. Australian Celtic Women are set to bring their powerful harmonies to the stage, alongside crowd-pleasers like



Brian Letton and Clyde Cameron. Traditional dance will be on full display thanks to the Rum City Highland Dancers, while festivalgoers can expect lively performances from Ishka Celtic Music, the Moreton Celtic Fiddle Club, and Mouldy Haggis. Pipe bands from Hervey Bay and Noosa, the Maryborough

Musos Ukulele group, and ceilidh dance sessions led by Dr Heather Clarke round out a program that mixes authenticity with fun.

Adding to the atmosphere, the homestead grounds will host clan tents, food and merchandise stalls, and a welcoming community spirit that encourages all to take

DATES & DEETS

13 - 17 AUG
Boondooma QLD
boondoomahomestead.org.au

part. For those keen to perform, open mic and walk-up opportunities are available mid-week.

The festival is known not only for its Highland flair, but also for the camaraderie it inspires. Visitors are encouraged to volunteer in the lead-up or during the event itself, with working bees and jobs available for anyone who wants to lend a hand.

Tickets are available now at boondoomahomestead.org.au and accommodation options tend to fill up fast.

Water way to get to Mackay Fling



Brace yourselves! The annual Bluewater Fling is about to be unleashed upon an unsuspecting Mackay, and it all kicks off with a glorious racket that could scare the crocodiles straight out of the Pioneer River.

Yes, it's that time again when a veritable army of pipers and drummers prepares to march across the Forgan Bridge, their kilts swishing with a power that threatens the city's very foundations.

Prepare for a full-sensory assault of Scottishness.

You'll see flags flapping wildly, Highland dancers defying gravity with kicks higher than a startled wallaby, and enough tartan to clothe a small nation.

The main event is, of course, the bagpipes – dozens of them, all wailing in glorious, ear-splitting harmony. It's a celebration of Mackay's Scottish heritage so loud, your ancestors in Glasgow might just hear it and complain about the noise.

After the bridge has been sufficiently terrorised by the cheerful music on Saturday 26 July, the party – and the noise – moves to the Bluewa-



Massed bands at Mackay Bluewater Fling. Pictures: www.facebook.com/MaDPipeBand.

ter Quay for an afternoon of even more Celtic chaos.

So, find a good spot, bring a lawn chair, and prepare to witness the most wonderfully bonkers parade in Queensland. It's a spectacle you won't soon forget, mostly

because your ears will be ringing for a week. You've been warned!

Here's what's happening: Friday evening, 25 July, Goanna Brewing Microbrewery: "Join us for a meet and greet with our bagpipers and

DATES & DEETS

26 JUL
Mackay QLD

www.bluewaterfling.com

drummers – where the kilts are breezy, the pipes are squeaky, and the conversation might just end with you learning how to clear a room with one note."

Saturday afternoon, 26 July, 1pm: The Main Event is staged at Mackay's Bluewater Quay.

Saturday evening, 26 July at Goosies Sport & Recreation Club: "Join us for a lively post-Blue Water Fling ceilidh! The night will be filled with traditional Scottish music, energetic dancing, and the stirring sounds of pipe bands.

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or simply there to soak in the festive atmosphere, this ceilidh is the perfect way to keep the festival spirit alive. Don't miss out on an evening of fun, community, and celebration."

Words: www.bluewaterfling.com and www.facebook.com/BluewaterFling.

Three left feet hit dance floor for Tynwald Day

DATES & DEETS

05 JUL

Tynwald Day Flag Lowering
Glen Innes NSW

[DETAILS](#)

Queensland Manx Society Tynwald
Day Luncheon
Arana Hills QLD

[TICKETS](#)

In honour of the Isle of Man's National Day, a celebration of Manx National Week will take place across the island from Monday 30 June to Monday 7 July, with a variety of cultural events and community activities.

Tynwald Day itself will be observed on 7 July, as the official public holiday is moved from the traditional date of 5 July due to the weekend. The centrepiece remains the Tynwald Day Ceremony at St John's, where the island's ancient parliament meets in the open air on Tynwald Hill. Here, laws passed in the last year are proclaimed aloud in both Manx Gaelic and English, continuing a tradition believed to date back over a thousand years.

To bring the island's Norse roots to life, The Viking Encampment will be set up in



Viking re-enactors at the 2024 Tynwald Day celebrations on Isle of Man. Picture: www.tynwald.org.im.

Cooil-y-Ree, highlighting how Viking settlers introduced the Norse system of law-making and open-air assemblies known as Things.

For more details of celebrations, visit the official website: www.tynwald.org.im.

Across Australia, the spirit of the Isle of Man will be alive and well this July as communities gather to celebrate Tynwald Day 2025.

In New South Wales, the highlands town of Glen Innes will host a respectful nod to the island's Viking roots with a flag-lowering ceremony at the Australian Standing Stones. Held on Saturday 5 July from 4pm to 5pm, the ceremony will acknowl-

edge Tynwald Day with a toast to the Manx people. Attendees can enjoy a quiet moment of reflection, take in the monumental circle of standing stones, and sample traditional Manx food. Organised by the Australian Standing Stones Management Board, this event offers a unique way to connect with the heritage of one of the world's oldest continuous parliaments – celebrated in a modern-day Celtic setting in regional NSW.

Meanwhile, in Queensland, the Queensland Manx Society is planning a more festive affair at the Arana Leagues Club in Arana Hills, also on Saturday 5 July. The Tynwald

Day luncheon will begin at 11am and promises to be a lively celebration of Manx music, culture and community. Guests will be entertained by Three Cassyn Kyttagh (Manx for 'Three Left Feet'), a band that blends traditional Manx music with storytelling, songs and dance. With good food, warm conversation and cultural performances, this event is perfect for anyone with Manx roots or an interest in Celtic culture.

Both events reflect the growing interest in celebrating Manx identity across Australia – and offer a chance to mark Tynwald Day with pride, whether through ceremony or song.

Castle to hold Scottish festival on St Andrew's Day

Gather your clan and your kilt for the fourth Annual Scottish Festival at Overnewton Castle!

Calling all clans to the four-acre Scottish Baronial estate, Overnewton Castle, for a jam-packed day to celebrate St Andrew's Day and all things Scotland!

From 11am until 4pm on Sunday 30 November, the grounds will come to life with games and activities for children, live Scottish music and dance, Highland cows and

DATES & DEETS

30 NOV
Keilor VIC

[TICKETS](#)

the best culinary offerings from Melbourne's leading Scottish food suppliers.

Pack a picnic or sample some of the fabulous offerings, browse the Celtic craft and artisan stalls and soak up the Scottish atmosphere!



Say fromage! Sydney gets a taste of France

Bastille Festival is back to light up Sydney's harbour with the best of France – from gourmet food to lively street performances and spectacular wines.

Find your beret, grab your friends, and get ready to celebrate winter the French way!

Sydney's iconic French festival returns from 17 to 20 July with four days of food, wine, art and revolution – and it's free to attend.

Eat. Drink. Dance. Repeat.

For 12 years, Bastille Festival has been bringing joie de vivre to Sydney each July, drawing hundreds of thousands of Francophiles, food and wine lovers, music enthusiasts, and seekers of good vibes. This much-loved winter event returns once again, warming the heart of the city with all the things we adore about France. Whether you come for the raclette, the rosé, the cinema, or the cabaret – it's all about embracing joie de vivre!

"Each year, we aim to recreate what we love about France right here in the heart of Sydney," says Vincent Hernandez, Founder and Festival Director. "This 12th edition is all about going bigger, bolder, and more immersive – offering Sydneysiders and visitors a true 'Tour de France' of flavours, sights, and sounds."

Whether you're a devoted Francophile or simply curious about France's culinary treasures, Bastille Festival promises four indulgent days filled with gourmet food, fine wines, lively entertainment, and the unmistakable French spirit we all love.

Fall in Love with French Food All Over Again

Bastille Festival has long been Sydney's winter culinary escape – and 2025 is set to be its most delicious yet. With more than 120 exhibitors and over 80 dishes on offer, festival-goers can explore a curated selection of timeless regional dishes, sweet treats, and inventive fusions.



DATES & DEETS

17 – 20 JUL

The Rocks, Sydney NSW

bastillefestival.com.au

Expect crowd favourites like raclette, escargots, crêpes, and macarons, but also discover exclusive chef collaborations and international flavours reimagined with a French twist.

"Food is at the heart of French culture, and it's at the heart of Bastille Festival too," says Hernandez. "We want every bite to transport you – whether it's through a traditional regional speciality or a creative new fusion you've never tried before."

It's an invitation to taste your way across France – without needing a passport.

Wine Not? Discover France by the Glass

No celebration of France would be complete without wine – and Bastille Festival's wine program promises to be its most extensive yet.

This year, the Festival will present eight iconic wine regions, each offering a curated selection of four wines. From Bordeaux to Burgundy, Beaujolais to Provence, Languedoc to the Rhône Valley, and Alsace to the Loire Valley, it's a true Tour de France for wine lovers.

Wines have been carefully selected from boutique French wineries to prestigious châteaux, reflecting not only the diversity but also the unique character of each region.

"Our wine experiences aren't just about tasting – they're about storytelling," explains Hernandez. "Each glass is a journey through a region, its traditions, and its people."

This year, Champagne will also take centre stage, with pop-up stations throughout the Festival and two distinctive wine bars offering champagne paired with oysters and seafood – because life's best pleasures rarely

Say fromage! Sydney gets a taste of France



Bastille Festival will take over Circular Quay and The Rocks for three days this July. Pictures: Supplied

come alone.

For those seeking something heartier, mulled wine, spiced hot cider, beer bars, and cocktail stations will keep the winter chill at bay. With over 18 bars dotted around Circular Quay and The Rocks, there'll be no shortage of perfect pairings to match your feast.

Art, Music, and the French Spirit

Bastille Festival isn't just a feast for the palate – it's a feast for the senses. Across four jam-packed days, visitors can enjoy over 100 free shows, including live concerts, street theatre, dance lessons, fire performances, acrobatic displays, and more.

Two main stages and a dozen busking spots will ensure the harbour comes alive from morning till late into the night.

Festival favourites are also back, with the French Cabaret Night lighting up First Fleet Park on Friday and



the much-loved French DJ Party turning up the heat on Saturday.

"At its core, Bastille Festival is about connection – to food, to culture, and to each other," says Hernandez. "We're creating moments where Sydney can come together, celebrate, dance, and

rediscover a little bit of magic in the middle of winter."

And this year, organisers are promising even more surprises, with new interactive experiences set to be unveiled in the lead-up to the event.

Celebrate the French way, Sydney!

Save the dates: Thursday 17 July to Sunday 20 July 2025.

Location: Circular Quay and The Rocks, Sydney.

Entry: Free. Food and wine experiences available for booking.

Website: <https://bastillefestival.com.au/>.

Chieftain leads the charge at Aberdeen Highland Games

DATES & DEETS

05 JUL
Aberdeen NSW
aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.COM



The 2025 Aberdeen Highland Games will come alive on Saturday 5 July with a full day of Scottish celebration – bagpipes, cabers, and clans galore – led by Honoured Chieftain Charles Cooke, OAM.

A stalwart of the Scone and Upper Hunter community, Charles has deep Scottish roots tracing back to the MacLeods of Talisker on the Isle of Skye. His passion for heritage and history has seen him travel to Skye for



Aberdeen Highland Games. Pictures: Supplied and www.facebook.com/aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.

Clan MacLeod Parliaments and earn an Honourary Life Membership in the Clan MacLeod Society. Charles was a foundation member of the Scone RSL Pipes & Drums and played a vital role in establishing the Aberdeen Highland Games more than 25 years ago.

The 2025 event promises all the much-loved features: the stirring massed pipe band parade, Highland and country dancing, heavyweight contests by the Kilted Warriors, tartan-clad novelty races, and family-friendly festivities throughout the day.

This year's Games not only

honour tradition but also pay tribute to a man who has championed it for decades. Fittingly, Charles was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2024 for his service to Scottish and Celtic communities in New South Wales.

Visit aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.COM for full details.

Clans on the Coast organisers call for support

While donating a cheque to a local children's hospital, Clans on the Coast organisers have called for support for the festival, which has had to be postponed in 2025.

Last month, representatives from the Port Stephens Celtic Association and the Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace proudly presented a cheque for \$2,000 to the Starlight Room at John Hunter Children's Hospital. The funds were raised during the 2024 Clans on the Coast Celtic festival, held last September in Raymond Terrace, New South Wales – a day filled with community spirit, culture, and celebration.

Ron Swan, President of the



Port Stephens Celtic Association, and Adam Nicholas, President of the Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace, reflected on the event as a tremendous success. Both expressed their hope to see the festival continue and grow.

However, for this vision to come to life, greater community support is essential, especially through major sponsorships.

Due to health challenges within the organising team, the 2025 Clans on the Coast

Celtic festival has been postponed. While this pause is necessary, it also offers an opportunity to build a stronger, more vibrant team for the road ahead.

If you're passionate about community, culture, and connection, they'd love to hear from you. Whether you'd like to volunteer your time, offer sponsorship, or simply find out more, consider joining the Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace or the Port Stephens Celtic Association. You can help ensure the festival returns stronger than ever.

To get involved, email at admin@clansonthecoast.com.au or contact Adam Nicholas on 0432 187 010.

Gael force fun hitting Melbourne this July

DATES & DEETS

14 JUN - 28 JUL

Melbourne VIC

melbournetartanfestival.com.au

Melbourne will once again be awash in tartan this July as the Melbourne Tartan Festival continues its month-long celebration of Scottish heritage, music and dance.

Running from 14 June to 28 July, the festival offers a diverse program of events across the city.

On Sunday 6 July, the city will come alive with the Tartan Day Parade. Starting at 2pm from the Spring Street end of Collins Street, more than 200 pipers, drummers, dancers, and clan representatives will march in a vibrant display of Scottish pride. The parade will proceed to Regent Place, where a short recital will be held before the parade concludes.

The Scotsman Music and The Stovies will be putting on a special show in collaboration with the Festival on Sunday 13 July. The festival's Gala Dinner & Concert, which was scheduled for Saturday 19 July at Melbourne Town Hall, has been cancelled. Organisers said: "We're disappointed that after an attendance of 400 last year, this year's numbers have fallen short of the minimum required by the venue and the very difficult, but necessary decision was made to cancel." However, organisers requested attendees to hold the date, while they work on a replacement event, saying: "Thank you for your patience and support while we work to arrange an alternate venue to replace the cancelled Gala Dinner & Concert."

For updates, see the [web-site](#) and [Facebook](#) page.



TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

05 JUL

- Twixt Heather & Wattle presentation by Dr Rosalie Triolo.

06 JUL

- Scottish Connections CBD walking tour with tour guide Kenneth Park
- Melbourne Tartan Day Parade

08 & 09 JUL

- Burns Supper at Il Duca Restaurant, East Melbourne

09 JUL

- Discover a World of Family History, Genealogical Society of Victoria

12 JUL

- Easy Steps to Learning Gaelic, 1.30pm at The Assembly Hall, Collins Street.

13 JUL

- Graham McColgan The Scotsman: Highland Harmonies from Distant

Shores, Kew Court House Theatre

15 JUL

- A Wee Dram: Scotland and Whisky recorded lecture

18 JUL

- Genealogical Society of Victoria event via Zoom

19 JUL

- Event details to be announced

20 JUL

- Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Annual Poetry In The Pub

21 JUL

- Genealogical Society of Victoria event via Zoom
- Come & try curling in association with Victorian Curling Association

23 JUL

- Menzies Institute Lecture

24 JUL

- Whisky tasting at RACV City Club

25 JUL

- Victorian Pipers Association Recital, PLC Burwood Campus

26 JUL

- Victorian Pipers Association Championships (A & B Grade), PLC Burwood Campus

27 JUL

- Victorian Pipers Association Championships (C & D Grade), PLC Burwood Campus

28 JUL

- Come & try curling in association with Victorian Curling Association

Darwin firing up for Viking funeral fest

DATES & DEETS

12 JUL
Darwin NT
www.dbcya.com.au

It's fiery, it's fierce, and it's Darwin's most atmospheric night of the year. The Mega Annual Viking Funeral will roar back to life on Saturday, 12 July, lighting up the Dinah Beach Cruising Yacht Association with flaming arrows, medieval mayhem, and mighty good fun.

Steeped in decades of tradition, this legendary event has become a firm fixture on Darwin's entertainment calendar, luring locals and curious travellers with its wild mix of Norse homage and Territory hospitality. The highlight? A life-sized tribute Viking vessel set alight in spectacular style by the Top End Bow Hunters, paying respect to old boats and old souls in true Viking fashion.

Expect live music until late, special performances by the Darwin Pipe Band, fire

shows, hearty food stalls, and extra bars and seating to fuel the festivities. Costumes are half the fun – those clad in furs, shields, or horned helmets could win a prize in the 'Most Likely Viking' competitions for both kids and grown-ups. Face paint-

ing, fierce fashion, and a sea of Nordic stubby coolers and drinking tankards await at the merch tent.

Gates open from 5pm, and while the fun rages on late into the night, kids are kindly expected to depart after the boat burning around 9pm.

Ticket details: Dinah Beach Cruising Yacht Association members: Free. Non-members: Adults \$45. Kids: \$15. Children must be accompanied by a ticket-holding adult.

One night. One boat. One epic Viking farewell. Don't miss it.



Darwin's Mega Annual Viking Funeral. Pictures: dbcya.com.au

Hunter Highland Games bring tartan spirit to the vineyards

DATES & DEETS

23 AUG
Lovedale NSW

huntervalleyhighlandgames.com.au

Mark your calendar for Saturday 23 August, because the Hunter Valley Highland Games are back – and they're bringing a swirl of tartan to the heart of wine country.

Held at the picturesque Saltire Estate, these games are a spirited celebration of the enduring ties between Australia and Scotland, set against the stunning backdrop of rolling vineyards.

It's a day brimming with tradition, athleticism, and community cheer. From the echo of the bagpipes to the mighty caber toss, visitors will witness the full spectacle of Scottish heritage in action.



Whether it's the stone put, hammer throw, or the graceful Highland dancing, every event offers a chance to marvel at feats of strength and skill passed down through generations.

Beyond the main arena, the festival atmosphere continues with live music, market stalls, and Scottish fare to fuel your

day. Fans of Celtic culture will find themselves right at home among the pipers, drummers, and kilts aplenty. Children are more than welcome – and so are dogs, provided they're on a leash – making this a true family day out.

The Hunter region's Scottish links run deep. The very first grapevines planted in this val-

ley came courtesy of James Busby of Edinburgh, the father of Australian wine. So, it's only fitting that the games unfold in the vineyards he helped cultivate.

Tickets are available at the gate, but pre-purchasing is a wise move. For tickets, visit www.huntervalleyhighlandgames.com.au.

Port Macquarie to host Convict Culture Week

Port Macquarie is set to host Australia's first Convict Culture Week, celebrating the music, dance, and theatre of early settlers.

From October 25 to November 1, the coastal city in New South Wales will come alive with the rhythms and stories of its convict past during the inaugural Convict Culture Week. Organised by Australian Historical Dance, this week-long festival offers a unique exploration of the music, dance, song, and theatre that were integral to the lives of convicts in the early 19th century.

Port Macquarie, established as a convict settlement from 1821 to 1832, was home to numerous convicts

DATES & DEETS

25 OCT - 01 NOV
Port Macquarie NSW
dancinginfetters@gmail.com

who brought with them rich cultural traditions. Many were skilled dancers, musicians, and actors, and they used their talents to find solace and community in a new land.

The festival will feature workshops in dance, music, song, and theatre, allowing participants to immerse themselves in the cultural expressions of the time. Events will be held at historic venues including St Thomas Church



Built by Major Archibald Clunes Innes, Innes Ruins contains rich history about the settlement of NSW, convict labour and the culture of the 1800s. Picture: [Visit NSW](#)

Hall, Douglas Vale Historic Homestead and Vineyard, and the Innes Ruins, providing authentic backdrops for this cultural journey.

While specific details are still being finalised, the estimated cost for the week is approximately \$300.

Interested individuals are encouraged to register their interest early. For more infor-

mation or to express interest in participating, contact Heather at dancinginfetters@gmail.com or call 0422 067 392.

Convict Culture Week promises to be a meaningful celebration of the resilience and creativity of Australia's early settlers, offering insights into a lesser-known aspect of the nation's history.

Ireland's Pirate Queen set to rule the stage

DATES & DEETS

11 - 19 JUL
Frankston VIC
mloc.org.au

This month, Mordialloc Philharmonic Society Productions will present the Australian premiere of *The Pirate Queen*, a sweeping musical adventure that brings to life the extraordinary story of Grace O'Malley, Ireland's legendary 16th-century chieftain and seafarer. This production is a highlight of the Society's 80th anniversary season, marking eight decades of community theatre excellence in Melbourne.

Founded in 1945 as the Mordialloc Philharmonic Society (MLOC) has evolved from a choral group into a dynamic musical theatre company. Over the years, it has staged a diverse array of productions, from classic operettas to contemporary musicals, fostering local talent and bringing high-quality performances to the community. The 2025 season celebrates this rich history, with *The Pirate Queen* serving as a centerpiece of the anniversary festivities.

The Pirate Queen is a musical collaboration between Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil, the creators of *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*. Based on the novel *Grania: She-King of the Irish Seas* by Morgan Llywelyn, the show chronicles the life of Grace O'Malley, who defied gender norms to become a formidable leader and pirate.

The narrative follows her journey as she navigates political intrigue, personal loss, and a historic confrontation with Queen Elizabeth I of England.

Grace O'Malley, known in



The story of Ireland's Pirate Queen, Grace O'Malley, will be brought to the stage in The Frankston Arts Centre in Victoria this month.

Irish as Gráinne Ní Mháille, was born around 1530 into the Ó Máille clan of County Mayo. Grace made her name through fearless seafaring exploits, launching raids on English ships and fiercely defending her coastal territory from English advances.

She commanded fleets, led rebellions, and engaged in diplomacy, including a notable meeting with Queen Elizabeth I in 1593 to negotiate the release of her family members.

In a bold move that still captures imaginations, she secured an audience with Queen Elizabeth I – famously refusing to bow, insisting she recognised no monarch above herself.

Grace wasn't just a warrior; she was a master strategist. Navigating the turbulent politics of 16th-century Ireland, she negotiated, allied, and outmanoeuvred her enemies to protect her family's power.

At the heart of it all was her unwavering commitment to her clan. Every battle she fought, every risk she took, was in defence of their land, their livelihood, and their freedom.

Today, Grace O'Malley stands as a towering figure of Irish resistance and female leadership. Her legend lives on in folk songs, ballads, and books, and she continues to inspire new generations who admire her courage and cunning.

She died around 1603, aged about 73, and is believed to be buried on Clare Island in a Cistercian abbey. Near her crypt, a plaque bears the O'Malley family motto – fitting for a woman who commanded respect both on land and at sea: "Terra Marique Potens" – Powerful by land and sea.

Her legacy as a fearless leader and advocate for her people has endured through centuries, inspiring countless

works of art and literature.

MLOC's production of *The Pirate Queen* promises to be a captivating tribute to this iconic figure, blending powerful storytelling with stirring music and dynamic performances. As part of the company's milestone year, the show offers audiences an opportunity to experience the tale of a woman who challenged the conventions of her time and left an indelible mark on history.

The Pirate Queen will have its Australian premiere at the Frankston Arts Centre on July 11 at 8pm.

It will also be performed on Saturday 12 July; Sunday 13 July; Thursday 17 July; Friday 18 July and Saturday 19 July.

The venue for all performances is the Frankston Arts Centre, located at 27-37 Davey Street, Frankston, Victoria.

Bookings and more information at <https://mloc.org.au/>.

Have a wookiee at what's on at CelticFest

DATES & DEETS

03 - 05 OCT
Warwick QLD
www.celticfestqld.com.au

Get ready to unleash your inner Celt – CelticFest Warwick is back from 3 to 5 October, and it's set to be bigger, bolder, and more bagpipe-blasting than ever!

Held on Queensland's beautiful Southern Downs, the weekend festival takes over the Warwick Showgrounds with non-stop entertainment, from Aussie Highland Games Championships to a medieval village complete with Viking combat, lost trades, and gallant knights. Ever seen a caber fly? You will now.

Music lovers can catch pipe bands, fiddlers, Irish dancers, and toe-tapping Celtic folk. Saturday night will be a highlight – with a live set from The Gathering Irish band and a céilí dance in The Pavilion that'll have everyone spinning.

Kids will love meeting Highland cows and Irish wolfhounds, and there'll be sword-fighting displays, market stalls, storytelling, and animal antics all weekend. Dressing up in tartan or medieval gear? Absolutely encouraged.

Beyond the showgrounds, the CelticFringe program spills into the town with gigs at Club Warwick RSL, steam train rides on the Downs Explorer, and heritage tours to beautiful Glengallan Homestead and the Abbey of the Roses.

So mark your calendars, polish your sporan, and grab your early bird tickets which are on sale now at celticfestqld.com.au – it's time to let your Celtic spirit soar!



CelticFest Warwick representatives at Australian Celtic Festival meeting Chewbacca on May 4th, Star Wars Day. Picture: www.facebook.com/CelticFestWarwick

FESTIVAL EVENTS

Warwick Showgrounds:

Main Stage: Celtic bands, duos and soloists

Main Arena: Australian Highland Games Championships (heavy events), horse displays, Jacobites, Viking battles

Medieval Arena: Village and displays, Viking single combats, lost trades

Celtic Animals: Highland Coos, Clydesdales, Irish Wolfhounds

Celtic-themed Markets: Celtic stalls, local vendors

Gathering of the Clans

Celtic Workshops: Dance, singing, language and instruments

Roaming Entertainers: Pipe bands, medieval groups, buskers

Pipe Band Competition (on one day)

Celtic Dance Displays: Irish and Highland

Celtic themed bar, food and drink

CelticFest Party Night (Saturday): The Gathering Irish band, Irish céilí in The Pavilion

CelticFringe Warwick:

CelticFringe is a program of separately organised and ticketed (where applica-

ble) events run by CelticFest partners at various venues around the Southern Downs. It includes:

Club Warwick RSL: Feature-length performances from Australian Celtic Woman, Highlander Celtic Rock Band

Downs Explorer heritage train trips to Clifton and Greenmount

Celtic-themed workshops

Celtic buskers in the Warwick CBD

Open historical buildings including The Abbey of the Roses, Pringle Cottage, Glengallan Homestead & Heritage Centre

Celtic-themed parkrun

Feast loud and wassail proud in Tasmania

The fire's not out – just smouldering in smaller bursts this year! While the legendary Willie Smith's Mid-Winter Festival in Tasmania, takes a breather, the cider-slinging crew haven't let the cold win. Instead, they're lighting up the Huon Valley with a bite-sized but fiery series of events that pack all the revelry, storytelling, wassailing and weirdness into three cosy weekends at The Apple Shed. Whether you're a poetry lover, a party pagan, or a parent with pint-sized wassailers in tow, there's a winter warmer with your name on it.

The series kicks off on Saturday 12 July with Storytelling and Feasting – Life, Love, Sex, and Death. Guests will enjoy a three-course dinner and three storytelling performances from local favourites Emma Skalicky, Ryk Goddard and internationally renowned poet Young Dawkins. Expect hot spiced cider, a feast celebrating the flavours of the Huon Valley, and an intimate evening of wit, wisdom and unforgettable tales. Tickets



A series of events will take place this winter at Willie Smith's in Huon Valley, Tasmania. Pictures: WillieSmiths.com.au

are \$140, with an optional \$20 bus transfer from Hobart or Huonville.

On Saturday 19 July, the Apple Shed transforms for the Pagan Gala – a cheeky nod to festivals past. Don your wildest headpiece, paint your face, and dress to im-

press for the famous costume competition. With live music, flowing cider, fire-inspired snacks, and a photo booth to capture the chaos, this 18+ party promises revelry with a rustic twist. Tickets are \$130, plus optional transport.

Finally, round out the

DATES & DEETS

12 JUL
Feast & Storytelling

19 JUL
The Pagan Gala

26 JUL
Family Fun & Wassail
Huon Valley TAS

www.williesmiths.com.au

month with a family-friendly celebration on Saturday 26 July from 4pm to 8pm.

Enjoy a traditional Wassail, sing-along sessions with local choirs and the Stranded Wailers, and loads of fun for the kids – face painting, storytelling, apple bobbing, pie eating and a bush dance to finish. Adult tickets are \$35, kids (aged 4–16) \$15, and under 3s go free.

Whether you're up for feasting, frolicking, or family fun, these mid-winter mini-events promise warm cider, winter magic and plenty of heart. For tickets and full details, visit www.williesmiths.com.au.

Perth's pagan festival lights up August

Core Cider's beloved winter festival, Fire Fable & Feast, returns on Saturday 2 August, at the picturesque Apple Shed in Pickering Brook, Western Australia. This enchanting event marks the end of winter and celebrates the awakening of the orchard, drawing inspiration from ancient European pagan traditions.

Attendees are encouraged to don medieval or Viking attire. The festival features a vibrant line-up of live music, fire performances and roving entertainers. A highlight of the evening is the crowning of a King and Queen, who lead a ceremonial procession



around the bonfire, symbolising the renewal of life and community spirit.

The festivities commence

with a traditional wassail ceremony, where participants sing and make noise to awaken the apple trees and

DATES & DEETS

02 AUG
Pickering Brook WA
www.corecider.com.au

ward off evil spirits, ensuring a bountiful harvest. Guests can enjoy mulled cider, wine, beer, and hearty meals.

Rooted in the traditions brought by Giovanni Della-Franca (Jack) from Northern Italy over 80 years ago, Fire Fable & Feast is a celebration of seasonal change, community, and the enduring connection between people and nature.

No water, no worries for driest regatta

DATES & DEETS

16 AUG
Alice Springs NT
www.henleyontodd.com.au

Every August, the Northern Territory channels its inner Brit with a uniquely Aussie twist on a traditional English boat race. The 2025 Henley-on-Todd Regatta, set for Saturday 16 August, promises a riot of sand, costumes, and absurdity in the heart of Alice Springs.

Inspired by the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta on the River Thames, the townsfolk of Alice Springs decided in 1962 to create their own version – with one minor issue: the Todd River is usually bone dry. This didn't stop them – they embraced the situation and made the absence of water the event's main feature.

Thus was born the world's only dry river regatta, where competitors "race" bottomless boats by running Flintstone-style across the sandy riverbed. Vessels come in all



The 2025 Henley-on-Todd boat race hits the dry riverbed this August. Picture: facebook.com/HenleyonTodd

shapes and themes – pirate ships, Viking longboats, and floating bathtubs – carried by teams in full costume. It's chaotic, ridiculous, and completely unforgettable.

Alongside the main races, the event features the famous Battle of the Boats, where colourfully decked-out teams

engage in mock combat using water cannons and flour bombs, drawing cheers and laughter from the crowd. There's also the Bath Tub Derby and plenty of entertainment throughout the day for all ages.

Organised by the Rotary Club of Alice Springs, the

regatta raises funds for local and international charities while showcasing the community's signature sense of humour. From the genteel waters of the Thames to the dusty bed of the Todd, this is one regatta that proves you don't need water to make a splash.

Joust a bit of Celtic craic at Winterfest

Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair returns to the Hawkesbury Showground on 5 and 6 July, offering a weekend of medieval revelry and fantasy adventure.

Running from 10am to 5pm each day, this immersive event invites visitors to step back in time and experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of a bygone era.

Visitors can experience the thunderous excitement of jousting tournaments and equestrian skill-at-arms displays, reminiscent of English chivalric contests. The Field of Arms will host re-enactments spanning from the Viking era to the 17th century, includ-



ing a combined cannon and musket display.

Celtic culture takes centre stage with performances by

folk duo Chloe & Ben Hurley, who will serenade audiences with traditional Irish melodies on iconic instruments.

DATES & DEETS

05 - 06 JUL
Hawkesbury NSW
winterfest.com.au

The Blue Mountains Piper adds to the ambiance with stirring bagpipe tunes, while bodhrán drumming workshops offer hands-on opportunities to learn the rhythms of Celtic music.

Beyond the performances, attendees can explore Artisan Alley, featuring crafts and goods inspired by medieval England and Celtic regions.



Yulefest at The Carrington in the Blue Mountains. Picture: thecarrington.com.au

Yule be sorry if you miss Christmas in July magic

In Australia, the festive cheer isn't confined to December. The concept of 'Christmas in July' has gained popularity across the country, offering a unique winter twist on the traditional holiday. This celebration, occurring during the Southern Hemisphere's colder months, allows Australians to experience the cozy, wintery Christmas that our counterparts in the Northern Hemisphere enjoy in December. And it all started with a group of homesick Irish tourists in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales.

In 1980, some Irish tourists were staying at the Hotel Mountain Heritage in Katoomba. Delighted to see snow on their 'summer' trip, they nostalgically spoke of their traditional cold Christmases back home. They asked the hotel owner, Garry Crockett, to throw a Christmas party. The hotel's man-



Lithgow Highland Pipe Band performing at Yulefest at The Carrington in the Blue Mountains. Picture: thecarrington.com.au

agement embraced the idea, organising a special Christmas-themed event complete with traditional decorations, festive foods, and carols.

While the event may have started out as an intimate gathering, it has blossomed

into a Blue Mountains tradition that has been warmly welcomed and copied across Australia. This initial celebration struck a chord with both locals and tourists. The success of the event led to it becoming an annual tradition

at the Mountain Heritage Hotel and other establishments in the Blue Mountains. The idea quickly spread to other parts of Australia, becoming a beloved mid-year festivity.

While Christmas in July might be a novelty, it has become a cherished tradition for many Australians. It provides an opportunity to gather with loved ones, enjoy festive foods, and embrace the winter chill, making it a unique celebration in the Australian calendar.

New South Wales

Yulefest, Blue Mountains

More than 40 years on, the Hotel Mountain Heritage is proud to be the original home of Yulefest, the Blue Mountains' annual Christmas in July festival. Yulefest 2025 promises a delightful array of festive events and dining experiences. You can feel the magic of Yulefest

Yule be sorry if you miss Christmas in July magic



Yulefest at Hotel Mountain Heritage in the Blue Mountains, home of the original Yulefest. Picture: www.mountainheritage.com.au

at Hotel Mountain Heritage with dinner every Saturday in July. Celebrate Christmas in July in style with a sumptuous six-course Christmas dinner, a special visit from Santa Claus himself, and live festive performances throughout the evening. The dinners will take place on 5, 12, 19, and 26 July, for details see mountain-heritage.com.au.

Celebrate Yulefest at The Carrington heritage-listed manor hotel in Katoomba. Their series of Saturday evening dinners includes a traditional Yulefest feast with all the trimmings... and there is always the chance of snow! See thecarrington.com.au.

The Nepean Belle Paddle-wheeler offers Yulefest Lunch Cruises. This is your chance to enjoy the enchanting scenery of towering rock formations sculpted by the Nepean River. See www.nepeanbelle.com.au

Christmas in July at The Rocks, Sydney

From 11 to 20 July, The Rocks transforms into a winter wonderland featuring snowflakes and festive markets. See christmasinjuly.com.au.

ACT

Christmas in July Festival

Enjoy the feel of a European white Christmas from 4 to 6 July with food, mulled wine and entertainment, plus a beautiful Christmas market with chalets. All in the lake-side location of Patrick White Lawns. See christmasinjuly.com.au/canberra.

Queensland

Snowflakes in Stanthorpe Winter Festival

From 4 to 6 July, at Queensland's coldest town, enjoy a snowfield with toboggans, parade, winter market, skating rink, giant slowglobes, inflatables and entertainment. And while you're there, pop into the Granite Belt Christmas Farm for traditional Christmas lunches every Thursday to Saturday in July, complete with festive decorations. See snowflakesinstanthorpe.com.au and granitebeltchristmasfarm.com.au.

Victoria

Christmas in July at the Corner Market

On 5 July, explore hand-crafted gifts, get a photo

with Santa, watch the live Christmas band and get involved in holiday activities for all the family. With free raffle draws, one-of-a-kind gift shopping and delicious winter comfort food, this is a day not to miss. Fed Square, The Atrium, Flinders St, Melbourne. Further details available [here](#).

Overnewton Castle Christmas in July

Overnewton Castle in Keilor, Victoria, invites you to experience Christmas like never before, immersed in the charm and enchantment of winter, in a Scottish castle constructed in 1849 – finally your Christmas sweater will come in handy! Enjoy a three-course menu with sit-down dining in the Grand Ballroom or Sherry Room, adorned with elaborate chandeliers and decadent table wear. It's all happening on 24 and 25 July. For further details and how to book, see overnewtoncastle.com.au.

Western Australia

The Old Courthouse Fremantle Christmas in July
Settle in by the fire to share

DATES & DEETS

JUN - AUG
Yulefest 2025
Blue Mountains NSW

03 JUL
Irish Christmas in July Social Lunch
Willawong QLD

04 - 06 JUL
Christmas in July Festival
Canberra ACT
Snowflakes in Stanthorpe
Stanthorpe QLD

05 JUL
Christmas in July at the Corner
Market
Melbourne VIC

11 - 20 JUL
Christmas in July Festival
Sydney NSW

12 JUL
Christmas in July Extravaganza
Ben Lomond TAS

24 - 25 JUL
Overnewton Castle Christmas in July
Keilor VIC

26 JUL
Christmas at The Old Courthouse
Fremantle WA

the delicious flavours of Christmas with family and friends. It will be a winter wonderland at the Old Courthouse on Saturday 26 July, with a Christmas in July three-course dinner and show featuring Perth crooner Earl Cole. See oldcourthouse.com.au.

Tasmania

Ben Lomond Alpine Resort Christmas in July Extravaganza

On 12 July, Ben Lomond Base will transform into a winter wonderland as they host a Christmas in July Extravaganza. Celebrate a winter Christmas (complete with real snow) as you eat, drink and become oh, so merry! See benlomondalpineresort.com.au.



The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever at HOTA in the Gold Coast. Credit: [Gold Coast/Humanitix](#)

Wuther forecast: 100% chance of red dresses

Dust off your red dresses and perfect your dramatic twirls – The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever is returning to Australia this July and August.

This whimsical event invites fans of Kate Bush to gather in public spaces, donning red attire to re-enact the iconic dance from her 1978 hit *Wuthering Heights*. Originating in 2013 by the performance group Shambush! in Brighton, England, the event has since become a global phenomenon, celebrating music, dance, and community spirit.

So gather your Cathys, get practicing your dance, and start trawling through the wardrobe and op shops for red dresses.

Below is just a selection of the events happening across Australia.

New South Wales *Sydney*

People of all ages are welcome to dress head to foot in red and dance merrily in

Sydney Park. It's happening on Saturday 26 July at 416 Sydney Park Road, Sydney. See facebook.com/TheMostWutheringHeightsDayEver-Sydney.

Newcastle

Gather at King Edward Park on Saturday 2 August from 11am. Don your red frock and join the community in this expressive dance homage. See [Facebook](#).

Lismore

Learn the dance, bring your family, have some fun and dance to the fabulous Kate Bush. Meet on Saturday 19 July at 10am at 12 Wotherpoon Street, North Lismore. See [Facebook](#).

Wagga Wagga

Join talented professional dance instructor Hayley Allen-Freeman from Luxe Dance Studios at one of the free 'drop-in' style 'wuther' classes. Then join in the main event, on Sunday 20 July

from 2pm at Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre Lawn, Burns Way. See [Humanitix](#).

Dubbo

This will be Dubbo's third Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever, joining thousands of others across Australia and more worldwide to go Wuthering... Wuthering... On the day, Dubbo's favourite dancing doctor of oncology, Dr Mary, will again lead the dance. Sunday 27 July from 2pm to 3pm. See [Humanitix](#).

Queensland

Brisbane

Join fellow enthusiasts at Frew Park, Milton, on Saturday 19 July at 2pm. Expect an afternoon filled with fun and a sea of red dresses as participants bring Kate Bush's vision to life. See [Sticky Tickets](#).

Gold Coast

The event returns for its seventh year at HOTA, Home of the Arts, Surfers Paradise,

on Sunday 20 July from 9am. This year's gathering supports the charity Friends with Dignity. More details [here](#).

Victoria *Melbourne*

Head to Edinburgh Gardens on Sunday 20 July at 12pm for a heartfelt tribute to Kate Bush, featuring synchronised dancing and community camaraderie. See [AllEvents](#).

Castlemaine

Celebrate at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens on Sunday 20 July from 2pm. This will be an inclusive, playful community event for people of all ages, and movement abilities. See [AllEvents](#).

Western Australia *Guilford*

Join in a flash mob with tea, coffee, bake sale and entertainment by Cindy Dean. From 2pm on Saturday 19 July at Stirling Square, Guilford. See [Facebook](#).



Aussie Mel joins Tattoo 75th anniversary show

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo's landmark 75th Anniversary Show, The Heroes Who Made Us, is set to take place at the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade in August. And among those performing will be Aussie, Melinda Coles.

Multi-instrumentalist Melinda is better known as Mel C from Australian Celtic Women, and she shared: "This is a dream come true for me..."

"I am going to shed plenty of tears of pride and have plenty of "pinch me" moments performing in each show... I just can't wait."

The milestone event promises to celebrate the past, while imagining the future of the Tattoo. They'll take audiences back to where it all began in 1950, with the British Army taking on the prestigious role of the Lead Service, the Show will present music, dance and precision performance that make up the last 75 years of



Melanie Coles will be joining the line-up at the 2025 Edinburgh Military Tattoo next month. Pictures: edintattoo.co.uk

the Tattoo story and beyond.

Over 800 performers, from around the globe, will take to the world-famous Edinburgh Castle Esplanade for the 75th year - including some fan favourites. Joining the iconic Massed Pipes and Drums,

Military Musicians and Tattoo Dancers will be the Band of the Polish Border Guard, Top Secret Drum Corps, United States Air Force Honour Guard Drill Team, Ukraine Naval Forces Orchestra, and United States Old Guard Fife

DATES & DEETS

01 - 23 AUG
Edinburgh, Scotland
www.edintattoo.co.uk

and Drum Corps.

Music is a key part of the Tattoo story, and this August, the Show will recognise the music that has shaped the Tattoo, and the wider world, over the years.

In celebration of 75 years of the Tattoo, the Tattoo Performers will collaborate on a special musical performance, a section of the Show where audiences will be hard fought to keep their feet still as the performers take on a series of favourite hits from the last seven decades.

Each act is set to bring a flavour of the heroism from their country, regiment or tradition.

Festivals

BASTILLE FESTIVAL

Bastille Festival is back to light up Sydney's harbour with the best of France – from gourmet food and wines to performances.

Sydney NSW

17 - 20 JUL

ABBEY MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

One of Australia's premier living history events re-enacts the Middle Ages in Europe and Middle East.

Caboolture QLD

12 & 13 JUL

ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES

Pipe and drums, Highland dancers, Kilted Warriors, fun events.

Aberdeen NSW

05 JUL

MELBOURNE TARTAN FESTIVAL

A whole month of Scottish festivities including a parade.

Melbourne VIC

14 JUN - 28 JUL

TYNWALD DAY FLAG LOWERING

Enjoy a toast to the Manx people along with a taste of traditional Manx food.

Glen Innes NSW

05 JUL

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

BRITISH & IRISH LIONS RUGBY TOUR

Nationwide

British & Irish Lions are touring the country taking part in a series of matches leading up to three Test matches against the Wallabies in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne.

28 JUN - 02 AUG



01 JUL

International Tartan Day
Palace
Fremantle WA
Territory Day
NT

Yulefest 2025
Blue Mountains NSW
Uilleann Pipes Session at The Celtic Club
Melbourne VIC

02 JUL

Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis
Tweed Heads NSW
Central Cee
Perth WA
British & Irish Lions v Queensland Reds
Brisbane QLD
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Ballarat VIC

03 JUL

Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Melbourne VIC
Wild Geese Comedy Night
The Celtic Club, Melbourne VIC
Irish Christmas in July Social Lunch
Willawong QLD

04 JUL

Jimeoin
Albury NSW
Lloyd Langford
Perth WA

05 JUL

Tynwald Day flag ceremony at Australian Standing Stones, Glen Innes NSW
Winterfest Sydney Medieval Fair (to 06 JUL)
Sydney NSW
Aberdeen Highland Games
Aberdeen NSW
RSCDS Hunter Valley Branch
48th Australian Winter School (to 12 JUL)
Shoal Bay NSW
Melbourne Tartan Festival

- 'Twixt Heather & Wattle' presentation by Dr. Rosalie Triolo
Melbourne VIC
Port Adelaide Caledonian Society Tartan Celebration
Exeter SA

Jimeoin
Wangaratta VIC
Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis
Brisbane QLD
Sandstone Point Bonfire Night
Sandstone Point QLD
British & Irish Lions v NSW Waratahs
Sydney NSW
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Bendigo VIC
Queensland Manx Society
Tynwald Day Luncheon
Arana Hills, QLD
Songs of Ireland by Candlelight at The Gaelic Club
Sydney NSW

06 JUL

The Australian Welsh Male Choir
Sorrento Concert, St John's Church, Sorrento VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Scottish Connections CBD walking tour with tour guide
Kenneth Park
Melbourne VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Melbourne Tartan Day parade
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Warrnambool VIC
Bastille Day Market at Entertainment Quarter
Sydney NSW

08 JUL

Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis
Melbourne VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Burns Supper at Il Duca Restaurant
East Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Horsham VIC

09 JUL

Ben Portsmouth This Is Elvis
Melbourne VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Burns Supper at Il Duca Restaurant
East Melbourne VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Discover a World of Family History - Genealogical Society of Victoria
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Swan Hill VIC

11 JUL

Jimeoin
Newcastle NSW
Aslan
Perth WA
Absolute Bowie
Sydney NSW
British & Irish Lions v ACT Brumbies
Canberra ACT
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Burnie TAS
Albany International Folk 'n' Shanty Festival - Scottish theme (to 13 JUL)
Albany WA

12 JUL

Absolute Bowie
Melbourne VIC
Daniel Holt is Quintessentially Brit(ish)
Perth WA
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Scots as 'sodgers' (soldiers) in The School Paper & as teachers on the battlefield, The Great War 1914-18 - presented by Dr. Rosalie Triolo
Melbourne VIC
The Albany International Folk n Shanty Festival (Scottish theme in 2025)
Albany WA
NT Irish Music Festival
Darwin NT
British & Irish Lions v Invitation-

al Australia and New Zealand
Adelaide SA
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Hobart TAS

13 JUL

Medieval Festival at The Abbey
Caboolture QLD
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Graham McColgan, The Scotsman: Highland Harmonies from Distant Shores, Kew Court House Theatre
Melbourne VIC
Fleetwood Macs
Maryborough QLD

14 JUL

Bastille Day at La Perouse
Headland
Sydney NSW

15 JUL

Irish Set Dancing with Matt Harriage at The Wild Geese
Melbourne VIC

16 JUL

10cc
Brisbane QLD

17 JUL

10cc
Twin Heads NSW
Absolute Bowie
Brisbane QLD
Bastille Festival (to 20 JUL)
Sydney NSW
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Devonport TAS

18 JUL

10cc
Twin Heads NSW
Absolute Bowie
Adelaide SA
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Genealogical Society of Victoria - via Zoom
Aslan
Sydney NSW
Finn McCool's British and Irish

GIGS & REELS

English Scottish Irish Welsh Celtic Other events



NT IRISH FESTIVAL

Darwin NT

Entertainment by Aslan, Craic N' On, Bunch of Celts, The Bloody Mary's, McCarthy's Lore, Enbarr, and Irish dancing performances. At Darwin Ski Club. Tickets from Moshtix.com.au.

12 JUL

© www.angloandceltic.com

Lions Mall Takeover (to 19 JUL)
Fortitude Valley QLD
The Ireland Funds Australia
Brisbane Supporter's Lunch
St Lucia QLD
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Launceston TAS
Lloyd Langford
Sydney NSW

19 JUL
10cc
Caloundra QLD
Darling Downs Irish Club
Annual Dinner
Toowoomba QLD
Queensland Rose of Tralee
Trivia Arvo at Finnegan's Chin
Keperra QLD
Killarney Bonfire Night
Killarney QLD
Gold Coast Eisteddfod (19 JUL
- 17 SEP)
Gold Coast QLD
Brunswick Scottish Society
Ceilidh
Brunswick East VIC
British & Irish Lions v Wallabies
Brisbane QLD
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Brisbane QLD
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Guilford WA
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Lismore NSW
Queensland Symphony Or-
chestra presents Brief Encounter
in concert
Brisbane QLD

20 JUL
10cc
Toowoomba QLD
Aslan
Melbourne VIC
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Castlemaine VIC
The Most Wuthering Heights

Day Ever
Wagga Wagga NSW
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Gold Coast QLD
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Melbourne VIC

21 JUL
Darling Downs Irish Club All
Ireland Hurling Final
Toowoomba QLD
Melbourne Tartan Festival -
Genealogical Society of Victoria
- via Zoom
Melbourne Tartan Festival
- Come & try curling - in
association with Victorian
Curling Association
Melbourne VIC

22 JUL
10cc
Newcastle NSW
British & Irish Lions v First
Nationals & Pasifika XV
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Mount Gambier SA

23 JUL
Melbourne Tartan Festival -
Menzies Institute lecture
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Hamilton VIC

24 JUL
Antarctic Monkeys
Brisbane QLD
Melbourne Tartan Festival -
Whisky tasting at RACV City Club
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Mildura VIC
Lloyd Langford
Melbourne VIC

25 JUL
10cc
Sydney NSW

Herman's Hermits
Launceston TAS
Darling Downs Irish Club July
Members Night
Toowoomba QLD
The Celtic Club Rugby Tour
Victorian Lunch
Melbourne VIC
Absolute Bowie
Perth WA
Antarctic Monkeys
Melbourne VIC
Melbourne Tartan Festival - Vic-
torian Pipers Association recital,
PLC Burwood Campus
Melbourne VIC
Lloyd Langford
Melbourne VIC
The Celtic Club Melbourne
Rugby Tour Victorian Lunch
Melbourne VIC
Christmas in July - The Irish
Way at The Architect
Maroochydore QLD

26 JUL
Herman's Hermits
Hobart TAS
10cc
Thirroul NSW
Mackay Bluewater Fling
Mackay QLD
The Tamworth & District High-
land Society Winter Ceilidh
Tamworth NSW
Absolute Bowie
Fremantle WA
Antarctic Monkeys
Sydney NSW
Melbourne Tartan Festival -
Victorian Pipers Association
Championships, A & B grade -
PLC Burwood Campus
Melbourne VIC
Irish Support Agency Christmas
in July Ball
Sydney NSW
British & Irish Lions v Wallabies
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Whyalla SA
The First Annual Brits in

Brisbane Pub Crawl
The Ship Inn, Southbank,
Brisbane QLD
Queensland Irish Choir Celtic
Winter Concert
Everton Hills QLD
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Sydney NSW

27 JUL
10cc
Canberra ACT
The Australian Welsh Male Choir
and British Lions World In Union
Concert
Melbourne VIC
Governor Macquarie Memorial
Pipe Band Mid Year's Thai
Burns Supper
Wetherill Park NSW
Melbourne Tartan Festival -
Victorian Pipers Association
Championships, C & D grade -
PLC Burwood Campus
Melbourne VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Port Lincoln SA
The Most Wuthering Heights
Day Ever
Dubbo NSW

28 JUL
10cc
Albury NSW
Melbourne Tartan Festival
- Come & try curling - in
association with Victorian
Curling Association
Melbourne VIC

30 JUL
10cc
Castlemaine VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Esperance WA

31 JUL
10cc
Geelong VIC
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Manjimup WA

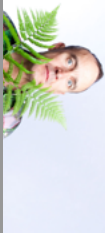
ASLAN

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



JIMEOIN

04 JUL Albury NSW
05 JUL Wangaratta VIC
11 JUL Newcastle NSW
12 JUL Maitland NSW
24 JUL Redcliffe QLD
25 JUL Cleveland QLD
26 JUL Logan QLD



JAMES MAY

29 JUL Perth WA
31 JUL Adelaide SA
02 AUG Canberra ACT
05 AUG Melbourne VIC
07 AUG Brisbane QLD
10 AUG Hobart TAS
20 AUG Sydney NSW



HERMAN'S HERMITS

25 JUL Launceston TAS
26 JUL Hobart TAS
06 AUG Caloundra QLD
08 AUG Lismore NSW
09 AUG Tweed NSW
10 AUG Brisbane QLD
21 AUG Taree NSW
14 AUG Wyong NSW
15 AUG Shoalhaven NSW



10CC

16 JUL Brisbane QLD
17 JUL Tweed NSW
19 JUL Birtinya QLD
20 JUL Toowoomba QLD
22 JUL Newcastle NSW
23 JUL Penrith NSW
25 JUL Sydney NSW
26 JUL Thirroul NSW
27 JUL Canberra ACT
30 JUL Castlemaine VIC
31 JUL Geelong VIC



GIGS & REELS

UPCOMING TOURS & FESTIVALS



Scenes from Queensland Irish Association's Bloomsday in Brisbane 2025 Celebrations on June 16 in Queen Street Mall. Pictures: Anglo&Celtic



AUGUST

Tours:

10cc
The Mersey Beatles
Antarctic Monkeys
Herman's Hermits
James May
Bloc Party
Queen: It's a Kinda Magic
Shamrock Tenors
Lloyd Langford
Sheeran Out Loud
Leo Sayer
Lord of the Dance

Festivals:

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

SEPTEMBER

Tours:

Herman's Hermits
The Wombats
The High Kings
Smokie
The Mary Wallopers
The Wombats
Shamrock Tenors
Air Supply
Lord of the Dance
Leo Sayer
Lloyd Langford

Festivals:

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

OCTOBER

Tours:

Smokie
Rob Beckett

James Blunt Oasis

The Wombats
Midge Ure
Ryan Adams
Shamrock Tenors
Tom Grennan
Big Country
John Edward
Stereophonics
The Animals

Festivals:

CelticFest Warwick QLD
Halloween
Convict Culture Week NSW
Australasia Gaelic Games Championships QLD
Brit Fest

NOVEMBER

Tours:

Smokie
Rob Beckett
James Blunt
Oasis
Cliff Richard
David Gray

Alan Davies
Midge Ure
Franz Ferdinand
Jarlath Regan
Steven Wilson
John Edward
The Animals
AC/DC

Festivals:

St Andrew's Day
Annual Scottish Festival at Overnewton Castle VIC

DECEMBER

Tours:

Alan Davies
Loyle Carner
Franz Ferdinand
AC/DC
Jacob Collier

Festivals:

Christmas
Hogmanay
Spilt Milk Festival
Woodford Folk Festival



Stereophonics bring long-awaited tour

Stereophonics are heading back to Australia – bigger, louder, and with more to say than ever.

The legendary Welsh rockers will tour the country this October, marking their biggest Australian run to date and their first visit since 2018. They're bringing with them a new album, *Make 'em Laugh, Make 'em Cry, Make 'em Wait*, released in April – along with the massive hits that have defined a generation: *Dakota*, *Have A Nice Day*, *Maybe Tomorrow*, *C'est La Vie* and *A Thousand Trees*.

Frontman Kelly Jones is fired up for the return: "Being on the road again with my best friends, playing all the hits of this band's catalogue,

TOUR DATES

17 OCT Sydney NSW
18 OCT Brisbane QLD
20 OCT Melbourne VIC
25 OCT Perth WA

makes me so excited, we should make a new album... oh wait ...we already did that! See ya there for more good times... TUNE!!! TUNE!!! TUNE!!!"

With 9 UK #1 albums, 11 UK Top 10 singles, and over 10 million albums sold worldwide, Stereophonics remain one of Britain's most enduring rock acts. Their stadium-filling sound has earned them a BRIT Award,

five nominations, and praise from legends like Bob Dylan and David Bowie – all while racking up over 1.5 billion global streams.

Their new album is a sharp, emotionally charged return to form – clean, precise, and full of the heart that's made them fan favourites. The lead single *Make It On Your Own* is classic Stereophonics: soaring, anthemic, and unshakably hopeful.

From their gritty beginnings to headline slots at Cardiff's Principality Stadium, Stereophonics have never stopped evolving.

With three decades of groundbreaking achievements under their belts, Stereophonics have earned

their status and respect amongst their fans, peers and artists from across the musical generations.

Stereophonics continue to solidify their place as one of the most enduring and beloved bands in rock. Their ability to seamlessly blend rock sensibilities with soaring melodies keeps their sound fresh and relevant, while Kelly Jones' ever-introspective lyrics continue to resonate with each passing year. Stereophonics have never been content to rest on their laurels, and this year's performances promise to be some of their most dynamic yet.

Tickets are now on sale from [Live Nation](#).



Ministry of Sound is turning up the class

Australia, get ready for the ultimate soundtrack to your summer.

Ministry of Sound CLASSICAL, the electrifying fusion of club anthems and live orchestral performance, is back in 2025 – bigger, bolder, and reimagined as an unmissable open-air dance music festival.

Following years of sold-out shows, Ministry of Sound CLASSICAL has cemented its place as one of the country's most highly anticipated live music experiences, blending the nostalgia of iconic dance tracks with the raw, immersive power of a full-scale live orchestra.

With names including Cassius (France), Judge Jules (England), Sneaky Sound System and more taking to the stage, this year's tour will offer a reimagined performance and updated setlist, lighting up four breathtaking outdoor venues across Australia in November and December.

Taking centre stage is the

globally-renowned Ministry of Sound Orchestra, led by award-winning conductor Vanessa Perica and backed by legendary DJ Groove Terminator. Together, they'll breathe new life into the tracks that defined generations of club culture – delivering a night of music, energy and nostalgia like no other.

Accompanying on stage is an all-star vocalist line up featuring ARIA Award Nominee Reigan along with Karina Chavez (Show Me Love), Rudy (TV Rock's In The Air), Lady Lyric (Classical tour favourite) and Luke Antony (The Voice).

Expect to be swept away as timeless dance anthems are remixed, rearranged and reimagined, with dazzling production, soaring vocals, and the immersive soundscape of an evening you'll never forget.

Each city features a specially curated line-up, with both international and Australian talent.

French house pioneers Cassius (Melbourne, Sydney, Perth) bring their iconic sound to the stage, alongside UK royalty Judge Jules (Melbourne, Sydney), the ever-energetic Tall Paul (Sydney), and genre-blending turntable master A.Skillz (Sydney, Perth). In Brisbane, Sneaky Sound System will deliver their signature party energy, and Grammy-nominated producer Dirty South brings his world-class sound and style to the stage.

Rounding out the bill are all-time dance floor icons John Course, Kid Kenobi, Mell Hall and Minx, plus a huge local line-up in each city still to be announced.

This year's summer edition of Ministry of Sound Classical elevates the festival experience even further, with premium food and bar offerings curated to complement the music and atmosphere. In Brisbane, Melbourne, and Perth, the celebration expands with the exciting ad-

TOUR DATES

01 NOV Brisbane QLD
29 NOV Melbourne VIC
06 DEC Sydney NSW
12 DEC Perth WA

dition of a silent disco, transforming each location into a multi-stage extravaganza. In Sydney, the event returns to its home at the Entertainment Quarter, after an incredible sell out in 2024, with three stages and an elevated VIP experience. This is a fully immersive experience designed to thrill, delight, and keep the party going all night long.

This is more than a concert – it's a celebration of dance music history, curated by the original team behind the iconic Annual CDs you know and love. This will be one unforgettable night in four cities, and the most exhilarating soundtrack of the summer.

For full event details, visit www.mosclassical.com.au.

AC/DC Power Up for Australia tour

AC/DC will return to tour Australia this November and December for the first time since 2015, for the 2025 Power Up tour!

In a massive response from fans to the Power Up Tour on-sale, promoter Christo Van Egmond of TEG Van Egmond confirmed that the band has reclaimed the record for the largest single-day concert on-sale in Ticketek's history, surpassing their own milestone set in 2009.

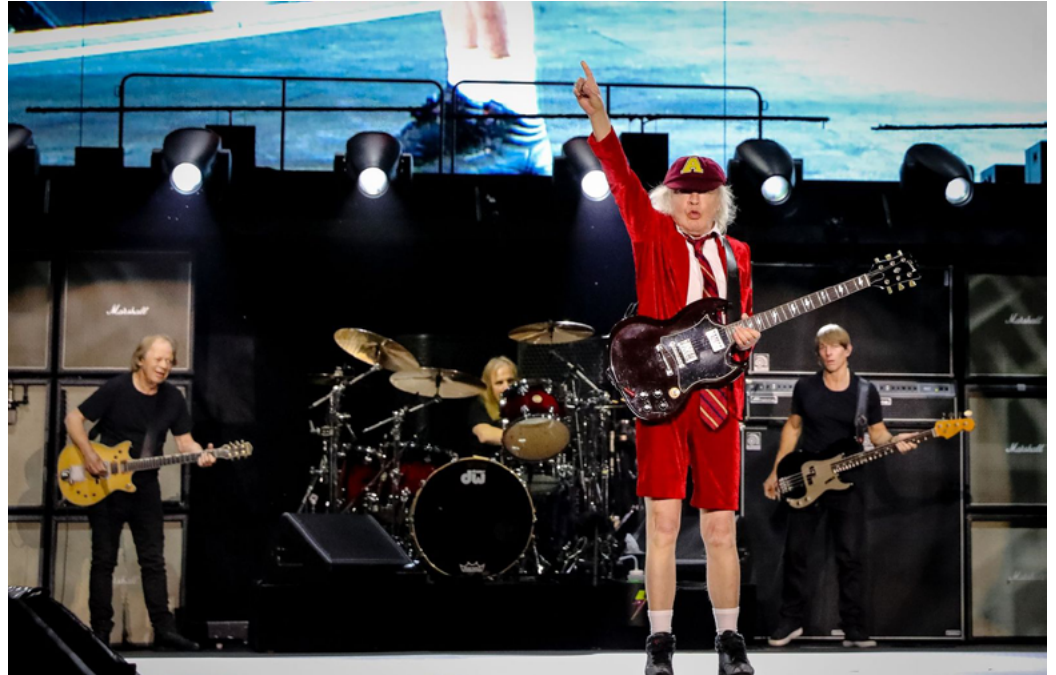
When tickets went on sale at staggered times around the country last week, they sold at an average rate of 1,200 per minute, with demand prompting the addition of second shows in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

"The demand for AC/DC's Power Up Tour in Australia has been extraordinary, representing the biggest ever concert on-sale day in Ticketek's history," said Christo Van Egmond. Demand saw four extra dates being added to the tour, in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth. "This second Perth show will definitely be the final show that will be added to the Australian tour. We can confirm that absolutely no further shows will be added to the Australian leg."

Much to the delight of legions of fans across Australia, the legendary Grammy Award-winning, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame-inducted band will perform in stadiums around the country.

Joining AC/DC as special guests on the tour is Australian rock band Amyl and the Sniffers.

The tour shares its name with AC/DC's 2020 album, Power Up, which debuted at number one on the ARIA



TOUR DATES

12 & 16 NOV Melbourne VIC
 21 & 25 NOV Sydney NSW
 30 NOV Adelaide SA
 04 & 08 DEC Perth WA
 14 & 18 DEC Brisbane QLD

Chart in Australia and 20 other countries around the globe. Power Up notably notched the band's third number one debut on the Billboard 200 and exploded as one of the best-selling albums of 2020 worldwide. It closed out the year on Rolling Stone's Top 50 Albums of 2020 and Consequence of Sound's Top 50 Albums of 2020. Plus, it garnered Grammy Award nominations in the categories of Best Rock Album, Best Rock Performance, and Best Music Video for Shot In The Dark.

In 2024, the Power Up Tour kicked off in Europe with a staggering 1.7 million



tickets sold in the first days of sales, eventually surpassing two million tickets sold across 24 shows. The band just concluded 10 sold-out shows in North America and has 15 additional shows scheduled across Europe before returning to Australia.

AC/DC played their very first show on the 31st December 1973 at Chequers Nightclub in Sydney, Australia. They are one of the most influential rock bands in history, with more than 200 million albums sold worldwide.

To continue their reign as the world's greatest rock and roll band, AC/DC – Glasgow-born Angus Young on lead guitar, vocalist Brian Johnson, rhythm guitarist Stevie Young, drummer Matt Laug and bass player Chris Chaney – is back to play to their legion of dedicated fans around Australia, which grows with every passing year.

Australia, it's our turn to witness the greatest rock band in the world. Tickets from www.tegvaneegmond.com.

Jacob Collier taking Djesse World Tour to Australia

Seven-time Grammy Award-winning artist, producer, and multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier has announced the Australian leg of his monumental Djesse World Tour. The highly anticipated tour will see Jacob and his incredible band bring this genre-defying and immersive live show to fans in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Joining Jacob as special guest on all shows is three-time Grammy nominated Australian songwriter, vocalist, and guitarist, Nai Palm.

The Djesse World Tour Australian shows kick off at The Fortitude Music Hall, Brisbane on Tuesday 9 December, before ICC Sydney Theatre, Sydney on Thursday 11 December and a final AU show at Margaret Court Arena on Saturday 13 December.

Following sold-out performances across North America, Europe and Asia, The Djesse World Tour continues to dazzle with its mix of deep musicality, joyful audience collaboration, and visionary production. In true Collier fashion, fans can expect a colourful and stratospheric experience that bridges genres and unites the room



in collective song through his audience choir phenomenon.

The Djesse World Tour supports Collier's epic Djesse album series – a four-part musical journey that has redefined the boundaries of genre and collaboration, which has led to seven GRAMMY wins and 15 GRAMMY nominations, making him the first British artist in history to win at least

one Grammy for each of his first 5 studio albums. His fearless approach to music has attracted a plethora of 100+ collaborators, including Coldplay, Camilo, SZA, Shawn Mendes, John Mayer, Stormzy, Lizzy McAlpine, John Legend, Tori Kelly, and Quincy Jones.

"I'm so excited to bring this iteration of the tour to

TOUR DATES

09 DEC Brisbane QLD
11 DEC Sydney NSW
13 DEC Melbourne VIC

Australia," says Collier. "The sound of the audience choirs I conducted during the shows in these cities back in 2022 deeply influenced the sound of Djesse Vol. 4, so to return and celebrate this record with you feels like a homecoming of sorts!"

Beloved by audiences, musicians and critics the world over, and heralded as one of the most groundbreaking artists of the 21st century, singer-songwriter, producer, arranger & multi-instrumentalist and world-builder Jacob Collier has taken the music industry by storm. With a depth and imaginatory infinity that is beyond question, Jacob plays, writes and communicates with a human warmth, openness and drastic inclusivity that melts hearts, explodes minds, and inspires millions.

Tickets and tour information via frontiertouring.com/jacobcollier and jacobcollier.com/tour.

Gary Óg announces 20th Australian tour

Celtic rebel folk legend Gary Óg is coming home – to Australia – for the 20th time this November, proving once again that no ocean can keep him from the fans who've stood with him for decades.

What began as a cult following has grown into a cross-generational community, and this time, the bond runs deeper than ever. More than a tour, this is a celebration – of music, of loyalty, and of a shared fire that refuses to fade.



TOUR DATES

07 NOV Melbourne VIC
08 NOV Perth WA
14 NOV Brisbane QLD
15 NOV Sydney NSW

"Twenty tours in, and it still feels like the first time," says Gary.

Tickets are expected to move fast – and for the fans who've been there from the start, this one's for you. Go to [Troubadour Presents](http://TroubadourPresents.com).

Golden opportunity to see Tony Hadley perform hits

Tony Hadley, former lead singer from one of the biggest bands of the 1980s, Spandau Ballet, and one of Australia's favourite touring artists, has announced a new national tour for 2026. Alongside his Fabulous TH Band, Tony will perform all the Spandau Ballet hits we know and love – including True, Gold, Only When You Leave, Round & Round and more, plus solo material from across Tony's career.

"Australia! I am so happy to be coming back in 2026 for a big national tour. After the fantastic shows earlier this year in Adelaide, Hobart and Perth, I'm excited to take the tour across all the capital cities next year. See you in March!"

It has been over 40 years since Tony Hadley first released music with his former band, Spandau Ballet. From his beginnings at the forefront of the New Romantic movement, Tony earned himself the accolade of being one of pop's greatest vocalists. Spandau Ballet had numerous chart-topping singles and albums all over the world, in-



cluding the epic Through the Barricades, the international number one True, and the unofficial London Olympics theme, Gold.

As a solo artist Tony has performed across the world both with his band, swing bands, and orchestras. In 2005 he was awarded a Gold Badge from the British

Academy of Composers and Songwriters; whilst 2007 saw him win a new legion of fans when he appeared as Billy Flynn in Chicago on the West End stage.

In 2018, Tony released Talking To The Moon, The album was incredibly well received, became BBC Radio 2's Album Of The Week

DATES & DEETS

11 MAR Brisbane QLD
12 MAR Sydney NSW
14 MAR Melbourne VIC
18 MAR Adelaide SA
20 & 21 MAR Perth WA

and the first single Tonight Belongs To Us was Single Of The Week. In early 2024 he returned to his love of swing music and released The Mood I'm In – featuring songs from his 2007 album Passing Strangers, remastered them and added five additional tracks including a new song, Walk Of Shame. Later this year, he will be releasing a new swing album and in 2026, fans can expect a new solo contemporary album.

In 2019 he was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List for his services to charity.

Don't miss your chance to hear some of the best songs from the 80s performed by one of the best singers of the time! Tickets from [Destroy All Lines](#).

The Fab Four heading down under in 2026

The world's premier Beatles tribute, The Fab Four, is thrilled to be heading back down under in March 2026! Experience the magic of the Beatles like never before as Ardy Sarraf (Paul), Adam Hastings (John), Erik Fidel (Ringo), and Gavin Pring (George) bring the timeless hits to life with stunning authenticity.

From Hey Jude to Twist and Shout, this is a must-see show for every Beatles fan.

If you want to experience the best Beatles tribute ever, you won't want to miss The Fab Four - The Ultimate Tribute.



TOUR DATES

05 MAR Wyong NSW
06 MAR Penrith NSW
07 MAR Sydney NSW
09 MAR Mandurah WA
11 MAR Perth WA
13 MAR Brisbane QLD
14 MAR Tweed Heads NSW
20 MAR Melbourne VIC
21 MAR Melbourne VIC

Don't miss out, grab your tickets now! Tickets and further information from Abstract Touring at www.abstract.net.au.

Leo Sayer feels like dancing across country

After the sold-out success of his 2024 and 2025 UK tours, music legend Leo Sayer will be returning to Australia to perform a select number of festival and concert dates... and he still feels like dancing!

Announcing the tour on social media, Leo shared: "Australia! Still Feel Like Dancing? I'm really excited to announce that I'm back for a limited number of theatre shows for the first tour down under in six years. Tickets on sale now!"

Leo has spent over five decades as an iconic singer and songwriter. With this performance, Leo and his band bring boundless energy, exuberance and a hit-packed show to some of his favourite venues across the country.

Leo is known the world over for his army of hits, which include Thunder In

TOUR DATES

20 AUG Broken Hill NSW
21 AUG Broken Hill NSW
29 AUG Geelong VIC
30 AUG Southbank VIC
05 SEP Cremorne NSW
06 SEP Tweed Hds NSW
11 SEP Mandurah WA
12 SEP Perth WA

My Heart, Moonlighting, One Man Band, I Can't Stop Loving You, More Than I Can Say, Have You Ever Been in Love, The Show Must Go On and the transatlantic number ones, When I Need You, and of course, You Make Me Feel Like Dancing.

This is a hit-packed, high energy evening not to miss. For tickets, see www.leosayer.com.



The Animals bringing The Final Curtain down

The Animals were a major force in the British Invasion of the 1960s, blending blues, R&B, and rock into a sound that has inspired generations. Their music remains as relevant and powerful today as it was back then! The Animals are Original Member John Steel alongside Danny Handley, Norm Helm and Barney "Boogie" Williams.

Still on the prowl, The Animals are still commanding great respect internationally amongst their peers as well as from fans of all ages – crowds still adore edgy anthems from The Animals catalogue such as the classics, We Gotta Get Out Of This Place, Boom Boom, Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood, It's My Life and the bands' iconic multi-million selling, and Number One worldwide, hit – House of The Rising Sun.

Do not miss your last



chance to witness one of rock's most influential bands take their last bow on Australian soil for what will be "The Final Curtain".

Founding member and

original drummer John Steel said: "Australia has always felt like a second home for us. The fans here have been amazing over the years, and we just had to come back to

TOUR DATES

23 OCT Newcastle NSW
24 OCT Kingsford NSW
25 OCT Rozelle NSW
31 OCT Thirroul NSW
01 NOV Coogee NSW
02 NOV Queanbeyan NSW
04 NOV Woolloongabba QLD
06 NOV Toowoomba QLD
07 NOV Tweed Heads NSW
08 NOV Grafton NSW
11 NOV Ballarat VIC
12 NOV Melbourne VIC
14 NOV Warragul VIC
15 NOV Wonthaggi VIC
18 NOV Adelaide SA
21 NOV Perth WA
22 NOV Fremantle WA

enjoy one more chapter of this amazing journey."

Tickets from [Metropolis Touring](http://MetropolisTouring.com).



The Mary Poppins Festival in Maryborough. Pictures: [facebook.com/FraserCoastEvents](https://www.facebook.com/FraserCoastEvents)

Super-Mary-Festival-sees-city-get-vivacious

Maryborough, Queensland, the birthplace of P.L. Travers, the creator of the quintessentially British nanny, Mary Poppins, will once again host the whimsical Mary Poppins Festival.

On 28 September 2025 the town will be transformed into a celebration of storytelling, imagination, and British charm, evoking the spirit of Edwardian London. The festival's events – which previously ranged from the chimney sweep challenge to the iconic nanny race – will be as supercalifragilisticexpialidocious as ever, capturing the magic of Poppins while celebrating both Maryborough's local heritage and the timeless appeal of this beloved British character.

The festival pays homage to Mary Poppins, a charac-



ter deeply rooted in British culture. Travers, though born in Maryborough, infused her

stories with the essence of Edwardian London, capturing the charm and discipline of

DATES & DEETS

28 SEP
Maryborough QLD
www.marypoppinsfestival.com.au

British society. This British influence is evident throughout the festival's events.

The festival's setting in Maryborough's Portside Precinct and Queens Park enhances the experience, with architecture and landscapes reminiscent of the London scenes depicted in Travers' tales.

As the festival date approaches, organisers are finalising the program to ensure a magical experience for all attendees. Visitors are encouraged to check the official festival website for the latest updates and to plan their visit accordingly.



Españ-ceol as Galicia celebrates Celtic fiesta

The Festival Internacional do Mundo Celta de Ortigueira returns to northern Spain this July, with the 2025 edition promising even more music, tradition, and Celtic soul. Held in the coastal town of Ortigueira from 10 to 13 July, the festival draws over 100,000 attendees annually and is regarded as one of the world's leading gatherings of Celtic music and culture.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Escola de Gaitas de Ortigueira, the pipe band that founded the festival in 1978 and remains at its core. In honour of the milestone, the 2025 event will feature special performances, tributes, and the much-anticipated unveiling of a commemorative festival poster by local artist Mónica Fustes.

The finalists of the 2025 Runas Competition for emerging acts – Darach, Rae Dalama & Carballido, and Xara – will kick off the festivities on Thursday night. These fresh voices blend Galician, Irish, Scottish, and



The 2024 Ortigueira Celtic festival. Pictures: www.festivalortigueira.com

Iberian traditions, keeping the festival's pan-Celtic vision alive and thriving.

Though set in Spain, the festival's heart beats to a Celtic rhythm. Galicia, with its lush green hills, stone hillforts (castros), and its traditional gaita galega (bagpipes), shares deep cultural roots

with Ireland, Scotland, and Brittany. Ancient Celtic customs and music remain vital here, passed down through generations and still danced to in the muñeira.

At Ortigueira, this heritage is not just preserved—it's performed, celebrated, and proudly shared with the

world. From spontaneous beach sessions to grand parades of pipers, the festival is a living reminder that Celtic culture in Galicia is anything but a relic – it's a roaring, rhythmic, and very modern tradition.

More information at festivaldeortigueira.com

NOTICES

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ANGLOCELTIC

Issue 25

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- make new connections in the Celtic community
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