





Day Special

November 2023



PAGE 2 ANGLO&CELTIC





Mary Allen reading a letter from the Ambassador of Ireland, with Queensland Irish Association President Jeff Spender looking on, at the Association's 125th Anniversary Lunch at Brisbane City Hall last month.

# Celebrating our community heroes

Welcome to our November edition which has been a pleasure to make as there are so many stories about amazing humanitarians.

I hadn't known about the story of Paul Strzelecki until I accidentally happened across it. 'The Famine' is and will probably always be a difficult subject for us Irish. More tragedy and suffering than we can even comprehend, never mind talk about. So it's no surprise that the legacy of this great Polish man who saved 200,000 starving children had been lost to history. He also wanted all his papers burnt upon his passing and to be buried in an unmarked grave too, such was his humility. That his story is now being heard is a credit to the Polish community in Australia, and especially Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, President of Kosciuszko Heritage, who has done so much to have his legacy celebrated on the 150th anniversary of his death. There are events happening to honour and remember him throughout November.

The day Princess Diana died is one many of us will never forget. I had just moved to London the day before, and was woken by my friend in the middle of the night telling me Diana had been in a crash and was hurt. We were watching TV live in disbelief as the news reporter announced that she was dead.

The next few weeks in London were surreal. Everyone was united in grief. People wept openly outside the palaces. She was a beauty without doubt but it was her beautiful heart that people loved. Her bravery. Her honesty. We may never see her like again. Now her Royal photographer is bringing an exhibition of candid photographs of Diana to Melbourne. It promises to be very special.

Then there's Irish-American Chuck Feeney. What an amazing human being he was. He made billions by building up a duty-free shopping empire. Many dream of the lifestyle he could have had - fame, accolades, glamour, mansions, limos. But Chuck had no interest in any of that, he lived a simple life and used his billions to help others, including here in Australia. He gave the vast bulk of his fortune before his recent death. Vale Chuck Feeney, a life well lived.

We are celebrating a community hero closer to home too. Séamus Sullivan, the vice-president of Queensland Irish Association, has devoted his whole life to the community. He works morning, noon and night to help others. I am over the moon that he is being given an Irish Presidential Award for his humanitarianism. It comes after a tough few years for him and nobody deserves it more.

#### In this issue

On page 7, Princess Diana's Official Royal Photographer brings an exhibition of her portraits to Melbourne.



Special feature on pages 10 & 11, we see what events the Scottish community has planned for St Andrew's Day.



On page 12, we pay tribute to Chuck Feeney, an Irish-American billionaire who gave away his fortune to help others.



On page 15, as we mark 150 years since his death, we examine the legacy of Paul Strzelecki, hero of the Irish Famine.



On pages 24 & 25, historic dance expert Dr Heather Clarke shares her expertise on the culture of the Isle of Man.



On page 27, Jim Harte, an Irish Showband legend, is bringing back the sounds of the 60s at a Fremantle concert.







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# Bland, Dull and Boring mark ten years as team tedium

It's been ten years since Bland Shire in New South Wales, Australia, teamed up with Dull in Scotland and Boring in Oregon, USA, to form the Trinity of Tedium.

In 2012, the town of Boring in Oregon, US, voted to cement a relationship with the Perth and Kinross village of Dull in 'a pair for the ages'. Bland was accepted into the alliance in 2013. Bland and Boring are both named after early residents of the area – William Bland and William Boring – and Dull is believed to have got its name from the Pictish word for field.

August 9th every year marks the annual Bland, Dull and Boring Day, when all three celebrate the anniversary of their alliance. To mark the 10th anniversary, a British cyclist went on a quest to ride from Boring to Dull.

Mark Wedgwood from Manchester, England, was in Boring, Oregon for the anniversary day, and as part of the festivities, he left on his bicycle, bound for Dull, Scotland. He crossed the US to Boston, then transported to Iceland, cycled across Iceland, then transported to the Faroe Islands. He cycled across the Faroe Islands and got transport to Scotland's mainland, reaching Dull right on schedule on October 12th. That day marked the 10th anniversary of when a group of nine Boring residents first visited Dull and celebrated the first, unofficial Borina and Dull Day in Scotland.

Mark said on his trip website, boringtodull.com: "What better time, then, to be arriving at the culmination of my long and almost certainly unique cycling adventure. We had 22 miles left to go and a fine, if rather cool Scottish morning in which to enjoy the magnificent scenery.

"And then, suddenly, there it was by the roadside: the 'Welcome to Dull, Paired with Boring, Oregon, USA' sign."

He added: "We climbed off our bikes, a grey haired man with a fine moustache called to us across the car park. It was Tommy, lifelong Dull resident and my best and only contact here. We went inside the cosy cafe and he treated us to coffee, soup and herb scones. Then we chatted at length about Boring and Dull, how the pairing came about, visitors from overseas and other amusing stories."

Bland, which was originally a gold mining area, has a 6,000-strong population. It has a sign located in Lions Park representing the three communities in a fun selfie frame. You can snap a photo with the sign and post on your social media using #blandnotdullorboring.

#### AT A GLANCE

- The town of Boring in Oregon, USA, teamed up with the village of Dull in Scotland in 2012 as a tourism initiative.
- In 2013, Bland Shire in Australia joined the friendship grouping to become the Trinity of Tedium.
- English cyclist Mark Wedgwood cycled from Oregon in the US to Dull in Scotland to mark the 10th anniversary of the group coming together.
- You can have a selfie taken with a sign at the Lions Park in Bland, New South Wales that reads: 'League of Extraordinary Communities. Bland... far from Dull and Boring'.

PAGE 4 ANGLO&CELTIC

### Séamus to receive award from President of Ireland

Queensland Irish Association Vice-President Séamus Sullivan is to receive Ireland's Presidential Distinguished Service Award for his support for the Irish community in Australia.

The award will be presented by President Michael D. Higgins at a ceremony in Áras an Uachtaráin, Dublin, in the coming months.

Séamus is one of 13 winners of this year's awards and is the only one from the Irish diaspora in Australia.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence. Micheál Martin TD, this week announced the recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Ahroad

The Tánaiste said: "This award recognises the exceptional achievements, contributions, and service of members of our diaspora in all its forms. Each of the 13 awardees has made an outstanding mark in their field of endeavour - across the arts. culture, charitable works, business, education, science, Irish community support, peace and reconciliation, and inclusion and equality. I look forward to meeting them in Ireland when the President presents the awards.

Sean Fleming TD, Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, added: "Ireland's global family is distinguished by the calibre of its vision, effort, and engagement. This year has seen awards conferred on people across the continents for an impressive range and depth of endeavour and achievements. Awardees will travel to Dublin to receive the awards and I will be delighted to meet them to hear more about their work."

Séamus was nominated chiefly by a small cohort of close friends, most of whom also volunteer for Queens-



Séamus Sullivan is the only winner of a Presidential Distinguished Service award from the diaspora in Australia this year.

land Irish Association (QIA).

QIA Public Relations Of-

ficer Mary Allen said: "All of us in the QIA are incredibly proud of Séamus. He is an absolute legend, an affable and gentle man, and a determined man. Brisbane's vibrant Irish community culture is in a huge part thanks to Séamus. Nobody is more dedicated to the Irish community, nobody works harder and nobody is more deserving of this recognition. It's been his life's work. And the funny thing is, he's so modest, he will be mortified at all

Séamus was born in Tipperary in 1942 and emigrated first to England and then to Australia in 1972. He has been an integral part of the growth and development of the Irish community in Queensland ever since.

the fuss. He has never been

that work needs to be done,

and he gets on with it."

He co-founded Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association and was President of the Australasian Gaelic Athletic Association for 40 years.

He has also spent time as President of the Queensland Irish Association, where he

currently serves as Vice-Pres-

He co-founded, is a former president and current committee member of Brisbane Irish Festival, who organise the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Brisbane.

Séamus was one also of the founding members of Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland, which provides outreach and support to the Irish community in Queensland.

Forever active within the community, Séamus spends most days volunteering at the Gaelic games grounds in Brisbane, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding this year. He put huge effort into saving the clubhouse and grounds after devastating floods in 2011

and again in 2022. Despite the fields and clubhouse being ravaged, games recommenced within months on both occasions.

Séamus was recognised by Brisbane City Council in 2020 with a Citizen of the Year award. This not only recognised his work for the Irish community but also for his "willingness to help anyone who approaches him for assistance" and he "continuously offers his support to Brisbane residents facing difficult situations, such as alcohol and substance abuse, death of loved ones or domestic violence".

Séamus has given his life to serving the Irish diaspora. He is a worthy recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Services Award.





ANGLO&CELTIC

## UK and Ireland team up to host Euro 2028 tournament

The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland have secured the hosting rights for UEFA Euro 2028.

This follows Turkey's withdrawal from the 2028 race, which left England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland as the sole joint bidders.

Italy and Turkey, initially in the running for Euro 2028, have decided to collaborate on hosting Euro 2032 instead.

Ten world-class stadiums have been confirmed to stage matches during the 2028 competition. Among the selected venues are iconic arenas such as Wembley, St James' Park, and Villa Park.

Joining them are the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Cardiff's Principality Stadium, Glasgow's Hampden Park, and Dublin's Aviva Stadium.

One of the most exciting inclusions is Casement Park in Belfast, Northern Ireland.



Irish Football Association President Conrad Kirkwood, Football Association of Wales President Steve Williams, England Football Association Chair Debbie Hewitt, UEFA General Secretary Theodore Theodoridis, Football Association of Ireland President Gerry McAnaney and Scotland Football Association President Rod Petrie. Picture: UEFA

Although currently a Gaelic games venue, it has been selected to host Euro 2028 matches after it undergoes transformation into a new 34,500-capacity stadium.

The British and Irish bid, backed by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf, and Wales's First Minister Mark Drakeford, promises to make Euro 2028 a "low risk, high reward host".

They said in a statement: 'It will be the biggest sporting event our islands have ever

jointly staged - a passionate and unforgettable celebration, with long-term benefits for our cities and communities as well as all European football'.

The British and Irish bid runs under the slogan, 'For all, for good, for the future'.

### Aussie drop bears find new habitat in Wales

Drop Bear Beer, a Walesbased brewery with an unmistakably Aussie-inspired name, is making waves in the UK's alcohol-free beer scene.

Founded by Swansea couple Joelle Drummond and Sarah McNena, the brewery's journey began with a simple yet impactful idea: to brew exceptional alcohol-free beers that could stand out from the crowd. They formed Drop Bear Beer in 2019.

Sarah is originally from Melbourne, where she loved the craft beer scene. She moved to the UK in 2017 and a year later, decided to give up alcohol, and her partner Joelle supported her in this decision. As a craft-beer lover, she was disappointed in the range of alcohol-free beers on offer whenever they went out. They decided



to try creating their own, in a saucepan in their kitchen. Their determination and vision quickly evolved into the creation of outstanding alcohol-free beers.

Drop Bear Beer Co. draws its name from Australia's

mythical "drop bear" legend
- a story of a large, predatory marsupial related to the koala, known for its habit of 'dropping' on unsuspecting prey. As their website explains: 'The Drop Bear is told as a heavily built beast with powerful forearms for climbing and holding on to large cases of beer. It packs powerful canines and broad powerful premolars as hunting and beer opening tools.'

And while most drop bears live in the Australian bush, you'll find the Welsh Drop Bear beers safely tucked away on the shelves of major UK supermarkets like Tesco, Asda, and Co-op.

Joelle and Sarah's journey from idea to award-winning brews is a testament to their passion for creating a unique and refreshing alcohol-free beer experience that's been recognised globally. And they are very proud of their Welsh heritage, featuring it heavily in their marketing. Let's just hope UK shoppers find the beers before the drop bears do.

PAGE 6 ANGLO&CELTIC





Anwar Hussein, Princess Diana's Official Royal Photographer, is bringing an exhibition of her photographs to Melbourne.



# Princess Diana exhibition to dazzle Melburnians

Get ready to see Princess
Diana like you've never
seen her before. An exclusive Australian premiere is
set to dazzle Melbourne as
Princess Diana: Accredited
Access Exhibition is on its
way, bringing with it a trail of
stardust from its sold-out international tours in Los Angeles,
Chicago, Toronto, and Puerto
Rico.

Princess Diana was a beautiful and timeless icon whose compassion, style, and charity work continue to inspire and resonate with hearts worldwide. She was, by many accounts, the most photographed person in the world. This exhibition grants unparalleled access to

Princess Diana's world, her life, and her legacy. It's a captivating journey through time, made possible by Anwar Hussein, her Official Royal Photographer.

Melbourne is about to experience a unique closeness to the People's Princess, uncovering stories and moments that have rarely seen the light of day.

This immersive exhibition is designed to take you on an emotional rollercoaster through the life of an icon. As you move through its various themed sections, you'll encounter Diana in the Photography Dark Room, witness her Growing years, bask in her Glam, and even

have a peek at her Hats & Tiaras. You'll explore her Art Installations, experience her Humanitarian side, and get a glimpse of the Unguarded moments that defined her humanity.

What sets this exhibition apart is the presence of the Hussein family, accredited by the Royal Family and renowned for their profound work with Diana and her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. Their firsthand accounts and deep insights are like hidden treasures, adding an extra layer of magic to this remarkable experience.

With bespoke art installations by the renowned

artist Pauline Loctin, specially created for this exhibition, it's set to be an unmissable event that's sure to leave a lasting impression.

So, Melburnians, count your lucky stars, for you're about to witness an unforgettable journey through the life of Princess Diana, right in your own city.

The Princess Diana: Accredited Access Exhibition opens to the public on November 17th at The Tea House, Southbank VIC.

Tickets, costing \$35 for an adult and with discounts and bundles available, are now on sale at <a href="https://princessdianaexperience.com/melbourne/">https://princessdianaexperience.com/melbourne/</a>.

# Stamp honours Irish genius behind opera house sails

An Post, the Irish Postal Service, has unveiled a captivating stamp to honour the Sydney Opera House's 50th anniversary.

The stamp commemorates the pivotal role played by Peter Rice, an Irishman and structural engineer, in fashioning the Opera House's revolutionary 'white sails' roof. The design is a masterful fusion of mathematical precision and artistic intuition, transforming concrete, steel, and glass into an internationally renowned architectural marvel.

This iconic symbol of architectural brilliance was celebrated on-site at the Sydney Opera House, graced by the presence of dignitaries, including Consul General of Ireland in Sydney, Rosie Keane, Kieran Rice (son of the visionary Irish structural engineer, Peter Rice), Isabella Rice, and Kerryn Coker, co-chair of Arup Australasia, the original design company.

Kieran Rice, Peter Rice's son, shared his family's appreciation, stating, "We, Peter Rice's family, are all deeply touched by the rec-



Kieran Rice, Isabella Rice and Consul General Rosie Keane wth the An Post stamp of Sydney Opera House.

ognition of his contribution to the Sydney Opera House's design." He expressed that the stamp was a beautiful tribute to his father's legacy.

Consul General Rosie
Keane underscored the opera house's enduring global appeal and the pride of the Irish community in Peter Rice's significant role.

An Post CEO David McRed-

mond highlighted the celebration of Irish contributions to world-class architecture and engineering.

The stamp, designed by Irish artist David Rooney, features a stunning portrayal of the opera house, emphasising its unique architecture and its connection to Indigenous Australian art.

An eloquent quote by Peter

Rice adorns the First Day Cover envelope, encapsulating his visionary career. It reads: "The courage you need is the courage to start. Once launched, then each step can be evolved naturally."

It's a fitting tribute to an architectural masterpiece and the Irish engineer who helped shape it.

### Pipes are calling Scots to Daylesford gathering

The Celtic spirit is alive and well in Daylesford in Victoria.

The Daylesford Highland Gathering, a cherished tradition celebrating Scottish culture, music, and dance for over 70 years, is back on December 2nd. Founded in 1952 by Dan McKinnon, this event has been uniting enthusiasts of Scottish heritage from across Australia.

Here's what to look forward to:

Band Competitions: Talented bands take the stage, filling the air with the haunting melodies of bagpipes and the rhythmic beats of drums. These performances capture the essence of Scottish cul-



ture, making them a beloved highlight of the gathering.

Victoria Park Gathering: Victoria Park transforms into the epicentre of Scottish culture, with pipe bands, Highland dancers, and stalls offering Scottish cuisine and crafts. Highland Dance Competitions: Dancers in colourful kilts showcase their skill and artistry, captivating audiences with Highland culture.

Street March: Vincent Street becomes a vibrant spectacle of Scottish culture as kilted pipe bands and clansmen march proudly, enveloped by the charm of Daylesford's historic streets.

**Solo Drumming:** A deep dive into Scottish traditions with rhythmic drumming, essential to Scottish music and history.

Massed Bands: The gathering's grand finale features multiple pipe bands in synchronised splendour, filling the air with the majestic strains of bagpipes and rhythmic drumbeats.

Gather your clan and come to Daylesford for a wee bit of Scottish culture. For more information, go to <a href="https://www.daylesfordhighland.com">www.daylesfordhighland.com</a>

PAGE 8 ANGLO&CELTIC

## Sláinte as Red Lion Tavern reclaims its Celtic heritage

Meet Petar and Jessica Grulovic, the proud new managers of The Red Lion Tavern, one of New England's most traditional pubs.

Located just 15 minutes from Glen Innes along the New England Highway in New South Wales, the tavern has undergone refurbishment and reopened in September, following a tour of the Celtic nations by Petar and Jessica.

Petar said: "My mother was from Greenock, Scotland and her parents were Irish/ Scottish. Jessica has Irish and Scottish roots from several generations back. I grew up an Irish dancer and Celtic culture has always been a big part of our performing lives.

"We are both high-school teachers and have been for over 15 years. When we lived in North Queensland previously, we ran a musical theatre academy and a musical theatre company."

When the couple, who have three young children, came to Glen Innes for a holiday and happened across The Red Lion, opportunity knocked.

'We came to Glen Innes for a brief holiday, touched base with the owners of The Red Lion, and soon became the new leasers of the building, and owners/managers of the business here," Petar explained.

They relocated from Mackay and settled down in Glencoe, near Glen Innes, to



open up their cosy little country pub with a Celtic twist.

Over the past few months, Petar and Jessica have revamped the interior to give the pub a Celtic theme, with tartan carpets and country-style furniture to create an inviting atmosphere.

The couple share a passion for their Scottish and Irish heritage.

Petar said: "We have always been passionate about all things Celtic. Having visited the Australian Celtic Festival as adjudicators for the Australian Celtic Dance Championships in 2016, 2017 and 2022, and as patrons in other years, we quickly developed an interest in all the Celtic Nations, including The Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany.

"From our first business discussions about The Red Lion, we immediately wanted to take the venue back to its

Celtic roots and offer something different to any bar or restaurant in the region.

"We want people to walk in and feel like they've stepped into another country and back into another time, Petar explained.

"And we want to make sure it's a very comforting, welcoming, spacious area.

The tavern treats guests to a wonderful array of Celtic-themed dishes. They have a rotating seasonal menu, which features a Celtic-inspired meal from each of the Celtic nations.

Previous and current dishes include Chicken Balmoral (Scotland), Beef and Guinnations," said Petar.

Beers on tap all come from Scotland (Tennent's) and Ireland (Guinness/Kilkenny) and they also sell other Scottish, Irish and Australian beers. Their collection of Celtic Spirits (whiskies and gins) are exclusively from the Celtic nations. Most are imported and/or rare, and they are the only stockists in Australia for a large proportion of their whiskies and gins - including Welsh gins, Cornish whiskies and Manx spirits.

The distinctive building has an interesting history.

Petar said: "It was originally known as a Celtic tavern, built in a region that was populated by many Scots, Irish, Welsh and Cornish who worked in agriculture, farming and mining.

That building burnt down in 1967. The Red Lion Tavern, modelled after the Red Line Tavern in Scotland, was built in 1969 and has had many owners since."

And now it's got a wonderful team at the fore, so let's raise a glass and say 'Sláinte' to Petar, Jessica and the Celtic tavern that's reclaimed its heritage.

You can contact The Red Lion Tavern at New England Highway, Glencoe, New South Wales, phone 0409 776 906, email redlion.glencoe@hotmail.com and online at Facebook.









Society of St Andrew Scotland Queensland, whose 75th Anniversary Ball is pictured above, are planning a St Andrew's Eve Ball to celebrate St Andrew's Day on Friday, November 24th.

# Australia gets ready to party like a Scot!

As the clock inches closer to November 30th, Australia is getting ready to throw a rip-roaring party that would make St Andrew himself proud.

It's time to don your tartan, get your ceilidh shoes on and get ready for a celebration like no other – it's St Andrew's Day!

For those not in the know, St Andrew's Day is Scotland's moment to shine, much like St George's Day for the English, St Patrick's Day for the Irish, and St David's Day for the Welsh. It's a day when Scots worldwide, their families, and friends come together to revel in their rich cultural heritage. The Scots have been doing this for over a thousand years, and they really know how to party!

St Andrew, Scotland's patron saint, has a special place in the hearts of the Scots. He's also the patron saint of Russia, Spain, Romania, Barbados, and Ukraine. St Andrew's Day is said to mark the date of his crucifixion on an X-shaped cross in Greece on November 30th, 60 AD. That X-shaped cross is the same one you'll find on the Scottish flag.

So, how do Australians celebrate this grand day of Scottish shenanigans? With ceilidhs, of course – those wild Scottish country dances that'll have you spinning like a top. And, naturally, food! Feast on dishes like Cullen skink, a hearty fish soup, and tender lamb that'll make your taste buds do a jig.

But it's not just about danc-

ing and dining; it's also a day to embody the generous spirit of St Andrew. Many folks take this opportunity to help those in need. Whether it's sharing a meal, donating clothing, or handing out toys, it's all about spreading kindness.

According to the 2021 Census, more than two million Australians claim Scottish heritage. Therefore, it's no surprise that there's a little piece of Scotland in every corner of the country.

So, get ready for a day filled with laughter, dancing, and more haggis than you can shake a sporran at.

In Australia, St Andrew's Day is all about embracing the joys of Scottish heritage and culture.

Slàinte mhath!

### AT A GLANCE

- Andrew was a fisherman who met Jesus, recognised him as the Messiah and became the first Apostle.
- St Andrew met his end on an X-shaped cross in Greece, now the emblem on the Scottish flag.
- In the 730s some of St Andrew's relics were brought to the Fife coast in Scotland.
- Around the middle of the tenth century he became the patron saint of Scotland.
- Australia celebrates St Andrew's Day with ceilidhs and dinners.

PAGE 10 ANGLO&CELTIC

# Castle to hold first Scottish Festival for St Andrew's

Spend a lovely Sunday soaking up the vibrant atmosphere and sampling the very best Scottish products, food and drinks at the first ever Scottish Festival at Overnewton Castle in Keilor, Victoria.

A huge showcase of live entertainment will be on display on Sunday, November 26th, with a procession of bagpipes starting at midday.

Gather your clan and your kilt and come on down to Overnewton Castle as they open the gates from 11 am to 4pm for the first annual Scottish festival and market day to celebrate St Andrew's Day and the Scottish heritage of the castle.

Enjoy a massive line-up of acts, artists, and activities for all ages.

Celebrate all things Scottish with St Andrew's Day celebrations. A display of the castle's history and founder, William Taylor, will also be exhibited in the castle's chapel room.

Overnewton Castle was built by William Taylor in 1849. The Scotsman bought 13,000 acres of rich grazing land just west of the Keilor township. Taylor built a simple single-story bluestone colonial-style homestead. This consisted of six rooms with large shuttered windows and wide verandahs. The homestead was positioned on



a gentle slope overlooking Keilor and afforded extensive views of the surrounding countryside.

It was not until William
Taylor returned from a trip
to Scotland in 1859 that the
grandeur of his dreams became apparent. He set about
turning the functional colonial
homestead into a miniature
Scottish Baronial castle. A
stately two-storied wing was

added, along with a blue stone dairy and butcher shop and a private billiards room.

William Taylor and his wife Helen, together with their family of six sons and four daughters, lived in the homestead attended by up to 15 staff.

Tickets are on sale <a href="here">here</a>.
Don't miss the first Scottish
Festival to come to Overnewton Castle.

### AUSTRALIAN CELEBRATIONS

FRI 10 NOV St Andrew's Ceilidh with Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club Collingwood VIC

FRI 24 NOV Society of St Andrew of Scotland of Queensland St Andrew's Eve Dinner Brisbane QLD

SAT 25 NOV
Saint Andrew Society of WA St
Andrew's Day 85th Anniversary Ball
Scarborough WA
Gallus Ceilidh Band at Jalbrook Est
Balingup WA
Scottish Pub Choir for St Andrew's
Enmore NSW
Toowoomba Caledonian Society St
Andrew's Night Ceilidh
Toowoomba QLD

SUN 26 NOV Scottish Festival Overnewton Castle, Keilor VIC

THU 30 NOV St Andrew's Day flag lowering Glen Innes NSW

SAT 2 DEC
St Andrews Shindig
Cronulla NSW
Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh
Inglewood WA
Mackay & District Pipe Band
presents St Andrew's Ceilidh
North Mackay QLD
Daylesford Highland Gathering
Daylesford VIC

### Cronulla celebrates St Andrew with a shindig

Revellers will get into the spirit of Scotland at the St Andrews Shindig in Sydney on December 2nd.

Held at Gunnamatta Pavilion in Cronulla from 4pm, this event is the perfect way to celebrate St Andrew's Day and Scottish culture in Australia.

The Tartan Crows, a dynamic music ensemble, will provide the ceilidh music, captivating attendees with their energetic performances and traditional Scottish tunes. They'll get everyone up on their feet for some lively ceilidh dancing.

The Scotsman, Graeme Mc-Colgan, a talented musician, will infuse beloved Scottish melodies with a joyful ukulele twist, ensuring a toe-tapping performance.

Additionally, The Broken Backs will take the stage, adding to the evening's entertainment.

To complete the Scottish

experience, there will be a selection of fine brews, including limited edition Scottish Ceilidh-inspired beers.

Whether an experienced ceilidh dancer or a first-timer, young or old, all are welcome to join in the fun.

The Scotsman will guide participants through traditional Scottish ceilidh dances, making it easy for everyone to take part. Keep an eye on The Scotsman's Facebook page for future events.



The Scotsman Graeme McColgan will play at St Andrew's Shindig.

# Vale Chuck, the billionaire who gave away his fortune

Charles 'Chuck' Feeney, the remarkable Irish-American entrepreneur and philanthropist, has passed away at the age of 92, leaving behind an indelible legacy of generosity that resonates deeply with the Australian Irish community

Chuck Feeney's story is one of unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. Born in New Jersey to Irish-American parents during the Great Depression, Chuck grew up with humble beginnings. His mother was a nurse, and his father worked as an insurance underwriter. These early values of humility and compassion would profoundly shape his life's journey.

Feeney's entrepreneurial spirit led him to create a duty-free shopping empire that spanned the globe, amassing immense wealth. However, what set Chuck Feeney apart was his rejection of personal extravagance. He saw wealth not as an end in itself but as a means to help others.

"I see little reason to delay giving when so much good can be achieved through supporting worthwhile causes today," he said.

Chuck was known for his down-to-earth frugality, and according to a New York Times article in 2017: "Until he was 75, he traveled only in coach, and carried reading materials in a plastic bag." He did not own a house or a car, preferring to rent an apartment, and he wore a \$10 Casio watch.

In 1982, he established the Atlantic Philanthropies, a foundation dedicated to giving away his fortune to causes he deeply believed in. For 15 years, Chuck Feeney donated in secret, earning him the moniker "the James Bond of philanthropy".

His connection to Íreland, and specifically Northern





Chuck and his wife Helga Feeney, top, and, above, Feeney Way at University of Queensland (UQ). Pictures: Cornell University and UQ

Ireland, was profound. Chuck Feeney traced his roots back to County Fermanagh, and his commitment to peace and reconciliation on the island was unwavering.

His transformative impact became more apparent when he emerged from anonymity in 1997, inspiring the world with his selfless devotion. That was the year he had a meeting at Queensland Irish Association's Tara House, which resulted in significant donations to the University of Queensland (UQ).

Across Australia, Chuck Feeney donated more than \$550 million to various projects. He gave \$102 million to three Queensland medical projects, including \$50 million to help establish the Translational Research Institute. At the time, the government celebrated this as the largest-ever medical donation in Australia's history.

Queensland saw the establishment of research institutes like the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, Queensland Brain Institute, and the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, among others, thanks to his generosity.

A University of Queensland landmark has been named in honour of Chuck Feeney. At UQ's entrance, the roadway has been named Feeney Way in his honour.

The Australian Irish community, along with the world,

### AT A GLANCE

- Chuck Feeney was an Irish American who made his fortune from duty-free shops.
- Chuck used his wealth to help others, donating the entire S8 billion during his lifetime.
- He travelled in coach class, wore a \$10 watch and rented his apartment.
- Chuck donated \$550 million to projects across Australia.

mourns the loss of a true humanitarian, a visionary who gave away his \$8 billion fortune during his lifetime.

Chuck Feeney's life serves as a shining example of the enduring impact one individual can have on society when driven by compassion, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to make the world a better place. His legacy will forever inspire Australia, the Irish community, and people worldwide.

Chuck Feeney died in San Francisco on October 9th, 2023, at the age of 92.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h'anam.

PAGE 12 ANGLO&CELTIC

# Exhibition tells the story of convict love and separation

Prepare to embark on a time-traveling journey through history as the captivating 'When this you see remember me' exhibition brings a poignant slice of Australia's past to Bega Valley Shire, New South Wales.

This evocative showcase, featuring a remarkable collection of convict love tokens, is now on display at Tura Marrang Library and Community Centre, creating an immersive experience that tugs at the heartstrings.

Convict tokens, etched with personal details and messages of separation, serve as a powerful link to Australia's early days. These tokens were often a heartfelt farewell, a tangible connection between convicts bound for a faraway land and the loved ones they left behind.

Curated by the National Museum of Australia, this is a traveling exhibit that offers a window into the world of





Brian and Beverley Oakley examine the convict token made by Brian's great-grandfather. Pics: National Museum of Australia

these intimate keepsakes. Bega residents and visitors alike can explore a selection of 40 tokens from the national museum's vast collection, the largest of its kind globally, totalling 315 tokens.

Laina Hall, senior curator at the National Museum of Australia, explained the significance of these tokens, stating: "Most people have an understanding of the fact that Australia's initial British population was made up of convicts, but what these

objects do, in a really amazing way, is connect us to an individual."

The exhibition serves as an opportunity to uncover the personal stories behind these tokens, offering a glimpse into the lives of early convicts. These keepsakes were often exchanged as messages of love and connection with friends and loved ones.

The tokens are also accessible through an interactive media screen, allowing visitors to closely examine both sides

of the tokens and read the engraved messages.

These tokens, though small in size, carry immense historical significance. They were created by convicts who repurposed copper coins, smoothing them flat and engraving them with messages, illustrations, or symbols, such as figures in chains or soaring birds, to convey messages of slavery, liberty, or imprisonment.

The exhibition will run until November 5th.

### Letter gives glimpse of Irish-Australian history

A remarkable piece of Irish history has gone under the hammer at the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York. It is an envelope that sheds light on the life of an Irish political prisoner in Australia in 1868.

The envelope originally contained a censored letter to prisoner Thomas Fogarty from his brother in America. Thomas Fogarty, hailing from Kilfeacle, County Tipperary, was convicted in May 1867 for his involvement in the Fenian Rising.

According to records he was "one of a party which set fire to a man's house because he would not go with them". His sentence was five years of imprisonment in Fremantle Prison, Western Australia.

Fremantle Prison once held many young Irishmen,



transported and jailed for their roles in the Fenian Rising. Fogarty was only 20 years old when he arrived in Western Australia in January 1868. Prison authorities severely restricted his access to mail, intercepting letters deemed to contain "Fenian matter".

The envelope, which was posted from Portland, Maine in the US, was carried by ship to Derry, Ireland, then on to London, then delivered to Australia by steam ship,

arriving in Sydney on April 17th, 1868. It took a staggering 77 days to reach its destination. It is stamped in Portland and London, and is addressed: 'To The Governor of Fremantle (Convict) Prison (or Settlement, Western Australia, For Mr Thos Fogarty (Political Convict)'. While its exact contents remain a mystery, the interception of one of Simon Fogarty's letters to his brother suggests they were suspected to be politically motivated.

Prisoners were allowed to write one letter every two months, but Western Australia Governor John Stephen Hampton refused to give Thomas Fogarty his brother's address as he thought it would be unwise to let the brothers communicate.

After a year in Fremantle Prison, Thomas Fogarty was released and joined 24 other Fenian prisoners in San Francisco, California, where the Fenian Brotherhood warmly welcomed them. Fogarty lived in America until his passing in 1897.

The auction of this envelope provides a glimpse into the hardships and challenges faced by Irish political prisoners in the 19th century.

The auction offered collectors a chance to own a tangible piece of Irish heritage for US\$2,000 to US\$3,000.

## The race that stops a nation for the cup that takes a vacation

In 2023, the prestigious Melbourne Cup embarked on a remarkable global tour, visiting locations across the world, from England to Japan.

Valued at \$600,000, this 18-carat gold trophy was transported discreetly in an unassuming grey carry-on.

The cup visited trainer Dermot Weld in the Curragh, Ireland, as part of the 21st annual Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour. The cup was brought to the Curragh to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Irish horse Vintage Crop's historic victory.

Vintage Crop was the first international horse to clinch 'the race that stops a nation'.

The visit rekindled memories of Dermot Weld's audacious triumph in 1993. Vintage Crop's unexpected win broke barriers, catalysing the inclusion of overseas contenders at Flemington.

Dermot reflected on the challenges faced during Vintage Crop's journey, emphasising that it involved the transformation of quarantine systems and training



Dermot Weld with the Melbourne Cup at the Curragh Racecourse, Ireland. Pic: Victoria Racing Club

methods. "Most people in Australia thought it was impossible, most people in Europe thought it was equally impossible," he said. "I said at the time that it

"I said at the time that it would internationalise the Melbourne Cup and internationalise horse racing. I have been fortunate to win in Hong Kong, to win right across America, east coast, west coast and right across Europe and, of course, in Dubai but to win in Australia was very, very special."

He expressed his hope of returning to Flemington with another Cup contender.

"I would love to come back

for another one, definitely. We're working on it, I'll put it that way!"

While in Ireland, the cup also paid a visit to trainers Willie Mullins and Aidan O'Brien.

The Melbourne Cup will take place on Tuesday, 7th November at 2pm AEST.



PAGE 14 ANGLO&CELTIC

### Australia celebrates unsung hero of the Irish famine

Long celebrated here in Australia for his work mapping this country, Polish explorer Paul Strzelecki is now being honoured in Ireland for his heroic efforts during The Great Hunger (also known as the Irish potato famine), where he aided more than 200,000 children.

An exhibition in Dublin's National Museum of Ireland pays tribute to his extraordinary life and achievements.

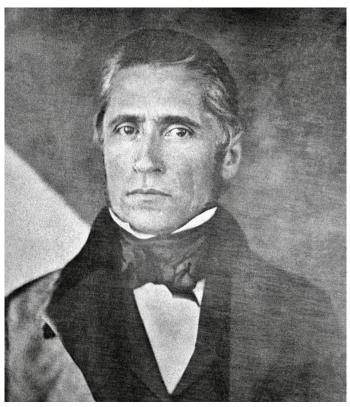
The creators of the exhibition, commissioned by the Polish Embassy in Dublin, were two academics infatuated with Strzelecki: Professor Peter Gray of Queen's University Belfast and Professor Emily Mark-Fitzgerald of University College Dublin. The exhibition unveils the story of Strzelecki, whose contributions to famine relief remain lesser-known yet profound. It features seldom-seen images from major museums and libraries across Ireland, Britain and Australia.

Count Paul (Paweł)
Strzelecki came from a noble family. He was educated in natural sciences and engineering.

Strzelecki ventured from England to Australia, where he explored the continent and conducted significant scientific research. His expeditions and discoveries greatly enriched Australia's understanding of its geography and natural features.

Among the places named after the explorer in Australia are the Strzelecki Ranges, a mountain range in Victoria; Mount Strzelecki, a mountain on Flinders Island in Tasmania; Strzelecki National Park in Victoria; Strzelecki Track, a famous outback road in South Australia, known for its challenging conditions; and Strzelecki Desert, which stretches from South Australia, into Queensland and New South Wales.

Strzelecki was the first



European to climb Australia's tallest mountain, Mount Kosciuszko in New South Wales, in 1840 and he named it in honour of a Polish patriot.

Strzelecki dreamed of completing a geological survey of Australia.

While his work focused on geography, geology, and mapping, he also interacted with Indigenous people in Gippsland, Victoria. He observed and documented aspects of their culture, including their customs, languages, and the use of local flora and fauna. His accounts added to the understanding of the Indigenous people's way of life in the Gippsland region.

Strzelecki returned to England and it was from there that he launched his humanitarian mission to Ireland during the famine.

He went to Ireland to provide aid, travelling extensively throughout the country as the main agent of the British Relief Association from 1847 to 1849. He developed an innovative approach to directly feed malnourished Irish children through schools, saving countless lives from hunger and disease. He also supported immigration from Ireland to Australia during the famine.

October 6th marked 150 years since the death of Strzelecki and in commemoration, the Polish government proclaimed 2023 as the Year of Strzelecki.

In celebrating the achievements of Strzelecki, activities and events are being hosted in various parts of the world where he left a lasting legacy.

Kosciuszko Heritage, a Polish non-profit volunteer group aiming to keep Strzelecki and Kosciuszko in living memory here in Australia, organised events throughout 2023 to honour his memory.

They invited Professors Gray and Mark-Fitzgerald to give a talk in Sydney about their Strzelecki exhibition earlier this year. The Professors also delivered the lecture at University of Melbourne.

### AUSTRALIAN CELEBRATIONS

SAT 18 NOV SNOWY MOUNTAINS, VIC: Unveiling the Strzelecki Memorial Plaque at Towong Hill Heritage Drive at 10am, followed by a concert with Paderewski Youth Orchestra, a group of 13 violinists and pianists from Chicago.

SUN 19 NOV KHANCOBAN AIRSTRIP, NSW: Polish Aboriginal friendship flights over Geehi and Mt Kosciuszko.

13 - 17 DEC GIPPSLAND, VIC: Travel in the footsteps of Strzelecki and his monuments. Traralgon, Heywood, Korumburra, via Strzelecki settlement, to Corinella and back to Melbourne.

SAT 16 DEC ROWVILLE, VIC: The official closing of Strzelecki Year at the Polish House 'Syrena' in Rowville. Artistic concert and film screening.

SUN 17 DEC KEYSBOROUGH, VIC: Farewell Mass at Divine Mercy Shrine.

For more details, click here

Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, President of Kosciuszko Heritage, said: "Ten years ago, we never dreamed that Ireland would recognise Strzelecki as its national hero and that Irish professors would teach us here in Australia about the Good Samaritan.

"In August 2013, we took the first steps to convince Irish parliamentarians what a distinguished figure Paweł Edmund Strzelecki was in the history of their country. Then everything went quickly - like a breeze. A breakthrough moment was the premiere of the exhibition about Strzelecki's humanitarian action, opened personally by President Higgins at the Royal Academy in Dublin."

The exhibition has since been put online for all to see. You can access it at <a href="https://www.strzelecki.ie">www.strzelecki.ie</a>.



# Sydney Just For Laughs launches influx of jokers

With the laughter-packed extravaganza of Just For Laughs Sydney Comedy Festival returning in November, it's no surprise that the country will be jam-packed with comedians this month.

Now in its 11th year, the Just For Laughs festival promises to deliver a weeklong spectacle of some of the biggest names in comedy and exclusive shows to Sydney Opera House. Among the headliners are comedians Kevin Bridges and Nina Conti.

On November 17th, you can see the very best in the world of comedy on the same stage for one night only. Hosted by Urzila Carlson, the Just For Laughs All-Star Gala will feature Dara Ó Briain, Dilruk Jayasinha, Nina Conti, Tommy Little, Joanne McNally and Russell Kane.

The festival runs from 12th to 20th November with some of the biggest and best comedy at Sydney Opera House.

Quick-thinking queen of ventriloquism and British Comedy Award winner Nina Conti will take to the stage on November 20th and 21st.

As well as his appearance at Just For Laughs, Scottish comedian Kevin Bridges, pictured, is thrilled to be touring Australia in November.

With most shows now sold out, you'll have to be quick to nab a ticket though.

The tour starts in New Zealand on November 7th before arriving in Melbourne on November 14th and visiting Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Perth.

Likewise, Dara Ó Briain is thrilled to bring his award-winning show, 'So...
Where were we?" to Australia and New Zealand.

"So... Where were we?" has all the elements of the shows that made Dara one of the leading international stand-ups and one of Ireland's finest comedy exports for more than 20 years.

The tour begins in Perth on November 12th, and visits Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane before visiting New Zealand.

Leigh Francis, the Leeds comedian whose characters and sketches have kept millions of people around the UK laughing for years, will visit Australia this month.

Making an exclusive
Australian appearance, Leigh
Francis will be performing
on both days of the Comedy
in the Vines festival at Hide
& Seek Winery, Nagambie
Lakes, Victoria, on November
11th and 12th.

Joining Leigh at Comedy in the Vines will be Essex comedian Russell Kane.

Russell has taken home the gong for The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Award, and now he is returning to Australia with the smash tour The English Variant.

The show has been hailed by The Guardian as the

number one comedy performance to come out of 2020, and about what happened to us all that year.

Russell brings nuclear-energy belly laughs and pant-wetting observations, which prove that laughter is the best medicine.

His highly-acclaimed show will have dates in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

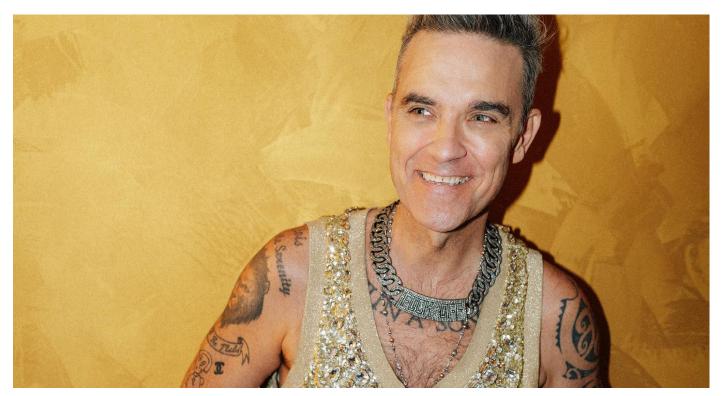
Joining them at Comedy in the Vines will be Welshman Lloyd Langford.

Apart from champing at the bit to be back touring, Lloyd is almost certainly feeling one or more of the following moods; cheeky, baffled, exhausted, curious, absolutely sick to death of going to the playground.

Lloyd is an award-winning writer and a favourite on TV shows Have You Been Paying Attention?, Spicks and Specks and Would I Lie To You?

For more information, go to <a href="https://justforlaughs.sydney/">https://justforlaughs.sydney/</a> and <a href="https://justforlaughs.sydney/">Comedy In The Vines</a>.

PAGE 16 ANGLO&CELTIC



# Let Robbie Williams entertain you - on stage, TV, and film!

Robbie Williams, the global pop sensation, is set to dazzle Australia with a remarkable triple act.

It all begins with the XXV tour, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Robbie's solo career. The tour kicks off in Sydney's Allianz Stadium on November 16th.

Robbie will be performing headline dates across the country, at A Day On The Green events.

Robbie will entertain audiences at Queensland's Sirromet Wines, Mount Cotton; Geelong's Mt Duneed Estate on Victoria's Surf Coast; and will then make his Swan Valley debut at WA's Nikola Estate.

Robbie's most recent Australian performance was in Melbourne, where the singer headlined the pre-match entertainment roster for this year's AFL Grand Final.

"Australasia is one of my favourite places in the world to tour; I feel so at home there and hugely appreciate the warm, loving welcome I always receive. I can't wait to do these shows in 2023

and spend some time with my fans," said Robbie.

But the excitement doesn't stop there. Robbie's life story is coming to the big screen in a spectacular biopic.

The 48-year-old Stoke singer's life story will be played out on the silver screen in a big-budget movie entitled Better Man. The film promises to be a visual and emotional feast, with scenes filmed in London and Melbourne.

Better Man is billed as a 'musical fantasy' that aims to tell Robbie's story of his journey from boyhood to teenage Take That heartthrob to global superstar. With Robbie himself in the lead role, fans can expect an intimate look at the singer's incredible journey.

Australian filmmaker Michael Gracey, from Melbourne, is in charge of the project. The film is likely to be released at the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024.

The soundtrack will feature a range of Robbie's smash hits, which include Angels, Millennium, She's The One, Supreme, Feel, Rock DJ, No Regrets and many more.

And then, there's a new Netflix series about the singer, simply called Robbie Williams.

The documentary is the definitive story of his journey to fame, stardom, and being at the "centre of the pop-culture world".

It also delves into the ups, downs, and media scrutiny that have been part of his extraordinary journey. The series features hundreds of hours of intimate, never-before-seen personal archival footage.

Robbie has admitted that he fears being cancelled over his biopic and Netflix docuseries.

Speaking on the Robbie Williams Rewind podcast, he said: "Especially for somebody like me who just shoots from the hip with silliness, not shoots from the hip with opinions about how the world should be. Just jokes and laughter and daftness, so there are two ways of looking at it.

"You can get cancelled for anything, and I'm not talking

#### **TOUR DATES**

16 NOV Sydney NSW
18 NOV Mount Cotton QLD
19 NOV Mount Cotton QLD
22 NOV Melbourne VIC
23 NOV Melbourne VIC
25 NOV Geelong VIC
1 DEC Swan Valley WA

about sexual, I'm just talking about anything that you say, what particular day you wake up on the wrong side of history, you are a relic from the last century where we thought and felt different things."

Robbie asserted: "You are 15 seconds away from being cancelled at any moment and that doesn't feel comfortable."

He added: "I'm very looking forward to it coming out and being a success because success feels great but at the same time being in those crosshairs makes me feel vulnerable."

Robbie Williams, the documentary, premieres on Netflix on November 8th.

#### **Festivals**



#### **VIKING FESTIVAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



Fire, combat, reenactment, merchants and more.

Victor Harbour SA

4 & 5 NOV



#### **MALENY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Artists include Munster-Bucks, Amaidi, Enda Kenny, Ragged Band.

Maleny QLD

10 - 12 NOV



#### **VICTORIAN MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL**

Reenactors village, birds of prey, thrilling jousting tournament.

**Ballarat VIC** 

18 & 19 NOV



#### **BUNDANOON FOLK FESTIVAL**

Inaugural festival lineup includes The Water Runners, Black Joak Morris, The Full Irish.

**Bundanoon NSW** 

24 - 26 NOV

#### **SKA AND BRITISH MUSIC FESTIVAL**



SKA 6 BRIT

The Donald Trumpets. Little Pedro and more

The Parkas, Radio Radio,

North Perth WA

**25 NOV** 

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

#### **BEECHWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

Beechworth VIC

The Beechworth Celtic Festival is evolving into something truly special. Introducing the all-new Beechworth Heritage Festival. Embracing the town's rich and diverse heritage and culture, the festival will now see the inclusion of Indigenous, Chinese, and heritage trades alongside Celtic celebrations.

10 - 12 NOV

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THU 2 NOV The Corrs Adelaide SA Queen Bohemian Rhapsody Brisbane QLD Tommy Fleming Sale VIC Brisbane QLD Irish Film Festival Melbourne VIC

Bohemian Symphony (Queen orchestra) Canberra ACT wnsville OLD

Brisbane QLD Amy, Before Frank - runs to 5 NOV Melbourne VIC

Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers (every THU)
Uniting Church Kingsgrove NSW

FRI 3 NOV Irish Film Festival Melbourne VIC Sam Smith Sydney MSW Damien Leith - Rey Orbison Orchestrated Canberra ACT

Tommy Flemina Melbourne VIC Murphy's Pigs Ipswich QLD Example Sydney NSW Britz n Pieces Morley WA Baggy Trousers Canberra ACT

SAT 4 NOV Irish Film Festival Melbourne VIC Sam Smith Sydney NSW Jyuney NSW
Warringah Scottish Society Party Night
Collaroy NSW
The Corrs
Launceston TAS
Tommy Flamin-Tommy Fleming Frankston VIC Tubular Bells For Two Wagga Wagga NSW Robert Palmer and Bryan Ferry tribute
Abermain NSW

Paul McCartney Gold Coast QLD Victor Harbour SA
Enda Kenny at the Folk Club
New Lambton NSW
Freedom Concert
Maidenwell QLD Sunny Coast Rude Boys Noosa QLD Colm Broderick & Francis Cunningham Castlemaine VIC Sionnach Rua Melbourne VIC Double Shot Maggie
Fyansford VIC
NT Irish Association Day of the Dead
Darwin NT

Limerick and The Shamrock Dancers Calypso Bay QLD Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Learn to dance Adelaide SA Adelaide SA Irish Sundays with live music at Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley, Brisbane QLD

SUN 5 NOV Irish Film Festival Melbourne VIC Tommy Fleming Warragul VIC

Sionnach Rua Dromana VIC John Edward Cairns QLD

R U Brown Piobaireachd Society Inc. 50th Anniversary Dinner Adelaide SA

Stories From The Heart at Irish Club WA Subiaco WA wcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club Irish Music Session Mayfield NSW

Mayneia NSW Rick Stenhens & Shades of Trooners Creek rorsnam VIC Sydney Slow Session Irish trad (every SUN) Tritton Hall, Marrickville NSW

MON 6 NOV Phil Wang Perth WA

TUE 7 NOV
City of Cairns Festival of Highland Dancing
Competition
Cairns QLD Cairns QLD
Melbourne Cup Party at Finn McCool's
Fortitude Valley, Brisbane QLD
From 11 Jun. RSVP <u>Brey</u>
Playford English Country Dancing
Tritton Hall, Marrickville NSW
Melbourne Cup Luncheon
Canberra Irish Club

WED 8 NOV Sam Smith Brisbane QLD Foghorn Stringband The Gaelic Club, Sydney NSW Phil Wang Melbourne VIC

THU 9 NOV Toury Howing Coloundra QLD Commy Fleming Coloundra QLD Celtic Music in the Chapel (2nd THU monthly) Raymond Island VIC Sydney Queer Irish Quiz Surry Hills NSW

FRI 10 NOV Tommy Fleming Twin Towns QLD The Coronas Brisbane QLD

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Beechworth Heritage Festival (until 12th) Beechworth VIC ustralian Historical Dance Imford QLD St Andrew's Ceilidh with Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club Collingwood VIC Melanie C Sydney NSW Sionnach Rua

Hepburn Springs VIC Illy @ Finnian's Irish Tavern Port Macquarie NSW The Barleyshakes Yackandandah VIC Bloc Party Red Hill WA

SAT 11 NOV The Coronas Sydney NSW Tommy Fleming Ipswich QLD Naleny Music Festival Naleny QLD

The Bay Games Stones of Strength Huskisson NSW muskisson NSW Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band presents Sounds of Scotland Concert 'The Next

Chapter' Brisbane QLD Melanie C Melbourne VIC (day) Melanie (

Adelaide SA (night)
Perth Scottish Fiddlers presents An Evening of Music & Mayhem Shenton Park WA

Wonderwall Oasis tribute show Burleigh Heads QLD My Therapist Ghosted Me Live! Perth WA

Comedy in the Vines (until 12 NOV)
Nagambie VIC English Country Dance at St Peter's Church North Sydney NSW Central Coast Bush Dance & Music Association

Carriestice Day Bush Dance
East Gosford Progress Hall NSW
Eurythmics & Blondie tribute
Busselton WA SUN 12 NOV

Irish Sundays with live music at Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley, Brisbane QLD Tommy Fleming Toowoomba QLD Maleny Music Festival Maleny QLD Dara O Briain Perth WA The Sydney Highland Gathering NSW Pipe Band champs and Highland Dancing The Scots College, Bellevue Hill NSW

Melanie C
Brisbane QLD
Russell Kane
Melbourne VIC
Children of Zeus
Camperdown NSW

Freddie White at The Gaelic Club Sydney NSW

MON 13 NOV My Therapist Ghosted Me Live! Brisbane QLD Blackwater Irish Band at The Bald Rock Rozelle NSW Russell Kane Melbourne VIC

Phil Wang Sydney NSW TUE 14 NOV Def Leppard & Motley Crue Docklands VIC Docklands VIC
Kevin Bridges
Melbourne VIC
Dara O Briain
Sydney NSW
Russell Kane
Melbourne VIC
Gaz Coombes
Sydney NSW
Children of Zeus
Fortitude Valley QLD
Blog Barky Bloc Party Hobart TAS Ringwood VIC Phil Wang Brisbane QLD

WED 15 NOV Kevin Bridges Melbourne VI My Therapist Ghosted Me Live!
Sydney NSW
Children of Zeus
Richmond VIC Emigration, Dress and Australian Colonial
Society talk at Benga Heritage Hill Museun Dandenong VIC Canberra Irish Club Film Society screens The Treaty Canberra ACT

THU 16 NOV Robbie Williams Sydney NSW Interpol and Bloc Party Melbourne VIC Braddon ACT Dara O Briair Melbourne VIC Irish Chamber of Commerce Cruise with the Europeans Sydney Harbour, NSW Melanie C Darwin NT Russell Kane Sydney NSW Ayoney NSW
My Therapist Ghosted Me Live!
Sydney NSW
Tubular Bells for Two
Avoca Beach NSW

FRI 17 NOV The Coronas Perth WA EltonBilly Perth WA Queen Bohemian Rhapsody Sydney NSW Kevin Bridges Adelaide SA End of Year Ceildih - Clan Cameron & Clan MacLennan Roseville NSW

PAGE 18 ANGLO&CELTIC

## GIGS & REELS

■ English ■ Scottish ■ Irish ■ Welsh ■ Celtic ■ Other events



#### **MALDON FOLK FESTIVAL**

Maldon VIC

Celebrating 50 years, four days of folk music set in beautiful country Victoria quality folk, bluegrass, a little jazz, and a little blues music, and dance and interactive workshops at affordable prices, to suit all age groups. Irish and Morris dancing.

3 - 6 NOV

#### © www.angloandceltic.com

FRI 17 NOV (continued) ne OLD An Irishman and A Scotsmar Briar Hill Fitzroy VIC Holy Goof Adelaide SA Portarlington Spring Dance Weekend (to 19 NOV)

Portarlington VIC SAT 18 NOV The Coronas Melbourne VIC Tommy Fleming Adelaide SA Adelaide SA Interpol and Bloc Party Sydney NSW A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Renmark SA Tubular Bells For Two

Sydney NSW
Dirty Birds written by Hayley McElhinney &
Mandy McElhinney (to 10 DEC)
Perth WA Perth WA
The Doors Alive
Sydney NSW
Monkey Spanner
Central Coast NSW
Kevin Bridges
Brisbane QLD Robbie Williams Mount Cotton QLD Coldplay Perth WA Victorian Medieval Festival

Kyrall Castle VIC Just Floyd at Bridgeway Live Adelaide SA Adeditide SA
Willeann pipes and Concertina Concert
Adelaide Irish Club SA
My Therapist Ghosted Me Live!
Melbourne VIC Children of Zeus Fremantle WA
The Australian Van Morrison Show

St Kilda VIC Aine Tyrrell Ipswich QLD n Englishman, An Irishman and A Scotsman Regal Theatre, Subiaco WA Eurythmics & Blondie tribute Darling Downs Irish Club Ceili Toowoomba QLD

Murphy's Pigs in concert with Cape Byron Celtic Dance and Will Hearn Byron Bay QLD The Music of the Irish Showbands Tremantle WA
Celtic Connections - Munsterbucks and Lizzie
Flynn & The Runaway Trains
Tamborine Mountain QLD

Irish Sundays with live music at Finn McCool's
Fortitude Volley, Brisbane QLD
A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Swan Hill VIC Interpol and Bloc Party Sydney NSW

Redcliffe Scottish Pipe Band Inc 70th Anniversary Ceilidh Redcliffe QLD Mount Cotton QLD Coldplay Perth WA The Good Behaviours & Keiafi The Gaelic Club, Sydney NSW Brisbane QLD Britten and Bonis at Barwon Park

MON 20 NOV A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Mount Gambier SA Kevin Bridges Sydney NSW Dara O Briain Brisbane QLD MunsterBucks at Zamia Theatre Mount Tamborine QLD Russell Kane Sydney NSW Nina Conti Sydney NSW

TUE 21 NOV A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Murray Bridge SA Kevin Bridges Sydney NSW EDEN EDEN Sydney NSW Foy Vance Brisbane QLD Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls **Gaz Coombes** 

WED 22 NOV Interpol and Bloc Party Brisbane QLD Gary Og Brisbane QLD Robbie Williams Melbourne VIC EDEN Melbourne VIC The Doors Alive Adelaide SA Foy Vance Sydney NSW Beth Orton Melbourne VIC Melbourne VIC Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls Sydney NSW Irish Support Agency Trivia Night Bondi Junction NSW Frank Turner and the Sleeping Souls Newtown NSW

THU 23 NOV ourne VIC **EDEN** Brisbane QLD Kevin Bridges Perth WA Abbey Medieval Festival Museum at the Limelight Morayfield QLD

FRI 24 NOV A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Frankșton VIC Gary Óg Melbourne VIC Kevin Bridge Perth WA Fremantle WA
The Doors Alive
Newcastle NSW
Foy Vance Melbourne VIC Dermot Kennedy Melbourne VIC Rundanoon Folk Festival (until 26th)

Sydney NSW Carl Cox & Eric Powell's Mobile Disco Australian Historical Dance Maypole and BBQ in park and folk dance after Arana Hills, Brisbane QLD Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls Society of St Andrew of Scotland of Queens-land St Andrew's Eve Dinner Brisbane QLD Country Witches Association Brisbane QLD

SAT 25 NOV Dermot Kennedy and Aitch at Spilt Milk Canberra ACT Canberra ALI Gary Og Sydney NSW Soint Andrew Society of Western Australia's 2023 St Andrew's Day 85th Anniversary Ball Scarborough WA A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Geelong VIC Robert Palmer and Bryan Ferry tribute Woollongong NSW The Doors Alive Penrith NSW Foy Vance Queenscliff Music Festival VIC Ska & British Music Festival '23

North Perth WA Gallus Ceilidh Band at Jalbrook Estate Balingup WA Gold Coast Gaels 10th anniversary Gold Coast QLD

Knight Fight by Tasmania Medieval Festival

Sheffield TAS
The Blues Brothers and The Commitments Warwick QLD CUSH RYDER @ MacNamara's Irish Pub

Manly QLD Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls Queenscliffe NSW Scottish Pub Choir for St Andrew's Day

Emmore NSW
Baggy Trousers
Scarborough QLD
St Andrew Society of WA 85th Anniversary St
Andrew's Day Annual Ball
Scarborough WA
English Country Dance (monthly)
9 Wellbank St, Concord NSW
Comfortably Numb The Ultimate Pink Floyd
Franciace

Toowoomba Caledonian Society St Andrew's Night Ceilidh Toowoomba QLD Country Witches Association Bellingen NSW

SUN 26 NOV Irish Sundays with live music at Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley, Brisbane QLD A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas edy and Aitch at Snilt Milk Gold Coast QLD v NSV Sydney NSW Celtic Music - Sunset Seisiuns Chelsea Yacht Club VIC Beth Orton Brisbane QLD Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls

Melbourne VIC Scottish Festival at Overnewton Castle Melbourne Claddagh Dancers AGM East Ivanhoe VIC East Ivanhoe VIC Fox and Hounds St Andrews Day Celebrations Wongawallan QLD Queensland Irish Choir A Celtic Christmas Chermside QLD

MON 27 NOV John Edward Sydney NSW

TUE 28 NOV Deacon Blue Adelaide SA A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Wodonga VIC John Edward Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls Festival of Small Halls Machans Beach QLD

WED 29 NOV A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Blackburn VIC Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls Adelaide SA Festival of Small Halls Innisfail QLD

THU 30 NOV St Andrew's Day Nationwide The Doors Alive Deacon Blue Melbourne VIC Robbie Williams Swan Valley WA A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas Narre Warren VIC St Andrew's Day flag lowering Glen Innes NSW

**DEF LEPPARD** supporting Motley Crue

8 NOV Brisbane QLD 11 NOV Sydney NSW 14 NOV Melbourne VIC



#### **ROBBIE WILLIAMS**

16 NOV Sydney NSW 18 NOV Mt Cotton QLD 19 NOV Mt Cotton QLD 22 NOV Melbourne VIC 23 NOV Melbourne VIC 25 NOV Geelong VIC 1 DEC Swan Valley WA



24 NOV Subiaco WA 25 NOV Perth WA 26 NOV Perth WA 28 NOV Adelaide WA 30 NOV Melbourne VIC 2 DEC Sydney NSW 5 DEC Brisbane QLD



#### **THE CORONAS**

10 NOV Brisbane QLD 11 NOV Sydney NSW 17 NOV Perth WA 18 NOV Melbourne VIC



#### **KEVIN BRIDGES**

14 NOV Melbourne VIC 17 NOV Adelaide SA 18 NOV Brisbane QLD 19 NOV Sydney NSW 20 NOV Sydney NSW 23 NOV Perth WA



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## GGS & REE

GIG ANNOUNCEMENTS - CLICK ON PICS FOR DETAILS

























Daniel O'Donnell VIC, NSW, QLD, SA, WA Dylan QLD, NSW, VIC

Dytan (LLD, NSW, VIC Jimeoin NSW, ACT, VIC The Streets WA, NSW, VIC, QLD Black Country, New Road QLD, NSW, VIC, WA From The Jam VIC, QLD, NSW, SA, WA Ralph McFell VIC, SA Luka Bloom QLD, VIC

Nannup Music Festival Nannup WA Port Fairy Folk Festival VIC Sandford Bush Music Festival VIC

Saint Patrick's Day (nationwide) St Kilda St Patrick's Festival VIC Brisbane St Patrick's Festival QLD

Elvis Costello at Bluesfest NSW

Melbourne Celtic Festival VIC

Sydney St Patrick's Day Festival NSW St Patrick's Festival WA

Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival QLD Golden Plains Festival, Meredith VIC

Daoirí Farrell VIĆ

Festivals:



#### **DECEMBER**

**JANUARY** 

Jimeoin NSW, QLD

Faithless NSW, QLD, VIC

Andy Irvine NSW Desolated WA, NSW, VIC RAYE NSW

The Darkness SA

Bruno Major NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, WA Paul Di'Anno WA, SA, QLD, VIC, NSW Louis Tomlinson QLD, VIC

Mclusky VIC, VIC, SA, NSW, QLD, WA Declan McKenna QLD, NSW, VIC, SA Wallis Bird QLD, NSW, SA, TAS Dire Straits Legacy VIC, QLD Bad Boy Chiller Crew QLD, VIC

Tours:
Robbie Williams WA
Lloyd Cole TAS, NSW, VIC, SA, QLD, WA
Deacon Blue NSW, QLD
A Taste Of Ireland - A Celtic Christmas VIC Kraftwerk QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, Morrissey WA, VIC, QLD, NSW John Edward SA Dermot Kennedy VIC, WA, NSW, QLD Royal Blood QLD, NSW, SA, VIC, WA Jimeoin NSW, WA Jai Paul VIC Amor QLD, NSW, VIC

Andy Irvine NSW, QLD Festivals: Daylesford Highland Gathering VIC Dermot Kennedy and Aitch at Spilt Milk festival VIC, WA Woodford Folk Festival QLD The 18th Festival Of Folk Rhythm and Life VIC The Oddities and Curiosities Expo QLD Summer Solstice at the Australian Standing Stones, Glen Innes NSW Festival of Small Halls QLD Wildlands (featuring Central Cee) QLD

Festivals: 161st Maryborough Highland Gathering Maryborough, VIC Lake School of Celtic Music, Song & Dance Koroit VIC Wildlands (featuring Central Cee) WA, SA Scottish Weekender NSW Illawarra Folk Festival NSW Australia Day (nationwide)

Festivals: Stomzy at Laneway Festival QLD, NSW, SA, VIC, WA

#### **APRIL**

Croydon VIC

Tours: Elvis Costello NSW, VIC Riverdance WA, VIC, QLD, NSW Jimeoin VIC Dawn French WA, SA, NSW, VIC, TAS Eireborne WA, NSW Lebanon Hanover VIC, NSW, QLD, WA Niall Horan QLD

Festivals: Bundanoon Highland Gathering NSW Ironfest NSW The Thing (Viking Festival) ACT Koroit Irish Festival VIC

#### **FEBRUARY**

Tours:
RAYE VIC, NSW
UB40 WA, NSW, QLD
Louis Tomlinson NSW
The Darkness VIC, QLD, NSW, WA, ACT
Blanco White VIC, NSW, QLD
The Chemical Brothers QLD, NSW
Simple Minds NSW, VIC, SA, QLD
Paul Weller NSW
Shane Todd WA, QLD, NSW, VIC
Greentea Peng QLD, NSW
Magwai VIC, QLD, TAS, SA, NSW
Daniel O'Donnell VIC Daniel O'Donnell VIC Ralph McTell NSW, QLD, ACT, TAS, VIC Luka Bloom VIC

Tasmanian Highlands Gathering TAS

#### **MARCH**

Tours:
Yussef Dayes WA, QLD, NSW, VIC
The Chemical Brothers VIC
Five QLD, VIC, NSW, SA, WA
Graham Nash VIC, SA, WA, NSW
The Human League QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA
Teenage Fanclub NSW, VIC, QLD
The Tumbling Paddies NSW, WA, VIC
Maisie Peters QLD, NSW, VIC
Tom Longs WA SA NSW Elvis Costello NSW



















PAGE 20 ANGLO&CELTIC

# Riverdance among huge shows coming up in Oz

Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show is Riverdance as you've never seen it before!

A powerful and stirring reinvention of this beloved favourite, celebrated the world over for its Grammy Award-winning score and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance.

Composer Bill Whelan has rerecorded his mesmerising soundtrack while producer Moya Doherty and director John McColgan have completely reimagined the ground-breaking show with innovative and spectacular lighting, video, stage and costume designs. It hits our shores next April.

Full story on our website.

The Port Fairy Folk Festival continues to expand its impressive line-up for the upcoming March long weekend event. This year, the festival has drawn in remarkable talent from the UK and Ireland to complement its existing

The new additions include outstanding artists like the Irish folk legends Daoirí Farrell and Luka Bloom and the return of Sharon Shannon with her Big Band. From the UK, festival-goers can look forward to performances by iconic Streets of London singer-songwriter Ralph McTell.

More details <u>here</u>.

Australian fans of Irish singing sensation Daniel O'Donnell have a reason to rejoice as the beloved artist is set to make his long-awaited return to the region in 2024. Daniel, known for his enchanting performances and charismatic stage presence, is gearing up to deliver what he promises will be the concert of a lifetime.

Making the announcement, Daniel said: "This is a wee message to all of our friends in Australia. I'm delighted to



be able to tell you that we're finally getting back to tour in Australia next March."

You'll find more details and tour dates <u>here</u>.

British heavy metal legends Iron Maiden are gearing up to deliver their electrifying Future Past Tour to Australia in 2024. This highly anticipated tour, featuring songs from the band's recent studio album Senjutsu and the iconic 1986 release Somewhere In Time, has thrilled over 750,000 fans during their sold-out shows across Europe this summer, dazzling audiences with a spectacular stage production.

The Iron Maiden Australian journey begins in Perth, with the band arriving in their iconic plane Ed Force One in September 2024, promising fans a show that spans the eras of their music.

See our story here.

One of the legendary pioneers of the new wave of British heavy metal, Paul Di'Anno, will be in Australia during January 2024 for a run of must-see metal shows.

As the original voice behind Iron Maiden's iconic first two albums, the 1980 self-titled masterpiece and the legendary 1981 release Killers, Di'Anno has left his indelible mark on the world of heavy music. For more details, click here.

Prepare for a musical journey like no other this January as Dire Straits Legacy and Nazareth join forces for a spectacular series of shows along Australia's east coast.

Dire Straits Legacy brings together key original members of Dire Straits who not only contributed to the British band's unique sound but also played a pivotal role in its recording and touring success, selling more than 120 million albums worldwide.

Full story here.

Irish comedian Shane Todd is set to return with a bang in February 2024, bringing his new show Mummy to Australia and New Zealand.

In the last year, Irish comedy superstar Shane Todd has sold out shows across America and Canada, been tour

support for Kevin Hart, and enjoyed continued success with his hugely popular Tea With Me podcast.

Read more here.

British singer-songwriter Declan McKenna is set to make his debut headline appearance in Australia, exciting fans with his upcoming 2024 shows in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The shows are part of his global tour, offering audiences a sneak peek at his highly anticipated album, What Happened to the Beach? which is due for release on February 9th.

Full details here.

The beloved Queen of British comedy, Dawn French, is coming to see her Aussie fans in 2024. She will be bringing her brand-new one-woman stand-up show, 'Dawn French is a Huge Twat', to Australia in April and May.

This tour marks Dawn
French's first appearance in
Australia since her astounding success with 38 sold-out
shows in 2016. Further details
on our website here.



# Irish band The Coronas return with new album Time Stopped

Beloved Irish band The Coronas are set to return to Australian shores, bringing songs from their latest album, Time Stopped.

This marks their highly-anticipated return to the country, following their hugely successful 2018 tour.

Their journey as a band has definitely been unique. Initially an indie success story, the band built up a huge student following in the late noughties with anthems like San Diego Song and Heroes or Ghosts. Over the next decade, they would continue to develop musically and grow their audience to become one of Ireland's biggest bands, selling out arenas, theatres and headlining festivals in the process.

In October 2022, they released Time Stopped, which went straight to number one in the album charts, becoming the first and only inde-

#### **TOUR DATES**

10 NOV - Brisbane QLD 11 NOV - Sydney NSW 17 NOV - Perth WA 18 NOV - Melbourne VIC

pendent Irish act in history to score three consecutive number one albums.

In support of the release, the Dublin three-piece embarked on their biggest world tour to date, selling out venues across the globe including in London, New York, Vancouver and Sydney.

Their single Don't You Say You're In Love has classic Coronas stadium-sized melodies and poignant lyrics, capturing the essence of a faltering relationship. Lead singer Danny O'Reilly describes the single, saying: "The song is a snapshot of a faltering relationship - the insecurities and vulnerabilities that come with feeling a companion is drifting. Sonically, we tried to arrange the song differently to how we normally would, with the intro and verses being full and loud while the chorus's break down to just piano and vocal."

An album of hopefulness, Danny further explains that the narrative of Time Stopped deals with how we all sought to be connected in the time of global panic: "When everything is suddenly upside down, relationships and our place in the world are given a new perspective. Even though it came together in an uncertain time, it's a positive album about togetherness and support."

The album carries a message of hopefulness in the face of global uncertainty.

Danny expressed his excitement about the tour,

stating that Time Stopped was written to be played live, and they are thrilled to be on the road again, playing these songs to full-capacity audiences around the world.

In Australia, they will be performing in Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Melbourne.

All of these dates will feature a very special guest, Rósín O, joining them on stage.

Danny said the band are very excited about returning to Australia.

"We're buzzing to get back to Oz," he enthused. "Our last shows there were our best yet and to hear that we are now going to be playing in iconic venues such as the Enmore and the Northcote is just amazing."

Don't miss the chance to experience their incredible live energy and music when they make their return to Australia this month.

PAGE 22 ANGLO&CELTIC

# Melanie C bringing spice to Australia with DJ tour

Melanie C, famously known as a Spice Girl and as a solo artist, is set to add a dash of excitement to Australia this November with her first DJ tour Down Under.

Melanie said on social media: "I am super excited to announce my first DJ tour in Australia this November! Can't wait to hit the decks and party with you all in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Darwin."

As part of her inaugural DJ tour, Melanie C will head to Sydney's Seadeck on November 10th to deliver a sunset DJ set.

Melbourne's Palooza Festival daytime on November 11th, and Adelaide's Handpicked Festival on the same night, will also witness Melanie C's DJ prowess.

Melanie C will hit Queensland's Club Paradiso Sunday Dance On Oasis event on

#### **TOUR DATES**

10 NOV Sydney NSW 11 NOV Melbourne VIC 11 NOV Adelaide SA 12 NOV Brisbane QLD 16 NOV Darwin NT

November 12th. This daytime cruise boat party promises an electrifying atmosphere, featuring special guests Paluma, Kessin, Pish, and Tara Bloom.

Her Australian tour culminates in Mayberry, Darwin, on November 16th.

Fans of the Spice Girls have something else to look forward to as well, as former band member Mel B recently hinted at the group's reunion and a new project in the works.

Stay tuned for updates on the Spice Girls' upcoming



### Beth Orton graces Australian stages

After six long years, the charming Beth Orton is making her triumphant return to Australia.

The Brit Award winner and Mercury Prize nominee is set to grace Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane this November, igniting the stage with her enchanting presence.

enchanting presence.
Kicking off her Australian tour at Melbourne Recital
Centre on November 22nd, the songstress will then captivate the audience at Sydney's City Recital Hall on November 24th, followed by a mesmerising performance at The Tivoli in Brisbane on November 26th.

Orton's upcoming tour is a celebration of her latest masterpiece, the 2022 album Weather Alive.

Remember 2017? That's when Orton left a trail of awe in Australia, particularly



with her epic performance at Vivid LIVE. Back then, her unique blend of vulnerability and quirkiness charmed fans, and her voice weaved an irresistible spell. Drawing parallels with the likes of Beth Gibbons from Portishead, her distinct vocal range and emotive expression set her apart.

Get ready for a November to remember, as Beth Orton enchants Australia with her unparalleled talent and magnetic presence.

### **TOUR DATES**

22 NOV Melbourne VIC 24 NOV Sydney NSW 26 NOV Brisbane QLD

# Manx dancers bring magic to Moorlands

The opening of the Celtic Nations Standing Stones in Moorlands Park, Brisbane, featured a festival of talent from all the Celtic nations. Among the crowd favourites were The Manx Dancers of Brisbane. Their leader, Dr Heather Clarke tells us about the history of Manx dancing.

The Isle of Man's dance culture seems to be a fascinating mix of influences. Can you tell us more about how what has shaped local traditions? "The Isle of Man has a distinctive dance culture with Celtic, Norse and English influences. The Manx-Gaelic name for the island is Ellan Vannin (or Mannin). It is a relatively small island measuring 48km long and 16km wide, situated in the Irish Sea between Cumbria in Britain and County Down in Northern Ireland. The location of the island, being roughly equidistant from Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland, has led to the development of a fascinating amalgam of traditions in music, song, poetry, and dance."

Have the people of the Isle of Man always practiced these folk dances? "The local culture has not always been appreciated; by the 1890s it was in danger of being forgotten. The folk dances were regarded as inferior to the modern dances of the time, and had largely fallen out of favour. It was only at this time that a number of individuals travelled the island and identified surviving dances. The efforts of these collectors saved the dances from vanishing altogether. It was through the enthusiasm of (Manx cultural activist) Mona Douglas that these dances were introduced to schools



The Manx Dancers of Brisbane



Manx dancing at Moorlands Park



Performing Return the Blow

in the 1920s. As the century progressed, traditional music and dance were included in the school curriculum, a key factor in keeping the culture alive."

What efforts are being made on the island to keep its culture alive now?

"A highlight each year is the week-long Manx Folk Awards, a celebration of the culture where 1,000 children gather to learn, perform, and create new works in the traditional style. Another major influence in keeping the dances alive is The Manx Dance Society. This group was formed in 1951, celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2021, and continues to teach and perform on the island and abroad. There are now an impressive number of other groups in the island: Skeddan Jiarg (Manx Gaelic for Red Herring), Perree Bane (White Jackets) Ny Fennee

What resources have been made to help preserve Manx culture abroad?

"The Manx Government is keen to preserve and promote the traditions of the island, providing resources through the Culture Vannin website covering every aspect of the culture. The videos are especially useful for learning the dances and watching the performances."

(The Heroes), Bock Yuan Fannee

(Juan's Flayed Horse, ie Shanks'

Pony)."

What distinct features does
Manx dance have that sets it
apart from others?
"Manx dances have a distinctive character: the arms are
often held in a raised position,
the Manx reel step features in
most dances, and many include
the cross-step motif – a series of
movements repeated throughout
the dance. They are fun, easy to
learn, and usually quite lively!
Certain dances are linked to the
Manx calendar and celebrated on specific days: The Flitter



Dance for Three performed by The Brisbane Manx Dancers at the opening of The Celtic Nations Standing Stones, with Dr Heather Clarke, far right.

Dance on Good Friday, at Harvest time the Babban ny Mheillea, Hop tu Naa on 31st October, The White Boys Dance in the Christmas period, and Hunt the Wren on 26th December. Other dances are purely social, and a favourite of ours is the courting dance Hyndaa Yn Bwoailley (Return the Blow)."

The Manx Dancers of Brisbane have a diverse repertoire. Can you share some insights into the different dances you perform? "The performance repertoire of the Manx Dancers of Brisbane includes the Ladies Jig, Dance of the Yellow Flowers, Return the Blow, and the Dance for Three. We have two performance costumes: one represents the colours of the Manx flag - a red shirt and black skirt or trousers: the other costume is a white dress with a Laxey blue shawl and Celtic brooch, our men wear a white shirt. black trousers, and blue sash. Blue is the dominant colour in the Manx tartan, misty blue for the seas that surround the island. We have performed for the Manx Society in

Brisbane, and recently at the unveiling of the Celtic Council's Standing Stones in Moorlands Park. We hope to perform at the Glen Innes Celtic Festival in 2024 where the Isle of Man is one of the featured nations."

Your role as the leader of

the Brisbane Manx Dancers is quite impressive. Can you share your personal connection to the Isle of Man and how this heritage has influenced your interest in dance and culture? "I am a dance historian with Manx ancestors - my great-grandparents (Curphey and Clucas) came from the Isle of Man and settled in Australia in the early 1900s. "I have a background in Scottish, Irish, English and Australian dance traditions, and training in classical ballet. I have always had a keen interest in my Manx heritage and I have visited the island several times."

Dr Heather Clarke's website presents many aspects of dance heritage in Australia, you'll find it at <a href="https://www.historicaldance.au/">https://www.historicaldance.au/</a>



Dr Heather Clarke watching the dancers perform. Pic: Anglo&Celtic

### **Brisbane Celtic Nations Standing Stones inauguration**















PAGE 26 ANGLO&CELTIC

# Miami Showband legend Jim Harte to play Fremantle gig

Jim Harte, an iconic figure from the enchanting era of Irish showbands, is set to take music enthusiasts on a mesmerising journey back in time. Jim's life has been steeped in the rhythms and melodies that defined an era.

Jim's musical journey began at a very early age, setting the stage for his incredible career with some of the most renowned showbands in Ireland. One of his earliest gigs was as the lead singer with the famous Miami Showband, a band that left an indelible mark on the music scene during the 1960s and 1970s. Jim joined the Miami Showband in 1962, and soon they were hitting the big time.

Jim told The TaRP Podcast:
"I was just started to study
at uni and I had this great
job with a big pension at
Guinness. Joe Tyrell (Miami
Showband pianist) came to
me one day and said 'we are
going to go professional so
you'll have to pack up work
and uni'."

Jim discussed it with his parents and with the musicians union, they thought quitting his job and university for the band was not a good idea. Jim went back and told Joe Tyrell that he wasn't going to stay.

"It really did affect me big time. But I just had this loyalty to my folks and that's why I left. When I left they were shopping around, who was going to take over? And then Dickie (Rock) got the job."

The Miami Showband went on to score seven number one records on the Irish singles chart.

However, the band's story is not just one of musical success; it's also marked by tragedy. In 1975, while returning from a performance in County Down, Northern Ireland, back to the Republic of Ireland, the band fell victim to a loyalist paramilitary attack. At a fake checkpoint,





Jim Harte, top, and, above, the Miami Showband.

two gunmen attempted to hide a time bomb on the band's minibus. The device exploded prematurely, killing the two gunmen.

The remaining gunmen then opened fire on the band members. Tragically, three members of the Miami Showband – Fran O'Toole, Tony Geraghty, and Brian McCoy – lost their lives.

Despite the devastating loss, the band reformed in 1976 but disbanded in 1982, later reforming again.

Jim Harte continued to make significant contributions to the world of music. He was the lead singer in Arrans Showband and Johnny Flynn Showband and achieved numerous top 10 hits in Ireland.

Today, Jim lives in Western Australia. On November 18th, music enthusiasts will have a rare opportunity to experience Jim performing showband hits live at the Fremantle Workers Club.

The event will be a tribute to an era when dance halls and ballrooms were the epicentres of entertainment in Ireland and the UK. The Irish showband era remains a testament to unbridled musical innovation and a time when legendary performers like Brendan Bowyer and Joe Dolan took centre stage, leaving an indelible mark on the world of music.

So, prepare to immerse yourself in the songs that have defined generations and relive the magic of the Irish showband era.

Whether you choose to sit back and relax or dance the

#### AT A GLANCE

- Jim Harte was a big part of the showband scene in Ireland.
- He was the original singer with the Miami Showband.
- Jim now lives in Western Australia, where he DJs on Bunbury Radio.
- You can catch Jim live at The Music of The Irish Showbands concert in Fremantle this month.

night away, this event promises to be an unforgettable celebration of a bygone musical legacy. Jim Harte and Irish DJ Oliver McNerney will transport you back in time.

As well as music, there will be Irish food available. From beef and Guinness pie to pork and leek sausage, and McDonnells Irish vegetable curry, you're in for a treat.

It's all happening at Fremantle Workers Club, 36 Ellen Street, Fremantle, on Saturday, 18th November from 7.30pm.

You can also catch Jim Harte presenting All that Jazz on <u>Bunbury Radio</u>, every Sunday from 4pm.

## Get ready for a month of movie magic at British Film Festival

The 2023 Cunard British Film Festival is set to cast a spell on cinephiles as it brings the crème de la crème of British filmmaking, production, and acting to life.

This cinematic extravaganza is headed to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra, and Byron Bay this month.

What sets this festival apart is the constellation of Britain's most enduring and celebrated stars, each ready to grace the silver screen. Among the luminaries in this year's stellar selection are Sir Anthony Hopkins, Timothy Spall, Olivia Colman, Helena Bonham Carter, Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Helen Mirren, Sir Michael Caine, and Dame Glenda Jackson. Prepare for a feast of top-tier talent!

The festival kicks off on November 1st in Sydney,



Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth, followed by November 2nd in Byron Bay, Canberra, and Brisbane. The cinematic magic will continue until November 29th.

The 2023 festival promises a premiere that'll send chills down your spine. One Life, starring the legendary Sir Anthony Hopkins, opens the festival. Fresh from its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, it brings to life the heartwarming and almost-forgotten true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, the 'British Schindler', who saved countless children on the brink of World War II.

As the centrepiece, The Critic takes the spotlight, a wickedly clever reimagination of Anthony Quinn's novel Curtain Call. Leading an all-star cast is Sir Ian McKellen and Gemma Arterton, promising a mischievous and

memorable experience.

Bringing the curtains down on the festival is the Australian premiere of Wicked Little Letters, a scandalous tale from the 1920s. Starring Olivia Colman and Jessie Buckley as small-town neighbours who receive anonymous, expletive-laden letters, this is a film you won't want to miss.

You can follow the festival on Instagram and Facebook at @BritishFilmFest.





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PAGE 28 ANGLO&CELTIC

### Visitors get their Celt on at CelticFest Warwick





















# Dermot Kennedy's rise from busker to billboard

Irish singer-songwriter Dermot Kennedy is set to make a highly-anticipated return to Australia and New Zealand with The Sonder Tour in November and December.

Following a sold-out run of dates last year, Dermot is geared up to mesmerise audiences once again with his latest album, Sonder. The tour will grace stages in Melbourne, New Zealand and Brisbane, with a special show at Sydney Opera House Forecourt.

From humble beginnings as a street busker in Dublin to becoming a global sensation, Dermot has captivated fans worldwide with his passionate and poignant lyrics that strike a chord with listeners. His authentic and heartfelt performances have earned him a devoted following.

Dermot poured three years of work into his latest release, Sonder, crafting 13 powerful songs that delve into love, life, and human connec-



tion. The album follows the massive success of his debut album, Without Fear, which has sold more than 1.5 million copies worldwide.

With multiple platinum-selling tracks in over 12 countries, including Outnumbered, Power Over Me, Paradise with Meduza, and Power with Kevin Gates, Dermot's

music has garnered billions of streams. Without Fear holds the distinction of being Ireland's best-selling debut album of the millennium.

Prepare to be enchanted by Dermot Kennedy's soulful melodies and emotive storytelling as he takes audiences on a heartfelt journey during The Sonder Tour.

#### **TOUR DATES**

24 NOV Melbourne VIC 29 NOV Auckland NZ 30 NOV Wellington NZ 7 DEC Sydney NSW 10 DEC Brisbane QLD

### My Therapist Ghosted Me appears live on stage

Having taken their hilarious, chart-topping and award-winning podcast My Therapist Ghosted Me to the stage, Vogue Williams and Joanne McNally have enjoyed sellout shows across the UK and Ireland.

Since launching in April 2021, the podcast now reaches 2.5 million listeners per month with its guaranteed laugh-out-loud content.

Vogue and Joanne are now embarking on an Australian tour.

My Therapist Ghosted Me's inception came as a result of Joanne McNally's therapist doing exactly that: ghosting her. First, not answering the phone; then, not answering the clinic door; and finally, refusing to speak to Joanne



after she tracked her down (admittedly her therapist was, at that time, scattering her aunt's ashes at Enfield crematorium).

This live show provides even more of the candid and hilariously comedic conversations that fans of the podcast have come to love.

Vogue and Joanne dissect and explore the depths of each other's unique and often never-before-heard issues and take a long, hard look at their lives and experiences: the good, the bad, and the

#### **TOUR DATES**

13 NOV Brisbane QLD 15 NOV Sydney NSW 16 NOV Sydney NSW 18 NOV Melbourne VIC

PAGE 30 ANGLO&CELTIC

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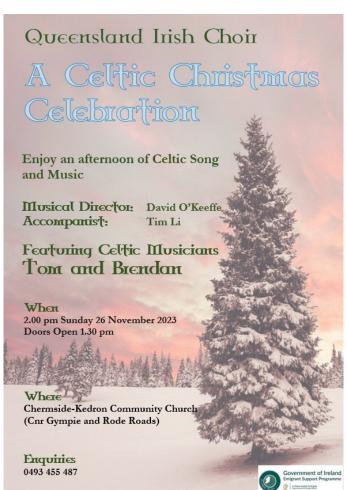
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11 November at 11am





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