



Queensland Irish Association

# Newsletter

October 2025



QIA Directors Claire Moore, Mavis Williams and Mary Allen (in traditional Irish clothing and Kinsale cloak) are pictured with Councillor Vicki Ward, second from left, at Brisbane100 in Brisbane City Hall.

## We look forward to seeing you at our AGM

With Halloween nearly upon us, we look forward to the Annual General Meeting of the QIA, which will be held at Wests Rugby Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong on Saturday, 22 November 2025, commencing at 11am.

All National Members are encouraged to attend, so we have a quorum.

The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting appears as a flyer in this Newsletter, together with the agenda for the meeting.

The minutes of the 2024 AGM will be circulated by email to all Members early in November. Copies of the statutory financial reports and statements, including the independent auditor's report, are available from the Secretary.

Drinks, including Guinness, and food will be available to purchase after the meeting. We look forward to a

large number of National Members attending on Saturday, 22 November.

### Results of Election of Directors

John Leahy, Returning Officer for the QIA, reports that, as the number of positions to be filled match the number of persons nominating for these positions, a ballot will not be required of Members.

The Board of Directors is substantially the same as the previous, the only difference being, because of poor health, Michele Bourke was unable to nominate. Seamus Sullivan has moved from Vice President to Director, and Graham Moloney, the MC for many years of the St Patrick's Eve Dinner, and a former Secretary of the Queensland Teachers Union, and a former Director of

the QIA, is the sole nominee for Vice President.

All successful candidates for all positions will seek confirmation at the AGM on 22 November at Wests Rugby Club.

### Brisbane Celtic Festival

The QIA was engaged at the Brisbane Celtic Festival at the Celtic Nations Standing Stones Monument at Moorlands Park on October 12. While our volunteers met many of the guests and processed ten new memberships, the Board of Directors have since resolved to have our own tent with appropriate signage next year, instead of sharing a tent, as was the case this year.

The Celtic Festival was a great success, even bigger and better than last

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## Calendar

**9 October - 9 November 2025**

Irish Film Festival Australia online at [www.irishfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.irishfilmfestival.com.au)

**26 October 2025**

QIA/Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery Irish Samhain walk, 185 Annerley Road, Dutton Park, Qld.

**9 November 2025**

Gold Coast Annual Irish Community November Remembrance Mass, St Joseph The Worker Church, Imperial Parade, Labrador, 11am.

**15 November 2025**

Queensland Irish Choir Christmas Concert, 2pm, Hills Church Auditorium, 79 Queens Road, Everton Hills.

**22 November 2025**

QIA AGM, Wests Rugby Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong. 11am.

**6 December 2025**

QIA Christmas Party, Wests Rugby Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong. 12pm.

**6 January 2026**

Women's Little Christmas. Details TBA.

**14 March 2026**

St Patrick's Day Parade, Brisbane CBD. Details TBA.

**16 March 2026**

St Patrick's Eve Dinner, Brisbane City Hall. Details TBA.

**17 March 2026**

St Patrick's Day Lunch. Details TBA.

# We look forward to seeing you at our AGM

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year. Our congratulations go to Mavis Williams, President of the Celtic Council of Australia Qld Inc, who is also a Director of the QIA.

## Irish Film Festival

The Irish Film Festival Australia, which concluded last weekend, was a fine production. The QIA is a bronze sponsor of the film festival, and Directors Claire Moore and Mary Allen were heavily involved in the whole festival, which ran from 16 to 19 October at the Palace Barracks Cinemas, Petrie Terrace.

## QIA Christmas Party

Mark your diaries now for the QIA Christmas Party, which will be held at Wests Rugby Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong, on Saturday, 6 December at 11.30am.

Finally, enjoy this Newsletter, which is another high quality production by Mary Allen. The balance and quality of content is a tribute to her skill and dedication. She is truly deserving of our thanks and praise.

*Jeff Spender,  
President,*

*Queensland Irish Association.*



## Queensland Irish Association

### Annual General Meeting



## Queensland Irish Association Members

Join us on Saturday 22 November 2025

from 11am at

Wests Rugby Club, Toowong

for our

Annual General Meeting

*Wests Rugby Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong*

## Having a Function



Photo's (6x4.5in) printed the same night and returned before the function finishes.

We will do PR photos of the event at no extra cost.

(subject to numbers)  
Studio lights if requested will be set up before guests arrive.

There is no additional cost beyond the price of the photo's.

This is a great way to have a memory of the evening.

Good Times Network Photography

Phone 0401450977

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



# Join in our Samhain torch-lit cemetery walk

Step between the worlds this Samhain/Halloween at South Brisbane Cemetery. On the night when the veil thins and the living may walk closer to the dead, join us for a very special torchlit journey through Irish-inspired folklore and the ghostly tales that cling to these stone-lined paths.

For centuries, Samhain has marked a time of endings and beginnings — when the harvest was gathered, fires lit, and stories told to honour the departed. Beneath the whispering trees of South Brisbane Cemetery, we continue that tradition, sharing chilling legends and uncanny accounts that echo Ireland's spectral past, from the bean sidhe (banshee) whose wails foretell sorrow to the daoine beaga (fae folk) said to wander freely on this liminal night.

Led by award-winning cemetery historian Tracey Olivieri and historical archaeologist-turned-paranormal researcher Liam Baker – in special partnership with the Queensland Irish Association – this one-night-only Samhain walk blends Irish folk tradition with Brisbane's haunted lore. Expect an atmospheric, spine-tingling experience rooted in history, myth, and memory.

No theatre. No tricks. Just true tales and timeless folklore told under the darkening Samhain sky.

All of Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery's tours are not-for-profit, with all money raised going to our cemetery history and maintenance projects.

Single bookings: \$20 per person/\$15 per concession. FOSBC & Coffin Club members: \$10 per member. Group bookings (four or more people): \$15 per person.

Walking difficulty is Moderate (Grade 3) – This tour involves walking [slowly] up hills predominantly over generally modified terrain

[hardened earth, less than 1200mm wide], mostly clear of intrusions & obstacles. Please advise organisers of any relevant medical concerns prior to attending the tour.

The duration is 2 – 2½ hours.

This tour is suitable for ages 12 years and up – it contains supernatural, murder and suicide themes.

*written by Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery*



## Queensland Irish Association

### *Irish Samhain torch-lit cemetery walk*



Queensland Irish Association  
&

Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery  
invite you to

## Samhain/Halloween Irish ghostly tour of South Brisbane Cemetery

on Sunday, 26 October at 7.15pm to 9.30pm

Prices: Single bookings \$20 per person/\$15 per concession  
Friends of South Brisbane Cemetery and Coffin Club members: \$10 per member  
Group bookings (four or more people) \$15 per person

Tickets at [fosbc.au/tours](http://fosbc.au/tours)

Ages 12 and up. This tour will involve two to two and a half hours of walking/standing.  
Bring comfortable, enclosed shoes and clothing suitable for the weather.  
Meet at the Annerley Road entrance to the cemetery. Parking available in cemetery.

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# QIA celebrates Brisbane100 at City Hall



Queensland Irish Association took part in Brisbane100, a celebration of 100 years of Brisbane City Council, at City Hall on October 1. Historians Rod and Robin Sullivan gave a speech on Irish monuments in Brisbane. Celtic Council of Australia also took part. Thank you to our volunteers on the day.



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# From riches to rags, the story of the lost Lord's son



*In early 2024, a broken headstone in Toowong Cemetery set off a mystery. The Friends of Toowong Cemetery had stumbled across the grave of a man nobody in Brisbane's Irish community seemed to have heard of: The Hon. Bentinck Yelverton Bingham, third son of Lord Clanmorris of County Galway. What was the son of an Irish lord doing buried alone in colonial Brisbane in 1892 — a city then little more than a rough-edged outpost of empire? As research unfolded, the story grew darker. Bentinck's life had begun in privilege, among a family tied to Oscar Wilde, Lady Gregory, Sir Arthur Guinness and the great Anglo-Irish estates of Connacht. But in Queensland, his fortunes collapsed. He died at 36 in Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum, his inquest describing him as a "station hand". For over a century, his story was forgotten—until now. Here is his story and a rare childhood photograph. At last, Brisbane can put a face to the mysterious Irish aristocrat buried in its soil. By Mary Allen.*

The story began when I visited the Irish section of Toowong Cemetery one day, and picked up a brochure about The Friends Of Toowong Cemetery in the cemetery museum. I thought it might be a nice idea for Queensland Irish Association members to do a tour of the Irish graves,



and got in touch with Darcy Maddock of Friends of Toowong Cemetery. As arrangements were being made for the tour, Darcy mentioned that he had found an interesting Irish grave and would like the help of some hardy volunteers to lift its broken headstone back into place. The gravestone said "The Hon. Bentinck Yelverton Bingham, third son of Lord Clanmorris,

Creg Clare, Co. Galway, Ireland, died 6th August 1892 aged 36 years. Erected by his loving Brother and Sister." Darcy and I began searching for more information on Bentinck as well as finding volunteers from the Irish community to help fix the grave. The search uncovered a tragic story, which was shared on the tour, and

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# From riches to rags, the story of the lost Lord's son

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also published in the QIA Newsletter. I have since continued to search for more information. It was easy to find photographs of his relatives, but never any of Bentinck. Then, by chance, a very rare carte de visite (a format of small photograph popular in the 19th century) from an archive in England came up for sale online. It showed Bentinck as a young child on a rocking horse. In it, he is wearing a dress, which was not unusual for toddler boys at that time. QIA bought the photograph to add to our archive. Now we can finally put a face to the mysterious young aristocratic Irishman buried alone in Brisbane.

## Born Privileged

When Hon. Bentinck Yelverton Bingham was born in Galway on 11 January 1855, the world into which he arrived was one of inherited privilege, sprawling estates, and complex family alliances. His surname carried weight. The Bingham of Clanmorris were one of the great Anglo-Irish families of Connacht, landlords whose fortunes rose and fell in parallel with the turbulent story of Ireland itself. Yet Bentinck's own life would take a very different course from the landed aristocracy he descended from. He died young, far from home, and lay in a modest grave.

## Military Affairs

To understand Bentinck, one must look at the extraordinary cast of contemporaries around him.

The Bingham were a wealthy and influential family who owned large estates in Galway and Mayo. They traced their ancestry to Sir Richard Bingham, an English soldier and administrator who was appointed governor of Connacht by Queen Elizabeth I in 1584. That particular Bingham was notorious for his harsh treatment of the native Irish popula-



**Bentinck's father, John Charles Robert Bingham, 4th Baron Clanmorris, with his wife Sarah Selina Persse and daughter Hon. Matilda Maria Helena Bingham in 1864.**

**Picture: [National Portrait Gallery UK](#).**

**And, right, from top, his friends Oscar Wilde and Lady Gregory, and Sir Arthur Guinness MP (featured in Netflix series *House of Guinness*), who attended his funeral.**



tion, and he was involved in several conflicts and rebellions.

The Bingham continued to play a prominent role in Irish politics and society for centuries, holding titles such as Baron Clanmorris, Viscount Mayo, and Earl of Lucan. They were also involved in military affairs, such as the Napoleonic Wars, the Crimean War, and the Boer War.

Bentinck's father, John Charles Robert Bingham, 4th Baron Clanmorris (1826–1876), was an Anglo-Irish peer, soldier, and landowner. He served as an officer in the Crimean War and later in the Indian Mutiny, earning a reputation for courage. He was also active in politics, sitting as an Irish Representative Peer in the House of Lords from 1863 until his death.

Bentinck had three sisters and two brothers. His eldest brother, John

George Barry Bingham, the 5th Baron, not only presided over the dwindling estates but also raised a remarkable family. Among his children was Rear-Admiral Edward Barry Stewart Bingham, who won the Victoria Cross for his role at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, and another son, Lt Col. John Denis Yelverton Bingham, who served through two world wars and lived until 1978.

The extended circle reached further still. Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, a relative through marriage, was Governor of South Australia from 1855–1862. And the Persse connection, through Bentinck's mother Sarah Selina Persse, daughter of Burton de Burgh Persse, High Sheriff of County Galway, tied them to Moyode Castle, later a centre of rebel activity during

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# From riches to rags, the story of the lost Lord's son



Cregclare House, the home where Bentinck grew up. The three young men in the uncaptioned photograph might be Bentinck, left, and his two older brothers, Benton, centre, and heir John George. The ruins of Cregclare House, above. Pictures: [landed-estates.ie/property/617](https://landed-estates.ie/property/617)

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the Easter Rising. The Lucan branch produced one of the most controversial figures of the 19th century in the “Balaclava” Lucan, the general blamed for the disastrous Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War.

To be a Bingham was to live in the orbit of political, military, and cultural power.

## Patron of the Arts

Bentinck's father's involvement in the arts is well-documented. His patronage of the arts and friendship with Oscar Wilde places him within a rich network of literary and artistic figures at the height of the Aesthetic and Decadent movements. His patronage extended to the visual arts, literature, and theatre, where he provided financial support and a platform for emerging artists and writers.

Another notable connection is his relationship with Lady Augusta Gregory, a renowned playwright and co-founder of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. Lady Gregory married Sir William Henry Gregory, the 4th Baron Clanmorris's first cousin, linking the Bingham family to the development of Irish theatre. The family homestead, Cregclare House, was just three miles from Lady Gregory's

home, Coole Park. Lady Gregory's role in Irish cultural nationalism stands in stark contrast to the imperial careers of many of her relations.

The family's social world in Galway was a seamless mix of literary innovators and landed gentry. These social ties blended naturally with the gatherings of the Irish Literary Revival, as writers like W.B. Yeats, John Millington Synge, and George Russell joined the local gentry for discussions of folklore, theatre, and politics.

## Family Home

Cregclare House was built in 1802. In the 1830s, it is described as having elegant gardens and a hot house producing various types of fruit. It was bought by Lord Clanmorris in the late 1850s.

## Famine Landlord

Bentinck was a younger son in a family where titles and land shaped destiny. During his lifetime, his father held more than 12,000 acres, making him one of the area's principal landlords during and after the famine years. Remembered locally in County Mayo and Galway as a fair and kind-hearted landlord, when he died in 1876, more than 800 of his tenants

marched four-deep in his funeral procession. Other attendees included Sir Arthur Guinness MP and Major le Poer Trench.

The Freeman's Journal, on 13 Apr 1876, reporting on the funeral, said: “The remains of this lamented nobleman were conveyed on Saturday by rail from Lismany, Ballinasloe, the residence of Allan Pollok, Esq.\*, where he died, to Creggclare, his seat in this county, and were on Monday interred in a cemetery within the demesne. ... The coffin was of polished oak, very richly mounted, and bore the following inscription: “John Charles Robert Bingham, 4th Baron Clanmorris, born 28th Nov., 1826, died 5th April, 1876.” ... At twelve o'clock the hearse was drawn up to the entrance door of Creggclare mansion, when the coffin was placed in it, and the mournful cortège commenced to move forward to the ancient cemetery in the demesne, which has been adopted as a family burying place of the Clanmorris family. Immediately after the hearse, the following gentlemen walked on foot as chief mourners: The three sons of the lamented nobleman, Hon. John George Bingham, Hon. Burton Percy Bingham, and the Hon. Bentinck Yelverton Bingham; Hon.

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# From riches to rags, the story of the lost Lord's son

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Albert Yelverton Bingham, brother of the lamented deceased; two sons-in-law of the lamented nobleman, Albert Brassey, Esq., Haythrop Park, Oxfordshire; and John Pollok, Esq., Lismany, Ballinasloe ... The funeral service concluded, the remains were deposited in a temporary vault prepared for the melancholy occasion. It is the intention, we understand, of Lady Clanmorris to have a mausoleum erected in the very picturesque and ancient cemetery in which the remains of the late Lord Clanmorris now repose.”

*\*Allan Pollok's son John was married to Bentinck's sister, Hon. Florence Madeline Bingham.*

## Across the World to Queensland

Bentinck had ties to Australia. As well as his relative, Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, having served as Governor of South Australia, his uncle, De Burgh Fitzpatrick Persse, was a notable figure in Queensland.

Born in 1840 in Moyode Castle, County Galway, Persse arrived in Brisbane in 1863. At the age of 23, he began his career in Queensland's pastoral industry.

By 1865, he had purchased Tabragalba Station near Beaudesert. Over time, he expanded his holdings, establishing himself as a significant figure in Queensland's pastoral industry.

Persse was also actively involved in public service. He served as a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for the Fassifern constituency from 1878 to 1883.

Persse married Mary Blair in 1871, and they had several children. He was known for his involvement in various organisations, including the Royal Bank of Queensland, the Agricultural and Pastoral Society, the Queensland Club, and the Jockey Club. He was also on the committee of the Irish Famine Relief Fund in 1880, in response to 'the little famine' crop failures in Ireland, together with members of the Queensland Hiberni-



**The DeBurgh Persse Homestead at Tabragalba Station, near Beaudesert. Taken from a photograph album, 1906-1929. Picture: State Library of Queensland. And, inset, De Burgh Fitzpatrick Persse, Bentinck's uncle.**

an Society, precursor to the QIA, and other Irish civic leaders, including the Fund Chair and Queensland Governor, Sir Arthur Kennedy.

Bentinck came out to Australia, along with his brother Benton Percy, for 'colonial experience' with his uncle.

Six months after his father's death, the shipping news in The Brisbane Courier of 21 Oct 1876 reports that among the passengers on the ship Decapolic, which left London on August 31 headed for Brisbane, were Hon. Mr. Bingham. The Queenslander, on 2 Dec 1876, then reported the arrival of the Decapolic on November 30 with Hon. B. Y. Bingham on board.

Bentinck soon settled into a life not too different to what he left in Ireland, he is listed in newspaper reports over the next few years being active in gun clubs, turf clubs, horse races and polo matches, often with Persse. Many of these took place around the Logan and Beaudesert areas.

A report in The Brisbane Courier on 17 Mar 1877 reports that "The Upper Logan has been lately the scene of much valedictory feasting and merry-making. An old and popular

resident, J. W. Lewis, Esq., who has been identified with this district for the last ten years — ever since he has been in the colony, in fact — has lately secured a fine piece of country in the North, and desired before leaving to entertain the friends amongst whom he has lived so cordially and so long." The party was held at Cryna, Beaudesert with dancing into the night. As part of the celebrations, a race meeting was held the next day and among the those taking part was Bentinck. It says: "The finishes were close, and the races ridden in all cases by owners with the utmost spirit and determination." Among the horses taking part were Hon. B. Bingham's Mickey Quinn, Hon. B. Bingham's Madcap, W. Persse's Soldier, and Hon. B. Bingham's Balderdish.

*Part two of the story tells how well Bentinck adapted to his new life in Australia in a very unexpected way, his brushes with the law, adventures out west, how he ended up in a lunatic asylum, what happened to his family and his line's ultimate legacy. All be unveiled in the next edition of QIA Newsletter.*

# QIA joins Irish Film Festival launch party



QIA had a big presence at the opening party for Irish Film Festival Australia in Palace Barracks Cinema on October 16. Entertainment was by Mnaw Mnaw - Mnáwesome and the movie was Fran The Man. We are proud to sponsor the festival and say thank you to festival founder Dr Enda Murray, pictured above with QIA Director Mary Allen. We put a call-out online for volunteers for the festival and had a great response, thank you all.



## Queensland Irish Association

### *Christmas Party 2025*



QIA invites Members and Friends to an Irish entertainment Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, 6th December from 12 noon at

West's Rugby Club, Sylvan Rd, Toowong

Entertainment by Greg Peatey

Dancing by QIA Dancers

Carols by Queensland Irish Choir

Good food and beverages available

FREE entry and all are welcome!



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# See Irish Film Festival without leaving home



## **A Want In Her.**

Sponsored by the Queensland Irish Association, the Irish Film Festival is touring the country and screened in Brisbane from 16–19 October at Palace Barracks. Missed it? The full program is streaming online until 9 November with tickets from \$10 online at [irishfilmfestival.com.au](http://irishfilmfestival.com.au).

This year's collection captures the boldness of Irish storytelling – from laugh-out-loud comedies and family dramas to hard-hitting documentaries and psychological thrillers.

*By Mary Allen.*

**Fran the Man** – A riotous mockumentary about a small Dublin soccer club caught in a match-fixing scandal. Stars Ardal O'Hanlon and Amy Huberman.

**Froggie** – Two brothers relive childhood fame when their stolen puppet becomes a viral ransom case.

**Gerry Adams – A Ballymurphy Man** – The republican leader reflects on six decades of activism and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland.

**Fidil Ghorm** (The Blue Fiddle) – A young Donegal girl believes mastering Irish music can wake her father from a coma. Family-friendly and heartwarming.

**Housewife of the Year** – Behind a 1970s TV competition lies the stark story of Irish women fighting systemic misogyny.

**Bring Them Down** – A dark rural revenge drama starring Barry Keoghan and Colm Meaney.

**In Time, Dónal Lunny** – The first film portrait of the legendary Planxty and Bothy Band founder, featuring Christy Moore and Bono.

**Christy** – A warm Cork-set family drama about two estranged brothers finding community and belonging.

**A Want in Her** – Filmmaker Myrid Carten searches for her missing mother in a raw portrait of love, addiction and forgiveness.



Christy.

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# See Irish Film Festival without leaving home

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**Kathleen is Here** – A gripping Dublin thriller about a foster-care leaver's desperate search for connection.

**Mrs Robinson** – Mary Robinson tells her story, from Ireland's first female president to fearless human rights advocate.

**Dead Man's Money** – A modern Macbeth, as greed and paranoia unravel a family. Starring Kathy Kiera Clarke and Pat Shortt.

**Never Stop the Action** – Two friends on a dawn New York subway journey swap stories that span continents and realities.

**The Spin** – Musical road trip from Omagh to Cork as two mates chase rare vinyl and redemption.

**Chasing the Light** – Documentary tracing the rise and controversy of Ireland's famed Buddhist retreat, Dzogchen Beara.

**David Keenan – Focla ar Chanbhás** (Words on Canvas) – A poetic portrait of the acclaimed singer-songwriter and his creative rebirth.



Mrs Robinson.



David Keenan - Focla ar Chanbhás.



The Spin.

## Contact us

We welcome content from Members and friends in this newsletter.

If you have news or an article you would like to see included, email the editor, our public relations officer Mary Allen, at [mary@queenslandirish.com.au](mailto:mary@queenslandirish.com.au)

You can also reach us through our website, [www.queenslandirish.com.au](http://www.queenslandirish.com.au), and on our social media pages.

Another great way to interact with QIA is by joining our Facebook [group](#), Queensland Irish Association Friends and Supporters.

Editor and designer: Mary Allen.

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# Fiennes Irish line-up at British Film Festival



Festival favourite Ralph Fiennes stars in *Choral* and, below, a reshewing of the iconic movie *The English Patient*.

From November 5, the 2025 Russell Hobbs British Film Festival, presented by Palace, will open in Queensland screening at Palace Cinemas. This year's sensational line-up showcases British (and Irish) brilliance at its best with hotly anticipated new releases, documentaries and retrospectives.

Opening the festival is the Australian Premiere of *The Choral*, a sweeping wartime drama with a stellar cast, led by Ralph Fiennes, who as a child lived in Cork and Kilkenny, Ireland. As a group of choralists discover the joys of singing, the young male members must also come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army. The film explores humour and humanity at the heart of a community facing an uncertain future.

The Special Presentation is Oliver Hermanus' *The History of Sound* starring Irish actor Paul Mescal and Josh O'Connor. A decade-spanning romance centered around the power of music, this gorgeous period drama is a film of lingering melancholic



beauty.

Marking the highly anticipated return to the screen of another Irish actor, Daniel Day-Lewis, *Anemone* is this year's Festival Centrepiece. Heralding the directorial debut of son Ronan Day-Lewis, with whom Daniel Day-Lewis co-wrote the script, *Anemone* also features superb performances from Sean Bean and Samantha Morton as it explores the complex

and profound ties that exist between brothers, fathers, and sons.

Closing the festival is Oscar winner Chloë Zhao's radiant adaptation of Irish author Maggie O'Farrell's novel *Hamnet*, starring Irish actors Jessie Buckley as Agnes Shakespeare and Paul Mescal as William Shakespeare. In the sensitively observed, magnificently crafted tale about the complex

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# Fiennes Irish line-up at British Film Festival



Daniel Day Lewis and Sean Bean in *Anemone*.

*Continued from page 12*

ities of love and the healing power of art and creativity, the couple's tragic shared experience sets the stage for the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, *Hamlet*.

A standout selection of real-life stories feature in this year's line-up profiling iconic identities including John Cleese, Twiggy and John Lennon.

Exploring the final decade in the life of John Lennon, another icon with strong Irish links, *Borrowed Time - Lennon's Last Decade* is a gripping documentary charting Lennon's turbulent post-Beatles years of art, activism, and reinvention. Evolving beyond the Beatles, he created music and stood at the forefront of anti-war protests that would make him one of the most influential pop culture icons of all time.

Fueled by powerhouse performances from Vicky Krieps, and Irish actors Aidan Gillen and Colm Meaney, *Re-Creation* is a razor-sharp courtroom drama. Irish director Jim Sheridan reimagines a trial (based on a real story) that never happened with questions, guilt, bias and memory at the centre of a tense chamber where truth itself is on trial.

Stories that focus on the older generation include *Four Mothers*, a riotous, heartfelt comedy where one man's burgeoning career implodes as four



*Hamnet*, based on the book by Irish author Maggie O'Farrell.

eccentric mothers of his friends, off on a trip to a Pride festival, invade his Dublin home.

In *Words of War*, the true story of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, who battled for press freedom in Putin's Russia, is portrayed by an incredible cast including Maxine Peake, James Lawtey, Jason Isaacs (*The White Lotus*), Ellie Bamber and Irish actor Ciarán Hinds.

In a special Retrospective entitled *British Brilliance*, six iconic British films that have all won Best Picture at the Academy Awards are showcased on the big screen including *Chariots of Fire*, *Gandhi*, *Shakespeare In Love*

(starring Joseph Fiennes), *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, *The English Patient* (starring Ralph Fiennes) and from 2010, *The Kings Speech*.

For the full program, go to [www.britishfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.britishfilmfestival.com.au).

The Russell Hobbs British Film Festival opens on Wednesday 5 November in Sydney, Melbourne, Ballarat, Adelaide, Perth, Byron Bay, Canberra and Brisbane, concluding on Sunday 7 December in all cities. In Brisbane, the festival is at Palace Barracks and Palace James Street. Tickets are now on sale [www.britishfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.britishfilmfestival.com.au).

*By Mary Allen*

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# QIA shows up big at Brisbane Celtic Festival



QIA had a fantastic showing at the 2025 Brisbane Celtic Festival. Many new members were signed up at our tent. QIA Dancers, Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band and QIA Choir all performed. Tara Hall Dining Club had a large gathering. We were interviewed on camera for a show to be broadcast in the Caribbean! And Queensland Rose Siobhan Edwards added a touch of glamour to the day. Pictures: Mary Allen



**QIC**  
QUEENSLAND IRISH CHOIR

## Christmas Celebration Concert

An afternoon of Christmas music and song with a Celtic Flavour

**Saturday 15 November 2025**  
2.00pm  
Hills Church Auditorium  
79 Queens Road, Everton Hills  
Doors Open 1.30 pm

Tickets: <https://www.qldirishchoir.org/events>  
\$25 Adults Children (under 15 years) Free  
At the Door – If not previously sold out

Enquiries  
0493 455 487

Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme

