



Queensland Irish Association

# Newsletter

September 2023



## QIA Pipe Band goes down a treat at festival in France

There was an enthusiastic céad míle fáilte for the Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band when they travelled to France for the Inter-Celtic Festival of Lorient in Brittany, France recently.

Thank you to the band members for doing Queensland and the Irish community proud, as always. You can read more about the trip on page 5.

Have you secured your ticket for our 125th anniversary lunch yet? It's on Friday, 6th October, at noon, in the beautiful Ithaca Auditorium in Brisbane's City Hall. Individual tickets, at \$80 each, are avail-

able and all Members and friends of the QIA are urged to buy a ticket as soon as possible. Ticket purchasers will be allocated to an appropriate table.

This is a most important function and we need everybody's support.

To secure your spot, go to our website for the booking form, at [www.queenslandirish.com](http://www.queenslandirish.com), or email [irisheventsbrisbane@hotmail.com](mailto:irisheventsbrisbane@hotmail.com).

Nominations are now called for all positions on the Board of the QIA: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and six Directors. The Board has determined that the

Annual General Meeting of the QIA will be held at Wests Rugby Union Club, Sylvan Road, Toowong at 11am on Saturday, 18th November 2023.

As a consequence, nominations for the Board open on Friday, 15th September, and close on Friday, 13th October.

National Members of more than 15 months' standing are eligible for election. Nomination forms are available from Claire Moore at [claire\\_moore@bigpond.com](mailto:claire_moore@bigpond.com).

*Jeff Spender,  
President, Queensland Irish Association.*

# QIA September Drinks at The Normanby Hotel



QIATS



# Queensland Irish Association

*125th Anniversary Celebration Lunch*



*Brisbane City Hall*

*Friday, 6th October, 2023 at 12 noon*

Join us in the beautiful Ithaca Auditorium  
for a two-course meal and welcome drink  
Irish entertainment and sing-along

Raffle prizes

Dress smart-casual  
\$800 for table of ten

Bookings are limited, reserve without delay

RSVP to [irisheventsbrisbane@hotmail.com](mailto:irisheventsbrisbane@hotmail.com)





# Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band enchants France's Lorient Inter-Celtic Festival

by Mary Allen

The Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band embarked on an extraordinary musical journey last month as they took part in the Inter-Celtic Festival held in Lorient, France.

This remarkable ten-day festival, now in its 52nd year, serves as a vibrant gathering and celebration of Celtic nations across Europe. The festival brings together the rich Celtic cultures and heritage of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Galicia, Asturias, Brittany, United States, Acadia in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The Inter-Celtic Festival of Lorient stands as the largest festival in Brittany and France, drawing an impressive average of 750,000 visitors and spectators annually.

For ten days at the beginning of

August, the festival unites the Celtic nations in Lorient, offering a vibrant tapestry of music, dance, and diverse artistic expressions. In 2023, the festival celebrated Ireland from August 4th to the 13th.

Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band was fortunate to enjoy splendid weather during their stay in Lorient.

The Grand Parade of the Celtic Nations took place on August 6th. This parade, featuring 140 bands and dance groups representing all Celtic nations, captivated an audience of two million television viewers. Another televised event was the Horizons Celtiques show, broadcast on French TV and watched by one million viewers.

Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band's participation in the Festival Interceltique de Lorient was a resounding success.

## Calendar

**Friday, 6th October, 12 noon.**

Queensland Irish Association 125th Anniversary Lunch at Brisbane City Hall.

**Friday, 13th October to Sunday 15th October.**

Irish Film Festival, sponsored by Queensland Irish Association, at Denby Cinema, Coorparoo. Go to [www.irishfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.irishfilmfestival.com.au) for details.

**Thursday, 5th October to Sunday, 15th October.**

Irish Film Festival, watch online across Australia. Go to [www.irishfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.irishfilmfestival.com.au) for details.

**Saturday 18th November, 11am**

Queensland Irish Association AGM, Wests Rugby Club, Toowong.

**Ireland Rugby World Cup Games**

Ireland v Romania – Sat 9 Sept, 11.30pm

Ireland v Tonga – Sun 17 Sept at 5am

South Africa v Ireland – Sun 24 Sept at 5am

Ireland v Scotland – Sun 8 Oct at 5am

## 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.**

**With thanks to all our contributors.**

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AUSTRALIA, CELTIC, FESTIVAL, GIGS & REELS, IRELAND, QLD, SCOTLAND

TJ Byrnes dons the Irish green for CelticFest Warwick



AUSTRALIA, COMEDY, GIGS & REELS, IRELAND, NSW, QLD, VIC, WA

Irish comedian Dara Ó Briain coming back to deal craic



AUSTRALIA, CELTIC, GIGS & REELS, IRELAND, NSW

Radio documentary explores legacy of Albert Dryer and Irish in Australia



AUSTRALIA, GIGS & REELS, IRELAND

Filmmaker seeking old cassette recordings of Irish emigrants



ACT, AUSTRALIA, GIGS & REELS, IRELAND, NSW, QLD, VIC, WA

Eireborne's spectacular Irish Dance Rock Show returns in 2024



AUSTRALIA, IRELAND, QLD, SCOTLAND

Listen to Anglo&Celtic editor Mary's interview on Brisbane radio station

## Our latest Irish news - click on the stories to read them online



Feathers will fly as no battle it out in World



Clans on the Coast marching to new lands



Australia's Stonehenge's new owners

## CLICK HERE TO READ SEPTEMBER EDITION

CLICK STORIES TO READ

## CLICK GIG GUIDE TO DOWNLOAD

## ANGLOANDCELTIC.COM GIGS & REELS

**Festivals**

- CELTICFEST WARWICK**
  - FRI 1 SEP: *Swick In A Moment - 422 & INXS* Brisbane QLD
  - SAT 2 SEP: *Crack Pot* Colville Hotel, Brisbane QLD
  - SUN 3 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Fortitude Valley, Brisbane QLD
  - WED 6 SEP: *Paul Kelly* Brisbane QLD
  - THU 7 SEP: *Paul Kelly* Brisbane QLD
  - THU 14 SEP: *Queensland Irish Association drinks and Irish entertainment* from Spyn, The Normansy Brisbane QLD
  - FRI 8 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - SAT 9 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - SUN 10 SEP: *27 Years of British Spies at Brisbane Motor Museum* (until 28 NOV) Brisbane QLD
  - MON 11 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - TUE 12 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - WED 13 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - THU 14 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - FRI 15 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - SAT 16 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - SUN 17 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
- NEURUM CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL**
  - WED 6 SEP: *Paul Kelly* Brisbane QLD
  - THU 7 SEP: *Paul Kelly* Brisbane QLD
  - FRI 8 SEP: *Paul Kelly* Brisbane QLD
  - SAT 9 SEP: *Paul Kelly* Brisbane QLD
  - SUN 10 SEP: *Paul Kelly* Brisbane QLD
- BONY MOUNTAIN FOLK FESTIVAL**
  - FRI 7 SEP: *The Irish Festival in the Bush with more, party, gigs bands.* Upper Murrumbidgee QLD
- SEPTEMBER EDITION GIGS & REELS**
  - FRI 1 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - SAT 2 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - SUN 3 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - MON 4 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - TUE 5 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - WED 6 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
  - THU 7 SEP: *Irish Sunday at Finn McCall's* Brisbane QLD
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For national guide go to [www.angloandceltic.com](http://www.angloandceltic.com)

## QUEENSLAND & NT - SEPT 2023



AUSTRALIA, CELTIC, ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, SPORT, WALES

Get ready for epic clashes as Lions tour schedule unveiled



AUSTRALIA, GIGS & REELS, IRELAND

The Wolfe Tones to play in Australia in 2024

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# Entertainment

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## QIA named Gold Sponsor for Irish Film Festival

by Mary Allen

Excitement is building as the 2023 Irish Film Festival Australia approaches, and this year, the Queensland Irish Association (QIA) proudly takes the spotlight as the Gold Sponsor of the festival.

The festival promises a month of exceptional Irish cinema, with movies screened in five cities across Australia and available online from October 5 to November 5.

One of the festival's highly anticipated highlights is the Opening Night Movie, "Lakelands," starring Éanna Hardwicke from "Normal People" and Danielle Galligan from "The Great," "Kin," and "Shadow and Bone." This moving coming-of-age film is set in modern small-town Ireland and explores the intersection of tradition, mental health, and Gaelic football, a quintessentially Irish sport.

The film delves into the journey of Cian, played by Éanna Hardwicke, a small-town sports star whose life revolves around training, drinking, friends, and farming. When a head injury sidelines him from football, Cian grapples with depression and questions his identity without the sport that defined him. Reconnecting with his former flame, Grace (Danielle Galligan), opens doors to vulnerability and self-discovery in a rapidly changing Irish society.

"Lakelands" has received critical acclaim, earning the Best Film award at both the Galway Film Fleadh and the Kerry International Film Festival in 2022. Festival Director Enda Murray is thrilled to present "Lakelands" as the opening night feature, marking the film's Australian premiere.

QIA's sponsorship of the festival reinforces its commitment to promoting Irish culture and stories on the Australian screen. The festival will showcase a carefully curated program of Irish films and documentaries, offering a window into Ireland's rich and diverse culture in 2023.

The 2023 Irish Film Festival Australia will be hosted in the following cities and online:

- Sydney: Dendy Cinema, Newtown (October 5-8)
- Brisbane: Dendy Cinema, Coorparoo (October 13-15)
- Canberra: Dendy Cinema, Canberra (October 20-22)

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA 2023  
OPENING NIGHT FILM

★★★★  
"HARDWICKE'S PERFORMANCE IS NOTHING SHORT OF EXCEPTIONAL"  
THE UPCOMING

LAKELANDS  
A FILM BY ROBERT HIGGINS AND PATRICK MCGIVNEY



- Perth: Luna Cinema, Leederville (October 27-29)
- Melbourne: Cinema Nova, Carlton (November 2-5)
- Online: Across Australia (October 5-15)

The Irish Film Festival Australia has gained recognition as a premier cultural event that celebrates Irish cinema, language, music, and history. Supported by the Irish Embassy, passionate industry professionals, Irish artists, filmmakers, and cultural institutions, the festival has grown since its inception in 2015.

As part of this vibrant cultural celebration, the Irish Film Festival has not shied away from addressing challenging and thought-provoking themes, often pushing the boundaries of Irish storytelling. It has

screened films touching on Irish politics, new talent, music, mental health, and the Irish language.

The festival's opening night parties have become legendary, serving as a lively platform for the Irish community to embrace their creativity and storytelling.

Stay tuned to our social media for details of the full program and ticket release on September 14th. Get ready to immerse yourself in the enchanting world of Irish cinema and culture at the 2023 Irish Film Festival Australia.

For more information about the festival and updates on the program, visit the official website at [irishfilmfestival.com.au](http://irishfilmfestival.com.au). Don't miss this opportunity to laugh, cry, and be moved by the captivating stories that only Irish cinema can deliver.