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## Australian Celtic Festival Wrap Up

The 2024 Australian Celtic Festival, honouring Ireland and the Isle of Man, has just taken place in Glen Innes, New South Wales. It was a wonderful weekend of sharing Celtic culture, language, dance, and music. The weekend's honoured guests were Gerry O'Connor, master fiddler from Ireland, and Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle, talented folk musicians from the Isle of Man. The Consul-General of Ireland in Sydney, Rosie Keane, also generously gave her time to attend and participate in the festival. Official events ran from Thursday to Sunday, and although the weather was not kind towards the end, there was a great feeling of Celtic camaraderie and much good nature in response to last-minute rescheduling. Multiple stages of music and dance, much pageantry and celebration, and a large array of clans and traders created a vibrant atmosphere.

As always, the weekend featured an official opening, a street parade, a ceremony for each of the six Celtic nations, a (non-religious) kirking of the tartan, and the always-moving dawn ceremony. A particular highlight of the dawn ceremony this year was hearing the national anthems of Man and Ireland sung in their respective languages.

The festival is centred around the Australian Standing Stones National Celtic Monument, and each year the Guardians of the Stones (many of whom are CCA members) renew their commitment to preserve the monument and the Celtic cultures it commemorates. At the ceremony this year, the CCA awarded Celtic Honours to a number of people. 'Duine Uasal' (honoured person) was awarded to Wayne Williams and Tony Brown who are members of the festival's hardworking volunteer team, to Judy Buchanan of the Scottish community, and to CCA standing committee member Sue Thomas. 'Tus Enorys Ewn' (truly honoured person) was awarded to CCA President Pamela O'Neill. The CCA always welcomes nominations for awards: details are on our [website](#).

As well as the international musical guests, a host of Australian Celtic musicians helped make the weekend special. Too many to name them all, but special mention

generous in helping build the atmosphere of the ceremonies, and to ever-popular Brisbane bands Murphy's Pigs and Limerick MCB. Many local clubs, pubs and restaurants hosted musical performances, special amongst those the evenings with The Scotsman and Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle in the Red Lion Tavern at the nearby village of Glencoe, where Celtic food and culture are featured year-round.

The first Sunday in May and the few days leading up to it are always a feast for all the senses for anyone with Celtic heritage or sympathies. Why not head to Glen Innes for the Australian Celtic Festival honouring Brittany, Cornwall and Wales, Thursday 1 May to Sunday 4 May 2025?





photos by Steven Earl, Natalie O'Neill and Chris Dunkley

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Best wishes,  
Pamela, Celtic Council of Australia President



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If you have a Celtic event or achievement that you'd like to see featured in our newsletter, please send the details to [celticcouncilofaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:celticcouncilofaustralia@gmail.com)

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