

A GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN FOLK / HERITAGE SOCIAL DANCE EVENTS – 2026

ANNUAL EVENTS EXCEEDING ONE DAY [AS AT 16 MARCH]		
CHECK WEBSITES FOR ON-GOING IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THIS PDF WILL NOT BE UPDATED.		
9-11 January	Cygnets Folk Festival, Tasmania	https://www.cygnetsfolkfestival.org/
16-18 January	Melbourne Comhaltas Set Dance Weekend, Queenscliff, Vic	https://melbournecomhaltas.org.au/
2-6 April (Easter)	National Folk Festival, Canberra	https://www.folkfestival.org.au/
4-6 April	4th Annual Irish W/E, Queenscliff, Vic.	https://melbournecomhaltas.org.au/
5-8 June (Long weekend)	Bundanoon DanceFest, NSW	https://ausdam.org/events.html
August ('On a hiatus' since the 2023 event)	Sydney Folk Festival	https://www.sydneyfolkfestival.com.au/
18-20 September (3 rd weekend)	Irish & Celtic Music Festival, Yass, NSW	https://www.irishcelticmusicfestival.com/ AND https://www.facebook.com/jointhecraicinyass/
9-11 October (w/e after 1st Mon public holiday.)	Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend	https://www.monarofolk.org.au/dance/irish-dance/
16-18 October (3 rd weekend)	Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival, NSW	https://www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au/
6-8 November (w/e after 1st Tues.)	Spring Dance Weekend, Portarlington, Victoria	https://tsdav.asn.au/
NB The Folk Festivals included all have a strong dance component . [A general festivals calendar is at https://www.folkalliance.org.au/directory/festivals-calendar-2/ and another in each <i>Trad and Now</i> magazine.]		

AUSTRALIA - WIDE DIRECTORIES

Note: These sites sometimes struggle to be up-to-date, but still serve as guides to events/bodies to Google.

Australian Social Dance Network <https://australiansocialdancenetwork.wordpress.com/>

Dancing the Web <https://dancingtheweb.com/>

Folk Dance Australia <http://www.folkdanceaustralia.org.au/australia-links.aspx>

Scottish Country Dance in Australia <https://www.rscds.org.au/home.html#/>

SOME STATE & TERRITORY SITES [see also their LINKS pages]

Australian Social Dance and Music Inc. [AUSDAM] <https://ausdam.org/index.html>

Australian Traditional & Bush Dance Society of SA Inc. <https://www.atbdsdancesa.com.au/>

Bush Music Club, Sydney http://www.bushmusic.org.au/bmc_dances.shtml

Dance Kaleidoscope, Brisbane <http://www.dancekaleidoscope.au/> **Note animations!**

Folk Federation of Tasmania <https://folktas.org/dancing/>

Folk Music & Dance SA <https://folkmdsa.com/>

Historic Dance Delights, Canberra	https://historicdancedelights.org.au/
Irish Social Dance Association Victoria	https://www.isdav.org.au/
Melbourne Colonial Dancers	http://www.melbournecolonialdancers.org.au/homepagef.html
Monaro Folk Society, Canberra	http://www.monarofolk.org.au/dance/
Sydney English Country Dance	https://englishcountrydancesydney.com/
Traditional Social Dance Association of Victoria	https://tsdav.asn.au/
Victorian Folk Music Club Inc,	http://www.vfmc.org.au/dances.php
West Australian Folk Federation	http://www.wafolk.org.au/wa-folk-music-dance-calendar/

SOME GOOD FINDS ON THE WEB OVER RECENT YEARS

International

What are Playford Dances?	http://round.soc.srcf.net/playford/
Dance Video Archives	http://dancevideos.childgrove.org/
Callers Workshop	https://colinhume.com/callers.htm
Dance Instructions	https://colinhume.com/instruct.htm
What is Contra Dance?	https://www.sbcds.org/contradance/whatis/#Def0
A very short history of Contra	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CG6vVoFT9c [Skip two adverts at start!]
The Joy of [Irish] Sets	See link at end of first paragraph of https://sets.ie/
Quotes about dancing	http://www.daytonfolkdance.com/dquotes.html

Australian

Jeanette Mill on US contra	http://jam.org.au/moxie/dance/4_10/new-england-usa-is-this-t.shtml
Musings on the why	https://englishcountrydancesydney.com/musings-on-the-why/
Come colonial dancing!	http://www.melbournecolonialdancers.org.au/homepagef.html
Australian Historical Dance	https://www.historicaldance.au/ [Began as Australian Colonial Dance]
Old Time Dancing & Music	http://www.bendigobushdance.org.au/layout.php?p=20
Old time musicians on film	https://www.bushtraditions.org/videos/nfsavideo.htm [Currently unavailable]
Bush Dance Instructions	https://sites.google.com/view/wongawillicolonialdanceclub/home

Compiler's note

As Australia-wide dance directories can struggle to keep up-to-date, I have based this directory on linking to State-level sites. This 'directory of directories' approach requires considerably less maintenance. I compiled the 1st edition in June 2015 and until 2022 updated the Guide in January/February. In 2023 in the wake of the Covid pandemic I changed to updating in March to allow most events dates to be finalised. Since 2017 the Guide has been downloadable as a pdf file from the Directories page of the Australian Social Dance Network website and will soon appear on the new Australian Social Dance and Music Inc. [AUSDAM] website. Naturally I welcome suggestions for additional entries but will aim to limit the document to two pages. Upon completion I send it to my SA folk email list and also email it to all the Australian groups listed or linked to and some personal contacts. **The [at] instead of @ below prevents harvesting by web crawlers.**