

Media release

Echuca Moama Celtic Festival

Sunday 7 March and Friday 12 to Sunday March 14, 2010

For immediate release

Bagpipes, Bodhrans and Blarney!

With a stunning backdrop of the Murray River, and just a 2^{1/2}-hour drive from Melbourne, the Echuca-Moama Celtic Festival is a wonderful excuse to explore this delightful piece of Victoria. Surrounded by fine wineries, delightful B&B's, boutique accommodation, numerous holiday parks and a wide range of motels it is a premier holiday destination.

Be enthralled by the eerie sounds of the bagpipes and marvel at the skill and grace of the dancers. Enjoy a weekend of entertainment featuring acclaimed musicians; **Braemar**, undoubtedly one of Australia's best Celtic duos delighting audiences around the country, **The Ploughboys**, purveyors of Irish musical mayhem, **The Wake**, one of the finest exponents of Celtic music in Victoria. The Wake can inspire you with their energetic music, make you laugh with a comical refrain or touch your heart with a beautiful ballad. **The Barleyshakes**, an exciting Celtic band, brewed in Ireland and distilled in Australia who present both traditional, original and world music in a modern format, **Dalriada**, who give traditional Celtic roots music a fresh coat of Australian pop-rock paint. Jig to many more bands and wandering fiddlers performing in the variety of clubs, restaurants, pubs and streets of Echuca-Moama.

The **Gathering of the Clans Dinner** on Friday night is the launch event at the Moama Bowling Club, featuring Braemar and Evelyn's Secret.

A grand parade will start Saturday with over 40 community groups participating. On Saturday night, in addition to numerous venues a free concert at the Kerrabee Sound Shell, featuring bands and dancers will be a family highlight.

Come Sunday, following an ecumenical service alongside the Murray River, bands and performers will once again be found in the many venues that exist within the river towns of Echuca and Moama. For those wanting to learn more of Celtic music and tradition there are fabulous workshops to participate in.

The festival concludes on Sunday March 14 with a performance of "**Lochaber No More**", Braemar's latest and most challenging venture. It is an unfolding of the events of the Jacobite rebellions and Highland Clearances and covers a period in Scottish history spanning more than a century. Eddie Lewis and Marc de Rijk's singing and guitar selections will rouse the audience's emotions. Highly talented musicians supporting Braemar are Geoff Jones (Small Pipes), Colin Macleod (Fiddle), Natasha Trinkle (Cello) and Alyson Fearon (Narrator/writer).

For more information, please call Robert Arnold on 0400 563 399 or go to

www.celticfestival.com.au
Email: info@celticfestival.com.au

This event is proudly sponsored Tourism Victoria, NSW Department of State and Regional Development, Shire of Campaspe, Murray Shire, Echuca and Moama Business and Trades Association and supporting businesses.