

AUSTRALIA WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS AND ALLIES TO THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO IN SYDNEY

- More than 1,500 performers will appear at ANZ Stadium in the biggest cast line up in the Tattoo's 69 years history

International performers from across the globe will descend on Sydney this week as The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo gears up for its biggest ever performance, with more than 1,500 performers assembling at the ANZ Stadium stage between 17-19 October.

Amongst the glittering line-up will be hundreds of performers from Australia including military and civilian acts and one of the country's most popular artists, John Paul Young OAM. The event, which is being run in conjunction with production partner, Michael Cassel Group, will offer a platform to showcase the unbelievable talents from every inch of Australia's coasts.

The Tattoo returns to Australia as part of its ambitious Strategy for Growth. Announced in 2018, the ambitious growth programme includes doubling its turnover to £20 million by 2025 as well as additional signposted overseas tours to Canada and China by 2021. Work is already underway with the business in regular conversations with the UK, Scottish and International Governments, local promoters and support networks.

Australia's Federation Guard, The Combined Bands of The Australian Defence Force, the Pipes and Drums of the Australian Defence Force, The Scots College Pipes and Drums, the Western Australian Police Force Band, Brisbane Boys College and New South Wales Police Pipe Band will form the impressive sight and roaring sounds of the Massed Pipes and Drums – a world-renowned Tattoo favourite – that will cascade across the stage in full tartan regalia, playing stirring, traditional tunes.

Joining the military parade will be Bhangra All-Star Sydney (BASS), a Punjabi-inspired dance troupe from Western Sydney which combines their Asian routes and Australian upbringing to deliver an all-singing performance with the male-group dressed in colourful headdresses and modern attire.

One of the most talented choral groups in Australia, the Gondwana Choirs, will participate alongside the impressive sounds of the Sydney Youth Orchestra.

John Paul Young, one of Australia's most popular artists from the 70s will top the remarkable Aussie team. After migrating from Scotland in 1962, the accomplished singer, who has sold more than four million records, formed a band before going solo and selling out stadiums across the country.

Under the theme 'At All Points of the Compass', the show will take guests on a tour of the world, guiding them around 360 degrees of the atlas to tell the compelling tale of Australia's place in history and its links with allies and friends.

To celebrate this theme, the Australian show will take the audience on a circular tour around an imaginary compass rose with its centre at the dusty red heart of the continent - at Lambert Centre. For thousands of years, the indigenous people of Australia navigated their 'country' using 'songlines' - an oral tradition of routes travelled - and with this notion as inspiration, five 'song men' will guide the audience to the edge of traditional lands, welcoming each international group to perform in turn.

The concept reinforces the purpose of the Tattoo in helping bring people together, to better understand each other's cultures and ways of life to "arrive as strangers and leave as friends".

Joining the Australian contingents will be the finest military and civilian acts from around the world including France's La Musique de l'Artillerie; Switzerland's globally recognised Top Secret Drum Corps; New Zealand's impressive Army Band alongside the infamous Lochiel Marching Drill team; and more than 350 performers from the Pacific region, who will participate collectively in a six-minute set called 'The Ocean People' which celebrates the distinct and colourful identity of the Islands.

Hailing from the home of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will be three of the finest traditionally Scottish outfits including Pipers Trail, established by the Tattoo to create a network of professional and talented musicians around the world; more than 100 dancers from the Tattoo Dance Company will also be part of the performance. Departing from Shetland, fiddlers from Hjaltibonhoga will appear at the ANZ Stadium alongside the fellow countrymen and women, giving Aussie audiences the essence of the magical fiddle music of Scotland.

Brigadier David Alfrey MBE, Chief Executive and Producer at the Tattoo, said: "We are so ready to unleash the spirit of a traditional Tattoo on our Australian audiences and are delighted that so many international acts are able to join us on the momentous occasion.

"I first came to Sydney in 1977 as a supernumerary deckhand on the SS Flinders Bay and, as part of wider adventures, I travelled from Coober Pedy to Alice Springs where we stopped close by the dead centre of the continent. That night, miles from anywhere, with the sounds of the bush playing on primal fears, I first gained a sense of 'Country' – an environment where only the hardiest and most versatile people thrive.

"It is through these experiences and the opportunity to meet so many Australians, that we have crafted the concept of this year's theme which tells the tale of our great planet and how we continue to be connected through genetics, history and diverse but complimenting cultures.

"We return to Australia as part of a new period of growth for the Tattoo. This is an exciting step change for us reaching anew across the world, first to Australia, then over the next two years to China and North America. The Tattoo is all about bringing people together to reinforce relationships already made and making new friends for the future."

General Campbell, of the Australian Defence Force, said he was pleased to see Australia once again hosting this world famous event and welcomed all participants to Australia.

“The largest ever Tattoo in Sydney will present an international cast of talented performers from around the world. It is a unique celebration of music and military tradition in a colourful display of music, dance and military precision.

“Participation in the Tattoo allows Australia to demonstrate the professional skills and high performance of our armed forces,” General Campbell said.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has provided a range of ceremonial and logistic support to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo including more than 250 cast members, air and ground transport and co-ordination for participating nations.

“I am delighted that the ADF will once again be part of this world-class event,”

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For further information, please contact the Tattoo team at Stripe Communications on edinburghtattoo@stripecommunications.com or 0131 561 8628.

Notes to editors

About The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo first performed in 1950 and is in its 69th year. The event has sold out for the last 21 consecutive years
- The Tattoo is performed to a live audience of 220,000 annually on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle with a further global TV audience of +100M. Performers from over 50 countries have taken part
- In 2010, the event was renamed The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo after Her Majesty The Queen bestowed the Royal title in honour of its 60th birthday
- HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, is the Patron of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- The Tattoo has donated over £12million to Services and Arts organisations since 1950 from The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Charities) Limited - its charitable company
- The Tattoo generates £77million annually for the Scottish economy with a further £30million GBP in FTE
- In 2018, the Tattoo revealed its intent to continue the company’s growth through an ambitious international expansion programme including visits to Australia, Canada and China and doubling turn-over to £20million by 2025

- The Tattoo has performed overseas on four occasions, most recently Australia and New Zealand in February 2016. Over 240,000 tickets were sold and the shows delivered a combined estimate of £50million gross economic impact to the cities of Melbourne and Wellington.
- In 2019 The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will celebrate its 70th year.
- <https://www.edintattoo.co.uk/>