

Scots in the Bush at Historic Boondooma Homestead in 2018

The skirl of the pipes and the beat of the drums will herald the 9th annual Scots in the Bush at Boondooma Homestead. Boondooma Homestead is the centre of what was Boondooma Station. The station was first settled in 1846. Three Scotsmen, Robert and Alexander Lawson from Kilmarnock and Robert Alexander from Mauchline in Scotland emigrated to Australia and made their way to the Burnett Region and settled as Squatters in 1846. Family names from an old Kilmarnock map re-occur on Boondooma Station. It is fitting that we celebrate the settlement by those from Scotland. We celebrate all things Celtic.

The Boondooma Homestead complex is owned by South Burnett Regional Council and is operated by Boondooma Museum & Heritage Association Inc. The Management Committee is planning a bigger and better event this year. The event will be held from 17 -19 August

In 2017 caravans, campers and tents were located at The Boondooma Homestead Complex. On the Saturday evening more than 1000 people braved the cold and enjoyed a wonderful evening of music from bagpipes, drums, guitars, violins , lots of signing and Highland and Irish Dancing.

This year the program will commence on the Thursday evening with a Ceilidh with music provided by Ishka Ceilidh Band. Those who enjoy the Scottish country dancing will be able to participate and dance the night away with the old favourite Scottish country dances.

This year four pipe bands have indicated an interest in attending the event. Noosa and District Pipe band have supported the event for many years and will again provide the much loved pipes and drums. Other bands showing interest are RAAF Amberley Pipes and Drums, Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band and Dalby Thistle Pipe Band.

Some new talent will be on the program. The Morton Bay Fiddle Club, Limerick Modern Celtic Band and David Rowan on Piano Accordion and Vince Pagett will provide much loved Celtic entertainment. The old favourites, Brian Letton, Celtic Thunder Oz, Velcro and Darrel Craft and Tartan Time will entertain the crowd again. Celtic Psychosis will be on the stage again. They will raise the roof of the big Top on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Scottish fare of Aberdeen Sausage, Scotch Eggs and salad along with Haggis, Tatties and Neeps together with the good old Australian fare of fish and chips, and hamburgers will be available. The Scottish favourites of Shortbread, Dundee cake, Scottish pancakes, Highland Scones and Scotch Tablet will be on offer. The address to the Haggis will be offered by our local Scotsman Gervais Fullerton on Saturday lunch time.

Dancers from The Rum City Highland Dance Studio from Bundaberg will perform again. These dancers have been favourites for the last 8 years and once again will perform great dancing displays. Amy Boreham from Burdekin Celtic dancers will delight the crowd with some Irish dancing.

The Highland Games will be on the program again. On the Saturday afternoon, patrons young and old participate in the games such as Tossing the Caber (20kg &30kg); Throwing the Haggis; foot races and Putting the Boondooma Stone. Great fun will be had by all.

A highlight of the festival will be the Clan and Tartan Parade. Those wearing tartan dress can register and names, clans and tartans will be announced. During this part of the program, the group will sing "Gathering of the Clans" and "The Tartan" accompanied by The Morton Bay Fiddle Club.

Once again stall holders are welcome and stalls showing Celtic memorabilia will be on display. Clans have been invited and some will display banners and have clan memorabilia.

The traditional church service taking place on the Sunday morning in the homestead garden will be a highlight of the event. The service will include The Kirkin' o' the Tartan. Pastor Bal Sami from the Wondai/Proston Baptist Church will conduct the service and include a blessing of the clans, families and tartans.

The event will be a great time for the Scots and all those Celtic. "Scots in the Bush" – a Scottish and Celtic Festival will be celebrated on 16/17/18 /19 August 2018. It is a bush camping weekend so bring caravan, camper or tent etc.

For further information contact The Caretakers, Bev and Jim on 07 4168 0159 or Judy Brandt on 0427364026 or email info@boondoomahomestead.org.au