

**MEDIA RELEASE 26-07-2024**

For immediate release

## **Historic Photographic Exhibition Showcases Australia's Eisteddfod Tradition Philip Quirk's The Eisteddfods**

**Saturday, 31 August until Sunday, 20 October 2024**



The rich cultural tradition of the Eisteddfod in Australia will be brought to life in a captivating photographic exhibition at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) when it opens in August. This unique exhibition, documenting the Eisteddfods in Abermain, Wollongong and Wales, will be on display for the first time, offering a rare glimpse into the historic event through the lens of acclaimed photographer Philip Quirk.

In his early career, Quirk honed his skills working with renowned Melbourne fashion photographer Bruno Benini. This experience ignited his passion for documentary photography, leading him to capture the essence of the Australian Eisteddfod scene. "The cultural value of the Eisteddfods was the reason I began researching and photographing the events firstly in mining towns around Australia", says Quirk.

The Abermain Eisteddfod, established in 1917, stands as the oldest continuous Eisteddfod in New South Wales. As the only remaining Eisteddfod in the Hunter region, its significance is held in high esteem. This exhibition not only preserves its legacy but also highlights the broader cultural impact of Eisteddfods in Australia, which began in the goldfields of Victoria around 1855.

The exhibition features a compelling combination of black and white portraits and competition dancing, with a selection of Kodachrome colour prints. Visitors will also see Quirk's work from the Wollongong Eisteddfod of 1980 and his coverage of the National Eisteddfod of Wales, supported by the Visual Art Board (Australia Council).

The exhibition will officially open on Friday, 30 August from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. This is a free event proudly supported by Lisa McGuigan Wines and bookings are essential. Register now at [mypacc.com.au](http://mypacc.com.au) or call the PACC Box Office on 4993 4266.

### **Exhibition Details**

Location: PACC 198-202 Vincent St, Cessnock NSW 2325

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday: 9am – 4.30pm | Saturday and Sunday: 10am – 2.30pm

Admission: FREE Entry

For more information, visit <https://www.mypacc.com.au/Whats-on/Philip-Quirks-The-Eisteddfods>

The Eisteddfods documentary film excerpt (3 mins): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4m2jMRckJk>

Promotional images can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dpwkYZij4fZsaSPjkffF1AXJdZkTpQOW?usp=sharing>

### **Media Contacts**

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